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Aden Comes to Life as Winter Capital: President Saleh to Push Free Zone

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, freshly back from his successful visit to the United Kingdom, will be going south to spend about six weeks in Aden, the country's winter capital. The cabinet also plans to hold some meetings in Aden. This is part of the concept of using Aden as a winter capital.

Sources close to the President told the Yemen Times that he intends to vigorously support the Aden Free Zone (AFZ) operations. He believes it is time the AFZ should come to life, given the many years that have passed in preparation for the real launch of the effort.

The President also intends to have a first-hand look at the reasons behind the 15 bomb explosions and other anti-state operations that have all centered in Aden.

As a gesture of good will, the President plans to order extra-budgetary projects for the city.

Vice President Represents Yemen in OIC Summit

The Vice President, Mr. Abdo Rabbo Hadi Mansoor, will head the Yemeni delegation to the summit of the Organization of Islamic Countries to be held in Iran from 9th to 11th of December, 1997. The summit will discuss mainly what is perceived as "the on-slaught of the West on Muslim states and communities." But Yemen has its own agenda. "We will strongly urge Muslim countries not to support religious extremism, which is dangerous to us all," the Vice President told the Yemen Times.



PM Negotiates Moratorium on Debt

"We have already concluded re-scheduling agreements with the US, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and Italy. The main upcoming negotiations are with Russia," Dr. Faraj said. Now that Russia is part of the Paris Club, 80% of the debt owed to it by Yemen is automatically discounted. The 20% balance is subject to one of three scenarios for re-scheduling, on one of which the two sides can agree. "We can discount 67% of it and re-schedule the balance over 20 years. Or we can re-schedule the whole amount over a longer period with a low interest rate. Or repayment can be made of the whole amount at commercial interest rates, but over 40 years," he said. Yemen also has another issue to discuss, what to do with an overdue of US\$ 1.2 billion in arrears. The creditors want this cleared but Yemen is in no position to cough it up.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, headed for Paris on Sunday November 16th, to discuss re-scheduling of Yemen's second round of debt repayment re-scheduling, which is done at the Paris Club forum applying the Napoli terms, agreed upon between Yemen and its creditors. Yemen's total bilateral debt is now subject to the Paris-Club conditions, given the recent accession of Russia.

YIJMC Holds 3rd Round

The Yemeni-Iranian Joint Ministerial Committee (YIJMC) has started its third round on Sunday, November 16th in Tehran. Talks are scheduled to last for three days. A 16-member delegation, headed by the Minister of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning, Eng. Hussein Abdullah Al-Dafi'i, is in the Iranian capital to attend the sessions. The delegation also includes a number of Yemeni officials from various ministries. "We are going to sign 11 agreements and protocols in the sectors of investment, commerce, education, the media, culture, health, vocational training, sports, and housing for low-income people," said Eng. Al-Dafi'i. "Both sides are eager to activate and strengthen their bilateral relations," he announced.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Character Strength and Personal Integrity

As an economist, I have been taught that human resource development is a basic prerequisite for socio-economic development. The traditional translation of that is good education and adequate health care, etc. There are, however, many add ones. I would like to focus on character strength and integrity as essential elements in human beings. I will use personal encounters from my travels to illustrate.

1. The Turkish Bellboy:

A couple of months ago, I was in Istanbul. As I was winding up my trip, I went to the old bazaar to buy a few things. Among the things I bought were a couple of expensive porcelain vases for my wife. As my taxi drove to the front entrance of my hotel, the Renaissance Polat Istanbul Hotel, I asked one of the young bellboys to carry my things to my room. I failed to alert him to the fragile nature of the contents.

About twenty minutes later, the young bellboy knocked on the door of my room. "Do you speak English, Sir?" I answered I did. "I want to bring in your things, but I want to tell you that due to negligence on my part, I broke one of the vases. If you will still be with us till tomorrow, I will replace it. If you are leaving sooner, tell me the price, and I will pay you." I looked at the young lad with extreme pleasure and respect. My vase is broken, so what. Look at this poor bellboy, he could have simply brought in the things without mentioning the damage, which I would have discovered too late. He could have claimed that he found it broken in the trunk of the taxi. But No! He told me the truth and was willing to take responsibility. He was willing to pay for it from his US\$ 90 salary. I called up the manager of the hotel to congratulate him on such reliable and responsible people, even at the level of bellboys.

2. My Chinese Escort:

During a recent visit to China, I was given an escort who speaks Arabic whose monthly salary was around US\$130 per month. He spent about a week running around with me from one city to another, and from place to another. He was generous and extremely helpful. He was implementing my program, as I wanted it. He did not have special errands of his own. He went out of his way to make my trip a success.

At the end of the journey, it was time to say good-bye. I told him I was extremely grateful, and that I did not have time to buy him a 'gift' to show my appreciation. Therefore, I decided to give him some money to buy a gift for himself by offering to pay him his salary of a few months.

With extreme politeness, he refused to take the money. His sentence still rings in my ear. "Sir, I was just doing my job. I am happy your trip was successful. It was a pleasure to accompany you. My gift is for you tell the world about China."

I come across dozens and dozens of such examples. Nations are built with people who are upright, who have self-esteem, and who do not bow to a few dollars. Citizens with personal integrity and character strength build nations. That is why I feel that Turkey and China and similar countries will inevitably rise to an important place in the world community. Nations that with corrupt and weak citizens cannot expect to claim an important world role. By that yardstick, Yemen is doomed for a long time.

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8th Round of Nasserite Central Committee

The Central Committee of the Nasserite Unionist Party concluded its 8th round on November 10th. Following a four-day discussion, the party issued a three-page communique which outlined its position on many of the local, regional and international issues.

The communique denounced the rising level of violation of human rights in Yemen. It also criticized the continued lawlessness that prevails in the country.

At the economic level, the party was grieved by the steady impoverishment of the Yemeni people by the reform program.

Regionally, the party expressed its disgust with the continued blockade of many Arab countries especially Iraq and Libya.

Polish Embassy Celebrates Independence

The Polish Embassy in Sanaa had celebrated the 79th anniversary of the country's independence on November 11th, 1918. Yemeni-Polish bilateral relations were initiated in December, 1957. Forty years on, the ties between the two countries are getting stronger. "Since the opening of the Polish Embassy in Sanaa in 1999, the ties between our two countries are continuously improving," said Mr. Krzysztof Suprowicz, the Polish Ambassador to Sanaa.

"The volume of trade exchange between Yemen and Poland is expected to total \$17 million by the end of this year," announced the Ambassador, adding, "the time is now ripe for an expansion in the economic cooperation between our two friendly countries."

Morocco & Oman Share Celebrations with Yemen

Both Morocco and Oman will celebrate their national days on Tuesday, November 18th. The two country's respective embassies will share these celebrations with the Yemeni people. Yemen enjoys distinguished relations with both brethren states.

Algerian Cinema Week

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Algerian Embassy in Sana'a has organized a week of cultural activities, including public film shows at the Sana'a Cultural Center and a number of lectures on the Algerian cinema and culture in general. The Yemeni audience responded enthusiastically to the films showing the struggle of the Algerian people against the French occupation.

Yemeni Art-of-Building Exhibition

The French architect, Mr. José-Marie Bel is organizing a drawing and photographic exhibition at the French Cultural Center in Sanaa. "The exhibits depict the fine aspects of Yemeni architecture and masonry work," said Mr. Bel who has a Ph.D. on Yemen from the Sorbonne University in 1983. The exhibition is scheduled to last from the 17th to 30th of November, and is open to the general public. It includes more than 150 sketches, photographic images, and architectural designs made by Mr. Bel during his 130 visits to Yemen and are included in his recently published book on the subject.

Yemen & IFAD Sign Agreement

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation has signed an agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on Tuesday, November 11th in Rome. The agreement

MENA Conference Starts in a Strong Way

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
from Doha, Qatar.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, kicked off the 4th Middle East and North Africa Conference (MENA), yesterday, Sunday November 16th. The 2000-strong participants include some 40 foreign ministers and senior delegates representing 66 countries. "This conference is an important milestone in the confidence-building measures in the Middle East peace process," the Emir said. He was indirectly responding to criticism from some Arab governments that

decided to stay away from the conference. "The people of the Arabian Peninsula have long been known for their generosity and hospitality. Hosting this gathering is our way of contributing to peace and regional harmony. It is our fulfilment of a commitment made to the world community."

The upbeat mood is not limited to the senior officials. Even the young Qatari men and women mobilized to assist in the process feel they have a mission to complete. "We feel that this is a test for us. We have to succeed," said a young man from the foreign ministry. Even ordinary Qataris support the government in the effort. According to

surveys printed by the local media, the people back their government. The 800 or so companies participating in the conference look forward to concluding important business deals. Already several contracts have been signed between Jordanian, Qatari, Israeli, American, European, and Far Eastern companies yesterday. Many more are expected. Given the positive environment and optimistic mood that prevails in the conference, it is clear that the boycott effort has not been able to frustrate and demoralize the host country or the participants. Yemen Time will report extensively on the conference once it is concluded.

will facilitate a \$12.2 million loan to support the agricultural development program at Reima in the Governorate of Sanaa. The development program includes the implementation of projects for drinking-water, asphalted the Reima-Hodeida-Taiz road, agricultural guidance, providing small loans to help local farmers and building small dams and weirs.

New Diving Centers in Hodeida

The Tourism Office in Hodeida has announced its plans to establish new diving centers on the Island of Kamaran of the Hodeida Red Sea coast. The centers, which are due to be opened early next year, are in Khokha and Saleef. The Tourism Office will also be developing the Tayif area, 30 km away from Hodeida, which is distinguished by its beautiful beaches and historic castle.



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Sheikh Ali Bukair:

“Dividing Hadhramaut has many dangers.”

Sheikh Ali Salim Bukair is a member of the Consultative Council's Committee for Education, Culture, Tourism and Information. As a leading member in the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), Sheikh Bukair, 57, is the president of the Islah Shoura Committee in Hadhramaut.

