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YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • June 3rd thru 9th, 1996

Vol. VI, Issue No. 23 • Price 30 Riyals



**Burdened Telephone
Network of Sanaa City.**
Page 3.

**Sheikh Tu'aiman Talks
about Last Week's Battle.**
Page 5.

**Sustainability of Yemen's
Donor-Supported Projects.**
Pages 7.

**Yemenis Debate the
Abortion Issue.**
Page 10.

Four New Governorates Announced, and Trouble with Saudi Arabia Disclosed

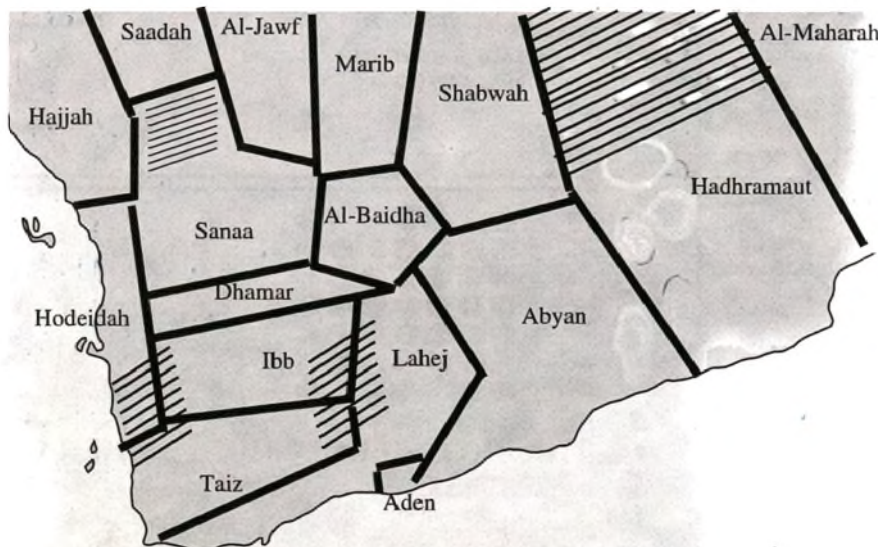
President Saleh Takes a Tough Stand !

President Ali Abdullah Saleh disclosed the establishment of four new governorates - Amran, Dhala', Seiyoon, and Zabid; thus bringing the total number of governorates in the Republic to 21, in addition to the capital city, Sanaa. The new governorates are formed by nibbling away territories from the governorates of Hadhramaut, Hodeidah, Ibb, Lahej, Sanaa and Taiz. The action aims to make the disparity in population and geographic size of the various governorates smaller. Please refer to map below.

The President also spoke of a new tough approach to the independent media which he described as sowing dissent as well as weakening the internal national cohesion. "What they are doing is 'high treason', and we shall not tolerate it," the President said. He insisted that the media should toe the national line rather than put the spotlight on the differences.

The President issued a similar warning to the opposition politicians whose actions he also described as 'high treason'. "We shall not tolerate political parties with connections with outside," he said. Speaking about the stalled border talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the President warned, "The secessionists cannot be used as a card to pressure us to reach a border agreement. We will sign an agreement based on the Tayif Accord and the Memorandum of Understanding. One that serves the interests of both sides and peoples."

The President then went to great length to describe the great achievements "in spite of enormous difficulties, scarcities, and the burdens of the secession war". President Saleh was speaking on May 30th at the Military College where the Sanaa Governorate celebrations of the Unity Day anniversary were being held.



Sanaa University on Strike

On May 29th, the Board of Trustees of Sanaa University, fed up with government inability to dislodge land grabbers off its campus, decided to go on strike. At first, the strike will be limited to the College of Medicine. "If this action does not succeed in dislodging the land grabbing predators, the board will invite, in one week, all the syndicates and unions in the university to take measures to protect the property of

the university," a statement by the university says. Leading members of the People's General Congress, claiming to have orders from the President, laid claim to the northern part of the university campus. That is the place the university hospital is planned. The President has since given new orders asking the grabbers to leave. But they would not budge.

Top-Level Yemeni-Egyptian Talks in Cairo

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani is heading for Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday, June 4th, 1996, at the head of an official delegation. The purpose is a new session of the Yemeni-Egyptian Supreme Committee to be held in Cairo between 4th and 6th June.

Relations between Yemen and Egypt have been going through cyclical warming and cooling periods. The warming between the two countries was consolidated last month with the visit of President Ali Abdullah to Cairo. The Prime Minister's visit will build on that one.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

EDUCATION, One More Time

I have discussed the importance of a good education on many occasions. I have written about it in the Yemen Times, lectured at the university, raised in many a qat chew, and privately advised many senior officials. The message was always one - good education is our ticket to a better future.

It seems that the message has consistently fallen on deaf ears. The officials and leaders of our society will only react to immediately pressing needs. They cannot understand long-term priorities, and hence, they don't react to them. You can only get the attention of our rulers if you make trouble for them. Otherwise, they react with a lot of carelessness.

Education has been the victim of this attitude. Yet, I will continue to raise the issue time after time, because it is one of the vital and crucial aspects that will shape our future. This week, I have reason to raise the issue, again.

I personally went to three examination centers to see how things were going. What I saw in the centers I visited in Sanaa was shocking. Cheating was normal, and even tolerated by the invigilators. Indeed, some of the persons in charge openly speak of the lack of protective cover if they were to stand up to the students and their powerful parents and guardians. One of them explicitly told me: "You see our system has lost any sense of self-shame. If I penalize one of the kids, it is likely he will fight back. What kind of cover do I have?"

To add to our complications, the Ministry of Education has this week terminated the contract of some 7,000 foreign teachers in the school system. The motive for this decision is financial, although getting rid of some of the fundamentalist-minded Arab teachers is an additional fringe benefit. But who will replace these teachers? The Ministry of Education will recruit from the Yemeni un-employed, and the new graduates who have to undergo their national service. Both groups will be given a short training program. This is a summer crash course. This alternative may cost less at the moment, but it definitely costs more in the long-run.

The improvisation does not indicate that the government is taking education seriously. Unfortunately, that is one of the problems with the priorities of this government. There is no way one could over-emphasize the importance of education to Yemen's future. Yet, this message seems to fall on deaf ears.

The Publisher


Successful Workshop on NGO Law Proposal

Initially envisaged to last for only 3 days, a workshop discussing a proposed law for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) went on for five days before it was concluded yesterday, Sunday, June 2nd.

The newly proposed text for the law seems to satisfy both - the Ministry of Social Affairs and the NGOs.

"We have worked together as partners with the 50 NGOs active in this effort," said Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister. Representatives of the NGOs agree. "We discussed the bill line by line and went over the implications," said Yahia Al-Kohlani, General Secretary of the Labor Union, the country's largest NGO.

Yemen and Djibouti Sign Security Accord

On Friday, May 31st, at the end of the visit of the Minister of Interior of Djibouti to Sanaa, Mr. Idris Harbi Farah, the Republic of Yemen and Djibouti signed a security agreement. The agreement is basically oriented to stop the contraband flow of liquor from Djibouti, as well as to control the illegal fishing on both sides.

Four-Week Intensive Training of Midwives

A 4-week workshop was kicked off by Health Minister Dr. Najib Ghanim on Saturday, June 1st at Haddah Hotel in Sanaa. The program "is designed to prepare trainers for community-midwives in the provision of effective mother-child health services". It is being implemented by the John Snow, Inc. (JSI) office in Yemen.

According to Mr. Hussein Abdulghany Al-Saqqaf, JSI Office Manager, the training course emphasizes both technical working knowledge of maternal and child health, as well as teaching skills needed to train community midwives and family planning experts. "The course utilizes a hand-on training approach to help participants learn the required skills."

The 24 participants who have come from the various governorates, are going through a six-day training week; each day for 8 hours.

One of the participants, while appreciating the program, complained of the intensity of the training. "We are not used to put in so many hours. I suspect we will have a high rate of leakage very soon," she said. But the financial incentives built into the program may make the participants stay on.

The program is being sponsored by USAID, which has been allocating most of its assistance to health, and population programs.

Kuwait Hospital Doctors on Strike

The Yemeni doctors working at Kuwait Hospital in Sanaa have decided to go on strike starting last week. In a meeting that brought together 74 medical doctors on May 26th, the group decided to shut down the hospital unless three demands are met by the government. These are:
1- Incorporation of the medical team to the College of Medicine, as the hospital is being used as a teaching/training hospital;
2- The Ministry of Finance must pay the overtime due to the medical team and others who serve on the emergency ward.
3- To allocate additional funds to elevate the standard and equipment of the hospital.
There is no gov't response, as yet.

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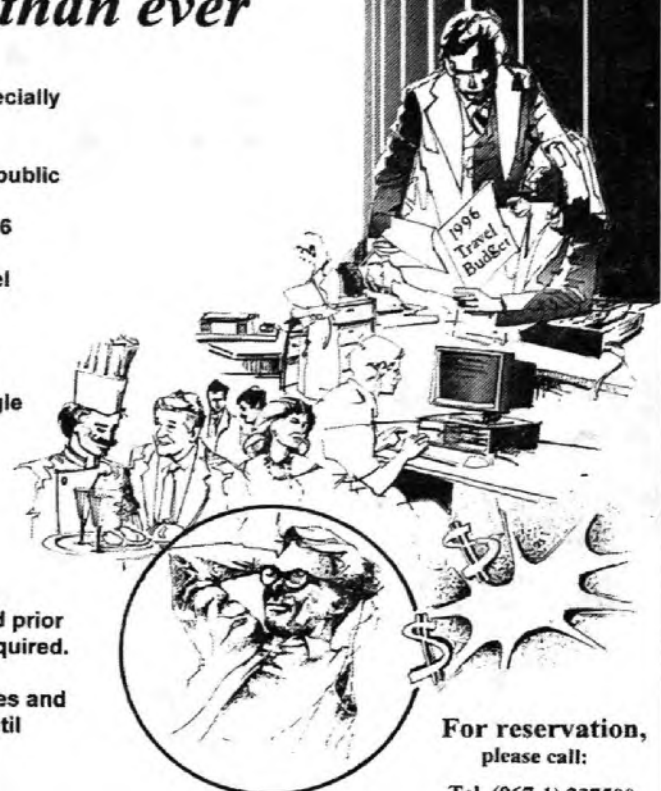
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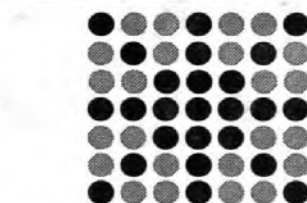


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Ismail Al-Awamy:

"By 2000, Sanaa will need 150,000 phonelines."

