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YEMEN TIMES

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1998 YT Person of the Year AHMED HAMOUD AL-SAQQAF

Mr. Ahmed Hamoud Al-Saqqaf (no relation to YT Chief Editor) is the General Manager of the Prosthetics and Physiotherapy Center. Happily married, Al-Saqqaf, 49, holds a BA in military sciences. He had served in several posts in the military before he took up his current and much cherished job. For a decade and a half, Ahmed

has been serving victims of landmines, accidents, and other catastrophes that result in loss of limbs. The way he has gone about it has been exemplary. That is expected of a man who is himself a victim. His legs were amputated following a mine-explosion while on military duty at Jabal Raas in the Tihama in 1982. He was

treated in France. But he continued to suffer for some time due to lack of maintenance and repair services to his legs locally. Then came a chance for him to do something about it. In 1984, he was appointed general manager of the faltering Prosthetics and Physiotherapy Center in Sanaa. The center had been founded in

1978, but was formally opened 4 years later. It was a small, 2-room workshop in Al-Bouniyya, Sanaa. Its work was limited to repairing imported artificial limbs. Saqqaf changed all that. Today, the center is a large facility with modern physiotherapy equipment. Located in a spacious complex next to the Ministry of Health, it produces good-quality artificial limbs and other disability devices. The 66 local employees (53 male and 13 female), and 19 non-Yemeni staff work diligently to help people in need. Saqqaf and his staff have helped more than 1,000 victims. His dedication, professionalism, and above all, his clean hand have extended the center's outreach and services. "I know what it means to be forced to stay put. Giving someone mobility changes his/

her life totally. It is something that adds meaning to living," he says. That is probably why he supports whole-heartedly the on-going mine-clearing program and efforts to re-habilitate victims. He helped establish branches in Aden, Taiz and Hadhramaut. "We were surprised by this man. He worked hard with us to train staff, provide equipment, etc., in launching a branch center. At the end of the work, we offered to give him a 'gift'. He was very offended. It is rare in our country today to see such dedication to duty. It is even more rare to see people who will not ask for, let alone take, money once it was offered," said Sheikh Mahfooz Shammakh, Chairman of the Hadhramaut Charity Society.

More on page 3



1998 Yemen Times Person of the Year

Investigating the Abyan Fiasco: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

Investigators from the FBI (US) and Scotland Yard (UK) have teamed up to help stitch together the exact details of the botched-up rescue operation in Abyan on December 30th, 1998. They are working closely with the Yemeni authorities. On December 30th, a 300 military/security force stormed two hideouts of kidnappers who were holding 12 Britons, 2 American, and 2 Australian hostages. The operation, which was carried out at mid-day, took around 100 hours, and left 4 tourists, 2 kidnappers and 3 soldiers dead, and a few more injured.

The Yemeni government was asked emphatically by the British Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Victor Henderson, not to use force in seeking the release of the hostages. But the Yemeni authorities say that they were forced to intervene because the kidnappers were killing their hostages in cold blood. That claim was later contradicted by the freed hostages who stated that the killing started after the assault. While piecing the facts of this incident remains an important undertaking, the efforts

Continues on page 3

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OUR VIEWPOINT

FIGHTING TERRORISM: Need To Be Prepared!

The lessons learned from last week's tragic violence should be taken to heart. The killing of innocent people, especially foreign visitors, is one of the ugliest things that could happen. That is why it is important to draw lessons from last week's tragedy. That is also why we should help the authorities in fighting this senseless violence. But, we need to prepare for the fight against terrorism. I suggest the following three steps.

Lesson 1: Creating a Special Force:

Most of the soldiers and officers who confronted the kidnapers and terrorists last week did not have adequate training. I think the authorities should look into establishing a small commando unit to be used for such occasions. We have had many repeats in our confrontation with terrorists. A small, highly trained force to meet the challenge is necessary. More and better training, both physical and psychological, is needed. The training should also include education regarding legal aspects, human rights, ways to deal with the media and the public, etc. This force has to be well-equipped. It should be armed with the most up-to-date weapons and communication systems. It must be highly-mobile. International assistance can be solicited in this regard.

Lesson 2: Professionalism:

Our authorities have to be professional in their handling of these situations. They have to realize that full and honest cooperation with other countries is an important element in building trust and confidence in our management of such crises. That was not the case in the botched-up operation last week. Sometimes, our top officials are fed wrong information by the officers and bureaucrats who work for them, especially from the security apparatus. Our leaders (president, prime minister, etc.) then make decisions based on half-truths. The junior officers and bureaucrats mis-report in order to cover their shortcomings. The top people should be able to see this. Last week, Dr. Iryani, the Prime Minister, was given to believe that the kidnapers started to shoot their hostages before the assault. I believe this is most unlikely as the hostages are more valuable to the kidnapers alive. Even worse, the authorities began a cover-up to promote their version of what happened. Local journalists and stringers for international and regional media organizations were nudged to report on that basis. Some reporters obliged. But that was very short-lived, as the world was told otherwise by the hostages who survived the ordeal.

Lesson 3: Moral Upper Ground:

I keep repeating that the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed are guided by a social contract. Those who govern are expected to serve the public. The people in return obey the authority of the rulers. This contract is up-held by a morally-acceptable behavior on the part of the rulers. If the rulers do not live up to their end of the contract, the people will not obey their authority. That is why the rulers and their proteges must live within the rule of law and must work to serve the general interest of the nation.

I believe that those 3 points are important in our fight against terrorism.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز السقاقي

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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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UNICEF Support Until 2001

A agreement of cooperation between Yemen and UNICEF for the period 1999/2001 was signed by the Ministry of Planning and international agency. According to the agreement, UNICEF will support health, primary education, public awareness, and social activities in Yemen with \$7.6 Million. The agreement mainly aims at promoting children's rights in Yemen.

CDC Epidemiologists in Yemen

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta will assign six epidemiologists or public health specialists for approximately three months each, beginning in mid-January 1999. The CDC consultants will be accompanied by qualified Yemeni counterparts with responsibility for AFP surveillance. These Yemeni health workers will be trained to be able to continue the work after the departure of the CDC consultants. CDC will cover all expenses for the international travel and per diem of the CDC consultants. Adequate means of in-country transportation will be provided for the CDC consultants and their national surveillance counterparts as well as per diem expenses and other local costs for national staff by the Ministry of Health.

No New Team for YPFU

In a formal statement, the General Secretary of the Federation of Popular Forces Party and the Opposition Coordination Council have condemned the declaration of forming a new, "temporary command team for the Federation. The statement condemns the interference by the authorities in the internal affairs of political parties. The Opposition Coordination Council has declared its solidarity with the party regarding this issue.

