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# YEMEN TIMES



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## The 1996 Bilateral Aid Disbursement Figures Show:

### Japan Is Yemen's Top Donor; Germany Is Second Place; Netherlands Third!

Yemen's 1996 donor data has produced some small changes in the placement of donor countries, based on disbursement.

Japan, with the US\$24 million exceptional assistance to the economic reform package, gave Yemen some 4.2 billion yens in 1996, which came out to almost US\$ 40 million.

The Federal Republic of Germany, with a disbursement of DM 45 million (US\$ 35 million), came in second place.

The Netherlands, whose disbursements topped 50 million guilders (about US\$ 30 million), came in third place.

"I would like to start by expressing gratitude and appreciation for the donors," said Mr. Hisham Sharaf, Director General of Cooperation at the Ministry of Planning and Development. He also warned against using numbers pertaining to one year only to list countries. "Evidently Germany, the Netherlands and Japan are Yemen's largest aid partners," he indicated.

He also mentioned that the Netherlands, for example, has provided a donation of 60 million guilders for the Mukallah Power project.

Mr. Sharaf also indicated that there were a number of other smaller donors, which are also important. "France for example, gave Yemen FF 30 million, and a very soft loan of FF 40 million during 1996," he said. He also mentioned that Italy, which has provided US\$ 2 million in commodity aid, and about half a million dollar in small projects.

Multilateral donors also play an important role in the development process of the country. The World Bank is a clear case in point. Another one is the EU. "In 1996, EU disbursements were around US\$ 20 million, and a food support assistance of US\$ 14 million," he indicated.

Most of the assistance finances infrastructure and human resources development.

More on donors on page 14

## Four Germans are Kidnapped by the Zayidis:

### There We Go Again

Two men and two women were picked up by the Zayidi clan of Jahm, Khowlan, on Thursday, 27th March, 1997. The kidnapping shoot out led to the death and injury of several soldiers.

The Armed forces have now encircled the region, which lies about 150 kilometers east of Sanaa towards Marib. The authorities in Sanaa, just

as much as the diplomatic community and the foreign visitors, are getting tired of the endless sequel of kidnapping and hostage-taking by individuals and tribes. The recurrence of this phenomenon calls on the government to find an adequate solution. "Yemen's image abroad is hurting. The international media are referring

to Yemen as 'wild country'," said a tourist operators in Sanaa. He indicated that democracy does not mean lawlessness, or leniency with law-breakers.

"The coming elections may be a factor. We have reason to believe that these kidnappings are part of an overall sabotage effort," said a government official.

### 2500 Candidates Accepted, Less Than 1% Are Women

The deadline for turning in one's candidature for parliament was 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29th. Mr. Amin Ali Amin, Member of the Supreme Elections Committee and Head of the Planning and Data Sector, approximately 2500 applications were received. The sad part in all of this is that the female candidates barely represent 1% of the applications.

The leading parties have scarcely selected women as candidates. The People's General Congress nominated only two women, out of a list of 221 nominees - both in Aden. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) nominated no woman. More surprising, the list of 105 candidates of the 'progressive' Nasserite Unionist Party has no female name. The reason political parties do not select female candidates is that their chances of winning are not good. "What is the point in nominating a woman who will lose easily,"

said one PGC leader. However, there are a few female candidates who are running as independents. There are about 20 female of them. That exact distribution will be available later.

Political parties spoke eloquently about how much they support female candidates. There was talk about setting aside a quota. There was also talk about striking an agreement among all parties to nominate only women in certain constituencies. The objective was to ensure that some 10% of the next parliament will be women. That, now, looks impossible. The worst case scenario, and a very likely one, indeed, is a male only parliament.

"I have noted a high level of people with high education among the candidates. I hope they will make it," Amin said.

At another level, Amin said that the polling stations were handing out large numbers of voter registration cards. "We hope to hand 3.5



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Back to Basics: The Need for Strong Morals

It is definitely better to be a better human being than to be a more religious person. Therefore, there is something wrong in the way we teach our children religion. We teach them rituals, instead of teaching them the values. Society should seek to produce more responsible adults sensitive to the needs and feelings of others than to produce puritanical religious people. In essence, the task of religion is actually to produce better human beings. In other words, if a person is religious, but not a good human being, there is something wrong with his/her religion or the way he/she understands it.

The need for morals and ethics cannot be over-emphasized. Let us take our situation in Yemen. Blackmail, embezzlement, cheating, vulgar opportunism and forceful begging are fast becoming a way of life in this country. People feel no remorse or shame in mis-behaving. There is no internal check. They will transgress unless there is an external force to check them.

There is another dimension to all of this - the easy way out, and the easy way to make money. In a sense, people, like our very government, want it easy, especially money. Citizens watch on television every day as Yemeni officials ask for, and get, foreign assistance, which is then mostly abused. They, in turn, demand, and take 'assistance' from others. This behavior is increasingly becoming a normal way of life in this country. Even those who do not condone it, use the economic hardships as a justification for this abnormal behavior. This is a growing problem. Rampant kidnapping is only an extreme expression of our loss of values. Open corruption is another expression, neglect and carelessness is a third. Lying, cheating and other social ills are additional examples.

Yemen needs a strong moral fabric and ethical foundation if it is going to build a harmonious and peaceful society. Without ethics, it is hard to believe that relations among individuals and groups will be sensible or normal. Already, many relations among members of our society are governed by the law of force, rather than the force of law.

The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a hand-shake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.

The schools and media can play a major role in instilling the values we agree on in our children. I believe that role models are important in this. Individuals with high profiles and visibility, like senior officials, community elders, political leaders, public figures, top businessmen, etc., must behave in a way that makes serve as good role models. Can we do it before it is too late?

*The Publisher*  


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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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## Crisis of the Yemeni Rial: Causes & Consequences

"The Crisis of Yemeni Currency: Causes and Consequences," is a new study by Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, and published by the Arab Center for Strategic Studies. The study deals with five major topics:

- \* Historic overview of exchange rates in Yemen.
- \* Yemeni currency - the roots of the crisis.
- \* Current status of the Yemeni currency exchange market.
- \* Government measures and policies to stabilize the rial's exchange rate.

\* Whom does devaluation serve? This is a critical and analytic economic study about one of the main dimensions of the current economic problem. The study has successfully broken the tedious traditional approach which is usually associated with dealing with economic problems. The author has proven that the Yemeni currency problem stems from a structural balance of payments problem, which dates back to the mid-eighties, but worsening after unification. There is another problem - a

black market for imports valued around \$2 to \$2.5 billion a year. The study also shows that the five major and most influential commercial families and establishments, which have preponderant access to credit facilities, owed a quarter of total private-sector debt in 1996. The study also indicated that the overall financial obligations of these five large industrial and commercial groups amount to more than double the total capital of all commercial banks.

According to the study, bad debts - estimated at YR. 24 billion - can wipe out the two largest and most important commercial banks - the National Bank of Yemen and the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Industrial and Housing banks may also suffer. The author concludes that if the measures taken within the framework of economic reform do not enable a quick re-structuring, the banking system may collapse in the near future.



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### Disturbed Man Kills People at School

On Sunday, March 29th, a disturbed man attacked Al-Talaye' school in Al-Asbahi district on the southern end of Sanaa city. He claims that his 7-year old daughter was molested in the school.

Carrying his kalashnikov, he waited in the school compound early in the morning for anybody from the school to come. When the head-mistress came in, he shot her dead. Before his shooting spree was over, he had killed two more persons and several people, including children, were injured.

### American/British Trade Efforts with the Chamber of Commerce

In collaboration with the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce, the US and UK embassies are arranging trade-related efforts.

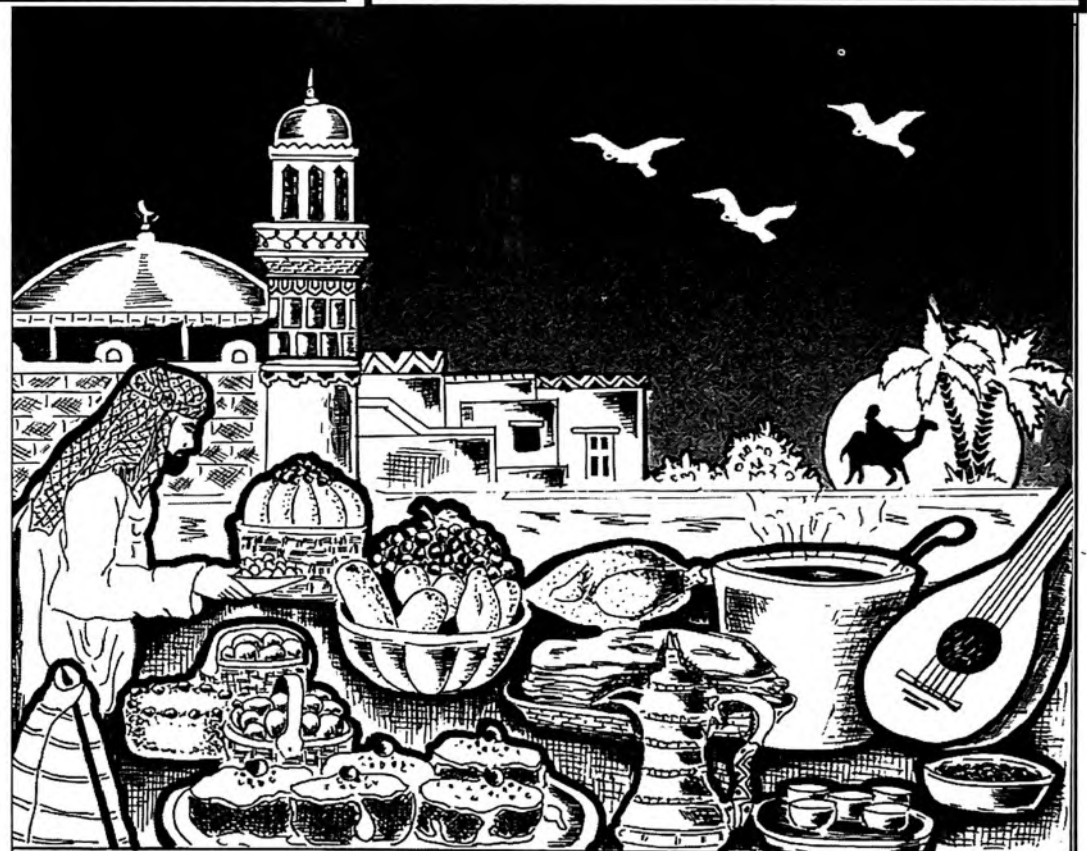
On April 7th, the US Commercial Attache is going to display a catalog exhibition of the names US manufacturers/exporters and their products.

On April 11th, the UK Embassy is going to sponsor a short talk on standards and measurements. Experts from the RESOURCE company are going to discuss the issues.

### Seminar on Patents and Intellectual Rights

On Thursday, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi, a well-known lawyer, is going to make a presentation on the importance of patents and intellectual rights. The presentation will take place on Thursday at the Center for Yemeni Studies.

Dr. Mikhlaifi has just won a case against a French land-survey company working in Yemen.



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**Ahmed Al-Salami:**

# “The constitutional and human rights of citizens cannot be taken away by party decisions.”

Ahmed Ali Al-Salami, of Redaa, Al-Baidha, is an old hand in politics. He had served in numerous senior posts, including Minister of Water and Electricity, following the re-unification of the country. He is today a member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party and member of the out-going parliament. Ahmed, 53, joined the first batch of the Police Academy in 1963. After his graduation, he worked in different jobs, including with the independence movement in the southern governorates. He was imprisoned for three years in the late 1960s, following which he fled to Aden, where he joined the Yemeni Socialist Party. It was only with re-unification of Yemen that he was able to return to the northern governorates. He is today, one of a few senior YSP members who are going to stand as candidates in the parliamentary elections. M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to him and filed the following report.

**Q: What are your overall impressions about the coming parliamentary elections?**

**A:** There are a number of undeniable violations, particularly during the registration phase. The unfortunate thing is that the people at the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has been too submissive in the matter. The SEC should have stuck to the law, and should have reviewed the electoral voters in January of every year, as required by the law. If they had done that, there would not have been as many problems.

This matter is known to all people concerned, and it presents a continuous source of trouble. We must adhere to the law, otherwise numerous problems and difficulties will arise. Yemen, of course, is not Sweden or America. We admit that mistakes and shortcomings can and will occur here. But, we expect them to remain within certain acceptable limits. When irregularities increase, they become detrimental to the spirit of the democratic process; thereby making it a mere formality.

**Q: Was it for this reason that the opposition parties demanded adequate guarantees?**

**A:** I have some reservations about some of those guarantees. They are mainly political guarantees that should not have been mixed with the elections. It is true that the people have the right to express these demands and struggle for their accomplishment.

Regarding the elections, if the irregularities remained limited, people would not have raised any objections. The shortcomings could have been rectified. There was plenty of time for that.

**Q: Is it true that you are standing for elections?**

**A:** The Yemeni Socialist Party has, as is now a very well known fact, decided to boycott the elections. This happened due to the failure to reach an agreement that could have assured that at least some of the major violations were going to be addressed and rectified. Some of the main and prominent irregularities should have been tackled, as well as evoking the relevant court ruling in these matters.

Irrespective of my personal opinion, the YSP made the decision to boycott the elections by a majority votes of the Central Committee members. But that decision does not take away the constitutional right of the YSP members to cast their ballots and to stand for election, if they so choose. It only means that candidates cannot stand under the YSP banner or ticket.

I personally took the initiative of nominating myself in constituency 140, the constituency which I now represent.

This does not mean, however, that I regard the elections as wholly clean or without shortcomings. I feel that the democratic process, despite all the accompanying negative aspects, is a sapling that needs to be nurtured. Even the political parties themselves are still at the beginning of the road towards democracy.

**Q: Do you expect any problems with your party by standing for elections?**

**A:** I am committed to the party's decision as far as not nominating myself under its banner. Some of the people may naively think that party members being nominated as independents is a political tactic. This is very silly, and it is not what I am doing.

I stand for elections because the people in my constituency put demands on me and asked me to do so. I consider this as a basic duty of citizenship, as it is the right of every members of the YSP to cast his or her vote.

I believe we are no longer in the era of secret and iron-clad parties, which dictate orders to their members. There must be harmony between the commitments the party and personal freedoms. The human and constitutional rights of individuals cannot be taken away or restricted by a party decision. A party decision cannot take away constitutional rights.

