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# YEMEN TIMES

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## The 20 Year Experience Yields Unsatisfactory Results

# Abuse of Military Service Duty

It has been twenty years since the compulsory military service law was enacted in 1979. Since then, some 450,000 young boys have gone through the national military service. Today, they represent Yemen's reserve army. But the track record of the effort has been mixed, at best. "The goal is to recruit young Yemenis, give them enhanced physical training, and at the same time create a reserve army," says Staff Brigadier Abdullah Muharram, Commander of Military Personnel Recruitment in the Ministry of Defence. But over time, the goals were twisted and abused. Now the government is adding to the twist and abuse. The one-year service has been extended, starting with this batch, to two years. At the same time, the government says that Yemenis who do not want to do the national service, automatically can get a waiver in return for a payment of YR 5,000 for each year waived, until a person is 32 years old, when he is taken off the list of draftees. The government's decision to over-do the

military service is driven by 3 factors:  
1) It gets a near free service, once recruits are distributed to serve, following an initial 45-camp days. Each draftee is then allocated US\$ 5 a month, which is not always paid. This is known in Arabic as "sukhra" - free or slave labor.  
2) Waivers of the draft are an important source of revenue. Of the 100,000 high school graduates this year, only 25,000 will be drafted. An additional 15,000 will do 'sukhra' teaching, and many more will seek a waiver, for a fee.  
3) Holding up high school graduates reduces pressure on the labor market, where there is already an over-supply. The unemployment rate stands at 35%. It also helps reduce pressure on universities, at least for one year.  
Brig-General Muharram says that as with everything else, national conscription needs re-assessment and re-thinking. "There are many positive results, and of course, some shortcomings. It is important to take stock of the experience every now and then," he said.



Other people, especially parents, say the re-thinking should lead to the abolition of the military service altogether. They base their complaints on the following:  
1) Military service in Yemen is today the concern of poor families. Influential families do not send their sons to the

army. Most of them do not even seek a waiver. They just don't do it.  
2) The spirit of the military is no longer there. Actually, there is minimal military training. Even the 45 camp-days are filled with physical exercises and other chores.  
Continues on page 12

## Flash Floods Claim 48 Lives and Millions in Damages

Heavy rains in the mountains have resulted in dangerous flash floods in the lowlands and coastal areas. On Friday, August 14th, five bodies were retrieved from Wadi Siham, close to Bajil city in the Tihama. That brings the total persons who perished in this wadi to 23 lives.  
On Saturday, August 15th, three persons lost their lives in Ibb governorate. Earlier, heavy rains and floods have resulted in loss of lives in Haraz, 100 kilometers west of Sanaa. In Wadi Hassan in Abyan Governorate, the level of flood water has risen to more than 5.8 meters. That resulted in enormous damage to livestock, topsoil, and other material loss. In Sanaa, rains continue to pour down day in and day out without cessation. Many parts of the Republic of Yemen continue to witness heavy rains during this rainy season.

According to initial meteorological reports, the amount of rainwater that fell in this season alone has varied from 50 to 180 centimeters in different parts of the country. It is unfortunate that Yemen has been unable to benefit from the rains. Even the farmers did not really benefit. Moreover, the underground water reservoirs are not being replenished with the water, that flows either to the sea or to the desert. Total damage done to the farmlands, homes, roads, utilities, and other infrastructure is now estimated to exceed 3.5 billion. The forecasts hold more rains in the horizons. It is expected that before the present season is over, the country water supply from the rains will double. That is why many villagers have taken measures to minimize the damage that will be caused by further pouring rains and floods.

## 23-24 August 1998: Judgement Day on Hunaish

We are getting close. The Court of Arbitration on the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute over the islands of the southern Red Sea will reach its verdict in London on 23-24 August, 1998. The court will not announce the verdict, but will simply hand it down to the two parties, and the UN.

The court's decision will cover sovereignty over some 35 islands in the southern Red Sea, including Zubair, Hunaish-Zuqar, Muhabbaka and other archipelagoes. Although the core disputes is about the Hunaish-Zuqar archipelago, both sides have claimed additional islands,

even those they fully know they belong to the other side. The fatly-paid lawyers claim this to be a good adjudication tactic. The next step after the verdict will be for the Court to define the maritime boundaries and the territorial waters of the two countries.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Yemen & Saudi Arabia: Time Left Till End of 1998

I have a disturbing feeling that Yemen and Saudi Arabia are going to miss an important opportunity. Time is passing by, and they have not worked out their differences. These neighbors have a dispute regarding their common border, and there are problems in their bilateral relations. The differences can be resolved, especially as the leaderships of the two nations have the vision as well as courage needed to overcome the disputes. But nothing is happening.

### 1. The Border Issue:

There is already near complete agreement on the borderline. What is left to settle is negligible. Actually, the outstanding issues in this count are not where the line runs, but what kind of line it is going to be. Is it a wall? Is it a bridge? Yemen wants a border agreement which creates the basic infrastructure for better understanding and cooperation between the two neighbors and the region. Saudi Arabia wants a border deal first, and other forms of understanding and cooperation can be negotiated later and independently. I find the Yemeni approach more reasonable.

### 2. Bilateral Relations:

There is no doubt that by sheer size and influence, Saudi Arabia plays the role of a regional big brother. Yemenis are willing to live with that, provided the big brother takes care of the interests of the little ones. If Saudi Arabia is willing to play this constructive role, which it had in the past, there will be no problem regarding its regional influence. What we are talking about is not just financial support, but a more comprehensive understanding and coordination of local, regional and international policies.

### 3. Side-Stepping Central Government:

One of the thorny issues in Yemeni-Saudi relations is the direct links between Saudi Arabia and a vast array of Yemeni public figures - tribal sheikhs, religious leaders, security and military officers, political personalities, journalists, and even decision makers in government. In other words, Saudi Arabia today bankrolls some 11,000 persons in Yemen. The number of Yemeni beneficiaries from Saudi largesse had reached some 27,000 at one time, but has since come down given falling oil revenues. This Saudi 'generosity' poisons its relations with the Yemeni central government, especially in times of crises. It is also the basis for the Yemeni government claim that those who oppose it are supported by Saudi Arabia.

Time is running out. There is a rising level of frustration with the inability of the two governments to overcome their differences and build mutual confidence.

In my opinion, unless the two countries conclude the on-going talks before the end of this year, local and regional conditions will be too complicated to allow a real stab at the issues. Something could happen to HM King Fahd, God forbid. The Saudi succession issue will be a new factor. In Yemen, the internal strife could get out of hand, thus leading to more volatility.

I sincerely wish the two sides will focus on this matter and get it over with, before it is too late.

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## Ethiopian Embassy Responds to Yemen Times Article of August 10th: "WHO ARE THE SO-CALLED OROMO POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN YEMEN?"

The Ethiopia Embassy, with regret, has noted the untruthful allegation by some individuals (calling themselves political activists) that "the Ethiopian Government burned their farms and villages. If they go back they will be killed, upon their arrival in Ethiopia" (Yemen Times Aug. 10-16/98). Why should a government committed in developing the farmers' lives in the entire country burn farms? The whole world, let alone the closely related neighbor and friendly country and people of Yemen, knows what is happening in today's Ethiopia. Democratic institutional building, autonomous regional administration, good governance and rule of law are the clear features of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Then why defame the good name of the country with false allegations? If these individuals claim to be members of the so-called OLF, they are neither politically oriented nor have any peaceful program -they are terrorists who

have committed many atrocities in Ethiopia killing innocent citizens in the rural as well as urban centers of the country. That is what OLF does. Such terrorist killers calling themselves political activists would like to enjoy the democratic rights as if they are innocent law-abiders. They should face justice like any and all terrorists elsewhere. If they are free of such unlawful acts, why are they afraid to go back? Hundreds of other economic migrants have gone back. Nothing has happened to them.

With regards to the real situation and the rights of Oromo people in Ethiopia, the Embassy would like to use this opportunity to invite the editors of the Yemen Times to visit Ethiopia and assess the facts as they exist whether the Ethiopian Government is burning the farms and villages or whether it is engaged in the bitter war against poverty, backwardness in Ethiopia. We assure all readers of Yemen Times that the picture in Ethiopia today is far from what the terrorists wish it to be.

### Two Seminars on "Violence in Yemen"

Yemen Times is organizing a seminar on "Violence in Yemen". During two days (26-27 August) experts, university professors, security officers, and other specialists will discuss the rising phenomenon of violence in the country - What drives it, how and where it happens, and the possible solutions?

Another seminar, organized by the Yemeni Association for Children, is taking place in Aden during 23-25 August. This seminar will focus on violence by and against children. A number of lawyers, judges, educationists, and other relevant persons will participate.

### The New Attorney-General Makes His Mark

Mr. Abdullah Al-Olofi, newly appointed attorney-general, has started to make his mark. His efforts to breathe new life into the meaning of law and order are generating new hope among the people of Yemen.

This week, Colonel Abdul-Wahab Al-Sanabani, Vice General Manager of the Investigations Bureau of Yemen, is now suspended from work and is under interrogation. The charge - violating the human rights of detainees and lack of respect for the law.

Deputy attorneys are empowered to stand their ground in dealing with the military/security officers, tribal leaders, senior government officials, and others who break the law routinely break. Besides, deputies now visit prisons - check files to investigate the grounds for imprisonment. If there is any discrepancy, prisoners are let out on the spot.

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the CC, whose office established information sharing arrangements, praised the efforts. He also pledged full support.

### Saqqaf Withdraws Resignation

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council, has written to President Ali Abdullah Saleh indicating that he agreed to withdraw his resignation letter of July 30th, 1998. The reason given for the resignation withdrawal is that the President categorically refused to accept the resignation. Promises for corrections were also made.

### Voluntary Repatriation of Somali Refugees

A group of 88 Somali refugees were shipped by air from Aden to Marka in Somalia on Saturday August 15th. Last week, 19 were shipped out to Balduji village in Somalia. Mazen Abu Shanab, UNHCR Representative in Aden, said that voluntary repatriation was the best way to resolve pending refugee issues. "We give each person US\$ 150 in cash upon departure."

There are 85 refugees on the waiting list to be shipped out. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has repatriated 317 consenting Somali refugees.

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### US Embassy in Sanaa on Security Alert

In the wake of the bombings of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es-Salam several US embassies abroad were put on higher security alert. This also resulted

in temporary suspension of services to the public. The US embassy here was among them. State Department sources said they received information of threats to US interests in various countries, including Yemen.

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Jean Francois Brétton:

# "I am lucky to have been an eye witness to Yemen's modern transformation."

Jean Francois Brétton's association with Yemen dates back to almost a quarter of a century. He has lived in the country on a permanent basis for the last decade. After six books and 35 research articles, he is finally going to leave Yemen in ten days to go back home, to France.

Jean established the French archaeological mission in Yemen. The early beginnings were hard and sporadic. They were in Shabwa. Today, there is an established mission with work in many parts of the country.

Jean established the French cultural interest in Yemen. At first, it was random. But with time, it became a strong presence in the form of a cultural center, a language institute, and the French Institute for Yemeni Studies.

Jean contributed to the establishment of French language teaching in the country. Today, there is a French Department at Sanaa University, and another at Aden University. There are also television programs for French language learning.

But most important of all, Jean wrote in-depth documentations of the ancient Yemeni civilizations. His six books are one on each of Baihan, Shabwa, Hadhramaut, Al-Jawf, Mareb, and a book on Yemen, in general. His 35 published research articles cover different aspects of Yemen's ancient world.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, made the following interview with Mr. Brétton, who will be leaving Yemen soon at the end of his diplomatic posting in this country.

**Q: When did you first become interested in Yemeni history?**

**A:** I came for the first time to work in Yemen in 1975 in the frame of the French archeological mission in Shabwa. I became director of this mission in 1978, and was deeply involved in the Shabwa excavations.

