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OIL COMPANIES FLOCK TO YEMEN

Over the last few months, the Yemeni government received many inquiries from oil companies interested in investing in Yemen. Some of them have already concluded concession agreements. These include Kerr McGeo of the USA, Dove of the UK, Mol of Hungary, and others from Canada and Indonesia. Others are discussing possible oil concessions, and a German firm has almost concluded the deal. Even larger oil companies such as Exxon (on its own) have expressed interest in returning. According to oil sources, the interest in Yemen is driven by three factors:

1. The Yemeni government has modified its conditions. By waiving the hard financial terms it had demanded in the past, the government has made it economically more feasible for mid-level oil companies to come in.
2. Most of the small to mid-level companies have lower overheads than the big companies. Thus, they are interested in small oil reserves, like the ones which the Shabwa basin offers.
3. Much of the seismic data is already available. This already reduces the time span of the exploration phase.

Yemen produces at the moment just below 400,000 barrels per day of oil. Observers do not believe that the volume of oil production will go much beyond that limit. Maybe, if the smaller fields come through, output could rise to half a million barrels a day.

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STRONG US SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS

The US government expressed strong support for the April 27th parliamentary elections in Yemen. Senior officials at the State Department and leading congressional staffers in the Foreign Relations Committee described the elections as an "important step in the right direction". The US Government translated its support by financing the visit of the largest international observers team to the elections. The National Democratic Institute has finalized a list of some thirty observers who will visit Yemen shortly. The NDI team includes effective congressional staffers, former ambassadors, Washington think-tanks, university professors, and leaders of NGOs working on elections. The NDI group also includes representatives of civic organizations in the region. At another level, a senior state department and congressional delegation plans to visit Yemen later this year. "The visit will allow further consolidation of the bilateral relations. But much will depend on the caliber and quality of the government that will take shape after the elections," a source in Washington said.

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Yemen and EU Sign Agreement

The Republic of Yemen and the European Union initialed on Monday, 21st April, an agreement that will outline the framework for cooperation between the two parties. This is the first genuine agreement between the two sides. Since Yemen does not fit in any of the EU's regional arrangements, the new agreement is important to channel European aid to the country. From the European side, the agreement allows a shift of emphasis from aid to trade and business joint ventures. The European side has also put in a few visible clauses on democratization, respect for human rights and other components of a modern political system. According to Dr. Michael Kohler of the EU, who visited Yemen last March, the agreement will transcend the traditional fields of cooperation. He said, "we also want to promote social cooperation and human resources development." The agreement is expected to be ratified by the EU member states within the next two weeks. Yemen has developed stronger relations with the EU over the recent past. The EU, to further underline its support for Yemen's political transformation and economic reform, is sending a delegation to Yemen to participate in the parliamentary elections as observers. These developments underscore the increased attention the Republic of Yemen has been given by the EU. It is worth noting that Yemen enjoys good bilateral arrangements with the members of the EU on an individual basis.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Importance of the Elections

The elections of April 27th are of vital significance to the political evolution of Yemen. That is why it is critical that they are done, and that they are done right. There are a new of observations one can make regarding these elections.

1. The Mistakes:

No one will deny that there have been, and continue to be, mistakes and irregularities. Some of them are, in fact, premeditated. But that is politics and political ambition. The main thing is that the mistakes are corrected whenever they are documented.

But the mistakes cannot be used as an excuse to oppose the elections. That would be wrong. Even worse is the attitude of some self-exiled opposition people who use the mistakes to mobilize an anti-election campaign worldwide. Their attitude is not really to see clean elections, but they are just scared that the elections will give the regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh international and local legitimacy. In other words, they just do not want the elections, period.

2. The Boycott:

There are some political parties and some individuals who have decided to boycott the elections. That is unfortunate, since such a decision merely states that those parties will not participate in the game. What does it mean for the elections? Does that take away the legitimacy of the election results? Of course not. The system is required to ensure that all those who are interested in participating in the elections have reasonably equal access. The system is not required to guarantee that all those who are entitled to participate in the elections will do so.

3. Coordination Among Players:

Yemeni parties, especially the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) have been trying hard to coordinate their efforts in the elections. Why is this done?

There are three answers:

- The Yemeni Socialist Party did poorly in the 1993 elections. One of the reasons for its drive to break away was its inability to accept/live with those results. Therefore, it is imperative that the second largest party today, Islah, be given a chance to win at least the minimum of what would satisfy its aspirations.
- The coordination effort will reduce the campaign friction, especially in constituencies in which top party people compete. By relinquishing certain constituencies, the two sides will give each some room to maneuver.
- These coordination moves are legitimate and legal. But, of course, they are not a happy part of elections since they reduce the choices for the voters.

All in all, Yemen's elections deserve to be supported and encouraged. They are an important milestone in the country's political evolution.

The Publisher

First Stage of Sayoun Airport Inaugurated

President Ali Abdullah Saleh inaugurated the first stage of asphaltting the Sayoun airport in Hadhramaut. Costing YR. 400 million and taking 6 months to complete, the work included asphaltting 240m of the airport's tarmac, two plane-parking fields, completing the lighting channels, and rain water drainage works. The President also laid the foundation stone for the second stage which will include the construction of more facilities that will allow the use of the airport for international flights.

Socotra Environmental Project

The British government has agreed to finance a project designed to support the wildlife on the island of Socotra. The British grant - 3.4 million pounds Sterling - comes as part of the Darwin Initiative for Species Protection. British technical knowledge and expertise will be applied to issues of environmental protection. The Socotra project aims to draw a list of the various species of animals and plants endemic on the island, as well as publishing booklets about them.

Dutch Observers Arrive in Sana'a

Funded by the Netherlands government, 11 Dutch elections observers arrived in Sana'a on Sunday 20th April. They will stay until 4th May. During their stay, they will be actively involved in observing the state of preparations for the elections during the last week before elections day, the campaigning, the voting, the counting of the votes and the immediate aftermath of the elections. There will also be 6 observers from the Dutch Embassy in Sana'a. These observers plan to carry out observations in different governorates. Besides taking part with a substantial group of observers, the Dutch government has funded a project, implemented in 1996 by the Arab Democratic Institute, aimed at raising women's participation in the electoral process.

FAO Data Bank About Yemen

To facilitate planning for agricultural development in Yemen, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) intends to establish a data bank to include information about agricultural lands in the country.

FAO is now implementing projects in Shabwa, Hadhramaut and Al-Mahra to improve agricultural production through there rational and scientific use of water and soil protection. The overall cost of projects being executed by FAO in Yemen is over US\$ 30 million.

Last Day for Withdrawing Candidacies

The last opportunity for any elections candidates wishing to withdraw their candidacies was on Sunday 20 April. For the technical committees to have sufficient time to prepare elections cards, complete with candidates' symbols, any withdrawal applications will not be considered after the set date. The number of withdrawing candidates has, on Saturday 19 April, reached 330 from various constituencies. It is worth pointing out that over 3,700 candidates submitted their nominations.

During the first and second stages of the elections process; 1,212,000 and 1,480,757 permanent elections cards respectively were distributed to the citizens who did not get their cards during the 1993 elections.



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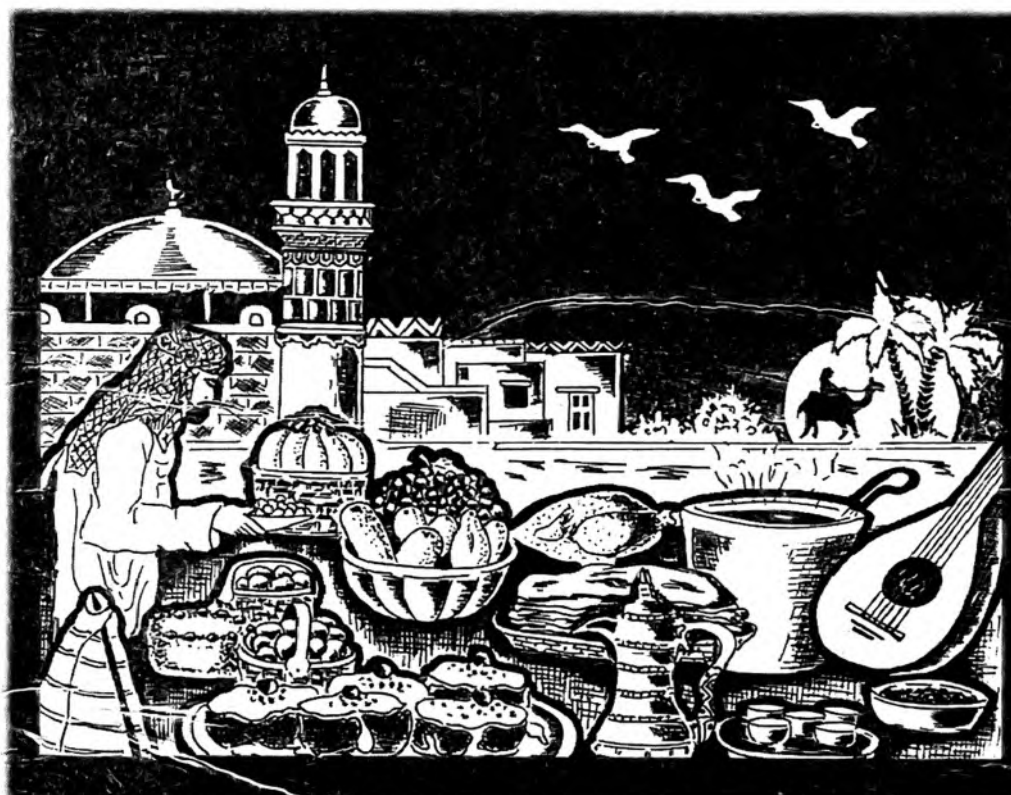
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Barbara Puster

"I am Here to Promote Space Age Physical Fitness"

Before 30 years or more, life in Sana'a was enduring enough to give the population of the city sufficient enough physical activity (remember Sana'a had no cars, electricity was just introduced, no systematized mechanized activity), without requiring any systematic physical fitness to keep in shape or to give the body a workout. This becomes even more understandable when it is recalled that the major means of movement of people through the city were the two feet. As such the normal day to day activities of life required extra physical activity which also helped to keep Sana'anis in relatively healthier and more fit positions than they probably are at this time. Even those who owned animal or even vehicle transport (the number of cars could not have exceeded the number of fingers and toes of one of its residents!), who may have been the affluent of the city's residents, had extensive walks periodically up the height of Jabal Nuqum, as a pre-lunch exercise. Well, it seems like Mount Nuqum will continue to play a role in the physical fitness activities of those who visit work and reside in Sana'a and wish to maintain physical stamina in a Sana'a that has become more closer to a modern urban metropolis than the Sana'a depicted above. The Sana'a Sheraton Hotel has recently hired an expert, who will also be an instructor on physical fitness and recreational sports, to give those who strive to give their bodies the required dose of physical fitness activities to keep the body in tune. Her name is Barbara Puster. Yes, you read it right, her name. Yemen Times wanted to learn how Ms. Puster intends to take on such a pioneering role and how her love and fascination with the Republic of Yemen and her attraction to sports and recreation found meeting grounds in the city of Sana'a. Her effervescent smile and enthusiasm showed enough confidence to indicate that Sana'a will have a taste of space age physical fitness programs like Aerobics: The physical fitness programs of astronauts:



Sana'a management for their approval. I had no problems elsewhere in this respect and I do not expect it here in the Sana'a Sheraton Hotel, as well.