**Q: But this will at least affect you in the form of lack of sufficient funds. The YSP will not finance your campaign?**

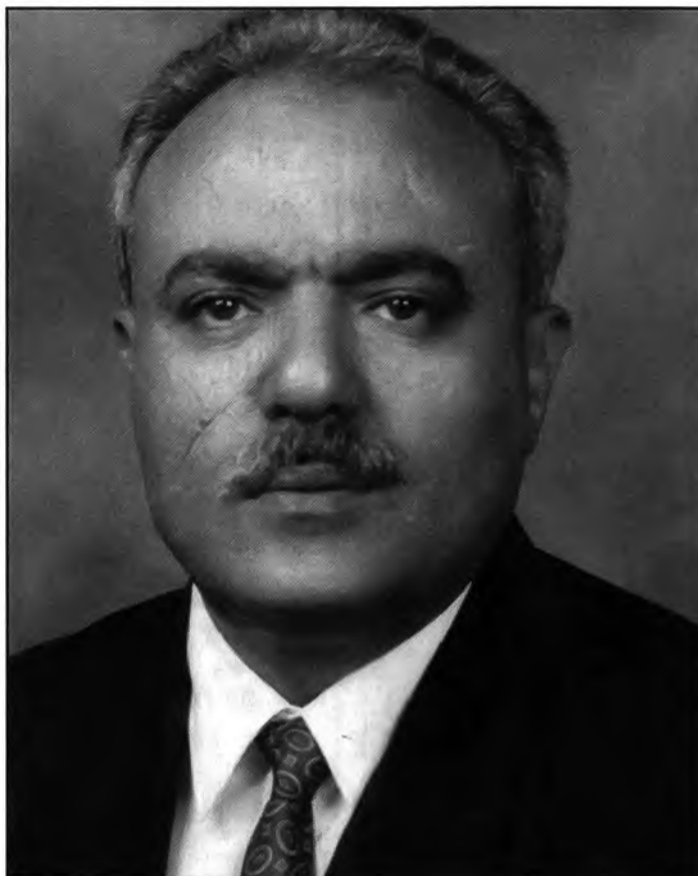
**A:** Unfortunately, even the small amounts of money possessed by the party are now frozen. I do not have an appreciable source of income.

But the cooperation of the people can do a lot. For example, I stayed at my constituency for 3-4 days without spending much beyond the cost of the car petrol. I was hosted by the people who know very well that I do not have the necessary resources.

So there is no support from the party. But the assistance of my friends and the people in general will help me immensely.

**Q: Beyond the elections, how do you see our political evolution?**

**A:** Beyond the parliamentary elections, I feel that elections for the local councils are one of the main foundations for creating more awareness on the importance of democracy among the people. These councils are directly connected to the daily interests of the people. So the people can also become aware,



through local council elections, of the importance of making a good choice. Therefore, I believe that staying away from the elections process is a type of absence. It is true that this absence has its reasons and justifications, but we regard it as a temporary state. It is not the end of the road. There will be local as well as presidential elections. There are many political activities in the future.

**Q: As a departing MP, how do you evaluate the outgoing parliament?**

**A:** Considering that it is the first parliamentary assembly, we have to distinguish between hope or aspirations and what is possible. Many upheavals, struggles and problems took place during the term of the outgoing parliament. I think that the level of efficiency within the parliament was rather weak.

Legislation-wise, this parliament made some progress. But there are some reservations regarding its inability to stick to legal procedures even in passing laws. We have now a reasonable number of laws. But the question is: What is the role of parliament in monitoring the execution and application of these laws? Where is the supervisory role of the parliament?

This is an essential and very important aspect to the workings of parliament, and even a democracy.

We do not have any shortage of laws and legislation. Our main problem is that these laws are not being fully enacted or respected. Parliament could, by virtue of its constitutional authorities, have played a bigger part in guiding the government towards a better management of reforms and combating corruption. This did not happen. Let us be optimistic with regards to the next parliament.

**Q: The next parliament will take Yemen into the 21st century. What hopes are being attached to it? What do you expect of it?**

**A:** I hope that it will be able to perform its constitutional tasks. In other words, our constitution

would consider it a big step forward.

Our major problem is that we have become used to breaking the laws. Even in parliament, which makes those laws, as I explained earlier. Sometimes this happens with the consent of the majority. It is not correct that rules are made only to be broken later.

The coming parliament also has to sanctify the laws and procedures of its own operations. It should not be left to the personal whims of those in charge.

Parliament must first and foremost be a forum for dialogue and expression of all the spectrum of opinions. It is expected that there will be a clear majority in the next parliament, but this should not hinder free exchange of ideas.

Also, the next parliament should start to reform its internal structures, starting from its own statute.

Parliament should remain a separate and independent authority having its own distinct boundaries. Parliament should fully perform its duties of monitoring and questioning the government even if it is represented by a parliamentary majority. MPs belonging to the PGC, for instance, should not obey party orders blindly.

**Q: The Socialist Party is trying to heal its wounds as it is hit by one shock after another. What is your opinion about the party's situation?**

**A:** Irrespective of the party's present circumstances and recent experience, it played a major role in accomplishing the national unity. So I believe that any attempt to weaken or split it up is going to weaken the national unity itself.

There is no political party in Yemen today that had a unified Yemeni membership base prior to the re-unification of the country, except the Socialist Party. It is a Yemeni party that encompasses the whole nation. So, throwing different accusations at it today is meaningless.

There are tremendous efforts from within Yemen and without to split the party. This will be a major loss to Yemen.

One more thing, Yemen today needs the YSP more than ever before. It is this necessity that makes the YSP an indispensable factor in the country's politics.

No substitute to the party has yet appeared. Any replacement for it has failed. The party will continue to participate in consolidating the democratic process.

**Q: The YSP failed to hold its general congress. When will it happen?**

**A:-** We were hoping it will take place during this month, but the situation has become impossible. All the party's assets and resources were seized because of its decision to boycott the elections.

At the moment, I have no specific dates.

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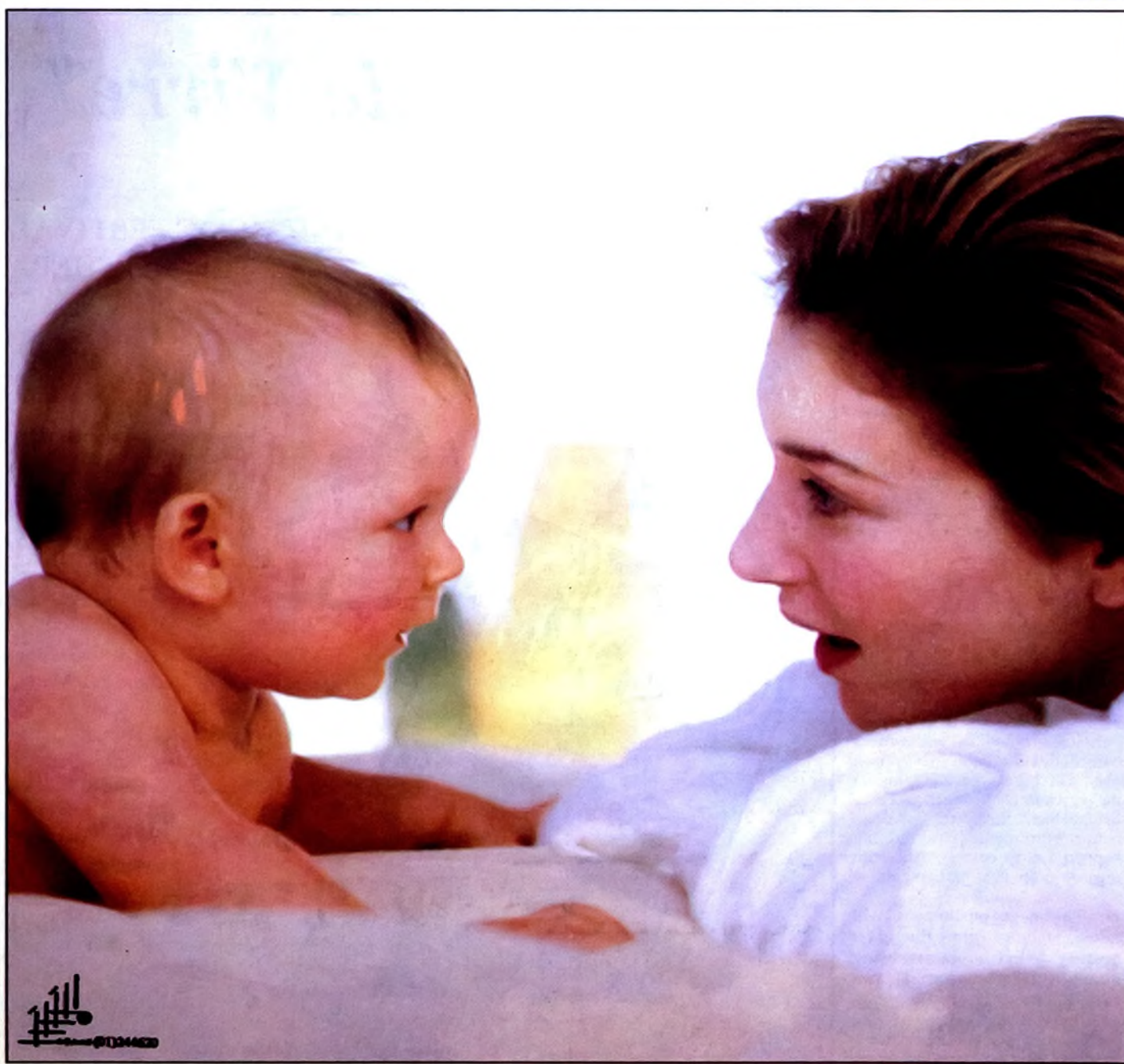
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The EMC Splinter Is Bypassed!

When Politics Takes Over!

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) witnessed a splintering last week, when seven members, led by the chairman of the EMC, broke away. The EMC, guided by the secretary-general, leads 27 leading members, who continue to perform business as usual.

The splinter group, paralyzed and with no address, no office, no facilities no human network, and no support from any side, is now driven by the sole objective of trying to undermine and stop the EMC. The Secretariat-General, which produces the work, is trying hard to live up to the expectations and commitments made during the establishment of the organization.

The break-away group is motivated by many things, including vying for influence within the organization, political motives, and the fact this is one more example of the failure of collective leadership.

The EMC was evolved over a short time in July-August, 1996, and was officially launched in September. Its objective is to help raise the level of credibility and transparency of the parliamentary elections by putting up local observers.

Over time, two things happened that would eventually lead to the crack.

First: Stature and Influence:

Some people who participated in the establishment of the EMC commanded important positions in society. They took it for granted that their stature by itself was enough to guarantee a strong say for them in the affairs of the organization, without getting involved in the work. They felt they would be the power reference holding veto over any work. This was especially the case of the chairman of the EMC, Mr. Mohammed Al-Rubayi, an old man in his seventies and a former ambassador.

As the whole effort was a voluntary one, those who were working began to make more and more decisions. The fact that elections were fast approaching was an important factor in the need to mobilize volunteers, train them, and conclude arrangements for the monitoring. The big shots felt they were not consulted enough, or even that they were left behind. Thus began a long and arduous battle to stop the EMC from moving ahead. A lot of noise was being made about how proper procedures were not followed, authorization was not sought in the choice of volunteers, etc.

Second: Politics:

To further complicate the matter, it was soon clear that some "nyet" people were looking at the coming elections from a more and more negative perspective. At the end, some opposition individuals and parties have even decided to boycott the elections. This reflected itself on the EMC as hardline opposition people began to feel and say that there was no need to do any monitoring. This was the position of again, Mr. Mohammed Al-Rubayi and his sympathizers in the EMC. He three times publicly announced his intention to dissolve the EMC. He was rebuked for that, but did not overcome it.

As the situation further evolved, dissatisfaction on the first reason, above, began to serve as a good excuse for the second reason. The best way to destroy the EMC, the other side concluded,

Elections Monitoring Committee - لجنة رقابة الانتخابات. Private Voluntary Initiative - مبادرة أهلية طوعية تهدف إلى تنمية المجتمع المدني والديمقراطية. Aims to Promote Civil Society & Democracy. محضر إجتماع الهيئة الإدارية العليا المنعقد خلال 29-30/3/1997 حضره (27) مسؤولاً من قياديين للجنة

was by trying to sack the Secretary-General, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf; the Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs, Ms. Shada Mohammed Nasser; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs, Ms. Salwa A. Dammaj. That is exactly what they did, although the second letter by Rubayi which was circulated to the embassies, the media, and various organizations spoke only of the secretary-general.

How can Mr. Rubayi say that he cares for the organization if he is willing to sack the top people who are actually supervising all of the work, and how can he say that he has the interest of the EMC at heart when he is doing all he can to discredit it in the eyes of locals and foreigners? And what gives a minority, Mr. Rubayi and his six sympathizers, the right to sack the people who created the EMC, the people who raised the funds for it, and the very people who do all the work.

Thus, the objective of trying to destroy the EMC became visible. That is why most of the local media refused to even run statements for Mr. Rubayi and his gang. That is why the Supreme Elections Committee dislodged him out of its premises. That is why the EU office in Sanaa is giving him lip-service courtesy in his many approaches.

All sides know the intention of the splinter group is to kill the organization.

On the other hand, leaders of the EMC - the Secretariat-General, all the regional coordinators and field officers - 26 persons - met last Saturday and Sunday. As they represent the majority of the leadership of the organization, this group decided to get rid of the dead wood and re-structure the EMC administration. A copy of their decision, signed by all, is reproduced, above. According to this decision, no room was left for compromise. The dead wood has to go, and those who do the work will take

full responsibility. What does it all mean? 1. It means that political inclination will continue to influence the work of NGOs and other grass-roots level organizations in a very visible way.

2. It means that people who have a senior standing in society will try to command influence more than their contribution and effort warrants.

3. It means that when there is a will and a clear vision, the younger people who do the work can dislodge the old dead wood and continue the work. This is especially true if the government stays neutral in the ongoing struggle, as it has in the case this time.

One of the major problems for the EMC was how to pacify the EU people who were worried about the way events developed. Many things were done, in this regard: 1. The EU officials and members of the international community were informed openly and candidly about the forthcoming problem, before it happened. They were given adequate information, and they had the chance to speak to all sides. They decided to remain on the side of the team that does the work.

2. The EMC leadership worked very hard to mobilize additional funds. This was rewarded by the positive interaction. As EU funding was not affected, the additional resources allowed the EMC to expand its base of observers.

3. The field work was carried out in a systematic way so that the achievements will speak for themselves, and they will be the real answer to the sabotage efforts of the other side.

Cooperation with the SEC, political parties and other actors in the elections are in full motion. The EMC today is stronger than ever, more unified and more focussed in its mission. This is one more factor in the rising level of its success.

By: Ms. Aneesa Ghanim, Yemen Times.