Updating Fight Against Malaria

A meeting to update the Campaign to Fight Malaria will be held at the Ministry of Public Health on January 7. In this meeting, donors from WHO and other international organizations supporting the campaign will be informed about the efforts that have been done in fighting malaria all over the country until now. The Campaign to Fight Malaria has been supported with nearly \$6 million by the WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, Japan, the Netherlands, and others.

Yemenis & Egyptians Meet

The Yemeni-Egyptian Supreme Committee will hold its Fifth session after Eid Al-Fitr in Cairo. The session will be headed by the prime ministers of the two countries. Before the session, the preparatory committee, headed by the ministers of trade, will discuss signing new project agreements to promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

Al-Ray Al-Aam Stopped

After publishing an article attacking the Saudi Regime, publication of Al-Ray Al-Aam weekly newspaper was stopped on Thursday December 26, '98 by the Ministry of Information. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has condemned this action, regarding it as an attempt to violate press freedom in the country.

YT Weekly Poll

Yemen Times Weekly Poll question is placed at:
<http://yementimes.com/#poll>

Do you think that Yemeni female boxer Isra Girrah should be given full support by Yemen, just like Prince Naseem?
If no, why not?

Result

YES, she should be given full support, just like Prince Naseem Hamed : 62%
NO, it is against our islamic values and traditions: 27%
NO, boxing is a man's sport: 6%
NO, supporting her will not be of any benefit to the country: 5%

The Policy of the Regime Regarding Journalists:

“Repeat our lies, or else.”

Time and again, our rulers have shown that they will not tolerate independent journalism. They try to dictate to journalists how they should write their stories, even as the politicians talk about democracy, pluralism, tolerance, etc. The top politicians of Yemen are still unable to accept that someone will report things differently than they do. If some individuals insist to differ, then the traditional tools of dictators are used against them. The rulers try to destroy or at least discredit the person or group that refuses to toe the line.

Rageh Omaar of the BBC summarized this when he described his and his colleagues' ordeals with the Yemeni authorities which tried to stop the truth from reaching the world. He wrote:

“... the heart of it is the battle with one's own psychology - and a journey of discovery of what it ACTUALLY means to tell the truth, even when the bureaucracy of a whole state is telling you and the world that you are not.”
Source: <http://www.news.bbc.co.uk> (20/9/98).

Last week, I had yet one more example. On Thursday, December 31st, 1998, September 26 newspaper completed the year with another assault on me. This paper is directly managed by the office of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The article shows how irritated presidential circles are with our account of the Abyan event which led to the murder of 4 persons. It also shows how low they are willing to stoop in using lies in a disinformation campaign.

I give below an exact and full translation of this last assault on me on.

Quote:

“Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is known for his suspect loyalties and for his association with foreign intelligence agencies. He uses his foreign-financed “Yemen Times”, to harm the country's reputation and distort its image abroad. He exploits almost every occasion to publish criticism against this country. Through his connections with foreign circles and by statements to the foreign media, he crows to the same tune that hurts Yemen.

The latest of Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's fads is to promote kidnapping and praise kidnapers. He considers what they do as legal and commendable. In the same manner, he publishes fabricated information, excreting the venom of his hatred for the nation. Recently, he also printed false information regarding the amounts of foreign aid provided to Yemen. Before that, he had published that the number of persons dead and wounded during the early day of the war waged by the secessionists (in 1994) had reached thousands. He was expecting a high official position with the secessionists had they succeeded.

This is not strange of this opportunistic Saqqaf who changes his colors. He speaks out a lot against corruption, but he himself is a symbol of it. He is also a carbon copy of his other relative - the old communist, atheist Abu Bakar Al-Saqqaf. The other Saqqaf does not even recognize the country's unity, and considers what happened on May 22, 1990 as wrong. He still wallows in his hateful secessionist dreams.

The earlier face, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, also has the same dream, in addition to his opportunistic dream which aims to achieve subjective ends at the expense of the country and its dignity. Such a road is only taken by weak people with no abilities for achievement, and persons who are unable to rise up to the level of responsibility to serve their country and people. Such people change their skin and use different types of make-up and don various masks, just like this doctor. He is not ashamed of having this abominable attitude, as he sees the country a commodity for sale.

What a cheap deal and an ugly role you play, Dr. Saqqaf, whether for subjective and narcissistic goals or for dubious aims for which the motives are very well known.

It remains to tell you, Saqqaf, that all your cards are now burned. All the masks you applied to your face are now gone. Your tricks fool no one anymore. Pull another one, and far away from the soil of this land.”

Unquote.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

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Cont'd from page 1:

YT Person of the Year: AHMED HAMOUD AL-SAQQAF

At the end of every year, the Yemen Times nominates one person to receive the YT Person of the Year Award. The two over-riding factors for nomination are:
1) Successful life (career, family, etc.)
2) Service to the community.

This year, we have received over a hundred nominations. I would like to express gratitude for all our readers who have interacted with us, especially from the diaspora. The sifting and screening process took more than two months, using different criteria, and trying to remain objective all the time. Let me jot here quickly the fact that staff members of the Yemen Times are not eligible for nomination, given the conflict of interest. We do thank those who have found us deserving. As the choices were narrowed down, we felt that recognizing ordinary people should take precedent over more powerful individuals who command more resources. Politicians were also by-stepped in favor of people working on human rights, and those serving the vulnerable and down-trodden. Finally, when the committee came up with the winner for 1998, I had a small problem. - he is a Saqqaf. Although unrelated to me (he comes from a different part of the country), I felt uneasy since we share the same last name. I asked for a review of the merit record. It was confirmed. The conclusion was that there is no reason to exclude a deserving person and penalize him/her just because he/she shares the last name with me. I am happy to announce Mr. Ahmed Hamoud Al-Saqqaf as the Yemen Times Person of the Year for 1998.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



people who need our services are poor people who are exposed to a sad accident. It would be inhuman to exploit them.

wheelchairs. Knee sockets are also frequently ordered. Let me point to an important service that is required by people who lose body parts. This is the psychological and mental pressure endured. When a human being loses part of his body, he/she often concludes that life is no longer worth living. At this stage, they represent a danger to themselves, and a major burden to their families. They need professional consultation, which is not available in this country at this time. I have seen individuals in this situation, and it makes your inside churn and burn. We must attend to such people.

Interviewed and compiled by Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of the Yemen Times.

Q: Could you tell us briefly about the history of the Prosthetics and Physiotherapy Center?

A: The center was established in 1978, but was officially opened four years later. At that time, it was a small, 2-room workshop in Al-Bouniyya, Sanaa. Its main task was to repair prosthetics imported from abroad.

