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SANAA • January 27th thru Feb 2nd, 1997

Stunned by the deal cut between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni

Congregation for Reform (Islah), the

Supreme Coordination Council for Opposi-

tion Parties (SCCOP) issued an ultimatum to

the two ruling parties. A five-point communique issued on January 22nd, demanded

the opening of dialogue based on the opposition's Guarantees Document of June 6th. 1996, refusal of the PGC-Islah deal, and a more genuine respect for fair and free elections. Otherwise, the SCCOP threatens to

The SCCOP communique was the direct

result of calls by some opposition politicians

to boycott the elections, 'because of the

visible efforts to determine the election

results before-hand.' A leading voice in this

regard, Mr. Omar Al-Jawi, Sccretary-

General of the Yemeni Unionist Congrega-

tion, Mr. Al-Jawi has formally written a

letter urging the member parties of the

SCCOP to formally announce boycotting the

Yet, some opposition parties are negotiating

with the PGC and Islah possibilities of coop-

eration in the next elections. What that

means is that they seek to cut a deal, similar

to the PGC-Islah one, in which the ruling

parties agree not to nominate candidates who

will compete against the opposition can-

While the smaller opposition parties can sit

out the elections, because their losses are

small in any case, the situation is quite dif-

ferent regarding the Yemeni Socialist Party

(YSP) and the Nasserite Unionist Party

elections and refusal of their results.

didates in certain constituencies.

boycott the elections.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami on Economic Conditions.

GTZ: Channelling German Assistance to Yemen

Walid Khadduri **Explains the Gas Deal**

YAFFA': A Region in Search of a Role!

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Confusion Grows as Elections Draw Closer:

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400 Foreign Observers to **Monitor Yemeni Elections**

(NUP). The YSP and NUP have a relatively large base of members and followers, and boycotting the elections can mean a major loss and even fragmentation. The inability of the leadership of these two large opposition parties to take a clear position has weakened them vis-a-vis regional leaders, who are challenging the central party authority.

Already, the Hadhramaut branch of the YSP has taken matters into its own hand and decided not to wait for a clear course of action. Mr. Ba-Awm, the Hadhramaut leader of the YSP, decided to mobilize the local members to boycott the elections and to take a confrontational stand against the ruling parties. This example could quickly spread to other governorates.

At another level, Yemen Times learned that there is already a long list of persons who are planning to fly into Yemen for the April 27th parliamentary elections. "The list includes 400 names, mostly members of parliament, journalists, persons interested in democracy and pluralism, and government officials from 18 countries," disclosed Dr.

Secretary-Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, General of the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC). "The EMC is in contact with foreign observers who plan to monitor the elections and need information on their progress," he

Finally, the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has issued guidelines for local observers who plan to monitor the elections. These guidelines effectively limit any possibility for real monitoring.

The limitations include the fact that local observers will not be allowed inside the ballot-casting halls, that they will not be allowed to photocopy any document, that they will not be allowed to make any announcements, etc. The SEC will issue permits/badges to local observers which can be withdrawn automatically.



Sanaa Water Treatment Contract Signed

The National Water And Sanitation Authority (NWASA) signed on Sunday the 19th of January, 1997, the contract for the implementation of the Sanaa Waste Water Treatment project. Dr. Mohammed Al-Saeedi, NWASA Chairman, told the Yemen Times that the project, which was initially estimated to cost US\$ 49 million, was concluded for only US\$ 29 million.

He explained the drastic difference between the two numbers by saying that NWASA removed all middlemen, commissions, and other kick-backs. "I have informed the Prime Minister of this. He was extremely pleased, and said that we could use the surplus allocation for other (smaller) water treatment projects in other cities," he explained.



Deadline for Senior Government Officials to Run for Elections Is Over

Today, Monday, January 27th, 1997, marks the last day for ministers, vice ministers, governors and other senior officials to tender their resignations from their official posts, if they wished to stand for election in the April 27th paliamentary elections. The law stipulates that any senior government official - specially, ministers, vice ministers and governors - must resign three months in advance of the election

So far, the ministers who have actually

resigned are Ahmed Al-Anisi, Minister of Communications (PGC), Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa', Minister of Information (PGC), Ameen Sadeq Abu Ras, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform (PGC), Ahmed Soufan, Minister of Industry (PGC), Abdul-Rahman Ba-Fadhle, Minister of Fisheries (Islah), and Abdullah Al-Akwa, Minister of Electricity and Water (Islah).

Those ministers who show up for work this week are not going to stand for elections.

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Major Archaeological Discovery in Ibb

Yemeni citizen called Saleh Mohammed Haidarah, and a companion were digging on a location known as Thuthan (th as in the) on Mount Al-

On January 13th, 1997, a Awd in Al-Nadirah District in the eastern part of Ibb Governorate. Soon, the two diggers discovered that the land under them was giving way, leading to a cave.

That is how a major burial site that goes back to a queen who reigned in fourth century BC in the Qataban dynasty was discovered.

More on page 10



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Glaring Shortage of Research and Literature on Yemeni/Gulf Relations

The other day, a friend who is doing his doctoral thesis of Yemeni-Gulf relations wrote to me asking for references and any material on the subject. He said any material either on the bilateral relations of Yemen with any of the six GCC countries, or on the regional/collective relations would help.

Given the importance of the subject, I assured I would certainly be able to dig up something for him. After all, at this stage in our history, the GCC countries are Yemen's most important neighbors. So, I sent out several friends to find out what is available. The funny thing is that I told my messengers to be selective and not to simply photocopy anything that

You guessed it, I was in for a shock, as my messengers came back empty-handed.

At the Department of Political Science at Sanaa University, none of the many professors and lecturers had any material on the subject. Let me repeat, not one of them had anything. To add insult to injury, none of them even knew where one could find any information.

At the Central Library of Sanaa University and at the library of the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research, there was nothing. Nothing, you know, like, zilch. Trying hard did not

At the Foreign Ministry and the library of the Diplomatic Club, again, there was nothing. My messengers talked to a number of diplomats at the Foreign Ministry, and even at the embassies of the GCC countries in Sanaa. They came back with virtually nothing.

None of the political parties have any material or references

on the matter. I have sent out to the head offices of all the political parties, and nothing was available.

Imagine such a situation?

What are the many political scientists of Yemen researching? To start with, few do research. Second, the subject matter is often determined by sponsors of international seminars, dictated by the priorities and needs of foreign organizations. Third, our documentation system, even at the university and research centers, does not work.

The importance of the subject matter makes it absolutely imperative that we build a solid data base on it. The starting point could be sponsoring a local seminar that would generate

new material and papers. Researchers from the GCC countries could also be The Rublisher invited to give their side of the picture. It is an important first step in building a data base on an important issue.





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FAAY Is Coming

A group of Yemeni Fulbright alumni have been holding meetings with the purpose of creating the Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY). These are Yemenis who had studied in the USA under Fulbright scholarships.
The objectives of the FAAY

include:

1. To increase mutual understanding between the peoples of Yemen and the United States by means of exchange on scholars and ideas.

2. To fully utilize the skills and talents of Yemeni Fulbright alumni for the development of the nation.

3. To strengthen the Fulbright Program in Yemen through enhanced recruitment and fundraising efforts.

At the present time, the US Government resources available for Fulbright students have dwindled to only a few scholarships a year. "We hope that the Yemeni side will bolster the current capabilities so that more Yemenis can go to study in the USA on Fulbright scholarship," said Mr. Adam Ereli, the USIS Director and Cultural Attache, who has been a key factor behind the idea.

Kerala Club **Entertains Members**

The Kerala Club, an Indian arts and cultural organization, held an entertainment program on the evening of Friday, January 24th. The event, which was intended to celebrate Christmas and New Year, was attended by a large crowd of Indians, Yemenis and members of the international community. It was attended by the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Sinha, the President of the Club, Mr. Mohan Kumar, and its Secretary, Mr. KK Haridas.

Yemenia **Gets New Airplanes**

Yemen Airways, Yemenia, is going to receive two new Airbus A300 planes during March, 1997. The newly purchased planes will enable the company to improve service in the current sectors, and allow it to open new routes.

Sanaa Traffic **Improvements**

Traffic soldiers manning the streets of Sanaa have been doing an excellent job, over the last days. Double parking, a major source of congestion in the narrow streets of the city, has virtually disappeared.

As a corollary, the major streets have also appeared as much

While expressing appreciation for these efforts, many citizens hope they will continue.

Mobilizing Funds in Support of Sudan

Tremendous efforts are underway in the mosques and other gathering in the country to raise funds in support of the Sudan in its present debacle.

These efforts, led by Islah activists and sympathizers, have drawn the concern of other forces in society. One PGC member said, "I hope we are not going to repeat the Iraq scenario" in reference to Yemen's position during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The government attitude has been calm and balanced, and called for a peaceful resolution of differences, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan.

Diplomats Visit the EMC

German Ambassador Dr. Helga von Stratzwitz, visited the Sanaa Office of the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) last week. She was received by a number of officials representing the organization.

In the meeting, she was briefed on the efforts of the EMC, and progress regarding the coming parliamentary elections.

Dr. Stratwitz stressed support for the elections, which she was an important development in the country's political evolution. She also indicated that Germany will finance the cost of the ballot paper. Germany's contribution to the elections is also channelled through the European and other regional/international bodies.

Another visitor to the EMC last week was Mr. Rainer Freund, Head of the European Union (EU) Office in Yemen. The EU helps provide financial support to the EMC, as well as other bodies working on the elections.

Mr. Freund was briefed on the past efforts of the EMC, and its various plans over the next three months. He expressed support for the efforts of the EMC and the elections process.





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اليهنية کې Yemenia















Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami:

"Government diagnosis of the economic crisis is right. Its prescriptions are wrong."

Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami is one of the outstanding researchers of Yemen. A young man from Ibb, he has a European training, with a PhD in economics. He headed the Economic Research Unit of the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research, and has given university lectures. He has also done consulting work for the World Bank, the UNDP, and various other regional and international organizations.

He participated in a number of local and foreign seminars and conferences.

A well-published author, he has many articles,

research papers and books to his credit.

Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Al-Maitami and filed the following report. Excerpts:

Q: Give us a general assess- All parties agree ment of the first stage of the economic reform program?

A: Before trying to evaluate the first stage of the reform program, I have to insist that embarking on reforms was something urgent. Unfortunately, the political circumstances and other priorities during the last few years impeded embarking on this necessity.

Thus we all agree on the importance and necessity of the economic, financial and administrative reforms. The reserva-tions I have are on the tools and means used in implementation of the program.

Let me briefly demonstrate the real economic issues in Yemen. In reality, the government, the IMF and the World Bank have diagnosed successfully problem. I agree with them on the examination and diagnosis but I differ on the remedy.

on the need to control the deterioration of the economy. There should

remedies for the recession, inflation, unemployment, economic imbalances such as the deficit in government budget, the balance deficit in the payments, etc., and the price distortions that have plagued all activities. These are the features and phenomena of the economic crisis that Yemen has endured since the eighties.

What I differ regarding the sources of those imbalances and the prescribed remedies.

The Yemeni government together with the IMF and the World Bank believe that all these imbalances are due to mere faults in the monetary and fiscal policies. They think that the government



deficit and inflation are the most dangerous evils that affect the economy.

reform program?

