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OUR VIEWPOINT

A Better Diet for Our Kids

According to many studies, the health condition of Yemeni children is deteriorating. Various levels of malnutrition are visible among the kids.

The main culprit for this situation is, of course, poverty. Over 40% of the Yemeni population is now classified as living under the subsistence or poverty line level. This is the main reason for the malnutrition that has become so prevalent.

But there is another reason. The Yemeni diet is not a balanced one. A quick glance at the kind of meals cooked in Yemeni homes would show that we need to upgrade the diet. What are we talking about? Here are some ideas that analyze the food-intake and how it can be improved.

1. Beyond the One Input Meals:

The largest part of a Yemeni meal is made up of grain - either sorghum or increasingly wheat. This is rational because grains are inexpensive and they are filling. But, it is also feasible, for the same money, the family can buy more vegetables to give a more balanced diet. If the consideration are low cost and more filling foods, potatoes, for examples, are a good alternative. The same can be said of fruits. Here I can name bananas.

At the end of the day, the reason people stick to grains is logically proven over the years. But grains can be supplemented by cheaper and more filling vegetables and fruits.

2. New Cooking Skills:

One of the reasons why people do not try new dishes is not just economics. It also has to do with cooking skills. The dishes women cook have been inherited over the ages. No new cooking skills are intentionally introduced. Television programs, for example, offer no cooking skills. At schools, no cooking lessons are given.

Of course, there are changes in our eating habits, but these are introduced in our lives in an accidental and slow manner. A more planned approach to help improve the nation's cooks - the women, is going to help.

3. Guiding/Shaping Tastes:

Yemenis are carnivorous. They like to eat a lot of meat. This is a rational development given their craving for meat in their diets. A certain level of meat intake is healthy. I am using this phenomenon to point to the need to some education on the issue of good eating. People's tastes are shaped by information regarding the nutritious value as well as hazards of certain foods. Advertising also affects our tastes. The main thing, however, is that a concerted effort is needed to help guide people regarding what they eat.

Malnutrition among children is a dangerous problem. Its future costs are enormous. It leads to stunted growth and more vulnerability. Therefore, it deserves our immediate attention.

Although I have offered above some educational tips regarding how to combat malnutrition, I believe some substantive measures, like offering food supplements in schools in poor neighborhoods should be considered. Charity organizations and NGOs, in direct or indirect partnership with the state could handle this responsibility. Malnutrition is an issue we must address.

The Publisher


Indyck Leaves Sanaa

During his two-day visit to Yemen (October 30-31) the American Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, Mr. Martin Indyck, had met President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other high-ranking officials.

One of the reasons behind the visit, according to Mr. Indyck, is to further develop the bilateral relations between Yemen and the USA. Other issues discussed included the UN Security Council's position towards Iraq, combating terrorism, and the progress of the Middle East peace process. Mr. Indyck expressed his satisfaction for Yemen's intention to participate in the November economic summit in Doha, Qatar. "It is a valuable opportunity for participating countries, because it will bring together over 600 international companies," said Mr. Indyck of the Doha conference.

Chinese Academics to Arrive in Yemen

The Deputy Rector of the University of Foreign Languages in Beijing, Mr. Sheng Chun Sheng, and the Deputy Dean of the Arab Language College, Mr. Wu Bao Guo will first visit the University of Aden on November 6th. The ties between the two universities were established a long time ago. From the 10th to 13th November, they will visit the University of Sanaa in order to sign a memorandum of understanding.

The world-famous University of Foreign Languages is the largest of its kind in China. It has about 5,000 students and 2,000 lecturers.

Yemeni Businesswomen in London

A symposium on Yemeni businesswomen is currently being held in London. The Deputy Minister of Information, Ms. Amatuleem Al-Souswa and savvy Yemeni businesswomen are taking part, in addition to Ms. Helen Jackson MP and several British participants form the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Council. In the symposium, which is scheduled to go for next few days, several research papers will be submitted by the participants. Also, a photographic exhibition depicting the daily life and work of Yemeni women accompanies the symposium.

Symposium on Landmines

Starting on Monday, November 3rd, a two-day regional symposium on anti-personnel landmines is held in Sanaa. It is organized by the Yemeni government, the Landmines Awareness Committee, the Swedish Radda Barnen Organization, the UNDP, the UNICEF, and the International Red Cross organization.

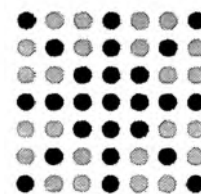
Around 80 people, representing various Middle Eastern governments and NGOs, are expected to take part in the symposium.

The invited governments should declare their policies vis a vis the proposed treaty banning anti-personnel landmines to be signed during the upcoming conference on landmines due to be held in Ottawa, Canada, during 2nd to 4th of December.

111% Success Rate

According to Ministry of Health sources, the first round of the immunization campaign (October 26 to 28) has achieved a remarkable success rate of 111% by immunizing more children than the originally set target of 3,456,482. The second round is scheduled to take place by the end of November.

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The British Council cordially invites you to attend the following events which are part of The British Council's monthly library theme of environment

A Talk on the Gardens of Sana'a

8 p.m. 3 November 1997

A talk by Nabil Monassir, from the General Organization of the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen, on the Gardens of Old Sana'a

A Talk on the island of Socotra

8 p.m. 12 November 1997

Wolfgang Wranik from Rostock University, a visiting biologist, will give a lecture on the landscape, people and their life as well as the interesting aspects of flora and fauna

A film on Socotra - the island dragon's blood

8 p.m. 11 November 1997

A short film which gives a view of the island showing how it's people live in harmony with nature, with particular reference to the Dragon's blood tree and it's medical properties

An exhibition on the environment

8 p.m. 3-27 November 1997

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Prof. Annmarie Schimmel:

“Most Westerners fail to recognize the difference between Islamic traditionalism and fundamentalism.”

Professor Annmarie Schimmel is a German orientalist of a worldwide renown. Born in 1922 in Erfurt, Germany, she became infatuated with the Orient at the tender age of 15. She studied Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Islamic art at the University of Berlin. In 1941, at the age of 19, Schimmel got her Ph.D. in Arabic literature and Islamic art from the University of Berlin. Five years later, she received her Habilitation degree in the history of religions from the University of Marburg.

Up to her retirement in 1992, Schimmel occupied several high academic posts in various universities around the world. For a quarter of a century, she held the post of professor of Indo-Muslim Culture at the famous Harvard University. Being retired does not mean that she has stopped her academic research. In addition to a busy schedule of lecture and seminar tours around the world, Schimmel is currently an honorary professor at the University of Bonn.

The various, highly esteemed honors and accolades heaped on Schimmel include the Great Order of Merit (Germany), the Hilali Intiaz (Pakistan), the Order of Science and Art (Egypt), the Turkish Order of Merit, the Golden Hammer-Purgstall Medal (Austria), the Johann Heinrich Prize (Germany), and several other awards and medals from Pakistan, the USA, and Turkey.

During her recent visit to Yemen, Bin Sallam of Yemen Times met Prof. Schimmel and filed this interesting interview.

Q: You visited Hadhramaut and other areas. How do you see these places?

A: I was interested in Hadhramaut since I was a child because I read a wonderful book with photographs from Hadhramaut and that was a long time ago. When I came here in 84 it was not possible to visit Hadhramaut. Yemen was not yet unified. I am very happy to see it now. I found many interesting things and met interesting people. We had good talks in Seion and Tareem. It is a place where I really would like to stay for more time.

Q: Have you visited Zabeed?

A: That was during my first visit in '84. One of my students from Harvard wrote here doctorate dissertation about the medieval history of Zabeed. So we went together. I also visited Marib last time. I have seen a number of many interesting places. During this visit I also saw Thula and Kawkaban.

Q: What are your impression of Yemen?

A: I am very very impressed how Sanaa and Yemen in general have developed. When I came for the first time in 84 it was still a comparatively small place. But it is growing tremendously. I see very much progress here.

Q: What have you discussed in your meetings with Yemeni intellectuals?

A: We usually discuss questions of the dialogue between East and West. Is it necessary to speak of a clash of culture? I always say it is not necessary because we have to learn about each other and we have to foster a better understanding between the Western European and the Americans, on the one hand, and the Muslims all over the world on the other. So I don't believe in a clash of cultures.

Q: Yemen is a traditional society, but not a fundamentalist one. Does the West make the difference?

A: This is a very interesting question because many Westerners, especially the media, do not know the difference. For them, every Muslim is a fundamentalist which of course is nonsense. They cannot discern between the various aspects of Islam. We just have some German newspaper people here. I

think after their visit they'll understand the difference very well between traditionalists and fundamentalists. These are completely different things.

Q: Yemen has a basic Eastern identity. Now it is trying to learn Western values. How do you see the results?

A: I think that we all have to learn from each other. A traditional culture should not exclude learning from another part of the world. I am, for instance, impressed to see all the satellite things on roof tops and modern technology is here. But I don't say that this is contradictory. Every country has to develop in technology. Otherwise, the difference would be too big. But I know so many traditionalist Muslims who remained faithful to the values of their culture and yet have no difficulty in using modern gadgets which we can see here. I think what else one can do: We cannot ride on a camel all through Yemen when we are in a hurry. It is not only the case in Yemen, but in many other Arab countries as well.

Q: Which Muslim country has achieved a harmonious mix between East and West?

A: I have not visited all Muslim countries, but I see how they are striving I would say that Morocco is a country which seems to be rather successful.

Q: What was Yemen's most important contribution to the Islamic civilization?

A: There are many contributions made by Yemen. For example, the geographical work by Al-Hamdani and Al-Ikleel. One important aspect of Yemeni culture is that it was a country in which many people from East and West settled. For instance, I am not familiar with all the details of history, if we think of the history of Zabeed, it has been for many centuries and it is now, one of the most important centers of Islamic learning. Not only people who went pilgrimage to Mecca remained there on their way to Mecca and back but people from India and everywhere settled in Zabeed for sometime. I was in Zabeed during my first visit. I am very impressed by the history that place. So this is one aspect, I would say.

The second aspect is that there had always been important exchange of population between



Yemen, including Hadhramaut of course, and the Indian subcontinent. Since I specialized in the history of the subcontinent, I constantly run into names which show that this or that scholar hailed from Yemen and has settled in India and has contributed to the Islamic civilization there.

Q: What has this visit added to you?

A: It has added, first of all, more knowledge about the country itself. Second, I have seen many places which I could not visit last time such as Hadhramaut and Jibla, a wonderful place. I think the Yemenis should be very proud of their history where they have rulers like Queen Arwa who was an outstanding lady. Western visitors often forget that there were great queens in the world of Islam. And Arwa was certainly one of the most important ones. This visit has also given me the opportunity of meeting many Yemeni friends and of enjoying the traditional Yemeni hospitality. We were lost on the way because something occurred that did not allow us to continue after these terrible rains. All of a sudden, someone who had never heard of us and whom we didn't know, offered us his house to stay there overnight. It was as if it were the easiest thing in the world. I must say all the hospitality I have enjoyed here during the 10 days of my visit has deeply impressed me.