Q: But today you have moved to larger premises?

A: Yes, this center is today equipped with modern physiotherapy equipment, and produces good-quality artificial limbs and other disability devices. We are happy with this larger location. The place really combines the ambiance of a hospital, recreation facility, and a workshop. It is an achievement to be admired.

Q: How many people work here?

A: There are 66 employees (53 male and 13 female), in addition to 19 non-Yemeni staff members.

Q: What are the main departments comprising the center?

A: There are two main departments, as follows:
First, the Technical Department which consists of the following sections:
1- Plaster and Measurement Section where handicapped

people are received to have their needs diagnosed and assessed;
2- Upper and Lower Limbs Section produces high-quality artificial limbs for disabilities above, below and at the knee, above, below and at the elbow, artificial feet, crutches, and repairs prosthetics;
3- Leatherware Section produces various types of medical shoes, support belts for the spine, neck, abdomen, and limbs as well as painting crutches and wheelchairs;
4- Compensatory Devices Section produces wheelchairs and steel, aluminum and chromium crutches.

Second, there is the Physiotherapy Department which consists of the following sections:
1- Electro-therapy Section includes electric stimulation, vertebrae treatment, and magnetic therapy;
2- Light and Thermo-therapy Section deals with treatment by short, ultrasonic, infrared and ultraviolet waves, warm poultices and wax;
3- Aqua-therapy Section treats with water eddies, under-water massage, and sauna;
4- The Therapeutic Exercises and Massage Section has a fully equipped ward for treating men, women and children. Physiotherapy at our center has been transformed by using very modern equipment and devices.

Q: How many patients have

A system of better accountability of how the authorities and their proteges handle public funds and how they use their power and influence is a critical component of the corrective measures. Another part of the solution is a fair distribution of government services and projects. Khowlan, which has been rebellious, complains the asphalted road comes to adjacent Sanhan (tribe of the president) and stops there. The electric current comes to Sanhan and stops there. One can go out there and check these facts. Finally, the law must be respected by all, and justice must be dispensed to all. In today's Yemen, the law does not apply to influential members of the ruling power structure. And justice is not available to the weak. The people need to trust/respect officials before they'll obey them.

you treated so far?

A: The numbers vary from year to year, but I can tell you they are increasing. I can say, in general, we have helped about 1,000 persons gain mobility. We have done lots of repairs for foreign-made parts.

Q: What are the center's main needs?

A: The center's main requirement is staff training in both artificial-limb manufacture and physiotherapy. This will be greatly helpful in replacing foreign staff whose service is temporary any way.

Q: What has your role been in all of this?

A: It is not just me. It is a lot of people who work together. You cannot limit credit to just one person.

Q: That is correct, but if we can

you speak about your role within the group?

A: I have been in charge of this center for a decade and a half now. I see it as part of me, or rather I am part of it. I spend most of time here with the staff and patients.

Q: How do you interact with the patients?

A: I interact as any person who has a duty. You see, I myself am handicapped. I as injured in the line of duty in the military fighting against an insurgency movement. So, I know what it means to lose your mobility.

Q: We hear you don't take bribes/gifts even though people in need would give anything to get the limbs and joints?

A: Basically, I am happy with my lifestyle. My needs are quite limited. Second, this is a duty that I have to do. Third, most of the

Q: What are your future plans?

A: In the short term, we wish to expand the existing facilities. We also hope to open other branches for the center in other governorates. This proposal was submitted to the Ministry some time ago. We are still waiting. Being the only one of its kind in Yemen, this center is unable to cope with the increasing number of people seeking help. We receive more than 200 cases daily and the number is increasing. I think with the national demining program presently underway, there will be a better chance to help our disabled people. We are willing partners to the program, and I hope that we can work to expand the services needed by our people.

Q: What kind of services and parts are mostly needed?

A: Based on the 1997 records, I would say that demand for crutches represents a third of the total. Other major needs are for shoes, support appliances, and

Q: What is the center's relationship with the Ministry of Health?

A: The center is part of the Ministry of Health, financially and administratively. It needs, however, a lot more attention and support than it gets now.

Q: Any last comment?

A: The best part in us as human beings is when we identify with the human needs of others. Doing that by reaching out to our fellow human beings elevates us and makes us better people.

Cont'd. from p. 1:

Abyan Fiasco...

of the investigators are also going to assess the overall security situation of Yemen. They will dig deeper to evaluate the threat of violence, connections - if any - to regional and international terrorism, and how to handle them. The authorities deserve our whole-hearted support in its fight against terrorism. But that entails studying the root-causes for the anti-establishment sentiments that lead to violence. Maybe the investigators's files can include the following points. The country needs better training for the security apparatus in order to combat terrorism. But force alone cannot achieve stability.

