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• SANAA • July 7th thru 13th, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 27 • Price 30 Riyals

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Time to Let By-Gones Be By-Gones?

Kuwaiti Delegation Paves Way for Normalization of Relations ?

A five-man Kuwaiti delegation made up of senior intellectuals, opinion-makers and public figures arrives in Sanaa today on a visit lasting till Friday, July 11th. The group includes Dr. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi (Chief Editor of the esteemed Al-Arabi magazine and a well-published author), Dr. Ahmed Al-Rab'ee (Professor at Kuwait University, former Minister of Education and former Member of Parliament), Dr. Hassan Al-Ibrahim (Chair and Founder of Arab Child Association, former Minister of Education and former President of Kuwait University), Dr. Abdul-Ridha Aseeri (Professor at Kuwait

University, former Advisor to Parliament), and Mr. Jassem As-Sa'adon (General Manager of Al-Shal Economic Consultants, economic expert). The visit comes in response to an invitation from the Arab Center for Strategic Studies (chaired by former PDRY President Ali Nasser Mohammed) and Sanaa University. The program includes a seminar at Sanaa University's Gamal Abdul-Nasser Auditorium on bilateral relations on Tuesday morning, July 8th. On Wednesday, July 9th, the Center hosts an inter-Arab Dialogue seminar.

The visitors will also meet informally with a number of members of Parliament and the Consultative Council, senior officials, journalists, lawyers, and university professors. Kuwait, which was wounded by the position taken by some Arab countries, including Yemen, on the Iraqi invasion in 1989, is grappling with ways to re-link with those countries. Recently, Kuwait opened up to Jordan, and exchanged letters with the Sudan, both of which had been blacklisted following the liberation of Kuwait. Yemeni authorities hope the visit will serve as a catalyst in restoring normal relations.

Where East Meets West in a Comfortable Way:

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Unfortunately, the options are limited to Sanaa and Aden. For now, that is where Pizza Hut is located. Yemen Times received a lot of complementary feedback on the service, food and atmosphere. We decided to check it out. What we found is gratifying. Young Yemenis - boys and girls - showed what the future of Yemen holds. Clean and highly well-mannered, they mixed and went about their business with a lot of self-confidence. Families come with their little ones who enjoy the various games and toys in the park. Whether you eat inside the building or in the open air in the surrounding gardens, you relax and forget about your work/home burdens.



The food is excellent. Made of high-quality inputs and freshly prepared, you can enjoy various kinds of pizzas with different toppings, and other dishes. You don't want to miss the salad bar.

A piece of advice for you, though. Don't go over the weekends. It is too crowded. One last thing. The Pizza Hut is probably one of the few places where traffic and trash rules are honored.

The Need for Role Models:

Gov't. Must First Apply Austerity Measures on Itself !

The Government of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, only two months down the road, is showing it can already bite the bullet. It has decided to face its responsibilities head on by sticking to the reforms. It has taken new measures to put the economy on the right track. For that, it should be well commended. The new measures will lead to some price increases, which

will fall hard on an already impoverished people, especially the underclass. Therefore the cries of resentment will rise, and will get louder and louder. One measure that the government of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim can take is to show that the officials are also digging into their own purses. For example, why do some ministers have two, three, four

or even more cars - all at government expense? Why do 10,000 government officials or more have each dozens of guards, drivers, watchmen, etc. serving them at our expense? How come some ministers collected last year over \$200,000 in travel and per diem expenses? This government must first apply the austerity measures on itself, before the public.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Islam & Political Evolution for Muslims

So, Nejmmedeen Erbakan's Islamist-led coalition government in Turkey has been finally dislodged. I have the feeling Turkey's experience can help us better understand and overcome the tension that arises in our political evolution due to the factor of religion. We cannot but be Muslims, irrespective of how badly the West paints Islam. We cannot but aspire to modernize, irrespective of how hard religious extremists want to mould our life and vision. We cannot internalize one at the exclusion of the other. In my opinion, the balancing of those two factors is key to the political evolution of Muslim nations. And it is exactly for this that I thought Turkey could offer the region a good model.

Let me discuss some key issues and players in this evolution:

1. Secularism has become almost a bad word in the Middle East. It means anti-religion. This cannot be accepted by Muslims, however modern they are. Muslims believe that Islam is not just a personal matter, it is a way of life for society. Thus, Islam has a say in the way we manage our affairs, including political ones. This is a basic input in our evolution. But, we cannot relinquish to a few individuals the right to tell us how we understand Islam.

2. There are three key players in our evolution I want to highlight, as follows:

a- The military in the Middle East has always played the role of a vanguard. Of what is a different matter. In the recent past, the military played an anti-religious establishment role. We have seen this in Nasser's Egypt which fought many battles against the Muslim Brotherhood. It also happened in Algeria, where the rise of Islamic political power was blocked by the army. And we recently saw it in Turkey, where an Islamist-led government was dislodged by the army. However, the military does not offer any vision or alternative approach. Wherever the Islamists prevailed, they had to quash/transform the army, as in Iran and Sudan.

b- The Islamists of the Middle East can be categorized into three major blocs - fundamentalists, traditionalists, and the general public. All three blocs are pro-Islam in their own ways.

- The fundamentalists are politicians who want to mould society in their own vision. That makes them dangerous, especially if you disagree with them. They feel the West is an enemy, and they have good reason to feel that way. These elements are mostly highly motivated and articulate people who are frustrated by the backwardness and incapacity of their nations.

- The traditionalists can be described as community elders. These are people who are religious in their own way, but who are not out to shape the world. Usually, they are very tolerant, and they have much respect for other religions.

- The majority of the Muslim populations, irrespective of how strict they are in performing the rituals, do care about Islam. But they do not adopt a one-issue position. They often feel awkward about certain Islamic teachings, as they are presented by the zealots, especially in light of the progress humanity has made.

c- The role of intellectuals can best be described as disappointing or even opportunistic. Most intellectuals accept to play second-fiddle to whoever is in power. Thus, in their effort to promote their careers, intellectuals often vacillate from one patron to another. It happens in many places, and I would like to use the example of Sanaa University to illustrate.

Immediately following the reunification of Yemen, many colleagues at the university, as well as other intellectuals, joined the Yemeni Socialist Party. With the fall of the YSP in 1994, and its temporary replacement by the Islah (religious) party, many of them moved to join the Islah. Since April 1997, when the People's General Congress came out as the undisputed leader of Yemeni politics, they have once again moved their baggage.

Now, it is time to talk about solutions.

The solution should be based on two pillars - Islam and modernity. Unlike in the West, where the Church is officially kept out of public life - or so they say, Islam cannot be left out and it has a visible role in our political evolution. In the same way, modernity (in the sense of economic and social development) cannot be postponed. A cohabitation of those two factors and players is key to our proper evolution.

I believe the one-year experience of the Refah-led government in Turkey offers many insights into the possibilities. It would be unfortunate if Turkey were to be Westernized in a complete way. It would certainly lose part of its soul, and it would cease to serve as a potential role model for the region.

I can't see any inherent incompatibility between Islam and democracy. However, we have to tailor-make arrangements to balance our past with our future aspirations and needs.

The Publisher
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

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Yemeni-Saudi Relations

Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Minister of Interior, returned to his country following a two-day visit to Yemen. His visit was prompted by an escalation of the tension along the border between the two countries. The two sides announced possible breakthroughs in the near future. Don't hold your breath, but do keep your fingers crossed.

Japanese JICA Delegation Visits Yemen Shortly

A Japanese delegation arrives in Sanaa on July 10th for a one-week visit. The JICA team will assess Japan's foreign assistance to projects in the health sector in Yemen. Japan is one of Yemen's top aid-partners.

Government Stuck Efforts to Collect Tribal Arms

The Government recently started efforts to buy back military hardware, especially the heavy stuff. The apprehensive tribes are refusing to sell.

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Prof. Robert Burrowes:

“Yemen as an identity has existed since time immemorial.”

Dr. Robert Burrowes is Professor in the Political Science Department at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. He taught for many years at New York University, the American University of Beirut, and Hunter College (CUNY). He lived and worked in the northern part of Yemen during 1975-81. He is the author of *The Yemen Arab Republic: The Politics of Development, 1962-1986*, as well as numerous articles on the politics of North Yemen, South Yemen, and the newly unified Republic of Yemen. It was also in this country where he met an American Peace Corp volunteer who later became his wife.

The Historical Dictionary of Yemen is Dr. Burrowes' latest book. This volume, the historical dictionary proper as well as the lengthy descriptive essay and detailed chronology, cover a great array of events, personages, institutions and other features of Yemen from very ancient times down to the short civil war that put the Republic of Yemen to the test in mid-1994. The dictionary, descriptive essay, and chronology are complemented by a long, up-to-date bibliography with 17 subject headings.

Professor Burrowes is now completing a third book on Yemen. Basically, this book is a continuation of his two other books as it brings the political evolution of Yemen to the 1997 elections, and the end of this century.

At the end of Dr. Burrowes' extended visit to Yemen over the last few weeks, Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of Yemen Times, met him and filed this interview.

Excerpts.

Q: Could you tell us briefly about your first book on Yemen?

A: The Yemen Arab Republic starts from the revolution to both Yemens discovering oil. It covers the eras of Al-Sallal, Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani, Al-Hamdi, and the first several years of President Saleh's rule.

The big conflict of January, 1986 in Aden, and many other events are also extensively dealt with by this book. In general, it presents the difficult period of building a modern state.

After the Revolution of 1962 and the subsequent civil war, the country's capacity to grow increased gradually. I was mainly concerned with what I call the first generation of Yemeni modernists and their role in state building.