Q: What are your future projects?

A: I am expecting a proof of one of my books to come out soon. Then I have to go to Munich, Belgium, Turkey and England for lectures. All that is to be done before Christmas. As long as my health is good, I'll continue writing and lecturing on Islamic civilization, literature and art. This is my life.

Q: How have you dealt with the role of women in Islam?

A: I have written about women not only in Islam, but on the role of women in religion in general. My last book deals with the role of women in Islamic spirituality. I think that it is very important that

eracy is something that is not restricted to Yemen. We find it, for instance, in Pakistan as well and other parts of the world. The situation in Latin America is not much different, either. I think what is really important is that women should have a basic education that enables them to read, perhaps not even to write, but to read and to see what is going on. From my own experience I know that Muslim women when given the opportunity to learn something are extremely intelligent and very strong. The moment they are given freedom to develop, they are wonderful, hard working, and really care for what they are doing. The moment you give them basic education, then enable them if they want to go on, I think you'll have a very strong part of your population that'll help in the development of your country.

I trust the Muslim women very much because I have met wonderful women, even illiterate ones. I have learnt a lot from them because they have all the energy and all the strength of heart in themselves. It was not only something that comes from the brain or the intellect. Once they are given the opportunity to do something to learn something, they'll do it from the bottom of their hearts. You have examples here in Yemen. You are in a certain way more progressive than many other countries which have not given women as many rights as you have. The women whom I have met have impressed

me very much. I hope that primary education for women and things like that will spread through the country. That will help society to flourish in the future.

Q: Is there any question you would like to be asked and I haven't asked you?

A: The questions you asked were more of a general nature. I could tell you a lot about my experience in Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran. I have been to all these places. I am going every year to several Muslim countries. I have read more than 90 books on topics of Islamic culture, civilization, translated poetry from Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Sindi, etc.

Q: Any last comment?

A: These 10 days in Yemen were really a wonderful experience. Despite the strange weather which you have arranged for me - instead of sunshine I find rain, I have seen much and I am very happy to see how the country has progressed in the last 13 years. I hope when I come again, perhaps not after 13 years, but earlier, I see that this movement continues in strength I am very grateful to all my Yemeni friends from the Ministry down to the simple people in the villages. They have shown me so much friendship and received me with so much warmth.

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Seiyun Volleyball Team Flies to Lebanon

The SEIYUN Club achieved a great feat during the 1996 season by qualifying for the Excellent League Volleyball Tournament. Despite its modest resources, the SEIYUN team was able to snatch the championship. It is now preparing to represent Yemen in the Arab Volleyball Championship for Tournament Champion Clubs to be held on November, 14th in Lebanon. Teams from eight Arab countries will take part.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times, Aden, met the team's coach, Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Aidroos, in the team's training camp in Aden. Captain Al-Aidroos is one of the pioneers of volleyball in Yemen.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the SEIYUN volleyball team?

A: SEIYUN is probably the only place in Yemen where volleyball is very popular. The game was introduced into the area in the '60s by Sudanese teachers working in Yemen. It was further developed in the '70 by the Soviet experts working in the area. The golden age of the game started in the '80s. The SEIYUN volleyball team has been at the forefront of other teams in Hadhramaut. It snatched the First League Championship at the end of 1996, and the Excellent League Championship in July, 1997. This achievement can be attributed to the extraordinary efforts made by the players and the team's management. It is worth mentioning here that entrance fees for volleyball matches in SEIYUN is YR 20 only, so as to encourage people to come and see the games.

Q: How prepared is your team for the Arab Championship in Lebanon?

A: After training in the closed sports hall in Aden,

the team is now quite ready for the Arab Championship for Tournament Champion Clubs. We started training in August in SEIYUN, and moved to Aden later on. Morning and evening training sessions are currently being held. In the morning session we concentrate on the physical fitness of the players; while, evening sessions are devoted to the technical part of the game.

The team is now in the final stage of training. Trial games will be organized in order to diagnose and rectify the team's weak points. The skills displayed by the players so far are quite exemplary. We hope to organize a training camp abroad, but lack of financial resources will probably preclude that.

Q: Do you think then the team will be able to achieve good results in the Arab championship?

A: I'd like to assure all SEIYUN team fans that the players enjoy a good level of physical fitness and high morale. Despite our modest financial resources, we'll do our best to present a bright image of Yemen abroad. This is the first time the team plays abroad.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I'd like to thank all those who financially and morally helped the SEIYUN team, especially the Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh who presented the team with the airplane



tickets to Lebanon.

Ridhwan also met the team's technical supervisor, Mr. Ahmed Al-Saqqaf.

Q: Are you looking forward to your participation in the Arab volleyball championship?

A: It is quite an honor to represent Yemen abroad. We hope to do well in Lebanon. The teams we are going to meet are well established with huge resources and quite a few international players. But nothing is impossible.

Q: Which teams are you going to meet?

A: We'll be playing against the Zamalik of Egypt, Kadhima of Kuwait, and Ain of the UAE.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I call on the Yemeni media to show more interest in Yemeni sportsmen and women. Yemeni sports activities and achievements receive only a scant mention in the national press.



NDI Delegation on Role of Parliamentary Committees

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is a US-based, non-profitable NGO. It aims, with the help of worldwide action network of volunteer experts, to consolidate and expand democracy around the world.

Upon the request of Yemeni parliamentarians, a three-member delegation from the NDI has recently visited Yemen to conduct lectures on the role played by specialized parliamentary committees in the democratic process. The delegates met several parliamentary committees' heads, deputies, rapporteurs, and staff. Yemen Times interviewed two of the delegates. Excerpts:

Ms. Karen English is a former member of the American Congress and head of the committee on environment at the Senate. She is an assistant professor of political science at the North Arizona University.



Q: Do you envisage a bigger role for Yemen women in parliament and in public life in general?

A: It does appear that Yemen is perhaps a little more progressive than other countries in the region. The fact that there are two women already in parliament indicates there is a significant role for women in parliament. I suspect, like in most democracies, as women become more involved there will be more interest by other women.

Q: How do you see role of democratic NGOs in consolidating the democratic process in Yemen?

A: Private initiative organizations have played a role in developing democracies all around the world. The role they usually play is to remind that democracy that there are aspects to a country's society or culture that need to be incorporated into the plan. They will continue to play an important role in helping design a democracy.

Q: How does the NDI help with the process of democratization?

A: NDI has been involved in training people how to hold open elections. But in this particular conference, the NDI has invited three of us. We all have democracies and parliaments with some similarities to Yemen. We were invited to share our own experiences. NDI accomplishes exposure and an opportunity to discuss a variety of ways to accomplish something. The best decisions are informed decisions. If the members that we have met have five or six ways to solve a

problem then they can choose the best one.

Q: How do you view the progress of democratization in Yemen?

A: I am very impressed. It is such a new democracy. I am pleased by how far things have moved in such a period of time. The US has taken 200 years to accomplish something. Yemen has taken 2 or 3 years. The people of Yemen should be congratulated for moving very swiftly in the area of democracy.

Q: Any last comment?

A: One of thing that I found so interesting is how much people are engaged in doing what is right for the country. I have met people from different regions of Yemen. They all seem to have a similar interest which is designing a system that is best for the country, and maintains the values of democracy. Sometimes that is not the case in the US. It is such an honor to work with people like that.

Mr. Mike Watson has, for seven years, been a member of the British House of Commons, and is now a member of the House of Lords. Lord Watson is currently a reader at the University of Strathclyde and a consultant at P.S. Public Affairs Consultants LTD.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: The purpose of the visit is to pass on to Yemeni members of parliament the experience of myself and other colleagues of the operation of parliamentary committees. I have a considerable experience of the senior committees in the British parliament. I have been passing on that experience to the deputies and the staff that serve the committees which are a very important part of a democracy. They ensure that the workings of the executives can be opened up to the public and questioned. We have been simply saying what is happening in France, the US and Britain.

Q: What have you achieved in this visit?

A: From my point of view, I have also been learning because democracy in Yemen has moved very quickly. It has been very interesting and fascinating for me to hear of the experiences of your people. We can think of it as a two-way process. I don't come

here to say that this is how it should be done. All I say is this is what we have done in the British parliament. There are some things that are good and others not so good about it. Perhaps you want to take some of these things into your account when you change your democratic structure.

Q: Scotland and Wales had recently voted to have their own parliaments. Do you see this happening in Yemen - southern and northern parliaments, say? Is it a healthy sign?

A: I would see it differently. Scotland has voted to have its own parliament but that does not mean it is going to stop being part of the UK.

In Yemen, if there is going to be a separate parliament it will not be north and south Yemen. It will be in different regions of the country. But I don't think this is something you should do in the near future. I think you need to establish a system of local government to complement what you do in your national government. I have been talking to people from the north and south of the country, everybody said they want to remain united as a nation. What is happening in Scotland is that government is decentralizing. Too much power is held in London. The people in Scotland and Wales want more say in their affairs. So they voted to do that. Within Yemen, you are still coming together as a country so any question of decentralizing is something for the future. But I think in general it is a good thing.



Q: What are your impressions of the process of democratization in Yemen?

A: I think it is very impressive. It is difficult to build a democracy. It does take time and commitment on behalf of those involved to make sure it works. I am in no doubt at all that the people we met from the deputy speaker down through the committee chairs and MPs are determined to do that.

One of the signs is that the General People's Congress party does not try to run everything themselves. They bring in the opposition parties such as Islah and Baath. Democracy is an inclusive operation. Yes, the party that gets most votes must rule the country, but that does not mean excluding everybody else. That is happening in Yemen. It is a good sign. I think it is already clear only 3 years after your civil war that the democracy is what people want.

Q: Any last comment?

A: We have been received with great warmth and friendship. The visit has been a pleasure, although we have had a very hard work with no time for sight-seeing. I think the Yemeni deputies and committee secretaries have found it useful as well.



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This is an **OPINION** page.

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Poverty: Causes and Possible Cures

Marking the international Day to Eradicate Poverty, a seminar was held in Sanaa on October, 19 organized by the UNDP, in cooperation with the College of Trade and Economy, Sanaa University. Several research papers on the subject of poverty alleviation in Yemen were presented by Yemeni and foreign academics. The following is a summary of a paper entitled "The Possible Eradication of Poverty" presented by Dr. Abdulbari Al-Sharjabi*

Definition

Poverty is the state of the person being unable to get enough income to provide his or her essential livelihood needs - food, clothing, decent housing, basic health care, an appropriate level of education, and decent means of transportation.

A poor person, therefore, has an income which can only provide a small or a modest part of the above mentioned essential needs. Thus, the overall low standard of living experienced by the poor cannot generally be improved, even if the prices of basic commodities remain the same. A fixed low income and increasing prices would, of course, lead to more hardships and may even cause abject poverty and destitution.