Meeting Over Ramadhan Meals

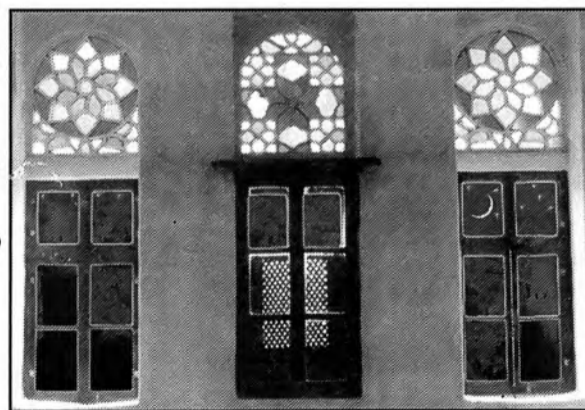
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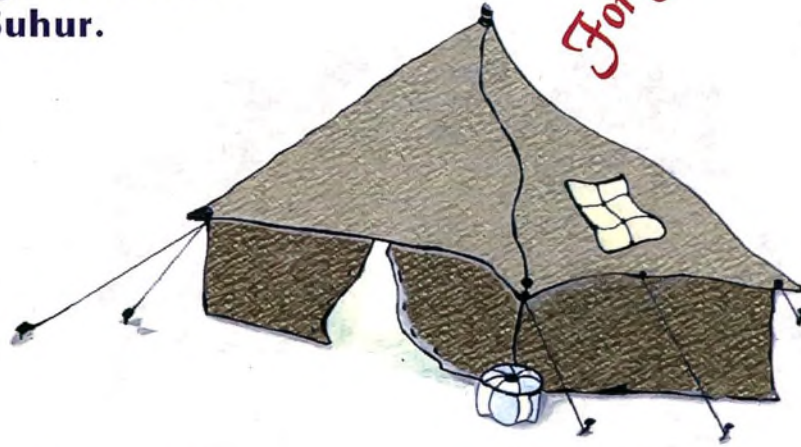
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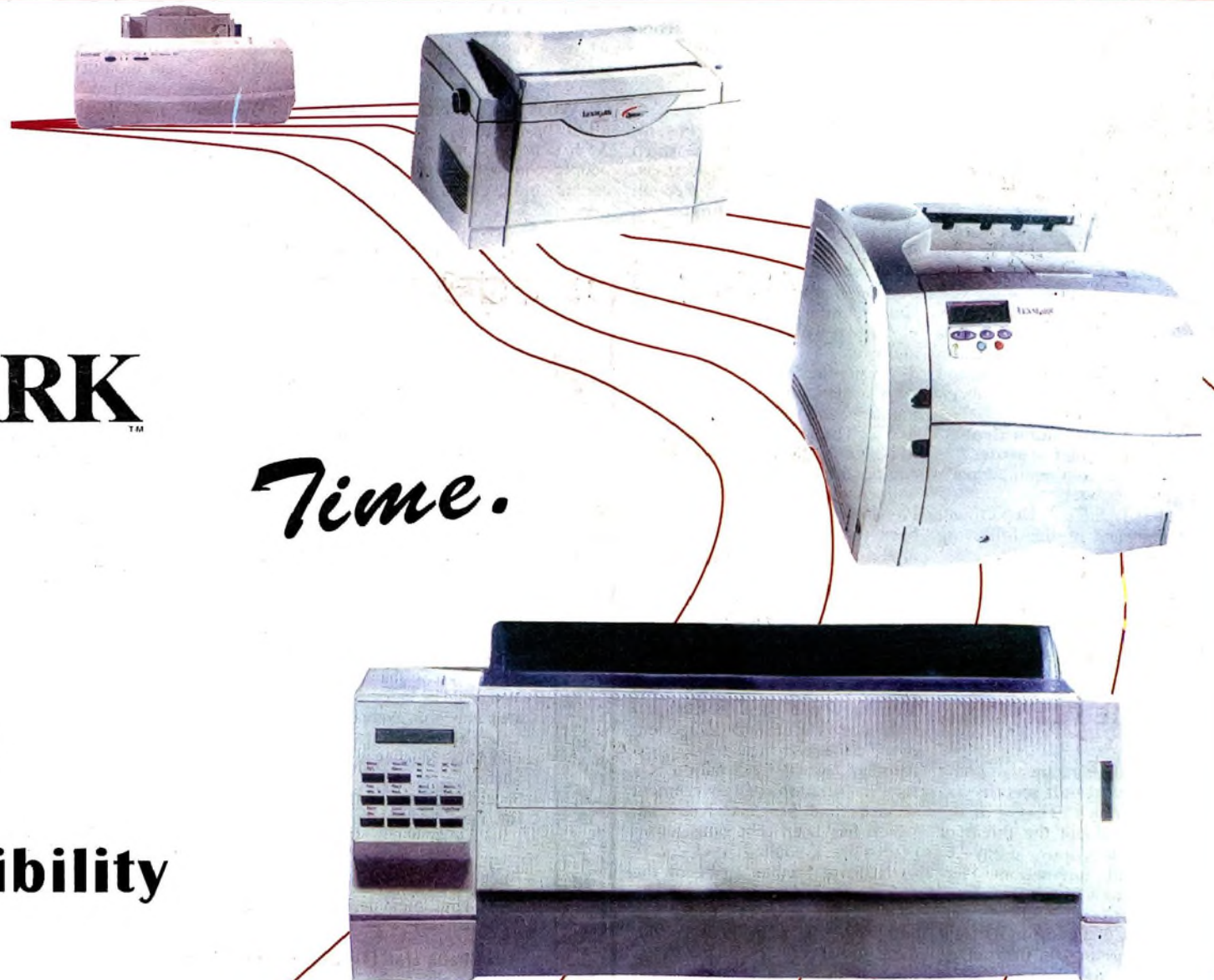
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First Goal of 26 September Revolution



The first goal of 26 September Revolution is "Liberation from despotism and colonialism and their legacy, the establishment of a just republican regime and the eradication of class differences and privileges.

This year the Yemeni people celebrated the 36th anniversary of the revolution of 26 September 1962. The question which should be raised on this occasion: what has been achieved of the above mentioned aims after 36 years? Those goals were inspired by the goals of the 23 July 1952 Egyptian revolution. This revolution was carried out by the Free Officers, who established a new republican regime in Egypt headed by President Nasser. The pan-Arabist ideology reached its zenith during the Sixties of this century. Like in many Arab countries, the Yemeni revolution was influenced by the Nasserite ideology.

In this article, I attempt to make a brief analysis of the first goal of the Yemeni 1962 revolution, which espouses the following:

1- Liberation from despotism
This aim was targeting the Royalist (Imam) regime in

former North Yemen. This part of the country was ruled by a medieval regime. The Imam (king) kept the country isolated from modernity with the Yemeni population suffering from disease, hunger, and illiteracy. Few pioneers from among the civil and military elite and intellectuals tried many times to put and end to the Imam's regime. These attempts were the following:

- Killing Imam Yahya and starting a revolution which declared a "constitutional and parliamentary monarchy" in February 1948 in Sanaa.
- An attempted coup d'état in 1955 against Imam Ahmed in Taiz.
- An attempt to kill Imam Ahmed in Hodeidah in 1960.

Those attempts aimed to liberate Yemen from despotism by putting an end to the reign of the Hameed-ul-Deen dynasty.

The 26 September Revolution of 1962 was the act which finally overthrew the Imam's regime. This was the end of despotism in the former North Yemen.

The royalist regime was not abolished in one day. Royalist forces launched a war against the republicans in order to reinstate the Imam. This war lasted for about eight years when other Arab states interfered in Yemen's internal affairs. Egypt, or the United Arab Republic as it was known then, supported the republican camp. While Saudi Arabia supported the royalist camp.

Finally war was terminated by a political compromise, whereby the republican regime accepted the return of all royalist supporters to settle in the country

except for the Imam's family.

2- Liberation from colonialism

This part of the first goal meant the liberation of south Yemen from British domination. During the Sixties, the Arab nation was greatly influenced by, and was living in, the fervor of pan-Arabism and Nasserism. This ideology influenced the Yemeni Free Officers who started the 26 September Revolution. As pan-Arabists, they considered South Yemen as part of the motherland - North Yemen.

One year after the outbreak of 1962 Revolution in the North Yemen, an armed revolution started on October the 14, 1963 in south Yemen. It aimed to liberate South Yemen from British domination, and achieve unity between the two parts of the country.