Born and raised in Tareem - Hadhramaut's famous center of religious scholarly learning, Sheikh Bukair studied theology and law in the town's mosques and traditional religious institutes. He was taught by Tareem's most famous scholars, including his father who headed the council of 'sharia fatwa' or religious edicts. Sheikh Bukair worked as a teacher and later became the curator of the Ahqaf Library, which was formed by a number of religious scholars to serve students of Islamic studies. Ahqaf contained many priceless old manuscripts which offered an invaluable source of information for the Muslim students worldwide.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf met Sheikh Bukair to talk about various important issues in Yemen's political life.

Excerpts:

Q: You strongly opposed the proposed division of Hadhramaut into two governorates within the new administrative re-zoning of the country. Could you tell us why?

A: Let me start by saying that it is actually up to those who want to change the status quo to tell why they want the change. There is no doubt that this issue has been politicized, and directed away from its true objective path.

From my personal point of view, I believe Hadhramaut must remain as one entity. This view is also shared by most people in that area, especially the leading politicians and intellectuals. All of the five Hadhrami members in the Consultative Council oppose the division. Out of the 17 Hadhrami MPs, 14 have also frankly and openly declared their opposition.

Dividing Hadhramaut has many dangers. If those who want to divide the region claim it is to be done for purely administrative reasons, such as facilitating the provision of services and utilities, then this can be done whether Hadhramaut is one entity or divided. Hospitals, schools, courts of law, etc, can be provided in various parts of Hadhramaut such as Seioun, Thamoud, and other areas. This will save people the trouble of over-centralization; i.e., having to go to Mukallah (Hadhramaut's coastal capital) in order to finish their paperwork with officialdom. If we really want the good of the people, we can just as well provide them with the necessary official establishments and essential services in their own areas. This can surely be done whether Hadhramaut is one governorate or more.

In other words, the vast area of the governorate cannot be taken as a justification for its division. Dividing Hadhramaut will only lead to untold dangers and apprehensions. It will help re-awaken some old sectarian feuds that have historical roots, but are long since forgotten. Not many people may realize the extent of such dangers and their historical basis.

Hadhramaut must remain one entity. This is the age of large blocs and entities, not of division. It must remain unified within a

unified Yemen. I cannot over emphasize this point.

A 100-member delegation consisting of Hadhrami people, of diverse backgrounds and from various segments of society and different regions in Hadhramaut, has arrived in Sanaa. They have put their case to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other high-ranking officials in the government, who were quite understanding and sympathetic.

Q: But don't you think that the decision to divide Hadhramaut had already been taken? Or is there still space for annulment?

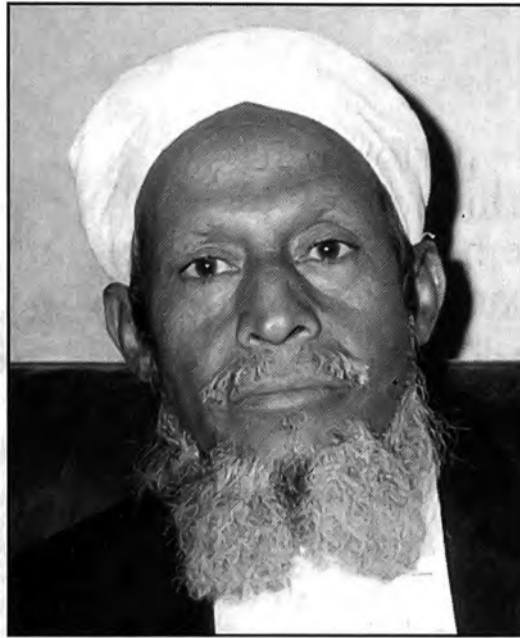
A: A final decision regarding this issue has not been taken yet. It is still a proposal to be studied thoroughly. The citizen's interest must remain above all the other considerations.

Q: How are the current conditions in Hadhramaut? How do people live?

A: Several malicious attacks on Yemen's unity have lately come to the surface, not only in Hadhramaut but also in other regions in the country. Some people, for their own ulterior motives, are trying to reawaken or revive old sectarian and regional divisions. These attempts are probably aided by some clandestine parties.

Q: Are these parties local or foreign?

A: They are supported by internal and external powers. Some people respond to these malicious calls, especially those who are still vexed by the victory of unity achieved by the Yemeni people on July 7, 1994. These acts are perpetrated by hateful people who don't want Yemen to enjoy peace and stability. Whenever the nation resolves one of its major problems, they try to make another one flare up. Blood and land feuds, for example, which have disappeared from Hadhramaut society are coming back to the forefront. There are some people behind these disturbing problems. Some of these issues are being raised through quite illegal means such as usurpation, blackmail, greed, etc. Some people seem to have forgotten how to be satisfied with their own



rights and started infringing on the rights of others.

Q: How about the people's living conditions in Hadhramaut?

A: Living standards in Hadhramaut might be relatively better than in some other areas in Yemen. This can be attributed to the fact that there is a large Hadhrami migrant community who provide financial assistance for the people left at home. Those migrants still have very strong connections with their kinsmen in Hadhramaut. However, the inflow of financial help has decreased lately due perhaps to overall change in the people's living standards abroad. Generally speaking, however, people in Hadhramaut are better off than in other governorates.

Q: Let's now talk about the Consultative Council. How do you view its performance during the last six months since its establishment?

A: The best thing about the Consultative Council, I believe, is that it comprises the creme de la creme of Yemeni society. All its members are either highly educated and successful professionals or have wide experience and solid cultural backgrounds. I think that President Ali Abdullah Saleh was quite successful in choosing the right people for the job. We all hope that the Consultative Council will be very successful in achieving the goals and tasks for which it was established.

Q: As a whole, are you satisfied with the Consultative Council's performance up to now?

A: Although the past period of the Consultative Council's existence is not long enough to be able to fully evaluate its performance, it is increasingly and rapidly improving. We can judge that through the good positions reached by the Consultative Council regarding some of the draft laws submitted to it, such as that concerning blood feuds and carrying arms. It has successfully tackled several crucial issues, and provided rather good advice to our country's top decision makers.

Q: Do you think that there should be some sort of coordination between the Consultative Council, parliament and other bodies?

A: There is no doubt that a

certain degree of coordination between parliament and the Consultative Council is a must, especially in view of the current rift between the two bodies. Some people in parliament wrongly think that the Consultative Council is a substitute for parliament, or that it has taken over some of its authorities. This is definitely not true. There is a big difference between the tasks of the two. Parliament is a legislative assembly; while, the Consultative Council's job is to provide advice to the country's decision makers.

Q: How do you see the development of political life in Yemen?

A: The fledgling democratic experience in Yemen is rather successful. It must be given the opportunity to develop further, and widen its popular base. Compared to many other Arab countries, Yemenis are enjoying quite a big margin of freedom and democracy. Freedom of self expression and freedom of the press are certainly better than in many parts of the Arab world and the Middle East in general. The number of non-official partisan and independent newspapers and other publications being currently published would attest to this fact.

The democratic experience in Yemen, however, needs to be more developed. There are some shortcomings that need to be addressed. Every experience in every part of the world would have its accompanying faults and mistakes. But the important thing is to learn from, and later rectify, these mistakes. You don't learn if you don't work and make mistakes. I call upon all people concerned with democracy in Yemen, official or otherwise, to nurture this new experiment in our lives. Once successful, other Arab countries will most certainly like to follow and emulate

the Yemeni experience.

Q: How do you evaluate the economic reform program?

A: On its own, the economic reform program is just not sufficient. It has to be accompanied by a thorough administrative reform program. The evaluation of any sort of activity can only be done through its outcome and other manifestations in people's lives. Up to now, the results of economic reform are hardly positively noticeable. It may even be the reverse of that. Many people are now starting to feel the pangs of this reform program. Prices have risen and a large proportion of the population is now suffering from many hardships. Very few have benefited.

All governmental bodies must channel their efforts towards implementing a comprehensive reform program that will cover all areas of the people's life, not just the economy. There must be administrative, judicial and social reforms as well. Corruption in all its forms must be combated on all levels.

Q: Do you have any last comment?

A: We must at all time be aware of the dangers that threaten our country. They must be confronted at their early stages and never allowed to become more powerful. Everyone must fully bear his or her responsibility, especially our officials who have that responsibility bestowed on them by the Almighty Allah. The prophet said, "each and every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his own flock." I advise all my brothers who are in positions of making decisions to observe the commands of Allah in all their doings. Responsibility is not a privilege. It is a trust given to the officials by Allah, and must be greatly taken care of. I hope all will be successful in serving this country.

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A PERSON TO REMEMBER



Mr. Karim Nabih Abuhamad

After a distinct performance and unique contribution to its operations in Yemen, Yemen Hunt Oil company has bid farewell to Karim Nabih Abuhamad, who was re-assigned in Hunt's Office back in Dallas, USA, "Karim was one of the best experts that worked on the Yemen Operations and completed all tasks and duties assigned to him successfully," said one of his former employees. He was known for leading his employees to work as a team in order to accomplish objectives and was never reluctant to pass his knowledge and experience to those who worked with him or under his departments.



Karim with his family

Being a member of the engineering team that modified in Korea the what is now called "FSO" Safer into a floating storage which is the Crude Oil Export Terminal. Karim first came to work for Yemen Hunt Oil Company in 1987 with the Marine Department. His career witnessed many changes that required experience



Mr. Karim with his friends

and knowledge. He was transferred to establish a new department as the Director of Industrial Relations which consisted of Training, Safety and Industrial Security. At some point, in addition to the Industrial Relations, he was the manager of the Pipeline Department.

In the Pipeline Dept., he crossed a new milestone with the national employees when he recommended a Yemeni employee to replace him as a manager of one of the largest departments in the company. That was also the case with the other departments that he directed when he left them either to be run by Yemenis or left

well trained Yemenis that are ready to take over the management of their departments.

Being socially active by nature, and highly concerned for his national employees, colleagues and friends, Karim left remarkable impressions with those who worked with him or those with whom he associated with in the Ministry of Oil, other companies and the Government Agencies which his work required him to associate with.

Mr. Najeeb Al-Shameeri:

“The proportion of detained people with pending court cases is about 70% of prison inmates.”

