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# YEMEN TIMES



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Prince Sultan Arrives Here on August 27th

## Top-Level Yemeni-Saudi Talks

Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Inspector-General, plans to arrive in Sanaa on August 27th, according to Yemen Times sources. "There is agreement that the visit will take place around the end of August, and the 27th has been tentatively fixed," the sources added.

There are two conditions, however. 1. The visit was conditional on the signing of a security agreement by the two countries. That was done. Colonel Hussain Mohammed Arab, Minister of Interior, has signed it in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, July 26th. The text of the agreement calls for a 5-year cooperation in trading wanted criminals, fighting arms and drug smuggling, and exchanging security-related information.

2. There will not be a summit, but a meeting of the Supreme Joint Committee, which is headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, on the Yemen side, and Prince Sultan, on the Saudi side. The committee will discuss cooperation, but will also address the border issue.

President Ali Abdulah Saleh had suggested a summit meeting to overcome the many small differences that block progress of the border committees. "The border committees do not have the broad authority they need to decide on these issues as they come up. So, a summit meeting will sweep through all these issues and allow fast progress on the border problem," President had repeatedly said. He also pushed this logic in two meetings with Crown Prince Abdullah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guards, during the Cairo Summit. Observers believe that when the Saudi response came through Prince Sultan, and only agreed to meetings at the Supreme Joint Committee level, the Saudis may be saying that Yemen's file is handled only through Sultan.

By the same token, Prince Sultan will find that to do business with Yemen, he will have to come to terms with President Saleh.



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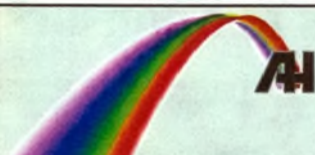
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## UIC First to Respond to YT Article: INSURANCE COMPANIES BLAME THE DISCRIMINATION ON THE LAW

"We are happy to inform you that United Insurance Company (UIC) has decided to strike out from its insurance policies the clause that discriminates against women in compensation values." So says a letter to the Yemen Times signed by Mr. Tareq Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed, the Vice General Manager of UIC.

Yemen Times had printed last week an article indicating that the insurance policies issued by Yemeni companies explicitly state that compensation for female deaths and injuries are calculated at 50% of amounts stipulated for men. This absurd statement is now scratched from at least one



UIC's Tareq

company, and we urge others to follow the UIC decision. "Although that clause had existed in our documents, we never really practised discrimination against women. Our records, which you are welcome to inspect, show we have paid out full compensation according to the law and court decisions," Tareq said. "Let me conclude by congratulating the Yemen Times for raising this issue. Your paper has often helped our country evolve in the right direction," he wrote. Aqeel Al-Saqqaf, General Manager of Aman Insurance Company indicated his company's insurance policy

does not include the discriminatory clause. "Aman had not incorporated that clause which is standardized in the insurance industry from the very beginning," he wrote. Dr. Abed Alzohra, Director General of Saba Insurance Company, wrote, "The discrimination against female victims is based on Yemeni law. While I agree that we should not discriminate, I think that the law has first to be changed so that we can amend our policies." Indeed, Yemeni Penal Law No. 12 of 1994 states that the life of a woman is worth half that of a man, and that female injuries and suffering are compensated for by half as much as for men." Next week, Yemen Times will discuss this law.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemen's Urgent Need for Population Strategy

One of the most dangerous issues facing the country today is the population explosion. The Republic of Yemen today has one of the fastest growing rates in the world, and has one of the youngest populations. This is a very urgent and pressing matter, and there is justification for a lukewarm approach to a serious problem.

The present population stands at around 16 million. This is already higher than the population of the rest of the Arabian Peninsula combined - the so-called GCC states put together. With the possible exception of Iraq, it is higher than any other Arab country east of the Red Sea or the Mediterranean Sea.

According to all kinds of statistics, Yemen is one of the poorest and most backward nations of the world. In terms of literacy rates, we are among the last, in terms of child malnutrition, maternal mortality, drinking water, electric supply, school enrollment, etc., we are low on the list. The recently published documents of the UN bodies, World Bank and others attest to this. After all, we are talking of a GDP per capita of less than \$300.

Yet, the population keeps growing, and these recurrent electric blackouts are not helping either.

The Republic of Yemen needs to establish a ministry that will be responsible for family planning. There are no two ways about it. We should address this matter openly, calmly and with the far-sight needed to tackle a sensitive social issue. But a firm hand is needed.

Our medical profession should lead the way in teaching our people the proper applications of birth control, or birth spacing. You can call it what you want as long as we end up having fewer babies. A nation-wide effort is needed to educate the public of the various possibilities and techniques of birth control. After all, you cannot preach family planning while the tools are not available, not even in the cities, let alone the countryside.

The problem of numbers is frightening. Those who are not frightened may have not grasped the extent of the problem. In less than one generation, Yemen's population will more than double, at least. Our cities will be un-liveable, if such a word exists. Imagine Sanaa in less than three decades could have more than five million inhabitants. Then imagine the infrastructure and services they will need - five times the level of schools, hospitals, roads, water supply, electric generation, etc.

It is my sincere hope that our rulers will do the right thing and immediately address this issue. It is too dangerous to ignore or pay lip-service to. Please think about it!

*The Publisher*  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

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### Inauguration of the YCCSS

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani personally inaugurated the Yemeni Center for Cultural & Strategic Studies (YCCSS), yesterday, July 28th. To coincide with the inauguration, the YCCSS is holding a 3-day seminar at Taj Sheba Hotel under the theme of "Administrative Reforms in the Republic of Yemen".

Mr. Nasr Taha Mustafa, a leading Islah intellectual, heads the center.

### YEMINVEST Awards Key Contracts

Yeminvest announced last week that it had signed additional contracts for the development of its concession in Aden Free Zone. Posford Duvivier of Peterborough, UK, was awarded the contract for the container terminal design. The design process is now 15% complete, and preliminary designs are under review by Yeminvest and its port operator, ICTSI.

Fugro Middle East of Dubai, UAE, was awarded a contract for the geotechnical investigation of the harbor. The geotechnical data will allow the port design work to continue and the dredging contract to be tendered.

BACTEC of Rochester, UK, was awarded a contract for bathymetry survey and investigation of the harbor area for ordnance contamination prior to the commencement of marine works. BACTEC has been working on site since the end of June, 1996. MacAlister Elliot and Partners of Lymington, UK, was awarded the contract for environmental assessment of the concession area, and has already completed most of the required field work. Coopers & Lybrand of London, UK, was awarded the contract for a preliminary market assessment of the industrial estates.

Ernst & Young of Dubai, UAE, was awarded a contract for the development of the accounting system to be used by Yeminvest and its subsidiary companies. Yeminvest continues to make progress on the development of its concession in Aden and live up to the commitments it has made to the Government of Yemen and the people of Aden, said Tahir Bawazir, Chairman of Yeminvest. Yeminvest's container terminal in Aden is expected to be able to begin handling all container ships by March 1999.

### Dutch Minister on Whirlwind Tour of the Republic

Johannes Pieter Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation in the Netherlands, is presently on a five-day whirlwind tour of six governorates. He is paying site visits to the projects being financed (or co-financed) through Dutch assistance. He will be back in Sanaa on the 29th to hold talks with Yemeni officials regarding the progress of bilateral cooperation. The Netherlands is a leading aid partner of Yemen.

### Central Medical Laboratory Sends a Circular on AIDS

Dr. Mohammed Hussain Al-Fadheel, General Manager of the Central Medical Laboratory, issued a circular to all hospitals and clinics in the country regarding AIDS. "You should take sufficient precautions in the transfer of blood, to ensure you are not passing on the aids virus," he wrote. "Recently, there have been many problems of this kind," he said.

## EXXON Yemen Chips in to Help Flood Victims

Exxon Yemen employees mobilized a campaign to seek personal contributions. The result has been one ton of rice, flour, sugar and other foodstuffs delivered directly by company personnel to the villagers affected by the floods in Shabwah. This comes in addition to another ton delivered to the Ministry of Health.

In addition, the company has made a \$5000 donation to the Yemeni Red Crescent Society. The Yemen Times is compiling files on the contributions of individuals and companies. If you or your company has made a contribution to the flood victims, please let us know. We shall give credit, and it will help us evaluate the volume of assistance.



## YAFA Sends Thank-You Notes to Sponsors

The Yemen American Friendship Association sent out letters of thanks to the many sponsors who had contributed generously to the raffles of the Friendship Bazar organized by YAFA on July 5th. The list of sponsors includes:

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Yemen-Kuwait Bank, Yemen Times, etc.  
The money raised in the bazar went to help the orphans in Sanaa city.



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**Dr. Osman Ahmed:**

# "The poor of Yemen would have suffered more had the reform program not been implemented."

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (The World Bank) has invested generously in Yemen's development process. For a long time now, it has been providing financial and technical assistance.

Starting from January 1995, however, the Bank's involvement with Yemen has taken a new format. It established an office in Sanaa, named a representative, and embarked on a close discourse with the authorities. Dr. Osman Sheikh Ahmed, originally from neighboring Somalia, is the head of the World Bank office in Yemen.

Osman says he feels at home in Yemen. Besides, it will be a good chance to strengthen his Arabic. His lovely wife and three daughters have also adjusted very well. "I am sending the little girls to a local (Yemeni) school. I think this is the only way to pick up Arabic and some of the local culture," he says.

On the more serious side, Osman feels that the establishment of the World Bank office has done a lot to improve the bilateral relations between the Bank and Yemen.

**Q: Last year, the World Bank established as office in Yemen. Why?**

**A:** We only establish offices in selected countries, which we regard as important and need to follow up close.

We have one in Yemen and one in Egypt the two major offices in the MENA (Middle East, North Africa = Arab World). In addition, we have two other offices in the region - one in Saudi Arabia and the other in the Palestinian Authority area, but these have special purposes.

The Yemen WB Office is one of the most robust and active offices.

**Q: How do you assess the one and half years of the WB Office in Yemen?**

**A:** I think it has been very successful. The most important thing is that we get a chance to relate to the people we are working with on a close and regular basis. This is something we could not do from Washington and in spite of the World Bank missions of the relevant staff involved with a country's projects or programs. Being here on a day to day basis allows for working out any problems that may arise. This is important in a country like Yemen, where the institutional frameworks are not strong, and where agreed decisions are not automatically implemented. This also allows us for a two way interchange of ideas.

**Q: Can you be more specific about the success you are talking about. For example, what has happened to the pace of disbursements on project portfolios?**

**A:** When I first came here, the project portfolios were one of the worst in any country. But the situation has improved substantially since the office opened up. The improvements are noticeable, in terms of disbursement and project implementation. I can say that we now release double the volume of funds in the past.

**Q: Can you give us numbers?**

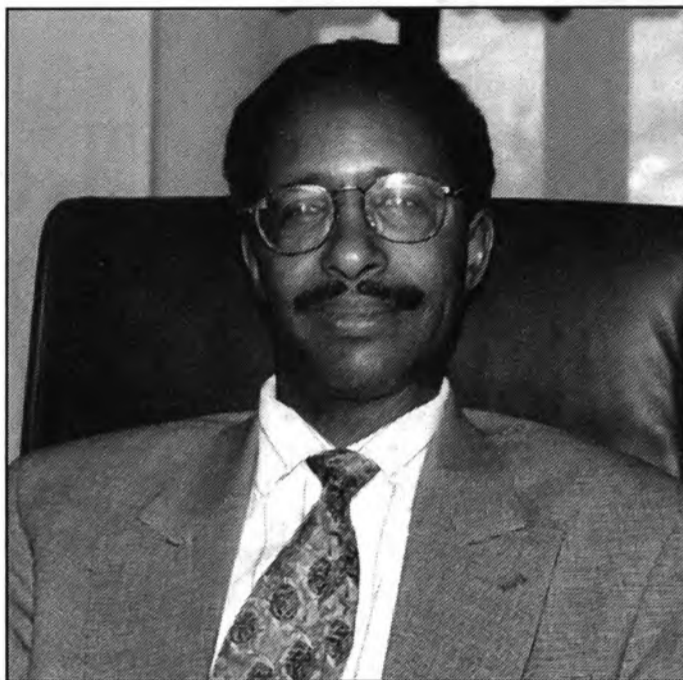
**A:** The present rate of annual disbursement is roughly US\$ 60 million. In the past, the annual average disbursement was around \$30-40 million.

**Q: The World Bank (and IMF) have assisted in formulating the Economic Reform Program. How is implementation going?**

**A:** As far as we are concerned, the program is going well. Implementation, which is the most important part, has been carried out, so far, to our satisfaction. All the various steps needed for stabilization have been taken. It is, of course, a continuing process. Adjustment has been occurring, but that takes a longer time span.

