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# YEMEN TIMES



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## PSO Is Searching Your Mail! YT to Discontinue Mail Subscriptions

Over the last few months, Yemen Times received a lot of complaints from its overseas subscribers. As complaints that certain issues do not arrive at many destinations pour in, we concluded something must be amiss at the local post office. Yemen Times put one of its reporters to investigate. We were surprised at the ease with which our man was given almost free access to the post office. He spent 17 days browsing around and rubbing shoulders with the mail staff. He brought out horrors. His conclusion: "The Political Security Office (PSO) literally runs the mail service in this country." To his chagrin, he saw in front of his eyes one bundle of Yemen Times copies - wrapped, stamped and ready to go to overseas subscribers - being dumped. YES, IT WAS DUMPED!

This is illegal action and contradicts international laws to which Yemen is signatory, and to the country's very constitution. The dumping of out-going mail is not the only violation reported. PSO agents often routinely go through in-coming mail. There are letters they throw away, and there are others they open up and they paste again. This is a major infringement on the rights and liberties of the people as well as a violation of international law. This sordid business is going on without any resistance from the Mail Authority or the Ministry of Communications, which are responsible for the service. As Yemeni mail is not likely to improve, the Yemen Times is seriously considering discontinuing its mail service, as subscriptions expire. The paper will hopefully be available over the internet.

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## The Floods: Relief Efforts Mount

The days 14-15-16/6/1996 were disastrous for many parts of Yemen. Heavy rains which fell on the highlands resulted in torrents and floods, unprecedented in recent history. The lowlands and plains lying east of the watershed were hit by uncontrolled floods, which according to government estimates, killed more than 265 persons, destroyed many villages and hundreds of homes, ruined the infrastructure, and carried away tractors, water pumps, vehicles, cattle, and other assets.

The government estimates the total property loss at \$1.2 billion. Appeals have been issued for emergency assistance to overcome the consequences of the floods. Some positive response has already been received from different quarters. Pledges of cash and in-kind assistance have been pouring in. The UNDP is now the focal point for the relief effort as international assistance is mobilized to help the country.

More details of pages 8+9.

## 'Preparing' for 1997 Elections

The Supreme Elections Committee and the Parliamentary Committee for Amending the Elections Law are busy putting in the final touches on the new constituencies and draft law. They have also named the persons to chair the elections supervisory committees, as well as the women's committees in the governorates. The opposition parties are not happy with the amendments or the persons chairing the committees, who they say are part of the ruling coalition parties. But, more disturbing to them is the towering stature of the People's General Congress (PGC) as a giant political party among dwarfs, rather than a leader among equals. This caused strains in the political system. Many politicians, including some in the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), are increasingly uneasy with the dom-

ineering nature of the PGC, which they see as not fully earned. The fears of the smaller parties and those of Islah and the Yemeni Socialist Party (potentially the second and third largest parties) were compounded last month when PGC officials expressed their target to secure a comfortable majority in the next parliamentary elections. Part of the complaint has to do with the biased preparations for the elections. As a result, opposition parties have announced that they are considering boycotting the elections. Last week, some leading Islah members, expressed similar feelings when they said that they too were toying with the boycott idea. If the PGC does not come to terms with the other parties, it may end up competing against itself, come elections.

## AMNESTY: Concerns about Deteriorating Human Rights Conditions in Yemen

In less than one month, Amnesty International sent a second team to Yemen. The four-person team, headed by Vice Secretary-General Derek Evans, also includes Lamri Chirouf and Kemal Al-Sammari - both from the General Secretariat, and Professor Steffani Farior, who is a

lawyer and a member of Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, prime minister, Abdulaziz Abdulghani, the ministers of justice and interior, and the chairman of the Political Security Organization. The delegation will also meet with opposition politicians, members of parliament, and human rights activists.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Two Years after the 7th of July 1994

This week marks the 2nd anniversary of the victory of the "unionist" forces against the "secessionists". The majority of the people of Yemen - both northern and southern - were happy with the way the war ended, in spite of everything. They were happy that the country's unity was preserved. The people of the former South Yemen, were especially happy as they finally got rid of those leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Most of them repeated "Good riddance". Indeed, there was a sigh of relief everywhere.

At the same time, there was optimism in the air. Here was a golden chance to build anew. Now an uncontested leadership could guide the country towards more freedom, more development, and more human dignity. Here was a chance to take the country into the 21st century with confidence.

But two years later, the feeling is quite different. Most of the people, north and south, are fed up with the ruling system which has driven the country to near bankruptcy. The people are tired and exhausted. They are frustrated and disillusioned.

The reasons are many. There is economic stagnation, hyperinflation, and high unemployment, lawlessness and chaos are prevalent, thieves and thugs in army/security uniforms snatch with ease and impunity the property of others, the sheikhs and traditional elements exercise preponderant influence in public affairs, visible decadence in values and morals resulted in widespread corruption, there is deterioration in infrastructure and service, notably, educational and health services, there is a constant shortage of water supply and persistent electric black-outs, there is a conscious drive to tribalize society, political security agents enjoy a free hand in doing what they want in almost every aspect of life, etc. Above all, this leadership lacks any clear vision in directing the nation beyond what has to do with remaining in power.

One of the main problems of this regime is that it lacks any notion of accountability. People do whatever they want, and nobody will hold them accountable. There are well documented cases of theft, embezzlement, and out-right robbery. Not one of the big crooks has been brought to court.

A system that works is a basic requirement in any society. Law and order are a prerequisite for any progress. It is necessary even for the crooks themselves in order to protect in the future the wealth they have accumulated through robbing society.

Nobody is asking for the return of the secessionists. Nobody regrets their departure. Yemenis - Northerners and Southerners - are loyal unionists, irrespective of the labels used by the government media from time to time to discredit this or that individual or group.

But the citizens of this country surely have the right to demand a system which works for their benefit and which brings out the best in them. The present regime does not achieve this need. Actually, it cannot because it is simply unable to do so.

Have a happy 7th of July, if you can!

The Publisher  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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### President Saleh Calls for High Level Talks with Saudi Arabia

In an interview with Radio France International, President Ali Abdullah said that the Yemeni-Saudi border talks were not achieving much progress. He said that a political decision was needed to reach new levels of understanding.

### Dutch Minister of Development in Yemen later this Month

A high-level delegation from the Netherlands headed by Mr. Johannes Pieter Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation, is scheduled to arrive in Sanaa on a one-week official visit. The delegation will use the occasion to inspect Dutch-financed projects in various parts of the country. It will also hold formal talks with the Yemeni authorities.

### Training of Health Trainers Concluded

The training program of midwives and health trainers was successfully concluded last week in Sanaa. Health sector employees from four governorates - Hadhramaut, Hajjah, Hodeidah, and Lahej, in addition to personnel from the Ministry of Health's head office were given an intensive crash course. One of the instructors, Ms. Avon, indicated that in the past, instructors and trainers were flown in from abroad. Following this program, the trainers will be Yemenis. "In every governorate, we now have five trainers in pregnancy and delivery services and in primary health care," she said.

"The target is to train ten trainers in each governorate so they may form the nucleus of a local training program for the future." One of the trainees, Ms. Makkiyah Awadh Mohammed indicated that the program was very useful. "The arrangements were near perfect, and I think all of us came out much enriched," she said.

Additional training programs are envisaged for August, October and December.

The training courses are financed through the USAID programs in Yemen.

### ALFA Considering Car Assembly Plant in Yemen

The international Alfa Company, one of the United Aissayi Group, is getting ready to open its Aden complex later this month.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Abdul-Azeem Hamdain, the Commercial Manager of the company, indicated that the group will also open offices in Taiz, Hadhramaut and Hodeidah. The group, which is headquartered in Saudi Arabia, is considering setting up a car assembly plant in Yemen.

### YIDD & CLA in Regional Meetings

The Secretary-General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy, Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, just returned from Jordan. He participated in the Arab Regional Election Monitors Summit held in Amman during 25-27, June, 1996. Many NGOs working on democratic transformation in the Arab World attended.

Mr. Yassin Abdul-Razzaq, Chair of the Center for Legal Assistance, returned from Cairo following extensive meetings with similar organizations. "We met with lawyers in different Arab countries and discussed ways and means to support one another," he said.

## Aden Chamber of Commerce Celebrates 110 Years of Existence

On the 110th anniversary of its establishment, the Aden Chamber of Commerce

(ACC) held a press conference to discuss the business prospects of the city. On hand for the occasion were Waheed Ali Rasheed, the Deputy Governor,

Mohamed Omar Ba-Mashmoos, Chairman of the ACC, and a number of businessmen.

Mr. Rasheed highlighted the historically important commercial role of the city. "The re-casting of the city's free zone is an important milestone in regaining the old role," he said.

Mr. Ba-Mashmoos discussed the need for a system as a minimum

requirement for any prosperity and growth. "For example, respect for law and order and for private property, and safety for all down-to-earth requirements for business," he indicated.

He then went on to list the possibilities for re-capturing the old past. "We are extremely proud of the fact that ours is the oldest

chamber of commerce in the Arab region.

The official celebrations will take place in August when the ACC moves to its new premises. Considerable fanfare and pomp is promised on the occasion.

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



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**Prof. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah:**

**“For over three thousand years, historic sites have been affected by floods. Now modern technology can offer some protection.”**

A friend once described ‘Yemen as a country, every meter of which boasts some kind of historic significance.’ Therefore, there is a lot of room for excavation and for preservation. Yet, very little of either has been going on until very recently. That is why some of the archaeological missions working in Yemen call it ‘virgin land’. Odd name for an old place, but they mean that much work needs to be done.

One of the main advantages of Yemeni tourism is exactly this old history. One of the big dilemmas in the country’s modernization process is how to create a harmonious and compatible policy that will protect the old without making such an effort an obstacle to progress. This is so important that an important Arabic phrase - ‘asala wal mu’asarah’ - has been coined. It means retaining the originality of the old while keeping up with the new.

No one is more able to discuss this than Professor Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, President of General Authority of Antiquities Museums and Manuscripts. Yusuf got his B.A. and M. A. from the American University of Beirut, and his Ph.D. from Tuebingen University in Germany.

He has been well honored - locally and abroad - for his research and studies. He was awarded the Highest Order of Sciences in the Republic of Yemen. He has been amply honored in the USA, Germany, Britain, and elsewhere.

M: Bin Sallam of Yemen Times went to talk to him. Excerpts.

**Q: What research are you working on at the moment?**

**A:** Research work never ends. There is always something to be done. I have published many papers and research articles about archaeology, ancient history and cultural heritage in Arabic, in English and German. My latest publications is a research piece entitled “A New South Arabian Description in Zabur Script.” It deals with a private letter to a lady (C. A. 2000 years) and the book is published in New Arabian Studies No. 3, London. (1996).

There is also a book “The City of Al-Sawa in the Periplus Maris Eryteri: An Archaeology and Epigraphy of Arabia.”

**Q: There are quite a few foreign missions excavating in Yemen. How would you describe cooperation?**

**A:** Cooperation with foreign archaeological missions is well established in Yemen. There are about ten missions which work seasonally in different parts of the Republic. The regular ones are the missions of the German, French, American, Canadian, Russian and Italian ones.

Nowadays, with the coordination of BAMY (British Archaeological Mission to Yemen), British archaeological work is progressing. It has accomplished two successful excavations in the Al-Hamid-Tihama in recent years. The work is carried out usually



by common teams from the GOAMM (General Authority of Antiquities Museums and Manuscripts). There is always contact and the work of these missions is supervised by GOAMM. Our relationships are governed by agreed-upon conventions and by-laws. The results are usually rewarding and often sensational such as the recent discovery in Sabir in Lahej of the largest bronze-age city in the Arabian Peninsula last year by the German mission headed by Mr. Vogts.

**Q: Were the historic sites affected by the floods that devastated parts of Marib, Shabwah and Hadhramaut?**

**A:** Certainly. But this was always the case over the last three thousands of years and little has been done since. Flash floods are natural catastrophes and nothing effective can be done against them.

But, using modern technology one can avoid a lot of damage. For example, using the bulldozers to build fortifications and deviation barrages to prevent flash floods from ruining archaeological sites. This means preservation through protection before things happen.