The Republic of Yemen is presently embarking on major reforms in the judicial system. The Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, has his eyes set on over-hauling the system. One aspect of the reform in this sector is to increase the level of accountability among the judges and court staff. The organization entrusted with that job is the Judicial Inspection Board (JIB) at the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Najeeb Saeed Al-Shameeri is the chairman of the JIB. A native of Aden with extensive training and a long experience, Najeeb is qualified to do the job. But he says his hands are tied.



Here is what he told M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times.

Q: How do you assess the present condition of the judicial system in Yemen?

A: The present condition of our judicial system is a disgrace to our country. You can find ample examples of corrupt judges, at all levels from the primary courts all the way to the Supreme Court. There is visible abuse of the system, due process of law is absent, archives and files are organized, and most of the deals are done in the dark and at homes of judges and their representatives. The justice system does not enjoy much respect. In short, the present condition of the judicial system is deplorable.

Q: Can you be more specific?

A: Yes. Let me start with the Supreme Court (SC), the highest judicial body in the land. The SC does not seem to be functioning properly. It is supposed to be a school for judges, a reference and an example. But this, unfortunately, is not the case. Another point. The judges do not undergo any form of further training or post-qualification courses. The studying they do at the Judicial Institute does not qualify the judges in practical life. Continuous learning and training are vital for the smooth running of the Yemeni judicial system. There is no training of judges to keep up with developments, changes in the laws, and even in the conceptual approaches to issues.

The third point is that once a judge starts working in court, he becomes completely isolated from any new development in the system. There are no contacts, no conferences or seminars, among Yemeni judges. There are no forums that bring together Yemeni judges from various regions in order to exchange experiences and views. Yemeni judges are not supplied with legal references, books, including the official bulletin in which new laws and amendments are published. This state of affairs does not exist in the lower courts only, but in some of the higher courts of appeal and SC. The relations between the various judicial and legal bodies, and the enforcement bodies have become unclear, and borders between their areas of jurisdiction are blurred.

Q: But isn't that where you come in?

A: In theory yes. But the JIB is not given the necessary resources to do its job properly. It is also not fully authorized to inspect the SC. According to the post-unification Law # 1 of 1991, judicial inspection must cover all the levels of the system. Let me tell you that our grand total budgetary allocation for 1997 is YR 2 million - some US\$ 15,000 or around US\$ 40 a day. How can I send out judges to travel and carry out inspections and collect information and document cases with \$40 a day. By the way, I don't have control even on this meager amount. Then there is the element of response from the judges. They feel they can ignore us, and get

away with it. This is because the big judges are worried about us unearthing their work. So, they make our work with the little judges less productive. Finally, There is actually no board. The law was supposed to have established a full board with 24-40 judges of all levels. It did not happen.

Q: How immune is the Yemeni judicial system from politics?

A: Independence of the judiciary means that a judge must be able to perform his duty without any external intervention, even by higher judicial authorities. The independence has to be administrative and financial. Independence of the judicial system, however, does not mean it is above the authority of the state. It is one of the authorities that govern the state. A judge, according to the Yemeni Constitution, has not only to be independent, but also act in the best manner to preserve the security and stability of the state. Most of the instances of violating the independence of a judge come from within the system itself.

Q: Could you tell us more about the Judicial Monitoring and Inspection body?

A: There are generally two very important bodies in the judicial system - the Supreme Court and the Judicial Inspection. The Supreme Judicial Council can guarantee the independence and smooth functioning of the judicial system. It ensures that judges get their due promotions, travel allowances, just punishment, retirement pensions, etc. The present Supreme Judicial Council consists of 11 persons, including its head the President of the Republic. The 10 members include the head, his two deputies and 3 other members of the SC, the director of the Judicial Inspection, the General Prosecutor, and the Minister of Justice and his deputy. So most members of the Supreme Judicial Council are from the Supreme Court. It is extremely important to reform the SCs as a prelude to reforming the rest of the judicial system. Next comes the Judicial Inspection body. It is not an appeal or a rebuttal organ. It monitors the work of judges through surprise or regular inspections as well as investigating any complaints concerning the work of the various courts. Periodical inspection must be done at least once a year. Such an organ exists in all countries of the world. But, unfortunately, it has not been given the necessary resources to perform its full duties. The Judicial Inspection committee, which should include between 25 and 40 people from various backgrounds in the judicial system, has not been

formed yet. It must be appointed by the Supreme Judicial Council. Not any judge can qualify for membership of the Judicial Inspection body. There must be special criteria for choosing our members. Also, this year's budget is YR 2 million only, most of which was allocated for matters not related to judicial inspection.

Q: What are the special criteria required of an inspection judge?

A: To qualify for inspection duties, a judge must be very competent and with a long experience in the judicial system. A judicial inspector must have the capacity to direct other judges to do their work in a correct manner. But before inspecting their work, all judges must be provided with copies of the enacted laws in Yemen. At least two copies must be supplied, one to be kept in court and the other for the judge to keep at home. Inspection should cover all court levels, from the primary to the appeal courts. It must also deal with issues of fee levying, implementation of court rulings, hearing the cases of jailed suspects on a regular basis, etc.

Q: How many judges are there in Yemen now, and how many does the country actually need?

A: There about 1000 judges and assistant judges. With the appropriate reform of the judicial system, we should need less than this number - around 600 judges only. The Supreme Court, for instance, has 100 judges! In the US, on the other hand, there are only 9 judges at their supreme court. Choosing the best and most experienced 15, say, out of the 100 we have would greatly enhance the performance of the Supreme Court.

Q: Do you also inspect the work of the prosecutor offices?

A: There is a special inspection body answerable to the Prosecutor-General which highly coordinates its activities with the Judicial Inspection body. However, I believe that there should be one inspection organ for both systems, to be headed by a member of the Supreme Judicial Council. This unification is expected to take place as part of the reform plan as it is not possible to separate the judicial system from the prosecutor offices. Prisons, for example represent an area of combined responsibility. The prosecutor office is responsible for implementing the law inside prisons and the judges are responsible for following up the cases of jailed suspects.

Q: Shouldn't the suspects be kept in jails, not in prisons?

A: Yes, prisons must house convicted people only. But due to the delay in case hearings, jails become overcrowded and defendants have to be kept in central prisons in various governorates. I estimate the proportion of people with pending cases to be 70% of prison inmates. There must be special detention centers for the accused who are waiting for their cases to be heard by court.

Q: Women, especially in the southern and eastern governorates used to play a bigger role in the judicial system. Why has this role diminished?

A: Actually, this matter has been politically exploited during the rule of the former governing coalition. It was decided then that the number of women judges and employees at prosecutor offices should not be increased. This had nothing to do with the Islamic

Sharia. It was purely a form of political maneuvering and an attempt to remove women not only from the judiciary, but also from other legal bodies. There is a move to admit more women into the Judicial Institute by the next academic year in 1998. There is also an intention to establish a court for juvenile delinquents in which women judges will play a major role.

Q: Could you elaborate more on the proposed judicial reform program?

A: We are now in the process of unifying our plans. There are many ready proposals in the final stages of reviewing. There are also many decisions awaiting enactment. The draft law of judicial reform still needs some time. There are now intensive efforts to start the reform program within the existing law. Priority in the reform program will be given to purging the system of corruption. It may be difficult, at the beginning, to eliminate all the corrupt elements in the judicial system, but we have to see the process through. Judges who have reached the legal retirement age or those who are incompetent in carrying out their duties will be pensioned off.

Q: Do you have any last comment?

A: I would like to advise all judges not to treat the citizen in a humiliating manner. People resort to the judiciary in order to protect their rights and interests. Judges must impartially treat both sides of a particular case. They must also adhere to the timetable allocated for individual cases so as to avoid unnecessary delays. Judges can participate in raising public awareness of the importance of the judicial system.



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

On Democracy, Institution-building, and the Practice of Power in Yemen

By: Jillian Schwedler

Institutions are often imagined to be fixed entities that are not subject to evolutionary change, but history seldom supports this view of even the most "stable" of institutions. Just as the constitution of the United States has evolved as a result of years of judicial interpretation, so has Yemen's tribal structure adapted to changing circumstances. One can speak, for example, of increased or decreased relations with the central government and the emergence of entirely new practices, such as the large tribal "conferences" that were organized in the first years following Yemeni unity. Similarly, Islamic law, or Shari'a, might also be considered a viable institution just as a constitution may be an institution. Islamic law serves as a set of norms and rules by which Muslims guide their lives and determine the appropriate and just response to those who violate its spirit. But what is central to all institutions is that they serve as a shared reference point for the whole or part of a society, whether seeking to resolve conflicts, disperse justice or define external political relations, and so on.

A plurality of institutions

Every individual, let alone every society, will hold different views on which institutions are best. In a democratic or participatory social system, the people together decide which are just institutions and which best serve the public good, and institutions will either emerge or evolve from existing institutions to regulate how collective decisions are made. It is not necessarily problematic that most societies are characterized by institutions that an outside observer might consider to be in conflict. Religious, military, and civil courts might exist side by side, as might secular and religious institutions. New institutions sometimes emerge to replace old ones, and those that have the greatest staying power are those that best adapt to changing times. For example, numerous Islamist

scholars have argued that one of the strengths of Islamic law is that it is just as applicable in this age of internet and global capitalism as it was 1,400 years ago. But the point to emphasize is that institutions are not fixed structures; they are dynamic processes, rules and norms, which characterize and regulate social, economic, and political processes within every society. For a political system to be considered participatory, it must include institutions that facilitate participation and insure government accountability. There is no prescription for precisely what these institutions should be, though like all nations, Yemen should seek to learn from the successes and failures of other systems. As a nation with a strong Muslim identity, it is difficult to imagine Yemen adopting a legal system that is not based primarily, even solely, on Islamic law. Yemenis and foreign observers alike will recall the passionate debate over precisely this issue, first when the constitutional referendum was proposed in 1991 (passed via a national poll) and again in 1993 when the amendments to the constitution were proposed.

