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# YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • August 12th thru 18th, 1996

Vol. VI, Issue No. 33 • Price 30 Riyals



Islah Leader Complains  
Against Ally in Power!  
Page 3.

Interviews with Egyptian &  
Indonesian Ambassadors  
Page 5.

Exhibition of Yemeni  
History in Paris.  
Page 10.

Seminar on Administrative  
Reforms in Yemen.  
Page 12.



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In an Article in 26th September Newspaper

## President Saleh Described as Skilfull Navigator/Politician

Mr. Milhelm Karam, a leading Arab Journalist and Chair of the Lebanese Journalists's Syndicate, described President Ali Abdullah Saleh as a skilfull navigator and master politician. The Lebanese journalist, who was on a visit to Sanaa last week, interviewed the president and came out of the meeting with a lot of praise for the Yemeni leader. "I have known personally many Arab leaders. President Saleh is by far one of the most skilled ones," he said. He also described Yemen as a model for other Arab countries to emulate. In the interview, the President expressed commitment to press freedom, respect for human rights, pluralist politics and democracy in Yemen.



## Government Forms National Action Plan Against Poverty

At the end of a one-day (Saturday, August 10th) workshop entitled "The Challenge of Poverty in Yemen", a joint task force on poverty was established by the Yemeni Government and the UNDP office. The workshop discussed the report of a month-long poverty-assessment study. The study touched on the causes, conditions, and consequences of poverty in Yemen.

Several work groups were set up to present thoughts and suggestions which will be incorporated in the final draft of the study. The work groups will also

identify gaps and shortcomings in the draft report.

Many grass-roots level organizations were invited to the workshop, including NGOs, the private sector, university faculties, international donor agencies and government representatives. The World Bank also has a social safety net program which calls for financing small-scale labor-intensive projects in the urban slums and poverty-stricken countryside.

The Government of Yemen is looking for ways to help alleviate the suffering of the poorer segments of society.

## Formation of a Yemeni Elections Monitoring Society

A group of independent and leading intellectuals concluded four months of deliberations last week by announcing the establishment of the Yemeni Elections Monitoring Society. According to the YEMS chairman, Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Rahman Al-Rabai, a well-respected diplomat, all individuals as volunteers and that most of the financing will be local. Mr. Al-Rubayi indicated that the founders are people motivated by high goals and objectives. "We would like to contribute positively to our country's evolution towards a democracy and a civil

### YEMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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society," he said. The objectives of the YEMS are focussed on aiding Yemen achieve clean elections.

Continues on page 2

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### TERRORISM and Creating a Just World

Thank God the Atlantic Centennial Olympic Games were completed without a second bang. The indiscriminate killing of people - terrorism - is becoming the major scourge of human civilization as we get ready to cross into the 21st century. The problem will grow as physical mobility increases, communication gets faster and easier, information of all kinds becomes more readily available, and the world is effectively transformed into one big village.

Unfortunately, unless the whole world cooperates, the war against terrorism cannot be won. The world community has to work together against this evil. For these efforts to succeed, however, let me use this editorial to address two groups of people - the Muslim World, and the Arabs in particular; and the Western World, and the Americans in particular.

Within the Arab/Muslim Worlds, a small extreme group uses terrorism to find solutions to its perceived political grievances. From the outset, it is important to note that many other groups worldwide also employ this tactic, even in the West - Ireland providing a ready example. But we Arabs/Muslims have been accused of championing this approach.

In some cases, even rulers and regimes have used violent tactics to terrorize internal and external targets, an accusation convincingly levelled against certain Middle Eastern governments. The American government itself has employed this tactic in the past, in one form or another.

Middle Eastern terrorism, however, is associated not with governments, but with small extremist groups which believe that wrecking the boat or rather the world system is a legitimate recourse to redress political grievances. This group needs to be reigned in. Indiscriminate killing is not condoned by any religion, Islam foremost.

As far as Western countries, and especially the Americans, are concerned, they shoulder a grave responsibility. As leaders of the current human civilization, they have a duty to create a world system in which everybody has a stake. They should not squeeze any one group against the corner to the extent that such a group would want to bring down the system.

Let me use an example. For all practical reasons newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu is a hard-liner who is raising the stakes of violence in the region due to his extremist policies. Now when he addressed a joint gathering of the House/Senate one month ago, he was received as a hero. The people on the Hill, long known for their selfish calculation of things, stood in applause and ovation as Netanyahu declared that there will never be a Palestinian state. Since then, he sanctioned more land-grabbing and settlement-construction in the West Bank, he allowed zealous Jews to get into the Rock of Dome Mosque, and he kicked out Arab residents of Jerusalem.

As the world's only super-power and the key mediator in the Arab-Israeli peace, the Americans have yet to blow the whistle on him. Many Arabs wonder how much they can trust American judgement and impartiality on this matter.

As a matter of principle, let me repeat that terrorism should not be a tool for political ends. But, overwhelming injustice against certain groups and their feeling that leaders of the present world won't listen unless something horrible is done to the system, may make terrorism one of few options open to them.

Can we together fight terrorism by creating a more just world? Only time will tell.

*The Publisher*  


## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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### Malaria in Yemen

Many parts of the country suffer from malaria. From coastal Hadhramaut, into Shabwah and Marib, into Khowlan and then into the highlands stretching all the way into Hugarriah, malaria has been taking its toll.

A total of over one hundred persons have died so far. The Government has acted swiftly to address the situation. The Ministry of Health was given a YR 40 million boost to bring the situation under control.

### Appeal to President Not to Divide Hadhramaut

Distinguished persons and elders of Hadhramaut who live in Aden have written yet another appeal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh asking him not allow Hadhramaut to be divided.

According to a re-zoning of the governorates, Hadhramaut will be split into two governorates - a coastal one, and another covering the wadi.

It seems that the appeals will not find a positive response.

### A Diplomat Is Harassed

Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Sanaa, Mr. Mansoor Al-Awadhi, was held at gun-point and ordered not to enter the Hadhramaut Welfare Association's office. On Friday afternoon, on August 9th, Mr. Al-Awadhi was planning to join the qat chew to which people are openly invited. At gunpoint, the charge was ordered away.

The leadership and elders of the association, angry at what happened, called up the Political Security Office, and went to the home of Mr. Al-Awadhi and asked him to join them. Even then, the gunmen stood in the way. It was at that stage that a PSO vehicle came and ordered the gunmen to leave.

### AMOCO Gave \$1000 to Flood Victims

Many national and international companies offered assistance to the flood victims. Among these companies was Amoco which provided \$1000. The money was forwarded through CARE International.

### Prime Minister Puts Foundation Stones

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani put the foundation stones for many educational, health and road projects in Raimah and Hodeidah. The Prime Minister indicated that the projects were within the framework of the new five-year development plan.

### More Oil on the Way

A source at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources said that total oil output in Yemen was not falling. To the contrary more oil will be pumped out in the near future.

According to an article printed in 26th September newspaper this week, some 70,000 bpd from Jannah field and 30,000 bpd from East Shabwah are expected to come on line soon.

Cont'd from page 1:

### Elections Monitoring ...

The YEMS, it was reported will start its duties immediately, with documentation of the registration process.

It is believed that the financing of the YEMS will be financed mainly through local channels, although some external sources are also anticipated.



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# "Continued irregularities will undermine the legitimacy of the coming parliament."

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Party finds itself in awkward position today. As a junior partner in the ruling coalition, it finds itself unable to do much, and yet, it shares in the blame for the mistakes of the regime. Although both the PGC and Islah described their association as strategy and long-term, news of serious differences continues to be leaked out. One point of contention is the coming elections.

The Islah itself is trying to better understand its association with the PGC. One key individual in this process is Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Qahtan, who is seen as one of the leaders of the rising young people in Islah. He is also seen as a leader of the ideology-based bloc, as contrasted with the tribal-based bloc.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Qahtan and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

**Q: In your opinion, has the Yemeni society politically evolved enough to interact in the framework of a pluralist political system?**

**A:** I feel that there are some who misinterpret the concepts of pluralism and democracy, and transform such values to practices which serve their interests. It is usually the elites who abuse and mis-use such concepts.

I believe that the Yemeni people throughout history were aware of pluralism. Therefore, any problems on this count have to be blamed on the intelligentsia, not the concepts or the people.

**Q: How do you appraise our country's position generally and the political situation in particular?**

**A:** I think there are great difficulties that face our country and we have more problems due to backwardness in general. There are also some accumulations from the past.

In specific terms, we lack a modern state with competent administrative apparatus capable of shouldering its responsibilities to society correctly.

This problem also exists in other Arab states. Unfortunately, here in Yemen, we have the additional burden of lack of institutions and state organs.

**Q: What is the position of the Islah on the economic reforms?**

**A:** I believe that some people got the wrong impression that the Islah is opposed to the reforms. This is not correct.

We only wanted guarantees for the full and correct implementation of these reforms. We talked with our partner in the coalition (PGC) about our apprehensions regarding the implementation. But we support the reforms. In fact, we said that the country is in need of speeding up the implementation of reforms.

Another point is that there should be competent skilled individuals to deal with correcting the economic distortions.

We have stated that the civil service reforms should be the base for the economic reforms. Because unless you have the institutional infrastructure, who will undertake the other aspects of the reforms. Please note that we have such an incapable administrative apparatus, we are unable to go on with the process of reform.

**Q: Has your partner listened to your apprehensions? Has there been any change?**

**A:** So far, the reform doze has merely been in correcting certain prices - interest rate, price of foreign exchange, utilities, etc. That is the easy part.

We have noticed what has happened in the recent past. How can corrupt officials undertake an anti-corruption campaign? We in Islah are serious about combating corruption, and this drive is not against the PGC. I think the issue of corruption must be dealt seriously, and this is the duty of all. I believe that all sides, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund now see the need for civil service reforms. Unless the bureaucracy is put in shape, everything else is meaningless.

**Q: In your view, is the current government able to achieve such a goal?**

**A:** I don't think so. I think for full implementation of the reforms, this government has to go.

**Q: Is the Islah calling for a board-based government?**

**A:** It is not a matter of representation. It is a matter of political will. We need officials who have backbones. Officials who can take decisions on their own, without being shadows for

someone else on every little thing. There should be a will, a public support and full delegation of authority.

**Q: How do you feel the Yemeni people have reacted to the doze of reforms?**

**A:** I am sure that the Islah party, given the broad popular base it commands, has been instrumental in minimizing the violent reaction of the suffering public vis-a-vis the reforms. We have campaigned effectively among the people to explain the reforms and what they mean, and why they are necessary.

After the way the two phases of the reforms have been handled, we cannot in clear conscience go back to the people and ask them to put up with more suffering. Unless there is a firm and clear commitment to full reform, we shall not be party to it.

The people of Yemen will put up with more hardships if they see that the whole population does the same. If they see that the politicians do that too.

I am optimistic that the reform package will have a good effect on our society, in the long run. But it must be fully and seriously implemented.

**Q: How prepared are you for the coming elections?**

**A:** Let me start by saying that Islah is the only party in Yemen that came to power through the ballot box and peaceful means. That is why we have a special respect for elections and the democratic process.

I think the 1997 elections will be more promising and we have prepared ourselves to participate in them very well. Unfortunately, however, there are already in the registration process many cases of violations. There are many things which are not going cor-

rectly. First, I feel that the Supreme Elections Committee does not respect itself. It doesn't respect the promises and legal announcements it makes. Let me give you an example.

The committee was under legal obligation to establish one basic committee in each constituency and several sub-committees. It didn't. It just established the basic committee because it is easier to control one committee rather than many.

When our lawyers in the Islah objected, they started forming sub-committees. They told us that they are ready to listen and apply the legal procedures, but practically, they did not do anything.

**Q: But as a ruling party in the coalition, you do have a say in the Supreme Elections Committee?**

**A:** I can tell you that our influence in the Supreme Elections Committee is zero.

**Q: Does that mean you and your partner in the ruling coalition are not in harmony?**

**A:** There are evident friction, but that is not the point. Friction among partners is normal. But, we are interested in a minimum of honesty and credibility in the elections process.

For example, we objected to the employment (read deployment) of the military in the elections in ways that sway the results. We accepted the military camps as places for elections. But then, we were surprised that new camps were created in many constituencies with the clear intention of affecting the results.

I am worried that the legitimacy of the coming parliament will be compromised because of such practices.



**Q: You sound like an opposition politician rather than a ruling politician. Can you describe relations with your ruling partner?**

**A:** We still see our relations as strategic. That is the mainstream thought and feeling. But we see that there are some elements within the PGC who want to spoil this election as well as our relations.

I want to point that our regime does not have a legitimacy problem, although there are complaints regarding its efficiency. But with the on-going violations in preparing for the elections, there could be a problem of legitimacy for the system in Yemen. If the violations and abuses persist, the new parliament will not be legitimate. This will also open the door to much trouble, which will not serve the stabilization of the country.

**Q: Islamic political parties cause much concern in the West. Do you think that such concern is justified?**

**A:** This has to do with the attitude of the West to Islam and the Islamic movements. The West has committed one blunder - generalizing. There are some

'Islamic' groups that have committed some errors, and the West generalized on all Muslims and Islamic movements.

But I think that the West itself has started correcting its views, and there are no longer such anxiety or fear vis-a-vis Islamic groups. Some elements continue to raise concern.

As for the Islah party in Yemen, we have our own native origins and are not associated any form of terrorism. We represent a new movement and we have nothing to do with any act of terrorism.

**Q: They say that the Islah party is divided into several factions. What do you say?**

**A:** We have never been united as we are today. Fragmenting the Islah is wishful thinking. We are all united to combat corruption, to promote democracy and to create a modern state based on law and order.

**Q: Do you see Islah assuming power alone?**

**A:** It is not in the interest of Yemen for any single party to rule alone, even if it has a sufficient majority in parliament. The Islah will always be in coalition with others.

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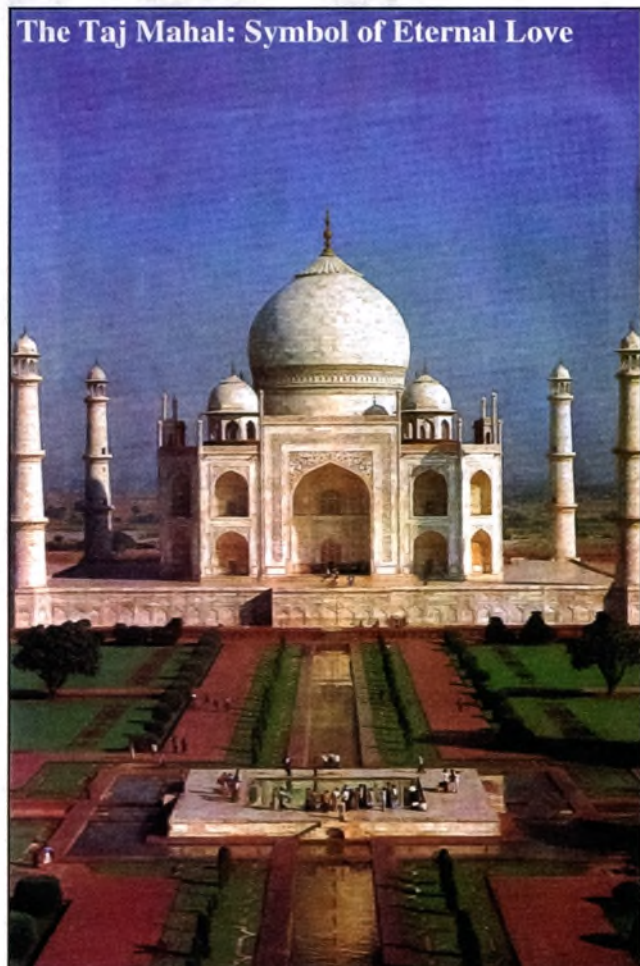
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Two great nationalists - Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru - exerted an immense influence on contemporary India. Gandhiji, as he is affectionately called by Indians, is not only the father of non-violent political culture in our modern times, but has effectively emancipated Indian women by encouraging their participation in his movement, and thus drawing them into the mainstream of political and public life. Jawaharlal Nehru, on the other hand, is the true founder of the modern state of India.