The dramatic growth in the size of Sanaa, exceeding 10% per annum in terms of population as well as geographic sprawl, has put rising pressures on the services. One of the services that has been on the top demand list is the telephone line.

A few years ago, one could easily get a line. Today, the situation is steadily being complicated by demand exceeding supply. As a result, the Sanaa Office of the General Corporation for Communications has been on its toes to keep up with demand. At the center of this effort is Mr. Ismail Ali Al-Awamy, from Hajjah. The young man's office is flooded with people at all times.

Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Al-Awamy and filed the following report.

Q: Can you start by giving us an idea of where things stand today?

A: As you know the number of citizens in Sanaa has grown from just 50,000 thirty years ago, to some 1.2 million today. It is one of the fastest growing cities of the world. Keeping up with the needs of this growing population requires long-term master plans, and lots of resources. Neither of these is available to us to an adequate degree.

To add to the demand, Sanaa as the capital city is home to diplomatic corps, senior government officials, and chairmen of corporations and businesses. These are the type of people whose work cannot be done without telephone, fax, and in the near future, internet services. So we have to cater to this demand.

Q: Can you be specific about what has been accomplished to meet this rising demand?

A: Yes, of course.

- We have computerized the programs to measure demand growth and in which sectors.

- We carried out a survey of the various quarters of the city, and divided it into zones with differential service facilities to meet demand.

- We have set up facilities like public phone booths, international calling stations, etc.

- We have experimented with various installment methods like the rapid installations at a higher cost.

- We have re-numbered the grid

distribution switchboard systems, and re-aligned the telephone numbers in some zones.

Q: You spoke of demand. What is the total number of telephone lines in Sanaa today?

A: There is a total capacity of 95,000 telephone numbers or lines in Sanaa today. Of these, some 75,000 have been given out to customers and they are operational. Our feeling is that the demand level right now exceeds 100,000 lines, and that before the end of this century, the demand level for telephones in Sanaa will be in the neighborhood of 150,000 lines.

Q: Is there any possibility you will match this demand?

A: We are working on it. We have already completed a new expansion in two phases that will add 11,000 new connections this year. We expect to add another 20,000 during 1997.

Work proceeds in full gear to meet the demand, but at the end of the day, the determining factor is availability of resources.



Q: You spoke earlier that you have zoned the city. Could you shed some light on this?

A: We have, as you may know, seven major zones served by central switchboards, each taking one of the first alphabet letters in English. The largest and most congested by far, is the "D" zone which is in the Sho'ob area.

Q: You are using French technology in this field, and these are said to be ultra modern. Can you give us details on this?

A: Yes, you are correct. The technology is French, and it is indeed most modern. Some of the central switchboards, like the ones serving the southern end of the city, like Haddah area and Beer Obaid on Taiz Road, have the expansion capacity of serving almost 100,000 lines. Today, neither is loaded with more than 10,000.

Q: There were changes in the

numbers, recently. Why?

A: I had briefly touched earlier on the re-numbering and re-zoning of the quarters of Sanaa to match demand size. We have overhauled some of the switchboards from one zone to another. This means that as your call comes, or as you make your call, the flow is now re-channelled through a different switchboard. This was the reason, the objective behind is reduce the burden on some of the switchboards to the lesser used ones.

Q: Let us talk about some of the difficulties involved with the use of telephone lines. I will start with phone tapping. What is your comment?

A: I am not involved with this and basically I don't want to answer this question.

Q: How about abuse of telephone lines, like calling up people for flirting?

A: This kind of thing happens in any society. We are in full alert to follow-up on this and disconnect any line which is misused. The services is not resumed except after payment of a heavy penalty fee and a commitment that the abuse will be discontinued.

Q: Phone bills have been rising. What is the criteria you use to increase prices?

A: The basic criteria is really our own expenditures. Some of our purchases are in foreign currency, which puts a major burden on us. It is only normal that the burden is passed on to the consumer.

By the way, the telephone bill in Yemen is still less expensive than in many other countries. The rate is still acceptable.

It is true that our rates have increased recently. As a result, our revenues for the last quarter (January-March, 1996) have gone up from YR 83 million in the preceding quarter to YR 158 million.

Q: What about arrears. We hear many senior government officials and officers have not

paid up their telephone bills for a long time.

A: That is very true and is a real problem for us. The Council of Ministers issued several instructions, but they were not obeyed. There were many efforts to recover the money, but they mostly failed.

We have now hope in the new economic reform package, part of which has to do with better collection methods.

The General Corporation for Communications, as you may know, is one of the early government bodies to introduce computerized billing systems to ensure prompt issuance of bills.

Q: Should users give up on the mobile phone?

A: That is a purely political decision. But I would like to indicate that there are near-substitutes in the market. There is the pager, there is the follow-me system, there is the portable phone and the cordless phone within a certain radius, etc.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I have nothing to add. I want to express thanks to the Yemen Times for being interested.

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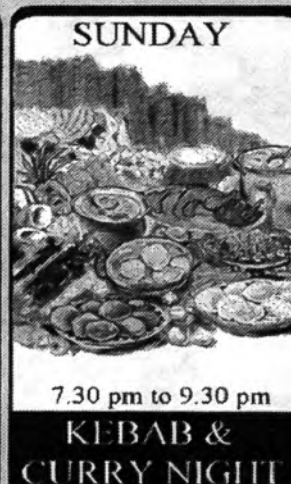
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A Senseless Battle Rages in Sanaa Over a Small Plot of Land

Q: As a leader in your region, how much involved are you in the socio-economic development of your people?
A: Our region is very deprived.

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Although we get orders for projects, they are never implemented. We have need for services and infrastructure, but the officials are not helping.



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Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The North Sea or Antarctica?

"I have gone to every embassy in Sana'a to submit my resume for any company that will have need of a person with my qualifications." Nu'uman was telling his friends.

"Why do you want to leave? You have a lot of qualifications and experience. Any foreign company will be glad to have you on their payroll," said Faisal as he re-arranged his qat.

"Would you believe that I have applied to almost all of them. In some cases, I was even short-listed for some of the jobs advertised and took part in the test for those shortlisted. I was sure to come out on top. All of a sudden, the position was re-advertised. Again, I applied. This time, there were no shortlists, no tests! Someone who had no experience in the position or any of the qualifications was chosen for the job. When I asked some of the people in the administrative unit of the agency in question, they said they were not sure how the decision was made, but apparently the last Resident Representative of this important international agency had made the decision based on the prodding of a senior official in our government. The decision was strictly political." Nu'uman explained to Faisal angrily throwing the twig of qat against the wall.

"How many applied for the position?" Abdullah asked as he picked up a bottle of mineral water.

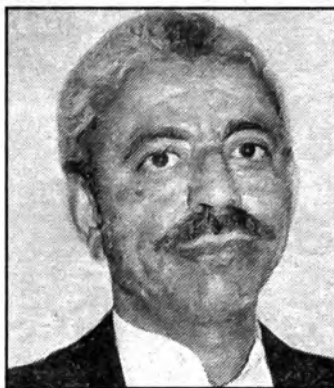
"On the first try, around 70. On the second try, around 80. Poor

guys, imagine all the money wasted in photocopying resumes and supporting documentation. Personally, I think that the position was re-advertised just to make it possible for the friend of the big shot to be selected. Can you imagine that, the guy was not even in the short list," replied Nu'uman.

Mohammed, sitting by the window was too busy looking outside at the garden, but still had one ear tuned to his friends. "You should apply to the World Bank or one of the UN agencies. I think your chances will be better."

Nu'uman could not wait to answer. "The position I was talking about was in one of the UN Agencies! As for the World Bank, my application and supporting documents was the first one received by the Director of the World Bank Office in Sana'a. He himself acknowledged that to me when I called on him upon his arrival, before even the office was formally opened. But again, nothing materialized, in my case, although they have hired many others. They did not even have the courtesy to respond to my letter of application."

"Poor Nu'uman! A lot of brains, but no political pull. I can understand if these were local employers, but foreign agencies. I never thought that political pull can override all considerations, even courtesy!" commented Faisal. "The sad part in all of this is the double standard in dealing with local staff, even in the foreign companies' branch offices



in Sana'a. This is in terms of remuneration, rights, standards as well as courtesy. Even the oil companies apply double standards. I know many staff who have complained of the wide gap existing between the local staff and foreign staff - in pay scales, responsibility and general treatment. Some of the guys working with oil companies have told me that they are only for decoration purposes, to show that the companies are "Yemenizing" their staff. You will never find a Yemeni in any position of real-decision making authority. Some of them are just names on the payroll, who give nothing to the companies they 'work for'. The oil companies make sure they accommodate the political parties in this respect, especially the ruling coalition."

