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Canada Reaches out to Yemen: More Aid, Stronger Ties, Better Understanding

"We closely follow the strides of the Republic of Yemen towards democracy. We appreciate your country's positive contribution to international harmony, peace and stability," said the Honorable Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the Canadian Senate. During talks with Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, member of the Con-

sultative Council (CC), the Canadian Speaker hand-delivered an invitation addressed to Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, President of the CC, to visit Canada. Dr. Al-Saqqaf has just returned from Ottawa where he held talks with senior Canadian officials, business people and intellectuals. "It was an opportunity to high-

light the progress achieved by Yemen and the need for Canadian support to sustain our experiment," Saqqaf said. The response from Ottawa was swift and direct. Jr. Don Campbell, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, disclosed that Yemen was very high on the list of countries in which Canada will

establish resident diplomatic representation. "I cannot fix a time frame, but we are enormously interested in linking up with Yemen rather soon," he said. "Our Federal Government's budgetary deficit has been responsible for the restraint in opening embassies."
Continue on page 2

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen: Social Responsibility & Business Savvy

"I am happy to announce the end of the first phase in the selection process of applicants for the Canadian Oxy scholarship program for Yemeni students. We now have a list of the top sixty applicants. The Steering Committee will immediately start working to shorten the list of eligible candidates," said Mr. Vic Zaleschuk, President and CEO of Canadian Occidental Petroleum. The Canadian Oxy official has shown a lot of personal interest and commitment to the program which will cost some US\$ 3 million, all of it donated by the company and its partners in the block (Oxy, Pecten and CCC). The program calls for sending, over a four-year period, at least 20 Yemeni students for undergraduate education in Calgary, Canada. Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, himself a distinguished academic and a key player in the program, said that the students are going to study at the University of Calgary and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, two of the best schools in the West. "We hope the first batch of students will be enrolled before the end of this year," he added. The Canadian Oxy initiative has resulted in a tremendous level of good will and appreciation among Yemenis. "The intellectual community in Yemen is watching closely to see if another oil producing company in Yemen, Hunt Oil Company whose fortunes



Vic Zaleschuk, President and CEO of Canadian Occidental Petroleum

have been positively affected by its work in Yemen, will follow the Canadian Oxy initiative by similarly contributing to Yemen's well-being," Saqqaf said. At another level, Vic Zaleschuk and a number of senior Canadian Oxy executives who are presently visiting Yemen, have brought more good news to the country. "Using highly advanced, state-of-the-art technology such as 3-dimensional graphic readings of seismic data, we have been able to nearly double our block's recoverable reserves since 1991," Zaleschuk told the Yemen Times. The Masila Block (#14) is now producing just under 200,000 bpd, which will be sustained over the near future. In addition, Canadian Oxy has filed with the government a request to engage in joint exploration efforts in Blocks 50 and 51, in conjunction with Kerr McGee of the

USA. Over and above that, the company has also expressed interest in other blocks. The Canadian Oxy team's visit program includes calls on President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Senate Speaker Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Prime Minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, Oil and Minerals Minister Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh and other senior officials. Yemeni officials had nothing but praise for the company's policies. "Canadian Oxy has my full support," declared President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Indeed, the company's socially responsible policies and economically aggressive approach have earned it much respect and good will in Yemen.

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Secessionists Sentenced

The North-Sanaa court has on Monday, March 23 issued its verdict regarding the 16 secessionist leaders, who are tried in absentia accused of starting the 1994 war and declaring the secession of southern Yemen. Tried for high treason, Ali Salim Al-Beehdh, Hayder Abu Bakar Al-Attas, Saleh Munasser Al-Sayli, Haytham Qassem Taher, and Saleh Obaid Ahmed were all sentenced to death. Abdulrahman Ali Al-Jifri was sentenced to a suspended 10 imprisonment. Anees Hassan Yahya and Saleh Mohammed Jibrán were sentenced to a suspended five years impris-

onment. Suleiman Nasser Masoud was sentenced to a suspended 7 years imprisonment. Obaid Ahmed Bin Dagher was sentenced to a suspended 3 years imprisonment. Qassem Slaeh Abdulrabb Afif and Saleh Shayif Hussein were acquitted. The bank accounts of the people sentenced to death, those of their relative, or those working for them are to be confiscated. The sentenced have also to pay blood money to the families of the people who died during the war and compensation for the injured ones.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

CHARACTER BUILDING: Prerequisite for Meaningful Development

It is commonly repeated that human resource development is the way to achieve modernization and growth. Indeed, the individual is the basis for meaningful development. Unfortunately, however, human resource development is taken to mean only passing on technical skills and education, providing health care and other aspects with the explicit purpose of raising productivity and efficiency of the workforce. While these are all vital and necessary, they fall far short in terms of leading to a full human being. The main missing element is character strength and personal integrity.

It is no secret that many a person with very high qualifications, even with a PhD degree, can be useless or may even have a negative impact. You can see examples of this at our universities, where hordes of Ph.D holders make no real contribution to society's well-being. It is not enough to simply have a high degree. A person needs to find meaning in life, and more importantly, a mission in life. This is where character building comes in.

Let me add another dimension. A person with character strength does not allow him/herself to be an instrument for wrong actions, decisions and behavior. Many of our senior officials are rather well-educated, but they have mostly ended-up as mere puppets as they are routinely ordered around, many times to do wrong things. Character strength would not allow this phenomenon.

There is one more dimension - character integrity. A person with integrity would have a minimum level of conscience to guide him/her out of activities that inflict damage to others, let alone to society at large. Therefore, the fact that many highly educated Yemenis end up as corrupt parasites who are responsible for much of the suffering of the people proves that a high level educational certificate is not enough.

We cannot blame this on the kind of education they received. The blame falls on lack of proper character building. The truth is that many Yemenis have studied in many educational systems - Russia, USA, Europe, etc.. How is it, then, that they end up falling prey to bad behavior? We cannot blame the educational system. We have to zero-in on character strength and integrity. This is something people get from their homes, schools, media, mosques and society at large.

I call on our intellectual and religious leaders to focus on ways and means to enable us achieve character-building for the success of the country.

The Publisher
عبد السلام بن علي

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HRITC Seminar

In cooperation with UN Information Center, the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) held a seminar on Sunday, March 29 in Taiz.

The seminar was attended by members of the judiciary, the security and the judicial enforcement agency in Taiz.

The lectures at the seminar dealt with several topics concerning human rights such as the legal and philosophical framework of the International Human Rights Convention and the legal legislations in relation to this convention.

The HRITC distributed 4,500 copies of the International Human Rights Convention and other documents dealing with prisoners, minors, and other important issues.

Continued from page 1

Canada Reaches out to Yemen

But we are now out of that phase," Campbell added. It is believed, Canada will open its embassy in Sanaa in 1999.

At another level, Mrs. Huguette Labelle, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) indicated personal interest in visiting Yemen. She ordered an immediate financial and technical support for the Conference of NGOs scheduled to be held in Sanaa in mid-June. Dr. Norman Cook, Director of NGOs and Special Initiatives, will represent CIDA at the conference. Mrs. Labelle also ordered the immediate award of four graduate scholarships for Yemenis to come and study in Canada.

At still another level, Dr. Saqqaf disclosed that Yemen and Canada agreed to embark on an exchange of visits by senior officials. This includes preparations of a possible visit by President Ali Abdullah Salah to Ottawa within one year. "I think my Canada visit was enormously successful. I felt that Canadians were reaching out to Yemen," he concluded.

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 - 4- أن أمكن اجادة اللغة الفرنسية

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 - 3- إن أمكن اجادة اللغة الفرنسية.

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Cultural Week at Arwa University

Arwa University organized a cultural week that started March 27th and will run to March 30th. The fair was opened by Dr. Waheeba who met with visiting ambassadors, professors and members of parliament. The opening ceremony was followed

by speeches and the inauguration of exhibitions including computers, student exhibits, books and displays of traditional clothing and silverware. A special guest to the opening was the great Yemeni poet, Abdullah Baraduni. NGO exhibits were there such as the Red Crescent and the Yemeni Family Care Association Strategic Planning. Students were encouraged to run their own stalls especially if they had commercial experience. The fair will run until Monday the 30th when there will a visit from Yemeni Cultural and social figures.

Martin Dansky,
Yemen Times



Interplast Back in Yemen

An Interplast Holland team is currently visiting Yemen to do free-of-charge plastic surgery in the Thawra and Kuwait hospitals in Sanaa. During their last visit to Yemen, the Interplast team did about 130 plastic surgeries, mainly to children suffering from burns, harelip, and other congenital defects which cannot be treated by Yemeni doctors.

Interplast has recently signed a five-year agreement with the Yemeni government whereby a team of plastic surgeons will visit Yemen twice every year to conduct operations and provide training for Yemeni doctors. This visiting team consists of 3 surgeons, 1 anesthetist, 2 operation assistants, and 1 coordinator. Next time there will be two teams from Interplast - one to Sanaa, and the other to Aden.

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Dr. Ameen Noman:

“Our goal is to uncover at least 70% of TB cases in Yemen, and try to cure at least 85% of them by the year 2000.”

Dr. Ameen Noman is the Director of the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTCP) at the Ministry of Public Health. Working at the pulmonary diseases department in the Taiz Jumhoori Hospital from 1983 to 1984, Dr. Noman was able to acquire a lot of expertise in combating this dangerous disease. He later became the director of the TB control program in Taiz until 1992 when he took over his current post.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to Dr. Ameen Noman and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

Q: When did the program to control TB in Yemen start?

A: National programs to combat TB started in Yemen in the early 1970s with assistance by the WHO. However, TB control measures were then limited to major towns and cities and to those people who had enough money to get to these cities. This remained the case up to the early 1980s when cooperation with Japan started in this field.

During the first stage of the Yemeni-Japanese cooperation, 1983-1992, three specialized centers to combat TB were opened in Sanaa, Hodeida, and Taiz. These centers are fully equipped with modern medical facilities. Expansion into other governorates started in the mid-1980s.

The adopted principle then was to integrate the TB control facilities with other primary health-care services. Health workers can then be trained in various aspects of the health-care field.

Q: What are the NTCP main goals?

A: The NTCP's main goal is to uncover at least 70% of the TB

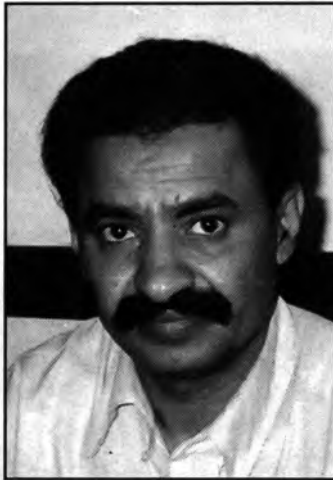
cases in Yemen, and try to cure at least 85% of these cases by the beginning of the next century.

Q: How prevalent is TB in Yemen?

A: A national survey was conducted at the end of 1990 and the beginning of 1991 among population samples.

The results of the survey showed that the annual infection risk, on a national level, is 0.86% - quite small, compared to other developing countries. But it still represents a problem. A 1% annual infection risk means that 50 new TB cases will occur. So this estimate shows that 7,000 pulmonary TB cases occur every year in Yemen. The same number of the less dangerous extra-pulmonary TB also occurs. This means that the overall annual TB incidence is around 15,000 cases.

An untreated TB patient is likely to infect 10 to 15 other people every year. The most important thing about treating TB is that a patient must go through the whole course of medication. Incomplete treatment makes that the TB bacilli would become more resistant to medication. So a



patient with drug-resistant TB germs is more dangerous than an ordinary patient.

Q: How many TB cases have you uncovered so far?

A: The epidemic, more dangerous pulmonary TB constitutes about 50% of the all TB cases. By the end of 1997, the coverage rate of positive cases was 62%. This means that we are getting nearer to the national and international goal of 70% by the start of the next century.