Causes of Poverty in Yemen

The causes of poverty vary from one nation to another, according to the available economic and natural resources and the means of exploiting them. However, there is a certain degree of overlapping of various causes of poverty such as the political, economic and social backwardness of a given country.

The most important causes of poverty in Yemen can be summed up as follows.

1- Economic backwardness and structural deficiencies lead to a decrease in domestic income, especially in the agricultural sector. Since the majority of the population live in the countryside, many people work in agriculture, compared to other sectors.

2- The degradation of the average per capita real income and its annual rate of growth are due mainly to the high annual population growth which well exceeds the growth of the real per capita income.

3- Rising unemployment and large families have led to a high rate of economic dependency.

4- The high rate of inflation redistributes the income for the benefit of those with ownership revenue rather than labor revenue such as big merchants, industrialists, etc. This increases the inequality in income distribution within the economy and society

in general.

5- Privatization, which enlarges the scope of private ownership and its revenue at the expense of the labor revenue, also increases the inequality in income distribution within the economy and society in general.

6- Neglecting the development of the countryside and failing to provide it with basic services and new job opportunities increases unemployment and migration to urban centers thereby haphazardly urbanizing poverty.

7- With a high rate of illiteracy and lack of proper health care, women are marginalized and are denied their appropriate role in the economy.

Possible Cures

Since poverty is relative, it depends on circumstances. Wherever there are rich, there are the relatively poor. God in his divine wisdom has dictated that there should be poor and rich people. There are many citations in the Holy Koran to this effect. So it may not be wholly possible to eradicate poverty altogether, but it can be reduced and limited as much as possible.

Generally speaking, the problem of poverty in Yemen can be tackled by the three following methods:

A) A strategy of economic development in particular and com-

prehensive development in general must be adopted. This method addresses structural inequalities in the economy and the weakness of economic structure. Therefore, the industrial sector will become the pioneer sector in employing a big proportion of the available workforce. If the industrial sector starts to grow, other closely related sectors such as the services sector can grow too. This method will lead to an increase in the average annual per capita real income.

B) To alleviate poverty, the economic reform program must be accompanied by the establishment of a social safety net to protect vulnerable groups from the short-term effects of reform policies.

The most important components of a social safety net are:

1) the direct distribution of subsidized wheat and flour to poor people in urban areas;

2) providing "food assistance" at an amount of YR 2,500 each time for every family in the urban areas;

3) providing general services (particularly health and education) to be financed by donor aid and from the big revenue resulting from the lifting of wheat and flour subsidies;

4) a civil works program to employ unskilled workers with lower wages than the common labor market;

5) developing a national or foreign non-governmental sector to develop a non-profit private sector providing general services to the poor people; and

6) increasing the resources of the Social Security Fund and the Social Development Fund as much as possible.

These basic elements of the social security net were specified in a May, 1995 report by the World Bank on the economic reform program in Yemen. They were also specified by the Yemeni government's general program announced in May/June, 1997.

C) The third method is an Islamic one, as stated in the Holy Koran. Islam tackles the poverty problem through three ways:

1- Holy tax (Zakat) is one of the pillars of Islam. The rich must pay the Zakat - 5% of their annual income - to the poor people. Paying alms is also encouraged by the Holy Koran.

2) The Holy Koran forbids the monopolization of resources by a group of rich people so as to prevent the spreading of poverty.

3) The third Islamic method is an indirect one. The harmful population growth can be treated by birth control. A controlled population growth can develop the people's general standard of living. Controlled population growth can take place by the control of pregnancy and the period of breast feeding.

As stated in the Holy Koran, pregnancy and breast feeding should take three years - nine months' pregnancy period and two years for breast feeding. In this case, a nursing mother should avoid pregnancy by using an appropriate contraceptive. Therefore, the period between two consecutive pregnancies will be three years. Considering that the safe

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Conclusion

Yemen has tried to adopt a combination of the three above mentioned methods. Economic development plans and comprehensive development are supposed to adopt a development strategy in order to treat structural deficiencies in the economy. The defect of this method as related to Yemen is that elements of strategy are not clear and complete as well as economic policies related to it.

As to the second method, it is known that the economic reform program includes a social security net to protect the poor from the short-term effects of reform policies. This method is insufficient. For example, the program tackles inflation by using the access issued money to finance budget deficit. But it creates another source of inflation through the state-decreed increase in prices of services and basic commodities. The program also tries to alleviate poverty mainly in urban areas. Rural areas are neglected.

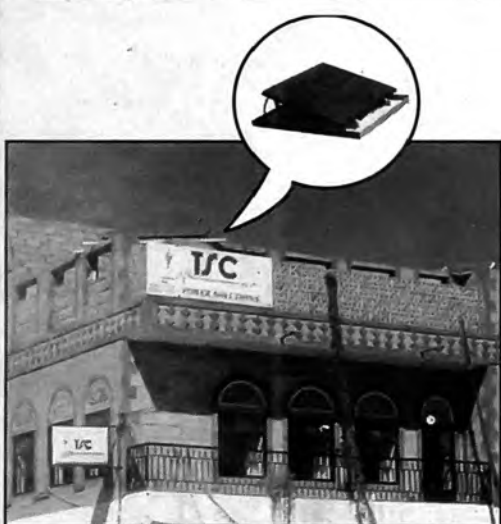
The Islamic method is not clearly and completely implemented. There is no full practical application of its major elements: Zakat, alms, preventing the monopolization of resources by the rich, and birth control. There are no mechanisms, procedures nor policies such as the progressive tax to prevent the monopolization of

resources by a group of rich people. In fact, the opposite is happening. The privatization policy will lead to the centralization of resources in the hands of a group of capitalists and industrialists. Zakat in its current form is not wholly effective. This can be concluded from the government's general program which stipulated the enactment of law of Zakat as part of the social safety net in May, 1997.

Birth control is not possible in most parts of Yemen, especially in countryside where illiteracy is widespread and the correct religious awareness is nonexistent. Finally, to tackle poverty in Yemen by any of the above three methods, cooperation and coordination are necessary among three main parties: the government, NGOs and the general public.

* Dr. Abdulbari Ahmed Noman Al-Sharjabi is an Associate Professor at the College of Trade and Economy, Sanaa University. He wrote extensively about Yemen's economic conditions and social problems.

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Ahmed Hizam:

"The GECF has achieved sales figures of YR 387 million during 1996.

"The General Establishment for Coastal Fishing (GECF) was established immediately after the independence of the southern part of Yemen in 1967. With branches in Aden, Hadhramaut and Mahara, the GECF covers the needs of all Yemeni regions. It has been granted the right to rock-lobster fishing by the Council of Ministers. Although a state-owned enterprise, it also provides various fishing-related services to private investors.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Chief of Yemen Times Aden Bureau, met the GECF General Manager, Mr. Ahmed Hizam and talked about the successes and problems encountered by this important public sector establishment. Excerpts:

Q: How are you prepared for the beginning of the rock lobster fishing season?

A: The GECF has repaired and maintained its equipment such as the electric generators and the two fish refrigerators in its branches in Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara. We are also in the process of commissioning the fishermen who usually deal with the GECF.

We hope to achieve a rock lobster catch of about 500 tons during the 1997-98 fishing season. We will also work on increasing the exported amount of rock lobster - live, cooked, and frozen, hoping to get the most favorable prices.

The GECF's sales of rock lobster, squid, and various kinds of fish as well as fishing boats had reached YR 387 million during 1996. Exports, during the same period and up to July, 1997, were in excess of YR 1.7 million.

Q: What kinds of rock lobster are found near our shores, and how are they caught?

A: Rock lobsters of the best quality in the world are found near the Yemeni shores, especially near Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara. Yemen exports its rock lobster to the European and other markets at



very competitive prices. We are given favorable trade privileges in Europe.

It is essential that this marine creature be conserved. There are rules and regulations specifying the methods of fishing and the season.

Q: What sort of regulations?

A: Well, catching rock lobsters with ordinary fishing nets is prohibited, as it may lead to catching the young and egg-carrying females of the species. Special cages must be used, within the appropriate fishing season.

Q: What sort of problems does the GECF face?

A: As you may know, Yemen's territorial waters are not fully guarded. Some neighboring countries fish within the Yemeni territorial waters. Also, some Yemeni fishermen fish out of the specified season or use nylon fishing nets, contrary to regulations. There is also the problem of smuggling the product through land and sea outlets.

Q: What has become of the President's directive to compensate the fishermen who lost their boats during the war for unity?

A: In accordance with the directives by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the GECF has just finished the manufacturing of 240 fiberglass boats to compensate the fishermen who lost their boats in 1994. The overall cost of manufacturing these boats was YR 63 million, provided by the government through the Agricultural Fund. The GECF fiberglass factory, which made these boats, is the largest of its kind in Yemen. It manufactures 9 different types of fishing boats with very competitive prices for the benefit of local fishermen.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I'd like to seize this opportunity to call on all the relevant authorities to protect Yemen's national wealth of rock lobster from haphazard fishing and other bad practices, whether by foreign or Yemen fishermen.

Saeed Mohammed Noman:

"FUCHS Lubricants are simply the best."

Mr. Saeed Mohammed Noman is the general manager of the United Enterprises LTD (FUCHS). He has an M.A. in business administration and computer.

Q: Could give us a brief idea on United Projects Company and its activities in Yemen?

A: This company was established in February, 1996 by Bassam Sholak company - a subsidiary of Sholak Group in Yemen - and MR. Toufik Mohammed Seif Thabit. United Enterprises has only one activity at the present time, i.e. distribution of FUCHS lubricants throughout the Yemen. United Enterprises is the sole agent of FUCHS lubricants in Yemen. Our company cooperates with Al-Mahsoob navigation company in supplying the ships arriving Aden and Hodiedah ports.

Q: Could you tell us briefly about FUCHS?

A: FUCHS was originally a petroleum company, then it turned to lubricants. It was established in 1931, and now has 30 factories in various parts of the world.

Q: Have you faced problems or obstacles since the establishment of the company?

A: We have not faced any problems or obstacles so far. The mother company in Germany understands the Yemeni market very well. For example, a can of FUCHS oil in Saudi Arabia costs RS 9 (YR 360). This does not go well with per capita income level in Yemen. Therefore, the company in Germany has borne the difference and made the price YR 220 for the consumers.

Q: What are the technical specifications of FUCHS lubricants?

A: FUCHS lubricants have high-degree specifications which make them one of the best lubricants in the Yemeni market. That is according to the API certificate. The specifications of our lubricants are SG in addition to the international quality grade ISO-9002 and the Saudi quality grade.

Q: What are the steps taken by the company to increase distribution?

A: We have many studies. Our plan at the beginning was to place the oil on the market and the consumers will get it directly. But now we managed to make deals with most cars companies. I can say that 90% of the cars companies in Yemen use FUCHS lubricants. Therefore, we have produced the desired result through the car companies.