I focused on the role of Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani in forming the Central Bank, and Mr. Abdul-

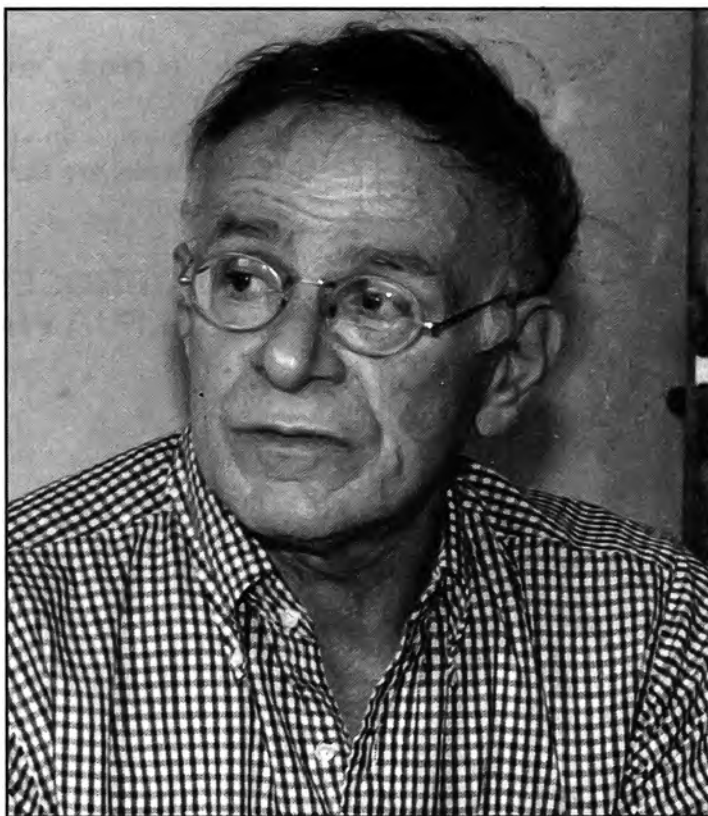
kareem Al-Iryani as the creator of the Central Planning Organization.

Q: How do you view Yemeni unity?

A: I came back to Yemen in 1990 for the first time since 1981. It was during the Summer of unification. My wife was able to drive, for the first time, from Sana'a straight to Aden. Unification was a very pleasant surprise.

The Gulf war and the Saudi expulsion of over a million Yemenis working there presented a serious challenge to the country's unity. The difficulties of 1992-93 and the 1994 civil war were largely attributable to the economic consequences of the Gulf war.

Q: Do you see Yemeni society as harmonious or is it still frag-



mented?

A: There is an old historic notion or identity of Yemen as a place and the Yemeni people as a distinct nation. I do not think that automatically translates into a modern notion of citizenship. I think this is developing now. There are still a lot of other competing identifications that subtract from the notion of being a Yemeni national or a Yemeni citizen. This exists in all countries of the world, even the so-called most modern states. In every country, you have ethnic, regional and religious differences. In newly developing nation states, these differences tend to be more extreme and more severe. Efforts

have to be made to overcome some of these differences, and to gradually make them less important than the common national identity. I think the act of unification has strengthened the sense of modern national Yemeni identity. The struggle to maintain unity in 1993-94 has, for most Yemenis, probably also strengthened the sense of modern national identity. The elections of April, 1997 is an evidence to the success of nation building and political construction.

Q: What do you think of the country's current economic state?

A: I am much impressed by

Yemen's apparent ability to adopt and implement the first two stages of the IMF/World Bank plans for economic reform. The WB and EU have judged Yemen to be rather successful in implementing the reform program. It took a lot of political organization to do that. I don't think that you can bring Yemenis to accept the IMF/WB plans without the political organization that took place largely through the People's General Congress. If Yemen is also successful in the next stage of the IMF/WB plan, it will mean a lot of foreign investment and increasing prosperity.

Q: The government is now trying to eradicate acts of vendetta and create a new local administration law. What should the political priorities be at this stage?

A: Controlling the carrying of arms and the elimination of blood revenge are important, but not nearly as important as the efforts to translate into reality the idea of some decentralization. It is very important to give the governorates greater power, and let them hold local elections at the governor level. They should have the power to tax, spend and create their own budgets.

There is historical evidence supporting the idea that local initiative works in Yemen. Much of the development that took place in 70s and 80s was not the result of the state's efforts. It was rather the result of local cooperation. You had remittances coming from Saudi Arabia to the local level. Cooperation became the local agency for the local development. In the late 70s and early 80s, I was the director of an American project in Al-Mahweet. We worked very closely with the local cooperative. I was impressed by the extent to which

the cooperative, using local resources as well as money coming from the central government, was able to construct roads, schools, clinics, cisterns, etc. These were locally made decisions. Funding was largely local. It seemed very successful. You had this happening in about 150 locations around Yemen.

Q: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country, and why?

A: In terms of the future of Yemen, I am confused an ambivalent. The positive scenario is that the elections have increased support the government and increased its legitimacy. This means the government will be able to go ahead with the very difficult third stage of the IMF/WB program. This will open the door to significant foreign investments. Many people think that foreign investments plus oil and gas revenues hold the keys to the future. They the possible answer in view of the insignificance of remittances and foreign aid.

The negative side, though, is whether or not the government really does have the will and capacity to do the things that have to be done in order to secure foreign investments. According to the positive version, if you accept what the government and the WB say, Yemen has been remarkably successful since 1995. It has been proven in the elections that Yemen can do the things necessary to make it possible for a more prosperous future.

The negative picture is that the Yemeni government and the WB, either singly or together, are fooling themselves and the world into thinking that Yemen has done as well as they say.

Because of my love for Yemen, I'd like very much to believe in the optimistic scenario. Maybe the truth is somewhere in between.

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"India extends its hand for more cooperation with Yemen."

Mr. Ratakon Dayakar is the Joint Secretary and Head of the Gulf Division at the Ministry of External Affairs in India. On the occasion of his official visit to Sanaa last week, Yemen Times interviewed him.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit?

A: The aim of my visit is to exchange views and review the ongoing cooperation between our two countries. We also aim to discuss the possible means to bring about a forward movement in our relations.

Q: Who are you meeting?

A: I have met many officials, notably HE Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. I have met with many officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Housing and Construction, etc.

Q: You said you are working to bring about a forward movement in Yemeni-Indian relations. Can you be specific?

A: The two sides have been taking initiatives. I'd like to recall that the relations between the two nations date back to two millennia ago.

In the past, Yemeni seafarers and tradesmen visited the west coast of India to buy spices and myrrh. In the modern era, this is reflected in various ways. We have been sharing anti-colonial stances. We have been cooperating in the UN. And now we are members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association. This new area of cooperation gives a new dimension to our bilateral relations.

India and Yemen have close



people-to-people contacts. It is natural and logical that the peoples' representatives should also interact in formal and informal ways. We would very much welcome the interaction between the parliaments of the two countries. In fact there is already a proposal to invite the honorable speaker of the Yemeni parliament during the next session of the Indian parliament. Parliamentarians from both countries have been meeting every two years within the forum of the International Union of Parliamentarians.

At another level, we are also working for increased trade and investment business. You know, trade with India represents only 1.2% of Yemen's external trade. This can be visibly increased.

Q: Recently both Yemen and India have been troubled by

drug trafficking problems. Has this been discussed with the officials here?

A: We have been very conscious of the lethal effects of this problem. We have concluded agreements with several Gulf countries for controlling drug trafficking. We are now talking to the Yemeni authorities along the same lines. We want to cooperate to control this dangerous phenomenon.

There is an ongoing cooperation on the specifics of the problem between specialists in Yemen and India. We have stepped up our control on the departure points - Bombay in particular. We are sensitizing the travelers, because they could be gullible and unwitting carriers. We are making people aware not to accept any luggage before boarding, and to check their own stuff.

Both India and Yemen are victims of this problems, because the drugs do not originate in either country. We are used as transit points.

India has been recognized as having the best regime in the control of narcotics, according to international conventions. The Indian community is known traditionally as law abiding.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I am very pleased with my first visit to Yemen. I'd like to congratulate the people of Yemen on the smooth and successful elections. I have been closely following developments in Yemen.

India's Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Kumunda Raujan Sinha, also participated in the interview, as follows:



Q: Could you give us a brief overview of how you see the Yemeni-Indian relations?

A: Since I came here 6 months ago, I find there is enormous potential for our cooperation. What it needs is better mobilization and organization. India and Yemen are two countries which are in a hurry to catch up with the rest of the world. We want to make progress quickly. People cannot wait any longer. So our relations are geared in that light.

Q: Yemeni and Indian travelers exchange visits in a large scale. Can you tell us about this?

A: There is a very big number of Yemenis visiting India every year. They are there for studying, medical treatment, business, and other purposes.

Also many Indians come to Yemen to do business, for employment, and other purposes. There is a lot of good will on both sides.

Q: Air India used to have an on-line service to Yemen. Is it coming back?

A: I have discussed this possibility. Air India should come back because of all the business. I believe that the Yemeni market is being re-examined. But it will take Air India some time to get decision taken. There are many positive signs, however.

Q: India gives Yemeni students some generous scholarships. Could you tell about this?

A: Education is very important for the national development of any country. India has offered facilities for the education of

Yemenis. We offer 35 scholarships to Yemeni candidates every year. Unfortunately, we have not been able to fill up all 35 slots. Yemeni applicants fail to fulfill the requirements.

Apart from that, we have 15 additional slots for this year in the Indian Technical Program. We can always increase the number, if there is need. Generally, we are very positive in sharing education programs with our Yemeni friends.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to thank the Yemeni authorities for all their support and assistance to me and to Mr. Ratakon Dayakar. The visit has been successful because of this support.

We are sincerely looking forward to more cooperation for mutual benefit.

**Dr. Mohammed Al-Saedi, Chairman,
Top Management, Branch Managers, Engineers & Workers
of the
National Water & Sanitation Authority**

present
their felicitations and warm wishes to

General Ali Abdullah Saleh,

President of the Republic,

the Government of

Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim,

and the Yemeni People

on the 7th of July,

anniversary of Unity Victory Day.

Many Happy Returns.