Q: Would you find physical fitness programs to be more difficult to conduct in an area that has an altitude of over 2,300 meters, with available oxygen in the air being only 40% of what it is at sea level?

A: A good physical fitness instructor should be able to tailor his instructions to all the factors involved: weather, altitude, age of participants, sex and so on. Not only that, but the instructor should bear in mind the particular factors related to the individuals in a specific group.

Q: What courses are you expecting to initiate immediately?

A: We shall kick off with swimming lessons for children, tennis, volleyball and of course aerobics.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I just want to say that I am very delighted to be in your country. I have traveled to many countries, and I am very sincere when I say that no other country pleased me like Yemen. The people, especially have been so kind, gentle and helpful, wherever you go. You feel a sense of safety and comfort in knowing that kindness can be so widespread as it is in Yemen. I hope that I will be able to succeed in this assignment. I will definitely give it all I have and do the best that I can to make it successful.

I owe that to Sana'a Sheraton and to their patrons all of whom will have high expectations of me.

Q: Is this your first trip to Sana'a?

A: No, this is actually the third visit to Yemen.

Q: Are all your visits to Sana'a for business purposes or related to your present assignment?

A: No, my previous two visits were just for tourism purposes. After the first visit, I was so fascinated by the country that I decided to come again for another visit earlier this year.

Q: How was your interest directed to Yemen?

A: I read about Yemen in some tourism literature that I had a chance to look at while in Austria. I was interested in the uniqueness of its culture and geography, so I decided to see it for myself.

Q: Were your visits with tour groups or individually?

A: I always travel alone when I am going on tourism. I like to be free to get to know as much about the culture as possible and to find my own way through the country. I also wanted to have the greatest possibility of contact with the people. People were very kind and helpful everywhere I went in the country. I had no problems at all getting by in the country.

about your professional career?

A: I like sports and recreation very much. I enjoy skiing, swimming, tennis and other sports. I also teach physical fitness. I was a member of the Austrian National Athletics Team, whom I also worked as an instructor with. I have also traveled to East Asia and instructed in Japan. I specialize in teaching Aerobics.

Q: Can you please explain to our laymen readers what aerobics is all about?

A: Aerobics is a physical fitness program that was specifically tailored for space astronauts to enable them to withstand limited physical activity in outer space and to withstand remaining in fixed positions for long periods of time. In the 1980's the program was modified to become adapted for people who are forced to work in relatively static positions for long periods of time, such as people who work behind computers and desks, etc. It is now widely used in Europe and the United States to give company executives and staff regular workout sessions in aerobics to help stimulate blood circulation, body coordination and balance, in addition to keeping the body in a fit and healthy state.

Q: Would you relate to us how you landed a job in Sana'a?

Q: Can you give us an idea

Sheraton?

A: It was really a coincident. During the last month of Ramadhan, I played tennis a lot in the Sheraton Hotel, since there was really very little one can do in Sana'a, anywhere else in the city. So the management of the hotel, upon realizing my professional attachment to sports and recreation and my abilities in instructing many kinds of sports and fitness activities, asked me to join them. When I was satisfied that the Sana'a Sheraton had the required facilities and equipment I would need to do the job which

I liked so much, and since I would have liked nothing more than to have a chance to live in this wonderful country, I accepted. So, thus I was hired as a Sports And Recreation Supervisor and Instructor in aerobics and other sports.

Q: Have you already began giving instructions?

A: I have only been here two weeks, and most of that time has been used for preparatory work and the drawing up of the curricula which now almost all has been presented to the Sheraton

only working with females?

A: On the contrary, I expect to have more male participants than females.

Q: Do not you think it would be daring to teach men how they should keep fit?

A: You might be surprised to learn that there are more female teachers of Aerobics than male teachers. On the other hand, I would expect that people who take my courses would be mature and educated to realize that there should not be any problems in getting their money's worth for

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Yemen Comes to Grips with *INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS*

Second of a two-part lecture

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.

As Yemen's economy is gradually integrated with the world, the country faces some new problems. One emerging issue has been innovative intellectual rights - patents, trade marks, unlicensed use of computer software and programs, etc. This article is the second part of a lecture delivered by Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaqi, a well-known lawyer, on the 3rd of March at the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research.

Review of the Yemeni Law of Intellectual Rights

Creative Work Covered with Protection

The law has specified the criteria upon which a creative work falls under copyright protection. Articles 2 and 3 of the Yemeni Law of Intellectual Rights stipulate that works of creativity are protected according to two criteria:

1- A creative work of art, literature, or science must be innovative; irrespective of its form, purpose, importance, or its method of production. This applies even if its not possible to categorize the work in any of the known fields of creativity.

2- Protection extends to every work expressed through writing, sound, drawing, photography, the fine arts, Choreography, etc.

As an example, the law covers scientific, artistic, and literary writings; works of drawing, photography, sketches, engraving, sculpting, architecture; orally delivered work such as speeches, lectures, sermons; plays and musicals; musical pieces [with or without words]; photography and motion pictures; maps and geographical drawings; 3-D works of art; works to be broadcast by radio or TV; and works of applied art.

Similar protection, according to Clause 4 of Articles 3 and 5, covers works of translation and re-translation; musical modifications; reviews and re-reviews of works of art and literature. The copyrights of the original author must be protected.

Article 3/4 states that "copy rights include translations, changing color, summarization, modification, explanation, and commentary in any innovative or new form without infringing the rights of the original author."

Article 5 states that "the protection of copyrights extends to re-translation, re-reviewing and commentary on works of heritage, and re-constructing folkloric works of unknown authors. Re-issuing or re-translating must include elements of innovation or creativity by the author himself. The copyrights of the original author or translator must not be infringed upon."

Article 16 of the law stipulates that the protection of works which rely on works by others should be as follows:

- 1- The new work must be creatively independent.
- 2- Derived works must bear reference to their original authors.
- 3- Article 15/2 specifies that the reference to the original author should indicate:
 - a- work address of original author;
 - b- name of author;
 - c- place of publication;
 - d- date of publication; and
 - e- chapter, paragraph, or page number of relevant item

If no such reference is made, then the derivation is considered, according to article 28, an infringement of the original author's copyright.

Deriving a new and creatively independent work from a previously published one with due reference to the original author does not require that author's permission or entitle him/her to any financial rewards.

The law, however, exempts some forms of adaptation works done to literary and artistic works for profit making such as;

- 1- Adapting a novel into a play or a movie or television scenario and vice versa.
- 2- Adapting a play into a scenario and vice versa.
- 3- Musical composition of a poem into a song.

In such cases, as stipulated by article 16, the original author's permission and financial reward are mandatory. The new work's copyright is the entitlement of its creator. The original author is entitled to a royalty in return for using his/her work. Protecting a creative work does not cover its content only, but extends to its title and appearance. This applies in cases of;

- 1- The title of the work being distinguished by an innovative characteristic, not a common phrase [Article 2/3].
- 2- The appearance of the work being distinguished by innovative drawings, symbols, or other elements [Article 3/3]



3- Imitating the title, drawings, symbols, and other elements leading to public confusion as to the originality of the creative work.

Article 4 of the law has referred to the works that are regarded as non-creative, and hence not subject to copyright protection. Copyright protection also ceases when the legal period for financial protection, as specified by the law, has expired.

Works that are not subject to copyright protection are as follows:

- 1- Poetry, prose, and musical selections which are not regarded as creative. Copyright protection in this case covers the original authors of the selections only.
- 2- Works whose copyrights have become public property, i.e., the legal period for financially protecting the rights of the author or his/her heirs has passed.
- 3- Official documents such as governmental and political announcements, texts of laws, decrees, statutes, international treaties, court rulings; unless distinguished by features characteristic of their compiler.
- 4- Collections of works of heritage, folklore, popular creativity, and works of unknown authors.

Types of Copyrights

There are two types of copyright: literary and material or financial

Literary Rights

Literary rights are permanent and do not expire with time. There are two types of literary rights: moral rights and the immunity and protection of the work.

Moral Rights

These rights are manifested as follows:

- 1- Determining the publishing of the work and specifying the method of publishing [Article 12/A]. This right gives the author the sole authority to decide to publish the work or postpone it if the need for any amendments arises. The author alone has the right to decide the appropriate method of presenting his/her work, according to the creative nature of the work itself. The method of presentation may be through printing, performing, exhibitions, radio, TV, etc.
- 2- Publishing the work attributed to its author by mentioning his/her name on it. Article 18 of the law prohibits publishing any work without the name of its author, unless the explicit will of the author demands the contrary. According to article 10, the author should express explicitly that his/her work should be published without his/her name.
- Article 11 grants the author, who has published his/her work without his/her name or with a pseudonym, or symbol, the right to disclose his/her true personality at any time. This applies even if the author has previously agreed with others no to publish his/her name.

Immunity and Protection of the Work

Article 12/B guarantees the author's right to protect the immunity of his/her work. The immunity of a creative work is manifested as follows:

- 1- Any amendment or change through elimination or addition - in publishing or performing the work - without the author's permission is prohibited. This applies whether the change or amendment is done to the work itself, its title or the author's name [Article 19].

The immunity of a creative work covers that work in its entirety, including the prologues, epilogues,

explanations, comments, margins, and illustrations. The law does not allow any changes, unless they are necessitated by the implementation of the work itself such as architectural work.

2- Confiscation of an author's work for paying his/her debts is prohibited [Article 22].

According to Article 20, the right of protecting the immunity of the creative work is assigned, after the author's death, to:

- a- A person or persons named by the author to protect the immunity of his/her work. Those thus named have the right to do so throughout their lives.
- b- The authors wife, offspring, or his/her heirs in general.
- c- The relevant official body if the author has no heirs or if the copyright has expired for those heirs.

Financial rights

The author's financial rights include the following:

1- The author's right to grant others the right to economically exploit the work in return for a fair financial compensation appropriate to the type and nature of the work [Article 12/C].

2- According to Article 13, the author has an absolute right to personally exploit his/her work. The author also has the right to choose the appropriate means of exploiting his/her work which include:

- a- Printing or copying the work through writing, sound recording, cinema, TV, etc.
- b- Public performance in seminars, music halls, theaters, cinemas, arts exhibitions, etc.
- c- Putting the work for circulation in markets or exhibitions.
- d- Translating the work into other languages.
- e- Reprinting the work.