I worked in the former Yemen Arab Republic from 1980 when we worked in Al-Jawf and different other areas. In 1988 I conducted excavations in Al-Sawda, Al-Jawf on the so-called temple of Banat Aad. My work also involved conducting archeological surveys in the governorate of Shabwa, from Wadi Harib west to Wadi Abadan east.

So it is roughly now 20 years of continuous work in the field of Yemeni history and archeology in Yemen. All in all, I've written about 55 scientific articles and some 6 or 7 books on history and archeology in Yemen. Two of the

and archeology. I greatly appreciate this offer which I will discuss with Dr. Yusuf Abdullah, Director of Antiquities Authority to see how we can cooperate in the future by.

**Q: How do you evaluate the Yemeni-French cultural exchange?**

**A:** The main field of French cooperation with Yemen is the French language. This is mainly done through the French Cultural Center in Sanaa. There are also departments of the French language in the universities of Sanaa, Taiz and Aden. In addition, there is a huge program to introduce the French language into some secondary schools. So this is the main focus of the cooperation.

The second focus is on scholarships. There are now about 40 Yemeni students in France for long-term or middle-term studies, plus some training courses in the French language, science and technology, medicine, agriculture, computer sciences, etc.

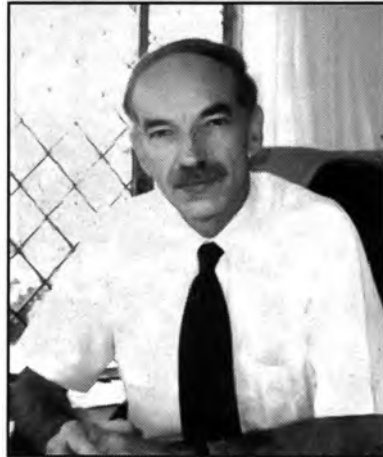
For us it is also a matter of long-term planning. Yemeni scholars want to study in France even for a short term, so they have to speak French. That is why we're starting the French language program. Knowing the French language is necessary for increasing the scientific and technical cooperation between Yemen and France.

**Q: When did France start offering scholarships to Yemen students?**

**A:** It started more than 20 years ago. I think now there are about 400 Yemenis who have studied in France. Let's say that 40 are going to France yearly, some will remain 2-3 years and some will remain just a few months. I don't think that any country has done such a long-term training program as part of state cooperation. I'm very hopeful that we can expand corporation in the coming years, because the basis of the French language learning is well established now in Yemen.

**Q: Is there any other kind of cooperation with Yemeni institutions and establishments?**

**A:** The main area of cooperation is the university in Sanaa, with its faculties of engineering, sciences and agriculture. With the Ministry of Education, the main field is of course training of Yemenis to teach the French language. It's a long-term cooperation process that we have initiated 20 years ago. I personally was part of it through the fields of history and archeology. I've been really deeply involved



in the huge exhibition of Yemen, the Land of the Queen of Sheba, which was held last year in the Arab World Institute in Paris. We have also cooperation through which old French Yemenologists are working in Yemen in the field of sociology, music, architecture, urbanism, town planning, poetry, etc. There are strong personal connections between all these French and the Yemeni scholars.

**Q: What do you like most about Yemen?**

**A:** You can't spend so many years in a place without loving it, and without getting a long-lasting attachment. It has now been roughly 10 years since I and my family came to Yemen. It is a horizon-expanding experience when you live in a different country, different language, different culture. You can never think the same way when you return to Europe. My children have knowledge of other cultures and other religions. Qat is a step in the way of integration in Yemen. Qat-chewing sessions are where you meet people and make friends, where you enter the Yemeni civilization.

**Q: Could you tell us a bit about the French Institute for Yemeni Studies?**

**A:** The French Institute for Yemeni studies is not directly in charge of cultural cooperation, but I am the general supervisor. The FIYS has existed since 1982. It is the place where French scholars come to study Yemen. The FIYS offers an extensive library and different research programs in various fields. This institute should publish articles and books. I wish that it becomes even stronger, facilitating cooperation between Yemeni scholars and not only French but European scholars as well.

**Q: What have you been able to achieve as a person responsible for cultural cooperation between Yemen and France?**

**A:** As a cultural attaché you have to deal with almost all the ministries and institutions in Yemen. You have to know where French cooperation is to be widened or strengthened. In every field of cooperation, you have Yemeni partners and you have to learn to work with them. It's good for the mind.

**Q: What is the best approach to expand cooperation between the two countries?**

**A:** One of the most difficult points was to know what we call corporation, because we don't have the same ideas or the same concepts. So it means that you have to approach the Yemeni way of thinking and how to deal with this different culture and way of thinking. You cannot come with a

program and say this is what has to be done for this country. You have to understand how you can make this possible.

**Q: What are the main features of the ancient Yemeni civilization?**

**A:** The first particularity of Yemen when we deal with the whole Arabian Peninsula, particularly in the north of Yemen, is its mountains and climate. So the frame of this civilization is typical, because all they need is physical features.

The main point of pre-Islamic Arabia and agriculture is the way they use the flashfloods, the way they built their own terraces and their own fields. This is a really interesting thing. Yemen's is a very rich civilization in comparison with neighboring countries.

**Q: What do you see as unique characteristics of the Yemeni people?**

**A:** It's good to know how a country develops and how a traditional civilization is entering the third millennium. Yemenis are learning things very quickly, they are using some sophisticated modern technology. Yemenis are learning democracy, a new experience in this country.

So it's going on, it's going back, and it's going in some ways you don't think about. The West cannot impose a particular way of development.

**Q: How do Yemenis approach the idea of a nation state?**

**A:** One state is one nation where each person recognizes his individuality. I don't think the political approach is applicable to the Middle East. There are good examples of resistance to the nation state in Lebanon or Syria, where people do not recognize fully the members of the state. Some are resisting for religious

reasons. There several minorities there.

In Yemen also you have different tribes and different Islamic sensibilities. I think Yemenis should think their own way of their own state as a nation, which maybe different from other European nations. Also there is a very good experience of democracy here. The state should be thought of in the frame of local sensibility and minds, not in the frame of trying to copy what is in Europe or the US. I think if you think like this you will fail. French democracy is not the same as let's say the Lebanese one or Africa's etc. Every country has to find its own political system.

As Europeans, we don't feel that in Yemen there is what we call the field of citizenship. This is normal because their was no

Yemeni uniformed state. What is missing in Yemen is the idea that everybody should think they are responsible for the state and not what they can get from the state: to respect and serve it, not to use it and gain from it. But that takes time. In Europe we do not give lessons. The birth of the state started some centuries ago. Germany's recent state, for example, has existed for 120 years as a state.

**Q: Any last comment?**  
**A:** I'm leaving Yemen, but it is very difficult to leave a country in which I have spent such a big part of my life. That is why I do intend to return. I really enjoyed my stay in Yemen, as a historian and a cultural attaché. I was lucky to have been an eye witness to Yemen's modern transformation.

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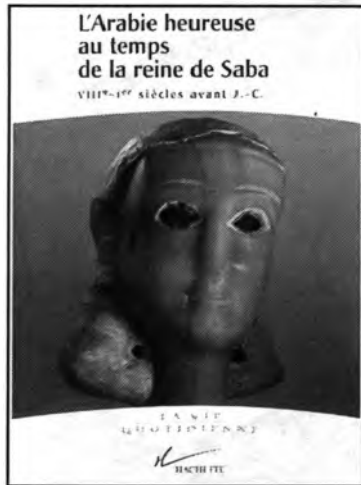
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books are now being printed, and should be published at the end of this year. One book deals with Shabwa and the other deals with history of Baihan and Wadi Markha. They will be published mainly in French with a part in Arabic.

**Q: On which civilization have your publications focused?**

**A:** I'm mainly concerned in pre-Islamic South Arabia. It is not pre-history but South Arabian history - first millennium BC, the Middle of the first millennium AD. In 1997, I was awarded a doctorate in domestic architecture in South Arabia from 8 BC till the 4th century AD. This degree is what we call doctor d'Etat.

**Q: Are you planning to do more research on Yemen?**

**A:** The General Antiquities Authority has graciously offered me the opportunity to work again in Yemen in the field of history

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SANA'A - YEMEN

# The Government Puts Its Foot Down... Slowly: Yemen Hunt Engineers Repair Holes in the Pipeline

It was a rare sight. A convoy of Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) trucks carrying engineers and other personnel peacefully driving in "Indian Country" - Khowlan. They were there on a previously agreed arrangement in order to repair holes on the pipeline carrying oil to Ras Issa on the Red Sea.

It was Friday, August 14th. It was early in the morning. First stop was Birbirah in Al-Yamaniyah Al-Souflah in Khowlan. A hole at kilometer 160 needed fixing. That means filling up the holes with brass, once pressure per square inch (psi) is reduced to 70, roughly 10% of the usual pressure. After that, the team moved further deep into Khowlan - to kilometer 135 in Bait Dowam in Al-Aroosh. Another bracelet is fixed.

One problem is what to do with the tar and other pollutant



eanwhile, Khowlan had agreed to a six-month truce to its on-going 'war' with neighboring Sanhan. Khowlan also worked out a one-year internal truce within its factions, ostensibly to attend to matters with Sanhan. Tribal rivalry between the much larger Khowlan with Sanhan, whose people are at the



material that covers the land. YHOC brought graders, cranes, and other equipment to dig big holes and bury the stuff.

The tribesmen were not concerned with the pollutant stuff. They had their eyes set on the equipment. They wanted to keep them.

More work needs to be done kms 94, 96.05, and 103. It takes about a full day of work at each location. The problem is lots of bickering and to hold at bay tribal bounty hunters. But the patch-up work went ahead.

One observer noted, if the trend of repairs continues, a good part of the pipeline will have a second layer of pipeline coverings - the bracelets that mask the holes, at the rate of US\$150,000 a hole.



helm of power in Yemen today, has been a major headache.

But Friday was Good Friday. No incidents, and the YHOC team of engineers came back happy - mission successfully completed. I came back late at night from this adventurous journey. I was able to see first hand how the military commanders and the YHOC were kissing up to the tribes. Well, they wanted to get the work done, which they did.

One thought. If you want to join in these trips. Just go there. You can even get a free ride. Nobody takes tally or asks questions.

Yemen Times journalist, travelling in cognito on the mission.

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# NATCO Wins Ford Prize for Above-Target Sales



Yemen is the latest country in the new Ford Middle East and North Africa region to announce a record sales performance. The company has revealed that National Trading Company, its dealer in the Republic, increased sales by 185% last year. In recognition of its achievement, it has been bestowed with Ford's General Manager's Growth Challenge Award for 1997.

Kurt Peterson, Yemen National Manager, Ford Middle East and North Africa, said that Yemen is one of the fastest growing markets among the 14 countries comprised in Ford Middle East and North Africa's region.

"National Trading Company almost tripled its sales of Ford vehicles in the country, from 1996 to 1997," he said. "The dealer's performance is yet another indication that the success Ford is enjoying is not confined to its traditional bigger markets. All markets are

receiving enhanced levels of support to its dealers. Together we have our sights set on reaching new heights in the months to come."

National Trading Company's

"National Trading, primarily through its efforts in fleet sales, has surpassed its target by just under 10%, a very notable achievement and one which we are delighted to recognize with

10% share of the Yemeni market is our next goal."

National Trading Company, from its main premises in Sana'a runs an extensive network of showrooms and service facilities across Yemen. It also includes a state-of-the-art parts and service center.

The company sells the entire Ford range of vehicles including small, medium and large cars, 4x4 sports utility vehicles, mini vans and trucks.

Ford's Middle East and North Africa Office is located in Dubai, UAE and is part of Ford Motor Company's Worldwide Direct Market Operations. From this base, the company supplies a full line-up of products for all GCC, Middle East and North Africa customers with vehicles which include small, medium and large cars, 4x4 sports utility vehicles, mini vans and trucks.