A: The reform program focuses on getting rid of fiscal and monetary imbalances. Towards that end, the remedy was divided into three phases:

1- First phase is the stabilization phase - it is a short-term phase. 2- Second phase is the structural adjustment phase - it is a mid-

term phase 3- The third phase is to proceed with economic development on correct parameters - it is a longpleted and has led to curbing the deterioration and recession.

As for the second phase, to restructure the economy, this is going to be more difficult. But the thrust of it is to enable market rules and mechanisms to reign by liberalizing the economy liberalization of trade, privatization, floating the currency, etc. These procedures depend on the Neo-Classical concept which sees inflation as a direct result of money supply. Therefore, this represents in its nature a financial and monetary problem. Based on this analysis, the reform program gave the priority to controlling inflation through curbing government deficit which is the reason behind the growth in money

see the economic problems as a direct result of backward production systems, meaning low productivity. There is a great imbalance between overall con-Q: Can you tell us more on the sumption and overall supply of goods and services. There is a great imbalance between available resources and output.

Take for example, the agriculture sector which is the main employment sector in Yemen in which 70% of the manpower works. But this sector contributes less than 22% of GDP. This imbalance is more than the monetary imbalances. Local production of grains covers 10% of overall consumption. Again this imbalance has more meaning for our economic well-being.

Q: What are some of the symptoms of the imbalances you are talking about?

A: I believe you are talking about numbers. During the first four years of unification, GDP shrunk by about 19%. In other words, we had negative growth rates. In 1994, for example, the growth rate was -6.2%. Unemployment reached more than 30%, and inflation rose to triple digits. The government recently announced it climaxed at 120%.

Q: What should be done, in your opinion?

A: I think the reform program, which is backed by the IMF and the World Bank, calls for correcting the problem through new and additional borrowing. This is dangerous, especially if the new money does not lead to more

In my opinion, the present approach is against the law of cause and effect. The remedy puts the cart before the horse for it focuses on reduction of government expenditure, devaluing the Yemeni currency, raising the rate of interest and other various procedures which, in their nature, augment the depression.

The policies should address the recession, low growth rate and unemployment.

Q: But we have heard local and international assessments which give reform package and government performance high marks. We have lower inflation rates, a reduced government So much so that MEED magazine called Yemen the "Cinderella" of Middle East. How do you explain all this positive assessment?

A: Initially, let me say that I don't argue for the sake of arguing. I don't criticize just for

I love my homeland and I am as

patriotic as anybody else. I would love to see success for my gov-

But I am an economist. What governs my opinion and position are facts and figures. I studied the different assessments with great care and interest.

For most of the international assessments, like MEED, their sources of information and data are official statements. This are contradictory and politicized.

For example, the inflation rate for Yemen in 1994 was officially put at 55%. Then the annual statistical yearbook for 1995 told us that the rate was 75%. Suddenly, this number jumped to 120% a few days ago. All these numbers are given by officials and they are documented.

Official sources in the five-year plan mention that the economic growth reached 9.7% in 1996. In a recent official statement the number was reduced to 6.3%. The World Bank in its documents mentions that the growth does not exceed 5%.

What I am saying is that foreign journalists who look at official numbers can reach wrong conclu-

Let us consider the unemploy-

The average unemployment is still 30% or perhaps even more. This is a real indicator of the quality and standard of living. Let us take a third indicator. Most

Yemenis work on the fields, and their income is generated from agriculture. Agriculture as a percent of GDP retreated from 26.5% in 1995 to 22% in 1996. It deficit, a steady exchange rate. means a lower income for the majority of Yemenis.

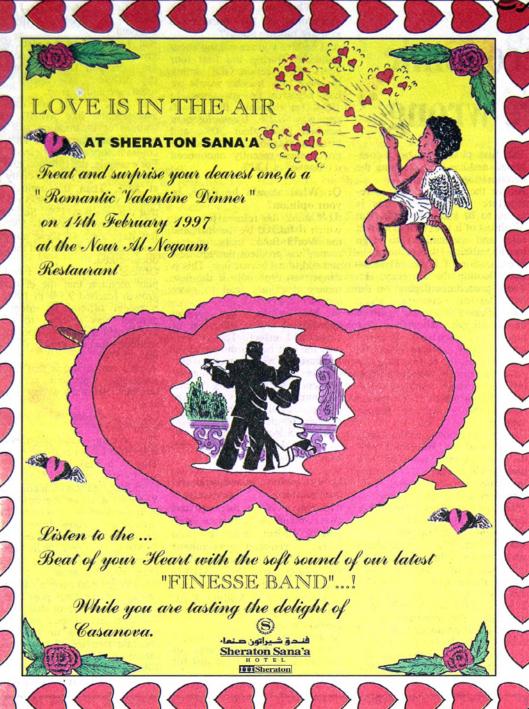
Poverty-gripped people - as a percentage of the total population - according to a recent study by the World Bank, jumped from 20% in 1992 to 33% in 1995. The absolute number of poor people increased from 2.4 million in 1992 to 4.9 million in 1995.

Continues on page 15









Press Freedom and Human Rights in Islam

These days, when the New World Order is putting extra emphasis on the role of the individual in the management of society, and his/her rights, much has been said about the position of Islam regarding these rights. While Muslims are on the defensive, given the misapplication and mis-understanding of the teachings of our religion, a thoughtful study of the tenets of Islam shows that the religion strongly promotes indi-vidual rights at all levels.

But there are two major limitations to these rights.

First, they have to fit well with the rights of society as a whole. In other words, if the rights of an individual come in conflict with the rights of the community, the community rights take precedence - with adequate com-

pensation for the individual.
Second, rights and privileges are ordained to elevate society and the individual. Therefore, their exercise must help move society towards truth, virtue and a higher meaning in life. In other words, the purpose behind these rights is not a selfish-driven exercise, but a noble quest.

Thus, while Islam acknowledges the right of freedom of thought and expression to all, such right must be used to promote virtue and truth and not to spread evil and wickedness. Under no circumstance does Islam allow evil and wickedness to be propagated. Islam acknowledges freedom of speech and press, but it does not give anybody the right to use abusive or offensive language in the name of criticism.

The Islamic concept of press

alent in the West. In practice, however, most of the Islamic communities have lost this value and its application.

Presently, in many Islamic countries, totalitarian ruling systems exercise total power over the individual. It seems that in Islamic societies, everything is on the verge of destruction. The oppressed people cannot stand up for their rights.

There is another problem. Even when the rules and laws are well known, they are not applied equally among the citizens.

In the hey-days of Islam, it is narrated that a woman belonging to a high and noble family was arrested in connection with theft. The case was brought to the Prophet Mohammed (P), and it was recommended that he spare her the punishment of theft -chopping off the hand. The Prophet (P) replied, "The nations that lived before you were destroyed by God because they applied punishment to the common people, and did not apply the punishments when the offenders were dignitaries. I swear by Him Who holds my life that even if Fatima, daughter of Mohammed, had committed this crime, I would have amputated her hand."

Really, Islam has laid down universal fundamental rights for humanity as a whole, which are to be enforced against all. To achieve these rights Islam provides not only legal safeguards, but a very effective moral

freedom and expression is much Human rights in Islam are broader than the concept prev- decreed by God. They have not been decreed by any legislative assembly or ruler. Therefore, they cannot be taken away as they are part of the fact that we are human beings. They are intrinsic and they are inalienable, and they are universal.

The concept of human rights in Islam is broad. Some of the freedoms specifically stipulated in Islam include:

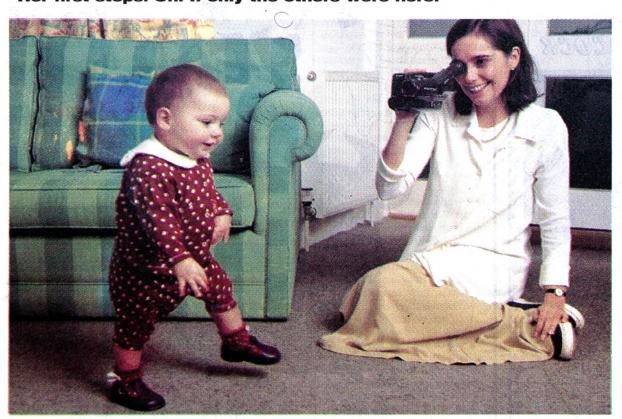
- Freedom of expression.
- 2- Freedom of association.
- 3- Freedom of conscience.
- 4- Equality before the law. 5- The right to criticize despotic
- systems. 6- The right to basic necessities
- in life. 7- The right to participate in the
- affairs of the state. 8- The right to stand up against
- tyranny and wrong-doing 9- The right of protection and security of life and property.
- 10- Sanctity of life and privacy. 11- Protection of honor and
- personal esteem. 12- Protection of religious sentiments.
- 13- Protection against arbitrary
- imprisonment. 14- The right to hold rulers

accountable under the Law.

In a nutshell, if these stipulations are enforced in any country, it is certain that there will be social peace and harmony. They will lead to an era of happiness for people, and progress for nations.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle, As-Salam Religious Institute, Al-Mahweet.

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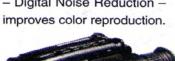
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More Decentralized Approach in Project Implementation Policy:

Fruits of Yemeni-German Cooperation

The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbelt (GTZ) - the technical cooperation arm of the Federal Republic of Germany, has become a symbol of German drive to help create a more harmonious and stable world. The organization, which now executes projects in some 120 countries worldwide, has a physical presence in about 80 of them. One country in which its presence is well-felt - as well as appreciated - is the Republic of Yemen.

The GTZ established its office in Yemen in 1983. It has been responsible for the technical side of the cooperation between Yemen and Germany. As such, and in collaboration with the Yemeni authorities, it helps execute projects that support the development process.

"At this moment, we are implementing 25 projects in various governorates of the country. These can be grouped into five important sectors: manpower training/education, health, institution-building, water and sanitation, and agriculture," explained Dr. Hans-Henning Sawitzki, Director of GTZ Yemen.





According to Mr. Samir A. Alqirshy, Deputy Director of GTZ Yemen, "The total value of Yemeni development projects supported by GTZ roughly comes to DM 15 million a year, while the total value of the presently on-going development projects supported by GTZ is around DM 70 million."

The GTZ component of German assistance is actually only a third of the total German aid to Yemen. GTZ is charged with technical cooperation, while financial support - which is roughly DM 30 million annually - is administered by KfW. Thus, total annual German assistance to Yemen is around DM 45 million.

GTZ has team leaders for its projects. In Yemen the majority are German nationals. These are supported by Yemenis under local contract.

Over the last year, GTZ has been re-structuring its administrative and hierarchy system with the aim of decentralization and delegation of authority.

The good news was brought by Ms. Christiane Kalle, Regional Manager for Egypt and Yemen. Ms. Kalle who is presently on an inspection tour to Yemen. She told the Yemen Times that -based on a the new arrangement -more decisions will be made locally, and there will be less need to refer to Germany. "This delegation of authority is expected to lead to higher efficiency, lower costs, and a faster implementation pace of the projects," she said.