The author's right to economically exploit or get a financial compensation or royalty for his/her work extends throughout his/her life [Article 23]. This right is transferred to the author's heirs after his/her death, and it remains with them for 30 years [Article

24].

The law has stipulated specific periods of time - ranging from 2 to 25 years - for the author's financial rights for some types of work. These are:

- a- Financial rights of a cinema or TV producer extending for 25 years after the date of production [Article 25].
- b- Financial rights for photographs extend for 10 years [Article 26].
- c- Broadcasting rights for TV and radio extend for 3 and 2 years respectively.

The rights of the authors, performers and their heirs, however, are covered by the life-long protection and the 30-year period after the author's death.

The time periods for protecting copyrights as specified by the Yemeni law are in agreement with those stipulated by the International Copyright Agreement. Article 4 of this agreement stipulates that a period of protection must not be less than the author's life span and 25 years after his/her death. Works whose period of protection is not determined according to the author's life span must be protected for at least 25 years from the date of first publication. As for photographic and fine arts works, the period of protection must not be less than 10 years.

These periods are the same, as those specified by Article 13 of the model copyright law created for the benefit of developing countries in 1976. They are also in agreement with Article 19 of the Arab Agreement of Copyrights signed by the Arab ministers of culture in Baghdad in 1981.

The Yemeni law has allocated a special chapter for group work. Articles 29 through to 34 have specified 3 main principles:

- 1- Creative group work is collectively owned by all the participants.
- 2- Every participant has an author's right.
- 3- Every participant has a copyright for his/her individual work.
- 4- If the copy rights belong to a committee or an establishment that has financed, supervised, and published the work under its name; every editor or writer has a copyright to the work he/she does.

Yemen Club for Touring & Automobile (YCTA) Issuing International Driving License

The Yemen Club for Touring & Automobile (YCTA), a subdivision of the Universal Group of Companies, located at the Sitteen Street West, is an affiliated member of two biggest international touring and automobile associations i. e. Alliance International De Tourisme (AIT), Geneva and Federation Internationale De la Automobile (FIA), Paris.

By obtaining the affiliation of these clubs, the YCTA becomes the only authorized club in Yemen to issue International Driving Permit (IDP) and Carnet de Passages en Douane (Trip Tyque). The club is already issuing the trip tyque to many countries.

Now, everything is set to introduce the International Driving License after the Eid Al-Adha holidays. The criteria to obtain the license is very simple. Any national holding valid Yemeni Driving License are eligible to get this License.

The International Driving License will cost YR 3500 (for Yemenis) and USD 35 (for expatriates). All you have to do is to fill the application along with two passport size photographs, original Yemeni License (to be photocopies) and the fee. The license will be made ready within ten to fifteen minutes. No formalities other than this requirements are necessary, as no one is allowed to drive with this license inside Yemen.

These licenses are valid in more than 146 countries which are listed at the inside cover of the license itself.

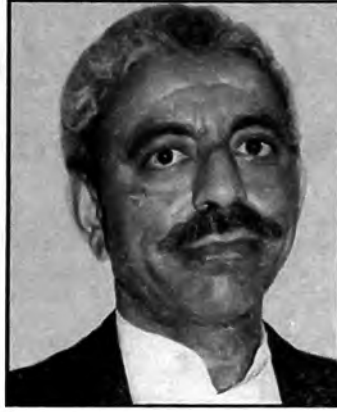
Very soon, these licenses will be issued in all Universal Travel & Tourism offices and leading Travel Agencies all over Yemen.

Queries on distributorship are welcome on
telephone 01-268750/51/52.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Hajj: The Oneness of God... The Unity of The World



The Hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca is the fifth of the Five Pillars of Islam. The other 4 are: To testify openly that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammed is the Messenger of God; to perform the five daily prayers, to fast the month of Ramadhan every year; to pay the Zakat, or religious duty taxes. Of the five pillars, two are obligatory, whereas the other three require certain pre-conditions, namely health (3 and 5) and financial capability (4 and 5). The fifth one, the Hajj, is obligatory only once in a lifetime and only to those capable of paying for the journey, without having to sacrifice the ability to keep the family at home from being able to meet the costs of living while the breadwinner is away on the Hajj.

Thus Islam has transformed religious faith into systematic functions, each of them making the believer directly responsible for his faith while providing this believer direct access to God: a One to one relationship; no priests, no witch doctors, no clergy, no middlemen between the believer and the Al-Mighty. While these pillars regulate this one to One to one relationship, it goes without saying that they also serve to play a beneficial role for the worshipper himself and for society as a whole.

The Hajj is the most important symbolic representation of the optimal spiritual attainment that the Moslem can achieve in his lifetime. It is up to the believer to seek to make the journey as much as possible, without prejudice to assuring that the journey will not represent a strain on the "Hajj" to meet the costs of the journey and to maintain his loved ones during his absence. In the Chapter of Al-Hajj, or the "Pilgrimage" the Koran states,

the Koran relates, in the Chapter called Al-Saffat, or the Ranks: "And when the Son had matured to join the mission, he (Ibrahim) said: 'My son, I dreamt, in my sleep, that I am slaughtering you (as a sacrifice)! What is your view?' Ismael, the obedient son, understanding his father's prophetic destiny, was ready with his opinion: 'The son said: 'My father! Do as you are ordered! You will find me, God willing, from those who are patient (when it comes to the will of God)'. As the two set out to fulfill the dream, a Divine command descended: 'We called out to him: 'Oh Ibrahim! Thou has submitted to the truth of the dream! It is as such that we reward those who do good. Alas, this is indeed the enlightening trial (of faith). We ransomed him with a great (alternative) sacrifice. And left his name, for the others that followed.' In fact the holiday that we are presently celebrating is called the Feast of Sacrifice. In this holiday those Moslems that can afford it will slaughter a lamb, calf, cow, camel or whatever animal they can afford to slaughter, giving away most of the meat to the neighbors, relatives and needy people in commemoration of the sacrifice that Ibrahim was willing to make to prove his faith to God.

While most people in modern western societies would think of trying to build up a good nest egg for retirement to enjoy those years in life when work will no more be a serious obligation on the person, devout Moslems turn all their efforts to saving up to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, from Indonesia to Mauritania and from Capetown to Chechnya and wherever Moslems dwell. Moslems are reminded five times a day of the significance of

merchants contested Mohammed's mission, not so much because they doubted the credibility of their kinsman, for they all knew him as the Trusted One (Al-Amin), who never lied, cheated or swindled. In the Third Year of the Hegira calendar, Mohammed confirmed the viability of the Pilgrimage to Mecca and the fact that it is the focal point, which all Moslems should face when praying (and when being buried). Thus the annual 4 day convention in the holiest of cities became ordained by the verses of the Koran which were cited in the beginning of this discussion, in the second chapter of the Koran (Incidentally the chapters of the Koran are not arranged chronologically as they descended upon Mohammed from God).

The rites of the Pilgrimage are briefly as follows:

1) The Ihram: This entails the declaration of the intent to make the Pilgrimage and the shedding of all worldly appearance, in terms of clothing adornment etc. For the males, it means wearing a two piece un-stitched and seamless outfit, where one piece is wrapped around the hips down to the knees, and the other wrapped around the chest cavity going over the left shoulder and arm and under the right arm, keeping the right arm and shoulder bare. For the females it means the coverage of the entire body, by simple unadorned (but maybe sewn) garments, where the face must be fully revealed. Incidentally, the traditional places for making the Ihram are seven outposts within the periphery of the forbidden zone (to non-Moslems), where the old caravan trails coming from different directions towards Mecca would probably make their last stops before the city. But in our age of jet transport, most Moslems do the Ihram from their point of origin, or the point or stop just before going to Jeddah.

2) Then the Moslems enter Mecca saluting the Holy Mosque, arriving on the eighth day of the lunar month of Dhul-Hajja (the twelfth month of the lunar year), at the latest. Some will carry out the 'Umra, or lesser Pilgrimage (which could be done later), which means to circulate around the Ka'aba seven times and walk back and forth between two hills near the Ka'aba called Al-Safa and Al-Marwa, said to signify the search for water by Ibrahim and his family until God relieved them with the well of Zamzam, a well which never dries up and which produces a water that is distinctive in taste and purity. The Great Mosque of Mecca has grown considerably since the prophet Mohammed's time and has now come to include all the shrines of the Mecca city area, which include, the Ka'aba, the Black Rock (built into a corner of the Ka'aba cubicle), the Station of Ibrahim, Ismail's shrine, the Well of Zamzam, Al-Safa and Al-Marwa. The Haram Mosque could probably hold close to a million worshippers at any one time, thanks to the extensive efforts of the Saudi government in this respect. All these spots are visited and the worshippers call upon God for their deliverance and forgiveness, in addition to praising the Lord for enlightening them to Islam. The Pilgrims then head for Mina, a village that lies outside of Mecca, some five kilometers southeast.

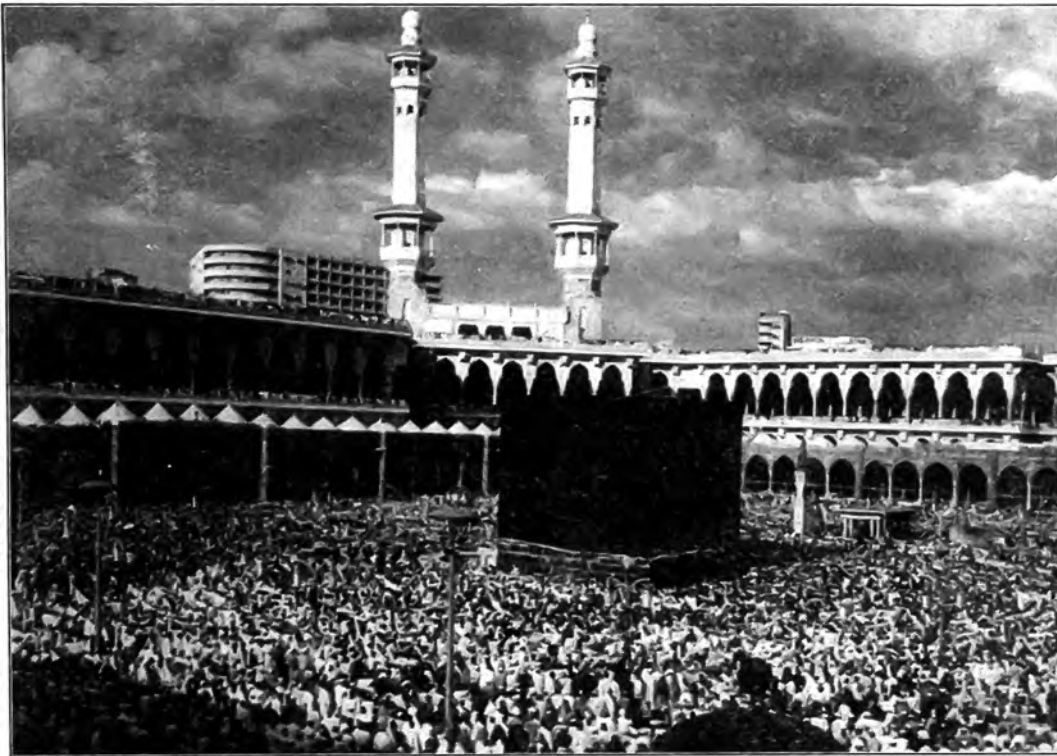
3) The Pilgrims will sleep in Mina in preparation for the short trip to Arafat. Arafat is a mountain that lies some twelve kilometers south east of Mecca and has a sub-mount called the Mount of Mercy with the Mosque that presently holds half a million believers at any one time. The area of Arafat is nothing more than a barren piece of land that stays that way throughout the year, until the 9th day of Dhul-Hajja when the place suddenly is packed, nowadays, by up to two million people, all of them openly declaring throughout the day that there is no God but Allah and renouncing any other associations or partnerships to the Divine Being. They will pray the Noon and Afternoon prayers together and shortened to 2 bows and 8 prostrations each, as ordained by the Prophet Mohammed (P) for