**Q: Can you discuss specific areas of the reform program?**

**A:** For example in trade policy, liberalization is fully under way.



We already have improvements in custom tariff structures, in which the many previous categories or tariff classifications were consolidated into five only. Tariffs are lower. Clearance is now easier. Import licensing is done away with. Paperwork is reduced. As a result the opportunities for corruption will be discouraged. Protective barriers for domestic production are being reduced. You know, these barriers restrict growth, increase inefficiency, raise prices, and reduce export potential. Their removal encourages productive capacity to shift towards investment in export oriented production.

Another important improvement has been in investment licenses, which are now easily obtained. Negative lists are being removed.

These had encouraged monopoly or oligopoly practices. (Negative lists are government priorities which discourage investment in certain fields which the authorities feel are saturated. This is government lingo for sanctioning monopolies.)

The effects are long range but the most important thing is to achieve stabilization for investors and to increase incentives for activities, where the country has comparative advantage. A third in which reforms have achieved visible success are the monetary and fiscal policies. Although these are the domain of the International Monetary Fund, I want to point out that inflation has been contained, the dollar exchange rate of the Riyal, fairly stabilized, and an overall environment conducive to business is

now in place.

**Q: The burden of the reform program has not been shared equally by society. Some have suffered more, and will still suffer more given the anticipated reforms in civil service. What is done to reduce the suffering of the poor in society?**

**A:** The World Bank and the Yemeni Government have seen the need to help the poorer segment of society. Together, they have worked a number of packages for this purpose.

There is a \$25 million public works package which aims to create quick employment for unskilled or semi-skilled workers all over the country. This is associated with public works like road construction, etc.

There is a \$22 million Social Fund package, to which we hope other donors will contribute. This will provide small credit facilities to projects at the family or similar level. The idea is to generate employment, increase production by enabling more people at the grassroots level to engage in business.

There are also other projects, and I know the government has put aside some money for similar purposes.

There is an important point I would like to add. There is a widespread belief that the reform program has hurt the lower strata of society. I don't deny they are hurt, but they would be affected in a more serious way without the reform program.

Allow me to use an example. In situations of galloping inflation, people with low and fixed incomes suffer most. The richer people are able to hedge. In the case of Yemen, what the reforms

have done is to curb inflation. Everybody benefits from this, but specially the poor people. The program will also generate more employment in the future.

**Q: Let us talk about the next step in the reform - the civil service. There are entrenched interests in the bureaucracy. You think the authorities have the will to bite the bullet?**

**A:** Here in Yemen, as well as elsewhere, civil reform is probably the most difficult part of the reform program. But I believe the Yemeni authorities have decided to embark on this effort.

There have been missions that have come at the request of the government to look at how administrative reform can be carried out. It will take some time, and we are only at the initial stages. But, I confirm there is a willingness on both side to get on with the job.

**Q: What exactly are we talking about in civil reform?**

**A:** Discussions on this are at a preliminary stage, and the parameters have not been defined yet. But I believe the issues involve: First, there is the size of the civil service - knowing exactly how many civil servants there are and where they are.

Second, there is re-structuring of the administrative structure to improve efficiency.

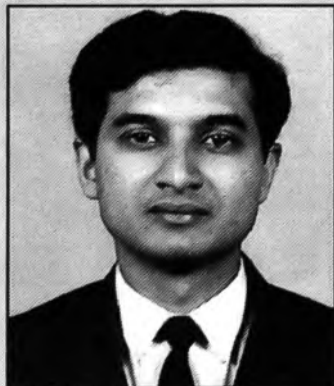
Then there is the redistribution of personnel to sectors and areas where they are most needed.

Civil service reform in Yemen is certainly a complex one and needs to be looked at very carefully and implemented over the next 3-5 years.

Continues on page 5

## Good Bye Mathew

Mathew Kurian, Sales Manager of Taj Sheba Hotel, is back in India. His departure represents a major loss to all his friends at the hotel and in Sanaa. We wish him all the best



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**John Kincannon:**

**"I hope Yemenis from all walks of life can cooperate to make Yemen's future as great as her past."**

One of the friends of Yemen, and a person who has shown keen interest in the country's educational and media development is leaving. John Kincannon, the Director of the US Information Service, is set leave Yemen at the end of his term here in a few weeks.

John joined the US Foreign Service in 1985 after completing his studies at Georgetown University. Before coming to Yemen, he was in charge of the North Africa Desk at the US Information Agency (USIA). He had also served previously Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Peshawar (Pakistan) and Amman Jordan.

Mr. Kincannon speaks Arabic fluently, an important in his success during his term in Sanaa.

Anwar Al-Sayyadi of Yemen Times filed the following interview.

**Q: Where are you headed from here?**

**A:** I am being transferred to Dhaka, Bangladesh to head the USIS Office there. It looks like it will be quite a challenge. The Voice of America is part of my Agency and its Bangla broadcasts enjoy a popularity in Bangladesh that's virtually unrivaled among the forty-nine languages in which the Voice of America broadcasts.

**Q: As you leave Yemen, what is your impression?**

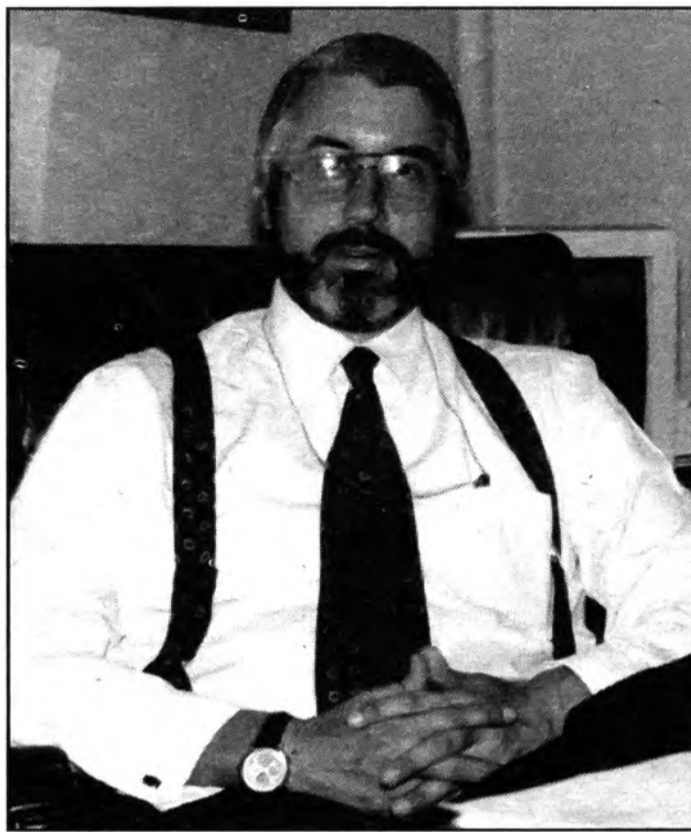
**A:** I think Yemen is a country of great potential. Unlike some other

countries which do not have significant resources on which to base their development, it strikes me that Yemen has considerable unexploited potential in many areas -- agriculture, fish wealth, oil and gas, and tourism immediately come to mind. Sana'a also offers some of the most delightful weather in the world. Diplomats traditionally enjoy Yemen because of the friendliness of the Yemeni people and the frankness with which Yemenis share their opinions and thoughts. Both my spouse and I agree that this has been our favorite diplomatic posting.

**Q: How do you assess Yemen's transformation towards democracy?**

**A:** I think it is a very promising experiment, but democracy takes a lot of time for social transformation in order to take root. In the US, France, Germany, and other major democratic countries, we have had our stumbles while moving along the democratic path. In many ways, I think democracy is always sort of a work in progress. I hope the Yemeni government and Yemeni people can continue along this path. As Churchill once observed, "Democracy is the worst system of government except for all the others."

My office, as well as the USAID office in Yemen, have tried to aid Yemen's democratic development and have cooperated on a number of programs to strengthen Parliament's institutional capacities, to enhance the knowledge of MPs and parlia-



mentary staffers about the United States, and have provided English language training for employees at parliament. We have also tried to play a role in assisting the development of non-governmental organizations in Yemen interested in contributing to the growth of civil society.

**Q: What kind of cooperation in the media/education sector was**

**there? And what volume?**

**A:** USIS is probably best-known in Yemen as the current sponsor of the Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI). YALI has been around for about twenty-three years now and has provided tens of thousands of Yemenis with an opportunity to learn English and something about American history and culture. Currently, we have about a thousand

students each term.

We are also the sponsor of the Fulbright scholarship Program and the Humphrey Fellowship program. More than one hundred Yemenis have participated in these fellowships programs. The Fulbright Program has also brought many American scholars to Yemen to study aspects of Yemeni civilization as well as a growing number of American students wanting to study Arabic. USIA also provides some of the funds which help the American Institute of Yemeni Studies to assist American and Yemeni scholars conduct their research on many aspects of Yemeni society and culture.

We have a 3,000 volume library that does not charge a membership fee. Through a grant to AMIDEAST (which is co-located with our office), we offer student counseling for Yemeni students who wish to study in the United States.

During my tenure here, we have sent several Yemeni journalists on study programs in the United States. We are also in the early stages of trying to organize a workshop on professional journalism skills in October 1996 in cooperation with the UN Information Center in Yemen.

**Q: Are you leaving Yemen at a time when Yemeni-US relations are at a downturn?**

**A:** Not at all. As you know, the United States was the first major country to recognize Yemen's republican government after the 1962 revolution and our ties have remained strong since that date.

In the past few years, there has been growing cooperation between the American and Yemeni governments on a variety of matters of mutual interest including regional security, combating terrorism, and cooperating to support the Middle East Peace Process. We are also proud of the role that private American firms and individuals have played in the development of Yemen's oil and gas resources.

**Q: What is the role of Yemeni graduates of US universities, US researchers on Yemen, YAFA, and others in improving Yemeni-American relations?**

**A:** I think the basic idea behind USIA is the notion that international understanding is too important to be left merely to governments, but that good bilateral relations needs to be reinforced by people-to-people contacts outside of official government channels. We are pleased with the important contributions that graduates of US universities have made to the national development of Yemen. US graduates, American researchers, YAFA, and other institutional linkages all have their role to play in strengthening ties between our two countries.

**Q: Any final comments?**

**A:** I have enjoyed my time in Yemen very much and leave this posting with a great deal of personal sadness. I hope Yemenis from all walks of life can cooperate to make Yemen's future as great as her past.

**Product of:**  
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Cont'd. from page 3:

**Dr. Osman's Interview ...**

**Q: Do you think that the administrative and civil service reforms will take place at a time when the country is gearing up for national parliamentary elections?**

**A:** Administrative and civil service reforms are certainly a very important component of any reform effort. They go to the heart of how well the government delivers services to the public.

Irrespective of the elections, I believe that the government has a desire to come up with a program that can be implemented. There is a definite need for it and both the World Bank and the government realize the need for it at various levels of the civil service structure. It has to be looked into very carefully and in detail. In view of the time required for drafting the program and agreeing on the steps needed, implementation of the reforms will in any case come more than a year from now.

**Q: What would be the first step in this regard?**

**A:** In countries where this process has been done, the first step is to develop an accurate data base on the government work force: exact number and details on the jobs being performed. This will provide the basis for determining the possible surpluses and shortages in the government work force in different areas.

This first step is also applicable within the context of Yemen.

**Q: The reform program has raised interest rates considerably. Investors and businessmen who need credit to finance new projects and expansions, find it difficult to borrow at such high rates. In other words, your policies are hurting growth. What do you say to that?**

**A:** Before anything else, economic growth needs an environment of certainty and predictability. For investments to become lucrative, we have to control inflation and volatility in the exchange rates. Thus stabilization effort is an essential step to obtain this environment. Its purpose was to reduce inflation, which it has, and to stabilize the foreign exchange rate, which it has. Thus the first condi-

tion for investment: stability, has been achieved. The second condition is to remove impediments, such as licensing, administrative bottlenecks, and other constraints.

A third factor is setting up an incentive structure that will be in favor of those activities in which the country has a comparative advantage. This is achieved through liberal trade policies.

Negative interest rates had to be done away with, for inflation to be controlled. But once this is achieved, I suppose the rates will come down.

**Q: What are the problems that you encountered during the implementation of the reform program?**

**A:** There is nothing really serious, but there are a few things here and there. For example, things are not done as expeditiously as they should be. Things take a lot more time than expected.

Everything that we could identify and everything that could be done through a policy decision or a decree has been done. But there is an attitude that reflects great laxity in getting these decisions or policies implemented. This has to do with weak institutional capacity and probably low incentives because of the low salaries and lack of administrative accountability.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** First let me thank the Yemen Times for this opportunity.

Second, I would really like to stress that Yemen needed to go through the reform program. It had delayed it for so long, hence the severity of some of the measures. It is also unfair to blame only the reform program for the present difficulties. In my opinion, the difficulties, especially for the poorer segments of the population, would have been much more serious in the long run had the reforms not been undertaken.