Total of 13,500 Ballot Boxes Needed for Elections

EU Finances New Ballot Boxes

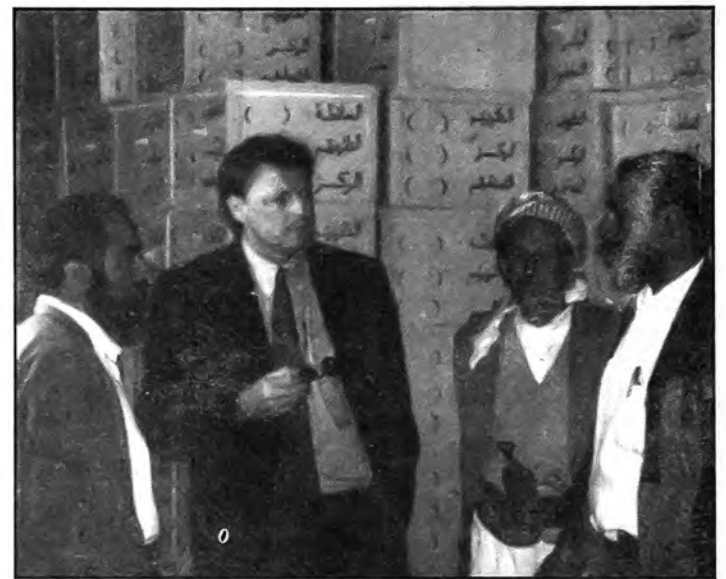
Last week, the European Union delivered to the Supreme Elections Committee some 5,000 ballot boxes which were made according to international specifications. Yemen Times attended the occasion and spoke to Rainer Freund, Head of the EU Technical Advisory Office in Yemen. "I think the Supreme Elections committee has a formidable task ahead of it in organizing these elections, particularly given the number of registered voters which is now 4-5 million. The SEC will have to make a lot of comprehensive arrangements in relation to the elections - from the registration process through to issuing of voters' cards right up to the logistics of ballot boxes, ink, ballot papers, etc. - to get it ready in time."

Regarding the ballot boxes, Mr. Freund said the next step was to get them to the 301 constituencies in time, to distribute them to the polling stations within each constituency, and to keep them in a safe place in the meantime.

Many of the balloting stations are not accessible by road. Therefore, some will be airlifted, while others will be carried by traditional transportation (mules and camels). The SEC really faces an enormous logistical challenge. Rainer's impression is that "up to now, they seem to have mastered it quite well. We can only congratulate them on their efforts and their accomplishments."

Each box costs 1600, thus the EU contribution totals YR. 8 million. EU assistance comprises of a number of components. The ballot boxes is one of them. Ali Abdullah Al-Shaer, Head of the Technical Committee at the SEC, was on hand to receive the boxes. "The EU provided 5000 boxes.

The SEC has arranged additional boxes for all balloting stations, according to the specified numbers for each constituency in all governorates. We have a total number of around 13500 boxes."



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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Decentralization: Long Overdue



With the Republic of Yemen fast approaching its second parliamentary elections, it seems unacceptable that no step forward has been achieved to realize the functioning of local government, as understood by modern democratic societies. It is understandable that there much time has been taken to work out the consequences of the political struggle that ensued between the former holders of totalitarian authority in the northern governorates and the southern governorates, given their different ideologies and framework. It is also understandable that democracy still has a long way to develop in the mind-set of the rulers as well as the general population. But, since the rulers have committed to the Yemeni people that there is no turning back on democracy, there should be no hesitation in implanting democracy in all of its manifestations, if we can assume that this commitment is blessed with any degree of seriousness.

It would be useless to argue that because democracy is 'new' to Yemen, that the people are not ready to start managing their affairs at the local level. One might be driven to suggest that it is somewhat insulting to suggest that the people of Yemen are incapable of being able to determine how their affairs should be run in their own local surroundings. The more convincing argument would be that because local democratic rule has not been activated, the complicated problems in the country will remain pending until infinity, because the present structure of government has surely not proven the competence, or even the desire of those in charge, to arrive to a solution to the many of these problems.

There is no escape from the argument that the development of the Republic of Yemen cannot just rely on centrally issued Five Year Plans or Economic Reform Programs drawn up on the basis of ready made models in the plush offices of the IMF and the World Bank. Even if we assume that these programs have to work, they would require adequate institutional grounds for them to operate in, to gauge their progress, and to monitor their impact. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the institutional framework in the Republic of Yemen still leaves a lot to be desired, in terms of adequacy and efficiency.

Moreover, the highly centralized set up of the existing institutional framework in the country does not take the time to gauge its performance on any activities, nor does it have the apparatus to evaluate, objectively, efficiently and sincerely the state of affairs in the nation and the corrective instruments to deal with any shortfalls or handicaps that could render any plans or programs useless, no matter how ingenious they are. When one adds the absence of accountability, and the not-so-clear distinction between right and wrong, it becomes obvious that the present set-up of government will only continue to be beset by poor performance, inefficiency and an inability to provide even the most basic of services expected: security, functioning utilities, adequate health services, an effective educational system, equal opportunities for all the citizens of the country to have access to the available resources and means in order to raise their standards of living and to contribute to national economic growth.

Many will say that all the above have been said before. This only underscores the validity of what is being said, since it clearly reflects a lack of proper response from the authorities to constructive criticism which aims to alert them to the growing dangers that face the nation from within and from the outside. Our officials need to start pursuing for the minimal standards of sound government. There is a real concern among many people in the country that things are allowed to get out of hand, almost deliberately. The authorities, not only refuse to deal with the mounting feelings of discontent, but also present no alternative. The people of Yemen need to work together to face up to the challenges that we confront as a nation, whether as a result of our own doing or as a result of external developments or conspiracies.

There is no question that the most obvious indication that the democracy of Yemen is here to stay would have been to take advantage of the upcoming elections to introduce elections of local government councils with clearly defined authorities. These will be responsible for managing local affairs, including a sizable portfolio of the development schemes. Local communities have become tired of just seeing foundations stones laid for, projects, sometimes for

the second, third or even more times, just as a media event. Not only that, but the election of local councils will truly give the people a chance to become more active in the political process of the country and will make them realize the significance of democracy. They will be responsible for electing people who will be closer to home and who can be held more accountable for their deeds or misdeeds, as the case may be.

Looking at the geography of Yemen, with the logistical problems in communications and transportation, it would seem fitting that stronger reliance on autonomous authority in many of the elements of government would go a long way in easing the burdens on the central government. More importantly, it will instill a more widespread sense of responsibility as people will realize that they do not have a scapegoat in the form of an ineffective central government to blame for the situations that could be existing in their areas. The central government will have greater freedom to deal with more general issues of national interest such as sovereignty, foreign affairs, defense, the equitable allocation of national resources and the monitoring of development plans in accordance with well thought-out policies that lead to logical and realistic objectives.

The major burden of achieving those objectives will fall on the local governments. With the central government controlling the resources that will finance the work involved to achieve those objectives, the local governments are compelled to perform successfully in order to qualify for access to these resources for more ambitious schemes that will lead to improvements in their way of life.

If there was anything that the last parliament should be judged on, the most important was the lack of attention to the expansion of democratic practice, to include the institution of locally-elected government. Yet, as in many issues of importance, the parliamentarians succumbed to partisan pressure by not even bringing the matter to the floor for serious discussion and to enact the Law of Local Administration.

While most of the political parties have expressed in their political programs, their endorsement of such an idea, it was surprising to hear on more than one occasion, members of both parties in the ruling coalition try to justify the postponement of the matter, because the 'people are not yet ready for such authority'. In fact, some of them still would insist that the reliance on the sheikhs and 'social dignitaries' has been found to be the right approach because of the fact that the Yemeni situation requires reliance on the traditional forces. Nothing could be further than the truth and the truth is plain to see.

Our traditional leaders have either let their sponsors down, or it seems have found that they are not really required to do anything for anyone, except to look after their own interest, and to use their positions to reap as much power and wealth as can be gathered, without having to share in any meaningful way the benefits with the people of the communities they profess to 'lead'. Moreover the autocratic nature of the way these 'dignitaries' operate can be of no help to the advancement of real democratic practice. This argument becomes more convincing when these people are also allowed to maintain a para-military image, that offers them a chance to blackmail their 'constituents' and to exercise authority that the law is completely innocent of.

The problems that the country is confronted with require that we deal with the situation in the country from an institutional aspect. The fact that our problems are continuous or seemingly insoluble are clear indications that the real problem is that the proper systems are not there to deal with them as they arise. If some people believe that the existing tight centralization is the only method which is feasible for Yemen, let those people come up with the evidence that there is no better alternative by showing us the areas of the country that are all well and dandy.

There are definitely some good sheikhs around, and the intentions here are not to discredit any of those. But, in the present centralized framework, even these sheikhs, no matter how good intentioned they may be, will not be able to produce the output they would like to see for their respective communities. In fact, many of these sheikhs would be the first to argue that the system needs some rehabilitation.

Yet, the insistence of the authorities to stick to an ineffective institutional framework leads one to wonder; are the people who decide the fate of the 17,000,000 people of Yemen serious about democracy and about the desire to see Yemen truly develop into a model state for the region? The facts on the ground seem to illustrate that the authorities are really pursuing all that which should not be done, rather than that which should be done to transform Yemen into a model.

### On Parliamentary Elections:

Despite the fact the elections are only 3 weeks away, there is very little activity to show that indeed the event is more than a symbolic token to democratic inclinations. There does not seem to be any real humming and drumming of election activities like campaign posters or even a good idea of who the candidates are that will run for the only elected positions in the country, so far.

For many people outside the political arena, it really does not seem like the elections are going to make that much of a difference anyway since the last parliament was almost nothing more than a good source of video film to fill some of the TV broadcasting hours, in the afternoon. In other words, almost a total disappointment. As for their TV image, the last parliamentarians were no match for their predecessors, prior to 27 April 1993. That seemed like such a long time ago.

During the registration drive, the minority party in the ruling coalition made a lot of noise and did a lot of political maneuvering and even cozied up to the opposition. But that was a long time ago, it also seems. In fact, many observers thought that the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) was really going to revitalize the democratic fever, that seems to come and go in this country like the candlelight that replaces the shortfall in electricity supply. The Islah had a chance to do something about that, but somehow could not get its act together, even with

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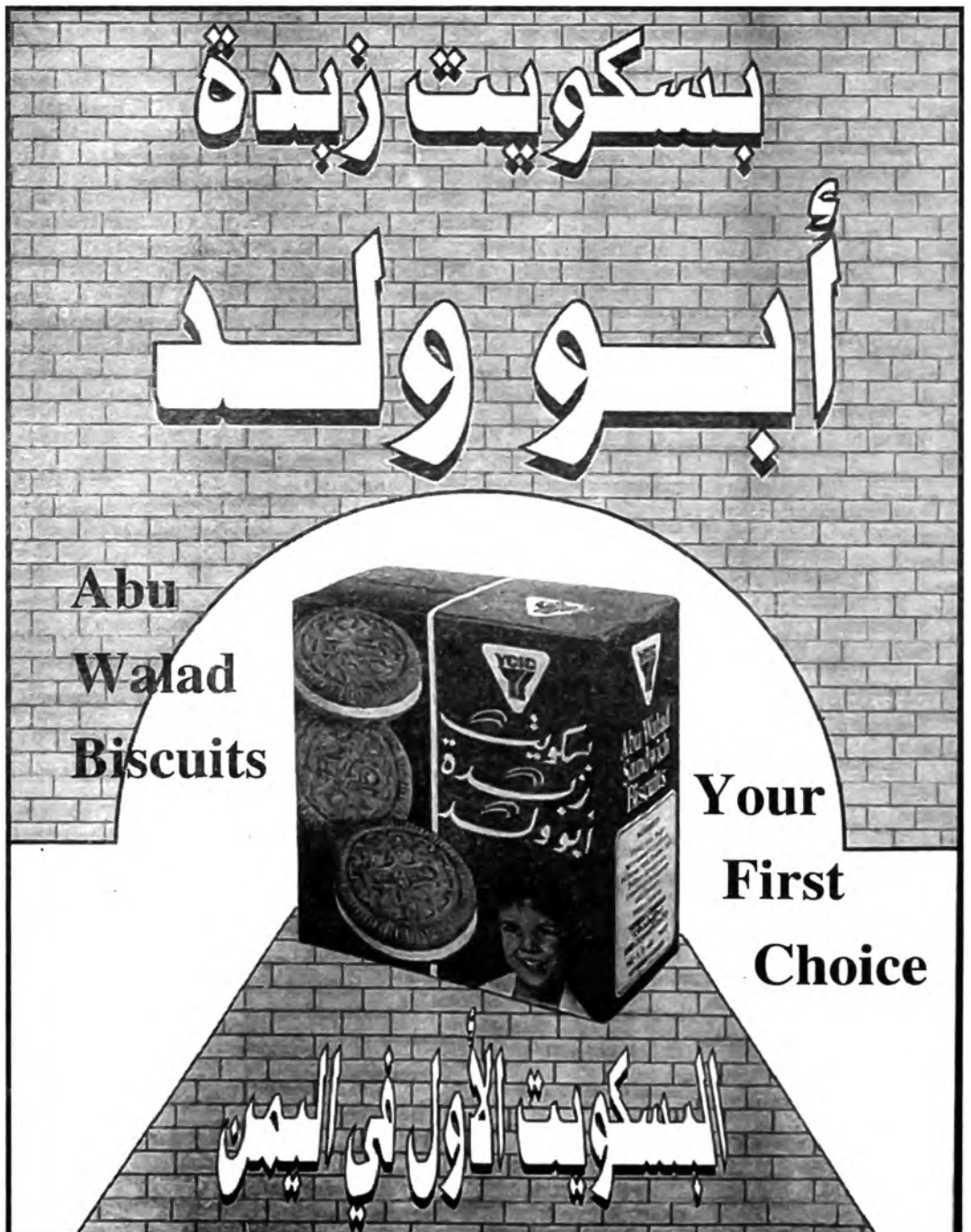
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the opportunity to gain some valuable political clout.

Maybe the Islah Party has become satisfied with the arrangements worked out with its partner for the upcoming elections. It looks like it has decided to lie low for a little while longer, while at the same time, picking up more parliamentary seats without being held for responsibility in the performance of the executive authority.

But the Islah may be forgetting one thing - that the People's General Congress (PGC) is undoubtedly the master of all political maneuvering in Yemen. The Islah may discover after elections that the only candles that will be lit up will be those on the victory cake of the PGC.



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## GAVTT & GTZ:

### Vocational Training Geared to Meet Market Needs

Bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany goes back many years. This cooperation covers many areas such as health, agriculture, manpower development and even radio broadcasting.

This low key but significant assistance has been important in that it gives a primary focus to enabling Yemen get the greatest level of exposure to technical know-how. For Yemen, this is very useful at this stage of its development.

Through the GTZ, the German government agency which oversees and manages German development assistance overseas, 15 projects are being executed in Yemen in many fields. One of them is in the area of manpower development, particularly in basic technical and vocational skills. This is a very challenging job in an environment beset by adverse social values, a stigma against manual work, lack of institutional set-up, and a far too long a span for decisions to become visualized on the scene.