those on a journey. This mass gathering of people from every corner of the world is the climax of the Hajj. It is also one of the most spiritually inspiring human gathering, unequalled by any religious congregation that takes place anywhere in the world. The prophet Mohammed sums it up by saying: "The Pilgrimage is Arafat". Here there is no meaning to nationality, no meaning to class, material wealth, status, race, color, or national origin. Everyone is equal and the only yardstick for measure is the faith of the worshipper, which is left to God to be the judge of. Truly, this is one of the great human spectacles that highlight the strides that Islam has made in promoting the universal brotherhood of man and to eliminating the prejudice, racial hatred and ethnic bias that many societies still face, even in our times, when we are fast approaching the entry into the 21st century.

4) At sunset of the same day, exactly, the multitude of pilgrims en-masse rushes to another shrine nearby called Muzdalifah. Here the believers pray the sunset and mid-evening prayers, again together and shortened, (the shortening of prayers is only allowed for those that have 4 bows and 8 prostrations; the Sunset prayer, being 3 bows and 6 prostrations is not). They should stay in Muzdalifah at least a third of the night, gathering the pebbles they will use to stone the symbolic obelisks of the devil (to be done later in Mina).

5) The Pilgrims will now trek back to Mina where the dawn prayers will be done and the beginning of the last part of the Hajj is on. Here the pilgrims will sacrifice, in thanks to the Lord for having this great opportunity to gain forgiveness for all the sins committed to that day and to confirm their faith in Allah the One and Only God. In addition, because the Hajj requires a certain discipline from the faithful (no bleeding, no arguing, no scratching, etc.), the Moslem will slaughter one animal for any infractions thereof. Most of the slaughtered animals are giving away as charity to the misfortunate and needy, while a portion is left for the believer to enjoy and thank the Lord for his bounty. During any of the two or three days of Tashriq, the Pilgrims can discard their Ihram, by a shave of the head or cutting of a few locks of hair (for the men it is preferable to shave, but some may elect to cut a few locks off, and the woman are only required to cut a few locks of their hair).

6) The final rite is the Tawaf Al-Wada'a, which is the circulation of the Ka'aba seven times, bidding farewell to the House of God and thanking the Lord for this great opportunity to enter His Holy Land and House, which is only open to the faithful, ever since Mohammed declared the area as purified from any form of association with the Divinity. That was during the Farewell Pilgrimage before his death. The pilgrim will take note of the scene in Arafat when the Prophet Mohammed made his farewell address to his followers (100,000 strong) after his victories against all those who refused to accept the belief in the One True God and who tried to kill his mission from the very start. In this address he reminded the faithful that every man is responsible to God for everything he does and owns, and each person is allotted certain responsibilities, depending upon his position, for the shepherd is responsible for his flocks, and the man is responsible for his family and the wealth which he has been granted, and the rulers are responsible and accountable for their people's rights and welfare [Most Moslem leaders of the world today would do well to recall these last warnings of Mohammed (P)]. On the other hand every man is accountable to God for all his actions and all his thoughts in life. In this final pilgrimage of the Prophet Mohammed (P) the last words of the Koran came down: "Today, those who disbelieve have given up hope (on destroying your faith), so have no fear of them, and fear Me! Today, I have completed My bounty upon you and endorsed Islam for you as your religion!"



speaking to Mohammed [peace and blessings of Allah be upon him (p)]: "And call upon the people to make the pilgrimage; that they shall come to you on foot and on every type of mount, originating from every deep crevice (valley)"

There are many explanations for the pilgrimage to Mecca, of which the most widely accepted among the interpreters of the Koran is to reflect upon the ordeals and sacrifices of the Prophet Ibrahim, or Abraham in the Old Testament (p), and his son Ismael (p), or Ishmail in the Old Testament, during their mission to build the House of God in the city of Mecca. Ibrahim (p) is regarded in the Koran as the first to proclaim this simple monotheism of Islam and the first of a long line of prophets that followed him, descending from the same lineage. Thus Isaac and all the prophets of his line based their religious missions on the Patriarch Ibrahim's call all the way down to Jesus Christ. But the final message was left to the descendants of Ismael to deliver and Mohammed became the last Messenger of God, accordingly. This monotheism was instilled in Ibrahim through several signs and trials to which the Patriarch of the Semites had to be subjected to in order to remain as an example for the others to be enlightened by. One of these trials was that Ibrahim had a dream (dreams of Prophets are regarded as absolute truths which either have occurred or which must be fulfilled). Realizing the predicament he was in, he consulted with his son, Ismael (Isaac had not been born yet, apparently) as

Mecca during the performance of the five daily prayers (the second pillar), which they must do while facing the Holy Ka'aba, in the heart of Mecca. The Ka'aba was built by Ibrahim and his son Ismael.

It should be borne in mind that the Arabs, even before Mohammed made the pilgrimage to Mecca, probably since it was built by Ibrahim. But, as time passed, the monotheism of Ibrahim had been corrupted and had turned into a polytheism that encompassed more than 300 deities, by the time Mohammed (P) had come around to restore the faith that Ibrahim, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Jesus had been asked to deliver mankind by. All these deities had representative idols that were housed in the Ka'aba by the time Mohammed had come around. It was rightly labeled the Period of Ignorance. In any case, the tribe that controlled Mecca, Quraish, and the Banu Hashim clan to which Mohammed belonged had control of the House of Allah - of which the Ka'aba is the focal point of. On the other hand, it is worth noting that Allah was recognized by many Arabs-even the polytheists—as a Supreme Being, but some of the other Gods have replaced the Almighty in the reverence that he deserves, by most of the polytheists. Moreover, as stated before, a Pilgrimage had been institutionalized, by which the merchants of the tribe of Quraish had thrived on considerably. For them the polytheism of their fellow Arabs was never to be challenged by any other religion, until Mohammed came. Thus these

تهانينا

تتقدم كل من
أم عادل محمد العربي
وأم ابراهيم علي الويسي
وأم ريان محمد النوبي
وأم نضال أحمد الأصبحي
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء
بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات
للأخ
مختار حسين أحمد النوبي
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون،
وألف مبروك

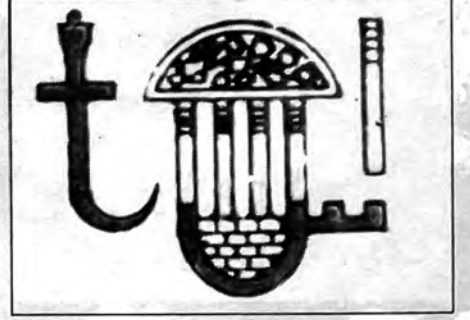
ألف مبروك



تهانينا لك من بابا وماما، ومن كل آل المحضار وآل السقاف
تتمنى لها حياة سعيدة مديدة.
بعيد ميلارها الأول بين لفيف من الأهل والأصدقاء.
احتفلت الطفلة الحبيبة دونه يحيى المحضار



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والحكومة الرشيدة، وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني
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HAPPY EID

Countdown to Elections:

Candidates Talk About Hopes, Ambitions and Frustrations

WITH elections day (27 April) looming large in the horizon, candidates and electorate alike are full of expectations and apprehension. The eyes and ears of the world are now turned towards this country.

A fair and impartial outcome will set a good example for many other Arab and foreign countries whose democracies are still in their infancy, or whose people are still suffering under the yoke of totalitarianism.

There are 3789 candidates competing in 301 constituencies spread over the 18 governorates of Yemen. Of those, 77% are independent and 23% belong to the ruling and opposition parties.

Yemen Times has interviewed three candidates representing three different political persuasions. They may diverge in their views regarding the current political situation, but they all meet in their great and honest desire to serve the people of Yemen as best as they can.

Jamal Ahmed Al-Showbali



Mr. Jamal Ahmad Al-Showbali is an independent candidate from Alhad, Yafi'. He is running for parliament at constituency number 81, carrying the electoral symbol, the hawk.

Q:- What motivated you to run for parliament?
A:- The motivation is not personal. The desire to participate in the elections came after pressure from the people of the constituency to represent them in the next parliament.

Q:- What ambitions and aspirations do you have for your constituents upon getting into parliament?
A:- God willing, I will try to work hard for the good of the Yemeni people in general and my constituents in particular.

Q:- What sort of difficulties do you face in your campaign?
A:- One of the difficulties is that my constituency extends over a large area, passing through rocky and mountainous areas.

development for all governorates in general and my constituency in particular.
- Working with the other representatives of Yafi' to preserve the security and safety of the people.
- Focusing on improving and developing the education, health, and agricultural sectors through maintaining current projects, and starting new ones.

Q:- Is your elections campaign financed by any particular organization?
A:- There is nobody to finance my campaign. But there is a great moral support by the people in the constituency. Many people have volunteered their time and efforts to help in my campaign.

Q:- What are your impressions about the upcoming elections?
A:- We are still in the middle of the road to understanding the real meaning of elections. We are hopeful in developing democratic practices to the required level.

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A:- We are still in the middle of the road to understanding the real meaning of elections. We are hopeful in developing democratic practices to the required level.

Q:- Do you think there will be any development or modernization after the elections?
A:- We all hope that the elections will be followed by honest reformation of the situations in the country.

Q:- How confident are you of winning?
A:- Running for parliament is a right guaranteed by the constitution to be practiced by any citizen.

Dr. Bilquis Al-Hadhrani



Dr. Bilquis Al-Hadhrani is a researcher, poet, columnist, politician and an active member of the female movement in Yemen.

Q- What is your aim in running for parliament?
A- I shall concentrate on getting the voiceless women, children, and old people to be heard in parliament.

Q- How do you foresee the next elections as compared to those of '93?
A- Every candidate hopes that these elections will be better than the last.

Q- What are your impressions about the upcoming elections?
A:- We are still in the middle of the road to understanding the real meaning of elections. We are hopeful in developing democratic practices to the required level.

