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INSIDE ▶ Yemen-German Relations: Interview with Polish Ambassador in Sanaa. Sanaa Hosts Arab Chess Championship. The Amazing Green-Gen Revolution.

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1500 Leading Judges Ponder Justice System

Judicial Conference in Sanaa

Some 1500 judges from all over the country are already in Sanaa for the Second Judicial Conference which starts tomorrow, Tuesday. The four-day conference is seen as a major event in the evolution of the justice system in the country. "The judges will discuss two major themes. The first has to do with badly needed reforms in the judiciary, especially in strengthening independence of the judges. The second

them concerns the social and other benefits needed by the justice personnel. Unless the basic needs of the judges and their assistants are attended to, it is hard to imagine they will be able to dispense justice properly," explained Judge Mohammed Ali Al-Ghazali, the conference's Rapporteur of the Media Committee. The agenda of the conference also includes electing the new board of governors of the Judicial Forum, the

highest elected board of the justice system. Judge Al-Ghazali indicated that the government has generously supported the conference by footing the hotel bill, travel costs, and by providing 5 buses for local transportation. There is much room for improvement in the justice system. "The legal system is the foundation stone for a modern society, and a prerequisite for our development," he concluded.

President Saleh Urges all Political Forces to Join in Managing Country



In an unprecedented move, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that there was room for everybody to have a say in managing the affairs of the country. He also sent out word to many social and political leaders - even to those in the opposition - that he is extending his hand of cooperation and understanding to all. While insisting that a democracy means competition of ideas and programs, the President indicated that all Yemenis have the right to influence the direction of the country. In meetings with a number of society elders and political leaders last week, he invited their participation in public affairs. "No one single person, party or group should exercise monopoly in managing the affairs of the nation," he said. However, opposition leaders remain skeptical. "Seeing is believing," one said. Another said that "words need to be translated into action."

Bernhard Schweiger: "I confirm commitment to continued German aid to Yemen."

Bernhard Schweiger, Assistant Deputy Minister at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, confirmed his government's commitment to continue aid to Yemen in the foreseeable future. "In spite of an austere budget, aid to Yemen has not been seriously affected, and it shall not," he confirmed. There is one scenario, however, which could affect German aid to Yemen - if the authorities in Sanaa abandon the on-



going political democratization and economic reform processes. "I want to stress we are monitoring the situation very closely. The continuation of the present course is of utmost importance," he said. Schweiger finally urged to take against extremism of any kind in the country. Full interview on page 3

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OUR VIEWPOINT

In Support of the Policy on Hunaish

The Republic of Yemen once more finds itself drawn into a regional conflict against its will. It is reported that Eritrea, contrary to the arbitration agreement signed in France regarding the Hunaish Archipelago, has invaded Lesser Hunaish and occupied it. I am not interested here in what Eritrea has done, or not done, or in what the outcome of this duel will be. I am interested to state a position in support of the government's policy on this matter and the way it has handled it.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Government of Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and his Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani have all pursued a policy that I can support as a Yemeni. The policy has two very clear pillars:

A: Preservation of Yemen's Sovereignty:

The policy's first pillar is represented by a strong and emphatic demand that Yemen's rights and sovereignty be restored. The Yemeni leadership continues to hold that the islands are Yemeni, and that it will not compromise on this issue. This is clear from its refusal to enter into a political settlement, and it continues to insist on a legal settlement.

I see this as proof that Yemeni officials are not compromising on the country's sovereignty and rights. They continue to demand the return of the islands to Yemen, which is presumably what we all want.

B: A Peaceful Settlement:

The second pillar has to do with Yemen's refusal to be drawn into a war. In spite of repeated provocations, the Yemeni president and his assistants have calmly and wisely rejected any internal, regional or international push towards war. Political posturing by some of the opposition parties in Yemen is unfortunate. It is selfish, narrow-minded and short-sighted.

Yemen cannot gain anything from going to war. In fact, if a war breaks out, we can forget about the economic reform program, the five-year development plan, the Aden Free Zone, and many other projects that are aimed at taking us into the 21st century. Eritrea too stands to lose a lot from war. I pray that the Eritrean leadership recognizes this fact. Both Yemen and Eritrea need each other as good and peaceful neighbors.

I believe the way the Yemeni leadership is handling this matter has gained it much respect and sympathy worldwide. I have personally spoken to many diplomats in Sanaa, and politicians and parliamentarians abroad. Even those who were not very sympathetic to us in the past, have now tilted their positions in favor of Yemen.

There is nothing that either side can gain by grabbing this or that island. Even if military/civilian installations are built, that does not change the facts. It is up to the arbitration court to decide on the legal status of the islands. Once this happens, both countries will have to come to terms with the decision. Both countries have a major interest in avoiding a war.

Meanwhile, I hope Yemen's opposition parties will not aggravate the situation by inciting the public. Such action will only jeopardize Yemen's ability to retrieve the islands, which is presumably the goal.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز السقاف

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Eritrea Complicates Hunaish Issue More

Last week has witnessed a flurry of activities regarding Hunaish. First, Yemen reported that Eritrea occupied Lesser Hunaish on Sunday August 11th. Then the Yemeni authorities relayed their complaints to the American and French governments.

Troops were mobilized on both camps. Many of the military leaders, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh, paid quick visits to the region.

First Eritrea denied having occupied the island. Then it stated that its troops on the islands had been there for a long time. Then it said it had withdrawn.

In the meanwhile, France has communicated the recent Eritrean transgression to the UN Security Council which promptly issued a statement calling on both sides to refrain from any violence. France sent its trouble-shooter, Francis Guttman to Asmara and Sanaa to find out more and to ask for explanations.

These recent developments have cast Eritrea as an aggressor more than ever.

Observers believe that the Eritreans are trying to throw a monkey's wrench in the French-brokered arbitration process.

Hunt Donates \$25000 to Flood Victims

Yemen Hunt Oil Company has made a donation of US\$ 25000 to the flood victims. The check was hand-delivered to the Yemeni Government last week.

Hunt is also considering additional support for the local populations in Marib, where the company works.

It is worth mentioning that the Company has been providing an annual \$100,000 for local development projects over the last eleven years.

Court to Decide on Hadhramaut Rape Case on August 26th

Last week witnessed the final session of the court hearing regarding the rape case in which two Northern officers from the investigations bureau are charged with raping to Mukalla women. Judge Mohammed Bin Rubaid said that he will issue his verdict on the case on August 26th.

Elections Monitoring Committee in Action

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) which was formed by a number of intellectuals recently, is already collecting information on the preparations for the elections. The registration process and what is going on is being documented, according to an EMC source.

The EMC is a private, voluntary effort on the part of Yemeni civilians who are interested in supporting the country's democratization process.

The registration period - during which eligible voters are asked to register themselves - will come to a close at the end of current August.

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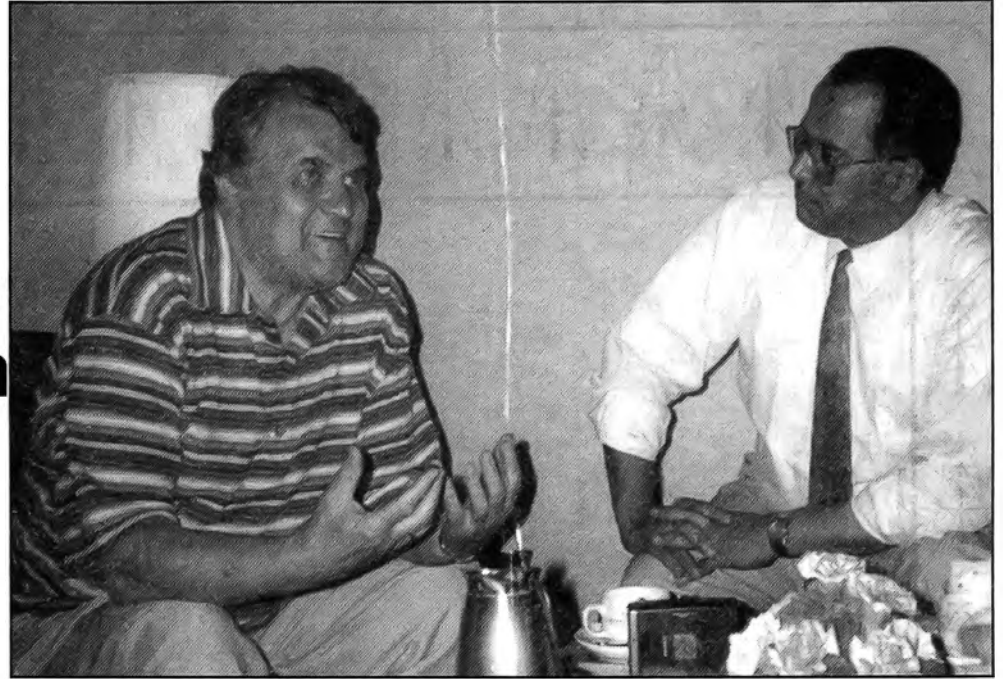
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Bernhard Schweiger:

“Yemen’s Democratization, political transformation and economic reforms are the basis for our development aid to Yemen



Yemeni-German relations are as good as relations between an Arab and a European country can be. The level of understanding, the extent of economic development aid cooperation, and the continued high-level contact all bear witness to that.

Last week, an eight-person team from the BMZ, KfW, and GTZ visited Yemen. Heading the team was Mr. Bernhard Schweiger, Assistant Deputy Minister at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the man in charge of all German aid worldwide.

The purpose of the visit is to review progress on the on-going aid package, and to plan for future projects to be implemented with German aid. An agreement was signed towards that end.

On this occasion, Yemen Times Chief Editor Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf interviewed Mr. Schweiger, and filed the following report.

Excerpts:

Q: It is common knowledge that the German Federal Government is cutting back on various expenses because of budgetary austerity. What will happen to German aid to Yemen?

A: Yes, we have budgetary problems, and the government is cutting corners. But, let me confirm that German aid to Yemen will not be affected as a consequence of this. We have just committed more funds, and this year, the bilateral allocation for Yemen is DM 44 million, this leading to a grand total German aid of DM 1.3 billion since the beginning of our aid cooperation. I repeat that we are firmly committed to the aid program with Yemen.

Q: You have discussed the broad guidelines of project assistance. Could you share with us the direction of German assistance?

A: We decide on the projects in coordination with the Yemeni authorities and depending on local needs. But let say that German assistance was oriented in the past towards physical infrastructure development, such as roads, airports, etc.

As Yemen achieved more development, our emphasis is now slowly shifting to the human infrastructure. So we are working on education, health, training, etc. We are also heavily involved in basic needs such as water, sewerage, agricultural extension, and similar areas.

There is no fixed rule. As projects are proposed by the Yemeni side, we discuss them and together we reach decisions.

Q: Are you satisfied with the performance and use of German aid to Yemen?

A: Yes, very much. I think that German assistance is put to good use, and the level of performance is steadily improving.

In this connection, I would like to mention your country’s economic reform program. It is crucial that Yemen continues on the reform effort, and succeed in it.

I believe that the future performance of Yemen’s development effort depends on the reform program.

Q: You have met with (Yemeni) President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Of course, you did not talk about projects. What did you talk about?

A: You will be surprised the details with which we talked about German aid. But you are right, we talked about many other broad issues.

Q: Such as?

A: We talked about the need to continue on Yemen’s democratization and political transformation. We talked about press freedom and respect for human rights. I indicated that this is the one issue which could disrupt German assistance to Yemen. We are very serious about this matter, and so is the President.

We also talked about the economic reforms and their importance.