In response to your question, some of the archaeological sites like Habban in Shabwah and Mayfa’ah in Hadhramaut have been affected. A detailed list of

damages has been prepared by Mr. Zubaidi, the regional Director of GOAMM in Shabwa. The Monumental Sites in Mareb have survived any damage, but un-attended sites in Harib and Al-Juba were affected. The protective measures are necessary in future.

**Q: What are the efforts being exerted to protect the ancient relics which are being smuggling out?**

**A:** The law of antiquities was enacted by the parliament last month (No. 21/94). This law calls for strict measures to be applied in such situations.

Smuggling of cultural properties is an important offence nowadays. Not only antiquities are prohibited from leaving the country, but also cultural/archaeological material which are gradually vanishing.

In the past few years huge quantities of genuine cultural material was exported legally and illegally from Yemen. I am talking of huge quantities. Some of the original artifacts are becoming very rare such as the traditional products of arts and crafts. These products are not allowed to leave the country, although they are available for sale in houses and markets.

Tourists are advised to be selective when they buy original artifacts, especially those that are no longer in use or no longer being manually manufactured. Lately, smuggled antiquities, manuscripts and other materials were seized and confiscated in airports and other outlets.

We appeal to all for cooperation.

We need cooperation from both locals and foreigners in order to preserve Yemen’s cultural heritage.

**Q: What are the latest discoveries in the sphere of archaeology?**

**A:** In general, we have always extended our archaeological activities and this is why we are here.

In 1983, mummies were discovered in Shibam Al-Ghiras near Sanaa. It happened that I was the head of the rescue team of the mummies. Since then, a lot has been said, but little more has been discovered.

Now there is a project initiated by GOAMM and in cooperation with the French Center for Yemeni Studies to follow seriously the problem of Mummies in Yemen. A reconnaissance team has arrived from France and started in Sayh in Al-Mahweet to carry out a scientific study about the mummies. We need to know more about this in order to assess better the history. The latest radio-carbon results indicate that the oldest mummies discovered in Yemen date back to the 8th century B. C. This is probably where more work needs to be done, and more important results will be achieved.

**Q: Any final comments?**

**A:** Let me start by stressing the continued educational role of the Yemen Times in this field. This paper has made it a point to join us in our efforts.

I call on the other media to help us raise awareness and teach the public of its importance.

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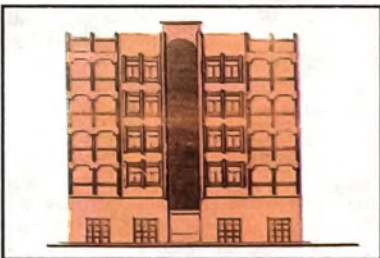
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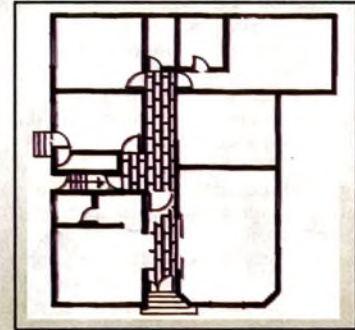


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## Respect for the Law and for Oneself: The Saints & the Sinners

The Berlin-based Transparency International issued its report on 1995 which gives a listing of the least and most corrupt nations of the world. According to a corruption perceptions index, the organization which lobbies against business dishonesty, issued its report based on data compiled on 54 countries.

With the exception of Singapore, all top countries deemed least corrupt are Western, and all countries described as most corrupt are developing countries, with the exception of Russia. The list of the best ten (Saints) and worst ten (Sinners) is given in the adjacent table.

This year, Transparency International is working to expand the number of countries on which it is collecting data. Last month, a two-person delegation from the organization visited Yemen and compiled data on the situation. As if to drive the point home, one of the delegates said that Yemen should make the list. Do you think she was talking of the list of saints or sinners?

We will have to wait for the 1996 report to find out, but some may already have a good guess!

### The best...

New Zealand  
Denmark  
Sweden  
Finland  
Canada  
Norway  
Singapore  
Switzerland  
The Netherlands  
Australia



### and the worst...

Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Kenya  
Bangladesh  
China  
Cameroon  
Venezuela  
Russia  
India  
Indonesia



## Russians in Yemen Send in Their Votes Yeltsin Carried the Day

They were so eager it is as if they were going on a picnic. Some 140 voters flocked into the Russian Embassy compound from the early hours of the day. It was Friday, June 28th. They were there to cast their votes for the Russian presidential elections, and send the votes home to be included in the results.

A total of some 700 Russians voted in Yemen in six voting centers (2 in Sanaa, one in Aden, one in Hodeidah, one in Ibb and one in Turba). The whole process was carried out in two days. It was well organized, and voters freely exercised their constitutional rights.

People were talking about the way they voted openly. The choice, of course, was between incumbent Boris Yeltsin and challenger Zyuganov. It was clear that Boris Yeltsin carried the day as the overwhelming majority voted for him.



Russian ambassador Gribakof Mikhailoofish casting his vote

## Travel Agents Form their Own Grouping

Travel agents representing the trade have been meeting to agree on the by-laws and system for forming their own association. The last meeting, held on June 26th, witnessed the announcement of the formation of a preparatory committee headed by

Mahmood Shaibani of UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, Vice Chairman Ali Zaib Abu Munassar of AZ.ABM.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Abu Munassar indicated that members of the trade were convinced that they needed a forum to bring them together in order to

promote the tourism business and to protect the interests of the people working in the trade.

Efforts are underway to prepare for the formal establishment of the Association of Yemeni Travel and Tourism Agencies.

Yusuf Sharif, Yemen Times.

## Departing Diplomats

Over the next few weeks, several diplomats are going to leave Yemen as their posting here comes to end. Notable names among the departing diplomats are Ahmed Al-Idrissi, Ambassador of Morocco; Mieczyslaw Stepinski, Ambassador of Poland; Allen Kepchar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy; Alexi Alexiev, Charge d'Affaires of Bulgaria; John Kinnannon, First Secretary and Director of USIS at the American Embassy, etc.

Yemen Times will run interviews with some of the departing diplomats over the next weeks.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Yemen has yet to establish a tradition of honoring departing diplomats, especially since some of them have served well the bilateral relations and cooperation of Yemen with their respective countries. That shortcoming is more than made up by courtesies among members of the diplomatic community and their friends in society.



## VACANCY NOTICE

An organization is inviting applications for the following posts to work in a refugee camp in Abyan Governorate.

### 1. Health Coordinator

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidate shall be responsible for the health sector in the camp which includes the provision of primary health care, basic and curative health services and referrals for approximately 10,000 refugees living in the camp. He/She shall account for the equipment, drugs and supplies in the health clinic, close monitoring of the distribution of drugs to the refugee patients in the camp with the help of the camp doctors and health staff. He/She shall write comprehensive, monthly reports on all aspects of the health sector activities and general health situation within the camp. He/She shall co-ordinate with local hospitals in Abyan and Aden Governorate to ensure provision of secondary and tertiary level care not available in the camp, an liaison with different services in Sana'a as necessary. He/She shall be responsible for ensuring a proper patient registration system, maintaining accurate health records and statistical data, the supervision of all the health staff in the camp and co-ordinate any administrative and operational matters with the organization Camp Co-ordinator and organization Director.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

A suitable academic qualification in the field of health care management of related field are required. He/She should also have a minimum of 3 years experience in the field knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic is essential.

### 2- Camp Coordinator

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

He will be responsible, but not limited to, for organizing and running of a refugee camp that accommodates approximately 10,000 or so of refugees of various nationalities, mainly Somalis and some Ethiopians. He/She personally supervise and monitor the implementation of the rules and regulations as laid down by the organization in relation to the living conditions and general welfare to the refugees, including the provision and distribution of food, water, kerosene, and non-food items to the refugees as well as maintenance of all camp structure including refugee shelters, sanitation facilities, and distribution points, education and health facilities. He shall keep close track of the refugees daily activities and where about, an report weekly to the organization Director. He will perform other duties as required.

#### Qualifications Required

A suitable degree in the field of management, social science of related field are required. He should also have a minimum of 3 years experience in the field. Knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic is essential.

Forward your CV to: P. O. Box 18012 Hadda, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## The Blackboard Jungle

Adel and Fathy had just completed their final history exam for high school. As they crossed the first intersection on their way towards the Old City of Sana'a, Fathy was the first to feel safe enough to speak while trying to be a pedestrian in good standing walking through the hazardous chaotic traffic on Ali Abdul Moghni Street: "Can you imagine the triviality of some of the questions in today's history exam? I do not understand why the emphasis on so much detail, yet they fail to really shed light on the real significance of historic events. Would you not agree Adel? Maybe somebody wants us to stay away from analysis of events in the past. They want to make sure that we do not start to look at today's events more analytically."

Adel answered, "Are you just not glad that we are through with this course? For me history is of no use. History is just a series of destructive wars which man never tires of waging on his fellow man. I am only puzzled by one thing: what ever happens to the winners in the end?"

Fathy was ready with the answer. "Winners will always end up as losers sooner or later. It has never failed to be like that throughout history. For sure, God would not have it any other way."

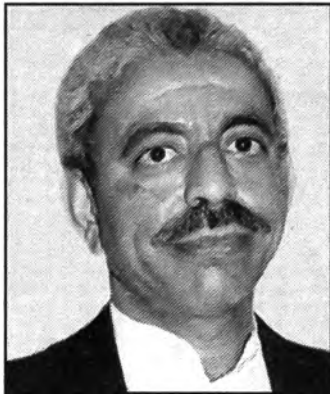
Adel wanted to show that he had some knowledge. "The people who wage war have no sense whatsoever. They do not see that war does not get them anywhere. Even those who declare wars for

presumably noble causes, are unable to secure lasting glory. The triumph becomes short-lived, and the generations that follow become disassociated from the cause or from the world around them, as they drown in their intoxication over the victories of their forefathers."

"I must admit," said Fathy, "you are more of a historian than I thought at first. What you said was very true and has been repeated so often in history." Adel returned to the exam they just completed. "How do you think you did on the test?"

"The pressure was heavy for me, because I intend to teach history and I really need to get a good grade. There are a lot of fascinating facts in history. But unfortunately, the way history is taught in our schools is not geared to arouse the least bit of interest, even in those who have a strong liking for the subject. The teachers are usually of poor quality and have no ability to motivate the students. The books come out more than half way through the school year. The syllabus aims at stuffing information into the student's head, with little or no chance for any discussion. In our history syllabus, it is more important to know how many buttons were on Napoleon's coat by the end of the Battle of Waterloo than to understand the causes of the French Revolution," said Fathy, indicating a lack of certainty on how he made out on the exam.

Adel expressed his indifferent



attitude to the end result. "All I can say is, I just hope to pass, so I do not have to repeat another year in high school. When I get my high school diploma, I will feel like I have obtained an exit pass from hell! Just think, all of that material they literally stuffed into our heads has mostly been forgotten and rendered in the useless file. What a waste of time having to do all that cramming." Fathy actually saw a more tangible waste. "Look at all the money wasted because of large government expenditures on education, which fails to produce knowledgeable and informed students who can use the knowledge gained in our school system for the advancement of themselves and of Yemeni society." "Never mind all that talk about ideals or returns on investments," interrupted Adel, continuing: "The only returns I see that come out of the educational process go to the bureaucrats' pocket in the Ministry of Education and the relevant authorities that let them give us hell on the blackboard jungle we have to go through for 12 years of our lives. How can you think of ideals and expect anything positive to come out of generations of dead brains that graduate from our public educational system? The student just wants to get it over with any way he can, and pick up his sheepskin (Diploma), believing that the

degree in itself is sufficient enough to get him a job or to enter college. These degrees are not worth the ink on them".

Fathy added, "You are right Adel. School seems to be just a formality that caters to those who oversee the educational system. Students are just numbers which translate into budget allocations which these overseers channel to advance their own interests. These numbers are meaningless. The main thing is to issue the diplomas. Whether these diplomas represent productivity, cultural enhancement and real awareness, etc. are irrelevant to our 'educators'. We can talk about the educational system all day, but it is safe to assume that the achievements are not worthy of any praise. My father always says, 'Why do we bother to send these kids to school? He learned to be a carpenter and managed to set up a thriving workshop within a relatively short time. He learned how to read and write from attending traditional mosque schools prior to the revolution making it to the equivalence of fourth grade. Yet his handwriting and spelling is better than that of college graduates from Sana'a University! Anyway let us split, until we meet again to find out the results.'"