Natco GM Nabil H. Saeed with Kurt Peterson Yemen National Manager

**National Trading Company wins General Manager's Growth Challenge Award for 1997:**

sales equated to a 5.5% market share in 1997. It had the distinction of being named recipient of "Ford's General Manager's Growth Challenge Award" for

1997, thanks to its superior performance sales objectives agreed with Ford.

At the beginning of each year Ford's Worldwide Direct Market Operation sets its 'stretch objective' for each market, based on the limits of market potential, physical ability and capability to meet the demands of the market.

this special award," said Kurt Peterson.

According to National Trading's Managing Director, Nabil Saeed, the company is not resting on its laurels.

"Ford's excellent range of quality vehicles, to suit virtually every customer need at very affordable prices, have made our task much easier," he said. "We're now looking forward to building on this success and a



showing positive sales trends through the extra effort of all our dealers in the region, coupled with the establishment of our new Ford Middle East and North Africa operation, which is pro-



**Yemen Continues Ford's Pace-Setting Growth in The Middle East**



Contour



Expedition

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

## Female Harassment!

Harassment of women is a disease that large cities have contracted. Not that I'm a feminist, but I should mention that the problem lies mainly with the male species.

I have heard many complaints from female friends that they can hardly walk a few steps without a man either abusing them, orally or physically. The stories are many and disgusting. Here are some.

(Names of victims with-held at their request).

### Lady # 1:

"I hired a taxi one night from a women's gathering I was invited to. On reaching my destination, I asked the driver to stop. Instead he ignored me and went on ahead. 'I asked you to stop!', I repeated with a shrieked voice when I realized what was happening. This guy was kidnapping me. Immediately he pulled the car to a halt. On trying to come out, he reached for me. Before I realized, I gave him a good punch in the face. Blood started gushing out of his nose. 'Khalas imshi,' he shouted at me. I grabbed my bag and

By: Najla T. Salim,  
Sanaa.

dashed out."

### Lady # 2:

"My place of work is quite far from my home. I have to use a dabbab (micro/mini-bus) to and from work. Every time I board one, I end up frustrated and mad because some man tries to touch me or actually touches me. One time, I sat opposite a man whose persistent stares I ignored. 'God! If looks could kill, I would be dead by now', I thought. Unconsciously I looked back at him. He had raised all of his clothing, and was exposing his private parts to me. 'Stop!' I screamed to the driver.

The driver halted, and on my way out I collided with some girl who wanted to board the same dabbab. I pushed her back and said, 'Don't go in there, it is horrible'. This is the worst experience I can share with you. I felt so dishonored."

### Lady # 3:

"One late afternoon I hired a taxi. I was alone. Although my destination was not far, I needed to get here on time.

As one of those common stories I had heard many times, the driver took off on a different route. When I started shouting for help, he pointed at his jambiya. This did not hold me back. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a pistol. 'It is loaded', he warned. This put me into a dead silence.

"I crouched myself into a corner and prayed. It is me and my Lord. My tears were flowing down my face. He drove for at least an hour and then stopped at a strange place I have never

been there before. It was already dark by then. My whole body trembled. 'Out!', he shouted. One hand was holding the trigger and the other I noticed was loosening his belt. 'Please fear God', I begged repeatedly between tears. He fired the pistol into the air and I remained motionless just mumbling my last prayers. To my surprise, he entered the car and drove the same way he came. He dropped me in town and then disappeared."

Well that's a bit of what I've heard. Others are just too embarrassing to jot down. It's a pity that this is happening especially considering that Yemen is a Muslim country - a religion in which women are highly regarded. In contrast, there are countries highly populated with non-Muslims and women walk uncovered and they are hardly bothered. Why should it happen in Yemen?

Well, this leaves a lot to be questioned. I'm not sure who to appeal to, in order to try and correct this situation. Though, as a lady I do feel concerned and here are a few tips to my sisters:

1) As it seems that dabbabs and taxis are the "action zones," you can do the following.

- \* Avoid taking a taxi alone, especially at night.
- \* Do not agree to sit sandwiched between two men in a dabbab. Request politely to sit in a corner. Or else, if a man is sitting in the front seat, ask politely to change seats. He can join the group in the back seats.
- \* Avoid empty dabbabs.
- \* If there is another lady, sit beside her.
- \* Avoid taxis whenever you can. Dabbabs are actually safer, as they are a means of group trans-

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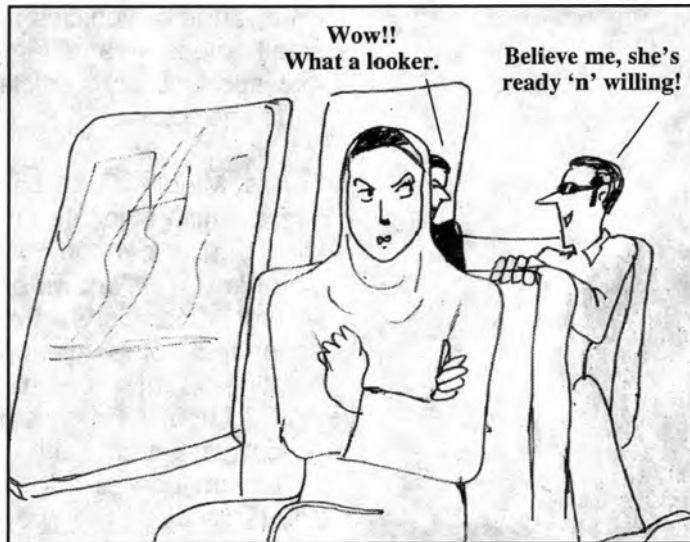
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- Enrollment limited



- portation.
- \* Before you board a car, make sure it has a yellow number plate. Don't get into a private car.
- 2) If ever abused, don't take it quietly. For example, if a person is making gestures or is trying to talk to you against your will, shout, make any noise. He will withdraw as you attract attention of others.
- 3) Avoid provocative dresses, or too strong perfumes.
- 4) Respect yourself.
- 5) Self-defense classes might be a good idea too!

I should point out that there are a lot of helpful gentlemen out there. Remember you are not alone. You can enlist the sympathy and support of such gentlemen. Thank God the perverts are a small minority.

## VACANCIES



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- Removes, installs and aligns mechanical equipment and their drivers.
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- Troubleshoot equipment malfunctions, assesses required repairs and reports to Supervisor.
- May be required to be a member of an Emergency Response Team.

#### SCOPE/AUTHORITY

- Responsible for the safe and efficient use of Company tools, equipment and materials.
- Must ensure both Company and Manufacturer's specifications are met to maximize equipment efficiency, and reduce equipment downtime.

#### SUPERVISION

- Provides general direction and on the job skills training to mechanical technician trainees.

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- **Education** Secondary School Certificate. Completed apprenticeship in the Mechanical Trade.
- **Experience** 5-6 years in oilfield operation
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- **Other** Valid Driver's License. Demonstrated ability to read and write English in a complex technical. Excellent physical health. Knowledge of Arabic desirable.

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**Registration Fees:** \$200 USD for 50 hours of instruction, course materials and use of YALI computer lab.

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# Saudi Dumping Trade Policies Hurt an Already Troubled Yemeni Industry

A number of leading Yemeni businessmen and industrialists, representing four Yemeni chambers of commerce and industry (Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeida, and Aden) and the Association of Yemeni Industrialists, went to see Prime Minister Abdulkarim Al-Iryani. They presented him with a list of factories that were closed down over the last two years, and some more that could be shut down before this year is over. "We estimate that some 5,000 more employees will lose their jobs, and the government will lose some YR 2.4 billion in taxes, and the loss of income (value added) to the Yemeni economy is around YR 12 billion," said a spokesman for the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce. Those figures do not include externalities and linkage effects.

Yemen's industrialists are complaining about the inappropriate government policies. The government media is working against the interests of the country. "All over the world, the national media is supportive of any local production. Here in Yemen, senior media personalities openly and on the air belittle Yemeni products," said Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed, executive director of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies.

"Our officials have the wrong concept of free trade and free enterprise. They think that free trade means chaos. We see goods in Yemen that have expired or about to expire being brought in at a fraction of the cost, thus killing us in the market," said Abdul-Wahab Thabet, executive director of the Thabet Brothers Group of Companies.

In another meeting with Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council, Mr. Mohammed Hassan Zubairi, Vice Chairman of the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged for action, regarding Saudi dumping policies. "We are not asking for controls. We are asking for reciprocal treatment and fair trade," he insisted. I can offer you proof after another that there is unfair trade policies.

Mr. Thabet also demanded that Yemeni authorities simply uphold the law. "For example, how come goods that had been shipped from their country of origin are dumped in a third country and then transhipped to us much later," he asked.

Abdul-Galeel Radman, chairman and owner of Nana products went on to explain factor costs and other cost elements. "In Saudi Arabia, an investor gets a free plot of land, with all utilities and infrastructure. In addition, an investor is provided 60%

of his capital expenditures in soft loans. Now compare that to our situation. An investor has to pay for all utilities, infrastructure, land, etc. It is part of the project cost. Now, how can you have a fair competition between the two producers?"

The industrialists circulated a letter with statistics showing that the Yemeni market is now flooded with cheap, low-quality goods imported or even smuggled from neighboring countries, taking advantage of the lax border patrols. This reflected negatively on investments within the country, leading to rising unemployment and the foundering of the local industry.

The letter cited other countries in the region with expanding economies such as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, which provide a lot of tax protection for their local industry and a well-developed infrastructure to entice potential investors. A good infrastructure helps a lot in decreasing a given project's overheads. 'In Yemen, an investor has to cough-up a lot of money just to get the basics such as electricity and water supplies,' complained the Yemeni businessmen. Protection is also provided by the US and EU countries for their local industries.

'We know that the policies of the World Bank and World Trade Organization do not necessarily stipulate the removal of protection from national economies and investments. These policies also call for regulating imports so as not to harm local resources, both material and human. For a local economy to get integrated into the world market, long periods of adjustment are allowed both international organizations. However, our running to prematurely achieve what is in essence a future goal has turned Yemen into a consumer market in which others flood their goods.'

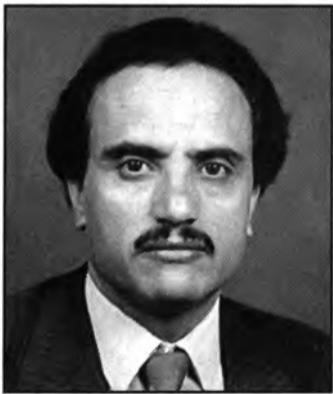
The Yemeni industrialists made the following demands:

- 1- Protection from unequal and unfair competition must be provided by the state. Customs tariffs and taxation laws, especially those concerning production and consumption, must be reviewed.
- 2- A policy must be formulated to achieve equality with foreign competition, whether in connection with the local market or exports.
- 3- Investment incentives should be provided.
- 4- Yemeni trade marks and patents must be protected from foreign imitations.