Indeed, the GTZ management in Sanaa and the team leaders, with whom she held extended meetings, received the news with much enthusiasm. Ms. Kalle also discussed various issues related to GTZ activities and cooperation with the Yemeni authorities. She has met with officials in the Ministry of Planning and Development, as well as with officials in the beneficiary organizations. "The feedback I got is quite encouraging," she said.

On the occasion, Yusuf Sharif of Yemen Times interviewed Christiane Kalle. Excerpts:

Q: How do you assess the development cooperation level between Yemen and Germany?

A: This is my first visit to Yemen. Unfortunately, it is happening during Ramadhan because of some other obligations.

I am very happy to meet with the media to talk about cooperation between our countries.

I have met with several government officials, and the feedback I get is that we have a fruitful engagement. I have heard many encouraging words regarding our bilateral cooperation.

Q: I understand you are introducing change in the way projects are being managed. Can you share with us some details?

A: One major issue we have embarked on is the re-structuring of our institutions. This is part of an overall reform package.

In short, more responsibility will be shifted from headquarters to our partners on site, like the GTZ office and the project team leaders.

We believe this will lead to more efficiency, lower costs, and faster implementation. In addition, it will make relations with the project beneficiaries and government officials easier.

Q: You speak about delegation of authority. What exactly does it? Can you give us examples?

A: The guidelines and parameters are general, but they intend to enable the local persons responsible for projects to have a larger say in them. To give you an example, I need to discuss a specific project. But in general, a project head, for example, can shift resources from one use to another - within limits - without recourse to headquarters. Issues related to local employment and coordination with beneficiaries are also examples.

The important point is that our developed projects must be very close to the community and the people - the real beneficiaries from these efforts.

Q: How are projects coordinated with the Yemeni side? A: The ownership of the project should be a hundred percent Yemeni. These are Yemeni projects with GTZ contribution.

On-Going Development Projects Supported by GTZ

Project Title:

Value in DM

| asic Education Development Project | 5,500,000 | |
|---|------------|--|
| ational Training Institute in Aden | 20,160,000 | |
| ocational Training Center in Sanaa | 2,999,797 | |
| uthority for Vocational/Technical Training | 5,200,000 | |
| linistry of Public Health Support Project | 2,967,000 | |
| amily Health Care Projects in Ibb and Abyan | 6,000,000 | |
| eneral Drug Authority Support Project | 5,000,000 | |
| olid Waste Disposal Project | 4,266,000 | |
| ewer Water Treatment Consultancy Project | 7,350,000 | |
| l-Wasitah Water Project | 9,100,000 | |
| linistry of Agriculture Support Project | 9,500,000 | |
| ee-Keeping Improvement Project | 4,500,000 | |
| lant Protection Project | 9,679,000 | |
| | | |

NOTES:

1. Total annual value of projects supported by GTZ is around DM 15 million.

2. Total value of on-going projects supported by GTZ is around DM 70 million.



Over the last few days, I was introduced to several partner institutions. This was an important occasion to coordinate with them. I want to stress that we follow the Yemeni approach to the projects. We have our technical team and financial cooperation with those projects.

Q: What kind of projects is the GTZ involved with?

A: Actually, the projects are named by the Yemenis. They decide on what they want, and where they want. Our job is to help them achieve their goals.

help them achieve their goals.
The projects which GTZ helps support are wide and varied.
There are approximately 25 of them, which can be grouped into major sectors like health, vocational training, agriculture, water and institution building.





Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Gas, Oil, Water and Trees



The year 1997, for Yemen, began on a positive note - with the signing of the contracts for the Liquefied Natural Gas Project in Marib. At least, it would seem that way, with the assumption that the project would proceed in a normal manner and that a decent share of the anticipated income, starting in the second year of the 21st century, would be channeled with a high degree of national interest in mind.

For one thing, Yemen is getting into a project that will get the country more involved with the international community through increased economic output, though admittedly with little productivity input. That means that Yemen's relations with the outside world will be more based on the element of mutual interest, hopefully with a high degree of reciprocity. Moreover the complexity of the project arrangement and the involvement of a number of international companies, such as Exxon and Total increases Yemen's exposure to international financial and commercial markets, transactions and arrangements. This exposure could bring opportunity for Yemen in gaining access and expertise in such kind of activities. It is pleasant to learn that the LNG contracts include a Yemenization scheme as an essential segment of the project. Maybe the experience with the PSA agreements, related to petroleum production, have indicated that the Yemenis really need to be more directly involved in the operation and exploitation of their natural resources, if real benefits are to filter down to society as a whole.

This really brings us to an important topic which has not been subject to the proper public attention it deserves: the exploitation of strategic national natural resources. No one seems to be sure of the reason for the exaggerated high level of secrecy and suspense, which surround this topic. If the past experience with oil can serve as an indication,

it just might be that more public awareness and even some input could have been worthwhile in putting our natural resources to more fruitful advantage in shaping the development of the country.

The Republic of Yemen, at this stage, has not shown that the natural resource potential of the country could be at par with that of most of its smaller neighbors in the Arabian Peninsula (where size here does not necessarily imply geographical considerations). Not only that, but the limited resource base of the country has yet to be channeled constructively, on equitable terms, so that what ever little benefit such resources could provide can have more widespread implications. The limited national resource base must be made to benefit a relatively large populations base if the exploitation of the available resources is to have the proper reasoning to justify such exploitation.

Thus, Yemen's natural resources are very precious and the nation cannot afford to have these resources improperly extracted without due consideration to long-term effects of such extraction and without the proper calculation of return that fail to regard these resources as important to all the Yemeni people, as a whole

In the absence of such considerations, Yemen will continue to have its resources consumed rather than exploited. It may be just as well be to postpone any new project/s related to strategic natural resource extraction until such time when these considerations become national policy with the appropriate government apparatus that turns this policy into realizable national development goals and more widespread economic gains achieved through more productive activity.

The experience with the production of oil clearly shows that Yemen has not managed the proceeds of oil to reflect a realization that such revenue is really a result of a sale of an irreplaceable asset. As far as studies have so far shown, the oil reserves available so far are due to be depleted in the very foreseeable future, which some have put at not being over 15 years. This really means that Yemen after 15 years could lose the leading generator of foreign exchange earnings without a readily available source to replace it.

No one is sure of the income that is derived from the combined extraction of oil that is taking place in the various fields in Yemen that are at present being exploited. The estimates range from the official number of US Dollars 600 million per annum to estimates that have put it at US 1500 million. Frankly, experts believe neither level of income is reflected in the overall economic situation of the country, or on the standard of living of the general public. Many attribute, as reason for this variance in the number representing oil income, as being primarily associated with the fact that the whole oil sector is shrouded with secrecy. Moreover, for a long time, oil revenue was treated as an extra-budgetary item. This explains the lack of sufficient information on the issue.

By this argument, the implication is that foreign exchange earnings that are flowing directly to the government are not being channeled appropriately and that they lack any real or meaningful controls and accountability. Whatever the case may be, the point that needs to be made here is that as a depleting resource, the government should work towards assuring that the revenues generated from oil should not all go to finance imports of consumer goods. Theoretically, at least half of the revenues could be saved over the remaining period in which this revenues can be used in such a way that when the resource is depleted, Yemen can generate an equal amount of foreign exchange earnings from other sources. A wiser course would be the investment of oil funds in high yield productive ventures. The government can also provide credits or guarantees to projects undertaken by the private sector. Of course for the latter be realized, an appropriate administrative system favoring investments must be put in place. The absence of clearly defined policies and objectives for the exploitation of strategic natural resources is an essential prerequisite to sound economic development. In a democratic society that Yemen professes to be, such policies should not be monopolized by few government bureaucrats who deal with the matter behind closed doors and in meetings with executives of international companies. Transparency is a major guarantee against corruption and against bureaucrats who base their decisions on narrow interests and short term economic considerations, like financing con-

sumable import requirements.

Moreover, the fact that these are national resources means that every citizen has the right of information. In addition, high hopes and expectations were built on them, which would require that the government should be more open to the public about the situation. The overwhelming opinion in the street is that these resources have not generated any benefit to the public at large. On the contrary, there is widespread concern that these resources have been squandered and that they continue to serve only narrow interests and fuel widespread corruption that plagues the government.

Accordingly, when the government announces such projects as the LNG deal and new oil discoveries, the public reaction is not encouraging. It suggests that such project/s would have been better delayed until such time when it can be assured that such news is really meaningful to all Yemenis and that hoping for the better in the future does not necessarily mean living on dreams of fantasy.

While natural resources can cover a wide span of topics and not just those resources buried deep below the earth's surface, two areas of closer reach to mortals that are just as important for the future of the country are water and trees.

In some of the studies related to water, it has been estimated that the average accumulation of rainwater that falls on Yemen and gathers in the several catchments throughout the country exceeds one billion cubic meters in any given year, at a very conservative estimate. These studies and the obvious that the last floods of June 1996 have revealed is that most of the water ends up either in the desert sands, or they flow out to the sea.

Yet, with all the authorities and agencies that deal with this resource, little in terms of concrete steps have been taken to control and make use of this highly wasted resource. As existing water supplies are being rapidly depleted, it has become essential that the possibility of trying to control the loss of the majority of this heavenly bounty that descends upon us from heaven. It is not enough to be proud of the work of our ancestors who for generations have painstakingly terraced substantial elevations to take advantage of these torrential rains that fall on the country from time to time. Such large quantities of water are passing underneath our noses every year, yet the only thing we can do is praise our ancestors for the fine work they did in constructing dams and irrigation systems that were responsible for giving the country the name of Arabia Felix or 'Happy Arabia'.

Chances are that the work that can be done to prevent as much as possible of these waters from getting lost in the desert or the sea, may not be as expensive and far fetched as one might imagine. This is true especially if traditional methods of controlling floods can be rejuvenated and modernized and appropriate reservoirs can be made to store substantial quantities of these waters before they reach their final destination in the desert or the sea. It may not be possible to save all the water that gets lost this way, but one would expect that all the agencies that deal with water should not have difficulty in getting all their expertise together to work on taking advantage of a continuous bounty from God, to which at the moment we almost seem oblivious to.

A friend of this writer was once looking out of a window at Mount Nuqum, that majestic mountain that overlooks the city of Sana'a from the East and Northeast. After a while he uttered: "Look at how pitiful and naked Mount Nuqum looks. I wish that somebody can just pick up the mountain and take it to Ethiopia to scrape it on some of the lush green valleys that abound there to give the mountain at least some semblance of greenery."

There is no doubt that Yemen's greenery is decreasing at a very rapid rate, which not only means a loss of greenery, but serious environmental degradation that cannot be overlooked anymore. The widespread use of firewood for cooking and other energy uses, the urbanization of large tracts of valuable agricultural lands around the major cities, the careless random construction that has plagued the cities in the traditional gardens of these cities and the almost negligible reforestation efforts are all shaving the life out of Yemen and destroying whatever remains of important ecological systems of flora and fauna, that are essential to life itself to continue.

There is no doubt that the LNG project can be very useful in saving whatever remains of the small forests that are spread throughout the country, but it seems more logical to expect that the conservation campaigns of the government need to be considerably enhanced at least in spreading awareness of the necessity for using alternative fuel for cooking other than firewood. On the other hand the government must impose fines on those who devastate forests for obtaining firewood, and increase tree planting efforts to replace whatever can be replaced.

