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Sanaa City in 2024 = 5-6 m Inhabitants Current Population Growth Rates Will Bring DISASTER

Population projections for the Republic of Yemen show the country is headed for disaster. Based on the 1994 census results, and using low and high growth rate scenarios, a thirty-year projection till the year 2024, yields horrifying results. A study commissioned by USAID and just concluded states that Yemen's population could rise, by the year 2024, to 42 million (high case scenario) or to 34 million (low case scenario), and that the population of Sanaa city will be 6 million (high case) or 5 million (low case). According to the study which is yet to be officially released, population growth is the most important determining factor in the future of Yemen.

The consequences of such a population explosion on the infrastructure, demand for services, and generally on the quality of life are enormous. For a society that is barely able to eke out a living at this moment, the extra requirements of a high birth rate is only tantamount to disaster, if not suicidal. Top leaders of the nation, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have alluded to this issue. But the authorities still lack any comprehensive program to tackle this problem. Donor countries and agencies have repeatedly warned of the grave consequences of Yemen's very high population growth rate which stands at 3.7-3.9% per annum.



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You Won't Smell Your Cooking Gas if It Leaks! Watch Out for the Gas Cylinder

Your cooking gas has no smell. Well, that is normal, it has no smell. But to protect users against any kind of leak, an aroma is added to the gas when the bottles and cylinders are filled up. This is a standard practice worldwide. This was also the practice in Yemen, until recently. Over the last several weeks, the number of accidents involving gas leakages increased. Reports from many regions like Ba'adan

(Ibb), Al-Barh (Taiz), and Sanaa point to heavy human casualties due to gas-related accidents. A Yemen Times investigation tried to find out the reason for the sudden rise in the number of accidents. At first, attention was focused on the possibility of faulty cylinders, stoves, or parts. No connection was made among the incidents. Then came the discovery. A friend working at one of the international agencies

pointed out to the fact that the gas had no smell. We carried out a smelling campaign of the gas in Sanaa. The results were mixed. Some cylinders had the odor, others did not. It proves that among the filling stations in the country, some were not adhering to the stipulated conditions. Will the Ministry of Oil attend to this matter? Meanwhile, watch out for your gas cylinder!



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Females Are Worth 50% in Insurance Compensation

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times.

Last week, Yemen Times renewed the insurance coverage on its vehicles. I made it a point to read the fine-print, and there is lots of it. I was lying down in bed before signing off, when I got a shock. I sat up, read the sentence again, and could not believe my eyes. Right there, in the section entitled "Scale of Compensation", which lists the extent to which victims of accidents are entitled to compensation, there was a strange sentence under item (b) of the insurance policy. It reads like this: "Compensation of females (female

victims) will be 50% of the above scale." Upon investigation, I found out this is a standard clause in local insurance policies. Some people told me the clause is drawn from Islamic principles. I asked for proof, and there was none. Islam, again, is mis-used and abused. In a modern sector like insurance, and in a document like an insurance policy, there is a written and pre-meditated discrimination. Questions: Does it cost less to treat a female injury? Is the pain inflicted on a female victim any less? Does an insured female pay half the premium? This stipulation is illegal, immoral and unconstitutional and has to end.

Soldiers Beat Up a Journalist INSIDE the Parliament !

On Thursday 11th July, 1996, Arafat Mudabish, Al-Thawry journalist accredited with parliament, was manhandled. Right inside the parliament compound, the press attache in the bureau of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar unleashed several guards at the journalist. Two officers, one of them with the rank of colonel, and several soldiers, beat up Mr. Mudabish, shoved him around, and pulled him towards the gate. At that moment, Member of Parliament Mohammed Naji Allaw (Islah bloc) was passing by and he saved the journalist. But as soon as the MP drove off, the soldiers returned to harass the journalist describing



ment has asked for an investigation of the incident.
By: Aneesah Ghanem, Sanaa.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen's Unity and the Shortcomings of the System

Over the last few weeks, I personally learned one aspect about the things that irritate our rulers. The message has been delivered to me clearly. From way high up, one of the red lines they have drawn for the media has to do with unity of the country. I was told face to face, "We accept there are many shortcomings in the system. But we do not accept that these shortcomings, however serious and disturbing they are, may be used to cast doubt on the validity of the unity of Yemen." In other words, don't blame the unity for the problems.

That makes sense to me. After all, we cannot blame all our difficulties and problems on unity. Just as much as we cannot blame the democratization process or press freedom - a point I reminded our big guys of - for the problems. That is fair and right.

Therefore, in the future, when there is criticism of the shortcomings of the regime - such as corruption, favoritism, nepotism, discrimination, neglect, lawlessness, etc. - the reporting should not insinuate that it is all because of the unity of how it happened, or that the answer is to fragment the country. The reporting should not even insinuate "It is those northerners who are to blame". When there is a problem, it should be addressed within its proper scope.

The logic behind this is as follows:

1. Yemen's unity does not belong to President Ali Abdullah Saleh or the People's General Congress. It does not belong to Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar or the Islah party. It does not belong to the regime or to any single person or group. It belongs to the whole country, and to all Yemenis.
2. Yemen's unity is a great achievement. It is a dream that is cherished by most, if not all, Yemenis. It should be elevated and sanctified as it represents an important milestone in the future growth, prosperity and strength of the nation.
3. Most of the current problems and difficulties can be better resolved within a united Yemen rather than within a fragmented country. Development is faster in a larger market size than in a minuscule setting. We can have a better say in our relations with neighbors as a larger country, rather than as small mini-states.

In brief, the leadership wants all Yemenis to appreciate and protect the nation's unity. For us in the Yemen Times, that is fine and well, and we will abide by it.

Now that this point is well made and well taken, would the authorities please push in earnest the process of correcting the many shortcomings in the system? I believe the point on unity is valid. But it will make more sense if the quality of life of the Yemeni people improves through real development and respect for law and order.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

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Government Presents Five-Year Plan

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani presented his government's proposal of the new five year (1996-2000) to parliament on Saturday, July 20th. The plan calls for a total investment YR 818 billion - of which 27% is local - leading to an annual growth rate of 7.2%. The plan also envisages totally overcoming the government budget deficit by the year 1998. The government aims to reduce the balance of payments deficit drastically, thus shoring up the value of the national currency. Finally, the commitment of the authorities to continue with the reform package is re-iterated. The plan offers an overall framework for policies and decisions.

Yemeni-Bulgarian Military Talks Concluded

Yesterday, Sunday, July 21st, a Bulgarian military delegation left Sanaa following a one-week visit. Headed by General Dragomir Ivanov, in Charge of Military Production Corporations, the delegation held talks with Yemeni officials regarding Yemen's spare part needs for tanks, artillery and airplanes. A Yemeni military delegation will head for Sofia before the year is out to sign the deal.

Registration Process Proceeds Well

The registration process for the 1997 parliamentary elections continue at hundreds of polling stations all over the country. The ruling political parties and those in the opposition have all been urging their members and supporters to register. In the process, some friction has been noted, especially between the coalition partners. This is a normal aspect in their competition to field their people.

Parliament Concludes Discussion of Amendments to Elections Law

The House of Representatives has on Thursday, July 18th, concluded discussion of the amendments proposed in the elections law. The stage is now open for voting on the bill, which will take place over the next few days.

YIDD Seminar: Economy & Democracy

The Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD) is organizing a two-day seminar (28+29/7/1996) that will shed light on the interaction between economic reforms and liberalization, on the one hand, and political transformation and democratization, on the other. Many experts, government officials, and other interested persons are going to participate. Ahmed Al-Soufy, the YIDD Secretary-General, said that the purpose was to see how the economic reforms affect the political transformation, and what can be done for the 2 processes to strengthen each other.

Omar Al-Jawi Says President Has Not Delivered on Promise

The Yemen Times reported last week that President Ali Abdullah Saleh had responded to Omar Al-Jawi's appeals and ordered resumption of Al-Tajammu' newspaper printing. In spite of the order, Al-Jawi said the paper was still not being printed. Al-Tajammu', mouthpiece of the Yemeni Unionist Gathering party, is blocked for two months, now.

Pronk Due to Arrive Here

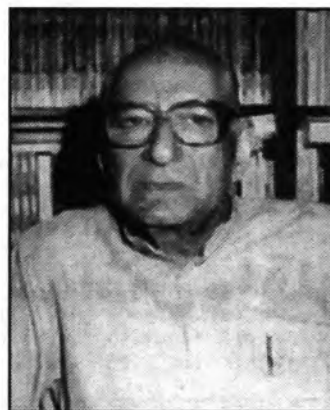
Mr. Johannes Pieter (Jan) Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation in the Dutch Government, is expected to arrive in Sanaa on July 24th. The Minister and the accompanying delegation will immediately embark on a one week tour of five governorates where Dutch-financed projects are being implemented. Upon return to Sanaa, the Dutch Minister will hold substantive talks with the Yemeni officials regarding the progress of bilateral cooperation and the implementation pace of aid projects. Talks will also cover the country's reform program, as well as the on-going democratization process. The Netherlands is one of

Yemen's key aid partners. The annual disbursement of Dutch aid to Yemen hovers around US\$ 25 million, most of it going to various infrastructural and health projects. Mr. Pronk, 56, is presently serving for a third time as Minister of Development Cooperation. He had held this post earlier in the Den Uyl Government (having been appointed on May 11, 1973), and the third Lubbers Government (appointed on November 7th, 1989). He is a leading member of the Labor Party (PvdA), and has extensive European and international experience.



Jan is an economist by training and had lectured at the School of Economics in Rotterdam.

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Dr. Bilquis Al-Hadhrani:

"I fear for the future of my country."