Since the liberalization efforts which start in 1990 by then Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao, and followed ardently by current Prime Minister Shri Dave Gowda, the economy has been growing at an increasingly rapid pace. Stress has been placed on technology-based activities. With international investments strongly knocking on the door, Indian policy-makers have rapidly changed the system to accommodate non-resident Indian investors as well as foreign investors. Economic growth rate is now estimated at 7% for 1996.

No other country offers the diversity that a visitor can cherish, or an investor can look into. The number of tourists grows from all over the world, thanks, in part, to the efforts of the Government of India Tourist Office. The volume of investments is also rising, with the estimated investments licensed this year to rise over US\$ 10 billion.



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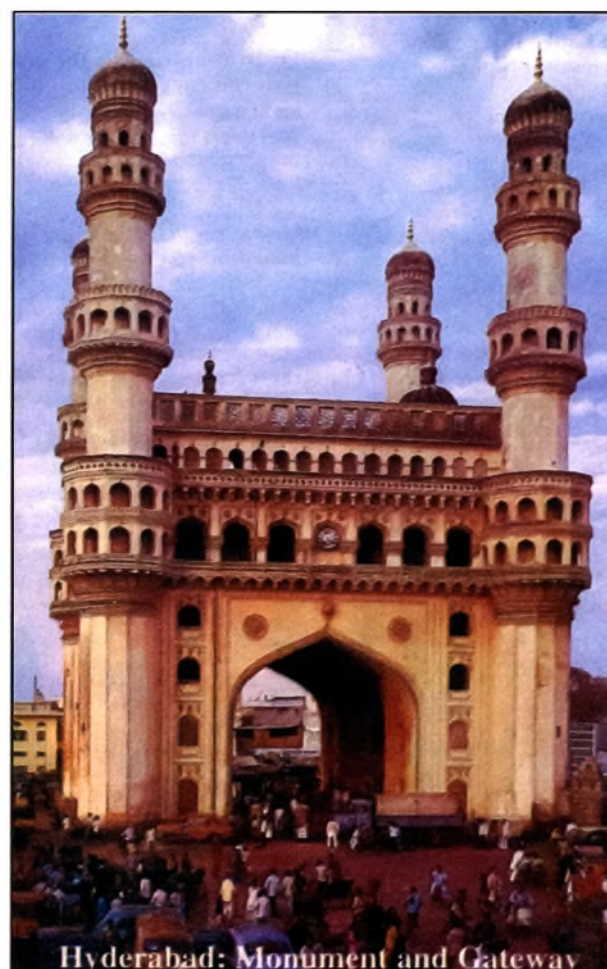


The Paslace of Mysore

Yemeni-Indian business relations are rapidly growing as trade and joint investments hit new highs. Cooperation in education is also rising, with more than 1500 Yemeni students enrolled in different Indian universities.

"Political cooperation and mutual understanding has never been stronger,"

reflects AK Meena, Indian Charge d'Affaires in Sanaa. Yemeni officials agree. The number of exchanged official visits at various levels is testimony to the warm relationship between the two friendly countries.



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## Indonesia Ambassador Ahmad Noor:

**"Yemeni-Indonesian economic exchange has seen much progress in the recent past."**

Yemen and Indonesia enjoy an old link. Trade and people's movements have resulted in the creation of a large Indonesian population of Yemeni ancestry. The two countries witness a drive to re-vitalize this old link.

H. E. Mr. Ahmad Noor, the Ambassador of Indonesia in Sanaa, is a manifestation of this drive. He is Indonesia's first resident ambassador in Sanaa, and has been working to strengthen bilateral cooperation and increase understanding.

On the occasion of end of his term in the Republic of Yemen, Yemen Times talked to him about various aspects of bilateral relations, as well as about developments in his country.

Ahmad Noor joined the foreign service of the Republic of Indonesia in 1957. He has served in several countries, including Lebanon, Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

Immediately prior to his assignment as ambassador to the Republic of Yemen in 1992, Mr. Noor served as Assistant to Minister for Political and Security Affairs. He now returns home to the ministry.

**Q: As you leave Yemen, what are the impressions that linger on your mind?**

**A:** First of all, I would like to Yemen Times for giving me the opportunity to share a few of my departing comments.

Regarding my impressions, frankly speaking, I am going to miss this country. I have been very happy here. My wife and I had a good long time in Sana'a and never felt lonely. One of the reasons for this is the blood relations between our two peoples which run deep in history. The kindness and simple nature of the Yemeni people and traditional life are things I will remember for a long time.

**Q: Economic exchange is limited between Yemen and Indonesia. What can be done to improve economic cooperation?**

**A:** Obviously, the Indonesian-Yemeni relations are distinguished especially on the historical level. But on the economic plane, more work needs to be done to reach the level we aspire.

I have to point out, however, that during last two years, economic exchange has been growing substantially. Since the opening of Indonesian Embassy in Sanaa in December 1992, economic exchange grew and many Yemen businessmen and merchants travel to Indonesia making direct commercial deals. Another major impetus came when our Foreign Minister was in Sana'a in January 1994 and signed agreements to enhance cooperation.

In specific terms, two Indonesian oil companies are currently operating in Shabwah. I am optimistic of more Indonesian investments in the future especially at the free zone in Aden. We also notice a lot of Indonesian products in the Yemeni markets, although most of them seem to have been purchased through a third country, such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

I think, if we can sign an agreement between our two countries on air and sea transportation cooperation, this will facilitate direct transportation of passengers and goods and economic exchange will definitely jump to the level we aspire.

**Q: There is a substantial Indonesian population of Yemeni extract, how do you think these can play the role of a bridge between the two sides?**

**A:** Well, it is true that Indonesians of Hadhrami extract are now a large part of our population. Actually, there are today, more Hadhramis in Indonesia than in Yemen.

According to the data we have, the population of Hadhramaut Governorate is nearly 750,000 people, while in Indonesia their number is more than 3 million. They are involved in different fields of activities including business and government, from the lower levels up to the top. From clerks in government office up to ministers.

They, of course, are capable of playing an important role in bridging the two countries. In this regard, I would like to quote H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas' (Indonesia's foreign minister) statement to Yemen Times. "We need to exchange of information, and



the press has a very important role to play in introducing each other's potentials. So far, the Yemenis have started to learn more about Indonesia and this is very encouraging. On the other hand, only a few Indonesians of Yemeni extract have a clear picture about Yemen and the changes taking place here.

**Q: Indonesia is witnessing agitation for change. How do you see the future transformation of your country?**

**A:** Indonesia is experiencing major transformations at different levels.

At the economic level, my government has adopted the sixth Five-Year Development Plan (1995-2000) how to further strengthen and improve development in every sector. The most important indicator is the average annual per capita income amounting to \$920 and is expected to increase over \$1000 in the year 2000.

In 1995, economic growth rate was 8.07%. Changes in the economic structure are expected to take place increasingly towards a more balanced system. In line with the development of the economic field which receives first priority development in the fields of politics, socio-culture, defense, etc. will be more enhanced to match eventually.

Human resource development is also given special attention. Efforts to develop this sector will be implemented thoroughly, directly and integratedly, covering various fields such as health, education and training, socio-culture and religion.

At the political level, the country is quite stable. In positive interaction with the New World Order, the government has simplified and evolved a democratic system according to our own culture and circumstances. There are three parties in my country: Functional Group Party, United Development Party and Indonesian Democracy Party.

Pancasila (the Indonesian State Philosophy) has finally been adopted by our parliament as the one and only ideological principle upon which all political organizations base their activities. Indonesia, of course, can't close its border from external influences such as the so-called globalization and openness. So, interaction with world currents continues, but with a keen sense of and regard for our culture and identity.

**Q: What is the Pancasila?**

**A:** Pancasila, pronounced Panchaseela, is the philosophical basis of the Indonesian state. Pancasila consists of two Sanskrit words, "panca" meaning five, and "sila" meaning principles.

It comprises the following five inseparable and interrelated principles.

1. Belief in the One and Only God.
2. Just and Civilized Humanity.
3. The Unity of Indonesia.
4. Democracy Guided by the Inner Wisdom in the Unanimity Arising out of Deliberations Amongst Representatives.
5. Social Justice for the Whole of the People of Indonesia

These are the sacred values of Pancasila which, as a cultural principle, should always be respected by every Indonesian because it is now the ideology of the state and the living philosophy of the Indonesian people.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** Well, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Yemeni leadership and people for all facilities, support and assistance they have given me during my service here in Yemen. Without their support, developing and enhancing better bilateral cooperation between our two fraternal countries and peoples would not have been possible. I sincerely pray that Yemen's economic reform program continues and succeeds. I wish this country a bright future, strength, progress and prosperity.

**Egypt's Revolution Is Truly the Mother of Revolutions in Our Region**

Egypt's Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Adel Subhi Ahmad Saeed, 60, is a native of lovely Alexandria. He is leaving Sanaa at the end of a successful service in Yemen. Before Yemen, he had served in Bangladesh, Ghana, Algeria, France, and Djibouti. Adel is fluent in Arabic, English and French.

On the occasion of his departure, Yemen Times talked to him.

Excerpts:

**Q: Rumors are that you have been, exceptionally sentimental pondering your upcoming departure from Yemen.**

**A:** I have had a strong attachment to this country. Without exaggeration, it has been second home to me. During my stay in Yemen, I received the generous hospitality for which your people are so well-known. I have been invited to numerous homes, made lots of friends, and acquired the trust and confidence of lots of people. I have reason to be sentimental.

**Q: How about on the professional level?**

**A:** Most diplomats find it easy to work in Yemen. The society is open and the government very helpful. My interaction in all the political affairs have been constructive, given the Arab umbrella that brings us together.

There is a great love between Egypt and Yemen. This is not surprising given the historical relations between the two peoples, dating back to the ancient epoch. The strong relations were further cemented during the days of the Yemeni Revolution when the blood of the martyrs was spilled on the land of Yemen defending the revolution.

I want to confirm that bilateral relations have witnessed progress for mutual benefit. The level of understanding and cooperation is on the rise. This is evident from the visible cooperation in the recent Arab summit meetings and in the Supreme Joint Committee. Last June, the two countries signed a number of agreements, which will further strengthen our relations.

**Q: Egypt and the Arabs recently celebrated the anniversary of Nasser's July 23rd Revolution of 1952. In hindsight, how do you assess the impact of that Revolution?**

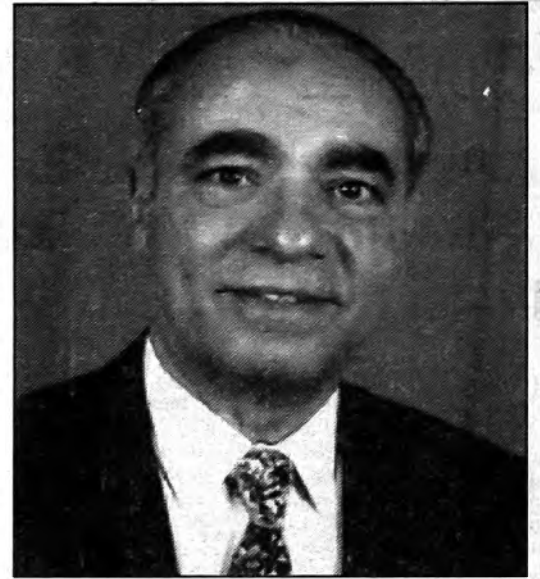
**A:** The 23rd July Revolution is regarded as a dynamic inspiration for the liberation and independence movements that swept most of the former colonies. So, its impact was not only in the Arab and African regions, but it exceeded those regions to the rest of the world. Thus, it deserves to be called "The Mother of Revolutions" regarding the states of the Third World.

The Revolution has achieved a lot of its goals such as the resurrection of the spirit of pan-Arabism, achieving independence for the Arab/African states, and opening the door for consolidation and solidarity. It elevated the former colonies to parity with the former colonial forces.

In addition, the Egyptian Revolution was a major factor behind the coming to light of the policy of non-alignment in international relations. It provided the Third World countries a third option, rather than simply being aligned to the West or to the Socialist Camps.

Today and after 44 years of the Revolution, there are still a number of Arab regimes and Third World states that are inspired by the principles of the 23rd July Revolution. They persist in their march toward a promising future, and the Arab Summit meeting held in Cairo lately embodies such a drive.

In spite of major set-backs, the spirit and soul of Arab solidarity lives on. After all, in a world that is evolving into a super-state system, we Arabs



cannot remain fragmented forever. We have more bonds and links that bring us together - the same language, the same cultural background, mostly the same religion, and above all, the same hopes and aspirations.

In my opinion, the dream of pan-Arabism which was promoted by the July Revolution remains eternal in the hearts and emotions of the Arabs. Such a feeling shall never die.

**Q: Your embassy was exposed a couple of times to terrorist attacks. What was behind it?**

**A:** Our embassy was recently exposed to an explosion from its western fence which is located on Abdul Nasser Street. This street is one of the most crowded and busiest in Sanaa. This accident was the only one which was aimed at the embassy. I confirm that there were no losses or casualties and the security authorities hastened to take all the necessary steps following the accident.

Investigations are still underway, and the identification of those who committed the crime are not yet determined. There are, however, some indicators which show that the aim behind the incident was to provoke some internal and/or foreign propaganda to affect Yemeni-Egyptian relations. All in all, the accident did not achieve any of its goals.

**Q: Are Egyptian-American passing through a lull, today?**

**A:** I do not agree with you that the Egyptian-America relations are passing through some sort of a lull. On the contrary, these relations are stable and continue to grow.

The Egyptian vision of this relationship is one of friendship. In a friendly relationship, there are points of agreement and others of disagreement. This is something natural. International relations are based on equality and mutual respect away from imposing policies and positions. It is something natural to have differences between a super power state like America and Egypt.

Another point is that the region of the Middle East is passing a transformation and this is represented in the peace process, the democratization, and other processes.

Our relations with the US are based on the continuation of a comprehensive peace process in the Middle East based on just and fair grounds and the principles of international law; and on the consolidation of our mutual economic/commercial cooperation.

**Q: Any final comments?**

**A:** Yemeni-Egyptian relations are headed for more consolidation and cooperation. The security accord between signed lately between Egypt and Yemen will provide an additional base for taking the necessary and practical measures in combating any actions which expose the security of the two countries and the region to jeopardy. Finally, I repeat my gratitude to all in Yemen.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Should We Vote Just To Let Them Carry On?