Adel said, "Give my regards to your father, I always enjoy talking to him when I come to visit your house. These people who make it in the school of Hard Knox really have a lot of wisdom in their head. They were fortunate to make it in life without having to learn the number of buttons on Napoleon's coat, including the ones he kept opened while hiding his hand inside." He walked into the yard and saluted his father who was sitting on the stone ledge of the main entrance to the house. "Assalamu Alaikum, Father," said Adel. "Wa alaikum alsalam. How was the history test?", said the anxious father waiting to hear how his youngest son made out in his last test in high school.

His son responded, "Even my history lover friend, Fathy, cannot be sure of how he made out. I do not understand what our educators expect us to be, super experts on every subject."

The father breathed a sigh of disappointment and said, "I had managed to see your two elder brothers complete their education as a doctor and an engineer respectively. I must admit they showed more motivation than you seem to show. Maybe you better learn a technical skill of some kind."

"Father, the way schools are nowadays, the student comes out not knowing where to go or what to be. There is no way any kid can get motivated, even to go to the bathroom, if you will pardon the expression! Classes are packed, in many cases, over 100 students, half of them standing or sitting on the floor. Teachers are incompetent, most of whom just finished high school or teaching institutes, who themselves have to teach with the lowest morale because of the treatment they are subjected to from Ministry of Education bureaucrats, and because of their meager salaries. Books are handed out, if at all, just a couple of months before the school year ends. Students are forced to cram- in detailed information on every subject as though the student is pursuing a Ph.D. in every subject at the same time", complained Adel, trying to show his father the shortcomings of the educational system.

"Your brothers never had these complaints when they went through high school. In fact, the impression they gave at the time, was that they were enjoying school," said the father, somewhat puzzled by the sharp differences in the scholastic attitude of his children over time.

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"Father, from what my brothers told me about their high school periods, it seemed like they were in paradise compared to the hell we go through now. They had new and clean schools, that were adequately maintained. They had far better qualified teachers from Egypt, Syria, the Sudan, and other Arab countries, who were really professional teachers. The educational budget used to receive substantial support from our oil rich Gulf neighbors. Scholarships were available from many countries for Yemeni students to pursue higher education. The syllabus was more basic and the material was easy to absorb. My brother, Dr. Saleh, was shocked when I asked him to tutor me on the gruesome Modern Math course we were compelled to take in the 10th grade, in addition to advanced geometry and advanced algebra, and all the other subjects we had for the year. He said to me, 'Now, I understand why the results that the Ministry of Education announces at the end of the year are poor.' Even if we had the best school conditions and the most competent teachers, one would still have difficulty coming up with high grades, unless he is a born genius." Adel thought that an impartial opinion would get his father to understand his son's educational ordeal.

The father tried to pin down the responsibility for the deterioration in the school systems. "When your brothers were in school, there was active parental participation in the management of the schools. We were called to periodic meetings with the teachers and school administrators. In your case, the last time, I recall attending a parents' meeting was when you were still in second grade. I did not really consider this as being of importance, until now, and chances are most parents felt like me. that everything was all right and there is really nothing we could contribute to upgrade the system. What does a real estate broker know about schooling? It is obvious now that such parental attitude is really unforgivable!"

Adel wanted to strengthen his father's suggestion. "You can be sure that the school administrators and the Ministry bureaucrats wanted the parents to have nothing to do with the schools their kids went to. For these people, schools have become a private enterprise void of any controls or monitoring as to how they spend the funds allocated to them. These people have turned

the educational system into a network of sleazy bureaucrats who are only interested in a rapid rise to wealth. Ask any of them why they do not send their kids to public schools and where they get the money to pay for private school tuition. That is if they pay at all. The education mafia is not interested in the quality of output. Why should they be, since nobody is going to put them to task anyway? My friend, Fathy, always says, 'Our parents should be more involved with school affairs, just so that they can express their opinion about the educational system and demand that the government take action against the worst criminal bureaucrats in the government, who are destroying the future generations of the country. The fact that the school administrators do not ask for parental involvement, should arouse the concern and suspicion of the parents that something awfully crooked is going on. The parents should by themselves come to the schools and ask why they have not been called.'"

My son, to be honest with you, the trend in government has been to discourage any public involvement, in any of its activities, even if it has to do with the children of the country - the future human resources of the nation. The bureaucrats have turned government into little networks for racketeering and embezzlement. Can you imagine even in the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health, the plight of the poor and impoverished is spared no mercy. Just go to the stores or pharmacies. You will see half the goods or drugs in these trading outlets marked: "NOT FOR SALE. A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN!" The real beneficiaries for whom these goods are intended for never see them! It is therefore not surprising that the educational racket is well entrenched as well. But what can one do, if there is no one who will take note of complaints or protest. Have you ever heard of any government racketeers who have been put to task?" The father was pointing to the fact that the entire government seemed in a hopeless state.

Adel confirmed. "From what we go through now, as students, I would be frightened to imagine what the next generation of students would be facing on our blackboard jungle. Fathy always says that our public educational system is geared to raise bums and walking dead meat. This kind of meat nobody would take, even if it were free."

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# Mohammed Abdo Rabo Group of Companies: AN EXPANSION & DIVERSIFICATION DRIVE



The Red Sea Flour Mill - a member of the Mohammed Abdo Rabo Group of Companies - the Republic of Yemen's largest single project of the private sector, is headed for a vigorous expansion. Output as well as storage capacity will be increased at the Hodeidah site. Additional silos are also envisaged in both Aden and Mukallah.

Meanwhile, the giant Mohammad Abdo Rabo Group is moving rapidly to diversify. The group has moved into manufacturing, insurance, banking, transport, trade, etc.

The Group sprawls many countries. Its original launch ground is the Sudan, where they still maintain a large industrial and service presence. They branched out into Yemen in 1983, and have since branched out to other countries.

To shed more light on these plans, Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Abdo-Rabo Mohammed Abdo-Rabo, Chairman of the Group, and Mr. Khalid Mohammed Abdo Rabo, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Sudan-based operations. The Abdo Rabo family comes from Al-Baidha.

**Q: Can you tell us the beginnings of your enterprise?**

**A:** We can trace the beginnings to our grand-father, Abdo Rabo, in the Sudan early in this century. As a young immigrant from Yemen, he first anchored in Suakin, and then moved to Port Sudan - both Sudanese coastal towns on the Red Sea. He worked for Shell.

But the real seeds to the business empire were laid down by our father, Mohammed Abdo Rabo. He was responsible for furnishing Shell with its needs of supplies. He started a grocery store, which we still maintain till this day in his memory.

His first adventure in industry came in 1968, with the establishment of the Mohammed Abdo Rabo Flour Mills Company with a capacity of 240 tons per day. This has since been expanded to 400 tons. Then came the International Textile Factory. Using the special Al-Jezira cotton, the company manufactures and exports cotton products of high quality. It continues to do so, and has received many honors and prizes. The latest was the Madrid Prize in 1995.

Then in 1980, he established, in a joint venture with Korea's Daewoo, a tyre factory. This project has proven a great success.

He moved into transportation. He established the Segan Transportation Company. Today we have a large fleet of the giant Scania trucks which roam the Sudan carrying our flour and other products to all parts. There are also fleets of smaller trucks.

Other activities of the group include The Red Sea Agencies for Drugs, travel companies, etc.

The Sudan-based operations of the Abdo Rabo Group employ some 4,000 persons, and contribute significantly to the GDP of the Sudan.

For those and other services, our father was one of only two individuals ever to be honored with the medal of Devoted Son of Sudan by the Government of the Sudan.

**Q: Let us move to Yemen. Can you tell us about how your activities started in Yemen?**

**A:** The family sees itself as an important bridge linking the fraternal countries of Yemen and the Sudan. That is why our largest project is called the Red Sea Flour Mills - both in Sudan and in Yemen.

In the early 1980s, our father started thinking about branching out into Yemen. We quickly moved into action, and by 1983, President Ali Abdullah Saleh was at hand to lay down the foundation stone of the Red Sea Flour Mill in Hodeidah. On the 1985 anniversary of the September Revolution, the Mill was operational with a capacity of 520 tons per day. The Mill's capacity kept on growing until today, it is 1960 tons per day, making it the third largest in the world, and the largest in the Middle East.

**Q: What percentage of domestic demand does that cover?**

**A:** Currently we cover approximately 70% to 75% of total domestic demand. Our annual imports of wheat is roughly 600,000 tons annually. The country also imports some 450,000 - 500,000 tons of flour. It will be remembered that the total imports of wheat (grain and flour) of the whole country is in the neighborhood of two million tons a year.

**Q: How much wheat is produced locally?**

**A:** Unfortunately, we do not have exact figures. The best estimates give roughly 100,000 tons a year out. Part of the problem with local wheat production is that imported wheat is subsidized. So the local farmers cannot compete.

I am happy to tell you that two things have been done by the government to help expand local wheat production, along market lines.

First, subsidies are gradually being removed. So the exchange rate for wheat imports has been steadily moved closer to the market rate. From YR 12 per US dollar, it has risen to YR 24 to YR 30. We expect the rate to further increase.

Second, the government has decided to purchase local wheat with the same price we buy imported wheat. The current international market price for wheat is around \$ 250-260 per ton. Added to that are shipping, insurance and handling costs. So it becomes viable for local farmers to produce wheat.

**Q: There is a visible shift in consumption habits from coarse grains like sorghum and millet to wheat, and even to rice. Can you see more rapid growth in demand for wheat?**

**A:** That is an interesting question, and let me address it first, from a different angle.

First, given the subsidized nature of wheat flour, there has been an abuse in consumption. We see a lot of waste - some of intentional in order to use as animal feed.

Second, improper storage facilities at households lead to a lot of waste. Many families over-stock, and the last quantities in stock go bad before they are used. This is especially true of flour, which cannot be stored for more than two months.

Having said that, let say that indeed there is a gradual shift in favor of wheat and rice at the expense of domestically produced coarse grains. We cannot help this.

What we can do, however, is to help families reduce waste. The Red Sea Flour Mill is going to construct new silos at the harbor in Hodeidah, in the Free Zone in Aden, and in Mukallah. This way, we can convince people that the neighboring stockpiles are theirs, and they need not stock up at home, at least not to the extent of the past.

**Q: We heard that you have decided to diversify your operations. Can you give us details?**

**A:** We have our own aspirations to expand into

new areas and activities mentioned. You see we have established Saba Insurance Co, in which we are the largest share holder. We are also the largest share holder in the Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Investment. We have the Sanaa International Trading Company which represents many companies and famous brand names. We have moved into the production of ceramics, imports of drugs, etc.

So, yes, we are diversifying and moving successfully into new areas. We expect to avail ourselves of the incentives incorporated in the new investment climate and in the free zones.

**Q: What do you think of the government's economic reform program?**

**A:** We are very supportive of this program, and we think the country badly needs it. In fact, our feeling is that the efforts so far have already yielded some

positive results which can be measured. You can see that inflation has been lowered, trade has been liberalized, the deterioration in the Riyal exchange rate has been halted, etc.

In short, we are optimistic about the impact of the reform program, and about its success.

**Q: What else could be done to help accelerate investments and growth?**

**A:** I think to hold steady to reforms and regularly adjust as market conditions demand. I think improvement of management and raising of efficiency of the government bureaucracy could help a very much. Basically, we think the government is doing the right thing, and we expect positive results in the future.

We want to add that all sides - not just the government - must assist in making the reform program a success.

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### INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS

Responsible for selecting, installing, and performing maintenance on all process instrumentation equipment and devices used in plant and production operations. Worksopce includes calibration and installation of electronic and pneumatic instruments and devices. Candidates must have high school diploma, apprentice courses, or technical schooling with minimum ten years instrumentation experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

### MECHANICS

Responsible for installing, maintaining, repairing, or rebuilding facility mechanical equipment and machinery. Worksopce includes performing reverse alignment on equipment, as well as testing, maintaining, and repairing various types of pumps and valves. Technical schooling with a minimum ten years mechanical experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

### PLANT OPERATORS

Responsible for operating absorption system, extraction system, and lean oil recovery equipment, separators, scrubbers, compressors, safety devices, and heat exchangers. Compile and analyze data, perform calculations and maintain files necessary for proper operations. Candidates must have a high school diploma with a minimum of ten years operating experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

### PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Responsible for operating pressure sensors, production separators, crude heaters, power generators, production manifolds, control panels, and other associated production equipment. Compile and analyze data, perform calculation and maintain files necessary for proper operations. Candidate must have a high school diploma with a minimum five years experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

**In addition to the above requirements, all candidates must have the following qualifications:**

- Excellent verbal and written English skills.
- Must be in good physical condition.
- Must be a Yemeni National.