Natural resources need long range thinking and sound economic programs to be meaningful, not just for this generation of Yemenis, but for those who will follow us and regrettably find out that we have been indeed unsympathetic to the needs of our children.

Russian Company Gets Contract for Agricultural Project in Hadhramaut

Last week, a contract was signed between Mr. Ahmad Al-Jabaly, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, and Mr. Valery Serdotetsky, Chairman of Selkoz-Prom Export, of Russia. The US\$ 6 million project calls for improvements in irrigation systems and water harnessing in Wadi Hijr in Hadhramaut.

The project reflects a Russian drive to return to the Yemeni market, in which Russian companies were heavily involved in the past

Attending the signing ceremony were senior officials from the Ministry and the Governorate, and senior officials from the company, the Ambassador of Russia in Sanaa, Mr. Abdul-Muneim Al-Amri and Mr. Abdul-Shafi Ali Al-Fusayel.





THE BRITISH COUNCIL & YEMEN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JAN THOLOGICAL SOCIETI

A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION on SOCOTRA & BIRD LIFE CONSERVATION

by David & Melissa Stanton (YOS), supported by BirdLife International

will be held at the British Council Library from Monday 3 February to Thursday 27 February.

Opening times

Ramadhan: Sunday to Wednesday 10.00 - 15.00 & 20.30-22.30

Thursday: 10.00-15.00

From 16 Feb: Sunday to Wednesday 09.00-15-00 & 16.30-19.30

Thursday 09.00-13.00

ALL ARE WELCOME

Dr. Walid Khadduri:

"LNG project is a watershed in Yemen's development."

Last week witnessed the initialing of the Liquefied Natural Gas Project Agreement between the Republic of Yemen and a consortium of international companies, lead by Total (all of whom have been active in the Yemen oil production sector). This marks the end of lengthy negotiations and the overcoming of many legal and technical obstacles that have postponed the project for at least 2 years from getting started. Dr. Walid Khaddouri, Executive Editor of the Middle East Economic Survey, who originally hails from Iraq, came to Yemen to cover the initialing ceremony for MEES. Dr. Khaddouri, with a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University has

MEES since 1981. Yemen Times Hassan Al-Haifi interviewed Dr. Khaddouri to share his views on the entry of Yemen into the LNG market and some other issues of related interest.

had a fascinating career, working in several

countries in the Gulf region (Kuwait, UAE and

Qatar as well as with the Organization of Arab

Petroleum Exporting Countries) and finally with

Q: You have had a chance to see the signing of the contract between the Yemeni government and a consortium of international companies. How do you see this LNG contract contributing to Yemeni needs?

A: The gas deal will definitely contribute to the economy of Yemen. This is especially so if oil prices continue to remain steady. If we assume that oil prices will not drop below US \$18-\$20 per barrel, their present range, then it is reasonable to expect that Yemen should be able to net an additional US\$ 500-600 million a year in foreign exchange earnings - a very significant input into the Yemeni Economy.

Q: What other economic benefits do you see for Yemen from the LNG project?

A: The project will provide job opportunities for Yemenis, especially for professional and skilled labor both in the upstream production side of the

project and the downstream liquefaction side. Most likely 1000 job opportunities are expected to be realized. Moreover, the project will release Yemeni oil presently used for energy for export as the country turns to gas to fuel its energy needs.

Q: What does the project provide in terms of the Yemenization of the management and running of its oil and gas sectors?

A: With an eye to the Production Sharing Agreement with Hunt which is due to end in 2005, the LNG deal provides two things: the formation of a Joint-Venture Operating Committee, which starts to work immediately after the signing of the agreement. This J-V Committee will supervise the production of the gas and will work to implement Yemenization of the operations prior to the end of the PSA agreement with Hunt Oil Co. On the other hand, you have the establishment of The Marib Services Co., which will run the Gas Operation when the PSA with Hunt ends in 2005. The company is already a registered Yemeni company.

Q: Who owns the Marib Services Company?

A: The company's ownership is as follows: 60% - Yemen Gas Co. (RoY government), 30% - Yemen Exploration and Production Co. (Hunt, Exxon and Yukong) and 10% - all the previously mentioned parties plus Total - i.e. the LNG Project Partners. Yemen is the majority shareholder.

Q: Does the project allow for expansion in the future?

A: Yes the project does. At the present, the base load is 5.4 million tons of LNG a year. The expansion will depend on two things: the availability of reserves and the availability of a market for increased output. The present reserves are enough for the project as it is. If Yemen finds markets for additional gas, the operator will have to be given an incentive to explore and produce more gas. Yemen might have to follow the steps taken by Egypt, whereby it treated gas in the same way it dealt with oil and that provided for incentives which ultimately led to the doubling of the gas reserves in Egypt. Yemen is looking into that possibility.

Q: How good are the terms of the deal for Yemen?

A: In all honesty, I think that the agreement signed last Sunday (19th January, 1997) is a very good one. There are several points to raise here:

1) This is the first time Yemen enters the LNG market. The project is a big one, well over US \$ 3 billion, thus external financing is going to be required.

 The gas fields are presently operated by Yemen Hunt Oil Co. which has a stake in the project.

3) Total gave a very favorable offer.

4. The deal brings together many big companies. The other deals that were offered were not practical because they were based on exclusivity.

What you have today is a series of compromises where you have a win-win situation for everyone concerned. The present deal really defines the roles of the parties in all facets clearly and without any confusion both in the upstream production side and the downstream liquefaction side. In 7 agreements of 1200 pages, it is important to note that the roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, whether regarding the Yemeni government, the operator or the other international firms

On another note, you have two giant international firms like Total and Exxon, which give the deal international credibility. This will lead to better ability of the venture to incorporate buyers into the project, thus you are assured of the marketability of your gas output. It is a unique deal.

Q: Why did the negotiations take so long?

A: Actually, long negotiations for LNG projects are the rule rather than the exception. Common durations can range from 5 to 10 years. They are usually long lasting contracts that can go for 25 years or more. A large amount of investment is involved. You have buyers involved as well. But when you have it done, it is more like a Catholic marriage - you cannot break off.

Q: You stated that the Yemen LNG deal has unique features. Can you elaborate for us?



A: The unique features about this deal include:

1) It started off with difficulties, in particular with regards to Article 27 of the PSA agreement with YEPC, over the ownership of the gas. That was resolved after a long time. Then you have the upstream and the downstream sides of the agreement.

2) You also have the situation where during the 25-year life of the agreement you have a PSA agreement due to end in the early years of the present agreement (LNG). Arrangements have to be made to prepare for the end of the PSA.

3) You have five partners involved: the government of Yemen, Total, Exxon, Hunt and Yukong - different interests and different problems which were put together along with the competition among the partners. The result is a unique and remarkable agreement.

Q: What happens when the 25 years are over?

A: A lot will depend on the reserves of gas, but there is every reason to believe that the plant will continue to produce the gas, as has been the case in many of LNG contracts in other countries which continue to produce, even though the agreements have ended.

Continues on page 14





Yemeni Scientist Discovers "Reduced Pain Sensitivity During Painful Procedures is Linked to hypertension"

A recent study found that persons at risk for hypertension, due to positive parental history for hypertension (high blood pressure), reported less pain when exposed to acute painful procedures. The study was conducted by Dr. Mustafa Al-Absi and his colleagues at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center and was published in the journal Psychophysiology.

These researchers assessed pain perception and cardiovascular responses to a pain-inducing procedure in persons at risk for hypertension. Participants rated their pain during a 90-second pain-induction test and a 90-second post-test rest period. Participants at high risk for hypertension showed greater cardiovascular responses to the painful stimulus than low-risk persons. While pain ratings during the acute pain induction did not differ between groups, post-test reported pain receded faster in the high-risk group than in the low-risk group. The high risk group also remembered the experience as being less painful and endorsed less negative adjectives to describe the painful test than did the low risk group.

"The results of this research support the hypothesis that greater risk for hypertension may be associated with exaggerated cardiovascular and attenuated pain responses to painful stimuli," Dr. Al-Absi commented. The Yemeni scientist, who is currently at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, added, "These findings indicate that the less sensitivity to pain seen in those with high blood pressure may be linked to causes of hypertension rather than its consequences."

Good News to CHD Patients!

I have observed that the number of persons suffering from high blood pressure and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) is increasing in Yemen as anywhere else in the world. The foremost reasons for this are excessive smoking and chewing of qat, as well as psychological stress, lack of physical activity and unbalanced diet (high in fat and low in fiber). Recent studies have proved that change in lifestyle, food habits and stress management do not only reduce the risk of CHD, but also reverse the disease process. It also reduces the need for medicines and improves the quality of life. If one takes proper steps and strictly follows the laid down program, it prevents angioplasties and bypass surgeries.

Credit for this pioneering research work goes to a young doctor in San Francisco, USA, Dr. Dean Ornish. He learnt meditation and yoga from an Indian Guru and used them successfully for his patients' stress management. He is the first man who broke the age old and widely accepted belief that once someone gets athrosclerosis or CHD, he/she can't be cured as it is a progressive process.

Dr. Ornish published his eye opening study in "Lancet", the prestigious medical journal. He showed that after following his program, not only was angina (chest pain) reduced, but it almost disappeared and patients who were unable to walk due to pain started jogging a few kilometers without angina. The patients showed angiographically reversal of blockages in their coronary arteries.

Dr. Ornish's program opened a new era in the management of CHD. It gave new hope to the patients. It is an alternative mode of the treatment to angioplasties & CABG (Bypass Surgeries). It reduces the medication period and cost. Dr. Ornish is now one of the busiest physicians in the USA.

Dr. Dean Ornish's recipe includes:1- Avoidance of risk factors of CHD (lack of physical activity, overweight, smoking, stress, high intake of fat in foods).

2- Low fat vegetarian diet.

3- Stress management4- Regular moderate ...

It is observed that after following this prescription for just 21 days, 90% of patients feel a reduction in their angina.

I wish to draw the attention of the readers of Yemen Times to this program. I hope that persons who suffer from CHD will improve their health condition by following this program and avoid angioplastics and bypass surgeries and lead a healthier life without problem.

Persons who are not suffering with CHD can also prevent it by following this program and remain healthy and lead a better and longer life. I wish to share this good news with patients who suffer from CHD.

If anybody wishes to know more about this program, they can read "Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease". This book may change their life.

Dr. V. K. Nigam, Aden Refinery Company Hospital.

4th in a 5-Series Article on Ramadhan Food in Yemen:

Ramadhan Cooking in Aden: Elaborate, but Fish Gets a Break

By: Wagdi Shafiq Aman

Like other parts of the country, the people of Aden have evolved a rather elaborate cuisine to meet with the needs of Ramadhan. But Aden stands out in many ways, when compared to most of the country. One point of distinction is Ramadhan food

In general, one can say that Adeni food is more cosmopolitan and less parochial or ethnic. After all, the centuries of interaction with India, Africa, Persia, and of course, Britain, have left their mark on the habits and food of the people. Thus, the food of Aden has an Arabian base, affected by the dishes of many of its neighbors.