Al-Haj Sa'ad spoke as the Sheikh and his bullies stuffed themselves into the Land Cruiser and whisked away out of the square. "He could have at least prayed the noon prayers. Young man, you were brave! You hurt him at his weakest point - his ego. You made him look sufficiently small, which is really his right size anyway! I can't understand why these thugs get an opportunity to push people around."

Professor Ishaq, we expected your party to bring an end to this kind of nonsense. An alliance does not mean that you accept the shortcomings of your ally.

Professor Ishaq was never happy with the butcher's unfavorable attitude towards the country's most active Islamists. "You can be sure that our leaders will bring these matters to our partner's leaders. We do not like to get involved at all levels, by seeming like we want to challenge our partner's authorities."

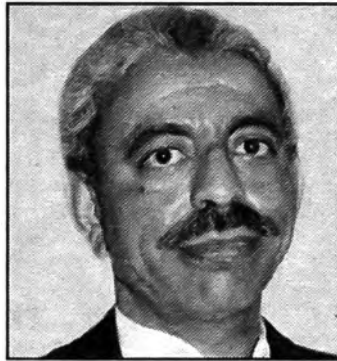
The old man could not help continue his resentment of the way authority is granted nowadays; "We all know our beloved Sheikh of today - mischievous troublemaker of yesterday, who made his mother cry, almost everyday from all the troubles her son used to give her. She died heart-broken because he stole the little deeds to her land, which she inherited from her mother - her only source of livelihood for her and her wild son - and sold it for peanuts just so he can by a car and move into the city of Sana'a, to 'earn a living for

both of them". At first she believed him, in her typical naive fashion. But after more than six months of hunger and heartbreak, misery got the upper hand and pushed her soul out to the Heavens.

She just sat her last few hours by her husband's grave continuously uttering, "Why could be not he like you? It is my failure! I ignored your advice. Don't spoil the boy!"

Yes, those were your last words. It is my failure." She then collapsed on his grave. Three years later, her son had come back to open a branch for the XYZ party here. He now came with money and with guards. He pushed our old Sheikh away - into a well! He became the Sheikh!

He became the law! It just does not seem right. Professor Ishaq's party uses the same tactics to get "religious authority". They pushed the pious Imam we used to have in this mosque by bringing their "preachers, accompanied by armed thugs to the mosque, presumably to lecture the faithful on the merits of Islam. When the pious man contested an argument of the "preacher", his accompaniment would shout him down: "Let the Imam speak. He is the authority and reference on religion, now." When the pious man tried to protest some of the teachings of this guerrilla missionary, the thugs waited until he left to his humble room by the Mosque, and roughed him up. They were covered by scarfs, but no one in the village had any



doubts as to who did it. The pious man was not shaken by this and continued to dispute the wrong teachings he felt this preacher was feeding into the village people's religious sentiments. Then all of a sudden, the room exploded after the Friday prayers, last Ramadhan. They said the gas cylinder blew up in his house.

He never used gas cylinders. All he ever cooked on was a stove burner. A couple of weeks later, Professor Ishaq took over the mosque. The preacher and his companions left after a couple of days. Nobody even bothered to investigate the death of the old pious Imam. Professor Ishaq set up a school and started recruiting the young kids to it. The parents were at first happy to see their young children learning the Quran. But then, parents were shocked to find their kids attacking their own parents for watching TV or for dancing during weddings. They were even told that they should not visit their grandparents' and parents' grave to recite some verses of the Quran over it. Professor Ishaq then toned down his dogmatism as the number of children at his school decreased.

When that failed to bring the children back to his school, before you knew it the alternative school set up by a philanthropist in the nearby village was blown up again, again, the gas cylinder blew up. The school never had gas cylinders. The Sheikh is now the rep-

resentative of the state - the law. Professor Ishaq represents piety! It just doesn't make sense to a guy like me. What do you say Professor Ishaq?

Professor Ishaq kept silent, moving his lips quietly and pushing the beads on his rosary, to show a small period of meditation. "The Islamic Movement will return Moslems of the World to their glorious past." "No complaints against that," said the young man as all of then entered the Mosque, kicking of their shoes and pushing them up to put them in the wooden slots for the shoes. "but why must people only hear your Islamic views. Quiet frankly, the Islam that our martyred pious Imam of the mosque was preaching made a lot of sense also and be never hurt anybody's feelings! Everybody, in the village admired that man's faith in God, and he was a great help in settling disputes, even among members of a family. His death was a shock to all of us! Now we get an Islam taught to our young brothers and sisters that teaches children to regard their fathers as infidels, even if they have never missed a prayer in the mosque."

"You read too much opposition press," said Professor Ishaq. "Maybe your brother's secessionist streak is beginning to itch you. I must warn the faithful of your bad influence!"

Haj Sa'ad felt sorry for the young man. "Professor Ishaq, we better hurry to pray, look at how many people are waiting for you to lead the prayers."

After they finished the noon prayers, Professor Ishaq rose to the Imam's speaking platform and turned the microphone on so that his voice will be heard from the speaker on the small minaret that delivered the voice to all the homes in the village: "Brothers, spare your preacher a few moments of your time. Islam is in danger at every moment. Its enemies never cease to conspire against it. The minds of our youth are corrupted by too much evil. Even in our country, the agents of the West through what they call the opposition press distort the Islam that we have given you back! Wait Haj Sa'ad, until your Imam has finished!"

Haj Sa'ad continued walking out. Some of the Professor's loyal disciples rushed to close the door! One of them shouted to Haj Sa'ad. "Get back and listen to your Imam's lecture!"

"Now, wait a minute your guys can't lock us up here. Those who wish to stay, and listen are free to do so. But that does not forfeit my right to go back to my house after completing my prayers!" Haj Sa'ad pushed the young kid away from the door and opened the Mosque door and walked out. Professor Ishaq shouted: "Let this butcher go. He is in darkness any way. He will not do Islam any good!"

Professor Ishaq did not know that he made a big mistake attacking Haj Sa'ad. Most of the people got up to follow Haj Sa'ad.

"Imagine that," said the old man. "attacking such a religious man as Haj Sa'ad. The man is so charitable and kind. He never turns down any seeker of assistance. Yet this professor had the nerve to dispute Haj Sa'ad's faith! I am telling you these people worry me."

As they walked farther away from the mosque, a military jeep came with six troops sitting on the pick-up deck. They immediately came down and picked up the young man. The old man, shouted. "Leave him alone, he did not do anything."

The officer then intervened. "The Sheikh had come to tell us that the boy was inciting the youth of the village to protest and demonstrate and to attack the registration centers!"

"Captain Abdulla, there is no truth to that at all!" said the Old Man, whom the captain had always respected," the Sheikh was trying to recruit the young boy to work

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for the XYZ Party as an activist.

The boy politely rejected his persuasive cash offerings, and asked the Sheikh to respect the young boy's father's wishes that he stay out of politics. The Sheikh insisted that the young boy disobey his father! Can you imagine that our rulers are asking children to disregard their obligation to their parents. Since the Sheikh and his thugs have come back to the area and since Professor Ishaq and his bearded zealots took over the Mosque, the entire area has been in upheaval. Can't anybody put a stop to this. The police captain understood the old man's contention. All we want is to be sure that nobody gets out of line. Go home, young man and stay close to your father. He knows what is best for you.

"Haj Saleh, you are wise and sincere, tell the people to avoid getting into hassles with these power maniacs."

"But captain, these maniacs won't let us! The Sheikh comes around thinking he can buy anyone he likes and purports to be actively engaged in guaranteeing the area for his 'party' during the election. If his efforts to buy people fail, he starts blackmailing."

The Professor insists that anyone who does not conform to his 'vision' will go to hell. He passes out judgment on people causing families to split and social order to disintegrate - all in the name of Islam.

If that is not enough, they now want us to go and put our thumb prints on their party's parliamentary candidates. Do you know that the Sheikh has told us that he is going to run for Parliament.

Because qat and lunch tomorrow are on him, he wants us to give him four years in parliament. Don't you agree with me, it just does not seem right!" The Captain smiled and signaled to his men to release the young man, and to get back on the pick-up.

The old man continued talking to his friends. "Can you imagine? A good lawman who has not the faintest idea now what law he must uphold. Even God's law has become difficult to identify!"

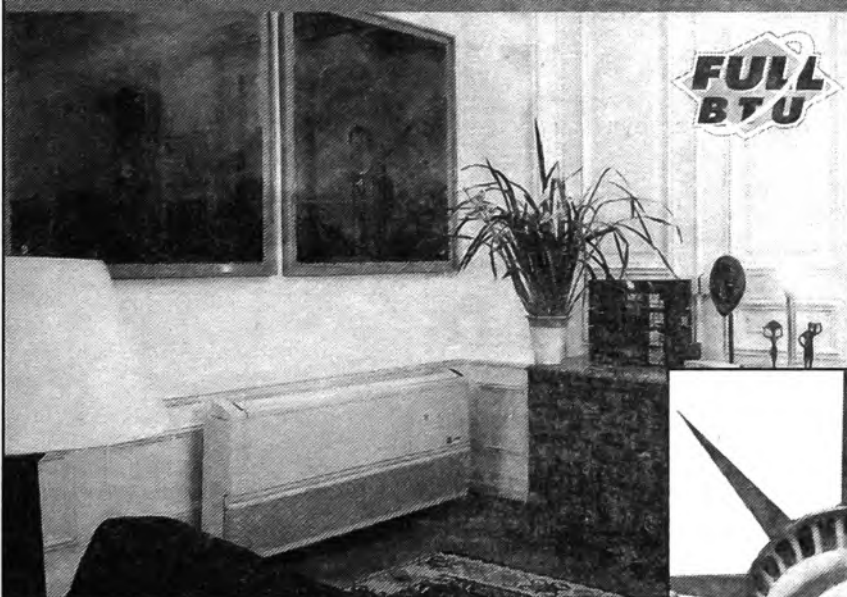
Haj Sa'ad added; "Now there is a good law man, but unfortunately for us and for him politics has thrown the law he is supposed to uphold out the window. In Election times, it will be the law of the gun that will prevail, no matter who we vote for."

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# "Yemen has the capacity to achieve rapid growth."

Dr. Esam Zaim, Senior economist with the UNDP, has just left Sanaa for his new assignment in Fiji. Dr. Zaim, a native of Syria is a graduate of the Sorbonne in Paris. His career has taken him to many countries, including Algeria, Austria, Belgium, France, Mexico, USA, and Venezuela, before landing in Yemen with the UN.

He fluently uses Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times held an extended interview with him and filed the following report.



**Q: There collapse of socialism has brought change to many parts of the world, including Yemen. What in your view on this change?**

**A:** The downfall of the former USSR, and the Soviet backed international socialism which occurred between the years 1988 to 1991 forced the Soviet 'backed' countries to change towards free market economy. This includes many countries which started experimenting with market economy. The world is thus united under one ideology - the free market. This, of course, does not mean that the market economy exists or has been developed in all the countries of the world.

This historical change means the advancement of all the countries of the world officially to the ideology of market economy. The strategy of market development means that we are now to assess different policies according to the degree of success in presenting an efficient market that will enable each of them to have a favorable bargaining position with other economies. It also means all economies are locked into the world market.

In reality, however, you have different situations. Mainly you have the countries that are already dominating in the world economy such as the USA, Japan and West Europe. Of course we know that these have a high pace of technological innovations, immense financing capacity, and an efficient administrative and business system, and a pluralist democratic political structure.

On the other hand, there are the developing countries which continue to languish in low savings rates, high unemployment rates, low absorptive capacity for information and knowledge, major mismanagement in the economy, and dictatorial political structures.

The adjustment process that is going on now is really to win over the countries of the developing world to the systems of the advanced countries.

**Q: But this transformation is hard. In fact, since much of the economy in developing countries is in what is called the parallel or black market structure, the steps taken cover only a small part of the economy?**

**A:** That is very right. To understand it further, let me use an example. The level of unemployment is directly tied-in with the transformation or adjustment. Yemen, for example, now faces an intolerable level of unemployment. And it is becoming very difficult to bring this level down. We are dealing more and more with people who are dealing with temporary jobs - like contractual work. The secure permanent job is becoming more and more something of the past.

**Q: You spoke of continued dominance by the advanced countries. Is it not true that some rising developing countries like the 'Tigers' are already posing a challenge to such dominance?**

**A:** Basically, the globalization of the world economy is helping the more advanced and more prepared countries. We can see the dominant economies trying to keep their dominance, but there is, as you correctly noted, a rising challenge. Mainly this comes from countries of the Far East, South East Asia, some Latin American countries, and recently India joined the group.

There is no doubt that the high rate of growth in these countries will be promoting important changes in international economic relations in the coming century. Changes in economic relations will definitely bring, as well, changes in political and power relations worldwide.

Now then, you have a third group of countries that are really condemned to marginalization. A striking example of this is sub-Saharan Africa. Many Arab countries are also in this lot.

**Q: The integration of small economies into the world economy is a treacherous and tortuous path. Is the IMF recipe the only way to go about it?**

**A:** I think that one key element determining how a country integrates with the world economy is the rate with which it succeeds in developing its human resources. It is clear that all countries that have a good stature in the world economy have achieved it through a very important revolution in human resources development. I would say for example human resource development is a pre-requisite for

having an active and positive interaction with the world.

I think that all the countries that have understood and incorporated consequently educational excellence in their long term strategies, have a chance of having a favorable status in the world economy. This applies to countries of South-East Asia, which have a place in the world of tomorrow.

On the other hand, the economies whose states do not incorporate an educational revolution, that do not start by developing their human resources, not only quantitatively, but also qualitatively, then they are in trouble.

For example, countries whose educational systems and curricula incorporate computer and electronic knowledge, are investing in the future. Other countries are still struggling with basic literacy.

Countries which have depended on natural resources will have more difficulty with time. This means the Arab countries, in particular.

Our national products are losing ground, and our economies are threatened. We are threatened because we are still depend on depressed raw materials, and we are not focusing on the new sectors and the new technologies.

So you can see that those countries that have focused on human resource development and good strategy for tomorrow have good chances in the future. Tunisia, among the Arab countries, is a case which offers much hope.

The prospects for East European countries look good because they already have developed human resources. With a good strategy, they will improve and overcome their difficulties. They will have a place in the world of tomorrow.

In short, the countries that progress in human resource development are the countries that understand the importance of long term prospective strategy, and they are the leaders of tomorrow.

**Q: Most of the Arab countries face a debt crisis. Even oil countries face financial difficulties as a result of the fall in oil prices. How can their negotiation position vis-a-vis the international economy be improved?**

**A:** Arab countries are not alone in this predicament. Most developing countries or the so called Third World are in a vicious debt cycle. They borrowed money from foreign states, and mismanaged the money. This has turned into a tragedy. The whole debt problem is symbolic of the way Third World politicians and bureaucrats screwed everything.

Let me give you a specific case involving Yemen. We borrowed in the 1980s some 170 million dollars over 3 years from one creditor. The money had become 500 million dollars by 1990, and finally it becomes 1 billion dollars by the turn of the century. It is vicious, and it reminds me of the story of the Merchant of Venice.

So why did we have this indebtedness? Because we lived beyond our means. We over consumed, and this over consumption was not sustained by the loss of our production. It is a very simple situation. You produce little and consume a lot. You make up the difference by borrowing.

Of course, there are other cases. You have countries which borrowed money to invest and to develop but they failed. Algeria for example borrowed and spent a lot of money - not necessarily for consumption, but for investment. Now the indebtedness crisis has exposed the overall development crisis.