"The way I see it, politics is getting into everything," said Faisal. He added, "The only way to get anywhere in this country is if you have connections. In government, in business, in quasi-government. It is who you know; not what you know that really counts. In this country, you can have 10 high degrees and you may have worked in the best of companies overseas. If you do not have the right connections, you may as well look for a street intersection where you can peddle some cigarettes and chewing gum!"

Nu'uman added: Even where I work, politics has become the

deciding factor for position designations. Professional criteria are almost ignored. Position assignments are based purely on party sentiments. When the portfolio is handed over to a party, all the management positions are reassigned to members of the party, including the lowest positions. How can you expect efficiency and integrity in government functions?"

Mohammed again took his eyes out of the window: "Let us all apply for jobs in the North Sea! They are going to pay US \$7500 per month. That is more than 5 year's pay at your grade level Nu'uman."

Nu'uman retorted, "You do not really believe those ads, do you? Those are rip-off joints. They ask you to send your resume and papers and request you to remit money and you never hear from them again."

Faisal added, "I can not see how people from Tihama can cope with - 50° centigrade temperatures. I remember when we were in military service and our camp was located high up in the Dhula'a area, west of Sana'a. Some of the draftees, who came from Tihama, actually died, partly of the cold!"

Abdullah added, "It is not just the people of Tihama who will freeze to death in the North Sea. Any Yemeni will freeze in no time over there. I am surprised that nobody is checking out the authenticity of such solicitations. It is bad enough we are already being ripped off left and right in Yemen by sleazy people and the government bureaucracy. Now, we have some foreign rip off joints getting at us."

"Some of these foreign joints are represented by the kids of tribal sheikhs, and other government officials. Recently, tens of business offices were established by the sons of government officials, tribal sheikhs, and others as they are in the business of laundering the money their parents have been ripping off for years!"

Nu'uman wanted the conversation to stick to the plight of Yemeni intelligentsia who just can't seem to make it. "I am telling you, if it were not for this crazy inflation, we would not be this bad off. Ten years ago, my salary was worth the equivalent of US\$ 2000! Now, even after all those pay increases the government has instituted, my salary is not worth US\$ 100. I have lost my normal family life because I have to work twenty four hours on other jobs to supplement my income. I find it difficult to understand how those who really cannot do other work manage to survive. Look at the faces of people in government offices. Except for those with illegal sources of income, the majority look like they have been run over by a 747!"

Mohammed disclosed, "Some people have committed suicide; others have sent their kids to street intersections. Still, others have become pick-pockets and swindlers of all sorts. But the government keeps telling us that everything is fine and the future is going to be rosy."

Faisal explained, "Look at the way our officials and tribal leaders are living. Their Filipino maids are paid better than a university professor. That does not include travel tickets and other benefits. These people have no idea of what is really going on in Yemen today."

Abdulla had another point. "These officials just do not care about anyone except themselves. They are not deprived of anything. They were able to accumulate wealth so fast and so easy that they see no reason why it is hard for anybody else to make it like they did. In fact, they regard people like you and me as being stupid for not being able to see it their way, for not taking advantage of the opportunities that come around."

Nu'uman had a deeper explanation. "Mohammed, the issue is a loss of conscience and morals that threatens our future. People

are going to do anything in order to be able to eat. People will steal because a lot of government officials are crooks who get away with anything they take. What kind of a society is ours, if the only way to survive is to be crooked! I am worried about the world our kids will live in."

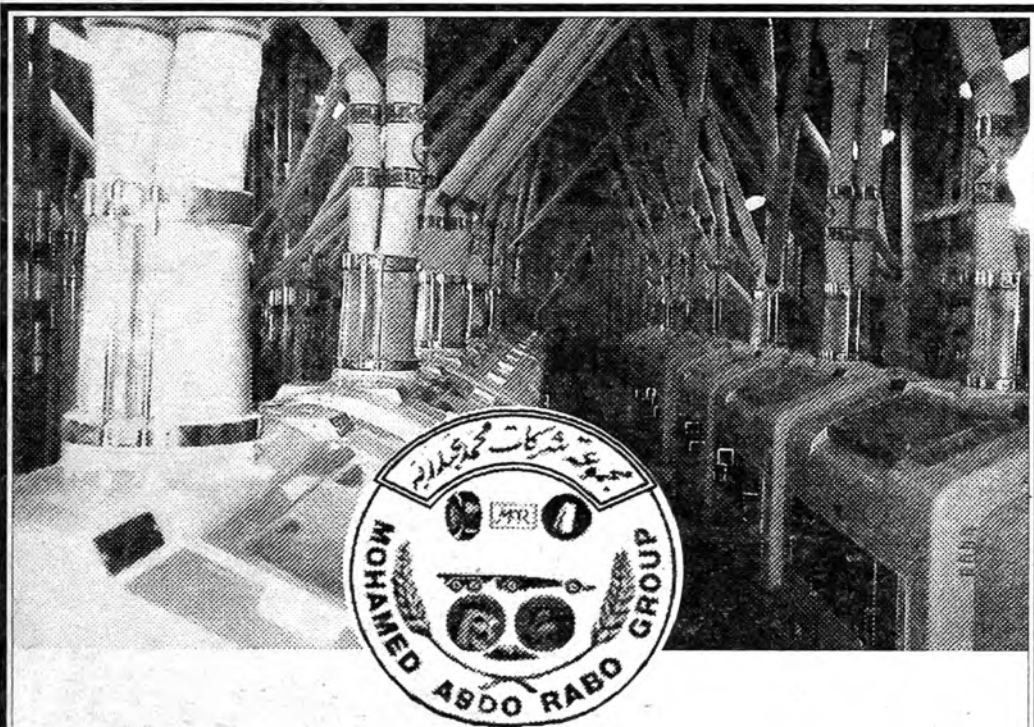
Abdulla threw the empty bottle of water to the middle of the room. "I think it is wrong to have kids in this society, any way. No matter what you do, you can never raise them to be productive, decent citizens. How can you teach them about honesty and hard work when they see how the sons of dishonest officials live in affluence, drive around in luxurious vehicles and pass their exams without having to attend classes or even answer the exams! You can never explain the logic of it all to your kids."

Nu'uman interrupted, "That is the point I was trying to make. What kind of a society will we have if morals and ethics are shrugged off by every citizen. How can you convince your children that honesty, good behavior, hard work are the proper channels for success, when our society shows the opposite is the true!"

Faisal agreed. "But it is hard to believe that Yemen's innocence has been corrupted to such a point that evil is the only access path to survival, let alone rapid wealth." Mohammed added, "That is why I say it is wrong to have children in this environment." Abdulla went further. "Never mind having kids from now on. What do we do with the ones already around?"

Mohammed joked, "Send them to Antarctica since the South is always warmer than the North!" "No, Abdulla! The South Pole is just as cold as the North Pole and Antarctica is just as cold, if not colder, than the North Sea! Besides, what may I ask are they going to do down there?"

Mohammed responded, "The way I see it, any place would be more inviting than the environment we have here, especially for our kids."



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Phone: 2630/ 2979/ 4465;

صناعات: ت: ٢٤٠٧٠٢ - ٢٤٠٩٥٣ : فاكس: ٢٦٣٠٨٦ : ب.ص: ٢٥٢٨
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الخرطوم: ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٥٦٩ : فاكس: ٧٤٥٦٩ : ب.ص: ١١٩٢٦
بورسودان: ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ : فاكس: ٧٤٥٦١ : ب.ص: ١٦٠

TENDER FOR SUPPLY MATERIALS FOR 1996 INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The Public Electricity Corporation (PEC) invites national and international tenders for the supply materials for 1996 investment program as follows:

1. Tender No. 16/96 - supply of distribution transformers
2. Tender No. 17/96 - supply of diesel generators
3. Tender No. 18/96 - supply of wooden poles
4. Tender No. 19/96 - supply of protection equipments
5. Tender No. 20/96 - supply of insulators
6. Tender No. 21/96 - supply of lighting arresters
7. Tender No. 22/96 - supply of conductors
8. Tender No. 23/96 - supply of aerial cables
9. Tender No. 24/96 - supply of overhead accessories

Interested bidders may obtain the tender documents priced at (30,000 Yemeni Riyals) for all tender or (5,000 Yemeni Riyals) per tender on anon refundable basis from the purchase and store. Working hours (8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

The tenders offer should be accompanied with the following:

1. A bid bond for 2% valid for three months
2. A copy of tax card with regard to the local companies
3. A copy of the agency document from the foreign company authorizing the local company to act as the foreign company assigned in the Republic of Yemen

All offers should be sealed with red wax. Completed tenders in sealed covers addressed to Mr. Ahmed Al-Aayni, Director General, Public Electricity Corporation, Haddah Complex, Block (B2), Sana'a, P. O. Box 178, Republic of Yemen, and should reach the PEC as follows:

1. Tender No. 16/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Monday 1st July 1996
2. Tender No. 17/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Tuesday 2nd July 1996
3. Tender No. 18/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Wednesday 3rd July 1996
4. Tender No. 19/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Thursday 4th July 1996
5. Tender No. 20/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Saturday 6th July 1996
6. Tender No. 21/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Monday 8th July 1996
7. Tender No. 22/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Tuesday 9th July 1996
8. Tender No. 23/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Wednesday 10th July 1996
9. Tender No. 24/96 - not later than 10:30 am on Thursday 11st July 1996

Tenders will be opened in public at (11:00 a.m.) of the same day as shown above, at the PEC, in the presence of such tenders or their representatives who may wish to attend.

The PEC is not bound to accept the lowest prices to the tenders.

General Conclusions on the Sustainability of Yemen's Donor Supported Projects

BACKGROUND:

The difficulties facing Yemen's economy necessitate structural changes, which have led to a dialogue between the Government of Yemen and international and bilateral donors. In this process the Government showed readiness to adopt measures designed to improve the economy. Major short- and long-term implications on the agricultural sector are expected.