Unfortunately, many observers dwell on the outcome of such debates, particularly when it enables them to characterize anything Islamist as a "threat" to democracy. But what was overlooked by many in the West was that the constitution was first widely debated within parliament as well as in the press and at several seminars organized by research centers--and then subject to popular vote. For political analysis, the mechanisms by which the outcome is reached is of far more relevance in assessing the state of a participatory system than is the outcome of individual instances of deliberation.

Yemeni society is characterized by a wide range of institutions, from the electoral system and the newly established Consultative Council (similar to a bicameral system's upper house), to the tribal system and Islamic law to name but a few. Many political analysts are quick to position these systems in opposition to

each other, the modern versus the traditional. With empirical evidence, this distinction falls apart.

In practice, "traditional" tribal structures are themselves "modernizing" internally, while seemingly "modern" institutions are often found to be based on long-established processes and norms. Often what is described as a process of institutionalization is merely a process of formalizing and codifying existing practices. It is the functioning and practice of institutions that merit analysis, rather than imagined battles between the traditional versus the modern.

Whither Yemeni democracy?

Having identified a wide range of institutions present in Yemen today, one will immediately notice that the institutions established as part of Yemen's transition to democracy are among the least respected and poorly utilized institutions in country. There is no question that Yemenis widely embrace the idea of democracy and the importance of an elected government. But in practice, most have little faith that these institutions provide any real means of resolving problems they face in life or of insuring that the government is accountable to the people. As a result, Yemenis from all social strata continue to utilize the institutions they know work well, such as institutions based on patriarchy, tribalism, personal relations, and symbolic capital--in a word, "wasta."

This conclusion should not be seen as a criticism of the Yemeni people. A citizen who has little faith in the objectivity of the judicial system and the impartiality of judges, for example, would not be wise to resort to these institutions as a just means of resolving a dispute. While this occasionally means "taking the law into one's own hands," more often it entails resorting to more familiar institutions, such as tribal courts.

In this environment, new institutions may function, but they do not necessarily work as intended. In Yemen, the growing number of interest groups that comprise civil society contribute to public debates and strive to shape public policy. The parliament meets regularly, as does the new consultative council, and a second round of national elections has been widely declared as "free and fair" by international monitoring groups. But few would argue that these institutions have become integral to the exercise of real power.

Thus long-term answer is that substantive political change takes time. The introduction of new institutions will certainly alter existing power structures over time, but not necessarily in the way reformers imagine. Few in Yemen anticipate a considerable decline in the power of tribal institutions, although many openly express the wish for such changes.

How Yemen's particular mix of institutions finds equilibrium will be determined not only over time

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Since 1990, Yemen has witnessed a political transformation that has been nothing short of remarkable. Notwithstanding 1994, the country has seen the emergence of a number of institutions that have come to characterize contemporary democracies of every ilk. To be sure, a participatory political system--call it a democracy or not--requires stable institutions to ensure direct and fair participation by the people in selecting its representatives to parliament. But the institutions of a participatory political system serve another purpose, one that is often lost in the world-wide fascination with elections. Participant institutions ensure that government is run according to given procedures, that those procedures are transparent, and that they reasonably approach the political organization and vision of justice that the citizens themselves choose. And perhaps most importantly, institutions insure that those who govern are directly accountable to the people.

What is an institution?

What most people think of institutions, are the buildings and offices: parliament, courts, universities, research centers, and so on. But institutions may be legal systems, constitutions, social norms, and even historical social formations. For example, Yemen's tribal system is an institution in that it entails a specific power structure and identifiable practices and norms that guide behavior with regard to tribal issues.

but through practice. For example, one might imagine that Parliament may settle into a role that is somewhat less influential than that of the Consultative Council, whose appointed members may be selected to represent the spectrum of power across Yemeni society, thereby giving representation to existing institutions of power (such as tribes, religious groups, and the business community, as well as the newer political parties) while establishing a new mechanism for discussing issues of common interest. Consultation among the social and political elite is not a new idea, though the institution that organizes and regulates such deliberations, in this case the Consultative Council, may be only a few months old. And the establishment of such new institutions does not necessarily signal the decline of others.

Perhaps tribal institutions will gradually decline in power, though it is more likely that they will continue to evolve to a changing social and political environment, perhaps even becoming more participatory themselves. In Jordan, many of the strongest tribes organize elections to select their candidates for parliament. In fact, several of these pre-elections were, by many standards, much freer and fairer than the national elections that followed. In this way, one sees a so-called traditional institution adopting new practices, and the result cannot be characterized as a clash between the traditional and the modern. Political evolution in Yemen is more likely to develop along similar lines.

The aim of political analysis

Understanding the political evolution underway in Yemen requires that one abandon fixed notions of precisely how change "should" take place. Yemenis working toward change will certainly have an image in mind, and those objectives as well as the strategies for achieving them will certainly develop with time and experience.

But for the political analyst, the political and social landscape of Yemen cannot be judged according to progress achieved along a continuum from a traditional society to a modern one. Yemeni society has never been static, no more than a successful Yemeni democracy will result as an equally static state in the "end of history" when participatory institutions no longer evolve. This "success or failure" school of analysis cannot begin to appreciate the changes taking place within Yemeni society. Instead, broader questions concerning equality of participation, transparency in the exercise of power, and government accountability can be understood only within the context of the multiple and dynamic power structures within Yemen. The issue at hand is not the founding of participatory institutions, but the actual exercise of power. Only then can one begin to appreciate the impact of the introduction of new participatory political institutions on Yemen's political and social landscape.

Jillian Schwedler, a doctoral student in Political Science at New York University, is a research fellow at the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Middle East Report (MERIP) and author of *Toward Civil Society in the Middle East? A Primer* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner, 1995).

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Torben Holtze:

“EC average annual disbursement to Yemen has risen by almost 30%.”

Mr. Torben Holze is the EU Desk Officer for Yemen and Iraq. He took over the post 6 weeks ago. He had been to Yemen about 20 times before, between 1989 and 1993.

Q: What is the exact purpose of this visit?

A: I have had to pick up the loose ends left behind during the last 4 years since my last visit. Secondly our delegation is trying to identify trade, development and economic programs which we can finance for 1998, recognising the spirit of co-operation between the EU and Yemen. This would include programs to encourage tourism, agricultural development, the fishing industries, control of chemical wastes as well as encouraging social and informational development.

Q: What are the on going projects?

A: We have a total of 17 on going projects, some of them are big and others are small. We have just agreed on 7 projects for this year.

Q: What are the main areas of concentration which will receive EU assistance?

A: So far, Yemen has been working on agricultural programs and we have a big project in the south. There have also been some small agricultural activities that we have been involved in. New



projects have been approved by EU member states for this year. Our contributions in major projects involving the Social Fund amount to 15 million ECUs (\$ 17 million). Some smaller activities and a vocational training program are planned for the Socotra island costing one million ECUs. The second phase of developing the Socotra tourist

industry will also cost one million ECUs. We have two privatization projects in health and irrigation down in the south. It is after the floods you had last year that we have two projects for around 2 million ECUs. We are also involved in a food security project. An amount of 32 million ECUs is allocated to ongoing EC assisted

projects. New commitments made in 1997 amount to 40 million ECUs. In addition, there is on average 5 million ECUs per annum of food aid channelled through the World Food Program (WFP). The total standing EC portfolio for Yemen amounts to approximately 75 million ECUs or \$85 million.

Q: What is the average annual disbursement?

A: Our commitment has increased. Our annual disbursement also increased by 25%-30%. It should be in the order of around 35 million ECUs a year.

Q: There are some considerations for continued assistance to Yemen. One of them is human rights. What are your thoughts on that?

A: Human rights is an issue of concern not just in Yemen, but even in some EU countries. Human rights abuses have been documented in our parliaments and by individual groups in our countries. We are putting our priority on this issue concerning Arab countries.

It is not an area we can solve easily. It is an area where a UN organ has to react. You do have facilities to help you in this respect. Some Yemeni NGOs are working to improve or advance human rights and try to minimize human rights abuses. They can make proposals and send them for our consideration for financial assistance.

Q: What is your assessment of the human right situation in Yemen?

A: Before I came here, I was in Egypt for 4 years. In Egypt you have some problems too. Yes, Yemen has its problems. I have been here for a short time. Yemen has changed since 4 years ago. Then, there may have been a problem.

At least the positive thing is that you can talk about it to the government to rectify the situation. It is also very difficult because you are talking about a different culture. It is hard to mention this human rights abuse based on Western values or values of your culture which are changing. The Middle East culture is changing fast. In this concept you have to look at your human rights issue.

Q: Are there any specific cases that have been brought to your attention?

A: One case of interest to Europe is of Mansor Rajeh who was put in prison 15 years ago. We have written to the government, but have not received any reply.

Q: You have the Technical Office here. Are you looking into upgrading it?

A: The ultimate goal is obviously to have a fully fledged delegation in this country. This is going to take place in may be 2 or 4 years. There are different considerations. We don't have a timetable.

Now the EU has put a limit on the number of offices. We have to re-evaluate our priorities. I am sure the EU will eventually address these imbalances, but this will take a few years.

Q: Could you tell us about the agreement signed by Yemen and the EU?

A: This agreement will further cement our relations. It is going to follow the agreement we had in 1983. This was mostly development cooperation. The new agreement has been expanded into other areas. It is going to be signed in Brussels on 25th November.

There is something interesting in this new agreement. It stresses regional cooperation which we did not have before. It clearly states that you are part of the so-called MEDA countries. It will be possible for Yemen to be a participant in a lot of this regional cooperation.

Q: What are the main elements of this agreement?

A: There are 10 chapters. After the agreement is signed, it is no longer a secret. It becomes public. There is still emphasis on development aid because Yemen is still developing. It has all the power instruments. It has cooperation clauses in the fields of trade, financial assistance, the environment, tourism, science and technology, human resource development, information, culture, etc.

Netherlands Assistance to Yemen through DRET Program

On Saturday, November 15, 1997, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Arend J. Meerburg, and the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development, Dr. Jaffer Hamed, signed a grant agreement with respect to the delivery of five working vessels (including two tug-boats) for the port of Aden under the Development Related Export Transaction (DRET) program. This is the fifth grant agreement signed between Yemen and the Netherlands in two years.