**Q: What is one major problem with the development approach of the Arab countries?**

**A:** I think it is basically the role of the state. The state dominated everything. In the revolutionary countries - Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, etc. - the state was the main employer and investor. In the oil rich country - Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, etc - the money was with the state, and so it played a preponderant role in the economy and society.

So in terms of what the state was controlling, it dominated the economy.

In addition, Arab countries have substantial external debts. And it is the external debt that is

problematic. For example, in Yemen it is 200% of the GDP. This and other external factors will determine how the economy will change in order to overcome the crisis of indebtedness.

In the cases of Tunisia and Syria, there was no re-scheduling, as both were able to manage their situations. But in most cases there is an explosion of the external debt crisis. So that the solutions were external. Hence, there was a warning to each and every Arab country to change its economic system and the policies.

The debt was relieved, reduced, re-scheduled in the cases of Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen. Most Arab countries have re-scheduled their debts only after agreeing to change their economic system.

**Q: Have we hit a dead end?**

**A:** In reality the crisis of indebtedness is a crisis of investment because you are not able any more to invest. It is a crisis of management of resources. This is an expression of an overall crisis.

It is a crisis of daily management. For example, here in Yemen, you have foreign exchange reserves that will buy what you need to eat for six to seven weeks. That is all. So this is a crisis that reflects a failure to manage your situation - failure to produce food locally, failure to organize local production, failure to set correct priorities, failure to even entice Yemenis with lots of money abroad to bring it here and invest.

There is another dimension to the mismanagement. Read the record of Yemen over the last several years. You have applied to the world under numerous emergencies. Earthquake relief effort, war relief effort, drought relief effort, flood relief effort, etc. It is clear that there isn't even the smallest cushion, and society is badly exposed under the slightest problem.

**Q: Do you think that reform of administration should come first?**

**A:** I think you shouldn't put one against the other. Both are needed. They should go hand in hand. Civil service and economic reforms are both a necessity in Yemen. You need to change the civil service so that it has the qualities needed to absorb the reforms and new ideas. That is why civil

service reform has to go beyond the scope of the economic reform to embrace the experience and the building of institutions and state building.

**Q: As you leave Yemen, do you have any additional comments?**

**A:** I have to say that I am leaving Yemen with much regret. But, this is life, and one has to move on. When I came here, Yemen was not ready for the reforms and there was political tension. Things have changed.

I don't say that the problems have been resolved. What I am saying is that I am pulling out at a time when I think I could have contributed more meaningfully. The post of senior economist with the UNDP is being scrapped, which is a shame. Yemen does not need more administrators and bureaucrats at the UNDP, it needs more specialists. So, the decision against this post seems in contradiction with Yemen's needs. It is immaterial if I stay or go, but it is more fundamental if the post is retained.

I believe the potential for Yemen is excellent, but the pace is being slowed down because the really qualified Yemenis are being held back. Most of the people who take the driving seat should really take the back seat. But that is up to the Yemenis to resolve. It is up to the Yemenis to work out a system that will promote the able ones, and not those who play up to the rulers.

Yemen is certainly backward economically and technologically, but it is certain that there is sophistication at a high level of culture and civilization.

I have had the pleasure of working here.

## الف مبروك

يتقدم أهالي أديم وال السقاف  
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات وأطيب الأمنيات  
للشباب عارف عبدالولي الأديبي  
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون  
أدام الله الأفراح والمسرات ،  
وجعل الله الزوجين قرة عين لبعضهما  
ونتمنى لهما حياة زوجية سعيدة

## Sam-Yemen Schools



## مدارس سام اليمن

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The *Sam-Yemen School* offers the following subjects: Arabic Language, Islamiyat, Social Studies, Geography, taught in Arabic Language, and English Language , Mathematics and Science (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) taught in English language.

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## Violence: A Blind Alley

Time and again violence within the family and in the immediate neighborhood takes the lives of defenseless people, causing unimaginable human suffering over the unnecessary and premature loss of a mother, father, child or friend.

One and the same question haunts many people in different countries today - why, what for? It is impossible to answer this question. There is no way that acts of violence or terrorism, whether politically motivated or otherwise, can be justified whatever the explanations.

Violence leads us all into a blind alley. One has to be blind not to see that it can spawn only more violence, destruction, war. Has humanity not had enough proof of this to reject such actions?

At least three and a half million people on our planet die every year as a result of violence at home and at work, in urban settings and in the countryside, of violence by teenagers and by mature individuals. This is happening today, when public health is improving in many countries, and life expectancy at birth is increasing. It is unacceptable that so many innocent people continue to meet a violent and premature death.

It is equally unacceptable that millions of others should become permanently handicapped. At a

time when economic crises are jeopardizing efforts to improve the health of mankind, injuries of all kinds, resulting from violence, cost the world community almost US\$ 500 billion a year in medical care and lost productivity.

World Health Organization (WHO) and health authorities worldwide recently urged all individuals and warring parties to refrain from violence and victimization, and to respect the human rights of individuals, irrespective of their religious, political or social affiliation.

The organization also warned against rising teen-age violence, which is lethal, especially when associated with drugs and alcohol. Numerous programs have been devised to help societies overcome this problem.

It takes much more personal and political courage to refrain from violence than to yield to it. It demands much more spiritual strength to speak the language of reason than to use the language of bombs. Deliberate attacks against unarmed civilians are also a flagrant violation of international law and numerous agreements safeguarding human rights. The ever-increasing wave of violence, including the recent armed attacks targeting defenseless civilians in many parts of the world, is a matter of serious concern.

## Advice to Ear Patients

The mastoid otitis which affects the inner part of the ear is a serious disease for it has to do with the brain and the inflammation/swelling of it. It is noted that during the cold season, this disease spreads more, as it affects the whole breathing system and the ear when exposed to it.

Therefore, individuals should not delay or neglect to diagnose or urgently attend to any problems of this nature. Delay will allow the germs to pass through the inner part of the ear and cause pus and suppurative inside the ear.

The symptoms of the disease include feeling pain, a buzz, swelling, and signs of appearance of pus and blood. Besides, there is also a failure in hearing even from a close distance.

In case the ear channels are closed for some time, the veins absorb part of the air which exists inside the ear leading to a decrease/contraction in pressure and further difficulty in opening of the inner channels to confront the changes of the outside temperature. This is similar to what happens when you are on a plane. The severe pus/inflammation of

the inner mastoid is a serious one and it is spread mostly among children because of exposure to colds, measles and fever during the cold season. The symptoms are dizziness, sickness, vomiting and high fever which can reach up to 40 degrees. Sometimes the infection causes tearing of the tympanitis and pus comes out of the ear.

Antibiotics are used in curing such cases. Patients are advised to put a piece of cotton inside the ear to prevent contamination of the area from any possible germs. To treat any complications of the acute cases, we should consult a doctor or specialist, and follow his/her advice carefully and without hesitation.

Any neglect to ear infections will lead to more complications and this will cause diseases such as meningitis or inflammation of the brain and sometimes it affects the eyesight. I strongly advise patients to hasten to the doctor when a sign of pus appears so as to avoid any complications in future.

**Dr. Fareed Mohammad Saad,**  
Specialist: ear, nose, throat.

## INVITATION TO TENDER

THE ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, CENTRAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE wants to sell "The Former Ethiopian Navy Ships and Boats Currently Sheltered at the port of Djibouti" as is where is basis.

The bidders are therefore invited under the following observations:

1. Bid documents are sold at the CENTRAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE of the Ministry of National Defense of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.
2. The bidders are expected to submit their offers in sealed envelopes up to September 16, 1996 before 6:00 pm to the CENTRAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE.
3. The bid shall be opened on September 16, 1996 exactly at 3:00 pm. This will be done inside the premise of the CENTRAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE.
4. The Office retains the right to either accept or reject the bids.
5. The bids shall be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

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## Enhancing Public Awareness on Sustainable and Environmentally Correct Development Concept

In the context of promoting awareness of the public on the meaning and impact of sustainable and environmentally correct development concepts, in my point of view, certain important questions should be clear. These questions are as follows:

- What is sustainability and sustainable development?
- Why do we need to adopt sustainable development concept?
- What is environmentally correct?
- What is implied in adopting sustainable development, and how to implement it and by whom?
- What is to be sustained? And what kind of change do we need?

These ideas and concepts are important because most of the past economic development concepts led to more human sufferings and environmental catastrophes (pollution of water resources, air, acidic rain, green-house effects, ozone hole!!). The imbalance in development became evident because of human drive for gaining only more power, more money whatever the costs are!!! Consequently disasters appeared which are mostly man-made disasters. The slow-moving disasters are further accentuated as 80% of the world's resources are used by 20% of the world's population, specifically those living in the developed world.

The above-mentioned issues have forced the question of what is the alternative or option to the traditional concept of development? At last, it has been agreed that the main objective of development should be "Realization of human development and its potentiality." Accordingly the out-come of Stockholm and Rio de Janeiro Conferences of 1972 and 1992 respectively emphasized the adoption of the sustainable Development Concept!

However the question raised was and still is the definition and meaning of sustainability?

The concept is not so easy to define. In fact, till present time, it is not so clear to many people and agencies at national and international levels. Many international assistance donor agencies, especially field managers and experts have not understood the concept, let alone work to implement it. Most have defined or interpreted it according to their narrow views or interest. Even those who are aware of it are hesitating to address it. In fact many field examples exist especially the "trial and error" methods in selecting sustainable development advisors at a national and international levels. Till present time, many industrialized and rich nations are hesitating to mobilize the resources to pay the "increment cost", needed for promoting sustainable development and sustainability.

Let me offer one landmark definition of Sustainable Development. According to the report of "Our Common Future (Brand Commission, 1987) "Sustainable Development (S.D): is the development which meets the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Furthermore, S.D. is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspiration. There are many other definitions given by certain agencies such as: UN/DIESA, and by D. Pearce in 1988, and also FAO experts.

From the above definition, it is clear that the concept is complex and not specific!! For example "what are basic human needs and aspiration? Is it high income? Is it material satisfaction only? How do we assess the needs of future generations? How to account for natural resources as asset or capital? The difficulties to measure and quantify environmental values are even greater with factors such as water quality!! Such difficulties are shared with other Social dimensions of development including cultural aspects as well.

Up to present time, many people including experts, decision-makers equate sustainability with the perpetuation of a project!! Or with the continuation of an organization's success!!! Others equate S. D. with

the protection of natural resources from an environmental aspect only!! For example economists stress only economic aspects of growth; while biologists argue that it is the biosphere that needs to be sustained! Sociologists stress on the environment; others argue and say that what is proposed is to sustain the present international re-distribution of wealth and power in inequity. Some say that sustainability includes ethical and moral considerations.

Accordingly, one could ask: How can we make a long-term strategies, policies and choices in favor of a concept that is not clearly defined? How can implementation proceed, although all agree that it is necessary to reduce inequity, poverty, and environmental degradation and pollution. But how?

The basic thrust is that we have to be more human in our interactions and give more weight to ethical aspect of any development. In short, the focus should be on the needs of human beings. That means agreeing on issues such as "Incremental cost" "debt relief", and the "widening gap between the poor and rich nations" "Trade liberalization," etc. Therefore, before adopting sustainability, it is important to study its implications. But if S.D. is not adopted at national and international levels, the consequences could be enormous.

The first step in this regard is to be aware of impact of sustainability. The concerned parties should be actively and positively involved in following-up and understanding the benefit and impact of implementing sustainable development and what the prerequisites for adopting it are.

For example, the Plan of Action of "Agenda 21" as an outcome of UNCED (Rio Declaration, 1992) emphasizes sources and mechanisms to mobilize financing programs of "Agenda 21". It calls for additional resources in grants and concessional terms from the international community.

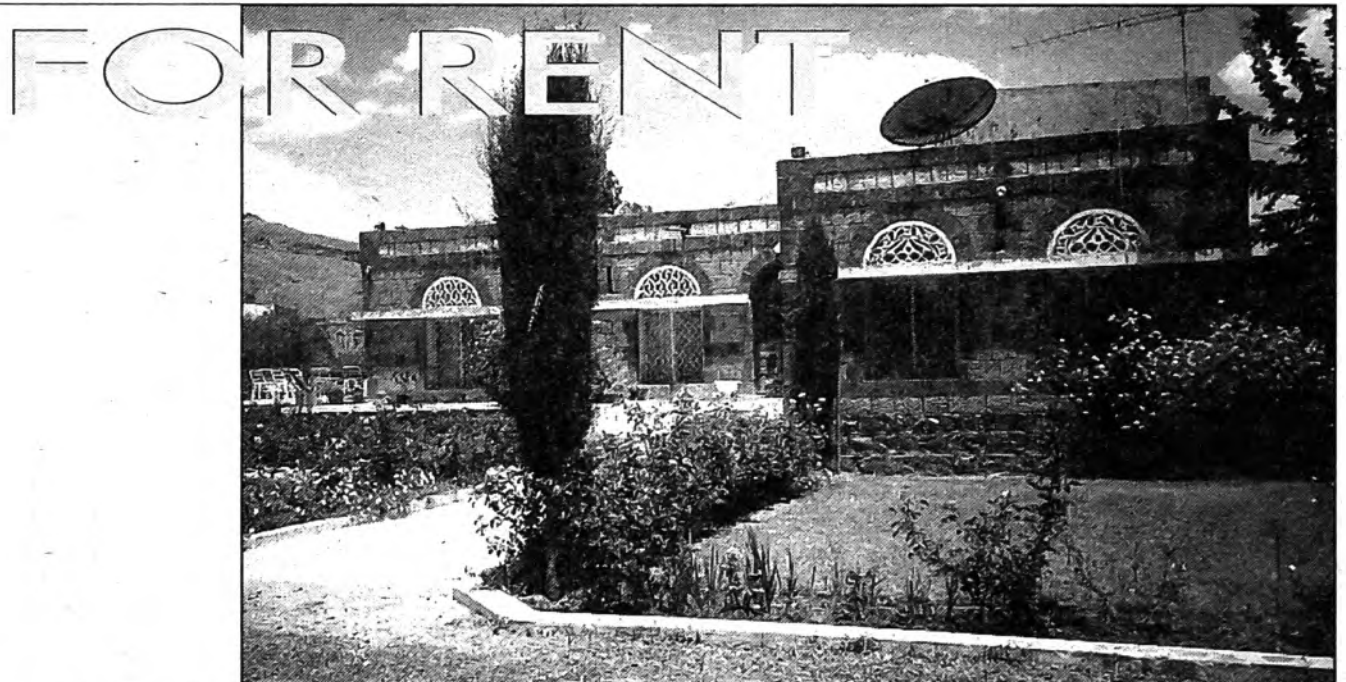
In conclusion, in order to increase our awareness of S. D. concepts, the following aspects should be considered:

- 1- At the national level, sustainability policies should be developed and discussed by all concerned agencies.
- 2- Many economists view sustainability as a macro-level criterion, but the problems facing them are measurement and valuation of natural capital mainly human capital. What are the effective measurements and evaluations?
- 3- At the project level, a lot of micro-level information and interferences are required.
- 4- A comprehensive and integrated multi-disciplinary approach is necessary for adopting sustainability. One key issue is the compatibility of economic and environmental strategies for all sectors.