Q- What difficulties do you face in your election campaign?
A- Talking about difficulties eventually leads to discussing the violations committed by the coalition partners.

Q- Do you think there will be any development or modernization after the elections?
A:- We all hope that the elections will be followed by honest reformation of the situations in the country.

Q- Elections in the world's major democracies aim to produce some drastic changes in society. In Yemen, however, many people view elections as wholly futile. Do you think that these elections will lead to any change in the country?

A- In any truly democratic country, elections continuously lead for the better. Competition among parties and candidates is based on clear and practical election campaign programs.

The political and social conditions we inherited from the previous political environments have decreased the citizens' care for political programs. The official apparatus represent an awesome power overwhelming all other viewpoints.

Our party with its long history of struggle does not indulge in clairvoyancy. It puts its views according to strategic analyses that see the present with the power of specifying the mistakes of the past.

Q- Are you confident of succeeding?
A- Do you think that any candidate who wishes to serve the people is not confident of the steps he or she takes? Those who enter this field write down the results through confidence-filled beginnings.

Q- How do you foresee the next elections as compared to those of '93?
A- Every candidate hopes that these elections will be better than the last.

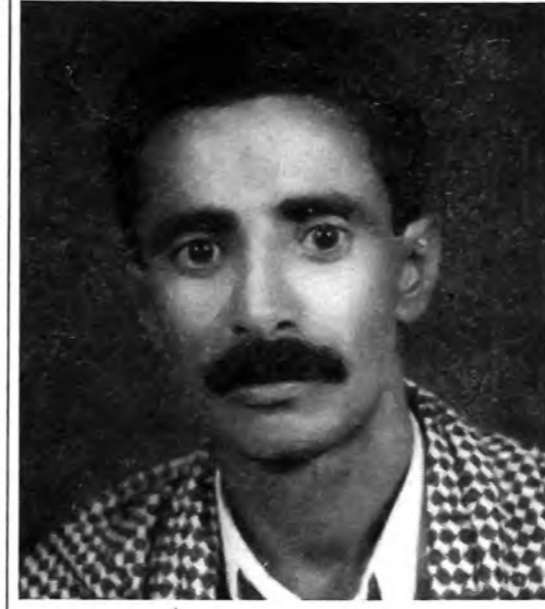
Q- What role must the two ruling coalition parties play to help women in this process?
A- I could, with all honesty state, that the ruling parties have not provided women's issues any attention.

Q- How do you supported financially?
A: As its candidate, the Nasserite Party is my main financier. There is also a campaign to collect donations being organized by some enthusiastic people

Q- What difficulties do you face in your election campaign?
A- Talking about difficulties eventually leads to discussing the violations committed by the coalition partners. Our party had diagnosed many ailments right at the establishment of the tripartite coalition in 1993.

Q- Any last comment?
A- My word to the sons and daughters of this good land is to rely on choosing the best, most competent, and capable people to represent them.

Askar Ali Naji Al-dhumein



Mr. Askar Ali Naji Al-Dhumein - a former army officer - is now committed to political activity. As a member of the Nasserite Unionist Party, he is a candidate of constituency number 297 in Al-Jawf governorate.

Q: Why were you nominated?
A: I was nominated upon a party decision. Second, I personally have the desire to participate in bringing about political change towards democracy in Yemen, and to develop the Yemeni society in general and my local community in particular.

Q: What are your major goals and ambitions?
A: A member of parliament is supposed to have general patriotic goals, within which constituency affairs and problems are included. Those goals are specified by the party's elections program.

Q: How do you supported financially?
A: As its candidate, the Nasserite Party is my main financier. There is also a campaign to collect donations being organized by some enthusiastic people

Q: How do you supported financially?
A: As its candidate, the Nasserite Party is my main financier. There is also a campaign to collect donations being organized by some enthusiastic people

who yearn for change and modernization. All this support, however, cannot even begin to compete with the financial aid granted to candidates from the two ruling parties.

Q: What are your impressions so far about the elections procedures?
A: There are several reservations and remarks regarding the many irregularities that accompanied the first stages of the elections process.

Q: What sort of difficulties do you face in your electioneering campaign?
A: Lack of resources is the major obstacle. Transportation is also very difficult in that region due to the lack of a decent network of paved roads which can be used to get to the elections centers.

Q: How do you see the post-elections era?
A: The shade of the future will be decided by the outcome of the elections. If the present ruling parties win a majority, the status quo will be maintained, only with a more negative downturn.

Q: How confident are you of your party's and your own ability to win in the elections?
A: I am confident that the Nasserite Unionist Party will remain faithful to its cause and the idea of change and modernization.

Q: Any last comment?
A: I sincerely call upon all those who are concerned with the issue of change in Yemen and who are faithful to the principle of the move towards democracy, to direct all possible support towards economic and social development.

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A: I sincerely call upon all those who are concerned with the issue of change in Yemen and who are faithful to the principle of the move towards democracy, to direct all possible support towards economic and social development.

Elections Monitoring Committee. رقابة الانتخابات. Private Voluntary Initiative. Aims to Promote Civil Society & Democracy.

ترحب لجنة رقابة الانتخابات بضيوف الكرام بمناسبة إجراء الانتخابات النيابية 1997 م. وفي إطار التعددية السياسية في الجمهورية اليمنية. ونود التعاون مع اللجنة بتعبئة الاستبيان التالي:

Form with questions in Arabic and a table for responses. Questions include: هل من زيارت سابقة للجنة؟ هل شاركت قبل هذا في الرقابة على الانتخابات في أي مكان؟ متى وصلت إلى اليمن؟ متى ستفاد؟ ماهي مراكز الاقتراع التي زرتها؟

قصة الورقة وارسلها إلى: لجنة رقابة الانتخابات صندوق بريد، 2579 صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية

The Elections Monitoring Committee welcomes Yemen's honoured guests who are interested in the democratization process in this country. Kindly cooperate with the EMC by answering the questions in this survey.

Form with questions in English and a table for responses. Questions include: 1- Have you visited Yemen before? 2- Have you participated in elections monitoring before? 3- When did you arrive in Yemen?

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Official Inauguration of Sam-Yemen School

Mr. Nigel B. Houghton is the principal of the newly opened Sam Yemen School. He was educated in Britain, and has a degree in Mathematics education.

Q: Could you give us a brief idea about the academic system at the school?

A: We teach the children in Arabic and English. Children start here at the nursery at age four, and leave us at age 18. We teach 'O' level and 'A' levels as well as Yemeni board examinations at the appropriate times. Our aim is that our students leave us fully bi-lingual, i.e. be able to speak, read and write in Arabic and in English, as native speakers. We base our English subjects on the British national curriculum i.e. on IGCSE and 'A' level examination syllabuses. Our students can gain qualifications which allow them to study anywhere in the world. We want to make sure that, upon leaving school, our students are independent human beings. We want them to be an asset for whoever they work with in the future.

examinations. In class 9, our students do the Yemeni board examinations in Arabic, Islamic, social studies, etc. In class 10, they sit the International GCSE. We use the Cambridge Board examinations. They sit that in Arabic, English, Mathematics and Science. At class 12, they sit 'A' level examinations. That depends on what they decide or choose to do.

Q: What about the fees required of the students?

A: Our fees are half in riyals and half in dollars. It's total is US\$240 and YR24,000 for the full year with YR 4000 as a registration fee. We like our students to wear a uniform. We buy the uniforms wholesale, and sell them to our students at cost price. We also do the same with exercise and text books. The only other fee they might have to pay is for the school buses which we subcontract. At the moment we have 4 buses. The fees for that are set by the subcontractors.

Q: What sort of facilities does the school provide?

A: We are at the moment finishing off our science laboratory. We have a library which partially stocked at the moment. We are putting more books in it every day. It will be fully stocked within 4 months with books in Arabic and English. We have a small mosque for the children to pray in. We have an enclosed play area for our nursery and preparatory school students. They are fully supervised by their teachers all the time. We have two volleyball courts, a football pitch, tennis room. We have TV, video and cassette records for teaching aids. We have many sports equipment. We have at the moment football and volleyball teams who compete with other teams in the area. Matches are usually played on Thursdays when the children have more free time. We view sport as being very important for our children. In addition to fitness and enjoyment, the children can learn the art of winning. They can also learn how to lose as well. They can also become disciplined by playing within a team.

Q: Do you provide any medical care for the students?

A: We have an arrangement with a doctor, professor Ali Mansour Saeed who is a pediatrician. Our students are checked by him regularly. We can also page him in cases of emergency. The parents can also take the children to his clinic and obtain a 50% discount on any treatment or medication. Every child is provided with a personal medical card which has the child's health state details.

Q: What does the school provide its graduates after leaving (job opportunities, scholarships, etc.)

A: We have various things we are considering to implement at the moment. Children aged 16 will get, if they are successful, a certificate of the Cambridge Board. We have special awards each year for the best performance in examinations - over 90%. We give awards for good attendance. Students here can build up a whole series of awards.

Q: Do you like to add anything else?

A: We try to improve all the time. We are trying to build a good school here. We want good relations with other schools. We try to make links with companies to make them interested with what we are doing at the school. We had some visitors and small gifts such as maps and pictures, from firms and companies.



Doing the Yemeni board examinations also means that they do not have any options closed for them in Yemen. We would also like to see them coming back to Yemen if they decide to study abroad. We feel that our students and all other children are the future of Yemen. We try to give them as good an education as we possibly can.

If we only concentrate on teaching them English without any attention to what is going around us, then that is very negligent on our part. It is important that they view the Arabic language and Islamic studies as equally valuable. We want to make sure that the children get the best of both worlds.

Q: What are the nationalities of the teaching staff?

A: We have some Yemeni teachers who mainly teach Arabic and Islamic and social studies. We also have some Pakistani teachers who teach the younger children, math's and science in the senior school, etc. We have English teachers who teach English. I myself give some lessons in mathematics. We have an Iraqi teacher who teaches computer studies. We are also recruiting new teachers from Britain for next year so that our children are taught English by native English speakers. All our teachers are well qualified. They have bachelor degrees. Some of them have masters degrees in education and all the relevant subjects we teach. We have policy of not accepting people who are not qualified in that way. We prefer our teachers to have at least 4 or 5 years of experience in teaching.

Q: What kind of certificates do you award?

A: All our students get regular report cards which contain the marks of most tests, their performance throughout the period. We do mid-year and end-of-year



Marianne Manda's new horizons . . .