Under the DRET Program, assistance can be given to developing countries in the form of capital goods produced in the Netherlands. In the case of Yemen, the Netherlands Government gives a grant of 60% of the total costs of the project, while Yemen pays 40%. The total of Dutch grants under this program over the past two years amounted to fl. 102.1 million, equivalent to about US\$ 50 million.

Under the DRET program, the following projects have been implemented in Yemen, or have been signed, during the last two years:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. 16 DAF/Geesing garbage trucks for several towns in Yemen were delivered in 1996. | Dutch grant: fl. 3.3 million |
| 2. Two Damen tug boats for the port of Hodeidah were delivered in 1996. | Dutch grant: fl. 5.7 million |
| 3. A Stork-Wartsila 40 MW power station is being build at the moment in Mukallah. | Dutch grant: fl. 59.3 million |
| 4. 100 DAF road tanker combinations for LPG-transport will probably be delivered in 1998. | Dutch grant: fl. 24 million |
| 5. Five Damen working vessels for the port of Aden, incl. two tug-boats to be delivered in 1998. | Dutch grant: fl. 9.8 million |

Total Dutch grants under DRET: fl. 102.1 million

Grants given under the DRET program are additional to the regular Dutch bilateral aid to Yemen.

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JOB SWAP

An oft stated quote is "Put yourself in the other person's shoes" to know exactly how they feel. Easier said than done. It is very difficult for mankind to swap roles as everyone has a mind set but the Heads of Department at the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel starting right from the General Manager Mr. Abdullah A. Melhem will be doing just that on 20th November 1997. From 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on that day roles will be switched. The General Manager will be the Employee Cafeteria Cook actually making food for the staff while the Executive Housekeeper will be the General Manager... nice day to get him to sign a raise. The Deputy General Manager, Mr. Peter Stadelmann will substitute for a Bellboy (Don't forget to bring all your heavy loads that day). The Chief Accountant as a Doorman? get him to sign your checks on the way in. Heave Ho!..... that is the Front Office Manager working as a Roomboy actually making the beds. You will experience extremely courteous service in the All Day Dining in the form of Mr. Sanjay Sharma, the Director of Marketing, who will be glad to stand in as a waiter. The Director of Finance will get a feel of the job that the strong lads at Receiving do while the Personnel Manager gets ready to be the ideal Receptionist. Several such swaps will take place on that day and mind you, no suits allowed. Each one will be proudly adorned with the uniform of the staff they represent. It will be a wonderful sight to watch and we are confident that it will be a great bridging exercise.

The idea of the Job Swap came up in the Sheraton's Human Resources Committee meeting that was held in Cairo on the 16th September. As stated in the minutes of that meeting "there is a tremendous benefit for Managers as well as line staff to really experience what the others job is all about".

Bon Chance!

Yemeni Houses Keep Up Traditions

By: Doaa Taha Abdulqader

The Yemeni household is distinguished by its unique characteristics which put it in the forefront of architectural design and good taste in the Arab world. In spite of the fact that modern furniture has

entered the Yemeni households, traditional and perhaps more practical items are still used. To get more insight into the Yemeni architecture and interior decoration, I met Ms. Nadiya Yahya Al-Kawkabani who is an architectural engineer.



Eng. Nadiya Al-Kawkabani

the traditional furnishings such as the 'diwan' still prevail. Many people don't feel comfortable sitting on a high chair or a sofa. The mild all-year-round weather has encouraged many people to lay wall-to-wall carpets, which are also being increasingly used nowadays.

Q: How do the prices of the two types of furniture compare?

A: Due to the use of modern fabrics, the prices of traditional and modern furnishings are almost similar. The traditional mattress, for instance, is now made by modern methods. It has

Q: Many foreigners are puzzled why we take off our shoes upon entering the house. Is this a traditional thing?

A: It is the custom not only among Yemenis, but all Muslims in general to take off their shoes at the front door. This is done to keep the streets' dirt away and keep the house's floor clean for people to be able to pray on.

Q: What sort of paint or wall covering is used in Yemeni houses?

A: In old houses, the walls of the bedrooms, living and guest rooms are whitewashed with gypsum. The kitchen and bathroom walls are covered with lime wash to make them waterproof. Nowadays, of course, modern oil or water-based paints are commonly used. Matte color



Q: How would you describe the inside of a traditional Yemeni house?

A: Well, there is the 'diwan' where guests are received. It is usually furnished with floor mattresses. The 'salon' is the living room. Generally speaking, there used to be no bedrooms as such, but they are now being introduced as part of the modernization of the Yemeni household and the many developments in our daily lives. Modern sofas and chairs are gradually invading Yemeni houses all over the country, especially among the middle classes. The dinner table is also gradually replacing the traditional 20-cm high round table on which people eat while sitting on the floor.

The increase in such changes, however, depends on the social background and income of the householders. It has become a sign of prestige or a status symbol to have modern European furniture in the house. But some of

become thicker, raising the sitting person slightly above ground, and is easier to clean.

Q: What about plants and greenery in general?

A: Plants are usually grown on window sills, especially herbs such as mint and basil which Yemeni women are used to perfume their hair. An increasing number of people are planting shade trees inside their houses. However, it is quite dangerous to put plants inside bedrooms as some people do, as they use up the room's oxygen and emit carbon dioxide.

Q: Do Yemeni people hang oil paintings and other ornaments on their walls?

A: Actually, they usually hang enlarged photographs of themselves or their most beloved relatives. Hanging decorative paintings on the walls is not a common thing among Yemeni people.

paints are also used because they are easy to clean. Stucco ceiling and cornice decorations which are usually light blue, green, or pink are also the preference of many householders.

Q: What about the windows of the traditional house?

A: Arches above windows and doors are commonly favored. "Shakoos" - the little window high up the wall next to the arch - is used for ventilation during qat chewing sessions and hubble bubble smoking. Some people currently use electric fans for this purpose.

Windows in Yemeni houses are not usually high so as to allow people sitting on the floor the advantage of looking out into the courtyard where there is usually a small fountain, a small green patch and flowers.

Baba Abdulrahman; Educated Yemeni Generations Through Radio TV.

Mr. Abdulrahman Mutahar, known to child audiences as Baba Abdulrahman, is a consultant at the Capital's Secretariat for the Culture and Arts Affairs. For the last 35 years, Baba Abdulrahman been known by Yemeni children and adults alike as a pioneer and champion of children entertainment and educational programs. He also published Yemen's first comic magazine for children - Hodhod or hoopoe.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times met Mr. Mutahar and filed this interview.



successful radio programs for adults. It was suddenly stopped for no apparent reason.

Q: How did the children respond to your early programs on radio?

A: The children who listened to my programs then are the leaders of today. They are the generation of the revolution. Many of them often say that they received their first lessons in patriotism at the hands of Baba Abdulrahman through Rawdhat Al-Atfal.

Q: Could you mention the names of some of these children who grew up to become leaders of society and decision makers?

A: They are many, and I can't remember their names or current professions. However, the few that I remember and still see from time to time include Ms. Amatuleem Al-Sooswa, the Deputy Minister of Information; Mr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb, the well-known lawyer; Ms. Fatin Al-Yoosufy, the TV announcer; Mr. Abdulbasit Al-Harithy, the musical conductor; and Ms. Kawkab Hamood Eesa, a well-known doctor. I could go on mentioning names.

Q: What are your current main programs produced for children?

A: On radio, I have the weekly Rawdhat Al-Atfal - also presented on TV - and the daily Ahla Hikaya. I also publish Hodhod magazines for children.

Q: What sort of support has been provided by the official bodies concerned with children's culture and entertainment?

A: The support given by all such establishments, without exception, is solely in the form of "congratulations, best wishes," and warmly shaking my hand.

Q: Have you participated in events abroad?

A: Yes, I took part in several events related to children's culture in Arab and European countries. I participated in an international children's song competition held in Germany in 1979 to celebrate the International Child's Year. My entry was a nice little song - *I Am a Smart Champion Child*. The song won, as decided by the judging committee in Geneva, and was internationally declared. But I was not given a prize, for which I am still waiting for in amazement.

I also won the prize of Distinction in Serving Arab Childhood in the 13th Child Culture Festival held in 1997 in Shariqa, UAE. The prize included a shield, a certificate and a cash award. I was handed the award by HH Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmed Al-Qasemy, the ruler of Shariqa. He also promised to support the Hodhod magazine. I hope that all Arab rulers would follow his example in supporting and caring for children's culture and education.



still remain the nucleus of the society regardless of the new trends but will feel growing pains as the new generation will impose new demands.

A lot of those demands have to do with the media that transports new wave technology to the developing country. Sociologists know that technological trends go hand in hand with changing social views. Yemen like any other nation is now exposed to these new views because of continued contact with nations that it is trying to trade with and it is opening its doors to foreign expertise, some of which means an influence on the country's social fabric. That is going on hand in hand with the changing infrastructure, the introduction of modern highways, telecommunications and international services etc.

The Yemenis are in the midst of an inevitable social change that

will eventually move the villagers away from their home to seek employment that bigger cities can offer. This was like the trend in the west as ruralism gave way to urbanization. That is, it made no sense for the local population to live away from where their new sources of earnings were. Looking for new models here is then actually doing what was done in the past in Europe and the West with the difference that Yemenis can do better by studying the short and long term benefits and detriments that increased urbanization causes.

Yemen has the advantage of skipping several generations to reap the material benefits of what took centuries to build elsewhere. Problems arise though as the country is introducing new socio-economic infrastructures that do not have any historical basis here. This is a country which until not long ago was in part a

colonial outpost where much depended on the port, and the north which had an agricultural base. The country has a rich cultural heritage which should not be ignored while changes occur. To introduce change too quickly is to ignore the need of respecting that cultural heritage and the current social trends that have arisen from it.

The presidents trips to Europe parallels the modernization of the country, keeping it in tune with a more complex world where the key to the future is globalization of the world economy and the media. The family will still be the basic structure from which the society develops new ideas to fit that globalization. The challenge for Yemen is how it will keep a distinct identity within that globalization and reap the benefits of an ever changing world.