We also talked about the need to take action against any form of extremism and radicalism in the country. Extremist thoughts - whether from the right or left - are dangerous and society has to stand up to them.

We also talked about regional stability and cooperation. Finally, I invited the Republic of Yemen to participate in the Hanover 2000 Exposition.

Q: You mentioned radicalism. Are you referring to Islamic movements?

A: No, I am referring to violent and radical groups.

As far as Islam is concerned, we need a Christianity-Islam dialogue. These two religions are much closer than many people comprehend or realize.

I am sure that the civilizational links and ideas will provide a sound base for more cooperation between the two sides.

Let me state here that the Arab and Muslim nations have a special place for us in Europe, because they are our neighbors. So we are very interested in engaging them in a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship.

Q: Could you tell us more about the Hanover 2000 Exposition?

A: It is an international gathering of all countries exhibiting various aspects of their socio-culture, goods and products, etc. I am happy to inform you that the President has agreed to Yemen’s participation. We also help in co-financing this participation.

Q: Yemen and Germany enjoy very good relations at the official level. But there isn’t much in the form of joint investments and trade.

A: Let me say that our cooperation proceeds very well at the official development aid level. We also have strong cooperation in education, volunteer effort, etc.

We now want to consolidate such cooperation with more joint

investments and trade. But, to achieve more German investments in Yemen, your country would have to compete worldwide for such capital. In an environment conducive to investors must be put in place, and I see a good possibility at the Aden Free Zone.

The same is true regarding trade. If exchange rates are right, and trade is liberalized, then there would definitely be more commercial exchange.

I believe Yemeni private sector participation in the Hanover 2000 Expo will also be a good chance to strengthen direct cooperation with German private business.

Q: There is an increased emphasis on working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Is German aid also oriented in this direction?

A: Absolutely. We attach great

significance to working with and through NGOs. We have allocations that could be dispensed through German NGOs to Yemeni NGOs.

We have now re-directed our efforts to assist small-scale projects that are implemented at the grass-roots level.

The German and the European experiences have shown that unless development effort is oriented towards the general public and is achieved through the participation of the people, it cannot succeed. Here in Yemen, NGOs can play a major role in complementing the efforts of the state.

I use this opportunity to urge the authorities in Yemen to give NGOs a more visible and active role in the development effort.

Q: Let us talk about your personal impressions of Yemen. Did what you saw upon arrival

match your pre-conceptions of the country?

A: Given my busy schedule, I have never left my post for more than a week. My visit to Yemen is taking ten days. This shows how much personal as well as formal interest I have in Yemen.

I have heard a lot about the history and friendly nature of your people. I found both fascinating and capturing. My program included visits to many parts of the country.

I also want to say that I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome and generous hospitality of your officials. I already feel very close to Yemen and very obliged to the kind feelings of the people.

Q: Any final comments?

A: I have read some copies of the Yemen Times, and I am very impressed by it. I think the Yemen Times says a lot about press freedom in Yemen.

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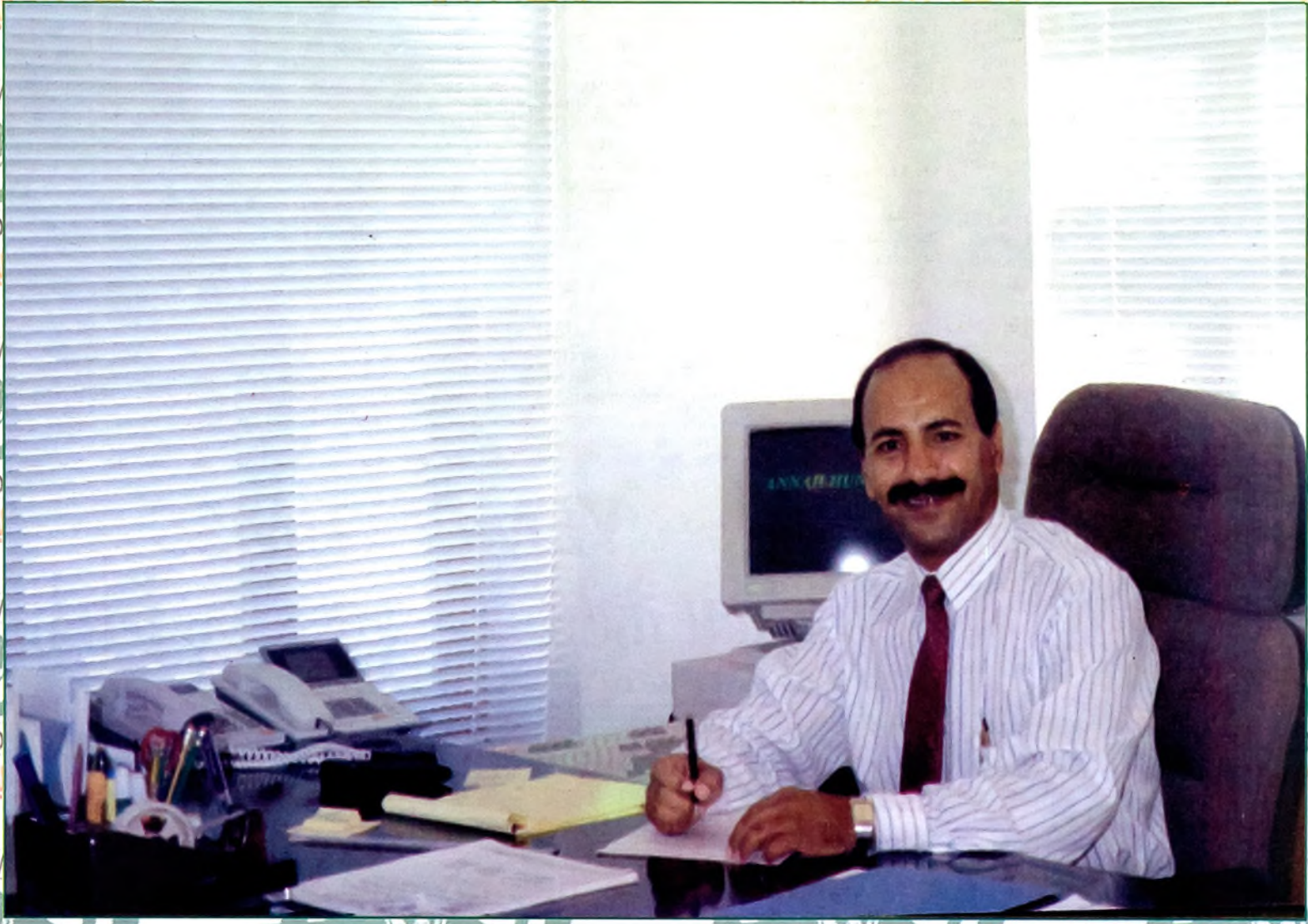
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Congratulations, Abdullah



In October 1995, ABDULLAH MOHSEN SHALAMESH was elected as the New Chairman for the Society of Petroleum Engineers International. He is the first Yemeni Engineer to hold this office, since the establishment of the Yemeni section in 1989. He joined the SPE in 1986 and was one of the Engineers who established the Yemen Section.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is an international technical and professional organization dedicated to the advancement of technology associated with the recovery of energy resources from wellbores. This association is one of the largest technical and professional associations in the world, with more than 50,000 members residing on six continents in more than 90 countries.

Through a vast array of SPE programs, ranging from publications to international and regional conferences to section meetings, new technical information and technology is enhanced among society members and other industry professionals.

ABDULLAH joined Yemen Hunt Oil Company in April 1989 and worked in various operational areas both in the office and on field. He has taken many training country in-country and abroad.

In January 1995, ABDULLAH was promoted to Planning and Reservoir Manager for Jannah Hunt Oil Company. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, USA.

Polish Ambassador Stipensik:

My government values highly the links and cooperation established between our two countries and looks forward to their further development."

One of the active diplomats that Sanaa is shortly going to lose is Mr. J. Stepinski, Ambassador of Poland. Stepinski, 56, is a perfect speaker of the Arabic language. No wonder, he is a graduate of the Faculty of oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw, where he had started his career as an assistant professor.

But the real change in his life came in 1972, when he joined his country's foreign service. His first posting abroad was with the Embassy of Poland in Cairo during 1973-1977. Then, he moved to Baghdad (1981-1986). His appointment in Yemen as his country's first resident ambassador came on September 3rd, 1991. Based in Sanaa, he is also accredited to Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea.

He holds the honor of the Chevalier of the Order of the Renaissance of Poland.

On this occasion, Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times filed this interview:

Q: Where is your next posting?

A: I will be going back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Arab Affairs. No doubt, I will stay in touch with developments in Yemen and follow them with the same enthusiasm and devotion as I have done during my term of duty in Sana'a.

Q: Poland was the first country in the Central Europe to shake off the shackles of authoritarian communism and implement essential changes towards democracy. Your country thus became a model for other nations. Is there any lesson Yemeni authorities could draw from your experience?

A: Seven years ago we have embarked on the process of fundamental transformations. They encompassed the principles of market economy, parliamentary democracy, press freedom, protection of human rights and the rights of minorities.

Today, the transformation in Poland has proved to be an unquestionable success. No political force in Poland would be willing or able to hamper or reverse this processes. The political system is stable. The economy has been growing for the last four years in a row at the rate of 7% approximately. Poland is being ever more often referred to as the economic tiger of Central Europe.

The success of the transition process does not make us forget its significant social costs. The official unemployment rate remains high, about 14%. Still, Poland enjoys social peace. Last year we did not observe any labor strikes or unrest. It seems, we have found a safe passage between the Scylla of economic discipline and the Charybdis of concern for social needs and expectations.

Many countries in transition are concerned with those issues. Yemen as a country in transition is included, as well. We are ready to share with our Yemeni friends our experience.

Q: What are the main challenges ahead facing Poland in her external affairs?

A: The ultimate success of the program of reforms will depend largely on external conditions. We want to be sure that no external power will threaten us, that nothing will imperil our sovereignty and independence. This concern is also felt by other nations in the region. Our historical experience, however, and the fact that throughout the last two centuries we enjoyed only twenty years of genuine independent statehood without alien forces on our territory make us particularly attentive observers of all developments around us and in the world.

Poland links its future with membership in the European Union and accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. These together constitute an overall system which assures high standards of development and co-operation and provide effective mechanisms of defense and security.

Our aspirations for the membership in the Western political, military and economic institutions do not stem from a sense of imminent danger. Through membership in NATO and EU we want to become even more actively involved in transforming our continent into an area of stability and prosperity.

Q: What is the timetable for Poland's joining NATO membership?

A: The North Atlantic Council will take the final decision on NATO enlargement this December. Poland will be in the group of states to be included in this process in first order. Poland is already represented at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. It is also engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with NATO members. The continuation of our military mission in former Yugoslavia as a part

of IFOR also deepens the mechanism of Poland's cooperation with NATO on the operational level. In fact, the enlargement process of the Alliance has already started. It is not a question of whether NATO should accept new members but when and how.

Q: What are the main fields of Poland's foreign activities?

A: We have diplomatic relations with almost all countries in the world and over 150 embassies and consulates abroad. Our relations with the Arab world - both political and economic - are very good. As the major Central European country, we focus much attention on the problems of our continent.

The Republic of Poland has also consistently lent strong support to the activities of the United Nations in all areas, including participation in the UN peace-keeping operations. During the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1995, Poland was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 1996-97. We regard this as recognition of our international position and opportunity to play an even more active role in these areas where the United Nations are performing their duties, and in particular in the permanent settlement of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in extinguishing conflicts on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States and in consolidating peace in the Middle East.