Q: In which governorates is TB most prevalent?

A: The rate of incidence is rather high in Hodeida, Hajja, Abyan, Lahaj, and Hadhramaut. Overcrowding in homes in these areas is a major factor in the spread of TB. Also, people tend to share the

water pipe or the food utensils, a main cause of TB infection.

Q: Could you tell us more about the modern strategy to combat TB?

A: This modern strategy - short-term treatment under direct observation - is recommended by the WHO, and was entirely adopted by Yemen in 1995. We started to gradually implement it in several control areas in Taiz. The effort was expanded to include Aden, Hodeida, and the Capital Sanaa. By 1997, 13 governorates became covered by the new strategy. This strategy is based on 5 elements:

- 1- Governmental commitment to providing medicines and medical supplies;
- 2- Training health workers on all levels of the health-care system;
- 3- Identifying suspected TB cases
- 4- More active role by the primary health-care system; and
- 5- Direct supervision and evaluation on all levels.

Before implementing this strategy, the proportion of the smear test changing from positive to negative following the third month of treatment was less than 50%. This ratio has risen to 88% by the end of the first quarter of 1998. This is a very good indication. The rate of cure also rose from 50% to 72% after implementing the new strategy, while, the rate of relapse fell from 40% to less than 10%.

Q: How active is the media in

making people more aware of the dangers of TB?

A: Health media and education are rather inefficient. There is a plan, carried out with donor organizations, to provide direct health education and medical instruction facilities. It is just not enough to have a five-minute weekly public information piece on TV. Direct health education means that the patient must be in direct contact with the doctor or the health worker.

Q: How can people recognize the onset of TB?

A: The main symptoms of TB include continuous coughing, mild fever, loss of appetite, and loss of weight. If discovered early, during the first three weeks of infection, TB can be success-

fully cured. The important thing is to have a well-balanced and nourishing diet in order to have a healthy immune system.

Q: What organizations are assisting in the efforts to combat TB in Yemen?

A: The major supporter in this field in Yemen is JICA, which has been providing technical and medical assistance since 1983. JICA has provided about \$75,000 worth of medicines and other sums for medical equipment and facilities.

Every two years, the WHO provides between \$45,000 and \$50,000 worth of medicines and medical supplies and training to Yemen. There is also a small pilot project to combat TB and leprosy in Taiz conducted by a German NGO.

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Furthering Human Rights in Yemen

Ms. Louise Cainkar and Ms. Nancy Flowers came to Yemen to lecture on human rights. Visiting Sanaa, Taiz, and Aden, the two have lectured to school teachers, university professors, journalists, women NGO leaders, and other NGO workers. They were invited by the newly formed Supreme Human Rights Committee.

Louise Cainkar:

The Human Rights Movement is a movement by people and NGOs. It is independent of any government. It is not a western or eastern movement. It is a global movement of people. We recognize that human rights were codified long before these UN

human dignity and potential. These goals must be achieved in the context of your own culture. Human rights education and the fulfillment of human rights goals is a long process. It does not happen overnight, but it should start with people's identification of priorities.

The human rights movement is a movement for people. Its interest is always people and holding governments accountable for the lives of their people. Dignity for all religions and cultures are recognized in the human rights movement. You must discuss how to adapt the goals of these documents to your culture. You must find the ways in which your society already conforms to these documents and have a dialogue among each other as to where to

slogans as justifications for their foreign policies. We must separate the foreign policy manipulations from the essence and movement of human rights. People from around the world who support human rights reject the abuse of these human rights for foreign policy considerations. All countries are equally accountable to their people for achieving human rights. There are no allies or enemy countries. There are no preferred cultures or countries in the human rights movement. The achievement of human rights in these countries starts with dialogue and open discussion. It acknowledges and respects differences of opinion, because freedom of thought is a human right.

The human rights are about building your society to be the best it can be for your people. This movement belongs to you. It empowers you to create your country and your government. We see in this visit to Yemen the great desire of the Yemeni people to build a new society that includes respect for human rights. As human rights activists and educators, we share your excitement and are honored to be able to work with you to achieve our mutual interests. These are the realizations of the inherent dignity of all human beings no matter what their political views, cultural and religious views and state of social development. We are all equals in this movement.

Nancy Flowers:

Human rights could not begin in the 20th century, but lies at the roots of almost every culture. However, it has been in this century that attempts have been

made to set the principles that all the populations and peoples of the world could share. However, one of the first acts of the UN after its founding in 1948 was to have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is the foundation on which human rights were based. I want to point out that it is a declaration. It is an international law. If a country signs that declaration, it just means that they agree to the principle, but it is not legally binding. So, in 1948 it was so difficult to get a unanimous passing of this document. Immediately thereafter, countries came together to make a legally binding document. They wanted one treaty.

However, in the years following 1948, began the so-called Cold War in which countries of the so-called Eastern Bloc (that centered on the Soviet Union and its allies) opposed the countries of the so-called Western Bloc (the US and other western countries). There was a real ideological split on human rights. As a result, we do not have one document, but 2 documents. One document is called Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. These were the rights most important to the West. In fact, they reflect very much the US Constitution - voting, assembly, free expression. They are very much about what rights the individual has in relationship to the government.

The other document is the Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. These were the rights that the Eastern Bloc felt was the most important. These 3 documents together formed a so-called International Bill of Rights. Everything comes from them, they are just one thing together. However, these rights, although fundamental, are very general. The next phase was the development of more specific conventions to address specific human needs. All together there

are more 30 conventions. Some of which address acts that all humanity can share. For example, there is a convention against slavery, a convention against torture, against genocide.

Other categorical conventions are conventions that protect the specially vulnerable populations such as the rights of refugees, the rights of children, women, and migrant workers. Each of these conventions were made by a long process of negotiation such as the convention for the rights of children.

People recognize that there are special needs for children. In 1979, they made a declaration on the rights of children. There are just 10 general principles. For example, in times of war, children deserve the first protection. The right to education for children is also very important. However, it took 9 years of negotiations to make a convention. Nine years in which government and NGO representatives sat together for many, many hours to discuss every single point. Sometimes, even the simplest points required days of debate such as the right to inherit the property of the parent.

East or West, everyone agreed that children have the right to inherit the property of the parent. Everyone was happy that they found one thing to agree upon. Then, a representative from the UK raised a hand and said "I regret that we must reject this because we are a monarchy and only 1 person can inherit. Prince Charles is the only one who will inherit from Queen Elizabeth.

Another example, which has nothing to do with Islam, is at what age should a person be drafted or not choose to serve. A child is defined as a person from the day of birth up to their 18th birthday. Most people said no children at all, but many Islamic countries objected, saying that it would not be just to a young boy

to forbid him the right to take part in war. The compromise was the age of 16. This just shows how it takes long debates, negotiations and compromise to make these conventions.

Two years ago, the UN General Assembly made a statement that we have enough conventions now. What we need to do now is implement them, make them real in people's lives. However, there are some things that have not yet been addressed.

One important factor about human rights is that they are evolving. Before 1948, there was no universal declaration. In 1948, there were some concerns that we did not have. The Universal Declaration does not say one word about the environment, yet it is now a concern. There is a new generation of rights coming that are not finished. There is now before the United Nations a draft convention for environmental rights. There is also a draft convention for the rights of indigenous people.

This division between East and West idealogy has made it seem as though a certain set of rights is more important than another. You can tell that human rights has a kind of schizophrenia. In an attempt to cure this schizophrenia, in a declaration in 1993 at the Vienna Human Rights Conference, the delegates declared that human rights were indivisible, equally important, and interdependent. For example, to have the right to vote may be meaningless if you don't have enough food. So, whenever anyone tries to say that this right is first or this other right ranks second, that is not the UN's opinion of it. The UN says that they are all equal. The Declaration is something that we all share, it is our common heritage. It is my work to try to bring this to as many people possible in the world. One of my dreams is that every child should learn about this in school.



documents. We recognize that human rights are the foundation of the Quran. We also recognize that the situation of a country affects its ability to implement human rights, especially economic and social rights. Human rights documents are goals for the full realization of

go next. Despite appearances or public relations announcements, Western countries have not achieved the goals of the human rights movements. In every western country, there are active NGOs fighting for rights. Some governments use human rights

Professional Arbitration Services

1. INTRODUCTION:

In response to the circumstances - the new economic changes, increase in local and foreign investments our country, the visible commercial progress, to raise the confidence level of investment companies and the investors of different nationalities and in light of the success of commercial arbitration centers, which have been established in a number of Arab and foreign countries to settle commercial and civil disputes, the Yemeni Center for Conciliation and Arbitration was established.

2. THE YEMENI CENTER FOR CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION (YCCA):

The YCCA was established with the purpose of contributing to settling commercial and civil disputes. The efforts of the YCCA will be based on the objectives set out in its Memorandum of Association, the Articles of Association and the Rules of Conciliation and Arbitration, and annexes.

A. Objectives of the Center:

The center aims to contribute to setting up a conciliatory and arbitral system, right and just, taking in consideration the provisions of the law and ensuring prompt decision on disputes and at the same time safeguard the secrets of the litigants and clients...

The center intends to create relations with different global, regional Arab arbitration centers and sponsors, and to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences. In addition, it aims to create relations with investors from various nationalities to ensure confidence to their best satisfaction. In Yemen, we aim to provide an ARBITRATION CENTER that investors can resort to protect their rights. The center shall examine disputes according to the rules of conciliation and arbitration of the center and be recognized worldwide.

B. Documents of the Center:

i. THE CENTER'S MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION:

This is the legal instrument through which the shareholders agreed to establish the Yemeni Center for Conciliation and Arbitration in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. The memorandum of Association has set out three aims for the center, as explained earlier.

The center shall present successful services in conciliation and arbitration to disputing parties of different nationalities who resort to it and to decide their disputes based on the rules of the center.

ii. THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION:-

The articles of association specify the rules and procedures of the center's function, its mechanisms and revenues. The center is one of the organizations of civil society, and it shall be conducted by institutional system as follows:

a. The General Assembly:

This consists of all the shareholders of the center. Its periodic meetings shall be annual, and it may hold extraordinary meetings according to the articles of association. The general assembly has many functions according to the system.

The most important of these functions are:

- approve the general policy, the plans and the programs of the center's operations;
- supervise their implementation;
- electing the Board of Directors; members and their dismissal;
- approve the center's documents and their amendments;
- approve the balance sheet and the final profit and loss account;
- appoint the auditor and approve his fees.

b. Board of Directors:

- * Consists of (9) members including the chairman,
- * Each Board has a 3-year term,
- * Supervises the implementation of the center's general policy and to achieve that, the Board shall undertake many functions, of which the most important are:
 - to draw up proposals regarding the general policy of the center and plans and programs for their implementation,
 - to approve the panels of conciliation and arbitration tribunals and experts,
 - to prepare the center's draft budget,
 - to submit the center's activity reports to the general assembly,
 - to call the general assembly to meeting;
 - to propose the financial statements and regulations of the center,
 - to approve the by-laws and the administrative regulations of the center,
 - to implement the general assembly resolutions,
 - to supervise the executive duties of the center.
- * The board holds monthly meetings and may hold exceptional meetings according to the articles of association.

c. Chairman of the Center:

- The chairman shall be elected by the Board of Directors and shall hold a number of responsibilities, of which the most important are:
 - to appoint the center's employees and fix the functions and responsibilities related to them,
 - to conclude contracts in the name of the center,
 - to propose setting up relations with similar Arab regional and global arbitration centers,
 - to represent the center before the official and private bodies especially the judiciary,
 - to call the Board of Directors to convene,
 - to submit the periodical report to the Board regarding the activity of the center,
 - to propose programs, plans, and different by-laws related to the implementation of the center's aims and steering-its activity.

d. The Executive Body:-

It consists of the secretary general and number of Legal and Technical employees well experienced, competent and qualified.

e. The Secretary General:

He is responsible for directing the executive body and for managing its affairs. According to the articles of association, he holds a number of functions and responsibilities of which the most important are:

- to supervise the center's unit and sections and coordinate their

operations;

- to steep the center's administrative, financial, and technical business;
- to develop the operational system of the center;
- to assist the chairman of the Board of Directors in implementing the Board and the General Assembly resolutions;
- to prepare the periodic reports of the activity of the executive body of the center and its performance level;
- to perform the administrative and technical duties related to, and to facilitate the functions of the conciliation and arbitration tribunals;
- to supervise the maintenance of the archives related to the arbitration cases.

