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At the End of a Yemen Times Debate on Yemeni-Saudi Relations:

Call to Stop Border Talks with Saudi Arabia

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recognizing that Saudi Arabia is Yemen's most important neighbor; Fully aware that an agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia must cover all issues beyond the border dispute in order to achieve meaningful bilateral cooperation and regional stability; We issue the following recommendations:

- 1) We call on the Yemeni government to temporarily suspend all border talks with Saudi Arabia, until it achieves equitable bargaining conditions.
- 2) We call on the Yemeni government to work out clear objectives and goals for its negotiations.
- 3) We urge the Yemeni government to include in its official negotiating teams experts and professionals.
- 4) We advise the government to regularly obtain feedback from the Yemeni public.
- 5) We declare that no agreement with Saudi Arabia is final until approved by parliament and a referendum.
- 6) We demand the Yemeni authorities to provide full information on the progress of the negotiations with Saudi Arabia.
- 7) We pledge to organize future meetings and seminars between Yemeni and Saudi intellectuals as confidence measures, and to bridge any gaps and misunderstanding.



"We call on the Yemeni government to temporarily suspend all border talks with Saudi Arabia, until it achieves equitable bargaining conditions." That was the first of seven recommendations issued following an intensive debate sponsored/organized by Yemen Times in Sana'a on Thursday, July 30th, 1998. Some seventy leading political

scientists, lawyers, journalists, politicians, and other intellectuals participated in the meeting which was chaired by Dr. Mohammed Al-Qubati. Four keynote speakers made presentations. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi, Secretary-General of the Nasserite Unionist Party, talked about "What Yemen Wants to Achieve in the Talks".

Dr. Khadeejah Al-Haisamy, Lecturer of International Political Relations at the Political Science Department, author of a book on the border dispute, talked about "What Saudi Arabia Wants in the Talks". Dr. Ahmed A-Kibsi, Chairman of the Association of Political Scientists, and Professor of Systems of Government at Sana'a University, talked about

"Possible Scenarios in the Future of the Region". Mohammed Hussain Al-Farih, Member of the Association of Arab Historians, talked about "The Meaning of Historic Rights for Yemen". After 3 hours of extensive debate, the intellectuals issued a 7-point recommendation (as shown in the box), which the authorities said are considering.



Heavy Rains Bring Havoc

It has been raining cats and dogs, as the saying goes. The rains were followed by major casualties. "From Kilometer 64 to kilometer 160 on the highway between Sana'a and Hodeidah, total damage is estimated at YR 350 million," said Engineer Abdul-Wali Mughallis, Director-General of Road Maintenance at the Highway Authority. "In Haraz area, five persons were killed as their homes collapsed on them. Also in the same area, mountainside mud-slides destroyed large areas of farms and thousands of coffee trees," he added. On the Sana'a-Taiz highway major boulders fell off the mountain sides blocking the road. In one point at

Yasli, some 60 kilometers south of Sana'a, workers have been chipping away on a giant boulder that is 30 meters wide. Flash floods have menaced such areas as Bani Matar, Al-Haimatain, Mahweet, Raimah, Utuma, Wusab, Raimah, Al-Udain, and other parts of Taiz, Dhale and Lahej governorates. Large numbers of heavy trucks carrying imported goods from Hodeidah to Sana'a and other parts of the highlands have been stranded at Al-Qadam area, some 80 kilometers east of Hodeidah. Unfortunately, a thirsty country like Yemen is not even able to avail itself of the rainwater, as it has not prepared itself for a rainy day.

Honoring a Great Gal

Her name is Marjorie Ransom. In the mid-1970s, she started the Fulbright Scholarships, AIYS, YALI and other American cultural and educational programs which have had an enormous impact on Yemen. She was invited back in Sana'a last week by the Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY). Nearly 80 former Fulbrighters came to the dinner hosted for her. Also honored on the occasion was Adam Erel, outgoing USIS Director, who helped found the FAAY, which will pay for 2-3 additional scholarships every year.



US Ambassador Barbara Bodine, who spoke on the occasion, urged the Yemenis and Americans to support the organization. "The contribu-

tion Fulbright graduates made to Yemen's progress makes FAAY a deserving cause to support," she said. **More on page 13**

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Importance of the Ministry of Social Affairs

Most people would agree that some ministries are more important than others. This is logical, given that they are in charge of different responsibilities.

In the public eye, as well as based on political priorities, the ministries of defence, interior, and finance are at the top of the list of importance. Then there are the ministries which shape the mind - such as the ministries of education, information, etc. Then come next the ministries that provide services. At the end, every ministry is important. That is why there is a ministry in the first place.

For Yemen today, I believe the Ministry of Social Affairs should top the list of importance. For a country that is going through a poverty transition, for a country that is restless, for a country that has a third of its population below the subsistence level, for a country that has a 40% unemployment rate, ... and for a country that is implementing a reform package, the ministry responsible for the cushion on which the poor fall is quite an important one.

Yet, this ministry is neglected. If only our politicians knew better. The performance of this ministry will determine how patient the public is with the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. It is this ministry that will determine how fast and how extensive the reform program can go. It is this ministry that will determine how much the general public can take.

Yet, this ministry is neglected.

You can see the blurred of vision (actually, lack of it) because of the absence of interest of the regime in this ministry. It is not a matter of money, and there is lot of it going the way of this ministry; but it is the lack of vision or even minimum work that characterizes the ministry.

For the sake of stability and peace in the country, I urge the president to attend to this ministry. Look at the people who manage it... a bunch of nincompoops whom one would not employ for anything. The president needs to wake up to see that this is a much dangerous ministry than the ministry of defence or finance. I am surprised that it has not dawned on him or his "advisors".

Another piece of advice to the President. Take twenty weeks on your calendar, and assign each week for a different ministry. During that week, you go to inspect that ministry once. The vice president should also go once. The Prime Minister should go once, as well. Each visit should seek to re-structure the ministry and address all issues relevant to its work. This way, something could well be corrected.

Many opposition politicians believe that neither the president nor anybody else is capable of correcting any situation. For the sake of Yemen, I hope they are wrong. But time is indeed running out.

Mr. President, could you assign next to the Ministry of Social Affairs and keep your eyes on it. It could make a difference to you, more than to us.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Yemenis Die in Kosovo

Five Yemenis were gunned down by Serbian forces last week. The local authorities displayed their passports on television.

The five are believed to have volunteered to fight side by side with the Albanian people who are subjected to a savage ethnic cleansing war by the oppressive Serbian forces.

The Yemeni government has no control over willing Yemeni adults who leave the country to fight in other regions.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Resigns from CC

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, member of the Consultative Council (CC) and Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee, tendered his resignation to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on July 30th. Saqqaf said that the lack of dynamics and vision made the CC a lethargic organ which contributed little to the nation, in spite of tremendous potential. His resignation letter also pointed that President Saleh uses the CC as dumping grounds for individuals he wants to appease, but who he doesn't care to keep on active duty elsewhere.

Administrative Reforms Conference

Under the auspices of the National Program for Governance Capacity and Institutional Reform, a 3-day conference will be held in Sanaa. During 15-17 August, 'The National Conference for Administrative and Financial Reform' will address the following aspects of the on-going reforms:

- 1) Methodology of Reforms and Decision-making Efficiency;
- 2) Evaluating and Improving Factors in Institution-building;
- 3) Enhancement of Administrative Performance Efficiency;
- 4) Administrative Environment Inductive to Private Investment;
- 5) Transparency of the Financial and Administrative Systems.

Chairman of BYS Concludes Visit

Mr. Steven Day, Chairman of the British Yemeni Society, left Yemen yesterday at the end of a week-long visit to Sanaa and Aden. Yemen Times learned that Mr. Day will return to Yemen in November 1998, with a large British business delegation.

American Official Here

Mr. Allen Keiswetter, Director of Arabian Peninsula Affairs at the State Department in Washington, is presently in Yemen.

Mr. Keiswetter is on an orientation visit. He will meet senior government officials, leaders of political parties, journalists and businessmen.

Terrible Conditions at Hodeida Prison

The chief of the Human Rights Organization in Yemen, Mr. Abdulafattah I. Al-Ahdel visited the Hodeida Central Prison on July 28, and made the following observations:

- 1- Abnormal overcrowding has made many inmates live in the prison's courtyard exposed to weather extremes.
- 2- Some prisoners were seen tied to tree trunks or shackled with iron chains.
- 3- Diseases such as scabies, typhoid, malaria, and other skin ailments are rife.
- 4- There is no health care.
- 5- Evidence of torture by interrogators at the Criminal Investigation Directorate was observed.
- 6- Almost all inmates, especially foreigners, have no clothes or bedding.
- 7- The women's prison is not better, at all.

Flashfloods Bring Destruction

By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi, at Manakha, Bassam Al-Saqqaf, at Naqeel Yislah, and Ibrahim Al-Marghamy, at Al-Qadam.

The engineers of the Highway Authority are still trying to cope with the road destruction brought about by rainfloods. The most seriously affected regions are about eighty kilometers from Manakha to Al-Qadam on the Sanaa-Hodeidah highway. Parts of the Sanaa-Taiz highway was also similarly damaged.

"But most of the damage is on the feeder and secondary roads. This has resulted in a tremendous increase in transportation costs, as people have reverted to the use of camels and mules to carry supplies," explained Engineer Abdul-Wali Mughallis, Director General of Road Maintenance. He and his team are now working around the clock to repair as much as possible on the Hodeidah and Taiz roads.



At another level, lots of terraces and farms have been destroyed. The damage was extensive at Ba-Breid in Haraz region. Walid Hussain, a farmer, told the Yemen Times team which visited the area that his family has lost more than 500 trees.

Several houses collapsed, leading to at least six deaths in the area of Bani Ismail, Al-Maghariba, Bani Attiyah and Al-Qadam, in the mountains sloping westwards. Total damages because of the rains and floods is estimated at around 2.5 billion Riyals.



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Aiman Mohammed Nasser:

"Attariq newspaper has succeeded by leaps and bounds."

Attariq is a weekly that comes out of Aden. Though classified as independent, it is a hard-hitting newspaper critical of the regime. It often voices the concerns and aspirations of the people of Aden in particular, and the people of the southern/eastern governorates, in general.

The publisher and chief editor is Aiman Mohammed Nasser, a young man, who is better described as a fighter. He has put up with hell to continue issuing his newspaper.

At the end, however, Aiman, 29, and Attariq have grown together. Over the last year, the newspaper was transformed into a modern set-up, including an impressive computer typesetting and pagination system. It continues to grow in copy distribution and in loyal readership. Last week, Attariq joined few other Yemeni newspaper to be on the world-wide website.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to the chief editor about his worries and dreams. He filed the following interview. Excerpts.

Q: Could you briefly tell us about Attariq's early beginnings?

A: Attariq was first published in 1966 by my late father, the martyr Mohammed Nasser. The country then was in the throes of armed struggle against British colonial rule. Also at that time, the revolution in the north was under vicious counter-attacks by royalist forces.

Attariq, a daily publication then, played a widely recognized role in supporting both revolutions by promoting principles of freedom, justice, equality and unity. It remained a forum for all patriotic writers until it was closed down by the colonialist authorities in February, 1967.

Q: What about the new Attariq?

A: The idea to start re-publishing Attariq came in 1993, taking advantage of the democratic atmosphere that prevailed following the re-unification of the country in 1990. Preparations took a while. So, actual publication started in 1995, after a 28-year absence.

Q: What is the general line adopted by Attariq?

A: Our aim is to look for the truth and make it public. Without promulgating truth, you can't talk about freedom and equality. News items, information,

opinion, articles, etc., all have to reflect the concerns and hopes of the nation. They have to uncover anything that is liable to harm the country's security, stability, territorial integrity and future.

Despite its very modest resources, Attariq has been able to gain its readers' trust through its impartiality and the integrity of its journalists. Our copy distribution grows so fast that we barely are able to keep up with the demand of our distributors.

Q: Who are Attariq readers? To which calls do they mainly belong?

A: Attariq is popular among people from widely differing backgrounds. Its readers are both intellectuals and laymen. They are professional people, academics, students, public employees, workers, soldiers, etc. Most important of all, Attariq has quite a big female readership.

Q: Does Attariq deal with issues concerning the southern part of the country only?

A: Attariq belongs to the whole Yemeni nation. We are sometimes accused of allocating a too much space to issues concerning mainly the southern and eastern governorates. This "accusation" is often corroborated by the fact the Attariq is largely popular in these parts of the country.

In all this we have our logical and objective viewpoint. These gov-

ernorates have witnessed and are still experiencing a lot of monumental events that can't simply be ignored. For example, the relatively more socially and politically developed Aden and Hadramaut represent a model for a more advanced civil society. Their citizens are law abiding and are very proud of their history and culture.

The differences in awareness and social development have become a focal point of instability and confrontation in the southern and eastern governorates between the peaceful citizens and the arrogant and sometimes violent representatives of authority.