I am glad to express again our gratitude to the Yemeni authorities for the support given to Poland's candidature during last year's elections of the new non-permanent members of the Security Council.

Q: In five years of your stay here you have witnessed many important events. Is there any particular one you will remember for a long time?

A: The 1994 war was the most dramatic event for all of us staying in Yemen. At that time, I observed many manifestations of solidarity among diplomatic missions and assistance from local authorities during evacuation of our staff members.

This war also became a turning point in your history. The Yemeni people have reconfirmed that their choice of unity is irreversible. I am proud to say that in those difficult days, Poland strongly and unequivocally sided with the government in Sana'a and all those forces which defended the unity and constitutional order.

Q: The Polish Embassy in Sana'a is as old as the Yemen Times. What prompted you to open your diplomatic office here?

A: As you may know before 1990, Poland had no diplomatic representation in Yemen - neither in Aden nor in Sana'a. Unity of Yemen in tandem with sweeping changes in Poland have created conditions conducive to enhancing and activating bilateral relations.

In 1991, I presented my credentials to H. E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh as first resident Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Yemen with the aim of consolidating links between our countries. I think I have succeeded in accomplishing this purpose.

Friendship and cooperation between Poland and Yemen are not empty words any longer. They are also expressed in wide-ranging contacts of businessmen, students and ordinary citizens bringing promising results in the form of greater material and spiritual benefits to both countries.

Q: Well, could you be more specific?

A: Relations between Poland and Yemen have multifarious character including people to people level. For many years now, the Polish Ministry of Education - within its assistance program to the less developed countries (LDC) - has been granting scholarships to Yemeni students for master's and doctoral studies. At the present time, there are more than 100 Yemenis studying at our universities, mainly medicine, chemistry, architecture, computer sciences and agriculture. Some of them have married Polish ladies and came together to Yemen. Some decided to stay in Poland.

For all those interested in having continued contact to the Polish language, culture and literature, we have opened a library at the Embassy's premises.

Yemeni graduates have established the Yemen-Poland Society - now actively involved in promoting business and educational contacts.

Bilateral economic exchange is in not very high if compared with other EU countries, for instance, but has a constant tendency to increase. Last year's turnover amounted to US\$ 13 million. Industrial goods and food products dominated Polish exports to Yemeni. New spheres of cooperation have been opened recently, i.e., deliveries of cars and tractors from Poland, construction of ice block factories, overhauling of turbines in power stations, air services and tourism.



Structural reforms of the Yemeni economy and the establishment of the Aden Free Zone created new opportunities for the development of economic and trade relations between Poland and Yemen.

Last month, Poland signed formal accord on joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As a full member OECD, we will be committed to finance additional assistance projects to LDCs. The Embassy has already requested the authorities concerned in Poland to include Yemen in the list of beneficiaries.

Q: What about contacts at high official levels?

A: We have extended invitations to H. E. Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, Deputy Prime and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabali, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, as well as H. E. Abdu Ali Mohammed Al-Qubati, Minister of Education, to pay official visits to Poland. I hope they will materialize this year.

Q: Any last comments?

A: Yemen will always remain in my heart as a magnificent country of proud and hospitable people, a country with an important role to play in the region. After having spent 5 years here, I can say today with ever greater conviction that sovereignty and peaceful policy, democracy, rule of law, and market mechanisms in the economy are the principles marking the development of Yemen. They give ground to optimism and hope for harmonious and prosperous future. My government values the links which have been built up between our two countries over last years and looks forward to working together with the government of Yemen for their further development and strengthening.

CORRIGENDUM

In last week's issue of Yemen Times (No. 33/96) dated 12th August, there were some mistakes in the names and titles of the persons mentioned in the article of page 4, entitled "Indians Celebrate National Day". We regret them, and hereby issue the corrections:

1. The Mahatma Gandhi is the "Father of the Nation", and not the 'Father of India'.

2. The President of India is Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

3. The correct name of the Indian Charge d'Affaires in Sanaa is P. M. Meena.

Sincere apologies!

Yemen Times

مبروك يا علماء

بين حشد من الأهل والأصدقاء
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علماء عبدالكريم الشامي

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وجميع الصديقات والأصدقاء



Common Sense

By: **Hassan Al-Haifi**

It Comes As No Surprise

For any society to grow and prosper, it is imperative that such a society create the appropriate tools and parameters by which it looks at itself. That is a prerequisite to embark on a real thrust towards sustained growth and development. On the other hand, society needs to overcome the hang-ups of self criticism to have the courage and the self-confidence to say: "We are doing it the wrong way!" Once a society - government and people - draws a line between right and wrong, it should be easy for that society to set the parameters to gauge itself. It should also be possible to create the accurate indicators that signal towards the appropriate measures to be taken to adjust the course of society. These may be broad and general presumptions, but we in the Republic of Yemen must come together, to agree that it is time for these presumptions to have roots in our society. Ideas can be as spectacular and attractive as possible, yet for the presumptions suggested above to become reality, much effort is needed. But it looks as if there are deliberate efforts not to let any yardstick from being applied to our functions as a society, and to convince the people that things have never been any better.

Who are we really fooling? Who are the losers of such closed visions of ourselves or such darkness of thought? We have

exhausted our resources in purchasing expertise to help us catch up with the times. Yet all this investment of resources and time - that irreplaceable dimension that seems to be not accorded its deserved place in our society - are in vain. These investments have not yielded any returns.

The result is a large amount of catalogues, studies, and plans. The only beneficiary out of such efforts has been the businessmen who represented the expertise as agents. Some of this expertise could have been useful, if those studies or reports were not just shelved to collect dust. One gets the impression that the entire system defies any corrective measures of the shortcomings.

There must be some point in the course of our national destiny, when our affairs become subject to serious scrutiny and analysis - the improprieties are quickly identified and dealt with in a manner that shows a high degree of farsightedness, objectivity and a respectable level of honesty, and good intentions.

At this stage, it is not difficult to realize that the Republic of Yemen has a wealth of experience to bank on for determination of the improprieties that plague our society. Every individual in Yemen is responsible for the fate of his/her country, whether being a part of the ruling establishment, or outside the regime - down to the common



citizen. Every Yemeni citizen should now be asked - especially before the elections - to embark on an analysis of him/herself and the world around him/her, and to ponder how the situation in the country has a great bearing on us as individuals.

It would seem unfair to expect the rulers of this country to bear full responsibility for the difficulties of the nation, when the citizenry of the country are plagued with apathy and carelessness. When this is also accompanied by an attitude of "what can I do, alone?". There should not be any difficulties in understanding why the rulers are not beset by worry from possible reaction from the public, even if this public has a fair idea that it is easy to pinpoint the sources of the nation's problems and who must be accountable for such a state of affairs.

Thus the blame for our country's difficulties rests with every citizen. Whether the citizens in general maybe suffering from many problems, such as a poor educational background (even for those who have completed their education through college, locally) and limited cultural development, stilled by chronic political instability. The citizen's responsibility does not become reduced. The fact is that every citizen has a role to play in determining the course of the nation and this role is a vital one. It is

imperative that the citizen understands this and becomes convinced that "there must be something he/she can do. There must be something we all must do!"

Democracy becomes a useful and positive approach to social order only when citizens adopt a strong sense of being involved, at every conceivable level. They must influence the course that society takes. Democracy is a worthless cliché without active citizen involvement and concern. It starts individually, before a communal spirit can develop, whereby the citizen can hope to reap maximum benefit from the resources of the community. The individual must understand that national resources are everybody's natural wealth. Thus, their exploitation and management should be in such a way that no individual citizen is given unfair and preponderant access to such resources.

While the common citizen is not free from blame for our society's current conditions, it goes without saying that the "intellectuals" of our society carry an even greater share of the blame. The former may not know any better, but the latter lacks any excuse for allowing our state of affairs to reach such unbearable conditions.

Not only that, but many of the intellectuals are in positions that they could be instrumental in making sure that our nation's affairs and resources are managed in such a way that the best interests of the nation and its citizenry as a whole are served.

The unfortunate situation in our country is that those who know and those who do not know show no deviation from the general feeling of attitude and carelessness and the accompanying attitude of immunity from involvement.

Our intellectual community, itself is beset with narrow-mindedness and a feeling of aloofness from the general population as a characteristic of such community. One might sense that the overwhelming majority of intellectuals tend to shy away from community spirit and their responsibilities to upholding the rights of the other citizens, who indeed may not know better.

With our society depicted as above, the observer may conclude that we will face continuous difficulty in establishing the parameters needed to enable us to gauge our directions on all fronts. If society is unable to assess the progress the country has made towards becoming a modern nation, then it would seem difficult to move forward to sustainable development. Regrettably, the discussions, seminars, conferences, meetings, etc., which the economists and

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the other elements of our society focus on - including the political situation - fail to take note of the need for establishing the yardsticks that really show us where we really are. Even "experts" who might have participated in such open activities tend to rely on yardsticks that are derived from textbooks and will always base their "findings" or recommendations on models that apply information usually acquired from official sources which are taken for granted as being precise.

It becomes clear to this observer that the Yemenis must start attending to the need for systematic self-analysis at every level of our society. This can only be done if we understand that the parameters that need to be set for such self-analysis must be able to differentiate between right and wrong, good and bad, just and oppressive, and honest and evil. In doing this, we must fully be convinced that if our performance as individuals - or as a

society - has generally bordered on the negative scale of the parameters we have agreed upon, then appropriate remedial action must be carried out to bring better results. This means we must move from the negative scale to the positive scale - and quickly.

In other words, there is no overlap between right and wrong, and there is no development in general or growth (in the economy) unless we understand that the wrong has no place in our society - no matter what justification is given for it.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the Republic of Yemen is undergoing difficult times in every aspect of our social order. We refuse to look at ourselves with the appropriate tools that will present us from allowing wrong to prevail over-right - in government, in the economy, and even in our social functions. For this, every Yemeni shares the blame!

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THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC REFORMS

Identifying needed reforms in a country is always far easier than implementing them. But with planning and fresh ideas, policymakers can manage the politics of preparing for a more prosperous future through taking hard decisions.

The Costs of Reform

The costs of reforms result because a substantial share of existing capital - both human and physical - must be retrained, converted, or simply retired to allow for the accumulation of more appropriate types of capital. These costs translate into higher unemployment and lower consumption (to allow for greater investment) during the transition. Estimates of the magnitude of these short-run adjustment costs in MENA (Middle East and North Africa) countries are about a 1-2% loss in per capita consumption and a 3% rise in the rate of unemployment relative to the no-reform scenario.

Initial conditions are an important factor in determining the magnitude of the adjustment required, which varies a great deal across countries. Unusually high levels of investment (and commensurate sacrifices in consumption) of around 30% of GDP are required where population growth rates exceed 3% a year, as in Algeria, Jordan, Syria and Yemen. The problem is exacerbated where there are already high levels of unemployment.

Moreover, where economies are dominated by public enterprises (such as in Algeria and Egypt), the development of a dynamic private sector will take more time than in a more advanced reformer like Tunisia. This is reflected in the greater efficiency of investment (the smaller incremental capital-output ratio) in the countries where the reform process is more advanced. In addition, these countries can afford to consume more and invest less (around 25% of GDP) and still generate sizable growth in per capita incomes.

Equipping people to cope with change is a necessary part of the transition. In general, workers with general skills and higher education are likely to find the adjustment easier. But for workers with narrow, specialized skills, retraining by the private sector holds the greatest promise - as does providing information on new jobs and assisting with job searches.

Reforms also cost in terms of requiring the allocation of additional resources to certain activities, often at the expense of others. But often the amounts involved are fairly small in relative terms. For example, providing everyone with a package of basic health care interventions that will reduce infant mortality and increase life expectancy by the end of the decade would cost about \$30 per person per year, - less than half of 1% of the region's GNP.