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المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

يتقدمون

بخالص التهاني والتبريكات

لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

وحكومة الدكتور فرج بن غانم

والشعب اليمني الشجاع

بمناسبة ذكرى انتصار الوحدة اليمنية

السابع من يوليو

وكل عام والجميع بخير

7 July 7 July 7 July 7 July



This is an *OPINION* page. Every week, a different intellectual writes his *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

Why the Government Has Not Earned Our Trust?

By: Hassan Al-Haifi



Levant and the Persian Gulf. This was prior to Islam. When Islam came, the Yemenis may have represented the bulk of the Arab armies that carried the banner of Islam to its farthest points, east and west. But, again, these mass movements of Yemenis became disassociated from the homeland and eventually melted in, culturally and socially, with the populations that hosted them.

A possible reason is that the mass migratory waves were not organized by any central political authority. They were the product of popular initiative, by people who have reached the conclusion that there was no hope for sustainable growth and prosperity in Yemen, and that the land had outlived its usefulness. There was no recourse, but to seek a new start on life from scratch, wherever they can put down their tents.

On the other hand, the general political instability that prevailed throughout most of the history of Yemen kept its rulers busy holding on to their throne, rather than to seek outside adventures of colonial implications. By no means, should one believe that Yemen did not possess the military capability of imperial expansion elsewhere. Yemen did have considerable military capabilities considering that the migratory waves that had made home elsewhere were able to overpower the original inhabitants of the areas they settled in and become the rulers there.

On another note, the bulk of the composition of the Arab armies that spread Islam east and west, surely attest to strong military prowess. The point of all this is that Yemenis, in Yemen, refuse to submit to a continuous system of political association that asserts itself. The system does not extract a sense of loyalty among the general population. The family - the tribe - remains the focal point of communal association, even to this day.

There were, granted, some periods in history when central authority managed to assert itself over the entire country, but these efforts could not instill a national loyalty sufficient enough to insure the continuation of a stable centralized authority.

In view of the fact that these loose national associations, systems, laws and standards were not instilled, and order could not be maintained in the way people fruitfully interacted with each other and the rest of the world. This particular dilemma lost for Yemen many opportunities for broader expansion and dynamic interaction with the rest of the world. This characteristic of the Yemenis remains an obstacle for any government, and it must be overcome if Yemen is to become a modern state.

For any Yemeni government to achieve mastery of the situation, the government must not just assert itself by sheer power. The government has to overcome the almost contemptuous attitude that Yemenis have for central authority. It goes without saying then, that the Yemeni government has to determine how to instill the need for government amongst a society that basically harbors a strong suspicion of government, due to centuries of

political power struggles and continuous suffering under various forms of government, including a republic that has yet to truly be a full fledged republic.

At the present time, much of the difficult circumstances faced by previous efforts to establish central authority can easily be overcome. Transpiration has become much easier and a reliable road network stretches out to most of the major population centers. In addition, communication has become easier and information flow can easily be arranged. But even with these instruments, the presence of the central government is relatively weak in a sizable portion of the country.

For the government to become more meaningful in Yemen, some efforts are needed to first of all impress upon the citizens of the country, that it is in their interest to have a strong central government. It is a big education project we are talking about, and it entails convincing people that the government is really there for their service.

With democracy, this task should be easier. If people are informed about the basics of democratic government and if decentralization is made a basic pillar of government, popular involvement will stimulate interaction between government and people and will bring solutions to political and social issues.

Another problem in the relationship between the government and the people is trust. In fact, it is the essential criterion by which governments can build up national loyalty. Trust means acceptance of each other's sincerity, seriousness, integrity and honesty. A government that cannot earn the trust of the people, will undoubtedly have difficulty in any country.

In Yemen, where central authority is highly viewed with suspicion, anyway, the problems for government are bound to be more acute. Therefore, the government needs to impress upon the people that their government is worthy of collecting all those taxes, which it has imposed upon them. That it is worthy of extracting the natural and mineral wealth of the land, that it is worthy of defending the nation's sovereignty, that it is capable of providing essential primary services, that it is capable of preventing abuse of power and resources.

Only then can trust be built and exchanged for loyalty to the government and the nation. This worthiness is translated by many visualized and institutionalized traits that the government can show. This also means that the people who are holding senior government positions impacting the nation in a major way have a role model to play.

Thus we ask: 'What credentials do our officials have? What particular qualifications do they have for the jobs they are holding? What have they to show, in terms of service and loyalty to the country? What attests to their honesty and integrity? What has the government done to those who have been in breach of all or part of the ethical and professional standards expected of bona fide public servants?'

All these questions need answers.

These are questions that the government must be prepared to answer, with proven evidence, as and when necessary.

On another note, authorities must carry the balance of justice and make sure that it does not tilt in any direction. Justice is the *raison d'être* of government before anything else. Its absence in any society means the absence of government and the prevalence of mob rule. Justice should not be viewed as only judges passing out verdicts on law violations or adjudicating in conflicts between citizens, whether as individuals or as entities. Justice is the fair allocation of resources for all the citizens of the country. Justice is equal opportunity for all people - men and women - for jobs, political positions, education, health service, a chance at free enterprise - for a decent respectable living, where the dignity of the citizen is protected at all times. Justice is one of the names of Allah, the Al-Mighty.

Other important qualities of government are consistency and transparency. The trust that people have in their government is not dependent on the personality of the political holders, or their muscle and guts. It means that the government is not based on power and intrigue. It means that government activities are regulated by well established rules and regulations and clear definitions of responsibility. It means that the will of the public decides government policies and directs the functions of government in an open and transparent manner. It means all citizens can have access to information on the way the government is or is not doing its job. It

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means clearly defined roles and the absence of conflicts of interest - the national interest and the interests of the public should always prevail.

Thus, we have much that the Yemeni government needs to work on, in order to establish its right for continuing to have control of the resources of the land and to act as the representative of the Yemeni people, and their will, in the community of nations.

We must remember that Yemen's

place stands at 148 in rank among the world countries in terms of human development. That can only change for the better when the government realizes that it has a lot of shaping up to do. The resources are there, the conditions are there, the climate is there. What is needed is a little courage and some sacrifice and a little soul searching in us all, with the government taking the lead, in all of its branches - executive, legislative and judicial.

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EU Pins Down Projects to Be Financed in 1998

Mr. Yves Gazzo is the head of the European delegation in Jordan. He also covers Yemen. He had served in several diverse places around the world including Brussels, Bolivia, Chad, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, and Washington. Dr. Salah Haddash met Mr. Yves Gazzo, and filed this interview.

Q: What is the purpose of your present visit?

A: We have opened a technical office in Yemen more than two years ago. Although my residence is in Amman, I try to visit Yemen 3 to 5 times a year. We are trying to provide adequate and increasing service to this country. My visit is to remain in touch and to assess our projects. It is also a good chance to meet with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and other officials.

Q: What are the main projects which you are still supporting in Yemen?

A: We have now about 22 ongoing projects in different fields. I think these projects are doing well. They are supposed to decrease the burden on the government. We cannot ignore the regional environment, the unification costs, the border tension with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf War, and many other burdens. These issues have a significant impact on the government budget. Given the economic reform program, we feel obligated to provide support to Yemen. The recent donor countries meeting in Brussels is a very clear indication of this support. The European Union hopes to be part of this support.

Q: Who decides in which sectors your contribution goes?

A: We have a joint cooperation meeting where we decide what are the sectors that will need support in Yemen. You may know that there is a food strategy mission here visiting Yemen now. It carries with it a \$15 million support package.



We also investigate if there is room for additional projects. Fisheries is a good option. You have a long coast, which is an essential resource for Yemen. We are also trying to boost the transportation facilities. The country is very big. And if there is room, projects will be made in this area. We are also concerned with electricity and water, which are the key sectors that deserve support. We are in the process of pinning down the projects to be included in the 1998 budget.

Q: The EU has supported NGOs in Yemen, especially during the elections. How do you assess these organizations' performance?

A: Our support for NGOs is a start of a long process. I am positive about it. That elections took place in a decent way, with no major problems, is a positive development. I am optimistic. We should not only support an exercise. We should provide long-term support, and create some contact and some common ways of doing things that we share. But basically this is a very positive and interesting experience. There are a lot of possibilities which have not been disclosed. There is, for example, a joint venture between European and local NGOs. We can work out projects. There is a lot of space for cooperation in this regard. If you talk about NGOs as a kind of other, then this is an old tradition in Yemen. If you talk about something with more structure, then you need some reinforcement of the local capacity concerning the planning etc. Then you can have something more sizable.

Deforestation & Yemeni-Saudi Trade

The commercial exchange between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is certainly a source of benefit for both nations. Haradh which locates nearly on the borderline witnesses many Yemeni trucks carrying fruit and vegetables into Saudi Arabia. This is good since all sides benefit and, if the sale prices are rewarding, it leads to the competitive increase of the green cover on the Yemeni land. In other words, farmers will grow more fruit and vegetables and cultivate many unused pieces of land. This is a healthy environmental phenomenon.

However, there have been new signs of anti-environmental phenomenon. It is in the Tihama region which covers a vast area stretching from Hodeidah to Haradh, and from the coastline to the beginning of the mountain chains (especially the area of Al Zaydyah and its districts). This area is covered by a famous sort of trees called "Salam" from whose flowers bees produce "Salami Honey", and whose fruit are the best food for goats and sheep to forage on. This tree is "endangered" in that region.

The story is that many traders of that area cut these trees down and turn its wood into coal. The coal then is packed in sacks and sold locally particularly in large cities like Sana'a or Hodeidah. This local

trade of Salam coal does not constitute a great danger or threat to the green cover in the area, though it should not be neglected. This is so because the amount of trees cut down and used for local consumption is restored after the rainy season, for the trees grow again. But what makes a real threat to this tree is the new phenomenon in that region. There are traders who cut these trees in very large numbers and load its sacked coal into heavy trucks which go and sell it in Saudi Arabia. The Yemeni officials have strict orders not to allow any such load pass the borderline, since the government is aware that if this process is not forbidden, the Yemeni green land will be deforested by such traders. In spite of that, some of these officials are silenced by money in order to let such loads pass and they do it. Since selling the Salam coal in Saudi Arabia is extremely profitable for those traders, it started! What is happening now is that the process of deforestation is sweeping off the green cover of Al Zaydyah. Worse than that, the number of trees cut down is extremely larger than the number of trees restored after the rainy season. If the authorities in charge do not take care of that, the whole region will be deforested.