Q: How is Attariq financed?

A: We rely on our personal financial investments, the paper's sales and advertising. It is quite ironic to note here that when Attariq's patriotic standpoint becomes more deeply rooted, the advertisements - quite few as they are - become even less. This is despite the paper's wide circulation. It is as if some hidden influences are at play here.

Q: How do you classify Attariq? Is it an opposition newspaper?

A: Attariq is independent of any political influence, whatsoever. We formulate our own policy without coordinating with any party or organization, official or

otherwise. We are guided by our convictions, patriotism, professional ethics, and conscience. For a newspaper to be truly independent, it must rely on independent financial means.

Q: What are the major difficulties you face in your work?

A: We face 2 types of problems. First, there are the common obstacles facing new enterprises such as lack of adequate resources and facilities to be able to effectively compete with others. This hindrance was surmounted through sheer patience and hard work.

Second, gaining our readers' trust. We have achieved this with flying colors, overtaking many older and more established newspapers. There are in the country today three official daily newspapers as well 18 partisan and independent weekly publications and about six irregular ones. Due to particular circumstances, some readers lost their faith in what is published by the press.

Our task was, and still is, to publish trustworthy material so as to build a good readership base. This we have achieved successfully, thereby raising Attariq circulation from 3,000 to 12,000 a week. While other publications are still struggling at 5,000 copies a week, at best.

Q: Attariq has recently purchased new equipment. Could you tell us more about it?

A: Since publishing the newspaper in 1995 and up to very recently, we had relied in typesetting and other processes on other press institutions. Then were able to purchase modest equipment which enabled us to computerize the lay-out and typesetting and get the various pages on tracing paper ready for the printing press.

The technological leap forward came when Attariq reserved its website on the worldwide Internet. This move came in

response to the many demands we received from Yemeni living or studying abroad.

Q: How do you evaluate the current political situation in Yemen?

A: The "legacy" left by the 1994 civil war and its malignant consequences constitute a far-reaching political, economic, security and other crises. There must be a comprehensive national dialogue with a view towards an ever-lasting national reconciliation. The hatreds of the past can only be overcome with tolerance and feeling of patriotic responsibility on both sides of the political equation. This way can we start to build a modern Yemeni state based on constitution and law.

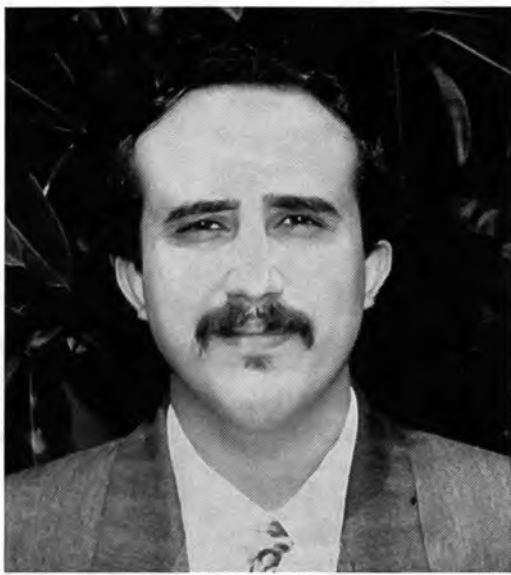
Q: How do you view freedom of

the press in Yemen?

A: There is no doubt that freedom of the press in this country is suffering some setbacks, as do other civil rights. This is actually one of the consequences of the civil war. The resultant imbalance of power has diminished the democratic margin.

It is very important that all people concerned with political and other civil rights should unite their to deal with this crucial issue. All agree that the current press law is a sure guarantee for freedom of the press. Any attempts to undermine this law, under whatever pretext, must be resisted.

The Journalists Syndicate must be more active and independent. Also, journalists must be a more responsible lot and avoid slander and blackmail.



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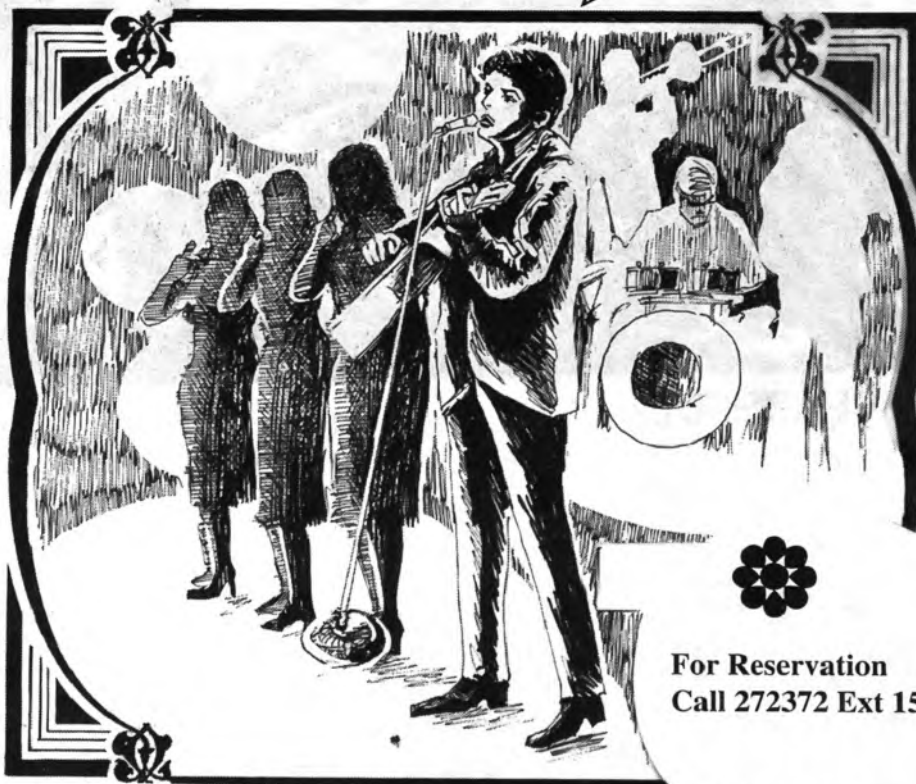
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Bidding Farewell to Slain Nuns

It was a solemn procession from St. Francis Church in Tawahi to the Maallah Cemetery. The 3 sisters of the Missionaries of Charity - Sister Michael, 37 (Philippines), Sister Aletta, 37, (India), and Sister Zelia, 35, (India) - were slain by a fanatic in Hodeidah on Monday July 27th, 1998. They were put to final rest on Thursday afternoon, July 30th.

Leading the procession were senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, Sister Nirmala (Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity), Rt. Rev. Bernado G. Gremoli, Bishop of Arabia; Sister Raphael, Regional Superior of the Missionaries of Charity; other sisters and many saddened friends. Many locals wept as the procession passed by.

The Sisters, working in Yemen for nearly a quarter of a century, now, operate 4 homes for about 500 retarded, disabled, old aged and homeless Yemenis in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah. The murderer, a Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Nasheri, is a Yemeni who



had spent most of his life abroad in areas of religious strife - Afghanistan and Bosnia. He had come to Yemen from Saudi Arabia a few days earlier. When arrested, he was on his way back to Saudi Arabia. This savage action has left a scar

on Yemen's face. "It has left us all with a bad taste in our mouth. It is like biting the hand that feeds you," said a senior official at the Ministry of Health.

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times, Aden Bureau.

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Adam Ereli:

"Yemen's press has an important role to play. But it must check and double check its information."

Mr. Adam Ereli is the Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy, and is responsible for all press and cultural relations between the US and Yemen. He arrived in Yemen in August 1996. He will be leaving on August, 7th, 1998.

During his tenure, he has strengthened contact and cooperation with the media, and intellectual circles.

On this occasion, Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Ereli, and filed the following interview.

Q: What are your impressions of Yemen as you prepare to leave?

A: I would say that out of the four countries I had served in - Yemen, Egypt, Syria and Ethiopia - I think I've benefited and gained the most from Yemen. On a personal level, the friendships I've made, both with Yemenis and members of the

expatriate community, have been very satisfying in both quality and quantity.

On a professional level, I am equally satisfied. We in USIS and the US Embassy have been able to develop a number of very close and mutually beneficial relationships with Yemeni institutions, which have allowed us and our partners to accomplish things that serve Yemen's and American interests.

Q: How do you see Yemeni democracy evolving?

A: Most people would agree that democracy is a process. It's not something that is created over night. It takes years and years of practice to develop. That has certainly been our experience in the US and I think that's the



approach which the Yemeni people are taking to democracy. Nobody would say that democracy in Yemen is perfect. By the way, neither is the democracy in the US, after 200 years. Rather, there is a willingness and a commitment to keep improving it, continue having elections, continue political party activity. Practice will improve the system. That's the way democracy works. It's a constantly evolving and improving process that responds to the needs of the people. In order to move forward you have to keep practicing democracy.

Q: You have an active relationship with Yemenis. You go to many qat chews?

A: I participate in Yemeni social sessions. A lot of people, both Yemeni and foreign, believe that qat is negative because it takes up a lot of the peoples' time and

allows people to get things off their chest. In that sense, it's productive and positive.

Q: As a cultural officer, how do you assess the development of journalism in Yemen?

A: I think there's a lot of room for improvement. There is a great lack of trained journalists in Yemen. Credibility is an important aspect of a good press. Unfortunately, in Yemen, a lot of the stuff in the press just isn't true. Sometimes, we call up journalists and newspapers to tell them what they print isn't true. And if they know it's not true then they shouldn't print it. But a lot of times they don't care if the information is true or false. They just have a

point of view they want to get across or they use the press to attack someone or institution.

I don't mind people printing something about the US if it is a fact, but not when they know it's wrong. That's irresponsible. In the US it's illegal to knowingly print false information with the intention of defaming. From a personal experience I find that frustrating.

On the other hand I think the press in Yemen is very important. It has an extremely important role to play in the development of the country. Unless you have a press that's free and open and examines the issues and debates them intelligently, then you're not going to be able to develop.

If you look at any developed country, one of its key institutions is a free press. So my conclusion would be that journalists here, especially those in the opposition and independent press, have a very important responsibility to the development of the country.

I would urge them to do their job professionally, to investigate, to verify, to interview, to ask questions, and print what they find out. Don't print rumors and innuendoes, but print facts and print what you know. There are many journalists doing it, and the increasing number who do is important.

Q: You have been honored by the Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen. Can you tell us about it?

A: We established in cooperation with Yemeni graduates of the Fulbright scholarship program a Fulbright Alumni Association. I would have to say that this was one of my proudest moments during two years in Yemen: to be able to contribute in this way to the development of the country.

Q: How do you find the Yemeni people in general?

A: In my dealings with Yemenis I've found to be open, honest and straight forward.

My wife always says that she very much admires the Yemeni people's pride and tolerance.

CONDOLENCE

The members of the Indian community in the Republic of Yemen express their sense of shock and anguish at the brutal murder of the three nuns (Sister Mary Zelia, Sister Mary Aletta - both Indians and Sister Michael - Filippina) of the Mother Teresa Congregation of the "Missionaries of Charity" in Hodeidah on 27.7.1998.

It is unimaginable that these sisters who had devoted their lives to the selfless service of the ailing humanity should be made to meet such an inhuman end.

We pray for the peace of their souls.

JOB VACANCY IN CREDIT AGRICOLE INDOSUEZ BANK SANA'A

The Credit Agricole Indosuez Bank announces the availability of the following position:

SECRETARY AT MANAGEMENT LEVEL

Major duties and responsibilities:

- Organizes/ maintains all administrative files
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- Updates time and attendance records
- Answers telephone / sends faxes

Language abilities:

Must be able to read, write, and speak fluently English and French.

Computer abilities:

Must be able to use WORD 95, EXCEL, POWER POINT and LOTUS.

Work experience:

2-4 years in similar job

Interested applicants should contact the
CREDIT AGRICOLE INDOSUEZ Bank - Mrs Ourich
- Secretary to the G. M. Phone: 272 932

The Need to Revitalize Commercial Courts in Yemen



Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times

Qualitative and specialized courts are considered an important landmark in modern judicial systems and a necessary step in the way of juridical development. Their establishment coincides with the complexities of various disputes in our society. Commercial courts have thus become an integral part of our judicial systems. Some countries have realized the practical need for such a judicial system in settling disputes as smoothly and as expediently as possible. Therefore, they created commercial courts with a body of highly reputed and qualified judges.

In Yemen, the emergence of commercial courts dates back to 1976 when republican decree No. 40/76 was issued by the Command

Council of the Republic. This decree called for the establishment of commercial courts in Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeida. It also stipulated that the judge to be appointed in these courts must be a graduate of the college of Law and must have a reasonable judicial experience.

Commercial courts, from the very beginning, were received favorably by the business community. They were expected to tackle disputes decisively and swiftly.