C. The Center's Finance:

The resources of the center consist of:

- a. The contributions to the center by the share-holders;
- b. Administrative fees collected by the center in return for services rendered to a third party;
- c. Donations and assistance extended to the center.

3. THE RULES OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION:

These rules specify the General Provisions and Procedures which pertain to conciliation and arbitration efforts of the center, by which the conciliation and arbitration tribunals are obliged to adhere while examining any dispute referred to them by the center.

These rules fix two ways to settle dispute between the parties, they are::

a. Conciliation:

- i. The parties may settle their dispute through conciliation when they write or one of them writes applications addressed to the center's secretary general.
- ii. When an application is submitted from one party, the secretary general shall notify the other party within a period not exceeding three days from the date of the application receipt.
- iii. The other party shall have a time not beyond (15) days to reply either with acceptance or refusal.
- iv. If the other party accepts the conciliation, the center shall immediately prepare an agreement of reference to conciliation between the two parties, containing points of issues, the name of the conciliator chosen from the center's panel of the conciliators and the arbitrators and the fees of the conciliator.

v. The conciliator shall perform conciliation proceedings based on considerations of equity and good conscience principles.

vi. the proceedings of conciliation shall be confidential and the information being disclosed during the conciliation proceedings shall not be divulged.

vii. If the dispute between the parties is not settled by the

conciliator's attempts within the time-limit, the parties may file their dispute to arbitration if they were found by arbitration clause, arbitration agreement or according to their own will.

b. Arbitration:-

- i. Any commercial or civil dispute may be settled through arbitration pursuant to the RULES of the center if the parties agree to make reference to arbitration or they have between them an arbitration clause or an arbitration agreement.
- ii. The arbitration application shall be submitted to the center showing the fact of the dispute and all related documents.
- iii. The secretary general of the center shall inform the other party immediately and furnish him with a copy of the arbitration application and its annexes. The fixed period for his written reply shall be within (30) days maximum.

4. APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL:

- The disputing parties may settle their dispute through:
 1. Arbitration tribunal, composed of three arbitrators where every party shall select one arbitrator and the third arbitrator shall be selected by the two chosen arbitrators. This last arbitrator shall be the chairman of the tribunal.
 2. Or tribunal of one arbitrator, on which the disputing parties agree upon. If they do not come agreement, the center's secretary general shall select this arbitrator.
 3. The selection of the arbitrators shall be from the center's arbitration panel and this shall be the same with the conciliators.

5. PROCEEDING AND VERDICT OF ARBITRATION:

- The arbitration proceedings shall take place in the center's building or in any other place decided by the arbitration tribunal.
- The Arabic language shall be the language of the pleadings and the award. The arbitration tribunal may decide to hear the disputing parties, the witnesses and experts to whom the Arabic language is not a native tongue, through interpreters after being under oath before the tribunal.
- The arbitration tribunal may admit presentation of memorandums, notes and run pleadings in foreign language, white attached official Arabic translation.
- At the start of its duty, the tribunal shall prepare minute-book, specified in its assignment, based on documents presented to it.
- The tribunal shall examine the case immediately following the completion of the formalities of its formation and it has the right to appoint an expert or more for certain assignments.
- The tribunal shall issue its verdict during a period of (3) months maximum from the date of signing the minute-book at the start of its assignments.

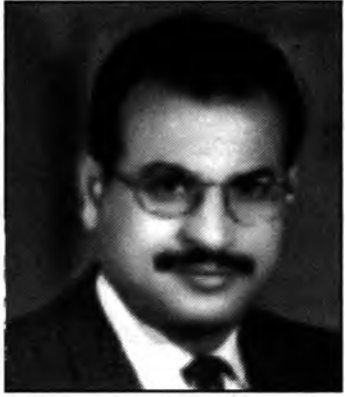
6. PRINCIPLES:

- Arbitration means the intentions of the disputing parties to establish their special forum by their own will. It is a sort of special judicature.
- An arbitrator is not a judge forced upon the disputing parties, but he is a judge whom they select.
- An arbitrator shall not serve as attorney of the disputing party who chooses him but he shall be neutral, just, and impartial judge chosen to examine the subject case.

For more information, contact: **Telefax: (01) 247-810**

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

Difficulties Impeding Yemeni Historians



Dr. Ahmed Al-Sirri*

provided for foreign researchers.

Sabbaticals

Sanaa University professors are allowed one-year sabbaticals every 4 years. They are paid their full salaries, and are provided with tickets for the wife and 3 children. However, with a monthly salary not more than \$300, a university professor cannot afford to live abroad. So some professors use their personal connections to obtain scholarships abroad. Otherwise, they spend the sabbatical year in Yemen doing various jobs that may not necessarily be related to their specialty or general field of knowledge, but just to earn extra money. This is quite justified, in view of the difficult living conditions in Yemen.

Foreign Languages

Foreign languages such as English, French, and German are very important for a historian since they help open entirely new worlds. The Department of History requires that every post-graduate student should know English as a basic condition for admission. Some people argue, however, that there is the need for English in studying Islamic history, for which most references are in Arabic. This is a rather shortsighted opinion. People who research Islamic history are not only Arab and Muslim, but are also from Europe, Japan, China, Africa, etc.

So a historian doing research on an Islamic or Arabic subject may need to refer to references written in a language other than Arabic. Knowledge of a foreign language is also very important to avoid repeating a piece of work that was already done by another researcher in a different language. But this actually happens sometimes when proposed topics of research are endorsed, while, more advanced ones on the same topic exist in another language. There are not many Yemeni and Arab historians who know a second language, but they are increasing. This attests to the importance of learning a foreign language in whatever field of research.

Methodology

All researchers agree on adopting a suitable method of research. History is quite a wide field with many methods to do research. The important thing is not to adhere to a very strict set of procedures. Every subject would dictate its own method of research. So it is not possible to talk about a specific research method of analysis and conclusions. The subjective point of view can also influence a researcher's reading of history. Some people tend to think of the Islamic history as an exact copy of the teachings of Islam. So when some Muslim researchers find a divergence from what they expect or believe that should be the case, they often blame it on the influence of orientalist with

their Western point of view.

This idea is rather general to the extent of including laymen as well as historians. Many people talk about Islamic history as if they lived through it. This subjective view greatly influences the relationship between the researcher, the topic of research, and the references he or she is going to consult.

To be really objective in studying, one has to remove the hallow of sacredness from Islamic history. This sacredness must only be reserved for Islam as a religion. History was more glorious when its events were compatible with the teachings of Islam, but was dark when its events diverged from Islam.

Printing & Publishing

Many researchers do their work in the knowledge that they will not necessarily be able to publish their research, unless the work is to be incorporated in the university curricula.

Private publishers, as everywhere else in the world, only publish what they think will sell well. The Ministry of Culture, however, is currently publishing one book a month not only for historians, but also for other creative researchers and writers, irrespective of whether the book will be a commercial success or not. Two books have already been published under this scheme.

Conferences

Taking part in international con-

ferences is an important window through which a researcher can have an insight into what is going on in the world of scientific studies and research. Despite the relatively large number of seminars and symposia taking place around the world, Yemeni researchers cannot always take part due to the chronic lack of resources, whether in Sanaa University or in other universities around the country.

The trend is now towards holding national conferences and seminars, and inviting international experts and researchers.

Yemeni Historians Society

The Yemeni Historians Society is an umbrella organization that tries to gather Yemen's historians in order to be able to organize and channel their efforts. However, due to the present economic situation, such societies are either impeded or are doomed to failure and decline. Thus, they eventually become meeting places to exchange gossip or chew qat.

So many researchers try work through their own individual efforts and personal contacts. Some donor countries and organizations finance conferences and seminars, which help a lot in advancing scientific research in this country.

Specialized Publications

There are some attempts to publish a Yemeni magazine to deal exclusively with historical topics and research. During the last 7 years, only two issues of this magazine were published. The third issue is now being prepared. The problem here also lie in lack of funds. The magazine is self-financed and relies on meager subscription fees.

Research Centers

There are no specialized research

centers in Yemen. Some of them work during national occasions. The recent 50th anniversary of the 1948 Revolution against the Imam was commemorated with lectures in Al-Afif Cultural Foundation. There is also the Literature Club and the weekly discussion sessions organized by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, which cover culture, history and even science.

Sectarianism

The most dangerous problem that is threatening the impartiality of historical research is sectarianism. This is true in Yemen and in other parts of the world. Some narrow-minded historians refrain from referring to certain books because they are written by people belonging to the "wrong" sect. Such a trend, if allowed to take root, will make history negate itself. Every team will deny the credibility of the other team, contravening the essential objectivity of scientific research. All references can be subjected to scientific examination and their impartiality can be verified.

Freedom of Research & Expression

Freedom of doing research is guaranteed in Sanaa University. A lecturer or a professor is free to choose the books and references to be used by the students and implement the appropriate teaching method. There is no intellectual authoritarianism. Freedom of expression is one of the most important prerequisites for objective scientific research.

* Dr. Ahmed Al-Sirri has Ph.D. degree in Islamic history from Germany. He is an assistant professor at the Department of History, Sanaa University.

[This article was translated from Arabic by Yemen Times]

ADEN HOTEL
MÖVENPICK



EID PACKAGE



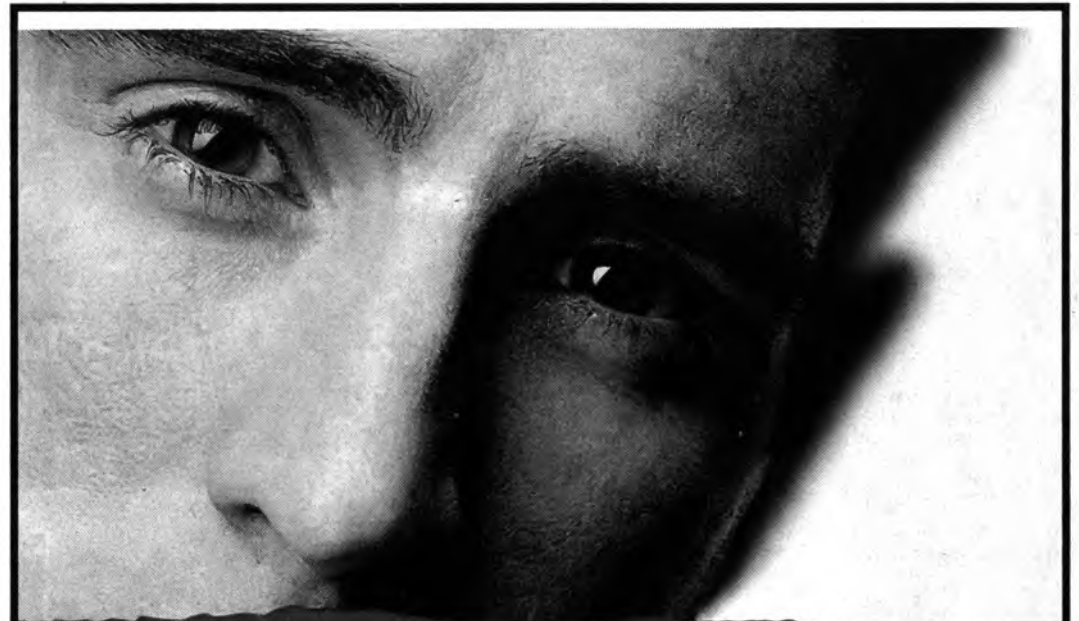
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Taxi and Truck Drivers Send SOS

One of the main problems that has begun to acquire disturbing dimensions is that of the checkpoints spread throughout the link roads between our cities. In simple terms, the truck and taxi drivers are really furious and fed up with the extortion they face at these checkpoints. The purpose of these checkpoints is to provide safety and security to the people. But it seems that they have deviated from being protectors to exploiters. A soldier on duty at these checkpoints will shamelessly stretch his hand towards you asking for "Hak Al-Qat" (money for Qat) and once you give it to him, he will let you off even if you carry weapons, drugs or anything for that matter, for which the checkpoints are made. The following are some taxi drivers' tales who had expressed their plight openly.