Population growth and migration to the cities raise the need for food supplies, food processing and market structures to meet the growing food demand. The agricultural sector is described as stagnant in terms of production and employment, as degrading in terms of natural resources and as not sustainable in terms of past and ongoing investments. An example is the grave situation in the water supply, where water "mining" is continuously reducing ground water levels in dimensions which are threatening the drinking water supply of the main towns during the next few years - and even threatening the existence of the next generation. Reversing these trends will have to be interlinked with the restructuring policies. Clear agricultural policies and strong management for the wide scope of envisaged sectoral adjustments are needed. These would have to be based on sector analysis, with the objective to prepare a framework for sector policy and management decisions.

IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY

While agriculture faces growing demands and decreasing sustainability of its resources, donor supported agricultural projects aimed to improve both. Both only seldom they found ways to improve either of the two. In addition, these projects frequently cannot be sustained after the external support comes to an end. Hardly any agricultural project continues the way it has been planned, even though they may have received donor financing for a generation. If sustainability cannot be reached, the long efforts of many people working in the projects, the training they received and the project funds are likely to be wasted. But the credits may have to be repaid by the next generation! And most important, a chance to improve the performance and sustainability of agricultural production has been lost.

The lack of sustainability has many appearances: Project staff has to remain in their office as their

salaries are paid but not the operating expenses; the target group quickly recognizes that cooperation with the project has become useless; transport equipment and other mobile items are used for other purposes; immobile investments deteriorate slowly because they are not maintained; the better qualified staff finds new employment; etc. But there are also examples of projects continuing successfully after external financing has stopped. In the following, some of the main conditions which can make projects fail or succeed are highlighted.

In analyzing the sustainability of donor supported agricultural projects it is helpful to look at different decision-making levels and different types of projects. While many of the factors which endanger sustainability have a bearing of different intensity on several levels, some are specific to certain types of projects. We will consider the sustainability of:

- 1- donor supported projects in general,
- 2- self-help and micro projects,
- 3- projects which can be commercialized,
- 4- non-productive projects.

1. Sustainability of Donor Supported Projects in General

1.1 Sustainability is in danger if the principle of subsidiarity is not applied. Although they are short of staff, resources and time, ministries occupy themselves with tasks which could be done cheaper by lower level organizations. The main task of ministries is policy analysis, formulation and monitoring of their implementation. Legislative vagueness is an important factor in endangering project sustainability. By concentrating on tasks which other organizations cannot do, ministries can create an environment conducive to sustainable development.

1.2 Especially long-established and large projects have difficulties to incorporate sustainability issues in their project concepts, plans and evaluation. As it requires continual work of projects personnel to achieve sustainability, it must be the main orientation in project design.

1.3 Success-orientation can have a decisive influence on improving project sustainability. Staff motivation - and with it staff performance - improves tremendously if successes show, and external support is inclined to flow to the successful projects. Sustainability should be seen first and foremost in its functional aspect: Only by their

successful activities projects will be sustained.

1.4 Sustainability requires responsible management on the various levels involved. Responsibility can only develop if decision making and budgeting is decentralized. In societies facing the danger of corruption, which is an important threat also to sustainability, project mechanisms of control and self-control may have to be strengthened. Frequently, large projects attract powerful outsiders who interfere with project decisions. This undermines management credibility and program sustainability.

1.5 Complex administrative procedures can reduce effective project management and the chances of sustainability. Both are improved if decisions are decentralized, if people have clear authorization and job descriptions they identify with, if communication lines are kept short, and if the information policy is an open one.

1.6 MAWR-projects receive their financing through budget chapter 5 as long as they are also financed by donors. When external financing stops, local financing is transferred to chapter 2, which is much smaller. This procedure leads by necessity to a reduction of project finances at the point of final handing-over and, a consequence, to endangering sustainability. If donors would apply the principle of subsidiarity, they would reduce external support gradually, parallel to the growing capacities within the project. At the same time, sustainability considerations would gain importance in the projects.

1.7 A sustainable project will result mainly from its management, personnel and participants establishing a permanent "learning culture". Continuous monitoring and frequent evaluations, if taken seriously, enables all concerned to learn.

1.8 The most important long-term threat to sustainability of agricultural projects and development of the sector is population growth. It is recognized, that it is not possible to double agricultural production within one generation through projects continually. Even projects which appear sustainable now may become irrelevant for an increasing population.

2. Sustainability of Self-help/Micro-Projects

2.1 The main cause of lacking sustainability in self-help and micro-projects is that they do not involve the participants early and far enough. Donor supported projects often employ participation only superficially, while the management tries to retain the decision-making powers over the micro-projects. But this conflicts with the necessity for decentralization - and with the fundamental goals of development support. Micro-projects can be sustained quite well if the participants are selecting them according to their own priorities and if they feel responsible for planning, contribution of a major share of the investment, implementation,

maintenance and the distribution of benefits.

2.2 Productive micro-projects have a better sustainability chance than service micro-projects, as they earn funds which can be used for maintenance. Service micro-projects can have an increased chance to be sustainable if the participants have a sense of ownership and responsibility for them.

2.3 Micro-projects which use local skills/resources have higher chances to be sustained.

2.4 Sustainability of micro-projects is more likely if the participants view the distribution of the project benefits as just. But this is often threatened by irresponsible leadership, a frequent cause of micro-project failure which finds not enough attention in donor's training programs. Electing the project leaders and installing replacement mechanisms can improve the leadership problems.

2.5 Reliable accounting, regular monitoring and frequent evaluations (with the aim of learning and not to blame) can lead the participants to utilize their experiences better in a learning process to ensure sustainability.

3. Sustainability of Projects which can be Commercialized

3.1 If donor supported projects are designed at their start to run on commercial lines with a profit orientation and a view to privatization, many of the potential causes of unsustainability can be avoided.

3.2 In addition, these projects offer the chance for the government to sell them - reducing the burden on the budget.

3.3 A precondition for this type of project is that during the investment phase their management is given full decision-making authority. Ministries have a monitoring function and they should replace managers who are not achieving profitability.

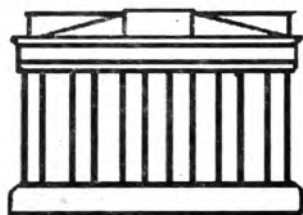
4. Sustainability of Non-productive Projects

4.1 Non-productive projects are in poor countries attracting hardly any other investors than government organizations. This fact endangers their sustainability twofold: On the one hand, economically and commercially oriented personnel is scarce in government administrations, on the other these projects have few chances to pay for themselves. When donor funding ends, they quickly reduce their operations.

4.2 Non-productive products have better chances of sustainability if project design orients them on the lines given under point 2. There are many examples where participant involvement is keeping micro-projects running independently as long as they have an important function for the community.

4.3 In many cases NGOs performed well in support of non-productive micro-projects. They may ensure sustainability with minimum external support.

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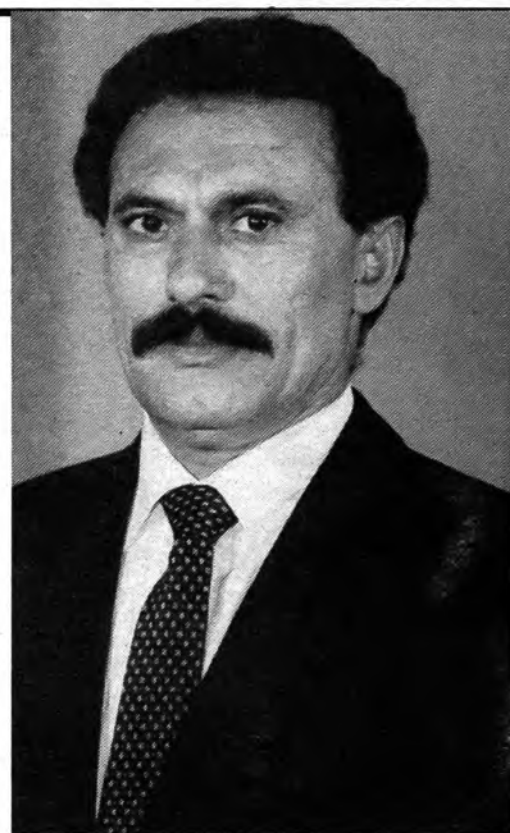
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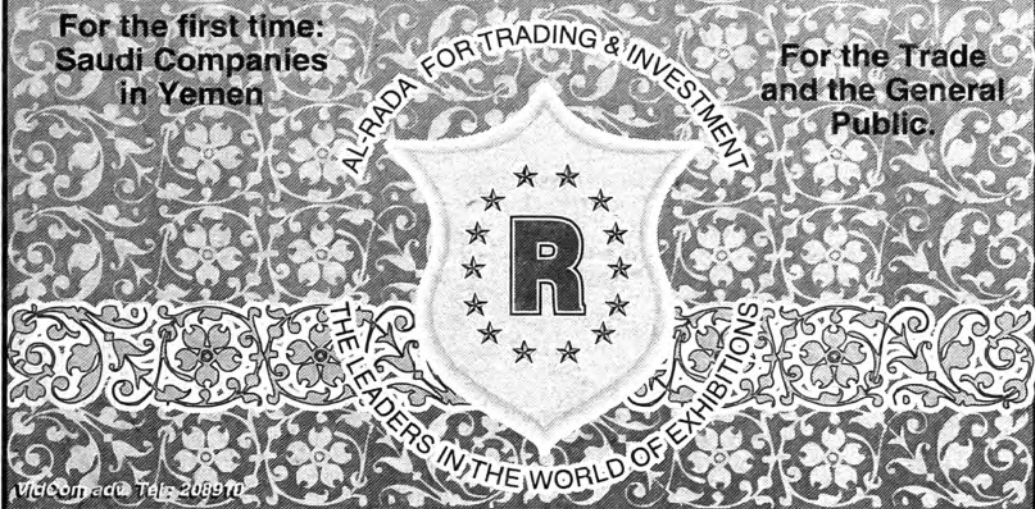
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Nursing Profession Gets a Boost

"An unprecedented growth in the elderly population in many countries of the world is a wake-up call for health services to start treating nursing seriously," warned Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). "As never before, greater numbers of people live longer, but the number of care providers is growing smaller and smaller. Unless proper planning, training and decent economic conditions for the nursing profession are introduced, soon there will be too few qualified people to provide care to the greying populations in various countries of the world, and to guide and support families in their care-giving responsibilities."