The economic and business boom that the country witnessed during the late 1970s and early 1980s was an additional indicator of the need for commercial courts. They were necessary to meet the rapid growth which came as a result of the influx of foreign capital in the form of banks, insurance companies, joint ventures and trading agencies. This development moved in line with the legislative procedures and laws that were enacted for this purpose, e.g. jurisdiction law, appeal law, commercial law, etc.

But what is the situation like now?

It is regrettable that the answer to this question is not a positive one. Most of the judges appointed in commercial courts do not have the minimum qualifications for the job. This has been clearly reflected in their poor performance due, among other reasons, to their ignorance which has paralyzed these courts.

Therefore, it is time that the government should pay special care in correcting the condition of commercial courts. It should start by appointing judges who can combine the required professional qualifications with a clean record. It is only through such people that these courts can be redeemed from their helpless situation in order to restore their good image. They were once an excellent model for modern jurisprudence in Yemen.

The multi-faceted development that our country now witnesses should be accompanied by the same degree of development in the judicial body in general, and in commercial courts, in particular.

This will help in creating the required atmosphere for investors both local and foreign.

The oft-recurring call that one hears nowadays for judicial reform should draw the government's attention to include the commercial courts in the reform program.

If you look at the number of cases which involve business disputes, you can appreciate the need for a working commercial court system.

Finally, I cannot but affirm that when I criticize some judges for misconduct, I do not mean to generalize. There exist judges in commercial courts who enjoy a high sense of responsibility, integrity and honesty.



This is an *OPINION* page.

Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

Marriage in International Conventions & according to Yemeni Law & Customs



By: Dr. Salah Haddash
Managing Editor,
Yemen Times

"b- The same right to freely choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent."

Yemeni customs dictate that the mother of the would-be groom is the one to choose the bride, because he is not allowed to see his would-be bride. In other words, the man can only see his bride after the conclusion of the marriage contract, and possibly only after the wedding ceremony. This custom, however, is now gradually disappearing since more and more women are discarding their veil. Male and females have now more opportunity to mix at work or in social context. Because of the Yemeni tradition of imposing sharshaf on women, the bride expresses her will to enter into marriage to the Qadhi (traditional judge) while sitting in a separate room. The law stipulates that a woman has to agree to get married. A virgin bride's silence when asked by the Qadhi is considered by the law a sign of her consent; while, a divorced or widowed woman's vocal reply is taken into account (Article 23, Personal Status Law No. 20 of 1992).

Article 16:

State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on the basis of equality of men and women (the following):

"a- The same right to enter into marriage"

In spite of fact that the Yemeni Constitution of 1994 stipulates equal rights for Yemeni citizens - in rights and responsibilities, attitude towards women is quite different.

The Personal Status Law differentiates between men and women. It provides that 'women are the men's sisters, having the same rights and responsibilities according to the Sharia and laws' (Article 31). This means that any question related to women is resolved according to Sharia law. There are several laws which regulate in detail this constitutional principle. For example, the groom signs the marriage contract himself; while, the bride has to have a guardian (father, brother or any other man from her family) who signs the contract on her behalf.

"c- The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution."

Here also, Yemeni law differentiates between the rights and responsibilities of men and women in marriage.

Article 40 of the Personal Status Laws stipulates the following wife responsibilities:

- 1- A wife should move to her husband's house.
- 2- A wife allows her husband to have sexual intercourse.
- 3- A wife must do her household duties and obey her husband.
- 4- A wife cannot leave the house (of her husband) without his permission. The husband cannot ban his wife from going out if she is going to attend to her financial affairs, do her job or look after her disabled parents.

Following are the husband's responsibilities:

- 1- A husband must provide an appropriate abode.
- 2- A husband must provide a adequate financial allowance and

clothing.

3- A husband must be fair in treating all his wives, if he is married to more than one wife.

4- A husband must not infringe on his wife's private property.

5- A husband must not harm his wife, morally or financially.

As far as divorce is concerned, both men and women have the right to ask for divorce, although it is much harder to achieve for a woman than a man.

The man must pay the wife, if she has no children, alimony for four months and the financial divorce settlement (agreed upon before marriage). If the woman has children, the man has in addition to pay expenses for the children's upkeep until they grow up, the house rent, and expenses for his divorced wife.

"d- The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of the marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount."

Yemeni law recognizes only formal marriage. Any other relationship such as cohabitation or common law marriage are considered a crime - adultery, punishable by the Yemeni penal law. Any child borne out of wedlock is considered illegitimate and is given a name different to his biological father's. In reality, society usually imposes marriage on the couple.

"e- The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education, and means to enable them to exercise these rights."

Public awareness and general policy regarding family planning are lacking in Yemen. There is no law to regulate this matter. It is usually the man's choice to decide the number of children. Often, however, it is left to nature to decide. Therefore, the annual population growth rate is quite high in Yemen - 3.7%. This causes a population explosion and diminishing of natural resources.

"f- The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these

concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount.

Adoption is allowed under Yemeni law, but an adopting father or mother cannot give his/her name to the adopted child. An adopted child cannot automatically inherit like the biological children. Nevertheless, the adopting parent can bestow an inheritance by writing a will. A will, according to Islamic Sharia, must not bestow more than a 1/6 of the total value of the person's possessions.

In case of divorce, the custody period is nine years for the male child and 12 years for the female unless the judge decides otherwise according to the interests of the child under custody. Beyond the above ages, a child's custody is transferred to the father (Article 139).

"g- The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the rights to choose a family name,

a profession and an occupation.

In Yemeni law, both spouses have the right to keep their original family names. As far as professions are concerned, men usually prefer their wives to be, if they have a job at all, teachers in girls' schools. The law allows women to have their own occupations and manage their own financial affairs. If the man does not want his future wife to work outside the home, he stipulates this before concluding the marriage contract.

However, men can force their wives to stay home (not to continue their education or work) even if they had agreed to before concluding the marriage contract.

"h- The betrothal and marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory."

Yemeni law allows both males and females to get married at the age of 15 years (Article 15). Registering the marriage contract should be notarized in court of law within one week of signing the contract. Unfortunately, there is no punishment specified by this law for not complying with its stipulations.

Conclusion

No contradiction exists between the Yemeni law and the convention. It actually exists between the convention and Islamic Sharia, which is the main source of all legislation in this country.

There are also contradictions within the restrictions of Sharia. There are certain taboos that cannot be broken. This means that no total implementation of this convention can be applied. This fact is acceptable under one justification - cultural relativism. This means that every culture can conserve its values.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts. This position is open to **YEMENI NATIONALS ONLY**.

1) PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

A. Tasks

The incumbent will be entrusted with the following tasks:

Collect, register and maintain information on programme/project activities by reviewing reports and through first-hand sources; contribute in the preparation of status and progress reports, prepare tables and draft selected sections of it, prepare background material of use in discussions and briefing sessions; arrange for the recording of and administrative processing of government requests for assistance; participate in the identification and formulation of development cooperation programmes/projects and participate in the preparation of draft programme/project documents; monitor programme/project activities through control plans, progress reports, programme/project inputs, budgets and final expenditures, etc.; maintain, process and analyse information on matters relevant to the organization and on external assistance provided to the country; carry out specific administrative/operation control tasks for programme/project activities, when needed, which may include field visits to project sites. The incumbent shall be a focal point for procurement, budgeting (FIM & PSD-FS), Poverty Week, publicity on poverty activities, UNESCO, ESCWA, WHO, ILO, UNFPA, WFP and UNCHS; He/she shall be responsible for translation and training database.

B.

Qualification

Bachelor's Degree, preferably supplemented by technical courses in the field of project management. Computer skills and fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic are essential.

C.

Experience

Five years' progressively responsible development work.

2) NATIONAL ECONOMIST

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

A. Tasks

The incumbent will be entrusted with the following tasks:

1. Provide necessary support and advice to the Round Table process and related activities, including preparation for and follow-up to all sectoral or thematic Round Table meetings;
2. Support the UNDP office in organizing and implementing NATCAP;
3. Provide substantive advice to the UNDP office, and through the office to the Government, regarding activities in the areas of economic development and aid coordination, and contribute to ensure the relevance of ongoing activities in these areas;
4. Provide substantive support and advice the RR and DRR (P) in the preparation of the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF), its mid-term review and its evaluation (through data collection, compilation of background information and socio-economic analyses), and in the conceptualization and elaboration of programme/project documents and other relevant operational frameworks;
5. Establish and economic and financial data-base of the host country and prepare economic reports on a quarterly basis.

B.

Reporting

The Field Economist reports to the RR and DRR (P) as appropriate and receives instructions from both of them.

C.

Qualifications

The successful candidate should possess Ph. D in Economics and be computer literate. Any experience in the area of economic development and aid coordination would be preferable. Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic is essential.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box NO. 551, Sanaa,
NOT LATER THAN 15 AUGUST 1998. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Tribes Demand Better Treatment

Tribes from the governorates of Marib, Al-Jawf and Shabwa held meetings during 31/7-2/8/1998. The Sanaa gathering aimed to find ways and means to interact with the authorities.

Tribes from those regions have been odds with the authorities for quite a while now. They had engaged in kidnapping, road-blocking, sabotage of oil facilities, and other actions that forced the government to send and station armed forces in those regions. The tribes demand a piece of the pie as they complain that their regions have been deprived of development projects.

The tribes also discussed the on-going border talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

At the end of the conference, the tribes issued the following recommendations and demands:

- 1- Giving these regions' high school graduates priority in getting scholarships;
- 2- Giving citizens of these governorates priority in employment by petroleum companies operating there;
- 3- Allocating a specific number of seats at the Military College for young men from this region;
- 4- Giving the opportunity to unemployed young men to enlist in the army;
- 5- Giving more opportunity to people from these regions to occupy government posts there;
- 6- Providing prominent figures in the regions a recognized official status;
- 7- Resolving the problems of army officers and soldiers suspended from work;
- 8- Condemning the kidnapping of foreigners;
- 9- Rejecting accusations of being foreign agents; and
- 10- Forming a special committee headed by Sheikh Saleh Bin Sowda to follow up implementation of development projects in the region.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times

تهانينا الحارة

حققت الطالبة يسرى عبدالوارث السقاف
نجاحاً باهراً في إمتحانات
الثانوية العامة - القسم العلمي
ونتقدم لها بهذه المناسبة بالتهانى الحارة
عن المهنيين
والدك عبدالوارث السقاف وعمك عبدالعزيز السقاف

Osman Ahmed:

"Yemen's reform program has come a long way."



Dr. Osman Sheikh Ahmed, World Bank's Resident Representative, has just left Yemen following a 3-year stint. He is to be replaced by Mr. Gianni Brizzi, who will arrive in Sanaa on 14th August.

Dr. Osman, who hails from neighboring Somalia, had his in the work. After all, Yemen as is close to home as he could get, for now. Osman established the World Bank's office in Yemen. Over the last three years, he worked hard to bring the two sides closer. That he did, with spectacular results. Implementation of bank projects has improved visibly. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf talked to him about various aspects of the Yemeni reform package implemented with the assistance of the World Bank and the IMF. He filed the following interview. Excerpts:

Q: Senior Yemeni officials

speak very highly of you. Why?

A: Well, you tell me! I leave Yemen with good feelings - both as a person and as a professional.

As a person I feel like I've come really close to the home I have not been to in a long time. I have never felt like a foreigner here. I have not been to Somalia, my home of origin, since the mid-1960s. Coming to Yemen is as close to home as it can be.

The professional part of my experience in Yemen consists of two components: One is the World Bank and the other is Yemen. The bank estab-

lished this office of challenge in July, 1995, starting from scratch. Its aim is to help the Yemeni government achieve a better functioning economy. That is what the bank does. It provides support and advice to any country that needs our support and advice. I am happy my experience has been a fruitful and pleasant one.

Q: How do you now evaluate relations between Yemen and the Bank?

A: Improving relations between the bank and Yemen is very important. Before my arrival, these relations were at best strained. There was no trust. People in the World Bank used to be dismissive of Yemen. The ideas and perceptions were negative, to say the least. We have successfully eliminated this. Today, Yemen has become one of the most desired places to work in/with. I can honestly say that relations between the World Bank

and Yemen have now become exemplary.

Q: How do you feel about the reform package?

A: What has been done of the reform package is a tremendous success. However, it is not complete yet. There is more work to be done.

The government has adhered to the program in spite of all the difficulties. Sometimes we forget where we have been, and focus on where we are and look at what needs to be done. We say, 'It is not enough'. But if we look back in terms of how far we have come, the picture becomes indeed a positive one.

Q: The reforms are successful because the Bank and IMF pumped into the economy more than One Billion US Dollars over 3 years. Without this subsidy, do you think we will have a similarly glowing story?

A: I am not sure we have provided that much money. But, I do believe that the success of the stabilization part of the reform is due to the ability of the authorities to bite the bullet, so to speak.

Q: The numbers are right. But let me talk about the success you are talking about. I see no growth?