Finally, I want to give credit for the courage with which the Yemeni officials have addressed the consequences of the reform. They have seen what needs to be done, and in most cases, they went ahead and did it.



# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## The Elections: Only for Big Boys ?

A major element in the YSP's platform, during its sovereign status, prior to unification, was its radicalism as a dogmatic sponsor of scientific socialism in the Arabian Peninsula. It made no efforts to hide its refusal to recognize any right of the traditional elements in society to be involved in the regime it set up in the parts of the country that was just released from the British Crown. In fact, the rulers in Aden dislodged all the tribal sheikhs and sultans of the south and dealt with them as bandits, killing a few of them and frightening the rest away into exile.

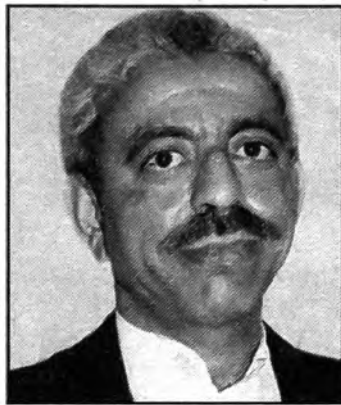
The regime in Aden tried to arrange popular discontent in the Northern part of the country (the then Yemen Arab Republic), and set up an underground network of agents that brought instability to many parts of the YAR. These agents were waging a war against the tribal/traditional leaders in their areas, making it difficult for the YAR government to impose law and order in many areas of the central part of the country, notably Ibb, Utama, Al-Baydha, Radaa and Taiz.

Because of its violent and often terrorizing approach, and its loyalty to the Soviet Bloc - the dominant source of its strength - the YSP's popular base was not altogether as solid as its propaganda machine was picturing it to be. When the Soviet Union

retired as a world power, the umbilical cord of the YSP was broken. A vigorous attempt by the regime in Aden to polish its bloodstained record, in both parts of the country, and to introduce dogmatic and political reforms, which would be acceptable to the New World Order were not enough to erase its past. Pressure had begun to increase readily, especially from the North - thanks to the work of Islamic activists who have been working openly in the North and underground in the South. The activists worked simultaneously to counteract the underground radical cells that were sabotaging the North, and to begin to organize religious resistance against the "alien atheistic ideology of the YSP, in its own turf, especially in the country-side of what was the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

With the big fragmentation of the YSP, that resulted from the bloody struggle for power between various factions of the YSP leadership in January 1986, many of its members, especially those associated with former President Ali Nasser Mohammed fled to the North and became adamant on avenging their defeat by their erstwhile comrades.

Thus the grounds were set for President Ali Abdulla Saleh to fly to Aden and convince the leadership there that the world



needs only one Yemen. The Unification Agreement was thus signed in Aden on 30 November 1989, whereby unity was to take effect one year later. To assure itself continuity and to brace itself for the new power structure brought on by unification, the YSP insisted on incorporating Yemen's bold transformation into unity by an equally bold political transformation: the adoption of democracy and political pluralism. The YSP leadership (itself once the champion of an extreme leftist totalitarian regime), probably saw in such an insistence a desperate chance for the party to reform its philosophy and rehabilitate its political approach. It could also have seen in it other desirable outcomes, such as tuning in with the New World Order, before the YSP is overtaken by the same fate of most regimes in the Soviet Bloc: total collapse.

Whatever the case maybe, the concept was worthy of credit, and as Nasr Taha Mustafa also said, the 1993 elections were carried out in a more democratic atmosphere, a more open press and a more systematic and free elections. These are strong indications that the YSP leadership was apparently more serious and more sincere than its partners in the ruling coalition (PGC) about democracy and pluralism.

Chances are that the YSP mistakenly calculated that a strong opposition bloc would arise. Such an opposition would find more sympathy with the YSP positions on a number of issues confronting the nation. While the thinking along those lines was sensible, from a political science point of view, it overlooked 2 important realities:

1) That the other partners in the coalition (the PGC and Islah) were not going to sit idle while their newly merged partner reinforces its political base through a populist platform that could become appealing to a sizable popular backing. They held a considerable amount of the elements of power (militarily and financial) and a political power base that brought together several interest groups that were well-entrenched, sufficiently wide spread and very influential with the population.

On a similar note, the YSP underestimated the ineffectiveness of a sound political platform on a generally apathetic public, in view of the cultural retardation which still predominates the population of the country and the increasingly deteriorating economic conditions accelerated by the return of Yemeni expatriate laborers from the Gulf - itself an economic disaster of immense proportions.

It is not hard to believe that had the expatriates remained, they would have been persuaded to support the YSP platform in its revised form and to appreciate the populist line adhered to by it. The expelled laborers, suddenly forced to dread chronic unemployment and deteriorating living standards, could not be very interested in matters of politics! In fact, the YSP was unable to make a stand that by rejecting its partners' somewhat confusing position in the Gulf Crisis, which seems not as confusing anymore, when viewed in this context!

2) The development of an active opposition that the YSP banked on for effective counterweight to the power of the PGC-Islah alliance, itself became too busy seeking a place in the power structure. At the same time, they neglected the important task of solidifying their grounds at the grass roots level. (Ironically, the YSP encouraged such maneuvering by creating new or previously masked political parties or movements, and by constantly courting the opposition in aligning with the YSP against their more entrenched partners in the ruling coalitions.

In fact, some of the opposition forces may have been under the illusion that they are already "wielders" of power, in view of their "participation" in the maneuverings of the ruling coalition partners, which may have encouraged them to neglect widening their grass roots popular base. On the other side, the PGC-Islah had already several important alliances with

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political forces that were outside the coalition, but withheld strong desires to liquidate the YSP, in view of accounts that needed to be settled with the YSP: the Ali Nasser Mohammed faction and the earlier exiles of sultans and sheikhs, who desired to regain as much power as they once had held prior to being kicked out by the erstwhile "radical" YSP.

Thus, it was easy to see that the YSP as a ruling party was really cornered by its partners. When it finally realized that it seemed destined to lose its status as a party of sovereign dimensions, it sought help from the outside in a frantic effort to assert itself and inject military, financial and diplomatic strength to its weakening power base. The international maneuverings did not yield the expectations anticipated by the YSP.

In fact, they may have reduced whatever popular understanding there was of the YSO position on the political crisis that prevailed before the civil war. The xenophobic tendencies of the Yemenis saw in the YSP's international efforts as a slight taint of treachery with regards to national loyalty. The YSP failed in achieving the effective counterweight of this international maneuvering, especially after a secession was declared. This happened at a time when it could have been able to salvage its position through international support, financial means acquired from abroad as well as whatever internal political support that seemed available to it, because of its continued insisting on the implementation of the Document for Pledge and Accord, which may be considered the only polit-

ical victory achieved by the YSP throughout the Pre-Civil War Period.

But now with the YSP given a back stage role in the political arena, it seems that the remaining Big Boys (the PGC and Islah) are coming face to face now that their common foe - YSP and any other potential political opposition that could arise - no longer represents a threat.

The Islah Party, understandably, has realized that its political momentum is perhaps not being given its proper weight. Thus, the Islah, ironically, is beginning to portray the same fears that the YSP was trying to overcome in the earlier coalitions. The recent confrontations that are erupting here and there between elements of both the PGC and Islah warn that the power struggle that is forthcoming will also not just be limited to the ballot box.

As for the Opposition Bloc, they did not learn from their previous mistake; namely, maneuvering for an upward mobility within the current regime. With the continued absence of a power base at the grass roots level for most of the opposition parties, it seems like the forthcoming elections will be a game still left for the big boys to play, in the ways we can only expect them to play: rough, dirty and with a total disregard for the sporty and civilized nature of fair and clean democratic elections.

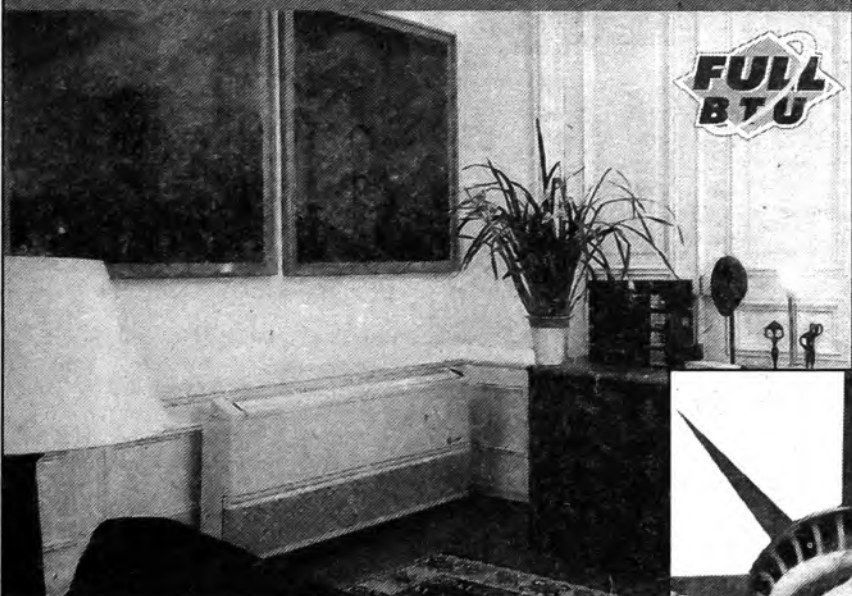
Let us all hope that the Big Boys do not get carried away again. It is time to learn that in a democracy, you cannot bite off more than you can chew. Otherwise why have the elections, when the whole pie is in your hands, anyway?

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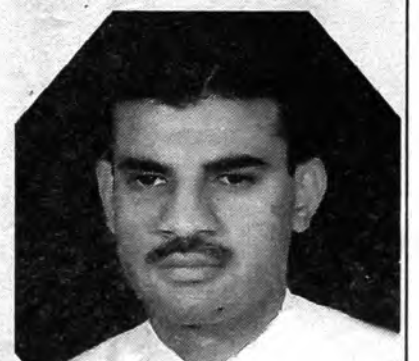


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Second of  
3-Part Article

# ADEN IN THE 20th CENTURY

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

The merchants who formed the backbone of Aden's success were, naturally, interested to maintain the competitive position of Aden that evolved in the 19th century. Between 1880 and 1910 business boomed, fortunes were made.

The Suez Canal and the increasing use of steamships were having their impact. The regular flow of shipping through Aden enabled merchants to ship their goods at precisely the time that the market was in their favor in the receiving country - the forerunner of "just-in-time" deliveries. The telegraph, brought to Aden in 1870, enabled Aden merchants, with their greater knowledge of western markets and business methods, to keep in constant touch with world prices, an advantage not available to other Red Sea ports. These ports then became the commercial satellites of Aden. As Aden grew, the total trade in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Horn of African was expanding and offering new opportunities.

A small oil bunkering facility was established in Aden in 1919, and by 1931, Aden had four oil berths to serve growing numbers of oil-fired ships. The harbor and approach channel were deepened to 31 feet as Aden benefited from the conversion of world shipping to oil fuel. By the late 1930s, Aden was averaging 150 ship calls per month.

Between 1946 and 1952 the tonnage of shipping calling at the port doubled, and continued to grow until Aden became the world's premier ship bunkering port. By 1959, Aden's four tugs, five pilot boats and eight mooring boats were each manned by four crews, working 8 hour shifts 24 hours per day to handle a ship movement every 33 minutes.

With the growth in the volume of traffic calling for bunkers, including passenger vessels, Aden became a hive of activity, with shops - for visiting crews and passengers - open for 24 hours a day. Forty to fifty ship movements daily were registered and a large volume of fuel oil, was being produced by the Aden Refinery which was built in 1954. Cargo was discharged and loaded at the stream berths providing Aden with daily shipping services to and from Europe and the Far East and enabling the mer-

chants to supply traders in the region with competitively priced goods. These came to Aden from as far away as Kuwait and the coast of East Africa for trade, thus generating a larger volume of dhow traffic.