**Application should be sent to: Yemen Hunt Oil Company  
Attn: Personnel Department  
P. O. Box: 481, Sana'a  
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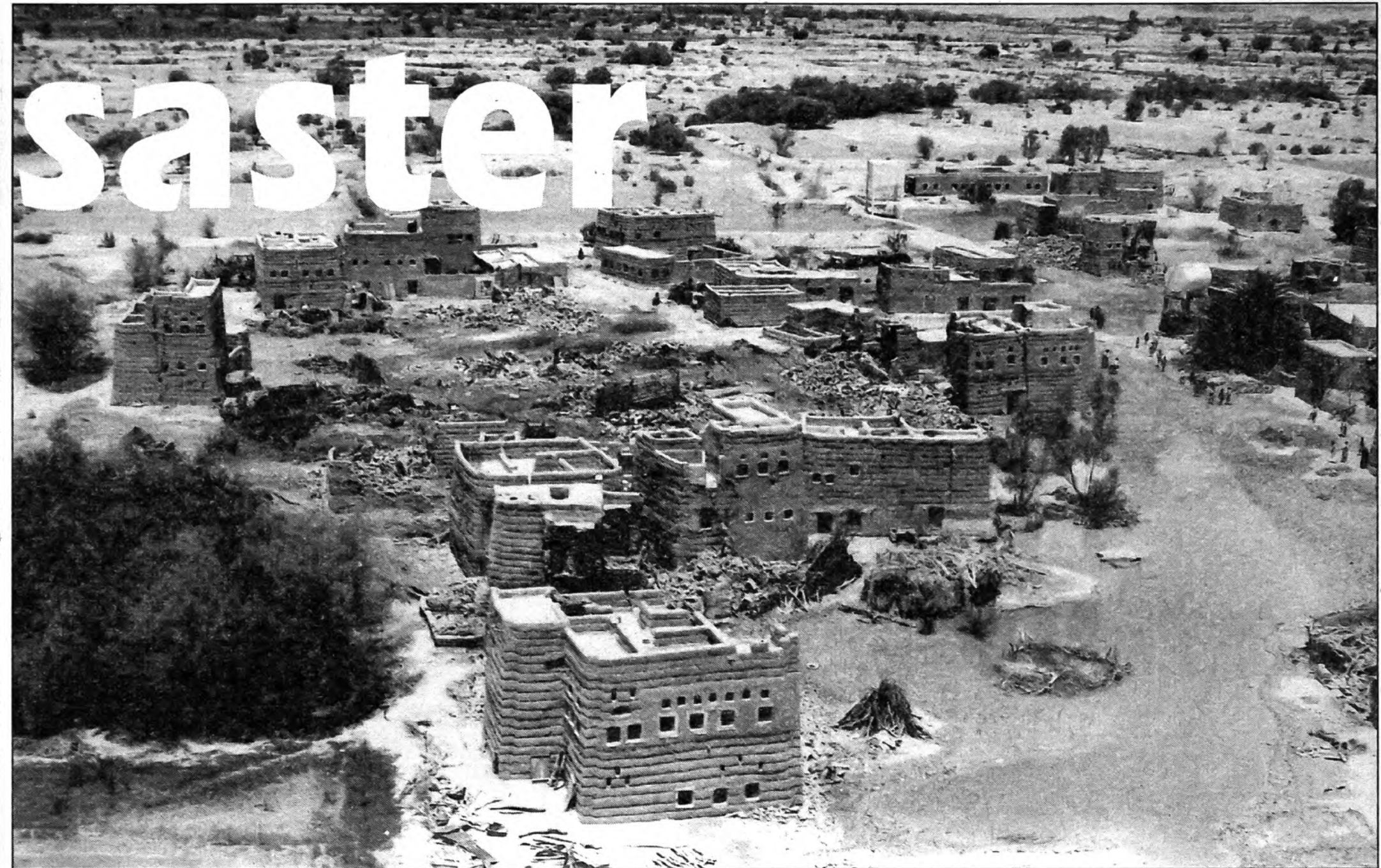
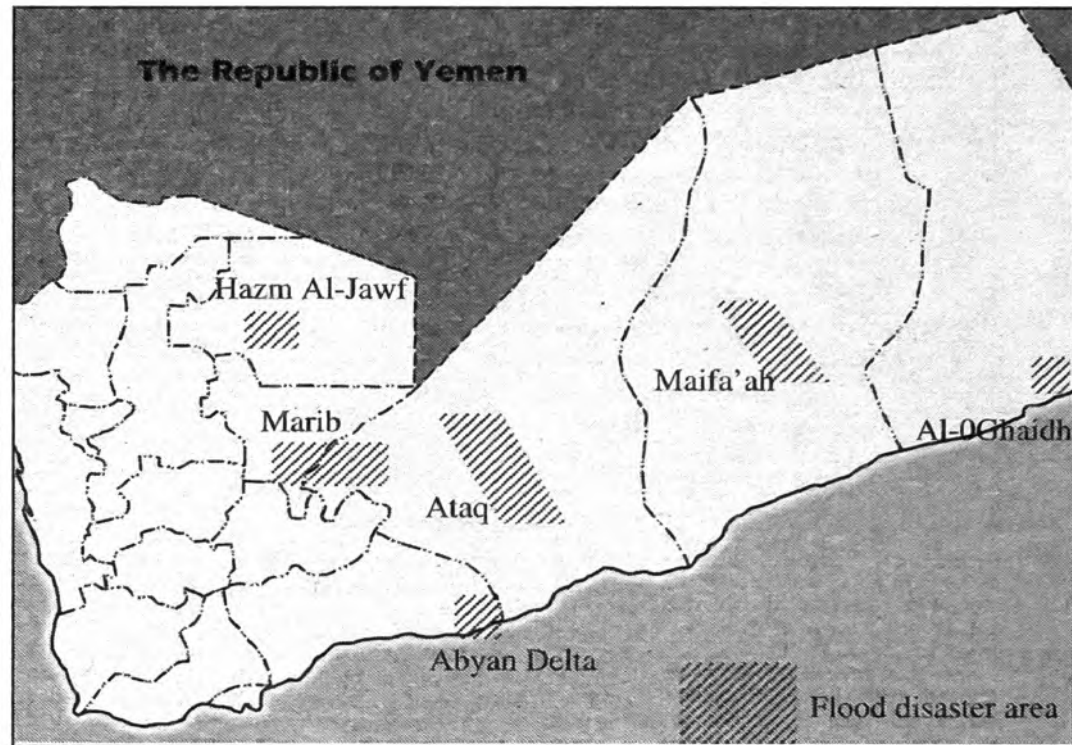


# The Flood Disaster

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Sanaa Office, Ismail Al-Ghabry, in Shabwah, and Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf in Aden

## SOME NUMBERS AND FACTS:

1. The floods swept away the top soil - a depth of 1.5-3 meters of an area of 45,000 hectares.
2. Estimates of the quantity of flood water were quickly abandoned as the numbers rose to tens of trillions of cubic meters.
3. A snap shot estimate of the quantity of water behind the Marib Dam was put at 340 million cubic feet.
4. The value of material, equipment and other assets swept away by torrential floods on 14-15-16/6/1996 is put at \$1.2 billion.
5. Although the final estimates of deaths caused by the floods could rise to about 350 persons, total bodies recovered so far are 220.
6. Most flood-affected areas are by order of magnitude: Shabwah (near Attaq, Marib (near the dam), Hadhramaut (near Maifa'ah), Al-Jawf (near Al-Hazm), Abyan (near Abyan delta), and Al-Maharah (near Al-Ghaidha).
7. The United Nations established the UNDMT (UN Disaster Management Team) headed by the Res-Rep in Yemen, Mr. Onder Yucer, and the OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Center) headed by Thomas Peter from the Department of Humanitarian Assistance in Geneva.
8. The Government of Yemen formed the Supreme Relief Committee headed by Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and governorate-based sub-committees as well as fund-raising sub-committees.
9. Total assistance pledges in cash and in-kind amounted to \$30 million.



## What Happened?

It was like the gods were angry, and that they were letting it known through the thunders and lightning accompanying the heavy rains that fell on the mountains of Yemen during 14th, 15th and 16th of June. The thundering continued, this time accompanying torrents of floods that came down from the steep slopes of the mountains. They were sweeping everything in their way.

The speed of the torrents and the quantity of the water is anybody's guess - but both were destructive in proportion. The damage was enormous.

The floods came down suddenly, and continued to flow for days endlessly. The narrow riverbeds were widened as the floods ate away the embankments, and what was on them - farmlands, grazing land, livestock, houses, roads, infrastructure, fixed assets, and whatever else was there.

The fertile farmlands of Marib, Shabwah and Hadhramaut suddenly became barren desertlands. The top soil - upto a depth of 3 meters was washed away leaving behind pebbles and sand. The top soil, accumulated through the years, was suddenly not there. That is upstream.

Downstream, the silt has created major dunes and hills blocking the flow of water and diverting the direction of flow. It was deposited in the deltas and even beyond into the Arabian Sea. In one area, east of Attaq, a large pool of water gathered creating a lake right in the middle of the desert in Shabwah. Of course, it will evaporate and seep underground with time.

Many families were left with no shelter. Their homes have been either fully or partially damaged. The life of some a quarter of a million people has been changed dramatically. All of a sudden, the life-savings of the people were gone.

Local and international assistance is pouring in. The Hadhramaut Welfare Association and the Shabwah Welfare Association have met in Aden last week to raise funds among immigrants. This will help to minimize the damage. But once the relief phase is over, the people fear they will be left to cope on their own. After all, Yemen is a country which has no insurance or any form of protection.

One important note. The construction of the Marib Dam was fortunate. Had it not been for the dam, which held back quite a lot of the water, the disaster would have been much greater.

## Yemeni Initiative

In a strange way, it felt good to see the Government of Yemen so responsive and so efficient. It is not something the country is accustomed to, but it shows that if there is a will, the government can deliver and the system can work.

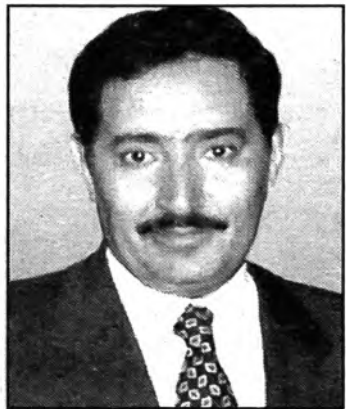
In the very first hours following the disaster, the government opened its stores and reached out to the affected populations. By the 15th of June, there was already some sense of the magnitude of the disaster, and a high level committee was formed. Several sub-committees were also operational.

The UNDP Resident Representative was invited to the facts, and was asked to file a worldwide appeal. The President and Prime Minister called on leaders in the region and beyond to help. The Ministry of Planning and Development set up a working force, which was later transformed into an operations center.

But more magnificent was the achievement at the unofficial level. The Yemen Red Crescent Society once more proved itself effective. Today, it has become the partner of many an international NGO in the relief operations.

Several committees were formed in which local charity organizations and business families were pouring in their contributions. The government also "invited" the bureaucracy to chip in. Very soon, the contributions were in the hundreds of millions.

The role of the Prime Minister needs to be commended. He headed the Supreme Relief Committee and chaired many meetings. He received representatives of donors and put in many phone calls. He flew out to Shabwah to assess the damage and console the people. Those efforts saved many lives and reduced a lot of suffering.