The cost of paying every poor person enough to bring them to the poverty line is less than a fraction of 1% of GNP in countries like Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. And while the increase in educational spending required to raise enrollments appear high (200% by 2010), they are small relative to the potential growth in GNP and the scope for greater private financing (especially of higher education).

The difficulties often arise from the politics of re-allocation (especially when sensitive budgets such as the military are involved) and achieving efficiency gains. Reducing transfers to politically important groups is often only feasible if it is done gradually. That is why growth makes higher spending on the key sectors for the future more politically viable. For example, with no growth, maintaining per student expenditures on education in Jordan would require a doubling of the education budget's share of total spending over the decade - an unlikely event. But with growth, higher social expenditures can easily be accommodated with existing budget shares.

Achieving efficiency gains through mechanisms such as public enterprise or civil service reform or better targeting of benefits is also politically problematic, but economically profitable. Sharing costs with the private sector and donors (as described below) can ease the burden on public finances.

Use the Private Sector as Partners

The public sector does not have to do everything. The financial and creative capacity of the private sector can be harnessed by good public policy to serve social objectives. Doubts linger, however, over whether the private sector can "carry the ball." In many MENA countries, the private sector thrived during the era of rents and grew accustomed to protection, subsidies, and little competition. Can such a private sector be the engine of future development? Yes.

MENA's private sector is the product of government policies, and there is no reason to think that energies devoted to rent-seeking in the past cannot be channeled to productivity gains in the future, if the incentive regime changes.

Jobs for 47 million new entrants into the work force will have to be created by 2010. The investment required to create that many jobs (based on current capital-labor ratios) is large - \$31 billion in Iran,

\$30 billion in Morocco, \$25 billion in Algeria, \$14 billion in Egypt, and \$12 billion in Tunisia. Achieving such high rates of investment and job creation will require governments to bring the private sector in as serious partners.

In addition to expanding production, services, and infrastructure, private initiatives can often solve other types of problems - if the public sector gives the space to find solution. In many MENA countries, private education and health care have grown rapidly as the quality of public services has deteriorated. In countries like Lebanon, the private sector has a long tradition of providing education, and business associations are increasingly involved in training, setting industry standards, and promoting self-regulation.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been active in providing social services and promoting community development in Egypt, Yemen, and in the West Bank and Gaza. Governments often are suspicious of such private initiatives, and often curtail the activities of legitimate groups. But, regulations requiring transparency and public accountability (such as publication of regular financial statements) as well as adherence to standards (such as educational curriculum or health regulations) are a more effective way of harnessing these private energies for the social good and developing a vibrant civil society.

Compensate the Victims

In cases where adjustment is difficult, compensating the victims and those who lose because of the reform with cash transfers is one cost-effective approach. Some countries have successfully followed. Transfer payments are used in more than 50 countries in Eastern Europe devote as much as 1% of GNP to such compensation. There is now considerable experience on how to design voluntary compensation schemes that provide redundant workers with a choice among early retirement, cash, annual payments, retraining programs, subsidies to new employers, and transfers within the public sector. Estimates of the costs of severance payments for redundant workers in the state-owned enterprises in Egypt amount to just \$1 billion to cover three years of pay, or less than 3% of GNP. If surplus labor in the public sector as a whole is given severance payments, the cost rises to about 7% of GNP.

Other forms of compensation could include safety net social projects which are oriented towards giving the losers new income.

Get Financing from Supporters

There is no shortage of potential financing for the MENA region. There is, however, a shortage of good policies and projects to make that financing real. The approximately \$350 billion in assets held abroad is just one potential source of financing for the massive investments in new industries, infrastructure, and commercial and social services. The \$158 billion of private capital flows to developing countries in 1993 is another potential source of financing. Donor funds are still considerable and institutions like the World Bank could double their lending to the region under the right circumstances. The European Union's Mediterranean Initiative (amounting to about \$12 billion during 1995-99) could increase official resource flows to the region by more than half.

The key is that international support will reinforce rather than replace the reform process. Private financing will not materialize unless conditions are right - and that means serious progress on structural reforms that create a competitive business environment. Public external financing has traditionally been motivated by political objectives, but that is changing. Donors, however, are willing to finance the political costs of reform - such as severance payments or targeted transfers - which can ease the short-run difficulties for reform-minded governments. Moreover, debt relief can be provided where countries are constrained by liquidity problems.

What to Do with Political Openness

Economic reform in a democratization environment is harder to achieve than in a traditional autocratic or dictatorial system. In the old ways, rulers and bureaucrats decide what they see as 'good' for the country without having to explain much to the general public.

In an environment of political openness, especially when elections are carried out, there is more need to explain the meaning and purpose of the reforms. In some countries, like Jordan, Egypt and Yemen, the economic reforms have been further complicated by political posturing in the face of elections. But the solution is really to provide the public of the facts head-on rather than offer apologetic and lukewarm explanations which often backfire.

Jordan especially has shown that openly discussing the issues and weighing the alternatives leads to more public support for the reforms.

Have a Long-term Strategy

Taking on numerous reforms and interest groups simultaneously may be economically optimal, but politically suicidal. So, having a long-term strategy - and sequencing and setting priorities in the interim - is key. In most cases major changes get their first impetus from some external pressure. Trade liberalization plays precisely that role in any effort to improve a country's competitiveness. Once the pressures of international competition are felt at home, the reforms needed to adjust to that pressure follow - deregulation, privatization, educational reform, financial market development, and the creation of jobs that are good for the poor. Meanwhile, the institutional capacity to regulate judiciously and achieve social objectives needs to be built up in parallel.

Often, problems can be anticipated and adjustments phased. The pressure on wages in MENA textile firms from low-cost competitors in Asia will be felt gradually as the Multi-Fibre Arrangement is phased out over the next few years. But the pain of adjusting to that greater competition (by moving to higher-value products) can be gradual if the adjustment begins now. Similarly, the rising scarcity of water in many MENA countries should trigger preparations for fundamental changes in the agricultural sectors of most countries.

Many of the reforms will challenge the short-term interests of important groups in many MENA countries - power-brokers, workers employed in protected industries, those growing water-intensive crops, polluters, and civil servants who are paid to deal with cumber-

some regulations. But there are more gainers from these reform than losers over the long run - the difference is that the losers are organized and the gainers are not. The beneficiaries from the policies described above include the unemployed, the vast number of new entrants into the labor force, the poor, and those working in the informal sector. Giving these groups a greater voice in public affairs must be a central part of claiming a prosperous future for MENA countries.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Upon the request of Apollo Company, our newspaper has published an announcement in its issues No. 30/96 of 22/6/1996 and No. 31/96 of 29/6/96.

The announcement stated that "in October 96, Emirates Airlines will commence operations between Dubai and Sanaa, and is seeking to recruit qualified staff to join its team in Sanaa".

With due respect to the above announcement, our newspaper has received instructions from the competent authorities in the Republic of Yemen affirming that the local (GSA) for Emirates Airlines has not been registered in the name of Towfik Al-Nihmy or Apollo Company.

As such, the authorities indicated that the said person or company have no right to announce in the name of Emirates Airlines and/or use its logo (which appears at the top of this announcement) for whatever purpose, unless the relevant legal procedures for registration of the agency with the competent authorities are completed.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

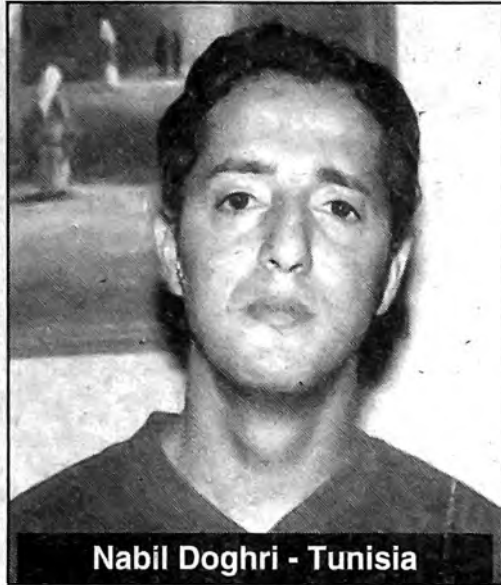
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces the sale of excess property items, such as office furniture, residential furniture and appliances, computers, general equipment and various miscellaneous items. Two new Toyota engines and new and used vehicle spare parts and tools are also for sale.

The sale will take place at a public auction commencing at 9:00 am, on Thursday 22 August 1996, at the USAID compound on Amran Road. There will be an admission charge of YR 200 (per person) to enter the sale area.

All items offered for sale will be sold on an "as is" and "where is" basis. All sales are final and buyers must pay a 10% deposit upon winning the bid. The full remaining amount must be paid for within 3 days and removed from the USAID compound.

Persons not paying the full amount by 4:00 pm on Sunday 25 August will lose their 10% deposit and the items will be sold at the next auction. Buyers are responsible for any customs duties and other taxes.

Items can be viewed at the USAID compound on Wednesday 21 August, between 12:30 pm, and 3:30 pm, and also between 8:00 am and 9:00 am, on Thursday, 22 August 1996. A list of items included in the auction may be picked up at the USAID compound guard gate from Tuesday 20 August onwards.



Nabil Doghri - Tunisia



Sheikha Tarif - Bahrain



Hatim Al-Hadhrani - Yemen



Asma'a Al-Houli - Algeria



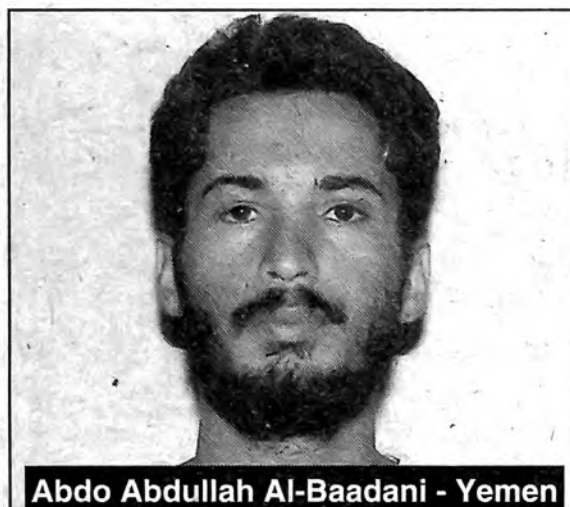
Mohammed Al-Modiahki - Qatar



Danielle Bedrossian - Lebanon



Maha Saleh Al-Badeh - Yemen



Abdo Abdullah Al-Baadani - Yemen



By: Jamal Al-Awadi,
Sports Editor, Yemen Times.

It is the first time that Sanaa hosts the Arab Chess Championship. Twelve countries sent their male and female athletes to compete in the individual championships for men and women. The eleven-round pairings started on August 10th, and will continue until the 22nd. As losers among the 16 male and 7 female chess players are eliminated, the games are inevitably leading to a tense and exciting climax. In the meanwhile, the large hall of Hadda Hotel is as quiet as it can be. The Yemen Times talked to a few of the players, and here is what they said:

Slim Bouaziz - Tunisia:

Slim is one of the players tipped to win the male championship, having so far won all the games he had played.

"When we were first told that the games would be held in Yemen, I was very happy, yet apprehensive. I thought arrangements in this 'poor' country would not be up to the mark.

"I am now happy we met here. Yemen, though relatively poor, has provided us with all the facilities. In fact, the program is more generous than it had been in some of the richer countries."