By: Ali Ahmed Al Malhani

Yemen's Bank Notes in a Book

While the bank notes of many countries, particularly in the West, have been studied and researched for a number of years, there are many smaller countries where there has been almost no research. Yemen is one of these countries.

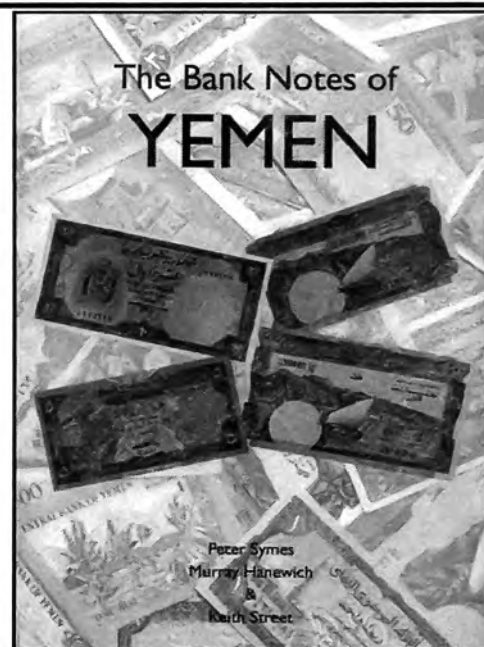
"The Bank Notes of Yemen" is authored by Peter Symes, Murray Hanewich and Keith Street. It is published in Canberra, Australia in 1997.

The book, the first of its kind, deals with the notes issued in three countries by four issuing authorities. It covers bank notes issued in both North and South Yemen and the unified Republic of Yemen. It starts in 1908, with the Mutawakilitie Kingdom of Yemen, goes through the period of British rule of the south, the two republics in the north and south; and ends with the unified Republic of Yemen.

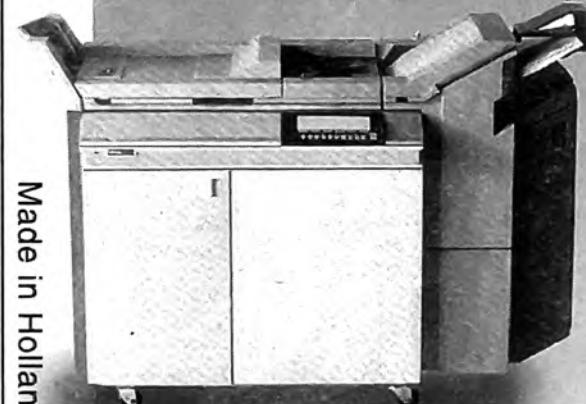
The 155 pages provide conversion tables, specimen of authorized signatures, catalogues and pictures of various bank notes, maps and general pictures of Yemen.

The book is useful for collectors, historians and students of political change. Of course, bankers too will find it interesting.

By: Lutf Al-Mahdi



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بمناسبة ذكرى انتصار الوحدة اليمنية - السابع من يوليو



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General Ali Abdullah Saleh,
 President of the Republic,
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 on the anniversary of July 7th.

Unity Victory Day

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والادارة العليا ومداراء الفروع والموظفون والعمال في
بنك التسليف التعاوني الزراعي

يتقدمون

بأعمق التهاني وأرق الأمانى

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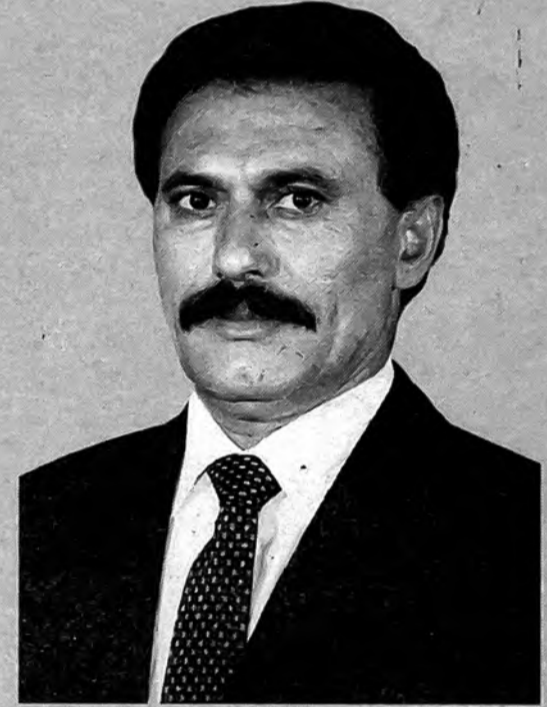
the Government of Dr. Faraj bin Ghanim, and the Yemeni People
on the Anniversary of 7th of July.

Many Happy Returns.

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General Ali Abdullah Saleh,

President of the Republic,

the Government of Dr. Faraj bin Ghanim and the Yemeni People

on the anniversary of July 7th.

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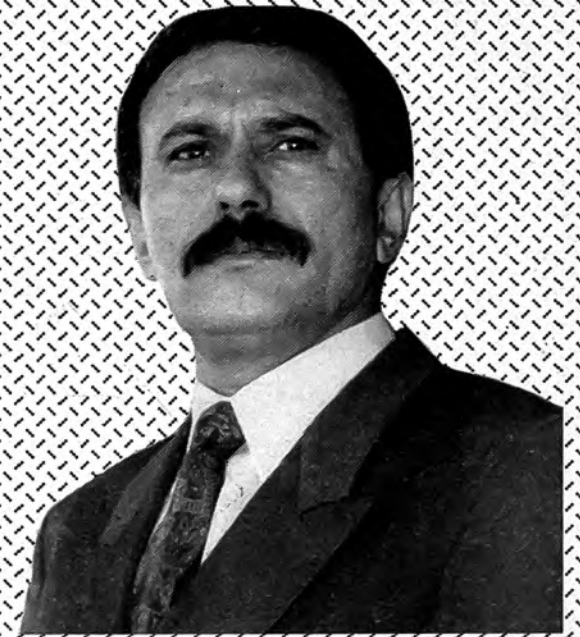
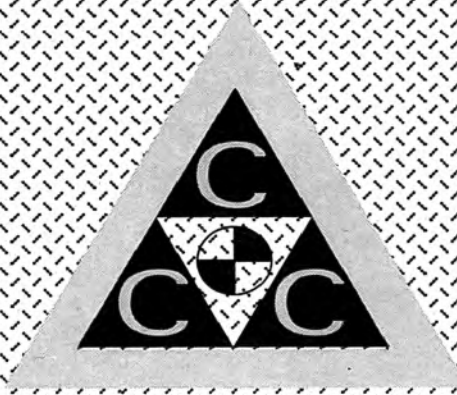
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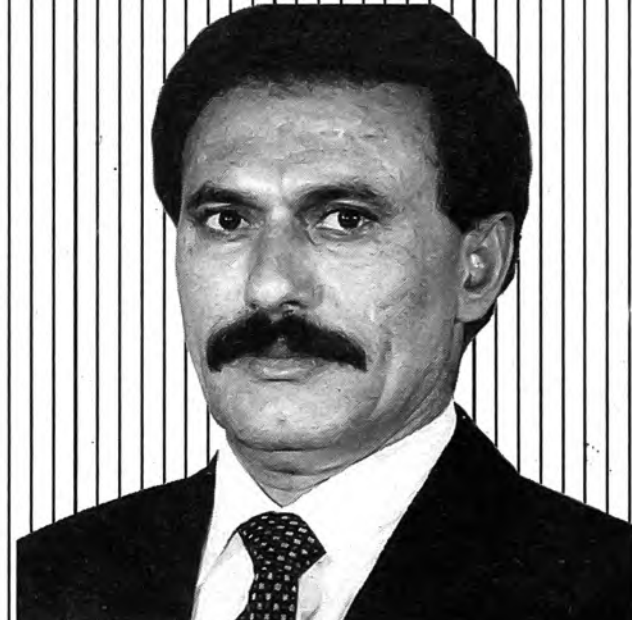
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and the Yemeni People
on the Anniversary of the 7th of July
Victory of our Unity**