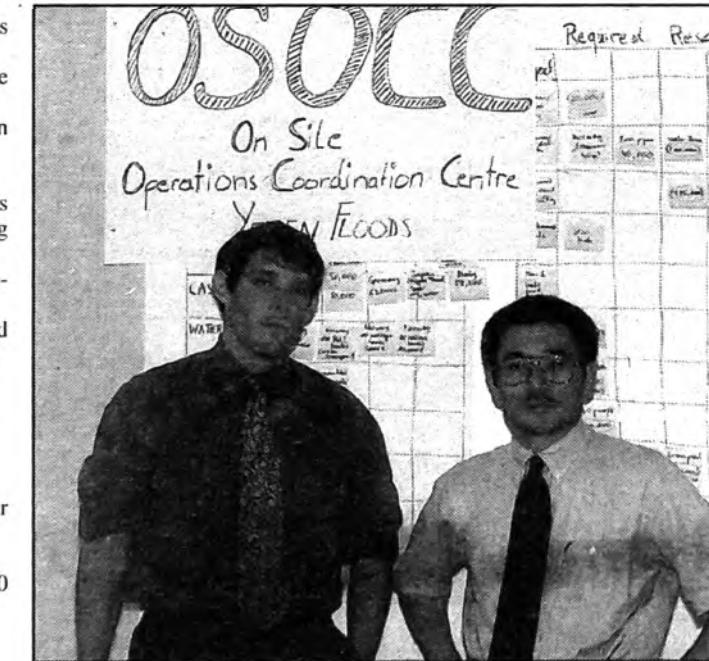
## World Response

The world's response has been, as Mr. Onder Yucer, the UNDP ResRep, says has been very positive and quick. The UN official distinguishes between two phases in the whole operation. "As an emergency need, we have the relief effort which will continue till the end of July. This has to do with the need of people for shelter and housing, food, drinking water, and medical care. Then at a later stage, there will be need for rehabilitation and reconstruction. This is more like a medium and long-term need," he explained.

The world's response should be measured against the needs of the first phase only. And in this respect, the response has been adequate. The following is a partial listing of the contributions as they were known on 29th of June, 1996. The list gets up-dated on a regular basis.

1. UNDP: 100,000 in cash allocation
2. Department of Humanitarian Assistance (DHA, UN - Geneva): \$130,000, UNDAC mission.
3. WFP: \$100,000 (300 tons of flour).
4. WHO: \$61,000 (value of two mobile hospitals), plus considering additional contribution.
5. UNICEF: \$50,000 (in kind).
6. The Netherlands: Re-programming \$400,000 of project funds, plus 2 million water purification tablets, plus 100 family tents.
7. UK: \$320,000 (920 family tents, 58 rolls of plastic sheeting, one logistician), considering further cash donation and drug supplies.
8. Japan: \$120,000 in cash, and \$150,000 in generators, connection cables, tents, blankets.
9. Norway: \$50,000 in cash, and \$75,000 in water supply equipment.
10. Saudi Arabia: \$700,000 in kind (1400 bales of food aid, 500 bales of tents, blankets and sheets, and 600 packets of drugs. Considering more supplies and in cash.
11. Germany: \$100,000 through DHA, and considering more equipment and drug supplies.
12. Italy: \$60,000 through DHA, and considering more in cash and supplies.
13. France: 8,000 metric tons of wheat.
14. China: \$15,000 in medical supplies.
15. Qatar: 2 planes of relief items and food, tents, blankets, etc.
16. Jordan: 18.5 metric tons of food/medical supplies.
17. Iraq: Plane load of general relief supplies.
18. Oman: Plane load of general relief supply. Considering another plane shipment.
19. UAE: Two plane loads of general relief supplies.
20. International Committee of the Red Cross: 1300 blankets, 200 family tents, 200 cooking sets.
21. World Bank: Reprogramming part of existing portfolio.
22. FAO: Agricultural Damage Assessment Service.

## UN Operators



## Relief Projects

The UNDP and sister organizations, along with a number of local and international Non-Governmental Organizations, have been busy trying to develop projects that meet the immediate emergency needs of the affected populations, estimated at around a quarter of a million persons.

Most of the implementation will be done through UNDP, Care, Oxfam, WHO, etc. Local counterparts are the government branches in the governorates, the Yemen Red Crescent, and local NGOs operating in the affected areas.

Most of the coordination of international assistance is done at the OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Center) at the UNDP office in Sanaa, and is manned by Thomas Peter and Yoshi Fukasawa, both of DHA - Geneva.

1. UNDP Assessment and Technical Teams to assess damage and brief world on needs. Cost \$8,000
2. Epidemiological Surveillance: WHO project to guard against epidemic break-outs. Cost \$20,000
3. UNDP Maifa'ah, Hadhramaut Water Distribution Rescue Project: Involves 800 pipes, water reservoir, water tower, water pump. Total Cost: >\$100,000
4. UNDP Maifa'ah Canal De-Silting: Removal of tons of silt brought by flood. Cost: +\$50,000
5. Hadhramaut Emergency Road Repair. Repair of 500 m and 300 m. near Wadi Hajjar. Cost \$40,000
6. Shabwah Emergency Road Repair. Repair of one kilometer of road. Cost: \$30,000
7. Al-Jawf Emergency Road Repair. Repair of main tarmac and shoulder. Cost: \$20,000
8. Marib Emergency Water Transport. Trucking drinking water to population. Cost: \$25,000
9. Shabwah Emergency Water Transport. Trucking drinking water to population. Cost: \$35,000
10. Marib YEM/96/002. Reconstruction of canals and water reservoir. Cost: \$50,000
11. Marib Water Pump Replacement. 20 pumps to be replaced. Cost: \$240,000
12. Shabwah Water Pump Replacement. 20 pumps to be replaced. Cost: \$240,000
13. Attaq Water Pump Emergency Repair. Replacement of 4 water pumps, 2 generators. Cost: \$56,000
14. Shabwah Emergency Protection of Villages and Farmlands. Cost: \$60,000
15. Marib/Shabwah Food Delivery System. WFP Project of 300 tons of flour. Cost: \$100,000
16. Shelter Support Project: 1350 tents, 1350 kitchen sets, 8000 blankets. Cost: \$120,000



## Eulogy on Prophet Mohammed

## "The Endowed Mercy"

Ye - thou art endowed mercy,  
Thy soul is so dewy.  
They called thine sincere,  
Hurt and pain could bear.  
Before, dreary was the land,  
Poor was the mind,  
Fidelity overcrowned.

The Quraishi woman recalled,  
Thy birthday told.  
Enlightening the East and West  
Did that mercy light.  
The sunbeam once again,  
Of prophets came a new grain.  
Honest since youth signed,  
Thy heart was extremely kind.  
Ever thou knew.  
Thou brought the world a clue?

Rocks welcomed.  
Even palms did.  
The lucky Harra witnessed.  
A new missive was revealed.  
"Read! Read!" "I can't read"  
"Read in the name of the Lord"  
Gabriel there delivered  
The divine message God assigned

Quraish eternally ashamed  
That thine blamed  
And ruthlessly opposed.  
Great hurt you bore,  
But smoothly forbore.  
Three years the matter thou hidest,  
Later on wide announced.

Ye - Mercy of God,  
Thou art an April bud.  
Torture was thy share,  
As fires around and flare.  
Thy forgiveness hearts prevailed.  
Charity daily knocked.  
The morals of the Lord  
In the prophet sowed.

In adors of the farthest mosque you prayed  
Imam among prophets God raised  
The farthest mosque still remembers  
When thou swiftly crossed the curtains.  
Israa and Mi'rage for thou were bestowed  
As thou with Gabriel mounted.

The heavens wisely were founded  
Of a divine Order layered.  
Adam, Noah, Jesus  
Idris, Aaron and Moses  
Welcomed thou in praises .

Ye - kind prophet  
Above thou were brought.  
As Gabriel humbly ceased  
"If one step more,  
I am of light blazed  
But to where?  
All bliss condensed.  
The grandeur there adorned.  
The highest levels thou passed  
To the Lord of Existence were sent.  
Thy modesty terribly elevated  
At this cherish thou humbled.  
Then, God raised thou close,  
Among the beings chose

"Come near Mohammed"  
God thereat five times decreed  
Of prayers defined  
Many a time, the prodigies I do recall  
And praise Allah of all.  
Yathrib, your center you chose  
A mosque there rose  
And a civilization built close.

The Confederates, your missive chopped  
And Allah's word echoed  
Empires, thou upon destroyed  
Blasphemy also collapsed,  
China in the Far East, France in the West  
The Grace of God witnessed.

Ye - Compassionate prophet - turned  
history round  
And bravely dispersed the cloud  
That over centuries roamed,  
Then caused the worlds live  
Golden ages did have  
Wake us as thou did before  
For we need hearts pure.  
Verily truth later should loom  
Till the day of doom.

"God's Blessing and Peace Be upon Him"

By: *Habbed I. Al-Qubati*

## War of Words: The Art of Efficient Arguing

Why do some people argue fearlessly while others dread confrontation? The reasons can be traced to one's idea of self-esteem as influenced by childhood experiences. In other words, it has to do with the socio-cultural environment in which one is raised.

You don't simply whistle a little tune or dance when someone picks an argument with you. But when you are in danger of losing out on an issue close to your heart, words fly like sparks, passionate and fast, as do the facts to support your argument.

Why do some people argue brilliantly using their facts and vocabulary to advantage while others find it difficult to speak. There are many among us who distastefully ask, "Why do these people argue so much?" Why indeed?

A celebrated book *How to Argue and Win Every Time* has an answer: "We have a duty to argue for ourselves and one of the most effective means by which we share ourselves is argument. When we witness an injustice, we have a duty to argue. And prove one thing, that they are disagreeable." Perhaps disagreeable people have something to do with the power equations in our lives. For there still exists obscurantist traditions in homes, offices, and even in schools that firmly put the lid on argument.

And within our Arab tradition, many families still practice the quietest dictum that women and children are to be seen and not heard. But disagreeable aside, there are those who are actually afraid of confrontation and do not argue even for their rights, for fear of inciting the rage of those who ride roughshod over them. We are trained from birth to bestow power on others.

As children, we saw our parents and teachers as quasi gods. Without us, who bestow power on them, those with power are powerless.

There could be other reasons for

shutting out arguments from personal life. The family is one particular unit where members sometimes have to accept without question certain rules written or unwritten to preserve harmony. Children are sometimes argued into doing certain things against their wishes for their good.

Researchers believe that children who are forced to eat a particular dish will hate it for the rest of their lives.

There are parents who try to win over their grown children through emotional blackmail, threatening to fall sick or die if their demands are not met. Some do the same even with little children perhaps, to indicate a sense of morality. The winning argument will be love, respect, honesty, and freedom. Not discipline, manipulation, hypocrisy and control. Otherwise the teenagers will become a danger to themselves.

### ARGUMENT PHOBIA

Those who are afraid to argue and suffer in silence do so because they have a low image, self image, self-confidence, and insecurity. If you have a high self-esteem, you will feel you are right and if you have a low self-esteem, you will plague yourself for having argued at all, or spend sleepless nights over not having argued.

The key to avoid getting unnecessarily hurt in an argument, lies in one's ability to look at things objectively; that is, without clouding your view. If someone mistreats you, firmly make your position clear and they won't do it again.

One should have confidence in oneself to argue fearlessly. Nervousness and stammering are in most cases the result of anxiety.

But a word of warning: people who have strong prejudices are best left alone, especially if they have a rigid outlook. Arguments are important to progressive society. Being confident is

important and to develop that confidence, know your facts.

### ARGUING AT WORK

The best argument for a raise or a promotion is always the same - to demonstrate that one's move upward will advance efficiency on the job and hence means more production and more profit. There is nothing like humor to give your argument an edge. It can be used to good effect and strengthen your case considerably. Telling the truth and standing by your principles need not be personally advantageous in the long run. Sometimes standing by one's principles and believing in them is argument enough for those in the opposition. But reason alone won't do at times; passion is required to tilt the balance. Reason without passion is dead, just as passion without reason is blind, as Nietzsche said.

### HOW TO ARGUE BETTER

- Learn to speak with the body.
- Don't be blinded by brilliance.
- Let emotions show. Don't discourage passion.
- Use fear as an ally, and learn to convert its energy.
- Remember assault is not an argument.
- If it is related to your promotion, demonstrate that your move upward will mean more production, more profit for your employers.
- Know that the enemy is not the person with whom you are engaged in an argument, but the vision within yourself.
- Be a skillful listener.
- Get your facts right.
- Gracefully accept the other person's views if you agree with them.
- Remember, respect is reciprocal.
- Logic is power, ride it all the way.
- Finally, it would be safer to be right than wrong.