Marianna Manda is a well known name in Yemeni artistic environment as well as world-wide. The distinguished German painter's relation with Yemen goes back to almost eleven years ago. Older "Yemen Time" readers may still remember Marianne who was interviewed by the chief editor six years ago. This time, Marianne is back to the land of Sheba, acting with the German Archaeological institute, bringing to us, for the first time ever, her dazzling and highly professional "Land Art Performances". She already held this performance in Aden early this year under the name of "MAGMA". Explaining with her own words, she writes:-



By: Saad Salah Khalis

during the *Gezahlt* Symposium in Kempton, Germany under the name of *Vanitas* (Hallucination), then in 1994 in Chaupis-park in Kempton, under the name of *Fire and Water/ Earth and Wind*. In 1995, Marianne performed in Ba'aran Temple in Marib, Yemen, this time the performance was *Feueropfer* or the Sacrifice of Fire. During the same year, the *Flames of Water* was held in Dresden, Germany. In 1996, *Light Spurs* was performed in Leipzig, and *Human-Relikte - Transformance* in Kempton. During this year, *MAGMA* was performed on the beaches of Aden.

"MANDA .. MAGMA Performance in the Gulf of Aden - Spring 1997

Towards the end of the Tertiary period, the super-continent of Gondwanaland split to form Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The earth burst open, its mantle was torn and magma thrust its way to the surface, forging volcanoes. Their craters continue to bear witness to this phase of the earth's history - especially *The crater*, the Crater of Aden.

MAGMA, the land art performance by Marianne Manda, reminds the earth of this section of its past. An ancient trail is retraced. A furrow exactly one hundred meters long carved through sand, gravel and rocks reveals the last piece of the *MAGMA* bed. It follows the ideal line of Jebel Shemsan, the highest elevation (1815 feet) of the crater ring, before entering the sea at right angles on the beach of Conquest Bay.

This rekindling of memory is laborious. Every single rock blocks the way. Heavy sand puts up resistance. A strong wind from the sea swirls up wind-borne sand in its desire to close everybody's eyes. Yet an unfurled metal track weighted down with sand in the middle safeguards the trail for the ensuing fire. The *MAGMA* channel is drenched with fuel along its whole length. And as the molten sun sinks, the metal's sheen ever more plainly dominates the twilight as it shifts from azure to black.

Right on time for the incoming tide, the *MAGMA* trail returns as the fuel at the end facing the crater is ignited. Blue tongues of flame give way to a dazzling blaze as once again the trail of fire seeks the sea-and finds it. Thirty minutes later, tropical darkness shrouds the bay for another night." This unique fire performance is not the first in Marianne's history, she started such act in 1992

Of course, land art fire performances are not the only aspects of Marianne Manda's rich artistry. She is a reputed painter, of high sensitivity to color and shape. In her paintings, one travels freely through her elusive patterns. Her deep vision and extraordinary sense of space and time captures the eye, as well as the intellect of the spectator. It is said that the art work reflects the inner depths of the artist's subconsciousness. In case of Marianne Manda, it reflects a serene union with the secrets of the nature, humanity and life as well as with the contradictions thereof. Passing through the titles of her exhibitions and performances can give the reader a better sense of the inner self of this artist; take for instance titles like *ABEANLAND MORGENLAND* (East and West), *Savage Heart, Black and White - Yes and No - Heat and Cold, When and Where To, In and Out*, ... etc.

Her professional career marks tens of exhibitions and galleries throughout the world.

Being an artist did not prevent Marianne from performing her educational role as a highly qualified university professor and instructor. Her academic activity crossed the European continent to reach as far as Turkey and Syria, apart from her activity with the German Archaeological institute.

In Yemen, Marianne made her debut as a painter in Gallery No. 1 in Sana'a back in 1989. And again in the National Library in Sana'a during the visit of the German president Mr. Von Weizsacker in 1992.

Marianne, keeping her very special relation to Yemen, says that she has already contacted several artists of the *RING* (Al-Halaqa), amongst which was Mudhir Nizar, and agreed to hold a joint workshop in Sana'a later this year. She is leaving Yemen in April to come back in September, hopefully.

THE SKILL OF READING

A vast and limitless amount of knowledge has always been accumulating since the existence of man on earth. The most effective method of keeping track of all that knowledge is writing. Writing is not so important in itself but derives its importance from a reading point of view, i.e. when someone writes to someone he has the reader in his mind. People can broaden their minds and effectively add to their knowledge and information through reading. We need reading not to pursue our studies further but also to lead a satisfactory day-to-day life, sometimes to decipher the intricacies of a newly bought tape recorder or vacuum cleaner manual, or to read the information light board at airports and railway stations. Not only has reading that relatively small role in our life, but it has always been the most crucial key factor of our modern dynamic development and civilization.



By: Khalid Al-Massna'ah Faculty of Languages

few of them can read fast with comprehension, using the right reading skills. Reading is very informative and is fun. However, it is a difficult skill that requires painstaking efforts and a great attention to be mastered. Nevertheless, many people may think that any kind of reading can conduce comprehension. This can be argued not to be totally true. Almost in any school, in Sana'a for example, students would apply the teaching of word by word, word reading and literal translation of every single word into the mother tongue, to any reading passage that may come across in their textbook. The result, then, is almost complete failure to comprehend not only specific ideas but, even worse, the overall meaning of the passage.

Our Yemeni educational system which was borrowed from Egypt has always been encouraging the so-called spoon-feeding teaching, that is cramming the students' heads with facts and knowledge, instead of helping them to develop their natural abilities in their own way and give them the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Among the most adversely affected study skills or abilities is the students' ability to read efficiently and profitably in English. Although efficient reading or reading "as a skill" appeals to many people, only

Pedagogically speaking, we must have a pre-conceived objective of any attempted reading. In other word, the purpose of reading should be crystal clear in view before any reading takes place so that the reader is able to determine the necessary or relevant reading skills to be applied. "Defective reading", as I may call it to indicate that haphazard kind of reading in which the right reading skills are not applied, can result not only in distorted comprehension or lack of it, but also very badly affects the reading-dependent productive skill which is "writing". Thus "defective reading" becomes a two-edged problem source which requires an urgent solution.

Fake Tapes Destroyed In Crackdown On Copyright Violation

The UAE has destroyed thousands of fake cassettes and software discs in an intensified crackdown on violation of copyrights and intellectual property. Piles of music tapes, video cassettes, computer programs, television and laser films were crushed by bulldozers and violators were fined or had their shops shut temporarily.

More than 40,000 of these tapes were destroyed. They were seized in separate raids over the past few months. Hundreds of thousands have also been destroyed over the past three years. "We have warned all shops engaged in such trade that we will no longer tolerate dealing in counterfeit stuff after the introduction of protection laws. Campaigns will continue and violators will be severely punished," one official said.

The UAE introduced laws to protect copyrights and intellectual and industrial property a few years ago after recurrent complaints from US companies suffering heavy losses because of such violations.

Strict enforcement of protection of copyrights and intellectual and industrial property is a key demand by the United States and other Western countries to increase their investments in the region, which is seeking industrial technology to diversify its sources of income. Traders said officials from the Information and Culture Ministry inspect their shops without prior notification.

Internet's Fallout

"COMPUTER WINDOWS" The psychiatrists in the capital city of Pakistan are worried that if the public craze for the Internet continues to pick up, as it has in recent months, "like the Western society, we may also start getting more and more cases of computer windows."

"Computer Windows" is a new medical term for psychologically ill-married women whose husbands are chronic Internet users. These women develop psychiatric problems just because their husbands become so addicted to Internet they do not give them sufficient time. There is an endless list of various sorts of information that is currently available on the World-Wide Web.

"You just have to develop a taste for it, and once you do, there is no end to this world of information. You simply fall in love with the computer screen which has everything you want," said an Internet-Fixer at a local private computer store.

"Our family structure is already

undergoing drastic changes due to the satellite television broadcast"

Taleban Gets Tough On Gas

Afghanistan's Taleban movement said that it would award a multi-million dollar natural gas pipeline to the consortium that could start construction first and offer the most concessions. "We have made clear that whoever gives greater concession to Afghanistan and gives the earliest start date will get the opportunity to build the pipeline," said Maulawi Ahmedjan the acting minister of Mines and Industry. The fundamentalist Taleban overran kabul last september and control three quarters of the country.

Unocal of the United States in collaboration with delta Oil of Saudi Arabia, and Bidas of Argentina have shown interest in building the US\$ 2.5 billion gas line between Turkmenistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan. Ahmadjan said no that no decision had been made between both sides, but said a protocol had been signed with Bidas last year. "It was signed on the basis that whatever was beneficial for Afghanistan. He said that Taleban were looking for the winning contractor to help Afghanistan in its search for oil and gas on its territory as well as providing infrastructural development such as roads and gas link for the towns on the pipeline route.

According to the minister, two competitors had shown different priorities. Unocal said it would consider starting work when there was peace in the country. Bidas said that they had seen the route, and since there is peace in the Areas of the proposed route, they would like to start work, said the acting minister.

Kuwait to Net \$5.5b in Sell-off

Kuwait has raised some US\$2.5 Billion from a privatization program begun in 1994 with further holdings to be sold worth more than US\$3 Billion, a senior official said.

The government has sold stakes in more than 20 companies earning more than 750 million Dinars. Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) managing director Ali Rashaid Al Bader told the English-Language Arab Times. Stakes in a further 18 companies valued at about one billion dinars will go on sale in the next two years, said the head of State-owned KIA, which is overseeing the program of sell-off.

"The purpose of this policy (of privatization) is to attract private

capital to the local stock exchange while increasing the role of the private sector," he said.

"So far the results have proven to be successful whereby numerous experts, including from the World Bank consider KIA's privatization program as one of the most successful in the Middle East." Al Bader said the government was considering giving greater access to foreign investors, who at present can only invest in locally listed companies through quoted investment funds.

Fire Hits the Pilgrimage Camp In Mina

The Saudi Ministry of Interior reported on the eve of the "standing" at Arafat that the overnight camp in Mina, prior to going to Arafat was hit by a wild fire the beginning of which is yet undetermined. The fire resulted in the reported deaths of 343 pilgrims and 1537 injured. The fire engulfed 70,000 tents that were near the King Abdulaziz Bridge, a major pedestrian mall used in the stoning of the obelisks that represent the devil. The Saudi authorities reported that the fire may have been started by the explosion of a gas cylinder, but many observers feel that further investigation would probably suggest different probable causes.

Lest No One Should Forget Qana

The Lebanese government and people reminded the world at large, this week that one year ago (15 April 1996) the Israelis shelled the United Nations outpost called Qana. The wild deliberate shelling slaughtered more than 100 civilians and injured many more. Most of the casualties were civilians and women and children, who were in deep slumber as the artillery shelling landed on them, producing for the 1000 or so civilians who sought refuge at the outpost from Israeli random shelling, the worst nightmare they will ever face in their lives. For Lebanon, it was the worst tragedy since the end of the Civil War, where Israeli hunger for massacres would not hinder their involvement in Sabra and Shatilla, the camps where hundreds of innocent civilians lost their lives in their sleep as well. The commemoration included prayers and the laying of flower wreaths over the communal graves dug up for the victims as well marches by Lebanese citizens in many of the cities of the world are living.