## CRISIS OF YEMENI INDUSTRIES Shut Down or Foundering Factories

1) Dry Battery Factory, Sanaa	Closed Down
2) Ardh Al-Jannatain Industrial Complex, Sanaa	Closed Down
3) Diapers Company, Sanaa	Closed Down
4) Ready-Made Garments Factory, Sanaa	Closed Down
5) Carpets and Floor rugs Company, Sanaa	Closed Down
6) Blankets Factory, Sanaa	Closed Down
7) Azal Shoe Factory, Sanaa	Closed Down
8) National Factory for School Bags and Belts, Aden	Closed Down
9) Sponge Factory, Aden	Closed Down
10) Yemen Company for Plastic Products, Aden	Closed Down
11) United Company for Metal products, Aden	Closed Down
12) Nail Factory, Aden	Closed Down
13) Perfumeries Factory, Aden	Closed Down
14) Shoe Factory, Aden	Closed Down
15) Welding Material Factory, Aden	Closed Down
16) Paper Bags Factory, Taiz	Closed Down
17) National Company for Perfume Production, Taiz	Closed Down
18) Yemen Copany for Car Oil, Taiz	Foundering
19) Bilquis Factory for Biscuits and Confectionery, Taiz	Closed Down
20) Al-Arabiyah Al-Saeedah Factories, Taiz	Foundering
21) Diapers and Cosmetics Factory, Taiz	Closed Down
22) Electric Cables Plant, Taiz	Closed Down
23) Bilquis for Industrial Development Company, Taiz	Closed Down
24) Factory for Electrical Appliances, Taiz	Closed Down
25) Chloride Batteries Factory, Taiz	Foundering
26) Al-Ghannamy Industrial Group, Taiz	Foundering
27) Manufactured Foodstuffs Complex, Taiz	Foundering
28) Bottled Water Company - Sihhah, Taiz	Closed Down
29) Dates Factory, Taiz	Closed Down
30) Liquid Batteries Plant, Hodeidah	Closed Down
31) Perfume Factory, Hodeidah	Closed Down
32) Al-Shallal Water Bottling Plant, Hodeidah	Foundering
33) Sesame Oil Factory, Hodeidah	Closed Down
34) Adhban Industries for Agricultural Equipment, Hodeidah	Foundering
35) Shoe Factory, Khamer	Foundering

## Survey of Civil Servants: Crucial Step in Corrective Measures



By Ismail Al-Ghabyri,  
Yemen Times

The Republic of Yemen will begin a nationwide survey to collect data on the government's civil service towards the end of August. The objective is to provide the government with basic data to enable it identify and analyze the nature of its work force and provide decision makers with vital information regarding their deployment.

The survey is one of a number of data-collecting processes, envisaged by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform. It represents a new administrative approach to make decisions more compatible with realities. It is also a useful tool to measure the impact of decisions made on the future government employment patterns, and the required corrective measures.

In the past, the government acted on inaccurate, invalid and out-of-date statistics. This in often led to wrong decisions. Moreover, the effect of these decisions was not accurately measured due to the absence of feed-back.

Today, there are some one million people (both civilian and military) persons on government payroll. Estimates suggest that about a third of these names are ghost employees/soldiers.

The present survey covers only civilian employees, and at that, only those directly employed in the government bureaucracy. It does not include workers of the public/mixed sector companies. Secondary-school graduates, who are now on summer holidays, have been trained to carry out the field work.

The total costs estimated will reach several million Riyals. Although it will be costly, the survey, the first of its kind in Yemen, will be a major step towards guiding the decision-making process through correct and relevant data.

In the future, periodic surveys will be necessary to update the information, and to give a picture of the degree of change and the direction of it. The Ministry is already looking into alternative ways for effective, continuous, and relatively inexpensive data-collecting methods.

The survey's data will show the distribution pattern of government-employed human power,

relative density in various ministries, sectors, and governorates, and will provide a reasonable picture of clustering and congestion of the work force. This is particularly important in order to determine how to ease bureaucratic quagmire and reduce paperwork. This is especially true in the southern and eastern governorates where the size of the civil service is 3 times that in the northern governorates.

The survey's results, once computerized, will expose employees who have more than one salary and more than one job. It is estimated that 20% of the employees collect more than one salary, and that a solid 12% collect 3 salaries.

The survey will also give a picture of the qualifications of civil servants, pointing to under and/or over-supply of specializations. This will help in re-orientating the general education and vocational training programs in order to be more compatible with labor market needs.

The survey will also show female employment in government, how many there are, what kind of jobs they hold, and what potential growth areas exist.

The survey's results will be a tool to help re-distribute the work force, more evenly and more optimally as it will benefit the remote regions/units.

Finally, it is an important first step in the proper implementation of the administrative reforms.



## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS (WFP) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The WFP is seeking to fill following vacancies in its Office in Sana'a/ Interested Yemeni applicants should deliver their applications alongwith their detailed CV's in English. Applications from qualified female candidates are encouraged. Those who applied earlier against these posts need not to apply again.

### 1) SENIOR PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

The responsibilities of the Senior Programme Assistant shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Assist the Project Authorities (Government Counterparts) on record keeping, commodity tracking; maintaining records and reporting as indicated in the agreements and ensure that reports required for WFP are provided in time;
- assist Project Authorities in connection with determining the sizes and timing of installments of commodities to be supplied by WFP, preparation of yearly projections and call forward;
- Assist Project Authorities matters relating to logistics, financial and administrative arrangements for the discharge, reception transport, storage, distribution and accounting of WFP commodities.
- Finalize projects' Quarterly Progress Reports, Implementation Reports and provide assistance for the Country Office Project Reports and final Reports;
- Visit Project areas, inspect warehouses and project accounting and initiate necessary action for improvements and monitor food distribution;
- Draft correspondence relating to the programme section between WFP and Government Authorities (in Arabic and English);
- Translate correspondence from Arabic / English and English / Arabic;
- Assist Project authorities for the compilation / preparation of Quarterly Progress Report regarding the achievements utilization commodities for development projects;
- Monitoring of Project Activities to analyze output indicators;
- To collect relevant data relating to the economy of the country and prepare relevant information required for various development projects.
- Preparation of distribution plans of commodities of each shipment in collaboration with Project authorities and logistic staff.
- Any other duties assigned.

**Qualifications:** University Degree, Preferably in economics, agriculture, business administration, social sciences, development studies or a field relevant to international development assistance. Computer skills-knowledge of relevant WFP specified software (Microsoft Office 95). EXcellent command of written/spoken English and Arabic.

**Experience:** At least 3 years job related experience in economics, agriculture, business administration, development or food aid support; progressively responsible experience in public sector management, development projects, and/or operational aspects of national, bilateral or multilateral food aid or commercial transactions.

### 2) LOGISTICS CLERK

The responsibilities of the Logistics Clerk shall include but not be limited to the following:

- To maintain inventory of all food shipments, with the relevant information of their movement.
- To computerize/compile data regarding the dispatch/delivery of all shipments from the port to EDPs.
- Typing correspondence documents, statistical tables, reports and draft material in Arabic and English etc.
- Follow up dispatches from central stores to various EDPs.
- To prepare monthly port position reports of all food shipments arriving in the country.
- Maintenance of correspondence of Logistics sections, manuals, files and office records.
- Any other duties assigned.

**Qualifications:** Completion of Higher Secondary Education. Knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic. Computer literate, having familiarity with Window/Word Perfect 6.0 and Excel word processing software.

**Experience:** 2 to 3 years experience in clerical tasks.

All applications to be submitted to the Country Director by 23 August 1998 (12:00 hrs) in closed envelope clearly marked from the top of the outside (APPLICATION) at the following address:  
UNDP/WFP Building, Off 60 Meter Road, Sana'a or PO Box 7181 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

## Yemeni Enterprise & British Know-how Offer a Successful Business Recipe

The Thabet Group of Companies and British Petroleum officially launched on Wednesday, August 12, the Premium Lubricant BP Visco 2000. This is a world-renowned product of the highest specification in the world at present. The API specification actually rates the lubricants in terms of their quality and SJ Visco 2000 is currently the highest specification for gasoline engines in the world.

British Petroleum is one of the largest oil and petrochemical companies in the world. It has a fully integrated structure through exploration, refining and marketing. So it is a vertically integrated company. In the Middle East BP was previously known as the Anglo-Persian Oil company, with its origins going back to the early days of the Middle East oil industry in Iran where they first found oil. It is now very much a global company.

In terms of downstream production, BP is very much involved in aviation fuels, commercial fuels and lubricants - in the industrial and commercial sectors. In the automotive sector, BP has played quite a big role in the lubricant industry's developments. Many years ago BP was the first company which actually invented and developed multi-grade engine oils, which are very common today. Lubricants is a key business for BP, especially Yemen.

**Mr. S.A Wali Kazmi,**  
General Manager,  
BP Lubricants.

"The Yemeni - British Lubricant Marketing Company (SYC) is a joint venture between the Thabet Group of Yemen and the British Petroleum Group (BP) of the United Kingdom. The association between the Thabets and BP started some two decades

ago in the marketing of the world renowned BP oils and greases in Yemen. The joint venture has strengthened the relationship, and we are now operating BP lubricant branches in Sanaa, Taiz, Aden, Mukallah and Hodeida.

"The BP Visco 2000 formulation is testimony to the advanced British technology from BP, the same company that many years ago revolutionized the lubricants industry as the first oil company to develop multi-grade engine oils.

"Over the years the BP Visco 2000 formulation has exceeded the rapidly changing and challenging requirements of the major motor manufacturers, and today it boasts the API

Kuwait and Oman. BP Visco 2000 is produced at BP's lube oil blending plant in Dubai, under the ISO 9002 quality assurance standards, and is recommended and approved by leading gasoline engine oil manufacturers. This launch today demonstrates our commitment to ensure that the highest quality lubricants are available in Yemen.

"We have the full range of world class BP oils and greases, which are also sourced from Dubai as well as other BP plants in the UK and Europe. BP has an extensive range of automotive, industrial and commercial lubricants for any application (i.e. for all kinds of vehicles, industries, fac-

extending for over 20 years. We have now strengthened that association through this joint venture, which was formed last year. Over this past year we have established offices in Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeida, Aden and Mukallah. The BP market in Yemen is growing. The Visco 2000 launch is a premium-grade lubricant in the Gulf and the leading grade in Kuwait, UAE and Oman. We believe our market in Yemen will further expand through our exciting trade and consumer promotions, which will bring the company's performance well into line with our aspirations.

"We've been planning this launch over the last few months, which has taken a



(American Petroleum Institute), SJ service classification - the highest oil specification in the world for petrol engines.

**Mr. Jalal Thabet, Deputy General Manager, BP Lubricants.**

"BP Visco 2000 has been tried and tested throughout the world, including the harsh environments of the Middle East, and is a market leader in many international markets, including UAE,

atories, refineries, etc.), and we have the necessary back up, BP specialist resources in conducting lubrication surveys, sample oil analysis and determination of your particular lubricant requirements."

**Mr. Rick Capoccia,**  
Area Sales Manager,  
BP Lubricants,  
British Petroleum Middle East.

"We've had a long association with the Thabet Group,

lot of resources and assistance from our BP associates in Dubai and the UK. There will be a trade and consumer campaign which coincides with the launch of this product. Traders are incentivized to buy the product and they will get various gifts. Also a revolutionary consumer campaign will be supported by TV commercials and a lot of signage; street signs, illuminated signs landmark signs, etc. Moreover, the consumer as part of this launch can actually win money, because in some of these BP Visco 2000 tins the consumer will actually find money!

"Our future plan is really to consolidate and strengthen our relationship with our customers, to ensure that we have the right distribution throughout the Republic of Yemen, and to continue to supply quality lubricants. This is demonstrated by our commitment to the launch of the Visco 2000. It is the highest specification lubricant you can get in the world. We're very much aligned to marketing quality oils and greases throughout the Republic of Yemen.

"So the future is one where we want to grow with



Yemen's economic development. Ours is a good relationship for the future. We're here to stay, and we want to make sure the customer is really getting what he deserves - top-quality product and service.

"The growth rate of consumptional lubricants in Yemen is about 7 to 8% per annum. There are no difficulties in the Yemeni market, but challenges. The Yemeni/British Lubricants Company organization has over 40 staff, about 95% of whom are Yemenis. So once you have Yemeni staff, there are no major problems in doing business in Yemen. That is the key.

"We have been encouraged over the last year, since the joint venture has been established. BP is well known in many parts of Yemen since the early '50s when the Aden Oil Refinery was built. So we have already had a very long and close relationship with the Yemeni people. Our marketing activities over the last year have been quite evident in terms of distribution. Yemeni consumers already know the brand, and what we're doing is putting more energy behind this new joint venture."