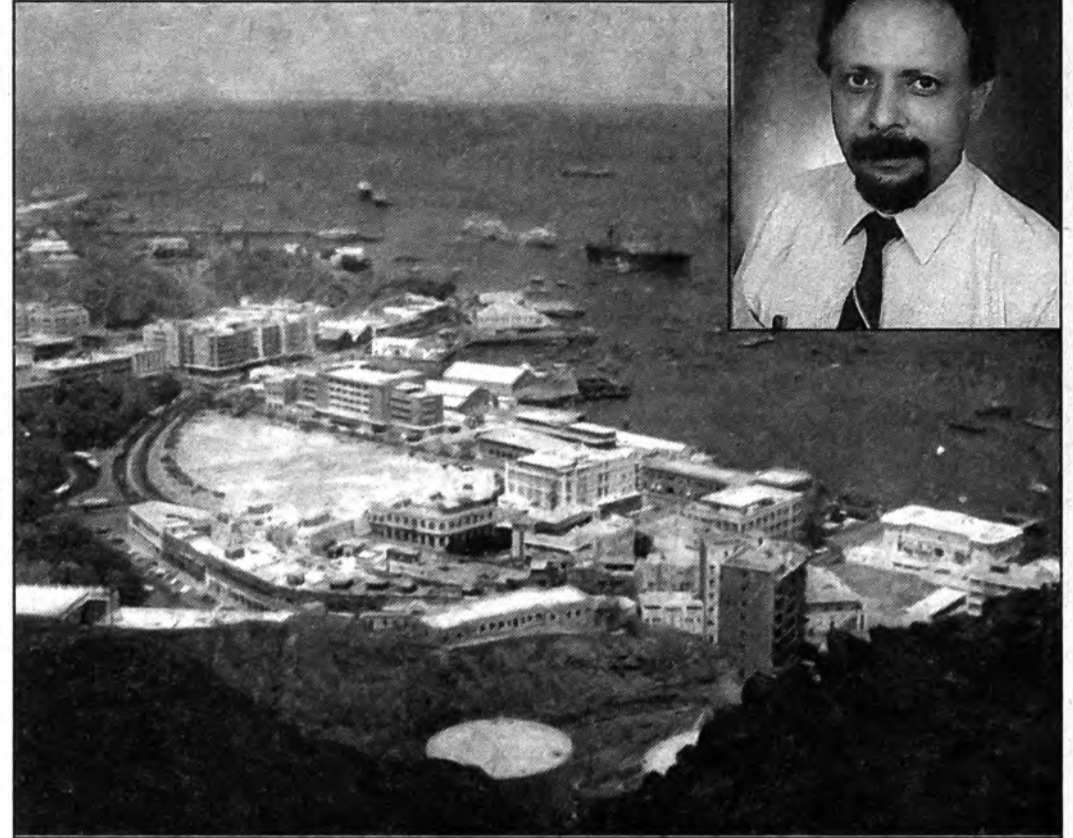
Aden's alongside berthing facilities were improved in 1956 with the construction of the "Home Trade Quay". Large areas of land in Ma'alla were reclaimed, on which the Ma'alla flats, storage facilities for the port and a trading area were built. In the 1960's, the port authority built three bunkering platforms on fixed dolphins maintaining its ability to refuel vessels in the minimum of time. Further dredging increased harbor depths to 38 feet.

In 1967, independence from Britain coincided with the closure of the Suez Canal. These two events radically altered Aden's role as a middle-distance bunkering port and trans-shipping center. Ships again forced to go around the Cape of Good Hope. *en route* for Gulf ports, the Indian sub-continent, Indonesia, Australia and the Far East. The numbers of vessels visiting ports in the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden and the volume of traffic calling at Aden fell drastically. In spite of improvements in the 1970's, trade did not recover.

By the time the Suez Canal re-opened in 1975, trading patterns and regional balances had been altered beyond recognition. Gulf ports had invested their oil revenues and built their own trade. The regime in Aden - oriented after the USSR - sought to dis-engage from international trade activities and almost voluntarily closed the port. All factors - local, regional and international - seemed to work against Aden.

It was not until 1990 that Aden was to start to really breathe again. That year witnessed the reunification of Yemen - on May 22nd, 1990. After 260 years of division, a united Yemen - a country with a population of some 16 million and with a growing oil industry and an open economic policy with trade with the rest of the world as a focal point - offered better prospects for Aden.

The need for alongside berths at Aden to handle larger vessels had been evident for some years. With support from the Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and the Kuwaiti Fund, a new terminal at Ma'alla came into use in 1990 allowing Aden to berth and work ships of up to 38,000 TDW at an alongside



facility. Between 1993 and 1995, the port installed two container gantry cranes at the terminal for container handling.

In 1994, Aden was declared as a Free Zone, and work to materialize the dream of Aden continues. Other recent developments in the country, the significance of the strategic location of an extensive, natural harbor close to the southern entrance of the Red Sea, directly on one of the world's main trading routes, give hope to Aden.

In 1995, Aden handled almost 1200 ships of all types and can expect to handle 1350 ships in 1996 as port activity increases.

Cargo handled at Aden consists of dry cargo (discharged and loaded), crude oil discharged at the little Aden Refinery and Refined oil loaded after the crude oil has been processed.

Also in 1995, Aden handled 740,000 tons of dry cargo imports and 66,000 tons of exports. Oil imports were 4.9 million and exports 4.2 million. Total cargo throughput was almost 10 million tons with the figures heading towards the record of 11 million tons achieved in the pre-war year of 1993.

Oil cargoes dominate the tonnage figures at present because of the large amounts handled through the refinery at Little Aden. However, the dry cargo handling facilities at Ma'alla are very significant and will become increasingly important to the port, the city of Aden, and the nation in the future.

In 1996 the port has already seen a significant increase in cargo throughput. Dry cargo imports are forecast to exceed 1.4 million tons - nearly double the 740,000 tons of 1995. Exports through Aden are also increasing as the port is used by more manufacturers and traders in Yemen. Aden handled less than 9,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units, i.e. 20 foot containers) in 1995 but expects to handle around 14,000 TEU in 1996 using the two cranes now available at Ma'alla.

Container handling facilities at Aden will be expanded and the port will generate new employment opportunities as private sector companies are aggressively moving in. The port is also expected to earn revenues from third party sources through its trans-shipment services because of lower costs of imports to Yemen by reducing ocean freight rates as container traffic increases. The establishment by the Ministry of Transport of new free port facilities at Aden can be expected, over the coming years, to also increase cargo throughput and the provision of tax-free storage and value-adding activities at the Ma'alla Terminal.

Aden position as a ship fueling (i.e., bunkering) port has declined since the mid-1960s when it sold over 5.5 million tons of fuel annually. However, bunker figures rose in 1995 for the first time in many years. New bunkering facilities are being completed in 1996 on the North shore and Aden will expect to recover its market share in a region which now sells around 11 million tons of fuel to ships annually.

The capacity to handle large ships at Aden has been increasing in recent years. In the late 1980s, the berths at Little Aden were deepened to enable loaded tankers of up to 110,000 TDW (tons dead weight) to berth alongside to discharge and load oil, partly loaded tankers of up to 137,000 TDW have since docked at Little Aden. At the Ma'alla Terminal, since 1991, bulk carriers of up to 38,000 TDW can now be discharged directly to lorries at

the quayside and container ships carrying up to 1500 TEU can be worked. In the inner harbor a depth of 12.8 meters is available at one of the buoy berths and bulk was 25,000 GRF (Gross Registered Foulies). In 1990, the Bahamas - 51,000 GRT, the "Europa" (Germany) - 3/,000 GRT and the "Asuka" (Japan) of 29,000 GRT used the Aden passenger berths.

The port is largely self-sufficient in terms of technical personnel. Foreign pilots no longer bring the ships to the port. They are handled by Yemeni Master Mariners. Port operations are managed by nationals. Aden is very fortunate to have highly qualified local staff, many of whom have been trained overseas with shipping companies and in ports.

However, the port does use foreign experts from time to time, as do the other major ports such as Singapore in order to acquire new knowledge. Its staff gain from the experts by working closely with them. The port recognizes that certain aspects of port operation are needed by Aden to become competent and competitive with ports in other countries. If Aden wishes to serve major foreign shipping companies, particularly container shipping companies, then it will need to understand their needs and meet them. This expertise will have to come from outside until the port develops its own capacity to meet these needs with its own staff, which it will in time.

Yemen is very fortunate to have the capacity to develop its own expertise in this way, in contrast to the situation in some other countries in the region where foreign nationals have both worked at and operated the ports since they were first built 30 years ago. One should also remember it is not uncommon for international organizations to appoint international experts and consultants to act as project managers, provide specialist advice in connection with projects intended to achieve certain specific results. These projects may require management skill expertise in an area which the port cannot offer or cannot spare the staff to provide. In these cases, it makes sense for the port to use the skills which are offered by the international organizations which can be of great benefit for the port and eventually to the country. We should never be afraid to learn from others.

As the 20th century comes to a close, the main project relating to the development of the Free Zone is the expansion of the port facilities by building a large container terminal on the North Shore Site of the port of Aden. The preparation for this is going ahead strongly with hydrographic environmental surveys being carried out at present. Geo-technical surveys due to start on design work are being completed for the new terminal and dredging requirements are being directed.

These are exciting times for the future of the port and of the people of Aden. With these developments, we have every possibility that Aden will become a major container hub port which will provide the low-cost transport on which Free Zone activities will be based on and can succeed.

Aden is now on the edge of significant change and services, expect to become a major player in the regional and maritime trade as it looks forward to the next century.

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# The Legacy of the Arabs in Spain

## From Al-Andalus to Andalucía

By: Brian Evans,  
The World & I, Vol. 11, Issue 7, July 1996.

I stood in the square of the church of San Nicolas, at the peak of the hilly Albaicín neighborhood in the Spanish city of Granada. I peered across the narrow alley to the grand Alhambra Palace sprawled atop the opposite hill. The Sierra Nevada hovered in the background. Nearby, an old Gypsy woman clacked a pair of castanets incessantly, hoping, apparently, to use the power of sheer annoyance to sell her wares. A couple of small tour groups wandered around the square, squinting at the Alhambra from different angles. They had ridden up in buses. I had walked. I was too tired to wander.

Hiking around Albaicín, especially without a map, can be a physically breath-taking experience. The hills are steep, and it is extremely difficult to orient yourself within the narrow, winding streets and high, white walls. My strategy was simple: to keep walking up. The neighborhood was immaculately well kept, especially toward the summit, and the views of the Alhambra and the surrounding mountains were ample reward for my exertions. More important, I had received a strenuous introduction to the confusing and mazelike street patterns of the cities of Andalucía.

Ask Valencia what became of Murcia, And where is Játiva, or where is Jaen? Where is Córdoba, the seat of great learning.

And how many scholars of high repute remain there? And where is Seville, the home of mirthful gatherings On its great river, cooling and brimful with water?

These cities were the pillars of the country: Can a building remain when the pillars are missing?

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Tenders will be opened on the same day thereafter in the presence of tenderers' representatives.



So wrote the Arab Andalusian poet al-Rundi, lamenting the fall of Seville into the hands of the Christians in 1248. Andalucía today is the southernmost province of Spain, but for over 700 years it was known by its Arabic name, al-Andalus, and its cities were among the greatest in Europe. By the time of al-Rundi's lament, Granada was the lone remaining Muslim outpost in al-Andalus, and the waning Islamic presence in Spain seemed destined for extinction. In fact, Granada survived for 144 more years, holding out until January 2, 1492, just ten months before Columbus first landed

on the shores of the New World. The last to fall, Granada was the first stop on my tour of the major cities, or "pillars," of Andalucía.

Although no part of Spain has been under Muslim rule for over 500 years now, the legacy persists. Today, Spain celebrates, even glorifies, its Islamic heritage. This is particularly so in Granada, where the romanticizing of Islamic rule has brought the tourists in droves. I was one of them.

Recovered from my hiking fatigue, I walked around to the back of the San Nicolas church and came face to face with a fence-in construction site. A sign written in both Spanish and Arabic proclaimed that a modern mosque was coming soon to this location.

An expensive location, no doubt, with a panoramic view of the Alhambra. This mosque will serve the community of North African immigrants and "guest workers" who do indeed live in Granada and throughout Andalucía. But its location symbolizes something more, something about the past and the future and historic continuity. For Spain's growing Muslim population, Andalucía's Islamic past is not just and intriguing and exotic memory; it is not even past.

**HOME TO THE ALHAMBRA**  
Granada was founded by a Berber general named Zawi ibn Ziri in the early eleventh century, and these first rulers came to be known as the Ziridians. But it was the Nasrids who built the Alhambra. The Nasrids came to Granada in 1236, after they were driven out of Zaragoza in northern Spain. By then, Spanish Islam was in retreat. To survive, the leaders of Granada had to pay tribute to and form alliances with their Christian enemies and were even compelled, humiliatingly, to assist in the Christian conquest of Seville in 1248. Islam was in its twilight, and Granada and the Alhambra came to represent the glorious sunset of Muslim rule in Spain.