To get a closer look at the promise that vocational training holds for Yemen's efforts in restructuring its economic base and human resource initiative, Hassan Al-Haifi of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Hans Kunsmann (Team leader) and Dr. Rheinhardt Mueller (Management and Organization expert) from the German Advisory Team working with the General Authority for Vocational and Technical Training (GAVTT).

**Dr. Kunsmann:**

**Q: Can you briefly give us an idea on the historical development of German involvement in vocational training?**

**A:** German involvement in vocational training in Yemen started in 1976 with the technical institute located on Baghdad Street. This is the former Yemeni-German Vocational Training Center. We were first working with the Ministry of Education to try to get the concept as well as the technicians into the mainstream of life in Yemen.

Then our involvement got deeper



in institutional development of vocational training. Our cooperation shifted from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Labor.

We are now working to increase focus and attention to setting standards and steering the course of vocational and technical training. For this, our cooperation is mainly with autonomous specialized agencies like GAVTT.

**Q: What is the scope of current German involvement in vocational training and development in the Republic of Yemen?**

**A:** Our involvement consists of an advisory team and other ongoing field programs in the development of training centers. This is to the tune of DM 5.1 million. We have recently agreed on a program to rehabilitate the Vocational Training Institute at Hadda and the Higher Technical Institute at Mu'alla at a total cost of DM 3.1 million.

**Q: Can you highlight some of**

**the functions of the advisory team in the GTZ assistance?**

**A:** Actually the GTZ vocational program is broken down from a functional standpoint into 3 elements: the Policy Element, which falls under my responsibility; the Organization and Management Element of which Mueller is in charge, and the Implementation element, which Mr. Peters, who is now in Aden, is handling.

**Q: On Policy, what trend would you like to see being followed in Yemen with regard to vocational training and the trade as a whole?**

**A:** I believe that the government from the President down to the small local administrator have now, wisely realized that vocational training should be guided by sectoral adjustments that will be based on the principles of privatization, decentralization and diversification. Along these lines we are working now on getting

vocational training and trade development to follow a market oriented approach, whereby the skills that are needed are those we seek to focus our attention on. This obviously means getting the market, which is primarily composed of private sector elements, involved with us in developing the skills that will in the long and even short run save them money.

That is why the National Training Council, the Skill Development Fund and the local training councils have significant, if not, majority private sector participation. The private sector is very much interested, simply because it means it will save money by being able to have the high technology equipment that sits in their factories maintained and repaired quicker and at less cost by skilled technicians in Yemen. The significance of decentralization in vocational training can be shown by such successful efforts as cooperative vocational training, where the GAVTT and the local Chambers of Commerce are getting not only large factories to share in vocational training, but even small workshops are also involved.

Thus the policy that we are helping to instill is vocational training geared to the needs of the market.

**Q: What are the hopes for women in what is generally regarded as a man's world, as vocational trades are viewed by most people?**

**A:** Ironically, vocational trades are not necessarily a man's world, even in Yemen. Do you know that in the Commercial School in Aden, 80% of the students are women, and 90% of the teachers are also women.

GTZ, along with other international organizations, like the World Bank, are working to upgrade the involvement of women in the vocational trades along the lines that will not be in contradiction to Islamic codes. The emphasis is to encourage women towards self employment and the initiation of small enter-



prises. To illustrate the increasing role of women in vocational training, GAVTT has now turned the Women's Department into a General Directorate.

**Mr. Mueller:**

**Q: What are the important areas that you see need to be developed to enhance vocational training?**

**A:** The most important element of my work here is to bring organization basics to GAVTT, to get market oriented training institutionalized, by smoothing down relationships between the major parties concerned: the government, the private sector and the public at large.

There are difficulties, granted, but I am optimistic and encouraged by the results. There need to be changes in attitude by everyone involved. But the fact that they are now coming together is a good sign. More important, people are now coming to seek advice, rather than just benefits.

**Q: What is required to get vocational training towards a smooth running track?**

**A:** My experience in Turkey and other places has convinced me that removing mistrust between different groups of people is the

big obstacle to be overcome. It is not easy when many years of mistrust have been built into people. But through patience and a gradual step by step approach, people will eventually see that relationships can change from bad to better.

Businessmen will then trust the government and government will realize that they are far more effective when they let the people participate in areas that really touch them directly. When we speak about labor market oriented training, we are only confirming that these businessmen are the people who really know what they want in terms of skilled manpower. This is important for the success of vocational training, since these are the people that will use the trained skilled technicians. This is the kind of responsible attitude that we like to have instilled. It is a learning process, no more and no less.

**Q: What is the amount that the people of the Federal Republic of Germany has invested in vocational training in the Republic of Yemen, since the programs began?**

**A:** Since 1976, the total would be over DM 60 million.

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## CHEST PAIN:

## Check It Out. It Could Be More Than Simple Discomfort!

By: Dr. Wang Ancai,  
Chinese Medical Team,  
Seiyun.

Chest pain - often described as "chest discomfort" - is a common symptom of patients seeking medical evaluation. An accurate assessment of the cause and significance of the various types of chest discomfort is important and in some instances lifesaving. It is known that the etiology of chest pain is often difficult to determine, because it may be the result of various disease processes in a variety of organs, its severity is often unrelated to its life-threatening potential, and its location perceived by the patient frequently does not correspond with its source and more than one disease process may be present. Etiologies of chest pain can be separated into major categories, cardiac and non-cardiac:

- 1- Cardiovascular including ischemic in origin - coronary atherosclerosis, aortic stenosis and regurgitation, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, severe systemic hypertension, severe right ventricular hypertension, severe anemia/hypoxic and nonischemic in origin- aortic dissection, pericarditis and mitral valve prolapse.
- 2- Gastrointestinal-esophageal reflux, esophageal spasm, esophageal rupture, cholecystitis and cholelithiasis.
- 3- Pulmonary-pulmonary embolus, pneumonia.
- 4- Neuromusculoskeletal-thoracic outlet syndrome, degenerative

joint disease of cervical/thoracic spine, costochondritis and herpes zoster.

5- Psychogenic- anxiety, depression and cardiac psychosis. It goes without saying that chest pain is one of the most common manifestations of cardiac disease. It is mainly the myocardial pain that worries the patient.

**ANGINA PECTORIS:**

The patient may experience pain or heaviness, squeezing, pressure discomfort, tightness, dyspnea or indigestion. typical symptoms are predictably brought on by exercise or stress particularly in cold weather or after a heavy meal. The pain usually is retrosternal but may be in the base of the neck or epigastrium and often radiates to the left arm (less frequently to the right arm), left chest or shoulder to the neck and jaw or back. Pain lasts from 2-5 minutes occasionally up to 10 minutes.

Angina pectoris is divided into stable, unstable and variant angina pectoris. It is important to classify each individual as treatment strategy is different for each subgroup. Variant angina pectoris does not follow the typical pattern of angina pectoris. Its symptoms are the same in character as stable angina but unpredictable in onset and unrelated to exertion. pain usually occurs at rest in late hours of night. It is usually associated with ST-segment elevation and arrhythmia during the episode. This is due to coronary spasm with obstructive coronary artery disease.

If pain remains longer than 10-20 minutes, it is due to myocardial ischemia. This pain may occur with mild exertion, or even it awakens the patient from sleep. pain resulting from myocardial infarction is variable in intensity, in majority being intolerable and lasting from 30 minutes to many hours. the pain may be constricting, oppressing or squeezing, at times stabbing or burning. Location and radiation of pain is similar to that of angina pectoris.

Angina is one of the three classic symptoms (angina, dyspnea and syncope) of aortic stenosis and is more frequent in aortic stenosis than in aortic regurgitation. Angina occurs in about 2/3 of the cases with aortic stenosis. It results from many factors, i.e. increased myocardial oxygen demand by hypertrophied left ventricle, decreased myocardial blood supply due to compression of coronaries rarely dislodged calcium particles from aortic valve and getting embolized into the coronaries. Angina may occur with normal coronary arteries as a result of an imbalance between the demand of the increased ventricular mass and the ability of the heart to supply blood but in older patients coronary artery disease is frequently presents.

**HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY**

It is a kind of heart muscle disease with unexplained ventricular hypertension occurring in absence of hypertension or aortic valve disease. Its main

features are chest pain, dyspnea and sudden death. Angina pectoris is multi-factorial arising from imbalance between oxygen supply and demand due to hypertrophied left ventricle narrowed small coronaries impaired diastolic relaxation producing prolonged myocardial wall tension and occasionally atherosclerotic coronaries.

**Pulmonary hypertension:-**

It is defined by the presence of a high pulmonary artery pressure reflecting increased pulmonary vascular resistance.

In many patients no specific cause is identified and the condition is termed primary pulmonary hypertension. The condition affects females more than males. Patients usually suffer from fatigue and exertional syncope, but chest pain or dyspnea may dominate. Chest pain may radiate to neck. It may be attributed to myocardial; ventricle narrowed small coronaries, impaired diastolic relaxation producing prolonged myocardial wall tension and occasionally atherosclerotic coronaries. Also chest pain can be attributed to dilation of the main pulmonary artery and its major branches.

**Aortic Dissection:**

Aortic intimal tear followed by tracking of blood into the aortic media. The usual site is the ascending aorta but other sites of origin are possible. It is a less common condition. Predisposing causes include hypertension, Marfan syndrome, Ehlers-danlos syndrome, bicuspid valve and chest trauma. Sudden onset of severe precordial or interscapular pain is characteristic frequently radiating to the back, flank, abdomen or legs. Pain may be cutting or tearing in quality. A small percentage of patients have no chest pain. It can be

associated with syncope, transient paralysis of legs, hemiplegia, difference in pulse and blood pressure in legs and arms.

**Acute Pericarditis:-**

Inflammation of the pericardium is most commonly due to infection with viruses. however, the range of causes is wide; bacterial, rheumatic diseases, neoplastic, uremia and following myocardial infarction. It is characterized by sharp chest pain, pericardial friction rub and serial electrocardiogram abnormalities. Pain may be cordial and is improved by sitting up or leaning forward. pain lasts for hours. it goes to the neck and or shoulder. Pericardial rub may or may not be present with chest pain and vice versa is true for chest pain.

**Mitral Valve Prolapse:**

This is an increasingly diagnosed valve lesion. The incidence depends on the criteria applied but ranges of 3-15% are quoted for otherwise normal women. it is usually seen in anxious asthenic built individuals with chest deformity. patients are usually symptoms free but may complain of chest pain and palpitations. spectrum of disease exists from mild prolapse(click) through mild mitral regurgitations to severe mitral regurgitation. Pain is thought to be due to tension on papillary muscle or left ventricular wall motion abnormalities.

**Reflux Esophagitis:**

esophagus and stomach are innervated by automatic nervous system and esophageal or gastric pain can present with visceral-type chest pain or upper abdomen that are difficult to differentiate from those related to myocardial ischemia or infarction.

Therefore, pain of esophagitis can mimic angina pectoris. heartburn which is burning retrosternal discomfort that may radiate to the sides of the chest, neck, or jaw is a typical symptom of reflux esophagitis secondary to incompetence of lower esophageal sphincter occurs in epigastrium and spreads upwards.

**Costochondritis:**

Costochondritis joint swelling pain is relatively common. It is aggravated by moving or coughing. tenderness can be elicited by pressing locally. Condition may persist for months. Etiology is unknown.

**Herpes Zoster:**

Pre-eruption phase of herpes zoster may pose diagnostic problem. Local dermatomes may be sensitive and patients may have fever and malaise and feel severe chest pain. After eruption appears diagnosis becomes quite obvious.

**Anxiety:**

Patients present with multiple complaints- chest pain is dull, persistent pinpointed localized typically to cardiac apex. Chest pain may be associated with weakness, breathlessness, palpitation. Chest pain may be pinpointed and may last for hours or days. Pain is unrelated to exercise. pain under the left breast or right over the heart (cardio apex) generally is not aginal. Chest wall tenderness is not a feature of angina pectoris. these patients may present with hyperventilation syndrome. Sometimes voluntarily can precipitate these symptoms. Condition may be worsened by emotional strain or fatigue. Pain is particularly relieved with rest, tranquilizers and placebo.

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AL-ZUBAIRI**

## الف مبروك

يتقدم الزملاء والأصدقاء  
بأحر التهاني وأطيب  
التبريكات  
للأستاذ حسين صالح الزبيري  
بمناسبة حصوله على درجة  
الماجستير  
بتقدير عام «إمتياز» من  
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الجمهورية اليمنية  
جامعة صنعاء  
الدراسات العليا والبحث العلمي

### شهادة مؤتمنة

تعلمه الدراسات العليا والبحث العلمي بماتعة ستعاء بان  
الطالب/ حسين صالح حسين الزبيري /بماتعة ستعاء والمولود  
في ادن ابابا ، المشقه بتاريخ / ١٩٩٧ء  
قد حصل على درجة الماجستير بتقدير امتياز في الانجليزية تخصص  
لغويات (The Ethos of The Common Man in Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot)  
المقدمة منه بعنوان: "ساعات الرجل العنقابي في سرجية سنام"  
وأيد ببيتك في انتظار الجودو  
وقد قرر مجلس الجامعة منح الدرجة بتاريخ ١٥ / ١١ / ١٩٩٦ء بناء على  
توصية مجلس الدراسات العليا والبحث العلمي .  
تميزاً في ١ / ١ / ١٩٩٧ء

مدير تعليم الدراسات العليا

١٩٩٧/١١/١٥

مدير إدارة  
الدراسات العليا

يعتمد  
نائب رئيس الجامعة للدراسات العليا  
والبحوث  
١٩٩٧



# YEMEN: Ratification without Implementation

The following is the exact and full reproduction of the final summary of the 1996 Amnesty International Report on Yemen, issued on March 27th.

The nearly 60 page report is full of details on violations and recommendations. Yemen Times offers below the summary chapter.

But, before that, maybe it is interesting to reproduce an extract from a letter from Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, to Amnesty International:

**"I have received a press release issued by Amnesty International following the recent visit to Yemen.**

**I was surprised at the harsh criticism of my country's human rights record mentioned in this document.**

**While the Yemeni Government is trying to correct any mistakes in this field that might have happened without its knowledge, and prevent their recurrence in the future, it is really sad and painful to see a well-respected organization like Amnesty International engaging itself in criticizing my country without bothering on the other hand, to mention the remarkable development and tremendous steps taken by my government in this field."**

Some patterns of human rights violations in Yemen are perpetuated due to a range of reasons, particularly the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators, while others are legalized and carried out by the state. The climate of impunity has effectively encouraged the widespread practice of arbitrary arrest and detention of political suspects by security forces, particularly by members of the PSO (Political Security Office) whose activities in this respect have been beyond any judicial supervision as they are accountable only to the President. Abduction and beatings of government critics and opponents, abuses by armed political groups, torture and deaths in custody, "disappearances", extrajudicial executions, violations of the rights of women and refugees have been widespread. Hundreds of people have fallen victim to these human rights violations, but Amnesty International is not aware of any case where those who perpetrated them have been successfully prosecuted and the rights of the victims redressed in accordance with domestic law and international human rights standards.