7 July

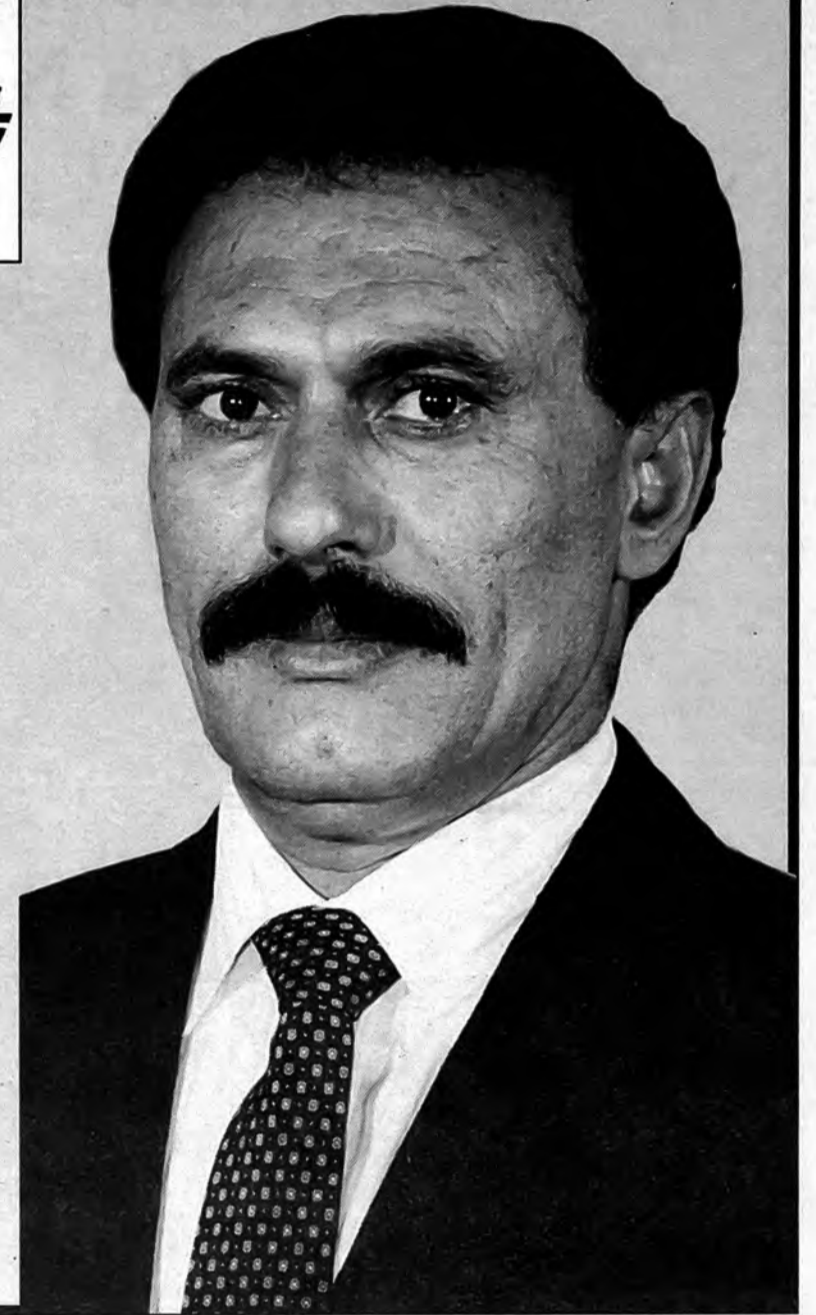


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الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

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President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and to the Yemeni People
on the anniversary of 7th July, our unity's victory day.
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Unity Victory Day

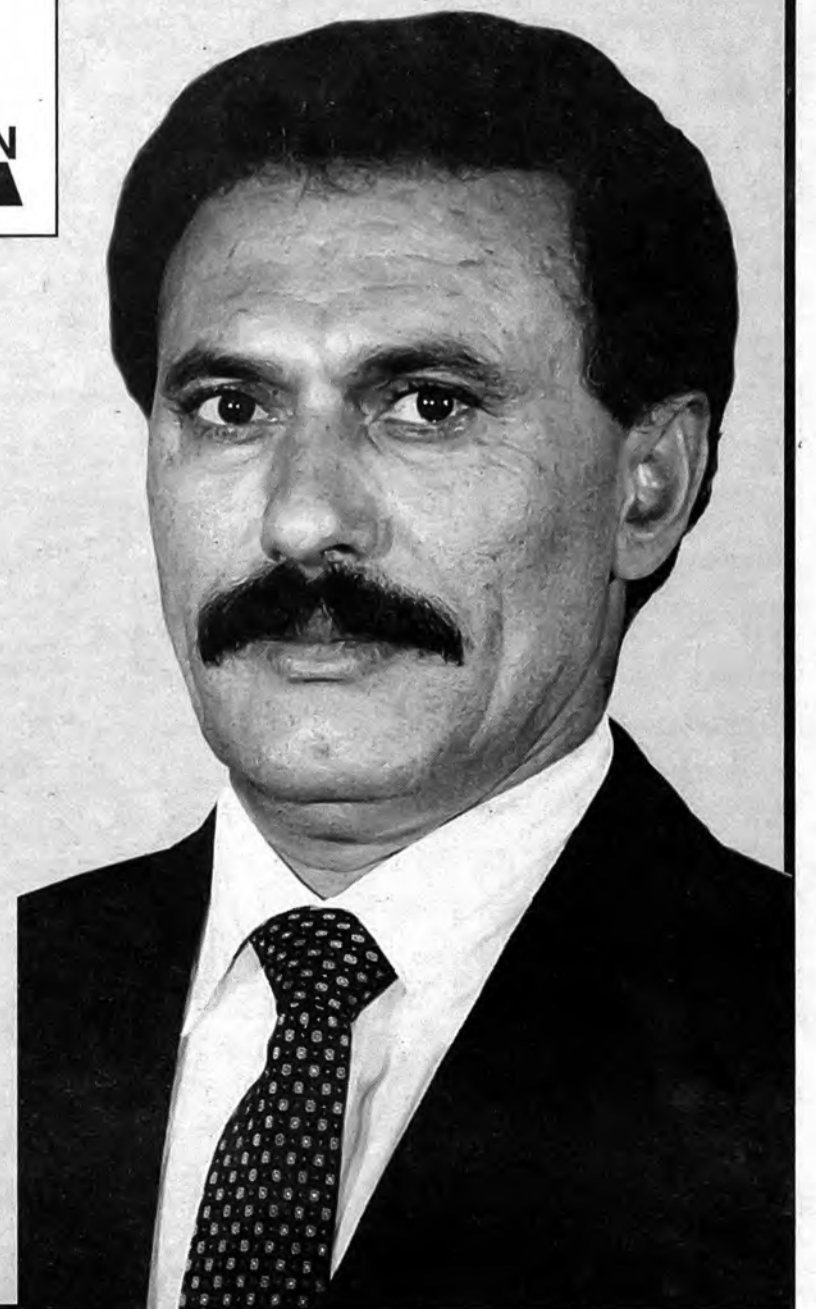


يتقدم

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بخالص التهاني القلبية لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية
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Mr. Mohammed Mubarak Adhban
the President of Adhban Group of Companies
Presents his heartfelt congratulations to H. E.
President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and to the Yemeni People
on the anniversary of 7th July, the unity victory day.
Many Happy Returns



Unity Victory Day

NASHWAH: The Birth of a New Musical Star in Yemen!

Nashwah Mohammed Mahfoudh is a budding Yemeni singer. She barely started her singing career 7 months ago, and has already captivated the hearts and ears of many Yemenis.

Born in Hadhramaut, Nashwah, 24, has been in love with singing since her early childhood. She left the heavy stuff of studying medicine at Sana'a University to be fully devoted to art.

Nashwah, whose name aptly means euphoria, possesses a sweet, tender, and beautifully emotive voice. She is surely set to enchant her listeners.

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times met Yemen's newest star in the Arab galaxy of much adored singers. His report.

Q: You have recently appeared on TV, and had your first album released. Can you share with our readers some background?

A: I first started singing professionally in one of the top hotels of Sana'a. By sheer chance, the proprietor of an arts production and distribution company was among the audience. He immediately approached, and soon a contract was signed. He commissioned musicians and song writers to prepare special material for me.

In a similarly lucky setting, the famous Yemeni TV broadcaster, Mr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Hammadi saw me performing in an event at the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research. He insisted that I should appear on TV.

It happened, giving me instant fame.

Now Yemen Times is presenting me to the public.

I am happy with it all.

Q: What do you think of the value of Yemeni songs?

A: In the good old days, and in spite of limited resources, Yemeni songs used to appeal to listeners everywhere in the Arab world. Traditional Hadhrami songs, in particular, had and still have a great following in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region.

Art in its various forms is now rather neglected in Yemen. It is as if feelings have vanished from within those who are responsible for promoting art. They don't seem to be concerned with new talents. They want ready-made people, like Nasseem (the British-born Yemeni boxer) for example.

I think that the value and level of Yemeni songs leaves much to be desired. There are, of course, a few exceptions here and there.

Q: As Nashwah grows, what are the options open for you?

A: Here in Yemen, the options are limited. As you know, many of our famous singers in particular, but artists in general, are almost starved, unless they have another source of income.

I am offered a chance to go to the (United Arab) Emirates. But I feel I should try to make it in my own country first. If things get tough, I'll certainly be leaving to other Arab countries.

Q: Many Arab singers launch their careers from Egypt. Do you have such plans?

A: Egypt is the mother of all arts in the Arab World. It represents



the starting point for many aspiring Arab singers. Anyone who can make it click over there, really has it made.

As I said, however, I am trying in my country first. I do not want to make uncalculated leaps. I am happy to take my time. If I get a good response and attention from officials, the profession, the public, I'll go on. Otherwise, I'll leave Yemen like many other creative people have done.

Q: As a professional Yemeni woman, do you face any particular problems?

A: You know how our society regards women in general, let alone female singers or artists. Even female teachers, lawyers, doctors are looked down upon.

Going into the world of art is an adventure. In our prevailing values and traditions, it is even more problematic, especially if you are a woman. I am almost in a continuous state of war - defending myself. My family strongly objects to my singing. Many of my relatives object. But I am a mature person, and I can make my own decisions. I am confident, but not arrogant. Many Yemeni women are conquering new fields. There are now female writers, poetesses, university professors, MPs, etc. It is a normal evolution.

Q: How much time do you spend in your art?

A: Art for me is not only a mere talent. It is a study, a profession. It is my life, and I am fully devoted to it.

I read many books on the art of singing. I memorize and recite old Arabic poems. I also have started learning to playing the "ud."

Q: What do you do besides singing?

A: Singing is my sole devotion. I currently appear at a Sana'a luxury hotel alongside an Iraqi singer, accompanied by the Yemeni band "Socarno." Ra'ad Barakat, the Iraqi singer, has supported me tremendously. As a qualified music instructor, I often consult him in musical matters.

He advised me to sing the old and well-known songs first, until I am reasonably known by the general public.

Q: Are you influenced by any particular singer?

A: Since my early childhood, I loved to imitate the famous Egyptian singer Um Kolthoum. I also like to sing songs by Syrian and Lebanese singers.

Regarding Yemeni singers, I am influenced by the late Mohammed bin Ahmed Qassem and Mohammed Sa'ad Abdullah. I once admired the young Yemeni singer Amal Ko'dol. But, unfortunately, she started to go downhill. Maybe it is because of the negative pressure of our society.