Thus, the issue is not only to avoid or mitigate the destruction of natural resources, but it is to promote a socio-cultural, economic development in a healthy and sustainable manner, where human beings are the center and core of any development. Where all people have access to resources and job opportunities. Issues such as re-distribution, equity of assets and investment in human capital through programs in health, education, skill development and technology transfer mechanisms. Above all, eliminating all forms of discrimination and eradicating poverty - both of which have caused and still cause "migration" as a survival strategy for the poor.

In sustainable development, transparency of the system and free flow of information in the broad sense are essential. These should include making available data, appropriately packaged, passing on experience and knowledge and improving information reliability. Transparency means also that the promoters and supporters of sustainable development should be exemplary for the eradication of the narrow minded vision of prioritizing self-interest over common interest and global benefit.

By: **Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi**  
Environment/Development Consultant, Sanaa.



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A hall opened to the reception, drawing room and to the dining area.

The drawing room is opened to the fountain which may be transformed into a small swimming pool.

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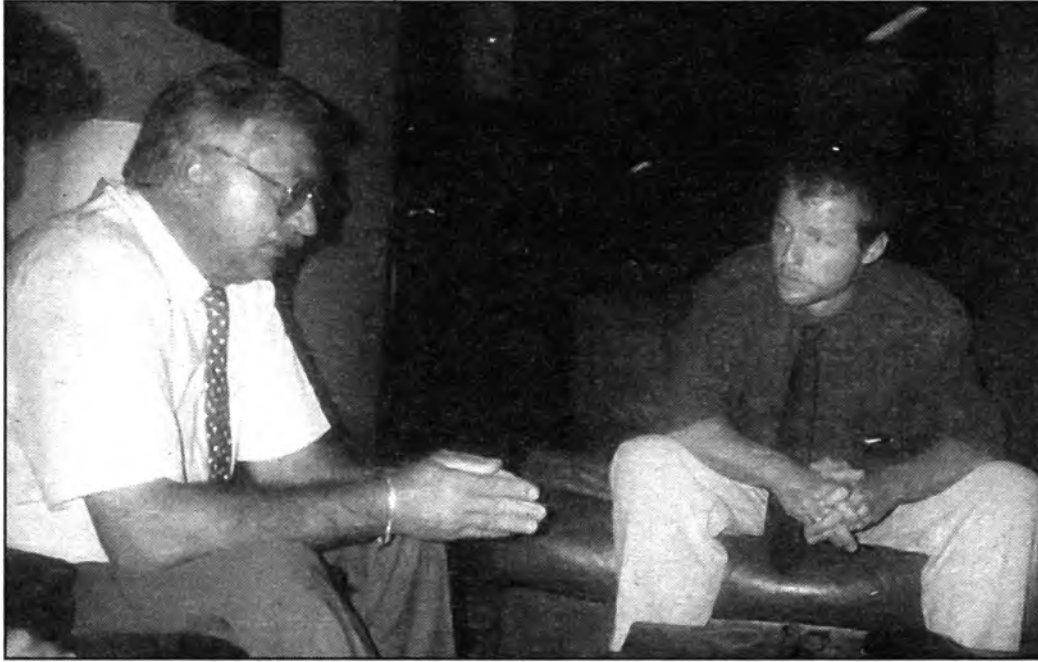


# BASF: Policies of Environmental Responsibility

Chemicals and fertilizers have been at the center of much debate in Yemen recently, given the environmental and health concerns. BASF - a German company - has been partly involved in helping the Yemeni government determine the chemical components of the fertilizers imported into the country, with special reference to those banned under the FAO circulars.

Mr. Hans-Dieter Mueller, Resident Manager/Agro Chemicals of BASF stationed in Riyadh for two years now, was in Sanaa last week. He covers Yemen as well as Saudi Arabia.

On the occasion of the visit, Thomas Ludwig and Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times interviewed the BASF official.



**Q: Can you please give us an idea about the BASF-Company.**

**A:** Our company was founded in 1865 in the southwest of Germany to produce dyes. Later, it started producing auxiliaries. And in the early 1920, BASF invented fertilizers. In the early 1930s we invented the tape. Plant-protection was soon invented after the fertilizer and BASF is today one of the leading companies in plant-protection products as far as research is concerned.

In Yemen, we have been active since the late 1960s, together with Al-Suffary Brothers. Today our main distributor for plant protection products is Al-Amery Brothers in Hodeida. Our distributor for fertilizers is the Hayel-Saeed-Group.

**Q: We heard you were cooperating the Ministry of Agriculture in screening dangerous chemicals?**

**A:** We have quite a good cooperation and a good relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture. That is channelled mainly through the Plant Protection Department (PPD) which handles the plant protection imports.

The Ministry of Agriculture is working very intensively towards an orderly market in this regard. We at BASF will assist this effort however we can. Last year we had the chance to assist Yemen with 3000 liters of salute - a combination of two pesticides -, which had a value of approximately 43,000 US-Dollars. That was during the campaign against the black-aphid.

Today we are assisting the PPD by providing it with information and literature that will help them a bit in their struggle to keep a clean environment as far as to achieve serious plant protection. In the past, there was a lot of stuff coming into the country, which was neither good nor useful for the Yemeni farmer. Therefore, it was kept in the stores, it expired, and expired stuff is always something dangerous.

**Q: Where is this dangerous product today?**

**A:** I have to point out, that it was not a BASF product. I think the FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) gave money to take approximately 200,000 liters of the stuff out of the country for incineration in the UK. The cost was over one million US Dollars in this process.

Therefore, you can see that rectifying a mistake in this regard is a very costly business. Thus, it is very important that Yemen works only with companies which care about their products, care about the environment and which have toxicological data for their brands. BASF is a member of the Gifap-Group, an international group for fabrique pesticides, which brings together the main producers worldwide. This group gives the main producers a certain code of conduct. According to this code of

conduct, a plant protection producer makes sure that the importers, the dealers and the end-users handle the products in the right way. They give guidance in production, transportation, storage and safe use.

**Q: What about the BASF-volume in the plant-protection market of Yemen and the relations to the distributors here?**

**A:** We have close relations with all our associates. Our main relationship with Al-Amery Brothers. We have a good standing and a very good working relationship. We are in regular contact with them. They handle the distribution of our plant protection products which is very crucial. Therefore, Al-Amery Brothers have a very good system and network of distribution. We as BASF are very happy with them.

Our business is increasing because the Yemeni market is still able to consume much more products than is available at the moment. So with a growing market, the business is increasing. Much, however, depends on the distributor.

**Q: What are the main problems you are facing here in Yemen?**

**A:** There are two main problems. First of all, there is the lack of technology. The farmers must be educated in the use of plant protection products, because the chemicals are - like medicine - effective if well used. Otherwise they could be dangerous. If you use the wrong plant protection, or use a plant-protection on the wrong plant, the plant will suffer. And not only the plant, the environment may also suffer. Second, there is the lack of extension-service. This again is an educational issue.

**Q: So how can you make sure that the farmers use the chemicals in the right way?**

**A:** We are supplying our distributors with sufficient information material. We are talking to them, we are instructing them to teach the farmers. That's all we can do.

More can be done on the part of the government and the local media.

gerous products which are harmful. Some products, for example, which require a certain waiting time before harvest?

**A:** The development of a plant protection product needs the testing of about 10000 ingredients. This costs hundreds of millions of dollars for one product. So it is not easy to find a product which has a lower waiting period. We know some farmers, especially the qat growers, spray their plants and do not wait the two-week period before the effects of the pesticide is nullified. This is a problem, although we continuously warn against such haste. A shorter period means also, that the product is not long enough active.

We are teaching the farmers all the time to stick to the minimum waiting-periods. On each and every label, there is a warning, not to use the product before the waiting-period is over. In our leaflets we are warning the farmers, but we can't put behind each and every liter of plant protection product a policeman.

But farmers normally are people with a very sound common sense. They know how to handle the products, especially these which they have been using for a very long time.

**Q: What about BASF shipments which expire before distribution?**

**A:** It is our company policy to retrieve any shipments which expire before they are distributed. We have this arrangement with our distributors.

**Q: What have you achieved in this visit to Yemen?**

**A:** I am here several times a year. Usually, I visit our distributors and customers, because we want to see what the farmers need, whether everything is all right or whether there is a complaint about something. This is a simple visit aimed at continued contact with our associates.

Another reason for this visit was to introduce some new fertilizer products and to see how they are received by the local market. This again is part of our policy to keep in touch with the changing needs of the market. If you are not in permanent contact with the market you will lose it.

**Q: The market-share of BASF is large, the prices of BASF to other competitive products are high. Can you comment on that?**

**A:** The prices of BASF are here the same as everywhere else. If you require a product which is tested, proven and fit for use worldwide, then you have to pay a certain premium price for it. Research, quality-control and the way of production are factors which affect the costs. And our costs are calculated to the minimum we can give to our distributors. And let me add this. The Yemeni farmer knows that our prices are slightly higher than the competition, and yet prefers our products. It is basic economics. You get what you pay for it. And the astute farmers know this.

**Q: But your company also exports some dan-**

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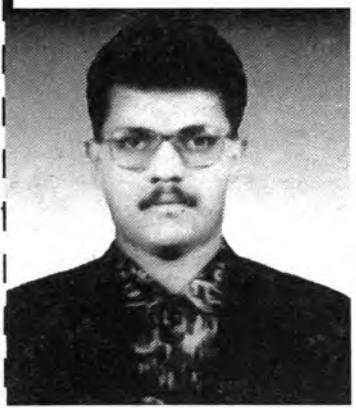
Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce

## تهانينا الحارة

أنهى بنجاح باهر الشاب

عصام عبده حسن الزريقي

دراسته الجامعية تخصص «صيدله»  
في جامعة (بي أي تي) في الهند.  
وبهذه المناسبة يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء  
بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات  
ويتمنون له المزيد من النجاح والتفوق





## The Tourism Industry on the March

# Yemeni History on Display in Paris

# "They squeak and squeal with pleasure."

Yemen ranks in equal importance with other civilizations of the ancient Near East. Much archaeological and ethnological evidence has been collected which confirms that Yemen is amongst those countries which stood at the cradle of civilization. Yemen produced a civilization which, along with others, made an active contribution towards the development of mankind.

At the Institute du Monde Arabe (IMA) in Paris, an archeological exhibit of Yemen's antiquities will open in October 1997 and continue for five months until February 1998. This enormous exhibition which will include 300 pieces covering the prehistory and history of Yemen will be expecting over 300,000 visitors and the cost is expected to run in the millions.

Yemen Times correspondent, Sumaya Ali Raja, met in Paris with Dr. Yousuf Mohammed Abdullah, Chairman of the Organization of Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums, who was in Paris last month to sign the executive agreement for the go ahead on this monumental project.

Excerpts:

**Q: What do you hope to achieve with this exhibit?**

**A:** There is so much evidence of man's creativeness in Yemen that to cover it all would be impossible. What we hope to do is give the French and Europeans a glimpse into Yemen's distinct contribution to the ancient culture of the Near East and establish its identity within the Arabian-Islamic world. The ancient monuments at the sites of Southern Arabia's early civilization, its architecture and art, and its cultural legacy which have been preserved down to the present day, will be displayed and highlighted.

**Q: Can you give us a brief time span of Yemen's history?**

**A:** Reading from Yemen's from what remains of the country's flourishing civilization, pre-Islamic architecture began 1,500 years before Islam. The masterpieces of Islamic architecture and art likewise span a period of about 1,500 years so we can truly speak of a 3,000 years civilization. The Yemeni people are very conscious of their archaeological legacy.

**Q: In 1987, you participated in a similar exhibition in Munich entitled "Yemen 3000 Years of Civilization" which dealt mainly with the Queen of Sheba in Marib. But from that effort, a reference book on the many studies emerged like: The Ancient Kingdoms, The Bronze Age, Yemeni Inscriptions, Semitic Languages, The Silver, The Coins, Medieval Architecture, Herbal Medicine, Poetry, etc., written by forty-five international scholars including seven Yemeni authors.**

**A:** I am glad you mentioned that exhibition. You must remember that took place ten years ago. Since then, we have uncovered and discovered more monuments, have done more research and gained ten years of experience. The Yemeni antiquities exhibition in Paris will be more comprehensive, and more professional. I will stress the key word here is professionalism.

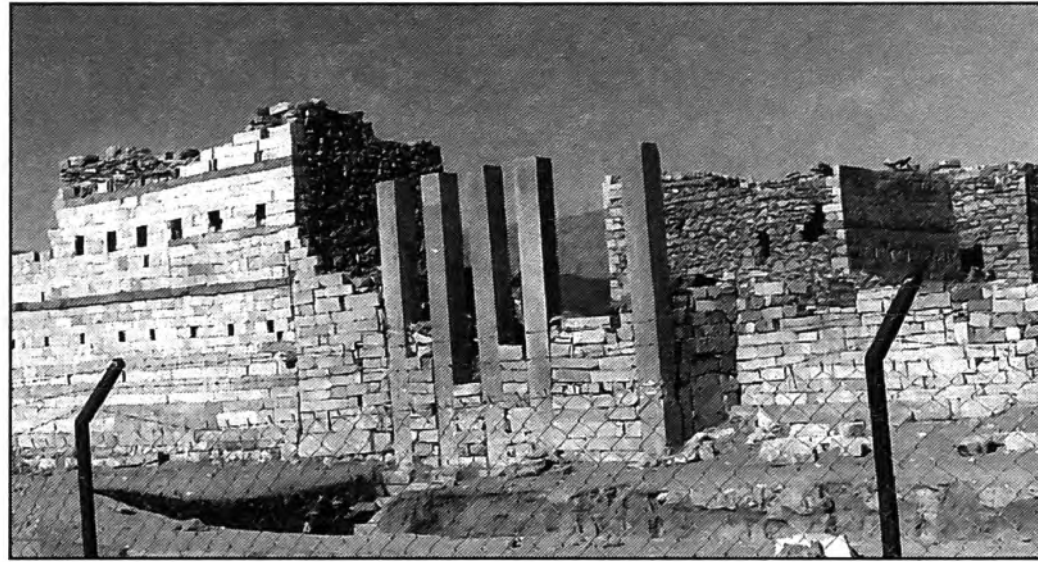
Take the book as an example. We hope to expand and improve on the last one. There will be twenty people working on its new conception, including many experienced scholars and administrators from IMA. The exhibition will be much larger as there is more space at IMA. The three hundred pieces (to be displayed) will be chosen with the utmost care to represent Yemen's pre-history and history.

Beginning with the dawn of civilization to the golden age of Islam. And this time, we hope to make a documentary film to capture all this.

**Q: Which kingdoms will you cover: Sabaa, Hadhramaut, Ausan, Qataban, Maen?**

**A:** This is going to be a very extensive exhibition, starting with the dawn of our history. It will cover the Paleolithic age, the Neolithic age, the rise of the kingdoms, the political history of Sabaa, Himyar, Qataban and Hadhramaut. Then we will show the cultural influence on the arts, architecture, pre-Islamic inscriptions Quranic calligraphy, Islamic book art, etc.

I envisage this exhibition in two spheres - the core being the archaeology of the kingdoms and other sphere is the continuity of history. We will have a large Islamic section showing the magnificence of Yemen during the Islamic era.