By: Martin Danksy

The Search For Models



Is it enough to introduce foreign habits into a developing country and say that the country is modeling

itself after the west without thinking of the country's past? Is it enough to introduce western styled consumerism in an ever demanding material world when the world knows that Yemen has a rich traditional and Islamic past. How should the country brace itself for the 21st century? Fast food joints, imported English

chocolate bars, satellite dishes that bring in foreign programs are proof of the foreign influence but what's missing? To be clear, looking for roles to play can be very serious business when your dealing with state models and economic reform especially in a country where people might imagine a future conflict between traditionalists and reformers. The reader might just say its enough to "import" ideas into the country but to make them fit with the internal matrix of the society is a completely different matter. The country in question has a need to establish some kind of durable hierarchy with values and codes that pass from one generation to the next. Model hunting can be fun when a foreign habit is intro-

duced and the Yemeni tries to experiment but the question is how is the Yemeni ready to integrate it.

The country can also question its own values and add new ones to pre-existing ones to get a kind of mix, past and present in the now. That way people can always say that they haven't forgotten their roots and can apply what they have learned in the past, to the present. This kind of search has gone in the west with the beat generation of the 50s and the hippie movement of the 60s. As post war boom babies have their own grown kids by now, they're continually looking for new models based on those past experiences. How does this effect an emerging nation? The family will



Egypt Denies Role

Egypt denied the Qatari allegations of links to the failed coup attempt of February, 1995. Egypt's ambassador to Qatar Mohammed Menisi said; Egypt would "never interfere in such a way. It is against Egyptian policy to meddle in the affairs of other countries." He was speaking shortly after returning to Qatar from consultations in Cairo.

MENA Beats the Target

Qatar has surpassed its target for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference and said eight Arab states have confirmed their participation in the meeting that opened on Sunday, November 16.

Arab states, Jordan, Yemen, Kuwait, Oman, Mauritania, Tunisia and Comoros have confirmed their participation while two others have "verbally agreed" to attend, but their names were not disclosed.

The Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) is organizing the conference being attended by participants from 61 countries.

A 35-member Israeli delegation led by Minister of Commerce and Industry Nathan Sharansky will attend while 120 businessmen from Arab states, staying away from the conference are also expected to participate.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt have officially said they are not attending.

The number of foreign participants has touched 850 exceeding the initial target of 800. Local participation numbering 550 had to be stopped due to the higher limit. The number of sponsoring companies reached 540 exceeding previous MENA conferences and contributions which netted in over \$3 million. Nearly 20 speakers from 40 countries attended the conference covering a total of 46 sessions.

Turkey A Leading Economic Power

Jacques Creyssel, Chairman of the French Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (CNPF), said that the Turkish economy was one of the most dynamic economies in Europe. Creyssel visited Turkey to attend a National Quality Congress organized by the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD) and the Turkish Quality Association. Creyssel commented on the fact that French investments in Turkey for the first seven months of the year had been only surpassed by German investments.

nessmen's Association (TUSIAD) and the Turkish Quality Association. Creyssel commented on the fact that French investments in Turkey for the first seven months of the year had been only surpassed by German investments.

Rushdie Film Creates Controversy

A dispute over the controversial writer Salman Rushdie has broken out with two Cabinet Ministers and a ruling People's Alliance Member of Parliament appealing to President Kumaratunga to stop the proposed filming of the author's book "Midnight Children" in Sri Lanka.

Minister A.H.M. Fowzie and Alavi Moulana along with Parliamentarian of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC), I.L.M. Illiyas have said that Rushdie, especially after his book "Satanic Verses", was looked upon as an enemy of Islam and attempts to make a TV series of his book 'Midnight Children' had been prevented in several countries, including India.

Flood Waters Threaten Thousands in Somalia

Floodwaters are rising fast in southern Somalia, threatening tens of thousands of people perched on dikes and even in trees. It was estimated on Thursday that the death toll since the Juba River burst its banks on October 18th had reached 1,000. Sources have indicated that another 125 people had died, almost all of them by drowning, and that another 900 people had fled their villages.

Josue Anselmo, regional spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said the water level at Bardera, a big Juba River town, had risen 2 m (6ft) overnight. He said, it was continuing to rise at the rate of 30 cm an hour, and in the afternoon, when it had stopped raining, by 10 cm an hour. The ICRC had managed to fly 14 tons of shelter material into Bardera, but CARE International reported that three other airstrips in southern Somalia which had been usable on Thursday morning have become submerged.

It is estimated that about 40,000 people at Marere and 80,000 at Buale, down river from Bardera, would drown if the water levels rose there. In Beletweyn, on the Shabelle river, 400 km to the west, flood waters had forced 25,000 people to abandon their town. Most of the town was under water and one man had been eaten by a crocodile. The people

were drinking the flood water which had washed away latrines and many were suffering from diarrhea and respiratory diseases.

US Sends Second Carrier to Gulf

US President Bill Clinton dispatched a second aircraft carrier to the Gulf and pledged to force Baghdad to comply with UN inspections of suspected stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons in Iraq. "The will of the United Nations will have to prevail. It is simply too dangerous an issue," Clinton told reporters.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a news conference in London that the US strategy to end the 17-day crisis over UN arms monitoring was to "combine intensive diplomacy with a robust military presence." But she declined to speculate on the possibility of military action against Iraq following the withdrawal of UN arms inspectors from Baghdad earlier in the week.

Sixty-six inspectors flew to the Bahrain field headquarters for the mission, following Iraq's expulsion order on Thursday against another six American members of the team. The six crossed into Jordan coming from Baghdad by road.

Iraq called on the UN Security Council to stop parroted "American rhetoric" and start serious dialogue with Baghdad to resolve the crisis. "We think it will be useful, proper and logical to discuss how to start a real, serious dialogue with Iraq," Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf told a news conference in Baghdad.

The council condemned the expulsion order late on Thursday and warned President Saddam Hussain's government of unspecified "serious consequences" if it was not rescinded at once. Clinton has called Iraq's decision an unacceptable challenge to the international community. US officials have refused to rule out military action, although there is little appetite for this action among America's 1991 Gulf war allies.

Sahaf said Iraq was not seeking a military confrontation with the United States but charged that American U-2 surveillance flights, due to resume next week, were aimed at gathering information about Iraqi defense preparations.

Clinton said he had ordered the aircraft carrier George Washington to the Gulf to join another carrier, the Nimitz, and other forces already there.

Turkish, Greek & Cypriot Businessmen Meet in Brussels

Turkish, Greek and Cypriot businessmen came together in Brussels on the invitation of US President Bill Clinton's Special Cyprus Envoy Richard Holbrooke. In meetings on Thursday and Friday, the businessmen discussed opportunities for improving cooperation and easing regional tensions.

In a meeting with the EU Commissioner, Hans Van Den Broek Holbrooke stressed that Turkey should not be excluded from the EU expansion process and should be invited to the European Conference on equal terms with the other countries in line to join the Union.

Ocean Commission Proposes 'Public Trust' on Sea

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans (IWCO) has proposed the formation of a "public trust" on the sea to ensure equity in the use and management of marine resources. IWCO chairman Mario Soares told a press conference at the end of a four-day meeting in a seaside town near Cape Town that the commission would report its findings to the United Nations next year.

Soares, a former prime minister and president of Portugal, told a press conference that the suggested forum should comprise representatives from governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises directly interested in the use of the sea and its resources. He added, however, that the plan was "only a proposal" and could be amended at a later meeting of the commission either in Rabat, Morocco early next year, or later in Lisbon, Portugal.

The session of the commission was opened on Tuesday by President Nelson Mandela in Cape Town. It is the fifth time it has met since it was founded in Tokyo in 1995. Other meetings have been held in Rio de Janeiro, Rotterdam, and Rhode island.



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YIDD Organizes Seminar on Yemeni-Eritrean Relations

The Future of Yemeni-Eritrean Relations was the title of a seminar held in Sanaa from the 11th to the 13th of November by the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy (YIDD), in cooperation with the Yemeni-Eritrean People's Friendship Committee (YEFPFC). It was attended by a large number of politicians, intellectuals, and representatives of the government, the political parties, and the local and foreign media.

At the opening session, the seminar's moderator, Mr. Abdulraheem Mohsin Yousuf, stated the reasons behind establishing the YEFPFC. The objective according to Mr. Yousuf is to consolidate the friendly relations between Yemen and Eritrea.

The president of the YIDD, Mr. Mohammed Al-Maytamy pointed to the historical geographical links between the two countries and peoples. He said, "conflicts are bound to occur within one family, but they can be solved through dialogue." Al-Maytamy added, "the YIDD has organized this seminar to provide an opportunity for a positive and constructive dialogue between the brothers in Yemen and Eritrea."

The Yemeni government's representative, Mr. Ahmed Al-Iryany of the Control and Audit Organization, explained the peaceful historical phases of the relations between the peoples of Yemen and Eritrea. "Positive dialogue has become the symbol of this new era of information technology," he said, adding, "globalization has dictated that we can no longer live in isolation from the rest of the world and regional peace cannot be separated from global peace."

He went on by saying: "This seminar is one of the peaceful ways to deal with the issues concerning Yemen and its neighbors. The Yemeni government relies on the principle of peaceful dialogue in its foreign policy, especially in solving its disputes with neighboring countries. Mutual interests and benefits must be the guiding principles for all regional and international relations. So the Yemeni government follows this principle in its foreign policy."



He added: "As far as the Hunaish dispute is concerned, some parties aim to make this issue a continuous source for depleting our country's resources. So the Yemeni government has taken a wise decision and resorted to international arbitration to solve the dispute over Hunaish."

Mr. Saleh Nawood of the Eritrean Embassy in Sanaa expressed his thanks to the YEFPFC and YIDD for organizing this seminar. He said: "The challenge facing the two countries is to go back to the ordinary relations of the past. This seminar represents the first step towards overcoming all the sensitivities and ramifications of the past."

