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# YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • December 15th thru 21st, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 50 • Price 30 Riyals

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## Preparations for President Saleh's Visit to Tokyo: "Japan Sees Yemen as important partner."

"Let me tell you that Japan sees Yemen as an important partner. I am here also to discuss the visit of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Japan." So said Mr. Seiichiro Noboru, Director-General of Middle Eastern and African Affairs, in an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times.  
Mr. Noboru left Sanaa yesterday, Sunday, 14th, following a 3-day official visit during which he met with Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council, Dr.

Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, and other officials.  
The Japanese official also stated that his country hopes to secure a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, latest by 1999. "We hope to play an increasing role in the world, and the UN Security Council is an important forum," he said.  
On the stagnated Middle East process, he stressed that his country supports the Madrid formula of land for peace.



Full text of interview on page 5

## 33 Agreements/Contracts Signed Successful Yemeni-Egyptian Talks

The Yemeni-Egyptian High Ministerial Committee concluded its fourth annual meeting on Friday, December 12th. Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim described the 2-day meetings as "opening new frontiers in the bilateral cooperation". His Egyptian counterpart, Dr. Kamal Al-Ganzouri, said that the focus has been to enable the private sector in both countries to better do business". The two sides have signed 33 agreements ranging from investments in several joint projects, including a Sanaa-based joint bank capitalized at US\$ 100 million, a joint shipping line, a free trade area in Port Said and Aden, etc.



Even only some of the accords are implemented, they will enhance bilateral relations and cooperation.

## Another Milestone: The 1998 Budget

The Government presented its 1998 budget to parliament for discussion and approval. The numbers present yet another hopeful sign. Total revenues for 1998 are put at YR 336.6 billion, an 11.7% increase over 1997; while total expenditures are put at YR 350.1, a 3.8% rise over 1997.

The deficit is thus envisaged at 3.15% of GDP, which the government pledges to finance from "non-inflationary" sources.  
One of the main features of the 1998 budget is that it envisages a major reduction in the allocations for military uses.

Full story on page 7

## Farmers Misuse Chemical Inputs: Poisoning the Nation

Yemen is importing every year more than 70,000 tons of harmful fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc. Malicious international companies are dumping the stuff on Yemenis. But a major part of the problem is due to greedy Yemeni farmers who refuse to heed manufacturers' instructions for proper use.  
Yemeni farmers now import wonder chemicals - in liquid and

powder forms - that make their qat plants sprout and grow, almost overnight. The farmers are instructed to wait for at least two weeks before harvesting. This is the period it takes for the chemical's effects to be diluted and rendered harmless in the human body. But the farmers do not wait. As a result, consumers regularly take in a dose of dangerous chemicals.

More on page 13

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Habit of Complaining: First Step in Adjusting to a New Role

It is as if Yemenis are trying to perfect the art of complaining. Wherever you go, people complain. Businessmen, Intellectuals, Government bureaucrats, Members of parliament, and of course, the guy in the street... they all complain. It is everywhere, and each person tries to convince you that he/she is the victim of some idiot out there who is doing his/her job. The blame is often put on the President of the Republic. I sometimes chuckle when senior government officials complain.

The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play. They are used to a system in which there is a mastermind who orders everybody around. But things have now changed and individuals are asked to make their own decisions. Unable to immediately take charge, most people revert to the habit of complaining.

Given Yemen's transformation towards democracy, there are less central orders, and there is more room for self-driven decision-making. Individuals are thus expected to make up their minds about many things. This means that our people will need a lot of preparation and training. Yemenis, by and large, have not been raised and trained to interact positively in a democratic setting. The learning and catching up that needs to be done pertains to self-esteem, knowledge of rights and duties, and proper interaction in the new setting. Democratic countries, especially in the West, could serve as a catalyst by helping in public awareness and cultural orientation programs.

Another dimension to this new setting is that the country needs to fight apathy. The citizens of Yemen need to feel they are part of the system, and that what they think, say, and do matter. They have an active role to play in the public life of the nation. This interaction has reached such advanced levels in the USA to the extent that ordinary people do "citizen's arrest". We do not expect Yemenis to get that far, although in our tradition, we have a similar drive along what is known as "Al-amre bil-ma'aruf, wal-nahy a'an al-munkar". Roughly translated, this means the right of citizens to "encourage (order) good deeds, and block (stop) bad deeds". At the very least, our people need to interact fully in public events such as elections, public policy, and in monitoring officials and holding them accountable.

In the meanwhile, the complaining will continue. This by itself is not a bad thing. It does reflect the new order of things. You would often hear people blaming the president for a number of shortcomings. You would hear sentences like, "Why doesn't he do something about this? Why doesn't he sack this fellow? Why doesn't he order this to be done?"

Well folks, we don't want him to do this or that, or sack this fellow or that, or give this order or that. In a democratic setting, it is not his job. The rest of us will have to be more involved, and to do our bit in the overall management of our country. Each individual has a role, which cannot be replaced by any other person. The sooner we start to do our share, the faster things will shape up. Democracy is a learning process. Let us learn fast!

The Publisher  
عبد العزيز

## YEMEN TIMES

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### IFAD Boss Arrives

Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), arrived in Sanaa yesterday on a 3-day official visit. IFAD finances 14 projects in Yemen valued at \$134 million. During the visit, IFAD will sign 2 new agreements with the Yemeni government to finance two projects - at Jabal Raimah area and in the southern projects at an estimated cost of \$24 million.

### NCA Delegation

A delegation representing the Netherlands Court of Audit (NCA) has arrived in Sanaa on Saturday, December 13th on a five-day official visit. Headed by the NCA President, Mr. Henk E. Koning, the delegation will discuss means of cooperation the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) in Yemen.

### HRITC Organizes Workshop

In cooperation with the Dutch Embassy, the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in Taiz will organize a workshop on human rights during 20-25 December. The workshop aims to train kindergarten and school teachers on the best methods of introducing human rights principles to children. About 30 people from Taiz, Sanaa, Aden, Hadhramaut, Hodeida, Ibb, and Lahaj, are expected to take part in this workshop. The workshop will include lectures on international human rights legislation.

### Earthquakes Seminar

The National Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Management was held in Dhamar on December 13th by the National Seismological Observatory Center. The topics discussed by the researchers who attended the seminar included the management of natural disasters, civil defense, landslides, floods, seismic observations, earthquake predictions, and several other topics of concern. Specific case studies of famous natural disasters from around the world were also discussed.

### French Food Aid

According to an agreement signed by Yemen and France last October, a consignment of 5,840 tons of wheat flour arrived on December 10th in Aden. France annually sends a regular shipment of food to Yemen which was 4,000 tons during the last few years. Of this shipment, 500 tons will be sent to the Island of Socotra. The rest will be sold in Aden, and the revenue put in a fund jointly run by the Ministry of Planning and the French Embassy in Sanaa. The fund finances projects for the development of food resources in Yemen.

### GTZ Renovates VTC

The Germany Advisory Team (GTZ) has completed the renovation of the Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Sanaa at a total cost of \$ 255,000. The money was provided by the German government as part of the Yemeni-German cooperation in the field of technical and vocational training. About DM 20 million have been invested since the initialing of the agreement in 1976. The VTC inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyib and the German Ambassador to Yemen, Helga von Strachwitz.

### Amnesty - Yemen Celebrates Human Rights Day

The Yemeni Branch of Amnesty International celebrated yesterday, Sunday, December 14th, the International Human Rights Day. Many speakers spoke about the importance of human rights in the modern system of states as well in individual relations. They also highlighted the various aspects and dimensions of human rights.

### Yemen Signs MoU with Spain

A memorandum of understanding was signed in Sanaa by the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Spanish government. The latter will provide \$2 million for studies on the economic feasibility of infrastructure in Yemen. The Spanish government will also provide \$30 million by way of soft loans to implement a number of projects in Yemen.

### CanadianOxy Investors Get Good Impressions

Two groups - a total of 20 American and Canadian nationals - concluded visits to Yemen during 7-10 December. The delegates visited the offices and production sites of Canadian Occidental Petroleum. Mr. Ali Sohaiki, Executive Manager of the CanadianOxy - Yemen, said that they were fully satisfied with the performance of the company.

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### Campaign to Save Iraqi Children

In response to an initiative by Egyptian intellectuals which calls for saving Iraqi children from their current predicament, and which was adopted by a number of NGOs, the Yemen Times is happy to start a campaign in Yemen. The campaign is to collect signatures for individuals who want to support the effort to save the children of Iraq. We in Yemen Times do not understand, let alone justify, the lack of concern among peoples and nations of the world, especially those who champion human rights, regarding the daily mass death of children in Iraq. If you are interested in supporting the campaign, please sign the coupon below and send it back to the Yemen Times, P. O. Box: 2579, Sana'a, Yemen.

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**Dr. Mohammed Ali Moqbil:**

**“Productive change is a slow and gradual process.”**

Dr. Mohammed Ali Moqbil is a member of parliament, a member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress, and Board Chairman of the Yemen Drug Company (YEDCO). For five years, 1988 to 1993, Dr. Moqbil, 51, occupied the post of Minister of Health.

He is today, one of the leading parliamentarians who is involved in political reform. Dr. Moqbil is also deep at work in his effort to overhaul YEDCO.

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Moqbil and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

**Q: It has been about eight months since your election to parliament. How do you evaluate that period?**

**A:** We are still at the beginning of the democratic process and parliamentary work is still somewhat limited. The most important thing is conviction. We have made our choice by going on the path of democracy where the people freely choose their own representatives.

Although the past period of the new parliament's life is short, several laws, agreements, and parliamentary committee reports were reviewed and ratified. We are very particular that parliament's legislative and monitoring roles should be fully carried out so that it can actively conduct its constitutional duties. Parliament should not only legislate, but also monitor the implementation of its legislations. Monitoring should not be limited to the executive organs, but must include monitoring in its broader sense as specified by the constitution.

If parliament is able to follow up the implementations of its legislation and monitor the government's performance, then we can say that our parliament is really representing the will of the people.

**Q: What distinguishes this parliament from the previous one elected after unification, by way of mentality, cultural level, intellect, etc?**

**A:** I believe that this parliament reflects the present political and social map of the country as well as the extent of public awareness. I believe there are good, competent, and highly experienced elements in this parliament. I hope that the democratic process will develop more, but I think that the previous political map was somewhat better than the current one.

**Q: What sort of problems do MPs face in general?**

**A:** I don't really think that there

are any major problems worth mentioning. As long as parliament correctly dispenses its constitutional and legal authorities, I don't think there will be any problems.

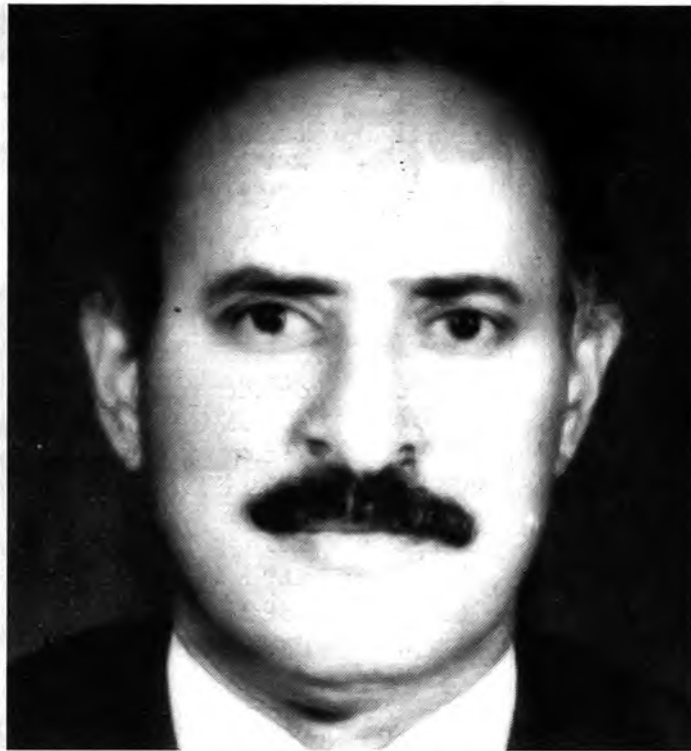
The only problem I have noticed up to now is daily absenteeism. The parliament's Presidium will have to tackle this problem by looking into its root causes. As a matter of fact, there are special regulations which govern this aspect of parliamentary life which must be fully enforced.

Many MPs, however, come from remote regions, and look for a suitable accommodation while in Sanaa. So I think that the state should provide MPs with residence and a few other essential privileges. An MP's pay is quite modest, not enough to cover his or her basic personal expenditure - taking into account the need for accommodation, guards, etc. Many MPs also incur miscellaneous expenses with regards to solving some of their constituents' personal problems and needs such as medical treatment, funerals, weddings, etc. An MP in Yemen cannot just simply refuse his or her constituents' demands.

Frankly speaking, some MPs, including myself, had to borrow money in order to honor their social commitments. It is a real problem that faces many of my colleagues. This dilemma must be seriously considered by the state.

**Q: We hear that many of your constituents come to you to solve their personal problems instead of the area's tribal sheikh or elder. Doesn't this distract the MP from his or her duties?**

**A:** Many people view their MP not as a sheikh or social reformer, but as someone who has a duty towards the citizens who elected him. So a constituent feels that his or her interests are closely connected to the MP. If



there is any lack of public services such as schools, health centers, electricity, water, etc, people hurry to their representative in parliament. Sometimes the problems people bring to their MP go beyond his capacity.

I believe that the executive organs should take the initiative by providing these services to the public, and do not wait for the MPs to intervene.

**Q: How do MPs usually go about demanding better services for their constituencies?**

**A:** The Sanaa bloc of MPs, for example, meet regularly with ministers and other government officials regarding issues of public hygiene, the environment, etc. The citizens' needs are often public in nature, not individual. That is why we as MPs have to continuously strengthen our ties with our constituents. It is a difficult task and needs the cooperation of all sectors of society.

**Q: What major laws and legislation were ratified by parliament up until now?**

**A:** The laws discussed by the previous parliament were in actual fact republican decrees submitted to parliament for endorsement. They included the law to found the school renovation fund and the military penal law. We are now discussing the advocacy law and the real estate and public lands law. There are other decrees and oil agreements being presently discussed.

**Q: Some MP feel frustrated as if they are not in control. What do you think about that?**

**A:** I cannot say that is true because it is not. MPs have many duties and responsibilities which they have to perform as best as they can. There are draft laws to be studied and agreements to be reviewed. MPs have to constantly observe the high national interest in everything they do.