**Q: Could you give us an insight into the kingdom of Sheba?**

**A:** The most famous town in ancient Yemen was Marib. For many centuries, it was the capital of the Kingdom of Sabaa (Sheba). Owing to its position on the edge of the eastern Yemeni desert, it dominated the main trade route of the ancient world, the frankincense route which ran from the port of Qana on the southern coast of Arabia, through the valleys of Hadhramaut via Marib and Al-Jawf to Najran and from there onwards into Northern Arabia finally reaching Gaza on the Mediterranean. Marib's most important temples are the "Mahram Bilquis" partly excavated in 1952 by an American expedition. Instead of the treasures of the Queen of Sheba, they discovered hundreds of blocks of stone with inscriptions. The recent excavations have revealed many significant archaeological treasures and knowledge.

**Q: Who are some of the scholars who will be involved in this exhibition?**

**A:** The international dimension will be huge. We will have some of the most reputed scholars and Yemenologists to participate.

**By: Thomas Ludwig, German Journalist Based with Yemen Times, Sanaa.**

They are Spanish and they are enjoying the Old City of Sanaa. They squeak and squeal with pleasure, waving cameras taking snapshots offhand - of dogs dozing, kids playing, men chewing qat, etc. Western women wearing shorts and tight trousers are attracting the attention of the Yemenis; some of the locals seem to be embarrassed. Old men look as if they cannot believe what they see. A veiled Yemeni woman passing the scene is shaking her head, saying: "What's this?" Confronted with a camera she tightens her sharshaf and hastens away. A few seconds later, the apparition is over and the train of tourists has gone.

Of course the Spanish lot could have been Germans or Italians. They could have been British, French, Italians or Dutch. Travellers who feel at home everywhere, sometimes act like this.

For sure the Europeans and other nationalities that visit Yemen will find a great welcome. The Yemenis are well-known for their hospitality and

friendliness. That is because, tourists are regarded as guests. But do these guests recognize that they have a duty, too? Do they know that with their money they can't simply overrun a country's culture, rules and values?

Sometimes there seems to be lack of respect. Says a manager of an Old-City-Hotel: "Imagine a couple sitting on the window of our hotel, hugging and kissing. All the neighbors could watch them. What do you think of that?"

Maybe some visitors are just frolicsome, but you may also say they are ignorant or inconsiderate of the local values! Let me give an example. The other night there was a group of Italians having fun on the rooftop of a hotel, singing, shouting, making noise as if they were not only eight or ten people but twenty or more. Neighbors couldn't find any sleep so they called the police, just to remind the guests that they have rented hotel-rooms and not the whole city. Even I felt disturbed by this group of travellers. I was asking myself: Why didn't these folks join a beach-club on the Mediterranean Sea to have this kind of fun?

Meanwhile there is some criticism, especially from traditional Islamic people, who are afraid that the very special cultural background of the Yemenis will be affected by foreign influence brought by an invasion of tourists. Maybe one should listen to these fears. In 1995 only about 60,000 tourists came to Yemen from all over the world. According to the Five-Year-Plan of the General Tourism Authority (GTA) the number is expected to rise to 500,000 tourists by the end of the plan. So if about half a million people behave like the way described above, what would be the result? Is Yemen prepared for this massive wave of tourists?

"Tour operators must make sure that tourists are advised of any dress or cultural customs that should be borne in mind to avoid any embarrassment to the tourists or the Yemeni public," said recently Mohammed M. Mutahar, Vice-Chairman of GTA, to the Yemen Times. Tour-guides and agency-owners should keep this in mind. Making money is one thing. To be aware of one's responsibility is another.

Tourists themselves come to Yemen not only for architecture, landscape and archeological sites but also for the culture, religion and the people, too. So why don't some of them show appropriate respect to their hosts? It seems, because they consider modern way of living and lifestyle to be something superior to traditional habits - whatever the meaning of this puzzling word "traditional" may be. They consider the easy-going-way to be a great achievement.

At the same time, the travellers expect the host country to be a museum where ancient times are still alive: with busy souqs, peasants guiding heavy loaden donkeys, veiled women carrying water-buckets. Nearly everybody dreams of smelling the atmosphere of the Arabian Thousand-and-One-Night. "Visiting Yemen is a journey through time and space, come and meet the past," one can read in this or that advertising slogan. It is obvious that in this voyage, there will be no space for satellite-dishes on top of Old Sanaa houses...

I myself remember my first visit to Hadhramaut. Together with a bedouin, a friend and I crossed the Rub al Khali (Empty Quarter) in a Toyota Four-Wheel-Drive. This helldriver-bedouin was doing 100 miles per hour top speed. It was rough. I wasn't feeling like Lawrence of Arabia at all. So what? It took some time until I made my mind up. Should this bedouin sell his four-wheel drive and take me through the desert in a sedan just to let me feel somewhat like King Solomon? Tourist expectations very often seem to be not only unrealistic, but quite absurd.

"It is easy to hate mass tourism," stated Michael Elliott recently in an issue of Time-Magazine. "Of all the vagaries of modern life", he went on, "one of the most depressing is this: give northern Europeans a chance, and they will gladly ruin any part of the world where sea, sun, sand and sex can be combined into a two week-long bacchanal." You may find his view quite cynical and impolite to the Europeans. And in Yemen, you may say, one doesn't have this kind of destructive tourism. Well, not yet.

So everybody who deals with tourism, especially the government officials, should take care. For not only Spanish and other tourists enjoy the Old City of Sanaa and Yemen's beautiful countryside, but so do the natives. Let us keep that way in the future as well.

## ADEN HOTEL MOVENPICK FIVE YEARS IN YEMEN

The Aden Hotel Movenpick is proud to announce to have been in existence for five years in Yemen with its partner the Arabian Investment & Tourism Company. Over the last several under the able management first of Mr. Robert Fierz and now for one year of Mr. Cypert Schwartz, the Hotel has seen many ups and downs. To name a few, consider missiles, wild-theme-parties, conferences, belly-dancing, communism, high standard dinner parties, political meddling, sun, wars, democracy, weddings, explosions, over-booking, kidnapping, renovations, etc.

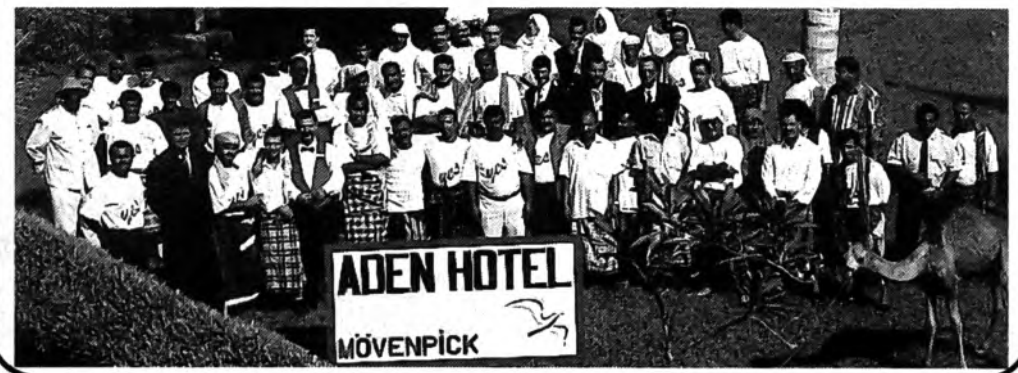
But, with the help of many proud employees, the Hotel has always preserved its existence. Of the now 200 employees, a total of 84 employees have served for at least 5 years with Movenpick. After five years of sweating, rebuilding, keeping up standards in team work and spirit, the team presents an additional member to the group. She is seven months old, and she is currently following the training program - "Leader as a Host" and "Domino". Her name Miss Betsie Kamel.

We have two outstanding persons in the team. These are Ernie Baking (Chief Engineer), from the Philippines who had started in Jeddah at our Albilad Hotel Movenpick with a total of 15 years with Movenpick; and Aymen M. Aidegwi (Income Auditor) from Cairo, who started with Movenpick Hotels in Egypt and with a total of 10 years Movenpick duties.

Now Cypert Schwartz likes to thank his team for their help and trust over the past years of struggling. We now continue the future with the next five years in mind.

The political situation and targets are getting stable, the country has a tremendous potential in tourism, industry, trade, as well as the new Aden Seaport with container terminal. Development is required, and it is on the way. We are ready to treat you to the famous Swiss Hospitality in Yemen, which is to be found in Aden. Looking forward to see you.

With pleasure and a smile from Yemen.





## Through the Heartland of North India

The monsoon rains, though a bit late, have come to promise a bountiful kharif harvest. The giant land mass - stretching hundreds of miles west of Calcutta, soaked with floods, is hardly what an Arab eye is used to.

Calcutta, once the seat of British imperial rule, and today India's largest urban center, was the starting point of a journey that will take to thousands of miles through the heartland of North India. We (my daughter Nadia and I) were warned against this city. So we hastened to Ranchi - some 400 kilometers to the west. Once at Ranchi, we headed to Mesra, 18 kilometers north. This is a student township harboring the Birla Institute of Technology (BIT). Nadia is enrolled in the Computer Engineering Department.

Ranchi itself is not much a city - poor, desolate, and extremely disorganized. Leaving Nadia behind, I headed north to Patna, at the center of the Bihar Plateau and capital of the state. The crush and clamor of Patna takes one by surprise, but gives the visitor vivid memory of the place. I can still visualize the hundreds of rickshaws angling for whatever room is available on the narrow streets.

From there, the trek moved on through Uttar Pradesh and all the way into Delhi, the capital. The trip by train was quite an experience. The 700 kilometers distance took a full eleven hours to cover. But that had its advantages. An open window, a warm summer breeze, and a sufficiently slow speed enables photo buffs to take home pictures of a colorful countryside.

Delhi itself, is of course, delightful. The many monuments and sites are a must. As Friday came while I was in Delhi, I decided to visit the Muslim quarter. I discovered something fascinating. The mosques, quite a few in a small congested area, do not perform the Friday noon prayer and sermon at the same time. There is a ten-minute time gap, so that people can join a full sermon depending on what time they show up. In Yemen, the prayers are all carried out around the same time, leaving no second chance for late comers.

From Delhi, the final leg of the trip was the stretch to Bombay. This, of course, is the most vibrant city of India, and its commercial and business capital. In addition, it is its gateway to the Middle East and Europe. But beware of the fellow who try to give you a lending hand.

There are a couple of impressions I want to share with the readers regarding India. These are the concept of "adjust", and the "contrast" in Indian life.

### Adjust.

I have never seen so used and so abused as the word adjust in India. It has long exceeded the original meaning as stated in your dictionary. Let me give examples.

1. Adjust is when a rickshaw bumps into another rickshaw or cycle on the busy streets of India. Each driver regains control, or rather 'adjusts' and drives off.

2. Adjust is when all the seats on a bus or train are as occupied as they can be, and a new passenger simply drops him/herself in the middle, and everybody 'adjusts'.

3. Adjust is when your paperwork is held up by some corrupt clerk and asks you to 'adjust', meaning channel some of the money in your pocket to his.

4. Adjust is when you gracefully move away from a stranger who is breathing over your neck reading your newspaper.

There you have it folks. With almost 900 million inhabitants, there is indeed lots of 'adjusting' to be done.

### Land of Contrasts.

For any practical reasons, India is a land of contrasts. In fact, the contrast is so strong that it is unnerving. Let me give examples.

1. You see extremely rich people, and you some of the poorest souls on earth. The filthy rich and the wretched poor are almost neighbors.

2. You see the most modern and sophisticated human being on earth, and yet there are primitive human beings. Just imagine computer wiz kids in Calcutta, and a few kilometers to their north are aborigines and tribals.

3. You see innovative and creative entrepreneurs thinking along global lines, saddled with a mountain-like bureaucratic structures.

4. You see wonderful and beautiful nature and next to it wrecked remains of mining and other irresponsible exploits.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times.

## Success Story of UAE's Al-Ajaban Agri Complex

Al-Ajaban, some 100 kilometers from Abu Dhabi off the highway to Dubai, boasts one of the best model farms in the Arab region, it was reported. The area is home to 37,000 palm and other trees and 423,000 forest trees. Besides, there is a huge lake for fish farming which has already produced 20 million Nile Bulti (*Chichild*) fish. High quality animals and fertilizers are also produced here. A pet project of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan's Private Department, Al-Ajaban stands out as a crowning example of the efforts to spread greenery across the Emirates.

The integrated farm complex already produces dates, citrus fruits, grapes, mangoes, guava, and figs. In addition, 14,000 hybrid sheep and goats have been locally produced. In June of this year alone, the poultry farm and allied facilities produced 1,200 chickens, 180 packets of white cheese, and 100,080 eggs.

The project is now witnessing further development. New irrigation canals are being dug and more lakes for fish breeding are being set up. One of the problems has been the 26% salinity of the water. In spite of that, the sizable production of Nile Bulti fish bears testimony to what a strong will and determined effort can produce.

## More Trouble in Palestine/Israel

The hard-line policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has resulted in more confrontation and violence in the region. Arab leaders have been holding many bilateral and regional talks. These include the Assad-Hussain talks, the Assad-Mubarak talks, the Arafat-Mubarak talks, the Arafat-Hussain talks, and the Arafat-Assad talks. All these meetings are trying to find ways to react to the new Israeli policies.

The Palestinian Authority has also seen its credibility and ability to address its affairs badly damaged, while Hamas has seen its stature grow as it presents itself as alternative. More and more Palestinians - and Arabs - are now convinced that the Israelis are not committed to a just settlement and that the peace process is simply a camouflage.

## Erbakan's Turkey Takes a Turn East

Turkish Prime Minister Nejmeddeen Erbakan is showing that he will steer his country more towards the region in which it exists rather than to plant it in the West, as its founding father - Kemal Attaturk - had wanted. The Turkish leader is on a whirlwind to the most important non-Arab Islamic countries in search of a place for Turkey. He is also signing important business deals.

One major deal Mr. Erbakan has signed is a long-term gas deal with Iran involving billions of US dollars. According to the contract, Iran will supply Turkey with its needs of gas.

The US, already unhappy about the new orientation of the Erbakan government, has been irked by the deal and threatened to apply its new law which calls for sanctions against companies which do business with Iran and Libya. Erbakan, so far, has ignored the US threat, which is also opposed by Europe and other countries.

## Chechnyan Rebels Inflict Heavy Damage on Russian Army

The Chechnyan rebel forces were able to initiate heavy casualties on the Russian army which is presently occupying Grozny, the capital of Chechnya. The rebels were also able to regain control on much of their capital.

Just prior to the Russian elections, the two sides had agreed on negotiations and on the need to grant the Chechnyans more autonomy in running their affairs. After the elections, Russian President Boris Yeltsin went back on his agreement and leashed a major attack on the rebels. The purpose was first to weaken them and then dictate the terms of the new arrangements. However, this policy seems to have backfired as a demoralized Russian army was unable to stand its ground, and the rebels steadily began to gain the upper hand. Today, the Chechnyans more or less control their capital, in spite of heavy air bombardment.

The Russians have also committed major human rights atrocities, to which most of the world has turned a blind eye.