Dr. Bilquis Al-Hadhrani is a researcher, poet, a columnist, politician and an active member of the female movement in Yemen. Equipped with a PhD in History, she is a leading researcher at the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research. She is an accomplished poet with several books to her credit. She is a regular writer and columnist with a number of newspapers. She is a leading politician in al-Baath Party - Yemen Branch. And finally she is an ardent promoter of female participation in public life. Bilquis, from Aanis, Dhamar Governorate, is the daughter of one of Yemen's freedom fathers, the well-respected and esteemed Ibrahim Al-Hadhrani.

Bilquis, a lovely woman, is also a happy mother and housewife. Any conversation with her, however limited, immediately brings an amicable ambience and lively atmosphere. Her childhood recollections of Sanaa are a story in themselves.

Recently, Dr. Al-Hadhrani published one more book. It is a collection of some of her new poems.

Yemen Times seized this occasion to interview her. Excerpts.

Q: Let us talk about your poetry. Can you give us an overview of your poems?

A: I want to point out that there is a habit in the family of not taking care of what we write. We don't collect the pieces, as it were. I am not of the type who documents.

This is also true of my father, the poet Ibraheem Al-Hadhrani whose early poetry dates back to 50 years ago. He has not made any real attempts to collect/

document his poems. In fact, it was the great poet Ahmad Al-Shami who collected many of my father's works and published them under the title, "Lines from the Poetry of Ibraheem Al-Hadhrani".

I have been writing poetry since the seventies on various subjects. I have contributed to most of the literary festivals being held in Al-Marbed Festivals, which bring together Arab poets and literary persons. I have also contributed



to the festivals of the writers' union in Yemen.

My publications include *National Features of Modern Yemeni Poetry, Unity in Yemeni Poetry, Legends and Symbols in Yemeni Poetry*, and others.

In addition, I have a lot of essays and translations printed here and there in newspapers and magazines.

In Germany, there is a book on "The Yemeni Civilization in 3000 Years" in which I have a long essay. I have just published a book entitled "Bilquis the Queen of Sheba". It is based on Ph.D. thesis, and it was published by Al-Ahram Publishing House.

Many people believe that I am a poet, but the truth is that I have written limited poetry, and I do not compare well with the giants of Yemeni poetry.

I often use the modern style of poetry, although I read a lot of our classic poets.

Q: At the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research, as well as at the Center for Women's Studies at Sanaa University, you have been pushing what you have often called 'a better understanding of women's issues. What do you mean?

A: It is normal that I am interested in the promotion of women's issues in Yemen, and even worldwide. However, from the very start, let me insist that the lot of women in Yemen will never make any real progress unless society as a whole develops. In other words, the condition of Yemeni women is part and parcel of the whole situation.

In answer to your question, let me dwell on the Center for Women's Studies, which began its programs in the academic year 1994/1995. It leads to a diploma or a master's degree in subjects that have to do with women. The

diploma program has some main themes - "Women and the Media", "Women in Laws and Legislations", "Women and Development".

The basic message is that women are not isolated from society. They interact and co-exist, and their problems cannot be resolved in isolation of other problems of society.

The goal of this program is to create graduates with competence and skill to analyze and research in the sphere of women.

We do a lot of data collection, but we also rely on field research and applied studies.

Starting from the 15th of July, 1996, this program has been terminated. It will be transformed into a larger study center or a college under the name "The Social Center of Women's Studies".

(Editor's Note: Some donors love big projects. Here is a case of a small active and effective unit being transformed into a 'big' college!)

Q: How do you see the evolution of women in Yemen?

A: Let me repeat that I don't see women's evolution as isolated from the society. Women's fate, in my view, will depend on the on-going process change in our society. The issue of women in general has to do with society's level of education as a whole. I am optimistic in this regard.

Q: Let talk about the politics of Dr. Al-Hadhrani. How do you assess the political situation? Are you going to stand in the coming elections?

A: Let me start from the final bit of your question. I have not yet decided whether to run in the next parliamentary elections or not. I think there is still time to decide.

As for the political situation, it is difficult and complicated with a

lot of vagueness, fears and worries. I, for one, am very afraid of the future. It is not that I possess any elevated political sense, this is the feeling of many ordinary citizens. Talk to any one in the streets and they will express such fears.

The political situation is, of course, related to the economic situation. Our politicians did not rise up as statesmen above the crisis. There is hardly any accountability. The consequences are grave. Civil war, destruction, the fall of our democratic dream, fragmentation even within the very one individual.

You see our society has been turned into a jungle where a struggle is taking place - I am talking about a political struggle. In my opinion, the coalition ruling partners (PGC and Islah) are responsible for this situation. They bear a historical responsibility for the deterioration in Yemen.

They have no strategic views and their approach is short-sighted. There are a lot of negative practices in the country. They turn a blind eye to all the mischief of their followers and supporters.

What we ask for is an evaluation of the situation honestly and with the purpose of pointing out the deficiencies in the situation so as to find proper solutions.

All of us have to work together to find acceptable solution so as to save the country. Otherwise, if the present trend persists, there will be a tragedy.

It is imperative that we downplay the issues that divide us, and let us work on the issues that bring us together. There is one key point here. Whatever solution we agree on, we should make sure everyone has a role to play. No one can play all the roles. And no one should be marginalized or pushed outside the game. This is important for the harmonious and smooth evolution of our nation.

Continues on page 12

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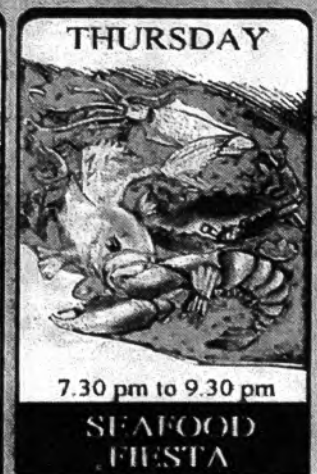
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Objections to New Local Administration Law

There is mounting opposition to the newly proposed local administration law, which is presently being discussed in parliament. There are three main opposition groups, so far. These are as follows:

1. HADHRAMI OBJECTION: The people of Hadhramaut (Hadhramis) are furious about a plan to divide Hadhramaut into two governorates, as dictated by the newly-proposed local administration law.

The new law envisages the establishment of four new governorates, to be carved out of the existing ones. The over-riding criteria have been to bring together regions from the former North and South Yemen into new entities, thus dissolving the old borderline, and to create new governorates where the existing provincial capital is far away.

The authorities have also produced complaints from the Hadhramis of the Wadi (or the Interior) who say that Mukalla, which is some 300 kilometers away, is too far for them to deal with. They want a new governorate for Wadi Hadhramaut whose capital is at Seiyoun.

But the Hadhramis in Sanaa say that such an excuse is only a cover for a political motive. "The regime in Sanaa is simply applying the rule of 'Divide and Rule'," they say. "Otherwise, there are many other solutions to the complaints, if they exist."

Thus, they started a drive to petition the President to reverse change plan. Many letters addressed to that effect are being

circulated for signature. Many Hadhramis, including those from Wadi Hadhramaut, have signed them.

If this effort does not succeed, the Hadhramis plan to express their viewpoint in paid-for advertisements in the local media. If again, that does not help, they will carry the advertisements to the international media. We will keep on escalating our resistance in a legal and peaceful way, until the rulers listen," they said.

2. BAIHAN OBJECTION:

Tribes from all over the Baihan region swarmed the House of Representatives last week. They appealed to the parliamentarians not to agree to dividing their tribe.

According to the plan, the Baihan tribe, which has run into numerous difficulties with the state - the most famous of which was the Dowman incident - will be split into three regions. The Baihan region will be part of Shabwah, Marib and Al-Baidhah governorates.

The tribal elders, who believe that the idea of splitting them is to weaken them and dilute the tribal links among the people, state that they don't mind being part of any governorate, but in one whole. "We have told the people's representatives that we want our region to be kept in one whole unit," they said.

They point to the fact that many tribes in the northern part of the country are preserved intact, although they have had their share of trouble with the state.

3. TAZI OBJECTION:

The people of Taiz are bitter of what is going to happen to their governorates, which will be slashed three-ways. The governorate will be down-sized to half, and the losses are:

a) One part will go to the creation of a new governorate called Dhale', Mawiyah, Qabbaitah and other regions to the north-east of the governorate are thus lost.

b) The coastal stretch from Dubab at Bab Al-Mandab all the way to Zabiq, including the hinterland parts of Shameer and Maqbanah are lost to another new governorate called Zabid. This will make Taiz a land-locked governorate.

c) Parts of Hugarriah, notably Maqatirah, will be lost to adjacent Lahej governorate.

Elders of Taiz are planning meetings to see what they can do and what is the intention of this re-drawing of boundaries. "There is not doubt there is a lot of politics behind it all. The idea is to weaken the local power centers which can challenge the present power center," said Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Noman, a key public figure from Taiz and a member of parliament.

Parliament expects a lot of heated debates once it returns to session following its current recess. Meanwhile, the government is fielding its best explanations to show that the re-drawing of boundaries is in the best interests of the nation as a whole. It will take a lot of convincing before the various grievances are healed and straightened.

An Attempt to Kill a YSP MP in Luhaia

Yemeni Socialist Party Member of Parliament was the target of an assassination attempt in Al-Luhaia (District 189), Hodeidah Governorate. Armed troops assaulted the house where he was chewing qat following the Friday Sermon. The house belonged to the preacher of the Grand Mosque of Luhaia. According to the report of the MP, a soldier was first sent in to confirm the presence of the MP. A half hour later the house was assaulted by eight troops with automatic rifles who pretended to pursuing a soldier who had fled.

A shoot-out ensued, and in the crossfire, the MP was several times targeted. The conspiracy was foiled as the people who were in the room chewing qat rushed to protect the MP, and force the attackers to temporarily back off. In the meanwhile, they whisked the MP out to a safe place. When the troops realized that their mission failed, they left.

The troops were among those recently deployed to protect the coast, according to eye witnesses.