Mr. Hamoud Munasser of the YIDD said: "We have to be quite frank in our conduct in order to reach satisfactory answers to some of the suspicions raised on the YIDD's connection with such an issue. This is the YIDD's responsibility as an independent organization concerned with the promotion of a civil society and opening new channels of constructive dialogue. The relations between Eritrea and Yemen are beyond the current dispute. They are historical. A telegram was sent to participants at the seminar from two Eritrean politicians - Mohammed Taroom and Hamad Haly - expressing their satisfaction for this "initiative to improve the ties between the Yemeni and Eritrean peoples."

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YHOC Honors Employees for Appreciated Service

On Thursday November 13, 1997, Yemen Hunt Oil Company held a Service Appreciation Award Ceremony for its employees that served the company for 5 years and 10 years. The ceremony was attended by the Vice President General Manager Mr. Bill Lewis, Department Managers and the recipients. The employees that have served the company until the beginning of November 1997 for 5 Years are 48 and for 10 years are 29 employees. Each employee received a certificate of Service Appreciation and a valuable gift.



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AL-SHOURA: Sanaa
(Weekly) 9-11-97.
(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines:
1- Americans in Yemen Warned by their Government of Terrorist Attacks by Arab Afghan-War Veterans
2- Yemeni National Committee to Combat Naturalization while Israel Condemns the Doha Conference
3- Ministerial Decree to Abolish Cooperative Sector in Southern & Eastern Governorates

Article Summary:
Caltex Residents Cry Out
Forcefully evicted people in Caltex, Aden have called upon human rights organizations, through various opposition newspapers, to address their terrible suffering. Military and security forces had on October 21 taken over the houses from their rightful owners. The excuse given then was that the area would be part of the proposed Aden Free Zone. No compensation has been given to the evicted people. The evicted residents filed a law suit against the executive authorities and the governor of Aden who failed several times to appear before court. Most of the Caltex residents are poor fishermen.

AL-TAJAMMU': Aden
(Weekly) 10-11-97.
(Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party)

News Review:
1- Saudi Arabia conducts military maneuvers near Yemeni border. British sources: Maneuvers indicate border dispute will not be resolved.
2- Tarek Al-Fadhly - former heir to the sultanate, Consultative Council & PGC member, & head of tribal affairs in Abyan, sends four of his militia members to abduct and beat up two men over a land dispute.
3- Minister of Petroleum personally investigates embezzlement allegations in Oil Company in Aden.
4- Floating shipyard belonging to Shipyard Company sinks after freak collision with international ship near port of Aden.
5- American yacht Dorothea left the port of Aden after its 8 sailors refused to pay new YR 10,000 immigration fee.
6- Captain of famous Tilal football team was insulted and badly beaten because of land dispute in

Yemeni Press in a Week
by: Adel J. Moqbil

Aden.
7- A bomb exploded in a rubbish bin in Sheikh Othman, Aden - no casualties.
8- An Aden 7-year-old child was found dead in his bed after being badly beaten by his mother for ruining his little sister's birthday cake.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa
(Weekly) 11-11-97.
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:
1- Saudi unreasonable demands in border dispute will not lead to solution
2- PSO broke up peaceful Mukalla mass rally calling for preserving Hadhramaut's unity
3- Defense counsel in trial in absentia of 16 secessionists casts doubt on evidence provided by prosecutor

Article Summary:
Yemenis & 4 Cars Replace Russians
The 4 Russian hostages held by the Hadaa tribe since November 20th were released. They were exchanged for 4 Yemenis, 4 cars, and a pledge by the government to execute the three other men who participated with another in raping the tribe's 11-year-old child. The identity of the substitute Yemeni hostages was kept secret. Sources have indicated that the government has made huge efforts to release two Russians doctors and their wives in order to avoid embarrassment during the Prime Minister's visit to France to attend a meeting of the Paris Club.
A court has sentenced in October one of the rapists to death and three others to 10 years imprisonment each, which greatly angered the victim's tribe.

AL-SAHWA: Sanaa (Weekly)
13-11-97.
[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:
1- Seminar on Yemeni-Eritrean relations adopts

Eritrean viewpoint and calls for joint investments on disputed Hunaish Island
2- Islah Shoura Council calls on Yemeni political leadership to boycott Doha economic conference (MENA)
3- Control & Audit report: budget deficit of YR 11.5 million in Al-Thawra Hospital in Sanaa

Article Summary:
Flour Scandal

Facts are still being uncovered in the "flour scandal" being investigated by the Public Funds Prosecutor. Large quantities of subsidized wheat and flour - allocated for Sanaa - were sold on the black market by employees of the General Establishment for Foreign Trade and Cereals during October. Some of the accused are still holding their posts, and vacant posts of suspended employees are still not filled. Investigations have also revealed that employees of the state-owned Central Bakery in Sanaa were also involved in selling their flour allocations to private merchants. An acute scarcity of flour resulted in Sanaa due to this.

AL-THAWRI: Sanaa
(Weekly) 13-11-97.
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:
1- A campaign of arrests and persecution in Hadhramaut and state of alert in

Mukallah
2- Several ministers absented themselves from Council of Minister meeting on November 9th
3- Confiscating properties of cooperatives in southern and eastern governorates angers many people

Article Summary:
Wheat Decreases... Oppression Increases

While persecution is on the increase, the amount of food entering the average Yemeni household is rapidly decreasing, in quantity and quality. Self-sufficiency in wheat and other basic food commodities is far from being achieved. Foreign economic reports have recently indicated the amount of wheat imported by Yemen during the first half of 1997 has decreased by 3.08%, compared to the same period last year. Local wheat production is unchanged at 170,000 tons. Lifting wheat subsidies, in accordance with World Bank "prescription," is not helping matters either.

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- Responsible for maintaining mud pump and mud tank system.
- Fully understands valving and piping of mud system.
- Ensures all equipment related to mud system is always operational.
- Handles tubulars at monkey board when tripping tubing.
- Conducts any tasks his supervisor deems he is capable of performing.

Qualifications

| | |
|------------|--|
| Education | Good basic understanding of English |
| Experience | Minimum 2 years experience as a derrickman on a service rig or drilling rig. |
| Knowledge | Good knowledge of mud pumping systems. |
| Other | General knowledge of all other equipment used on location |

Roughneck - Service Rig
Specific Accountabilities

- Responsible for operation of tubing tongs when tripping tubing.
- Handles tubulars on floor when tripping tubing.
- Assists in all operations that take place on rig floor.
- Conducts any tasks his supervisor deems he is capable of performing.

Qualifications

| | |
|------------|---|
| Education | Basic understanding of English. |
| Experience | Minimum 1 year experience on service rig or drilling rig. |
| Knowledge | Good general knowledge of equipment used. |
| Other | Mechanical working of machinery would be an asset. |

Roustabout - Service Rig
Specific Accountabilities

- Performs all labour duties on and around the service rig.
- Must be able to take direction.
- Conduct any tasks his supervisor deems he is capable of performing.

Qualifications

| | |
|------------|---|
| Education | Basic understanding of English. |
| Experience | Experience as a general labourer in oil & gas operations |
| Knowledge | Previous experience around heavy machinery would be an asset. |
| Other | Must be in good physical condition. |

If you obtain the above qualifications and work experience, please forward your CV to the following address by 01 December, 1997.

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Aden 4th Marine Festival to Mark 30th Independence Anniversary

The marine festival is considered to be one of the most distinguished and oldest festivals. In Aden, for decades the fishermen used to show off many skills such as walking horizontally on wooden grease covered posts, boat racing and swimming etc.

This festival has become an annual sports tradition in which many youths from various governorates participate. It was decided that the marine festival be held on November 29th, every year. Nowadays, the office of the Ministry of Youth and Sports is arranging to hold the fourth marine festival on November 29, 1997.

Mr. Ahmed Al-Dolayi, director of the Youth and Sport Office in Aden said in a statement, "the governorate will witness a big sport carnival at the Army Stadium in Aden in addition to the marine festival which will be full of sports activities and competitions". This festival is financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, some companies and Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem, the governor of Aden.

Yemeni Body Building Team in Arab Championship

The Yemeni Body Building Federation approved the participation of the Arabic fifth body building championship in the competitions, in its meeting of November 12, 1997 which will take place in Dubai from December 7th to the 12th, 1997. Some athletes were elected to



enter the training camp to ready themselves for the championship. The training camp will continue until their travel time to Dubai. On the other hand, the Yemeni Body Building Federation will participate in the new board of directors elections of the Arab Body Building Federation which will take place as an extra event of the Arab championship.

Female Volleyball Championship

The Women's Volleyball Championship was opened last Wednesday as part of the various cultural and sports activities organized by the Yemen Olympic Center in Sana'a. The Women's Olympic Center team defeated the Modern School women's team 15-10. The winning team was honored by the Yemen Olympic Committee.

The technical manager for the Olympic Committee Mr. Abdullah Al-Amari said in a statement, "Organizing such championships will help extend women's participation in the various sports games." The Yemen Olympic committee supports the continuation of sports activities in sports centers and schools in Sana'a and in other governorates by providing sports equipment, facilities and funds.

Hadhramaut Bicycle Team in National Championship for 1st Time

The Hadhramaut Bicycle Team arrived at Aden last Thursday to participate in the Republic's third bicycle championship which will be held in Aden. Five cyclists from Hadhramaut are participating in this competition for the first time since the establishment of a bicycle federation in 1991.

The technical manager of the Hadhramaut team announced that the athletes are ready to participate actively in spite of the postponements. Four clubs represent the Hadhramaut team, namely: Samon, Al-Mukala, Seiou and Tarim. The competition will start on November 15, 1997.



Hodeidah Handball Team Wins

Al-Hodeida handball team managed to defeat the military team 30-6. Al-Hodeidah team was the leading team where it played an interesting match. The match took place at the closed hall in the youth house at Al-Hodeida. This match comes



within the framework of the Al-Hodeida team preparation for the Republic Championship which will take place in Aden in November. Five teams from Al-Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Ibb and Sana'a are participating.

National Athletics Championship

Mr. Ahmed Al-Siyaghi, the general secretary of Yemen Athletics Federation announced that the federation decided to hold the athletics championship on November 30, 1997. Many athletes from Sana'a, Aden, Dhamar, Lahj, Taiz and Hadhramaut will participate in the championship. The competitions will be held at the Al-Thowra stadium in Sana'a.