**Mr. David Pierce,**  
Deputy Chief of Mission,  
UK Embassy in Sanaa.

"It is a privilege to be here today, I think that any diplomat to be present at a joint venture with his country and his host country is success. In the oil industry, Britain's history in Yemen is long and I think Britain is the largest non-oil exploration investor in Yemen. It may have something to do with Aden and we were there about I think 150 years ago.

"British technology and success in Yemen: we should look at the Aden refinery built in 1954 by Whimpey Tarmac and operated by BP for many years and is still going strong today. It is a definite

sign of success. The relationship between the Thabet Group and Britain goes back a long way. We highly value their cooperation and friendship and they obviously wouldn't do it unless they had a product, one of the world's leading products. With Visco 2000, they have such a product. We wish the Thabet group, BP every success and we pledge to help them achieve this success if they need our help."

**Dr. Mohammed Al-Qobati,**  
Executive Board Member,  
The Yemeni-British Friendship Association:

"We congratulate BP and the Thabet Group on their very fruitful cooperation. We are very proud of this cooperation between Yemeni and British businessmen, financiers and industrialists. We hope this cooperation will be expanded in the future. During the last four years, the Yemeni-British relations witnessed great development.

"We look forward to the establishment of a BP plant in Yemen, according to the two companies' joint plan. We expect BP to expand its activities in the Aden Free Zone."

**Mr. Abdulwahab Thabet,**  
Executive Director,  
The Thabet Group.

The cooperation between BP and the Thabet group company goes back as far as 22 years ago. We were agents to BP lubricants, and last year we formed a joint venture company between Thabet Group and BP for the distribution of BP lubricants. Hopefully in the future and if things develop right we're going to build a factory in Yemen. First, we have to do a feasibility study and build it in the governorate where is most economical. We have no preference to which governorate it should be built in, it has to be where the economics are right."







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## Originality in Yemeni Advertising

So you want to plunge into the 21st century. In fact, you want to join the leading edge of the 21st century civilization through the mind-boggling art of advertisement. But, you work in Yemen - a primitive environment where half the people are illiterate.

You want to announce your services and products. The modern ways, like advertising in the Yemen Times does not really help, if you want to reach out to the masses. You have to have new ingenious ways.

Yemenis have always found novel solutions to their needs. Now, they have proven it once again, through the special ways and means they advertise for their products and services. It is new, it is distinguished, it is effective.

### Uniquely Yemeni:

Abdullah repairs tyre puncture. He has a small place on Taiz road. Nobody can see his little



shop, or know about his service, if it were not for the pile of old car tubes and tyres he has put in front of his shop.

Ali changes your car's oil. He has a small place on the outer ring road, towards Asir. It would be hard to spot his little shop, had it

not been for the string of empty oil cans he hangs in front of his shop.

Ibrahim has a place for fixing kamariyahs. These are beautiful color glass windows. He leaves quite a few of his specimen and models in front of the shop to

interest potential customers to look at.

Abdul-Karim sells water tanks. Now, he puts some water tanks on the road. He often fills them with something, lest someone should carry them away, without paying, that is.

Mohammed owns a grocery place. He sells mainly fruits and vegetables on Zira'a Street. He



spends a few hours everyday, lining up the apples, oranges, peaches, grapes, etc. on display boxes outside his shop. You can't miss them as you drive by. In fact, the assortment and color arrangement is an incentive for you to stop and buy a few. He does not mind if you pick from the display boxes, he will go back to fill the missing slots.

The scene is repeated time after time, and it covers many sectors and fields.

All over the world, advertising is a way of communication which offers many benefits to producers

and customers alike. As the need for advertising grows more and more, we see many agencies that have started business. They develop techniques of making advertisements. Making adverts is a growing business whether it is on television, newspapers, radio, pamphlets, street signs, placards, and many other tools. Most of these are still not effective in Yemen. Besides, the costs are enormous for little shops and artisans.

### Drawbacks

While this Yemeni style adver-

tisement works, it does have some drawbacks. Let me list some.

1) First and foremost, the artisan or shop-owner actually occupies part of the street for his exhibition. This means that pedestrian do not have enough room left to walk. Sometimes, the room left even for cars is limited.

2) If the display is for foodstuffs, exposing them to dust, rain, and other factors is not a good thing. Health hazards are even more serious when vendors sell things like sandwiches, sweets and other edibles.

3) Municipal authorities also complain because such use of space is neither paid for nor legal.

### Conclusion:

As our country moves to live by the same norms and rules of other nations, such phenomena will be less and less frequently seen. But I suppose they will be with for the next couple of decades.

Concluding, I have to admit that the phenomenon dealt with above reflects these two observations:

- 1) The creativity of the Yemenis.
- 2) The inefficacy of laws in Yemen.

By Nadwa Yunis,  
Yemen Times



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## Mohammed Abdo Zaidi: Revivalist of Yemeni Music

Mohammed Abdo Zaidi was an outstanding artist and one of the first pioneers of the revivalist school of Yemeni music in the early 1960s in Aden. His work encompassed various new musical concepts in lyrics, tunes, structure, arrangement and scale. Although his actual artistic work was rather limited in volume, he made a name for himself given his originality and musical talents.

Al-Zaidi was born in 1944. An orphan because of the early death of his father, his mother had to work to support the family. She worked as a maid in the household of Sheikh Abdulrahman Bazara'a, who helped Al-Zaidi join the Bazara'a School in Aden in 1955. Our great artist studied at the music department of this school, which at that time was run by the well-known musician, Yahya Makki.

Soon, the lad's love for art made him gain mastery in the wind instruments, both in minor and major scales. Early in his childhood, he proved his talent as a musician, and rose to become the leader of the Bazara'a school musical band. Also in the same band was another young boy destined to become a famous singer, Ahmed Qassem.

No wonder, the songs of Mohammed Abdo Zaidi and Ahmed Qassem enjoy an important common characteristic - the use of the Arab "maqamat" or keys in the eastern musical scale.

With much practice, Zaidi rose to fame - within the country and the region. His musical work reached many corners. His association with the hugely gifted Ahmed Qassem, allowed his songs and music to grow and mature. When Qassem established his band, he assigned Al-Zaidi as the maestro due to his proven mastery. Thus, Al-Zaidi took large strides during his artistic journey with Ahmed Qassem.

Al-Zaidi had wanted to travel to Egypt to study at the High Institute for Music. But, financial fortunes were to stand in the way. He was forced to enroll in the Telecommunications Institute, from which he graduated with a diploma. He needed to study something practical to earn a living.

However, Al-Zaidi did not forget his music. One of his great performances was to sing a famous song for Abdul-Haleem Hafez called "Qulli Hagah" (Tell me something). His performance received a tumul-

tuous and enthusiastic response from the public.

Late in his career, Mohammed did manage to go to Egypt for refining his talents. In Cairo, he acquired more artistic skill and experience, because Egypt was and still is a very important artistic center from which many Arab artists launched their careers.

Al-Zaidi's songs were also were an embodiment of the patriotism of the era. He sang many songs for freedom, for revolution, and for change.

During his last days, Al-Zaidi was afflicted with a chronic disease. He finally died in 1993. With his death, the curtain came down on a rich era in Yemen art.

Many of his colleagues and compatriots remember a very shy and self-contained person. He preferred to steer away from the squabbles between artists at that time.

By Saleh Abdulbaqi,  
Art Editor, Yemen Times.

### تهانينا الحارة

نتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات القلبية لكل  
من ياسمين عبدالرحمن عباس

و  
عبدالباسط علي عثمان العريقي

بمناسبة زواجهما،  
متمنين لهما دوام السعادة والهناء،  
وبالرفاء والبنين.

المهنيون:

عائلة الأهل، عائلة السقاف، عائلة الحمادي،  
عائلة الأزرق، عائلة العريقي، وعائلة الجاموس  
عنهم جميعاً  
غادة حافظ الأهل

# Letters to the Editor

## My Fate & My Certificate

Everything seemed strange even the conducts of people in Yemen when I returned back to my country, to my home after a long time I had spent abroad, on scholarship. I had suffered the pains of loneliness to get the certificate to help my country, to show my family the fruits of their patience. I was full of hope and happiness when I found my country's changes towards progress as well as the other countries. I was pleased to find a good job to help my extended family who stood by me to live and complete my studies.

It was my only dream which passed in my imagination but our lives were more difficult than I expected and the circumstances were also too hard to solve. So, what shall I do? "Just shut your mouth" My certificate has no use?! Oh my God!!

Actually in our country if you have not got any money to pay bribes or for a good position, you cannot realize your dream.

That is my fate. I must accept it to overcome all these problems. Sometimes I try to do something to help myself, I have tried once, twice, many times. But no use. When I go back to my house after a long day full of pain looking for a job, I realize that is my fate and there is no use of my certificate.

By: Naif Awadh Ali Al-Saqqaf

animals closely. But it was a tragedy to look at the "king of the beasts", the lion. It looks like a dog with a big head.

I could not believe it! What was the matter with it? I made a close approach to the lion's cage to make sure what I was looking at, surprisingly, it was a real lion! The big surprise was that the lions' food were porridge and rice. The hungry lions have no choice, they have to eat whatever they get, rather than starve. Sigh! This indicates an unawareness towards these animals.

What really scared me was that the lion's cage was closed just by a piece of cloth. Fortunately, the lion was too weak and not clever enough to try to rip the piece of cloth. One more thing is that the visitors try to tease the lions so that they can make them roar. I forgot to say that the zoo was very smelly and it is about 20x20 m only. These animals do not deserve this kind of treatment, we should stop this cruelty against animals. There are two choices:

- 1) To be taken away to a better place
- 2) To run away to the nearest mountains as what happened the last time.

There are also two choices for the people:

- 1) Kill the animals
- 2) Offer better awareness, and to feed the animals properly.

By: Roweida Al-Saqqaf

## Anti-depressants

Indications: My life has been full of heart-aches and aggravation

Tears of joy, tears of fear and cry's of desperation Society has become a great threatening fear Amongst crowds of people I sense agoraphobia

Blasts from my past never seem to escape Whatever the conscience, size or shape Living among affliction, I can't seem to avoid The atmosphere has become aloof, or am I paranoid?

I'm grieving helplessly, cock-ups are multiplying The food is out, the weather is fine, but I'm still crying Guilt, anxiety and sadness are the deep symptoms I feel Those horrid emotional feelings which are impossible to heal

I'm extremely vulnerable with an ingenuous ineptitude Helplessly naive with an incorrigible attitude Someday I may appear with a devious smile But that's only an outer expression, I wear in denial

If you take a deeper look into my confused mind and heart You'd see that things are out of place, deep down I'm torn apart This emotional strain can't be solved with gifts and presents So I get prescribed with a course of anti-depressants

I take the first few doses, the effect is indecisive Dose after dose and I feel even more regressive My loved ones towards me have turned malicious What do they think of me? I'm obviously suspicious

I get maltreated whether it's in words or actions I try my very best but I get negative reactions I'm living in depression and there is no easy way out My mind starts to wander, frustration is about

I've given up on trying to confide in anyone Secrets only get passed around. they just make fun Once you take anti-depressants, you become an addict The side effects can be an incredible afflict

Solution: Look for something useful to occupy your mind Leave your hasty problems and the cruel world behind Take a look through your window, a big world we see You're not the only person living this life of misery.