I think MPs are treated differently, as elected not appointed people. An MP must be granted all rights and privileges that help him or her carry out the tasks and duties he or she is entrusted with, including the electioneering program. All executive organs must realize that when an MP deals with them it is not for his or her own gains but for that of the citizens he or she came to represent.

1986 to 1992. We worked with the relevant bodies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Control and Audit Authority, and the Tax Authority. A joint committee was formed from the representative of YEDCO and these other organs to re-schedule the company's debts, around YR 120 million over a period of 10 years. I sincerely thank Mr. Ahmed Al-Iryani, the head of the Control and Audit Apparatus; the Minister of Finance, and the head of the Tax authority for their cooperation.

Other problems faced by YEDCO include complicated law suits over land disputes, which I fear will not come to a satisfactory resolutions, considering the prevalent corruption in Yemeni courts. All of this, hinders the company's productivity and marketing ability.

Moreover, there are now court cases over disputes with some of our competitors who took over some of our more lucrative agencies of international drug companies. We really feel that the courts should swiftly look into and resolve these cases so that YEDCO will be able to better serve the people.

Our policy is to provide exceptional medicinal services at very competitive prices. YEDCO sometimes sells some brands of its products at cost value in order to help people with limited income. We still adhere to the prices specified by the Supreme Drug Authority, which means making very low profits indeed as compared to other more commercial drug manufacturers. Thus, YEDCO participates in

alleviating some of the people's burdens by offering a wide range of about 53 different types of medicines to the public at very low prices. I think that the state and the judicial system should support YEDCO.

Also, the free-market economy presently adopted by our country demands that YEDCO be very competitive by providing a better service at a lower price. The better service comes through improving our medicinal products according to international standards.

Some people, however, try to tarnish YEDCO's good image. For instance, Paramol - the popular pain killer produced by YEDCO - is being produced in India and Thailand under the same brand name but with low quality. It is being smuggled in large amounts into Yemen. The law must protect our national products from piracy by unscrupulous manufacturers. A free-market economy doesn't mean by any stretch of the imagination stealing the efforts of others for making a quick buck.

**Q: What drug agencies has YEDCO lost?**

**A:** YEDCO lost agencies from some very famous international drug companies such as the Swiss Roche, the Italian Ciba, and a few others which were taken by the private sector. We have not got any positive response from the relevant state organs when we asked them to stand by us to get our rights back. We hope that justice will prevail in the end despite the long delays experienced at commercial courts.

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# Training of Judicial Staff

Mr. James G. Apple is the Chief of the Interjudicial Affairs Office of the Federal Judicial Center in Washington. It is responsible for education and training of judges and does research on matters of court administration. During his recent visit to Yemen, Mr. Apple participated at the judicial training conference that was organized by the Ministry of Justice. About 20 practicing judges from Sana'a courts took part. Yemen Times talked to him.

**Q: What did you talk about at the conference?**

**A:** I talked about issues of court management and the independence of the judiciary. We also discussed legal systems in general, what makes a good court system, and a good legal system. We covered both court administration issues, about judging and also some of the ways judges in the US go about their work.

**Q: How was the participants' response to your presentation?**

**A:** I told them something about how trials are conducted. The judges were interested, for instance, in how to prepare a budget for the court. I discussed the stricture in the US of how a court should be managed at the national, regional and local levels. They were also interested in what kind of assistance judges have, etc.

**Q: What are the requirements for building good legal and court systems?**

**A:** I explained to the judges that we have a strong education program for judges throughout their legal career. That is an important ingredient in building a good legal system. They need to have a continuing education program. One of the suggestions that we had in the US was to get the lawyers and judges occasionally to talk about common problems. We do that in the bar association in the US. We created something called a bench-bar committee. The bench refers to the judges and the bar meaning the lawyers.

**Q: Each case here takes a lot of time. Do you think it is logical to introduce an article in the law that specifies a time limit on giving a verdict?**

**A:** We have that problem in the US and in the federal court system. The congress is particularly concerned with the length of time some criminal cases are taking. So they passed a law called the "speedy trial act" which now requires federal judges to conduct a trial in a criminal case within 70 days of the date of the indictment which is the statement of formal charges against the accused. In civil, non-criminal cases, it is



not a requirement, but judges should try to complete the case at the trial level from the filing of the first papers till judgment within 18 months. That would be a desirable goal for the judges. In the US, criminal cases get priority and some of the civil cases are put on the "back burner". The judges and lawyers in the US meet to see how that can be accomplished. It has the effect, in some cases, of improving the process.

**Q: Some of our judges are corrupt. What is done in other countries with similar problems?**

**A:** There are certain ways to ensure that a judicial system is fair. One of these ways is that we pay our judges well. The federal judges and even the state judges receive very good salaries. Another tool is monitoring and supervision of judges.

Con't from page 1:

# Interview with Japanese Official

Mr. Seiichiro Noburo, the Director-General of the Middle Eastern and Africa Affairs Bureau at the Foreign Ministry in Japan, has concluded a four-day visit to Yemen. On this occasion, Yemen Times talked to Mr. Noburo on the future of bilateral relations between Yemen and Japan.



economic development, the environment, the refugees, etc.

**Q: Has your government decided to seek a permanent seat on the Security Council and what are the policies or philosophies that guide Japan's international policy?**

**A:** Since Japan has come to shoulder heavy responsibilities not only in the international economy, but also in the peace and stability of the entire world, we would like to play a major role in those areas. Naturally, the UN is the most important and most comprehensive international organization which deals with all elements in the human life. It is very natural that we should like to play a more positive role as a permanent member of the Security Council.

**Q: Do you think it will happen?**

**A:** Discussions in the UN do not materialize quickly, we hope that by the end of the end of next year, the members of the UN will be able to agree on the enlargement of the Security Council because such an enlargement for both the permanent and non-permanent members is very important to strengthen the work of the Security Council.

**Q: What do you expect to achieve from your visit to Yemen?**

**A:** We need to strengthen our bilateral relations at all levels. This is most important. When I go back home I'd like to encourage all levels of Japanese people - politicians, businessmen, students, tourists, etc - to visit Yemen.

**Q: What brings to Yemen?**

**A:** Yemen is a very important partner for Japan. This is the first chance I have to visit Yemen since I took up my current position at the Foreign Ministry. I think it is my duty to visit this country to exchange views and pave the way for strengthening the relationship between our two countries.

**Q: How important is Yemen to Tokyo today?**

**A:** Yemen has a strategic position in the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen's peace and stability affect the peace and stability of the entire region. The economic development of your country can be further improved. Japan, as a fellow Asian partner, likes to extend as much assistance as possible to the economic development of Yemen. In 1996 Japan was the top aid partner of Yemen.

**Q: Could you give us your views on the President's future visit to Japan and the issues to be discussed?**

**A:** In my talk with the Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, I mentioned three pillars of Japan's relationship with Yemen - political dialogue, economic cooperation, and

cultural, educational and social exchange including cooperation on the environment. The visit of the your President to Japan is very important. We are now discussing the preparations and the appropriate timing for the visit.

**Q: What is the most striking thing that have impressed you so far about Yemen?**

**A:** It is the friendliness of the people. I think this is a great asset for this country. Having the largest population in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen has a great manpower. In the future there is a great potential for the people of Yemen.

**Q: What is the policy of your government vis a vis the Middle East peace process?**

**A:** The peace process which started in Madrid in 1991 is the only possible and credible way for achieving a lasting and just peace in the region. My government is in full support of this peace process. The formula of land for peace is the correct approach. We encourage all parties concerned to make more efforts towards achieving a lasting peace. We also participate very positively and actively in various forums such as the multi-lateral negotiations which cover such areas as water resources,

# He Still Dares to Speak

The author of the famous *They Dare to Speak Out*, Mr. Paul Findley has recently visited Yemen to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Sanaa. A former member of Congress during 1961 to 1983, Mr. Findley has been involved in Middle Eastern issues for a long time now.



**Q: Is this your first visit to Yemen?**

**A:** No, this is my fifth visit to this beautiful country. My first visit was in March of 1974 when I traveled alone to Aden. I went on behalf of a constituent who was imprisoned on some charge. I was received with great hospitality and my rescue mission had a story-book ending. President Salim Rubayia Ali placed the prisoner under my custody and let me take him home, a free man. My life has been so closely entwined with Yemen that I feel like a Yemeni myself. It is a good feeling.

**Q: How many books have you authored?**

**A:** I have written 4 books, two of them on the Arab Israel conflict. The first of my books which is about the Arab-Israeli conflict is entitled "They Dare to Speak Out."

**Q: How do you see the process of democratization in Yemen?**

**A:** I think it is astounding. It is one of the most remarkable, progressive, positive and hopeful developments in the Middle East that I have seen. Yemen has emerged as an example for other Arab states. It has a freer press than any other Arab state.

**Q: Can Yemen be included within the Middle East peace process?**

**A:** Sure, because in my view every body on earth has important status. In a just settlement of the dispute between Israel and its Arab neighbors, unless there is the element of justice, it will remain a frustrating problem that could cause great dif-

ficulties for the Arab states.

**Q: What sort of a just element?**

**A:** It is Justice in a broader term, justice for human beings is what I am most interested in. Justice for human beings depends upon the behavior or the state within which they reside. Palestinians certainly have had no justice and no real opportunity for nearly 30 years now.

**Q: As an observer how do you evaluate the level of human rights in Yemen or in the Middle East in general?**

**A:** I do not pretend to be an expert on any country and I had not fully followed the annual report of the

US State Department or Amnesty International. But I know there are episodes of human rights violations in every country, including USA. I also know there are some cases listed here in Yemen but I do not pretend to have facts about them.

I am impressed, however, by the fact that the press and the news media here are able to publish the facts. To a great degree, the government's reactions to those disclosures have been quite normal. That sort of system does not exist in the other Arab states. There is a great variation from one to the other, but Yemen is leading the way in that respect.

**Q: Do you want to add anything?**

**A:** I have come to the conclusion that the false stereotypes about Islam are a major road block to a just peace in the region. I have come to this conclusion because I believe that the US government has a capacity to bring about change in policy in the state of Israel. It does not do that for a variety of reasons, but one of the reasons is the false image that Islam has in the USA.

Most Americans equate Muslims with terrorism and pointless violence. As long as they hold that view of Islam they can easily rationalize about Israeli aggression against the Palestinians who are mostly Muslims. That is why I think the modification of the image that Islam has in the USA is very important.

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE

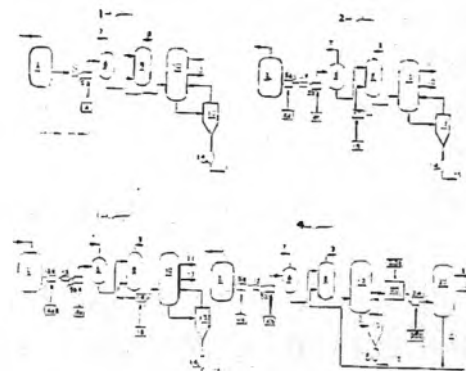
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### Process and installation for the regeneration of high performance lubricant oils

Invention by BOUFAHAJ MED. ALI, JAAFAR ABDELHAFIDH, MEZIOU SALAH, OUAZZANE ACHOUR, DHAOUADI MOHAMED.

The present invention relates to a process and installation for the regeneration of used lubricant oils with a low content of fuel-oil, fatty acids and chlorine products.

The used lubricant oils are subjected to successive stages in this order: addition of strong bases in aqueous solution to the proportion of 0.5 to 3% of pure-bases related to the mass of used oils, dehydration and extraction of the light hydrocarbons, extraction and recovery of diesel - oil (stripping), extraction of impurities. In accordance with the invention, a further addition of a strong base aqueous solution in the proportion of 0.1 to 1% of pure bases related to the mass of used oils is carried out after the stage of dehydration and extraction of light hydrocarbons. The used lubricants oils treated in this manner are distilled to remove impurities.



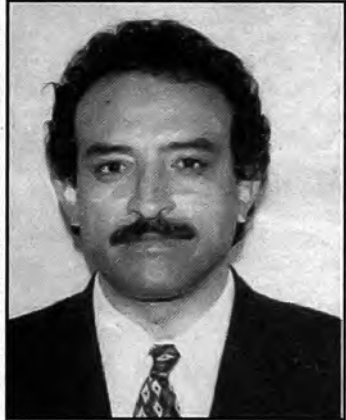
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This is an **OPINION** page.  
Every week, a different intellectual writes a **FOCUS** on a pertinent issue!

## Economic Development & Third World Adventurers



By Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqeeh

Instead, Saddam Hussein accepted compliance in order to save his own skin - the total distraction of his country's scientific and technological capabilities, gave away national territories to the Iranians then to the Kuwaitis, and accepted the collective punishment imposed on his entire people through total siege. Doing all that, he kept bragging about imaginary victories while brutalizing his people.

Similarly president Saleh played the security card, by providing the Saudis with a one-sided security treaty, where Yemen alone refrains from providing shelter and support for Saudi opposition figures while the Saudis openly contradict that when it comes to Yemeni opposition paying high amounts in dollars to the Yemenis abroad, according to the President. Also he tried the territorial card when he approved the understanding memorandum, abolishing Yemen's long outstanding claims to the Assir province.

It only opened wider the Saudis' appetite for Yemeni territories, and gave them a clear sign about the President's frustrations and desperation. He tried with the Americans the democracy card, even tried putting pressures on them by playing on the Franco-American competition over economic gains and political influence, in order to help him in cooling the resolve of the Saudis hunt down policy. But all was in

vain. The President's adventure policy during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait had already cost the Yemeni people a great deal, the simplest part was a deterioration of 80% in each Yemeni family's income and lost revenue in billions of US dollars for the nation. The President needed yet another adventure in 1994, to solve his differences with his Saudi-supported ruling partners. The policy divided Yemen into two rival populations thus creating unprecedented hatred and division between northerners and southerners who apparently started to learn and practice car bombings with all its dark and brutal implications.

Although he blamed the Yemeni people's emotions during the Gulf crisis to be the reason behind the Gulf peoples' misunderstanding of Yemen's official position. "Read his speech at Ibb, 30th Nov. 1997".

It is clear that states don't make such plain misunderstandings. And Admitting ones mistake would be better for Yemen, although I doubt that it would help as long as he is in power.

The Five golden Rules: going deeply into finding out the common denominators among the Asian tigers and other Asians, Latin American or even Arab countries which joined the successful tigers, shows clearly five important rules as being the pillars of successful economic development and those are as follows:-

1- Avoiding adventurer foreign policies.  
2- Attracting foreign investments or wisely utilizing domestic natural resources.

3- A sound and modern education system.  
4- A well planned, executed and maintained infrastructure and public services.

5- Having the right priorities in economic development plans, through a mixed system of central planning and free market economy practices. Among these golden pillars, the right foreign policy is the most important. It even influences and affects the other elements.