A: I said earlier that the work is not yet finished. The stabilization part has been done. Growth, on the other hand, has not started yet. It will partly depend on what else the government does. There are a few things being currently done that need to be completed. I think the whole issue of land

ownership and property rights is very important. People will have to feel secure in their property rights of ownership to want to put long-term assets into their company. The feeling of security has to be there. Because of the negative publicity, some people have become edgy and continue to hold negative perceptions. That is minor, however.

Q: What are the other issues that need to be completed?

A: The other important issue is how conflicts are resolved, how contracts are enforced and how disputes are adjudicated, etc. The judicial aspect is very important, which is not yet in place. What is coupled with that is the enforcement of court sentences and verdicts. The performance of the judicial system is very important for the unconnected foreign investors. If unconnected people can enjoy their rights under the law easily, then we can say that the environment is conducive to growth and investment.

Of course, another issue is administrative reform, which is very critical not only in its own right, but also to improve the functioning of the state. This would also enable it concentrate on its core responsibilities such as delivering better services to the public and to consume less.

It is also important to improve the interface between the public and the private sectors. Because if every time the private investor deals with the public sector problems are encountered, they lose heart. So, that interface also has to be smooth, supportive and as inexpensive as possible. It should not increase the cost of the business.

Q: Many Yemenis have reservations regarding the integrity of the officials who are administering the reform program. What are your views on that?

A: Really new people and systems have to be there. But it is

not the people, it is more the system. Even if you get new faces, they might slide into the same (corrupt) role. The system that needs to be there must encourage efficiency, transparency and accountability. We need to change perceptions and motivations. There must be people who are really motivated and who also have a vision.

Q: Your advice to your friends and partners in Yemen?

A: Yemen has started many difficult processes - re-unification and cementing national cohesion, democratization, and economic reforms - all at the same time.

That is a tall order.

My advice is that the greatest danger will be in back-sliding. Because if you back-slide, you may not be able to stop it. That is really no option because, the road backward is closed. You must not stop. You have no choice but to move forward, and succeed at that.

In fact, the most difficult part is done. The next steps are difficult, but that is where the fruits are reaped.

Q: What do you take with you from Yemen?

A: I am taking lots of spiritual, cultural and intellectual values.

ANNOUNCEMENT TENDER NO (34/98) FOR THE OPERATION OF CARD PAYPHONE SERVICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Public Telecommunication Corporation (P.T.C.) of the Republic of Yemen invites interested parties (National and International), to submit applications to obtain license in Yemen for the operation of Card Payphone Service for Local, National and International calls.

The Tender Documents can be bought from the P.T.C. Headquarters - General Department for Commercial Affairs - Al-Giraf, Airport Road - priced at twenty eight thousand (28,000) Yemeni Rials (on a non-refundable basis).

- 1- The applicant should have experience in the operation of Telecommunication services.
- 2- The offers should be accompanied by the "Application Form" and submitted to P.T.C. sealed with red wax and stamped envelope (one original and five copies).
- 3- Bank guarantee (bid bond) US\$100,000 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND US DOLLARS ONLY, valid for six months to be enclosed with the offer.

Completed Tenders should be addressed to:

Mr. Mohamed Alkassous, Director General,
Public Telecommunication Corporation,
Al-Giraf, Airport Road, P. O. Box 17045,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Closing date of receipt of applications 10:00 am 9th November, 1998. The envelopes will be opened in the presence of the applicants or their representatives at 11:00 am on the same date at P.T.C. Headquarters.

Water & Sanitation Improvement: More Funds & Better Organization



Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,
Yemen Times

A workshop on 'Institutional Strengthening of Five National Water and Sanitation Authority (NASA) Branches' was held during 26-28 July in Sanaa. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Technical Secretariat for Water and Sanitation Sector Reform (TSWSSR).

The opening session was attended by the NWSA Deputy General Director, Mr. Mohammed Abu Taleb; the TSWSSR Director, Mr. Anwar Al-Sahouli; the Dutch Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Arend Meerburg; representatives of the German embassy and the World Bank in Sanaa and several parties involved with the sector. In carrying out its activities, NWSA faces tremendous problems. They include extreme scarcity of water resources in

some parts of Yemen, depletion of water reservoirs as a result of uncontrolled abstraction and ever increasing demand, highly centralized and less than fully effective institutional arrangement and inadequate cost recovery.

"Dutch support, both financial and technical, will continue to ensure the satisfactory progress of water and sanitation projects," affirmed Mr. Meerburg.

On his part, Mr. Ahmed Idris, General Director of NWSA branches, said the government is keen on developing and improving the sanitation system's infrastructure, in cooperation with donor countries and organizations. "There is an urgent need for renovating the sewerage infrastructure," he warned. "The Dutch have set aside 12 million guilders for short and long-term projects, in addition to other sums of money for projects in Hodeida. There is also about 9.5 million

guilders to buy spare part," disclosed Mr. Idris.

Mr. Jack van Hoorn, consultant and team leader told Yemen Times, "We are currently studying the infrastructure in five NWSA branches - Dhamar, Ibb, Ataq, Hodeidah and Wadi Hadhramaut (Seioun and neighboring villages). These projects are funded by the Dutch government, and implemented under the supervision of NWSA. We believe branches should have more authority."

Mr. van Hoorn went further by pointing out that the Radaa experimental project (1988-1997), cost \$35 million and is a total success, serving 40,000 people. Building on this success, the Dutch expert indicated the benefits of surveying other water and sewerage systems to figure out their basic need and the necessary improvements. "If improvement means raising water tariffs, then so be it. People will be willing to pay more if they feel there positive change and improvement in the service," he stressed.

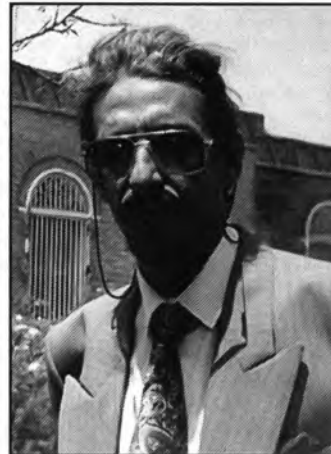
More than \$11 million is needed to renovate or reconstruct the water and sanitation systems in these five branches. Several donor countries and organizations were approached to ascertain their willingness to support these projects.

Mr. Abdulsalam Al-Hakimi, the director of the NWSA branch in Radaa submitted a paper on the relationship between the consumers and service providers. This paper and several others submitted at the workshop stressed on the need to strengthen the

establishmentarian structures, human-resource development, budget control and other important issues.

The discussion groups came up with the following conclusions and recommendations:

- 1- Implement water and sanitation system improvements in the 5 branches;
- 2- Conduct the necessary surveys and studies urgently;



- 3- Securing the needed finances, based on the survey results;
- 4- Computerize accounts and the issuing of monthly bills;
- 5- Re-structure the workforce at the 5 branches and laying off redundant employees;
- 6- Impose new tariffs in coordination with relevant authorities;
- 7- Allocate the necessary funds for operating the projects;
- 8- Review the wage levels with a view to increasing salaries.



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Mr. Shokri A. Alufri,
GM of YCIC

Interview with Mr. Abdullah Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed, Assistant General Manager of the Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce.

Q: What is the plant's capacity?

A: The technical production capacity is 82,350 tons per year.

Q: What is the actual production capacity?

A: The plant is operated at 45,246 tons per year.

Q: How do you explain the discrepancy?

A: This is due to several reasons. First, the local market is flooded with smuggled goods, which are not subject to any standards, payment of customs duty or other requirement. Second, there is now the weak purchasing power of the general public. So, the low productive capacity is dictated by market conditions.

Q: Have you tried exporting your products?

A: Actually, that is where our hopes are pinned. We are now exporting about 10% of our output.

Q: What difficulties do you face?

A: Our efforts are impeded by:
1- High operating costs due to high utility bills (e.g., water and electricity), and
2- High cost of solid and liquid waste disposal. We also face problems in exporting. Examples:
1- The state does not honor the company's right to a refund on customs tax on the raw materials,
2- High freight costs, and
3- Lack of regular shipping lines.

Q: How many employees work for the YCIC?

A: There are 1,587 employees, 19 of whom are foreigners.

Q: In your opinion, how do you explain the lack of industrial investments in the country? And what suggestions do you have to vitalize the industrial sector and enhance the economic activities?

A: The main factor hindering the process of industrialization is the inadequate infrastructure. The possible solutions would be:

- 1- Planning special industrial zones and providing them with the necessary infrastructure;
- 2- Improving administrative performance by reducing bureaucratic hurdles;
- 3- Strengthening economic security and stability;
- 4- More support by the official media to Yemeni products by adopting the theme of 'Made in Yemen.'

Q: Where do you get your raw materials? Are they imported or local?

A: The raw materials used in our plants include flour, sugar, powdered milk and glucose. There are also preservatives, flavoring and coloring substances, in addition to the wrapping and packing materials. All those are imported. Some of the raw material can be produced locally, provided that there is more dedication since most of their inputs are available.

Q: What are the standards of production? Are your products of international quality so that you can compete with imported products?

A: All YCIC products conform to the standards issued by the Arab Organization for Standards and Specifications, in addition to the European standards (Codex).

YCIC products are of very high quality. This explains why we can export to the markets in Europe, America, Africa and Asia. Having been awarded the ISO 9002 also testifies to that.

Q: What benefits and incentives does the YCIC give its employees?

A: First, there is a special shopping complex for the employees where foodstuffs and other consumer items are sold at wholesale prices. A clinic staffed by two doctors and three nurses and a well-stocked pharmacy are available for the employees. Medicine is provided free of charge. The YCIC also has a 'Social Solidarity Fund,' which provides financial assistance to employees in particular social circumstances. Finally, we offer regular training and re-training to our employees.

Q: Are there any social and recreational activities organized by the company?

A: There are several such activities. A special monthly bulletin is published to cover the employees' social and cultural interests, in addition to providing a special means of communication between the administration and the workers. Various sports events are sponsored by the company to encourage the employees to cultivate their sporting abilities and talents. The company's football team took part in several competitions in the governorate of Taiz. Moreover, the YCIC regularly organizes recreational trips and picnics for its employees to visit tourist attractions and places of interest around the country. Trips abroad are also organized for some employees.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: There are no limits to our ambitions. Our immediate goal is to raise the operational capacity to be on par with the plant's actual production capacity. We are also looking for markets abroad.



Mr. Abdullah A. Hayel,
DGM of YCIC

YCIC's Four Plants in ONE



Wafer Plant

This plant is one of the largest in the world producing different types of fruit-flavored cream wafers, chocolate cream wafers and chocolate-coated wafers. The Teashop Chocolate Wafers brand are extremely popular with both children and adults. YCIC wafers are also very popular in neighboring countries. Now they are exported to the USA in many flavors where the quality and taste is very much liked.



Biscuit Plant

This plant produces very popular biscuits, crackers and creamed biscuits. The most popular being Abu Walad Biscuit, which is a household name in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the Horn of Africa countries and now the USA. YCIC also produces the Vitamins and Mineral Enriched Baby Biscuits, which supplement the nutritional needs of children. The Biscuit Plant continues to witness expansion and up-grading all the time.



Cakes & Cookies Plant

This plant produces cakes with fruit-flavored cream, vanilla cream and chocolate cream. The cookies are of very high quality. That is why they are presented as gifts in visitations, festivities and all other occasion personal and family occasions. Many companies have also started using these cakes and cookies. You will often come across them when you enter the reception and meeting rooms of first-class companies.



Sweets Plant

This plant is the only plant in the region producing such a wide range of candies, lollipops, toffees, mints, fruit flavored tablets, chocolate-coated peanuts, raisin and colored chocolate lentils. First among Yemeni children, then worldwide, these sweets have been on demand for a while now. That is improvements in product quality and in quantity produced continue at a rapid pace.



WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION

ISO 9002

YCIC has highly productive, state-of-the-art equipment for producing biscuits, sweets, wafers, cakes and cookies and are equipped with latest and most modern facilities.

It has an ultra modern laboratory, Research & Development facilities and most modern plants in order to ensure world quality products consistently and reliably.

The management is top notch and uses modern methods in operating the plants. The warehouses are very modern and computerized, ensuring absolutely reliable deliveries.

Manpower training is an important element in the overall plans of the company. Every year, a new batch of men and women are trained and re-trained to remain fully aware of new technical, technological and administrative developments. All YCIC employees have undergone training at one stage or another.

Hygiene, cleanliness and health considerations are paramount. All areas of the plant, including the packing and packaging, as well as the warehouses are sterilized regularly, and are off-limit except for relevant personnel.

Those exceptional qualities match international standards. That is why the YCIC is the first Yemeni company manufacturing biscuits, wafers, cakes, and cookies to be awarded the ISO 9002 Certificate for Quality Management Systems.

The award comes at the right time.

The YCIC is celebrating this year its silver jubilee. It was 25 years ago that the first plant was established.

The company celebrated the 25th anniversary of its prosperous existence on Thursday, July 7, 1998. To mark this happy occasion, it sponsored a sports festival. Several Yemeni stars of the various sports took part and were handsomely awarded.