The economic, social and cultural environment in each country is unique, but the problems facing the development of nursing practice appear to be common to most. That was the verdict reached by WHO member states discussing a resolution on strengthening nursing and midwifery at the World Health Assembly. Delegates from 41 developed and developing countries took the floor sharing their national experiences and unanimously agreeing that nurses and midwives were "the bulk and backbone of health services".

The resolution, adopted by consensus, calls for a greater integration of nurses and midwives into the health care reform process at all levels and for a more prominent role in the development of national health policy.

There appears to be no direct correlation between a country's level of socio-economic development and the scope of its nursing practice. In some low-income countries, for example, nursing is highly developed and nurses provide all primary health care services. In some countries nurses direct and manage most of the health care system, yet in others, nursing is poorly utilized.

There also seems to be no relationship between the socio-economic level of a country and the ratio of physicians to nurses. In some countries, the role of nursing personnel may be restricted particularly where there is an oversupply of physicians. In other countries, the role of nurses is expanding especially in providing access to health care for rural and inner-city populations, for mothers and children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

Nevertheless, a country's economic resources will affect the development of nursing and midwifery practice in a number of direct and indirect ways. In some countries, nursing personnel have not been paid for more than a year and some schools of nursing are in serious disrepair. In such a situation, nursing is not likely to be an attractive career to opt for, or to stay in, and the development of nursing and midwifery practice will be impeded.

Almost US\$ 2000 billion annually is spent on health care worldwide. Per capita expenditure in high-income countries reaches more than US\$ 200 per year, while in the poorest countries it may be no higher than US\$ 3-5 per year. Although nurses make up the largest part of the health care workforce in most countries, decisions about budget allocations for the recruitment, education and retention of nursing personnel are rarely influenced by nurses. They remain insufficiently represented at all levels of planning and decision-making. Policy-makers are encouraged to include nurses and midwives in their health reform efforts so that the real issues of basic health care delivery are addressed.

Worldwide, nurses migrate from poorer to wealthier countries seeking better employment opportunities. There is a similar trend in migration from rural to urban areas and from the public to the private sectors. Migration of nurses poses serious challenges. Poor countries may gain from earnings being sent home by those who work abroad, but the loss of qualified nursing staff causes a serious shortage. It is often the best qualified nurses who migrate, leaving critically needed positions in educational institutions and government health care services vacant or filled by less qualified personnel.

"Health care system and human resources issues remain crucial, since, for example, polio eradication depends, among other factors, upon the vaccination drops getting onto children's tongues; the control of highly infectious old and newly emerging diseases upon nurses upholding infection control in hospital wards; and the quality of life of growing numbers of old people, and the survival and well-being of pregnant women and infants, upon knowledgeable care," comments Dr. Miriam Hirschfeld, Chief of the Nursing Program at WHO.

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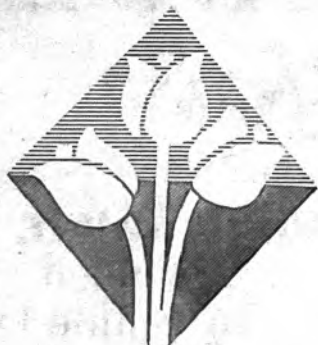
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صدق الله العظيم

التعازي الحارة

علي محمد سعيد واحمد هائل سعيد

وكافة أسرة هائل سعيد انعم

والمدرء والموظفون والعمال في مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد انعم

يتقدمون

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للاستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني

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نسأل المولى العلي القدير أن ينعم عليها برحمته وغفرانه

وأن يسكنها مع الأنبياء والأبرار والصالحين من عباده في جناته

ونسأله أن يلهم أهلها جميعاً الصبر والسلوان وألا يريهم مكروهاً في عزيز

وانا لله وانا إليه راجعون

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their heartfelt condolences to

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani,
brothers, family and all relatives
on the passing away of their mother.

We pray the Lord to have mercy on her soul,
and may she rest in peace, Amen.

Islam & the West

The Muslim World today is at the center of action. Most of the upheavals in the world involve Muslims. Wherever you look, whichever news you hear, Muslims are part of the violence and disturbance that embraces our world. Why?

Many people believe it is because the Muslim community is searching for a place, for a role to play. The New World Order is seen as trying hard to deny the more than one billion Muslims and the more than fifty nations they represent its proper role and place. There is an on-going struggle.

It is my belief that ultimately the Muslims will have a place and a role. The monopoly power which the USA presently exercises will have to give way to a multi-polar world in which Europe, the Far East, a revived Russia, the Muslims and others will have a role.

The pendulum of power distribution worldwide has swung to one extreme. The violence in various parts of the world, especially in the Muslim quarter, is a desperate response to that extreme. I believe that early in the next century, we will witness even more violence because the leaders of the present one-sided world are increasingly abusing their power as they push people around.

Islam, which the leaders of the New World Order are trying to discredit by branding as extremist and a source of trouble, is destined to be the catalyst to bring down the monopoly power of today's world. The ultimate result of this struggle will have to be a more harmonious world in which no one single country can push everybody around.

We have seen in the last few weeks when Muslim children were massacred by Israeli soldiers using American-made weapons. To add insult to injury, the Israelis and Americans brushed aside the UN report on this tragedy. The Israelis even called it a joke. This is the kind of power abuse which the world needs to do away with, if harmony and peace are to prevail in this world.

"Today, the modern world stands in need of Islamic tolerance and universal brotherhood, and the Muslim world has to play its role in the shaping of a harmonious, peaceful and happy destiny for the war weary, tension-tossed and ideology torn world." (Professor Arnold Toynbee)

"If any religion has a chance of ruling over England, nay Europe, within the next hundred years, it can only be Islam. I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess the assimilating capability to the changing phase of existence, which can make its appeal to every age. I believe that if a man like Muhammad were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness."

(George Bernard Shaw)

"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?"

(Lamartine)

"Islam is the religion of the universe. Islam is the destiny of mankind. That destiny must come to fulfillment sooner or later. Muslims carry a great responsibility on their shoulders in that respect, and the earlier they awaken to it, the better."

(Professor Dr. C. Antonoff)

"Europe has continued to keep out of sight our scientific obligations to the Mussalmans. Surely they cannot be much longer hidden."

(Rev. G. Margoliouth)

"History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."

(Dr. Lacy O'Leary)

By: Syed F. Raza.

Abortion, Values & Meaning of Life

By: Dr. Zuhir Araji, Sanaa.

People value human life through its natural process. They understand and respect the idea and process of conception, pregnancy, and delivery. Otherwise they simply will not exist. We desire to pass this precious gift of life, given to us by our Creator, through our offsprings. By continuing life from one generation to the other, we enhance and enrich our existence. This existence is threatened by a medical procedure which terminates life, before birth, known as abortion. During the past fifty years two factors in the Western world - technological advancement and feminist movements - heated up the issue of abortion. It has become a major factor in splitting Western society into two groups, pro-choice and pro-life.

The first group, pro-choice, is one that supports abortion arguing that it is the individual right of the woman to choose what to do with her own body.

The second group, pro-life, opposes abortion and argues that all life is sacred and considers abortion a form of murder. Both groups are historically active in propagating their claims, especially in North America.

The legality of abortion in the United States came after the declaration of the Supreme Court in the case of *Jane Roe versus Henry Wade* in 1973 which resulted in the legitimization of abortion.

The judges on the Supreme Court based their decision on a group of medical facts that is initiated by the Qur'an. The Qur'anic idea states that the minimal age of the fetus to live independently from the mother is six months. This is mentioned in two verses of the Qur'an. The first verse states:

In travail upon travail did his mother bear him, and in years twain was his weaning (sura 31, verse 14) and the second one states: *And we have enjoined on man kindness to his parents; In pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the child to his weaning is a period of thirty months* (sura 46, verse 15).

So the minimum that the fetus can be delivered and sustain life is six months.

The judges of the American Supreme Court divided pregnancy into three stages - each stage being three months. In the first trimester, the woman is allowed by law to abort using all medical tools necessary. In the second trimester, abortion is allowed but must be supervised by state laws. And in the third trimester, when the fetus is over six months old, abortion is not allowed by law except in cases where the mother's life is in danger.

This controversial decision by the American Supreme court has resulted in more than 1.6 million abortions in the US every year. This waste of human life is based on the argument of a woman's right to choose whether or not to carry on with pregnancy.

The philosophical question that is frequently asked is: "Is abortion a personal problem related to the woman or is it a killing of another human being?"

We cannot answer this question until we consider another one first. "What is the status of a human fetus from the biological point of view?" In abortion, is a baby killed, or is it a group of cells and tissues that are destroyed?"

This question is hard to answer because Western scholars believe that the fetus is neither a complete human being nor is it a group of cells and tissues. I refute this idea because, although the fetus is not a complete human being, it can potentially become a complete human being. If one claims that the fetus is a potential human being and were to die, would Muslims bury it the same way that they would bury a regular human being?" Islam's reply is Yes! If the fetus is four months old and were to come out, we cover it with a shroud and we bury it. Our religious beliefs don't allow us to discard it in the trash bin.