Human rights violations sanctioned by law in Yemen include those of the judicial punishments of flogging, amputation, the death penalty and discrimination against women. The government has extended the scope of these in the new Penal Code. Such extensions are in flagrant contravention of Yemen's obligations under international human rights treaties. In addition, these punishments are being implemented without adequate trial safeguards. Such factors have made these grave punishments easy to implement. Flogging has become a daily event throughout the country, and sentences of amputation and executions are on the increase. These trends seem set to increase further unless the government takes immediate action to introduce international trial safeguards for prisoners facing such punishments and initiate policies to work towards their total abolition, and to implement measures to ensure equal treatment of women and men.

The concerns of Amnesty International have been similar to those expressed by the Human Rights Committee when it considered the report on Yemen at its 53rd session in April 1995.

"The Committee expresses its deep concern at allegations of arbitrary deprivation of life, acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention, abusive treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, and violations of the right to a fair trial. It is deeply concerned that those violations were not followed by inquiries or investigations, that the perpetrators of such acts were not punished, and that the victims were not compensated. Ill-treatment of prisoners and overcrowding of prisons continue to be of concern".

## GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKINGS

An Amnesty International delegation discussed the concerns detailed in this report with the Yemeni Government. The government welcomed some of Amnesty International's recommendations and rejected others on various grounds. Specifically the government undertook to look into arbitrary arrest, torture, some cases of "disappearances", and human rights violations against women.

### i. Arbitrary arrest

The authorities acknowledged that the PSO should be made accountable to law. They said that the government had been looking into ways of possibly creating a public prosecution office to specifically supervise their activities. The Attorney General agreed as a minimum to issue a circular with immediate effect to all arresting authorities, particularly the PSO, to remind them that arrests can be carried out only in full compliance with the requirements contained in the Constitution and CCP. The requirements are that arrests are prohibited except by judicial warrant or in cases of *flagrante delicto*, that suspects must be informed of the reason for arrest, that detainees are guaranteed the right of access to a lawyer and relatives within 24 hours, and that any arrested suspect must be brought before a judge or prosecutor within 24 hours of arrest. It was also agreed that the circular would remind all arresting authorities that violation of these safeguards is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment, and that offenders will not escape punishment.

### ii. Torture

The government acknowledged that torture takes place, but stated that this was not a result of deliberate policy. The Attorney General expressed appreciation for Amnesty International's recommendations to stamp out torture and undertook to establish a torture monitoring unit in his office. Amnesty International recommended that the unit should be built around two principal objectives - obtaining redress for torture victims and preventing torture. With regard to redress, the unit should play a direct role in investigating all cases of alleged torture, including those where no formal claim had been filed. All allegations of torture should be reported to the unit for investigation.

The unit's investigations should be conducted in accordance with both Yemeni law prohibiting torture and international human rights standards. In particular, the investigation should be prompt, be guided by the principles of independence and impartiality, and any findings should immediately be made public. In situations where no claim had been filed as yet, the unit's role should, at a minimum, be to take initiatives to assist potential claimants and alleviate the legal burden which has been a recurrent obstacle in obtaining court hearings of cases. The unit should ensure that the claimants have access to all relevant documentary evidence, including police and other official records and post-mortem reports. The government should also consider initiating prosecution of the perpetrators.

Amnesty International also recommended that the unit's preventative role should entail at least three measures. Firstly, the unit should be made known to the public and security forces alike, with explicit directives making clear that torture is a crime and offenders will not escape punishment, in accordance with Yemen's international obligations under Article 4 of the CAT. These directives should include the duty to disobey superior orders to inflict torture, as implied by Article 5 of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. Secondly, the unit should conduct regular, as well as unannounced, visits to detention centers to interview detainees about their treatment upon arrest and during detention. Thirdly, it should ensure that detainees are given an independent medical examination upon arrest and regularly during detention.

### iii. Investigation of Cases of "disappearances" since 1994

The Attorney General undertook to investigate the cases of people who have "disappeared" since 1994. Amnesty International submitted a sample of 28 such cases. In one case, that of Farazdaq Fu'ad Qaied, the organization provided the Attorney General with the home address of the victim's mother in order to facilitate his contact with her to seek further information and to keep her informed of the progress of his investigation and the findings. The organization also undertook to provide the Attorney General with similar details of other victims' relatives as they become available.

### iv. Human Rights Violations against Women

The Attorney General agreed to look into human rights violations against women. In particular, he undertook to order the immediate release of any women detained without charge or not charged with a recognizably criminal offense. In addition, the Minister of Foreign Affairs proposed the establishment of an association to provide assistance to women prisoners. Amnesty International welcomed such a suggestion particularly as one such organization had reportedly been denied authorization by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Amnesty International proposed that the association's assistance to women prisoners could take the form of helping to organize their visits to the court to judge, contacting medical staff for sick prisoners or their children, contacting their families, and, for foreign prisoners, contacting embassies. The association could also help organize activities in the prison such as workshops, which are understood to be available to male prisoners but are limited for females.

### v. Pro-active Human Rights Program

The program undertook to consider the development of a general pro-active program for the prevention of human rights violations. The program would reflect the directions of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993 and the UN conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

### vi. Cooperation with Amnesty International

Amnesty International offered to provide any assistance within its means that would speed up or help the government to carry forward the above undertakings. The organization has already provided the authorities with proposals about these undertakings. The government in turn agreed to cooperate with Amnesty International, including informing it of steps taken to achieve the above objectives. At the time of writing the organization has into received any information from the government regarding progress made in implementing the undertakings.

### vii. Amnesty International's Continuing Concerns

While Amnesty International welcomes the above mentioned undertakings, it remains concerned that on other equally important human right issues, the government appears to be unwilling or reluctant to act on the organization's recommendations. Such recommendations relate specifically to the lack of judicial accountability of arresting authorities, particularly the PSO; review of the cases of political prisoners; lack of investigation of cases of alleged torture and of deaths in custody, abduction and beatings, long standing cases of "disappearances", and abuses by armed opposition groups; restriction and abolition of judicial punishments of flogging, amputation and the death penalty; and the equal treatment of women, the protection of women prisoners, refugees and asylum-seekers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Amnesty International urges the government to reconsider its position on these concerns and to take steps to address them. In particular, the organization urges the government to include in its implementation of the above undertakings the following recommended steps:

i. Immediate steps must be taken to ensure that arrest and detention are always carried out under independent and impartial judicial supervision in order to protect suspects from being arrested and detained solely on the basis of their political, religious or other beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, or other discriminatory basis.

ii. Immediate action should be taken to release Mansur Rajih and anyone else currently detained for the non-violent expression of his or her political, religious or other beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, or for other discriminatory reasons.

iii. The government should commute the death sentences against the political prisoners mentioned in Section II (of the report). It should initiate an independent and impartial judicial review into their cases or ensure they are re-tried by an independent and impartial tribunal in accordance with international standards for fair trial as set down in Article 14 of the ICCPR.

iv. Allegations of torture and incidents of abduction and beatings should be immediately subjected to thorough, independent and impartial investigations in accordance with Yemen's international obligations under the CAT, particularly Articles 12 & 13.

- a) The government should ensure that the legal system provides for the victims of torture and their dependents to obtain financial compensation. Victims should also be provided with appropriate medical care or rehabilitation. This is accordance with Article 14 of the CAT.

- b) The government should comply with its international obligation under Article 19 of the CAT filing its initial report with the Committee Against Torture thereby allowing for scrutiny of its undertaking to eradicate torture.

- c) All perpetrators of torture should be brought to justice.

v. Independent, impartial and public commissions of inquiry should be set up to investigate allegations of torture, incidents of abduction and beatings, abuse by armed political groups, deaths in custody, extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and violations of the rights of refugees. The inquiries should be conducted in accordance with international human rights standards, including those set down in the CAT and the Principles for the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions. The findings of such investigations should be made public, the perpetrators brought to justice and the rights of the victims redressed.

vi. The government should commute all out-

standing sentences of flogging and amputation and take steps to bring Yemen into line with international standards, including Article 7 of the ICCPR, which prohibits the use of these punishments. Pending the achievement of this objective, the government should ensure with immediate effect that international trial safeguards for prisoners facing the death penalty are strictly observed in cases of defendants facing the punishments of flogging and amputation.

vii. The government should abolish the death penalty in law for all offenses. Amnesty International urges that until the death penalty is abolished, no further executions be carried out, that steps be taken to commute the death sentences of those on death row, and that further death sentences be imposed.

Pending the abolition of the death penalty the government should:

- a) Ensure that judicial authorities implement the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty: (ECOSOC Resolution 1984/50)

- b) Comply with Article 6(5) of the ICCPR by ensuring that the death sentence is not imposed on juveniles.

- c) Amend the law so that the death penalty is imposed only for the most serious crimes, resulting in death or other extremely grave consequences, and is not misused against people for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

viii. The government should in addition to the undertaking to look into cases of women prisoners, take effective measures to end the practice of detaining women beyond expiry of sentences until they are collected by male relatives and protect women as a vulnerable group against torture.

Specifically the government should:

- a) Issue clear instructions to prison, police and judicial authorities to stop the detention of women beyond expiry of their sentences. Such instructions should also explain that such detention amounts to deprivation of liberty, which is an offense under Article 246 of the Penal Code, and anyone who breaches this article will be punished by up to five years' imprisonment;

- b) The government should adopt a long term strategy to stop arrest, detention and interrogation of women by male only police officers, prison guards or members of the judiciary. In the meantime, the government should ensure with immediate effect that arrest and interrogation of women are carried out by male officers only with the presence of a female officer or female lawyer. In addition, the government should ensure that women in detention are supervised by female staff. In cases where such an option is not available, the detainees should be given regular access to relatives, friends and lawyers;

- c) Initiate a review of legislation to ensure the equal treatment of women, consistent with its international treaty obligations under the Beijing Platform of Action.

ix. The Government of Yemen, as a State Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, must abide, by its obligations under the Convention, to identify and protect all people in need of protection through the introduction of fair and satisfactory asylum procedures. It must undertake not to forcibly return any person to a country where he or she is likely to face human rights violations. In addition, the government should clarify the fate and whereabouts of those foreign nationals forcibly removed from Yemen whose cases are mentioned in Section XI (of the report).

x. The government should ensure that there is compliance by the authorities with human rights safeguards in Yemen's Constitution and law and in international treaties.

The government should review the extent to which there is compliance by national institutions, such as the security forces and courts, with human rights guarantees in Yemen's Constitution and laws and its international obligations under the ICCPR and the CAT, and take the necessary legislative and administrative measures.

Amnesty International urges the prompt implementation of these recommendations and would extend its cooperation to the government to further these objectives.



## Qat: A Problem of Regional Dimension

Dr. Fared Mohammed Saeed,  
M.D., General Police Hospital,  
Sanaa.

Qat - *Catha Edulis* Forskal - is an evergreen bush. It belongs to the plant family *Celastraceae* which includes more than 40 genera and 400 species of plants. Many of the plants are found almost all over the world except in the two polar regions. Some of them have been used in herbal medicine especially in African and middle Eastern countries. Cassia erocum for instance is used as a laxative and cassia velutium is used for treating dysentery and ailments of the digestive tract.

European scientists first knew of Qat when it was identified by the Swedish botanist Peter Forskal who discovered the plant during his visit to Yemen in 1763. He later died of influenza and buried in the town of Yareem in Yemen. His accompanying colleague Carsten Neibor continued his botanical research wrote a book entitled *Flora Aegyptiaca* in 1775. In this book and in memory of Neibor named the qat plant after his dead colleague-catha *Endulis* Forskal.

Qat resembles a plant named *Euonymus* European which largely grows in Europe. Qat is also known by other names such as *celestras edulis*, *Trigono-theca serrate* or *Methys cophyllaum glaucun*. It is known popularly in Yemen as *Abuzarbeen*, in Kenya and Tanzania as *mizza* or *Arab tea*.

Qat requires special climate conditions to grow. That is why its cultivation is almost limited to Yemen and eastern and southern



Africa. The plant itself has no seeds nor does it flower. Saplings are taken from itself from a mother tree which usually gives about 9 new plants every year. The type of soil plays a big part in growing qat. Good soil is usually found on 800-1600 m high cliffs. Only low quality qat can be grown in plains and low altitude regions. A qat tree can reach a height of 20 ft, but it is usually pruned so as to allow it to grow sideways making it easier to pick its leaves. Qat plants can grow to become 20 years old. It produces fresh new leaves throughout the year.

Thus, qat is available all the year round. Only the fresh and supple leaves which are at branch tips are chewed. A qat tree shows big flexibility toward changes in natural elements. It can withstand strong winds and cold weather. It does not require much toiling to take care of. Locusts for instance, do not require qat. Qat branches are in color, cylindrical in shape

and slightly flat at their tips. The leaves are reddish green in color and grow opposite each other at the top of the branch and alternately at its bottom. Each leaf has two little ears and a short neck. It is oval in shape with a serrated edge and web of veins.

### Distribution of Qat in World Region:

There are several types of qat with varying and distinguished effects on its users. These differences are due mainly to variations in climate and soil.

#### I. Yemen

It is mainly grown in Sana'a and its outskirts, Sab, Ibb, Yafi, Dali, and several other regions.

#### II. Southern & Eastern Africa:

It is grown in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Qat was also present in Palestine. The story is that it was carried over by Yemeni Jews who immigrated to that land in the mid-1940s.

Many attempts were made to grow qat in India, Sri Lanka, the USA, Algeria, and a few other countries. But most of those attempts failed to bear fruit, primarily because of legal, institutional and other hindrances.

Qat is chewed extensively in Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and in Palestine by Jews of Yemeni origin.

The next article will be about qat's chemical structure and its effects on human beings.

## Women & Economic Reforms

By - Ibtisam Qudar,  
Aden office, Yemen Times.

On Tuesday, March 25th, 1997, a seminar was held on the relationship between gender and economic reforms as seen by women. This comes as a follow-up on earlier meetings, especially the one in Aden on Sunday March 23, 1997.

The sequel of meetings is sponsored by the British Council, and the Netherlands Embassy. The World Bank and Care, were also included in a smaller way. In all of them, a large number of women, active in public life are involved. They also lead to various workshops on specific issues.