1- Abdu Assedra

The checkpoints along the road from Taiz to Sanaa are really a big problem. In fact, the soldiers working at these checkpoints have found us to be easy prey. When we stop at these checkpoints, a soldier stretches his hand towards us asking for Hak Al-Qat. But if we say "No", this 'No' puts the fat into the fire. We are told "Ala-Jamb" which means to be out of the way. After that the process of investigation starts. We are stopped till the officer of the checkpoint comes. The intention is to make us surrender and dispense with "Hak Al-Qat", though we are sure that we are not breaking the law. In this way, the main purpose of the checkpoints has become charging bribes rather than the protection of the people. This is because if you give them what they want, they will let you pass even with missiles or tanks. So, this is not only our predicament, but also that of the whole country because these checkpoints have become bribe centers allowing contraband goods to move with impunity.

2- Saleh Mohammed Sa'ad

We are very fed up with these checkpoints, at which the soldiers only speak the language of money. They extend their hands and once we put some money on

them, they draw back giving us a warm greeting and a sweet smile as a sign of very well, thank you, ok, you may go, ma'salama. This is the daily routine we are accustomed to. But when we refuse to give them some money, we become targets to their high-handedness. They start asking for your driver's license, customs card, tax card and the like. They even ask us to unload the goods from the back of our taxi or truck for checking. But if one wants to spare oneself all this trouble and be released at a single stroke, one has just to put his hand in his pocket, take some money and even throw it at the soldier on duty without the need even to stop at all. There used to be a checkpoint at Al-Huban for customs collectors but it was taken off. However, we are still at the mercy of some tax collectors, policemen and the like who really treat us as brigands.

3- Ahmad Ali Abdu

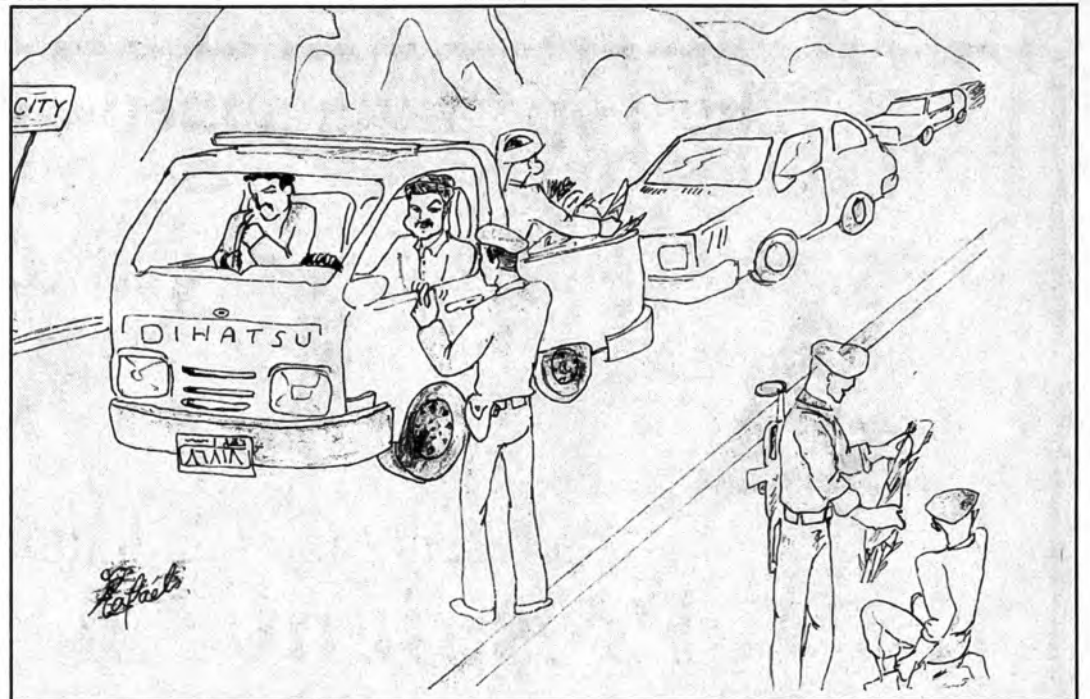
I think that my friends have more or less expressed our problems and sufferings resulting from these checkpoints. But I will try to shed some light on a relevant issue. By this, I mean the negative role of the transportation syndicate, Taiz branch. The people in charge of this syndicate do nothing to protect the rights of its members but are only interested in receiving our monthly subscription fees. I had an accident and according to the regulation of the syndicate, I should have been given some help. But unfortunately, I received nothing. Worse, whenever any member of the syndicate asks for his rights, he is subject to dismissal under so many uncalled-for pretexts. Doesn't this behavior double our predicament?

4- Abdul-Malik Swedan

The problems we meet at these checkpoints are actually endless for we are subject to the humiliation of every Tom, Dick & Harry along the roads. We really can't afford the demands of the people scattered along these checkpoints. I wonder whether to spend what we earn by hard work on our children or on these thieves. Besides, we are really very much disappointed with the people in

charge of our syndicate. We have nominated a new administrative body but unfortunately they have done nothing for us. So many members of this society are in hospitals due to accidents and none of the syndicate staff has asked about them or even paid them a visit. When we ask for the protection of our rights we are liable to various penalties like discharge from the membership of the syndicate. So, we appeal to the Yemen Times to present our problems to the general public and the authority.

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Taiz.



سارى

الذ بسكوييت

الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة المحدودة
ص.ب. ٥٤٢٣ - تليفون: ٦٠ / ٢١٨٠٥٨ - تعز/ الجمهورية اليمنية

Announcement

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) invites qualified and experienced personnel to apply for the position of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Project Manager according to the following Terms Of Reference (TOR).

Project Manager:

TOR: (a) report directly to the Minister; or (b) be responsible of overall coordination of the project and managing the staff of the Project Unit; (c) liaise with relevant ministerial departments and IDA's Resident Mission and headquarters and the donor community; and (d) prepare periodic report summarizing the status of implementation.

The Project Director would be expected to take appropriate action to implement the projects according to the agreed-upon work plan and Credit Agreements particularly with respect to special and financial covenants (submission of audit reports within the period specified in the Credit Agreements).

Selection Criteria:

(a) university degree in management or relevant training and experience in health management or similar field of study or equivalent qualification; (b) at least 7 years of project management experience; (c) demonstrated application of technical expertise; preparation and evaluation of plans of operations and budgeting within the policies of MOPH; (d) good interpersonal skills and ability to motivate staff and promote team spirit in the Unit; (e) good working knowledge of English; and (f) prior experience with management of IDA projects or those of a similar donor agency.

Deadline to submit candidates applications to be on April 5, 1998 twelve o'clock to the PIU Office MOPH-application to be addressed to HE Minister of Public Health.

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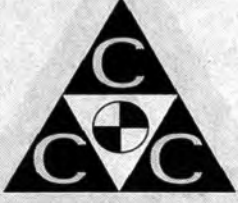


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on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak

Many Happy Returns

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للي للي للي

يتقدمون بالتهاني العطرة والتبريكات الحارة للرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

والحكومة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم، ومجلس النواب

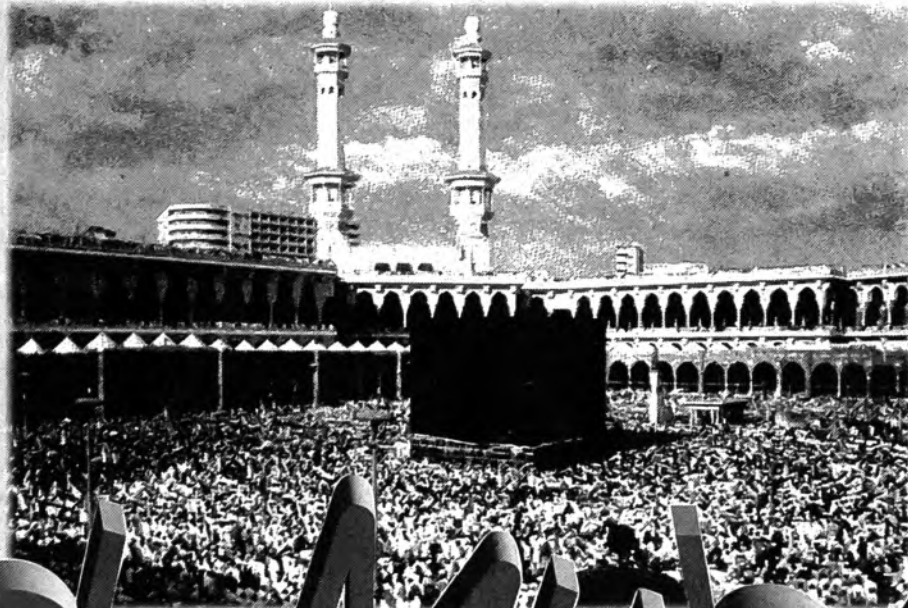
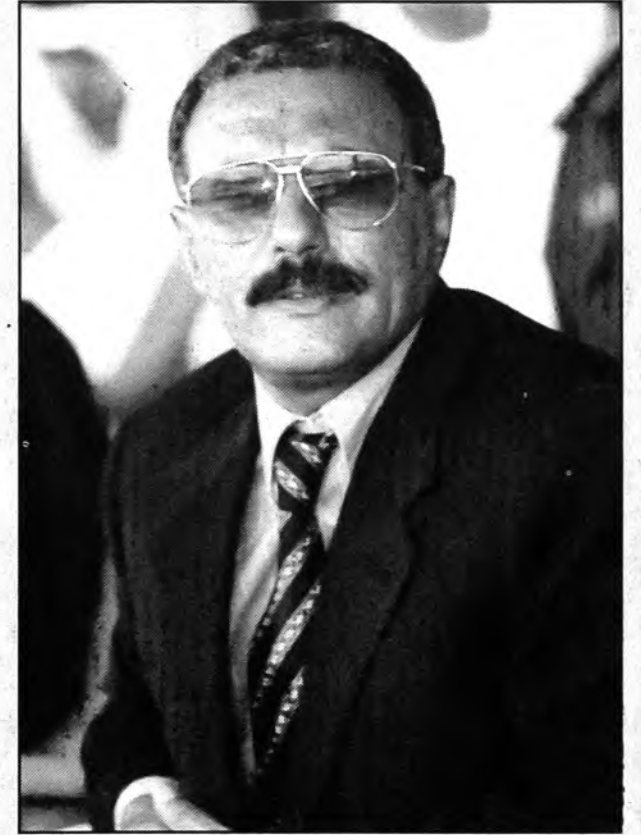
برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

والشعب اليمني

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أعاده الله على الجميع باليمن والبركات

و كل عام والجميع بخير



Eid Mubarak

Women's Union First Annual Meeting

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,
Yemen Times

The first annual meeting of the senior members of the Yemen Women's Union was held last week in Sanaa to celebrate International Women's Day. The theme of the meeting was, "For Activating the Pioneering Role of Yemeni Women to Develop and Consolidate their Role in Society." The chiefs and members of the Yemen Women's Union branches in various governorates took part in the meeting.