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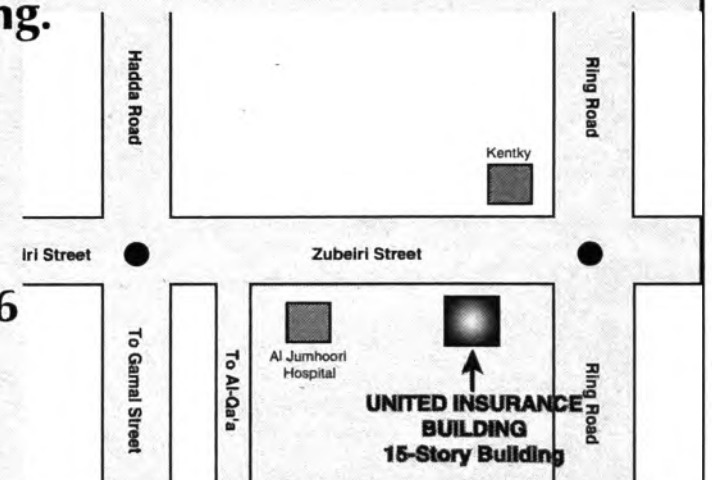
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## Arab World to Be Brought in Line with Intellectual Property Rights Standards

The President of the Arab Society for the Protection of Intellectual Property (ASPIP), Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, participated in the 17th Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Permanent Program for development cooperation on Industry Property Rights (IPR) and in the meetings of the Permanent Committee. The two events, which take place once every two years, were held during June 24-27, 1996, at the WIPO headquarters in Geneva.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh explained ASPIP's programs on development of IPR in the Arab region, and how ASPIP, as a private regional body, and WIPO, as one of the UN's international organizations, can cooperate in this field. Abu Ghazaleh praised the on-going cooperation and the activities of WIPO under its current Director General, Mr. Arpach Bogsch, with whom he held two side meetings to discuss the peculiarities and special dimensions of IPR in the Arab countries, with a view to bring the Arab World in line with the international status of intellectual property rights.

The discussions focussed on certain issues such as the Intellectual Property Rights Dictionary, translation into Arabic of the IPR law, the Master of Intellectual Program (MIP) which ASPIP is preparing in cooperation with the Arab League, possibilities of national and regional training program in the Arab countries, technical assistance packages and public awareness programs in the field.

The two sides also discussed ways and means of enforcement of the stipulations of the IPR agreement, and the challenges facing the Arab countries. Concrete steps in this direction are to be developed in additional consultations.

It is worth mentioning that 100 official delegates attended in addition to 12 regional organizations, including the ASPIP.

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh is a leading figure in the Arab World concerned with the development of appropriate standards and measurements in accounting, intellectual property, environmental protection, and other similar fields.

## Cypriots Told to Tighten Belt

The Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus Mr. Afxentios Afxentios warned Cypriots that they were "living beyond their means" and that they must curb their spending, which is increasing the country's current account deficit. The Governor's warning came after a meeting with commercial bankers who were lobbying the Central Bank to raise to 14% from 10% its ceiling on credit expansion imposed earlier in the year.

Speaking to reporters, Afxentios stated that Cyprus was suffering from a current account deficit for the second year.

The current account showed a deficit of \$ 186 million in 1995, after a surplus of \$67.6 million in 1994. More alarming of all, the deficit for 1996 is forecast at \$ 285 million. The Governor and other senior economists, are blaming uncontrolled consumption for the problem.

A 10.8% rise in consumption from 1994 to 1995 pushed the trade account to a deficit. But bankers complain that credit measures alone cannot address the situation. Their view is that the bankers - by holding back on credit - are being asked to face the brunt on the problem.

Cyprus has been earning high revenues from its service sector. Tourism, off-shore banking, and hosting the headquarters of enterprises in the eastern Mediterranean have generated in the past generous flows of revenue. They have also created major employment opportunities.

The near-monopoly position of Cyprus on those counts is being eroded with the peace process among the Arabs and Israel, and the recovery of such regional markets as Lebanon. Hence the call of the Cypriot Central Banker to tighten the belt and reduce consumption.

## Gowda Government Presents Clear Plan

The center-left United Front government of Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is exactly one month old today. Gowda, 64, a civil engineer from the south, has steadily gained the respect and admiration of the Indian people. During the first month in office, Mr. Gowda has been able to present a clear-cut policy for his government, in spite of the numerous coalition partners participating in it.

Four clear policy orientations can be outlined.

1- The Prime Minister has embarked on a campaign to purge of corruption. As he himself

explicitly put it, "Providing a corruption-free and clean administration is the need of the hour."

2- Mr. Gowda has vowed to continue the liberalization drive initiated by his predecessor (and partner) Narasimha Rao. Moreover, his push for an 8% annual target growth rate of the economy is based on special efforts to woo foreign investments.

3- Mr. Gowda is trying to avoid signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and he has made a point to put India's security and military interests before the demands of the super-

powers. India has reservations regarding the CTBT. If India were to be enticed to join the ban, the loopholes in the CTBT have to be ironed out.

4- Finally, the new government has responded positively to signals from Pakistan. While hailing the recently held elections in troubled Kashmir as a "triumph for our democratic polity", Mr. Gowda is offering the olive branch to Pakistan to hold talks to resolve the differences through negotiations.

Pessimists who almost dismissed Gowda's government as unworkable, are changing their mind.

## The Islamists Come to Power in Turkey

The partnership deal between the Islamic-oriented Refah Party and the Motherland Party was concluded last week. With that, the Turkish Republic has its first Islamic Prime Minister since its establishment following the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of WW I. Mr. Nejmeddin Erbakan, leader of the Refah is the head of government, and Ms. Tansu Chiller, head of the Motherland Party, is Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is clear that the Motherland party received a better deal from the Refah than from its previous coalition deal with the True Path Party headed by Mesud Yilmaz. But the price for the change has been bringing the Islamists to power.

But is that a bad deal, after all. Many modernists believe that Islamic parties are not the monster the Western media has presented them to be. In fact, they may turn out to offer better government.

Erbakan has pledged to honor the secular status of the country, and promised to observe the agreements and accords signed by Turkey with other countries. That may be a direct reference to the recent military accord between Turkey and Israel.

The Refah Party leadership will definitely re-shift the focus of Turkey, however, from Europe to the Middle East and Central Asia. "We can be the leaders of our region than the tail of Europe," is how one Erbakan advisor put it.

## US Worries about Saudi Militancy

The Clinton Administration, while openly backing the Saudi authorities and showing confidence in them, is quietly reviewing the recent terrorist explosions targeting Americans in Saudi Arabia. Over the last six months, American military presence in the Kingdom has been targeted twice, leading to heavy casualties.

The first bomb, some six months ago, targeted the Americans working for the National Guards in Riyadh. The second bomb, exploded last week, targeted American military residential building in Al-Khobar. Nineteen Americans were killed, eight are still listed as missing, and some 385 persons, a third Saudis, another third Americans, and the third

third from other nationalities, have been injured. Many observers do not expect this to be the last explosion targeting Americans.


The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was showered with messages of support as the word denounced the terrorist attacks. Efforts are being taken at many fronts to combat the terrorists.

Americans living in Saudi Arabia, who had been trouble-free until recently, are now being asked to be more careful and alert. Fundamentalist terrorist groups - well-trained, well-equipped, well-financed and highly motivated - are violently trying to end American military presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

# ADEN HOTEL

# فندق عدن

MÖVENPICK موفنيك



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فندق عدن موفنيك  
والشركة العربية للإستثمار والسياحة المحدودة  
بأحر التاني القلبية  
إلى فخامة الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح، والشعب اليمني، والحكومة  
بمناسبة ذكرى إنتصار الوحدة اليمنية (٧ يوليو)  
وبمناسبة ذكرى إنتخاب الرئيس  
الفريق علي عبدالله صالح (١٧ يوليو)  
وكل عام والجميع بخير

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**The Arab Company for Investment & Tourism**  
present their felicitations and warm wishes  
on the anniversary of the Victory of Yemeni Unity - July 7th  
and on the anniversary of the election of  
President Ali Abdullah Saleh - July 17th.

Many happy returns.

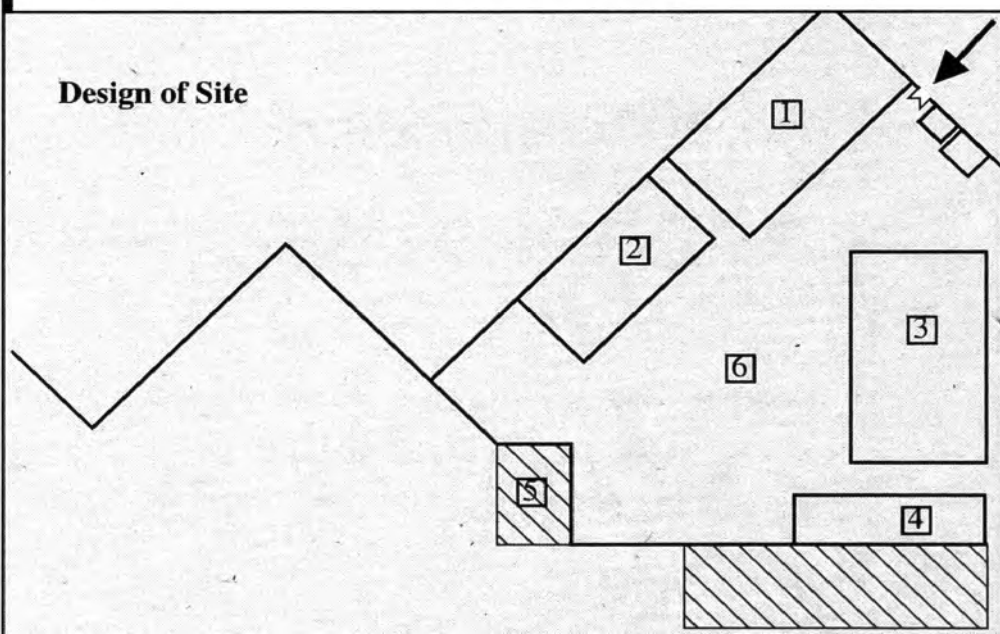
## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Building Corporation in Aden is pleased to announce its interest to sell by public tender a complete built up area consisting of the following:

1. Steel building made of corrugated aluminium sheets with an area of 30 x 60 m, height of 6 m.
2. Steel building made of corrugated aluminium sheets with an area of 20 x 50 m, height of 6 m.
3. Steel building made of corrugated aluminium sheets with an area of 25 x 50 m, height of 6 m.
4. Block building stores with an area of 12 x 40 meters.
5. Block building offices with an area of 92 square meters.
6. Plain (open) area of 13,378 square meters.

Total Area: 18,000 square meters

Design of Site



The area is provided with all services and is situated at block 69, the Industrial Zone in Al-Mansoorah, Aden.

All interested persons (investors, local and foreign contractors) are invited to participate in this tender. Tender dates shall be announced later.

Our telephone numbers are: (02) 342-296, 342-737, 343-127





INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN Y.S.C.



بنك البر من الدولى ش.م.ب.ي.