The liberation of south Yemen was achieved on 30 November 1967.

3- Eradicating the legacies of despotism and colonialism

The former two parts of Yemen, as part of the Third World, suffered from poverty, disease and illiteracy. The Imam's regime and British colonial authority were responsible for that situation because they altogether ruled the two Yemens for more than a century.

Other negative effects included the non-existence of democracy in the north, and a limited democracy in the south; which was also abolished since the armed revolution started in the south in 1963.

The last but not least negative effect was the confirmation of the separation of the two Yemen's by signing different treaties between the British and

the Imam, demarcating borders between the two Yemens.

The Republican regime in North Yemen refused to recognize the separation of the two Yemens, and started to support the national movement for the liberation of south Yemen in order to achieve Yemeni unity.

This goal was achieved on the 30 November 1963 when the south became independent. But poverty sickness and illiteracy still exist, though less than during the period of despotism and colonialism in Yemens.

4- Establishing a Just Republican regime

The political movements that were active in the former North Yemen adopted the objective of abolishing the absolute monarchy and establishing a republican regime. The Yemeni national movement first started by trying to make reform within the monarchy, by keeping the same ruling family of Hameed-ul-Deen in power with a functioning parliament "Majlis Al-Shoura" and a government accountable to it.

This political agenda was changed in 1948 when the "Free Yemeni Party" assassinated Imam Yahya. Immediately after this coup d'état, a new regime, also a monarchy with a new ruler from a different family, was set up. It was based on a written constitution, with an appointed parliament "Majlis Al-Shoura" and an accountable government. This new experiment failed after less than one month (February 1948). Inspired by Nasser's revolution in Egypt in 1952, the Yemeni Free Officers launched their revolution on September 26, 1962. Their main aim was to completely abolish the absolute monarchy of the Hameed-ul-Deen family and establish a republican regime.

Something important worth mentioning here is that this aim spec-

ified the "establishment of a just republican regime. This is a commendable choice. A republican regime can be transformed into a dictatorship.

Looking into the Yemeni historical experience in founding a republican regime, shows that it was completely different from the establishment of such a regime in Europe. In fact the republican regime is a secular regime, as opposed to the Imam's regime which was based on a divine theological basis.

In Yemen the Republican is not secular. It is based on Islamic principals even though the Islamic political history did not know the Republic as a form of government. In all Yemeni constitution adopted by the previous Northern Yemen State, provided that any resident for the Yemen Arab Republic should be Muslim.

The second criterion of a republican regime is to be based on direct election of the president by the people (nation). The implementation of this criterion in North Yemen took a long way and still it is not fully implemented. At the first stage of the revolution, the various powers were base on revolutionary legitimacy. During that stage the president of the republic was appointed by a limited group of officers member of the Revolutionary Command Council. At a second stage, an appointed parliament installed the president. At the third stage (1988), an elected parliament, not recognizing the existence of political parties, elected the president. After achieving Yemeni unity, the president was elected by an elected parliament. This means that Yemen has a parliamentary regime criteria, but not following the requirements of a presidential regime were the president should be elected through direct elections by the people.

5- Eradicating class differences and privileges

The social structure of the classes that existed in the former North Yemen was quite archaic. There were no modern-society classes such as a capitalist or a working class. This structure was based on a very exclusive system, similar to the caste system in India. This primary reason behind was the rather primitive economy of the country. The Imam strongly followed an isolationist policy.

The 1962 revolution changed this social structure by opening the country to the world. More people were educated in Yemen and abroad.

The public sector in the economy was established, and the private sector was given the opportunity to be active. Capitalist, working and middle classes appeared.

The question of eradicating class differences and privileges was never really raised in practice. The only social groups that lost there privileges were the former rulers, Hameed-ul-Deen family, and other Hashemite families.

Class differences have now become deeper and more entrenched due to the process of transition to a free-market economy, as advocated and recommended by the World Bank.

The fledgling social security system is still not effective. Yemeni people depend much more on family solidarity and support than on government welfare. A lot of money is sent from abroad by émigré family members. Salaries of public employees are low and not sufficient for making a good living. There is no real social policy followed by the government to reduce class differences and privileges, which are on the increase.

Dr. Salah Haddash,
Yemen Times Managing Editor

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

INTERNATIONAL LAW: What Is Left of It After Desert Fox?



By - Dr. Yassin Al-Shaibany,
Professor of International Law,
Sanaa University

attacks on Iraq last month. Yesterday's big five is no more. An ineffective China, a weak Russia and a languid France - the so-called other permanent members of the Security Council - are looking on as the USA, and Britain at its tail, take decisions with regard to international affairs. It is a new era. It is the era of a uni-polar world and full power supremacy to one nation, instead of the prevalence of international law based on collective power-sharing. That is the summary of the US-UK attacks on Iraq.

WHY IRAQ?

But the question remains: Why is Iraq paying the price of the US craving to control the world? From the American point of view there is a list of reasons, only one of which is enough to justify the strike.

The first reason is that Iraq was trying to set an example of national renaissance, based on independence in achieving goals of regional supremacy within a foreseeable time table. It was practically shown that the efforts would take Iraq out of the Third World and into the league of more advanced and independent countries. This totally defies the American and Western plans for the Gulf region. They want this area and its resources to remain under their control; Arabs must remain with no potential for breaking out of the US circle of influence. vision and their leaders must remain eternally at the West's disposal.

The second reason is the Iraqi challenge to the American domination over oil sources. Saddam attempted to expose the subordination of the Gulf monarchies to the American administration, something untenable by the new world ruler.

The third reason is that the destruction of Iraq or weakening it means the destruction and the weakening of a new hope in the Arab World. Thus, any new

OPERATION DESERT FOX:
Eight years have passed since the Gulf war, and America succeeded in using the Security Council resolutions to maintain the suffering of the Iraqi people, nobody is sure for what end.

There is one clear benefit to the

lead the region - Israel and Turkey. Other potential leaders in the region - Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and Syria - are to be blocked either through military force or political containment.

That is why countries like Iran and Syria know their time to be targeted for US punishment is going to come. Egypt is aware there is a red line it cannot cross

for its regional ambition. For those reasons and more, Iraq paid and will pay the price of the American rule the world.

INTERNATIONAL LAW:

Using UN resolutions and so-called international legitimacy as a cover is no longer a convincing argument today.

International law and legitimacy have collapsed when the international community accepted a double standard on issues where the same principles of the UN charter were violated. Lack of respect of human values among those who are supposed to uphold the UN charter has brought it to an end.