There are some general guidelines for the kinds of meals one prepares in Ramadhan. Due to the rather hot climate in Aden people during the month of Ramadhan tend to keep away from foods that brings thirst, like fish dishes, for example. Although this year, and over the next decade, Adenis are lucky as Ramadhan will come during the winter, fish still gets a break.

The Adenis break their fasting in stages. First by having a few dates with a cup of hot and sour coffee. This is in line with the practices and teachings of the Prophet Mohammed (P) to all Muslims. Then the males either go to the mosque for the sunset prayers or they pray at home together with all the family members. If there are guests,

they also participate in the prayers.

After the prayers, all the family members sit together around the main "iftar" (fast-breaking) meal. The frying pan plays a big role in the preparation of this collection of dishes. It is noticed that during the month of Ramadhan, more than twice as much gas and cooking oil is consumed compared with consumption levels at other times. The 'iftar' collection of dishes includes the following:

* Sambousa - a fried batter with minced meat and vegetables or with cheese or peanuts.

* Cutlets - fried mash potatoes cutlets filled from inside with minced meat, onions and spices.

* Khameer - a fried batter made from starched flour plus sugar.

* Bagia and Frawly - fried pieces made from grain and mixed spices.

* Shorba - wheat soup with pieces of meat.

* Atter - cooked atter (usually beans or lentils) with spicy gravy.

spicy gravy.

* Shafoot - Butter milk with pancake like bread made with flour.

* Salads.

The main course is supper, and it comes after a one-hour interval. This is usually a rice-dish along with chicken, meat and various vegetables and breads.

The final meal of the day is the Sahour, Again here

The final meal of the day is the Sahour. Again here we have a full meal, although whatever is leftover from supper and iftar. Aseed, fried eggs, fattah and other dishes are popular as sahour dishes.

There is one important note. As nobody cooks any fresh meals during the day, minors or sick people who do not fast usually end up consuming whatever is left over from the night meals. And often, there is plenty.

Congratulations

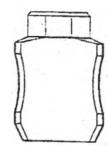
On the occasion of his marriage in Michigan, USA, we would like to send our greetings and congratulations to Abdul-Salam Al-Soufi.

Best wishes of a happy married life from:

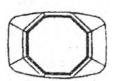
Ameen Naji Ahmed, Ahmed Al-Soufi, and Abdul-Raqeeb Mohammed Saeed

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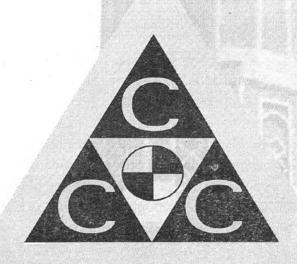


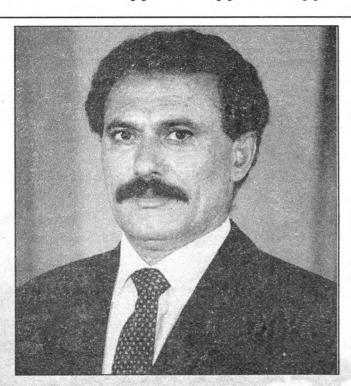
شركة إتحاد المقاولين العالمية (سي سي سي)

تهنىء

القيادة السياسية بزعامة إبن اليمن البار الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية والحكومة الرشيدة ، وكافة أفراد الشعب اليمني عناسبة خواتم شهر رمضان المبارك وقدوم عيد الفطر المبارك

سي سي سي : شراكة نصف قرن في بناء اليهن





Consolidated Contractors (International) Company

presents best wishes and congratulations to General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, the Government and People of Yemen on these blessed final days of Ramadhan, and on the forthcoming occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak

CCC: Half a Century of Partnership in Building Yemen



YAFFA':

Yaffa' is one of the important regions of Yemen. It is well known for its high mountains and

steep valleys such as Wadi Huteib, Wadi Yahr and Wadi Dhi-Nakhib.

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Jamal Ahmed Al-Shoublie of Wadi Huteib to shed some light on the area and the needs of its people.

Q: Let's start with a historical overview of Yaffa'a

A: Many civilizations flourished in Yafee. Archeological sites and ruins pre-date Islam by many centuries. Yaffa' is famous for its distinct architecture and old houses built from the grayish blue stones which are a unique feature of this region.

During British colonial rule, Yaffa' remained independent, and provided a safe haven for the freedom fighters. The British tried to subjugate the citizens through many aerial bombing campaigns, but they remained steadfast until the declaration of independence on 30th November,

Q: Could you give us an idea about the tribes of Yaffa'?

A: According to the general census, the population of Yaffa' is about 571,000. There are also as many people of Yaffee origin who live in America, Britain, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. The people of Yaffa' tend to immigrate to all parts of the world due to many reasons. The state can benefit a lot from these expatriates by granting them sufficient facilities to invest in Yemen. They can contribute a lot in developing the economy of the

is basically one tribe, although there are many clans and sub-tribes.

Q: Tell us more about your native area, Wadi Huteib.

A: Wadi Huteib is one of the biggest three wadis (valleys) in Yaff'. It is famous for its coffee, vegetables and other crops.

The Wadi extends for about 21 km from Gheil Hijr, a populated area, up to the Banna'a flood water canal. On both sides of the Wadi, there are scattered villages, fields and wadis.

Yaffee coffee is of high quality and known throughout the world. It is grown in an area extending for about 9 km along the wadi. Irrigation is done by means of open wells which are dug and operated by the villagers and the agricultural cooperatives. There are fertile lands extending for approximately 12 km along the wadi which are not planted with



coffee. These lands rely on the rain water and floods, and are well suited for planting and growing coffee in big amounts. Perhaps farmers should channel more care and attention to this

Q: What sort of projects are implemented in Wadi Huteib?

A: The district of Wadi Huteib. like many other districts, was deprived from public projects during the last three decades. Existing projects are the fruits of joint efforts by the citizens, the

expatriates and the state. Yaffa' lacks in some very vital services such as electricity, water supply, telecommunications, asphalted roads and many other public services.

There are many places which have no electricity at all. The regions of Diu, Huteib, Marfid, Almahaji and large parts of Al-Hasd, for example, are deprived of electricity, water and tele-phone services. Any such services that exist in these regions are mainly due to the efforts of the citizens and the expatriates.

The problem of water scarcity in Yaffa' can be solved by building dams in the wadis. In this respect, we demand that the Ministry of Agriculture study the possibility providing water for the region. The state and the citizens can cooperate to execute many useful projects.

It is our ambition to connect our region with the central electric grid system.

Q: Many Yaffee immigrants have become rich. Do you see anymajor investments by them in the region?

A: We call upon all potential

investors whether Yemenis, Arab or foreign to invest their money in our region. There is a great business opportunity for investors and businessmen in this part of the country.

For the time being, work is underway to finish the Askaria-Lab'ous road. Also, work will start on the third stage of the water supply of Lab'ous. Costing US\$ 63 million, this project is expected to provide water for more than 75,000 people. The other noteworthy project is that a telephone central switchboard with a capacity of 1,000 telephone line was opened in Lab'ous with the most modern high-tech system.

Q: What are Yaffee traditions in Ramadhan?

A: Ramadhan rituals and traditions in Yaffa' are not different from those in other parts of the country. People start preparing for the holy month well ahead of its onset. Farmers toil in the fields from early morning until noon. Women start preparing the fast-breaking meal immediately after the afternoon prayers. Sohour (pre-fast meal) usually consists of aseed - a mixture of corn flour, yoghurt and buttermilk. Poor people are very well provided for during Ramadhan as in all other religious occasions.

Q: How about politics in the region?

A: Free political and partisan activities are guaranteed by the law and constitution. But I'd like to call on citizens in my region to abandon political rivalries, and focus on charitable work instead. They must try to understand democracy in its more comprehensive form.

Cont's from p. 1:

Archaeological Discovery...

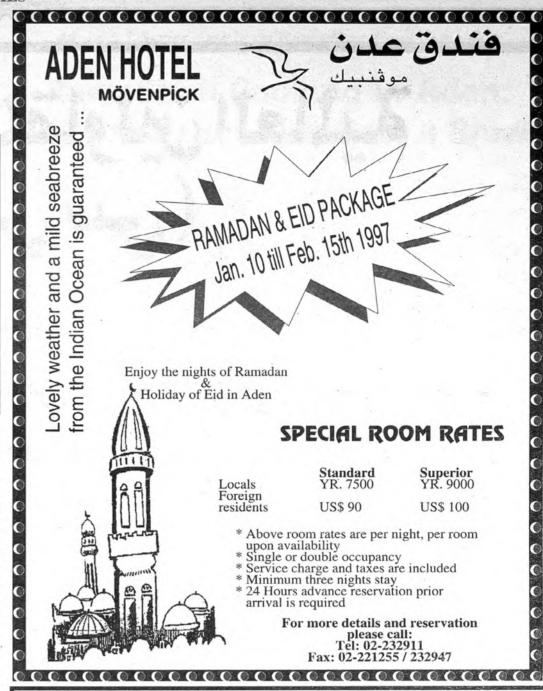
The two men quickly reported the matter to the local authorities. Within a few days, 95 many artifacts, including bronze, wooden and alabaster statues have been collected. "There is one interesting statue that looks like the Sphinx of Egypt, although in a much smaller scale," said Mr. Abdul-Qader Hilal, Governor of lbb, whose personal interest in the matter was very productive. Some of the statues are of animals such as the lion, ibex as well as others

Professor Yusuf Mohammed Abdulah, Chairman of the Antiquities, Manuscripts, and Public Libraries, indicated that there was an earlier find in the same region. "A French archaeological team had made a similar discovery in the same area - Thowthan - in 1983. These artifacts date back to the pre-Christ Qataban civilization, and some date back to the Himyaritic Civilization of the early Christian era,' he explained.

The authorities have fenced off the area to protect it against marauders and thieves. At the same time, specialists are basically documenting the pieces and learning from them the history of Yemen.

At another level, several new historic sites were documented in Hajjah. These include Al-Salbah, At-Taleily, Al-Sheghadirah, and other sites in the mountains of Hajjah. "Most of the artifacts we discovered date back to the early Islamic period. In two cases, we unearthed whole towns which have been submerged for several centuries," explained Mohammed Abdo Othman, Director of Antiquities in the Governorate.

The artifacts so far collected include potteries, silver jewellery, household utensils and cookery. "We have completed surveyed 50% of the area, and we shall complete the rest during 1997. We hope to be able to share our findings with the public very soon," Othman said.



Vacancy Announcement

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sana'a announces vacancy for an administrative (Secretarial) assistant.

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New Steps to Reduce Cairo

Cairo, the giant capital of Egypt is home to some 13 million people and their cars. More disturbingly, it is home to the largest concentration Egyptian industry. This has resulted in high pollution levels.

The Environment Authority has now decided to move some of the factories, especially the ones notorious for their emissions, out of Cairo to the Cairo-Suez Desert Mr. Selah Road. Mr. Seian Chairman of the Authority, said addressing this isue.

He also added that the authority is working to reduce congestion, especially in the downtown area. "We will move the workshops in Abdeen, Marouf and downtown to El-Dewaka area where there are some 756 empty shops that will be given to the owners of the down town workshops.'

down town workshops."