By Nadia Ali

## "Collect & Win"

"Collect and win" is the commercial advertisement that most companies took it to advertise their goods. They specified groups of prizes. Each group has a particular number of photos to stick on the row of that group. When you complete a row of one group you can gain a specified prize. It is not easy to complete all the rows. It may cost you more than two thousand rials. You can find all the photos except one for each group, the so-called scarce photo. The missing photo encourages the person, notably children, to buy an extra amount perhaps to find it. Our children were rushing to some groceries to complete the contest paper. Once I observed a child was buying in large quantities of wafer cartons. That child has found all the photos except one in each group. The "scarce photos" created the hope in a child's spirit to get the prize. At the end, he despaired of winning the contest. Now the commodity is sold. But who is the winner of group. No1 or group No2? The child went to the distributor in his region to know the winner. The distributor replied "None" embarrassingly. Therefore the distributor claimed that the winner is from another district or governorate. How much did the child spend? The answer is more than two or three thousand rials. What are the prizes? It is trifle to the sum wasted. But the difficult question is where did he get they money? Also the answer is difficult one which the child compel him self to steal money from his family.

**B T T**

*Hot shot*

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Such contests will accustom our children to theft. Furthermore it is a bad reflection on honorable companies and establishment. If there is an authority to regulate and supervise these contests, the children will ensure their rights and prove the honesty of the company and establishment. If there are specified prizes for each governorate or district the clientele will increase to the advantage of the company and establishment. It will gain good profits and image. In this respect, I call on the owners of commercial companies and establishments to organized the contests in such a way so as to put our children off bad habits and problems. Good wishes

Mohammed Ali Basaif Al-Qatan, Al-Aneen Hadhramaut

## Suffering Animals

I heard about a zoo in Taiz. I wished to visit it to look at the

## Orbit Weekly Programs

<p><b>America Plus</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1800 Lois and Clark Year 3 1900 Highlander 2200 Homicide</p> <p><b>Highlander 17 Aug. on 2000.</b> Carolyn Marsh's latest best-seller is a hot &amp; romantic novel featuring a smoky-eyed swash-buckling Highlander hero named Duncan MacLeod.</p> <p>18 August 1998 1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper 1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood 2300 FX</p> <p>19 August 1998 1630 Madman of the People 1700 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210 1800 Lois and Clark Year 3</p> <p>20 August 1998 1600 Moesha 1630 Madman of the People 2000 Friends*</p> <p>21 August 1998 1300 Sunset Beach 1630 Madman of the People 1700 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210</p> <p>22 August 1998 1800 Lois and Clark Year 3 1900 Flipper 2000 Malibu Shores</p> <p>23 August 1998 1400 Kung Fu 1700 Beverly Hills - Y7 90210 2100 La Femme Nikita</p>	<p><b>The Disney Channel</b></p> <p>August 17, 1998 1230 Aladdin 1600 Dinosaurs 1840 Gargoyles 1930 Boy Meets World</p> <p>August 18, 1998 1300 Movie - Parent Trap II 1470 Darkwing Duck 1815 Aladdin 2230 Dinosaurs</p> <p>August 19, 1998 1030 Movie - Black Arrow 1200 Movie - Child of Glass 2130 Home Improvement 2200 Sidekicks</p> <p>August 20, 1998 1145 Talespin 1330 Mickey Mouse &amp; Friends 1830 Sinbad 2000 Movie - Babes in Toyland</p> <p>August 21, 1998 1235 Zorro 1580 Brand Spanking New Doug 2130 Home Improvement 2230 Movie - Iron Will</p> <p>August 22, 1998 1630 Bill Nye the Science Guy 1840 Gargoyles 2200 Torkelsons 2400 Movie - Parent Trap III</p> <p>August 23, 1998 0630 Welcome to Pooh Corner 1100 Quack Pack 1300 Movie - On Promised Land 1750 Darkwing Duck</p> <p><b>Fun Channel</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1405 The Flintstones Comedy Show 1525 Reboot 1705 Power Rangers</p> <p>18 August 1998 1315 Richie Rich 1525 Reboot 1705 Power Rangers</p> <p>19 August 1998 1315 Richie Rich 1405 The Flintstones Comedy Show 1430 The Mask 1705 Power Rangers</p>	<p>20 August 1998 1300 Roadrunner Show 1800 World Youth News 2130 Sylvester and Tweety</p> <p>21 August 1998 1800 The Movie Special The inheritance 2100 Wacky Races 2130 Sylvester and Tweety 2200 Roadrunner Show</p> <p>22 August 1998 1525 Reboot 1705 Power Rangers 1850 Bump in the night</p> <p>23 August 1998 1405 The Flintstones Comedy Show 1640 Animaniacs 2005 Police Academy</p> <p><b>Orbit News</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 2000 NBC Dateline 2100 CBS 60 Minutes 2200 ABC Primetime</p> <p>18 August 1998 1300 CBS Morning News Live 1330 NBC News at Sunrise Live 2100 ABC 20/20</p> <p>19 August 1998 1230 ABC World News this Morning Live 1600 CBS This Morning 2100 Chariots of the Gods 2200 ABC Nightline</p> <p>20 August 1998 1500 The Adventures Of Smoke Bellew Ep.3 - 2V 1900 Critters - 2VL 2300 Gang In Blue - 3SVL</p> <p>21 August 1998 1430 E! Extreme Close Up 1500 Batman Returns - 2V 2100 Running Mates - 2SL</p>	<p>20 August 1998 1300 CBS Morning News Live 1330 NBC News at Sunrise Live 2230 C.I.A.: Vietnam-Phoenix Rising</p> <p>21 August 1998 1230 ABC World News this Morning Live 1300 CBS Morning News Live 2230 ABC Special w/J. Stossel: Junk Science</p> <p>22 August 1998 1400 NBC Weekend Today Show Live 1600 CBS News Saturday Morning 1800 CBS 48 Hours 1900 Rosewood Massacre: The Untold Story</p> <p>23 August 1998 1400 NBC Nightly News 1430 Wall Street Week 2000 NBC Meet the Press 2100 ABC This Week</p> <p><b>Super Movies</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1900 Reckless Kelly - 2 2030 E! Behind the Scenes 2100 Just Cause - 3VL</p> <p><b>Hollywood Channel</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1700 E! Extreme Close Up 1930 Wheel of Fortune 2100 E! In Focus 2200 E! Special</p> <p>18 August 1998 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily 1730 Model TV 97 2030 Judge Judy</p> <p>19 August 1998 0900 Crook and Chase 1200 Super Collectors 1430 E! Coming Attractions 2300 America's Dumbest Criminals 2330 Movie Show</p> <p>20 August 1998 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily 1530 E! FYE 1800 The Price is Right 2330 Late Show With David Letterman</p> <p>21 August 1998 1630 Mysteries &amp; Scandals 2000 Pictionary 2030 Judge Judy 2300 Inside The Actors' Studio Season 2</p> <p>22 August 1998 1500 E! Extreme Close Up 1530 E! FYE 2030 Judge Judy 2100 E! Behind the Scenes</p> <p>23 August 1998 1500 Hollywood Spotlight 2030 Judge Judy</p>	<p>2100 Celebrity Profiles 2200 E! News Week In Review</p> <p><b>behind the scene</b></p> <p><b>E! Behind the Scenes 22 Aug. at 2100</b> Ever wished your could visit a movie set? Well, unless you're a movie star or a key grip, you can't. Behind the Scenes is the next best things.</p> <p><b>Orbit ESPN Sports</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1700 AMA Motocross 1900 SportsCenter 2000 Pilot Pen Tennis New Haven, CT Early Round - Day 1 Live</p> <p>18 August 1998 1600 English Horse Racing - York Live 1830 Bodyboard Champ. 2300 Qualifying Surfing</p> <p>19 August 1998 1830 Qualifying Surfing 2300 SportsCenter International 2330 Racehorse Digest</p> <p>20 August 1998 1600 English Horse Racing - York Live 2000 Pilot Pen Tennis New Haven, CT Early Round - Day 4 Live 2200 European Football Weekly</p> <p>21 August 1998 1800 Pilot Pen Tennis New Haven, CT Quarterfinal Match Live 2100 Motoworld 2330 SportsCenter International</p> <p>22 August 1998 1600 SportsCenter 2100 Cart Texaco/Havoline 2000 Elkhart Lake, WI 2300 Australian Basketball Canada v Australia</p> <p>23 August 1998 1530 Dutch Football Live 1730 Australian Basketball Canada v Australia 1900 SportsCenter 2000 Pilot Pen Tennis New Haven, CT Final Match Live</p> <p><b>Music Now</b></p> <p>17 August 1998 1400 American Chart Show 1500 Cosmix 2300 Arabic R.s.v.p.</p> <p>18 August 1998 1200 In Motion 1330 Musabaqa 5200 Cosmix 1700 Dandana</p> <p>19 August 1998 0800 The Rush Hour 0900 Retro 1100 "360" Degrees David Bowie 1300 R.s.v.p.</p> <p>20 August 1998 1600 American Chart Show 1700 Musabaqa 2300 Music Now Jukebox</p> <p>21 August 1998 1600 American Chart Show 1700 Dandana 2100 360 Degrees Amro Diab</p> <p>23 August 1998 1400 Indimage 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranean</p>
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Cont'd from p. 1:

## Abuse of Military Service Duty ...

3) Whenever secondary school graduates complete their military service, they are not released promptly. They are often delayed, as if on purpose to miss university admission deadlines. They are generally delayed for 3 to 5 months.

4) The service is not really compulsory. For YR 5000 a year, any one can get a waiver for as long as they want. Many kids from well-to-do families skip service this way. In other words, the military draft is no longer a national service which all adult Yemeni males should do. But it has become some sort of a tax.

This is what the people concerned with recruiting Yemen's young men into the army had to say about the process:

### 1) Staff Brigadier Mohammed M. Muharram, Commander of Military Recruitment at the Ministry of Defense



"The compulsory military service law, endorsed in 1979, was quite a courageous step that made a big qualitative change in Yemen's defense capabilities, and enhanced its national unity."

### Exemption

"There are well defined and strict conditions for exemption from national service, which are as follows:

- 1- the young man must be his parent's only child,
- 2- the only child to a disabled father,
- 3- his siblings are unable to support the family due to illness, etc. or
- 4- above 30 years of age."

### Postponement

"As for postponement, priority is given to migrant workers, students studying abroad, or those who have special conditions that prevent them from being conscripted for a limited period of time. Those temporarily exempted have to pay token money every year, which is given to the Tax Authority."

### Reserves

"After finishing military service, a conscript must remain in the reserve army until he reaches 50. There are future plans to organize light refresher training courses for our reserves."

### 2) Colonel Mohammed Hussain Ghamdhan, head of Planning and Statistics, Military Recruitment Office, Ministry of Defense.

"When the law was first enacted, there were no reliable statistics of the number of young men eligible for conscription. Facilities such as communication, etc. were not available to get first-hand information about the numbers of eligible young men in rural and remote areas. Also, our experience was rather limited then."

### Benefits to the state

"A conscript used to get YR 1000 a month. Starting now, this amount is doubled. A regular soldier gets YR 5000. Thus, the state saves a lot of money by recruiting conscripts. The other benefit is that a conscript is more educated than the average regular soldier. We rely on the conscripts in guarding foreign embassies and other similar establishments. They are generally better in response and in assessing situations."

### Secondary-school graduates

"There are more than 100,000 secondary-school graduates this year. The number keeps rising over the years. The number of soldiers needed for conscription is far less than that. The Ministry of Education chooses those with higher marks to teach at primary schools as part of their military service."

### Benefit to young people

"A raw conscript is transformed from civilian to military life where he learns order, toughness, patience, endurance, becomes physically fit, and learns new technical skills. There are also cultural benefits through lectures and seminars held every week."

### Numbers

"The number of the first batch of conscripts in 1979 was 4,500. In 1989, just before unification, there were 25,000 conscripts. After unification in 1990, however, there was less need for new soldiers as the number of the army staff swelled up due to the merging of two armies. So there were only 15,000 conscripts. In the following years we only needed 25,000 new conscripts every year, except for last year when the number rose to 32,000. This year it will probably be



back to 25,000."

### Duration

"Starting from this year, the duration of the compulsory military service will become two years, instead of the previous one year."