The Wahda, a Sanaa football team - the present champion of the Excellent-Division - played against the Abu Walad Team, which is composed of the elite of Yemen's football as chosen by their fans.

On the occasion, the company also received senior government officials, diplomats, and visitors from abroad.



Abu Walad Sandwich Biscuits

Product	Flavour	Packing Configuration	Carton Weight Kg		Carton Dimensions cm			Container Capacity	
			Net Wt.	Gross Wt.	L	W	H	20ft.	40ft.
Abu Walad	Custard	90 x 110g	9,900	11,645	46.5	31.5	31.5	630	1260

A Little Bit of History

The times were bad.

At the time, the then Yemen Arab Republic was just coming out of a long and bloody civil. There was no semblance of a state, let alone any infrastructure.

At the time, the then People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was going through a tumultuous period of revolutionary zeal, characterized by violence.

But then, Haj Hayel Saeed Anam was a bold man. He decided to take the risk of investing, even under such forbidding conditions. "We have to take risk in our country," he used to repeat, may his soul rest in peace.

Thus, the YCIC was established in 1970. It was the first serious private industrial investment in the whole country. It was also destined to be the beginning of a series of industries and major enterprises to be known as the Hayel Saeed Anam Group.

Since then, the YCIC has grown a lot, and has undergone considerable up-grading and expansion. Today, it stands as the largest manufacturer of biscuits, sweets, wafers, cakes and cookies in the Middle East region.

YCIC products have an excellent standing with consumers. They fill up Yemen's homes and offices. They are also exported to several countries in the Middle East, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and East and West Africa.

Recently, the YCIC started exporting its products to the United Kingdom, Europe, and the USA. The feedback is unanimous. The products are well liked by the consumers.

TeaTucks

PRODUCT	FLAVOURS	PACKING CONFIGURATION	CARTON WEIGHT Kg		CARTON DIMENSIONS cm			CONTAINER
			NET WT.	GROSS WT.	L	W	H	
TeaTucks	Vanilla	48 X 110 g	5,280	6,550	37.6	31.8	21.6	1080
TeaTucks	Chocolate	48 X 110 g	5,280	6,550	37.6	31.8	21.6	1080
TeaTucks	Strawberry	48 X 110 g	5,280	6,550	37.6	31.8	21.6	1080

Choosing the Right School?



There are no wrong schools but the Yemeni wants to see that school promises are put into motion, especially if he's been in the state system where everybody knows that seats are few and tempers fly occasionally between teacher and student.

Occasionally I remember when the Saudi Ambassador came calling on a private school. "Go and set up your lab", was the warning I got from the principal who in turn got it from the owner, a man that liked to think of himself as a shiekh. Well the premises had to look good. After all, it meant that putting out on the counter what we had would make a good impression, but the lab itself was hardly functional and any sensible person would wise up on a premises without any water distillation or emergency first aid box lying near an exit. And this was while the owner had ordered equipment for the lab several times, I think just to look good to the parents. Once I was even caught between him and an ordering firm for supplies, he expected me to get a discount for him at the supply shop and I

told him I didn't want to be his middleman.

Meanwhile contracts were just a formality, I had signed one for 522 bucks a month after a higher promise, and that was then reduced to 450 because of losing teaching hours due to 'parent complaints'. It was only later that I found out that cheaper Indian hire got those lost hours and here again it looked like that I was initially offered those hours just to make the school look good in front of the parents. Today the same parents want me back so where are their complaints?

Then I had to work at a private university which initially had me coming in twice a week to teach American literature which I did for the first week.

Then I showed up and one of the classes was cancelled! The reason, not enough attendance. Isn't it a rule of thumb that wherever you teach, especially higher institutions there should be some forewarning? That only meant half my pay there went away overnight. And I had just been asked to bring in other foreign language teachers!

Can't forget an American school which brought me over on a one way ticket, saying that 'when you leave you'll get a return ticket', but I got booted out unexpectedly, so goodbye to return tickets. Had an article written for me showing my artistic talents and was told it was because of that I got the boot; there was nothing in the contract which said that the teacher couldn't advertise his artistic merit.

Later on a former employer there

made a mention of the fact that a director had pocketed the money as well as having taken on extra teaching hours left over when I vacated the premises. So things clicked. How nice to run an international school where parents are told that teachers will stay, that they're well paid only to find out that only one English teacher remained at the American school and that everybody else was Iraqi or Yemeni. Hardly an American international setting. To boot, this director has now emigrated to my home country, and how did he do it? With the money he pocketed from qualified American teachers like myself even though the school has been running downhill economically speaking.

Two weeks ago I wrote about what things to find out first when looking for foreign schools. Now that the school year is over, I can't believe such a common denominator between all the private institutions I experienced would exist. People here had always been saying that private schools are better than state ones but if the teacher is not happy and mistreated, it doesn't matter whether the school is private or state run. Parents should be all the wiser before putting their kids into places where there is no respect for the working individual and the foreigner is unlikely to come back and ask for more mistreatment unless certain guarantees can be made and kept.

If not, foreign embassies will ask the government to pressure their private operations to be fairer towards the foreign teaching hire.

Martin Danski,
Canada.

How Yemenis View Educated Women

Education is one of the basic rights of a person, whether male or female. Here in Yemen, female education faces a view that is problematic, to say the least. Views differ from one male to another, though in general they are negative. Even among women, getting is beginning to have a major cost. Educated women are shunned as partners in marriage. In other words, a woman now faces a choice between getting educated, or getting married. To find out more about how the Yemeni male views educated Yemeni women, I talked to several people and asked them the following questions:

- Have you had female colleagues in school? What is your opinion of female students?
- How good a housewife would an educated woman make?
- What are your thoughts on the equality of men and women?
- Educated women marry late, if at all. Why?
- Would you marry an educated woman? If not, why?

1) Dr. Ahmed M. Shuga'a Al-Deen, Professor, Department of Geography, Sana'a University. He is married with 3 children. He says:
"The female student is more disciplined than the male. And women's or men's behavior are not determined just by education but more by the way they are brought up. An educated wife actually makes a better partner in her hygiene, composure, and abilities."

2) Afaf Al-Haimi, MA degree, Department of Sociology, teacher of Medical Sociology. Married with 4 children. She said:
"Our society views women as

inferior whether they are educated or not. An educated woman is a better housewife. Education bestows on women composure and strong personality.
"However, men like very young and uneducated women. From my experience as a wife, mother, student, and teacher, I can feel the stress, but never heard a harsh word from anyone in my family or from my colleagues."

3) Dr. Hussein Al-Midama, Science Faculty. Unmarried. He said:
"Women have a right to get education, provided they stick to their society's traditions and customs. An educated wife is perfect, because she has a better understanding of religion and high morals. She is better able to communicate with others. I prefer an educated wife, provided she doesn't break our traditions."

4) Raja'a Al-Masa'abi, MA Degree in Women's Information, Information Department. Unmarried. She said:
"Men's backward view of educated women is a common one. I consider education for women like a weapon in war. An educated woman is generally more considerate towards the need of her husband and children. The main drawback is that she is always nervous because she has more responsibilities - at home and in her career.
"From my experience, men are selfish. They prefer young and uneducated women because they are easier to control and boss around. Personally I'm proud of my education."

5) Saeed Asa'ad Muteir, BA Degree, English Literature. Unmarried. He said:
"Educated women make perfect

housewives and mothers, because they have acquired new abilities. They will raise a good family, and are also helpful to their husbands.

"The main drawback is that an educated wife may think that she is better than others, including her husband. I believe that a woman's place is at home to raise children. Women cannot be equal to men.. There are differences. I prefer educated wife (within those parameters)."

6) Abdulaziz Al-Awadi, BA Degree, Information; Unmarried. He said:
"Yemeni female students are a good example of politeness, quietness and a high degree of morals. I found it easy to communicate with them.
"The main drawback is that they try to be equal to men, but it's not possible. That is why educated women cannot find suitors. But I do prefer an educated wife."

7) N.K., female student, Science Faculty. Unmarried. She said:
"Yemeni society is contemptuous towards educated women. An educated man will not marry an educated woman. If he ever marries an educated woman, the reason would be her salary."

8) Abdullah Nasser, Shopkeeper. Married, has 6 children. He said:
"There is no need for a woman to be educated, her real job is at home with her children. No way would I marry an educated woman, because she would argue with me all the time. There are no gains in educating women. By educating women we make them too proud and overly talkative. An educated woman refuses to do household chores."

By: Fatima Uqba, Sana'a.

ANNOUNCEMENT

في إطار برنامج التعاون (المرحلة الثالثة - SUS-III) بين جامعة صنعاء والمعهد الدولي للبنية الأساسية والهيدروليكا والهندسة البيئية (دلفت) والممول من حكومة هولندا الصديقة، تعلن جامعة صنعاء والمعهد الدولي عن وجود وظيفة

«مدير لمركز المياه والبيئة»

بالمؤهلات والشروط الواجبات الموضحة أدناه. على الأخوة الراغبين في التقدم للوظيفة ممن تنطبق عليهم الشروط التقدم بأوراقهم إلى العنوان المذكور في موعد محدد غايته نهاية شهر أغسطس ١٩٩٨م.

The University of Sana'a in Yemen and the International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE, Delft, The Netherlands) through their combined effort in the Sana'a University Support Project (phase III) are establishing a Water and Environmental Center (for research and training) within the University of Sana'a.

The mission of the Center is to contribute to the national effort in developing and protecting water resources and protecting the environment.

The Center will conduct applied research, offer tailor made training, provide academic services to the public and private sector, will identify solutions, will contribute to public awareness and will cooperate with relevant national and international institutions.

The Center is embedded in the Sana'a University, has the status of a faculty and will within the scope of the Center's mission cooperate with the Faculties of Engineering, Science, Agriculture and Medicine.

At present, the Center is in its establishing phase and the University of Sana'a is seeking for:

DIRECTOR OF THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Job Description:

The Director is entrusted with implementing the general policy of the Center, and with managing the activities and finances. He is responsible for the day-to-day management and follows up the status of projects in the process of planning and finances. As a member of the Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee, he will act as a liaison officer between these two bodies. He will be appointed by the President of the University for a renewable two year term. He will have the status of a Dean, he will be a member of the University Council and he will be directly linked to the President of the University. More specifically, the duties of the Director are as follows:

1. Prepare strategies and the Center's annual plan for research and training, to be submitted to the Center's Board.
2. Prepare the Center's annual budget, for approval by the Board.
3. Implement the policies defined by the Board and the University.
4. Carry out the day-to-day management of the Center's activities, including marketing, acquisition, public relations, project management and supervision.
5. Participate in local, regional and international activities like workshops, seminars and conferences, in order to keep in touch with recent issues regarding water and the environment, and to present Yemeni cases and issues.
6. Prepare specifications for laboratory and field equipment, and do the follow-up of the procurement procedures.
7. Prepare job descriptions for research assistants and laboratory staff.
8. Chair internal committees for preparing project proposals.

Specification and Qualification:

The Director of the WEC will be appointed by the President of the University, for a renewable two-year term. As the Center still has to develop, the Sana'a University is carefully taking into account the fact that success or failure of the Center depends very much on the person of the Director in its early stages.

The required qualifications of the Director are as follows:

1. The Director should have very good management skills and capabilities.
2. He should be mature as a scientist and as a manager.
3. He should possess a Ph. D. in the field of water or water-related environmental aspects, with a minimum professional working experience of five years.
4. He should maintain a good research record in the areas of water or environment and be familiar with water and environmental issues in Yemen.
5. He should be fluent in both Arabic and English; other languages are an advantage.
6. He should be able to develop very strong commitment and devotion to the Center.
7. He should not maintain any professional activities outside Sana'a University.

Applications

Applications including c. v. (both in English) should be sent before August 31, 1998 to:

University of Sana'a
The Chairman of the Steering Committee, Prof. Dr. H. Al-Eryani
P. O. Box 1247
Sana'a, Yemen

A copy of the application including c. v. must be sent to:

SUS III Project
Attn: J. W. Foppen
IHE Programme Advisor
P. O. Box 13886
Sana'a, Yemen

Information:

Information can be obtained from:

Prof. Dr. M. Al-Eryani,
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering
Tel: 00 967 1 250485

Or
J.W.A. Foppen
Resident IHE Programme Advisor SUS III Project
Tel/Fax: 00 967 1 250514
E-mail: susi@y.net.ye

Letters to the Editor

Yemen's Diplomats

I am writing to respond to the interesting article entitled "Our Diplomats Abroad: What is Their Job?" in your issue dated July 20th 1998. I'd like to start by appreciating your indulgence in a matter of importance to Yemen's highest interest: diplomacy. I'd also like to state the following:

* Notwithstanding my belief that the article was patriotic, good intending and informative, it was a "little" too negative.

* Hence I felt like addressing the subject. Although I'm not currently serving my beloved Yemen abroad, I had previously done so, and hopefully will be doing so in the near future. If this happens I shall take the points of this article into consideration.