In addition to presentation by locals, foreign experts made presentations. These include Mr. Arun Joshi (Education Specialist and representative of the World Bank), Ms Irene Van Steveran (Researcher at Erasmus University, Rotterdam-representing the Royal Netherlands Embassy), Ms. Nanneke Redclift (Reader of Anthropology at University College, London - representing the British Council).

Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development, gave a lengthy address at the Sanaa forum, while Governor Taha Ghanim kicked off the meeting in Aden.

The topics discussed touched on women rights, girls' education, women's health, employment and income. The forum concluded with some specific recommendations, as follows:

- Enacting a law covering women's rights.



- Guaranteeing equal work rights.  
- Encouraging and financing manual products in order to open new markets.  
- Issuing a law to promote male and female teachers in rural areas and to work for a decentralized policy in administration.  
- Improving the social and cultural level for all people.

Katherine Potter of the British Council, who has been key to the meetings, told the Yemen Times that the report on the subject will be available in about two weeks. "The aim has been to raise women's awareness of the current structural adjustment program and how to protect vulnerable groups," she said.

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**More Massacred in Algerian Madness**

Thirty two civilians had their throats slit or were hacked to death with axes last week in Ouled Antar village near Ksar Boukhari, about 50 kms south of Algiers, the capital, in a fresh massacre blamed on militants. Thirteen armed militants were killed the same week, Wednesday. Eight of them were killed in Nasiria, 70 kms east of the capital, when a bomb they were carrying exploded, and the other five in a raid by security forces in the El Madania district of Algiers. Reports from Algeria continue to carry sordid stories of atrocities committed against civilians, armed militias, and soldiers. The story of the massacre, last week, however, shows a new twist. About 30 assailants armed with shotguns, axes and knives descended on the village, inhabited by farmers and their families, in early afternoon. Within a half-hour, they had methodically cut down about 32 people, including 16 women and an adolescent, from four families. Some of the victims were finished off with an axe after they refused to leave their homes, it was reported.

**GCC Arbitration Center to Open Soon**

The Gulf Cooperation Council Commercial Arbitration Center, which has not been fully operational because of lack of funds, will soon be functioning with a fixed budget, officials of the Gulf Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FGCCI) said last week. The center, headquartered in Bahrain, was established in November 1994 after the FGCCI ratified the rules creating it. The GCC officially announced in March 1995 that the center had become operational even without a budget. The center's charter stipulated that the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry will finance the center's budget and operational expenses until the end of the third financial year, after which the GCC member states shall equally contribute to fund the budget of the center in the following year. FGCCI officials said that the budget is expected to be approved during the meeting of the board of directors in Muscat next month. The Muscat gathering will also discuss vital issues such as upgrading of obsolete industrial estates in Gulf countries, holding of the 12th GCC joint exhibition to be hosted by Oman in 1999, establishment of a regional secretariat for the envisioned Union of Gulf Investment, and the opening of cross-boarding employment for GCC nationals which will liberalize and open employment opportunities for Gulf residents in any of the GCC states. Besides equal contributions from GCC countries, the center will also receive payments for services rendered to clients, accept donations and grants, and keep the proceeds from sales of the center's publications and periodicals. Since it had not really started functioning during the last three years, the center was unable to generate income. The center is empowered to examine commercial disputes between GCC nationals, or between them and others. The center is also mandated to resolve commercial conflict arising from the implementation of the GCC unified economic agreement and the resolutions issued for the implementation of the agreement.

**Indonesia's Economy Grows by 7.8%**

Indonesia's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 7.8% in 1996, compared to 8.1% the year before, said National Development Planning Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said. "The growth of the Indonesian economy in 1996, measured by the growth of the GDP based on constant 1993 prices, reached 7.82%," he said after meeting Indonesian President Suharto. He said that the 1996 growth was 0.72 percentage points above the average target in a five year development plan that runs to March 1999. The economy grew by 8.21% 1995 and 7.45% in 1994, he added. "The slowing adown of the economic growth is in line with the cooling down of the economy as an impact of a slowing down of the growth in domestic demand," Ginanjar said.

**'Relief' for Rwandan Refugees?**

Zairian rebels told the world community last week to "stop crying" over the fate of tens of thousands of Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire, some of whom are guilty of mass murder. "The international community must stop weeping and crying and come to fetch them," rebel "justice minister" Kongolo Mwenze said, when asked about the fate of up to 100,000 refugees stranded at Ubundu. The town is a fragile government-held enclave 150 km to the south of Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city, which was captured by the rebels two weeks back. Aid agencies are desperate to reach the refugees, who have fled ahead of the five-month rebel offensive through eastern Zaire, insisting they are dying of hunger and disease. His call exposes the humanitarian dilemma facing countries and aid agencies trying to help the refugees, because some of them undoubtedly took part in the Rwandan genocide of mid-1994. More than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by extremist Hutu militias and soldiers of the former Rwanda army (Far), and when Tutsis seized control, most of the perpetrators fled to Zaire. The first question is: Should the international community jump to the aid of alleged mass murderers? Secondly, how can it distinguish them from the many innocent people who, maybe because of intimidation by the extremists among them, have trekked for weeks and months through rainforest, leaving their weakest to die en route? As the Zairian Tutsi-led rebels seized more territory, the remaining Hutu refugees have had only two options: return to Rwanda, and risk being accused of genocide, or retreat further into the bush. Of the estimated 1.2 million Rwandan refugees in Zaire last year, 750,000 have chosen to return home, but that still leaves 400,000. The rebels want the refugees out of the way. "They hinder our advance." Zairian rebel leader Laurent-desire Kabila, who just finished talks in Togo - within the framework of the African mini-summit - with representatives of the Mobutu Government - extended his unilaterally declared ceasefire around Kisangani to allow refugees who had fled the onslaught to return, and for relief flights to resume. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Paul Stromberg said the team would speak to local authorities to find out the situation in Ubundu.

**Pal Cabinet Gives Go-Ahead for Population, Housing Census**

The government of Pakistan last week approved a proposal to hold Pakistan's first population and housing census since 1981. The lack of clear population figures has become a political issue in recent years, with local and international poll monitors complaining after the February 3 elections that voter registration policies could not be fair without a firm count. "The Cabinet has decided in principle that a census will go ahead," Mushahid Hussain, media adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, told journalists in Islamabad. He said details were still being worked out. In a cabinet meeting last week, officials also approved amendments to anti-corruption legislation that is to go before the next session of the National Assembly, another spokesman said. Sikandir Hayat said the amendments do not change the spirit of the law, originally promulgated by an interim government that ruled Pakistan for 3 months after former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was sacked in November, 1996, on corruption charges. One amendment makes it easier for authorities to arrest suspects in corruption cases, he said. The current law permits arrests to be made only on the direct orders of the chief anti-corruption commissioner. Another amendment allows the government to pardon any officials who make full disclosures of their involvement or knowledge of corrupt activities so that further graft can be prevented. Hayat said Sahrif had received numerous complaints of low-level corruption and decided to create district level committees of several people, including at least one woman, to help weed out mismanagement. These sub-district committees are to become "the eyes and the ears of the government - not to take action, just to report to us," he said. At another level, the Nawaz Sharif Government is addressing the issue of Kashmir, which has poisoned relations with India. Talks at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister level have already been initiated.

**Russian-Turkish Deal on Gas Pipeline**

Russian and Turkish delegates reached last week an accord on a proposed pipeline under the Black Sea to bring Russian natural gas to Turkey, the Anatolia agency reported. The 1,200-kilometer (750-mile) pipeline will run from Izobilnaya in Russia to arrive at Dzhubga on the Black Sea coast. From there it will link up with Samsun in Turkey, crossing the sea bed at a depth of up to 2,150 meters (7,000 feet). The cost is expected to be around US \$3.3 billion. Russia's state gas company, Gazprom, the Turkish construction firm Gama and the Turkish public gas and oil transport company, Botas, have created a joint company-Turusgaz - to operate the pipeline on Turkish soil. The pipeline will initially transport eight billion cubic meters of gas per year, rising progressively to double that figure. At present, natural gas supplied by Russia to Turkey transits through Ukraine and Bulgaria. Turkey signed a major contract for gas supply with Iran last year worth \$20 billion over 30 years. The country has also signed preliminary deals with Algeria, Egypt, Yemen and Qatar.



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## *When Hard Work and Clear Vision Produce Their Fruits*

# SALAKHANA NEIGHBORHOOD IN HODEIDAH: “Now adequate for human living.”

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

In the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and Yemen's ill-fated position in the conflict, nearly one million Yemeni immigrant workers and their families were kicked out of the Gulf countries, notably out of Saudi Arabia. Most of these came by land, and they passed through Hodeidah, placing a heavy burden on the city's limited resources and services. More burdensome was the fact that many decided to stay.

All of a sudden, new slum-quarters emerged, with dismal conditions. The worst of these was the Salakhana encampment.

Year after year - until 1994, I went there to witness human agony and write about it.

Last week, I went there, one more time, after a 3-year interruption. What I saw came as a pleasant surprise.

In 1993, the Hodeidah Health Office, along with donor projects, established an urban health development based on 10 health sub-centers, grouped around three main centers. "Each center has a clearly demarcated catchment area, and together the centers cover the whole city," explained Mr. Roy Stoves, the Dutch counterpart in the operation.

One of the first things, the team initiated was a survey of the standards of living. The results of a sample survey of 1,263 households spread in 33 neighborhoods for this commercial city established four categories of residents, as follows:

- The "upper class", numbering 64,000 representing 20.8%;
- The "middle class", numbering 150,000 representing 48.7%;
- The "established poor", numbering 39,000 representing 12.7%;
- The "new poor" (returnees) numbering 55,000 representing 17.9%.

Total population of Hodeidah in 1993 = 308,000 residents.

One of the first questions raised was the willingness and ability of the poor for the badly-needed medical services. The discussions led to the establishment, in September 1995, a community participation and cost-sharing program, including a revolving drug fund. The idea was a novel one, and it combined two aspects of modern systems:

- That the people choose a pool of representatives to engage the project and participate in its decisions;
- That the project leaders nominate five-to-six from among the pool of representatives to form the board for each center.

This board determines policies, fee levies, use of the funds and other decisions. "The idea has worked very nicely. At the end of the first three-year experience, I can say that we can safely continue on this pattern," explained Marina De Regt, Social Worker, who is responsible for community participation.

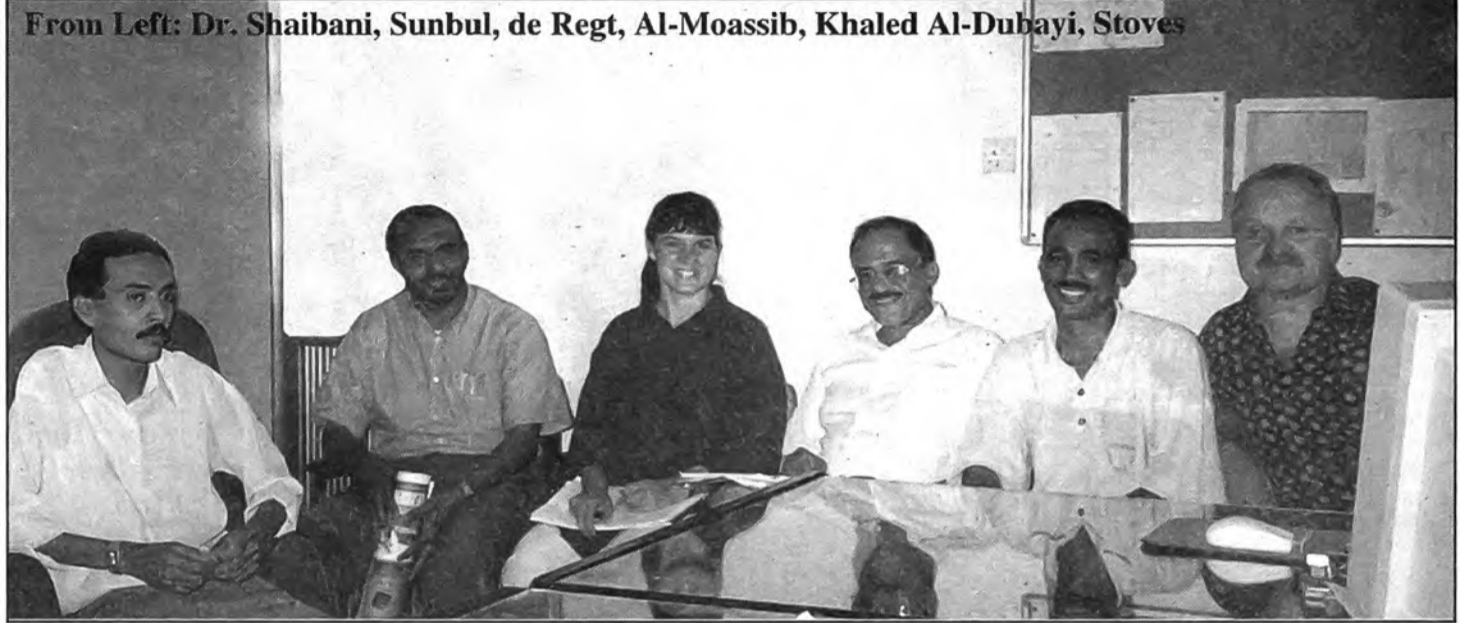
Dr. Khaled Al-Shaibani, Director of the Project, agrees. "We think that the pilot project is a good model to replicate in other locations," he indicated. Indeed, the enthusiasm and hope one feels among the project staff and beneficiaries reflects visibly with the frustration and disappointment in other parts of the country, or even in other sectors within the city itself.

But caring for the health of a population is not a one-sector business. It has to do with nutrition, water supply, sewer flow, education, solid waste disposal, and many other responsibilities, in addition to the standard preventive and curative medicine. Towards that end, the mandate of the centers was broadened, and new partners were brought in. The Yemeni Government, represented by the Ministry of Health, gave strong backing. This is in the form of construction, personnel salary, and various overheads. The donors - the Netherlands Government, CARE, OXFAM, ICRC, the Yemen Red Crescent, etc.

One of the new projects is the "Solid Waste Collection Project" in Salakhana neighborhood. This project, executed in collaboration with Pan Yemen Consult, is to serve as a model, and it to be have three distinct responsibilities:

1. To collect and dispose of the mountains of rubbish that has accumulated on the streets over the years.
2. To design an implement a system for future solid waste disposal in a cost-effective way.

From Left: Dr. Shaibani, Sunbul, de Regt, Al-Moassib, Khaled Al-Dubayi, Stoves



3. To involve the population in the process.

The first month of the project already shows impressive results. Abdul-Rahman Al-Moassib and Abdullah Sunbul, both of Pan Yemen Consult, proudly showed us around how much has been done. "There is a new mood in the air. The residents feel better and they have engaged us positively," they said.

After talking to the team of administrators, experts and planners, it was time to visit one of the sites. I asked to see the Salakhana neighborhood and the health center in it. I had a few pleasant surprises waiting for me.