The meeting's goals were;
1- Evaluating the role of the Yemen Women's Union;
2- Suggesting a mechanism that would enable the Union to con-

solidate its ties with NGOs and governmental organs that work in the field of supporting women; and
3- Looking for sources of regular income for the Yemen Women's Union.

Discussions by the participants covered the financial situation of the Union and the problems it faces. It was concluded that the major obstacle facing the Yemen Women's Union is the absence of appropriate buildings to house the union and its branches in the governorates.

"With support by the Dutch government, offices will be built for the Union's branch in Dhamar," said the head of the branch, Ms. Fyza Al-Azzani. "The Dhamar branch organizes literacy classes and training courses for women."

Ms. Saffiya Awadh, the head of the Abyan branch of the Union said, "We hope to organize training courses for women, but lack of financial resources and a decent building hinders our ambi-

efforts are impeded by lack of funds, transportation, and offices owned by the branch."

Most branches of the Yemen Women's Union carry out the following activities:

- 1- Following up the cases of imprisoned women;
- 2- Organizing literacy classes;
- 3- Participating in seminars and symposiums;
- 4- Organizing training courses in cooperation with the UNICEF and the Communication Institute;
- 5- Holding exhibitions and charities for the products of the Union and its branches;
- 6- Taking part in local and international conferences and meetings;
- 7- Opening nurseries and kin-



solidate its ties with NGOs and governmental organs that work in the field of supporting women; and
3- Looking for sources of regular income for the Yemen Women's Union.

Ms. Zabeba Al-Rayashi head of the Hodieda branch said, "Our branch aims to organize many activities such as literacy classes, training courses, health and hygiene lectures, etc. But our

dergartens for the babies of working women; and many other activities.

Conclusions

The participants at the meeting came up with the following conclusions:

- 1- The Union's Executive Bureau has been able to address the problems that result from lack of response by some official organs which are supposed to deal with women's issues.
- 2- The Union suffers from lack of financial resources, which is hindering many of its activities and projects.
- 3- Some of offices of the Union branches are being usurped especially in Aden and Al-Mahara.

Solutions

- 1- Financial support for the Union and its branches must be increased.
- 2- Coordination must be instituted with donor countries and organizations to financially support a number of small production projects to provide regular incomes for the Union and its branches.
- 3- Talks must be held with governmental bodies to adopt and finance some of the Union's projects and activities.
- 4- Employing the services of accountants to estimate the financial needs of the Union's proposed projects and programs.
- 5- Women working in the Union branches must be rewarded and encouraged to persevere with their activities.
- 6- The Union's organizational and administrative conditions must be reviewed and reformed.
- 7- Priorities must be given to projects according to changes on the national scene.
- 8- Elections must be held in the Union and its branches.

Limiting Child Labor in Yemen

Organized by the General Federation of Worker's Trade Unions (GFWTU), in cooperation with International Labor Organization (ILO), a symposium on limiting child labor in Yemen was held during 22-25 March.

The symposium's opening session was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, the President of the GFWTU and a number of trade unionists from various governorates. Child labor is a serious problem affecting a large number of children in Yemen and other developing countries. The participants stressed the importance of tackling this problem.

A number of lectures were delivered by Yemeni and international guests on a wide range of topics such as the implementation of the International Convention of the Rights of the Child, the conditions of working children in Yemen, the psychological effects of work on the children, the best possible means to combat this phenomenon, and several other important issues.



Causes of Child Labor

Poverty is diagnosed as the prime reason that drives children to join the labor market. Economic, social, and educational difficulties as well as wars, natural disasters, and immigration are all contributing factors. When a child goes to work, he loses some of his legal, social and cultural rights. Also, child labor leads to an increase in unemployment and an imbalance in the social structure. In the long run, working children will form a low-level, unskilled workforce that is also detrimental to their health.

The participants in the symposium stressed the need for an all-encompassing social safety network to take care of poor children.

Recommendations

A- Legal Field

- 1- Yemeni legislations must be reviewed and amended in accordance with international and regional treaties and conventions on children, especially the ILO Agreement No. 138.
- 2- The Arab Agreement No. 18 on Child Labor must be fully endorsed and incorporated within the Yemeni laws. This agreement includes the following:
 - a- A minor is a person aged between 13 and 18 years.
 - b- Child labor must be strictly prohibited for those under 13 years of age, prohibited in the industry for those under 14, and in dangerous jobs for those under 18.
 - c- Implementing the necessary executive statutes of the Labor Law regarding child labor.
 - d- Deterrent punishments must be

imposed on those who employ minors.

3- Labor inspection organs must be activated and given full authority.

4- Urgent measures must be taken to limit the work of minors in public and private-sector establishments.

5- Children must be prohibited from working in dangerous jobs such as in the chemical industry.

6- Children must be prohibited from planting and selling qat, which can have an adverse effect on a child's behavior and future morals.

7- Wide alliances must be formed to include the government, employees and employers to address the problem of child labor.

B- Studies & Statistics

1- A data base must be established to document the extent of the child labor problem.

2- Statistical data-gathering must be horizontally expanded to include all production and service

establishments in the country. Statistics units in public and private-sector establishments must be developed.

3- Full data must be provided by all public and private-sector establishments on their minor workers.

4- Studies and surveys must be intensified to ascertain the conditions and problems of working children.

C- Education, Training, & Awareness

1- Primary education and vocational training must be modernized and expanded through the following:

- a- School curriculum must be unified and modernized to be compatible with the needs of the local labor market.

2- A comprehensive national program to eradicate illiteracy must be planned and implemented.

3- Institutions for vocationally training the handicapped must be expanded and be well equipped.

4- Vocational training programs must be implemented for working children in all governorates.

5- Children's legal rights must be taught at schools.

6- Media campaigns must be conducted for public awareness of the importance of child education.

7- Media programs directed to children must be modernized.

b- Compulsory education must be fully applied.

c- More state schools must be built, especially in disadvantaged areas.

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3- Institutions for vocationally training the handicapped must be expanded and be well equipped.

4- Vocational training programs must be implemented for working children in all governorates.

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6- Media campaigns must be conducted for public awareness of the importance of child education.

7- Media programs directed to children must be modernized.

D- Health & Social Security

1- A system of primary health care must cover working children.

2- Free psychotherapy clinics should be opened to receive children suffering from social and psychological problems.

3- The government, charities, donor organizations, etc. must be called upon to established special centers for rehabilitating and training poor handicapped children.

4- Psychological rehabilitation programs must be adopted to integrate children into the rest of society.

5- Families of working children should be supported to start their own small projects that can be funded by the Social Development Fund and other official organizations.

6- A special mechanism must be established to protect abused, vagrant, orphaned, and handicapped children or those whose families are unable to support them.

7- Early-intervention programs must be adopted to protect children from being forced into labor.

8- The social security program

POSITION(S) AVAILABLE

An international NGO is looking to expand its work in Yemen in the year ahead and is looking for qualified Yemeni staff. Under-graduate degree, fluency in English, computer experience, and previous experience working with international organizations preferred. Please submit resume with three letters of references and salary expectations to P. O. Box 2579, Sanaa.

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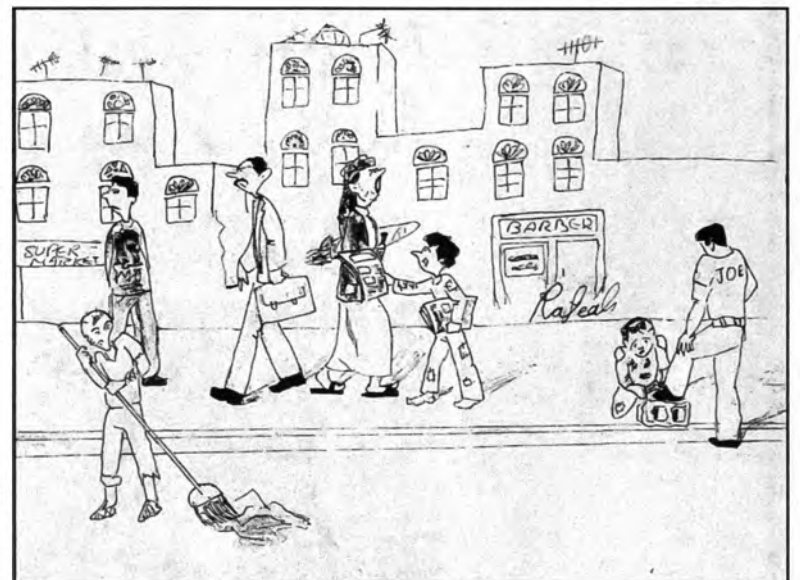
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Applicant should be fluent in English.

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UME
P. O. Box: 14041
or Fax: 212976
Tel: 212962

c/o Mr. Abdo Ahmed Mansour



1- Primary education and vocational training must be modernized and expanded through the following:

- a- School curriculum must be unified and modernized to be compatible with the needs of the local labor market.

so as to give all possible help to protect people from abject poverty.

9- Begging must be combated.

10- More centers for productive families must be opened and developed.

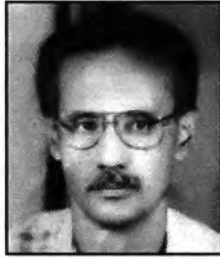


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بمناسبة عيد ميلادها السابع
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من جميع الاهل والاصدقاء

Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Mass: Master Yemeni Singer

By: Saleh Abdul-
baqi, musician

Yemeni master singers or sheikhs, as they were known then, played a major role in enriching the Yemeni artistic movement. One of the greatest singers in Yemen's artistic history is Sheikh Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Mass. Sheikh Ibrahim was born in Aden where he received his public education. After finishing his study, he worked in the public sector until he passed away in 1966. His father who died in 1953, was a famous singer whose songs were recorded on gramophone records. He descended from a tribe in Shibam, Kawkaban in Northern Yemen. Because singing was forbidden by the Imam in pre-revolutionary days, Mohammed Al-Mass and other singers moved to Aden. That made his house a gathering place for some of Yemen's outstanding singers. Mohammed Al-Attab was one of those who frequently visited Al-Mass's house bringing with him different traditional songs. Ibrahim Al-Mass, still a little boy, was brought up in such atmosphere that he very much loved. That created in him a deep desire to learn how to play the lute. His father started to teach him to play the lute as well as the principles and methods of Yemeni traditional singing. In addition, the boy listened to some Egyptian singers like Salamah Hijazi, Sayed Darweesh and Mohammed Abdulwahab. He recorded



Hijazi's song *Mata'a Hayatak* (enjoy your life) which was mentioned in Dr. Mohammed Fadhel's book about Hijazi's life and works. Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Mass

aimed to maintain the originality of the Yemeni traditional song. Dr. Mohammed Abdu Ghanim wrote: 'Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Mass was the one who combined the songs of Al-Madaheen (eulogists) and the Sanaani songs in his recorded songs. A common mistake is that those songs were attributed to the Tihami lyricist Jaber Rizq.' Thus, Al-Mass made the greatest favor to the Yemeni song heritage in performing Al-Madaheen's songs. Ibrahim Al-Mass rebelled against the high-class society's viewpoint concerning the traditional arts. They regarded those arts as backward practices, a concept Al-Mass would never accept. As Mr. Fahmi Abdullateef describes them in his book "Styles of Traditional Arts," Al-Madaheen (eulogists) had very distinguished artistic practices. They depended totally on their personally acquired artistic skills in playing the tambourine, their only instrument. The tambourine

is used to regulate and control the rhythm of a musical troupe's performance. Arab people used the tambourine in announcing eulogies and elegies. Some



mystics still use it in their religious ceremonies. Al-Mass did not take singing as a profession from the beginning, though he was quite famous as a good singer. He started by singing in family and friends' gatherings. As the breadwinner for a 10-member family, he finally agreed to record his songs on disks. According to Hajj Awadh Al-Ajami, Ibrahim Al-Mass was a Yemeni singer who gained great popularity all over Yemen and the Arab Peninsula.

Lights, Camera, ACTION!!