Danielle Bedrossian - Lebanon:

Danielle has taken the chance of the tournament to get to know Yemen more. She has walked around in Sanaa, talked to many locals, and participated in the trips to other cities.

"I am a little embarrassed about how little I knew about Yemen. I thought Yemen is a primitive place. I was worried they would put us up in tents.

"But here we are in modern hotels which offer all services and facilities. Sanaa is as modern as any Arab city. I am happy I came, and this trip has been an eye opener."

Wasila Alsheikh Khider - Syria:

This is the first time that Waseela participates in a competition outside Syria. That is logical and natural because she is one of the younger competitor in the Sanaa tournament.

"I did not know what to expect. My knowledge of Yemen was very limited, and I had not concrete expectations of the games. But let me say that I have been pleasantly surprised on both counts.

"I am impressed by the urban growth. I am also impressed by the simplicity and friendly nature of the Yemeni people."

Ahmad Aziz Jawad - Iraq:

Ahmed, 15, is the youngest participant in the games. He also surprised his seniors by his chess abilities and fast thinking powers.

"I was not surprised at the extreme generosity and warm welcome afforded to the players by the Yemenis. Our folklore is full of stories about such qualities among the Yemenis.

"Let me say that there is a lot of compassion and fraternity among the people of Yemen and Iraq."

Khalifah Jabr Musallam - Qatar:

Khalifah is the Vice Chairman of the Arab Chess Federation, and a person much involved in the games in his country as well as in the region.

"I would like to congratulate Yemen for the superb preparations and arrangements. I don't hide my initial fears in agreeing to hold the tournament in Yemen, but these were quickly overcome.

"I want to point that the Yemeni athletes compare favorably with others who have more opportunities at their disposal."

Aminah Oubaaqa - Morocco:

"I use this opportunity to ask the Yemeni authorities to support this sport. There is a lot of potential among the Yemeni athletes."



The famous Yemeni player, Abdul-Kareem Al-Udhari, Chairman of the Yemen Chess Federation, is the dynamo behind the tournament as well as the preparations. He had several observations to make.

1. The idea started in 1994. I presented the proposal to the general assembly of the Arab Chess Federation in its meeting in Jordan. I repeated the idea in the Lebanon meeting.
2. There was a reluctant agreement to the proposal. Some of the questions raised were: "Does Yemen have the hotels? Are there enough cars in Yemen for transporting the participants? Is it safe?" Some of the delegates even insisted that for financial reasons, Yemen will send its regrets for hosting the tournament in the last minute.
3. We have shown them we are up to the challenge. This tournament was better arrangement and offers better facilities than most previous ones.
4. My main regret is the position of the private sector. We expect businessmen to use this occasion to show some patriotism as well as good business instincts.

Asma'a Houli - Algeria:

Asma'a is one of the contenders for the championship in the women's games. She is well-positioned to snatch first place.

"In spite of the long distance separating Yemen from Algeria, I immediately felt like I was at home. This is probably of the similar mountainous terrain and the cultural background.

"The games are proceeding very well. There are no complaints. I am sure that I will take back fond memories of this tournament"

Sadiq Al-Ghusrah - Bahrain:

Al-Ghusrah is an old hand in chess games. He has participated in many local and regional competitions. He heads the Bahraini team, and has developed close friendship among the Yemenis.

"The Yemeni side, in spite of limited resources, have done a marvellous job in creating an environment that allows for good games. They have also arranged several excursions and trips that have taken our minds from the games. These trips have been very useful and informative."

Esam Aly Ahmed - Egypt:

Esam is fairly familiar with large competitions. He was one of the organizers of the African Chess Championship which was held in Cairo in 1993.

"Given my experience, I know how much work goes into organizing such get togethers. I want to congratulate the Yemeni authorities for a job well done in this tournament."

Sami Abdul-Rahman Khader - Jordan

Sami has had lots of experience within the Levant and eastern Mediterranean regions.

"I am pleasantly surprised by the ability of the Yemenis to handle such competitions. Initially, I was worried that due to backwardness and limited resources, we will have trouble in the matches."

YEMENI PLAYERS:

1. Maha Saleh Al-Badeh:

Maha is the only female participant from Yemen in the games. She quickly lost in the competitions because she was ill-prepared.

"Honestly speaking I did not I will participate except in the last few days. They wanted a Yemeni female to show up and they got me. Even then, this was a chance for me to rub shoulders with colleagues from other countries. I look forward to better prepare myself for future tournaments."

2. Khaled Al-Harazy:

Khaled is one of the rising stars of Yemeni chess. He is considered among the big league.

"We Yemenis are competing under great pressure. Since the competition is taking place in Yemen, we are asked to do well. This means an extra burden on the Yemeni players.

"I would also like point out that much of the focus during preparation for the games was in the area of logistics and other arrangements. Not much attention was given to the technical and training aspect of the Yemeni players."

3. Hatim Al-Hadharani:

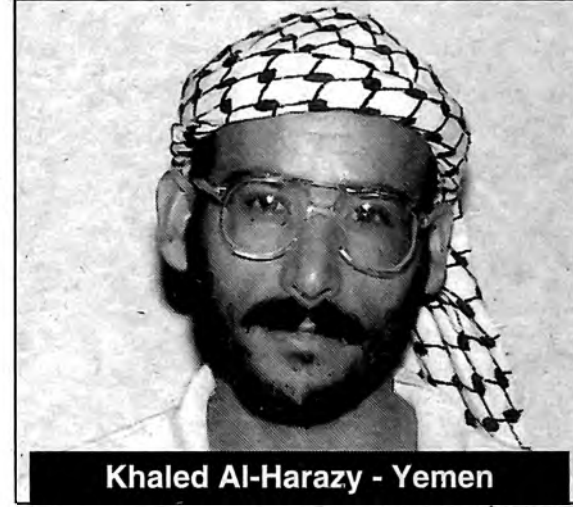
Hatim holds the most hope for the Yemenis to do well in the games. He is considered as one of the best Yemeni chess players.

"I am immensely proud of the success of the Yemeni Chess Federation in organizing the events. I am also proud of how well the Yemeni athletes have done."

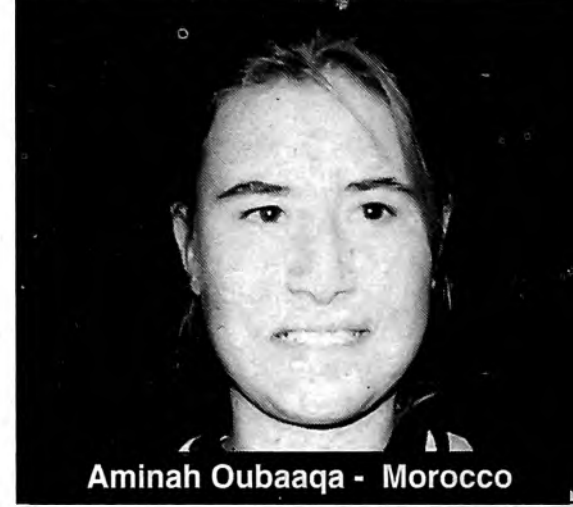
4. Abdo Abdullah Al-Baadani:

Abdo has done well in the competitions so far. He has lots of personal confidence.

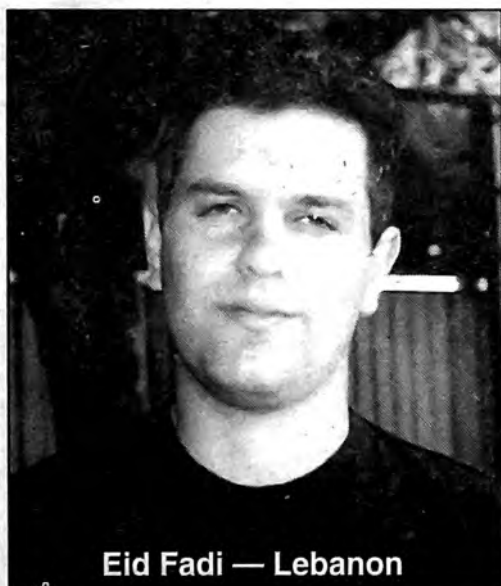
"Although not everything was perfect, let me say that we have close to perfect. The preparations and arrangements have been superb."



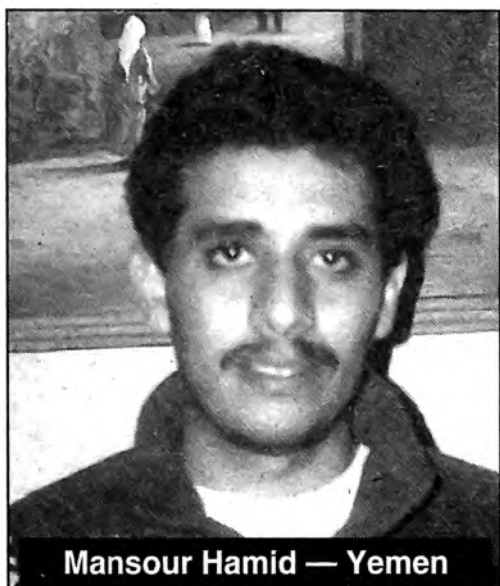
Khaled Al-Harazy - Yemen



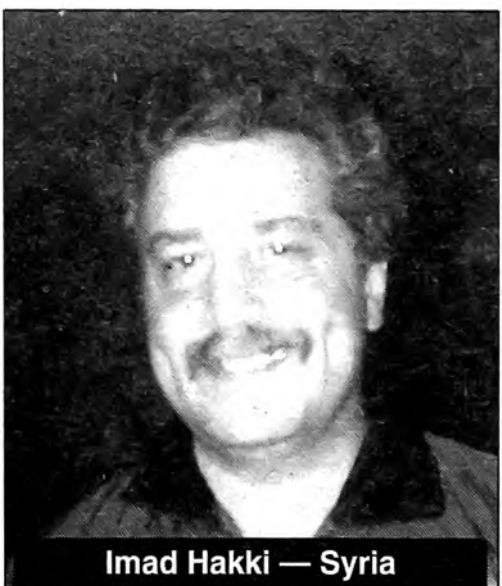
Aminah Oubaaqa - Morocco



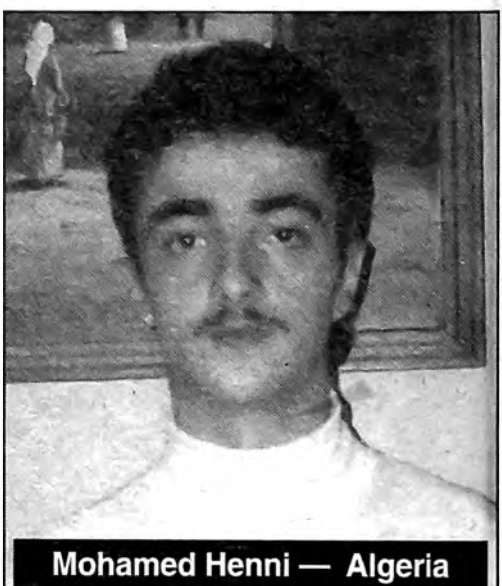
Eid Fadi — Lebanon



Mansour Hamid — Yemen



Imad Hakki — Syria



Mohamed Henni — Algeria



Slim Bouaziz — Tunisia



Mohammed Taiseer — Morocco



Ahmad Aziz Jawad — Iraq



Houda Tellouli — Tunisia

Statement Outlining Approach of the Group:

INAUGURATION OF A MODERN ART GROUP

These days, the applied graphic art profession and hobby is passing through a very delicate, sensitive and important phase. It is a phase of real formation and laying down the foundations of an expressive and descriptive identity for the Yemeni culture to revive this art to a refined level, and to make our people enjoy its beauty.