Getting back to the question of legality of abortion, I say that the fetus is not a group of cells which can be discarded as easily in the same way that we discard other dead cells such as hair and nails.

In other words, abortion is in fact a killing of human life. All religious messages condemn abortion and consider it morally wrong.

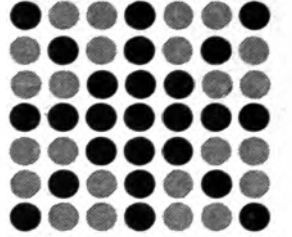
Islam, more than fourteen hundred years ago, dealt with the question of abortion and designed two stages to correct this immoral behavior. The first stage is by considering any kind of abortion a form of murder of a human life except in those cases when the mother's life is in danger. The second stage is by imposing fine proportionate with the age of the fetus in case abortion takes place. The accuracy of Islamic law concerning abortion is amazingly compatible with biological discoveries. But there are more lingering questions which need detailed answers.

Is it correct to say that the fetus is biologically part of a woman's body, or is abortion considered a way for a woman to control her body? Is the decision to abort an individual one? Can we impose on a woman a body that she does not desire to carry?

Medical science has proven that the fetus carries two genetic characteristics - that of the mother and that of the father. Considering these facts, no one can say that the fetus is solely the property of the mother and a part of her body. Obviously, the father shares part of the fetus's characteristics. The mother carries the fetus for nine months and through delivery, which time the father - according to the Islamic theory - shares in the obligation to 'carry' the new born baby.

The issue of abortion in Western society and the failure to solve it, reflects the moral crises and the absence of religious values. Pre-marriage and/or extra-marital sex has shaken the foundation of the family system in Western Society. This proves that the idea of individualism which Western thinkers want us to believe in, regardless of religious values, is a total failure. Any society that seeks a clean, responsible, and natural social life cannot find complete answers for social problems such as abortion, without returning to moral and religious values.

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Program Assistant

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Yemen is inviting applications for the post of Program Assistant in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidate shall perform the following duties:

Assist in the implementation of GEF-Support projects, that include among other tasks, preparation and revision of project budgets; maintain necessary budgetary control records; completion of required reporting and financial statements; assist as required in formulation of pipeline GEF projects; and perform any other duties assigned.

Qualifications and Experience:

Completion of university education. Ability to use word processing (Wordperfect).

The applicant should have at least 5 years experience in programme related responsibilities.

The Applicant should have very good knowledge of written and oral English (the working language) and Arabic.

Remuneration:

Salary will be paid in accordance with United Nations Local salary scales.

Other social benefits shall also apply.

This position is open to Yemeni nationals only.

Qualified and interested candidates are requested to send applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received not later than **10 JUNE 1996**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply; and acknowledgement will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Pilgrims Overstay Their Welcome

Top Saudi officials have asked foreign pilgrims to leave country. Saudi Arabia will start deporting this month foreigners who overstayed their visa after the end of Haj, the Muslim pilgrimage season. Lt-General Fahd Al-Sharif, Director General of the Passports Department, said, "We will intensify our campaign ... We advise those who came for Haj or those who came before on Umrah visas to leave the country or risk imprisonment and deportation." About a fifth of an estimated five million foreigners in the kingdom are believed to be illegal residents. About 500,000 Haj pilgrims overstayed their visitor permits last year and were arrested, the general

said. He expects the number this year to be higher, given the economic difficulties in the countries of origin. Saudi Arabia receives about a million pilgrims from all over the world during the Haj season, most of them from poorer Muslim countries. Saudi Arabia also worries that desperate foreigners could be entangled in a rising web of local dissidence. The country has witnessed rising anti-regime activities led by Saudi nationals. On Friday, May 31st, Saudi Arabia beheaded four Saudis involved in the January 1996 bombing of a National Guards facility in Riyadh.

POW Release Raises Kuwaitis' Hopes

A Kuwaiti woman who was listed as missing was handed over to ICRC by the Iraqi authorities. Kuwaiti families who believe Iraq has held their missing relatives since the Gulf war five years ago expressed fresh hope after Baghdad freed last week the woman prisoner of war A female prisoner, one of eight women listed among Kuwait's prisoners of war (POWs) or missing persons, was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. "We now have a great hope that they (POWs) are still alive because we now have proof that prisoners are being held," said Nawaf Al Shaheen, whose two brothers were taken prisoner during the August 1990 Iraqi invasion and have not returned. "Of course, it is another reason for hope that after five years someone is released now," said Mariam Al Sane, whose brother, uncle and two cousins were taken prisoner when Iraqi troops raided her uncle's house during the occupation. In Baghdad, official Iraqi news papers said Iraq had "facilitated" the return of the woman, identified as Nadia Mohammed

Shtayat Al Anizi, who they said had lived freely in Iraq for years and had asked the ICRC to rejoin her relatives in Kuwait. An ICRC official said the woman was young but he did not give her exact age. The National Committee for Missing Persons and POW Affairs (NCMPA) said it could not comment further on the handover until the family of the released prisoner had been given time to adjust. NCMPA and the ICRC conduct monthly meetings on the border with Iraqi officials to attempt to uncover details of people which Kuwait says were taken prisoner and are still missing since the seven-month occupation. The latest border negotiations with Iraq took place on May 6th. Alongside Iraq, Kuwaiti and ICRC delegations, the monthly meetings are attended by representatives from the allied forces which helped to liberate Kuwait, including the US, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia. "Just as that family (of the released woman) knew nothing and found out suddenly, we are expecting a call from POWs committee to say our brothers are still alive," said Shaheen.

The last person to see his brothers was their father, who was taken prisoner and held in the same jail in the southern Iraqi town of Basra during the occupation. The father managed to escape when the prison was opened up during the uprising that hit the south of Iraq following the liberation of Kuwait. "Definitely, we have our depression periods. We don't live our life normally," said Mariam Al Sane, whose brother was last seen in a crowded, disease-ridden Iraqi cell. "Deep inside, he is always there. My brother is deep inside me," she added. Kuwait's list of 625 people who went missing from its territory includes 564 Kuwaitis, 13 Saudis, five Iranians, four Egyptians, four Syrians, three Indians, three Lebanese, an Omani, a Bahraini, a Filipino and 26 stateless Arabs. Of more than 600 personal files submitted by Kuwait, preliminary information has been handed over for 126 people. Last week's release is only the second file to be closed. The first file was closed when the remains of a man was handed over by Iraq and identified as one of the POWs, last year.

Egypt Buys US Frigates, Helicopters

Egypt will buy from the US three frigates and 10 helicopters used for submarine detection, the head of Egypt's navy General Ahmed Saber Selim disclosed recently. Selim said an accord had been reached to provide Egypt with the three Perry-class frigates starting in October this year and the SH2G helicopters in early 1997. The general did not reveal the cost of the contract, but said the last warship to be bought by Egypt from the US was a Knox-class destroyer.

Egypt receives some £1.2 billion in US military aid every year. Selim made the comments at the close of five days of joint naval maneuvers between Egypt, France and Italy off Egypt's Mediterranean coast, last month. Thirteen ships, including two submarines, took part in the exercises, which concentrated on submarine detection as well as air and sea targeting. The bulk of Egypt's army hardware is still Russian.

Israeli Elections Results Complicate the Peace Process ?

Benjamin Netanyahu is Israel's next Prime Minister, the first ever to be directly elected by the public. He won by a margin that is less than 1% (or some 20,000 votes) against Shimon Peres.

Although many observers believe that Netanyahu will not even try to live up to the promises he had made during his campaigns, the reality of world politics will simply not allow him to do that.

Another factor that will limit Netanyahu's ability to change courses is that his Likud party does not have a majority in the Knesset.

Even then, his election will complicate the peace process. Towards that end, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa flew to Damascus last week for consultations with Syrian President Hafez Assad. But the two countries were calmed by a secret message passed on to them by the new prime minister. He also pacified many circles with his first speech on Saturday June 1st. The USA and Europe have already come to terms with the new reality. They said they will work with the new team. Analysts say that it is the Palestinian Israelis who let down Mr. Peres. Some 80,000 of them cast blank votes. Those votes - a definite Peres favor - could have changed the results. The Palestinians decided Mr. Peres must pay for ordering the massacre of Qana in Lebanon, which ironically were meant to ensure a Peres win.

THANK YOU



Dr. Samir. We do hope to get more good hospitals and caring doctors like these.

May God Bless!

Al-Tamimi's Family.

Our gratitude to Dr. Fadhel M. Al Habib for his care and excellent work during Magdi's operation. And special thanks and gratitude to the hard working and caring nature of Dr. Atiaf Hussein. And lastly thanks to the efficient staff of Al-Arabi Hospital, especially to

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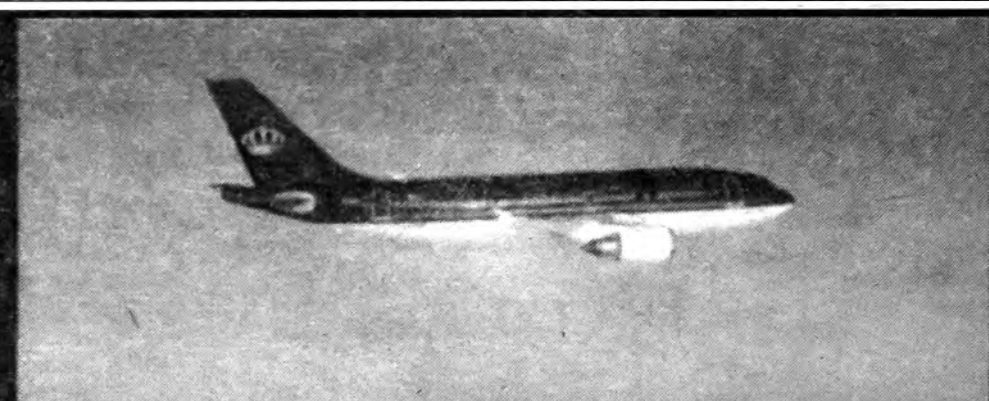
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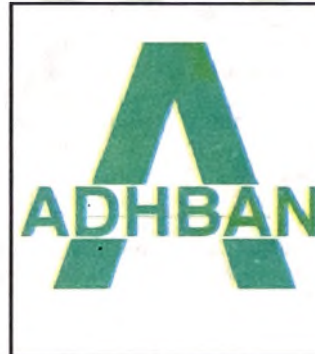
Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Yemen,

on the passing away of his mother.