Apart from some TV documentaries, cinema in Yemen is almost non-existent. The Yemeni singer Ahmed Qassem acted in a film, produced by a Yemeni businessman in 1965 in Egypt, alongside some of Egypt's most famous actors. A lone feature film - *From the Shack to the Palace* - was made in Aden during the same period.

To know more about the future prospects for a movie industry in Yemen, Dr. Salah Haddash of Yemen Times met one of the country's well-known film makers.

Saeed Hassan Al-Zubaidi has an M.A in film direction from the Moscow Institute of Cinematography, Russia, 1981. Professionally, he is a film director. He is the first Yemeni to graduate from that institute in the field of feature films. Al-Zubaidi, 47, has been working since 1983 as a freelance film maker. Through his "Yemen Cinema" enterprise, he has made more than 70 films for various foreign organizations, Yemeni ministries, and private enterprises.

Q: What do you think of the history of cinema in Yemen?

A: We cannot say "history of cinema in Yemen" since we do not have any cinema, at all.

Q: Have you tried to direct any films in Yemen?

A: We were supposed to do a film in cooperation with the General Authority of Theater and Cinema (GATC). Unfortunately, we did not continue the job. Although the producer was ready to pay and the GATC had the necessary equipment and film stock, work was hindered by numerous problems.

Q: What is required to establish a movie industry in Yemen?

A: There should be an infrastructure for such an industry to ensure the continuity of the work. Producing one or two films does not lay down the necessary foundation for a Yemeni cinema. Establishing a Yemeni cinema needs a number of conditions.

Q: What are these conditions?

A: For example, all Indian films as well as the Arabic and Egyptian films have special characteristics. These characteristics do not materialize unless there are many films produced. Directors usually follow different patterns. Therefore, I suggest that Yemeni cinema must have a new, different direction.

Q: What sort of films have you made?

A: I have been working 14 years, making films and commercials for private companies and government ministries. I also made one feature work and I'm preparing for the second.

Q: What is the title of this feature film you already finished?

A: *Al-Zu'aifera Days* is a film about the conditions of the teachers who, are sent to remote villages and about the schools there. This film was exhibited in Al-Afif Cultural Foundation.

I first wrote the scenario and I made several field visits. I found that the scenario was not appropriate, there were not enough actors, no facilities. So, I just decided to change the scenario and it was OK.

Q: Have you marketed the film?

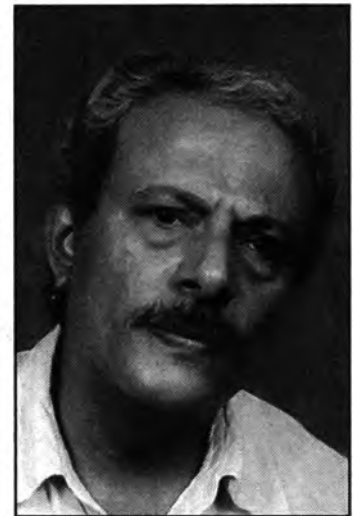
A: Not yet.

Q: How long is this film?

A: Nearly one hour. I would like to re-edit the film to decrease its duration because it's not a commercial film. Actually, it is a film that any body can watch.

Q: What about the second film?

A: It is based on a short story written by Dawood Ba-Zil. I



wrote the scenario and made major changes in characters and events. I called it "Amr" or the command.

While making this film, I faced many problems mainly because of actors. For example, if one actor was absent, the whole work stopped. Actually, they were not real actors. I had to train them myself. I stopped working due to the absence of three actors and due to insufficient funds.

Q: How long does filming take?

A: The actual process of filming



takes 2 weeks. Preparation for filming and looking for actors takes 3 months.

Q: How about financing?

A: Financing is difficult because it should cover all costs of the filming process. Therefore, it is not feasible to make films here. My real purpose behind making films is not to benefit financially. Some private businessmen may pay a third of the total expenses of making a film. But, who can guarantee the returns?

Actually, this film may make profit in about one year. Film making has its own moral rewards. We are backward in making films because we think only of financial aspects.

Q: Do you mean that the government should undertake the process of making films?

A: No, not necessarily the government. The private sector can also participate. The support from the government is so little. It has no motives to support us unless we make a propaganda film. But if it is artistic work, the government pays no attention.

Q: How is your second film going, anyway?

A: I haven't finished making it yet. But, filming is going on. I have worked 20 minutes on this film while it is supposed to last between 90 to 100 minutes.

Q: Are you able to successfully market your films?

A: I made some films, but I still cannot market any of them. The problem is that production is closely connected with the TV, rather than with the market, especially in video production.

Q: Do official censors interfere with your work?

A: Yes, very much so. This thing makes a film producer look for a channel that accepts his work. Thus, we always have to do things that satisfy others. This depends upon whom you work for. Art has become a business.

Q: Do you plan to submit your films to international competitions?

A: If I had a movie camera, *Al-Zu'aifera Days* would win many prizes. But, unfortunately, the film was recorded on video tape.

Q: Is there any cinema club in Yemen?

A: Some people are toying with the idea of establishing a cinema club, but I don't believe they will manage to do that. Establishing a cinema club needs some special conditions which are not avail-

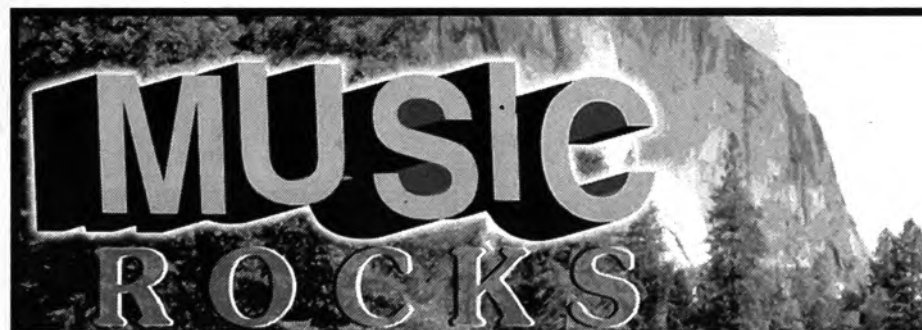
able here.

Q: How do you see people's liking of cinema?

A: People living in the coastal areas of Yemen, for example, love Indian films. There are many poor people in Yemen who try to escape from their reality in the stories of Indian films. Just like in India, the weather of the coastal areas in Yemen is very hot. Many Indians live in Yemen. All these are reasons why people to like Indian films.

Q: What do you think of the level of films shown in Yemeni cinemas?

A: If you want to judge the types of the films, you had better judge the type of viewers. Cinema owners show 2 films a day. They just want money regardless of any moral restraints.



There are times when I look above
And beyond
There are times when I feel
your love around me, baby
I'll never forget my baby
When I feel that I don't belong
Draw my strength
From the words when you said
Hey, it's about you, baby
Look deeper inside
you, baby

Together Again

معا من جديد

Janete Jackson
جانيت جاكسون



(Bridge)
Dream about us
together again
What I want - us
together again, baby
I know we'll be together
again, 'cause

(Chorus)
Everywhere I go
Every smile I see
I know you are there
Smiling back at me
Dancing in moonlight
I know you are free
'Cause I can see your star
Shining down on me

(Together again, ooh)
Good times we'll share again
make me wanna dance
Say it loud and proud
(Together again, ooh)
All my love's for you

Always been a true angel to me

Now above
I can't wait for you
To wrap your wings around me, baby
(Ever see now, baby)
So happy for my baby

What I'd give just to hold you close
As on earth
In heaven we will be together, baby
Together again, my baby

تمر بي اوقات اطلع فيها للآتي
وما بعده
ونمر بي اوقات اشعر فيها
بحبك بختوني... يا حبيبي
انا لن انسى ايدا حبيبي
وعندما اشعر بانني لانتحي لاحد
فانني استمد قوتي من الكلمات
التي قلتها لي
كلماتي كلها عندك... يا حبيبي
تأمل نفسك بعينك بعين
يا حبيبي

احلم
بان تكون معا من جديد
وكل ما اريده هو
ان تكون معا من جديد... يا حبيبي
واعلم اننا حتما
سنكون معا من جديد

الكورس
في كل مكان انهب اليه
وفي كل ابتسامة اراها
اعرف انك هناك
تبتسم لي
وترقص في ضوء القمر
واعرف انك حر
وارى نجمك يتلألأ لي

معا من جديد
وسوف تنقسم الاوقات الحلوة
معا من جديد
وسنجعلني اريد الرقص
معا من جديد
قلها لي اذن عالية ولخورة
معا من جديد
فكل حبي هو لك انت

ولنكن دائما ملاكا حقيقيين بالنسبة لي
انك الآن في الاعالي
وانا غير قادرة على الانتظارك , يا حبيبي
إلى ان تلف جناحك حولي
انا سعيدة لاجل حبيبي

واسعطي كل ما املك
لفقط لاجلك قريبا مني على هذه الارض
وفي الجنة سنكون معا
معا - يا حبيبي - من جديد



Court Orders Bhutto's Arrest

A Pakistani court last week ordered the arrest of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and two ex-officials on charges that they illegally recruited staff for the Pakistan national airline PIA. The accountability bench of the Sindh High Court issued arrest warrants on a reference sent by the Chief Accountability Commissioner alleging that Bhutto, former chairman of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Farooq Omar and another former PIA official, Gulzar Qazi, affected some 1,300 illegal appointments at the airline during their 3 year rule. The court ordered the police to produce the opposition leader and her two aides before the court at the next hearing of the case on April 24. Bhutto was dismissed November 1996 by then president Farooq Leghari on charges of corruption, economic mismanagement and misrule. Bhutto has denied the accusations.

UN Tells Israel to Halt Settlements

The main UN human rights body last week condemned the establishment of Israeli settlements on "confiscated Palestinian lands" and called on the Jewish state to halt these and other violations it said were blocking peace. The US was the only country to vote against all four resolutions adopted on the Middle East, which it dismissed as one-sided - a charge echoed by Israel's observer delegation. The condemnatory text, sponsored by Arab states including Egypt and Jordan, passed by a vote of 31 states in favour with one against, 20 abstentions and one delegation absent. The Arab-backed text - the most strongly-worded of the four - also condemned the killing and torture of Palestinians and the detention of thousands of Palestinians without trial. Peace talks were frozen last year when Israel broke ground on a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

OPEC Cancels Output Quotas

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plans to scrap the production quotas in place for members since the early 1980s in a special session next week, Venezuelan Energy Minister Erwin Arieta has said. OPEC last week announced an agreement including significant non-members to cut production to halt the rapidly falling price of oil on the global market. The decision, spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Venezuela, calls for output to be cut by 1.6 to 2 million barrels per day beginning on April 1. The

move triggered an instant rise in prices. Venezuela, a founding member of OPEC, has argued that the production quotas have left the organization with a smaller share of the international oil market.

Executions Stayed in Rajiv Case

India's Supreme Court last Friday admitted an appeal by 26 people condemned to death for the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Sources said the three-judge bench in the country's highest court passed an interim stay order on the January 28 ruling by an anti-terrorist court in the southern city of Chennai which sentenced the 16 Sri Lankans and 10 Indians to death. The Chennai court judge also upheld a charge of conspiracy against Sri Lanka's separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the killing of Dhanu, a woman suicide bomber who pressed a trigger as she stopped to touch Rajiv's feet.

27 Children Massacred

Twenty-seven children were among 47 people massacred last Thursday night in the Djelfa region of Algeria, security services reported. The outrage occurred in the town of Bouirat Lahdab, in the Djelfa region some 250km south of Algiers. Another 11 were killed in Youb, in the Saïda region, 350km southeast of the capital.