How hard it is for the daylight  
To take its leave of Granada!  
It entangles itself in the cypress  
Or hides beneath the water.  
- Federico García Lorca

It would be difficult to exaggerate the profound tranquility that greeted me as I entered the first room of the Alhambra's Royal Palace. I was not struck by any sense of awe or intimidation. On the contrary, I felt very much at home. Constructed of wood, stucco, brick, and tile, the palace rooms are comfortable rather than formidable, and sturdy, monumental materials like stone and marble are

noticeably absent. The Alhambra was not built to glorify dead rulers. It was built to be lived in. For Granada, a city surrounded by foes and doomed ultimately to be conquered, the emphasis in the Alhambra on pleasantness and aesthetic beauty seems all the more remarkable. Instead of ponderous watchtowers and high, forbidding walls, you get intricately carved ceilings, lush gardens, and peaceful fountains. An air of defiant luxury permeates the entire complex. "La ghalib illa Allah [There is no conqueror but God]" is inscribed on many of the walls (and T-shirts) of the Alhambra. This was the motto for the Muslim inhabitants of Granada, defenders of the last shrinking bastion of Islam in al-Andalus. It was a statement both defiant and humble. And despite the military conquest of 1492, there has been no conquest of the indomitable live-for-the-moment spirit so evident in the Alhambra. That spirit, in fact, still holds sway over the entire city. Walking aimlessly through Granada, which I did as often as possible, I was amazed by the enormous number of shops and cafes. In this town, every open space seems to be surrounded by restaurants and peopled with flower sellers, artists, and street musicians. There is even an impressive selection of outdoor cafes beneath the gloomy and imposing remains of the Ziridian walls.

There is plenty of poverty in Granada, and there are many run-down areas that seem a thousand miles from polished and well kept neighborhoods like the Albaicín. But in the right parts of town, the lively reality of Granada almost matches the romantic mood conjured up inside the walls and gardens of the Alhambra.

**ON TO SEVILLE**  
"For life is excusable only when we walk along the shores of pleasure and abandon all restraint!" Ibn Hamdis, the poet responsible for this line, did not come from Granada, where people have always been a little more laid back. He came from Seville. Indeed, al-Mu'tamid, the eleventh-century Arab king under whose patronage Ibn Hamdis served, was himself a poet, writing vainglorious verses about his conquests (both military and romantic) and then, after being dethroned by the puritanical Berber Almoravids, writing bitter poems from his lonely exile in the Atlas Mountains of southern Morocco. "Abandon all restraint" was a phrase certainly taken to heart by church officials of Seville in 1402 when they decided to build a new cathedral, "a building on so magnificent a scale that posterity will believe we were mad." The result, which took the entire fifteenth century to complete, is the largest Gothic cathedral (in cubic meters) on earth. It stands as a perfect example of the grandiose public display for which Seville is justly famous. My first approach to the cathedral, the focal point of Seville's tourist life, took me by several outdoor cafes, crammed together and packed with diners and drinkers. My first order of business, however, was not to eat but to ascend to the summit of the Giralda, the bell tower of the cathedral and the city's signature monument.

The Giralda was originally a minaret/watch tower associated with the city's chief mosque. Built in 1185 by the Almohads (who succeeded the Almoravids in Seville), the Giralda was converted into a bell tower by the conquering Christians. At the top, I negotiated and jockeyed for position with the rest of the tourists, rewarded by views of the massive cathedral, the bright white city, and the wide Guadalquivir River.

There is, of course, a story, or perhaps a legend, that accompanies the Giralda. In 1248, as negotiations over the imminent Christian conquest of Seville proceeded, the defeated Muslims let it be known that they planned to dismantle their towering minaret before they left. Alfonso, the Spanish general in charge of the conquest, responded that if even one brick was removed, he would decapitate everyone in the city! Is this story true? Who knows. But the attitude it conveys, one of characteristic overkill, is pure Seville.

While post-Islamic Granada gracefully absorbed and eventually glorified its Muslim heritage, Seville suffered no such pang of nostalgia. Islamic landmarks, such as the Giralda, that did survive were aggressively put to use by Spain and the church. In addition to the cathedral, several other churches sport bell towers made from minarets. An Almohad tower on the banks of the Guadalquivir,

now known as the Torre del Oro, was used as a repository for gold acquired from Spain's New World colonies. And even in the Barriar Santa Cruz, Seville's old Muslim quarter, the high, white walls are peppered with shrines.

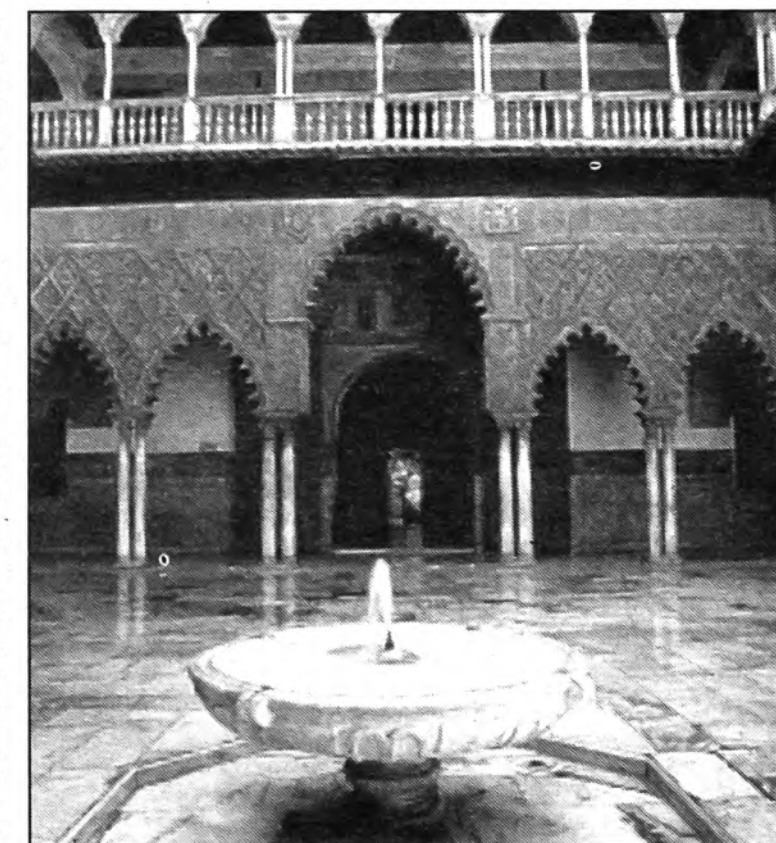
I sat in the Patio de las Doncellas of Seville's Alcazar, the seat of power for the city's rulers since the time of the Romans. This airy courtyard was lavishly decorated for the city's Christian conquerors by Muslim craftsmen imported from Granada. Less delicate and domestic than the rooms at the Alhambra, this patio was nonetheless an inspiring space, and I enjoyed soaking in its ambience. A small American group sat near me, and one of them remarked, utterly without tact, "This place is a rip!"

I didn't agree, but knew what he meant. Aside from this room and a few side rooms, the Alcazar feature little of the "Moorish" influence. It was an unconnected hodgepodge of rooms from virtually all periods and styles, from the twelfth-century restorations. But that is Seville. Here, the past is merely a foundation on which an ever more glorious future might be built. It is a city in perpetual motion. Like the AVE high-speed train that sprints from Seville to Madrid in a scant two and a half hours, Sevillanos hurl themselves unrestrained into life and into the future, and the past gets left behind.

**ANDALUCIA'S CAPITAL**  
On the Guadalquivir River, upstream from Seville, rests the city of Córdoba. The AVE makes a stop in Córdoba but doesn't linger, its sleek modern design seeming somehow out of place in this ancient town. In reality, Córdoba is no older than Seville, but it seems older, the air heavy with nostalgia. Old Arab mills still stand in the placid waters of the Guadalquivir. A low, arched Roman bridge still carries traffic back and forth across the river. And the Great Mosque, dingy and gray on the outside, is still the center of activity.

A thousand years ago, Córdoba was perhaps the greatest city in Europe. As a center of material wealth and scholarship, it was unrivaled. Its rulers, the Umayyads, assumed the title of caliph, claiming, somewhat fancifully, dominion over the entire Islamic world. As distant relations to the Prophet Mohammed, they had held this power legitimately in Damascus but were displaced in 750 by another set of the Prophet's relatives, the Abbasids. Fleeing to al-Andalus, the Umayyads set up shop in Córdoba, bringing the whole of Islamic Spain under their rule and creating in Córdoba a serious rival to the 'Abbasid's new and flowering capital of Baghdad.

They also created the Great Mosque, on the most revered works of religious architecture in the world. In Spain, the mosque is called La Mezquita Cathedral, for, like all mosques, it was converted into a



several miles outside of their capital, the rulers in Madinat al-Zahra were unable to defend themselves against the usurpation that eventually proved to be their undoing.

Still relatively isolated, Madinat al-Zahra is not easy to get to without a car. I took the bus, packed in with smartly uniformed schoolchildren heading back to class after their mid-day break. I got off at Azahara, may be three miles outside of Córdoba. The remaining walk was, supposedly, a mere three kilometers, and the setting was pleasantly rural. Cow pastures, olive groves, and the green hills of the Sierra Morena provided the scenery. These pastoral surroundings must have been quite different a thousand years ago, bustling with commerce and untold wealth, and simmering with political intrigue.

Eventually, I managed to hitch a ride. This was fortunate: The alleged three-kilometer hike also included some steep hills as the road climbed up into the Sierra Morena. The man who drove me to the site also sold me my ticket. (The few other visitors, all of whom held EC passports, got in for free). He explained the various parts of the unearthed city to me, and was soop on my way, virtually by myself, out in the countryside walking among the ruins of one of the most splendid and short-lived cities in history.

Only in this century have attempts been made to reconstruct Madinat al-Zahra. In the intervening centuries, it has been much and often plundered and cannibalized.

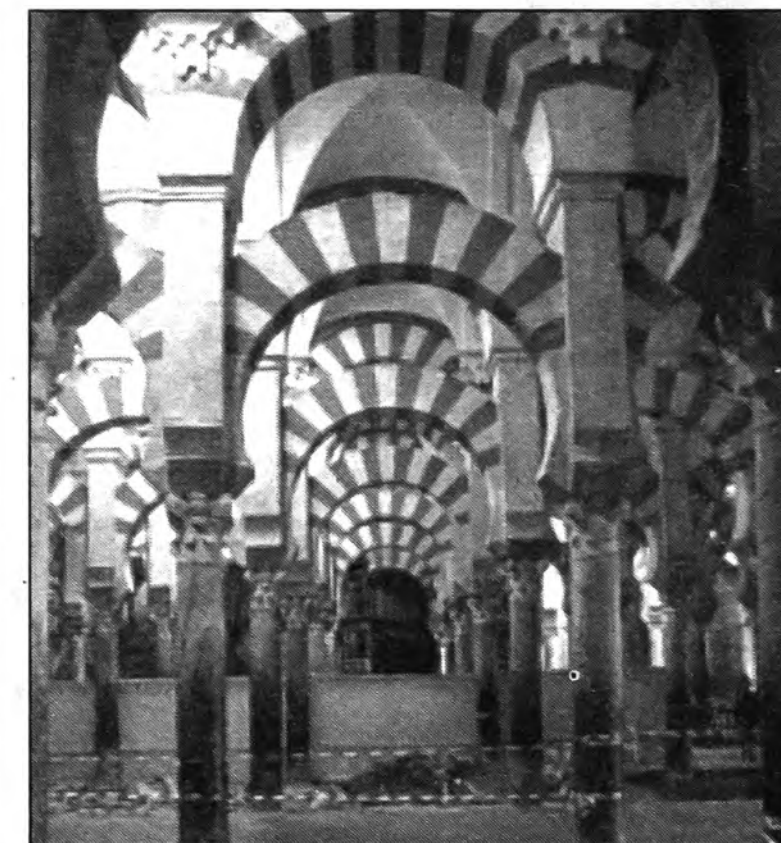
Yet evidence of its former splendor can be seen today in the parts of the city that have been excavated, including the mosque, the House of the Viziers, the Royal Palace, and the wildly decorated Hall of Abdul-Rahman III.

The vine-like embellishments in this hall, neither symmetrical nor abstract as is traditional in Islam, come as quite a shock. This shock may have been the last straw for an army of religiously orthodox Berber mercenaries who in 1010, seething from years of discrimination at the hands of ostentatiously wealthy Arab rulers, reduced Madinat al-Zahra to rubble.

The destruction of Madinat al-Zahra and the Córdoba caliphate ushered in an era of civil war and a regionalism that has periodically resurfaced throughout much of Spanish history. This, as much as the romantic castles and intriguing stories, is a legacy of Islamic Spain.

Back in Córdoba, I saw the words "Liberación Andaluza" and "Al-Andalus Libre" scrawled on a wall beneath the parked tour buses, accompanied by a revealing logo. The letters LA were enclosed within an eight-point star, the single most important symbol in the art of Islamic Spain. The ties that bind Andalucía to its Islamic past continue to crop up in surprising ways.

They also created the Great Mosque, on the most revered works of religious architecture in the world. In Spain, the mosque is called La Mezquita Cathedral, for, like all mosques, it was converted into a





Second 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 deenon 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 (khotbah), 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 Zabarrah, 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 II of this series, Yemen Times talked to clergymen who are members of parliament. The paper was careful to allow for regional representation. We also tried to cover as a broad political coverage as possible.