In the recent past, we note that modern artists have suffered a lot of distorted thoughts and feelings through their approaches to different techniques and trends by employing photography without any consideration to innovation and creativity. Thus, their products lacked the essence and basis of artistic work, which comes as isolated pieces with no spirit or soul, and not even reflecting the reality of the nation. Most of our artists start from a false idea believing that our heritage lacks in the basis and principles which can be a source for guidance to them.

We in the Modern Art Group believe that our heritage as represented in the art of sculpture, architect, handicraft, applied arts, and other forms of artistic work enjoy uniqueness, originality and historic depth. Our art is rich in its values, morals, symbols, and ethics. Thus it is possible to benefit from it to great extent and even to put it in our service in search of innovation.

If we go deep into what the Yemeni soul, and the accumulations of generations, we notice that we have a heritage of great importance to humanity as whole. We also realize that this heritage - which spans history - is not only the property of Yemenis. It is a heritage of humanity, and belongs to the whole world. Though simple; it is with essence.

It is important to mention that Yemeni artistic work has avoided directly reflecting the reality of life. Instead, it employed symbolism, nuances and philosophy to express itself, which is fact, end up reflecting the realities of life.



We in the Modern Art Group call for a return to the spirit and the soul, a return to emphasis of beauty and innovation in our artistic approaches to express the visions, trends, ideals and principles in our lives.

At the same time, we are going to take into consideration the experiences and trends that have been developed by our colleagues in other nations.

The ancient world worked in building up its civilization as isolated islands each from the other and this was due to distance and to difficulty in communication and transportation. As for today, things are different and you feel that the world is a small village and that there is a cultural melting pot. Sometimes, we feel that there is a universal culture which is under development. As in a minimum, in any case, there is a high-level of interaction which among the various cultures of humanity as whole.

However, we believe that there is a

sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in the approach based on individual creativity and innovation.

We as Yemeni artists believe that we cannot simply copy what is out there. We cannot even participate and interact positively in this universal heritage without making our works distinguished and shape it with the special inspiration from our environment and background.

Our group affirms the importance of the local inspiration forming the artistic work. This, however, need not be pursued through any specific technique or approach. That is best left for the artist. We have, nonetheless, laid some general guidelines to follow in order to reach a clear vision.

What we are after is expressing with a new and modern way emanating from the spirit of Yemen.

Finally, we welcome any artist who is convinced of these attitudes and outlooks to join our Group.

Yemen Pushes Breastfeeding



Last week, the Republic of Yemen joined the world community in celebrating the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW). Assisted in a major way by Unicef, the Ministry of Health launched a number of activities and events that highlighted the importance of breastfeeding and well-being of the mother and child. The theme of the WBW this year was "Breastfeeding: A Community Responsibility" which sought to mobilize all members of society in protecting and promoting breastfeeding.

In a big gathering to launch the WBW, many religious leaders and clergymen, community elders, medical doctors, social activists, and media personalities spoke on the importance of working together on this issue. The keynote speaker, the Minister of Health, indicated that breastfeeding is a key deterrent to the various diseases that attack infants.

The Unicef representative, Carl Tinsman, stressed that his organization would be more than willing to help in various ways in raising public awareness to the various benefits of breastfeeding.

Medical doctors described breastfeeding as one of the key vehicles for strengthening the bond between the mother and her baby. "The emotional and psychological attachment between mother and baby are enormously strengthened through breastfeeding," explained Dr. Mona Al-Midhwahi.

The Imam of Hayel Mosque in Sanaa, Sheikh Mohammed Ramadhan Hijazy, elaborated on the strong emphasis of Islam on breastfeeding.

The media campaign as well as the documents and leaflets distributed during the occasion have made a visible impact among families. But many parts of the countryside remain beyond reach.

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AI Urges PA to Reign in Security Forces!

Amnesty International (AI) blasted the Palestinian Authority (PA) for human rights violations against citizens it suspects of being involved in terrorism. Following a visit by AI delegates to Palestinian cities ruled by the PA in July and August, Amnesty International made last-week eight specific recommendations to end torture of detainees. The organization also called the release of hundreds of detainees who have languished in jail for months, unless they are promptly charged.

"Evidence of widespread torture by branches of the PA security forces is incontrovertible," said Amnesty International. "Yet no serious measures have been taken by the PA to halt it. Implementation of these recommendations would be a first step in ending an increasingly bad situation." In an extended statement, AI added, "Torture, detention without charge or trial, complainants ignored or threatened with reprisals, a multiplicity

of security services with no accountability - all this has created a climate of fear where gross human rights abuses are becoming systematic." In less than one year, at least eight people have died in the custody of the PA security services in circumstances where torture may have played a part in their deaths. On numerous occasions, inquiries have been announced, but no report has ever been made public.

As a result, AI recommended the following:

1. Public Condemnation of Torture;
2. Immediate Access/Appearance before a Judge;
3. Full and Public Inquiries;
4. Freedom for Human Rights Defenders;
5. No Impunity for Torturers;
6. End Prolonged Political Detention without Trial;
7. Halt Trials by State Security Courts;
8. Access to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sri Lankan Tamils Flee to India

Tamil civilians from Sri Lanka's war-torn north are fleeing last week to India by boat, raising the prospects of yet another refugee exodus.

"Some Tamil families have been crossing the Palk straits on Indian trawlers," an aid worker said last week. "If this continues, it could become a serious issue."

In Madras, a senior police official said that Tamil refugees had been arriving in waves. K. K. Rajasekharan Nair, Director General of Police of Tamil Nadu, told reporters that the first batch of a new wave of refugees, including

six women and eight children, arrived on Thursday, August 8th, in Rameswaram town, about 400 km south of Madras. He said the 21 Tamils who landed on Thursday came in a Sri Lankan boat that may have been escorted by Indian fishermen.

Aid workers in Colombo said the civilians were fleeing the fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels. Another aid worker said, "It is probably a desperate bid to get out of a bad situation - including food shortages."

Some 200,000 Tamils have fled to India since 1983.

The Sri Lankan army has not allowed food shipments into the northern areas for more than two weeks as fierce fighting between government troops and LTTE guerrillas continued near the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi for almost a month now.

More than 600,000 Tamils have been trapped on the Wanni mainland for more than three weeks after the LTTE and the army placed restrictions on their movement to government-held areas where they can receive food and water, fast running out in the north.

Lebanese Parliamentary Elections Are Underway

487 candidates are competing for the 129 seats in the Lebanese parliament. Elections have already started on Saturday, August 17th in the first zone - Mount Lebanon. Every Sunday henceforth, one of the four remaining electoral zones - the country is divided into five zones - will witness elections. Citizens in the second zone - the North - will elect their deputies on the 25th of August. On September 1st, Beirut city will vote, and on the 8th, the South will vote, and finally the Beqaa on the 15th.

At another level, Israeli prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked his army generals to prepare a plan to shell Lebanese areas, even beyond the Israeli-proclaimed safety belt. The plan calls for intensive shelling as well as airborne attacks on Lebanese civilian towns and villages.

The Israeli leader is preparing these plans for immediate retaliation just in case Israeli northern settlements are attacked by katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon.

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.

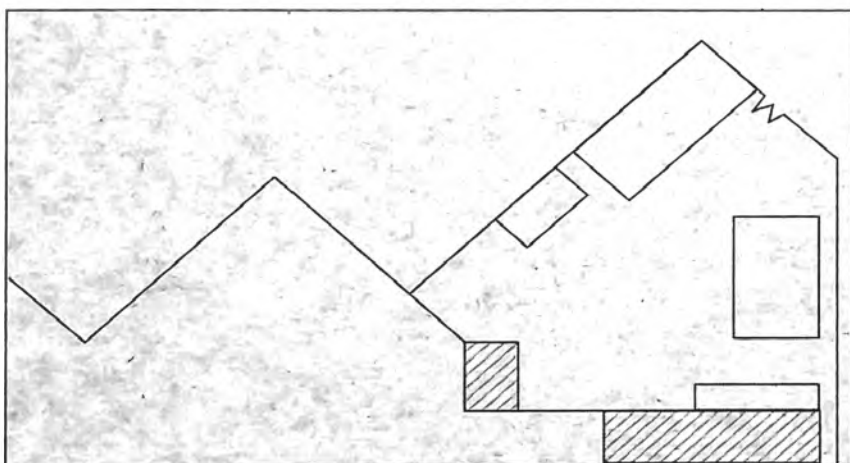
Bidders are to present a Bid Guarantee of YR 5 million, which is refundable to the non-winning bidders, 60 days after the bidding date, which is the period of the bond.

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.



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

The Amazing Green-Gene Revolution !

by John Dyson

In January 1992, when most US consumers were still eating those pink vinyl rocks that pass for tomatoes, a California scientist handed me a tomato as red and juicy as any grown in August. One bite and I was transported to summer's ecstasy.

This delicacy was among the first blockbuster products of "plant biotechnology," a new science that's expected to revolutionize agriculture. Besides tastier tomatoes, farmers may be growing crops year-round that defy drought, make their own fertilizer, and manufacture medicinal drugs. It sounds like science fiction, but it's not.

Twelve years ago, biotechnology hardly existed, though the groundwork was laid in the 1970s when scientists learned to cut genes and move them from one organism to another. Soon, they were making bacteria churn out valuable proteins and learning to correct the genetic defects that cause human disease.

Today, biotechnology is growing faster than ever. Data suggests that up to a fifth of all food in the United States may be produced with the aid of biotech by the year 2000 - and not a moment too soon. To feed the world's burgeoning population, says one senior expert, "biotechnology is our best hope."

There is nothing fundamentally new about bio-engineering. Every seed catalogue reveals the way growers have tinkered with plants over centuries, crossbreeding them to improve yield and variety. What is new is the speed at which crossing can now be done. It took centuries for man to develop corn from a wild grass. Today, a new variety of softer or sweeter corn could be designed and grown in two or three years.

Tastier tomatoes herald only the beginning of a tremendous "green-gene" revolution. Our fast-developing ability to program plants for specific purposes - to slow the rotting process, for instance - is already a pathway to incredible opportunities.

Market tomatoes are often tough and tasteless because nature is too quick. The acids, sugars and aromas that suffuse a tomato with tangy flavor are the last things it gets. From that moment, all the fruit wants to do is often and burst so its seeds will scatter.

To beat the softening, farmers pick tomatoes green. But even with refrigeration, which kills any flavor the tomatoes might have gained, many simply rot.

Reverse Logic.

The softening is caused, in part, by an enzyme known as PG, which dissolves the glue holding the tomato's cells together. Like a brick building when its mortar erodes, the tomato collapses. So the challenge to put fresh taste back into the fresh-tomato market has been to block or slow down the PG enzyme.

Tomatoes, like humans, have about 1000 genes - chemical commands packed into every cell. The problem facing microbiologist Bill Hiatt of California's Calgene company was to switch off the single gene that sets the PG enzyme to work.

You can't snip out a gene that you want to turn off - because its absence will short-circuit other genes - but, says Hiatt, you can deactivate it by inserting a copy of the gene made in reverse. "Think of the gene as an enormously long train with the engine as its off-switch," he explains. "We reversed the order of the goods wagons then hitched them up again."

From a few cells growing on a dish under lab lights, the transformed plants were cultivated and then grown in a greenhouse. Ten months later, the first ripe tomatoes were picked and put to the test.

"The PG enzyme had been blacked out by its own mirror image," Hiatt says. "By switching it off, we bought the tomato an extra week on the vine. Now, we no longer have to pick it green."