For example Egypt, Algeria, Libya and Iraq among many countries, have foreign policies that influenced their economic development plans, and gave priority to heavy industries instead of the normal priorities of agriculture and light industries. Algeria ended up with mountains of out dated heavy industry factories, lacking the technical know how for running it or marketing and improving its output products in a fast changing business world. Libya and Iraq ended up with siege and wasted their peoples rare resources on adventures and military equipment and factories which ended up by destroyed or rusting away. Egypt reached the point of famine before listening to reason and abandoning adventurer foreign policies.

We have all watched successful economic developments taking place during the last few decades at several nations with different

cultures and religions such Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Thailand or Taiwan.

It was achieved under military rule as in south Korea and Indonesia, theoretically as in Saudi Arabia and Thailand, democratically as in Japan, Malaysia, through civil dictatorship as in Singapore, under colonialist rule as in Hong Kong, or even under a communist regime as in China.

The encouraging development today is that brutal and human rights violators like that ugly

behavior at Zaid Al-Moshiki School for Girls in Taiz. Such behaviour is being outlawed internationally and is categorized as an ugly adventurous policy, inviting roars of anger from the civilized nations all over the world.

Finally I conclude this by noting that economic development have been successfully achieved under different cultural, governmental and ethical conditions. But never, under an adventurous ruler or ruling party.



Yemen Times

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The Aden Hotel Movenpick in co-operation with Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile and Emirates Airlines are proud to announce the Aden Marathon.

Get in shape, join the crowd and win one of the many valuable prizes such as Airline tickets, Club membership cards, Foreign holidays, Weekend packages and many others.

The 11 kilometers marathon will start at the Aden Hotel Movenpick on the 19th of December 9:30 AM  
Four categories will be participating.

(Professionals, Men, Women and Children).

Registration will be done in Aden Hotel Movenpick lobby from the 10th till 18th of December. Starting from 13:00 till 19:00 daily.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY Field Production Operator Yemeni Nationals

Qualified field production operator is required at our Masila Block Operation, Hadramout Govt. Yemen. This job will be based on a rotational work schedule (28 days on /28 days off). We offer a comprehensive orientation and training program which will vary depending upon your background.

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- Monitor the operation of pumping and following oil wells as well water injection wells.
- Monitor the operation of equipment located at well sites and manifolds including pumps, valves, flowlines, chemical injection kids, filters, etc.
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#### Qualification

- High school diploma with at least 4 years experience in oil field operations.
- Good knowledge of surface and sub surface oil field production equipment.
- Demonstrated ability to read and write English and familiarity with common oil field terminology.
- Excellent physical health.
- Only Yemeni nationals will be considered for this job.

If you obtain the above qualification & work experience, please send your C. V. to the following address by 30 December, 1997.

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen,  
P. O. Box No. 15137,  
Fax: (01) 269-897  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Human Resources



## THE BUDGET NUMBERS:

in million current Yemeni Riyals

MAIN SOURCES OF REVENUE:	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
- Oil/Gas	205,188	190,505	136,234	28,658	11,247
- Taxes	44,251	33,652	31,030	21,351	12,649
- Customs Duties	29,653	29,022	25,997	16,738	7,328
- Return on Investments	17,292	16,184	11,552	15,771	6,679
- Foreign Aid	26,953	19,555	16,169	3,663	1,471
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>336,583</b>	<b>301,222</b>	<b>232,225</b>	<b>93,314</b>	<b>42,857</b>
MAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE:	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
- Defence	53,842	53,963	44,964	35,896	30,273
- Education	61,343	52,837	36,993	22,709	16,693
- Health	13,438	10,508	8,860	4,372	3,028
- Security	22,417	18,752	14,997	11,332	2,809
- New Investments	56,578	41,325	20,677	7,922	7,755
- Food/Energy Subsidies	50,056	74,023	40,642	----	----
- Contribution to Sectors	12,691	12,345	18,121	4,744	1,153
- Debt Servicing	33,400	31,410	24,133	16,986	11,231
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350,054</b>	<b>326,595</b>	<b>232,755</b>	<b>119,880</b>	<b>87,128</b>
DEFICIT	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
- Current Account Deficit	+31,028	+2,690	59,008	25,237	39,589
- Total Deficit	13,471	25,373	530	26,566	44,271

Source: Ministry of Finance, Sanaa.

Continued from page 1:

## The 1998 Budget...

Parliament is busy these days deliberating on the 1998 budget submitted to it by the government on Saturday, 13th December, 1997. Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Committee, told the Yemen Times that his committee will present its views to the full parliament before the end of this month.

The numbers of the budget are quite encouraging, as can be seen from the five-year comparison (please refer to adjacent table). The Minister of Finance, Mr. Alawi Salami, who presented the budget, had a lot of good news to report.

"Since our country embarked on the reform program, much has already been achieved. Let me enumerate a few just as a reminder:

- unification and stabilization of the exchange rate. (Yemen today has one market-based exchange rate. The US\$ dollar fetches around YR 132 in the open market);

- building of international reserves. The net foreign position of the Central Bank of Yemen is more than US\$ 1 billion today;

- reduction in the budget deficit as a percent of the GDP;

- financing the budget deficit by non-inflationary means;

- reduction in the level of inflation.

(The core inflation rate was 71.3% in 1994, 62.5% in 1995, 27.3% in 1996, and 7.3% in 1997);

- correction of the interest rates, and

reduction in local liquidity. (The banking interest rates fell from 23% at the end of 1996, to 14% in May, 1997, to 11% in December 1997);

- launch of the structural reforms of the tax and customs systems;

- trade liberalization and correcting balance of payments imbalances."

Indeed the parliamentarians applauded the minister as he listed the achievements.

"But there is more work to be done, and the 1998 budget is part of an on-going effort to bring equilibrium to the economy and to enable the private sector take on an increasing role," the minister added.

Towards that end, the 1998 budget calls for continued support for the public sector corporations which prove their 'viability', and liquidation and/or privatization of those which are unable to perform well.

Beyond the numbers and declared objectives, the main achievement of the 1998 budget must be its decentralized disbursement. According to Regulation (1) of 1997 (which gives the governors and directors of the bureaus of the ministries the right to financial authority and dis-

tribution), and Regulation (213) of 1997 regarding the bill of Local Administration, the 1998 allocations will immediately be transferred to the governorates. Sanaa will retain only the allocation pertaining to the head offices.

The government also hopes to achieve an ambitious 7.2% growth rate in 1998. Observers believe that the government will attain at least a 5% growth rate.

## Financing Rural Handicrafts

Organized by the Rural Women Development directorate (RWD) and inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Jabali, an exhibition of products by rural women. He emphasized the need to "support rural women and help alleviate some of their burdens because they do a lot of work, at home and on the farm, especially when their husbands are working abroad." The assistance mentioned by the Mr. Al-Jabali includes providing rural women with farm tools and machinery, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, cattle fodder, and other essential farming requirements.

The RWD was established in 1979 with rather limited resources, covering a small number of governorates. The current number of beneficiary families exceeds 3,000 with plans and programs being implemented through 24 female guidance centers spread all over the country. Each guidance center covers two to five villages and is run by trained female cadres.

The RWD activities include the following:

- \* managing special training farms (vegetables, fruits and fodder);
- \* distributing tree saplings for plantations;
- \* training women on sewing, embroidery, knitting, food preserving, first aid, and organizing illiteracy classes;
- \* raising women's awareness of public health, mother and child care, and nutrition;
- \* organizing vaccination campaigns;

- \* implementing population education programs;
- \* providing veterinary services; and
- \* qualifying and training women, including MA programs, to be able to train rural women.

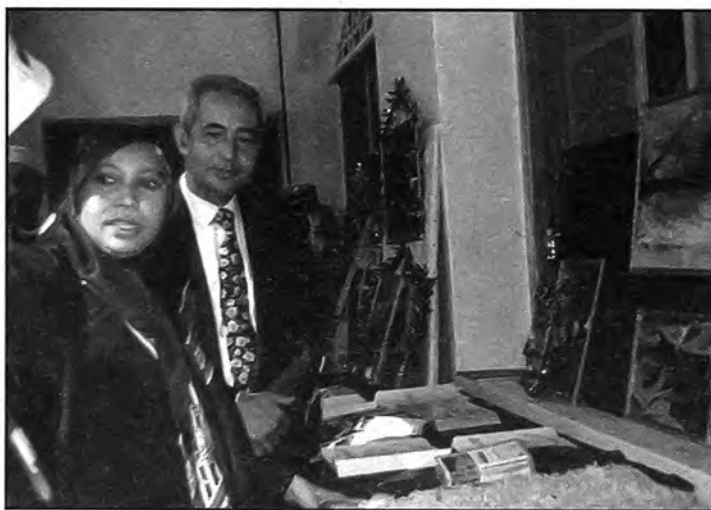
The RWD's other newly adopted

of the Dutch project to support the RWD, Ms. Bilquis Abdulsattar said, "the RWD coordinates with agricultural cooperatives and provides technical and financial assistance in order to help rural women."

Ms. Abdulsattar pointed out that

tryside," indicated Ms. Abdulsattar. She also pointed out that more development projects and programs are now directed towards rural areas in the southern regions of Yemen such as Lahaj, Shabwa, Abyan, Hadramaut, Al-Mahara, etc.

According to the final results of the "general report of the population, housing and establishments census of 1994," 77% of the total population in Yemen lives in the countryside, 50% of the rural population is composed of women, and 95% of the economically active rural female population is involved in agriculture and livestock breeding. On the other hand, 58% of the economically active rural male population is involved in agricultural activities.



activities include the following:

- \* providing rural women with soft loans for carrying out cattle and sheep rearing projects; and
  - \* helping needy families by training the women to sew and providing them with the necessary sewing machines and soft loans to start their own small businesses as well as helping them to market their products.
- Chronic lack of resources, however, impedes the implementation of many of the above programs. Lack of proper transportation often impedes the RWD staff whose work takes them to remote and isolated areas.

Ms. Nahla Ahmed Thabet, the representative of the Agricultural Cooperative Bank said, "for a rural woman to get a loan from our bank, she has to provide some sort of collateral such as a piece of real estate."

According to Ms. Thabet, a large number of farmers take out soft loans from the bank.

The RWD director and manager

the RWD is looking for international donor organizations to help in implementing its more ambitious programs and projects. Such projects include the Southern Heights Projects in Taiz and Ibb, the Integrated Rural Development project in Radaa, the Tihama Development project, and several others.

"There is a big demand for qualified female trainers, quite a few at the moment, to work with rural women who form a large part of the workforce in the coun-



DSS



Deutsche Sprachschule Sana'a

P. O. Box 18482 Phone: 266 204

### German Language Institute

- The Opening session starts at the 27th of December.
- Registration will be from the 15th to the 23th of December, 9.00 am to 12.00 and 3.00 to 6.00 pm
- One session is 64 hours
- The cost for one session is 10,000 YR including material
- The Institute is located on Hadda Street, next to Ring Road beside the Huraibi Hospital/Entrance on the back
- All instruction will be given by native German speakers

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- 4- Working experience in Security and/or Administration fields for at least 5 years.
- 5- Good communication skills
- 6- Yemen nationality

Interested persons should submit C. V. and application letter by January 5, 1998 to:

Embassy of Japan  
Building No. 2, Street No. 38 off Algier Street,  
South West Safia  
P. O. Box 817  
Sana'a

or by fax: 1-209531



# Helping the Disabled Help Themselves

The 9th of December of every year is celebrated in Yemen to mark the National Disabled Day and the World Declaration for the Rights of the Disabled. Yemen Times visited the Fadhl Al-Halali Institute for People with Special Needs and met the General Director, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Abdulhafidh in order to give its readers a glimpse of this very important establishment. The institute was established in 1989 by the collaboration of the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, the Sanaa municipality, the UNDP, and the ILO. There are currently 392 students in the Halali Institute.

### Main Objectives:

- The institute's objectives include the following:
- providing disabled people with vocational counseling, training, employment, and integrating them with society;
- finding job opportunities in the open market or sheltered employment for people who are having difficulties in being integrated in the labor market;
- organizing conferences, and training workshops to upgrade the professional abilities and knowledge of the people working with the disabled;
- providing the necessary compensatory equipment and facilities;
- providing basic educational services as part of the rehabilitation process;
- conducting research and field studies on vocational rehabilitation;
- developing extended vocational rehabilitation for



- school bags, women's purses, wallets, etc.
- 5- Textile work; traditional carpet, and 'mi'waz' (loin cloth).
- 6- Agriculture and horticulture.
- 7- Metal work.
- B- Special educational programs for the deaf and the mentally retarded children.
- C- Culture, entertainment and sports programs.
- D- Research and studies, including conferences and workshops in the field of disabilities.

### Education & Recreation

Educational outings and visits are regularly conducted to let the trainees see at first hand how fac-

...tories and other workshops are operated. Other day trips include going to museums, parks, the airport, the main post office, etc. An end-of-year trip is usually organized for graduates to a tourist place near Sanaa.

### Problems & Obstacles

#### A- Financial Difficulties:

"The Halali Institute suffers from chronic lack of financial resources. The monthly budget allocated for the institute is around YR 29,000, which does not even cover 10% of the monthly expenditure," said Mr. Abdulhafidh. "Petrol alone, which has an official budget of YR 10,000, costs around YR 80,000 a month," explained Mr. Abdulhafidh. "This severe lack of finances has made us unable to conduct or organize all the necessary programs to train and rehabilitate our students."



the disabled within a community-based rehabilitation program; and - creating positive attitudes among employers and society in general, towards the disabled and their employment.

### Who is admitted?

- People eligible for a place in the Halali Institute must;
- be of Yemeni nationality;
- aged between 6 and 15 years for the Special Education Center and between 15 and 40 years for the Vocational Training Center;
- be residing in Sanaa;
- have one or more of the recognized disabilities and be fit for education or vocational training; and
- have no infectious diseases.

### Rehabilitation Programs

- A- Vocational:
- 1- Woodwork, carpentry, wood turnery, and sheltered production.
- 2- Office work, computer, typing, and other secretarial duties.
- 3- Tailoring for ladies and men, tricot, embroidery, and other traditional sewing work.
- 4- Leather work, shoe manufacturing, making



# AIDS in Yemen A Concealed Menace !

By: Yasin al-Qubati

### Introduction:

Sex is one of the essential desires for the continuation of life. In developing and under-developed countries it is still treated with suspicion and disgrace. In these countries, the only respectful way to practice this desire is through marriage, a process accompanying plenty of needs and expenses. This fulfillment of marriage becomes impossible for a lot of youngsters who revert to practice secret methods to satisfy this essential biological need.