The idea of America leading the world will not last long, because the American military, economical and political strength needs a moral strength to back it. This it lacks. The main lesson history taught us is that oppressive powers never last long.

BACKGROUND:

In spite of the fancy words and the legal and moral blanket of the Charter of the United Nations, international law experts know very well that the UN Charter is not legally or moral binding. It is a mere "Yalta Formula" which was agreed upon, during the Second World War by the big three Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin representing the USA, the UK, and the USSR.

The Yalta Formula dictates that no decision on any international matter can be taken without the approval of the Great Powers, later known as Security Council Permanent Members - after the addition of China and France to the Yalta three. This is considered a five-member "government" managing world affairs. These five members must all agree on, and approve, resolutions to be passed by the Security Council. Through this mechanism, it can be said these resolutions express the international community's will.

The Yalta Formula has ruled the UN business since 1945, though it was practically disregarded during the Allied operations against Iraq in 1991. However, it remained informally respected even after the downfall of the Soviet Union.

Eight years have passed since the Gulf war, and America succeeded in using the Security Council resolutions to maintain the suffering of the Iraqi people, nobody is sure for what end.

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USA - to assure the US position as the only super power in the world and elicit unconditional obedience to the new international order of things. That was the message it wanted to send again, through Operation Desert Fox.

Thus, America and Britain effectively buried Yalta under the ruins caused by their missiles

ambition would be frustrated thus sucking out the ability to take its own decisions.

Iraq has proved its strategic vision and capability to become a considerable power in the region, specially when dealing with Middle East affairs. This was in contradiction with the US vision for the region. The US sees that only two nations are allowed to




Trade Exhibitions: THE PROS & CONS

Introduction

Exhibitions are excellent chances for businessmen to market their goods, and sometimes to launch new brands. The public jumps on the opportunity by buying a lot of things from exhibitions, as there is often a price mark-down. Thus, exhibitions seem to offer a win-win situation for both sides. But is it really the case? Does the Yemeni experience support such a conclusion?

To assess this matter, I had to do considerable leg-work on exhibitions in Sanaa, Aden and Taiz. I also talked to the major organizers of exhibition. Finally, of course, I spoke to the public.

Given the free market policy of Yemen, exhibitions are more and more becoming the common language between buyers and sellers - both foreign and local. Advertisements are also playing a rising role in giving consumers the right to choose from among different goods and products, at variable price ranges.

Exhibitions are not new to Yemen, though not in the present format. There is an open market system in each region of the country on a weekly basis. In the open market system, producers bring their products in one large showroom, and consumers exercise their preferences. The weekly fantasia of wheeling and dealing is a regular experience for most Yemenis.

Today, of course, exhibitions of products are more structured. One can speak of two basic levels of exhibitions - temporary and permanent. Temporary exhibitions are held for periods ranging from one week to a full month, and they usually involve foreign sellers. Examples are the Iranian Exhibition, Egyptian Exhibition, Saudi Exhibition, etc. Then there are the permanent exhibitions. These large halls in which local and foreign goods are displayed. More are constructed in the country.

The government has encouraged the rise of both kinds of exhibitions. It provides facilities and tax breaks, as well as through the

participation of senior officials in the launch ceremonies.

What the Organizers Say:

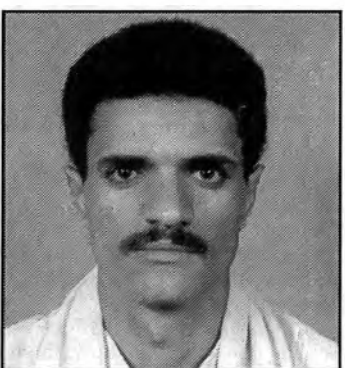
1) *Nabil Sa'eed Al-Ghanem, General Manager, Al-Ghanem Trade & Investment Corporation*



"The main objective of exhibitions is to meet the needs of consumers at affordable prices. They are a big opportunity to provide citizens goods of all kinds at one place.

Since local output cannot cover all needs, there are imported commodities sold at competitive low price. Most of the goods we handle are for basic consumption. Nowadays, demand for nutrition and food products has increased rapidly. Public response has been extremely gratifying. Every day, thousands come to the exhibition to purchase goods."

2) *Abdul-Latif Amer Ahmed Amer Deputy General Manager, Al-Kumaim Trading Center*



"The most important aim of the Kumaim Trading Center (KTC) is to make all goods available to consumers in one place. Local and foreign goods are available. Generally speaking, we sell consumer products. But we also carry household equipment, jewelry, perfumries, cosmetics, etc.

Spending the day at KTC is an enjoyable experience. Our center has facilities such as a mosque, toilets, a buffet for light food and juices, and a restaurant.

Exhibitions are a good way to foster relations among nations. They bring peoples, experiences and products together. We are learning new ways in production, marketing, ware-housing, etc., from our foreign partners.

3) *Hussein Shumeilah, Chairman, Shumeilah Trading Corporation, (Shumeilah Marketplace)*



"The purpose of our exhibition is to give traders the opportunity to rub shoulders "first hand" with the public. This way, they are able to measure feedback and responses regarding their products. They can get a clearer view of public acceptance of new products. Finally, they can compare their performance with those of competitors.

Another purpose is to give the consumer - all under roof - the convenience of a wide choice, getting the best bargains. While the general concept of exhibitions

in Yemen is consumer retail events, we promote international trade exhibitions. Initially we concentrated on products that were urgently needed in Yemen, without regard to the benefits to the economy. We looked at Yemen as a market. But, now we are trying to combine trade with investments.

The calendar of events for 1999 reflects a wide range of activities including the Yemen International Trade Exhibition for 99 in which we participate. The YITE99 is a general trade exhibition, which will be the first ever to be held in Yemen, and I am sure it will be a great success. The idea received tremendous response and encouragement. It will bring together participants from over 10 countries. The event will take place on an area of over 4000 square-meters making it the biggest exhibition event in Yemen. We expect it will set the trend of more such events to follow.

The reason for organizing the YITE99 is that it is time for Yemen to host such major events as our economy has great potential. We can become a major trading center in the region given our potential.

This event will benefit our country's economy by bringing in foreign currencies, encouraging international companies to establish trading houses in Yemen, and by creating more jobs.

4) *Omar Al-Nihmi, Chairman, Apollo-Sanaa Expo-Center*



The objective of specialized international exhibitions is to provide adequate information to the public. What that means is that you provide different brands and different producers/sellers of the same product to the buyer. This offers more options and it enable the customer to really be king.

We have had some local shows with Arab participation, like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, etc. Other exhibitions usually take place at least once every season. Such exhibitions guide you to the newest available goods and equipment in various fields such as medical treatment, cars, agricultural tools, etc.