Q: Are there more consumers opting to buy a FUCHS lubricant?

A: Yemeni consumers have recognized the quality specifications, and they could distinguish between the various lubricant specifications.

Q: Do you have branches or offices in other Yemeni governorates?

A: Yes, we do. We have branches in Aden, Taiz, Hodiedah, Hadramaut, Ibb, Marib, Radaa and Al-Beidha. Our business activities are widespread.

Q: Are there any problems facing these branches and are there differences in distribution rates between governorates?

A: There are no problems. Our business activities are concentrated in Sana'a because many foreign companies work in Sana'a.

Q: As there are many kinds of lubricants in the Yemeni market, how could you classify FUCHS lubricants?

A: The specifications of our lubricants are SG while others are between SA and SF. There are some companies that have SG, but there are no companies in Yemen like FUCHS that have SG, API 9002 and the Saudi quality grade.

Q: Do you have any last word?

A: I would like to take this chance to say that cars are valuable and Yemeni motorists cannot afford to buy another car, so they should maintain their cars. Also, they should choose the best lubricant which



DOES WEALTH HAVE A PRICE?

A recent 330 page book of economics and institutions in the Middle East entitled "The Price of Wealth in the Middle East" was written by Kiren Aziz Chaudhry and published by Cornell University Press, USA in 1997. The author describes how state and market institutions have changed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia exemplifying other labour and oil exporting countries. He does this with an eye on the international economy, exposing the alternating social and organizational origins of institutions.

The analytical task of explaining institutions and how they've changed through isolation periods is not enough to know when studying the evolution of the market system and institutions in the Middle East. The author relates how domestic markets were affected by international pressures such as those that causing the boom in 1973 and the recession in the 1980's. The way international forces affected domestic institutions depended on the way these markets were integrated globally. The institutions which arose out of the oil development changed just as quickly as they are created, he suggests because of market changes and new demands.

Mention is made of the different cash flows which affected institutional changes; different private and public sectors control their capital inflows through allocation and some capital inflows involve a third party such as lending institutions that are regulated by international markets. Some countries are more dependent on international cash flows than others but newly industrialized countries rely less. Social classes in distributive economies even influences the creation of economic sectors.

The oil sector has created new social groups that has given oil exporting nations new autonomy. The rise of external resources created a shift in the economic power of nations like Yemen which adopted capitalist economic principles. The result since 1973 is a country where oil rent and labor remittances have made up 80% of its GNP.

The book explains the domestic and international factors which affected institutional change through the economic periods of pre-boom to recession. Examples are given from the development of the Saudi and Yemeni economic reforms through a relative period of isolation from the 1920s to the 1950s. The formation of the central bureaucracy and national market is examined before the boom. The impact of labor remittances and oil revenue on domestic policies during the boom are also discussed. Case studies illustrate how these remittances and oil revenue transformed the structure of the financial system during the 1970s. The book describes how in the 1980s the financial sector became immune from business-government relations as reflected in taxation and regulation. The autonomy of finance from these regulations moved on through the 1990s. Institutional developments and policy responses are discussed during the recession of the 80s leading the way to the social movements of the 1990s influencing institutional outcomes. From these developments the reader can infer that changes in the international economy and specific forms of international integration have generated radically different state, market and financial institutions in response to resource flows.

Kiren Aziz Chaudhry

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Dr. Al-Sami'i:

"The wrong popular myths about leprosy must be eradicated, it can be treated like any other disease."

Dr. Abdulrhacem Al-Sami'i is the Deputy Director of the National Leprosy Control Program in Taiz. He has participated in several training courses in leprosy field control in India and Sudan.

Dr. Salah Haddash of Yemen Times met Dr. Al-Sami'i and filed this interview.

Excerpts:

Q: Could you give us an idea about the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) in Yemen?

A: The NLCP was founded in 1982, but actual activities did not start in earnest until 1986 when a cooperation agreement was signed between Yemen and the German Clar organization. The WHO also organizes training courses in combating leprosy for doctors in Yemen. Local NGOs such as the Yemeni Society for Eradicating Leprosy which is headed by Mr. Ahmed Hayil Saeed.

Q: What is the main hindrance to leprosy control in Yemen?

A: Lack of public awareness is a major problem. As soon as a person is diagnosed to have leprosy, a social war starts. The patient is immediately seen by society as a sinner and treated as an outcast. Many people in Yemen think that there is no treatment for leprosy. This is not true. An active cocktail of drugs is currently being used for the treatment of this affliction.

Q: What are the causes of leprosy?

A: People used to believe that leprosy is a punishment from heaven for the sinners in this world, until the leprosy-causing germ was discovered in 1873. Like many other contagious

diseases, leprosy is transmitted by inhaling its germs. Skin contact is a possible, yet unproved, means of infection. For skin contact to be infectious, it has to be over a long period and by an infected person who is not getting any medical treatment. Patients being treated for leprosy do not infect others. About 99% of humans, however, have a natural immunity against leprosy. This leaves only 1% of the people vulnerable to infection with leprosy. But wrong ideas still prevail in our society.

Q: How do people in Yemen view leprosy?

A: A leprosy-infected person in Yemen is forced to divorce his wife, denied inheritance, prevented from entering a mosque, and is even greeted with a handshake by a long stick. There are weird stories of leprosy being prevented from going out in the rain. Some people really believe that the disease would go with the rain water into the ground, be absorbed by plants, and infect humans who eat these plants. In some areas in Yemen, leprosy is not allowed to switch the light on for fear of transmitting the disease via electricity.

Q: What are the objectives of the NLCP?

A: It is very important to diagnose and treat leprosy in its early stages. When the disease reaches the stage of causing deformity, the infected person becomes a burden on society and costs the state a lot in terms of medication and health care. Every sick-bed annually costs the



national budget about YR 58,000.

The NLCP provides the necessary care and rehabilitation services for leprosy patients who have reached the point of disability. Due to the destruction of the nerve cells by the leprosy bacteria, a patient would lose all sense in the fingers, which start to get paralyzed and become twisted. Wounds and ulcers appear, leading eventually to the patients losing his or her fingers. So we try to rehabilitate those patients to be able to use their hands. At Al-Noor center, we providing training programs for bee keeping, cattle raising, sewing, etc. The German Embassy has also promised to provide us with flour milling equipment.

The NLCP provides medication in accordance with the WHO standards and instructions. The administered medicines are very effective, and bacteria have no resistance to the drugs. The time it takes the first symptoms of leprosy to appear varies from one person to another, according to the strength of his or her

immunity. It could be six months or one year. If the patient comes forward immediately after the first appearance of the spot, than the disease can be successfully cured. The maximum period for a successful treatment is five years. Leprosy is quite rare among children.

Q: How many people receive treatment by the NLCP? And in what areas is the disease more prevalent?

A: Up to the second quarter of 1997, there have been 663 patients getting treated for leprosy. The areas with the highest leprosy rates are Hadhramaut and Hodeida. The reason can be attributed to the hot and humid climate. Malnourishment due to bad economic conditions can also reduce the body's resistance to leprosy and other diseases. Also, in remote and

desert areas, primary health care facilities are quite lacking. The NLCP, in cooperation with the WHO, have special teams that regularly visit these remote areas and organize public health awareness programs. There is a special budget allocated by the Ministry of Health for the NLCP. The German organization provides a lot of financial support, too.

We have covered the areas of Seihout, Maseela valley, Bani Ziyad, Qashan, Hajar, Abad, and Thamood. Our teams have discovered cases of leprosy among the nomads in the Empty quarter desert. Few cases were also discovered in distant army camps. The beduins accept the medication easily and respond to treatment, so good results have been achieved.

We are about to start a leprosy treatment program in Shabwa.

Q: Are there any popular myths regarding the treatment of leprosy?

A: Yes, many, unfortunately. In Mahra, instance, some people think that a leprosy patient should go to a remote area, kill a traveler, open his brain, and use it as an ointment. Many people in Yemen believe that letting blood from the veins of the wrists and

ankles will cure leprosy. An extremely weird belief in Hodeida indicates eating the flesh of an infant as a cure for leprosy. I have not come across any such incidents since the beginning of the program in 1982, but they must have some foundation in reality.

Q: Do the patients pay for the medicines?

A: No, we receive these medicines free of charge from the WHO, and distribute them through 63 clinics covering 80 of the country. The remaining areas are covered by the NLCP mobile clinics. The current rate of leprosy in Yemen is 5 patients to every 100,000 citizens. The accepted international rate, which we hope to achieve by the year 2000, is one patients in every 100,000 citizens. We are not very far off.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I am proud to say that all NLCP staff are Yemeni. The Yemeni general director of the project, Dr. Yaseen Abdalaleem, is a WHO expert who had helped organize similar programs in India, Sudan, Pakistan, and now he is in Indonesia.

Additional information about 'A Successful Biological Enemy for the Peach Stem Aphid Introduced in Yemen' (Yemen Times, October 6-12, 1997)

In the case of the control of the Peach Stem Aphid, it is necessary to explain the concept of biological pest control.

In nature each insect has its own enemies, in the form of other creatures, like birds, spiders and other species of insects that feed on it. Some of these enemies (parasitoids) have evolved so closely with the particular insect that they can only live at the cost of that specific host insect. The result is a natural balance: the insect does not become very abundant and also its enemy does not become too abundant, as otherwise it would wipe out the insect and would have no more food.

However, when the insect is brought, by accident, to another part of the world, it then may multiply very strongly in the absence of its enemy. In that case we speak of an outbreak of the insect. This is what happened with the Peach Stem Aphid in Yemen. The aphid originates from the Eastern part of the Mediterranean region, the Middle East and Central Asia. It must have come to Yemen at least 4 years ago, without its specific natural enemy, a small parasitic wasp (not fly) scientifically called *Pauesia antennata*. This wasp lays its eggs in the bodies of the aphids and the wasp's offspring devour the aphids from within. Later the aphid dies and a new wasp emerges from its body.

The absence of this natural enemy in Yemen led to the enormous outbreak of the Peach Stem Aphid. At first, it was tried to control the pest by chemical pesticides. This is a very costly practice and has to be

in the affected areas.

Since January a tremendous effort made at the facilities of the Plant Protection Department at Shoub resulted in the production of over 150,000 wasps, that were released first in the Sana'a surroundings and later in localities as far apart as Amran, Manakha, Ibb, Mukairas and Dhamar. The wasps have been very successful in controlling the pest and although the multiplication and release of the wasps continues, the problem has much diminished and millions of almond, peach and other deciduous trees were saved from certain death. The final result will not be the total eradication of the Peach Stem Aphid. It is expected, that by next year a natural balance will be reached between aphids and wasps, the aphids remaining present in the orchards but never reaching the enormous quantities that led to the outbreak of the last years. Before pest numbers will rise so high as to cause damage, the wasps will arrive and destroy part of the aphids.