These methods might be:

- secret habits (masturbation)
- promiscuity and prostitution
- abuse of youngsters
- homosexuality
- others

The hidden handling of sexual desire (blamable sex) would lead to hidden management of the consequences and outcomes. The result will be low reporting of STD infections.

In Yemen and in many of the Eastern Mediterranean Region countries, the inadequate information system adds to the problem of invisible dangerous outcomes of the blamable sexual relationships. On the other hand strong social and religious beliefs help in controlling the transmission of STD.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON AIDS AND STD:** Most of the cases diagnosed in Yemen are heterosexual and got the infection when they were outside the country either between surgical procedures or illegal sexual relationships.

Most of the information collected about AIDS and STD prevalence are from the records of the central laboratories, where the equipment and instruments necessary for diagnosis are located. The records for AIDS infected persons in the central laboratories in the main cities of Yemen does not give the actual situation of AIDS in Yemen. There are backlog cases which could not be determined or even estimated due to the following factors:

- inadequate information system
- bad health infrastructure
- high stigma
- the lowest priority given, for health services as a general policy in the military ruled countries

### RISK FACTORS:

1- Refugees and illegal immigrants: Yemen is the nearest Arab country to the African horn with easy access to known high prevalence countries of AIDS like Uganda, Tanzania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The smugglers in their boats are used to carrying people from shores of Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea to Saudi Arabia or Yemen for job hunting. When they reach the coasts of Yemen, these smugglers deceive the travelers saying that they have reached Saudi Arabia. From the coasts of Yemen, some of these deceived travelers manage to get through to the big cities of Yemen, but some get caught and deported. Those who got into the country live illegally in the Yemeni community with their less restricted social and sexual attitudes and no medical or social support. Therefore, the chances for transmission of diseases, like AIDS and STD, through them is more likely to occur. Some of the unfortunate job seekers are caught and put in jails where they could transmit disease to other prisoners in jails with poor medical and hygienic conditions.

2- Poverty: Yemen is the most densely populated and poorest country in the Arabian peninsula. Poverty is increasing among the population as a result of the devaluation of the Yemeni currency since the beginning of 1980s. The second Gulf War and later the civil war worsened the economical conditions. So some of the despaired people, ignoring the normal, religious and social beliefs, try to find other sources for income. These attitudes increase the risk for STD transmission.

3- Political Commitment for Health: Poor economical resources put health services at the bottom of the priority list. Also, the inadequate planning and their implementation lead to more favorable conditions for the spread of communicable diseases including STD.

4- Industrial Developments: Industrial growth,

transport, communication and social developments increase the need for laborers and the mingling of both sexes. If not accompanied by good education, this in turn may lead to illegal relationships and may endanger people to STDs.

5- Health Education for Travelers: Increased frequency of people traveling to more "open" societies for business, pleasure and medical treatment without enough health education about AIDS and with sexual suppression, endanger them to come back infected with AIDS.

The people undergoing surgical procedures abroad especially in cheap centers, are more in danger of risking an AIDS infection.

### EPIDEMIOLOGY OF AIDS AND STD IN YEMEN: Between 1987 and 1996 the cumulative

Category	Years										Total
	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	
Yemeni Patients	1	3	4	4	4	22	12	21	25	14	110
Expatriate Patients	0	0	0	2	0	23	10	3	27	30	98
male Patients	1	1	4	5	3	43	19	19	29	24	148
Female Patients	0	2	0	1	1	2	6	5	23	20	60
Total Patients	1	3	4	6	4	45	25	24	52	44	208

Table 1

number of registered cases of AIDS victims in Yemen reached to 208 persons. Out of them, 110 were Yemeni people and 98 were expatriates. During the period September 1996 to September 1997, 52 cases of AIDS and AIDS Related Complex were diagnosed. Thus, the total number of cumulated registered cases in Yemen since 1987 till now is 260 cases. Out of these cases, 82 have AIDS and 178 are asymptomatic HIV carriers.

Age Group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
0-4 Years	0	1	0	1
5-14 Years	1	0	0	1
15-19 Years	0	1	0	1
20-29 Years	10	6	0	16
30-39 Years	28	15	0	43
40-49 Years	15	2	0	17
50+ Years	1	1	0	2
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Total	56	26	0	82

Table 2 Distribution of age for AIDS cases only

**AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION:** Most of the AIDS cases were males in the age group of 30 - 39 years which is the age of sexual activity and financial capability.

**RESULTS OF HIV TESTS:** While searching in the records of the central laboratory of Ministry of Health, following data was found for the groups tested for AIDS since 1992 (Table 3). Out of the 1,112 tests done for high risk groups, 68 tests were confirmed as AIDS positive. In low risk groups, out of 20,136 persons tested, 28 were AIDS positive (Table 4). Thus between 1992 and 1997, out of 21,494 total serology tests, 96 persons are positive for HIV.

Group Tested		
STD patients	13	0
Blood recipient	1	0
Sexual contacts of AIDS	6	6
Prisoners	848	14
TB Patients	378	8
Suspected Patients	100	32
Suspected Persons	12	8
Total	1,112	68

Table 3 In high risk groups

Group Tested		
Blood Donors	17,367	13
Travellers	1,757	3
Applying for ID	33	0
Applying for residence	196	2
Medical check	781	8
Migrant Workers	2	2
Total	20,136	28

Table 4 In low risk groups

**CONCLUSION:** In Yemen it is difficult to determine the exact cause of most of the communicable diseases due to lack of an adequate information system. Moreover, in communities with a high stigma against STDs, AIDS remains a concealed menace until it bursts out to be epidemic and lead to serious consequences. This could be avoided if a proper planning for health education and surveillance system is adopted.

By the Managing Editor  
Yemen Times



# PASSION FOR PEOPLE

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# CALTEX IS CHANGING

The new identity says Caltex is a modern and dynamic company. It says, "This is a new Caltex and we focus on providing what you - our customer want."

Explaining the logo:

- The base is a circle: a symbol of perfection
- The center is a star: Our strongest identity, associated with a history of excellent products and services
- The name 'Caltex' is outside the star: We have developed a more powerful and modern typeface
- The type face has changed -- an upward pointing arrow represents a dynamic company
- The shooting delta: A three-dimensional aspect. The delta is a symbol of dynamism, change and forward movement
- Red: The base color is the strongest retail color
- Deep Ocean Green: This color has been elected to make Caltex unique



**A SHINING  
EXAMPLE  
OF  
INNOVATION  
AND  
PROGRESS.**



## Caltex Alkhalij - New Identity A Shining Example of Innovation and Progress

After three years of research, Caltex has completed an extensive redefinition of its international branding, and today presents a new corporate identity — an identity which reflects the company's core values of Quality, Professionalism and Service. Along with change in identity, Caltex is changing how it does business, focusing on building value for customers and partners through preeminent service and speed of execution.



"The new identity underscores Caltex commitment to Quality, both in our products and how we do business; objectives recognized by our receiving the Dubai Quality Award" said Phil Garrison, General manager of Caltex Alkhalij, unveiling the new identity in Sana'a. Caltex Alkhalij is part of the Caltex Group of companies, owned on a 50-50 basis by Texaco Inc. and Chevron Corporation. "As a joint venture itself, Caltex is sensitive to the needs of venture partners and is concentrating on being the partner of choice by bringing our reputation of reliability and innovation to new ventures," he added.

Yemen consumers will see the new identity on lubricant packages over the next several months as the company conducts introductory programs in the area. All new drums and pails package will be coloured Caltex Deep Ocean Green, the new corporate colour. To aid recognition further, some packages will have both the new and old identity on them during the introductory period. These newly branded products will still contain the same trusted formulations, produced in Dubai, UAE.

Consumers in Yemen can be assured of the same top quality products with a new promise -- a promise of service and innovation intended to win their loyalty. The familiar Caltex star has remained basically unchanged since 1936. In the new logo, the star is radically changed by incorporating a modernistic wedge on one arm. A new unique colour -- Caltex deep Ocean Green -- is added to the traditional red and white. The 'Caltex' is pulled out of the star and is set in a new typeface.

The Caltex corporate identity program was developed from customer research that included more than 30,000 customer interviews and more than 100 focus groups in 10 countries. The research covered not only customer needs and priorities, but also their assessment of retail facilities design, logo and reaction to prototypes. Design work for the new logo started in 1996 and was carried out by Landor Associates, one of the world's most successful design companies.

**Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah al-Wajih;**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome:

Mr. Phil Garrison - General Manager - Caltex Alkhalij  
Mr. Emil Hayes - Area Sales Manager - Caltex Alkhalij  
Mr. Dennis Cox - Branch Manager - Caltex Alkhalij -Yemen Branch, and you gentlemen. Announcing with pride that our company has a long history of cooperation with Caltex Alkhalij, which is built on very strong foundations of mutual trust and goodwill.

The reason for the visit of these gentlemen is to launch a new Caltex logo and to emphasize its international brand position of:



**Quality - Professionalism - Service**

The new identity underscores Caltex's commitment to quality, both in products and how they conduct their business. Their commitment to these objectives is recognized by Caltex Alkhalij receiving the 1996 Dubai Quality Award.

These attributes of quality, professionalism and service translate into increased production efficiencies and consistency in product quality. Caltex's continued investment in research and development has resulted in technologically-advanced products, which we are proud to represent and offer to our customers.

Caltex's range of lubricants and greases are widely used by most industries, heavy equipment users, machinery and vehicles.

I would like to thank Mr. Garrison and Mr. Hayes for their visit to Yemen which I am sure will further strengthen the relationship that we have built over the years. We also thank you gentlemen, for your attendance at this conference.

"Caltex representatives have to come to Yemen to explain to their agents and consumers the reasons behind adopting a new logo," said Mr. Jamal Ahmed Al-Wajeeh, the Caltex agent in Yemen. For this purpose, the representatives have visited Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, and Hodeida. Mr. Jamal Al-Wajeeh added, "Caltex has been represented in Yemen for the last 26 years, and consumers very much favor its products." Due to the increase in the sales of Caltex products in Yemen, the company is planning to open new outlets in Aden and Taiz.

"We would like to tell our customers that Caltex products are as good as ever, the modification in the company's logo is an innovative and dynamic step forward," declared Mr. Jamal Al-Wajeeh.





# CRC & Digital Partnership STRENGTHENED

## Introduction

Digital Equipment Co. and the Computer and Research Center (CRC) have been successful partners for a very long time. Digital's Country Account Manager, Mr. Mark Forrest has recently visited Yemen in order to "see how relations with customers can be further developed." In his lecture on December 8th to a number of people invited from many government departments, businesses, banks, and computer users, Mr. Forrest talked about computer systems, information technology, the Internet, and about solutions that "enable customers to find the best systems for their requirements." Digital's top experts make regular visits to Yemen in order to introduce to CRC customers the latest state-of-the-art computer equipment.

## Digital

Digital Equipment is a pioneer American computer company. "Its modern AlphaServer micro processors are considered the fastest in the world," said Mr. Forrest. "Digital occupies the top world position in computer networking," he added.

Digital manufactures a comprehensive series of PCs with processing speeds ranging from 266 MHz to the powerful 625 MHz. "A single machine can include up to 12 processors. Digital is the only computer company that uses the advanced 64 BIT; while, other companies are still experimenting with it," announced Mr. Forrest.

The AlphaServer generation of processors is compatible with the NT operation system, starting from the smallest to the largest part of the series. "Digital concentrates a lot on the Internet," says Mr. Forrest, "our equipment are the most widely used in the Internet." The ALTAVISTA system, produced by Digital is widely used around the world in Internet applications.

## CRC

The Computer and Research Center (CRC) is a Yemeni national company established in September, 1984, as a computer support organization. Since then CRC has successfully provided both the private and the government sectors with the best and latest information technology.

"CRC services are provided by a team of more than 50 employees, 80% of whom have graduate degrees in economics, business management, computer science and computer engineering," said Mr. Mohammed Al-Ghafiry, the CRC Deputy Director.

CRC deals with a number of world-famous computer firms such as Oracle, Moss, Basys, Softtel, Laserdata, Novell, Lotus, Auto Desk, Softdesk.

"Since the start of its partnership with Digital, CRC has occupied the first position in the Yemeni market by providing top-of-the-range computer systems to various organs," said Mr. Al-Ghafiry. Elaborating, he added, "these sectors include education, communication, information, electricity, oil, finance, customs, passport and immigration, and several other private as well as public bodies." CRC customers attended in the last GITEX exhibition held in Dubai a few weeks ago.

## CRC Services:

### \* Hardware Marketing & Maintenance

CRC has established a well and fully equipped technical department whose engineers are not only highly qualified, but also constantly updated on the knowledge of systems technology. In addition, a comprehensive inventory of spare parts have been built up to ensure that spare parts are available in the right quantities at the right time.

### \* Software Design & Development

The CRC software division provides a pre-sales and after sale support through highly qualified staff to assist the customers in achieving their targets. CRC services include the following:

- 1- Preliminary study of the existing system;
- 2- Intensive study which includes data gathering and meetings with key staff;
- 3- System design and development;
- 4- Training.



According to Mr. Al-Ghafiry, since the foundation of CRC, its software division has produced the following applications, which are being successfully used by many customers:

- Inventory Management
- Payroll Accounting System
- Personal Information System
- Financial Management System
- Project Control
- Telephone Billing System
- Budgeting System
- Schools Information Management System
- Customs Information Management System

## Services & Support Offerings

CRC, backed by Digital Equipment Co., provides one of the most comprehensive protocols of services in the industry, designed to support the customers throughout the computing life cycle, planning and design, implementation, and on-going maintenance. "CRC services extend beyond the traditional on-site hardware and software services to encompass multi-vendor and network maintenance support," declared Mr. Al-Ghafiry.

Customers can tailor the type and amount of support necessary to meet their individual needs. "Whatever the service solution, CRC customers benefit from having Digital as their single point of contract," Mr. Al-Ghafiry pointed out. According to the support agreement between CRC and Digital Equipment Co., CRC customers benefit from the following Digital worldwide services:

### Desktop Services

Digital has a portfolio of multi-vendor services and support specifically tailored for the growing base of Desktop customers. Digital's Desktop service solutions support both digital and the most popular non-Digital hardware products and operating systems. Digital supplies on-site remedial support and telephone advisory support through PC network integration.

### Network Services

Enumerating, Mr. Forrest said, "Digital network services provide a full portfolio of services and support options that address customer need in each phase of the network life cycle with services for:

- The network planning and design phase
- The network implementation phase
- The network operation and growth phase

### Training

"CRC policy is set up to help the user in establishing the in-house computer expertise and procuring and maintaining in-house computing facilities, so that a full control over the computer activities may be experienced resulting in a smooth efficient and cost effective way of working," indicated Mr. Al-Ghafiry.