The Sanaa Expo-Center matches between customers' tastes and wider choices of products. As

leaders in the field, we have to keep attracting visitors by providing more and better services at lower costs.

As you know, exhibitions revive the International economy and activate the trade exchange between Yemen and the world. Our target is to satisfy our customers. One major way to do this is to give buyer more options in terms of brands and prices.

About 8,000 visitors daily visit our exhibition to capitalize on the price discounts. Since competition among businessmen is high, the prices inside Sanaa Expo-Center are usually lower than the market outside.

We work closely with the Ministry of Trade and Supply, the Ministry Industry, foreign businessmen, local traders, and other participants.

Finally, exhibitions are really like a door or bridge to strengthen economic ties and consolidate relations between countries.

One way to contribute towards full integration of the economy of the Republic of Yemen with the world is through trade fairs. With the Government's continuous support, there is a chance for foreign and local investors to build up bridges linking Yemen with the world through trade exhibitions.

By: *Ghassan Al-Ahdal, Yemen Times*



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promote the traditional values of solidarity and harmony among the members of our community. Finally, the first three days of Shawal (coinciding with 17-19 January, 1999) will be official holidays. Most people will leave town for the countryside to enjoy oneself with family, friends and neighbors. It is up to the government to make sure that there is no run-away holiday of endless days.

By: *Ghassan Al-Ahdal, Yemen Times*

EID AL-FITR THE BURDENS OF JOYOUS DAYS

A Typical Yemeni Family:

One of the most familiar features of the Middle East is the average number of family members. This is usually big as it includes extended members such as grandparents, first and second cousins, nephews and nieces.

Eid Al-Fitr & Related Expenses

These days, the less fortunate members of our society are worried about how to shoulder the expensive needs associated with festivals such as Eid Al-Fitr. Every member in the family, especially the youngsters, want new clothings, toys, and other gifts. The family has to buy a sheep to slaughter, fruits, and above average food. Guests are to be served juices, cakes, and other confectionery.

Indeed, in two weeks, as Ramadhan ends and the month of Shawal starts, Eid Al-Fitr will bring with it new financial burdens.

Everyone has to celebrate that this occasion. People go back to normal living. They can enjoy regular meals and keep normal eating, smoking, and other habits. No more converting the night into day, and vice versa. No more staying awake all night till the

first hours of sunrise, thus affecting normal healthy lifestyle.

The Effects of Eid Al-Fitr on Purchasing Habits:

Now what about prices? The rising cost of living is a nightmare to every citizen in Yemen! The upcoming Eid Al-Fitr has already increased the prices of most clothing items.

How have people reacted to the rise in prices? How has their purchasing behavior changed? Has the effect of price increments been different with government employees compared to the private sector? Are there regional disparities in this matter? In other words have the people of Hadhramaut or Aden or Taiz or Sanaa or Hodeidah reacted differently? These are topics for scholars and researchers to address. But it is clear that even joyous occasions like Eid Al-Fitr come to haunt the less fortunate members of our society.

For the well-to-do Yemenis, they use the occasion to fly out and spend the holidays in vaations in far-away lands. A quick glance at the airline reservations show this fact.

Social harmony and cominunity solidarity are disturbed.

Types of Demand:

There are three levels of buyers in purchases for the upcoming festivities. The high class people often get their needs of clothings, jewelry, and expensive gifts from abroad. The middle-income buyers go to relatively sophisticated boutiques to purchase different kinds of clothings, and other gifts. They also tailor-make their garments rather than buy ready-made. For the low-income people, it is the ordinary stores and shops. Beyond those three economic classes, there are the under-trodden. If they buy at all, these citizens approach the street vendors and they shop from carts - the so-called mobile shops. They look for ordinary and inexpensive clothings.

The Role of Government:

The coming festivals carry opportunities for all Muslims to enjoy themselves following the month-long fasting and piety. It is a moment of joy. Thus, it is up to us to make sure that as many people as possible are happy on this occasion.

The government has to check that the demand pressure does not unnecessarily push up prices beyond control. It should also

Uniform price list for Eid Al-Fitr

		Male			Female			
		Low	Middle	High	Low	Middle	High	
Western	Adults	Coat	2,000	4,000	8,000	3,000	6,000	9,000
		Shirt	700	1,400	2,100	900	1,600	2,300
		Trousers	1,000	2,000	3,000	1,200	2,200	3,200
		2 underwear	150	175	200	200	300	500
		Shoes	1,000	2,000	3,000	1,500	2,500	3,500
		Socks	40	60	80	100	200	300
Traditional	Children	Coat	1,000	2,000	4,000	1,500	3,000	4,500
		Shirt	350	700	1,550	450	800	1,750
		Trousers	500	1,000	1,500	600	1,100	1,600
		2 underwear	75	80	90	100	150	250
		Shoes	500	1,000	1,500	750	1,250	1,750
		Socks	30	50	70	50	100	150
Traditional	Adult	Yemeni Suits (tailored)	3,000	5,500	10,500	7,500	10,000	15,000
	Children	Yemeni Suits (tailored)	1,500	2,750	5,750	3,750	5,000	7,500

Infant and Child Mortality in Yemen

There has been a substantial improvement in the area of mortality, compared with the conditions that prevailed in the first round of the Yemen Demographic and Maternal and Child Health Survey (YDMCHS) in 1991-92. However, this improvement is still below the desired levels targeted by the national health programs and policies. This is especially so because the current mortality levels are among the highest, compared with other countries.

In Yemen, health services in general and maternal and child medical services in particular have improved during the past six years. Nevertheless, there is a need for a strategy to expand these services throughout the administrative units of the country, taking into consideration climate, environmental conditions, the occurrence of epidemic diseases, as well as the population size and density of each unit.

Prevalence of Child Mortality:

The mean number of children ever born to ever-married women age 15-49 is 4.9; for urban women the mean is 4.7 while for rural women it is 5.0 children. The mean number of children

ever born increases with women's age to 8.9 for women in the age group 45-49. The differentials in the proportion of the dead among children ever born by urban/rural residence is also high. Overall,



Ahmed Al-Barakani

16% of children (1 in 6) do not survive (16% in rural areas and 13% in urban areas). Results also indicate that the proportion of the dead increases steadily with the age of the mother and the duration since first marriage. The

proportion of the dead among children ever born to ever-married women aged 45-49 is 0.20, compared with 0.13 for women aged 15-19. This difference is due to the fact that children of older mothers were, on average, born further in the past than children of younger mothers and, as a consequence, have higher levels of mortality than the children of younger mothers.