A lab to multiply the biological enemy of Aphid

When drinking water is untreated.....

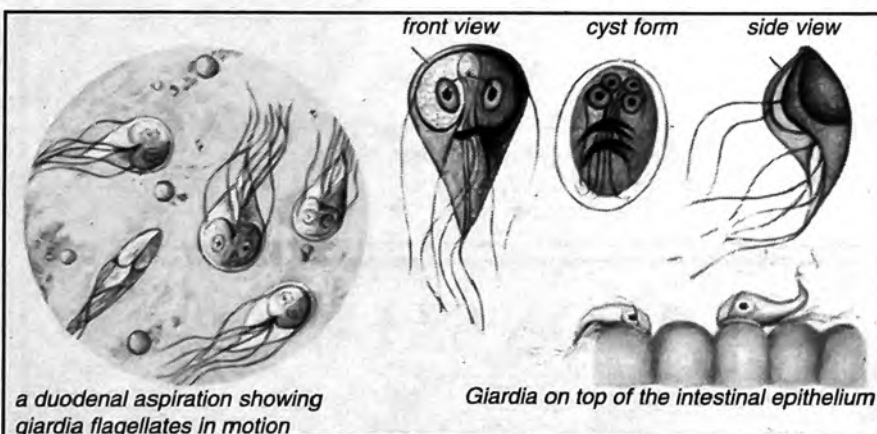
Of the several parasitic diseases which the local population should be aware of there is one like amoebiasis, specifically giardiasis which has been contracted in Yemen irregardless of the season.

First of all the amoebae causing the disease is classified as a protozoan in the animal kingdom, a

cyst form, that is a form which enables them to survive droughts and inhospitable conditions. The organism can be found in contaminated water and is easily contracted by careless householders especially villagers who do not boil their water supply efficiently. Water sources might be contaminated by impure efflu-

sion cup. It can cover extensive areas of the intestinal mucosa or inner lining thus causing its clinical symptoms, diarrhoea, indigestion and stomach cramps. The only way that it can be transmitted is through the feces in its cyst form. The amoeba can be diagnosed by its classic cyst form which have four nuclei i.e. is a tetra nucleate. Also when a large amount of these are present in the intestine the loose bowel movement caused is fatty and contains a yellow mucus. For amoebiasis in general, emetine chloride or antibiotics such as tetramycin has been implicated as a cure. The alkaloid can be isolated from the dried roots of the ipecac plant of the madder family native to South America. For chronic cases, that is cases which continue for a length of time, organic iodides and arsenics are suggested. For giardiasis on the other hand nitro-imidazoles have been proven more efficient.

Martin Dansky B.Sc.



unicellular organism that divides by fission not by mitosis as human cells do. The protozoan is a flagellate, meaning it has a tail like flagella which enables it to swim. There are other protozoans that are not flagellates like the dysentery amoeba which is a much more serious parasite and will be treated in another article. Both organisms can survive in a

ents or untreated water effluents. Such could be the case in villages where people wash and get their home supply at the same stream. The organism unlike the dysentery one does not invade the body tissue. It enters the alimentary tract and swims its way to the intestinal lining where it attaches to the villa cells with a ventral depression that acts like a

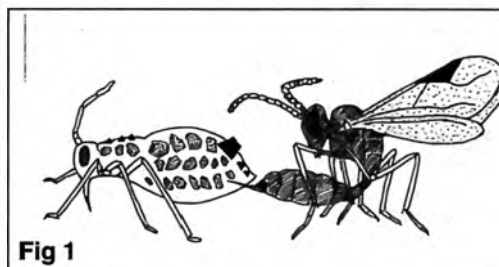


Fig 1

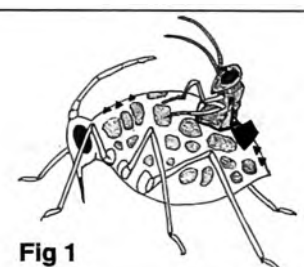


Fig 1

repeated regularly to keep the pest under control. In addition, the frequent application of chemical pesticides has negative side effects on the environment and in some cases may compromise human health. Later, with the support of the Dutch Government, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, German Agency for Technical Cooperation and International Institute of Biological Control, the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation managed to obtain a number of the above-mentioned wasps from Pakistan in order to multiply them and release them

The sole side-effect of the introduction of a very specific biocontrol agent like *Pauesia*, will be that one more insect species is added to the Yemeni fauna, to join the tens of thousands of other insect species already present. Now that the Peach Stem Aphid in Yemen is returning to normal (low) proportions, the number of *Pauesia* wasps will also become much lower, as the wasp can only multiply by laying its eggs into the aphids. It cannot lay its eggs in other insects or animals and it cannot eat other food than just Peach Stem Aphid. Therefore, concern about what will happen now, is unfounded.

Presenting Yemeni Art to the World

Adel J. Moqbil,
Yemen Times

The title may be too grand, but the 2nd Exhibition of Yemeni Contemporary Art hosted by the American Ambassador, Mr. David Newton, on October 28 and 29 was attended by a large crowd from the expatriate community in Sanaa. Just about everybody who is anybody was there. "Our main aim is to encourage Yemeni artists and let them be seen by the foreign community in Sanaa," said Mr. Newton. That has certainly been achieved. Thirty-three Yemeni artists - from the pioneers to the new comers - have taken part in the exhibition, which many considered a unique opportunity for the artists to come together, to see and be seen. The first such exhibition to have been hosted by the American Ambassador was held in 1995. Only 20 artists took part then, not all Yemeni though. This time, the exhibition is wholly by Yemeni artists, all of them showing new paintings to be exhibited for the first time. Also, there are 5 female artists taking part in the exhibition. They are Ikhlas Mansoor, Ashwaq Faisal Kaid, Ilham Al-Arshi, Amna Al-Nasiri, and Rema Kasem.

The exhibition's other main objective is of a charitable nature. "All the money from ticket sales and 10% of paintings' sales would go to Mother Teresa's Mission of Charity," announced the Ambassador. According to Mr. Adam Ereli, the Director of US Information Service, and Mr. Ted Seal of the American Embassy, about \$3,000 to \$4,000 was raised during the first exhibition. About \$3,000 from ticket sales and a similar amount from paintings sales are expected this time. The artists would, of course, receive 90% of the money from the sale of their paintings.

The well-known Yemeni artist Kamal Al-Makrami said, "the good thing about this exhibition is that it has brought together artists from different parts of Yemen, and a nicely designed color catalogue has been published through the sponsorship of several Yemeni and foreign organizations and companies."

Commercialism is a swear word in the art world. "I don't paint to sell," said the artist Saeed Alawi who is an architect by profession, adding, "although I'm a realist painter, I paint what I love, not what the market might want to see." For Alawi and many other Yemeni painters, selling their paintings helps them buy the necessary, rather expensive raw material. "We all need moral as well as material rewards," said Alawi.

Another artist, Ali Al-Dharhani, expressed his delight for the exhibition. He said: "The paintings on display show that Yemeni art is gradually becoming free of its old restrictions. This does not mean, however, that Yemeni artists are severing their work from the heritage of their society. They are freer now to experiment with their subject matter. Although there is no distinct overall direction, but there are some quite mature individual experiments."

Let's leave the last word to the critics. Amna Al-Nasiri, the celebrated Yemeni female artist and art critic, is quite optimistic for the future of the Yemeni plastic arts movement. "Although the general prospect is still somewhat foggy and the Yemeni art has no distinct features yet, the view is clearer now," she said, adding, "compared to other countries in the Gulf or even Egypt and Iraq where the plastic art movement is older than in Yemen, Yemeni art is well on its way to have a unique identity."



Kamal Al-Makrami

- Master's Degree in Oil Painting, Higher Institute of Fine Arts, Moscow, 1989.
- Various National & International Exhibitions.
- Two Personal Exhibitions in Sana'a



Ikhlas Mansoor

- Born in 1974, Taiz.
- Diploma of Art from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1996.
- Various National Exhibition.

Talal Al-Najar

- Born in 1964, Taiz.
- 1974-83 Studied Oil Painting under the Artist Hashim Ali.
- Master's Degree in Oil Painting, Higher Institute of Arts, Moscow, 1992.
- Working at the Art Dept., Ministry of Culture & Tourism.
- National & International Exhibitions.
- Founding member of Modern Art Group.



Saeed Alawi

- Born in 1955, Al Baidha.
- B. Sc. in Architecture, Cairo, 1982.
- Higher Diploma in Urban Housing 1989, Holland.
- Master's Degree in Urban Management, Erasmus Univ., Rotterdam, Holland, 1993.
- Various national & International Exhibitions since 1973.
- Founding Member of 'Modern Art Group'.



A'amna Al-Nasiri

- Born in Rada'a, 1967.
- Master's Degree in History of Art, State Academy of Art, Moscow, 1994.
- Working as an Art Critic.
- Teaching at Sana'a University.
- First Solo Exhibition, 1996.
- Various National & International Exhibitions.



Saad Bakr Ambarak

- Born in 1964, Abyan.
- Master's Degree in Fine Arts, Kiev, Ukraine, 1994.
- Various National & International Exhibitions.
- 1987 First Solo Exhibition, Al-Hosn.



Ashwaq Faisal Kaid

- Born in 1965.
- National & International Exhibitions.
- Interior Decorations.
- Stained Glass Works.



Ali Al Darhani

- Born in 1960, Dhamar.
- Diploma in Arabic Calligraphy, Alexandria, 1987.
- BA Degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Department, 1987.
- First Solo Exhibition, 1983.
- Various National & International Exhibitions.
- Director of Fine Arts Department, Aden.



شوكولاتة

بريك تايم ...

لأمتع الأوقات



الآن إربح الجائزة الذهبية
أكثر من ٣٠ ألف جائزة فورية



Yemenis in Britain

By: Alan Osborn, London Press Services Special Correspondent

MEET the British Yemenis - the men and women from the Republic of Yemen who by their own choice or that of their parents have come to live in the United Kingdom.

Anis Shamsan is the Information, Education and Cultural Officer for the "miniature Yemen" within the Welsh city of Cardiff. Since coming to Wales in 1975 Anis has involved himself in helping handicapped children and their families, in particular those in the ethnic communities, and has served as a link between his own countrymen and those of Britain.

With a Yemeni father, an Irish mother and a grandfather who fought in the British army, Nadia Audhali, who lives in Birmingham in the English Midlands, has mixed loyalties. She says: "I love England, but my strongest feelings are for Yemen." Mohammed Shaif Kassim is an accomplished footballer, born and raised in the English industrial city of Sheffield in northern England. He wants his son to be fully integrated into British life "but I'll make sure he knows about Yemen."

The lives and thoughts of these three and many others were the subject of "Yemenis in Britain" - a

the opening of the Suez Canal. The port played a significant part in the two world wars: it was through Aden in those years that many Yemenis found their way into Britain.