CRC training offerings includes the following cost-effective options:

#### Lecture-Based Training

CRC lecture-based training takes place locally in the CRC Training center; Digital training centers based in Bahrain, the UK, Germany, and the US; and Oracle training centers based in Dubai, Jordan, and Cairo.

#### Self-Paced Instruction (SPI)

Self-paced courses use proven educational techniques allowing students to progress at their own pace and in the convenience of their own offices. Some courses are packaged as books and come complete with exercises and solutions. Others are available in audio-visual format or computer-aided instruction.

#### Individual Learning Center Training (ILC) in UK

CRC has seven ILCs across the country offering a selection of CRC's self-paced courses. Students at an ILC work at their own pace and get the most up-to-date teaching technology.

ILCs offer the advantage of learning in a controlled environment, knowing that an experienced instructor will always be at hand.



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# The Enemy Within

Dr. Salah Haddash,  
Yemen Times Managing Editor

## Introduction

Various types of pesticides are used by farmers around the world. Using them is necessary in view of the widespread plant diseases and epidemics. Using pesticides could make the difference between a big harvest and a failed crop. The disease that hit the grape crop in Yemen last year is a case in point. The government had to intervene in order to save the country's annual crop of grapes thereby saving a precious source of national revenue. Although some Yemeni farmers still use traditional methods in farming, the use of pesticides is quite widespread. However, not all farmers use pesticides in a correct manner, leading to various health hazards. This problem is especially acute in Yemen where farmers, out of ignorance or sheer greed, pay scant regard to the manufacturer's instructions on the can of pesticide they use.

## Smuggling

Since the pesticide industry in Yemen is still at its beginning, farmers rely on imported stuff, which is not all suitable for their purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture has made a list of permitted and prohibited pesticides, but is not fully adhered to by the user. This is especially so with the local market being flooded by cheap smuggled pesticides. Unscrupulous manufacturers or smugglers often sell expired and harmful pesticides to oblivious farmers. The instructions label on the can is sometimes removed or defaced to hide the fact that the product is well past its sell-by date. A different, more expensive brand label is often stuck on the old one to deceive the farmer. Smuggled pesticides are usually brought in from Saudi Arabia.

## Testing the Imports

When a type of pesticide is imported, specimens are taken at the port of entry and sent for testing at the General Directorate for Plant Protection. The product is only allowed in the country when it is found to be compatible with the standards set by the WHO and FAO. It sometimes happens that a shipment of pesticide is sent back to the country of origin after being found to be harmful or incompatible with the Ministry of Agriculture specifications. When the active ingredient in a pesticide is below the standard, the whole shipment is returned to the manufacturer.

Some pesticides are badly packed, making the substance leak from its package and endanger the humans who come into contact with it. This is also one of the main reasons that lead to the rejection of a particular shipment of pesticides.

Pesticides made by reputable manufacturers and imported into Yemen have the instructions written on them in Arabic to make it easier for the farmer to understand. There are also instructions of how to deal with cases of allergy or poisoning by these substances. Private Yemeni distributors import pesticides from Britain (ICI), Germany (BASF and Bayer), France, Belgium, Spain, India, Pakistan. Also, the Yemeni government, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, receives an annual 12-ton consignment of pesticides by way of aid from Japan. This is used in national pest control campaigns, especially in the case of the black aphid and vine diseases. The annual amount of pesticide imported through officially obtained import permits is estimated to be around 500 to 700 tons. The total area of cultivated land is around 1,200 million hectares i.e., around half a kilo of pesticide is used per one hectare. Large quantities of pesticides that have accumulated over the last forty years were dis-

covered and destroyed in cooperation with the Dutch government and the FAO in various places in the country.

## Legislation

A draft law was endorsed by the Council of Ministers to place certain restrictions on importing, storing, packing, distributing, and using, pesticides. Every pesticide importer has to have special file at the Ministry of Agriculture to regulate his business. The importer will have to submit a special application to the Pesticides Directorate at the ministry, upon whose decision an import permit is granted. The importer also has to agree to test samples being taken from the pesticide consignment on its arrival in a Yemeni port. Ministry of Agriculture inspectors are now, by law, allowed to enter any chemical warehouse they suspect of stockpiling harmful pesticides. An application has been made by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Arab Organization for Agricultural Studies to establish a special laboratory in Yemen to help analyze the amounts of pesticide that remain in various crops after harvesting or those found in imported crops. The amount of remaining pesticide has to be within an internationally accepted tolerance limit.

## Manufacture in Yemen

Plans for establishing a plant for manufacturing pesticides are underway in cooperation with the GTZ at a cost of DM 500,000. The plant, considered to be the ninth of its kind in the world, will be run by a wholly Yemeni staff.

## Safety Period

Granted that the pesticide is used in the correct amount or dose, the safety period after which the remnant chemicals completely disintegrate or become harmless is mostly not observed by the farmers. Eager to get an early harvest and make a quick buck, especially with qat where the demand is greatest for young and succulent leaves, farmers collect the plants well before the end of the safety period specified by the pesticide manufacturer. This period ranges from a few days to three weeks, depending on the type of pesticide used. Some ignorant farmers spray their qat crop with pesticides even when it is in the lorry being taken to town. In addition to pesticides, another hazardous problem with qat is that farmers water their qat plants with iron compound solutions in order to give the leaves a lustrous ferrous color, enticing their customers.

This iron compound represents a big health hazard. Despite the fact that hot weather speeds up the disintegration of the harmful chemicals, safety periods must still be observed. Pesticides with short safety periods are often quite expensive, so farmers tend to use the cheaper pesticides with the longer safety periods.

Of course, pesticides are not only used on qat, but also on fruits and vegetables. Cereals are the least exposed to pesticides.

## Extent of the Problem

Despite the current world trend towards restricting the use of pesticides, Yemeni farmers in general still overuse and even abuse in the mistaken belief that they give a high crop yield. During 1991 to 1994 field surveys were conducted to allocate and destroy large quantities of pesticides. Work done at the pesticides analysis laboratory in 1992 resulted in documenting 170 plant diseases, 302 kinds of pests, and 150 weeds. Another field survey was conducted in Yemen during 1991 to 1994 to determine the amounts of



pesticides that remain on qat leaves. It transpired that all farmers use pesticides on qat plants, which they reap before the end of the safety period as specified by the pesticides manufacturers. It was also found that 50% of the collected vegetable specimens contained more than the allowed amount of pesticide, which is around 1mg/kg. The amounts found on qat leaves ranged from 4.2mg/kg through to 2.7mg/kg, to 1mg/kg. Moreover, blood tests done to 126 regular qat chewers indicated that more than 60% of them had various disease symptoms. Of those, 30% showed signs of pesticide intake, 23% were in serious conditions, and 7% suffered from serious health problems.



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For more information contact:

Mary Lynn Reid  
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen  
Villa 131, Hadda Street  
P. O. Box 15137  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Telephone: 269885, extension 4012  
Fax: 269913

## دعوة للمقاولين لتقديم المستندات التمهيدية للتأهيل لعقد صيانة عامة وإنشاءات بقطاع المسيلة بالجمهورية اليمنية

تدعو شركة كندية أوكسي (كنديان أوكسي)، وهي شركة استكشاف وتطوير حقول موارد نفطية وغاز طبيعي باليمن، الشركات العاملة باليمن ذات الخبرة في مجال الإنشاءات المدنية، الصيانة العامة لحقول النفط وبناء أنابيب النفط للتقدم بمستندات التأهيل لعمل كشف بالمقاولين المتقدمين. وستحصل الشركات التي يقع عليها الاختيار من الكشف المذكور على المستندات الرسمية لمناقصة عقد الصيانة العامة والإنشاءات. وسيضم هذا العقد كافة الأعمال المدنية أعلاه.

يمكن الحصول على مستندات التأهيل من البوابة الرئيسية لمكتبنا بصنعاء أو من خلال إرسال طلب كتابي عبر فاكس رقم ٢٦٩٩١٣، قبل الساعة ٣:٠٠ عصرًا بتوقيت صنعاء ٢٢ ديسمبر ١٩٩٧.

ستتم فقط الدعوة لتقديم مستندات العطاء للمقاولين القادرين على إظهار إمكانيات تولي العمل المبين أعلاه.

سيتم إصدار مستندات كندية أوكسي للتأهيل والمستندات الرسمية للمناقصة والعقد النهائي باللغة الإنجليزية فقط.

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## Healthy Crops with Dutch Assistance

By Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghashm



Due to the urgent need to redirect crop protection from pesticide oriented to environmentally safe practices, a new approach of plant protection will start at the beginning of 1998 through the cooperation

between the Yemeni government (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Netherlands government. This cooperation will be carried out through the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Project. The IPM Project will develop, validate, and implement IPM options through working closely together with farmer groups organized in IPM Farmer Field Schools.

IPM is considered the best approach in plant protection because it emphasizes the prevention of pests by integrating pest control methods into crop management operations. Farmers practicing IPM use a range of methods, including biological control, host plant resistance, cultural practices, and selective chemical control. IPM maximizes the value of the crop to farmers while minimizing environmental and health risks in a sustainable way.

The main virtues of IPM can be summarized as follows:

- Pest control becomes more efficient and

cost-effective, thus contributing to higher crop yields and productivity in agriculture;

- Farmers are less exposed to health hazards caused by pesticides, both through improved pesticide application methods and through a general reduction in pesticides use;
- Consumers obtain a produce with low or zero pesticide residues;
- Agricultural production becomes more buffered against large scale pest outbreaks because IPM emphasizes pest prevention;
- Soil, water, wildlife, and livestock are less affected by pesticide contamination;
- Foreign currency expenditures on import pesticides are reduced.

The draft of the project document was already prepared. It mentions that the activities will continue for three years, with a budget of US \$2.7 million. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has provided local funds for the general operating expenses in its budget for 1998.

The cooperation with the Netherlands government is really appreciated by the Yemeni people. It has comprised development projects in different sectors such as agriculture, health, the environment, etc. A good example of cooperation with the Netherlands government has been the cleaning up of all obsolete pesticides which have been accumulated during the last forty years in the country. Those obsolete pesticides were disposed of in one of the incinerators in Europe and most of the funds were provided by the Netherlands government. The FAO also collaborated in this matter as a supervising agency.



## Women's NGOs Meet Governmental Counterparts

Doa'a Taha Abdulqader,  
Yemen Times

Supported by the Prime Minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, and jointly organized by the Women's National Committee (WNC) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), a consultation meeting was held by several governmental and non-governmental women's organizations. Altogether, there were around 80 organizations from different parts of Yemen that discussed on two successive days - December 10 and 11 - various issues of concern to women. Despite this rather big number of both governmental organizations and NGOs, women in Yemen often find themselves without real gains, social or otherwise. So the aim of the meeting was to really get something going for women. The 300 or so participants were divided into 3 groups so as to achieve maximum coordination, draw the necessary action plans,



life of the nation." He considered this the patriotic duty of every individual. "As part of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program, the government aims to implement various programs to help vitalize women's participation in all spheres of life and to help them gain their full rights as citizens," added Dr. Bin Ghanim. Moreover, the Prime Minister also called on all political parties,

Amatulaleem Al-Soswa has emphasized the necessity for women to actively take part public life. She said, "women will have to bear a lot of responsibility in the development process." She specifically mentioned the restrictive current Personal Status Law and other legislation as the obstacles that have to be removed in order to allow women a bigger role in Yemen's life.

About 80% of women in Yemen are illiterate. Eradicating illiteracy is the first step towards liberating women from the constraints of ignorance and marginalization.

The participants made the following recommendations:

- 1- More coordination should be done between governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- 2- More attention must be given to eradicating female illiteracy.
- 3- A special law must be enacted to control and regulate NGO activity
- 4- Rules and regulations must be introduced to govern the means of getting international funding.
- 5- Special policies and strategies must be introduced to deal with the problems of poverty, disease, education, etc.
- 6- A fully staffed information unit must be established to produce information items for governmental and non-governmental organizations.

civic societies, and intellectuals to closely study women and family issues, and to try to raise women awareness of their political and legal rights. The WNC chairman and Deputy Minister of Information, Ms



and to avoid having the same goals by different organizations. In his opening speech, the Prime Minister stressed "the government's great interest in increasing women's participation in the political, social, and economic

## Caracal Lynx

It is a carnivorous mammal known as "felis caracal", and unlike any other cat family, it has two black vesicles of hair above his ears.

The animal has not been found in Saudi Arabia that it is likely to be dying out. Here, in Yemen, there is no definite information about its surviving numbers. On the other hand, two of them were caught, one in Taiz and the other in Sana'a.

Caracal lynx lives in mountains and deserts, and is likely to be found in Abien, Lahj, Taiz and Hadramout according to people who live there. It is, though, a target for people who hunt it because it lives on their domestic animals. So, it is a necessity to prevent this animal from dying out and try to improve its reproduction by the following steps:

Firstly: To have the reproduction of the animal greatly improved by following correct scientific methods.

Secondly: To stop people from hunting the animal and give them money in exchange for their animals killed by the lynx.

Thirdly: To collect all captured animals and search for some suitable place for them to live in.



Sadik Yahya Al-Osaimi  
In charge of the bio-deversity

## Al-Shihr The town of incense



Situated on the Indian Ocean, in the governorate of Hadramaut and 60 km from Mukalla, lies Al-Shihr. The town was known as As'ayan in biblical times and was the capital of the sultanate including Mukallah until 1910. Up to the forties it was the centre of boat traffic headed for the East Indies, Africa and the gulf. Now the large commercial trade has been taken over by the port at Mukallah while Al-Shihr is left with the local fishing trade. Locals recall the days where the town was a major cross-

and gums that are extracted and chewed and are not necessarily burnt for their odour. The third use is called "dukhna", a mixture of several ingredients burnt to create the smoke that according to Yemeni traditions is supposed to keep malignant spirits out of the home. In the Yemeni home one finds the classic square shaped incense holders, the "miqtara", with a removable perforated lid: these are used to contain bits of coal laden with incense. Yemeni merchants carry other different shaped incense holders with richly hand carved, perforated oval bodies and round bases in baked clay.

For what occasions are incense used in Yemeni society? Newborns are customarily placed in contact with the perfume just after birth to give



roads and center for the incense trade.

Traditionally the collection of incense was left to Somalis who were familiar with the plants that grew in their country of origin. Today bedouins have almost completely replaced them and the incense crop is much less. These are the only people left to collect the fragrance for ports on the Indian Sea and the villages of Hadramaut.