Dhaka to Host D-8 Summit

Bangladesh has begun preparations for the single biggest gathering of international Islamic leaders in November this year when it hosts the summit of the newly-launched Developing-8 grouping. Presidents and prime ministers of Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey and Bangladesh will meet in Dhaka to chart out a common platform to unveil the future course of action of the D-8 which was launched in Istanbul last June. The foreign ministers of the D-8 member-states will also hold a conference in Dhaka ahead of the summit. According to senior officials, the Dhaka summit of the D-8 will harness the real potential of the new economic alliance and set it rolling to a focussed direction.

Iraqi Presidential Site Inspected

UN weapons inspectors accompanied by diplomatic observers carried out the first inspection of an Iraqi presidential site.

Around 30 UN vehicles escorted by at least a dozen Iraqi vehicles entered Baghdad's Radhwaniya palace complex in the first test of the accord brokered by UN chief Kofi Annan in the Iraqi capital last month.

The inspectors "completed the inspections at two locations in the Radhwaniya area," UNSCOM spokeswoman Janet Sullivan told reporters. Diplomats accompanying UN arms experts on the inspections praised the cooperation they received from Iraqi authorities. "Fantastic, absolutely positive, constructive," German diplomat Horst Holthoff said. He added: "I am personally really impressed by the spirit of cooperation we had from the Iraqi side." Chinese diplomat Cui Tian also said: "We had a very good start to our work and hope we can fulfil our task. Radhwaniya complex is one of the largest of the eight presidential sites at the centre of last month's crisis over access for UN weapons experts.

Mengistu Moves to N. Korea

Mengistu Haile Mariam, the former fugitive Ethiopian dictator who fled to Harare in 1991 to escape a rebellion, was granted political asylum in North Korea and is ready to leave Zimbabwe anytime to settle in that country. Mengistu's lavish lifestyle as a guest of the Zimbabwean government over a 7 year period has cost the taxpayer over \$50 million in security and other expenses. Intelligence sources revealed this week that Mengistu, apparently ruffled by uncertainty on the Zimbabwean political front and worried by the possible exit of his close friend and ally, President Mugabe, has been extremely concerned about his future in the country.

Arab Bank to Issue Bonus Shares

Arab Bank, the largest privately owned bank in the Arab world, last week won shareholder approval to issue bonus shares that will double its capital to 88 million Jordanian dinars (\$124m). Shareholders at the bank's AGM unanimously approved the one-for-one issue, which will be funded by a transfer of reserves following the scrapping of a tax on capital increases. "We have large reserves this year and after cancellation of a law imposing 15% tax on capital increases, we are happy to give shareholders a bonus share," chairman Abdul-Majeed Shoman said. Shoman told shareholders the bank's financial strength was reflected in its healthy reserves, which rose to 462m dinars in 1997 from 400m in 1996.

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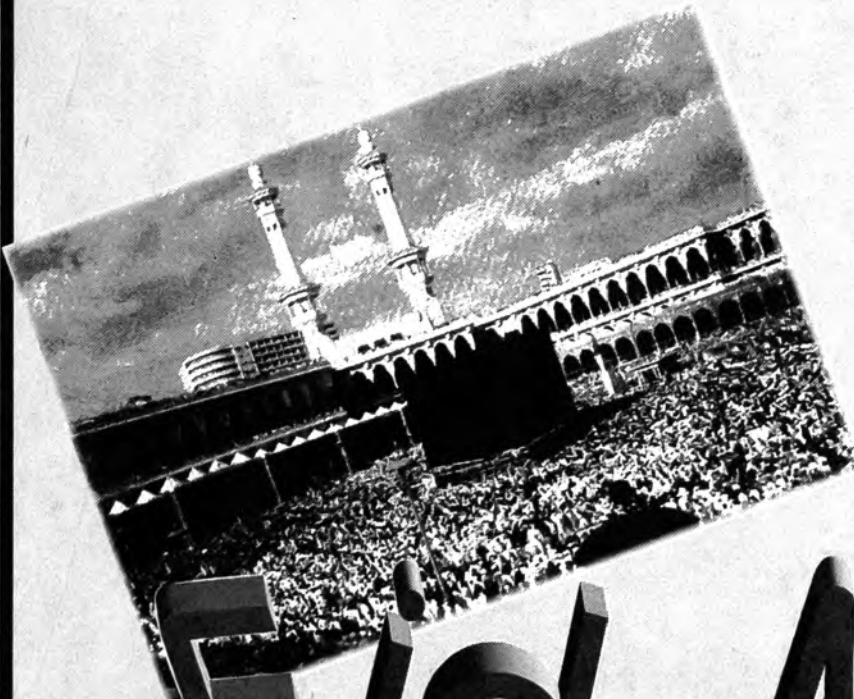
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AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa weekly, 24-3-98.**(Nasserite Unionist Party)****Main Headlines:**

- 1- Opposition parties condemn sentences on 16 secessionist leaders as purely political and related to the border negotiations with Saudi Arabia.
- 2- Nasserite party secretary-general participated in the meeting of the Pan-Arab Committee for Nasserite Parties held in Cairo.
- 3- Organization of Islamic Countries conference welcomes decision by International Court of Justice to look into the Lockerbie case.
- 4- 8th round of Pan-Arab Congress is held in Cairo.

Article Summary:**Complementary Elections**

The South-West Sanaa court issued an order obliging the Elections Supreme Committee to stop all measures it had taken to organize a re-election in Constituency # 204 in Dhamar. Instead, the court ordered that complementary elections should be held in that constituency.

The voting process in Constituency # 204 was suspended during the April 1997 general elections when armed confrontations broke out between the supporters of two rival parliamentary candidates.

AL-TAJAMM'U: Aden weekly, 23-398.**Cuisine Francais in Yemen**

The French chef Jean Moimeau started his career at the age of 14. With a diploma in cuisine, he went to Paris in the '60s to work in the City of Light's best restaurants and hotels.

This is his second visit to Yemen and the Taj Sheba Hotel to take part in the French Cultural, Food, and Music Week (29 March to 2 April), which is sponsored by Taj Sheba, Universal Touring, Bank Indosuez, CGG, the French Cultural Center and the French Embassy.



Jean Moimeau



Gautam Narayan

Staying in Yemen for 10 days, Moimeau will do some of the most famous French delicacies for the delight of Yemeni and international connoisseurs.

"French cuisine used to be almost the same everywhere in France. Different regions, however, started to develop their own character," said Jean. "I'll try to bring the essence of French cuisine to Yemen," he added.

The dishes that Jean and his partner, the Taj executive chef Gautam Narayan will cook include poached smoked haddock with cream sauce; hamoor fish fillet with pistachios and almonds; salmon with green apple butter, tomatoes and marrow; lamb chops and herbal crust with provincial aubergine; sliced beef fillet with shallots and potatoes; smoked duck with cranberries and corn cake; and many more delicacies and French and international deserts.

"The ingredients for these dishes will come from Yemen, Madagascar, Paris, and other countries," said Gautam.

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Sana'a International School Visit India

During the annual excursion week 11th March - 19th March 1998, a group of 10 people from Sana'a International School and expats travelled to India - a tour arranged by Wings Travel & Tourism.

A short note from Mr. Kees Riemens from Sana'a International School about the trip. Our first stop was in Delhi, where we visited the Red Fort, Qutab Minar, Mahatma Gandhi memorial, India Gate & many other sites in this enormous city of "million inhabitants".

The second leg of the trip took us by bus to the city of "Agra", where you have to see this 7th wonder of the world "The Taj Mahal" - a monument of love during the day time and especially at sunset. Another interesting visit was made to the "Agra Fort" - a work of skillful art and marble wonder.

From "Agra", we travelled to the "Bharatpur" - A national park for birds and the old city of "Fatehpur Sikri" to "Jaipur" - the pink city in the 2nd largest state of India the "Rajasthan".

During our stay there, we took an elephant ride to the "Amber Fort" and the "Palace of Winds". Then all the group members had loaded their suitcases and headed back for New Delhi to take the Emirates flight, thus concluding our "Wonderful Experience in India".

**Yemeni Press in a Week**

by: Adel J. Moqbil

(Yemen Unitary Congregation Party)**Main Headlines:**

- 1- Dire water situation - annual per capita share will be 125 m³ by the year 2025.
- 2- 31st Armored Division still occupies a land belonging to the Jahaf Agricultural Association in Lahaj, despite official orders to evacuate.
- 3- Doctors & Pharmacists Syndicate, Aden branch, called its members to wear red badges in protest over low pay, strike is expected in the near future.
- 5- Two persons working for an African airline were deported after being discovered to be HIV positive.

Article Summary:**Kindergarten for Sale**

A large state-owned kindergarten is to be illegally sold to a private investor, who plans to build a commercial center in its place. It is alleged that the Faihaa kindergarten - built in 1975 in Sheikh Othman, Aden - lies in a dangerous spot of the road where there is a lot of traffic.

The kindergarten occupies a large area and is located on a main road in an important part of the city. The strange thing is that the kindergarten's administration was not informed of the intended sale.

There are more than 350 children enrolled in the Faihaa under the supervision of 44 staff members. Parents have to pay a fee of YR 200 only. Government funding for the kindergarten was stopped following the 1994 war.

AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 26-3-98.**[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]****Main Headlines:**

- 1- Political and media circles express astonishment for the raging attitude adopted by Al-Mithaq newspaper, mouthpiece of the People's General Congress, towards any calls for combating corruption.
- 2- 80,000 families are set to benefit from the Adhahi program to be implemented by the Islah Charitable Society during the forthcoming Adh'ha Eid.
- 3- Started with a dispute over a stone cutter, an armed tribal conflict in Dhamar leaves 14 dead, more than 20 injured, and loss of property and livestock.
- 4- Members of the Maritime Chamber, Aden, call on the Prime Minister to put an end to monopoly over navigational services in Aden port.

Article Summary:**Oil & Gas in Development**

By: Abdul-ilah Al-Qirshy

Instead of using Yemen's oil revenue to support local agriculture and food production, it is used to buy wheat and flour from abroad thereby supporting Western farmers.

The revenue could also have helped the electricity-generation sector, which has a small capacity of 500 MW that is supposed to cover all Yemen. The Emirate of Shariqa with its quarter of a million population has an electric power capacity of more than 1,000 MW. The recently inaugurated project to supply Mareb with 40 MW of electricity from the Safer oil fields, operated by Hunt, is just not enough. It does not compensate the area for the pollution by the oil fields.

AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 26-3-98.**(Yemen Socialist Party - YSP)****Main Headlines:**

- 1- The YSP and other opposition parties consider the court sentences on secessionist leaders as a continuation of 1994 war.
- 2- Joint diplomatic efforts are

underway to improve Yemeni-Eritrean relations.

3- Wanted by Egyptian authorities, an Egyptian Muslim extremist teaching at a religious institute in Hadhramaut wages a hate campaign against the YSP.

4- Upon a complaint by the Ministry of Information, two Thawri writers are to appear in court to answer for articles they wrote

5- Anonymous 'phone callers threaten YSP activist Fouad Ba-Matraf with death and his wife and daughter with rape.

Article Summary:**Suspected Sheikh Resists**

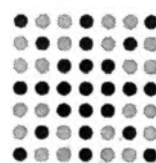
Security forces are still deployed in Al-Hisn, Abyan following an order by the governorate's prosecutor

to arrest Sheikh Saleh Al-Atwi, who is suspected of being behind a recent spate of bomb explosions in the area. Police tried to arrest the Sheikh while passing through the town's market, but his bodyguards thwarted the attempt.

The Sheikh and his supporters are still holed-up in his mountain palace, which is surrounded by the security forces. Despite mediation efforts by prominent figures, the Sheikh refuses to surrender or negotiate.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 26-3-98.**(Yemeni Armed Forces)****Main Headlines:**

- 1- Meeting the commander of special operations in the US army, the President praises US assistance in efforts to remove landmines in Yemen.
- 2- Vice-President lays foundation stones for a number of projects in flood-affected areas.
- 3- The government will request the arrest of secessionist leaders sentenced to death or imprisonment through the Interpol.
- 4- Dutch government is to provide \$57 million for constructing Socotra port.