Q: What styles of songs do you like to sing?

A: I sing Yemeni, Egyptian, Gulf, Lebanese and Syrian songs. I also sing in English, something I learned during my visit to America. I don't want to be associated just with traditional songs.

Q: Do you see yourself building a home? I mean things like love and marriage?

A: Who doesn't love to love and be loved. Love is beautiful, and hopefully it leads to marriage. Love is the most beautiful emotion created by God. Marriage is an important social structure. It is important to me, and I want to build a home, provided it doesn't hinder my singing career. I want a husband who will support me and stand by me.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Any day now, my first cassette will hit the market. All the songs it were especially written for me. There is one song by Yemen's famous poet, Al-Qomandan. The cassette also has two Yemeni Jewish songs. The censors at the Ministry of Culture first objected to the inclusion of these Jewish songs. But it is Yemeni art. I insisted, and I prevailed. I hope it will be the launch of an illustrious and successful career. Say "Amen!"

تتقدم
المؤسسة العامة للبناء والاسكان

ممثلة

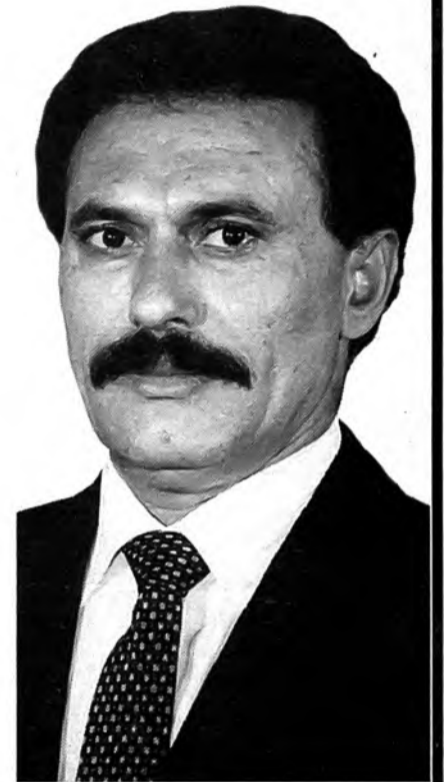
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Trouble, and More Trouble in Israel

Jordan's mediation has resolved a dispute between Christian and Muslim Palestinians over one of the holiest shrines in east Jerusalem - Khaniqa Salayhiya Mosque and the adjacent Church of Holy Sepulcher, where Christians believe Jesus was buried and resurrected.

"A Jordanian delegation, dispatched by Crown Prince Hassan succeeded in solving the problems amicably," Religious Affairs Minister Abdul-Salam Abadi said. He refused to give no details.

The Israelis Government and media had played a 'dirty' role in fomenting the dispute, according to Palestinian sources.

The inter-religious dispute among Palestinians has the potential of exacerbating tension between the Palestinians and Israel over the latter's refusal to stop constructing Jewish housing in the traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, which had led to a freeze in peace talks. Greek Orthodox Palestinians claimed the Muslim Palestinians seized two of four dormitory rooms at the adjacent church and built bathrooms on the church's roof. Now the problem has been resolved to the satisfaction of both sides, thanks to Jordanian efforts.

At another level, the popularity of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has plunged to its lowest point amid the crisis surrounding the forced registration of his popular finance minister, according to a poll published in occupied Jerusalem last week.

The right-wing prime minister also made a poor showing in another opinion poll which questioned only Jews. The survey, published in Maariv news paper, gave Netanyahu 33% of the vote and Benak 49%, new leader of the Labor Party. The two polls were based on a sample of 500 people and have a margin of error of 4%.

In another development, Sarah Netanyahu, the wife of the Israeli prime minister, declared she was ready to emigrate in an angry outburst during a television interview. "When people ask me questions like this, I want to pack my bags and leave this country," she said when asked about her husband's infidelities.

Sudan Claims No Role in Bid to Murder Eritrean President

The Sudanese government denied that it tried to kill Eritrean President Assaias Afewerki. The Eritrean foreign minister Haile Woldensae had told a news conference that Sudan plotted to kill Afewerki last November through an agent named captain Nesreddin Babakar Aba Al-Khairat. "After checking the list of officers in the Sudanese forces, no name as alleged, of Al-Khairat has been found," the official Sudan News Agency quoted Mustafa Osman Ismail, a minister at the foreign ministry, as saying. Ismail described the Eritrean allegations as mere fabrications through which the Eritrean regime seeks to justify its involvement in recent subversive attempts directed against Sudan.

"The fabricated Eritrean statement coincides with the plot of the Eritrean regime, supported by foreign forces, to attack Sudan," Ismail said. He was referring to jail sentences passed earlier this month on 19 people for planning to attack vital installations in Port Sudan in a bid to overthrow the government. Ismail challenged the Asmara government to present and try the alleged Sudanese officer in public. Khartoum has accused Asmara of helping the Sudanese rebels who launched an offensive from the Eritrean border in January. Eritrea denies the charge.

Eritrean Foreign Minister Haile said Khartoum had planned to carry out the assassination through an agent it had infiltrated into the ranks of the exiled National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of Sudan. The Asmara-based NDA is made up of Sudanese rebel groups in exile fighting to overthrow the government in Khartoum.

The Sudanese government will be forced to deal with the counter-attacks they will counter-attack and compromise part of the Kingdom's crackdown on copyright violations. The Commerce Ministry issued the warning in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. "The Commerce ministry has noticed a growth in import, marketing and sale of counterfeit goods of brands with quality and international reputation," the statement said.

It said violators could be fined between 5,000 and 100,000 riyals. Their outlets could be shut down for between a week and 90 days. Saudi press reports often talk of a large market in the Kingdom of counterfeit goods such as watches, clothes computer software, etc. Saudi Arabia said it is making a major effort to adapt to World Trade Organization standards and norms for intellectual property rights.

Saudi Arabia said it is making a major effort to adapt to World Trade Organization standards and norms for intellectual property rights.

Cyprus Moves UN Against Turkey

Cyprus complained to the United Nations about alleged over-flights by Turkish military planes, claiming they violate UN resolutions and undermine efforts toward a peaceful settlement on the divided island. In a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan, the Cypriot mission to the UN said 12 Turkish F-16 jets violated the Nicosia flight information region last week. Later on the same day of the week, C-160 Turkish military planes re-entered and one of the two planes violated the national airspace flying over the area of Ayia Napa," the letter said. "It should be pointed out that these violations which heighten tension in Cyprus are taking place at a most sensitive phase of the efforts to resume the intercommunal talks," it added.

There was no response from the United Nations to the letter, which was circulated among UN ambassadors. Talks between Cypriot president Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash will begin on July 9 in the outskirts of New York City. It would be the first known face-to-face meeting between the leaders of the two rival communities in three years.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned into a Greek Cypriot-controlled south and a Turkish-occupied north since Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third in 1974. The move was ostensibly to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority in the wake of an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north was declared in 1983 and has so far been recognized only by Ankara. The United States and European countries hope that peace between the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus could pave the way for a broader reconciliation between the two countries.

Egyptian Sheikh Denies Being Blind

The son of the imprisoned Egyptian cleric, Omar Abdel Rahman said the US Bureau of prisons had withdrawn the Sheikh's telephone privileges, cutting off his main link with his family in Egypt. Abdullah Omar Abdel Rahman, 22, said that the Sheikh used to call about once a week from the Federal prison in Springfield, Missouri. The Sheikh, convicted of conspiring to blow up the United Nations headquarters and other New York landmarks, has been in jail for nearly a year and a half.

Last month his lawyers filed a civil rights lawsuit, arguing that the blind Sheikh's health had deteriorated because of his time in solitary confinement. They also said prison officials had taken away the special watch and compass the Sheikh used for knowing when and in which direction to pray.

Arab States Plan Common Market

Arab economists had a distinct sense of deja vu when foreign ministers from Syria, Egypt and six oil-rich Gulf States announced last month they were setting up a common market. The planned economic bloc of eight countries, expected to start life as a free-trade zone, is the latest attempt by Arab States to unify their economies since they declared a common Arab market in Cairo in 1964. Progress since then has been negligible.

Economists say the near collapse of Middle East peace talks and a growing trend in world trade towards economic blocs may have given the idea greater urgency, but many obstacles blocking Arab economic unity 33 years ago remain in force today. Varying tariff regimes, currency controls and clumsy public sector domination of business still pose major barriers to integration. So do the differing legal systems, taxation levels, and property rights and investment incentives.

Small surprise then that business between Arab States accounts for less than 8% of all Arab trade. "The Common Arab Market declared 30 years ago was not implemented because of objective reasons on the ground," said Jordanian economist Fahd Fanek. Those reasons are still there and they will continue to prevent this new market.

The new bloc proposed at a ministerial meeting in the Mediterranean port of Latakia, Syria, groups eight countries with widely diverse economies. Two of them, Syria and Egypt, do not share a border with any of their proposed partners. The six Gulf States are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Even the Gulf States with largely similar economies are still arguing over how to unify their tariffs to form a free trade area. They signed the political and economic agreement in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1991.

But some analysts say the Arab States are still far from being unified. They are still competing for wealth and power. The external pressure is making the rulers of those countries feel the need for coming together. One of these pressures is the newly-evolved Middle East grouping bringing in Israel and Turkey, besides the Arab countries.

Regarding the Arab Common Market, so far the only concrete step taken by the ministers of the eight countries involved was to assign a committee to prepare measures for the market. They could not even agree on a fixed location for the committee's secretariat.

For three months, the secretariat will toy with various scenarios and possibilities for cooperation among the 8 countries. The committee will then meet in September to discuss them.

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The Calamity of Our Educational System:

"GARBAGE IN; GARBAGE OUT"

The last few days exposed our educational system for what it is - disaster.