Most of the early immigrants were seamen, settling in ports like Cardiff in south Wales, Liverpool in north-west England and South Shields, in north-east England. Later generations moved to inland industrial cities in search of work.

The post-war years saw further changes as wives and children came to join their men folk, the range of occupations widened and Yemeni settlers made clear decisions to enter fully into British life, taking courses in the English language and culture throughout Britain. Yet most Yemenis in Britain today are employed as semi-skilled or unskilled laborers or own small retail shops, this pattern may not last much longer. The very latest generation of Yemenis in Britain - the children and grandchildren of the post-war immigrants - are achieving high academic qualifications in British schools and universities and seem destined for high-profile jobs.

In almost all cases these will be in Britain. Few of the young Yemenis interviewed for the British Council exhibition intend to return permanently to the land of their parents although all adhere to deep Islamic convictions.

For Britain this is a bonus. There is little doubt that the British government strongly favors a strengthened relationship with Yemen. A Foreign Office official said: "The year is the 30th anniversary of our withdrawal from Aden. We want to

emphasize that the relationship between the two countries is now very forward-looking with growing trade and increasing numbers of Yemeni people wanting to study in the UK."

In fact, UK-Yemeni relations have improved markedly since the civil war of 1994, as before they had been strained due to the 1990 Gulf war. Today relations are now officially described as "very good." Britain is now providing direct aid through the British Partnership Scheme operated by the British Embassy in Sana'a as well as contributing to the European Union and World Bank aid programs. This warmer relationship is attested to by many ministerial visits in the past 18 months including a meeting between Dr. Iryani, the Yemen Foreign Minister, and the British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in July. The meeting, which touched on some regional disputes, showed "a will to take the relationship further" according to officials.

Britain is keen to stress its support for a united Yemen in which all citizens feel at home. Britain sent its own observers to the 1997 parliamentary elections and shares the international consensus that these were generally free and fair. UK government officials welcome the fact that the country has established the institutions of democracy such as a

parliament, opposition and elections.

After culture and politics, the third strand of Britain's relationship with Yemen is economic. Britain is the third largest exporter to Yemen after the US and France, with about 12.4 per cent of the total exports to the country in 1995. The main British exports, which are growing strongly, are tobacco and beverages, machinery and transport equipment.

The UK is also a leading foreign investor in Yemen with assets put at 15 million pounds sterling on a net book value basis in 1995. This is expected to grow. An investment seminar held on the Royal Yacht Britannia when it docked in Aden earlier this year was hugely successful according to trade department officials in London and this was followed up by an "Invest in Yemen" seminar in September.

British trade officials believe that the current redevelopment of Aden harbor will equip the port to seize a much larger share of cargo traffic in the region and leading UK companies are being alerted to the possibilities.

In British eyes, Yemen is a spectacular country, unique in its geographical position, landscape, architecture and traditions. The port of Aden is imprinted in British history as a trading post and as a bridge between the east and west. Many Britons cherish Yemen as a land of myth, be it the home of the Queen of Sheeba, the supposed location of the Garden of Paradise or the cradle of civilization for the Arab World.

This autumn, British people had a chance to deepen their understanding. The Yemeni arts festival with its poets, musicians and dancers and the "Yemenis in Britain" exhibitions have captivated media attention on a country that seems to hold a fascination for Britons that far exceeds its size.



People in Yemen will have the chance to see the "Yemenis in Britain" exhibition which was part of the Yemen Festival in London.

According to Ms. Katharine Potter, the Cultural Events Coordinator at the British Council in Sana'a, the exhibition will be part of the British Week activities, due to take place late in November. "Yemenis in Britain" will be on display at Dar Al-Kutub, Sana'a.

"The exhibition presents the profiles of several different Yemeni people living in Britain, ranging from the international boxing champion to the honored war hero, the religious leader, the retail shop owner, etc," said Ms. Potter.



traveling exhibition of photos and text put together by the British Council and was shown in a number of big British cities in September and October this year. The show also covered the historical links between the two countries.

At the same time the British charity, World Circuit Arts organized a major program of Yemeni music, dance, poetry and art in London. This was sponsored by the Yemeni Ambassador to Britain, Dr. Hussein Al-Amri; the former British Ambassador in Sana'a, Mr. Douglas Scrafton; the British-Yemeni boxer Prince Naseem Hamed; the British Council and the UK Foreign Office, together with art organizations and British and Yemeni companies.

There are an estimated 70-80,000 Yemenis living in Britain. It is not a large settlement but it sends out powerful signals. The Yemenis are the longest-established Arab and Muslim community in the UK with a lifestyle that to many observers stands as a model of how devotion to Islam can be honorably conducted within the traditions and customs of a western country.

Britain's first links with Yemen can be traced back to the coffee trade of the early 17th century. Aden subsequently became a major port-of-call for British shipping, assuming greater importance with

Lutfi Ja'far Aman:

A Yemeni Poet Remembered



Lutfi Ja'far Aman (1928 - 1972) was born in Aden, and educated in Khartoum, Sudan. He worked as a teacher in Aden, then as Deputy Minister of Education and Supervisor of Broadcasting. Influenced by Tunisian and Sudanese Romantic poets, he became a leader of modern Romantic poetry in Yemen. 5 volumes

published. He died in Cairo. FAWZIA (Excerpts)

Fawzia.

Oh most beautiful among magic names,
Oh music plucked from the lute of a houri.
Oh most precious pearl, throbbing with humanity.
Oh divine gift from God, filling me with piety.
Oh eternal source of my love.
Oh Fawzia.

A gentle memory of you flutters into my heart's prayer.
I see you.. I see you, with all your exquisite vitality:

in the beginning of a smile.. dawning;
in the ring of laughter.. golden;
in the embroidery of a pink handkerchief,
fragrant with the treasures
of the Garden's of Lahaj.

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يا نغمًا يعبق في قيثارة حورية
يا أغلى لؤلؤة نبضت انسانية
يا دفقة ربي تملأني وجدانية
يا ثروة حبي الأبدية
يا فوزية
نجواك ترف على صلواتي القلبية
فأراك.. أراك بكل مفاتيح الحياة
بشروق البسمة.. فجرية
برنين الضحكة.. ذهبية
بنقوش المنديل الوردية
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Saddam Expels US Inspectors

President Saddam Hussain decided to expel US inspectors in the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of disarming Iraq, giving them a week to leave the country. US members of the commission posted in Iraq - UN officials say there are 10 of them - have until November 5 to leave. Saddam stopped short of imposing a freeze on all co-operation with UNSCOM, but the expulsions drew a swift condemnation both from the United States and fellow permanent Security Council member France. UNSCOM's chairman Richard Butler in turn announced that following the Iraqi decision he was freezing the group's work in Iraq. "I have decided to suspend all operations of UNSCOM in Iraq," Butler said, adding he hoped the move would be temporary. In New York, Iraq's UN ambassador Nizar Hamdoun said he handed a letter to the Security Council barring US inspectors from the country. The decision was "out of desperation" at the seven-year-old sanctions and "the tragic situation of the Iraqi people," Hamdoun told reporters. The ambassador said US inspectors were to blame for past incidents in Iraq and his country would accept their replacement by "any other nationals."

Mandela Bestows Award on Gaddafi

President Nelson Mandela bestowed South Africa's highest award - the Order of Good Hope - on Col. Moammar Gaddafi, but also called publicly for moderation from the Libyan leader. In a brief speech, Mandela did not make any direct reference to the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West. But he called on all countries to support the efforts of the United Nations. Libya has been under a UN arms and air embargo since 1992 for its refusal to hand over for trial two Libyans suspected by the West of being behind the explosion of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 270 people. Mandela, during his visit to Tripoli, called for a lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libya and said the Lockerbie case should be handled by an international tribunal and not the British or US legal system - a view shared by the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League. Mandela said he was presenting Gaddafi with the Order of Good Hope to thank him for his role in forging friendship between the South African and Libyan peoples and Libya's backing for the struggle against apartheid.

Israel Agrees to New Talks

Israel agreed to dispatch its Foreign Minister David Levy to talks in Washington with senior US and Palestinian officials, but his mandate to tackle the central issues dogging the peace process appeared fragile. Under an agreement reached between American, Israeli, and Palestinian officials in September in New York, the Washington meeting had been due to begin late in October. But Levy refused at first to attend, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had failed to provide guidelines to negotiate the two core issues on the agenda - demands for a halt to Jewish settlement building and Israel's long-overdue requirement to transfer more West Bank land to Palestinian rule. Levy finally agreed to go to Washington following more than eight hours of talks with Netanyahu and other members of the government's inner security cabinet.

Kuwaiti 1 National Assembly Urged to Grant Women their Rights

Academicians and lawyers in Kuwait called upon the National Assembly to amend the personal statute with a view to granting women all their rights. Addressing a seminar organized by the Female Cultural Society titled "What Kuwaiti Women Want From Parliament," Saran Al-Duaij, a lawyer, is the setting up of a special civil court for examining personal status cases in order to make up for the delay in disposing of such cases by the Justice Palace. She also stressed the need to provide key judicial positions to women, pointing out that women held top offices in the country like assistant under-secretary and university rector. Agreeing that the personal statute is one of the best laws in the Arab and Islamic worlds, Ibrahim Al-Athari, a lawyer, opined however that certain loopholes still remain to be plugged especially cases relating to marriage. Al-Athari said though Article 48 of the law allows unofficial marriage, it remains silent on the negative impact on children. Article 136 allows women to seek divorce if her husband was absent for a year or more or was jailed for a long period," he said.

Tunisia Signs KD 22 Million Deal with Arab Fund

Tunisia and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) signed a KD 22 million

loan agreement as a contribution to finance construction of irrigation dams in Tunis. A statement issued by the Fund said that the project aimed at increasing agricultural production, hiking farmers' wages and improving trade. The project will include the construction of irrigation dams in four Tunisian provinces and technical services, the statement said. The Fund loan will have a 4.5% interest payable within 22 years with a six-year grace period, it said. The Fund's contribution to financing development projects in Tunisia is estimated at KD 223.3 million.

Amnesty for Illegal Aliens Extended

Bahrain has extended by one month an amnesty given to illegal foreign workers, mostly from India and Pakistan. The Interior Ministry's spokesman said the Amnesty period would now expire on November 30. In July, Bahrain gave foreign workers, staying illegally on the island, until October 31 to legalize their status, leave the country or face penalties. Around 25,000 foreigners have already legalized their status. The legal action, including fines, would be taken against those staying illegally after the period expired. Around 5,000 foreigners staying illegally had left the state this year by the end of September. Many illegal aliens, mostly low-paid and unskilled workers from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, have gone to their embassies and immigration offices to obtain residency permits or to try to leave the country before the amnesty expires. Official figures show foreigners make up almost 39% of Bahrain's population, which increased in the year to the end of June 1997, to 620,378 from the 598,625 a year earlier.