## TENDERS INVITED

The Public Building Corporation, headquartered at Al-Mansoura, Aden, announces its desire to sell a production yard on an area of 18,534 square meters. The constructed area is 4,595 square meters, which is composed of the following:

- 1) Steel hangar with an area of 22.6 meters x 59 meters with a height of 8 meters, equipped with a horizontal forklift of a capacity of 10 tons;
- 2) Steel hangar with an area of 20.3 m x 45.6 m with a height of 6 meters;
- 3) Steel hangar with an area of 30 m x 60 m with a height of 6 meters;
- 4) Building constructed with cement blocks with an area of 12 x 35.5 m with a height of 5 meters;
- 5) Administrative building of the production yard whose area is 7.5 x 9 m with a height of 3.3 m;
- 6) Reception/information room with an area of 4 x 8.8 m;
- 7) Unbuilt area of land (Open surface area) of 13,940 sq. m.
- 8) Compound perimeter wall built with stones and cement blocks around the entire production yard, with a length of 530 meters, and an entry gate.

All hangars are imported type, with corrugated aluminum affixed on steel skeletons of the ceilings and sides and with well served concrete ground foundations. The yard is fully connected with all utilities: water, electricity, sewerage and telephone.

Interested investors may come to view the site at Bloc 69 of the Industrial Zone, in Al-Mansoura, Aden or to call the General Corporation at the following numbers 342 966, 342 737 and 342 296.

All pertaining documents to the yard are available at the Yard Administration and will be submitted to anyone interested in return for payment of a non-refundable fee of YR 5000.

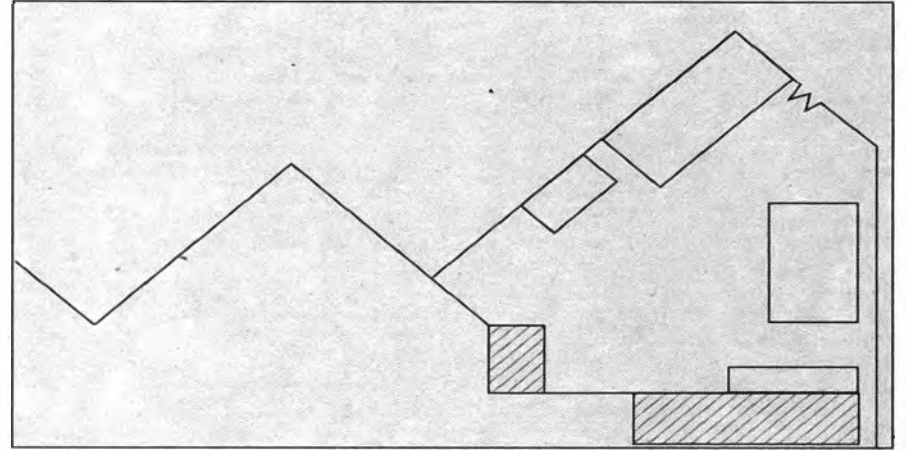
Bidders are to present a Bid Guarantee of YR 5 million, which is refundable to the non-winning bidders, 60 days after the bidding date, which is the period of the bond.

The Bond will be cashed in the event that the winning bidders withdraws his offer or refuses to pay the balance of the bid price, within 30 days after he has been advised, in writing, of winning the bid.

The last date for receiving bids is Monday 9/9/1996 at 10:00 am.

All bids to be presented in sealed envelopes with red wax addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Opening of bid envelopes will be 12:00 noon in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.



## صبرا جميلا آل أنعم

فُجعت اليمن خلال الاسبوع المنصرم بوفاه إبناً باراً من  
ابنائها وعلماً فذاً من أعلامها وهو الوالد

## جازم سعيد أنعم

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بأحر التهاني وأصدق المواساة لعמיד الأسرة

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بهذا المصاب الجلل،

ندعو العلي القدير أن يعصم قلوب الجميع بالصبر والسلوان

وأن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع الرحمة والمغفرة

وانا لله وانا إليه راجعون

عن الجميع:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف



# Seminar Asks: Are Administrative Reforms Possible?

In its Articles of Association, the Yemen Center for Strategic and Cultural Studies and Research lists among its 9 objective 'the study of the political, economic, social and cultural situations in the Republic of Yemen and discussion thereof in such a way as to best serve the total development (of the country) and to contribute to strengthening the security and stability of Yemen and enhances the development of its foreign relations.' Another related objective follows with the 'study of the environmental, cultural, economic, industrial . . . and commercial issues . . . and the presentation of the research, analysis and the design and execution of the appropriate programs which would be required by the relevant concerned (authorities in keeping with these objectives that the Center, officially inaugurate late last month, sponsored a seminar on Administrative Reform in the Republic of Yemen.'

The seminar held on the 29-31 of last month (July) at the "Cultural Center in Sana'a brought many officials from the government, experts and other interested participants to explore the complex administrative peculiarities in Yemen. The seminar also discussed suitable suggestions for coming out of the most troubling obstacle to Yemen's development: the bureaucratic dragnet, which is taxing government functions and providing fertile ground for corruption, mismanagement and haphazard depletion of the nation's resources. Yemen Times gives below a summary of some of the presentations and discussions.

## 1) Administrative Retardation in the Republic of Yemen

Dr. Abdul Majid Abdu Seif Al-Mikhlaft, Assistant Professor at the Political Science Section of Sana'a University looks at the developmental aspects of administration in the government, since this retardation is the cause d'être of the inability of the government to fulfill the desired development goals and objectives. The lengthy paper looks at this underdeveloped administrative policy pursued in Yemen through the three centers for the total development of the country: the planning center, the implementation center and the participatory/contributing centers. Looking at the Yemeni situation specifically since the renunciation of the country in 1990, the paper starts with the following assumptions:

1) There is a paradox between the government's general policy and programs and the performance of the implementation center (the general or public administration).



2) The weakness of the planning center in the wake of absence of information and the limited participation of the other development centers (particularly the participating/contributing centers).

3) The implementation center is influenced by the outdated management concepts and methods

4) The role of the participating/contributing center is generally undermined.

The paper breaks up into different units, while at the same time gives a view of the role of the private sector, where the only available reliable information that could be obtained pertains to the industrial sector.

## 2) Administrative Reforms in the Republic of Yemen:

Another paper on civil service reform presented by Abdulla Mahdi Al-Dar highlights the reason for



unsuccessful reforms in developing countries as follow:

1) Not taking advantages of the studies and research of advanced societies in administrative reforms,

2) The concentration on one or two factors influencing/affecting management such as organization or training, while ignoring all the other remaining factors which could be just as important.

3) Lack of continuation of administrative reforms to keep up with ongoing developments as they occur.

4) The absence of innovation and creativity and the remaining administrative units left without any changes.

5) The reliance on foreign expertise on reforms, which usually lacks the knowledge on the local cultural, historical and social circumstances involved

6) The absence of political support for reforms

7) The instability of the senior administrative positions as a result of political, economic and social circumstances.

## 3) On Administrative Corruption in the Republic of Yemen

Dr. Hamood Abdulla Saleh Aqlan, Assistant Professor at the College of Economics and Commerce,

Sana'a University presents an overview of the corruption in the administrative system in the Republic of Yemen by beginning with the following assumptions:

1) Lack of scientific standards when positioning staff and the over reliance on partisan sentiment as a criteria for positioning of staff.

2) Lack of adherence to convictions and principles with some of the government staff helped to spread corruption.

3) Lack economic deterioration has encouraged widespread corruption.

The paper then discusses the various types of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, group interest, etc. For the period from 1994-1995, the author points out that the following promotions and levels were granted: at senior level positions

Deputy Prime Minister	24
Ministers	298
Advisors or Counselors	242
Vice Ministers	92
Deputy Ministers	256
Assistant Deputy Minister	162
General Manager	1568
Total movements in senior positions	2642

Relying on performance reports of some of the government entities, the author gives examples of the corruption that materialized.

In 1994 the cases that have been referred to the Public Property Prosecutor, after issuance of a political decision beforehand, have reached 1474, of which only 572 have been followed through and tried. The amounts returned to the government as such were YR 335,229,689 and US \$ 3,419,326 which represents a small fraction of the amounts of public funds or the value of public property lost due to corruption, since it is impossible to deal on any cases of corruption without the issuance of a political decision. Thus most corrupt officials are in essence "untouchables" because of strong political protection, which shows a lack of sincere and earnest approach to combating corruption.

Recommendations for combating corruption:

1) Reliance on trustworthiness and qualifications when assigning government positions

2) Development of a training programs which focuses on ethics and values related to public service

3) Review of staff remuneration and incentives to

cope with the deteriorating standard of living because of the adoption of a rigid pay scale that fails to take note of economic and social factors

4) Personal Finance disclosures of key government officials and the accountability of all public officials for the sources of their acquired assets.

5) Separation of partisan sentiment from public service and the adherence to professional neutrality

6) Establishment of control channels with easy access to those who wish to reveal illicit corrupt acts or officials

7) Restructuring of systems to break up the complex bureaucratic web

8) Public awareness on corruption and the roles the public can play in fighting corruption

9) Independence of control mechanism in the government.

10) Review of legislation pertaining to corruption and strengthening of legal framework against corruption.

11) Judicial Reform

12) Systematizing the fight against corruption and the required procedures, penalties, etc.

13) Assigning only those with proven clean records to engage in fighting corruption.

14) Appropriate use of media

15) Introduction of values, principles and other elements of moral behavior throughout the educational system

Other papers discussed during the Seminar include:

1) Administrative Reforms and their Effects by Abdulla Hassan Hadha, a Lecturer at the Administrative Institute in Hodeida.

2) The Importance of the Civil Service Law in Facing up to administrative corruption in ROY, by Dr. Ahmed Abdurrahman Sharafeddine, Associate Professor, College of Law and Religious Jurisprudence, Sana'a University

3) A study of the Opinions of Government Staff on Government Administrative Reform Programs for the Period 1990-1996 by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Hijazy, Assistance Professor, Political Science, Sana'a University.

4) An Islamic Viewpoint for Administrative Reform, Hassan Sadiq Hassan, Al-Iman University, Sana'a

5) The Administrative Reform experience in the Sudan: Organizational and Values Structuring

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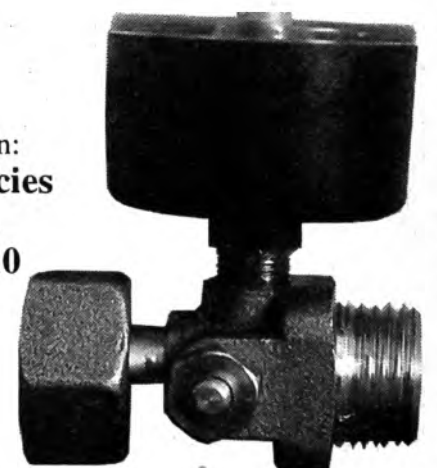
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Distributors in other governorates are invited.

### Beware of imitations.

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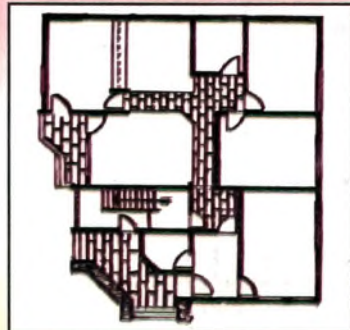
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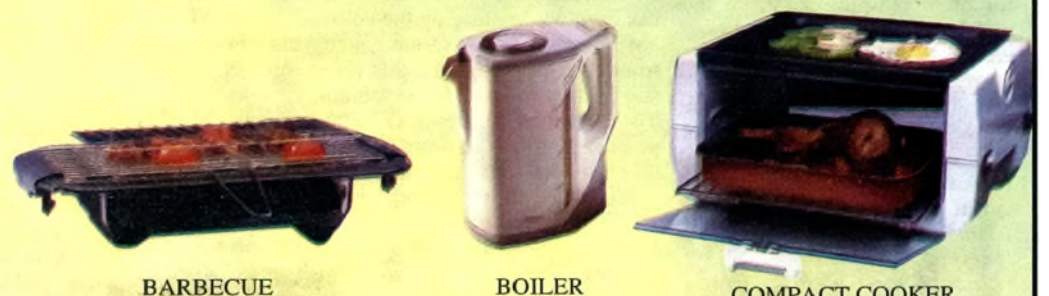


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AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 5-8-96  
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President Mediates for the Release of Kuwaiti Prisoners (in Iraq).
- 2) 3 Deaths for a Slap (Citizen Thrown a Grenade in Police Precinct After Being Slapped in the Face by Two Cops earlier in the Day)
- 3) Will Eritrea Back Off on the Agreement of Principles (With ROY).

**Article Summary:**

**For Clarification Only**

The paper's opening editorial proposes that the Opposition Coordinating Council (8 political parties) must affirm their demands on the ruling coalition and set specific deadlines for fulfillment thereof. They should specify appropriate steps that should be taken otherwise. Except for the new issues raised due to the time lapse, the demands of the opposition should be in line with previously announced demands of the OCC:

- The deadline for fulfillment of the OCC demands should be coming September.
- The Registration certification - for all Opposition Parties in the OCC should be issued, and the cancellation of elements in the by-laws of the Elections Committee that violate the Law of Political Parties and the Constitution should be cancelled.
- Reviewing the Amendments to the Election Law, whereby constitutional rights are confirmed by the application of the 2-stage balloting in the event that an absolute majority is not obtained on the first round.
- Keep the soldiers out of voting system.
- The Higher Elections committee should not be made up just from the Ruling Coalition Parties (PGC and Islah), but should be neutral, free from the influence of any other entity or party.
- Representation and voting of Yemeni expatriates in other countries must be guaranteed and implemented.

AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a (Weekly) 5-8-96  
(People's General Congress)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Al-Baseer: "One Million Voters Registered, 42% of Whom Are Women."
- 2) Religion and Politics: A Discussion in Islam
- 3) The Prime Minister: "End of Deficit In Budget By 1998."

**Article Summary:**



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

**Death Sentence in Yemen**

Amnesty International, in its report on human rights in Yemen, issued after their officials visited Yemen last July, a report that Yemen uses the death penalty. The paper regarded this as the attempt by Amnesty to pressure Yemen into abandoning the Islamic Sharia'a Law and the constitution of ROY. The paper says that Amnesty is gullible and bases its reports on rumors and obtains its information from people who are not trustworthy.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 9-8-96  
(Mouthpiece of the Military):

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President: No Normalization With Israel Prior to Return of All Arab Rights and the Establishment of a Just Peace in the Middle East.
- 2) The Council Of Ministers:
  - Decrees the Establishment of the Higher Council for the Development of Exports
  - Decrees the Establishment of a National Export Development Center
  - Approves Implementation of a National General Agricultural Census (Survey) Every 10 Years.
  - Decrees the Establishment of a National Committee to Combat Malaria
- 3) Petroleum Ministry Denies Reduction of Oil Production

**Article Summary:**

**The Imam's Death in London**

The paper pointed out the President of the Republic, Ali Abdulla Saleh had instructed the ROY Embassy in London to contact the family of the last Imam (King of Yemen), Mohammed "Al-Badr" Ahmed Yahya Hamid Al-Din, to advise them of the government's consent for the burial of the former Imam in Yemen, if that is their wish. The 69 year old former ruler of Yemen was overthrown by the 26th of September 1962 Revolution just one week after he

inherited the throne from his father the late Imam Ahmed (1948-1962).