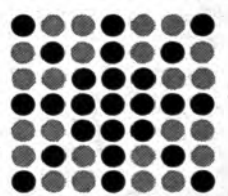
Yemen and Eritrea: Light at the End of the Tunnel?

Yemen and Eritrea met in Paris last week to resolve the dispute over the island of Hunaish - claimed by both sides. The two countries had agreed to set up an arbitration tribunal to decide on the matter, and France has been offering its good offices.

According to sources, the Paris meeting went very well, and the two sides agreed to submit their documents before the year is out. Both Yemen and Eritrea expressed satisfaction at the progress of the dispute-resolution measures and stated that the problem is being handled well by France.

Yemeni leaders have repeatedly expressed its belief that it will regain control of the Greater Hunaish island - occupied by Eritrea since December 1995 - given the documents in their possession.

As one senior government official remarked commenting on the meeting last week. "I see light at the end of the tunnel." Let us hope the light he sees is not coming from a train!



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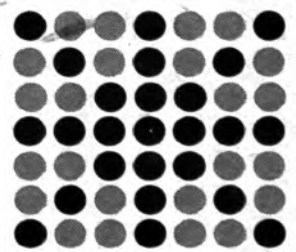
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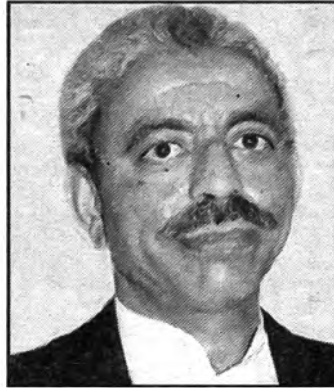
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

THE ELECTIONS: FOR BIG BOYS ONLY



As the Press Review Editor of the Yemen Times, I am pleased to notice that all the partisan, independent and official press is pushing the constituents to go out and register for the permanent voting cards. The Republic of Yemen is coming to a very important testing ground of its democratic experience with the upcoming parliamentary elections in April 1997.

As Nasr Taha Mustafa wrote last week in the mouthpiece of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Party, *Al-Sahwa*, the significance of the upcoming elections cannot be over-estimated, given the national, regional and international circumstances at work.

Mr. Mustafa rightly pointed to the change in the power equations, that was the result of the last civil war (1994) which would certainly effect the democratic nature of the upcoming elections. This is already evident by the questionable practices of the Supreme Elections Committee in appointing the supervisory committees and in other practices that work towards deciding the outcome of the elections in favor of the leading partner in the ruling coalition, the People's General Congress.

Mr. Mustafa's comments are important because they come from a prominent member of the second partner in the ruling

coalition, the Islah. It is especially important in the fact that they voice concern for the fairness and democratic nature of the forthcoming elections. These comments may be personal observations rather than an echo of a partisan position by the Islah itself. The Islah party has not officially taken a position yet, although many members have voiced "off the record" complaints that their partner is working to "orchestrate" the elections, without due regards to the legal and constitutional framework that regulate elections.

The same paper that carried Mr. Mustafa's comments was also the first one to report on the lawyer who filed law-suit against the Supreme Elections Committee for violations of the Elections Law. The Primary court and Appeal Court have judged in favor of the lawyer and the second appeal of the Higher Tender Committee was rejected by the Court of Appeals.

It remains to be seen if the Islah Party will take any other steps beyond voicing concern at the way the elections will be conducted. But, for sure, the worries of the junior partner in the ruling coalition cannot be overlooked by the PGC and the other political forces outside power. On the other hand, this could be a sign of disapproval by some of the Islah leadership, especially at middle

level regarding any possible consensus that might have been reached by the PGC and Islah top leaderships, which may not have yet filtered down the partisan hierarchies of either parties. Some political analysts are also suggesting that perhaps the Islah may have accepted to find a more "comfortable" role as an opposition party and as such wants that role realized prior to the elections. This would help lessen the image of the party as a ruling coalition partner, and accordingly reduce the contention that it shares responsibility for some of the difficulties faced by the government. If it is not involved in the election procedures, how can it be involved in the other lesser significant areas of government? On the other hand, the Islah may wish to project itself as a champion of democratic practice and not just a seeker of power and authority by any means.

Other analysts are talking of possible friction developing between the PGC and Islah, as the latter comes to realize, that it was not really able to assure itself an active role as a partner in the ruling coalition, even in the supervision of the elections. Thus the Islah is beginning to indicate that it will make these concerns public matter, at the right time, but well in advance of election time.

Most observers, however, find that all the above political assessments are speculative and fail to show a real projection of the current developments in the relationship between the PGC and Islah. Both parties insist that their relationship is a "strategic" one, and the differences between them are not serious. In fact, the two insist that these differences are necessarily expected!

Observers would tend to regard the PGC and Islah as really one party. Both rely on traditional elements of Yemeni society to justify their positions and to maintain their hold on power. The reliance on traditional power wielders has been loosely joined together with a tightly net association of various military institutions that represent the PGC's and to a lesser degree the Islah's tour de force by which their hold on authority becomes almost indisputable and uncontested. The traditional power wielders are a combination of religious and tribal leaders some of whom are representatives of the old guard of sheikhs that have inherited their positions from long lines of local chieftains that go back for hundreds of years, like the Al-Ahmar family of Hashid and the Abu Luhoums of Nihm and other prominent tribal leaders.

At the same time, religious scholars, (ulema or men of learning) especially on religious matters and law, have always been in high social esteem. They have tended to maintain as much adherence to Islamic legislation as the strength and piety of the central power of authority in the country would be permit. This central authority, it must be remembered, was not continuous and did not take on nation-wide uniformity. Thus the tribal association, was continuously relied on as the prevailing framework

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which the country relied on to operate as a social order for the country, with the ulema acting as a regulating force.

After the Revolution of the 26th September 1962, Yemen experimented with various modern conceptualizations of statecraft, including scientific socialism (Marxism), but generally, under unstable totalitarian frameworks. In the Northern Governorates, the traditional power elements - the sheikhs and the ulema - managed to remain as important elements in the political structure of the regime alongside the military, the

intellectuals and the influential merchant class, who began to wield power and influence after the Revolution of 1962.

When President Ali Abdulla Saleh took over power, he worked towards getting all these elements into a unified political association under a National Charter. In theory, this charter embodied inputs that cater to the interests of all elements in this association. The idea of getting all the political forces under one umbrella was first put forth by the late Ibrahim Al-Hamdy.

Continues on page 12

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The deadline for receiving applications for the above is July 25, 1996.
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First of
3-Part Article

HISTORY OF PORT OF ADEN

By: Captain Abdul-Moti Hassan Mohammed,
Director-General of Marketing, Aden Port

The economy of southern Arabia has benefited from trade with distant countries since at least the 1st millennium BC. The port and the merchants of Aden were mentioned in writings and inscriptions dating back to 3,000 years ago. Since then, the prosperity of Aden has frequently been commented upon by travelers in this part of the world, such as Marco Polo. The city was under the control of the Himyarite kings in the pre-Christian era and was captured by the Romans in 24 BC. Later, it came under the Persians until it was taken over by the rulers of Yemen in the 6th century AD.

In the 16th Century, Aden had a population of some 60,000. In 1507, the Portuguese Admiral Don Alphonso D'Albuquerque reached Socotra. He attacked Aden in 1513, but failed to capture it. The Egyptians tried in 1517 and also failed. But a few years later, in 1538, Aden was forced to surrender to a Turkish force.

The fortunes of Aden have risen and fallen with changes in routes and circumstances of trade, and, following strangulation of the Red Sea spice trade by Portuguese interests, the port subsequently fell into decline. It did not benefit substantially from the new Yemeni coffee trade in the 17th and 18th centuries, which raised the fortunes of Mokha and Hodeidah.

In the 1730's, the ruler of Lahej rebelled against the Imam and occupied Aden, retaining control over it until the arrival of the British in 1839. By then Aden was virtually a fishing village of around 600-800 people, but Haines wrote to the Bombay Government of Aden's admirable position, fine harbor and natural defenses, concluding that Aden's poor condition resulted from misgovernment. But initial development of the port starting from 1839 was slow. The garrison and the establishment of a coaling depot did not stimulate commerce and at first, there was no trade with the interior coffee districts of Yemen.

In fact, it was trade with the northern coast of East Africa which prospered, based on the security given by the garrison at Aden. This trade was centered on Berbera, where merchants from India and Arabia met to trade with the Somali tribesmen at the great fair held there each year after the summer monsoon. In 1840, 300 vessels from Oman, Yemen, Ras-al-Khaimah, Bahrain and Bombay and 21,000 camels were engaged in this trade.

The British settlement at Aden soon persuaded Indian merchant houses to establish themselves there. In 1848 Aden was still little more than an offshoot of the Berbera trading center, but by 1875,

the situation had radically altered, with the majority of the African trade being financed, supplied and controlled from Aden.

From 1839, Haines tried to win the coffee trade away from Mokha, unsuccessfully at first, until disputes between the Imam of Yemen and the Sherif of Mokha altered this. The Imam attacked the Red Sea coastal area in 1844, taking over Mokha in 1848 when all business there came to a halt. Within 18 months, the Hudjaria and Sana'a caravans were coming to Aden, loaded with coffee. In 1850, Aden was declared a "Free Port". From then on, export shippers of all nations in the lower Red Sea directed their vessels to Aden. As Aden grew, neighboring ports (Mokha, Shuqra, Bir Ahmed) were seriously affected.

By 1854, contracts for export-coffee through the port had increasing rapidly. A sizable Arab and Indian trading community was consolidating its grip on markets in east Africa, parts of the Indian Ocean, Red Sea ports and the Yemen. Trade with American, French and German ships which now came to Aden was brisk. Business was conducted in the streets of Crater, where warehouses had been constructed and the Customs house stood, facing "Front Bay" by Seera Island. Native vessels could find sheltered anchorage to the East of the island, in 9-11 meters of water, except during the summer monsoon monsoons.