There are traders like Jami' the Somali who sells his odorous resins to buyers every day. He passed his childhood at the village market and at the port unloaded boats loaded with fish. Then he began to accompany his father to collect some incense. The harvesters worked in a group of four to six going up the mountains on foot and stayed over at some of the grottoes scattered about. Systematically the mountains were scaled to discover the incense plants of interest and then the group returned to the village after a week. Twenty days later they would return to the same site to find the incense in the form of resins.

This meant cutting down the main branches, drying the plant material and breaking them to be transported in 45 kg bags. They collected every evening what they selected during the day and then returned to sleep at their grottoes. Not having camels, the Somalis get the bedouins to carry the merchandise to the markets at Say'un, Tarim, Shibam and Al-Shihr. Once at the coast the incense is loaded on boats for the Red Sea and beyond.

The main uses of the incense are for "bakhur", where the product is burned for its pleasant odor. The second, "luban", refers to the perfumed resins

them strength to fight off evil spirits. The infant is kept in contact with a smoking "miqtara" for forty days. According to tradition a hemorrhaging mother during birth inhales the smoke of the "hasima" plant so that it enters her system and coagulates the blood.

Children are given "luban mita" to chew for pleasure. Traditional weddings are another place where the "miqtara" is used: wedding guests are received by the bride holding the square incense box and the smoke is directed to their chests and throats. "Dukhna" has had the reputation of seducing the men and the women cover their clothes and hair to get this effect. Similarly the women smoke their clothes with the same incense during "mawalid" religious occasions. When death strikes, "luban bawadi" is burnt to protect the household against the third eye. Perfumes are also used for medicinal purposes: "zamuta" is used for a stuffy nose and "samugh" is mixed with an egg and administered for chest pains. Through these various examples of incenses use, the observer can see its social importance in the daily lives of the Al-Shihr people.

(This article was adapted from the second issue of the French review, SABA 1997, pgs. 21- 23)

by Martin Dansky, Yemen Times

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**وأسماء حسن الحيفي**  
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## Afghans Veterans in Pakistan

Once the war was won, Afghan veterans poured into Pakistan and local newspapers have criticized the police and intelligence agencies in Karachi for making little effort in tracking down the renegades. Pakistani secret service officials were accused of going soft on Afghan war veterans. While Americans had no problem turning their guns against their former comrades in the war against the Soviet Union, it was impossible for the Pakistani security officials to show a similar response.

To this day, Pakistan is accused of funding the hardline Taliban movement, which now controls two-thirds of Afghanistan. Islamabad denies the charge and blames Iran of supporting the anti-Taliban coalition.

Residents point to the attacks on Americans and Iranians as symptomatic of the continuing link with the Afghan crisis. Financial analysts say Pakistan will lose much of its drive for foreign investment and domestic political stability if it does not set its house in order.

## Oil-For-Food Report Harshly Criticized

A senior UN official in Baghdad has sharply criticized Secretary-General Kofi Annan for not asking more forcefully for monetary and other improvements in the oil-for-food program, now up for renewal.

Annan, in a 1st December report to the Security Council, suggested the Security Council increase the \$2 billion in oil Iraq can sell every six months to purchase food, medicine and other goods for its people. But he refrained from proposing a figure, although UN sources said he had considered one.

Denis Halliday, the UN coordinator of the program, in a letter to Annan on Tuesday, noted that France, Russia and China wanted to double the amount of oil Iraq could sell because of the humanitarian crisis caused by sanctions.

Of the \$2 billion in oil sold, Iraq receives about \$1.32 billion for the purchase of humanitarian supplies. The rest is earmarked for Gulf War reparations and other costs. The so-called oil-for-food deal is an exception to the sweeping trade sanctions imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq has made similar complaints, blaming the United States for delaying contracts. It also said it would not agree to a renewal unless changes in procedures were made, but the council intends to roll over the current program anyway.

## Sahara Conflict

In 1990 the UN brokered a settlement between Morocco and the Popular Liberation Front of Segwa el Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), effectively ending the territory's 15-year civil war. In it POLISARIO and Morocco agreed to submit their dispute over control of the former Spanish colony to a popular vote. A year later, a cease-fire came into force and the UN mission on the referendum in Western Sahara was assigned to monitor compliance of the truce.

By mid-1994 the UN began the tedious task of voter identification and registration for the territory's referendum. Although the referendum has been delayed several times, it is scheduled to take place some time this year. The fact that the long-awaited referendum has become a tangible possibility has overshadowed disappointment over the delays.

A political and military organization formed in 1980 nominally from Western Sahara, the POLIS-

ARIO army, has been trained and supported by Algeria. The people who fight this battle are volunteers. Moroccan air-raids have discouraged Western Saharan civilians from settling there.

Although satisfying both parties remains a difficult task, a resolution of the Western Saharan problem may now be possible because of the referendum. For the first time both POLISARIO and the Moroccan government agree about the results of a population census carried out by Spain in 1974. The census was taken to discover the number of Western Saharans who are eligible to vote. It yielded a figure of approximately 80,000.

## GCC Firms See Opportunities in Africa

The UAE's neighbors in the GCC turned out in strength for the Afro-Arab Trade Fair, with all the Gulf states fielding big contingents in their quest to win a slice of the business potential in both the Middle East as well as the vast and virtually untapped African market. Heading the list was Bahrain with 54 industrial companies represented at its pavilion.

Bahrain is bidding to host the fifth Afro-Arab Trade Fair in the International Exhibition Center. The fourth Afro-Arab Trade Fair is to be held in Dakar in 1999.

The Kuwaiti pavilion represented 25 companies. Qatar's pavilion featured 23 firms represented by 30 businessmen. The country, another first-time entrant to the Afro-Arab Trade Fair. The Qatari economy was on the march, with the development of the natural gas sector likely to start paying off by the year 2000.

The Omani pavilion, which had 20 companies, reported local inquiries for detergents, foodstuffs, mineral water and garment accessories.

Saudi Arabia, the senior GCC member, also had a sizable presence, with 19 companies. Among the multinationals are firms representing the construction industry, foodstuff and beverage manufacturers, and chemical producers.

## Qatar to Host Next OIC Summit

Qatar will host the next Islamic summit due to be held in the year 2000, said a declaration issued at the end of the eighth summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Tehran, Iran on Thursday.

The decision was adopted unanimously at the end of the three-day conference which was attended by 55 OIC member states. After it was announced that Qatar will host the ninth OIC summit, Muslim leaders congratulated the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who led the Qatari delegation at the Tehran conference. The Emir affirmed that Qatar will exert utmost efforts and pool all its resources for the full success of the 9th Islamic summit, to serve Islamic causes and the Muslims worldwide.

Meanwhile, Muslim leaders blasted Israel at the summit and condemned terrorism in the name of Islam. But their Tehran declaration, which denounced the Jewish state for its occupation of Arab land, "expansionist policies" and "state terrorism", made no mention of US-led Middle East peace efforts. The omission was a nod to the host Iran, which has long decried the peace process as unjust to Palestinians. It also reflected Arab and Muslim frustration at Washington's seeming inability or unwillingness to change Israel's tough stance. Leaders of the OIC declared their "resolve and determination to regain the holy city of Al Quds (Jerusalem) and Al-Aqsa Mosque and to restore the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people..."

## Sudanese Opposition Groups

Although John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA) represents the most viable military resistance to the regime in Khartoum, it has been plagued by in-fighting and splits since 1991. Barely eight years after the inception of the SPLM/SPLA, Garang found himself caught up between the southern Sudanese people's hope to have a state of their own and his movement, which was reluctant to part with the rest of the Sudan. A fundamental schism following logistical crises broke the movement apart in 1991.

After Ethiopian President Mengistu, once a full supporter of the SPLM/SPLA and its main supplier of Soviet-made weapons, was ousted, the new government in Addis Ababa dismantled the SPLM/SPLA's base in Ethiopia and cut off the movement's use of Ethiopian radio.

At the time, Garang's vision of a "new, united, secular and democratic" Sudan was not shared by many southerners and even some of SPLM/SPLA senior commanders had begun to quietly grumble. Khartoum unleashed an offensive against the divided and demoralized SPLM/SPLA, and government forces swept the rebels out of towns they had previously captured.

# CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Tony J. Azar, of 1038 Lesperance Road, Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W8, is the sole Owner and Proprietor of the patent entitled:

## "CONCRETE BUILDING BLOCKS"

(corresponding to U. S. Patent Application No. 08/761,983 filed on December 11, 1996 and U. S. Continuation-In-Part Application filed on November 19, 1997)

### Abstract of the Invention:

The invention relates to the field of building blocks, in particular concrete building blocks. The present invention provides a novel dry stack building block, in a stretcher embodiment, and a corner embodiment. The object of the invention is to provide a novel dry stacking, interlocking concrete block that has a stretcher and corner embodiment of similar overall dimensions. Such a block can be utilized to dry stack a wall, with such corners as are desired by the builder rather than dictated by the block, in the traditional strong stretcher bond pattern of block laying. A further object of the invention is to provide a dry stack lock that is provided with a surface that is grooved to permit fast and efficient drainage from the faces thereof. In a broad aspect, then, the invention relates to a building block comprising two substantially congruent rectangular panels joined together by at least one web extending transverse thereto, said patents having vertical end edge that are notched to interfit with the end edges of the panels of adjacent said blocks in a vertical joint therewith.

The said Owner claims all rights in respect of the above patent and will take all legal steps against any person, firm or corporation infringing their rights in the said patent in Republic of Yemen

## Ministry of Industry Tender Announcement for Liquidation

According to the rules and regulations of law no. (35) for the year 1991 related to public enterprises, companies and authorities and its amendment by law no (7) for the year 1997. And in implementation of the Council of Minister's Resolution no. (295) dated 27/11/1996 regarding liquidation of industrial enterprises,

**The Ministry of Industry Announces** the availability of the tender documents relating to liquidation of the following industrial organizations and factories

- 1- Al Mansoor Weaving and Spinning Industrial Enterprise
- 2- Tomato Paste Factory - Al Foush, Lahej Governorate

Those interested (companies, enterprises, authorities and individuals) are requested to:-

- 1) Submit their bids on tender forms which can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fees 5.000 Yemen rials for each form starting Saturday 6th Dec, 1997 at:  
**The Financial Department (fifth floor)**  
**Ministry of Industry - Aden Branch**
- 2) All bids must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (BID VIBD) valid for 90 days from the below specified date in accordance with the conditions in the tender documents.
- 3) Last date to handover bids in a closed red waxed sealed envelope addressed to:  
**General Director, Aden Branch Ministry of Industry, is 10.00 am Monday 9th Feb. 1998. Envelopes will be opened in presence to tenderers and/or their representatives at 11.00 am on the above mentioned date.**

## اعلان مزاد علني بشأن تصفية بعض المؤسسات الصناعية العامة

استناداً إلى أحكام القانون رقم (٣٥) لعام ١٩٩١ بشأن المؤسسات والشركات والهيئات العامة وتعديلاته بالقانون رقم (٧) لعام ١٩٩٧، وتنفيذاً لقرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (٢٩٥) بشأن تصفية المؤسسات الصناعية، تعلن وزارة الصناعة عن توفر الوثائق الخاصة ببيع وتصفية المرافق الصناعية التالية:

- (١) المؤسسة اليمنية للصناعات النسيجية
- (٢) مصنع معجون الطماطم - الفيوش - محافظة لحج

فعلى الراغبين (من الشركات والمؤسسات والهيئات والأفراد) المشاركة في المزاد العلني المذكور اعلان تقديم عطاءاتهم على كراسة العطاءات المتوفرة والممكن شراؤها اعتباراً من يوم السبت الموافق ٦ ديسمبر ١٩٩٧ من الدائرة المالية - الدور الخامس - بمبنى وزارة الصناعة - فرع محافظة عدن مقابل مبلغ لا يرد قدره (٥.٠٠٠) ريال يمني، آخذين بعين الاعتبار مايلي:  
(١) ارفاق ضمان بنكي وفقاً للشروط الواردة في كراسة العطاء ساري مفعول لمدة تسعين يوماً اعتباراً من التاريخ المذكور اعلاه  
(٢) آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشع الأحمر باسم مدير عام مكتب وزارة الصناعة - محافظة عدن الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم الاثنين الموافق ٩ فبراير ١٩٩٨. ويستتم فتح المظاريف بحضور مقدمي العطاءات او من يمثلهم في تمام الساعة الحادية عشرة من صباح نفس اليوم المذكور اعلاه.

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# A New Book on the Regional Real Politick Blame it All on the Americans

Athawabit Journal, a monthly periodical that produces highly valuable documentaries and studies, is going to publish in January, 1998, a book entitled *The Significance of Yemen's Position at the Corner of the Red Sea: Implications for Future Relations with the Gulf Cooperative Council's Member States*. The author, Akram Al-Aghbari, is a diplomat who has spent many years studying the region's politics. He had served, outside of Yemen, in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco. He is now the head of the Yemeni Consulate-General in Bombay, India.

Yemen Times is happy to reproduce the Foreword by Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari, Chief Editor of Athawabit and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. This is followed by a summary of the main chapters of the book.

## The Foreword:

After reviewing Mr. Al-Aghbari's *The Strategic Significance of Yemen's Position at the Corner of the Red Sea: Implications for Future Relations with the Gulf Cooperative Council's Member States*, I was elated by the futuristic outlook of the author vis-a-vis the problems, issues and challenges currently re-shaping the very identity of the people in this part of the world. It is because of this that the Editorial Board of *Athawabit Journal* decided unanimously to publish the study in order to make this scholarly work readily accessible to the public and research specialists in the region. It is our ultimate hope that such studies will enrich our politics by generating an appropriate platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas among individuals and scholars within the region.

The study under consideration proceeds with the assumption that the present needs and future aspirations of all countries overlooking the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf are interlocked and that Yemen, particularly after unification, is well equipped to contribute positively to the process of regional integration where manpower and natural resources are amalgamated for the betterment of all the people in the Arabian Peninsula.

The author argues that without proper awareness of the necessity to integrate and muster resources together, countries of the region may fail to measure-up to the challenges lying ahead in the 21st century and beyond. He believes that there are some inherent conflicts of interest among regimes in the region, and that sporadic disputes are frequently ignited by international powers. The study thus highlights the role(s) deemed essential for regional states to play vis-a-vis international powers in order to guarantee the security & stability of the whole region - within the framework of a new regional order. It throws doubts about the plausibility of the so called New World Order which has gained credibility following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The author argues that despite claims to the contrary, the New World Order and similar concepts such as 'Globalization' would ultimately fail to replace other ideologies pertaining to the unique as well as the shared interests of a particular nation and/or region. Mr. Al-Aghbari's study provides an in-depth analysis of the major events which engulfed the region from a geo-political point of view.