During the last 3 weeks, over 3,000,000 Yemeni pupils and students took their year-end examinations. The main feature of the whole thing was whole-scale cheating. In some cases, the questions were sold to the kids ahead of time - at YR 1,000 per question. Given the number of questions in each exam, and given the number of subjects in which the pupils/students are being examined, somebody must be getting rich.

The Ministry of Education responded by forming a committee to look into the matter. Don't be surprised if the committee never comes up with anything, and the whole issue would be allowed to peacefully die away.

In a couple of cases, the students stood up to the exam supervisors, and a fist-fight ensued. The police and even the army was called in to 'help'.

Why is all this happening?

Several answers exist, but let us dwell on two factors:

A: The Fahlawia Culture:

A new breed of Yemenis has come on stage. This generation believes you can get away with anything and you don't have to really sweat it out. This new culture, referred to by its Egyptian word - *fahlawa* - says it all.

So most of the young Yemenis are fahlawis, meaning that they will employ 'ingenious' means to get what they want, without having to earn it. The fahlawa culture is responsible for the prevalence of cheating in our educational system. The end result is that we have graduates of secondary schools who are barely literate.

Not only that, but our young folks get upset when they are asked to work hard, or to show what skills they have. They offer many excuses and arguments as to why they do not need to go through the horror

of working hard. As long as the fahlawa culture dominates, there is very little chance we can straighten things.

B: Bad Intake:

The intake of the pupils and students is deplorable. There is no real education going on there, not even language skills, long an Arab strong point. Take examples:

- The mathematics teachers themselves know very little that is relevant to the modern world of math. The teachers mostly memorize a very formulas and equations, and ask their students to do the same. That is it.

- The curricula in the sciences are so out-dated that the kids study history rather than science. Well, may be it is the history of science. There are hardly any applications. For example, how can you study physics or chemistry without adequate hands-on training.

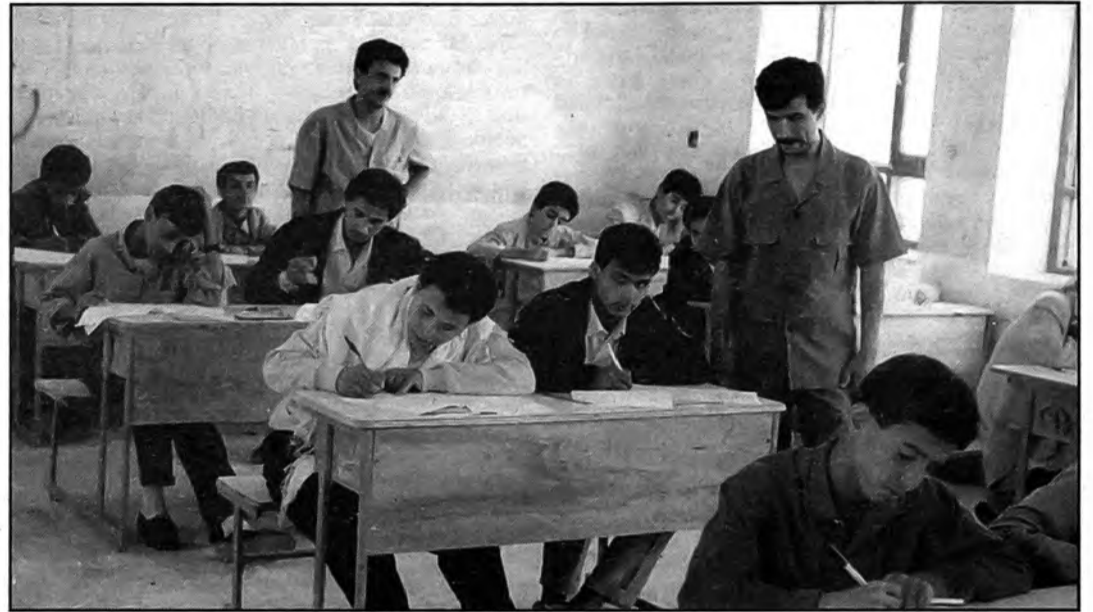
- English language training is a catastrophe. Just go out there and talk to the English teachers in English. What you get is mostly Arabish, may be even without the first 'A' in the word.

In short, the kids are fed with garbage, so what do you expect come exam time.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Yahya Al-Shu'aibi, says he is trying hard. He says this year, the level of cheating is far less than it used to be because of measures he had threatened with. Most observers don't agree with his assessment.

The conclusion is that the situation is really as bad as it can be. Moreover, the urgency for the need for appropriate and immediate solutions is best shown by the level of frustration of the parents as well as the educators.

"The future of the country is at stake. Education is the basic foundation stone on which nations and civilizations are built," said a Sanaa University professor who teaches at the College of Education. "It



is imperative that we found adequate solutions, and fast," she added.

The problem in finding a solution is twofold. First, there is no magic and easy solution. If measures are to be taken, they are bound to be long-term. The requirement is to find good policies and stay with them, for as long as it takes to shape up our educational system.

Second, nobody knows who should find the solution to this problem. Parents are partly responsible. But with over 50% illiteracy among adults, how can the parents play much of a role. May be they can at least instill a value system which

elevates and glorifies hard work. Kids should be taught to earn it.

The Ministry of Education has a major role to play. But politics has been heavily implicated in the power play in that ministry. Therefore, it will be a long time before anything meaningful can come from there.

The media can also play a role. So can community elders and society at large. Whatever it takes, our educational system urgently needs to shape up.

By: Ramzy A. Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

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and the Government and People of Yemen
On the Anniversary of July 7th.

Many Happy Returns

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-7-97

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President: "Border issues with Saudi Arabia will be finally resolved."
- 2) 10% Raise in the Salaries of Government Employees Starting July 1st.
- 3) Diesel and Gas Prices will not be Raised

Article Summary:

Mutual Trust - editorial

It is natural that any changes, economic or otherwise, can create shock among beneficiaries and disadvantaged alike. Economic realities have indicated for quite a while the necessity for the third dose of reform. The fuel prices have risen by a small percentage, not more than 25%.

However, fears are expressed that some merchants will immediately raise the prices of essential food commodities. Strict regulations should be introduced to monitor the prices of the essential food commodities and services that are directly related to the citizens' daily lives. This way, a state of mutual trust can be created between the citizens and the government.

AL-JAMAHEER: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-7-97

(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Media Uproar Around 4000 Yemeni Jewish Children Disappeared in Israel in 1949 (reported in Yemen Times)
- 2) New Oil Discovery in Hadhramaut
- 3) 259 Students Unjustly Prevented from Sitting for Secondary Exams in Dhamar
- 4) Head of Security in Wussab, Sanaa Governorate, Personally Beats People

Article Summary:

New Tasks for the Opposition

by Najeeb M. Ibrahim

The most important tasks facing the opposition now are:

- 1- addressing the internal organizational defects;
- 2- conducting intensive and responsible dialogues amongst opposition leadership in order to crystallize meaningful political, economic and social programs;
- 3- closely examining and monitoring the implementation of the PGC elections program, and how compatible it is with the government's program;



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

- 4- formulating an executive program for specifying and publicizing those who will run for the local elections; and
- 5- forming a shadow government with the task of studying and evaluating the performance of the various ministries.

AL-AROUBA: Sana'a (Weekly) 1-7-97

(Nasserite Democratic Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Public Sector Liquidation Continues
- 2) Tribal War in Al-Udein Flares Up Again
- 3) Pre-Islamic Town in Lahaj and Port in Hadhramaut Recently Discovered
- 4) YR. 2.75 Billion Owed to Ministry of Electricity by Government Organs & Public Figures

Article Summary:

Is It True?

Fish wealth in Yemen is regarded as second only to oil. With a coastline extending to about 2,500 km, it should be a major source of income for the whole nation. People were very optimistic when the Yemeni Fish and Marine Life Company was formed. Some citizens had to sell some of their property in order to buy shares in that doomed company.

It went bust. Its property was sold off, and bank accounts closed. What remained of the initial capital was withdrawn by as yet unknown people. Compensating the small share holders remains a mere rumor. Is it true that this company was really just another rip-off scheme?

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-7-97

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Government's Decisions to Raise Prices Contradicts PGC Elections' Promises
- 2) Serious Tribal Repercussions for Brigands' Killings in Thamoud, Hadhramaut

- 3) Protests to Proposed Administrative Divisions of Hadhramaut Intensify
- 4) International Law Experts: Trial of 16 Former YSP Members is Wasted Effort

Article Summary:

Catastrophic Developments

The new government has portrayed its "catholic marriage" to the donor countries as the elixir for the people of Yemen. All the social maladies that are likely to happen as a result of that are ignored. Around 70,000 public employees (25,000 civil and 45,000 military) will be laid off as part of the plans. The promised \$ 1.8 billion will go to secret bank accounts abroad, another part will be used to pay off tribal leaders, and the rest will go as salaries for foreign experts. So the prices have increased by at least 30%, while public salaries have increased by 10% only. Foreign debts are another big problem for the country. So it seems that very little, if any, of the donated money will be used for actual economic and social development programs.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-7-97

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Al-Ahmer: "The July 7 victory is the greatest achievement in Yemen's contemporary

history."

- 2) Council of Ministers Announces 3rd Dose of Reform
- 3) Parliament Discusses its Internal Charter
- 4) Citizens in Rada'a Complain of High Water Tariffs

Article Summary:

Poor Engineers

by Khalid A. Ba Hameesh

A Yemeni engineer working at the Ministry of Petroleum would receive a monthly salary between YR. 9,000 and 12,000 (\$ 70-95). Hence, many engineers are leaving to work in foreign companies. A driver or a welder in a foreign company gets around \$7,000 a month, not mentioning bonuses and other benefits.

Many highly qualified Yemeni engineers sit idle. The state's treasury can be saved a lot of urgently needed hard currency by employing these people, and paying them decent salaries.

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Letters to the editor. Letters to the editor. Letters to the editor.

You Get What You Pay For!