Other landing places were established for square rigged ships at Ma'alla and Ras Sheikh Ahmed in "Western Bay", which is protected at all seasons. A second customs post at Main Pass to register the trade from there was established. A pier was constructed at Ma'alla in 1855 and, the main customs post was moved there.

In 1855/56, the bulk of Aden's trade was with India; particularly Bombay, and with the USA, which commanded 39% of its trade. But by 1856/57, France had surprisingly overtaken both Bombay and America. British vessels providing the mail steamship service dominated Aden's shipping traffic, but it was not until 1857 that a British trader, Captain Luke Thomas, began commercial operations in Aden.

Mail ships had priority in the harbor and were provided with buoy berths. Other vessels had, until 1857, to anchor in the inner harbor.

Steamers required a great deal of coal, transported from the UK by a fleet of colliers. Due to draft limitations in Western Bay, colliers discharged in the outer harbor to reduce their draft to 17 feet before unloading the remaining coal in the inner harbor. Ashore, labor to handle cargoes was being mobilized, using the 'Muqaddem' system, under which teams working for recognized foremen provided a



disciplined labor force. This system was used by Haines in constructing the fortifications around Aden. Laborers came from as far away as Egypt and Iran, but the majority were from Hudjaria, Mokha, the hill-farming community to the north of Aden. Soon, Aden absorbed a mixture of Arab, Indian and Somali workers and traders. The population (of around 22,000 by 1879) was dominated by migrant port workers who used the coffee houses to find employment.

The size of the population grew steadily specially after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. After the Suez, steamers began to replace the sailing ships which had been the main carriers of international maritime trade via the Cape of Good Hope to China and India. Coal imports to Aden increased rapidly. However, it was only when the triple-expansion engines for steamers became available, in the 1880's, reducing the amount of coal required to fuel them, that these vessels became truly competitive. Competition from the new port of Djibouti and from Perim, which charged no harbor dues,

was significant. Businessmen became critical at the harbor facilities at Aden, which had not been much improved since the 1850's.

The average draught of vessels using the harbor was increasing annually and the port needed to be dredged. Ships were being forced to the use deeper, open waters in the outer harbor, where equipment and lighters were being damaged. Shipping agents demanded action, or a reduction in harbor dues and the Aden Chamber of Commerce, established in 1886, largely strengthened the hand of shipping companies and merchants using the port.

Then the Aden Port Trust was established in 1889 to supervise the arrangements of the port and the spending of port income. It represented both Government and merchant community and its first task was the dredging of the port. A dredger arrived in 1890, and serious dredging program began in 1891. By the end of the century, Aden had become a respectable harbor, capable of berthing the largest ships of the day. Business boomed.

Next week: Aden in the 20th Century

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT OPEN AUCTION SALE OF ROCK LOBSTER

The Coastal Fishing Corporation (CFC) - Aden, Ministry of Fish Wealth, Republic of Yemen, invites national and international tenderers who are interested in trade export of rock lobster or those bidders who are interested in purchasing the following quantities of rock lobster tails.

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4	4/5	770	10	7700
5	5/6	399	10	3990
6	6/7	181	10	1810
7	7/8	101	10	1010
8	8/9	49	10	490
9	9/10	15	10	150
10	10/12	48	10	480
11	12/16	96	10	960
12	16/20	3	10	30
Total		3890		38900

1) Open auction for the mentioned quantities of rock lobster will take place on Monday, the 5th of August, 1996, at 12:00 o'clock (noon) at the Ministry's Office, Ministry of Fish Wealth, Aden Office, Republic of Yemen, in the presence of bidders' representatives who are authorized to attend the auction.

2) All bids must be accompanied with a secure bank guarantee in the amount of US Dollars Twenty Thousand (US\$20,000) or by a good-for-payment check for the said amount which will be returned to the unsuccessful bidder. This guarantee is required before the auction starts.

3) Interested bidders have the right to inspect the quantity and quality of the rock lobster in the cold storage of the CFC.

4) Interested bidders may obtain further information by calling the Minister's Office (Aden) at (02) 203-584, or by calling the office of the Director-General of the CFC at (02) 221-123, or fax (02) 211-843.

First of
Three-Part Article

Role of Islam & Theologians in Yemen's Public Life

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Ismail Al-Ghabyri & Al-Izzy As-Selwi, Yemen Times, Sanaa.

One of the important characteristics of Islam is that it is not just a religion. It is an all-encompassing way of life. The Arabic phrase "Al-Islam deen wa dawlah" literally means Islam is a religion and a state. In other words, the Western approach of separation between church and state is not applicable here. While Muslim intellectuals are willing and able to accept that notion, there is still need to mould this concept into a working formula. If left in this general form, it means that the arbiters of power in Muslim societies will always be the men (never women) most versed in religion. Recent history has proven without a shadow of a doubt that many of those who claim to be religiously holy are anything but pious or holy. They are just ordinary men who are hungry for power and money.

But in Yemen, the role of religious leaders has always been quite different. They were never really at the helm. They were always by-standers, but important enough to hold the breaks on unscrupulous politicians. In other words, politicians always needed the blessing of the clergy - as a class. Religious leaders also supposed to be the conscience of the Islamic nation. They guide society in many ways. One visible way is through the regular sermons and preachings (khubbah), notably on Friday noon prayers. They also issue the 'fatwa', which is a statement on an issue, from a religious point of view. There is also the 'naseehah', which is advice they give to the political leaders, business community, and the general masses. There have been times in the history of Muslims when religious leaders instigated the masses to rise up against the politicians because "these have strayed, too much, too far".

Over the last few decades, however, the role of the clergy in Yemen has been diluted considerably, and has been replaced by those who have 'real' power - the military and tribal groupings. Many observers feel that such a change represents a shift from the brain to brute force. The arbiter of power is no longer the religiously-educated clergy, but the less educated military officers and tribal sheikhs. From that point of view, it has been an unfortunate change. Yet, religious leaders continue to hold some sway with the authorities and the general public. The level of influence of the clergy rises during periods of political turmoil and economic hardships. In these times, the public looks for a leadership other than the ruling politicians which lose much of their credibility and legitimacy. Today's Yemen is at such a time.

Today, there are three major obstacles facing the ability of the Yemeni clergy to play a decisive role in the political changes of the country. These are:

1. The top echelons of the clergy have been co-opted by the politicians. Individuals like Qadhi Mohammed Bin Ismail Al-Hajji, Chairman of the Supreme Court, Ahmed Mohammed Zabarah, the Mufti of the Republic, and others are viewed by the public more as politicians rather than as religious men.
2. The class of clergy has been fragmented. The politicians have made sure that no one group of clergy dominates the religious hierarchy. Therefore, there are different bases which revolve around strong men, in Sanaa, Taiz, Hadhramaut, Aden, etc.
3. As Yemeni society became more and more 'modernized' - through education, contact with the rest of the world, etc. - the role of traditional religious preaching in their lives has decreased. As a consequence, they are no longer automatically aroused by the religious instigation.

There is one final dimension to this issue.

In the past, Islamic theologians and religious leaders have shown much courage and independence in their interaction with ruling politicians. The history of the Muslim civilization is full of events and incidents in which theologians - often poor and alone - stood up successfully to the abuse of carnal politicians. The television programs of the Republic of Yemen, ironically, are full of such stories and events.

Yet, the present-day religious leaders of Yemen are anything but courageous. There are a few outbursts here and there. One such outburst was the sermon given by Qadhi Mohammed Al-Ruqaihi, Imam of the Grand Mosque of Sanaa, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha (Haj occasion). In the presence of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his aides, Al-Ruqaihi blasted the leadership as a bunch of ruthless and corrupt individuals who do not care enough for the welfare of their people. Looking towards the president, he said, "Have mercy on your people. Remember, the end of any individual is a small rectangular grave."

With that background, a team of Yemen Times investigators went to speak to religious leaders. The themes were:

1. What is the role of religion in public life in general, and in politics, in particular.
2. How do religious leaders assess the present situation.
3. What do they think the proper solutions are.
4. Finally, what do they see as their specific role at this juncture in Yemeni politics.

In Part I of this series, Yemen Times talked to the people who are charged with moulding (guiding) the general public through preaching in mosques, Ministry of Endowment efforts, TV and radio stations' programs, school curricula, etc.

"A small group of clergymen is increasingly aware and sensitive to its destined role"

Hassan Bin Abdullah Asheikh,
Dean of the Supreme Institute
for Guidance and Preaching,
Sanaa.



God in His scriptures has elevated the ulema to the status of prophets. They are special people who have very grave responsibilities in the welfare of their society. That responsibility includes ensuring that God's orders and wishes are enforced by the public as well as the rulers.

But to perform this role, the religious leaders are expected to rise up above the fray. They are supposed to be less interested in amassing wealth and power, and they should orient their efforts towards guiding society to the right path.

Unfortunately, the position of ulema or religious leaders in our society today has been compromised. People no longer trust the ulema who take a 'holier than

thou' attitude although they may be just like the politicians. Yet, there are a few pious clergymen, and it is towards them that society should look for direction and salvation. This small group is increasingly aware and sensitive to its destined role. There is another mishap that has taken place. In the absence of clear guidance, some people now believe in witchcraft and supernatural powers. Religious purity

has also been tarnished by vague and distorted ideas that have been created from insufficient understanding and by the mix of world trends and thoughts. Actually, the further people drift from the true path, the more they are overwhelmed by distortions, because, whatever vacuum in belief is created, is filled by the distortions. So, there is a big job to be done. There is a lot of purification that needs to be done. This is the job of the theologians, and they have to work together with other good elements in society to achieve that end.

In my opinion, the setting in Yemen is right, and the time has come to start helping our people come out of the darkness and hard times. This is the solution to our difficulties. Nothing can be done in the physical sense, unless we can see clearly. A clear vision is the first requirement of the corrective measures needed.