May God have mercy on her, and may her soul rest in peace.

Special, Special, Special

SAUDIA Planes Return to Yemeni Skies



At 7:30 pm on Monday, May 27th, an Airbus landed at Sanaa International Airport. That event marked the return of Saudi Arabian Airlines to service Yemeni cities. At first, it will be a two-flight per week schedule between Sanaa and Jeddah. More flights serving other destinations in both countries are in the pipeline. Ismail Al-Ghabry reports on the occasion!



INTERVIEW WITH DR. KHALID A. BEN BAKR, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES, SINCE 1994.

Q: What is your feeling as you landed at Sanaa Airport?

A: I am very happy to be here, and I am happy that Saudia is re-capturing its share of the Yemeni market.

I feel the potential is very good, and there is room for mutually beneficial cooperation. I think the resumption of Saudia flights to Yemen reflects the increasing understanding between the two countries.

Q: How are professional relations between Saudia and Yemenia?

A: First of all, Saudi and Yemenia are partners. Second, we have common interests and business. We look towards more cooperation.

Air transportation is really an important link between peoples and economies. We should look at this service as a means for a much larger association, trade, tourism, and other forms of cooperation. When you have air transport between two destinations, that brings them closer.

Q: Are there any joint training, marketing, etc. programs?

A: Let me say that from the very inception of Yemenia, we have extended a helping hand. Saudia and Yemenia are two sister companies. We are more than willing to provide training services, marketing needs, and any other facilities Yemenia needs.

Q: Saudia is one of the world's giant companies. What is your strategy in this business?

A: As you have correctly noted, Saudia is a giant airline, even by world standards. The fleet with more than 125 different airplanes is enormous. Remember we started a single DC3 on March 10th, 1945. The facilities and equipment are modern, and the services are outstanding. We have over 50 international destinations in five continents.

Our strategy is customer satisfaction - whether for passengers or cargo. One key aspect of this is punctuality. Last year, Saudia had a 93.47% on-time departure performance rate. This is important for connecting passengers.

Q: What are you doing in terms of safety?

A: You may want to know that Saudia was voted last year as one among the top twenty safest airlines in the world. We have extensive and intensive maintenance and check-up facilities. Our pilots, assistants and hostesses are professionally trained, and the equipment is constantly modernized. I want to point out to an up-to-date schedule for the entire fleet allocating stand-by equipment for immediate use whenever need arises for technical reasons or in emergencies.

Q: How do you look at the future of Saudia?

A: I am hopeful and optimistic. Demand for Saudia services is growing. We are financing renewal of aircrafts and equipment from profits generated by the company.

Let me point out that last year (1995), the company celebrated the 50th anniversary of the service. It was a momentous occasion.



INTERVIEW WITH HAJ MOHAMED M. ADBAN, Chairman of the Adban Group of Companies. The Adban Group of Companies is one of the leading industrial and business households of Yemen. They have enormous assets in Yemen and worldwide.

Q: What does this event mean to you?

A: The return of Saudia to the Yemeni market is an additional indicator that relations between the two neighboring and fraternal countries are growing stronger steadily. We are all happy with this event. The return of Saudia to Yemeni destinations marks the end of a freezing that lasted for six years.

Q: Adban Travel & Tourism is one of your many companies. Could you tell us more about it?

A: Yes, we have a number of industrial, agricultural, commercial and service companies. Adban Travel & Tourism is one of the service companies. It is a fully-owned subsidiary which was established in 1984. It is a GSA (General Sales Agent) of Saudia and Philippines Airlines, and a sales agent for many local and international airlines.

Q: When did you start representing Saudia?

A: We have been the GSA of Saudi Arabian Airlines since the very beginning. Unfortunately, since 1991, Saudia ceased to service Yemeni destination. This was directly related to the Gulf War, which was one of the main disasters in the recent history of the region.

Q: The service is resumed with one sector?

A: Yes, Saudia will fly a twice weekly schedule between Sanaa and Jeddah. As things improve, we look forward to additional sectors involving Riyadh and Aden.

Q: Saudia is a 49% partner in the newly merged Yemeni airline (Yemenia and Alyemen were merged under the name Yemenia)?

A: I want to use this occasion to point to the generous support of Saudia to Yemenia in the past. This generosity will continue in the future. Our relations are not purely business. We should keep in mind that there is a lot more to it than just business.

Q: What kind of market share in Yemen are you looking at?

A: I cannot give a specific number, but we are going full speed to re-capture our share in the local market. We have introduced many incentives to the sales agents. We are also providing passengers a lot of facilities. After all, Saudia flies new airplanes, subject to intensive maintenance, offers easy connections, and many on-board and airport services.

Q: Any additional comments?

A: I just want to stress the role tourism can play in Yemen. Airlines is the main travel methods for tourists. The coming of Saudia to Yemen opens a new horizon for travellers.

In addition, the passenger and cargo flow between Yemen and Saudi Arabia will open new business possibilities. It will also encourage Saudi investors to come to Yemen.

In short, I think we have reason to celebrate and we are marking a happy occasion.

AL-TAJJAMMU'U, ADEN (WEEKLY) 27-5-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) At YBRD Amran Branch Manager, Son of Sheikh Gets away with Forgery of YR 11 Million and the Subordinates are the Only Ones Questioned
- 2) In Yaffaa: 4 Deaths and Several Injuries - Murder and Dynamite in the Marketplace
- 3) The Fate of Al-Beedh's Real Estate (Private Property Confiscated After the War)

Article Summary:

The Opposition Council: To Be Or Not to Be

In his regular column, Weekly Diary, Omar Al-Jawi, Secretary General to the party and outspoken opposition leader, expresses his concern that some of the recent political developments are dangerously weakening the Coordinating Council of the Opposition Parties' capacity to face up to the rulers. Some of the opposition parties have apparently decided to co-exist with the rulers in the hope of getting some concessions from the rulers.

According to Al-Jawi, there is danger in this as the political parties which chose this approach are actually forfeiting important elements of their roles as bona fide members of the opposition bloc. Moreover, Al-Jawi believes that such an attitude is an indication of a serious rift in the Council's unity and a divided approach on how to confront the rulers.

On the other hand, Al-Jawi is hinted that the rulers are exploiting their access to the resources of the government. This is done to keep the opposition in low key. Even then, they speak of a pluralistic system, and the role of the opposition is effectively for political decoration and nothing more. The writer did not give the names of the parties which follow this approach - an accommodation with the ruler at the expense of weakening the Opposition Council's role. Yet, the critical analyst gives an indication of the parties which are potentially vulnerable to such temptations: The Yemeni Socialist Party and the Nasserite Unionist Party - 2 very important members of the Council. The Coordination Council of the Opposition is a bloc of eight political parties who have joined hands in order not to bloc the rulers' overextended use of power and authority.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-5-1996
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Military Officers of the Southern Governorates Are Facing Oppressive Procedures
- 2) Outbreak of a Big Fire in Fatah (The Old Presidential Quarters of the former PDRY)
- 3) Street Wars in the Capital City.
- 4) The Opposition Council Denounces the Animosity Speech of the Rulers Against Its Leaders

Article Summary:

Government Fails to Meet International Commitments



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

The paper points out that the Yemeni government has intentionally reneged on its international commitments regarding how to deal with the effects of the Civil War (1994). The paper alleges that the government has acquired the support of international agencies and the big powers by committing to a general amnesty for all those who fought against it during the tragic war and attempted secession and to enter into a serious political dialogue towards the implementation of the Document for Pledge and Accord signed by representatives of all the active political forces, partisan and independent, in Amman in February 1994.

The government in its letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations on the 7th of July had included an undertaking to apply a general total general amnesty without any exceptions. Yet this declaration is being subjected to whimsical interpretations and exclusions and the regime maintains several of those who are actively engaged in opposing government policy, inside and outside the country as being traitors or secessionists which leads to an apparent lack of credibility in the governments image world wide.

AL-SAHWA, Sana'a (Weekly), 23-5-1996
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform - Islah)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Speaker of Parliament Meets House of Commons Mission to Yemen
- 2) Doctor Bafadhl Inaugurates a Project to protect the Marine Environment in Hodeidah
- 3) The Sudan: Threatening Moves by Eritrea and Ethiopia

Article Summary:

1) Caution! Before Insecticides Overtake Us

A long investigative report in the paper, which discusses the effects of insecticides on the population, starts by pointing out that more than half a million people are killed by insecticide yearly, worldwide, especially in developing countries. The random use of pesticide in the Republic of Yemen raises many serious questions regarding the negligence of responsible authorities, which the paper says must corrected before the effects on the population become catastrophic.

In Yemen, 500 to 700 tons of pesticides are imported annually on a normal basis. In addition, as much as 300-400 tons are smuggled into the country. At this stage, there is really no law which regulates the importation or use of pesticides in the country. There are decrees issued by the Prime Minister but they are weak and do not have the power of the law.

Some of the imported pesticides are among those considered by the US Environmental Protection Agency as dangerous to human. They include Carbaryl, Dimethoate, Captan and Benlate. There are also pesticides which could have hereditary effects such as Actellic, Chlorpyrifos and Sumiton.