رئيس مجلس الإدارة الدكتور محمد السعيد
ومدراء الفروع والمهندسون والموظفون والعمال في:

المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

يتقدمون بالتهناني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

والحكومة والشعب اليمني، ولكافة عملاء المؤسسة
بحلول عيد الأضحى المبارك.

أعاده الله على بلادنا بالرخاء، وكل عام والجميع بخير



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the Government, and people, as well as

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on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak.

Many Happy return to all

Happy Eid

تهنئة

بقلوب مغمورة بالسعادة نرف أسمى التهناني والتبريكات إلى الأخ العزيز

خالد حسين عبيد الصلاحي

وذلك بالمناسبات التالية:

نجاح العملية الجراحية التي أجراها

ارتزاقه بالمولود البكر الذي أسماه "عبدالرحمن"

بمناسبة حلول عيد الأضحى المبارك

ألف ألف مبروك يا أبا عبدالرحمن، وكل عام وأنتم بخير

المهنيون

عبدالرحمن محمد علي (أبو أصيل)، محمد علي هشيم (طماح)

تهنئة

نهني الفنان الصغير،



محسن فريد الظاهري

بفوزه في مهرجان الأطفال الذي أقيم

مؤخراً في دولة الامارات العربية

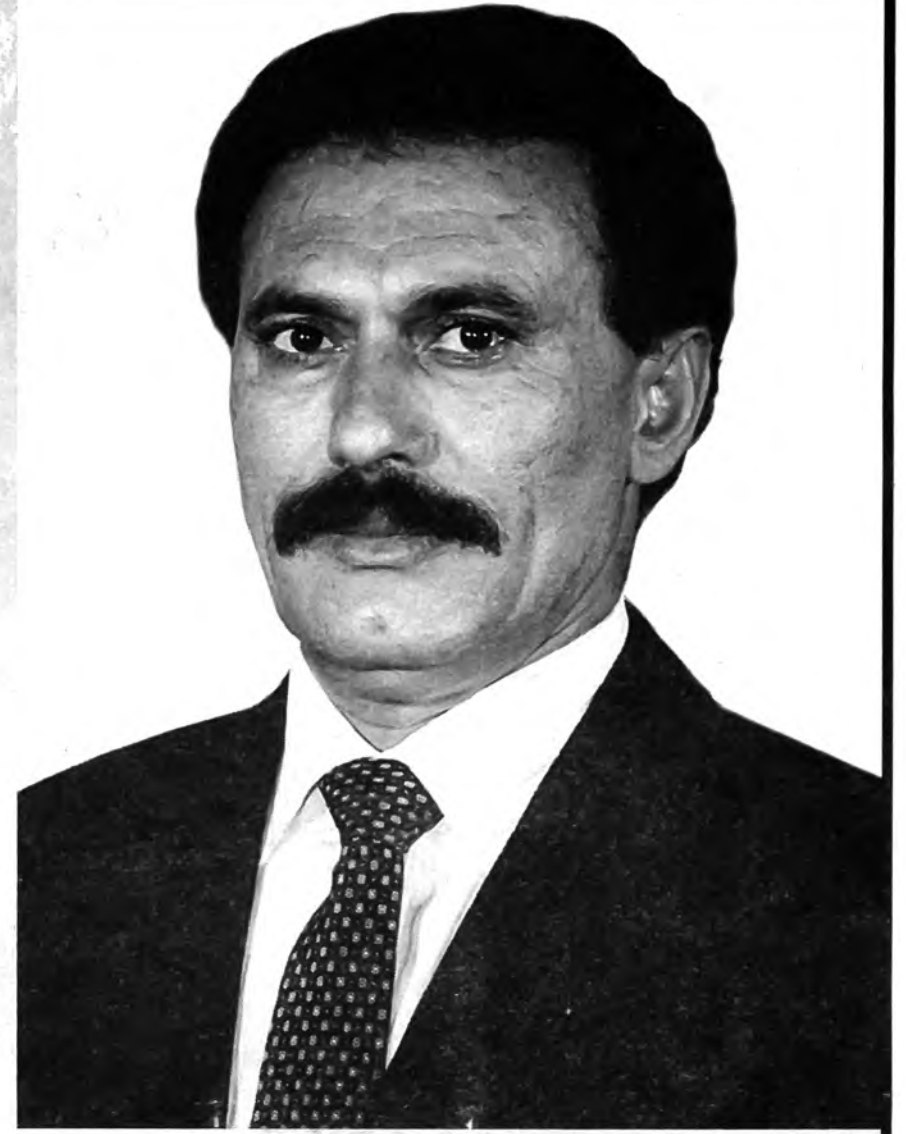
المتحدة بالجائزة الثانية في ذلك

المهرجان. ألف مبروك

المهنيون

المخرج فريد الظاهري والقناة سلمى الظاهري (والدا الفنان الصغير)،

يوسف الشريف، وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء



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political leadership headed by
General Ali Abdullah Saleh,
to the people of Yemen and the
Government on the occasion of
Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak.
Many Happy Return

الإدارة العليا، المهندسون،
والموظفون والعمال في شركة

توتال اليمن

يتقدمون بخالص التهاني وأزكى
التبريكات إلى فخامة الرئيس
الفريق علي عبدالله صالح
والحكومة والشعب
بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك.
وكل عام والجميع بخير

HAPPY EID

TOWARD AN ARABIAN COOPERATION COUNCIL ?

There are numerous reasons in favour of accepting the Republic of Yemen in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. Many have already been given, but some more exist.

Yemen is already a member of many international organizations, but none is a strictly regional one, except for the Arab League (it was a founding member of the Arab League and at that time it was known as the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen) and the now defunct Arab Cooperation Council (Iraq, Jordan, Egypt). Yemen got no benefits to speak from any of these organizations. These memberships brought little to the country in terms of security and cooperation. Despite President Ali Abdullah Saleh's recent visit to Djibouti and talks about the strategic depth that both countries offer to each other, despite the President's lasting efforts to encourage a peaceful settlement in Somalia and the move toward a negotiated solution with Eritrea over the Hunaish archipelago, Yemen still has no institutional links with its neighbors across the Red sea.

Last March in Mauritius, Yemen was also a founding member of the Indian Ocean Rim initiative with 13 other countries ranging from Australia to South Africa. But fellow-members are too widely scattered and also too different from each other for that organization to have an immediate impact. One positive point about the new organization is that it could allow Yemen and Oman to reinforce their links on the basis of ancient maritime tradition. For centuries, the Omanis sailed the seas all the way to China and East Africa with Hadhrami traders and men of religion on-board. But whereas the Hadhramis settled in the countries they traded with, the Omanis would seldom remain onshore except in Zanzibar.

The Yemeni authorities took interest in the Indian Ocean Rim initiative after the Omanis pressed them and also after many elements called for increased cooperation between the only two people that claim descent from Qahtan, the traditional ancestor of all South Arabians, as opposed to Adnan for the North Arabians. Yet there is not even a direct air-link between Sana'a and Muscat and Omani businessmen do not seem to be interested in making business with their counterparts in Yemen.

Worse, the recent Omani decision to develop the port of Salalah in Dhofar comes as another bad news for the Aden free zone. The return of the Peninsular & Oriental shipping company to Aden has revived the nostalgia for that port's lost grandeur, but at the same time two major shipping lines have already decided to use Salalah as an additional hub to their activities in other Gulf ports. That makes the task of developers of the Aden free zone even more challenging.

As for Yemen's request to join the Commonwealth, Aden obliges, this membership might also bring some advantages, being the only Arab member country for instance, but this is again an organization that is too big to make a difference for a country like Yemen.

A quick look at a physical map shows well that Yemen is above all an Arabian country and that entitles it to look for regional cooperation with its nearest neighbors, with whom it shares many cultural traits.

Region-wide economic imbalances could be reduced if only the free flow of people and capital was easier. At this point one may mention that the reason why the AGCC and the European Union do not have a proper free-trade agreement yet is, because after 16 years of existence, the former



artwork : Rashad Selim

Kingdom of Yemen had quelled the hopes of the Zaranig tribes of the Tihama to achieve independence after a vain call for help to the League of Nations. Yemen and the newly-born Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had also each absorbed their share of the Idrissi state in the Tihama, and, before it could sign a protection agreement with the British, the Rassas dynasty of al-Beidha was wiped out by the imam's armies. The Saudis and Omanis may now be too well-fed to engage in foreign conquests but that should at least make them more understanding for Yemen's request for more consideration from its immediate neighbors.

Yemen not only needs to export its surplus labor it also needs investments and development aid. The Gulf rulers can be nervous and angry about Yemen's elections and democratization but they bear a major responsibility for it. If the Gulf funds that helped build so many schools, universities and

Yemenis is one thing, expecting them to do as ordered is another one. And despite all the money spent on the Yemeni government and Yemeni tribes, none of the Gulf states can reasonably claim to have a decisive influence over Yemeni politics. The same is true for other donors. And on that matter the Gulf countries could learn from Yemen what it means to have a sovereign and independent foreign policy. If they could rely on Arab forces for their protection, the Gulf regimes would still not have to spend money for their mercenaries, but that money would be spent in the region and could be used to benefit its growth instead of being transferred to Pakistan or the USA.

There are more fields where Yemenis and their Arabian neighbors can cooperate. Until now AGCC countries have been unable to establish links with ASEAN countries (Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore) although they share economic

wealth and reticence towards democratization. Asian autocrats have been resisting calls for liberalization by referring to their superior Asian values, based on hard-work, group-solidarity, and hostility to individualism except when it comes to enrichment. AGCC rulers could make use of that rhetoric and mix it with their claims that Islam and traditional tribal values are better than republican democracy. But, this obvious Asian connection has been neglected until now. The Hadhrami citizens, be they in Yemen or elsewhere in the Peninsula, who all have relatives in the Far East could facilitate such relations. At a domestic level emphasizing the positive role of Hadhramaut for all countries of the region would also be beneficial for Yemen's leadership and could encourage all these wealthy Hadhrami business people of the Gulf (Bin Mahfuz, Buqshan, Bin Ladin, Rajihi and al-Essayi from Yafa'a) to have more faith in their country of origin and invest in it.

But as a trade representative from an ASEAN country in Dubai recently observed, 'Arabs are too emotional' and he pointed to a Saudi grudge against Thailand where a vacationing Saudi prince was robbed from precious jewels and murdered. And that is apparently enough to prevent cooperation between ASEAN and the AGCC. The Malaysian Premier, Mahathir Ben Muhammad, also called for such links during his recent visit to Kuwait and Bahrain and at the Yemeni level the Islah party mentions the reinforcement of the Asian connection in its electoral program. Which shows that some people are already aware of the usefulness of these Asian countries that combine economic success, a Muslim identity for some of them and a culture that is both modern and non-western.

Transforming the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council into an Arabian Peninsula Cooperation Council will take time because it rests on rational justifications which are seldom the stuff of regional politics. But sooner or later, the Gulf regimes will have to evolve toward more popular participation and increased sovereignty. Despite many shortcomings Yemen is opening them the way, and however poor they are in comparison with their neighbors, there is no reason to leave the Yemenis begging forever.