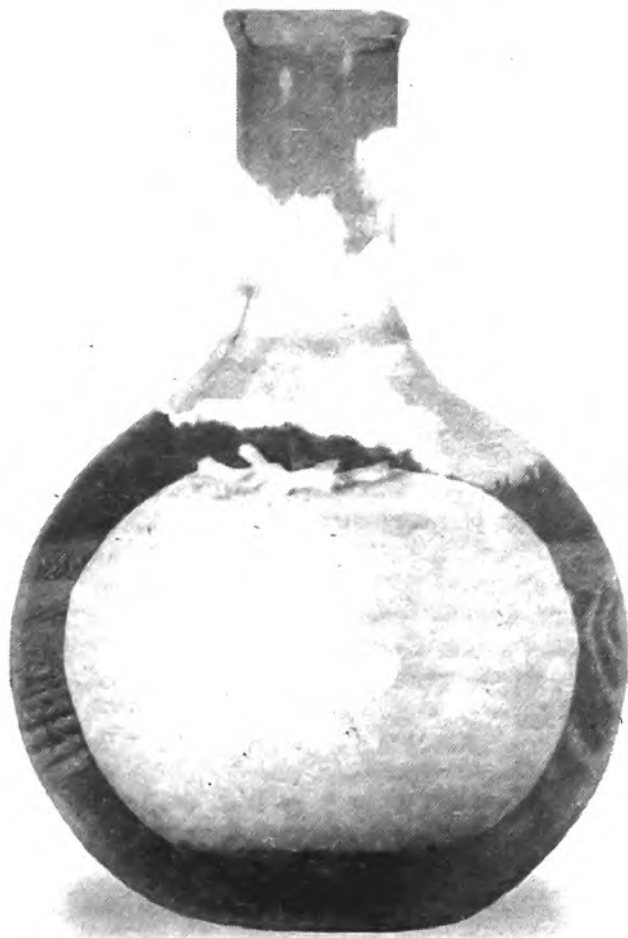
It is only a matter of time before bioengineers bring tastier varieties of other soft fruits to market, including melons, peaches, strawberries and raspberries. "Soon every fruit and vegetable will not taste better," says Donald Helinski of the University of California at San Diego, "but grow better, travel further and last longer."

Flounder Antifreeze.

Nature's chemical language is the same in all organisms - plants, animals, insects, microbes, humans - so all genes are theoretically interchangeable. A tomato given the gene of a fungal-fighting microbe can fend off the grey mould called botrytis. A potato given the gene of the unappealing petunia makes the Colorado beetle reject it.

Potatoes are the largest single vegetable crop in the world, but vast quantities are spoiled by decay. Now, Bill Belknap of the US Department of Agriculture's research station in Albany, California, is searching for a way to make them rot-resistant, using genes from chicken embryos and insect immune systems.

Then there's the strawberry that might be spawned



by a flounder. Strawberries are often wiped out by frosts. Learning that the Arctic Flounder makes an antifreeze to protect itself against winter chills, bio-engineers at DNA Plant Technology Crop in Oakland, California, are developing a synthetic antifreeze gene based on their examination of the flounder gene's protein structure. They plan to inject the synthetic gene into a strawberry, so the plant would be able to make its own antifreeze. Presto! Strawberries that survive frosts and don't go mushy when you take them out of the freezer. Scientists optimistically estimate that they could be on sale in the United States by 1997.

So far, only a few plant genes have been isolated, but the future coffee decaffeination may be done naturally, on the tree though the development of a caffeine-free coffee bean. Grapefruit may be sweetened on the branch and popcorn given a buttery flavor on the cob, so both could be enjoyed without the extra calories added by oil or sugar.

As more of these novelties are developed, plants will provide not only better flavours and nutritional quantities but special products. "We may see one bunch of farmers specializing in blue, shrink-proof cotton for denims, and another supplying flame-proof cotton for aircraft seats," says Calgene's Roger Salquist.

For scientists this truly is the golden age of bio-engineering. Says Bill Belknap, who is developing the rot-resistant potato, "You only have to think of something and you can do it."

Plastic From Potatoes.

Cotton grower Sykes Sturdivant has got a glimpse of this brave new world. Farmers like him in the Mississippi Delta spray chemicals as often as 12 times a season, fighting bugs and weeds that kill more than a quarter of their crops. But in the summer of 1992, at a research station in Alabama, Sturdivant saw a different future.

Rows of cotton plants had been sprayed only once with an herbicide. The weeds were dead, but the cotton kept growing. Even better, other rows, deliberately infested with cotton's most dreaded enemy, the cotton bollworm, showed no damage.

The first lot of "transgenic" cotton had been programmed to shrug off the herbicide, the second to manufacture a natural pesticide in its own cells. Similar traits are being engineered into soya beans, potatoes and corn. When the seeds of these "smart" plants come to market in the near future, some crops are expected to improve noticeably, and there should be less need for costly and potentially harmful chemicals.

Other environmental benefits may arise once plants are programmed to produce polymers, enzymes, pharmaceuticals and other industrial raw materials. "Fifty years ago plants provide almost everything we needed, and then petrochemicals took over," explains Chris Somerville of Michigan State University. "Now we're going back to plants, but with a lot of new tricks." Somerville has produced biodegradable plastic by

inserting a polymer-producing gene into a bacterium. The next step: transfer the gene into potatoes or sugar beets, and eventually churn out plastic for just under half a dollar a kilo. He believes it could happen within a decade.

Potatoes are even growing serum proteins for human blood transfusions. Normally extracted at high cost from human blood, the raw material of human serum albumin has been experimentally grown in greenhouses by scientists in the Netherlands and can be produced for as little as \$35 a kilo. "Nothing is cheaper than production in plants, because they consume only sunlight and water," says Peter Sijmons, head of the project.

Meanwhile, tobacco infected with a harmless virus during two recent growing seasons has produced experimental crops of Compound Q, a drug currently being clinically tested by Genelabs for effectiveness against the AIDS virus.

"In theory there's no therapeutic protein we couldn't make once we know its genetic blueprint," says Larry Grill of Biosource Genetics Corporation in Vacaville, California, which developed the procedure using the tobacco plant. The first marketable products derive from this technique could be harvested in 1995.

From Thin Air.

Bioengineering may change forever the way we farm. Scientists at the Plant Gene Expression Center in Albany, California, are illuminating the role genes play in a plant's reactions to light. "The research suggests different fields of the same crop might even be made to ripen in sequence, or farmers could delay blossoming if it turned out to be a cold spring," says Gerald Still, former director of the center. Biotech should also create plants that tolerate heat, drought, even salt. "The day is not far off when we will design plants to grow anywhere," says Jerry Caulder, president of Mycogen Crop of San Diego. "Instead of changing the desert, we'll change the plants."

Another hope is that important crops can derive fertilizer from thin air. Beans and peas, aided by bacteria, extract nitrogen from the atmosphere and store it in their roots, but most crops draw it from the ground. Scientists from the United States and Europe are trying to get rice and corn to emulate peas and beans.

But the green-gene revolution will not get much further than the lab unless transgenic plants are accepted by consumers. Concern about tempering with the genetic makeup of food is a powerful force. Because of initial public fears that "monster" plants or runaway weeds would be created, the release of transgenic plants has been rigorously controlled by scientists and government agencies. Both the US National Academy of Sciences and the food and Drugs Administration say transgenic plants present no special risks, however. "No new technology has ever had so much oversight in place before the first product even appears," says Al Young, the US Department of Agriculture's head of biotechnology.

The pioneering companies hope the benefits of genetically transformed products will be so tantalizing that any lingering resistance will melt away. The key point to remember is this: the green-gene technology that will allow a tastier tomato to reach consumers will also benefit the environment and help feed the 10 billion mouths that will be here within half a lifetime. "Once it was science fiction to think of such things," says Jerry Caulder of Mycogen. "Now they're just around the corner."

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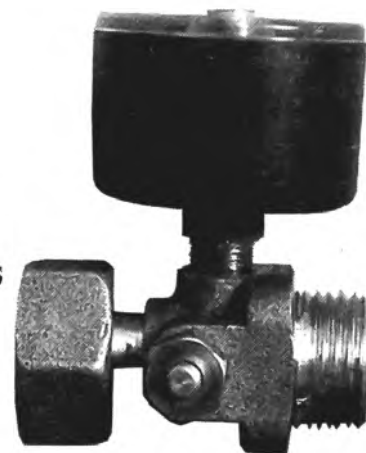
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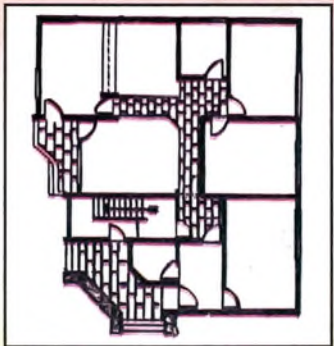
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AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 11-8-96
(Mouthpiece of Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Differences within the Ruling Coalition Will Never Cross the Red Line
- 2) The Islah and Socialist Parties Agree to Halt Media Attacks
- 3) The Last Respect of the State: Shoot-out and Blasts in Sana'a

Article Summary:

Failure of Government Talks With the World Bank

The paper reports that the Yemeni Government talks with the World Bank have failed. According to informed sources, the WB insists on the implementation of real and effective administrative reforms. In this context the WB requests Yemen to set up a Higher Council for Administrative Reforms, which should include in its membership, clean and capable persons. The WB is refusing to provide any additional assistance to Yemen unless a complete overhaul is carried out in the way the government carries out its financial and administrative business, and in the military and security organs which consume the largest share of the budget.

On the other hand, the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen are reported to be at odds with each other. The Governor is refusing to carry out the Minister's instructions, in the same way that the latter had refused when their positions were reversed prior to the last re-shuffling of the cabinet portfolios.

AL-WAHDAAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 14-8-96
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Differences in the Opposition Council Over Becoming Obligated to Register According to Articles 38 and 39 of Political Parties Law
- 2) Sanaa's Cleanliness: Warnings Against Dangers
- 3) The Assault (On People's Congress Permanent Committee Member Ms. Nabila al-A'mry) and the Loss of Values

Article Summary:

1) What Do the Political Parties (Opposition) Members Say?

In reference to some of the attacks on the lack of adherence to democracy by the government, the paper points to what President Ali Abdullah Saleh



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

recently said, condoning the presentation of a law suit against the Supreme Elections Committee and the subsequent decision by the court against the Committee to discredit the claims of the opposition. The paper suggests that our institutions are beginning to assert themselves free from outside/external influence.

2) Yemeni Women's Election Experience

The Arab Institute for Democracy sponsored a three day workshop which assessed the Yemeni Women's participation in the last parliamentary elections. The 1993 elections saw many Yemeni women striving to assert themselves in the political setting - mostly considered a man's world before that. The fact that 50 women took the initiative in standing for elections is seen as a healthy democratic sign. Women must also play their role in national affairs.

The workshop, attended by many partisan, political and social dignitaries and prominent women in Yemeni society, was held on Tuesday 13/8/96, at the cultural center in Sana'a. Debates and discussions were said to have been open and frank and many former women candidates indicated poor party backup for their candidacy. Some were forced, under threat of violence to them or their relatives, to withdraw their candidacies - sometimes by their own parties!

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 14-8-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Another law-suit Against the Supreme Elections Committee by Lawyer (and Parliament Member) Najee Allow
- 2) Opposition Council Parties in Hadhramaut; Call for Implementation of Agreement Made With Vice President During their Meetings With Him.
- 3) The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Conducts Meetings with the Yemeni Socialist Party and Other Opposition Parties.