* Yemen is one of the least developed country. Hence the performance and behavior of our diplomats abroad and home are partly a reflection of the country and society (family, tribe, locality and culture). They are also partly a reflection of their own qualifications and training. So they have as all of us, whims and dreams.

* Some examples of the responsibilities of our diplomats at home include to facilitate all possibilities

for making Yemen (country and people) as the best host and friendliest country and people to all foreign diplomats and officials accredited (about a 100 resident and non-resident embassies, representatives of the UN and its specialized agencies, EU representation, etc.) and to all foreign nationals. Helping in arranging meetings between Yemeni officials and these diplomats and in facilitating the conveying of written and oral messages back and forth. Treaties, agreements, MOU, deals etc. are signed or executed.

Our diplomats also share responsibilities in making programs for foreign official visits to Yemen, or programs for Yemeni official visits abroad. Our diplomats also maintain and develop Yemen's external relations and interests, including the name and image of the country. A diplomatic job well done has resulted in many international officials visiting Yemen, high-levels of developmental assistance programs to Yemen, large sums of Yemen's foreign debt cancellation, etc.

Yemen's diplomats also represent the country in various activities such as conferences, negotiations, meetings, etc. Based on the above record, I'd dare assert that Yemeni diplomats are more successful and trustworthy than many of their colleagues, and they do try their dearest to serve Yemen. They leave a good impression in the minds of the majority of people with whom they have contact.

* I do agree that more qualifying and training is needed.

By: Abdulaziz M Sallam,
Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To: Bill Gates,
Microsoft Corporation

We send this letter to propose a new idea that is compatible with the accelerated developments in the world of communications, computer and internet (Information Highway).

We are absolutely sure that this letter will not go by unnoticed by you, as the head of the biggest ever computer software company, and that you will pay the appropriate attention to it.

The idea's purpose is to bring into existence a New World System. This system is different from the conventional ones that are founded on geographic

borders. This one is based on another dimension - the time factor (birthdate). We can make states of time in which every state's population consists of the persons who were born on the same day. This means that we will have own systems, laws, interests, goals, historical heritage, a national day and statesmen and everything required to set up a country and to keep up with the electronically advanced world.

Every day consists of several states (time territories) which are the years (1962, 1970, etc.). What gives this matter a special importance is the following:

1- Both the place and time factors are in fact one and inseparable units, although the place factor is nearer to the people's thinking and this has resulted in setting up geographic borders. But the recent technical developments give the time factor its own right to found its own state and that will not contradict with the geography-based states.

2- Man does not consume the place, but time.

3- Man's fortune is lifetime and that indicates the significance of time.

4- The new system by no means depends on nationalism, racism, religious beliefs and such things that cause differences and conflicts. This will help humanity employ its efforts to savor the taste of exploring the unknown in the universe.

5- The people of the new system are of different sexes, specialization, ages and tendencies which make this system organizations different from other associations and organizations that are based on certain purposes.

6- A state in this system comes into existence by the coming of a new day with its births, events, etc. and comes to an end by death of the last person who was born on that day, and the only things we have from that day (state) will be its events. All of this will happen naturally without interference.

7- Every citizen in this system can be given a number (code) which will be suitable for the electronic world this person deals with. The above are but a few reasons that make this system distinctive. The difficulty of specifying exactly the day on which some people were born is what makes this system hard to do. But we think that the biological studies can help solve the problem.

We affirm here that you are the first person to whom we presented the proposal which means that only you and we have the copyright to this project.

We hope to hear from you as soon as possible after evaluating the idea and whether it is as we consider, or if it can have other, better applications that you think will be more appropriate.

By: Ghanim A. Al-Omaitheli and
Marwan A. Al-Hafli.

Wrong Law

Legal abduction is common in the Arab world, it is corruption. Whatever situation one is in, if you have no money, you're considered nothing. The law in Yemen is like this: Whoever pays money, wins the case, if you have no money, you lose. There is no Islamic fairness in Yemen. Money is bribed in almost every situation, especially child custody.

Women basically have no say in child custody, if the man wants custody, he gets it, simply because he's a man, and the fact that he pays money. The woman has no say whatsoever.

It even extends to the stage of kidnapping the child, here it's called legal abduction, nobody ever stops to think of the child, what effect it will all have on him or her? The woman has no rights, she can't even visit her child. Sometimes, the child gets taken away from the mother even if the father is not in the country, just pay money and everything is fine.

"Legal abduction"

Welcome to the Arab world, where maternal depriving is legal, Where women are less in consideration, and man is legal.

The rights in this country are given to the man, But they're going against the strict rules, written in the Quran,

Abduction in the Arab world can't be solved. The victim is nowhere, it's hard to be resolved, Treating the innocent child as if its mother did not exist,

The battle to get her little one back, the mother can't resist,

When the parents of a child gets a divorce, The child gets deprived from its mother by force, Mother fights for justice to get her legal right,

To get custody of her child, she puts up a fight, So how can it be in this unlawful trial,

The natural mother and her child become a denial, The mother pleads for her child and they don't care,

The system of this country is really unfair, The words of Allah, we ignore,

Revenge and finance is what they're asking for, The male of the Arab world walks with adulation,

The unlucky mother, feels extreme humiliation.

By: Nadia Ali, Sanaa.

Note

Letter writers are requested to write their letters clearly or get them typed, preferably in English.


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America Plus

03 August 1998

- 1900 Highlander
- 2130 Bless This House
- 2200 Homicide
- 2300 The New Adventures of Robin Hood

04 August 1998

- 1600 Moesha
- 1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood
- 2000 Chicago Sons

05 August 1998

- 0900 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210
- 1530 Step by Step
- 1900 FX
- 2300 The New Adventures Of Superman

06 August 1998

- 1800 Pearl
- 2000 Due South
- 2300 Union Square

07 August 1998

- 1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper
- 1600 Moesha
- 1700 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210

08 August 1998

- 1300 Sunset Beach
- 1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper
- 2000 Malibu Shores

09 August 1998

- 1400 Kung Fu
- 1630 Madman of the People
- 1700 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210
- 1800 Lois and Clark Year 3

Orbit ESPN Sports

03 August 1998

- 1900 SportsCenter
- 2200 ISKA Karate
- 2300 ATP Tour Tennis 1998 Generali Open Kitzbuhel, Austria Men's Final

04 August 1998

- 1430 WNBA Basketball: Mystics at Sparks 22900 Brazilian National Football
- 2300 WCW Wrestling

05 August 1998

- 1430 Up Close
- 1900 SportsCenter
- 2130 Italian Football Summer Series Live

06 August 1998

- 1430 Italian Football Summer Series
- 1700 ATP Sup 9 Tennis Du Maurier Open Early Round Day 3 1900 SportsCenter
- 2100 ATP Sup 9 Tennis Du Maurier Open Early Round Day 4 Live

07 August 1998

- 1800 Motoworld
- 2000 ATP Sup 9 Tennis Du Maurier Open Quarterfinal Match Live 2200 WNBA Action

08 August 1998

- 1500 Australian Basketball Japan v Australia 1630 English Horse Racing - Newmarket Haydock Park Live 1900 SportsCenter
- 2000 Toyota Atlantic Series

09 August 1998

- 1400 Toyota Atlantic Series
- 2200 Unlimited Hydroplane Racing
- 2300 Cart Miller Lite 200 Le wington, Ohio Live

August 4, 1998

- 1500 Thunder Alley
- 1700 Talespin
- 1930 Boy Meets World
- 2300 100 Lives of Black Jack Savage

August 5, 1998

- 1230 Aladdin
- 1700 Bill Nye the Science Guy
- 2000 Movie - On Promised Land

August 6, 1998

- 1530 Gummi Bears
- 1830 Sinbad
- 2000 Movie - Young Runaways

August 7, 1998

- 1360 100 Lives of Black Jack Savage
- 1830 Brotherly Love
- 1210 Home Improvement
- 2200 Dinosaurs
- 2330 Dinosaurs

August 8, 1998

- 1500 Honey I Shrunk the Kids
- 1600 Dinosaurs
- 1750 Darkwing Duck
- 2130 Home Improvement

August 9, 1998

- 1300 Movie - Parent Trap, The
- 1475 Goof Troop
- 1905 Zorro
- 1630 Boy Meets World
- 2000 Movie - Million Dollar Duck

Fun Channel

03 August 1998

- 0830 Richie Rich
- 1200 Happily Ever After
- 0925 T & J Filmmation
- 1340 Animaniacs

04 August 1998

- 1315 Richie Rich
- 1500 Pinky and the Brain
- 1730 Batman
- 1755 Beetlejuice

05 August 1998

- 1430 The Mask
- 1525 Reboot
- 2300 Love Boat

06 August 1998

- 1230 Sylvester and Tweety
- 1800 World Youth News
- 1830 At the Zoo

07 August 1998

- 1700 Power Rangers
- 2005 Fantastic Voyage of Sinbad
- 2100 Wacky Races

2200 Roadrunner Show

08 August 1998

- 1615 Sky dancers
- 1730 Batman
- 1915 Cattanooga Cats

09 August 1998

- 1500 Pinky and the Brain
- 1730 Batman
- 1915 Cattanooga Cats
- 2230 Beast Wars

03 August 1998

- 1500 Cosmix
- 1700 Dandana
- 2100 Awtar

04 August 1998

- 1200 In Motion
- 1330 Musabaqa
- 1900 Mediterranean

05 August 1998

- 2100 360 Degrees Amro Diab
- 2200 Sahretna
- 2300 Music Now Jukebox

06 August 1998

- 1900 Mediterranean
- 2100 Awtar
- 2300 Sahretna

07 August 1998

- 1300 American Chart Show
- 1600 Unicef Concert
- 1900 Mediterranean

08 August 1998

- 1500 Cosmix
- 1700 Dandana
- 1900 Mediterranean

09 August 1998

- 1100 Vital Soul
- 1200 Rock Raiq
- 1400 Indimage

Orbit News Channel

03 August 1998

- 1300 CBS Morning News Live
- 2000 NBC Dateline
- 2100 CBS 60 Minutes
- 2200 Secret History: The Hidden Holocaust

04 August 1998

- 1330 NBC News at Sunrise Live
- 2000 NBC Dateline
- 2100 ABC 20/20

05 August 1998

- 1400 NBC The Today Show Live
- 2100 George Stevens: D-Day to Berlin
- 2200 ABC Nightline

06 August 1998

- 0900 CBS Up to the Minute Live
- 1600 CBS This Morning
- 1800 ABC Good Morning America
- 2000 ABC Primetime

07 August 1998

- 2100 CBS 48 Hours
- 2200 ABC Nightline
- 2230 ABC Special w/J. Stossel: Trouble w/Lawyers

08 August 1998

- 1030 ABC Nightline
- 1100 ABC World News
- 1900 Secret History: The Dam-busters Raid 2000 NBC Dateline

09 August 1998

- 1000 ABC World News
- 1400 Wall Street Week
- 1900 Wall Street Week

Hollywood Channel

03 August 1998

- 1300 Slim Cooking
- 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily
- 2030 Judge Judy

04 August 1998

- 1400 E! News Daily
- 1930 Wheel of Fortune
- 2330 Late Show with David Letterman

05 August 1998

- 1330 The Pet Department
- 1530 E! FYE
- 1730 Flare TV

06 August 1998

- 1200 Sally Jessy Raphael
- 1630 Mysteries & Scandals
- 2230 E! Coming Attractions

07 August 1998

- 1200 E! Coming Attractions
- 1630 Uncut
- 2000 Pictionary
- 2100 E! Behind The Scenes

08 August 1998

- 1530 E! Extreme Close Up
- 1700 Movie Show
- 2300 Ooh La La

09 August 1998

- 1500 Hollywood Spotlight
- 1930 Wheel of Fortune
- 2330 Late Show with David Letterman

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August 3, 1998

- 1600 Dinosaurs
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- ٣- ناسخ ضوئي رقمي من ٤٠٠-٢٠٠ نقطة للبوابة المربعة وطاقة مسح ٣٠ ل ونبقة
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Excerpts from some of the speakers:

1. Dr. Abdulaziz Saqqaf:

I would like to express my personal pleasure in being here tonight and to participate in honoring Marjorie, who has made a great difference in my life. I remember when I was preparing to go to the US. I was very worried. I did not fill in the forms well. Marjorie swooped over me and helped me with the form.

That was a long time ago. I've filled in many forms since. Then it was time to fit in. I was scared of competing with American students. I was a stranger and needed to belong.

I remember McKinnon Hall. Room 14. I was assigned to live with an American room mate. In our first encounter, he asked me, "Where are you from?" "I am from Yemen," I answered. He looked puzzled, which I expected, and then said, "Which state is that?"

There and then I knew I was going to be fine. I don't say in a derogatory sense, but in the sense that everybody can belong in America. You cannot be a foreigner.