"We are ordered to obey our rulers, but we as religious leaders are also ordered to make sure they obey God's dictates."

Qadhi Hamood Ali Al-Saeedi,
Director-General,
Dep't of Guidance & Advice,
Ministry of Endowment and
Religious Affairs.



Let me start by expressing appreciation to the Yemen Times for its survey of this important aspect of our lives.

Islam has ordered all members of the community to follow their leaders. The theologians are no exception. But the clergymen and religious leaders have an additional responsibility. They have to offer advice to the rulers, and they have to make sure the rulers obey the word of God. In other words, as the class of people most versed with religion, we are entrusted with the duty of watching over politicians and guide them to what serves Islam and Muslims.

At this stage of our history, it is clear that most of the Muslims live in ways that are not in harmony with Islam. This refers to the corruption and moral degradation, lack of vision, indulgence in physical pleasures, and the ascent of crime. This weakness in character is the main reason why Muslims are weak and unable to stand their ground in interacting with other nations or even defending themselves. The situation in Yemen is no different. We have political corruption, mediocre educational

system, and near total lack of responsibility, to the extent such behavior has become normal. An important part of the problem is the fact that many clergymen have become part of the power structure. Thus, instead of looking at government, they look at it from inside. This has totally negated their role. The result of this has been a fall in their stature, as well as the lack of trust and belief in religion and religious leaders by the general masses.

In my opinion, the real clergymen have to rise to the situation and preach a return to God and to the lofty values we cherish. We have to free ourselves and our people from the present cheapness. This involves sacrifice. It may require a long-term effort that will steadily and gradually make corrections.

"There is no single solution, but a steady and gradual effort to return the nation to God and the faith."

Saleh Hussain Al-Musaibily,
Assistant Deputy Minister of
Endowment Affairs, Sanaa,
and Former Imam of Badr
Mosque in Aden.



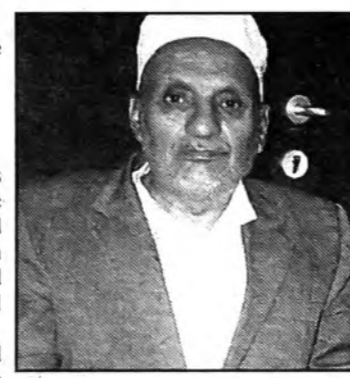
I believe we as Muslims are at a critical juncture in our history. You can see Muslims being battered all over the world - in Chechnya, Bosnia, Kashmir, Palestine, etc. This is not just a mere historic accident. It is an indicator of many things. At least it indicates the status and strength of Muslim nations, which is indeed very low at this time of human history.

You ask of the role of the ulema, which is my opinion has been marginalized. The role of the ulema, at the very least, is to give advice (naseehah) - both to the people and the rulers. In addition, they should serve as reminders to all of the right path. In our society today, there are many wrong things - at the social, political, economic and other levels. You can see many decisions that are wrong, and many activities that are not proper in an Islamic society. Such decisions and activities take us farther and farther away from God and our religion.

I do not know if there is any one solution for our predicament. It may require a long-term effort that will steadily and gradually make corrections.

"Our people are looking up to their ulema, and I hope they will not fail them."

Yahya Nasser Al-Durrah,
Director of Religious Guidance
Programs,
TV and Radio Stations,
Sanaa.



The moral fiber of society is probably its most important base for growth, prosperity and strength. It is with this belief in mind that Islam has stressed moral values in the individual and society.

The group of people entrusted with the job of constantly making sure that the moral fiber of society is strong are the clergymen and religious leaders. That is their role vis-a-vis the public.

In addition, religious leaders are also responsible for interacting positively with the rulers. They play a watchdog role to ensure that the rulers abide by the norms and rules of Islam. Unfortunately, at this time in history, religious leaders no longer do their job fully. They no longer have sufficient credibility or base to influence the general public, and they no longer give honest and sincere advice to the rulers. The clergymen have lost on both counts, and the results have been bad for all.

The situation in Yemen is a good example of how low we have fallen. If you talk to the general public, you can feel the anguish, the frustration, and the suffering.

The ulema should intervene with the rulers to reduce this suffering, because relations with the rulers are based on two important tenets:

1. Preponderance of truth and sharia on all matters,
2. Respect for the will of the umma.

Under those two principles, the ulema should act to make the rulers reduce the suffering of the people.

The religious leaders should not be part of the ruling structure, they should be by-standers who intervene when the politicians stray. Our people are looking up to their ulema, and I hope they will not fail them. This is one of the last hopes for correcting the shortcomings from which the majority of our people suffer today.

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Emirates, the award-winning and rapidly expanding international airline of the United Arab Emirates, is entering another exciting phase of its development. In October 1996, Emirates will commence operations between Dubai and Sanaa and is seeking to recruit qualified staff to join its team in Sanaa. Applicants for all the positions must be fluent in both written and spoken English. Salaries and conditions of employment will be in accordance with the industry practice in Yemen and will be discussed with individual applicants at the time of the interview. Interviews will be held in Sanaa and are expected to take place mid-August.

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Station Officer

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Emirates

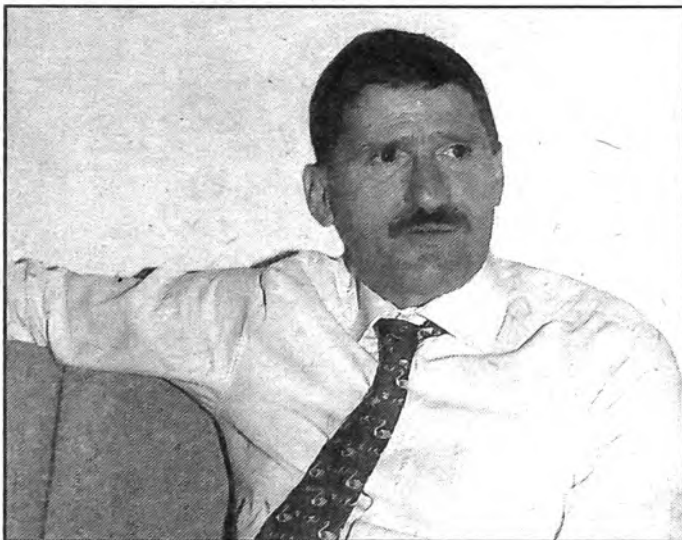
THE FINEST IN THE SKY

The British Council's Milestone in Children's Language Education:

Learning by Playing & Doing

The British Council is running a new program for children aged 6-10 and 11-14, and the response has been good. This is an attempt to teach English to non-natives through real-life situations. Ms. Carolyn Bradshaw, a specialist, is running the courses, under the able guidance of Mr. Brendan McSharry, Director of the Council. Carolyn is a graduate of Manchester and Bangor Universities in Wales. She holds a P.G.C.E. in teaching English Language to children and she has a 12-year experience in this field with children in Britain, Morocco, Spain and Brazil. The Yemen Times was invited to attend one of the sessions.

Bashar Askar reports.



It was a class of eleven children. There were at least half a dozen nationalities ranging from Indonesia to Pakistan, India, and various Middle Eastern countries, including Yemen. "Our method depends on a new approach to teaching children. In fact, it is a combination of methods, practices and applications being pursued by the British Council. We use modern visual educational aids to make the

children live through real situations. This allows habit formation of the language roots in them," explained Ms. Bradshaw, who seems to enjoy her interaction with the little ones. There are also board games, activities, flash cards and other tools "to make vocabulary very near to their minds" as Carolyn says. There are two groups of children - those who already are exposed

to English language and know how to practice/use it; and the other those who have no background in English at all. "For those who have no background, we start right from the beginning. There is stress on the function words, spoken language and oral work."

This kind of program is not new in Britain, or most of the advanced world. But it is in Yemen for the first time. It is also new in that it is new in its approach to teaching English the non-native children. "We have pair work, dialogue, and we concentrate on the written activity also. We do homework, exercises and we have our own books, records, etc.," she said.

There are a number of methods in teaching a language. There is the direct method, structural method, oral approach, and the communicative approach. "Our method as you see is a combination of all these but with a focus on the oral side of it. This is English as used 99% of the time," the specialist said.

Everything in class goes on in English. The situation-method helps the kids understand and conceptualize the issue at hand. Children internalize and understand much more than the older folks give them credit for. Even complicated situations are quickly comprehended.

"The high quality of teaching with skill, competence and following the latest and modernist means also help. All of our staff are highly trained and they are capable in dealing with children with patience," stated Mr. McSharry, with a twinkle in his eyes. He has reason to be proud given the success of this experiment.

The driving motive for this






experiment is to base as a root learning English the way natives learn the mother tongue. "My aim is to make English a pleasure and make the children feel that language is fun, and thus motivate them with a number of activities," Carolyn explained. Part of the trick is constant change and constant activity. Kids have a short attention span and they get bored easily. "There you can see that there is always a change of activities so as not to make the process of learning boring. We shift around the class from child to child. We change activities every ten minutes. We move

around quite a bit. We play (actually learn) with many different things. It a pleasurable experience when they come to class. It is a motivating experience for the children when they get older and make them familiar in how to operate the language. Thus opening their minds to a new cultural experience in life. Language learning is habit formation and the children aren't aware at this early stage it is a learning process."

Brendan added, "Young children are part of our program. We believe that the younger you start, the better you can learn."

Children who learn a language at an early age can use it as native speakers. That is why the British Council initiated this program.

The educational system has also developed a lot during the last decade. Based on the work of psychologists on children's programs in the primary levels to discover the best way of teaching a language, the British Council has evolved new methods. "We want children to communicate among themselves in an interactive way. So language can be personalized. It is a humanistic approach. It is also a recreation," McSharry concluded.