Article Summary:

Government Admits Eritrean Occupation of Lesser Hunaish Island

The Yemeni Government has conceded that the Eritreans have occupied Lesser Hunaish on Saturday 10-8-96 in addition to having occupied Greater Hunaish on 16-12-95. The council of Ministers discussed the situation on Tuesday 13-8-96 and listened to a report presented by the Defense Ministry on the positioning of Eritrean troops. This is considered a violation of the Agreement of Principles reached between Yemen and Eritrea on 21 May 1996, as a result of French mediation. The Yemeni Government has sent complaints to the UN Secretary General Dr. Boutros Ghali, and to France, the USA, Egypt and Ethiopia on the violations which will cause increasing tension in the Red Sea's vital navigation lanes. The ROY indicated it will continue to abide by the agreement.

Al-Ayyam notes (as well as the other partisan and independent press organs) that the news came as a surprise to many ministers, who had no knowledge of the occupation except at the meeting.

AL-WAHDAAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-8-96
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Conflicting Reports on Explosions of Last Saturday in the Capital
- 2) Electricity's Hell Roasts Al-Mukalla and the Emergency Generation Agreement is Only Election Propaganda.
- 3) Supreme Elections Committee Makes a Mockery of Justice

Article Summary:

Abyan Prosecution Releases Terrorists

Six accused terrorists were released by the Abyan Governorate Prosecution. The terrorists were said to have assaulted 3 girls and their 50-year old mother and shaved their heads off. The people of Abyan were angry and resentful of the release.

which took place on bail put up by 2 merchants (Saleh Shaatal and Al-Shaibany) in view of the disgust at the crime committed by these men.

The paper also said that the women of Abyan have vowed to boycott the voter registration drive unless these terrorists were apprehended and brought to justice.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: (Weekly) 12-8-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Coast Guards for Protection of Lobsters
- 2) Troop Deployment . . . and Troop Deployment (In Sana'a)
- 3) Medal of Valor for French Colonel

Article Summary:

Al-Jawi's Goals

Omar Al-Jawi, in his weekly column asks his fellow party members to stick to the slogan of the party: Democracy, Equality and Human Rights as a mechanism for getting the country out of the backward trend towards tribalism and power brokers. The idea of the slogan should be to promote civil authority in terms of local elected rule and other democratic institutions that put the rights of the citizens in their right place.

It is a struggle, previous intellectuals who inspire the 26th of September Revolution, had sacrificed a lot only to find the 6 goals of the Revolution meaning nothing more than their repeat printing on top of official and partisan newspapers.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 15-8-96
(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

- 1) A Joint Council of Ministers and Governors Discusses the Lesser Hunaish Problem and the Local Administration Law.
- 2) Appointment of Big Col. Yahya Al-Qowsy Commander of South West Military Axis.
- 3) Prince Sultan Abdulaziz Arrives 28th August 1996.

KARATE (Taiz) 11-8-96
(Karate Center of Taiz)

Main Headlines:

- 1) President Saleh... The First Sportsman in Yemen
- 2) Karate at the Diplomatic Club in Sana'a
- 3) Joint Cooperation Between Karate Taiz and Aden

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

Hey Guys, Stop this Absurdity

They call it economic reform. I wonder how it got that name, and is considered as a reform. Do they know what a reform means? Its simple definition it is to make things better. In our case, we are slipping towards disaster.

I am not an economic expert, but it does not require an expert to note the changes in my economic well-being. And I study closely how the situation in general evolves.

I know there is a lot of talk about the government budget. I have read carefully many reports about what needs to be done. If what needs to be done - according to those reports - is done, then most of the victims will be the ordinary people. I will bet the government officials will not even feel the difference.

Let me give an example. I used to pay 2 Riyals for the service cars (dabbab) for one of the short rides. Now I have to pay 10 - a five-fold rise in less than one year. Now this is something against which we can measure inflation.

Reforms should address some of the real issues like favoritism and corruption. Let me talk in concrete terms. Do you know how scholarship are distributed to candidates. The password is favoritism and nepotism. Unless you have friends and relatives in influential positions, you don't stand a chance no matter how good your grades are.

Corruption is another issue. Importers bleed until they satisfy corrupt government officials in the customs department. But all the money they pay out - and more - they add to their costs and we consumers end up paying for it.

So may be the new definition for economic reform is for the poor citizens must carry more of the burden and responsibility. May be the reforms will succeed when we all become beggars.

This is what I meant when I said the reforms will lead to disaster. We will be the first victims of their coming disaster.

By: *Majdi Mansour, Sanaa.*

THE GOAL OF MARTYRS

When talking about martyrs, we have to throw light on their works and their role in establishing the seeds of the revolution and unity. Their sacrifices were to uproot the corruption, oppression, dictatorship and all kinds of injustices.

If we managed to achieve the objectives for which our martyrs died, we can say they are not dead but alive among us because their sacrifices have created better conditions for us. But, if the objectives have not been achieved, then we can say that their sacrifices were in vain.

We all know that any revolutionary movement begins with the suffering of the people. The suffering make some people willing and ready to sacrifice themselves, and thus create a revolution. It is a general rule to start with suffering and end up with a revolution.

Evolution is a gradual process which aims to improve on a system on a piece by piece basis. But evolutionary change is possible only when there are minor problems, and the overall situation is acceptable. In this case, people join hands to slowly improve on the existing conditions.

But what if the system is generally bad. In this case, it needs uprooting it, and a better system is substituted for it. This good system is bound to carry some new ideas which attempt to create a better situation. If this new system is not satisfactory, there will be another revolution to remove it, until a system consistent with the needs of the people is put in place.

Life is a sequence of struggles and human efforts which strive for better conditions. We must always strive to achieve what is good and useful for our nation. The point I want to make is that all great works remind us of those martyrs who watered the tree of freedom with their sacred blood. It is very important for all people to respect them, and pray for them as a reward for their achievements for the welfare of this nation. We ask God to bless them and grant them mercy. The message is that the goal of martyrs is to get the nation out of hard situations.

Abdul Hameed Saeed , Taiz

IT WAS A MIRAGE

Then he opened his eyes suddenly

To look around but find nothing

Lost in the cold desert

Lonely, lost,... who to pity him?!

He desperately cried

Loudly and painfully he cried

No response but his voice's hoarse echo

The cold fierce wind froze his feet

The strangling night would never end

He struggled, so did his breath

Then he saw the sun in the empty sky

It added a gasping mouth to the haggard face

Exhausted, he rose and looked in the distance

He saw an oasis glistening in the horizon!

He walked and walked till he reached the place

The place where he grasped nothing but the sand.

Ali Ahmed Al-Malhani, Dhamar.

LOST DREAMS

In the midst of our difficult economic conditions and depressed income, the advertisement of Calcedonian Offshore Ltd. came to represent the relief for Yemeni youth. The advantages which were offered by this firm - that it has no qualification stipulations, that it requests no experience, that the wages were high, and that they offered free training in-house.

But alas, we were informed that it is a mere illusion. Upon enquiring at the Canadian honorary consulate in Sanaa, it denies the very existence of such a company. Thus, the dreams and expectations of the Yemeni youth were squashed. Instead of rosy dreams, we woke up on a nightmare, as if our current suffering was not enough.

Finally, all that we hope from our media is to make sure of the existence of foreign companies when they advertise for them. We also hope the conditions of the Yemeni youth are of interest to our politicians, not only in election times.

By: *Rasheed Al-Saqqaf, Taiz*

IDEAS FOR YEMEN TIMES

The Yemen Times gets day by day to more and more readers. I myself have become accustomed, or shall I say addicted to it. Monday afternoon is special for me because I get my new issue of the Yemen Times.

There are two thoughts which I often think about and which I reckon to be of interest to Yemen Times readers.

First, because most of the readers are not well-versed in English, can the Yemen Times start an English tutorial section? I know many of my colleagues and friends buy the paper to improve their English and reading skill. By introducing a section to learn English, the Yemen Times can do the reader much service. This will be one more reason to love the Yemen Times.

Second, have you thought of converting the Yemen Times into a magazine or periodical. Most of the information in the newspaper is useful, even after a long time. I was reading back issues, and was fascinated by the information in them.

I wish all the best to the Yemen Times staff and readers.

Farooq Al Tameemy, Hadhramaut.

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وكافة أسرة مقبل الحميري والأهل والأصدقاء

August 19th, 1996

By: Jamal Al-Aadhi, Sports Editor.

International Olympic Solidarity Finances Training Course in Gymnastics in Yemen

The Yemeni Olympic Committee has organized a special training course in gymnastics last week. The course, financed by International Olympic Solidarity, was inaugurated in Sanaa, on Thursday August 15th. The course included lectures given by Tim Hoult, an international expert in gymnastics. He promised that he would pass on as much of his experience to the Yemeni trainees, who are mostly Yemen coaches in gymnastics. It is worth mentioning that this is the third training course which is financed by International Olympic Solidarity in this year alone. The courses are oriented to develop Yemeni sports.

Haddah Hotel Organizes Course in Ground Tennis



The Public Affairs section of Haddah Hotel will organize special course in ground tennis, which will start on 25th August, and will go on until the first of October 1996. On the end of training course, the hotel will organize matches between the participants. Worthwhile prizes are promised. The coach is Mr. Ibrahim Khider of Iraq, who is experienced in field tennis. He indicated that the management of Haddah Hotel has provided all the training materials needed to start training. The course is supported by Yemeni Ground Tennis Federation.

Yemeni Table Tennis Team in Egypt

Last week, a six-person Yemeni Table Tennis team (four players, one coach, and one administrator) left Sana'a for Cairo to participate in the Arab Table Tennis Championship. Yemen Times learned that the Yemeni team received special training in Aden Governorate under the guidance of a Chinese coach, who said, "I think the Yemeni players stand a good chance in the Arab Championship."

Special Excursion Trips for the Participants in Arab Chess Championship



Last Thursday, the participants in the Arab Chess Championship visited Ibb Governorate by special invitation from the governor. They spent a full day there. The thirty young Arab men and women who went on the trip, were stunned by the lush greenery of Ibb.

The trip was also a good opportunity to cement friendship among the athletes. "It was a good idea to arrange this trip," they said.

The players had earlier visited Marib to see the monuments of ancient Yemeni civilizations. Many of them had heard of the Marib dam and the Almaqa and Ashtar temples of ancient Sheba. Now they were able to see it.

At another level, the chess games are proceeding very well, and they are nearing their climax. Over the next few days, the finalists will be paired.

Following the games, the General Assembly of the Arab Chess Federation will hold its annual meeting. Many pertinent issues regarding the ways and means to develop this sport will be discussed.

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Is Sheikh Abdullah REPEATING Al-Beedh's Tactics?

Where is Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar? Is the rumor that he is staying away because he is upset true? Is this a re-run of the famous ei'tikaf (to sulk or to keep to oneself as a sign of protest) so often practised by Ali Salim Al-Beedh? Are relations between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) at a dead end? Is another nightmare on the way?

These and more are questions which Yemenis keep asking themselves. There are many who quickly point to the different nature of the relations between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Sheikh Abdullah, than the ones which had existed between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salim Al-Beedh. But, then, there are those who speak of politics and power as illogical and unreasonable games.

There is no doubt that relations between the PGC and Islah are strained, and there is no doubt that Sheikh Abdullah has been absent from Yemen for already a long time. But what will happen next is anybody's guess.

In the final analysis, the PGC and Islah, and President Saleh and Sheikh Al-Ahmar should know that if they push their differences too far, both sides will suffer. Above all, however, the country will suffer.

For the sake of Yemen, therefore, they will hopefully resolve their differences amicably!

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