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.)  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1995

	Note	1995 Y.R.	1994 Y.R.
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand and at banks	3	1,451,751,440	321,122,221
Statutory reserve account	4	1,680,101,333	764,011,000
Time deposits with banks	5	824,203,092	935,486,605
Loans and advances (net)	6	3,452,446,853	1,998,653,595
Other assets (net)	7	177,512,676	197,683,679
Fixed assets (net)	8	78,818,503	217,387,958
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>7,664,833,897</b>	<b>4,434,345,058</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE EQUITY</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Due to other banks		67,102,391	5,122,864
Customers' deposits	9	6,632,058,670	3,669,517,934
Provisions	10	142,999,057	61,016,592
Other credit balances	11	390,531,102	367,666,621
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7,232,691,220</b>	<b>4,103,324,011</b>
<b>SHARE HOLDERS' EQUITY</b>			
Paid-up capital		200,000,000	150,000,000
Legal reserve		115,477,228	105,558,983
Retained earnings		116,665,449	75,462,064
<b>TOTAL SHARE HOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		<b>432,142,677</b>	<b>331,021,047</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND HEAD OFFICE EQUITY</b>		<b>7,664,833,897</b>	<b>4,434,345,058</b>
<b>CONTRA ACCOUNTS</b>	13	<b>5,445,534,480</b>	<b>397,991,234</b>

(The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements)

Chairman  
General Manager

Auditors' report attached  
A. Fouad  
Ahmed Fouad  
(Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.)  
KPMG  
مجتى و حازم حسن  
و شركاه  
KPMG MEJANNI HAZEM HASSAN  
& Co. - PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
سنتا - الجمهورية اليمنية  
Sana'a, Yemen

**Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

P.O. Box (10556) 53 ZUBAIRY STR. SANA'A,  
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TEL. (9671) 265141 / 2  
Fax. (9671) 267994 Tlx. 2869 YE. (NOWAR)

**AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS  
OF INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.)  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN**

We have audited the accompanying combined balance sheet of International Bank of Yemen (Y.S.C.) as at December 31, 1995 and the related combined statements of income and retained earnings, and of cash flows for the financial year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the bank's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and provisions of prevailing laws. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The bank keeps proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of International Bank of Yemen (Y.S.C.) at December 31, 1995 and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

A. Fouad  
Ahmed Fouad  
Partner

Sana'a, February 28, 1996 Sana'a, Yemen



INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.)  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

COMBINED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1995

	Note	1995 Y.R.	1994 Y.R.
Interest income		640,743,925	311,013,013
Less: Interest expenses		(188,407,006)	(104,100,535)
<b>Net interest income</b>		<b>452,336,919</b>	<b>206,912,478</b>
Other Operating income	14	43,429,678	14,990,978
<b>Total operating income</b>		<b>495,766,597</b>	<b>221,903,456</b>
General expenses	15	(252,407,950)	(119,575,418)
Provision for loan losses		(97,636,025)	(26,468,220)
<b>Net profit before income tax</b>		<b>145,722,622</b>	<b>75,859,818</b>
Income tax		(79,600,992)	(34,250,180)
<b>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>66,121,630</b>	<b>41,609,638</b>
RETAINED EARNINGS, JANUARY 1,		75,462,064	50,093,872
Transfer to legal reserve		(9,918,245)	(6,241,446)
Dividends declared		(15,000,000)	(10,000,000)
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS, DECEMBER 31,</b>		<b>116,665,449</b>	<b>75,462,064</b>

(The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements)

Chairman  
General Manager

Auditors' report attached

A. Fouad  
Ahmed Fouad  
(Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.)  
KPMG  
مجتى و حازم حسن  
و شركاه  
KPMG MEJANNI HAZEM HASSAN  
& Co. - PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
سنتا - الجمهورية اليمنية  
Sana'a, Yemen

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.)  
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1995

	1995 Y.R.	1994 Y.R.
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net profit for the year	66,121,630	41,609,638
Add (Deduct) adjustments to reconcile net profit to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	4,850,517	3,838,986
Decrease in other debit balances	20,171,003	17,000,560
Increase in other credit balances	184,161,278	229,665,690
<b>Net cash flow provided by operating activities</b>	<b>275,304,428</b>	<b>292,114,874</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
(Increase) in statutory reserve	(916,090,333)	(221,956,000)
Decrease in deposits with banks	111,283,513	124,485,456
(Increase) in loans and advances	(1,453,793,258)	(754,401,253)
Purchase of fixed assets	(31,684,341)	(169,075,872)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	4,106,482	55,656
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(2,286,177,937)</b>	<b>(1,020,892,013)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase (decrease) in due to banks	61,979,527	(48,503,597)
Increase in current, savings, call and time deposits and others	2,962,540,736	690,679,779
Increase in provisions	81,982,465	14,421,494
Increase in capital	50,000,000	48,239,600
Dividends paid	(15,000,000)	(10,000,000)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>3,141,502,728</b>	<b>694,837,276</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash</b>	<b>1,130,629,219</b>	<b>(33,939,863)</b>
<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>321,122,221</b>	<b>355,062,084</b>
<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,451,751,440</b>	<b>321,122,221</b>

(The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements)

Chairman  
General Manager

Auditors' report attached

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Ahmed Fouad  
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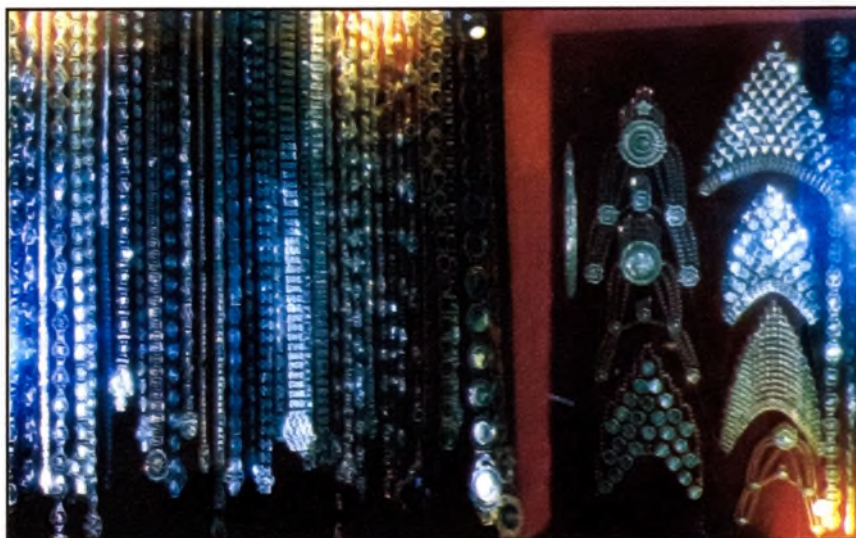
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## A Woman's Best Friend: Expensive Gold and Gems

"With all the gold that is hoarded in Yemeni homes, it is amazing that the Yemeni currency should fall so rapidly." That was the remark of one diplomat in Sanaa. From an economic point of view, the volume of gold in the country has little to do with the exchange rate, but the point is taken in terms of the attachment of Yemeni women to gold.



It is estimated that well-to-do women have on average over a kilogram of gold stashed away at home. It is even possible to conclude that no adult woman, however poor she is, lacks at least a piece of gold. Yemeni women have moved - over the last century - from silver jewelry to gold, and increasingly to gems. Most large Yemeni cities have sections for shops carrying golden jewelry. Often, there are rows of shops displaying all kinds of golden ornaments ranging from rings, to bracelets, necklaces, ear-rings, head-bands and even belts. Often, these are put together nicely in a set, which is the best gift a groom offers to his bride. The value of a set can range from several hundred to several million Riyals, depending on the weight, art-work and purity of gold. Most of the artisanry is now done

abroad, although a few Yemeni artists and goldsmiths continue to produce small quantities. Gold products are now imported from India, the Gulf and Italy in large quantities. No one is able to give an estimate as the business is shrouded with secrecy. Gems have made considerable inroads over the last few years. They command a higher price than gold, and Yemenis have long known these precious stones. The simplest way of recognizing gem stones is by looking at the color. Rubies are red because of small quantities of iron. The emerald is a beautiful green, topaz is usually yellow. Amethyst comes in shades of violet. Turquoise is much sought after for its beautiful blue shade. The deeper the color, the more covetable the gem is. But those rather expensive, as a

quick visit to a goldsmith would prove. As a result, women have moved to semi-precious stones. Jade, onyx, jasper, agate, opal, tourmaline and aquamarine are already in our market. Arab history and folklore is rich with references to gold and gems. So much so that the beautiful ornaments are supposed to have magical powers. One of the stories told over and over from generation to another is King Solomon's ring. By rubbing the ring, Solomon would summon genies to fulfill his wishes. Today, the magic of precious stones persists. Gold and gem gifts are the shortest way to the heart of your woman. Next time you want to impress your woman, take her jewelry shopping. While she enjoys wearing her golden gift, you will definitely enjoy a better place in her heart.



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AL-GUMHOURIA: Daily, (Taiz), 27-6-96  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President Sends Condolences to King Fahd and President Clinton on the Al-Khobar Criminal Act... And Confirms Support for the Saudis in Denouncing Violence and Terrorism.
- 2) Yemen Chairs the 14th Session of the Arab Development Organization
- 3) Dr. Iryani Meets with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in London

**Article Summary:**

**Common Security**

Referring to the Al-Khobar blast, the paper in its editorial points out that Yemen denounced the terrorist act and confirmed that security in Saudi Arabia and Yemen are linked. "This is not merely an expression of sympathy, but a reality that imposes itself, as every country in the region is affected by any act of violence or breach of order and security."

This event clearly shows that terrorism has become a dangerous threat in the Arab World. Terrorism is an international phenomenon and has now come to our area to create tension and to distort the image of the Arabs and Muslims. The joint efforts of all the states in the region are now needed to get rid of terrorism before unknown sources of violence plunge the area with bloodshed and violence.

AL-SHOURA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 26-6-96  
(Mouthpiece of Federation of Popular Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Opposition Council Welcomes the President's Willingness to Provide Election Guarantees.
- 2) The General Prosecution Announces the Date of the Trial of the '16' Minus One.
- 3) Domination and Centralization Are Behind the Mukalla Incidents.

**Article Summary:**

**The Re-Issuance of Al-Shoura**

The paper's first issue after more than 11 months of practicing what the paper calls its 'right of keeping silent', discussed at length its long fight to get back



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

to press in its editorial and a number of other articles and interviews. In its editorial, the paper praises the members of the judicial bench who are consistent in their efforts to uphold constitutional rights and the law without any willingness to fall under external pressure or influence. The paper hailed the court decision as a victory for democracy and justice.

In other articles on the subject, the paper expressed its appreciation for all those who supported it during its long ordeal.

On the other hand the paper published commentaries on the return of Al-Shoura by leading political and social celebrities.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-6-1996  
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Suspects of the Attempted Assassination of Mubarak Confess to Using Yemeni Passports
- 2) Security Forces Arrest People and Confiscate Their Land in Lahj
- 3) An Assassination Attempt on Another YSP Member

**Article Summary:**

**1) Continued Deportation of Yemenis by Saudi Arabia**

The paper reported that the second wave of Yemeni deportees from Saudi Arabia landed in Hodeidah on Tuesday, 25/6/96. The more than 2000 men and women were said not to have legal residence permits in Saudi Arabia. Sources told the paper that the deportation of Yemenis from Saudi Arabia, which started in May 1996, is used as political pressure on the Yemeni authorities for undisclosed reasons. The Yemeni security in Hodeidah have received the deportees and spread them throughout the city to avoid any likely protest demonstrations that could arise by the deportees. The Saudis have deported more than 3500 Yemenis during this month alone, 1500 of

them during the beginning of this month, according to the paper.

**2) The Democracy of Artillery and Tanks**

Taking note of the upcoming parliamentary elections, the paper points out that the ruling coalition is increasing its attacks on the YSP by accusing it as having come to power by the nozzle of the gun. The writer, Amin Mohammed Sharaf, states that in this regard, both the regimes in Sana'a and Aden prior to unification came to power in that way. However, the present regime in Sana'a still maintains its position through this nozzle, and prevents any opposition from entering the power race. Moreover, the regime penalizes any entity that disputes its monopoly on power and control of the state machinery. Even mild protests are dealt with forcefully, using the mentality of artillery and tanks as the Mukalla disturbances clearly show. The article reminds those who try to discredit the YSP, that the latter was the party which sacrificed for the sake of unity more than any of the others. "The only regrets are the fate of the Yemeni people, who now have to tread on a path that is covered by dangerous clouds."

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 27-6-96

(Mouthpiece of Yemeni Congregation for Reform)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Navy in Hodeidah Apprehends (Foreign) Fishing Boats in Yemeni Waters
- 2) The Islah Party Presents Its Proposed Amendments for the Election Law
- 3) Dog Bites Nine Children

**Article Summary:**

**Eritrea Comes Out with New Maps**

The Ethiopian independent newspaper 'Tobia' criticized the Eritrean government for issuing a new secret map which shows Eritrea's borders extending into Sudanese, Ethiopian and Djiboutian territories. Press sources indicated that the map has instigated friction between the Eritrean government and Djibouti recently.