Athens, Ohio, was a stepping stone to go to Harvard. I know that scholarship has made a difference in my life. I am going to make sure my kids are availed the same opportunities. That is why I am involved with FAAY.

2. Ambassador Barbara Bodine:

With us here tonight are both the leaders of the old and new generations of Yemen. Those who have helped in building up Yemen today, a Yemen in the process of democratization and reform. In this sense, we all have something in common, a belief in the future potential of this country and a personal commitment to do whatever we can as individuals to help realize its potential. We have another common element. We are here together as graduates of American universities. I'm therefore proud and honored to be among you all as my colleagues. We're here tonight to celebrate what I feel is a milestone in the development in both Yemen and Yemeni-American relations. This milestone is the formation of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Yemen (FAAY).

The contributions which all you have made to Yemen is an eloquent and sufficient testimony to the value of not just the Fulbright Scholarship Program, but the USAID, and other programs which have funded the study of 12,000 Yemeni students in the US.

Equally important is what your experiences have contributed to the people and the government of the US. Senator Fulbright, when he legislated the program over 50 years ago, said that the purpose was to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations. That is what the FAAY is all about - using the experience of study in the US to develop Yemen and to strengthen the relations.

The people here tonight are proof that the Fulbright Program works. In the jargon of the strategic management school, I don't know of any more compelling performance indicators better than that. Today I'm happy to say the relationship between the US and Yemen is flourishing. Because of your experience in the US, you have worked to help

your countrymen and women and policy makers, opinion makers and others to understand us better and to work with us in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

I recognize that what you have achieved has not come easily. There were times when being associated with the US was not necessarily a great career move or politically correct, when it could have brought on you suspicion, even times of harassment. Yet, you stood by us, and never forsake our mutual friendship. Tonight, allow me to thank you, for all you have done for us, for your support and staying true to your ideals and principles.



He'll Administer It All: Aziz Al-Haddi of AMIDEAST

American universities are the best in the world for one reason - the people support them. The challenge before us now is to expand the number of scholarships for Yemenis to study in the US. The US government currently spends about \$ 100,000 per year through the Fulbright program for Yemeni students. We want and we need more. With your help, we could raise an additional \$ 100,000 and double the number of scholarships available for Yemeni students. So far, thanks to the generosity of companies such as the Hayel Saeed Group, Nabors, and individuals Ransom, we are on the right path.



Key players in the FAAY Effort

3. Mrs. Majorie Ransom:

I want to commend my dear friend Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, for the newly founded Fulbright Alumni Association, for their excellent work in bringing together some of the best talents and intellects in Yemen.

I'm immensely pleased and honored to stand here tonight; to be back in my beloved Yemen, with my husband (David) and so many dear friends.

I first arrived here in 1966, its distinctive people, its strong traditions of cooperation, and hard working people. Our first stay was not long, due to regional political complications.

We dreamt of coming back. David in 1972 became Yemen's desk office in the state department in Washington. He was able to make into a visit by Secretary William Rogers a leg to Sana'a. That set in motion, the return of closer relations between our two countries.

When we returned in 1975, there were many pleasant surprises. The mid-70's witnessed growing Saudi and US aid to Yemen. It was also a time when American oil companies came to look for oil. Later in the decade, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was sworn in. He remains the President today. He presided over a remarkable period of development, oil, education, and democracy.

The unification of North and South Yemen is an astounding act, unique in the Arab world and even the entire world. I had the privilege today of meeting President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and I took the opportunity to mention to him the Fulbright Program, and the important results that were visible in Yemen are those who were able to study abroad and in the US.

In Yemen's relationship with the US, I see with my perspective of 33 years of experience, a record of close and fruitful association, which will certainly continue. My husband and I are very proud to have had a small part in that.

I can't say how please I am that Barbara Bodine is the US Ambassador to Yemen. She is an excellent representative to the US and Yemen.

The Fulbright is an excellent program which deserves to be supported by individuals, companies and even governments. Across Arab World, contributions from governments, the private sector and others have increased. The governments of Morocco, Jordan, Syria and Egypt contribute significant amounts to the Fulbright effort.

My career is about helping talented people help themselves. I'm very happy tonight to come back to Yemen, and to see the fruits. I salute many of the men and women that have made such a difference. Thank you so much for this.

4. His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Abdul Ghani:

I am very happy to be here today to welcome Mrs. Ransom, who is actually one of the best friends of Yemen. The Fulbright program is one of her babies. She started many things in Yemen. We all studied in the USA and we noticed how useful that is. Therefore, we decided to send our kids to study there.

I hope that the cultural cooperation between Yemen and the USA will develop more and more. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all those who made an event like this possible, and those who helped establish the FAAY.

Some Eighty former Fulbrighters Attended the Dinner Hosted in Honor of Marjorie Ransom: Many expressed appreciation and fond memories!





AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 28-7-98.
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Saudi Arabia holds on to the lands and islands it occupies, and wants a temporary containment of the crisis. The US is behind Yemen stepping up its media campaign of rhetoric against Saudi Arabia.
- 2- Nasserites in Yemen celebrate the 46th anniversary of the 23rd July Revolution in Egypt.
- 3- A senior official from the Mother Teresa organization visits Sanaa amid wide condemnation of the shooting to death of 3 of its nuns working in Hodeida.
- 4- The Committee of 100 To Combat Torture condemns the torturing of a female murder suspect - Amna Mohammed Saif, 35 - at the Taiz Criminal Investigation Directorate. A personal disagreement between the interrogating officer and his superiors led to the leaking out of a report on the prisoner's health condition.

Article Summary:

Going To Saudi Arabia

By Abdulqawi M. Qassem

Going to work in Saudi Arabia has become a dream for many Yemenis, especially those who used to live there before the 2nd Gulf War. Some villagers resort to selling their farm animals and wives' gold jewelry in order to pay for the visa fee of 10,000 Saudi riyals (YR 380,000) and a YR 8,000 medical examination fee.

Having enough money is no guarantee for obtaining the visa. It is a long-winded bureaucratic affair, both in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. A "reliable" Saudi sponsor must first be found. Long queues and large crowds start to form outside the Saudi Embassy very early in the morning. Some people spend a month or two going to the embassy every morning without achieving any tangible progress.



AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 30-7-98.
(Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen & Saudi Arabia agree to preserve the status quo on the Dowaima Island, and adhere to the Tayif treaty of 1934.
- 2- The 3 dead Mother Teresa nuns are buried in the Catholic cemetery in Aden. The killer Abdullah Al-Nasheri, 21, used to be a volunteer fighter in Bosnia Herzegovina, and is believed to be mentally insane. Confessing his crime, he said the nuns want to convert the Yemeni people into Christianity.
- 3- A YSP activist in Ibb is threatened with death by senior government officials and security personnel.
- 4- Saudi Arabia deports Yemeni citizens on daily basis.

Article Summary:

Parliament Criticized

By Abdulmajid Al-Wajih

Parliament has almost completed 15 months of its 4-year term without achieving any of its goals. It has not been able to fully establish its role as a legislative body that also monitors the executive organs.

In its current state, parliament is a true reflection of the critical political situation immediately before the 1997 general elections. Parliament is not better than the other corruption-riddled state organs. Opposition parties have not been able to formulate long-term strategies. Political parties were divided



Yemini Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

in their stance towards the elections, which were conducted without taking any remedial measures to redress the political and social imbalance created by the 1994 war.



AL-TARIQ: Aden weekly, 28-7-98.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The killer of the 3 Mother Teresa nuns is married to a Bosnian woman and has 2 daughters. An airplane ticket to Saudi Arabia was found among the killers possessions. He was to leave at 7pm on the same evening.
- 2- Socialist Party organization in Hadhramaut condemns the campaign of arrests and persecution being waged against its activists.
- 3- Iraqi road engineer dies in Nasab, Shabwa while jecting with a weapon belonging to a Yemeni associate.
- 4- A bomb exploded and two others were defused in Ataq, Shabwa.
- 5- A child dies in Al-Ghaidha Hospital because of lack of oxygen.
- 6- A huge fire destroyed 40 fishermen shacks and 15 boats in Bir Ali, Aden. It was caused by the explosion of a gas cylinder and fueled by the presence of jerrycans full of petrol in the vicinity.

Article Summary:

Judge Assaulted

Setting a serious precedent, a sergeant assaulted a judge after stopping his car in Gheel Ba-Wazir. He also swore at the judge in the presence of the deputy commander of the police station and other people. Receiving the judge's complaint, the prosecutor's office issued an arrest warrant for the sergeant, but the police did not act on it. The sergeant is known for extorting money from drivers passing through his checkpoint.



AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 30-7-98.
(Al-Haq Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Following a 5-hour visit to Sanaa, the Saudi Foreign Minister agrees with the Yemeni government that special committees should resume border demarcation activities.
- 2- Pending the issuance of an administrative divisions law, 2 new governorates - Amran & Dhali' - have been created by a republican decree.
- 3- An attempt by 4 men to kidnap a Dutch agriculture expert and his wife in Dhamar fails due to the couple's resistance. The same man was kidnapped last February, and his previous abductors are currently detained by police.
- 4- 156 cases of HIV positive patients were discovered in Sanaa. Most of them come from neighboring countries.

Article Summary:

Mosque Killing

By Yasser Al-Hawri

The motives behind the stabbing to death of an Egyptian mosque speaker in Sanaa are still shrouded in mystery despite the arrest of the murderer. Sheikh Mohammed Salah escaped persecution in Egypt and came to Yemen 11 years ago. He is married with 5 children.

The killer (has Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian nationalities) visited the victim the day before the murder. He alleged that he wanted to marry a Serbian woman, and wanted Sheikh Salah to bear witness to her conversion into Islam. An appointment was made for the next day. Despite carrying a gun, the murderer used the traditional Yemeni jambia to stab Sheikh Salah. The victim was able to shout for help while the killer tried to escape with his accomplice waiting in a car nearby. But passers-by were able to apprehend him and hand him over to the police.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 30-7-98.
(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen & Saudi Arabia agree to contain the crisis and activate the border demarcation committees.
- 2- Republican decrees are issued appointing a new member to the Consultative Council and governors to the 2 newly created governorates of Amran and Dhali'.
- 3- Vice President inaugurates a new plant for making and repairing gas cylinders in Sanaa.
- 4- The Council of Ministers endorses capital punishment for people who lead and manage abduction gangs.

Article Summary:

Over-staffing in Public Sector

By Ahmed Abdurabu Alawi

Administration is a talent that can be polished with practice. A successful manager is the one who motivates his/her subordinates to do their best. Mistakes are accumulating in the state's general performance like rust on a neglected metal. It is hard to enter the 21st century with a mentality reminiscent of the 19th century. Yet, one of the virtues of this government is that it acknowledges its errors.

To rectify these mistakes, the reform must start at the administration as it is the "maestro" that conducts the "symphony" of work and production. Free-market economy must go hand in hand with administrative, financial and judicial reform. One of the problems that need to be tackled first is over-staffing and disguised unemployment.

Corruption, nepotism, irregularities and misappropriation of funds must be strongly combated. Neglect, bureaucracy and dereliction of duty are still rife in public sector organs. People still suffer when they have to deal directly with such bodies.



AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 30-7-98. [Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1- Great relief is expressed at the outcome of the Saudi Foreign Minister's visit to Yemen.
- 2- Head of the Islah Economic Department: "Relying on local credit to cover budgetary deficit has raised inflation and devalued the national currency."
- 3- A Port Authority meeting discusses abolishing the monopoly of some of the ports' services and activities.
- 4- Employees of the Sam Navigation Co. threaten to go on strike in protest over not receiving their wages for last few months. They used to be in a state-owned company.

Article Summary:

Drug Addiction

Sadeq A. Al-Amery

Addiction to the sedative medicine "Diazepam" is becoming quite widespread in Ibb. This drug is prescribed to relief anxiety, tension, epilepsy and as a child anesthetic during surgery. Young people got introduced to this drug through pharmaceutical sales agents, who are usually quite young themselves.

In the absence of a regulatory law, Diazepam is obtained by falsified prescriptions or through drug-pushers at higher prices. The majority of the addicts are aged between 18 and 25. Increasing demand has led to the absence of this drug from many pharmacies and it being peddled by drug-pushers.

According to the Yemeni penal law, punishment for trafficking in, or selling, drug ranges from a 15-month imprisonment to death. But reality is a different matter altogether. The law is seldom enforced.



AL-AYYAM: Aden bi-weekly, 2-8-98.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President: "Discussing my standing in the next presidential elections is a premature talk."
- 2- A bomb exploded at the home of the chief of the Abyan appeal court. The house sustained some damage, but no casualties were reported.
- 3- 18 prisoners from the Thabet clan suspected of the murder of a young man go on a hunger strike at Al-Qatan Prison. The have been detained for more than a year.
- 4- Flashfloods cause extensive damage to property

and kill several people in a number of governorates.