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Sudan Denies Slavery Practice

The Government of the Sudan strongly denied the allegations circulated in the Western press, notably in the USA, of the practice of slavery in the country. The Foreign Ministry issued a 6-point communique in which it stated:

1. The Sudan confirms its commitment and full adherence to all international laws and conventions prohibiting slavery; specially the 1926 Accord, and the Annexes to the Agreement of 1956.
2. The Sudan condemns all forms of slavery wherever the practice exists, and pledges to exert all efforts to bring an end to such practices, if they exist.
3. The Sudan has fully adhered to the UN General Assembly resolution of 1995 which called on it to investigate such allegations. Delegations are fully operational at the moment, and they are doing field investigations in the Nuba area and other regions.

The Government has re-affirmed its commitment to human rights again in 1996, and is waiting for the results of the investigations.

4. The Sudan calls on the public figures, national, regional and international organizations, and embassies accredited with it to participate in the investigations by providing information, technical support, or any way they see fit in order to unearth the truth on these baseless allegations.
 5. The Sudan hopes that this campaign will not be a pretext to exert more pressure for political reasons, as has been the case in many previous allegations.
 6. The Sudan reminds the world community that its faith in combating slavery and similar issues are part of its beliefs and traditions.
- The Sudan is already in trouble with the UN because of alleged involvement in the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Mubarak.

Bahrain: Human Rights Violations

For the first time in the recent history of Bahrain, women and children - as young as seven years - have been arrested, beaten and threatened in custody - a disturbing pattern that looks set to continue, Amnesty International said in a report circulated on July 16th.

Since the outbreak of 'pro-democracy' activities in 1994, many Bahraini women have joined in public protests, a shift from their traditional role. They wrote petitions to the Emir, Sheikh Issa bin Salman Aal Khalifah, urging him to restore parliament, and demanding the release of their male relatives and all political prisoners.

The Shia population of the country, said to be the majority, is at a disadvantage since it is excluded from real political participation. The Shi'ites are also economically disadvantaged. As a result, most of the agitation for political and economic reform has come from the Shi'ite underclass.

The Bahraini government has responded with an iron-fist policy against its citizens whom it calls terrorists and saboteurs. It has executed, jailed, exiled and beaten up members of the opposition, which it claims is being supported by Iran. The regime would do better by shifting focus to reforms rather than penalizing the people.

Netanyahu Tries to Eat His Words

Faced with a stiff Arab opposition to his anti-peace attitude, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu is trying to play with words by pleading he has been mis-understood. In his first ever meeting with senior Arab officials since he has taken office, the Israeli official insisted that he was all for peace with the Arabs, and that he will honor the commitments of Israel as stipulated in the agreements signed with the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. Israel's Prime Minister who just concluded tete-a-tete talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Kabarity, said that the peace process will continue and that he looks forward to resuming talks with Syria.

Those statements, however, contradict his policy of expanding Jewish colonization of Arab land through new settlements, a policy opposed even by Israel's staunch ally, the United States. Netanyahu has also yet to spell out how he wants the peace process to advance if he still refuses the land-for-peace formula spoused by the world community.



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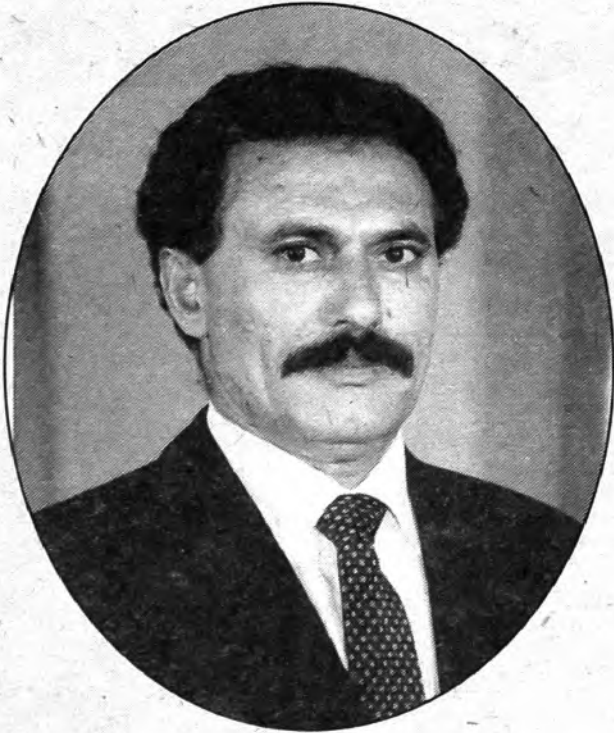
P. O. Box: 4063 - Tel: (03)234095 - Fax: (03)211780 - Tlx: 5622/ 5620.

SANA'A:

P. O. Box: 15145 - Tel: (01)207028 - Fax: (01)419895 - Tlx: 4050.

MUKALLA:

P. O. Box: 50261 - (Fax, Tlx, to Aden branch).



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تتقدم

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بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات

للإبن اليمن اليمن البار الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

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their felicitations and warm congratulations
to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Government and People of Yemen
on the anniversaries of the 7th of July and 17th of July.

We pray that these occasions return with more national cohesion, stability & prosperity.

Continued from page 6:

Common Sense...

It was left for Ali Abdulla Saleh to turn the idea into a realization as the People's General Congress. This was in the early 1980's. Simultaneously, an Islamist Movement was ripening up in the country. This new Islamic movement was mostly led by Islamic activists from the new breed of activists that had materialized in many parts of the world beginning in the seventies. The movement was characterized by strong puritanical inclinations and para-military strength. To the credit of the President, this new force was not viewed as a menacing threat, as many leaders of other Muslim or Arab countries mistakenly allowed themselves to believe. In fact, because of the importance of religion in the Yemeni people's allegiances - an important factor in the ability of the Islamic Movement to grow and spread rapidly, in addition to the availability of substantial financial resources - the movement was from its initial appearance shown to be an organized and effective force at the grass-roots level of the country's population (even in the erstwhile regions that adhered to a Marxist line!). The traditional religious establishment had either stepped aside as an effective force of influence or joined with the new movement or set up their own active Islamic movements that were of more liberal persuasions, than this new puritanical group.

The traditional religious group did not manage to arrive to the same amount of financial resources of the new "puritans" or "fundamentalists", and often questioned the latter's mysterious organizational and financial capabilities. These capabilities were sometimes rumored to be due to generous support from Saudi Arabian religious activists, who have been in "coalition" with the Saudi Royal Family over the past two hundred years in the areas of the Arabian Peninsula that finally became Saudi Arabia. Whatever the case may be, there was no question that these religious activists were rightly invited to join the PGC from its inception. Thus a mutually effective working relationship was easy to arrive at between these activists and the rest of the elements in the PGC, with Ali Abdulla Saleh regarded by all as the symbolic focal and unifying personality relied on to prevent any fragmentation that could occur. And both appreciated his role.

Unfortunately, after unification, the Yemeni Socialist Party failed to realize the advantages that the PGC and its offshoot - the Islah Party, enjoyed as a political and military alliance and insisted to reduce the obvious weight of this alliance in the new Republic of Yemen. In fact, the YSP maintained its sovereign character, rather than behave as an internal political force and obviously preferred to strive to hold on to weight and power, which the formation of the Republic of Yemen, as a new sovereign entity, would not necessarily justify accordingly.

On the other hand, the YSP underestimated its weakness at the grass-roots level, on a nationwide basis, and overestimated the strengths it had by the control of the assets it once held as a sovereign regime! One would not hesitate to believe that the PGC - Islah were more aware of the weaknesses of their former short-lived partner in the pre-civil war post unification period (1990-1994) than the YSP leaderships. Thus, the YSP was pursuing a not so pragmatic approach in interacting with the political realities that unification had brought to surface. The miscalculations of the YSP, were understandably tragic, if not fatal for the YSP as an effective political force.

The discussion continues next week.

Continued from page 3:

Bilquis Al-Hadhrani ...

Q: You are a leading member of the Baath Party. How do you see the complications in your party?

A: Yes, I am a member of collective leadership of the Baath Party - Yemen Branch. I am in charge of the Cultural and Information Affairs.

Recently, a political decision was taken on 13/06/1996 to ban our party. This is a dangerous precedent. We have filed a law-suit with the courts, and we are waiting for a sentence.

The decision by the ruling authorities has no basis and it is illegal. The step taken against Al-Baath party aims in general the democratic process. It aims to split the political parties into small groups. The consolidation of democracy does not mean splitting the political parties.

You know a party like Al-Baath is a historic party and it is deeply rooted in the Yemeni society. It is a party which has been in existence in Yemen since the fifties of this century. That is even before the foundation of many of the other parties. What happened to this party, I regard as a cheap and short-sighted policy on the part of the rulers. In my opinion, the decision against Al-Baath Party is a prelude to more obstacles in the way of our democratization process.

Q: Any last comments you want to make?

A: Yes. I think we have been overwhelmed by politics. We have neglected the real work which is in the development of our society.



Yemen needs the abilities and potential of all of us - men and women, in all regions of the country, from all political colors, and from all tribal backgrounds to achieve the highest possible growth rate.

Our democratic experience is, of course, important. But we cannot fully appreciate it without a minimum level of economic performance. Adequate political and economic reforms go hand in hand in building a better future for all Yemenis. I ask you to

underline the words all Yemenis. The challenges and dangers that face our nation are already enormous. We do not need to add political blunders to them. Finally, a word on our unity. This is an important achievement and a major blessing. We should protect it at any cost. We live today in an epoch of super-states. Not only Yemen, but all should come together. Arabs possess all the common elements to be one nation. We must work hard towards that noble goal.

Congratulations

Mom, Dad, and all other relatives and friends would like to congratulate Mariam Abdullah Okasha on her success. We would also like to welcome her in Yemen, where many new friends await her.