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For more information visit the British Council at no. 7 Sabain Street or call on 244155.

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End of 18th Week of Excellent League Football Tournament: Ahli & Whada in Big Race

At the end of 18th week of excellent-league of football tournament, struggle, between Wahda of Sanaa and Ahli of Sanaa continued. Wahda of Sanaa is on top with 39 points after its draw with Ittihad of Ibb 1-1 at the match which took place last Thursday in Sanaa. This result shocked the Wahda of Sanaa fans since they had expected their team to win and assert its lead in the tournament.

Also fans of Wahda were shocked when their team lost the match with Shu'lah 2-1 at the match which took place last Friday in Sanaa. Ahli of Sanaa now has 37 points but still remains strong opponent to

Wahda of Sanaa. In Abyan, Hassan team defeated Shaab of Ibb 1-nil. With this result, the two teams have now 34 points, each. In Aden, Tilal of Aden defeated Zohra of Sanaa 4-3. As a result, Tilal got the 6th place with 27 points. Whereas Zohra stayed with its 20 points in the 8th place. Shamsan of Aden defeated Shaab of Mukalla 2-nil. As a result, Shamsan got the 11th place with 10 points, whereas, Shaab of Mukalla's credit stayed at 24 points in the 7th place. In Taiz, Talieah of Taiz tied with Ahli of Hodeida 1-1. This made Ahli's credit 13 points in the 10th place leaving Talieah of Taiz in the back with 9 points.

Qualifying Course for Taekwondo Referees

Organized by the General Taekwondo Federation in cooperation with general management for qualifying at the Ministry of Youth and Sport, a course for junior referees was opened last Thursday at the Higher Physical Education Institute in Sanaa. The course will last one week and 25 trainees are participating from six governorates: Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hadhramaut, Lahaj and Hodeida. The international referee Khalid Maqbool will lecture in this course.

Course for Football Referees at Olympic Center

A course for training new football referees was opened last Saturday at the Olympic Center in Sanaa. Many referees have participated in this course which will continue until April 2, 1998.

This course is being financed by the Yemen Olympic Committee and Arwa Company for mineral water and organized by the Football Federation branch in Sanaa in cooperation with the Higher Committee for Football Referees.

Sports activities in Sanaa on Arabic Day "Sport for All"

Sponsored by the Minister of Youth and Sports, various sports activities were held in Sanaa last Friday on the occasion of the Arabic Day "Sport for All," which falls on March 27 of every year.

The Yemen Federation for Sports for All, in cooperation with Education Office in Sanaa, organized the following activities:

- 1- 40 km Cycle race
- 2- 10 km Cross-country race
- 3- 4 km jogging
- 4- Football, basketball and volleyball matches.

First place winners were rewarded at the end of the sports activities.

More than 40 Companies in Yemen Hall of International Exhibitions Oman has Lion's Share

25 March - 3 April, 1998

Organized by Al-Ridha for Trade and Investments - exhibition pioneers in Yemen, sponsored by the Ministry of Supplies and Trade in cooperation with General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, the Middle East Exhibition includes more than 40 companies from Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Syria, Pakistan, and several Yemeni companies.

The exhibition was launched by H.E. Badr Salem Al-Syyabi, the Ambassador of Oman; Hajj Hussain Al-Watari, the President of the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce; Mr. Jamal Sharman, the General Manager of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and several other esteemed guests. Mr. Khaled Al-Shoabi, the Director of the Foreign Bureaus at the Oman Center to Promote Investments and Develop Exports, said: "The Center will take part in 4 international exhibitions this year. This exhibition in Yemen is our first participation. We believe that the Yemeni market has a lot of potential and high purchasing power."

He added: "Omani products have very good quality at very competitive prices, which should be quite popular in this country. There are many Yemeni agents and distributors for Omani products."

Companies in this exhibition:

Ali Mirza Group of Companies

The Ali Mirza Group of Companies was established in 1974. It includes the Civil Contracts Co.; the Communication, Trade and Services Co.; the Maseera Electric Co.; the Oman Plastic Factory; the National Electricity Factory; and others.

The Ali Mirza Group of Companies has the philosophy that addressing the customers' needs and ensuring their satisfaction through strict quality control is paramount.

Louay Projects

The Louay Stationary Factory was established in 1978. It started with modest production levels, and later developed to be a well-known manufacturer through the top quality of its products. The Louay Factory has gained the respect and satisfaction of clients not only in the Middle East, but also in Europe. The factory supplies a very large number of Omani ministries, governmental bodies and private-sector companies. The Louay Factory provides its clients with the best at the minimum price.

Omani Cable Co.

Mr. P.H. Mumtaz, Drakaz International Sales Manager, said: "The company was established in 1984, and started commercial production in 1987. It added new lines of products such as the high and low-voltage cables, in addition to the flexible cables which are used to protect people from the danger of fires."

He added: "The company manufactures electric cables at the highest international and British Standards, in addition to the standards laid down by the Gulf Cooperation Council."

"In 1994, the company won the ISO 9002 Certificate, which is considered a model to be followed. It won this certificate within a record time - 6 months only. The certificate has been renewed to the year 2000."

Omani Economy

The Sultanate of Oman is one of the developing countries that have been able to achieve a lot of progress within a very short time. The

Omani GDP rose from 104 million Omani riyal (\$ 270.5 million) in 1970 to 5890.3 million Omani riyal (\$15,319 million) by the end of 1996, i.e., it has increased 57 folds. Growth rates at the prices of 1993-1996 were 3%, 3.4%, 6.8%, and 11%, respectively.

The 1996 national revenue reached about 5050.3 million Omani riyal (\$13,135 million). Thus, it has achieved a per capita income of 3,226.9 Omani riyal (\$10,200).

Crude oil production occupies an advanced position in the Omani national revenue. Oil and natural gas revenues make about 77.1% of the state's revenues and about 42.4% of the GDP. The oil added value reached 2,480.8 million Omani riyal (\$6,452 million) in 1996.

NAZ vs Vasquez Will the Prince Win WBF Title?

Naseem Hamed, the world boxing champion of WBO and IBF, is undergoing preparatory training to meet his new Columbian challenger Vasquez, who is the world feather weight champion of W.B.F. The match is scheduled for April 18, 1998 in Manchester, England. This match is very crucial for both boxers because the defeated will lose an international title and the winner will gain a new title and will be the world featherweight champion.

Prince Naseem managed to snatch W.B.O. and W.B.F. titles and he is only left with W.B.F title which is held by his opponent Vasquez. The other title W.B.A is held by the Philippino boxer Ferora. Naseem is going to meet a strong



opponent who managed to keep W.B.F title for 8 years. Naseem aspires to be new a legend in the boxing world. Will that be realized?

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For further inquiries please contact the following address:-

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Fax No. 967-2-376600/601

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NOTICE

With extreme pleasure, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Aden notifies all businessmen of the availability of the *Trade Directory of Aden governorate*. It is the first Trade Directory at the level of governorate that covers all trade activities in both languages, *Arabic and English*.

Those interested in acquiring a copy can contact the administration of the Chamber in Aden.

The Chamber is also publishing the *1999 Trade & Industry Directory for the Governorate of Aden*. Therefore, the Chamber members are requested to update their data at the Chamber, so that the directory will be more comprehensive. Members can also book spaces for their advertisements, starting from now.

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David Stanton, vice-chairman of
the Yemeni Ornithological



Society and nature lover Roy Wraines of Norway, the Welch's proved what other scientists had only guessed at. Instead of taking a circular route back to their breeding grounds in Russia and Europe, birds of prey take the route they used

Yes, folks it is official. It has been proven for the first time. And it is in Yemen. Following a 4-day monitoring stint on the Yemeni side of Bab Al-Mandab, British nature conservationists Geoff and Hilary Welch have announced, in an exclusive interview with Yemen Times, that migrating birds of prey follow the same route back to Europe.

"It is very very exciting," said Geoff euphorically, adding, "this is the first time that it has actually been proven that it happens."

He went on to explaining, "we counted just over 1,600 birds of prey coming into Yemen. We have now proven that the migration does take place - the birds come from Africa, go through Arabia to Russia and Europe to breed." Together with

on their way down. Hilary Welch, a graphic designer interested in the conservation of birds and general wildlife and her husband Geoff, the site manager of the Minsmere nature reserve in Britain who also works for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), made 7 visits to Djibouti between 1984 and 1993 to monitor the migration of birds of prey.

The couple's work there shows that the birds come through the Arabian Peninsula, enter Africa

via Yemen and across the Bab Al-Mandab straits. "In the Autumn, we recorded almost a quarter of a million birds of prey entering Africa. Nobody has ever proven that those birds go back across Bab Al-Mandab in the Spring.

The exciting thing is about two main species - the Egyptian vulture and the booted eagle. In the Spring, there are virtually no places where these species occur in large numbers. "The numbers we have found in Yemen suggest that there must be quite large populations of these two species somewhere in East Europe and Russia, which are yet to be discovered," said Geoff. "We hope very much that in the future it would be possible to come back to Yemen and have a longer period of counting birds at Bab Al-Mandab to try and get a better idea of how many birds go through that region," commented Hilary.

Those coming down are about 250,000, so in theory there should be as many birds going back in the Spring. This makes Yemen a very important region to monitor these birds. Eagles, vultures, and buzzards rely on rising hot air - thermals - to travel long distances without using much energy. Thermals only occur over land. So when something like an eagle comes over a big stretch of water it finds it very difficult to cross. "So a place like Bab Al-Mandab, where the water passage is very narrow, is an ideal area for them to cross. That is why they are so concentrated there,"

explained Geoff.

Hilary enthusiastically said: "From a birds watcher's point of view, it is very spectacular to see these big birds in big numbers. Also you can do a long-term systematic count to get some indication of how big the population is. It is the first step of what we hope will be a major project in the future."

Yemen's geographical position at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula is the ideal place for the birds to gather so that they can cross safely to Africa. They fly in the day and roost in the night. By 8 or 9 o'clock in the following morning, the hot air is rising so

they rise and carry on with their journey. "Watching the migration is a very good tool to get people interested in the wonders of the natural world. In Yemen there are so many birds that come through so it is a fantastic opportunity to monitor these birds of prey," Geoff pointed out. The couple recorded 26 species of migrating raptors in Djibouti. Some start their journey earlier in the season and others start late.

The interesting thing about birds of prey, since they are on top of the food chain, is that if there are problems with pesticides or changes in the environment, one may be able to detect those by monitoring the numbers of the birds of prey. This may give an indication that there is something wrong in the breeding or wintering grounds.



Since Bab Al-Mandab is an off limit, military area, David Stanton spent several months obtaining what was thought to be the correct permission to enter the area, but the group ended up with losing two days with telephone calls and trips before the army would let them in. "Despite assurances from the proper authorities, the couple's mission was thwarted at every turn," complained David, adding, "considerable expenses were incurred which under normal circumstances would be considered unnecessary."

"The other frustration is that the army said we can only stay in one spot. We think because of the wind many birds are probably on the other side of the peninsula. Ideally a full count would require 3 months," indicated Geoff.

Bald Ibis, Again!

Geoff and Hilary Welch are also interested in the Bald Ibis. Old records from Yemen indicated that the bird is indigenous to this region. As recently as 1994, records stated that 4 or 5 birds were seen wintering in Taiz. "Together with Roy Wraines, who has travelled around the mountains looking for the Bald Ibis, we also went to an Ibis site near Lauder where a shepherd told us he still sees Bald Ibis most years, but only for about a week in the late Summer," the couple said. There may still be a population somewhere in Yemen where they breed. The YOS, through Yemen Times, has set a reward of YR 25,000 for anyone spotting a nesting Bald Ibis without interfering with its habitat.

It remains to note that the Welch trip was sponsored by the British Council, Universal for Travel and Tourism and the YOS.

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