1. Remembering the mountain of rubbish in all street corners and intersections, I was happy with the clean streets. As we drove around, one of my colleagues joked, "These streets are cleaner than the ones in Sanaa." That is not exactly true, but he was making a point.

2. As we drove, I saw long lines of children - boys and girls - in street uniform headed for school. Imagine, there are two schools in this place that was once a dump for returnees.

3. Then, there was an additional news. The shacks and houses of straw and cardboard have given way to more permanent fixtures of cement blocks. There were even cars near the houses. Left on their own, people have struggled to improve their lives. At this, another rider exclaimed, "This is an example of capitalism at work."

4. There was a clean health center which provided various services ranging from nutrition, hygiene and sanitation information, to family planning, to immunization services, to medical treatment, and to even daycare.

Inside the Salakhana Health Center, I met with Ms. Nabeelah Abdo Fare', the lady in charge of the center. In a very self-confident voice, she explained various aspects of the center. Proudly showing us around, she held us for a much longer time than we had planned, but it was all worth it. Department after another, we met with young women (murshidat) - almost exclusively recruited from the local community - who were performing their work inside the center, and carrying out door-to-door services. They had received their training in the Hodeidah health training institute.

There is one catch, however. Politics could intrude, especially in these elections days. Byt Roy Stoves says otherwise. "Much, less than we thought. We'd expected it (politics) to be a big problem. There are some incidents, particularly as the elections are getting nearer."

The Dutch contribution is about 40% of the monthly running costs. The Ministry of Health provides 52%, mainly in the form of salaries of the staff. Revenue from services rendered covers the remaining 8%, which is rising over time.

Two months ago



One month ago



Today





# ALFA

## Inaugurates its new branch in Aden



The governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanim, inaugurated the ALFA company branch showroom in Aden on 24th March.

ALFA Co. Ltd. is the general sales agent for National, Panasonic and Technic - the new branch is opened in Madram Street in Al-Ma'alla area of Aden. The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Governor, Mr. Waheed Ali Rasheed, the military commander of the Southern and Western regions, staff col. Mohammed Ali Mohsin, the Director of Security, Mr. Mohammed Saleh Tariq, ALFA's General Manager, Mr. Hussein Al-Rasheedy, and the Director of Maintenance in the Middle East region, Mr. Agora, in addition to a number of businessmen and interested people.



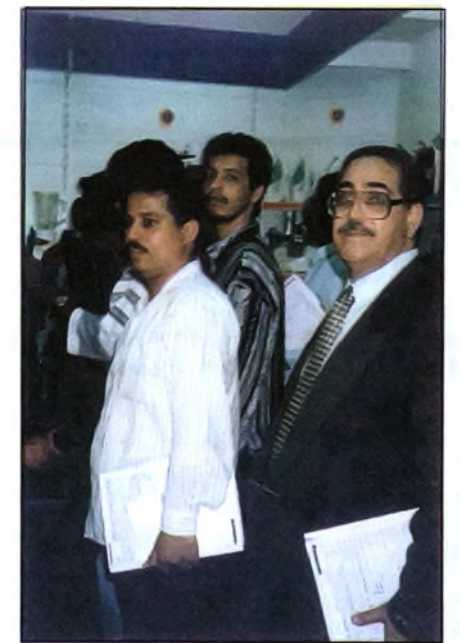
The governor and his the accompanying persons inspected the various departments at the showroom which house the latest models of household appliances and electronic and communications equipment.

The new branch also contains a complete maintenance workshop, equipped with the most modern instruments. Working according to international standards and specifications, the maintenance department will provide a wide range of services to clients and customers. These include spare parts, post-purchase services and guarantees on equipment sold.



According to Mr. Hussein Al-Rasheedy, ALFA's General Manager, the company aims to provide its customers with high-quality products at very competitive prices, taking into consideration the prevalent style of consumption in the country. "ALFA Co. Ltd. intends to open new branches in all governorates of the Republic so as to able to provide the public with the best service and guarantee top quality maintenance," said Mr. Al-Rasheedy.

The General Manager also expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by the governor's office in overcoming obstacles, and helping in the successful opening of this new branch in the economic capital of Yemen, Aden. It is one of many steps towards a brighter future for the country, under the policy of economic, administrative, and financial reforms. ALFA's main showroom was opened in Sana'a in 1992.



شركة ألفا المحدودة  
ALFA

ناشيونال  
National  
باناسونيك  
Panasonic  
تكنيكس  
Technics







**AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 24-3-97**  
(Yemeni Unity Congregation Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Parties Boycotting Elections Plan to Organize Rallies, Demonstrations, and Mass Meetings to Further Their Cause.
- 2) Teaching Staff in Sana'a and Aden Universities to go on Strike During Next Few Days.
- 3) Financial, Administrative and Technical Irregularities at Public Health Department in Aden.

**Article Summary:**

**Saudi Arabia and the Elections - editorial**

The Saudis, as always, do not want to prevent the elections in our country, but to modify them according to their own interests. Our major concern, here in Yemen, is to identify and ostracize those who want to ruin democracy, whether they are motivated by local interests or controlled by external powers. The Saudis are against boycotting the elections. They are far more in favor of rigged elections. This way, the Saudis can achieve their goals in Yemen, such as border demarcation, through a more friendly legislative authority.

Those who call for boycotting the elections present a clear danger to Saudi interests. They call for establishing a modern Yemeni state based on true democracy; not on tribal regional or sectarian considerations. The Saudi ruling family relies on sheer force in reigning in their people, and they cooperate with any neighbor who hinders democracy.

**AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-3-97.**  
(The Federation of Popular Forces Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) PGC Troika Challenges Muslim Brotherhood Presence in Islah.
- 2) Government Faces Drought Threats in Yemen with Speeches.
- 3) Freezing of Socialist Party Assets Delays Publishing its Newspaper.
- 4) Peaceful Demonstration and Sit-in by Teachers in Taiz.

**Article Summary:**

**Suing Tobacco Companies**

**by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf**

Yemen has become a haven for many tobacco companies to expand the sales of their products. They encourage people, especially the youth, to smoke through offering alluring prizes to buyers of cigarettes. This happens when governments and organizations all over the world are restricting the sale and advertising of cigarettes.

A Yemeni female lawyer, Shada Mohammed Nasser, took the initiative of litigating a court case against two major tobacco companies - Montana



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

and Marlboro. These two companies have enticed many young people to buy more cigarettes in the hope of winning any of the glittering prizes offered. Many European countries are now starting to prohibit advertising for smoking products. On balance, the cost of health care to the social security system far outweighs the benefits from taxes levied on cigarettes.

**AL-MITHAK: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-3-97**  
(The People's General Congress)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) PGC General Secretariat Agrees on Final Formula for Electioneering Program.
- 2) Official and Public Congratulatory Telegrams to the President on His Birthday.
- 3) In Rejection of Boycott Decision, Socialist Party Members in Lahaj and Abyan will Participate in Elections.

**Article Summary:**

**The Homeland is Above All Considerations**  
**by Atwani Abdullah**

The history of the Socialist Party indicates a persistent tendency to postpone tackling its internal problems until they develop into full-blown crises. Such complications negatively affect the lives of ordinary people. The decision by the party's central committee to boycott the elections reflects a deep crisis going on within the party structure. It seems that the party is unable to compete with other more popular organizations. The socialist party aims to distort the democratic process and fulfill the wishes of certain foreign elements who are worried about the progress of democracy in Yemen.

The return to the totalitarian rule of yesteryear is now pure imagination. Elections day will be a real expression of the will and choice of the Yemeni people. It will also herald the beginning of the end for those who still live in their disappointment-riddled past.

**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-3-97**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Army Tanks Move Towards Mukalla to Quell Possible Unrest During Elections.

- 2) Ruling Coalition Partners Violate Agreement to Share Constituencies by Nominating Some of their Members as "Independent" Candidates.
- 3) Multi-Party Advisory Committee Formed to Follow-up Progress of Elections.
- 4) Pan-Arab Conference in Casablanca Demands Immediate End to Talks with Zionists.

**Article Summary:**

**New Facts in Bahadeela Case**

The kidnapping of 7 German tourists in Hadhramaut at the beginning of March has led to reopening Mohammed Bahadeela's case. The abductors of the German tourists demanded compensations for their money lost through Bahadeela's dubious car deals. He has mysteriously disappeared. Security sources in Hadhramaut have indicated that a number of high-ranking security and military intelligence personnel are being questioned regarding this matter. Bahadeela was kidnapped from his home during Autumn of last year. He later reappeared and was interned at Al-Mukalla security office, only to disappear again at the beginning of this year. Investigations have revealed that the chief of intelligence bureau in Mukalla is involved in abducting Bahadeela, and taking 28 million Saudi riyals, \$600,000, YR 3 million and his private care from him.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 26-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ruling Coalition Partners Allocate 84 Constituencies for PGC and 45 for Islah.
- 2) The President: "We issued orders to pay the Socialist Party financial allocations and hand back its headquarters."
- 3) Talks Between Aden and Thames Valley Chambers of Commerce Start on 27th March.
- 4) League of Sons of Yemen in Hadhramaut Rejects Participation in Elections.

**Article Summary:**

**PSO Investigates Leaking of Exam Questions.**

Upon failing to reach a conclusive result, an investigating committee at Aden University has referred the case of leaked exam questions to the Political Security Office branch at the University. The first-term exam questions were leaked at the College of Education in Zanzibar.

According to a letter signed by several students, the PSO branch has interrogated a number of students and suspended others from their studies. The students demand that the investigations be carried out by the original committee formed by the university comprising a number of staff members. The students have also expressed their fears from being unjustly treated, considering that there is no student body to defend their rights.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-3-97**

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Islah's Shura Councils Asserts Necessity to Guarantee Impartiality of Elections.
- 2) Islah Organizes Mass Meetings to Raise Public Awareness of Elections' Issues.
- 3) Increasing Volume of Water Pumped to Homes in Aden.
- 4) Public Anger at Killing a Teacher in Ibb.

**Article Summary:**

**1) Mosquitoes in Hodeidah**

**by Mohammed Qassem**

Mosquitoes are disconcertingly endemic in the port town of Hodeidah, causing the widespread of the Malaria epidemic. Health sources at the governorate indicated that the presence of uncovered barrels of water at private homes play a major part in the hatching of mosquito eggs. The relevant government organs responsible for combating such harmful insects have not carried out a single pest-control campaign for years.

**2) Tough Opponent**

A number of influential men in a high-level judicial authority are trying to cheaply and forcibly sell a house belonging to woman. This happens despite a final court's order and a presidential directive supporting it, giving the woman the right to get her house back. As the old adage goes: If the judge is your opponent, to whom will you complain.

**AL-THAWRY: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-3-97**

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ruling Coalition Partners Agree on Last Scenario to Share Constituencies.
- 2) Socialist Party Emphasizes Willingness to Hold Talks with all other Political Parties.
- 3) Amnesty International: Executions and Unlawful Arrests Continue in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**

**Eritrean Authorities Persecute Yemenis**

The Eritrean authorities have released, at the beginning of this week, 306 of the 400 Yemeni fishermen who were arrested in Jabal Al-Tair in the Yemeni regional waters in mid-February. One of the released fishermen said that the abductions was carried out by a number of Eritrean military personnel in navy boats. The 400 Yemeni fishermen were taken, along with their 50 boats, to the Eritrean Musawa'a port. They were detained for 45 days in a small enclosure. Many forms of physical and mental torture were inflicted on the prisoners. There are still 94 men and 47 boats being held by the Eritrean authorities. The Yemeni authorities have not yet made any efforts to resolve this issue. The fish that were on board the Yemeni boats were confiscated and sold by Eritreans on Yemeni shores.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-3-97**  
(Yemeni Armed Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) One Day's Salary of Government Employees and YR. 100 Million Annual Support for War Wounded and Martyrs' Families.
- 2) YR. 270 Million for Contingency Project to Support Sana'a Water Grid.
- 3) Delegation from Ministry of Petroleum Negotiates Gas Marketing Deal with South Korea.
- 4) Eighth Round of Yemeni-Saudi Committee to Renew Border Signs Concludes Satisfactorily.

**Article Summary:**

**Islah and Choices of Authority**

**by Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf**

The future of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) in the ruling authority falls within three possibilities: sharing it, leaving it, or holding it singly. The first possibility is the most probable, since there are no indications that any drastic changes will occur in the present political regime. Islah does not currently seem to be capable of imposing a radical Islamic program on Yemen.

Leaving authority can only happen through one of two ways. First, when the President feels that Islah has served its purpose or that it has become a real danger; or through the dictates of international or regional policies. Second, Islah may decide to leave authority upon finding it better not to continue. This choice can be ruled out because most of Islah's leaders prefer to stay in power to, as they see it, prevent corruption.

The least probable possibility is ruling alone. This can only be achieved with the support of the military establishment which is still free from fundamentalist Islamic influences.

**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-3-97**  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Yemen's Most Famous Poet, Al-Baradouni, Awarded Honorary Minister Status.
- 2) PGC Secretary-General: "The irregularities that took place in some constituencies are rectified."
- 3) Fishermen Protest Against Serious Depletion of Fish Reserves by Foreign Fishing Trawlers.

**Article Summary:**

**Boycotting the Boycott - editorial**

Following the Socialist Party's decision to boycott the elections, many individuals with ulterior motives thought that it will affect the progress of democracy in this country, and that many other parties will follow suit. They were completely disappointed. The boycotters remained a minority.

On grassroots level, the current prevalent attitude among many Socialist Party members is to declare their commitment to democratic process as a national choice made by all Yemenis. There is now far too much international interest and respect for the democratic process in Yemen to allow any devious means to impede democracy. The growing international appreciation for Yemen's progress towards democratization refutes any reasons given for boycotting the elections.

**AL-RAI AL-AAM: Sana'a (Weekly) 25-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Yemen to Raise its Oil Prices During Second Quarter of this Year.
- 2) British Trade Delegation Visits Yemen.
- 3) Sudanese President Visited Sana'a.
- 4) 1800 Socialist Party Members Try in Vain to Join PGC.

**Article Summary:**

**Shoot-Out at Ministry of Education**

An army colonel was seriously wounded after being fired at by the head of Yafi' primary court. The incident took place at the office of an advisor at the Ministry of Education on 17th March. The families of the victim and his assailant were involved in a bitter dispute over a piece of land in Ibb. A compensation is expected for the land on which a school is to be built. The Ministry-of-Education advisor acted as an intermediary. The judge shot his opponent with six bullets at a close range. As expected in such cases, quite a commotion was created. The aggressor, whose father was also a judge in Ibb, was later arrested by the police.