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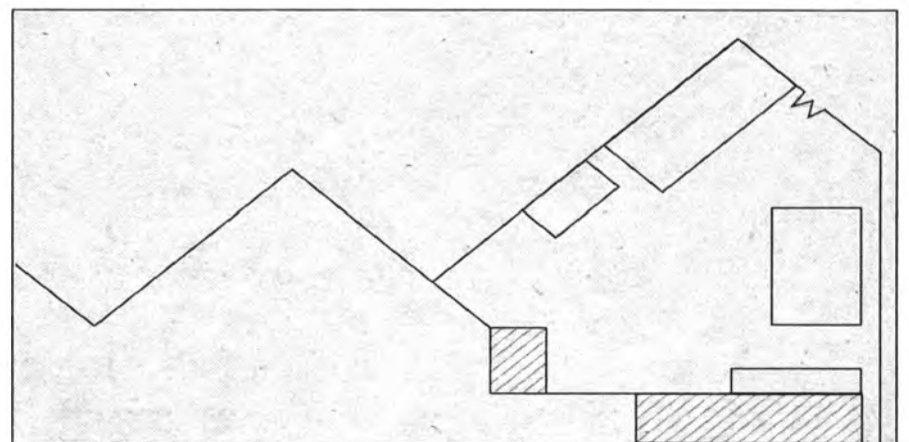
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UIC is considering the introduction of health insurance coverage for the first time in the Yemeni Market. This would be based on long term plans, and it will come as addition to the insurance services currently provided, such as Marine, Fire, Automobile, Accident and Life.

Mr. Tariq Abdulwassa'a Hayel Saeed, Vice General Manager of the Company, disclosed that UIC grossed last year approximately YR 400 million in insurance premiums. This represents 33% of total premium generated by the insurance market. This year, the company's goal is to generate YR 600 million in premium. Industry sources estimate the total insurance market grossed YR 1.2 billion in premium for all risk coverage in 1995 and expect the 1996 premium to amount to YR 1.6 billion.

Compensations paid up
were YR 300 million in
1995.

UIC has made it a point not only to compete in the existing market, but to work hard to expand the market base. "It is my opinion that the current insurance business covers only 35% of the potential insurable risks. We want to reach out to this untapped market," said Tariq. Part of the reason for the huge untapped market is the lack of public awareness about insurance. Another reason is deficient legislation.

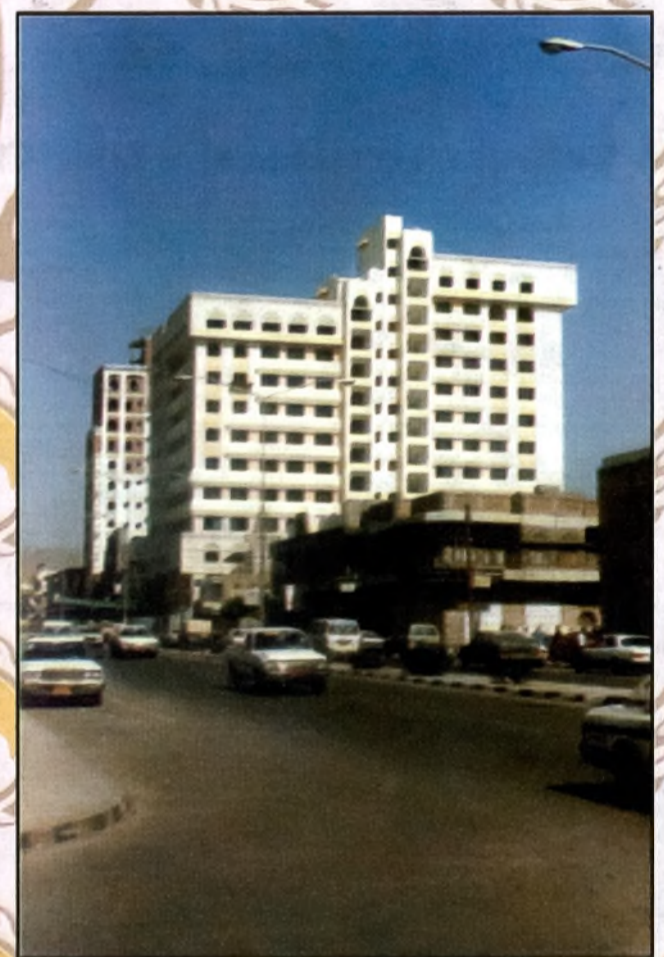
UIC is not only leader in opening up markets, it is also giving training of insurance personnel its top priority. "We are concentrating on training of local personnel to allow the company extend its services to the largest possible market share by spreading awareness on insurance among the general public," he said. Towards that end, UIC is working in cooperation with the other insurance companies in the market.

UIC and the other local insurance companies have succeeded - following long and hard negotiations with the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources - to issue legislation making foreign petroleum companies insure in the local market. "We now retain part of the insurance business of foreign petroleum companies working in Yemen. Of course, we also work with first class re-insurers abroad to spread the risk, given the sizes involved," Tariq said.

With already nine local insurance companies operating in Yemen, observers do not see the possibility for additional companies to enter the insurance market in Yemen. "The market is already saturated and the competition is stiff." Of course, economic conditions can change, especially if the Aden Free Zone takes off. Then business will grow in this sector as well as in other sectors. In addition, liberalization of trade, simplifying investment codes, and other reforms presently in the pipeline will also lead to more business.

The House of Representatives is putting the final touches on the new Insurance Law and suggestions by the industry on the final version of the proposed law have already been presented. "I think that the enactment of the insurance law will be a watershed in the insurance business," Tariq said.

Finally, the UIC Vice General Manager pointed to the importance of cooperation on regional and international levels. "We should especially promote cooperation within the Gulf region and the Arab markets. This is where we enjoy comparative advantage," he concluded.



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AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-7-96

(Monotheism and Islamic Action Party):

Main Headlines:

- 1) **British Expert: The Yemeni Saudi Committees Have Failed (in Reaching Final Border Settlement)). No Solution Except through a Summit Meeting of Both Country's Top Leadership**
- 2) **Paris: Progress In Yemeni-Eritrean Talks**
- 3) **The Oil Companies Have Bigger Share in Oil than the Country.**

Article Summary:

Saudi Minister of Defense to Visits Yemen Soon
Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General, announced that he is going to visit Yemen soon (late August or early September), with a view towards overcoming any obstacles that stand in the way of normalizing relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Prince (who is also responsible for the Yemeni file in the Saudi government) said that he has informed the Yemeni government that he is prepared to arrive in late August or early September. The purpose is to remove any obstacles that slowed progress in the discussions held by the Yemeni-Saudi joint Committees which alternately met in Sana'a and Riyadh since the Memo of Understanding was reached between the two countries. He said that the best solution is to strike a settlement by the top leaders of both countries.

AL-MUSTAQUILLA: London (weekly) 15-7-96 (Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) **Investment Manager, Al-Tadhamon Islamic Bank: Only YR 20 Billion of YR 160 Billion (money In Circulation) Is In the Banking System; Yemen's Future Lies in Islamic Banking**
- 2) **Party Dispute In al-Shoura (Between Editors and Party Leadership) Stops Al-Shoura from Issuance**
- 3) **200 Grooms and Brides In Group Wedding Celebration In Sana'a (Arranged by Islah Charitable Society)**

Article Summary:

Presidential Press Conference

President Ali Abdulla Saleh disclosed in a press



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

conference with selected press reporters that American interests in Yemen are quite small in relation to some other Arab countries. The President assured, however, that political relations between the US and Yemen face no difficulties.

On the economic side, the President pointed out that aside from Hunt and Canadian-Occidental Oil Companies, American involvement in the Yemeni economy is very limited. The amount of US \$ 14 million the US allots to Yemen in the past was negligible and mostly went to experts (Technical Assistance). On the suit brought on up against the Supreme Elections Committee by some members of parliament, the President saw this as a positive act which embodies the meaning of democracy. "Such procedures are encouraged," he said.

Other excerpts of what the President said:

- Every Arab country is paying the price for the aftermath of the Gulf War.

- We only bow to God and make our pleadings to Him and not to the White House.

- We know that some of the secessionist leaders were driven by fear and had to ride the tide, in keeping with the wishes of the War Commanders.

- Some of the Yemeni Socialist Party personalities have taken a stand that the YSP has proven its treason.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-7-96

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) **Dr. Al-Saqaf to the President: "We Do Not Need Your animosity; To the Contrary, We Need You as a Friend."**
- 2) **Continuation of the Ban on Al-Tajammu'**
- 3) **Assault on a Journalist (AL-THOURY) by Parliament Guards**

Article Summary:

The Democracy of Power

In its opening editorial, the paper points out that the

indications are that the forthcoming parliamentary elections will not reflect any understanding by the ruling coalition (PGC and Islah) of clean and free elections, except as a procedure to rob votes, even if by armed robbery.

The Supreme Elections Committee has committed many violations regarding the registration (of voters) committees, in such a way as to enable the ruling parties to take advantage of their financial resources (from the government coffers) to transfer people in a way that will suit their voting needs. This includes the use of troops based in various districts, women and the use of juveniles to register as potential voters for either the PGC or Islah, depending on which one is stronger in the district. This is especially important as most voters find it difficult to register because of the locations of the registration centers, which are limited to one per district only. Such violations by both partners have even given rise to armed conflict between elements of both the PGC and Islah.