### Reserves

There are about 500,000 reserve army troops and three times as many irregulars - People's Army.

### Mr. Hamoud Abdu Naji, General Director, Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Education.



### Primary school teachers

"The policy of making secondary-school graduates teach at primary schools was adopted in the 1970s due to the country's economic circumstances then. There is now less reliance on secondary-school graduates due to the increasing numbers of graduates from colleges of education, art, etc."

"Frankly speaking, making secondary-school graduates teach at primary schools has resulted in much harm to the whole educational system in Yemen. The academic level of the average Yemeni student is much lower than his peers in neighboring countries. Besides, the idea of sending these people to teach in primary schools, when our kids are in their formative years, is absurd. We should send our best teachers to these youngsters."

"There are, of course, some advantages. It has Yemenized our educational system by making it less reliant on foreign teachers. Thus has many implications. A direct one is the savings by the state's coffers of large sums of hard currency. We are also able to cover the lack of teaching staff in rural and remote areas. But just as importantly, it has reduced acculturation of Yemen at the hands of other nationalities."

### Criteria

"Students with high grades are recruited as teachers, while those with low marks are sent to do their military service."

"The total number of annual secondary-school graduates is about 120,000, 35% of those are female. So what is theoretically available for military service with the Ministry of Defense is about 78,000 new graduates every year."



## Indonesia's Reforms, and Future Relations with Yemen

Three months following the assumption of power by Eng. Dr. Bacharuddin Yusuf Habibie, the reform process is in full swing in Indonesia. The reform program was started at the onset of the severe economic crisis that hit south-east Asia during July and August of last year. Indonesia's local currency - the Ruppee - took a lot of hammering. Its value dropped from 2,400 to the US dollar in July, 1997 to 10,000 at the beginning of January, 1998 and to 16,000 at the end of the same month.

Confusion in the monetary and banking sector led to the closure of 16 banks. The Indonesian government could not tackle the insolvency problems because most Indonesian businessmen made short-term borrowings to finance, in local currency, long-term projects. Also, the government's decision to raise fuel prices led to an increase in the prices of basic food commodities.

The deteriorating economic situation gave rise to civil unrest, rioting and acts of violence. The public simply lost confidence in Suharto's government, which proved ineffectual in the face of mounting social crisis. The reformative council of ministers, established by Habibie, aims to administer the interim government and rectify the national economy and other issues of national importance that continue to affect foreign policy. Such issues include human rights, democracy and the environment.

### A- Economy

1- The Central Bank of Indonesia is to be given more power and independence in reforming and managing the national banks that are plagued by financial irregularities, and mismanagement. A national authority for bank reform is established for this purpose. The hope is that problem-free banks will

merge to form stronger entities. The government is trying to recover the trust of foreign banks by encouraging Indonesian importers and exporters to use paper credit.

2- A ban is imposed on exporting basic commodities needed by the people.

3- Negotiations are underway with international organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, Asia Development Bank (ADB) and Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI).

4- The CGI agreed last July to give Indonesia a loan of US \$7.894 billion, the IMF will provide US \$6.3 billion towards the 1998/99 budget.

5- Special envoys are sent to countries in the Middle East and North Africa to help open new markets for the country's products.

6- More coordination of efforts is instituted between Indonesia and such international organizations as ASEAN, ASEM, OPEC, etc.

### B- Law & Politics

1- Reforms are carried out on the laws of elections, membership of the legislative authority and political parties.

2- A special session of the Shourah Council is planned for December, 1998 and general elections are due in May, 1999.

3- Release of political prisoners detained by the Suharto regime.

4- Supervised by the UN Secretary General, a dialogue is held with the Portuguese government to solve the East Timor issue and expand its autonomy without prejudice to their basic positions of principles. The Indonesian government decided to reduce its military presence in that region and release East Timorese political prisoners.

5- The two countries also agreed to establish interest sections in friendly embassies in each other's capital by the end of 1998, and to relax visa policies towards each other's nationals.

6- Armed forces are pulled out of Aceh, which

now ceased to be a military zone.

### C- Human Rights & the Environment

1- The National Human Rights Project (1998-2003) was ratified by endorsing the International Human Rights Convention and other international treaties. Priority is now given to human rights issues.

2- A special committee is formed to investigate cases of rioting and looting during May 13-15, 1998. The issue of political activists abducted during the Suharto era will also be tackled.

3- People involved in forest destruction and environmental pollution will be investigated and brought to justice.

The people of Indonesia and the international community in general have welcomed these reform measures. The Indonesian government is making increasing efforts to gain the trust of the international community by pressing ahead with the reform program. What has been achieved so far is very encouraging.

### FUTURE YEMENI-INDONESIAN RELATIONS

Indonesia's current circumstances do not affect its bilateral relations with Yemen, especially in the economic, social and cultural fields. The historic ties between the brotherly countries are far too strong to be affected by a passing crisis. Yemen was one of the first Arab countries to recognize the independence of Indonesia on May 3, 1948, the 50th anniversary of which was celebrated by both countries.

Economic cooperation between the two countries has been further strengthened following the visit by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Indonesia during February 19-21, 1998. Four agreements were signed since then:

- 1- Trade cooperation agreement,
- 2- Agreement to increase protection on investment,

3- MoU to form a joint committee, and  
4- Agreement of cooperation between the two countries' respective chambers of commerce and industry.

These agreements have come as a crowning achievement of the agreements signed by the countries' foreign minister on February 24, 1994, in Sanaa.

Despite the economic crisis in Indonesia, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies invested in palm oil production to be exported to countries of the Middle East and Africa.

Indonesia still offers great investment opportunities for potential investors from the Middle East and all over the world. Lucrative sectors include oil, gas, gold, nickel, coal and others. Local availability of raw material, agriculture and forestry offer very profitable returns on investments.

The Indonesian government is currently instituting several strategic measures in order to attract foreign investors. Measures such as removal of the special tax formerly imposed on the sectors of mining, agriculture and forestry are now incorporated in the new investment law.

Yemeni-Indonesian social and cultural ties are always developing. An increasing number of Indonesian students are enrolled in Yemeni academic institutions. In Daar Al-Mustafa school in Tarim, there are 108 students from Indonesia. There are 87 in Ribat school, Tarim, 22 in Al-Ahqaf University, Seiyoun, 37 in Al-Iman University, and 3 in Yemenia University - both in Sanaa.

Given the history they share, and the similarities in their modern situations, Indonesia and Yemen are inevitably going to develop more understanding and better cooperation and stronger ties.



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welcomes

**H. E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh**



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The Honorable Jean Chrétien



Canada's Governor General  
The Honorable Romeo LeBanc



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expresses his warmest welcome to

**the President of Yemen, H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh,**

and the accompanying delegation,

and wishes them success in their visit and meetings in Canada

**Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd: A Pioneer in Yemeni Canadian Cooperation**

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ترحب بفخامة

**الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح**

**والوفد المرافق**

في زيارتهم الرسمية إلى كندا وتتمنى لهم النجاح بما يخدم مصالح البلدين الصديقين  
شركة كندايان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم المحدودة : رائدة التعاون اليمني الكندي



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

**AL-WAHDAMI:**  
Sanaa weekly, 11-8-98.

(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Saudi authorities continue deporting Yemenis and amass troops on the border. Some of the deportees are mentally and physically abused.
- 2- Oil pipeline connecting the Safer fields in Mareb and Raas Isa on the Red Sea was blown up during armed confrontations between the Sanhan and Khawlan tribes over a land dispute. Two men were killed.
- 3- Mareb/Jawf tribal alliance condemns the killing by government troops of Sheikh Hassan Bin Dharman.
- 4- Students affiliated with opposition groups in Taiz condemn violations in registration procedures

at Taiz University. Political reasons were cited.  
5- Opposition Coordination Council calls for the lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq.

### Article Summary: Top Security Man Dead

The chief of security in Mansouria, Hodeida, along with five of his personnel died in a shootout with highwaymen. Two other policemen were seriously injured; while, one highwayman was killed.  
The five-member gang, using a car with an army numberplate, attempted to abduct a Yemeni returnee from Saudi Arabia and steal his car while he stopped by a petrol station. However, they were intercepted by the police, and a heavy exchange of fire ensued.  
The gangsters escaped into nearby bushes. Army troops were later sent in to comb the area, but no one was found.

**AL-UMMA:**  
Sanaa weekly, 13-8-98.  
(Al-Haqq Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- A cease-fire is reached between the Khawlan and Sanhan tribes following the death of two men and the release from Khawlan's captivity of Col. Ali Shumaila, former deputy commander of the Republican Guard and brother of Yemen's ambassador to Washington.
- 2- Chemical analysis by the Ministry of Health indicate that the "improved French bread" (rooti) contains potassium bromide, which causes lymphatic cancer.
- 3- A black cloth is wrapped around the Athrab mosque minaret to mourn the killing of its speaker by a rival extremist group.

### Article Summary: Chemical Waste - By Abdulaziz Al-Sabry

A quantity of US-manufactured pesticides was given as aid to Yemen in 1982. About 30 tons of the pesticide expired, and was secretly buried in the Sardoud farm. It was only discovered in 1992 causing extensive environmental pollution. Another amount of dangerous chemicals was discovered buried under the courtyard of a building formerly occupied by USAID.  
In 1988 a quantity of pesticides was imported from Hack Trade of Germany. When it arrived at the Hodeida port, the pesticide had only 10 months left to its expiry date and was already leaking from the faulty containers. It was later dumped at Al-Naar mountain, causing widespread pollution.

**AL-TARIQ:**  
Aden weekly, 11-8-98.  
(Independent)

### News Review:

- 1- Head of Dhamar prosecutor office complains to the Public Prosecutor of recurrent interference by the military police in the affairs of the judicial system.
- 2- A missile detonator found by a child in an Ataq street explodes back home injuring all six members of the family.
- 3- Aden is to be divided into 7 directorates, instead of the current 3.
- 4- Ministry of Oil announces the postponement of natural gas exports from 2001 to 2003 due to the economic crisis in south-east Asia - the intended market.
- 5- A massive bomb explosion rocks Al-Habilain, Lahaj.
- 6- New police checkpoints are introduced in Hadhramaut, and traveling cars and people are thoroughly searched.
- 7- Hadhramaut MPs reject proposed division of their governorate into two parts.
- 8- 88 Somali refugees residing in Aden are to be voluntarily repatriated.
- 9- A large quantity of fish and squid found rotting on board a Chinese fishing vessel was destroyed by the Aden Port authority.
- 10- Yemeni students at Jordanian universities have not been paid their financial grants

for the last six months.  
11- Journalist Awadh Kashmeem was arrested by Dawaan security accused of incitement to violence.  
12- An army officer attempts to take over the grounds of the Taiz-Hodeida taxi station.  
13- Water supplies in Mukallah, Hadhramaut, were cut off for 4 consecutive days because of a main pipe bursting due to over pumping.

**AL-THAWRI:**  
Sanaa weekly, 13-8-98.  
(Yemen Socialist Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Security is stepped up in and around the US embassy compound in Sanaa following threats of violence against the embassies in Yemen, Egypt and Malaysia. US embassy in Sanaa has stopped issuing visas to Yemeni citizens.
- 2- The Council of Ministers ratifies a law regulating mass rallies and demonstrations. Referring this draft law to parliament during its summer recess aims for its endorsement by a republican decree. The law stipulates, in addition to an official permission, supplying the organizers' names and the duration of the demonstration.
- 3- Former prime minister of the Aden colony died in exile in Egypt.
- 4- Tribal fighting over a piece of agricultural land in Abyan leaves 2 dead and 5 injured. The dispute has been reviewed by the courts for the last 2 years. No final decision is reached yet.