## Religious Leaders Need to Expand their Base of Information to Include Modern Knowledge

Abdullah Hussain Khairan,  
Member of Parliament  
(Hodeidah) - PGC Bloc.

God in His holy book, the Quran, has referred several times to the special status and role of the ulema. Following on the footsteps of God's prophets and messengers, they have the role of guiding society to the right path. So, the ulema or religious leaders are the guardians of truth in society.

This role is accomplished in many ways, but the most prevalent one is to "advise" and "guide" the general public as well as those in power or those in charge of society's affairs. To perform this, the clergymen have to be, first of all, very well informed, pious, and above earthly ambitions.

In terms of knowledge, the ulema used to be versed in the past only in religious affairs. This knowledge is no longer enough to give good advice that will serve of the community. They should also understand different issues in economics, politics, social and cultural considerations, etc. They should even be aware of technological developments.

The ulema serve as the conscience of the umma (nation), and as such they serve as a reference point for society, especially in times of hardships or serious divisions and differences.



Today in Yemen, there are many issues that warrant the intervention and guidance of the ulema. These range from basic issues of helping past wounds heal, to problems associated with the quality of life. We see the number rising quickly of poor people in our society, and those who cannot make ends meet. We see the dis-advantaged in society being left behind. We see tension rising. We see moral values falling as decadence overtakes our society. We see people not performing their religious rituals. We see a lot of problems to which the ulema need to address themselves. We in parliament are trying to help the situation, but so far without much success. The solution to our problems is to go back to God and to the Quran. This is clear to me.

## The Ulema Should Start with Advice. But They Should be Ready to Move from Words to Deeds in Guiding Society

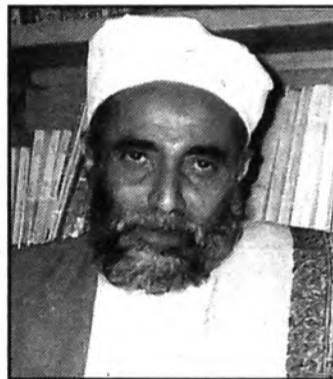
Suleiman Mohammed Al-  
Ahdal, Member of Parliament  
(Hodeidah) - Islah Bloc.

One of the basic tenets of Islam is that all Muslims are asked to perform the duty of "Al-amre bilmaaruf wal nahyi anil munkar" (coming in support of virtue, and blocking evil). This means that guiding society and up-holding truth and virtues is the role and duty of everybody - not just the government. This responsibility is even pronounced with respect to leaders and elders of the community, especially the ulema.

In the recent past, the ulema have lost some of the trust of the people because they have not been doing their job. The role of the ulema is come out on the side of the weak and less fortunate members of society. They should stand up to the politicians and those who ran the affairs of the state, when these stray.

The real way in which the ulema can regain the people's confidence is by serving as model. They should live in a way that generates the trust and respect of society. In this way, they can then rise up to their duties.

The first effort to correct wrong situations is to give advice. The ulema should advise the rulers. If this does not work, they should then take action. The ulema should move from words to deeds if advice is not heeded.



Therefore, the sequence of the ulema effort should be for them to serve as a model in their own lives, then to give guidance and advice, and then to lead by action as the situation warrants.

When I say we should give advice, this is not a voluntary matter. The advice of the ulema is like orders. The others in society should obey.

We have learned in Islamic teachings that God does not change the condition of people. They have to change them. Therefore, we in Yemen should not expect change to come from without. It will have to come from within, and it is high time for change.

I cannot spell out how our conditions will improve, because I know not of any specific plan. But we can all join hands in implementing God's word.

## We have to start as individuals to be true to ourselves and our faith

Abdul-Rahman Al-Imad,  
Member of Parliament from  
Sanaa, Leader of Islah Bloc

Religious leaders have a duty to open the eyes of the head of the state or president, first, and then proceed with the general public. It is the duty of the ulema to point to the rulers the right path and the one that would help society.

Part of the reason why corruption

and evil have prevailed in our society is that the ulema have kept quiet and not performed their duties. If the ulema cannot stand up to evil and wrong deeds, who is society can?

I would like to quote a saying from the Prophet (May God's peace be with him): "If two groups are up-right in society, then welfare will prevail. These are the rulers and the ulema." So you see, the status and role of the

religious leaders are high and lofty, which makes their responsibility very grave.

In our society, we can see many things have gone wrong. And I can say that the ulema have done their job well. So, they are, in part, responsible for the suffering of our people and the decadence that is overtaking our society. After all, they have not guided the people, but have joined the rulers.

In my opinion, we can still correct the mistakes. We have to start as individuals to be true to ourselves and our faith.

## الف مبروك

بين لفيف من الأهل والأصدقاء  
تم زفاف الأنسة  
هنا أحمد عبدالستار السقاقي  
بالشباب محمد صالح مثنى

الف مبروك وأدام الله السرور





## UAE and Pakistan Link Up to Combat Drug Trafficking

The United Arab Emirates and Pakistan cemented last week an agreement to combat illegal trade in drugs. Under the 15-article agreement, the two countries undertake to cooperate and assist each other in the fight against illegal trafficking of drugs, hallucinogens, narcotics, mental stimulants, chemical materials used in manufacturing and basic chemicals of drugs.

Authorities in the two countries will exchange information on a regular basis. Special files will be maintained on drug traffickers, their financiers, organizers and those having any connection with the drug trade.

The two countries also agreed to set up a permanent joint committee comprising of experts in the field. This committee will investigate the issues, study solutions, and submit recommendations on ways to fight the problem. It will also organize seminars and lectures. In addition, the agreement gives each country the right to appoint special liaison officers in the other country to monitor and follow drug trafficking.

Pakistani and the UAE officials have been disturbed by the rising tide of drug traffic that is increasingly using the two countries as benchmarks in its international flow.

## More Bloodshed in Somalia

The gangs fighting for rival warlords have been spilling more blood in Somalia over the last few weeks. The estimated casualties in the recent round of clashes is over 200 persons dead, and a larger number of injuries.

General Mohammed Farah Aideed, who has been steadily expanding the territory under his control, seems to have grown so powerful that several warlords have ganged up against him. As a result, his own home turf at the southern part of the capital, Mogadishu, and around the airport has come offensive last week. Reports indicated that the general himself may have been wounded.

At another level, the self-styled president of Somalia, Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohammed, has been linking up with other warlords in order to consolidate his position. He also has the support of most of the merchant class.

The world community, including international relief and humanitarian organizations, are increasingly dis-associating themselves from the chaotic war in Somalia.

There is no winner in the madness of this war, and the victims are always the people of Somalia. Unfortunately, tribal affiliation and narrow personal interests are allowing this war to drag on.

## Turkey Makes Overtures to Arabs/Muslims

The coming to power of the Islamic-oriented Refah (Welfare) party in Ankara is beginning to affect Turkey's regional and international perceptions and relations.

In visible overtures to the Arab and Muslim countries, Negmedeen Erbakan, the Prime Minister, has urged more economic and political cooperation. Mr. Erbakan is also planning a tour of some of these countries before the year is over. "The foreign policy of Turkey is beginning to be affected, in spite of the fact that the secular Tansu

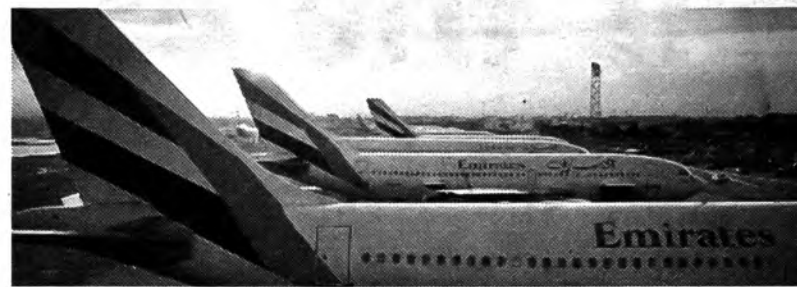
Chiller is foreign minister," according to Western embassy sources in Ankara.

Even President Suleiman Dimeral, who had tied the knot on a Turkish-Israeli military pact, has issued conciliatory announcements to Turkey's neighbors. "Turkey will never take a position that will hurt the interests and rights of the Arabs. It will never take an antagonistic position vis-a-vis its Arab and Muslim brethren," he said in an interview with the Egyptian Al-Musawwar magazine. The interview was published on 26/7/1996.

**Al-Nojoom Snack Bars**

Milk Chocolate with peanuts  
Soft nougat and caramel

Product of  
**General Industries & Package Company**



### Emirates is arriving in Sanaa. Come and join us.

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.

#### Accountant

- Aged around 30 to 40 years.
- A university degree in Commerce or equivalent qualifications.
- A minimum of 10 years' accounting experience in a computerised environment, preferably with an airline or travel agency, of which 4 to 5 years at a senior supervisory/middle management level. Experience in ticket sales accounting, airline sales reporting and station accounting will be an advantage. Good knowledge of PC operations is essential. An ability to handle all payroll matters independently is desirable. Should be able to lead and motivate staff and effectively interact with senior officials both from within and outside the Company.

#### Sales Executive (Passenger & Cargo)

- A good academic background and completion of relevant professional training courses is essential.
- A natural flair for sales with a minimum of 5 years' experience and a proven track record in the airline industry.

#### Secretary

- A pleasing personality and a good educational background is required.
- Typing/shorthand speeds of 45/100 wpm. Working knowledge of software packages would be advantageous.
- A minimum of 4 years' experience as a secretary to a senior manager, preferably in the aviation industry, is required.

#### Reservations & Ticketing Supervisor

- A strong academic background and completion of relevant professional courses.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in airline or travel agency, with at least one year in a supervisory capacity.

#### Reservations & Ticketing Assistants

- Aged under 30 years with a good academic background and completion of IATA or airline fares and ticketing courses.
- A minimum of 2 years' experience in airline reservations & ticketing.

#### Station Assistant

- Aged under 30 years with a good academic background.
- A minimum of 3 years' work experience in a similar capacity for a reputable airline.

#### Cargo Reservations Agent

- Aged under 30 years with a good academic background.
- Completion of relevant professional training courses with a minimum of 2 years' experience in airline cargo reservations and fully conversant with airline cargo operations.

#### Station Officer

- A strong academic background and completion of relevant professional courses.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in airport handling with 2 years in a supervisory capacity.

Applicants should submit a detailed curriculum vitae preferably supported by a recent passport-size photograph, indicating on the envelope and CV the position applied for, within 10 days to:

Tofik Al-Nihmy, P. O. Box 11309, Sanaa. Fax: 274850, Tel: 273992/280280.



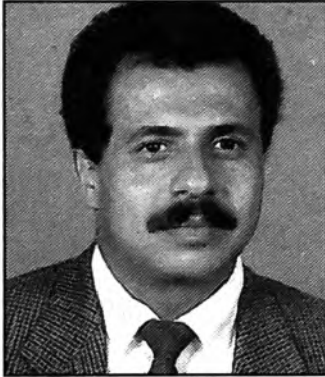
THE FINEST IN THE SKY



# It is the economy, stupid!

## Playing with Numbers:

By:  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitamy,  
Associate Professor, and  
Economic Researcher, Sanaa.



It seems obvious that Yemeni government officials have very little sense of what solid statistics stand for. They freely mis-use numbers and other data to misguide and confuse the public regarding the real facts about the economic situation in Yemen. This reminds me of a British writer's statement: 'If ten statisticians come together, then you know that nine out of ten will be lying through the numbers they use, and only one will give the right numbers.' Then again, he didn't know Yemen. In Yemen, if ten officials come together, nine will be lying, and the tenth will not be telling the truth.

The government press and the public announcements of government officials as well as their interviews offer statistical data on the economic or social conditions that are far from the truth. The claims of the government officials can be posterous. Let me use examples.

In Al-Thoura Newspaper, issue of 24/7/96, it was claimed that the economic deterioration in the economy has been stopped and reversed, and the exchange rate has been stabilized. In addition, the government budget deficit has been downsized, and the inflation rate has fallen to 20% per year. All these claims can be easily thrown away.

Let me get more specific. If the claim that the economic growth of the country reached 9% per year - as claimed by the Prime Minister in his Al-Thoura newspaper statements (issue of 16/7/96) - this would mean Yemen has attained the highest growth rate in the world. A 9% growth rate in the past, and a 7.2% annual growth rate in the future, now that would be some achievement, if it were true. Alas, it isn't. It is far from the real truth.

Let me use another claim. The government claims that the standard of living has improved dramatically and that the first and second stages of the

reform program have been a great success. The claim goes further to state that the rise in per capita income is such that it has risen to US \$ 500.

Basically, how can one claim that a process has been wonderfully successful, if it isn't finished yet. And how could per capita income almost double in one year (since the reform program started).