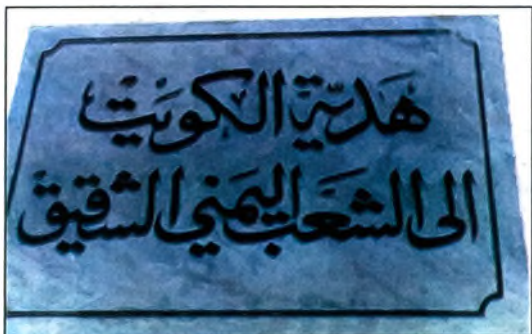
By: Renaud Detalle
Comments welcome : cfey01@y.net.ye



Yemen and UAE Presidents in Mareb

hospitals as well as the Marib dam had also been forthcoming after unity, would the democratic experiment have been so necessary? Isn't it so that each dollar the Yemeni regime spends on elections is going to be repaid tenfold or more in badly needed development aid from bilateral and multilateral donors? Gulf countries who would not have elections have chosen to have appointed parliaments. In the end, whether they are elected or appointed, is there any parliament in the region that has any say in the way government policies are shaped? For that matter the Kuwaiti parliament, elected by a tiny minority of male voters is probably more influential than the Yemeni Council of Representatives.

To this date, the government of the State of Kuwait remains angry with Yemen. Various attempts at reopening friendly relations have repeatedly failed. One of the ways in which the Kuwaitis tried to shame the Yemenis for their supposed lack of gratitude and solidarity after the Iraqi invasion was by putting marble plaques on every Kuwaiti-funded projects, including those that were more than 10 years old. The message reads "present of Kuwait to the brotherly people of Yemen", but this has not been sufficient, because giving money or projects to



one of the Kuwaiti plaques

organization has not managed to implement a single market between its members. Yemen has a surplus of labor which could be partly absorbed by its richer neighbors. At present Saudi Arabia has to pay mercenary forces from Pakistan and the USA to protect its territory, one of the perceived threats being Yemeni instability. But from a historical perspective, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman are the expansionist states of the Peninsula and it was only British protection that prevented the other mini-states from being swallowed up by Saudi Arabia. Before settling its borders with Saudi Arabia in 1934 and with the British colonizing power of South Yemen at the same period, the Mutawakkilite

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AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-4-97.
(Federation of Popular Forces)

- Main Headlines:**
1) Threat of Future Islah-PGC Conflict.
2) Aden's International Airport Turned Domestic by the Authorities
3) Dynamiting of Holy Shrine in Abyan Kills 3 Pregnant Women and Damages 8 Houses.
4) Elections Monitoring Committee Intensifies Activities.

Article Summary:

Sister Killed for Politics

Police in Aden are investigating the murder of a school teacher, Jameela Ali Sallam, 27, on Thursday 10 April. Tawfik, 30, the victim's brother and murderer, confessed that he was under extreme pressure by fundamentalist leaders to end his sister's political activities with a particular party in Aden. Police have categorically denied any moral motives for the killing. Tawfik, also a teacher, went to his sister's school, waited for the students to go to their classes after the morning assembly, then stabbed his sister 27 times in different parts of her body. She later died in the hospital.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly during elections) 15-4-97.

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

- Main Headlines:**
1) Despite Islah-PGC Agreement, Implementation Still Doubtful
2) Opposition Coordination Council Annoyed by Cessation of Meetings of Committee Supervising Implementation of Agreement with Coalition
3) Libya Hosts Friendship and Peace Festival

Article Summary:

Clandestine Power Struggle

All levels of the PGC leaderships are secretly trying to dislodge the Islah in response to several internal and external prodding. The Islah-controlled so-called scholastic institutes are targeted by the PGC. The Islah party is trying to infiltrate the PGC-controlled army and security apparatus by enlisting its young members in the Army and Police academies. The PGC was dismayed to discover that many army officers with the rank of captain or lower are Islahis. The PGC is gradually trying to take over mosques by enlisting some of its members in training



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

programs to become proficient in delivering sermons and leading prayers at mosques. The PGC is also in the process of establishing Koranic schools to compete with those run by the Islah.

AL-TAJAMMU': Aden (Weekly) 14-4-97.

(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) European Parliament Asks Yemeni Government to Implement Opposition Demands
2) Yemeni Socialist Party is Against Anarchy and Violence
3) Opposition Coordination Council Holds Cultural Activities in Aden to Call for Boycotting of Elections

Article Summary:

International Competition for Yemen's Wealth

Competition is increasing between the US and European countries to gain petroleum, trade and tourism concessions in Yemen. Rivalry for oil regions and the free zone is manifested through the field visits conducted recently and separately by American and British diplomats to a number of governorates. Some observers have indicated that the recent kidnapping of German tourists in Hadhramaut was for the purpose of expelling one country or more from the region. The island of Socotra is one case in point. Britain has allocated US\$ 5 million for the environmental/ecological protection of that island.

AL-TARIQ: Aden (Weekly) 15-4-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) PGC Stresses Commitment to Agreement with Islah
2) Liberation Front Party will have Candidates in 23 Constituencies
3) Opposition Parties in Hahdramaut Intend to Publish a Special Bulletin

Article Summary:

The Choice of Balance Still Holds by Riyadh Shahir

The Yemeni Socialist Party has committed two fatal mistakes that led to its present state of illusion and weakness. First, the YSP has created alternative axis of political bargaining and blackmail. Second, it tried to force the other side of the equation (PGC and Islah) to make unreasonable compromises, outside the political game that is within constitutional limitations. This was an excuse to declare the secession of the south, which led to the civil war, the escape of its leaders, the destruction of its military might, and the ebbing of its popularity. Boycotting the elections was intended to create suitable conditions for bargaining and not losing face. The nomination of YSP members as independent candidates shows that the game of political balance is still alive.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-4-97.

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Inaugurates the First Stage of Sayoun Airport
2) Technical Institute Established at Sana'a Orphanage
3) Supreme Elections Committee Agrees with the Islah on Several Issues.
4) Elections Observers from Russia and Ireland Arrive in Sana'a

Article Summary:

Permanent Symbols - editorial

The democratic process in Yemen is progressing at an accelerated pace. Positive and fair competition is continuing among all candidates. All attempts to discredit or negatively affect Yemen's successful march towards democratization have failed, including the kidnapping of foreigners. It is also noteworthy that no political assassinations,

like those that accompanied the '93 elections, have taken place now. This clearly proves that democracy in Yemen has become deeply rooted in society, and closely linked to the people's hopes and aspirations.

ALAYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 16-4-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Ministry of Interior Denies Arresting Socialist Party's Secretary-General.
2) EU Grants Yemen US\$ 10 Million for Food Security.
3) Director-General of Education Bureau in Aden Denies Subjecting Salary Payments to Holding Elections Cards.

Article Summary:

Elections Survey in Aden

A survey was conducted by the University of Aden to ascertain the opinions of 1,500 people living in Aden's 10 constituencies, except Socotra, regarding the elections and other social issues. It was found that 45.5% were for the PGC, 14.3% for Islah, 6.4% for other parties, and 20.3% favored independent candidates.

Regarding the standard of living compared to 3-4 years ago, 10.2% thought that it has improved, 24.6% thought it remained the same, and 65.5% believed that it has deteriorated.

The survey also indicated that about 71.5% of the electorate had participated in the parliamentary elections of 1993.

تهنئة

نرف أسمى آيات التهانى والتبريكات
إلى الاستاذ

أحمد العيدروس

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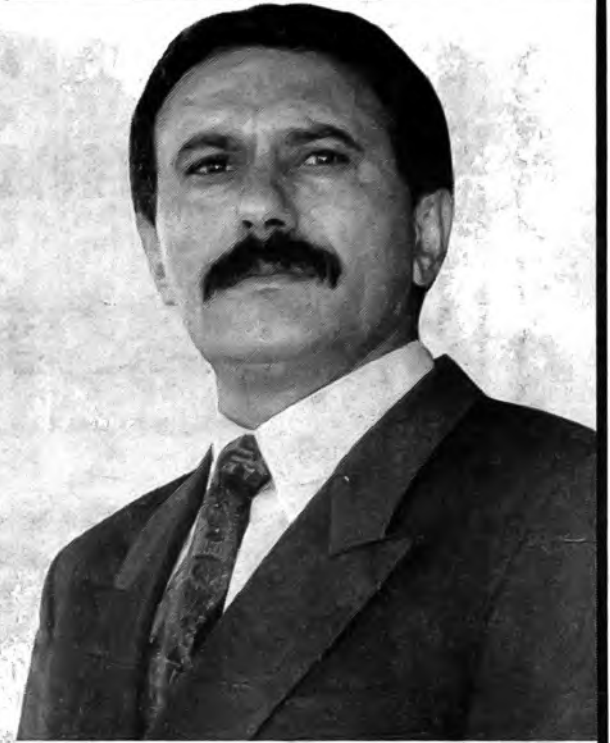
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NEW TOOLS EMERGE IN THE SEARCH FOR VOTES

CAMPAIGNING YEMENI STYLE

Candidates vying for seats in the coming parliament have used traditional and non-traditional electioneering techniques. At the height of the campaigning this week, the voters are hit by a barrage of appeals. Below are some of the tactics.

A. TRADITIONAL TOOLS

The traditional tools used by campaigners include posters, placards, flyers, meetings, lectures, carnivals, and of course, qat chews. Almost all candidates have used these techniques, in varying degrees. The richer candidates offer color pictures and in larger quantities. The richer candidates also have more staff and supporters, they offer meals, qat chews, and various free benefits.

B. NON-TRADITIONAL TOOLS

In the on-going campaigns, candidates have come up with new tools and techniques. These include songs and prose recorded in cassette tapes of which large numbers are freely passed over to the public. This is effective as a large number of the voters are illiterate. The People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) have especially excelled in this. Another method is the employment of "poets" who will make and recite poems praising their favorite candidates. This is done in various gatherings.

Actually, this is a revival of an ancient Yemeni profession - the maddahin. A third new tool is the use of a caravan of cars (especially 4-wheel drives) which go from one village to another, and now has also been used in the cities, as well. This caravan carries high posters and pictures, and loud-speakers beam out the "good news". It is important that the caravan is a few cars strong, otherwise it can be blocked. Elaborations of this also include stopping in the central squares of villages and towns to have an hour of bara'a dances with the drum or the mizmar. Some candidates printed their names and sign on T-shirts, balloons or other

items. There are activities that are not necessarily directed by the candidates themselves, but the political parties, as their philanthropic spirits are rejuvenated during the elections and they pass out food provisions, or slay cattle for giving to the "poor", during the Eid Al-Adha holidays. Whatever the means used, the campaign have been lively and dynamic. The general public is well-involved as they interact with this dimension of the elections. Even the generally shy members of society - especially the women - and the conservative elements are intrigued with the noisy efforts.



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