In a meeting of the Environment
Constancy Committee last week,
attended by Cairo Governor
Omar Abdul Akher, experts
called for improving the living
and environmental conditions.
One specific suggestion was
enforcement of strict zoning enforcement of strict zoning systems. An example is the bakeries, welding places, type puncture repairs and other services mixed in residential areas. Another example has to do with the need to maintain public transportation.

Mr. Hafez said that a new environment law will be applied after a grace period which ends in February. The authority has been training its cadres to be able to apply the new law.

Pollution

Defends New Security Council

Pakistan President

Pakistani President Farooq Leghari defended a controversial new security council, while the top bras of the military - staying aloof - denied any interest in politics.

Leghari denied last week that the creation of a Defense and National Security Council earlier this month - grouping top generals and government ministers under his own chairmanship, had shifted the power balance towards the presidency or given the army a decisive political role.

He told reporters working for foreign news organizations that a new elected government could do away with the council, which has only advisory powers, if it felt it was unnecessary.

"I don't see any fears, or dangers, or difficulties," he said. "Where is the fear of it turning into a presidential system or ... another body which is above parlia-ment?"

Leghari, who dismissed Benazir Bhotto's government November 5th, 1996, on disputed charges of corruption misrule, said polls set February 3rd would be cleanest in Pakistan's history, thanks to the work of his caretaker government.

"The elections shall be held in as free, fair and transparent a manner as possible," he said. "I think these elections will be the cleanest Pakistan ever had."

Meanwhile, the various political parties have been mounting a public mobilization campaign that includes a lot of charges, and counter-charges. The President has succeeded in pitching them against each other, while he stayed above the whole affair.

Ethiopia Files Charges Against Red Terror Suspects

Ethiopia said last week that it has charged over 1,200 people suspected of involvement in the Red Terror campaign during the 14-year Marxist rule of ousted dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. The Ethiopia News Agency (ENA) reported that the charges were filed by the office of the registrar of the Federal High

registrar of the Federal High Court in Addis Ababa. The Red Terror was a campaign against rival Marxist groups and those opposed to Mengistu's military rule. An estimated one million people died of starvation during Mengistu's brutal rule during Mengistu's brutal rule. Hundreds of thousands were killed in civil war and political violence.

The trial of 71 former Ethiopian Marxist officials accused of genocide and crimes against humanity is in progress in the capital Addis Ababa. Only 46 of the officials appeared in court. The others including Mengistu, who lives in exile in Zimbabwe, are being tried in absentia. All 46 have pleaded not guilty to the charges. They face the death penalty if found guilty.

The former officials are members of the Dergue, the military junta led by Mengistu which ruled Ethiopia after ousting Emperor Haile Selassie whom, they later

"The office of the registrar of the Federal High Court in Addis Ababa said it has received charges filed by the special prosecutor against 1,218 alleged per-petrators of the notorious Red Terror," the agency said.
The office of the registrar began

examining charges and will refer the cases to pertinent courts.



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Russian Media Accuses USA of Scuttling Cyprus Arms Deal

The Russian media is accusing Washington of serious efforts to oust Russia from the international arms markets. This new flare-up is a direct result of a Russian missle deal with Cyprus.

The following summary is of Russian reporting on the issue.

The USA had in the past shown unease with Russian arms deals with Iran and India. But Washington was never so critical of a contract as it is now with the deal involving the Republic of Cyprus. The deal with Cyprus calls for delivery of defensive S-300PMU Air Defense

According to the US State Department, Russian arms to Cyprus will upset the balance in the region, and will lead to an arms race. Thus, Cyprus must cancel the contract. Otherwise, Washington believes that Turkey, in its effort to maintain indisputable military superiority over Cyprus and Greece, will respond by enhancing its own armed forces. Confirming, somehow, the conclusions of the US State Department, Turkey has already declared that it would reserve its right to deliver a

preventive blow on Cyprus, if it doesn't abandon its plans. The real reason for Washington discontent, accordingly to the Russian media, is entirely different. The Americans were quite unlucky in trading their own "Patriot" AA missile system. The USA could not conceal the very poor performance of this system, which

the customers believes are inferior to Russian S-300 PMU systems. The fact that Russia, which almost quit the arms market two years ago, has now returned to it in full vigor in order to regain its place as the second in the world in arms trade, is not also to US liking.

It so appears that strong political pressure has been lately experienced by South Korea which, as it is known, had purchased large quantities of modern Russian-made armaments to settle Russian debts. Seoul has just received T-80U tanks.

South Korea has also shown keen interest in the S-300 systems, and Su-35 aircraft.

In Brazil, American diplomats have succeeded in freezing Russian-Brazilian projects in military and space spheres. The Moscow Aviation Production Association encountered here unethical efforts on the part of American competitors trying to discredit the project of organizing the manufacture of MiG-29 aircraft in Brazil. Now, the USA will sell American F-16 and F-18 aircrafts to Brazil under most advantageous conditions.

Even the Russian Federal Agency of Governmental Communication and Information (FAPSI) has come under strong American pressure. In Columbia, Russian Mi-17 helicopters have hit American obstacles. When Columbian Minister of Defense confirmed the decision to buy ten Russian helicopters, the US State Department started to disrupt

President Clinton has taken the decision to open doors of American arsenals for buyers in East Europe, the Baltics, Ukraine, Georgia and Kazakhstan. Russia is not on the offer list.

trade relation with Columbia.

Competition between Russia and the USA in the arms market will

Iraq Raises Taxes, Cuts Spending to Steady Dinar

Iraq's Central Bank is striving to maintain the value of the dinar against the dollar by strict monetary policies and tougher tax collection.

Governor Issam Huweish vowed to continue with measures to restrain the money supply and improve methods of tax collection to withdraw as much money from circulation as possible.

In a cabinet meeting this month, President Saddam Hussein told his ministers to stick to guidelines he issued last year urging them to rely on their own resources by trimming their bloated structures and by raising taxes for spending needs.

Money supply in Iraq is so tight that ministries now need approval from the presidential office for additional expenses. Printing of new money, apparently halted for about a year, is carried out only for projects of national interest.

Iraqis are asked to pay an economic price for public services which were formerly offered at giveaway prices. Many are feeling the pinch of the taxman for the first time because the scope of revenue collection has been widened.

The efforts have already started to pay visible dividend. The US dollar exchange rate has fallen from a phenomenal 3000 dinars in early 1996 to around 1000 dinars this week. Observers believe that the exchange rate of the dinar will improve further.



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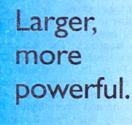




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Al-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-1-97 (Nasserite Unionist Party) Main Headlines:

1) PGC and Islah Cut a Deal on Constituencies and Ministerial Portfolios. 2) Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed: "I

do not have any followers in authority.' 3) Nasserite Party Holds Its Third Conference in

4) Deal for Operating Al-Ma'alla Port is Being Finalized.

Article Summary:

[They Have Agreed, But...] - editorial.

When the opposition submitted its demands for political guarantees to hold fair and free elections, it did not invisage an agreement for constituencysharing among various political parties. Hopes were raised when dialogue was initiated among a number of political parties, but were later quashed when the two ruling partners made few bilateral deals which distanced them from others. In principle, the opposition welcomes any agreement between Islah and the PGC provided that it will ultimately serve the country and democracy. All such deals and agreements must be made public, otherwise suspicions and fears would arise. The opposition now faces a number of very difficult choices, the hardest and most painful of which is to bypass democracy.

Al-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 22-1-97 (Independent) Main Headlines:

1) 400 International Observers Will Monitor Next Elections.

2) Opposition Coordination Council Alludes to Boycotting Elections.

3) EMC Secretary-General: "President Saleh emphasizes the state's commitment to enabling election monitoring committees.

4) Tribal Armed Conflict in Hujarriyah.

Article Summary: [Who is to Blame?] by Salwah Sana'ani

How can people with very limited income face the ever increasing burdens of daily life? A family of 10 or 15 with a monthly income of 6,000 or 7,000 Rials cannot possibly cope with the minimum of expenditure required for day-to-day existence. Therefore, an implicit and negative rebellion has come to characterize the behavior of hard-up government employees. They resort to delaying and

postponing the citizens' urgent businesses as hints

for demanding bribes. So any particular person

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

would end-up paying twice; to the state and to its in Aden. employee. This is corruption, plain and simple. The real criminals are not the corrupt and bribe-taking "The aggression against Sudan is also directed" real criminals are not the corrupt and bribe-taking individuals, but those who created the motives for such behavior.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-1-97 (Official)

Main Headlines:

1) The Prime Minister: "The education sector has a big share in the 1997 budget."

2) Nasserite Party Leader: "The democracy of today is better than the totalitarianism of yesteryear.'

3) National Opposition Council Stresses Necessity for Implementing Guarantees for Fair and Free Elections.

Article Summary:

[The Fruits of Economic Reform] - editorial.

There is cause for much optimism. The country and the people have passed what was tantamount to a real economic catastrophe. This goes to show that there are individuals who plan and execute urgently needed reform programs. The gracious people of Yemen have borne the brunt of economic reforms as an historical choice leading to a brighter future.

Facts and figures show that this year's budget deficit is almost negligible. The language of pure numbers may not be readily understood by ordinary citizens, but the outcome that is bound to materialize in the near future will be felt as a reality. It will create mutual trust between the citizens and the state. What has been achieved was not easy in view of the many political machinations targeting Yemen. An honest will founded on confidence and planning will lead to many more successes.

AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-1-97 [Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)] Main Headlines:

1) PGC-Islah Dialogue to Protect Fledgling Democracy.

2) Islah Organizes Cultural and Social Activities

toward Yemen and the whole Arab nation."

Article Summary:

[Hodeidah Well: Superstitions and Delusions for Sale]- by Mohammed Qassim.

Rumors are circulating that a recently dredged well in a small village in Hudeidah has water with miraculous characteristics curing more than 100 ailments. After two months of hundreds of people flocking to the well, science intervened. A health inspection

committee was sent by the governorate to investigate the matter.

Thorough biological analyses have revealed the existence of large concentrations of fecal bacteria which can cause cholera and typhoid. Also, the minerals in the water are so concentrated to the extent of harming the kidneys. Many other diseases can also be caused by this bacteria-infested water. The committee has strongly recommended for-bidding the use of this water for drinking, washing and irrigation. This case reflects the extent of ignorance and the exploitation of people's dire need for curing their malignant illnesses.

26th SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-1-96 (Yemeni Armed Forces Mouthpiece) Main Headlines:

1) The President: "Yemen has chosen democracy and freedom of expression as a means for construction, and will not deviate from them.'

2) The Council of Ministers Ratifies Credit Agreements with Islamic Bank for Development and the French Government.

3) A Plan to Eliminate Budget Deficit by End of 4) IMF Report: Comprehensive Success for

Economic Reform Program in Yemen.

Article Summary: [For Fair and Free Elections] by the political editor.

The two coalition partners have agreed on a number of national principles as basic condition for the success of parliamentary elections within the framework of law and constitution. This agreement could be explained according the viewpoint of opposition or non-opposition. Only one explanation is true.

Any two or more parties can agree on a set of specified commitments. The stance of the opposition toward this agreement is a ridiculous and illogical repeat of past stances. The rational thing to do is to adopt different and more logical positions.