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 - محمد سلام عبد الله

Orbit Weekly Programs

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| SUPER MOVIES | 2130 E! Extreme Close Up | 20 November | 1800 Aladdin |
| 17 November | 19 November | 1900 Vital Soul | 22 November |
| 1100 Sommersby | 1500 The Movie show | 2100 Spice Girls present: | 1200 Adventures in |
| 1700 Upworld | 1730 Main Floor | Girls talk | Wonderland |
| 2100 The dark wind | 2230 Our favorite stars: | Rock Raiq | 1330 Muppet Babies |
| 18 November | Elizabeth Taylor | 21 November | 2230 Five Mile Creek |
| 1500 Noises off | 20 November | 1400 Conversation with | 23 November |
| 1900 Money plays | 15.30 The best of George | Cheb Mami | 1300 Little Mermaid |
| 2300 Turtle beach | & Alana | Musabaqa | 1930 Boy meets world |
| 19 November | 1800 The price is right | 1900 360 Degrees | 2130 Brand spanking new doug |
| 1900 Three for the road | 2000 The 1997 Emmy Awards | 22 November 1997 | NEWS |
| 2100 Dead sleep | 21 November | 0900 Retro | 17 November |
| 2300 Extreme prejudice | 1730 Planet Fashion | 1500 Cosmix | 1130 CBS Up to the |
| 20 November | 2000 Candid Camera | 0100 Awtar | minute live |
| 2100 Family Business | Reality Shows | 23 November 1997 | 1500 NBC the today show live |
| 2300 Jacob's ladder | Ofra Harnoy | 0900 Retro | 1800 CBS This morning |
| 0100 Down came a blackbird | 22 November 1997 | 1700 The Rush Hour | 18 November |
| 21 November | 1400 E! In Focus - | 2200 Cosmix | 1230 ABC World News |
| 1700 Legend | Fabulous Jewels | DISNEY | Now Live |
| 2100 Lock up | 1830 Hollywood One on One | 17 November | 1700 News Hour with |
| 0200 French exit | 2200 Jeopardy | 1430 Mickey Mouse | Jim Lehrer |
| 22 November 1997 | 23 November 1997 | and Friends | 2000 ABC Good morning |
| 1500 Amanda | 1200 Crook and Chase | 1830 Gargoyles | America |
| 2230 E! Coming Attractions at | 1600 Slim Cooking | 2200 Empty Nest | 19 November |
| 19:30 GMT 2300 JFK - 3VL | 2030 Oh La la | 18 November | 1000 NBC News Channel |
| 23 November 1997 | MUSIC NOW | 1100 Ducktales | Nightside Live |
| 1500 Cemetery Club - 2 | 17 November | 1430 Movie: Young Again | 1330 ABC World News |
| 1830 Box Office America at | 0900 Retro | 1800 Torkelsons | this morning live |
| 15:30 GMT | 1300 Freeze Frame: Blackstreet | 19 November | 2000 ABC Good morning |
| 1900 Another Stakeout - 2 | 2200 Cosmix | 1230 Wuzzles | America |
| HOLLYWOOD | 18 November | 1700 Dinosaurs | 20 November |
| 17 November | 0500 Rock Raiq | 2030 Movie: Tiger Town | 0900 NBC Nightly News |
| 1500 Preview Theater | 1300 Musabaqa | 20 November | 1400 CBS Morning News Live |
| 1730 Videofashion | 0000 Retro | 1230 Welcome to Pooh corner | 2000 ABC Good Morning |
| 1900 Jeopardy | 19 November | 1400 Fraggie Rock | America |
| 18 November | 1100 The Rush Hour | 1700 Quack Attack | 21 November |
| 1630 George & Alana | 1300 RSVP | 21 November | 1130 CBS Up to the |
| 2000 E! Model | 2100 Awtar | 1300 Sing me a story | minute live |
| | | 1600 Timon and Pumbaa | 1500 NBC The today show live |
| | | | 1800 CBS this morning |
| | | | 22 November 1997 |

Orbit Weekly Programs

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0800 ABC World News | SMU at TCU | 0945 Mumbly |
| 1500 NBC Weekend | 22 November | 1405 The Fun Channel |
| Today Show Live | 0830 World Cup Qualifier: | Movie - Willy |
| ABC 20/20 | USA v El Salvador | Fog: 80 days |
| 23 November 1997 | 1200 Motoworld | 2025 The Mask |
| 0730 Wall Street Journal | 1700 Premier League | 23 November 1997 |
| 1030 NBC News Channel | Highlights | 0830 Sealab 2020 |
| Nightside LIVE | 23 November | 1200 TFC (from Friday) |
| 2200 NBC Dateline | 0630 ESPN News Evening Live | 1830 Top Cat |
| ESPN | 1300 SportsCenter | AMERICA PLUS |
| 17 November | 0200 Road Race of Month | 17 November 1997 |
| 0400 NFL Football Oakland | FUN CHANNEL | 1200 General Hospital |
| Raiders at San Diego | 17 November 1997 | 1600 Starman |
| Chargers Live | 0830 Moby Dick & Mighty | 2000 Top of the Heap |
| 1430 ATP Sup 9 Tennis: | Mightor | 18 November 1997 |
| Hannover, Germany | 1225 Moby Dick & Mighty | 1030 Homeroom |
| Final Match | Mightor | 1300 Sunset Beach |
| 1730 SportsCenter | 1900 The New Schmoo | 1900 Married with |
| International | 18 November 1997 | Children |
| 18 November | 0500 NFL: Buffalo Bills at | 19 November 1997 |
| 0500 NFL: Buffalo Bills at | Miami Dolphins Live | 1500 The New Gidget |
| 1600 College Football | College Football | 1930 It's A Man's World |
| 0230 SportsCenter | International | 2200 Early Edition |
| International | 19 November | 20 November 1997 |
| 19 November | 0400 NBA Basketball New | 0730 Hardball |
| 0400 NBA Basketball New | York Knicks at Houston | 1730 Free Spirit |
| Rockets Live | Rockets Live | 2030 Single Guy |
| 1700 College Basketball: | 1700 College Basketball: | 21 November 1997 |
| Maryland at South | Maryland at South | 1030 Mama's Boy |
| Carolina | Carolina | 1600 The Commish |
| 0230 SportsCenter | Flash Gordon | 2130 Ink |
| International | 20 November 1997 | 22 November 1997 |
| 20 November | 1230 Going Bananas | 1030 Homeroom |
| 1100 Boxing Boxng Series: | 1300 Paw Paws | 1600 Starman |
| Augusta, Georgia | 2330 The Tomorrow | 2000 Everything's |
| 2200 Racehorse Digest | People | Relative |
| 2230 World of Rugby | 21 November 1997 | 23 November 1997 |
| 21 November | 1330 Super Globetrotters | 1200 General Hospital |
| 1130 Latin Football Weekly | 2300 My hometown | 1500 The New Gidget |
| 2000 First Whistle | 2330 The Tomorrow | 1800 Sunset Beach |
| 2200 College Football: | People | |
| Western Athletic Conf. | 22 November 1997 | |

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Heavy-Handed Police Action in Mukalla!

DOUBLE STANDARDS?

The city of Mukalla has become a hot spot for anti-regime demonstrations these days. Day after day, varying number of citizens have taken to the streets protesting against the authorities.

The military commander of the region, in collaboration with the governor and other senior officials, ordered soldiers to take positions in order to control the demonstrations. As a precautionary measures, many of the political leaders have been arrested. At last count, there were some 22 persons in jail because of 'their efforts in inciting the general public'. In addition, tactics involving harassment and intimidation have been used to bring about 'law and order'.

Due to this recent development in Mukalla, and because of the bomb explosions in July and October in Aden, the number of southern political activists who languish in the jails of Yemen is rising steadily. A quick visit to some of the prisons, like the jail next to the Investigations Office in Sanaa will give a clear indication. Many of these people, including some businessmen, are held up in jail for months based on allegations that they are presently involved in, or are financing anti-state activities.

As a matter of fact, the rash of bombs that hit Aden during July and October, 1997 cannot be but terroristic in nature. The terrorists and other associated criminals have to be dealt with. But, that does not mean using torture and indefinite imprisonment without trial. The rights of those accused need to be protected. Some of them have been in prison for months without having been brought to trial. This contradicts the laws of Yemen.

Nobody is asking the government to be soft on terrorists or criminals or other law-breakers. But, if the authorities break the law themselves, how can they have the upper moral hand in this duel? It is absolutely imperative that the laws of the land are respected, and the first action in that direction is to hold public trials for those accused of the offence.

There is another dimension to this business. At the same time that the authorities are acting tough on the southerners who are accused of breaking the law, they are visibly soft on the many northern tribes which have acted against the system, and against law and order. Many northern tribes have kidnapped foreigners, cut off main highways, attacked government posts and looted them, etc. Yet, no real or serious action has been taken by the authorities against them.

The legitimacy of any system is based on certain legal and moral values. Key among these is the concept of equal treatment of citizens, irrespective of their geographic, racial or tribal backgrounds. In the way the Yemeni authorities are handling themselves at the moment, one can safely conclude that there is no equal treatment of citizens.

There are those who will claim that the authorities do not actually engage in discrimination among Yemeni citizens based on a premeditated policy. If that were the case, the officials need to do something tangible to prove it.

There are also those who might say that the discrimination is not really due to geographic or tribal origin of the citizens; but due to the perceived brute force and power of the people to fight back. In other words, the state avoids getting into confrontations with armed tribes, while it victimizes unarmed civilians. If that is true, then this rotten policy invites civilian Yemeni citizens to start carrying arms and to fight the state.

Whatever the case, a large majority of the Yemeni people feel they have an unjust security system. To add insult to injury, the security apparatus is also inefficient and highly corrupt.

The people of Mukalla, Aden and other southern cities, and even the citizens of other cities in the northern republics have the right to express their disgust with the politicians and the system. By applying a heavy-handed approach, the authorities will not solve the problem. They'll simply make things worse!

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