The coalition partners must respond to the Opposition parties' demands for a guarantee that the elections will be free and honest. Otherwise, the elections will be nothing more than a battle of powers, where the opposition will take on the role of democratic decor only.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 18-7-96

(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

- 1) **Council of Ministers:**
 - Approves Proposed Military Rank and File Service Laws
 - Approves Final Accounts of the Economic Units of the Government for 1994
 - Approves Rehabilitation of Bakathir Publishing House in Hadhramaut
 - Discusses the Economic Statement of the First Five Year's Development Plan (1996-2000) to Be Presented to Parliament

2) **Yemen Will Participate in 3 Events in the Olympics (Atlanta 1996: Judo, Wrestling and Tracks)**

3) **Al-Thoury Newspaper: Premeditated and Planned and Run by Al-Jifry.**

Article Summary:

Appointment With Happy Fate

In its opening commentary, the paper quoted the Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani who expressed his recollections of the circumstances in which the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, took over power on the 17th of July 1978. Mr. Abdulghani pointed out that the President took the job which nobody else wanted because of the heavy load and the danger involved (3 Yemeni Presidents from the North and the South were assassinated in less than 8 months).

Moreover, the takeover was not through tanks but through elections by the Provisional Popular Assembly. The President was characterized by his openness and capability to engage in dialogue. Then Mr. Abdulghani gave a brief account of the many accomplishments attributed to the President: The PGC, the Marib Dam, Oil, Democracy, Unification (22/5/90), Reunification (7/7/94), etc.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 18-7-96

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines:

- 1) **Seventies Hospital: Medical Doctors' Union Condone Bad Exploitation of AIDS Case (through Infected Blood)**
- 2) **YR 1 Billion: Value of Exports and Re-exports through Aden Port.**
- 3) **Fish and Marine Life Corporation: YR 1.4 billion Is Value of Shares Issued and Sold.**

Article Summary:

Islamic Banks and the CBY

Lutf Al-Sarhy wrote an article: "The Beginning Should Not Be Like This", in reference to the apparent conflict that has arisen between the Central Bank of Yemen and the Islamic banks, still under establishment. The author pointed to the positive impact that Islamic banks will have on the economy and the banking and financial systems. The banks will bring more money into the banking system and direct it towards more investments and projects, especially as they are participating in the risks as well.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

A Refugee Accuses the UNHCR of Discriminatory Policies

The UNHCR adopts a religious discrimination policy. As a refugee living in Aden, I have been closely monitoring the way the UNHCR interacts with refugees under its jurisdiction. To my dismay, I found out that Christians are treated much more favorably than Muslims. For instance, all Christian refugees who come from such countries as Zaire, Burundi and Rwanda are accommodated in luxurious villas in the city. Their food is delivered in specially sealed parcels, in addition

to the US\$ 70 pocket money, which is given to each refugee. They also enjoy scholarships to higher learning institutions. Adding insult to injury, all job vacancies within the agency and other related institutions are preferably given to Christians. By contrast Muslim refugees in Yemen who are mainly Somalis are given 13 kgs of wheat flour, 500 grams of oil, and 600 grams of sugar a month. Often, the refugees might miss out on their rations for 2-3 months. And there is virtually no

shelter, Muslim refugees live in Make-shift shelters made up of ragged clothes, sheets, etc. The cold winter weather, coupled with persistent food shortages and an inadequate medical care has sharply increased the prevalence of such diseases as tuberculosis and typhoid. The Christian refugees, meanwhile are wallowing in comfortable villas which are paid for by the UNHCR. I do not resent the help given to my fellow African refugees. What I worry about, however, is that such unequal treatment among refugees might be institutionalized. I can also sense the ulterior - motive of this policy which is to tempt some desperate Muslim refugees to be proselytized from their Islamic faith. Meanwhile, the UNHCR has finally informed some refugees who used to draw their rations in Aden not to expect any more from the agency. Some of the refugees are Somalis of Yemeni origin who returned to their country of origin following the disintegration of Somalia. Having lost everything they had in the Somali civil war, they came to Yemen as paupers. The UNHCR used to help those people and others who use to live on a land which is donated by the government. And their livelihood depended heavily on such hand-outs. Why the

UNHCR finally decided to stop helping is unknown. Some observers suspect a gimmick, however.

While the refugees would continue to be registered with the UNHCR as refugees, they would not be, nonetheless, eligible to receive any assistance, food or otherwise.

The question is: Who would their rations go to? It is clear that the refugees cannot cope without assistance, and surely starvation and ill health would be inevitable. Previously when we faced similar situations, Yemeni officials used to help us promptly by pressing the agency to give us our dues. However since the distribution of supplies was transferred to a local NGO which is owned by a wealthy Yemeni businessmen, things have changed dramatically. Owing to the preponderant influence of the businessman, government officials do not dare to intervene nowadays. Hence the suffering. As the voice of the voiceless, we would like the Yemen Times to launch its own investigation by visiting Al-Basaten and Al-Jahim camps in order to get a first hand knowledge of the dismal living conditions the refugees are enduring.

By:
Mohammed Said Ismail,
A disgruntled Refugee Elder,
Aden.

What Do You Think of That?

It was quarter to 2 p.m., when most of the students were parting each other at the gate of the faculty of Arts. The atmosphere was full of movement and noise, some cars were getting out, some waited outside, students talked to each other. At that moment, there was a student talking to a nice foreign girl dressed in an ordinary teenage clothes which was very attractive. The security manager - who is tall, with a perfectly built body, dressed in uniform, wearing sunglasses, and a person not to be messed with - interfered in the conversation. His eyes were fixated on the foreign student. "Hey, you, come here," he shouted. The foreign student went see what he wanted. "Are you a student here?" he asked. "Yes, I am," she replied. "Show me your card!" he ordered. "I haven't got one yet. But I have a temporary permit," she replied. He ordered her to leave. The security manager asked the girl for her student ID for no reason. The student was surprised probably because she was never kicked out of a

public place before. Even though she had permission to enter the college; the student did not want to create a big scene. She ignored the security manager and left.

Many of the students were indignant of the shameful treatment. In fact, one of her classmates took the paper which permitted her to enter the college to the security manager. He snatched the paper and tore it to pieces.

The foreign student went home insulting the day she came to Yemen and the day she joined the college. While the security manager was standing egotistically, enjoying his great victory, while the students didn't dare to open their mouths.

I have hereby narrated the story of how a foreign student who came from a fraternal country was treated. Unfortunately the neglect of the college administration helped the security manager mis-behave. He did not respect the temporary permit, which he tore up. The permanent student ID was still being processed. What do you think of that?

By: *The King,*
Sana'a University, Faculty of Arts.

"NWASA": A Model to Follow!

My congratulations to Dr. Mohammed Saeedi, the new boss of NWASA for successfully executing water projects in Sana'a and Taiz. Dr. Saeedi has proved that Yemeni professionals are worth their salt and ready to rise up to challenges. I have no doubt that NWASA under Dr. Saeedi will see new horizons. Several years ago, it was rumored that Eng. Abullah Kurshumi's offer to build the Shibam-Mahwit road project well below the consultant's estimated cost, was rejected. Despite this setback, Eng. Kushmi went on to build better roads, at cheaper costs and in quicker time, including the Hablain road. Donors would do well to insist on local contractors for all projects financed by them. After all, local contractors have an additional incentive in doing the job, it is for them, their people and their country. I hope to see the Electricity Corporation also follow Dr. Saeedi's foot-steps by utilizing its vast pool of first class professionals and well experienced engineers in all its new projects.

Sameer A. R. Sanganee, College of Medicine, Sana'a University, Sana'a.

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Americans Bewitch the World in Atlanta:

HIGH-TECH OLYMPICS

The Olympic Games finally opened in Atlanta, Georgia, last week. Many visitors to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta were surprised to find a centennial Olympic games where every nuance is programmed into computers and where major high-tech companies were showcasing their newest and glitziest wares. The Atlanta Olympics is as much a World's Fair of imaginative technology as a major sporting event. Indeed, the Atlanta Olympics is coming out to be the most accessible and technology driven games in history. Many universities and private

industries played a role in getting the Olympic bid and creating what is being calling "the first high-tech Olympiad". Additionally, these Olympics, like the 1984 Los Angeles games, are privately financed. Many companies see the Olympics as an opportunity to forge collaborations where there was former competition and push the existing technology forward. Part of the success of Atlanta's creation of the high-tech games comes from capitalizing on innovations that were unavailable in years past. The virtual reality that cemented Atlanta's bid for host city is developed at Georgia by

researchers. As high-tech as the presentation sounds, it is astonishing to think that computers have evolved way past that stage since 1989. Thus teams representing 197 countries, including Yemen, have arrived for the games marking the 100th year since the start of the Olympics. Also included for the first time was the Palestinian flag, which was raised high by participating Palestinian athletes. There was one problem - the excessive heat. Temperatures rose to the mid and higher 30s.

Jamal Al-Awadhi, Sports Editor, Yemen Times.

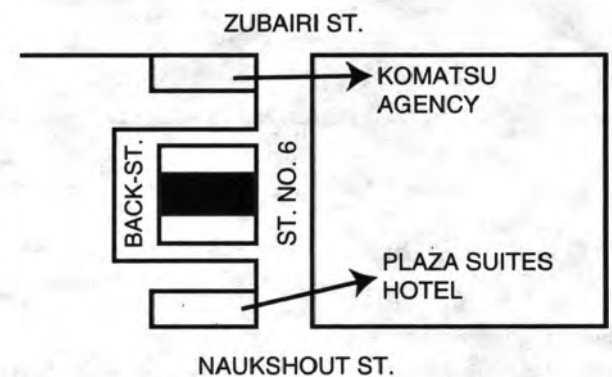
Completion of Training of Body Builders Judges

On 18/7/1996, a one-week workshop was concluded in Sanaa. Twenty potential coaches from all over the republic participated in the workshop. The National Olympic Committee (NOC) sponsored the effort and plans to hold more training programs. It is only the financial limitations that stand in the way of longer and more intensive training efforts, according to sources at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Yemen Times is given to understand that body building is one of the popular sports with youngsters all over the republic. But, unsupervised exercises can lead to disasters. "That is why it is necessary to train coaches and trainers. It is also important to have medical check-ups and fitness tests," said Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi, Head of the NOC.

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