Move to Impeach President

The Pakistan Muslim League government will impeach President Farooq Leghari in case he does not cooperate with the government on the issue of judges. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has taken the decision and many of his close associates have not been taken into confidence on the sensitive issue. Under the constitution, the president can be removed if a two-third majority from both houses of parliament at a joint session pass a resolution against him. The constitution gives the president a right to defend himself in parliament but it is not obligatory for the house to accept his point of view. The president has already been reduced to a powerless entity as most of his powers have been withdrawn. So far, the government has been saying that it has no plan to sack the president.

Deportation Ordered for Suspect in Sadat Murder

A man believed to have played a role in the 1981 assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat has to go back to Egypt to face his punishment, a US immigration judge has ruled. Nabil Ahmed Soliman argued that authorities have the wrong man and that he is being targeted for his connection to Omar Abdulrahman, a radical Muslim cleric imprisoned for plotting to blow up a New York city building. Soliman, an Egyptian national, has been jailed since his arrest at US Immigration and Naturalisation Service offices this summer. Authorities say Soliman is really Nabil Ahmed Soliman-Rizk, who was convicted in absentia in 1984 for plotting to kill Sadat on October 6, 1981, and sentenced to five years in prison.

Arroyo Urges Ramos to Endorse Candidature

Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, one of the most popular Philippine presidential aspirants in the 1998 elections, has urged President Fidel Ramos to endorse her candidacy. Mrs. Arroyo, along with Vice-President Joseph Estrada, has consistently topped opinion polls this year but her new political party - known in its acronym as Kampi (Ally) - lacks the nationwide political machinery to win the elections. An endorsement by Mr. Ramos, chairman of the ruling Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats (Lakas-NUCD) party, will virtually assure her a nationwide machinery. Mrs. Arroyo met Mr. Ramos, but was told that to get the president's endorsement, she would have to join the Lakas-NUCD and vie with eight other presidential aspirants within the party. She would also have to pledge support for whichever presidential candidate wins Mr. Ramos's endorsement.

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Tlx: to Aden Branch.



HAYEL SAEED GROUP - NABORS Jointly Host a Reception



On the evening of 28 October, 1997, HAYEL SAEED and NABORS jointly hosted a dinner reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The dinner was attended by the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources H. E. Mohamed Alkhadem Alwajih, members of the MOMR, the Oil community and other respected guests.

At the reception before the dinner Abdul Wasa Hayel Saeed and Siegfried Meissner of Nabors Industries, Inc. jointly announced that previous differences between the two companies had been resolved and that the two parties were reconciled. It was stated that this had been accomplished through co-operation, trust and friendship.

The presentation by the speakers and the dinner were appreciated by the attendees.



Women and Islamic Activism in Yemen Part 1

By: Janine A. Clark,
University of New Hampshire
(This article published in
Yemen Update No. 39, 1997)

In the recent 1997 elections in Yemen, *Hizb al-Islah*, the country's largest Islamic party, was once again able to more effectively mobilize female voters than any other party. While *Hizb al-Islah* did not field female candidates, there is no doubt that women played an important role in the party's success. Women's activism within and on behalf of *Hizb al-Islah* is, furthermore, another indication of the apparent paradox Western social scientists confront when studying Islamic political parties and organizations. Islamist women's adherence to the Islamist

ideology seems to signify their affiliation with conservative ethical and social habits, and their support for male dominance. Yet, Islamist women are visible in the streets, getting educations and jobs.

Formed in September 1990, the *Islah* Party is a coalition of several diverse streams including Muslims Brothers, tribal leaders, and intellectuals. Under the leadership of Shaykh 'Abd Allah Ibn Al-Ahmar, the party formed a junior coalition partner with the government's Congress Party until the most recent elections. With the April 1997 elections, *Hizb al-Islah* lost 15 seats. As a result, the Congress Party won the majority it needed to form a government without building a coalition. However, the Congress Party did not get the required vote

needed for legislative action. It remained to be seen whether the ruling Congress Party would in fact try to bring *Hizb al-Islah* into a coalition again, preferring a junior coalition partner to a vocal opposition.

In the 1993 and 1997 elections, *Hizb al-Islah* was the only party not to have any female candidates. Yet to a large degree, it was women's votes that brought *Islah* to power in both elections. Male leaders openly acknowledge the crucial role women played, and continue to play, in recruiting and mobilizing other women to join and/or vote for *Islah*.

Within the Party, women are organized in the form of a Women's Sector which reports directly to the Secretariat General. The women's Sector in

Hizb al-Islah is technically independent of the rest of the Party, (the 'male' part), and operates as a parallel organization. The executive departments under the authority of the 'male' Secretariat General are also theoretically present within the Women's Sector. The Women's Sector receives the same party goals, program and objectives as the rest of the party. *Hizb al-Islah* does not concern itself with a program for women per se. Women are seen as part and parcel of society and therefore included in one unified program for society as a whole. The women operationalize the policies, and then provide and perform various additional activities - usually social - of concern to women and children only. In other words, women do not make policy.

The highest positions presently attained by women in *Hizb al-Islah* are the heads of the Women's Sectors. No woman is on the *Majlis al-Shura* or Consultative Council of the party. However, approximately 200 women, including the heads of the Women's Sectors of the various Local Units throughout the country, attended the Party's most recent General Convention. Amongst other responsibilities, the General convention votes for the president and vice-president of the High Committee, the members of the *Majlis al-Shura*, and the president of the Judicial Department. The women therefore have a voice in the selection of the decision-makers.

Women in *Hizb al-Islah* are quite young - in their late teens and early twenties. On the whole, they are younger than women in other political parties. This is partially because it is the age group which is about to start their independent lives in terms of higher education, jobs and marriages and is looking for answers, directions and hope. *Hizb al-Islah* is also a new party and has attracted those who did not feel comfortable with politics or the Congress Party prior to unification and democratization.

The relative youth of *Islahi* women is also due to the fact that the party targets younger women. These are the women who are going to be mothers and influence the next generation. The women's page of the party's newspaper, *al-Sahwa*, for example, is written by and primarily for an audience of younger women. Most importantly, the women in *Hizb al-Islah* are deeply religious. Working for the party is seen as a religious duty. This partially explains why women are so successful in their various activities. At the same time, these activities give women a degree of freedom and independence they cannot find elsewhere. As long as it is for a religious cause, their families do not object to their numerous activities outside of the home.

One can find women of all socio-economic backgrounds in *Islah*; however, women with some form of official position and/or who are highly active in the party are generally from the middle class. The majority also have university ambitions or undergraduate degrees. The women see no contradiction in having an education and career, as long as the woman's primary job as a mother does not suffer. This, of course, is made possible by the fact that they are in a position to be able to leave their children with another family member while they are at school or work.

The majority of women in *Hizb al-Islah* appear to have a strong sense of their role within the party. They express no dissatisfaction with the organizational structure or ideological position of the party, and are not undertaking any strategies to gain greater influence within the party as a whole. When asked, for example, if they wanted a woman on the *Majlis al-Shura* to better express their needs, most women were supportive of the idea but in the meantime felt that the male members of the Party (often their fathers, brothers, and husbands) expressed their interests ade-

quately and accurately. Heads of the Women's Sectors are extremely loyal to the party and most would not grant me an interview until a male of higher authority had given them permission to do so.

There is, however, a very small but growing group of women who are more politically minded and who are able to articulate and critique the patriarchal structures within the party. These Women are well acquainted with books by Islamist men who take liberal views on women's roles in society and by Islamists women, such as Heba Rauf, in Egypt. They were frustrated by the lack of female candidates in the 1993 and 1997 elections and quietly raised their interest in being candidates to a variety of sympathetic, liberal male members.

They are furthermore hampered by the highly centralized structure of the party. Approval for projects is long and tedious, especially for sectors outside of the capitol. Women also feel impeded by a lack of funds. This is also particularly true of regions outside of Sana'a. As one of the consequences, women in the local units do not have their own sector but are integrated with the men. They, therefore, have even less decision-making control over their projects.

These women are frustrated by the party which labels those who criticize it as dissenters and secessionists. In the meantime, they quietly complain of traditions and customs, particularly tribal customs, that prevent women from being able to assert their Islamic rights and raise their status. They do not know how they can combat the non-liberal and tribal elements in their party; especially when the unity of the party depends on various confrontational issues - such as personal laws affecting women - being avoided.

As other women in Yemeni politics, *Islahi* women generally target three issue areas as of primary concern to women: poverty, illiteracy and health. They place primary concern on women's education in terms of here Islamic rights. However, little emphasis, if any, is placed in enforcing the implementation of those rights. *Islahi* women assume, as the men do, that society's 'backwardness' will be eliminated with education and time.

As a reflection of their practical concerns, women's activities with *Islah* focus primarily on social activities. Women's centers have been established throughout the country and, amongst other social activities, offer literacy and Quranic classes. Many also publish a newsletter for women on a semi-regular basis. In addition, at election time, these centers take on the role of political recruitment and education. Women are instructed in their electoral rights, and assisted in the registration and voting process. During election times, *Islahi* women actively canvassed other women for votes. This includes university elections where the women are extremely vocal and involved in campaigning.

This is the end of part 1. Part 2 will be published in the next issue of Yemen Times on Monday 10th of November.



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AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa
(Weekly) 28-10-97.
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) By Financing Exiled Opposition "Mowj" Group, Saudi Arabia is Behind Kidnapping of Foreigners in Yemen
- 2) New Explosions Rock Aden, Followed by Widespread Arrests
- 3) The President: "We'll participate in Doha economic conference to appease Qatar."
- 4) Abyan Students Demonstrate Demanding School Renovation and Supplies of Stationery and other Facilities

Article Summary:

Civil Service Office Robbed

Police in Mukalla are still investigating the robbery that took place at the Hadhramaut Civil Service Office. The thieves broke into the second-floor office and stole a computer which was used to store data on public employees in Hadhramaut. According to police sources, the thieves came from another building just 2 meters away, went into the office through a small window, and used a metal bar to break the door to the computer room. The metal bar, some qat, and a mineral water bottle were found by the police at the scene of the crime. Families living above the office did not hear a thing.