Article Summary:

Yemeni-Saudi Agreement

By: Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf

The procès-verbal agreement signed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia on 28 July has helped to ease some of the tension between the two countries. But, why was it not called an outright agreement. Does the term procès-verbal imply that there was another actual, undeclared agreement?

The two sides agreed to preserve the status quo at the Dowaima Island - now partially occupied by Saudi forces - without specifying a deadline such as when a final settlement as to the sovereignty over the island is reached. This means that they have already agreed to share Dowaima.

The other serious matter is that the "agreement" has only dealt with Red Sea islands without touching upon any of the Yemeni land positions taken over by Saudi forces. Agreeing to demarcate the sea border lines one month after the meeting of the military committee to demarcate the land border on 4 August could mean that the latter issue is already settled, the sea border is delineated as an extension of the land border.



AL-RAY AL-AAM: Sanaa weekly, 28-7-98.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Local Council in Sanaa sells 25% of Al-Thawra Park to a property developer, provided he renovates the remaining 75%. The developer, however, fenced off about half of the park for his proposed project to establish an exhibition grounds.
- 2- Fishermen in Hadhramaut complain of illegal fishing by both foreign and Yemeni trawlers. The majority of the latter are owned by a certain Yasser Al-Iryani.
- 3- Customs officers at Sanaa Airport seize several packages full of labels for food cans with future expiry dates printed on them. Owners of some major Yemeni supermarkets are implicated.

Article Summary:

War... the Only Solution! (editorial)

There seems to be no other solution for the Yemeni-Saudi border dispute but to go to war. Yemen has honestly and continuously made many brotherly gestures and many compromises to Saudi Arabia. But the greed of our "Big Sister" knows no bounds. The encroachment on Yemeni territory is not something new. Large chunks of land were taken over by the Saudis during the war between the republicans and royalists in the mid-1960s.

The Saudi rulers did their "best" to undermine the unification of Yemen in 1990. Also in the same year, they kicked out one million Yemeni migrant workers and confiscated their property. The Yemeni government stood silent. They were involved in behind the scenes efforts in the secession conspiracy of 1994.

Declare general mobilization and open military training camps for volunteers. Arm 4 million fighters and send them to purge the Yemeni land.

تهانينا الحارة

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Abdulaziz Omar**"A valuable camera doesn't make a good photographer."**

Mr. Abdulaziz Omar is the head of the Yemeni Photographers' Association and the Director of the Photo-journalism Department at the Saba News Agency. With a 20-year experience, he is one of the best sport photographers in



Yemen. He knows exactly how to take photos that tell the story with no need for comments or captions.

Omar took part in many international courses and exhibitions. Lately, he was chosen to participate in the training course at the Agence France Press regional center. This was a chance for the Yemeni press

lished in news papers. When I finished my military service in 1981, I joined the Aden News Agency as a trainee. There, I learned much about the principles and fundamentals of photography.

I had a 3-month photography course at the hands of Mr. Ali Raweh who helped me a lot. After that, I joined a short course at the Information Institute in Aden. That course was supervised by a German professional. Later, I began to cover several matches and sport activities. After the country's unification, I was appointed the head of photo-journalism at the Saba News

Agency. that followed the match between the Wahda of Sanaa and the Wahda of Aden in 1997.

Q: Can any photographer become a sports photographer?

A: Not everybody has a camera is a photographer. Added to experience and being familiar with sports rules, a photographer must be a sensitive person who loves his profession, a person of good temper who always smiles. He must never imitate others or let himself to self-conceit. A valuable camera does not make a successful photographer.

Q: Did it ever happen that your camera stopped working while you were covering a match?

A: Never. I always check my camera before using it. I take with me all the necessary things I

Arab or foreign photographers?

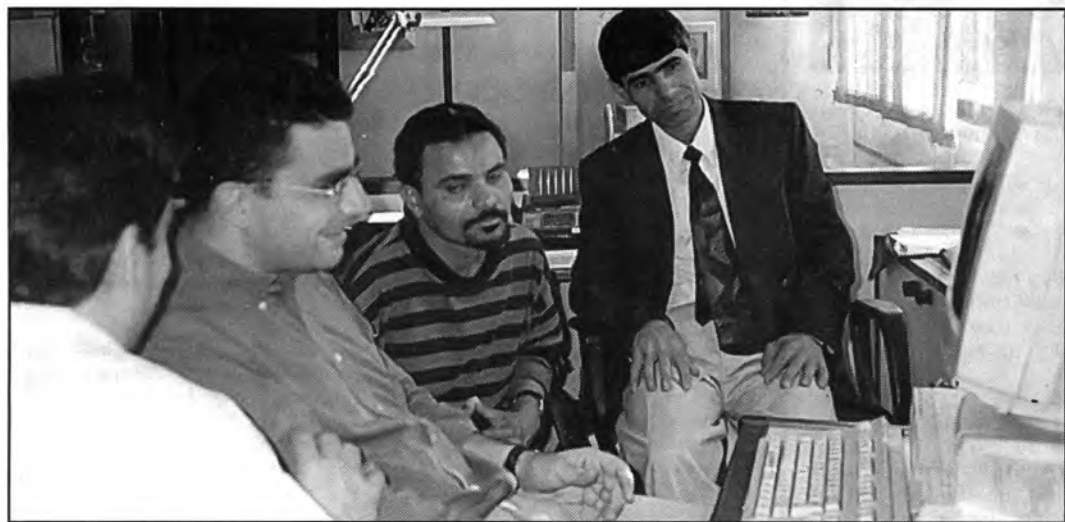
A: I like the photographs of the late Ahmed Ibrahim Suleili, Ali Raweh, Mohammed Aqabat and Naji Musleh. As for the Arab photographers, I'm influenced by Farooq Ibrahim, who is called "the leaders' photographer", Fares Hammad, the Tunisian photographer Bashir Al-Noubi - the distinguished photographer during the World Cup '98. Also, I admire the work of some foreign photographers such as the English David Sabrodnis, the German photographer Rodgir Faisal and the Dutch photographer Hanz Hues.

Q: What exhibitions have you participated in, and how have you benefited from them?

A: I have participated in various foreign and Arab exhibitions. My first participation was in the exhibition held by the Iraqi Photography Society in Baghdad. Then I participated in the "Best International Sports Photo" competition. Also, I participated in the "Best Photo of the Year" competition in Holland in addition to my participation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.N in New York. Finally, I participated in the "Best International Sports Photo" competition in Jordan. I benefited a lot. What I have seen in these exhibitions along with the modern techniques gained me new knowledge in dealing with the camera.

Q: Can you evaluate the sports situation in Yemen?

A: Yemeni sportsmen and women have big ambitions. But they are hindered by mismanagement and lack of resources, which make the sports situation unstable. Moreover, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has not conducted any survey this year on the sports accomplishments of Yemeni athletes in various games. This is very important to ascertain the need for training courses, taking into consideration that the Youth



to cover the World Cup '98 activities in France. Yemen Times had this friendly talk with Omar about sport photography and about his experience in that field:

Q: How did you start sport photography?

A: I was very interested in photography and in knowing the latest about world photographers. I used to collect all the beautiful and expressive photographs pub-

Agency.

Q: Have your photographs ever helped to uncover a sporting foul?

A: Yes, for example, during a football match between Al-Wahda and Al-Tilal in Aden before unification, I was able to take a photo of Sami Na'ash of Al-Tilal touching the ball. This foul made Khalid Afarah of Al-Wahda score the winning goal out of a penalty kick. I also took valuable photos of the violence

might need while photographing.

Q: Are you influenced by local,

Yemeni Cities Gymnastics Championship To Be Held Tomorrow

The Yemeni Cities Gymnastics Championship for juniors is to start tomorrow morning and last

will participate.

These clubs are officially recognized by the Yemeni Gym-



until Saturday, 8th August. It will be held at the closed sports hall in the High Institute for Physical Education in Sanaa. Several gymnastics clubs in Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeida and Amran

nastics Federation (YGF). The YGF held last Saturday a preparatory course for junior gymnastics referees to help develop the game in Yemen.

YOC Honors Ereli

The Yemen Olympic Committee has honored Mr. Adam Ereli, the Cultural Attache at the US Embassy in Sanaa, in recognition

of his efforts to support youth and sport activities in Yemen.

A lunch reception held in Mr. Ereli's honor was attended by and several sports officials. "Yemeni-US relations are quite good and are continuously developing in all fields, including youth and sport," said Mr. Hussain Al-Wadi, YOC Chairman.



Sha'ab Sanaa Wins Wrestling Tournament

Sponsored by the Youth and Sports Fund, the preliminary tournament for cities championship in wrestling concluded when the Sha'ab of Sanaa team won the first place and Al-Zohra came second. With this result, the Sha'ab team will represent Sanaa in the finals.

The players who made the victory for Sha'ab Sanaa are:

Mohammed Saleh Al-Haki (41 kg), Ahmed Abdullah Al-Mandi (44 kg), Mohammed Saleh (49 kg), Nabeel Saleh Al-Haki (52 kg), Abdullah Saleh (56 kg), Abdu Ali Al-Raimi (60 kg), Abdu Al-Sarabi (65 kg), and Mohammed Hosain Al-Qamli (70 and Sports Fund can finance many sport programs.

Al-Qadhi at Cairo Chess Championship

Invited by the Egyptian Chess Association, the Yemeni chess player Hameed Al-Qadhi left Yemen for Cairo yesterday to participate in the international chess championship which will be held in Cairo from August 2nd to 13th, 1998.

Al-Qadhi told Yemen Time: "This event will be one of the strongest chess championships in

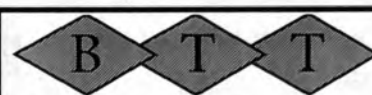
the Arab world. Twenty of the best chess players from the whole Arab World will play with other 20 players from Egypt. I really hope that I can do well in this competition."

The invitation sent to Al-Qadhi included paying all his participation expenses as well as the airplane tickets.

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'You are what you wear'

YEMENI WOMEN DRESSING FOR OCCASIONS

A long time ago, Yemeni women going to wedding ceremonies used to wear clothes of bright colors or pure white. It was inexpensive and very simple. They used to sew white clothes limited adornment or pendants. On the party of the second day of the wedding party, women even used to put on clothes which actually had no specific colors. They were just clean, and that was all that mattered.

Today, the picture is different, especially in the cities. Yemeni women now wear to parties clothes which are usually of bright colors, like purple, pink, etc. Beyond the colors, women today are interested in modern fashions and elaborate designs. The change in taste has created new businesses - fashion places, dressmakers, saloons for hair-making, face make-up, and other beautification services. The registry of the Sanaa municipality alone boasts over 800 such places licensed in the city.

What happens if a woman cannot afford to buy all that fancy and costly stuff? Women who want to look their best and impress others, and yet can't afford to buy the clothes, borrow them. This has become an acceptable and common practice, though it is also a source of lots of disputes. You have to be careful not to smear or tear a dress you borrowed.



Yemeni brides have 3 distinct

gowns they must wear. There is the dress of the 'eve of the wedding' known as 'Al-Ghasle'. This is usually green in color. Then there is the bridal gown itself, which is called 'Thowb Al-Zifaf'. This is usually white. Finally, there is the gown of the day following the wedding, which is called 'Al-Subhia'. This is often pink. The groom has to cough up the money for buying all those gowns which are worn, possibly once in a lifetime. The cost depends on the model and quality of the dress. It ranges from 10,000 to 100,000 riyals.

Women in the past knew nothing about the various types of cloth; chiffon, satin, pure silk, etc. They never went to tailors; it was a shameful thing to do. But now it has become normal and accepted. Indeed, women would prefer to go to tailors rather than dressmakers. Women today seek fashionable clothes and styles through catalogs, TV satellite channels, fashion magazines and so on. This represents a new outlook of the Yemeni women towards a brighter and more developed future.

In short, it is an indication of their ever developing taste.

I asked some dress-makers about the wedding clothes, their types, and prices.

Q: What are the most sought-after types of wedding clothes and their colors?

A: They're chiffon, goober, dantella, satin. They are



mostly in white color.

Q: What are the trendy models?

The best model is double cloche with a long tail. Taiz women like this model. Taiz women often leads in taste, and the nation follows.

Q: How do women choose the design or model?

A: Most women pick up a design or model from a fashion magazine, but some of them like to add their own touches to the model. They might add or omit something. If the model shows too much of the body, they often ask to change it. Many also bring a friend's dress and ask for a similar one, with a few alterations.

The most expensive dress, according to a dressmaker,

cost YR 100,000; it is embroidered and with a long tail of about 6 meters. And the cheapest dress gown costs YR 10,000. Embroidering a dress might take 3 weeks to a few months. Some women allow the tailors to take their measurements (touch their body) but many take it at home and give it to the tailor.

Yemeni women have not totally abandoned the services of the traditional beautification methods. Women still paint on the khidhab, put on the henna, fix up the shazab and other traditional fragrances. But that is now in addition to the 'modern' amenities.

By: Khairiah Al-Shabiby, Yemen Times.

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