'Tobia' finally said, according to Al-Sahwa, that this new map could lead to further Eritrean aggression against any of its adjacent states similar to the aggression against Yemeni islands on the Red Sea.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 25-6-96  
(Mouthpiece of Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Sana'a University Declares a Strike to Protest Takeover of Medical Training Hospital Land Which Will Be Turned into Recreation Park.
- 2) Death of a Seyoun Prison Inmate (Accused of Affiliation with Outside Opposition).
- 3) Five Members of the Criminal Investigation Police Rape a Woman in Ja'ar (Abyan).

**Article Summary:**

**1) Opposition Withdraws from Election Committee**  
Due to the drive by the coalition ruling partners to rescind the right to appeal election results by voters and candidates, the YSP and Nasserite members of the Parliamentary Committee studying the Election Law Amendments walked out of the meeting.

**2) Foreign Ministry Assists in Kidnapping**

Dr. Farid Mohammed Saeed accused the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sanaa Airport Security of complicity by letting his Russian wife kidnap his daughter and fly her out to Moscow. The Russian Embassy had issued a diplomatic passport to the kidnapper and girl under forged names, said the paper. The signed and unstamped exit card was dated 23-5-95.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 26-6-96  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Opposition Parties Request the Rulers to Abide by Their Undertakings and to Stop Violating the Constitution and the Laws
- 2) Transfusion of AIDS Infected Blood to Woman After Entering Maternity Hospital
- 3) FF 70 Million Loan, and 8 Tons of Grain as French Relief Aid to Yemen

**Article Summary:**

**Sugar and Salt: The Color of Both Is White**

Saeed Sabty, columnist, points to the plight of the people of the southern/eastern Governorates, under the control of the YSP prior to unity, and now under the 'legitimate forces'. "The cruelty of the former southern totalitarians, is replaced by the totalitarians of the north," he wrote.



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## Letters to the Editor

## Letters to the Editor

### The Importance for Reliable Research on the Yemeni Environment

Many parts of the world suffer from various kinds of pollution, especially in urban areas. Despite the vast amount of knowledge about the causes of pollution, most countries are slow in implement counter-measures.

We in Yemen are very poor. Our poverty also covers reliable research on this issue. So it is a good idea to describe the measures necessary to combat the existing kinds of pollution, notably, air pollution.

Such an effort begins with a well-documented history of the fight against air pollution and the processes and mechanisms of reaching a social consensus on its control. The essential steps in the process are the establishment of ambient air quality standards, the introduction of the total allowable mass emission, and the legal control of each emission based on scientific criterion.

One of the main sources of air pollution is combustion (which is defined as the rapid reaction of fuel with oxygen), despite the fact that combustion products (CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, and frequently CO, and SO<sub>2</sub>) are relatively worthless compared to the fuel burned to obtain them. The analysis of combustion reactions and reactor and the abatement and control of environmental pollution caused by combustion products are problems with which chemical engineer are heavily involved.

Our world is filled with various pollutants. This process will heat up the earth's atmosphere and will lead to the so-called "climate change". This would lead to serious consequences such as the displacement of about 120 million people who live on coastal cities and along the shores. This is due to the rise of the sea level, which is mostly caused by the emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the air or atmosphere.

As a chemical engineer, I feel that it is my responsibility to be in the forefront of the battle against air pollution in Yemen. Our case is much easier than conditions in other countries because our country is in the early stages of its industrial revolution, and in the beginning of exploitation of oil and gas.

So my aim is to contribute to raising awareness regarding air pollution, and to advise on the measures that can be taken to reduce it. By the way, such measures will also increase industrial efficiency and protect the natural environment. The result is better quality of life for us and future generations.

By: Eng. Ahmed H. Dabwan, Sanaa.

### Looking for Pen Pals

I am a chemist engineer, 52 years old, working in toxicologic field applied for human health. I have just returned from Yemen, where I have been twice for holidays.

My family and I are passionately fond of Yemen. That is the reason why I would like to correspond with Yemenis to exchange ideas and information about our respective countries. I would prefer, of course, to use my mother's tongue; but English would do.

Lucien Beaudouin, France

### Ideas for YT

The Yemen Times gets more and more readers day by day. I myself became accustomed, or rather addicted, to it. Monday afternoon is special because I get my new issue of the YT.

There are two thoughts I would like to share with the YT readers. Only a very limited number of readers are well-versed in English sentence structure. Thus, there is a handicap and a block to the reader. A small corner in our lovely YT can do the reader much good in improving his/her English. This will add to why we love the Yemen Times.

The Second is an urgent question, for which I desire an answer. When will the Yemen Times come out as a periodical?

By: Farooq Al-Tameemy,  
Al-Sha'ab School, Taiz.

### A Bushy-Tailed Ghost!

I do not believe in apparitions or ghosts. Whenever my friends bring up such a story, I would laugh and dismiss it. Such stories normally ran around a dark night, enveloped by silence or loneliness, but they never had any effect upon me. That was my belief until one night...

A few days ago my family was to return home late from a party. The dead silence of the night and the complete stillness began to work on my imagination. Against my will, ghost stories broke into my thoughts.

The clock struck the hour twelve. As I was about to get into bed, I heard some sounds downstairs. I thought my family was back, rushed down the flight of stairs only to find there was no one there. I was about to climb back to my room when the sounds came again and this time I heard some movement in the adjacent room. I called out names. There was no answer. I switched on the lights and entered the room, but it was vacant. I strained my ears for sounds, but heard nothing.

Ghost stories dominated my thoughts and feelings. I was getting very frightened and felt that my legs would give in. I sank on a nearby sofa. Just then a feeling made me jump up. I felt a long, hairy thing crawling along my right foot. "Snake, snake!" I screamed. I was about to make a dash for the door, when at that moment, from beneath the sofa, out came a cat.

It was purring pleasantly and wagging its long tail happily. For what seemed eternity, I continued to gaze at the little thing which had given me the shock of my life. As though to mollify me, it came towards me and rubbed its body against my leg, again! Next day, over lunch, I told the night's incident. Everybody was convulsed with laughter. I could still hear them laughing.

Shafiq Anwar Fakir,  
Faculty of Education, Aden



July 1st, 1996

## Yafa Bazar

The Yemen-American Friendship Association (YAFA) is organizing an open bazar at the gardens of Haddah Hotel on Friday 5th, July, 1996. The event will mark the 4th of July and the 7th of July.

Al-Shurooq music band will play live music. Various foods and drinks are available. Display of products.

At the end of the day, lucky winners will go home with worthwhile prizes such as tickets to different destinations, electronic gadgets, meals in first-class restaurants, etc.

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## Champion Asks for Support for Judo Sports

Mohammed Saleh Khusroof is the first Yemeni to receive black belt in Judo. He was the national Judo Champion during 1986-91, and got the silver medal in the Arab Judo Championship held in Egypt in 1989. Today, he is the coach of the national judo team.

Jamal Al-Awadhi, Sports Editor of Yemen Times, spoke to Mr. Khusroof. Excerpts.

**Q: How would you assess judo games in Yemen?**

**A:** It is a growing sport. It is especially appealing to youngsters. But, even among the older folks, it is also a way to work out.

I would like to say here that the mountainous terrain of Yemen gives us sturdy bodies that enable us to excel in certain sports, and judo is one of them.

**Q: You participated in many local and regional championships. Can you give us details?**

**A:** Yes, I did. I participated in games in Egypt (1989), Jordan (1989), China (1990), Japan (1991), etc.

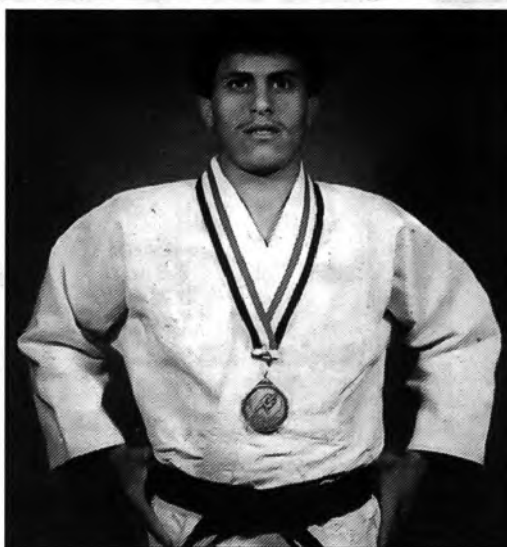
I now do most of my work and train new athletes in Al-Wahda club in Sanaa. We also carry out competitions and training in Taiz, Aden, Hajjah and Abyan.

**Q: Do you have enough equipment for training?**

**A:** We have some equipment, but it isn't enough. I trust the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support us.

**Q: What is your dream?**

**A:** My dream is for this sport to develop strong roots in Yemen. We hope the olympic committee and all will support it.



## Inauguration of the Olympic Center

Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi, Secretary-General of Yemen's Olympic Committee, disclosed to the Yemen Times that the country's first Olympic Center will be formally inaugurated in Sanaa tomorrow, Tuesday, July 2nd. He also indicated that the center is already furnished with a number of sports equipment in various fields.

Mr. Awadhi used the occasion to pay tribute to the British Council for having donated equipment. He also praised the Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, who he said gave the Olympic Center his priority.

The next priority item on the Committee's agenda is to carve out a section for female athletes. "You know, the whole thing is geared, so far, towards male athletes," he indicated.

The Minister has been lobbying local businessmen and international companies to assist in whatever ways they can to promote Yemeni athletes and sports.

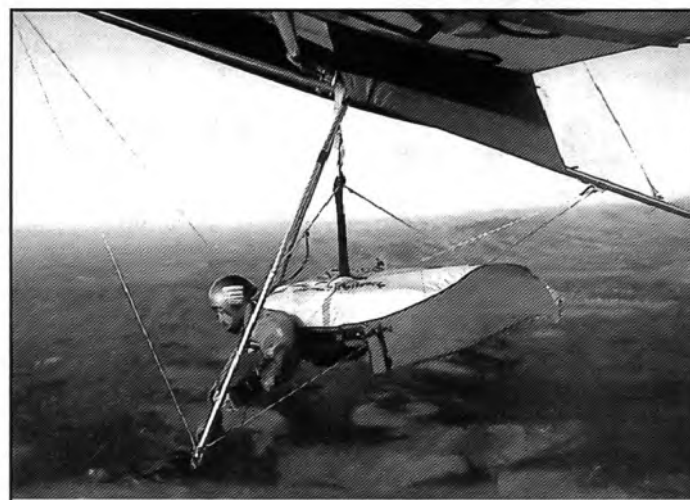
Ranking members of the sports world in Yemen, diplomats, and a number of distinguished guests are expected to be on hand for the inauguration ceremony.

## Mohammed Al-Maqaleh to hand-Glide in Hodeidah on July 7th

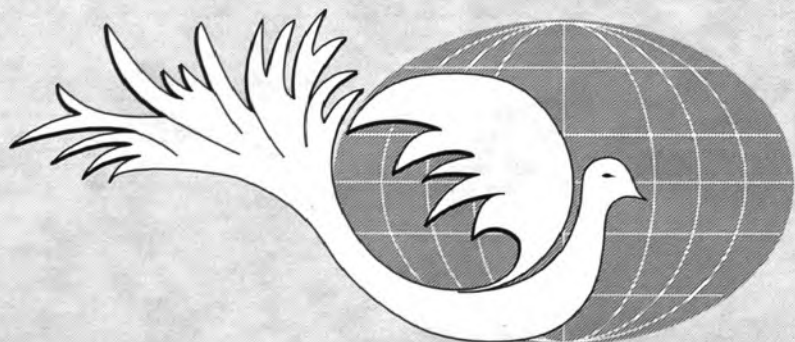
The famous Yemeni hand-glider, Mohammed Al-Maqaleh is set to leap into the air, again. "On the 7th of July, to mark the occasion of the victory against the secessionists, I shall glide over the city of Hodeidah," he said.

Mr. Al-Maqaleh has been flying over various Yemeni cities, including Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Abyan, Ibb, and Al-Baidha. He has also glided in other countries, notably in Europe, Saudi Arabia, and others.

The dare-devil sportsman laments the lack of interest on the part of the Yemeni government and public in this sport. "If they only knew what one experiences, way up there. The freedom, the ecstasy, and the beauty."



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