Elections are a national issue that concerns all people. It must be conducted with honesty and impartiality. Civilized behavior and positive coordination must be enhanced and supported. Negative attitudes toward such a patriotic issue can only mean the covering-up of past failures. The final outcome is not decided by the political parties, but by the citizens on their ballot cards.

AL-THAWRY: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-1-97 (Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

) Opposition Rejects Coalition Agreement, and Calls Its Followers for Mobilization.

2) YSP Politburo Member Meets Party Members Exiled in Britain.

3) Yemeni Aid and Donations to Sudan.

4) Aden University Urges Students to End Strike

Article Summary:

[The Poisonous Division] - editorial

The ruling coalition partners have agreed to resolve their disputes which is quite a positive step. But this agreement does not, unfortunately, aim to normalize the political life, achieve national reconciliation nor heal the wounds of the civil war. Its main goal is to divide the constituencies between Islah and PGC and to provide guarantees for the former. This kind of political deals can only mean the abolition of democracy, marginalizing the opposition and bypassing the will of the electors.

The elections are going to be held in a country that still suffers from the consequences of a civil war that caused many tragedies. The war was also accompanied by very repressive measures against the Yemen Socialist Party. The two coalition parties must bear the responsibility for tackling the aftereffects of the war and closing its files. This new deal will lead to entrenching and strengthening the old alliances of that bloody war. Peaceful and democratic competitions strongly contradict this odd concept of constituency division between the ruling

parties.

Cont'd from p. 7:

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

Some Thoughts in Response to Yemen Times Articles

I have not been in Yemen for yourself about the latest in some time and here I am back in town. And of course, the first in fields of medical-therapy. You thing I looked for was our wonderful newspaper, the Yemen

I am a German Islamic scientist and I have taken special interest in Yemen - in particular Yemeni Women - as a subject for my master's thesis.

edition of the 13-1-97. Let me start with your "View point" -"Planning our Time". Somehow which must have taken possession of you. Why? Because it is simply not true that Yemenis have "the whole week ... as a week-end." This remark of that Peace Corps volunteer should instead make you aware about the pressure under which he or she most likely was suffering. Planning time the way it evolved in the West has, unfortunately, certain consequences. I will spare you from mentioning all of them but here the most significant ones:

1. Cold-heartedness,

2. Profit-oriented and immoral attitude towards nature and life in general.

3. Mental and physical illness due to the time pressure factor. It may be good to have a certain concepts - and believe me the Yemenis do have such a concept - of spending time, but please dear Mr. publisher inform Alexander Heck - Sanaa.

science and technology as well as will find out, that they fall back on strategies of constructing their time in a somewhat a similar fashion that the Yemenis exactly do it today.

Well, another article that took me surprise is "Vitalizing Yemeni-Turkish Relations." By I would like to grasp the chance accident I am very familiar with and express my point of view Turkish daily politics and I concerning two topics in your appreciate the (call for) opening of an Ankara-Sana'a line. This is not my concern.

But I would like to point out that it is a typical excuse you when doing so, the Yemeni gov-followed on Third World or ernment should do away with its developing country complex restriction to have no Israel-Visa in one's passport. Because let's face it, Turkey has a military agreement with Israel they are brothers in arms, if you want.

Thus, I cannot understand why a traveler has to go through complications like getting a new passport because of the Israeli visa, when Yemen is working to improve relations with Turkey. The difference with countries like Germany, for instance, is that the latter has economic and so forth ties with Israel, but not an outspoken military one.

I love the way you use your freedom of speech. I hope that the present government will have enough understanding for concerned people. Maybe President Saleh should invite "leaders of the information sector in one of his traditional "Ramadhan night get-togethers."

deliga kerle

An Appeal from Sa'ada We Are Forgotten. Who Is to Blame?

Despite the fact that there are approximately 1000 students at the faculty of Education in Saada, no one seems to be concerned for the difficult circumstances they are in. The university students in other colleges in Yemen enjoy advantages and privilege. unknown to the students in Saada. We live in an age of "Privatization" and "favoritism", and the students of Saada seem to be forgotten. Why?

Don't they belong to Yemen to the same degree as other university students? Aren't they part of the Yemeni nation? Why should they be deprived of their rights and looked down upon?

Every day, hundreds of students come to the college intending to have lectures. But instead of getting into lecture halls, they can only go into the cafeterias. Although we have a huge four-flour building and many lecture halls, we don't have lec-

Neither do we seem to have a dean. Since our new dean was appointed in August, 1996, no one has seen him. The students need him.

At the beginning of this term (1996/97), we were told that the dean went to Sana'a to wind up some business. We haven't seen or heard from him since. The first three years of our college were positive, because it was well administered by the former dean. But his year, due to the new dean's absence, the college is in disorder.

The students are very worried about their future. They come every day to the college. They live with the hope of possible improvement in the future. As the first semester finishes, the complaints of the students are growing. But there is nobody to listen. The issue becomes more serious as we consider the time factor. We are losing precious time.

The future depends on what we achieve in the present, just as the present depended on the past. Neglecting the rights of the students in the present means depriving them of their future.

Before I close, I want to stress that the question does not apply to only three or four students. Rather more than 1000 are deprived of their rights and no relief is in sight. If this situation continues, there is no future ahead since the students are now completely frustrated and exhausted.

Student from Sa'adah.

Open Letter to: **Minister of Education**

Dear Mr. Minister

We would like to bring to your attention a nasty problem to which Somali expatriate teachers at the Sana'a governorate are being subjected.

As a rule each foreign expatriate community should have a leader who always interacts with the ministry of education. Such a leader fulfills an important duty by serving as a bridge between the teachers and the ministry.

However, in our case, the leader of the Somali teachers in Sana'a acts and behaves dishonestly by apparently colluding with corrupt officials from the Ministry of education.

The Sana'a branch chairman has imposed a levy extorted from individual teachers on an annual basis. Those who fail to pay or defy his order face abrupt dismissals. To make matters worse, there is news that the levy would be steeply raised come next July. Therefore, Mr. Minister, we appeal to your good offices to intervene and put an end to this immoral practice which badly tarnishes the image of your ministry. We hope you will investigate the matter, and if you find my allegation correct, will dismiss the Somali teachers' Sana'a branch chairman and enable the teachers to elect a new chairman by their free will.

By: For the Troubled Somali Teachers Ahmed Ali Wehellye and Haider Yusuf Heybe Sana'a.

Interview with Khadduri:

Q: Given many LNG supply sources increasing, is Yemen slate to secure a place in the market?

A: Indeed, the faster one secures a market the better. As time goes on, the trend will be to shift from petroleum fuel for energy to gas fuel, because it is cheaper in the long run and far less harmful to the environment. The plans we have seen for Turkey, India, China and other countries is that demand will multiply, in some cases 10 times, over the next ten years. The market supply is also increasing, but more likely the increased demand for gas as an energy fuel will keep the demand for gas sufficient for Yemen to be able to sell its gas.

Q: Do you think that Yemen would be able to take over the Marib oil and gas fields after the

end of the PSA with Yemen Hunt? A: In the year 2005, the Yemeni government will have to make a decision as to who will operate the oil facilities in Marib. The oil issue is a separate one from gas. I see no reason why Yemenis should be unable to run their own gas operations just like many of the other Arab states, such as Algeria, for example and others. It is just a matter of proper education and training. The present agreement has an 8 year lead time for training

Q: What are the prospects for the future in Yemen for stable economic development?

A: First of all, Yemen needs political stability and economic reforms. Up until two years ago, the picture was not encouraging. But over the past two years, Yemen has been working towards achieving both of them. Thus to be optimistic would not be far fetched. With the rise of oil prices, the hope is that this should translate into a better position for Yemen, as long as the prices hold their market rate.

Q: As an Iraqi citizen, what picture do you see for your country? Do you think that the return of Iraq to the oil market will relieve some of the difficulties of Iraq?

A: There are improvements. Recent developments are going to help, but they are not enough. The whole matter of sanctions has to be reviewed, since the general conclusion that can be drawn is that they affect the people rather than the regimes, leading to humanitarian problems and social disintegration. Sanctions have not shown that they actually achieve the purpose they are intended for. liading & investment Universal



New Manager for Youths and Sports Fund

In a meeting chaired by the Minister for Youths and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahb Rawih, the board of the Youths and Sports Care Fund has endorsed the appointment of Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hada'a as an executive manger for the fund. Mr. Al-Hada'a was chosen from among a number of candidates for his expertise, competence and close association with sports activities. He was a member of the Taleea Sports Club in Taiz and was on the board of the Yemeni Athletics Association from 1991 to

The Youths and Sports Care Fund was established when the council of Ministers decided to impose one Rial on each packet of cigarettes for the purpose of supporting sports and youths activities in Yemen. The money levied through this tax is used to construct sports venues, train and qualify sports cadres, and support the various sports associations. It is widely hoped that 1997 will witness a new beginning for sport activities in Yemen

Boxing at Olympic Center

According to Mr. Jamal Al-Awadhi, the director of the Yemeni Olympic Center, a boxing training course was launched on Monday 20 January. The course will be conducted in cooperation with al-Ahly Cub which enjoys the prestige of being the only sports club in Sana'a that offers training for boxing. The Olympic Center has now new and modern equipment and facilities that are necessary for improving and promoting this olympic sport. Boxing in Yemen has suffered many setbacks and has started to decline due to lack of proper facilities in the past.

This step is taken as a contribution by the Olympic Center toward revitalizing this game especially after it gained wide popularity because of the international successes of the Yemeni boxing champion, Nascem Hamid.

The Olympic Center now offers modern facilities for the sports of body building, table tennis, athletics, football, basketball and, in the near future, karate and taek-



wando. The center will also participate in training the national teams for various sports games in cooperation with other sports associations.

On another level, the Cultural Competition for the Sana'a sports clubs was opened in cooperation with the Olympic Center on Thursday 23 January. These activities are organized to reinvigorate the cultural movement during Ramadhan. Cultural events are often neglected despite their vital importance for young people. A number of Arab communities living in Sana'a and a number of social associations will also take part in these cultural and sport competitions.

Cooperation Agreement Between Yemeni Scouts Movement & UNICEF

A cooperation agreement was signed on Monday 20th January by the Yemeni Scouts Society, the UNICEF bureau in Sana'a, and the General Directorate of Health Education. This agreement aims to enhance health education and awareness in Yemeni society. Among many important health issues, the agreement targets child diarrhea, and urges the citizens to increase their iodine daily intake via table salt. Members of the Scouts Society

will participate fully in this health campaign during this year. The agreement was signed by Mr. Abdullah Salch Al-Ummari as a representative of the Yemeni Scouts Society, Dr. Ziyad Al-Rifayi, Information Director at UNICEF - Sana'a, and Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Anisi, General Director of Health Education. This agreement is expected to activate the role of Yemeni youths in society especially in the fields of health education and development.

At Al-Zuhrah Club in Sana'a: Sports Lectures and Body Building Championship

Al-Zuhrah sports club continues to sponsor sports and cultural activities. Last week it arranged two lectures on tips in football training, and on the recent amendments on the international football regulations.