Foreign teachers in Yemen suffer a lot, especially those who teach in villages. The main problem is a financial one. Their salaries are not paid monthly. They are normally paid every three or four months and sometimes twice a year! So the teachers live through the year on the help and charity of the villagers. Their conditions become worse in cases of sickness or emergencies. Even lodging services, which they used to get, have today deteriorated considerably. Sometimes, these services are totally not available. To add insult to injury, at the end of every year, the teachers have to flock to Sanaa and wait for weeks to receive their salaries which have accumulated with Ministry of Education. That means using up whatever savings have been made during the year. This system has remained unchanged for more than fifteen years! No doubt such conditions affect the quality and standard of the education. I hope the ministry of education will find a solution to this problem. Otherwise, it should simply accept the risks.

by: Hashim Mirghani
(Sudanese teacher), Sana'a.

What I am and What I Shall Never Be

And now I'll let you know:
Never to be a nail in a wall,
Or a consumed forsaken book on a shelf
And never shall I accept the role,
Of a whispering mouth behind a curtain,
Nor watch myself become
A shadow behind the shades,
Or a forlorn rose melting in the hot sands.
I refuse to be hung,
As a mad Syriatic artist's portrait
No one understands.
Lost in the uncertain.
Tears sometimes the pain illustrate.

How do you feel? Happy!
When I resort for stabs
Or a hidden headquarters for uprising become.
The tragedy I will not start
Nor perplexing questions will be aroused.

Drowned!
In the deep dark sea
Like a pearl in a shell
I shall not accept to be.
For nothing I'm not waiting,
Till the night is fed up, believe.
"Good night sweet prince ...
Good night ..."
Such words I will not receive,
Nor drink the poisoned cup.

Will you be satisfied?
When I'm on trees crucified
With a head crowned with thorns
And be buried beneath heavy stones?

Melancholic I am
As autumn's trees,

Standing alone;
Hit by mental storms.
My yellow leaves spreading
in "the Waste Land".
A wandering drunk mind
Among foggy thoughts.

The Hymn of Gloom
On my eyelids beats
A brutal tune.
Awakened every dawn
Under a bleak copper sky.
Your phantom in my dreams cries:
"Go ... go away ... leave ...
I'm sick of stay ...
Your sun has set in the east ..."
Thanks for your fading light.
Thanks for whose vows break soon.

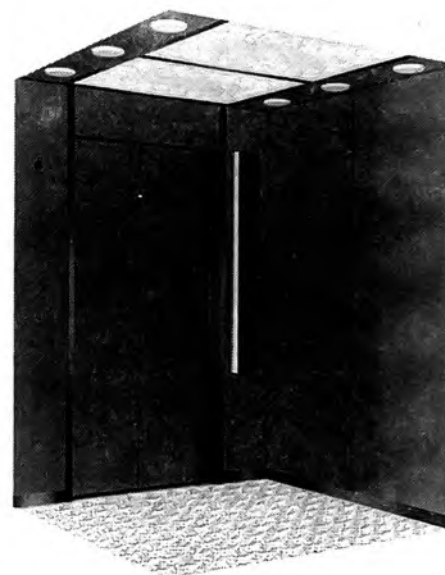
Oh God! forgive ... often we forget.
The "Innocence Blood" we shed
On this ever-lasting stage.
Blood streams over our history
book.
Page after page.
Your Mercy we deny!
How can't we forget?

In haste, up we fly
with broken wings.
Down we quickly fall
towards a new poisoned routed-day.
Afterwards, with crocodile tears
while drink and eat
Our faults remember,
Yet not regret.

My Love, this is not a condemn,
But to love, let's say:
"From dust to dust and from ashes
to ashes".

By: Khalil Ismail,
Sanaa.

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Despite the Rain, Boxer Keep on the Beat!

The 7th of July Boxing Championship was concluded on Wednesday 2nd July at Al-Ahli Club in Sana'a. It was sponsored by Mr. Shayif Abdullah Zohra, a well-known businessman. The winners in the five weight categories, were as follows:

Junior:
First, Ahmed Al-Jarmouzi.
Second, Hani Saleem
Third, Wai'l Al-Matari

48 Kg:
First, Ali Al-Shami
Second, Aidrous Faysal
Third, Faysal Al-Azzani

51 Kg:
First, Mohammed Al-Zobeiri
Second, Nabeel Al-Sallal
Third, Ismail Mahmoud

54 Kg:
First, Waseem Abdulwali
Second, Khlid Al-Daylami
Third, Aymen Koleib

57 Kg:
First, Radhwan Al-Ansi
Second, Ahmed Awas
Third, Mahmoud Al-Mahmoudi

The final match was attended by the Mr. Mohammed Abdulwali, Advisor to the Minister of Youth and Sports; the Second Secretary at the Netherlands Embassy, Mr. H. van Praag; Mr. Rainer Freund, Head of the EC Technical Office in Yemen, and many other dig-

nitaries, in addition to the fans. After the second round, rain started pouring. The boxers went on fighting, until the last match was over.

The first, second, and third



winners as well as the organizers of the championship and coaches received certificates of participation and YR. 2000 each.

Judo Champion Shareef Mahmoud:

Struggle with Ambitions

Judo is one of the games which are becoming quite widespread in Yemen. Many youths are practicing judo, and achieving good results on the local and Arab levels. Most of them have ambitions to compete on an international level.

Mahmoud Shareef is one of these ambitious young men. He went through very hard and tough times. He continued the struggle with high spirits regardless of all obstacles. To know more about his exciting experience the following interview was conducted with our champion.

Q: What was the first idea that you had when you won the



silver medal in Algeria?

A: I thought about getting an opportunity to train abroad. South Korea was chosen because there is a protocol between the Yemeni and Korean governments. There is a lot of attention given to judo in that country. I started preparing myself for the training camp in Korea. But the problem was that I did not have enough money for the airplane tickets and my personal expenditure. The Yemeni Judo Association is suffering from lack of resources. This was the beginning of the struggle.

Q: Why do you call it a struggle? Did you face many

obstacles?

A: The struggle took place within the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Olympic Committee. I didn't receive any support from them. Even to apply to the Korean side was subject to having airplane tickets. Their condition was that each player should buy his own tickets. I applied to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for assistance. I have a lot of ambitions to play in international arenas. I persisted in my demands at the Ministry and the Olympic Committee. The only thing they did was to com-

municate with the Koreans about my participation in the training camp.

Q: Were you helped by other people in your efforts?

A: Yes. Mr. Osama Hayil Saeed of Hasco company has donated \$ 750. This amount will cover my pocket money during the trip. But the problem of getting the airplane ticket is still unresolved. I must find a solution for this obstacle. I am due to travel to Korea on 31st July. I will also participate in the Arab Championship in Lebanon. After that, I

will go to Korea if I get an airplane ticket.

This ambitious champion who achieved many victories in local and Arab championships is suffering from lack of funds. His many triumphs have not provided him with an opportunity to realize his dream to be an international champion. Many Yemeni champions are living in hard conditions without any care from the sports authorities in the country. Their dreams are broken at the first obstacle they meet.



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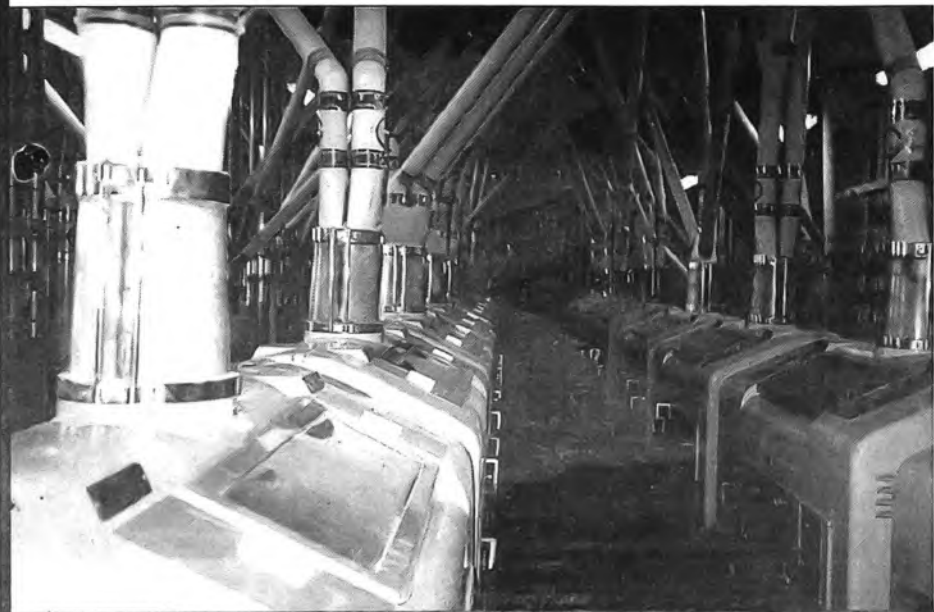
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The Fruits of Yemen

Last week, I took an Omani friend to lunch. While we were digging into the stuff on our table, it started to rain. A gentle breeze was blowing. My guest stopped eating. "Your country has one of the best climates in the world. The weather is moderate year-round and the landscape is impressive," he said. We resumed eating. As we finished our main course, fresh fruits were served as dessert. We were at least nine varieties of extremely delicious fruits - melons, figs, strawberries, grapes, guavas, papayas, mangos, bananas, and oranges. Some of these and more are served in freshly-squeezed juices. "They are all locally grown. You can be virtually certain little or no chemical input is used in growing these fruits," I explained.

Indeed, the fruits of Yemen are of top quality. They may not be the biggest in size. And they may not be the best looking. But they are the most delicious. I have travelled quite a bit. Nowhere in the world can one find such variety of excellent quality fruits at such a low cost. The price of a kilo of any fruit is a dollar or two. Believe it or not! As an economist, I feel sad that much of the product goes to waste, especially during the peak season. I once saw a hill of rotten papayas because there was no buyer. Businessmen would be well-advised to invest in storage facilities and processing plants.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Economist, Sanaa University.



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