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 8-8-1996  
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Rocket Bomb Fizzled Out in Aden Airport (Two Weeks Ago)
- 2) Al-Iriani (PGC) and Al-Yadoomi (Islah) Instruct Their Party Membership to Stop Forgeries (in voter Registration)
- 3) Amnesty International: A Gap Exists Between the Claims of the Yemeni Government and the Reality of Human Rights in Yemen

**Article Summary:**

**1) The Future Is a Qat Phenomenon**

In the paper's regular column, "The Last Word", Saeed Abdulla writes on how qat induces Yemenis to map out great plans for the future during a qat session, only to find all these great plans have vanished come next day!

The "Civilized Yemen Project or the State of Law and Order" envisioned after the unification of Yemen with functioning and systematic institutions was also a fine and dandy idea. That came as a qat session dream of our leaders sometime ago and it too also went up in smoke. We can see now that we evolved the exact opposite of such a dream.

Even our culture, contends the author becomes a lively issue during qat session where the arts, poetry, song and dance and merry-making are explored from every angle. Yet somehow they never find their way to auditoriums or public halls to entertain the populations or even the television screen. In fact, the only thing that makes it to these public entertainment places are the programs dedicated to glorifying the leaders and the wonders of the regime.

Even the press cannot do without the qat, since most of the articles, news stories come from the smoke filled rooms where the shrub is consumed

vigorously by the writers-whether with the ruler's press or the opposition. But alas one has to rely on foreign journals for an investigative report or an interesting interview, which just cannot come out of a Qat session!

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 8-8-96  
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform - Islah)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Historic Achievement of Yemeni Courts (Decision Against Higher Elections Committee)
- 2) US \$ 850,000 Proceeds of Rock Lobster Sale 38,900 kg.
- 3) The Military Bases in Aden Could be Given as Compensation for Solving the Housing Debacle.

**Article Summary:**

**The Courts and the Higher Elections Committee**  
Nasr Taha Mustafa in his regular column, Free Letters, praises the South West Sana'a Court judgement in favor of Mohammed Najee Allou in the case against the Higher Election Committee. He says that the Committee will undoubtedly try to appeal the court's decision in an effort to kill time so that the registration process can be completed by the time the appeal is rejected, as will undoubtedly happen.

The refusal of the Committee to abide by the court decision will lead to a repetition of the Egyptian situation whereby the court in Egypt regarded that 120 members of the People's Assembly as illegal members. Mustafa appealed to the committee to be sensible and not to be denounced by history.

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

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Salif-Hodeida Road: 5 Killed and One Injured in Shooting Due to Lack of Vacancy in Roadside Inn
- 2) Hand Fight and Shoe Throwing in Grand Mosque of Ibb Due to Disagreement With Al-Zindani on His Sermon
- 3) The PGC Moves the Republican Guards and the Islah Releases the Militias for Continued Violations During Voter Registrations.

**Article Summary:**

**Robbery and Hijacking**

The Aden Hotel bus was hijacked and robbed of its contents of US\$ 1 Million plus YR 9 Million, being the staff payroll. Security was able to retrieve the loot and apprehend 2 of the crooks.

## Letters to the Editor

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### The Bliss of Poverty!

People speak about poverty as a great evil; and it seems to be an accepted belief that if people only had plenty of money, they would be happy and useful and get more out of life.

As a rule, there is more genuine satisfaction in life in the humble cottage of the poor man than in the palaces of the rich. I always pity the sons and daughters of rich men, who are attended to by servants and have governesses at a later age. They don't know what they are missing.

I know how sweet, happy and pure the home of honest poor folks is; how free from complications such as social envies and jealousies; how loving and united its members are in the common interests of supporting the family. I pity the rich man's boy and congratulate the poor man's son. It is for these reasons that from the ranks of the poor so many strong, eminent, self-reliant men have always sprung and always must spring. If you read the list of the "Immortals", you will find that most of them were born poor.

It seems nowadays, there is a universal desire to abolish poverty. Actually, we should abolish luxury. Men who are always grumbling about their poverty, complaining of their difficulties and whining over their troubles, will never get any happiness out of life or achieve any success.

By: Khalid Al-Basha,  
University of Taiz,  
Taiz.

### The Wise Falcon

I am a skylark in Hodeidah's park  
Where the depth of my inner sensitive self  
and internal mind I never couch or hide  
A self and a mind that are a boon  
and a world of mere fine green lawns  
where grown up maids and guys  
Are being again born innocent Juveniles  
who alone wander ad awake walk  
just to all in jay to speak and talk  
with my beak wise and nude  
A self and a mind that I hide  
In my Arab World where are sex  
To most is the big fight  
of the self and the mind

Hamza Mohammed Elhassan.  
Sudanese teacher,  
Ibb

### The Civil War in South Sudan

Many people think the roots of the conflict between the north and the south of Sudan lies in religious differences. Really the main seeds of this problems has been put in place by the colonial forces. All the governments that ruled the country have been confronted by this dilemma that stands as a challenge and crisis without a visible solution.

The Salvation (current) Government has thought practically over the problem from all sides. It has taken serious steps to settle the crisis to satisfy all parties. One of these steps is to adopt a system which can adapted suitably given the political and local conditions of each regional state of the vast country. This has to do with the various customs and traditions as well as religion. Meanwhile the military operations continue to stop the attempts to trifle the country's constitution and efforts. The intensive efforts of the Salvation government have achieved some of their goals. Many opposition leaders have come back to work hand in hand with their brothers in order to build the unified Sudan.

By: Faisal Elamin Mkawir, Sanaa.

### Shall I become a teacher?

In fact, I don't know what shall I become when I finish my university studies. Shall I become a teacher or no?

When I joined the Faculty of Law, I thought that there was nothing which will stop in front of me, and it was easy to become what I wanted: a judge, or a lawyer.

Now after four years of studying law, the reality is slowly dawning on me! "Wake up. Don't dream. You are in Yemen."

Anyone may ask why I tell myself that. It is because it is easy to become what you want if you study law. If you want to know more, let me explain some things:

- Most graduates of the faculties of law and economics, and all other faculties except medicine become teachers in primary or secondary schools.
- Those who are clever went to Saudi Arabia or other Gulf countries in order to live a good life. I wonder if they ever think of returning home in the future.

I had chosen to stay in Yemen. I remember a friend who went abroad seven years ago. At the time, I thought that he was foolish, because he will be exhausted before gaining any amount of money. I also thought he will lead an estranged life there. I thought I I was clever, because I shall stay in the comfort of my country.

Now in hindsight, I see I made a terrible mistake. My friend leads a healthy life, I fall from one miserable problem to another.

He got married, built a good house, and he became a wealthy person. All friends consider him a successful person. He built himself from scratch. Now I am a humble person, I have no money, I built no house, and I don't have much to look forward to. So I want to be a teacher. I will get a few thousand Riyals every month and I will find comfort in struggling day in and day out with my meager income and life's costly needs.

So, I will be a teacher maybe to pass on some of my misery to the little devils. Or better yet, to tell them not to make my mistake. Scram!

By: Maher Sheikh Mohammed Al Khaldee

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August 12th, 1996

International sport expert says:

## “There are many problems in sports, planning is the first.”

German sports coach Hans Biter Thumm, an international expert in many fields like planning, coaching, physical education, training. He came to Yemen at the invitation of Ministry of Youth and Sport as a lecturer of a sports planning course which started in Sana'a on 7th August 96. It is only a basic crash course, concerning sports planning. It concluded yesterday, August 11th, 1996. On the occasion, Yemen Times Sports Editor, Jamal Al-Awadhi, interviewed Mr. Thumm. Excerpts:



**Q: What is your opinion on the sport planning capabilities in Yemen?**

**A:** There are many problems which obstruct sports development in Yemen. The first one is the right sports planning attitude and approach. The Yemeni sports federation does not have the right planning targets or mechanisms. The right targets and tools are important steps to success to achieve high performance levels in sport.

**Q: What are the other problems which obstruct sport development in Yemen?**

**A:** There are many sports fields need more care and attention from the government. It should consider strong measures to develop sports in Yemen. For example, in the field of high sport performance, there isn't enough qualified coaches, not adequate planning, lack of care of the children/youth, insufficient sport administration, etc. These are some problems, but the important obstructions beside all of that are the finance and sport equipment.

**Q: In the field of sports in schools, what are your suggestions?**

**A:** Firstly, interest in sports comes by special grooming within the family. Thus, parents can inspire their kids. Second, comes the role of school sports activities. The Ministry of Education should have a full-fledged department to cater to the physical training needs of the pupils and students - of both sexes. For this, the country needs a sports administration. Then comes the role of the Ministry of Youth and

Sports. This is either at a higher age, or with promising children who show more than average interest and talent.

**Q: What are the solutions that you suggested?**

**A:** To develop sports in Yemen, the first thing you need is many more qualified coaches and referees. In addition, officials within the Ministry of Youth and Sports should give good planning a higher priority. The Yemeni Sports Federation should also start strong links with other youth sectors in universities, schools, etc.

On a third level, society should care for the health of its youngsters. You do need more resources or food, but you need a more nutritious and balanced diet. That way, the youth will get a better health.

Finally, various forms and kinds of sports should be made available. The games and sports in Yemen are dominated by ball-games.

I believe that there are many athletes out there who can excel. Let us help them achieve their best.

## Arab Chess Championship Started in Sanaa

On Saturday, August 10th, the Arab Chess Championship was kicked off in Sanaa. Twelve teams from ten different Arab countries participate in the competitions which are organized by the Yemen Chess Federation.

Abdul-Karim Al-Uthari, President of Yemen Chess Federation, talked to Yemen Times about this event in Yemen.

Excerpts:

**Q: What are the countries participating in the competition?**

**A:** The countries are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Bahrain and Morocco. Of course, Yemen is also included.

**Q: How is the event financed?**

**A:** We have many problems in financing this event. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, is paying for the accommodation of the visiting/participating teams. He also very kindly inaugurated the events.

We had very little support for commercial organizations and companies which contributed negligible amounts. We thought the private sector will provide financial support, which has not been forthcoming. Even though this is the first time that the Arab chess championship is held in Yemen, and the event is of historical importance.

In many countries of the world this kind of activity is organized and financed by commercial sources as they use the event to advertise for their goods. We sincerely hope that we will get more cooperation in future.

The Arab Federation for Chess has generously contribute towards the games by financing prizes for the winners.

**Q: How well prepared are the Yemeni athletes participating in the events?**

**A:** We have highly qualified players who participated in many Arab countries in the past. They include Hatem Al-Hadherani, Khaled Al-Harazi and the international player Hameed Al-Qadhi. On the female side we have Maha Saleh. These participants did quite well at the Asian chess competition, and they are now participating in the Arab chess competition being held in Sana'a. I hope they will achieve very good results.

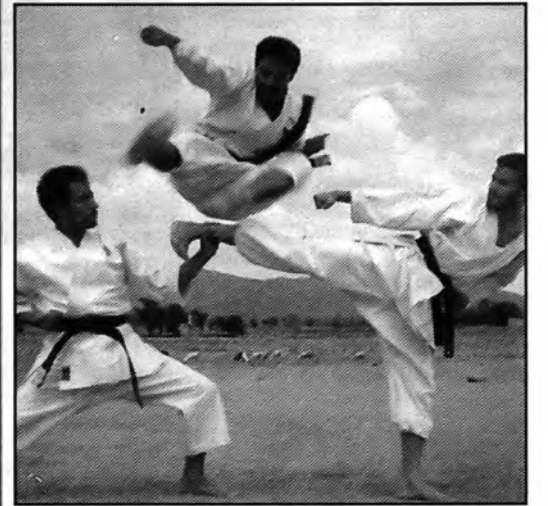
**Q: How did you get the idea to start this event in Yemen?**

**A:** We got the idea as a result of the achievements of our players in the past. The good results from our players made us think to organize this championship in Yemen, notwithstanding the problems and difficulties facing us so far.

**Q: Will there be discussions of the members of the Arab Chess Federations on the future of this sport in the Arab World?**

**A:** Yes, there are arrangements to hold meetings to discuss the future of the federations, and the development of chess games in the Arab region. It will be interesting to note that the Arab Federation for Chess will play a role in this issue.

## Yemen Taekwondo Federation Prepares for Governorates CUP Championship in Aden



"The Governorates Cup" is the title of Taekwondo Championship which will be organized by Yemen Taekwondo Federation. The name points to the country-wide approach of the coming competitions. Many of the Governorates will participate in the competitions.

Every participating team will consist of one administrative official, a coach, and 8 athletes. Teams are scheduled to arrive in Aden city (place of the championship) before Wednesday 21 August 1996.

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## ISLAH and YSP Hold Talks

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) held their first talks on Saturday, August 10th. Representing the Islah were Mohammed Qahtan, Chairman of the Political Department, Abdul-Qader Al-Qiyari, Director of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar's Office, and Nassr Taha Mustafa, Member of the Supreme Council; while the YSP side was represented by Jarallah Omar, Chairman of the Political Department, Ahmed Al-Salami and Saif Sayel, member of the Political Bureau.

According to Nassr Taha Mustafa the purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the steps necessary to ensure a free and fair election come April 1997. Both parties complain against the People's General Congress and the way it is managing the elections.

The Yemen Times also learned that the Islah will hold further talks with the Nasserite Unionist Party and the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition Parties.

Asked whether Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Chairman of Islah, was aware and in agreement with these developments, an Islah source indicated that it was Sheikh who authorized such contacts and discussions.

"Given the way things are developing, it is critical that all parties get together to stop any one single party from playing with the elections," a source said.

Observers believe that the Islah-YSP rapprochement will disrupt the internal power balances and alliances in Yemen. As competition between the ruling coalition partners (PGC-Islah) intensified, both are looking for new friends, especially among the opposition parties. The PGC is expected to respond strongly to this Islah move.

## More German Assistance to Yemen



Peter Paul Gantzer and Harald Gehrige Hand Over a Token Packet to Colonel Sharaf

The Federal Republic of Germany shipped last week the first consignment of a US\$ 3 million medical assistance agreed upon by the two countries. On August 5th, a German airforce plane arrived in Sanaa carrying 20 tons of medicine and medical equipment including anesthetic apparatuses, sterilizers, x-ray equipment, etc. The goods were destined for hospitals in Marib and Bait Al-Magdhis and the Military Hospitals in Sanaa and Taiz. On hand on board the flight to pass on the goods was a Bavarian parliamentary delegation of the "Defence Committee" representing the Social Democratic Party. The

group was headed by Prof. Dr. Peter Paul Gantzer, as well as representatives of the Federal Foreign Ministry, Federal Ministry of Defence and the German Army.

At the airport to receive the German consignment was Staff Colonel Sharaf Ahmed Mohammed, Deputy Chief of Staff for Supplies.

German assistance to the Yemeni military hospitals has been going on for a long period. According to sources, "This aid will not only be used to improve the medical care for Yemeni soldiers and their relatives, but also to the civilian population as these hospitals also treat a large number of civilian patients."

At another level, to participate in Yemeni-German annual negotiations, an 8-member German delegation arrived last night in Sanaa on a 10-day visit. The group which includes officials from KFW, GTZ and BMZ, is headed by Mr. Bernhard Schweiger, Director-General at the Federal Ministry for Development Cooperation.

In the talks, the two sides will evaluate the current level of bilateral cooperation and will outline the direction of future projects.

German assistance for Yemen during 1996 is estimated at DM 50 million. Total German aid to Yemen to-date is more than DM 1.3 billion.

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