Captain Salim Abdulrahman delivered a lecture on football training and tips for achieving victory which included proper coaching, training and interaction with spectators. He also stressed cohesion within the group, and team spirit.

A second lecture was about the recent developments in refer-

eeing was delivered by the international referee Mohammed Sanhoob. He talked about many new amendments introduced by FIFA. Most important of these were the right to change players from 2 substitutions to 3, and increasing the number of standby players from 5 to 7.

The new amendments also specified the necessity of providing six spare balls for each match. The lecturer, however, indicated that strict adherence to all the rules and regulations of football is not possible in Yemen for the time being.

Unity Martyrs Chess Championship: Deep Thinking Toward Winning

Organized by the Military Sports Association in the Armed Forces Officers Club in Sana'a, the Unity Martyrs chess championship witnessed the competing of powerful contenders last week. The competitions started on Sunday 19 January among a number of chess very well known champions. These included players Hatem Al-Hadhrani, Khalid Al-Harazi and Abdo Al-Baadani.

Results of the final rounds were

to the advantage of Al-Hadhrani, but his defeat by Al-Harazi in the 6th round put the advantage to the latter. Also during the 6th round, Yahya Faraj beat the republic's ex-champ Abdo Al-Baadani

ex-champ Abdo Al-Baadani. Thus, Faraj and Al-Harazi have become very near to winning the championship with its top five positions and YR 80,000 prizes. With 6 points each, they stand a good chance of being first.

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Cont'd from p. 3:

Interview with Dr. Maitami

Q: The Yemeni government achieved a success in reducing the budget deficit from 22% in 1994 to 4% in 1997. Do you see something else?

A: This is true, and we cannot deny this achievement. The government deficit was reduced substantially and there was no new issue of money.

All these points are true, but as I mentioned, the government wants to correct the economic crisis through monetary and fiscal policies, which is a mistake.

The general budget whether with a reduction or increase in the deficit is not something difficult. It actually reflects less government services and less government investments. It is sufficient for the government to decide to reduce expenditures and increase taxes to adjust the deficit. The question is what is the price.

Besides, we have to remember there were many external factors like more loans to the government, an improvement in the price of oil in the intenational marketm etc. which helped the situation.

Q: What do you say regarding the Riyal exchange rate which has stabilized against the Dollar?

A: Undoubtedly, the dangers of exchange rates on economic decisions are very great. They are important to calculate and plan activities.

Thus, stabilization of the exchange rate is regarded as a positive and crucial step. But the question which is in my mind is, "What are the steps which prevented sudden fluctuations? Were there sound measures taken by the authorities in tackling the issue of exchange rate?"

The exchange rate is specified and subjected to special rules of demand and supply. In this respect, demand tends to change inversely with the price, whereas supply tends to change in direct pro-

portion. The factors affecting the foreign exchange rate of a local currency are the country's exports and imports, remittances, and other capital flows like investments and debt servicing. For Yemen, not much has been done by the government to improve the situation. Many factors, notably revenue from oil sales, postponement of debt servicing, and new loans have affected the Rial exchange rate.

But these sources, unfortunately, are not prmanent. On the contrary, all sources indicate that the production of oil and that its revenues will fall steadily starting in 1998. We cannot defer servicing debts for ever. The new loans will generate new burdens. In other words, we have simply postponed the crisis and problem.

The thing to remember is that Yemen bears the burden of a big government debt reaching almost US\$ 10 billion. In this year's budget (1997), the debt service is 10% of the total budget, even after deferment.

Meanwhile, the government is contracting new loans of YR 19.4 billion.

Q: Let us talk about a different matter. You are one of the academic and scientific figures. What is your evaluation of the situation of scientific research in Yemen?

A: Research is the lifeline of development in modern societies. It is the first force for production in the advanced world. It is an operation theater for decision makers.

Unfortunately, research does not take its natural and pioneering role in our country. Science is still the cheapest commodity and researchers and scientists are being neglected. Research centers and universities are all neglected.

There is a center for study and research and it is one of the first scientific centers in the Gulf region. The center has qualified researchers but they don't find any work to do. Even their minimal rights are not respected. The center has no allocations for research. For example, the budget of the center, in 1997, reached 44 million Rials. YR 26.5 million is wages, salaries, fees and the rest distributed on purchase of goods and service. Nothing is allocated for resaearch.

Q: How about the political picture in Yemen?

A: A new political map is being drawn on the basis of unity, democracy and freedom in a method which we haven't been used to before. The political parties started to work in a better environment than the past.

There is relative press freedom. But the experiment is still new in need of more protection.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE AMERICAN EMBASSY - SANA'A, YEMEN

The United States Embassy announces openings for secretaries in the Administrative Section. Interested applicants should contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhar Himyar Street, Sana'a. Tel: 238-842, ext. 162.

Applications must be submitted on an official application form (OF-174) along with a resume (CV). Closing date for acceptance of applications is at close of business on **February 15,1997**. These positions are open to any person legally permitted to work in the Republic of Yemen, although, all other qualifications being equal, current employees of the U.S. embassy will be given preference.

Basic Function of the Positions: performs office management tasks and secretarial duties for the administrative and General Services officers.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

A. Organizes/maintains all administrative files/references; prepares correspondence in English and Arabic using both typewriter and personal computer (PC); answers telephones; sends faxes; maintains files and reference materials; keeps calendar for Administrative officer, community events, unclassified conference room; using PC, sets-up and maintains remainder files for administrative projects and work schedules.

B. Prepares unclassified reports and correspondence for RSO. Does time and attendance for Administrative office and local guard force. Prepares post identification cards. 10 percent.

Desired Qualifications:

A. Education: completion of college or university in administration or related field (business, public administration, etc.) highly desired. Completion of secondary school required. Secretarial training/experience may be substituted for university training on a one-year for one-year basis.

B. Prior work experience: 3-5 years of progressively responsible experience in an office environment. Emphasis is on office management skills.

C. Post entry training: computer (PC) training to include courses in LAN usage and windows software.

D. Language abilities: Arabic level iv (fluent). English level iv (fluent). Must be able to read, write, speak and type in both languages.

E. Knowledges: Familiarity with local business/protocol customs procedures required. Familiarity with USG policies and regulations in the fields of general services, personnel and budget functions desired. Thorough knowledge of Microsoft Windows and Windows-based applications such as MS Word and Excel.

F. Skills and abilities: Typing: 30 wpm (English); 20 wpm (Arabic). Personal computers; ability to organize and maintain a filing system, modern telephone equipment, ability to keep a calendar. Translations of simple to moderate difficulty from Arabic to English. Use fax and telephone answering machines.



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Decide the Right Thing

Behavioral standards relating to a set of principles, values and ideals for human conduct - this is how 'ethics' may be defined. As also "the standards of conduct which indicate how one should behave on moral duties and obligations.

Ethics deal with one's ability to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil, propriety from impropriety; and the commitment to do the right thing.

Moral development is a prerequisite to ethical decisionmaking. Ethical behavior is driven by a need to avoid punishment or by deference to

Individual needs dictate moral behavior:

A person's needs are his/her primary concern. Approval of determines moral behavior. This stage is characterized by decisions on whether the approval of others determines the person's behavior.

Compliance with authority:

Upholding social order is a person's primary ethical concern. For example, you may comply with your superior's instructions just because you consider it wrong to disobey a senior officer.

Individual conscience:

What is right or good is viewed as a matter of free choice and personal responsibility for the consequences. When you reach this ultimate stage of moral development, there is no external threat that can force you to make a decision that you consider morally wrong.

These stages are valuable land-marks which indicate the approx-

imate position of one's moral the principles of public service development and the changes one ethics which demand that all needs to make in behavior to move to a higher level. The ultimate goal is ethical decisionmaking.

Let us focus on the major ethical values that form a core group of ethical principles.

· Honesty has three basic dimen-

Truthfulness is the obligation to intentional misrepreavoid sentation of fact, intent or opinion;

Sincerity is the obligation to avoid half-truths and out-ofcontext or impressions which are untrue, misleading or deceptive;

Candor in relationships that involve legitimate expectations of trust and honesty. This also imposes the obligation to affirmatively volunteer information that the other person considers important to know.

· Integrity requires us to honor personal and professional convic-tions, especially those about right and wrong. We do not choose to live by our principles, we are obligated to do so.

 Promises: The ethical dimension of promise-keeping imposes the responsibility of making every reasonable effort to fulfill a commitment. In an organizational context, it means that employees have a moral obligation to perform not only their personal promises and commitments, but also those made in the name of the organization.

· Loyalty does not justify violating other ethical principles such as integrity, fairness or honesty.

This is especially true for public servants acting in an official capacity since they must abide by decisions be made on the basis of merit, and free from favoritism.

· Fairness embodies the notions of justice, equity, impartiality, transparency and consistency. It often refers to morally justifiable outcomes rather than the discovery of the fair answer.

· Concern: The moral obligation of caring does not preclude decisions which harm others. The key quality of caring is that one should consciously cause no more harm other than that which reasonably necessary, to perform one's duties and comply with other principles, including fairness and accountability.

Respect: The intrinsic right to dignity and autonomy of all individuals.

· Pursuit of excellence: When a person is in a position of responsibility and others rely upon his/ her knowledge, ability and willingness to perform tasks effectively, the pursuit of excellence has an ethical dimension. It is not necessarily unethical to make mistakes or to be less than excellent, but individuals and especially public servants have a moral obligation to do their best.

· Accountability: Ethical persons accept responsibility for their decisions. An accountable person does not shift blame or accept credit for another person's achievements.

Decision-making involves a process by which a person chooses from the alternatives available in a manner consistent with his/her core ethical principles. Ethical decision-making requires sensitivity to perceive the implications of your decision; the ability to evaluate complex,

ambiguous, incomplete information; and the skill to implement ethical decisions without jeopardizing your

A model for ethical decisionmaking

Each person, group, institution, organization or constituency likely to be affected by a decision is a 'stake-holder' with a moral claim on the decision-maker.

The stake-holder concept reinforces our obligation to make reasonable efforts to foresee possible consequences and take steps to obviate unjustified harm to innocent stake-holders.

When a decision-making situation is viewed through the ethical lens, three considerations emerge:

1. Who should decide? A decision-maker should take into account the answer to two questionswhich other stake-holders

ought to participate in the process because of their knowledge, values or interests? The voices of future generations as well as those of contem-poraries, should always be considered.

Which other stake-holders must take part in the decision because of their institutional jobs, responsibilities or resources they control? A decision that does not carry legitimacy or a reasonable probability of success is unlikely to lead to a satisfactory moral outcome.

2. Who should benefit?: Before enacting a choice, one should be assured that the benefits which flow to personal moral development have been delineated as follows: Physical consequences determine morally justifiable and deserving parties and that no undue harm is done.

3. How should the decision be made?

Important decisions should be made as per the due process. Beyond any legal requirements, the processes by which decisions are made should be fair and they

should follow established procedures when applicable.

Moral reflection may reveal flaws in our institutions and organizations that can be changed so that the ethical issue at hand does not emerge again, at least to the same intensity. Thus, ethical procedures and processes should be put in place, with a view to eliminate the root causes of the issue or to handle it more effectively in the future.

Adopted and abridged by: Anwar Al-Sayyadi, Yemen Times.



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