He maintains that the Iranian Islamic Revolution and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan posed significant threats to the US vital interests in the region. The US responded by reinforcing its military presence in the Red and Arabian Sea.

The US's 6th and 7th Fleets were stationed in the region and were adequately equipped with striking air-force power together with rapid deployment capability. This marked the beginning of a long-term strategy to address the threats posed by the Soviet Union and its surrogate states.

The US strategy has always depended on manipulating differences among states of the region in the best interests of its own policy. With this background clearly in mind, the Iran-Iraq War was ignited marking the beginning of the First Gulf War. Regional and ethnic disputes also flared up on the other side of the Red Sea leading to the complete dissolution of the state structure in Somalia.

Revolutionary rhetoric liberation in Eritrea and Ethiopia were prompted. By 1990, the US foreign policy started to pay dividends as the whole region was rid of any Soviet influence. The US shows full understanding of the old Roman's dictum which stipulates that, "He who Controls the Red Sea, Controls the World".

It is against this background that Yemen achieved unification on May 22, 1990. Despite the heavy and

ugly effects of the Second Gulf War, the author argues that Yemen has maintained, quite consistently, a reconciliatory position towards all countries in the region. The border dispute with Oman was resolved peacefully. Yemen opted for international arbitration to resolve its dispute with Eritrea over the Greater Hunaish Island. Furthermore, border talks with Saudi Arabia are conducted in the most responsible and cordial manner. In all these undertakings, Yemen's foreign policy has been dictated by a deeply rooted conviction that is part and parcel of the Gulf Cooperative Council both geographically and culturally.

Despite the comprehensive nature of the research study, the author fails to refer to the new arrangements of the countries on the rim of the Indian Ocean which includes Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman. Will it be possible for instance for Yemen and Oman to maintain their membership in such an economic bloc without infringing upon their other regional affiliations?

Mr. Al-Aghbari's study constitutes a valuable contribution to scholarly research on the geo-politics of this region. It is hoped that the study will assist policy-makers in properly assessing the current situation and in taking appropriate measures to avoid falling prey to the super powers' policies and designs on the region.

## The Summary:

This is a study that seeks to show the international and regional rumblings in the Red Sea region and the effects they have on the stability of the area, the shipping lines and on the flow of oil. To do that, we highlight the roles that various regional and international forces play in the region. But there is a focus - Yemen. There is a discussion of its new stature, its human resources, and its relative growth and potential - economically and militarily.

The book starts with an introduction that deals with the importance of the Red Sea from a strategic point of view. Then there are three chapters, and a conclusion followed by a lengthy list of references.

The first issue to be dealt with comes under the heading of "The New Security Environment". It digs deep into 50 years of history and traces the beginnings of a bipolar world. It details the power division, with its elements of conflict and confrontation instigated by the friction between the two superpowers. Thus the world witnessed a continuous arms race, numerous threats of big wars, proxy wars, and numerous flare-ups here and there. The world witnessed iron walls and wars of disinformation. It witnessed spy missions that have helped create the interesting series of James Bond movies and other theatricals.

That was the situation in many African, Asian, and Latin American countries, which were plagued by instability in most of the cold war period. With the coming of the new international political order and the corollary transformations, there was hope for some level of stability. But the removal of the real politick of the Cold War period was replaced by new sources of conflict. The realities and balances that correspond to the uni-polar power situation that prevails now has its own problems.

America leads and directs today. Nay, America dictates today. In all sectors of life - economics, trade, warfare, environment, etc., you name it, they are all sponsored by the USA. This American-led trend, has a lot of shortsightedness and bottlenecks leading to tensions and conflicts, locally and regionally. Some of these are serious and they threaten local, regional and world peace. The first chapter of the book concludes by delving deeply into the roles played by the international powers in the Red Sea region, going into the American and French roles and then the British and the Japanese roles.

In the second major chapter, the book discusses the new regional security environment. At the same time, it tries to clarify the effects of the accelerating political events at the international and regional levels and the American efforts to capitalize on these developments. It tries to show that these conflicts end up serving the interest of the USA. It even goes to the extent of stating that conflicts are created for the sole purpose of enhancing the American interests.

The chapter takes a precarious stand by discussing the mishaps of the Arab World in its 'conflict of civilizations with the West', which has taken the form of an Arab-Zionist struggle. "This has put the Arab World in confusion, and thus weakened its

position severely." The loss of the Soviet Union's role was more than made up by the expansion of the American Israeli role in a number of strategic areas in the Arab World. The end result of this new role is "to seek to dilute the Arab identity of the area, through projects under such themes as Middle Eastern bloc projects and a new regional order. All of those actions and plans to help Israel establish its political and military domination of the region. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait contributed to the dominance of the United States and to the collapse of the regional Arab order. The result is a new regional balance of power and the realization of American strategic aims in a number of significant areas and in throwing the Palestinian issue to the back burner. The US hegemony cannot be seen more than in the Gulf region. The American full control of the situation approaches, in the Gulf, an occupation of that area. As for the Red Sea area, preparations are under way for new realities and transformations. Yemen's problems (the Hunaish) islands, the new conflicting claims and disorder regarding the straits and shipping lines are part of the formation of an East African bloc.

This is no doubt that this situation is going to lead to more instability and tension in local, regional and international affairs. This is due to the inability of the local parties to absorb the current developments and interactions, and to adapt them in a manner that will maintain the national economic, political and security interests of those countries. This is because of conditions and external factors which would help in overcoming this confusion with the least possible loss.

Under the title of the new security environment, the author discusses in the 3rd chapter, the determinants of this new environment such as the Somali Civil War. The war for the defense of the unity of Yemen, is also among them. The book records the factors that had a direct impact on deciding the conflict in favor of unity and constitutional legitimacy. He attributes the victory of unity to the Yemeni people's strong support for unity, the dem-

ocratic experiment, and the desire to consolidate the internal front. It also refers to the wisdom of the leadership, and its distinctive ability to manage problematic situations, in addition to its ability to interact with political developments as they evolve and in response to public political opinion. Among the determinants, the book also discusses events in the Sudan, then the military and political developments in the Great Lakes Area.

Violent developments have overshadowed the entire region, and that is the main theme of the conclusion. Indicators of the events in the region show that unless the present security concerns are resolved on a just and equitable basis, the situation will remain volatile and susceptible to more violence and complications.

The indicators compel the Arab Nation to strive towards political consensus, political and economic harmony and coordination in security matters. It also treats the deterioration and collapse of Somalia as an important factor in the developments of the region. It also discusses the potential complications in the Red Sea to be caused by a "suspicious political regime in Eritrea", the continuation of the armed rebellion in South Sudan and the violent developments in the Great Lakes area. All of these call for an awakening and the exercise of caution by the Arab nation, especially Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the other Arab states that are overlooking the Red Sea.

Against this backdrop of events in international, regional and local events, Yemen is striving to pursue an active foreign policy. Yemen's relations with the Gulf Coordination Council countries, are witnessing noises that indicate the existence of a serious effort towards rapprochement and stronger relations. This is in light of the new Yemeni-Saudi consultations and discussions, and the visit of Kuwait intellectuals and the recent statements of the Kuwait Foreign Minister. Such trends could lead to overcoming the results of the Second Gulf War and the improvement of Yemen's relations with the Gulf Coordination Council.

## الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - عدن

المؤتمر الثاني لرجال المال والأعمال بـعدن

٢٢ - ٢٣ ديسمبر ١٩٩٧م

تحت رعاية الأخ / الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

وبتمويل من

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركائه

بعد النجاح الكبير الذي تحقق للمؤتمر الأول لرجال المال والأعمال الذي انعقد في عدن العام الماضي، تسعى الغرفة التجارية لصناعية - عدن إلى أحداث قفزة نوعية في عملها بترتيب المؤتمر الثاني لرجال المال والأعمال، وسيشارك في جلساته الأخ / رئيس مجلس الوزراء وعدد من الوزراء المختصين وكذا عدد من المدراء ذوي العلاقة بالتجارة والاستثمار.

حيث تتضمن الفعاليات الأساسية للمؤتمر:

- لقاء الأخ / رئيس مجلس الوزراء وعدد من الوزراء برجال المال والأعمال لمناقشتهم بشفاافية حول هموم ومشاكل التجارة والاستثمار.

- الاستماع إلى عرض تفصيلي حول فرص وشروط الاستثمار في المنطقة الحرة بـعدن وخاصة مع الجدية الحالية لاستكمال ميناء الحاويات وقرب افتتاح المنطقة الحرة بـعدن.

فعلى من لديه الرغبة في حضور المؤتمر الحضور أو الاتصال بالغرفة التجارية الصناعية بـعدن للحصول على وثائق المؤتمر.

تاليفون: ٢٢١١٧٦ / ٢٥١١٠٤ / ٢٥٥٤٤٦، فاكس ٢٥٥٦٦٠



# Yemen on Russian Canvas

"The East and West, are always different. This is good but they don't believe each other, don't understand each other. I would like to mix them, at least on canvas to create a beautiful carpet and wonderful garden, understandable for both." Kravtchenko



Kravtchenko, was held from 12th to 14th of December at the Czech Embassy in Sanaa. During the exhibition, there was an official presentation of the book by the Czech charge d' affairs, Jiri Cingros. "To Be A Doctor To Yourself." The



included 23 paintings depicting various Yemeni scenes. Kravtchenko, 60, started painting when he was 37 years old.

Eastern culture is deeply rooted in him because his ancestors lived in Asia right from the end of the last century. He was born in Ashchabad and graduated from the Tashkent Institute of Arts. He is greatly influenced by the Russian artists Alexander Volcov and Vilakiady Stal.

**Hayyaf Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times met Kravtchenko at his exhibition.**

**Q: What has attracted you to Yemen?**

**A:** This is my second visit to Yemen. In my mind, I had a picture of Yemen which made it like birds and, sometimes I imagined as if Yemen is a country of jinn. I went around most of Yemen's cities such as Aden, Manakha, Hodeida. I really admired the scenery there which are reflected in most of my paintings.

**Q: What school do you follow in your paintings?**

**A:** My present paintings embody realism because surrealism and impressionism and other schools were in my previous exhibitions. My aim is to express all that is in nature without going through these artistic schools.

**Q: Are you influenced by some artists?**

**A:** I consider Rembrandt as my first teacher. He is a real artist and he is an example to most of other artists.



# Al-Ameen trilogy: Legend, Man and Environment



An exhibition of the Yemeni artist Abdullah Al-Ameen was held at the French Cultural Center in Sanaa on December 1st. The exhibition was preceded by a seminar which attracted some people who came to value his works.

Aden-born Abdullah Al-Ameen, 43, is a plastic artist, with a masters degree in applied arts and a diploma in renovating paintings from the former Soviet Union. He participated in several exhibitions in different countries, in the Arab World and abroad. He won the Gold Sail prize in Kuwait in 1987.

His paintings give importance to legend, man and the environment. As a cultured person, Al-Ameen is inspired by the life of the common people of his country. His works have a sense of a revolution against the present situation, which gives, to one who watches his paintings, an impression that Al-Ameen, with his absurdity, means ambition and imagination. He says, "I aim to express some of my feelings and memories through paintings." Al-Ameen is inspired by legend, tradition, architecture, religious ceremonies, the sun, the new moon, birds, fish, mermaids, etc.



## ANOTHER FEATHER IN SHERATON'S CAP



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**ALWAHDAMI:**  
Sanaa weekly,  
9-12-97.

**(Nasserite Unionist Party)**  
**Main Headlines:**

1- Encouraged by regional and international powers, Yemen may resort to international arbitration in border dispute with Saudi Arabia

2- Saudi Arabia denies involvement in Aden bomb explosions, but acknowledges support for exiled opposition group - MOWJ  
3- Sheikhs ask for YR 120,000 to mediate in releasing two sons of a Haraz sheikh abducted by a Jawf sheikh, state remains a spectator

**Article Summary:**  
**Syrian Suspect Confesses...**

The Syrian prime suspect in the Aden bomb explosions, Nabeel Natikly, has confessed to being on the payroll of Saudi Arabia and that he was sent to Yemen to carry out acts of sabotage and attempt to assassinate the Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani. He said that he received extensive training in Saudi Arabia, along with 2 Lebanese, 5 Saudis and a Tunisian. His assignment was to try to poison the door handle of Al-Iryani's car! Natikly was arrested after shooting an Italian tourist in a Sanaa hotel.

During the trial in Aden, the suspects have exposed parts of their bodies showing signs of torture, which they alleged were the result of 'interrogation'.

**AL-UMMA:**  
Sanaa weekly,  
11-12-97  
(Al-Haqq Party)

**Main Headlines:**

# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

1- Syrian security officers take part in questioning Syrian suspect in connection with Aden bomb explosions  
2- Saudi Arabia demands the annexation of more Yemeni territory in Thamood  
3- Organization of Islamic Countries' summit brings some stability to the region

**Article Summary:**  
**Hunger Strike**

The health conditions of several opposition figures in Al-Munawwra prison in Mukalla have deteriorated due to the indefinite hunger strike they started on December 3rd. The Socialist Party member Hassan Ba-Awm and Rabita member Mohsin Al-Amoodi both suffer from physical debilitation. Another prisoner, Ali Al-Kotheiri was released from prison and put under house arrest due to his serious health condition.

The prisoners started the strike in protest over the inhumane conditions and physical abuse in the prison as well as being detained for more than a month without being officially charged.

The Opposition Coordination Council has rejected an offer by the prosecutor to release the prisoners in return for refraining from any acts of protest.

**AL-SHOORAH:**  
Sanaa weekly,  
7-12-97.

**(Federation of Popular Forces)**  
**Main Headlines:**

1- Judge trying Mahara saboteurs sends prosecutor to investigate their conditions in Sanaa Central Prison, while they demand the showing of 2 video films shot during interrogation  
2- Police brutally broke up a peaceful demonstration in Hawta, Lahaj, organized by Opposition Coordination Council  
3- Shifting sand dunes spreading across Aden-Abyan road led to 6 people killed and 10 injured in 3 separate traffic incidents  
4- RPG missile fired at house in a village in Shabwa caused widespread panic among residents

**Article Summary:**  
**Shekels in Hodeida**

While tending his flock, a shepherd in northern Hodeida found a small sack full of banknotes on the side of a dirt road often used by shepherds in that area. Upon taking the money to the nearest currency exchange shop in town, it was discovered that the banknotes were 30,000 worth of Israeli shekels. The exchange shop owner refused to change the money. Some of the people that gathered at the shop commented that this incident was

part of normalizing relations with Israel; while, others said it was one of the mysteries of the sea!