AL-TAJAMMU': Aden
(Weekly) 27-10-97.
(Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party)

News Review:

- 1) Commonwealth meeting in Scotland: Yemen could not meet criteria to join.
- 2) Presidential decree issued to regulate Aden Free Zone - a central executive administration will be established.
- 3) Foreign Minister: "Kidnappings of foreigners are politically motivated. There is no single evidence implicating Saudi Arabia."
- 4) Port of Aden workers went on strike demanding conclusion of land distribution - YR 10 million was lost due to 2-day strike.
- 5) 49% of Yeminvest Company owned by Singapore company building container platform.
- 6) Auctioned 53,000 tons of squid went at \$2,500 a ton - half normal price, corruption is alleged.
- 7) Judge and his colleague oversee beating of a prisoner in Aden jail - the judge accused prisoner of stealing YR 120,000 from him.
- 8) Liberation Front Party rejects proposed administrative division of Hadhramaut



AL-SAHWA: Sanaa (Weekly)
30-10-97.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

News Review:

- 1) Islah and opposition MPs reject rise in diesel prices, majority PGC MPs vote in favor.
- 2) After his successful visits to Egypt and Jordan, the President calls for stronger Arab solidarity.
- 3) Vice-President directs relevant authorities to raise living standards of mosque Imams and other clergymen in Abyan and Lahj.
- 4) Following assault on judge, a bomb exploded in Saada court of appeal - several cars destroyed.
- 5) Commercial Court in Aden allows captain of Russian ship to sell 2,000 tons of rotten rice - port health authorities had previously banned unloading of consignment.
- 6) Islah Shoura Council in Aden condemns recent



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: **Adel J. Moqbil**

explosions.

- 7) Partisan allegiances play significant role in Ministry of Education appointment and dismissal of staff.
- 8) Company conducts sales pitch for female sanitary towels at girls' schools in Sanaa, and gives lectures on pre-menstrual tension.



AL-WAHDA: Sanaa
(Weekly) 29-10-97.
(Semi-official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President's Visits to France, Egypt, and Jordan is a Qualitative Move towards More Comprehensive Trade Relations
- 2) 1st Round of Immunization Against Common Childhood Diseases Concluded Successfully
- 3) New Preparatory Committee Formed for General Conference of Journalists' Syndicate
- 4) Gulf Academics Call for Allowing Yemen and Iraq into Gulf Cooperation Council

Article Summary:

Tripartite Summit - editorial

The Yemeni-Palestinian-Egyptian summit in Cairo came at the right moment. The Israeli Likud government is following a very dangerous brinkmanship policy. It is literally destroying the whole Middle East peace process. It is going back on the Oslo agreement, and blockading the regions ruled by the Palestinian National Authority. There is no doubt that the summit will bring a positive outcome for the benefit of the whole region.



AL-HAQ: Aden (Weekly) 26-10-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Fierce Armed Clashes between Security Forces and Islaimist Group in Jaar
- 2) Taiz Electricity Authority Cuts Off Power from Households Failing to Pay Bills
- 3) Truck Drivers in Shabwa Protest Against Illegal Taxes Levied at Checkpoints
- 4) Management of Al-Salam Scolastic Institute in Taiz Imposes Big Fees on Students

Article Summary:

We Want Drastic Reform - editorial

The ruling party, through its official and partisan media, occasionally criticizes some government official for mistakes. This is done to improve its image as a defender of the people's rights. What is promulgated by the official media, however, is very shallow and ineffectual. The aim is to contain or absorb popular dissatisfaction. The real social and economic problems and ailments remain unresolved. The real corrupt go unpunished, either because of the authorities' weakness or other ulterior motives.



AL-SHOURA: (Weekly)
26-10-97.

(Federation of Popular Forces)

News Review:

- 1) After the death of 2 prisoners, opposition parties

demand investigation into conditions at Sawlaban prison in Lahj.

- 2) Widespread popular discontent continues due to raising diesel prices - parliament discusses alternatives.

- 3) Forming new 15-member Supreme Elections Committee cuses disputes in parliament.

- 4) Old blood feuds led to 14 dead and 14 injured in tribal armed confrontation in Beihan.

- 5) Teachers' Syndicate condemns resorting to tribal code for solving teacher-student problems - teacher threatened by his students brought his kinsmen to beat them up.

- 6) Opposition parties form committee to defend Hadhramau unity.

- 7) Incompetent surgeon referred to prosecutor - patient had a piece of gauze forgotten in her stomach after operation and another died during hysterectomy.

- 8) Students in Zanzibar, Abyan went on the rampage in protest over collapse of school brick fence.



AL-THAWRI: Sanaa
(Weekly) 30-10-97.

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Widespread Arrests Follow 9 Aden Explosions - No Casualties nor Material Damage

- 2) Yemen Protests Against Eritrean Oil Exploration Near Yemeni Territorial

Waters

- 3) Basic Commodity Prices Set to Rise Before End of 1997

- 4) Aden Municipality Demolish YSP Office

Article Summary:

Yemen Fails to Get More Aid

According to the Middle East Confidential information agency, the recent European tour by President Ali Abdulla Saleh has failed to secure more aid for Yemen. "Most of Yemen's European partners see no urgency for providing more financial assistance. Sanaa should first make more progress in the reform program." The agency report also described the recent popular protests over the rise in diesel prices as an indicator of the Yemeni government's failure to keep security and stability.

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SysSoft Inaugurates New Office

The Technical Systems for Studies and Programming Co., SysSoft, has celebrated the opening of its new head office on Hadda Road, Sanaa. The inauguration ceremony was attended by several businessmen, financiers, computer engineers and enthusiasts, as well as representatives of the media.

SysSoft is one of a few distinguished companies dealing with computer systems and programming. Although it is a new company, SysSoft has been able in a short time to consolidate its position in an expanding market full of several competitors.



picture: Yasser Al-Aghbari (third from left), SysSoft programmer-analyst and some of the guests

2nd Week of ELFT Concluded

Matches of the 2nd week of the Excellent League Football Tournament had ended on Friday, October 31, in 4 governorates: Aden, Sanaa, Taiz, and Hodeida. The Wahda of Sanaa defeated the Shaab of Mukalla 2-nil in Sanaa. In an exciting match, the Tilal beat the Tali'a of Taiz 4-1. Starting its victories, Shamsan defeated Zohra of Sanaa 4-1 in Aden. In a loss-resembling draw, the Ahli of Hodeida presented a weak performance playing against Hassan of Abyan in Hodeida.

The 2nd week started on Thursday, October 30 with two matches: the Ahli of Sanaa vs. Ittihad of Ibb (1-1) and Shula and Shaab of Ibb (4-2).



With Dutch Support, Sports Fields Built in Radaa

As part of the distinguished relations between Yemen and Holland, the Dutch Embassy in Sanaa has financed the construction of basketball, volleyball, and tennis fields at Al-Ahmedi Club in Radaa.



H. E. A. J. Meerburg
Dutch Ambassador

Inaugurated by the Minister of Youth and Sport, Dr. Abdulawahab Raweh, the fields were built upon a request by the head of the consultative team of

the water and sewage project in Radaa. H.E. the Dutch Ambassador agreed to provide \$7,500 towards this purpose; while, Al-Ahmedi provided YR 94,000.

The youth in Radaa have expressed their deepest gratitude for the Dutch contribution, which are also engaged in financing the giant water and sewage project in Radaa.

Tennis Championship Concluded in Aden

With the participation of 32 players from Sanaa and Aden, the Republic's Tennis championship was concluded on Tuesday, October 28 in Aden. The players were divided into 3 groups: excellent league, youth, and juniors. The championship was conducted

whereby the defeated player is out during the first-stage of qualifier matches. All games were played on the fields of the Tennis Club in Crater, Aden. The players' performances exhibited a good level of physical fitness and game technique, which indicate a

good future for tennis in Yemen. An increasing number of young people are training to play tennis, especially during the intensive training courses organized by the Yemeni Olympic Committee under the supervision of international referees. This cham-

pionship was launched on Thursday, October 23 by the governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ghanim, the director of the Youth Office in Aden, Mr. Ahmed Al-Dhalai, and the deputy president of the Yemeni Tennis Association, Mr. Mohammed Hajar.



Under the Auspices of the Yemeni Olympic Committee, Al-Hadhrani Wins "President Cup" in Chess Championship

Attended by the secretary-general of the Yemeni Olympic Committee, Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi, the President Cup Chess Championship was concluded on Saturday, November 1, at the Olympic Center in Sanaa.

The international chess master Hatem Al-Hadhrani was able to snatch the first position after several exciting games. In the final game, Al-Hadhrani defeated

Saleh Al-Aqrabi and gained a precious 8th point thereby winning the President Cup of the championship. The international chess player Khalid Al-Harazi came in second position, followed by Abdu Al-Baadani. In addition to the championship cups, the Olympic Committee presented the winners with encouragement gifts.

Invited by IFBB, Al-Jawfi Attends Bodybuilding Championship

Upon the invitation of the International Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB), the international bodybuilding referee and IFBB member, Mr. Najeeb Al-Jawfi has attended the world bodybuilding championship held last September in Frankfurt, Germany.

Addressing the IFBB, Al-Jawfi talked about the ever increasing popularity of bodybuilding in Yemen and the enthusiasm showed by Yemeni youths for this sport. He expressed his optimism regarding the future of bodybuilding in this country. He also asked for the IFBB support to help more youth engage in bodybuilding.

At the conclusion of the championship, Al-Jawfi presented

the IFBB president, Mr. Wayne Demiline with a traditional janbia and its belt.





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Yemeni Folk Songs

As is well known, singing is performed on different occasions and in different places. People in Yemen as everywhere else have known singing for a long time. First, it has been known as a way of relieving ones burdens and hardships, a means of relaxation, and expressing one's emotions and feelings. Yemenis used to sit in certain places outside their houses to sing. Those places were used for relaxing after spending a full day of hard work. In the old times, such places did not have to be prepared in the way places are prepared now. Those places could even be yards in some localities, here and there. Farmers, laborers, and fishermen sing old songs using old and simple musical instruments. It was felt that such singing would strengthen their abilities to better do their work. Yemenis are well known for being so fond of art and literature, which have become part of their lives. This actually is one of the reasons why Yemeni songs in general became well known and quite developed in the rest of the Arab world. This of course has also led to the development of the modern Yemeni song. If it had not been for the old folk songs, the Yemeni modern song would not have reached its present stage of development. The old Yemeni folk songs vary according to



the occasion. There are songs sung by women when getting water from the wells, by shepherds tending their herds, farmers toiling in the fields, irrigation songs, camel riders in long desert journeys and by women grinding wheat, etc. There are also children's and weddings songs and religious hymns. Yemeni songs represent a good record of the old folklore and popular art. They are a form of self expression for the ordinary and simple folk. The modern folk song is a natural development from the old one. It has to be admitted that Yemeni songs have become widespread in neighboring countries. This can be attributed to its heartfelt words, simple tunes and other endearing artistic features. In addition to that, the fame of the Yemeni song is also attributed to the Yemeni singers themselves who are generally good and proficient singers, some of whom have gained much fame in other Arab countries. The development of the Yemeni song is also due to the fact that musicians started using modern instruments. There is no doubt that the Yemeni song has played a great role in various aspects of our life. It has served the emotional feelings of the people at certain periods in time. Whatever is said about the modern Yemeni folk song, it cannot be given what it deserves. On the other hand, the old Yemeni songs must not be ignored. It must be preserved as part of the nation's heritage.

Ismail Al-Ghabiri,
 Yemen Times

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