Cont'd from p. 1

## Donors' Representatives Meet: A LONG LULL AFTER THE TALKS

A two-day meeting of representatives of donors was concluded yesterday, Sunday, March 30th at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel. The mood at the end of the talks was upbeat.

The meeting, which brought together Yemen's bilateral and multi-lateral donors with government officials, focussed on two issues - "Requirements for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the Damage Caused by the June 1996 Floods", and the "Financing Needs of the First Five-Year Plan (1996-2000) of Yemen".

In his opening address, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani indicated that the estimates of the 1996 floods were estimated at US\$ 1,200 million. "The 'White Paper', prepared by a team of experts from the UNDP, ITC, and TNO, estimate the rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the first phase alone at US\$ 200 million. Therefore, it is quite important that all sides meet and cooperate in overcoming this human tragedy," he said.

Mr. Abdulghani also indicated that his government has prepared the five-year plan with two objectives in mind - correcting the distortions and imbalances in the economic system, and integrating the Yemeni economy with the world based on free market tools and in line with the democratization process.

The White paper stipulated that the reconstruction needs of the flood-affected regions, in the first phase, is US\$ 196 million. "Of this, US\$ 64.6 million will go to Shabwah, US\$ 54.6 million to Marib, US\$ 24.3 million to Abyan, US\$ 23.1 million to Hadhramaut, US\$ 18.2 million to Al-Jawf, and US\$ 11.3 million to Al-Maharah" the paper reads.

The UNDP has already launched an appeal to the international donor community to help finance this need. "We are hoping that the good response of the international community, experienced during the emergency phase, will also apply to the rehabilitation phase," reads a UNDP press release.

Mr. Onder Yucer, UNDP Resident Representative and Coordinator of the Relief Effort, told the Yemen Times that his office will continue to mobilize external assistance to meet the financing requirement of the flood reconstruction.

Speaking about the requirements of the Five-Year Plan and the contribution of the World Bank, Dr. Osman Sheikh Ahmad, the WB Resident Representative, told the Yemen Times that discussions with the Yemeni authorities covered 22 projects which will cost roughly US\$ 500 million. "The World Bank will continue to cooperate with the Yemeni authorities in meeting the requirements of the development plan," he said.

Dr. Jaffer Hamed Mohammed, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development for Project Planning and Programming, went through the details of the plan and its preparation. "The level of services and the infrastructural needs are enormous. Important sectors like health and education need immediate attention in order to upgrade and expand the facilities and services," he indicated.

Two key sectors that were discussed were the water and electricity supply situation. Jamal Mohammed Abdo, Chairman of the National Authority for Water Resources, and Abdullah Abdul-Salam Awon, Deputy General Manager of the Public Electricity Corporation, gave detailed presentations of the problems of those two sectors, and their financing requirements.

There was still one subject on the agenda - privatization. On paper, this has come a long way, on the ground, very little has happened. Mr. Tissa Jayasinghe of the UNIDO explained what was happening, and what is coming.

There was some optimism in the air, as all sides left the conference hall to prepare for the next round.

By: Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil,  
Yemen Times.



## Under the Theme of Developing Yemeni- French Friendship **Two French Cyclists Tour Yemen**

Yemeni-French friendly relations are developing rapidly in many areas. This is quite evident from the continuous contact between France and Yemen - politically, economically, and culturally. The French Cultural Center in Sana'a and the Ministry of Youth and Sports now invited two French cyclists to Yemen. They are Claude Herve and his wife Francoise. Along with the Yemeni cyclist, Saleh Al-Marhabi, the French duo traveled around in a number of governorates with the emblem of the ever-growing Yemeni-French friendship emblazoned on their T-shirts. A ceremony was held to honor the 2 cyclists at the Ministry of Youth and Sports on 29th March. Yemen Times met Mr. Herve:



**Q: What governorates have you visited during your trip? And how much distance have you covered?**

**A:** We visited Hajjah, Mahweet, Hodeidah, Aden, Lahaj, Taiz, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadhramaut. We covered a distance of 1200 km. We were warmly welcomed wherever we went, which made us overcome any fatigue.

contacted to receive us according to schedule. Our trip was very successful due to the many facilities provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the personal attention by the minister.

**Q: What were your thoughts about Yemen before your visit? And have they changed?**

**A:** Before coming to Yemen, we were warned by many people that we could be kidnapped. When we arrived, we were taken aback by the sight of men armed with daggers and firearms walking in the streets. But we soon found out that these daggers are some sort of ornaments and Yemen's folkloric heritage. We were met with warm welcome, and were honored in every governorate we visited. Towards the end of our trip, just 20 km out of Sana'a, we were met by a group of 20 cyclists who welcomed and accompanied us back into town. We can now with all honesty say that Yemenis are a hospitable and peace-loving people.

**Q: Some sport events contribute to strengthening bilateral relations. Has your trip achieved this regarding Yemeni-French relations?**

**A:** Yemeni-French relations are strong and continuously developing. I hope, our trip across Yemen has further enhanced these relations. Sport has become one of the means for expressing international friendships. We are very happy to have made this trip and contributed to showing the true picture of the strong Yemeni-French friendship.

**Q: What will you say to your friends back home about Yemen?**

**A:** We will tell them what we saw. Yemen is a beautiful country and Yemenis are kind and peaceful. Yemen is not frightening as they may hear or imagine. Most of what they hear are exaggerated wild rumors. This country is still at the beginning of the road. A bright future awaits us. We will go back to France with many fond memories about our trip. We will strongly recommend Yemen to our friends and acquaintances. They have nothing to fear by coming

to this beautiful country.

The Yemeni cyclist Saleh Al-Marhabi accompanied the two French cyclists on their trip. He said, "We spent quite an enjoyable time together." Al-Marhabi has designed the emblem for the trip which shows the meeting of a Yemeni and a French cyclist, shaking hands in front of the historical Bab Al-Yemen (Yemen's Gate) and the Eiffel Tower. "Our program was full. I tried my best to provide all possible help and assistance to Francoise and Claude. They are our honored guests," said Saleh.

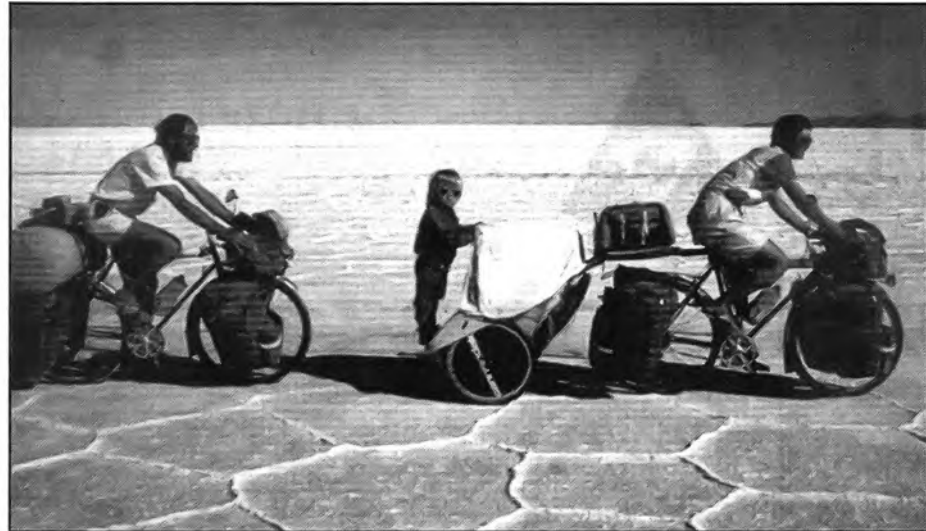
**Q: What governorates have you visited during your trip? And how much distance have you covered?**

**A:** We visited Hajjah, Mahweet, Hodeidah, Aden, Lahaj, Taiz, Abyan, Shabwa and Hadhramaut. We covered a distance of 1200 km. We were warmly welcomed wherever we went, which made us overcome any fatigue.

**Q: How was your program in each governorate coordinated?**

**A:** In coordination with the French Cultural Center, the Ministry of Youth and Sports

prepared a special program for the trip. The Youth and Sports branch offices in various governorates were



## **Remarkable Yemeni Performance in Athletics**

The Yemeni Athletics Team participated in the 25th world championship for cross-country race in Italy. The team was able to achieve good results. In competition with 45 participating countries, Yemen, came in 14th place in the 8.4 kilometer cross-country race for youngsters which included 163 runners. The Yemeni runner Anwar Omar came in the twentieth place amongst the 163 runners of this competition.



In the adults race, the Yemeni runner Mohammed Al-Malahi came in the twenty-third place among 286 participants, representing 57 countries. The first-place was occupied by a runner from Kenya, which had the lion's share medals and prizes in this competition. The Moroccan runner Salah Husso was the bright face for the Arab world; he was able to attain second place in this competition.

In spite of the short time of preparation for this competition, the Yemeni team got the twenty-seventh place among the 57 participating countries. This is an indicator of the promising future of Yemen in the Arab and international athletics competitions.

## **Tomorrow . . . The World Champion of Parachuting Arrives in Sana'a**

On the occasion of the coming parliamentary elections and as an addition to the French cultural week, the French world champion parachutist will arrive in Sana'a on Tuesday morning April 1, 1997.

Mr. Vincent Sprungli is going to parachute and do hover-parachuting altogether with the Yemeni parachutist Mohammed Al-Maqaleh. They will jump off from the top of Mount Al-Rayyan in al-Mahweet governorate at 10:00 a.m. Thursday the 3rd of April. Mr. Sprungli will then head to Hodeidah governorate on Saturday the 5th of April. On the way, he will jump off from Mount Bab Al-Naqah, near Bajil.

On Sunday, the 6th of April, he will visit Taiz, meet its governor and go sight-seeing in the city.

On Tuesday the 8th of April, Vincent will be hover-parachuting over the mountains of Ba'adan, Ibb. After that, he will come back to Sana'a and give a lecture on this sport as part of the French Cultural Week. In Sana'a, Vincent will meet the minister,



of youth and sports and some sports officials at the ministry. Mr. Sprungli's visit to Yemen is an expression of the strong friendship and cooperation between Yemen and France.

## **At Last . . . Al-Durafi Stadium Will Be Green!**

It comes after a long waiting! All dreams of Al-Durafi stadium becoming green will now be fulfilled. Wait, it has not been done, not yet! A project for planting green grass on the stadium playgrounds was initiated last Thursday. The project will make the stadium an ideal place for many sports competitions since the grass-planting will be according to the specifications of international football standards.

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwabb Rawah, has inaugurated the project. The total cost is YR 10.8 million. The supervisor of the project, Engineer Othman Kushab, pointed out that the exclusion process will take be covered by a special kind of grass which can best resist drought. This kind of grass has been carefully selected after a technical study of the soil of the stadium. In addition, to that, the stadium will be provided with a net of water sprinklers with a capacity of 100 cubic liters in order to water the grassy playground and keep it in a good condition. This project is a commendable step by the Ministry of Youth and Sports since this stadium hosts many sports activities as well as football matches.

## **Spotlight Can They Do It?**

The Yemeni football team started its training program two weeks ago in the Olympic Center, Sana'a. This training comes in preparation for the Asian qualifying games for the 1998 World Cup finals. But can our team compete well with the Asian teams?



When we consider the time of preparation, the task becomes difficult. The time is too short for preparing for the matches which the team is going to play.

The Iraqi coach, who is known for his distinguished training abilities which made Al-Ahli team win the excellent football tournament for to successive seasons, Hazem Jassam, has taken charge. He has trained Al-Ahli for a long time. But the situation now is different with the Yemeni team. The time is very short and the competition is very tough. The task is not that easy.

Captain Hazem warns the team not to be so optimistic, but at the same time he himself is taking the job as a difficult challenge. It is known in the world of football training that mastering the game needs long training as well as playing extensive warm-up matches.

The Iraqi coach has decided to concentrate on the method of passes and quality of team interaction as an approach to the games. He is also focussing on the player's fitness.

Training has started in earnest. Many attack and defence tactics are being rehearsed. "These lads have to understand each other. They need to read each other when they move on opponents who are their superior on a one-to-one tackle," he said.

This eventually means that the team will play more defence tactics than attacks, which comes as a result of the inadequate preparation.

The national team will continue training in Saudi Arabia. Last Sunday, the group went to Abha in order to participate in the warm-up matches with al-Ittihad and other Saudi teams.

At present, the Yemeni Football Association and the Ministry of Youth and Sports devote much effort in order for the Yemeni team to rise up to the expectations. The team hopes to make a remarkable performance in the coming competition. The group, within which Yemen plays includes many strong Asian teams such as Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Cambodia which have good track record in the soccer world. So, hopes and ambitions will not do alone. The team faces an uphill battle.

From the 'friendly' matches to be played against the Saudi teams, the level of the Yemeni team will be established. No doubt, the Saudi Al-Ittihad, team deserves thanks and appreciation for inviting the Yemeni team this important opportunity of playing the warm-up matches in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi football teams are distinguished for their strong performance and great experience. This will help a great deal in improving the abilities of the Yemeni team and in examining revising its tactics before starting the first match with the Indonesian team, next month in Jakarta.

Past experience shows that the Yemeni team is a team of surprises - pleasant and sad ones. We hope that it will present, this time, a pleasant one. "The Yemeni youth are known by their strong wil," said a Saudi sports commentator. But the mistakes which sports associations always commit is that they don't prepare early for such international events. They start training in the last minute. That is because there is no planning.

In spite of all that, we do wish the best of luck for our team and we will still wait to see, if they will do it.

By the sports editor.

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# Emergence of an Elections-Oriented Class

Given the level of election-oriented training that has been taking place over the last few years, one foreign diplomat noted that Yemen could find itself exporting expertise in the field to other democratizing states. That

is, of course, pushing the story a bit too far. But the point is still valid that many local and international organizations are training people in various activities related to elections.

Yemen is not alone in this situation. Other countries in the region, such as Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Tunisia have also undergone a similar experience. In Yemen, however, the doze

was focussed and intensive. Over the last few months, for example, the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has training its people - some 36,000 of them. The political parties have also engaged in some training for

their members. The EMC, ADI, NDI and IFES are among the many organizations - local and foreign - which have carried out training. They trained some 30,000 people in poll-watching, monitoring, campaign organizing, election station administering, election law enforcement, etc. In total, it is believed that some 100,000 have been trained.

This created a class of people whose livelihood is now based on elections. These experts - ranging from lawyers to university professors, to journalists, to public figures, are steadily one of the pillars on which Yemen's democ-

racy will depend. They represent a key support base given that they have a built-in personal stake and interest in a democracy. Gradually, a class of people, activities, and socio-economic relations is emerging. In short, we are witnessing the birth of an elections-oriented culture in Yemen. This in itself is one of the guarantees for the continued political evolution of the country. What needs to be done is to strengthen this group, expand their numbers, and promote still more the concepts of democracy.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
Secretary-General, EMC.

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