Alas the opposite is true. Statistical data reported by regional and international organizations tell a sad story. According to the ESCWA report, Yemen ranks at the very bottom of the list of Middle East countries. It reports the slowest growth rate, not exceeding 0.5% per annum! The Human Development Report for 1995 confirms this.

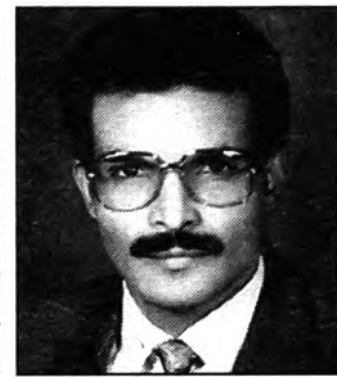
Quality of life for the people has improved we are told. Look at the numbers. The percentage of the population that have access to health care, sustainable water supply and sewage sanitation services are 38%, 36% and 39% respectively. Yemen is just ahead of Somalia and Angola in respect of these services. The averages for the least developed countries are 48, 48 and 33 % respectively, and the averages for all developing countries are 79%, 69% and 36%. The average life expectancy at birth is 50 years - among the lowest in the world. Infant mortality and maternal deaths are among the highest in the world. Look at unemployment, which stands at 30%, even by the sympathetic World Bank assessment.

According to world statistics, even Gaza and the West Bank are doing better than Yemen.

The purchasing power of the Yemeni currency lost some 60% of its value within one year. Yet, we are told, we have done better. There is reason to cheer up and glorify our rulers, we are told.

It is easy to see that the real numbers tell a sorry tale for Yemen. Conditions are already bad. There is no reason why our senior officials should make life more miserable by telling all these lies. It would help if they were to simply shut up!

## Business Versus Politics:



The Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD) is sponsoring a seminar on the role of industrialists in the development of a free economy for the future of Yemen. The two-day seminar (28-29/7/1996) is taking place at Haddah Hotel.

The thrust of the seminar is to analyze the reform program being presently implemented by the Yemeni government and the five-year development plan just announced, and to see their ramifications on other trends in society - notably politics.

Senior economists will speak at the seminar, and papers are being presented by:

1. Dr. Essam Zaim, Senior Economist at the UNDP office.
2. Dr. Mutahar Al-Saeedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development.
3. Dr. Najeeb Abdul-Malik, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office.
- Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Associate Professor and Researcher at the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research.
5. Mr. Ameen Nouisser, Researcher at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Other speakers include key industrialists and businessmen from the private sector.

"There are four underlying themes we are going to address," says Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, Secretary-General of the YIDD. These are:

1. Education: Education must be the starting point for any real development. We have to assess our present system, check the curricula, weigh the technical dose, and study methodologies.
2. Democracy and Development: What is the relationship? Can we afford democracy? Should political niceties wait until a certain level of economic development has taken place?

3. Management: It has often been said that the problem of Yemen is management or rather mismanagement. What kind of administration do we need? What kind of reforms can we expect?

4. The Regional Context: The recent history of Yemen has shown that the country did not fit in its neighborhood. Why? How can relations with the neighbors be improved so that they serve the development and democratization processes?

This is the first seminar that brings together economic and political factors and an attempt is made to link them. "We are going to address the issues directly and openly. We are looking for straight-forward answers," Al-Soufi says.

The fact that government officials are brought together with academicians and businessmen will help in creating a lively discussion. After all, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani will kick off the seminar, and Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaq will chair its first session. The second session will be chaired by Mohammed Abdo Saeed, a well-known businessman.

"One of the major problems of such cross-section and across-profession interaction is that the government people always tend to speak with authority, as if ordering the others around. Now we have a broad-based participation, and no one is here to take orders," Al-Soufi added.

In the final analysis, it is the economic situation that will dictate the future to Yemen's political evolution. Time and again, it has been shown that unless the quality of life improves, there is little possibility of political experimentation. But does that mean that developing countries need to abandon aspirations of political evolution until an economic miracle has taken place (Asian model)? Let us see what the seminar concludes with.

## WB Public Works Project:

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD commonly known as the World Bank) will provide the Republic of Yemen an International Development Association credit of US \$ 25 million. This is part of the assistance to the government of Yemen in easing the difficulties associated with the economic reform program. It is believed that the low-income people have suffered enormously from the recession stipulated by the austerity measures introduced by the reforms.

The loan will be channelled to local municipalities and non-government organizations to undertake local infrastructural rehabilitation and general improvements in the areas under their responsibility.

Mr. Alistair Mckennon, International Finance Corporation Division Chief for Corporate Development, pointed out to the Yemen Times that the US \$ 25 million will be available soon, as the proposal was presented to the IBRD Board of Directors for approval on Wednesday the 24th of July. "The bank is fairly satisfied that the government of Yemen has proceeded forward in the implementation of the economic and financial reform program agreed to between the IMF/WB and the Yemeni government," he said.

Regarding the mechanism for disbursement of the money, Mr. Mckennon pointed out that the World Bank (WB) is trying to establish a system whereby disbursements will not face any bureaucratic difficulties and the respective beneficiaries can have easy access to the funds allotted to it. In other words, no red tape. The loan will probably be managed by specialists



who will be able to channel the loans quickly and efficiently. Mr. Mckennon said that he was looking forward to see the use of the money in such efforts as cleaning up the city of Sana'a through the use of private contractors or improving local water supply systems or electrical networks in other towns. The bank will be coordinating with the relevant government authorities to manage disbursement of

the loans. Alistair is looking forward to assisting the capital city, Sanaa, and to see what help the bank can give towards improving the sanitation of the city. The latter had met with the Governor of Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, and other local and municipal leaders during his visit to the governorate earlier this month. His present trip which will last until the 4th of August, will also take him to Hadhramaut. The idea behind the public works project actually contradicts the neo-classical principles of allocating resources according to the highest return. In other words, the very concept of helping the poor just because they are poor is anathema to the WB policies. But then again, these have changed. Well, may be the way return is measured has been changed. After all, political turmoil and violence is a costly process, and keeping the poor relatively content is a worthwhile endeavor, even from an economic point of view. Coming back to Yemen, the projects envisaged are going to encompass most of the countryside, as well as the urban poor. The thrust is to create employment among the hard core unemployed. At the same time increase total output by improving the infrastructure and services.

Continued from page 16:

## Relief for Flood Victims

Let us hope for the best. In the meanwhile, there is a lot more work to be done, particularly in the health sector.

**Q: What is the next step?**

**A:** As I have said earlier, we have made much progress on the relief or emergency needs. The work we are doing now has to do with assessment of damage. Once this is completed, the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort should start.

**Q: Is there enough money for this second phase?**

**A:** At this stage, we are trying to update the total assistance delivered and/or pledged. We have a tracking table which shows what has been or is being delivered by international organizations as well as bilateral donors. I am very pleased to repeat that the response has been generous and timely. Donors come include countries on four continents. The total value of the assistance so far, and of which we are aware, is over US\$12 million. (Please refer to table on page 16).

**Q: Does the bilateral assistance secured directly by the Yemeni government get reported to you, as the person in charge of the Disaster Team?**

**A:** Well, you can see a lot of bilateral donors reported in the list. I cannot say if the list is comprehensive or not. But in general, it is all in there.

**Q: Are you happy with the cost estimates of the damage as reported by the Yemeni government immediately after the floods?**

**A:** I have no evidence up to now to disagree with the original estimate of 1.2 billion dollars. In the final analysis, it is immaterial if the real number is a little bit more or less. The damage has been fairly extensive, and it is more than the Yemeni economy can handle alone. For example, you have 1000 or so kilometers of damaged roads. That alone represents some US\$ 250 million. The damage and loss in equipment water systems, electric supply, farming, etc. is enormous. The basic message is that the damage to the Yemeni infrastructure and services has been extensive. The total number is just an indicator, it is unimportant by itself.



**Q: There are quite a few missions from international organizations visiting the flood regions. What is the purpose?**

**A:** Yes, there is an FAO expert, there is a World Bank team, there is a health group. They are trying to keep track of the situation. Monitoring now plays a major role. Once this job is done, implementation of rehabilitation effort is going to follow.

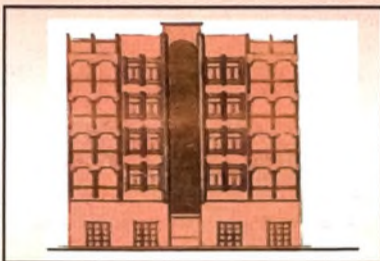
**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** I would like to commend the Yemeni government for its full cooperation. I also would like to indicate that had it not been for the bilateral donors, the situation would have been very different. After all, some 90% of the assistance was from bilateral donors. Let me mention that there was a lot of team-work in the way the work was carried out. There are many specialized UN agencies that played an important role, and continue to do so. Finally, the media also played an important role!

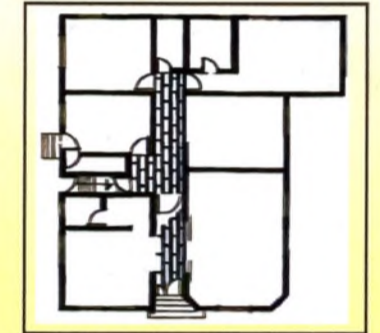
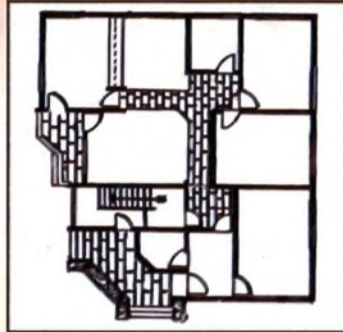


July 28th, 1996

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**AL-TAJAMMU': Aden (Weekly) 22-7-96**  
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **President Saleh: AL-TAJAMMU' Is Not Halted Politically. It Is Just a Patriotic Voice With a High Pitch**
- 2) **Malaria Attacks Taiz**
- 3) **Waste Prevention Agricultural Methods in Process**

**Article Summary:**

**1) Imprisonment of Police Precinct Commanders**  
A senior police official ordered two police precinct chiefs in Al-Towahy and Almu'alla areas of Aden to lock themselves up in jail if they are unable to apprehend the escaped prisoners who fled from their precincts' respective jails. "The two officers are personally responsible for the return of the escapees," added the senior commander. Many suspected car thieves were able to escape from both precinct jails recently.

"An investigation could start soon after the police officers return with the fugitives, as to how the suspected thieves managed to escape from both precincts simultaneously!" said the paper.

**2) They Are Pulling Our Legs**

In its opening commentary, the paper discusses the issue of sovereignty "as our neighbors start gobbling up the periphery regions of our nation". Making note of the announced forthcoming visit to Yemen by the Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the paper pointed out that the Saudi Prince will be really coming to visit his "brother" and "riding partner", Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar, who had issued statements that contradict with the President's comments on the slow pace of progress of the Yemeni-Saudi talks.

The paper says that the Saudis were working to keep the (Yemeni) regime in conflict with itself so that they can continue to gobble more territory of the Republic. They realize that Yemenis are really "sick" with a regime that has only one concern: staying in power, even if the sovereignty of the country must be sacrificed.

The paper points out that no matter how much territory the rulers give up, the Yemeni people reserve the right to reject any concessions by the rulers, just so they can continue to rule. Yemeni rights, says the paper will continue to be upheld by the people including all the territory mentioned in the Treaty of 1934.

The paper suggests that no efforts should be made to conclude a border deal, in the hope that the future brings less careless "Arab leaders who won't allow any borders between fraternal Arab peoples".



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

**AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-7-96**  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **The Prime Minister Holds a Press Conference on the First Five Year Plan**
- 2) **Signing of Yemeni-Saudi Security Pact During the Following Week**
- 3) **Consul Generals of the Republic of Yemen Will Be Appointed by the Passport Authority (Ministry of Interior) in Coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

**Article Summary**

**Afwerke Accuses...The Doctor Responds**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement by a "responsible official" (anonymous) rejecting the accusations levelled against Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister by Eritrean President Asias Afwerqe. The President of Eritrea had accused Dr. Iryani of being responsible for the complications that developed in the relations between Yemen and Eritrea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Eritrean President was beating around the bush and this accusation was meant to be only an effort to create sensationalism for the media.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 24-7-96**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **Five Members Reinstated into the Politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party**
- 2) **Sultan Qu'aity (Hadhramaut) Returns to Yemen But Avoids Making any Statements to AL-AYYAM**
- 3) **Water Supply Cut Off in Hodeida**

**Article Summary:**

**Release of Suspected Alien**

A foreigner accused of forgery of passports, possession of hashish and alcoholic beverages, and prostitution was released from detention by no other than the Director of Criminal Investigations. The Sanaa Prosecutor expressed shock and disbelief at the incident, especially when he was getting ready to interrogate the suspect. The suspect is said to have paid handsomely for being let loose.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-7-96**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **Al-Hadharem Welfare Association Announces the Return of Some of the Sewing Machines Stolen from the Women's Development Center.**
- 2) **The Islah Accuses Vice Minister of Interior of Threatening to Destroy an Entire Village**
- 3) **The Excesses of the Ruling Coalition Confirm the Doubts of the Opposition Bloc.**

**Article Summary:**

**1) Security Elements Assault a Journalist's Residence**

Security men assaulted the house of Mr. Abdul-Fattah Al-Hakimi a journalist, and kicked all the family out of the house. Despite a court order and the Governor's instructions to vacate the journalist's house, the security men still occupy the residence. The journalist has pleaded with the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh to intervene in getting the court order implemented or else facilitate his departure to a safer haven, where he might find some peace and security for himself and his family.