**AL-THAWRI:**  
Sanaa weekly,  
11-12-97.  
(Yemeni

**Socialist Party)**  
**Main Headlines:**

1- YSP organizes 20,000-strong mass rally to celebrate re-opening its offices in Taiz  
2- YSP Secretary-General and other opposition leaders visited Hadhramaut and called for release of opposition detainees  
3- Harsh living conditions led two young men in Lahaj to commit suicide, 5 similar incidents took place in the same area during last 6 months  
4- Verbal row led director of Ba-Soheib military hospital to lock up a dentist in the bathroom

**Article Summary:**  
**US Government Sued**

A law suit was brought before the North Sanaa court against the US government, as represented by its ambassador in Sanaa. The object of the case is that the US embassy in Sanaa had withdrawn the US passport of 15-year-old Saad Abdullah Saad, American born to Yemeni parents. Saad was born in 1982 in Indiana, US, while his father - a well-known journalist -

was studying there. The passport was confiscated when the boy and his parents went to renew it at the US embassy. Saad's name was announced at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa during the 1994 civil war as a US citizen eligible to be evacuated to the US.

numbers of semi-illiterate graduates who are only good for becoming government clerks and penpushers. Many others remain unemployed.

**AL-JAMAHEER**  
Sanaa weekly,  
11-12-97.

**(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)**  
**Main Headlines:**

1- 30,000 Yemeni workers were deported from Saudi Arabia with just the barest of personal belongings  
2- Dutch government provides \$2.5 million to improve National Museum in Sanaa  
3- Expired tinned food is sold in Lahaj, Taiz, and Mahweet at 80% less than normal prices  
4- Public Funds court in Abyan retrieves YR 7 million out of YR 12 million of embezzled money  
5- Ba'ath Secretary-General: "Iraq bears the pain for others."

**Article Summary:**  
**Burglary at National Museum**

Four pieces of antiques recently stolen from the National Museum were seized by police on Monday, December 8th and the burglar was referred to the prosecutor. This incident, however, is only one in series of similar robberies.

A report submitted to parliament by the Culture and Information Committee has indicated that 258 pieces of artifacts had been stolen from the offices of the Antiquities Authority.

The Omani authorities seized 9 pieces of Himyarite antiques while being smuggled out of Yemen and into Oman. They notified the Yemeni government which did nothing about it.

**AL-WAHDA:**  
Sanaa weekly,  
10-12-97.  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

1- The President met outgoing American Ambassador to discuss issues of mutual interest to Yemen & US  
2- Mukalla prosecutor-general: "Socialist Party member Ba-Awm was referred to court only after extensive investigations that uncovered solid evidence against him."  
3- Yemen and 6 other Arab countries agree to fully implement Arab common market as of next January, customs duties to be lifted  
4- UNHCR Representative: "Yemen is a exemplary country in treating refugees."

**Article Summary:**  
**Universities without Research**  
**By Yahya Al-Hakeem**

In an age of rapid scientific developments, Yemen still lacks any proper institutions for scientific research. Upon the establishment of the Republic of Yemen in 1990, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research came into being. Optimism did not last long. That ministry was abolished after the 1993 general elections. Yemeni universities in general do not care about actual scientific research. All they do is create large

## YAFA Honors Departing US Ambassador



On Thursday, December 11th, the Yemen-American Friendship Association (YAFA) hosted a farewell dinner for H.E. Mr. David Newton, US ambassador in Sanaa, and his

wife, Christa. The couple, old friends of Yemen left the country on the 14th at the end of their 3rd assignment in Yemen. Many friends gathered to bid them farewell.

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## Minister of Youth and Sports Honors Golden Champ

A special celebration in the honor of the Yemeni champion, Waddah Al-Maqrami who secured the 1st place in West-Asian Taekwondo contests, was held in the Ministry of Youth and sports. The celebration was attended by Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh, the Minister of Youth and Sports; Sheikh Mohammed Al-Matari, the minister's advisor and some sports officials, representatives of various sports clubs as well as the head and members of the Yemeni Taekwondo Association.

Yemeni Olympic Committee. This is considered to be the biggest amount of money ever given to a Yemeni champion by the two institutions. On another level, the Yemeni Taekwondo Association has decided to promote the Yemeni champion from a '1 Dan' Black Belt to '2 Dan' Black Belt in a special celebration later on. Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi declared that supporting those Yemeni athletes, who secure international championships, will be continue. "It will not stop here, but the

## Sponsored by Korean Embassy: Taekwondo Association Organizes Match

The secretary of Yemeni Taekwondo Association, Mr. Yahya Dogheish, announced that a Taekwondo championship - the Korean Ambassador's Cup - will be organized in Sana'a during 22nd - 26th of December. Six teams from Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Al-Hodeidah, Al-Baida and Lahj will participate in the championship. Six weights are specified for the participating athletes; 50 kg, 54 kg, 57 kg, 64 kg and 70kg. Every match will consists of 3 rounds, two minutes each. Five scores will be for the first place, 3 scores for the second and 1 for the last position. Every team will include six athletes, a director and a trainer. The championship will be held, for the first time, at the High Institute of Physical Education hall in Sana'a.

Taekwondo is one of the sports that appeared in Korea a long time ago. The Korean Embassy undertook to support Taekwondo in Yemen by inviting a number of qualified Korean trainers and contributing with a lot of sport equipment. There is an on-going cooperation, between the Korean Embassy on the one hand and the Yemeni Taekwondo Association and the Ministry of Youth and Sport on the other, to support the sport of Taekwondo in Yemen. Already, there is visible youth interest in this growing sport.

## Naseem vs Kevin: THE BIG FIGHT

At last, the Prince's dream has come true. He is to defend his featherweight title against the American Kevin Kelly on December 19th in Las Vegas, playing for the first time outside Britain.

Naseem assured his fans that he will remain the sole champion by defeating Kelly "with a knock out in the third round." Kevin Kelly is considered one of the most powerful featherweight boxers. He only lost two fights out of the 52 he took part in. Boxing commentators expect this fight to be the most challenging for Naseem. "I know that Kelly is a powerful boxer, but I'll beat him because I am the best in the world," said Naseem to American journalists. Large numbers of the Yemeni expatriates in the US started booking their seats already. It is expected that around 50,000 Yemeni and Arab spectators will attend the match. This match will be a golden



In his opening speech, Dr. Raweh said, "this victory is an achievement which we are all proud of, and behalf of all the people present here, I congratulate our golden champion who brought honor to all of us."

Waddah, the golden champ, said to Yemen Times: "I hope to achieve more international victories, and I think I can do so with the help of God."

Later on, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh and Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi, the secretary-general of the Yemeni Olympic Committee, presented the golden champion with YR 200,000 from the Youth Support Fund, and YR100,000 from the

Olympic Committee offers them some special tournaments to have their abilities improved, and then to make them more capable of achieving more championships in the future," he said.

He indicated that Waddah's achievement is a good omen for Yemeni sport which proved that the efforts made by the Ministry of Youth and Sports brought forth some Yemeni champions like Waddah in Taekwondo, Abdullah Al-Azzani in wrestling and Abdulrahman in Track and Field games. "We hope that 1998 will be a golden chance for those who want to prove themselves in athletics" said Mr. Al-Awadhi.



opportunity for Naseem to prove his ability in the American rings. Will he on par with boxing greatest champs like Mohammed Ali, Sugar Ray, and others? We'll have to wait and see.

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15 December 1997  
1300 Hear No Evil  
2030 E! Behind the Scenes  
0100 Implicated -

16 December 1997  
1500 First Do No Harm  
2030 Movies, Games & Videos  
2100 Under Siege

17 December 1997  
1500 The Joy Luck Club  
2030 E! Extreme Close Up  
2100 Lies He Told -

18 December 1997  
1130 I Was A Teenage Vampire  
1900 Money Plays -  
2300 Deepstar Six

19 December 1997  
1500 Decoration Day -  
1700 The Phoenix And The Magic Carpet  
1830 Movies, Games & Videos

20 December 1997  
1300 Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead  
1900 Airborne  
2100 The Killing Secret

21 December 1997  
1500 Babette's Feast -  
1900 Free Willy  
2100 Camilla Double Exposure

**ORBIT NEWS**

15 December 1997

1230 ABC World News Now Live  
2000 ABC Good Morning America

16 December 1997

1300 Musabaqa  
1900 Vital Soul  
0100 In Motion

**MUSIC NOW**

15 December 1997

1500 Cosmix  
2100 Awtar  
2200 Cosmix

16 December 1997

1300 Musabaqa  
1900 Vital Soul  
0100 In Motion

**ORBIT ESPN SPORTS**

15 December 1997

1830 NFL Primetime  
2255 FA Premier League: Manchester Utd v Aston Villa Live  
0100 Premier League Highlights

16 December 1997

0800 SportsCenter International  
1100 Dutch Football: Feyenoord v FC Twente  
1930 Gole'

17 December 1997

1200 World of Rugby  
1700 UEFA Champions League  
2300 UEFA Champions League Highlights

18 December 1997

0900 NHL Power Week  
1400 NASCAR Winter Heat Tucson, Arizona  
2100 European Football Weekly

19 December 1997

1100 Latin Football Weekly  
2000 SportsCenter  
2100 First Whistle

20 December 1997

0730 ESPN News Evening Live  
1100 Football International Game of the Week  
1630 NBA Action

21 December 1997

0830 FA Premier League  
1330 SportsCenter  
1430 College Football Bowl Game: 1997 Las Vegas Bowl

**FUN CHANNEL**

15 December 1997

0855 Richie Rich  
1145 Snagglepuss  
1315 Superhuman Samurai Syber-Squad

16 December 1997

1120 Space Ace  
1405 Tom & Jerry Kids  
1705 Space Ghost and Dino Boy

17 December 1997

1225 Yo Yogi  
1550 Bump in the Night  
2050 Muppets tonight

18 December 1997

0950 The Adventures of Madeline  
1300 Paw Paws  
2000 Bump in the Night

19 December 1997

1040 Sealab 20/20  
1700 Rambo Cartoons  
2300 Mr Bean

20 December 1997

0800 Pee Wee's Playhouse  
1145 Snagglepuss  
1800 Flash Gordon

21 December 1997

0920 Adv of Little Prince

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15 December 1997

0900 227  
1300 Sunset Beach  
1700 Spin City

16 December 1997

1200 General Hospital  
1730 Hangin' With Mr. Cooper  
2000 Grace Under Fire

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1400 Hardball  
2000 3rd Rock from the Sun  
2100 It's A Man's World

18 December 1997

0930 Starman  
1400 High Incident  
1730 Top of the Heap

19 December 1997

1800 Roc  
2030 John Larroquette  
2300 Melrose Place

20 December 1997

1200 General Hospital  
1830 Murphy Brown  
2200 Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman

21 December 1997

0730 Hardball  
1500 Family Matters  
1930 It's A Man's World

**DISNEY CHANNEL**

December 15, 1997

0700 Quack Attack  
1030 Muppet Babies  
1430 Darkwing Duck

December 16, 1997

0500 Welcome to Pooh Corner  
0900 Adventures in Wonderland  
1230 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh

December 17, 1997

0600 Muppet Babies  
1000 Dumbo s Circus  
1900 Empty Nest

December 18, 1997

0530 Dumbo s Circus  
0930 Mickey Mouse & Friends  
1530 Wonderful World of Disney - Von Drake in Spain

December 19, 1997

0800 Ducktales  
1130 Movie - Moochie of the Little League  
1730 Movie - Tiger Town

December 20, 1997

0830 Chip N Dale Rescue Rangers  
1500 Aladdin  
1530 Gargoyles

December 21, 1997

1000 Sing Me a Story  
1300 Timon & Pumbaa  
1630 Boy Meets World

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## Cultures Meet in Halaqa

Halaqa has re-opened at a new location; the official opening was held Dec 12. Members of the board of directors received guests and artists from all over the world to celebrate the opening. In previous years the cultural group concentrated on the visual arts but from this year the accent is on diversity and change.

The Halaqa began the beginning of last year with the prime objective of promoting exchanges between artists and to integrate the different arts under one roof. As an NGO, it has tried to establish contacts between international associations and artists and the membership is steadily growing. There is a strong appeal to international contemporary visual arts, with participation from furniture designers to graphic artists but the association now intends to have poetry readings and music concerts as well as painting exhibits for the next year. As the national museum has not yet made space available for the contemporary artists according to previous agreements this new location near the sultan's palace is



like a breath of fresh cultural air.

The day started off with an exhibition and workshop for children. They painted kalabasses and molded pottery in the morning. Pupils of the Fatima school participated at a puppet show and the school of Ira Addhagri organized a ballet dance. Video films were shown around noontime, followed by a demonstration on the printing press by Nasseer El Zubairi. Then came the unexpected: folk dances from around the world, Indonesia, India, Southern France and of course Yemen participated. The costumes matched the vivid folklore as the Indian spun around wrapped in a richly coloured cloth. Then the Indonesian's red and gold dress, flared as precision movement of the her arms and legs brought an ever more exotic flavour to the encounter. The event was concluded by Yemeni boys flashing there jambia as they danced in a circle to traditional music.

A poetry reading ensued; the theme was women issues and social relationships. Some poets gave recitals in Arabic while Francois translated to the English. One such poetess,

Nabila Al Zubair recited poems

on rejection and "becoming a man in five days." Activities continued on into the evening with video films of Yemen followed by Yemeni dances, more film clips and then live music at 8:30.

French interior designer Francois Portas commented positively about Yemeni craftsmanship: "Many people think Yemenis are not good craftsmen," the French artist cited, "I only want to say that thanks to them these original pieces were created." Francois proudly illustrated the use of simple local materials in the making of lamps, floor lamps and coffee tables; these included the "habash" a grinding stone for grain that was adapted for almost every furniture piece on exhibit. Mr. Adib Shamas one of the organizers commented on the new centre: "Halaqa has moved to a known location in the artistic community. We have tried to make an exhibit of the Yemeni traditional dress as well as bring in musicians and artists."

Mr. Veerman, the Secretary General stated that as of January, Halaqa intends to issue a quarterly journal with articles from the past to the future as well as for the tourist. "Every month an evening will be devoted to music, dance, poetry and personal art exhibits," he



Martin Dansky  
Yemen Times

added. "There will be a children's program on Fridays a monthly exhibit of Yemeni art plus 6 separate workshops to be organized separately." He also promised Yemeni poetry readings twice monthly. The journal will include work done by two Yemeni artists, two poets, two original articles about Yemeni archeology and a piece about a different Yemeni museum each month. There will be a cartographic map in the middle plus old photos of the capital. The magazine is not intended for publicity but for cultural and touristic interest.

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