**Article Summary:**  
Yemen & Saudi: Faulty Politics - By Mansour Hayil  
The dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is not purely over the border demarcation, Yemen's support for Iraq during the Gulf war or a case of exchange of conspiracies. It actually lies in the following:  
1- backward mentality and lack of political acumen;

2- ancient heritage of violence, suspicion and conspiracy mentality; and  
3- deeply entrenched division all over the Arab world.  
Unity and integration can start on the public level and move up to the regimes, not the other way round.

**AL-RAY:**  
Sanaa weekly, 11-8-98.  
(Independent)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Because of insults and abuse by the US consul of its members, the Yemeni-American Friendship Association freezes its activity until a meeting is held by its general assembly. Many Yemenis complain of gross ill-treatment by this US embassy official when they apply for visas.
- 2- Acting on an SOS signal from a ship in Yemen's territorial waters, a Yemeni navy launch was intercepted by 9 Eritrean navy vessels when it went to rescue the ship's crew. The launch and its crew were detained for 2 hours.
- 3- An extra fee of YR 150 is imposed on pupils in Aden supposedly for the governorate's public sanitation.

**Article Summary:**  
Mismanagement of UNICEF Course - By Moh'd Abdullatif  
Funded by the UNICEF, a special training course was held in Mahweet for about 60 new female rural teachers. Apparently, favoritism and other irregularities were prevalent in managing the course. Some trainees were replaced with others for no apparent reasons. Trainees also complained that, instead of receiving their YR 1,000 daily allowance, they only got YR 500.

**AL-UMMA:**  
Sanaa weekly, 13-8-98.

(Yemen Armed Forces)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- The President telephones Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to inquire about King Fahad's health following a gall-bladder surgery.
- 2- The Council of Ministers ratifies a draft law to regulate mass rallies and demonstrations.
- 3- Minister of Oil: "150 local and international oil companies will take part in the oil and gas conference in Sanaa next September."
- 4- Minister of Industry: "A special ministerial committee is formed to look into local industry problems."
- 5- Minister of Agriculture: "Loans totaling YR 1.5 billion were given to farmers and rural women projects during 1997."

### Article Summary:

Iryani's Government - By Anas A. Al-Malahi  
Despite the intensive attack against the new government and the doubts expressed about its competence, it has been able to prove itself. What has been achieved during the last few months by way of reform cannot be refuted.  
Dr. Iryani has a vast experience, both in politics and economics, which has ruled out failure. All aspects of life - political, economic and social - are being reformed. A special strategy projecting Yemen's development to the year 2020 has been formulated.

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**Abdullah Al-Kibsi**

**"There should be more cooperation between the YOC and the various sports associations."**

Some sports association are almost without any activity to speak of. Sport and sportsmen in general are not well looked after, to say the least. The Yemen Olympic Committee (YOC) is one of the official organs responsible for promoting sports in Yemen.

Yemen Time talked to Mr. Abdullah Al-Kibsi, YOC Assistant Secretary General. A pioneer sportsman, Al-Kibsi tries very hard to develop sports in Yemen.



**Q: What support does the YOC give to different sports?**

A: As the Yemeni Olympic Committee was given support by the Youth Support Fund, its officials tried their best to have the various Yemeni sport associations involved in international sport tournaments.

For example, in 1997, the YOC supported the Football Association by donating YR 1.5 million to participate in the World Cup. With an equal amount of money, it also supported Yemeni team which took part in the 8th Arab Sports Championship in Lebanon, 1997. And with YR 785,000 it supported the Yemeni players in West Asia Championship held in Iran, 1997.

**Q: Does the YOC support juniors sports events?**

A: The Olympic Solidarity gave special support to three junior athletes. According to the contract, the athletes are given all the support to qualify for international sports events. The three are: Adel Shaker (athletics), Nashwan Al-Harazi (gymnastics), and Liza Sabri (table-tennis). Everything is being done. We

sent Nashwan Al-Harazi on a 6-month training camp. And we also sent Adel Shaker to a training camp in Ethiopia.

**Q: How do you deal with the sport association which does not have any sport activities?**

A: We are sorry for that. We don't know why these associations do not do their job. We are now trying to stop sponsoring them.

**Q: Do the coaches and referees benefit from the courses you organize for them?**

A: We make 4 course for coaches and referees every year. We expect the sport associations to do something and employ these coaches and referees. But, unfortunately, they do not complete what we do.

**Q: Do you reward the athletes who achieve good results in international and Arab tournaments?**

A: I think that you hear every now and then that the YOC honors some of those athletes who achieve good results and win medals. For example, we honored Abdullah Al-Azani for getting the silver medal in Lebanon's Arab Tournament. And we honored Wadhah Alwan for getting the gold medal in Taekwondo in The West Asia Tournament in Iran, 1997. We also honored Zaidan Al-Zendani, the chess player for getting the bronze medal in the Arab Chess Tournament held in Iraq. We honored Al-Wahda Club for winning the President's cup. We also made plans for honoring the older players who retire from sport such as Mohammed Abu Ala'a, and Ahmed Al-Kharbah. In addition, we provide the schools with sport equipment and offer medical help for the players.

**Q: What are the problems you face?**

A: We allocate a budget for participating in the Arab and international sport activities. After discussing it with the Ministry of Finance, they do not give us even half of the needed money. This limits our participation and so we can not do well.

For example, we plan for a YR 12 million budget for the Asian 13th Championship which will be held in Bangkok this December. We were surprised to know that the money allowed is only YR 6 million. This does not even cover the prices of the tickets. This makes us reduce the size of the delegation considerably. We are not well-prepared. Just imagine that we do not have even our own sport wear. Everything has to be reviewed again in order to represent Yemen perfectly.

**Big Hopes, Small Achievements**



Before any Yemeni sport team leaves the country to participate in Arab or international sport activities, the coaches and the sport officials ensure that the team is "lucky enough" and that the players can do well with their high morale and strong will. But as the players do horribly bad, excuses like a bad omen, hot weather and feeling homesick, etc, come to justify their failure. Any sport achievement requires planning and an organized training program. Offering facilities and also supporters of the players must be there. Any athlete or player must never need to do normal work to earn a living. I can see that the reasons behind the failure of our sport sector is because:

1) No training camps: The training camps usually last 15 to 20 days for singles games and 30 to 45 days for team games. During these camps, the players are not provided with good, really nutritional food. In addition, they do hard exercises. This turns the athletes in a very bad physical condition and so they can never do well.

2) Lack of sports fields & equipment: Until today, there is not even one exercise hall for the teams athletes. I have to admit that our athletes are physically weak. Our sport venues lack all the necessary sport equipment. The

Swimming Association does not have a swimming pool, the Boxing Association does not have a boxing ring, the Football Association does not have a suitable stadium, and the Horse Riding Association does not have enough horses, etc.

3) Unplanned Training: The sport associations do not honestly value the sport teams and players. If a Yemeni athlete gets a medal, all he gets is a tea party and some money. Nobody cares about him afterwards. This affects the athletes very badly. The other thing is unplanned training, especially in the singles games. The coaches look at the good skill of the players and totally ignore qualifying them physically. There is not a particular program for the teams or the athletes. People start training one month or even less before they participate in any international sport event. The money given to the Sport and Youth Ministry is enough to cover all the expenses needed for improving the sport sector. But, there is no monitoring body inside or outside the ministry. The Minister of Sport and Youth, Dr. Raweh has a very hard task, that is reforming the situation inside the ministry. Our sport athletes do have good capabilities, but they need to be given good care and support.

**Yemeni Junior Football Team in Qatar: Draw + Draw = ?**

The Yemeni Youth Football Team was able to draw 2-2 in its friendly match with the Qatari Olympic Team. This game was part of a training camp currently being held in Qatar in preparation for the Asian Tournament of Youth Football Teams. The first friendly match was with the Arabi Team of Qatar, which ended with a 1-1 draw. In spite of the very hot weather (45°C in the shade) the Yemeni team was able to adapt relatively



easily, a thing that reflects the players' determination and ambition despite the lack of resources and proper facilities back in Yemen.

Yemen Times wishes the Youth Team all success. Friendly matches, however, do not usually give a good indication as to the team's future performance.

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The Government of Yemen and UNDP has undertaken a joint innovative and community based program for poverty alleviation. This project is to provide site and services at madinat Al Sha'ab in Aden for the low-income population of Aden and is an important component of the program.

Within this project an area of 53 ha is to be developed to provide residential plots for about 2500 low income families, 100 commercial plots, plot for social and religious amenities such as a school, mosque, medical facility, kindergarten, police station, greens etc. and infrastructure on site.

Concerning the infrastructure on site, the highest priority is attached to the full provision of clean water supply and sewerage connection to every plot. An electricity network and a lower standard type of road shall also serve each plot.

Civil engineering construction companies, chartered in Yemen preferably with an operational office in Aden are invited to register their interest to be included in a shortlist of companies to be contracted by UNCHS to carry out the construction of the infrastructural network for above mentioned housing development scheme including:

- Subcontract 1 Water-supply Network
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- Subcontract 3 Electricity Network
- Subcontract 4 Roads Network

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The Project Management Unit  
Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban  
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P. O. Box no. 6243 Aden  
Tel/fax 02-231424**

Applications for prequalification for all of above works to be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked "Application for prequalification for construction works for site and services for low cost housing in Aden", to include company presentation, financial status of the company for the last three years, reference regarding urban infrastructure works, board members, number of people working for the company and their field of expertise, status of registration, character and other relevant information must be addressed to the National Project Director submitted by hand or through registered mail and reach the above address not later than 12.00 o'clock Monday, 21 September 1998.

# Yemenis Flock to Indian Films

As part of the close Yemeni-Indian cultural cooperation and to celebrate the golden jubilee of India's independence, the Indian embassy in Sanaa organized a week of Indian films and a photographic exhibition. The events were attended by a large crowd of fans of Indian films, which have quite a following in Yemen. Yemenis just love Indian films, dances and music.

scenery, action, love, humour... In fact the Indian cinema has dealt with just about every theme under Indian's bright sun. Names such as Shashi Kapoor, Amit Patchan and others oar almost on every lip in Yemen.

Indian films have certainly 'been a great conveyer of Indian culture to almost all parts of world. For example, this has greatly affected the musical traditions of various countries such as Yemen. Yemeni artists have incorporated Indian rhythms and tunes into their songs.

The development and growth of cinema in India goes back to the early decades of this century. That was the silent era of the cinema. By now it has grown into a gigantic industry. Films are made entirely indigenously and in every Indian language, as well as a few dialects. But Hindi cinema, mad in Bombay, remains the most popular, including in parts of India. Sociologists may discover that Bombay cinema has become a factor in national



of greatness. Among them Satyajit Ray is possibly the best known and acclaimed internationally. Ray, who died recently, was a renaissance figure. He wrote his own music, scripted his own films on the basis of his own stories, he did his own camera work, and was his own editor. He also sketched, painted, and wrote short stories for children in his native Bengali, and was a cosmopolitan of the first rank.

Besides the feature films, India also produces a very large number of documentaries in all its languages, relating to just about everything. Both feature films and documentaries are regularly shown at film festivals being held all the time in one or another big town. Some states have regular cinema "movements" and whole networks of film clubs and also "fan clubs", i.e. properly organized associations of fans of leading stars, especially of the regional Indian cinema, who sometimes end up enjoying successful political careers.

Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times



Many young people often hum some of the very popular songs seen and heard on film. Indian films are just what the Yemeni public relishes; great music, fantastic costumes, lively rhythms, magnificent

integration in a country with so many languages and regional dialects. Indian films, rather Bombay cinema, is truly a vehicle of culture and cross-cultural fertilization throughout the world. Also called Bollywood, as a cinema city, Bombay is truly "mega". It has heroes and villains and lots of stars and their sidekicks. The money being made in the trade, when the going is good, can be mind-boggling. And Bollywood films send people crazy very often because of their music and dance sequences.

Cinema in India has produced a few directors



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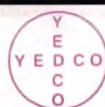
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