**2) Minister of Education Resumes Duties**

The paper reported that the Dr. Abdo Ali Alqubaty has withdrawn his resignation from the post of Minister of Education (which was, incidentally, presented to his party, the Islah). The cause of the resignation was resolved regarding the appointments made by the Ministry's Branch Office in Aden, which led to a lot of Islahi members losing their positions. All of them have now been reinstated by orders of the Governor of Aden in accordance with the Prime Minister's instructions to all government entities that no new appointments will be allowed effective from 1-7-96. The Minister of Education has now resumed his duties.

**AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 25-7-1996**  
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **The Ruling Partners Confess to Forgery in the Registration of Voters**
- 2) **Active Unionist Abdulla Ali Murshid: A Mysterious Death in an Elevator of a Govern-**

ment Building.

- 3) **Malaria Strikes at Flood Victims**
- 4) **Police Officers Caught Taking Bribes (in Aden)**

**Article Summary:**

**Yemenis In Eritrea Arrested**

Eritrean authorities last Monday released more than 50 Yemeni citizens who have been confined to custody since the Eritrean occupation of the Yemeni island of Greater Hunaish on 15th December, 1995.

The paper pointed out that many of the prisoners may have been subjected to torture and that there still are many Yemenis in confinement in Assab.

Moreover, efforts to make contact with the Yemeni Embassy in Addis Ababa to arrange for their release were not attempted by the Yemenis for fear that such contacts could be viewed by the Eritrean authorities with great political suspicion.

On the other hand, some of the Yemenis still in Eritrea refused to leave until the Eritrean government returns their boats which were said to have been used by the Eritreans to transport military supplies and equipment to undesignated destinations.

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

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform - Islah)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) **Continuation of Talks Between Eritrea and Yemen**
- 2) **The Inauguration of the Yemeni Studies Center and the Beginning of a Seminar on Administrative Reforms**
- 3) **26 August 1996: The Laying of the Foundation Stone for the Aden Free Port**

**Article Summary:**

**Early Talks on the Elections (3)**

Nasr Taha Mustafa again brings some fresh thoughts into the election process amid a cloud of accusations and counter accusations that have flooded the papers about violations in the registration process. It seems clear that the ruling partners have to start thinking about winning policies and programs, rather than winning votes.

The important thing is that winning the votes without getting the appropriate policy changes will not be of any help to anyone, least of whom the people in the streets. There seems to be an effort to create friction between the two ruling parties and this will benefit no one in the country. The hope is that the leaders of the two parties will be able to arrive at an amicable solution which will be the safety valve that will end all these differences.

## 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.

Serial Number	Size	Number of c/s	Weight: Kg per c/s	Total Weight Kg.
1	1/2	11	10	110
2	2/3	958	10	9580
3	3/4	1259	10	12590
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
<b>Total</b>		<b>3890</b>		<b>38900</b>

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.

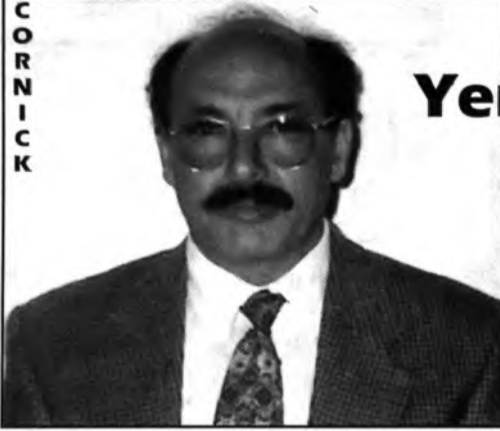
2) All bids must be accompanied with a secure bank guarantee in the amount of US Dollars Twenty Thousand (US\$20,000) or by a good-for-payment check for the said amount which will be returned to the unsuccessful bidder. This guarantee is required before the auction starts.

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.



July 28th, 1996

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## EC Develops Yemen's Engineers

Dr. Keith J. Cornick of the Manchester Centre for Electrical Energy at UMIST, was on hand at the Faculty of Engineering (FOE), Sanaa University, last week. He was there to discuss with Dr. Ali Mohammed Al-Shawal, Dean of the FOE, implementation of a US\$ 1 million EC assistance. Also participating in the talks was Rainer Freund, Head of the EC's Technical Advisory Team in Yemen. The assistance is provided under Project ALA/95/YEM/1 which is a three-year engagement in staff training and development at FOE starting in September 1995.

"Although less than one year into operation, four trainees (assistant teaching staff and junior lecturers) from the FOE have already attended courses in European universities, a computer laboratory has been installed and is operational, additional equipment has been ordered, and specialized books and reference material has been purchased," stated Dr. Cornick. He also indicated that before the end of this year (1996), six more trainees will be will leave for training in EU universities, and a fully equipped mechanical engineering laboratory will be in operation.

"The objective of the project is to eventually improve the standard of teaching to undergraduates who would typically be recruited by the domestic oil and gas sector," explained Mr. Freund. He added that the project was oriented towards engineering education and training, in line with the government's thrust to build a solid technical base, which is key to the country's future development." Mr. Cornick disclosed that depending on the success of the present effort, a more substantial training and technical development contract is envisaged in the future.

At another level, Rainer Freund indicated that the European Commission has made available ECU 150,000 (US\$ 200,000) as emergency aid to flood disaster victims in the governorates of Mareb, Al-Jawf, and Shabwa. The money, channelled through EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO), was used to purchase water tanks, clothing, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, etc., and most of which has already been distributed on site through CARE. Since 1993, the European Commission has provided Yemen with ECU 1.8 million (US\$ 2.4 million) in humanitarian aid, namely for flood disaster assistance, war victims relief, and vaccination campaigns.

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## ألف مبروك

يرفع موظفو معرض البيت الحديث أجمل الأمانى القلبية وأسمى آيات التهاني للاخ عبدالله علي بن علي عبدالرحمن بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف.

المهنؤون:

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عمر العيساوي، عبدالباري المهدي،  
عبدالحكيم الحمادي، صبري العبد، حامد باحميد،  
عبدالله عليان، نصر جعر،  
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

## NASEEM DEFENDS TITLE

Mr. Frank Warren, Manager of the World boxing champion Prince Naseem, announced that the Prince will defend his title on August 31st in Dublin, the Irish capital. Warren did not disclose the name of the challenger. This is going to be the third title match for Naseem, and his 23rd boxing match. He has won all of them - most with a knockout. It was also learned that Naseem will be moving on to the wider world of boxing in the USA. Arrangements for a tour and matches in the USA are underway.

## YEMEN COMPETES IN ARAB TABLE TENNIS

The Yemeni Federation of Table Tennis announced that eight Yemeni finalists will go to Cairo to compete in the Arab Table Tennis Matches next month. The finalists are Ahmed Al-Imad, Adel Al-Sunaidar, Walid Atta, Wayel Al-Qadasi, Ibrahim Al-Khowlani, Yasser Al-Sabahi, Ahmed Al-Matari, and Hani Moussa. The Federation is also arranging a summer camp game with Qatar during 17-31 August to be held in Doha, Qatar.

## AL-AHLI OF SANAA REPRESENTS YEMEN IN LEBANON

Al-Ahli Club of Sanaa is going to represent the nation in the Eighth Pan-Arab Table Tennis Games to be held in Lebanon during 24-31 August. According to a final approval last week, the club is set to send its team in two weeks. At another level, Al-Ahli is organizing a volley ball tournament, the matches of which have already started in Sanaa. The matches will go from 27th July till 10th August.

### ألف مبروك

نرف أعطر التهاني وأطيب الأمنيات  
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المهنؤون:  
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محمد سلام عبدالله ، محمد شمسان عبدالواحد ،  
محمد علي عبدالواحد ، سلطان الصبحي

### ألف مبروك

أسمى آيات التبريكات والتهاني القلبية نرفها مع  
باقات من الورد والياسمين للشباب الخلق  
ماجد سفيان علي المقطري  
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون .  
نتمنى له ولشريكته حياة زوجية سعيدة  
المهنؤون:  
وحيد محمد سعيد ، شوقي سعيد عبدالباقي ،  
رضوان عباس عبده سيف ، عادل سالم محمد عون ،  
لطفی سعید عبدالباقي ، وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

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لأبويه وأسرته ووطنه وأمتة  
المهنؤون:

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عبدالله عبدالولي نعمان ، عبدالله هاشم الكبسي ،  
عبدالوهاب نعمان ، عبدالعزیز يحي ، صالح عباس ،  
العزي الصلوي ، محمد سلام الصبحي ، نضال هاشم ،  
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## UNDP Resident Representative

"The response of the world community has been both prompt and generous."

As the relief phase of the assistance to the flood victims is quickly coming to an end, the Yemen Times decided to talk to Mr. Onder Yucer, Resident Representative of UNDP and the Chairman of the Disaster Team entrusted with the job of helping the victims.

### Excerpts:

**Q: Where do we stand today, in terms of assisting the flood victims?**

**A:** The relief phase is almost over. I am talking here about the humanitarian consequences of the floods, whether in terms of medical supplies, food or shelter needs or shelter. We are still on the look-out, however, for any pockets with special needs, particularly in the health sector.

With the government and donors and international organizations, we are now engaged in an assessment of the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase. This, of course, is more of long-term nature.

**Q: How has the world response been?**

**A:** I am very satisfied with the response. I think the world community has been both prompt and generous in its response to the relief needs. The rehabilitation needs, are, of course, another matter.

**Q: How have the supplies been channeled to the victims?**

**A:** I am told that most of the supplies are directly shipped to

site, although in some cases they are temporarily kept in storage facilities in Sanaa. I believe the beneficiaries have been receiving the assistance as quickly as they arrive. I want to use this opportunity to give credit to the serious and swift response of the Yemeni government.

**Q: In terms of meeting the needs of the local populations, how much response capacity is now in place, or is it all managed from Sanaa?**

**A:** We have a lot of response capacity in place in all major flooded regions.

**Q: Does that include the possibility of more rains and thus more floods?**

**A:** We have not factored in another flood of the magnitude of the previous one. Nevertheless, there is a constant watch-out of such possibilities. The national, regional and international weather systems are being followed closely by the meteorological organizations.

**Q: How do you assess the required construction effort?**

**A:** The Ministry of Public Works has put together an excellent assessment report. In total, there is some 1000 kilometers of primary and secondary roads that have been affected.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also put together a plan of action report. This is very much up to the mark.

The Ministry of Health is keeping a watchful eye against any epidemics. None are

reported so far, and all measures are taken in this regard. The Ministry of Electricity and Water is also on top of the work that needs to be done.

In all those cases, specialized Un organizations like FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, etc., are helping out and coordinating the effort.

Continues on page 12

Donor	Amount in 1000 US\$	Type of Assistance
Syria	\$5,000	20,000 tons of food
Qatar	\$1,200	718 tons food, drugs
World Bank	\$1,000	reprogrammed projects
Japan	740	electric equipment, drugs
Iran	500	relief supplies
Netherlands	468	reprogrammed projects
Germany	443	pumps, thru DHA, etc.
UNDP	369	cash, Mareb water project
Saudi Arabia	350	food, drugs, supplies
Spain	188	food, drugs, cookerries
Jordan	150	food, tents, blankets
Sudan	150	100 tons of food
DHA	130	cash, technical assistance
Norway	125	water equipment, thru DHA
Italy	122	medical kits, thru DHA
Oman	100	28 tons of food
WFP	100	300 tons of flour thru DHA
Sweden	95	thru DHA, supplies
Britain	77	thru DHA, supplies
WHO	61	emergency health kits, drugs thru WHO
UNICEF	50	thru WHO/UNICEF
USAID	25	cash
South Korea	20	thru UNDP
France	19	cash
China	15	thru UN health sector
Canada	11	

Total Cash Contributions: US\$ 1,721,500

Total In-Kind Contributions: US\$ 12,212,800

Amounts are up to July 23rd, 1996.

Source: UNDP, Sanaa.

Local contributions from merchants, businessmen, companies, individuals, etc., are not included in the above totals.



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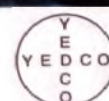
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