2) To the Ministry of Interior, "Is It True?"

Ali Al-Waseiy, a regular commentator in the journal, discusses in his regular backpage column the issue of whether "grown-up women could be considered adults and could be allowed to travel alone". He denounces the fact that many Yemeni women are allowed to travel out of the country without companions (guardians) as ordained by religious dictates, according to the writer. These women, the writer contends are only traveling for leisure or tourism and what is disheartening, according to Mr. Al-Waseiy, is that these are from the families of government officials.

The columnist demands that the Ministry of Interior prevents unaccompanied Yemeni women from traveling alone.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Twice Weekly) 26-5-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Killing of an Assistant (Para-Medic) in Nusab
- 2) The Yemen Drug Company (Mixed Sector Enterprise) Cancels the Intervinous Fluids Project Costing US \$ 6.6 Million
- 3) New Procedures Taken to Eliminate Blood Feuds in Shabwa

Article Summary:

1) Is This True?

In its regular front page bottom left corner, the paper inquires as to the reliability of reports that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Abdul-Qader Bajammal is presently constructing a palace on Sana'a Airport Road after having bought 2 large mansions in Al-Hasaba, Sana'a, owns a residential villa in Aden and a large plot of land in Hadhramaut. The paper, which describes Ba-Jammal as the regime's big mouth, stated that he had arrived in Sana'a in the late 1980's penniless and broke. The paper asks would the Ba-Jammal accept the application of accountability on this rapid rise to wealth.

2) Djibouti's Foreign Minister on Eritrea

The Foreign Minister of the small country of Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa, pointed out in an interview with the London based Arabic daily newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, affirmed that Djibouti

has not made any declarations regarding Eritrea occupying any territory of Djibouti. Mr. Mohammed Musa Shuhaim stated, "We only discussed the new map issued by Eritrea which included some of our territory, in addition to discussing the recent flare up of shooting at the border between the two countries." That was in rebuttal to some of the alleged statements made by the Foreign Minister during his last trip to Asmara. He added that nothing beyond that has changed.

The Djibouti Foreign Minister also maintained strict neutrality on the Hunaish Island dispute between Yemen and Eritrea. As for the matter of the Ethiopian Naval Fleet docking in Djibouti, and whether the government of Djibouti has been given instructions by the government of Ethiopia to hand it over to Eritrea, Mr. Shuhaim stated that the fleet has been put up for sale to the highest bidder.

AL-THOURA: Daily (Sana'a) 30-5-96
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Arab Leaders Make Contact for Convening of a Mini Summit
- 2) Signing of Contracts for Asphalting of Sana'a Streets
- 3) UNDP Resident Representative Praises the Results of the Semi Annual Review Meetings for the Housing/Urban Planning Projects in Yemen.

Article Summary:

The Necessity of Banning Arms

While not directly mentioning the shoot-out in Faj Attan - the diplomatic quarter of Sana'a off the Sixty Meter Road, last week, the paper stressed the need of banning firearms in the cities, especially by visitors from the rural areas. The paper stated that the experience has clearly shown that such a ban would be appropriate and necessary to save innocent lives and give security and comfort to the capital's residents. It is essential that the use of private or personal fire-arms be controlled.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-5-1996
(The Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines:

- 1) President Saleh Seeks Ways and Means to Strengthen Arab Solidarity.
- 2) Affirmation of the Effective Role of Our Armed Forces and to Consolidate Development.
- 3) More than \$1 billion and YR 13 billion in Project Requests for Investment in Free Zone.

Article Summary:

Ba-Sunaid: Why So Much Hatred?

In its usual feature of every week picking on one of the critics of the state, 26th September newspaper this week showered insults on the Aden-based lawyer, Badr Ba-Sunaid.

Mr. Ba-Sunaid had written an article inviting the rulers to consider real and deep reconciliation in an effort to bring in everybody into the system.

The paper described the lawyer as sick, full of hate, and unable to see the blessings of the ruling regime.



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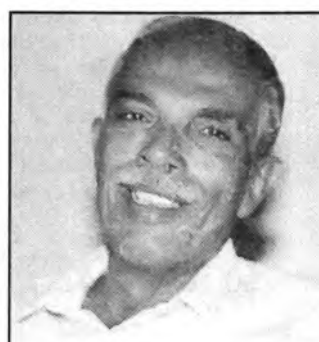
DREAMS!

All achievements are motivated by wishes and desires, but great ones begin with dreams. It is, no doubt, a lawful right to be provided with running clean drinking water, steady electric current and decent a sewerage system suitable for the living of human beings as we walk into the twenty first century.

It is also, no doubt, a lawful right, for every person, not just in Yemen, but throughout the developing countries to dream of establishing real (not sham) democracy, based on pluralism, institutions, freedom of press, independence of the judiciary and a stable economy to live in freedom and prosperity.

But how can we achieve these wishes and dreams? Let us admit a glaring bitter fact. That our country is one of the poorest and backward countries in the world. Let us not forget that we have recently buried the Imamate and Marxism, and that we have have pumping up modest quantities of oil in the last numbers of years.

To achieve our modest wishes, we need to tighten our extravagant expenditure, save every cent and hunt for every riyal due to the public treasury.



But dreams shall remain dreams, at least, for the foreseeable future. They will not even materialize in the remote future unless we change ourselves and our MENTALITY. It is a calamity (tragedy) that most of us, don't love our country because of egoism, individualism, and ethnocentricity. We all know that such behavior will bring rapid death to our society.

All the great religions and philosophies of the world preach that the proper goal for every living creature is to subdue and extinguish self-centeredness. This way, we shall attain happiness for ourselves and our society.

By: Wahbi M Okbah (Abu Kaled)
Al-Tajamu'u Columnist, Aden.

Al-Ahli Club of Taiz Wins 22 May Cup

This year, the Al-Ahli Club of Taiz was the champion of the 22nd May Cup in football. The final game was played in Taiz on Saturday, May 1st., between two Taiz finalists - Al-Ahli and At-Talai'ah.

Although the game was intensive, no goals were scored. This made it necessary to add more time, which, even then ended

with a nil score on both sides. It was only with the direct penalty kicks that Al-Ahli was able to defeat At-Talai'ah and go home with the cup.

The results of this year's competition indicates that the change in management at Al-Ahli Club that was effective a short while ago paid important and immediate dividends.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Youth and Sports And the Federation of Football Clubs are arranging new championships for various cups. "We are really making it possible for the clubs to absorb new blood and to get on with the games in a professional way," stated the Minister, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah.

Hodeidah Ahli Club Wins National Cup

The final football match for the President's Cup, played between Al-Sha'ab Club of Hadhramaut and Hodeidah's Al-Ahli Club, was tense. Although played at Al-Sha'ab's home turf, Al-Ahli won the match and the President's Cup.

It was clear that the Ahli Club team was on the top thorough-out the match because of refined

technics in passing the ball. Even then, however, neither Al-Ahli was unable to break through the solid defence wall of Al-Sha'ab. There was a turn of luck when a defence player of Mukalla's team made a foul. That led to a penalty kick by Salem Ahmed leading to the only goal in the match.

Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports,

presented the "President's Cup" to Al-Ahli Club after the match. Attending the occasion was Mr. Ali Al-Ashwal, Chairman of Yemen Football Federation and other dignitaries in Hadhramaut. The Al-Sha'ab fans took out their anger on politicians and the regime, as they rampaged in the football grounds.

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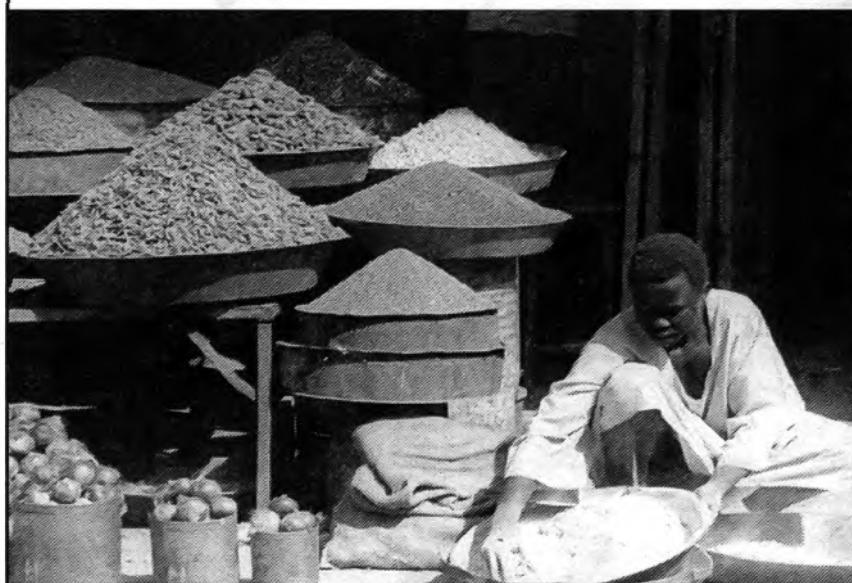
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Days by the Nile

A British Council exhibition by Richard Boggs



My first days in Khartoum were in the old zinc-roofed market, drinking coffee with the men who had gathered at the kind of hiring fair that took place under the scented nim trees, hoping for a day's work.

Around me the traders would be seated high up above the fruit and vegetables in the market stalls, urging passers-by to buy Karima dates that were "pure honey" or oranges that were "sweet as honey". Or they would stand in their shops behind the tins stacked with garlic or beans, each a pyramid in the glare of the sun.

And so I idled the day away among baskets of lemons from Tuti Island and tomatoes from Gezira laid out on an empty bag of cement on the street and baskets of aubergines from the banks of

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