Infant and Child Mortality Levels:

Direct Measures of Mortality:

The infant mortality levels have declined from 138 deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 15-19 years preceding the survey of 1998 to 75 per 1,000 live births during the five years prior to the survey. Similarly, under-five child mortality has dropped from 203 deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 15-19 years preceding the survey to 105 deaths during the five years prior to the survey.

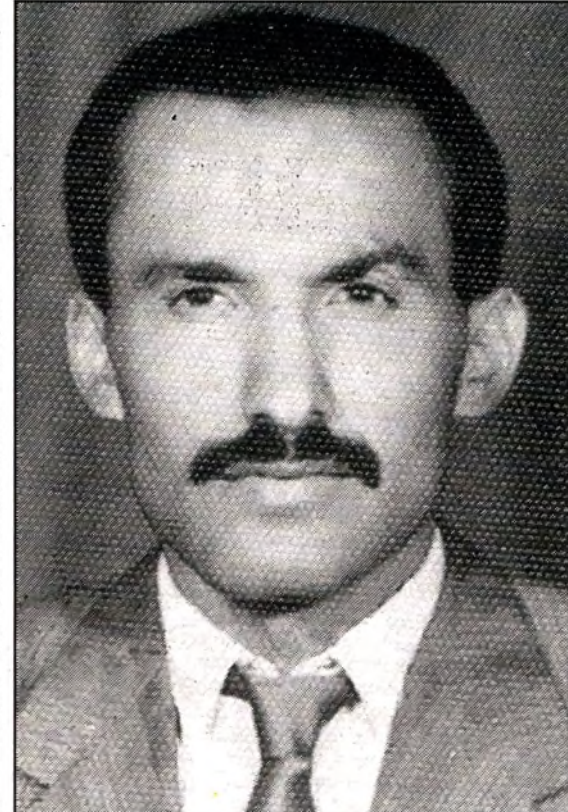
Differentials in mortality in the period 0-4 years before the survey by sex show higher mortality among males than females both before the first birthday and during the first five years of life. However, female mortality is higher than male mortality among

children aged 1 to 4 years. This may indicate a preference for male children, particularly in the provision of medical care. The estimates indicate that all mortality rates have dropped during

the 25 years preceding the survey. As expected, despite of overall drop in infant mortality, there is a slower drop in neonatal mortality (less than one month of age) compared with post neonatal mortality (between 1-11 months of age). The neonatal mortality rate dropped from 67 deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 20-24 years preceding the survey to 34 deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 0-4 years prior to the survey. While the post neonatal mortality rate dropped from 119 deaths per 1,000 live births to 42 deaths for the same periods. In other words, neonatal mortality dropped by 49 and post neonatal by 65%.

Infant mortality has dropped from 186 deaths per 1,000 live births to 75 deaths per 1,000 live births, while child mortality (1-4 years) has dropped from 91 deaths per 1,000 live births during the period 20-24 years preceding the survey to 32 deaths per 1,000 live births during the five years preceding the survey.

received no medical maternal care to 101 deaths per 1,000 per children born to mothers who received medical maternal care during either pregnancy or delivery.



Ahmed Abdul-Rub

d. Qat Chewing and Tobacco Smoking

Estimates indicate that 79-84 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with 70 death per 1,000 live births occur among mothers who neither chew qat nor smoke tobacco.

Biodemographic Characteristics and Child Mortality

a. Sex of Child

Infant mortality is higher for boys than for girls (98 versus 80 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively).

The pattern reverses slightly in child mortality and shows higher mortality for girls than boys (36 versus 33 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively). This reversal suggests there may be preference for boys and some tendency to provide greater care for boys than for girls during ages 1 to 4.

b. Maternal Age of Birth

The higher infant mortality risk occurs among children born to very young mothers, under 20 years age (128 deaths per 1,000 live births). However, mortality rates for children born to women aged 40-49 are not substantially different from those for children born to women aged 20-39 (79-84 deaths per 1,000 births). Mortality under-five is higher for children born to women in the youngest age group (161 deaths per 1,000 live births) compared with 112 to 116 death per 1,000 for children born to other women.

c. Birth Order

The infant mortality rate is 110 deaths per 1,000 live births for first births, and decreased to 76 per 1,000 for fourth to sixth order births, then increases for birth order 7 or higher. A similar pattern is observed for neonatal mortality and under-five mortality.

d. Previous Birth Interval

Infant mortality decreases from 124 deaths per 1,000 live births for birth intervals less than two years to 36-55 deaths per 1,000 for birth intervals of two years

more. The corresponding figures for under-five mortality are 166 and 54-79 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively.

Environmental Factors and Child Mortality:

Estimates indicate that mortality rates among all groups of children under five are higher in rural areas, according to environmental factors. Mortality rates are also higher among children under-five than among younger children. Type of toilet or sewerage facilities of the dwelling is one of the most influential environmental factors affecting child health. Neonatal, infant, and under-five mortality rates in rural areas are 47, 108, and 157 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. These rates drop to 34, 65, and 81 deaths per 1,000, respectively, in dwellings with modern toilets.

Better flooring material is associated with lower rates of infant and non-infant child mortality. Neonatal, post neonatal and under-five mortality rates are 43, 99, and 142 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. While these rates decrease to 38, 79, and 99 deaths per 1,000, respectively, in dwellings with cement or wooden floors.

The cleanliness of the area around the house is the last influential environmental factors on the child's life. Neonatal, post neonatal and under-five mortality rates are 26, 63, and 105 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, when the area around the house has stagnant water. Surprisingly, these rates increase to 44, 89, and 121 deaths per 1,000, respectively, when the area around the house is clean.

In rural areas, the under-five mortality rate in dwellings where farm animals and household members live together is 129 per 1,000 births, the rate decreases to 125 deaths per 1,000 in dwellings with no farm animals.

Causes of Death

The results presented in the YDMCHS indicate that fever (25%), vomiting (20%), and difficult breathing and convulsions (18-19%) are the most common symptoms during the neonatal period. During the post neonatal period, the probable causes of child death are fever (69%), diarrhea (58%), vomiting (56%), and cough/difficult breathing (42%). For children one year of age and older, fever was again the most common symptom, associated with 74% of all deaths in that age group.

High-Risk Fertility Behavior

The data reveal that 31% of currently married women have the potential to give birth to a child with a single elevated risk category, while 46% of women have the potential to give birth to a child with multiple high-risk factors. In all, 76% of married women have the potential to give birth to children at elevated risk of dying.

By: Ahmed N. Al-Barakani and Ahmed Abdul-Rub, Center for Population Studies & Research at the Central Organization for Statistics.

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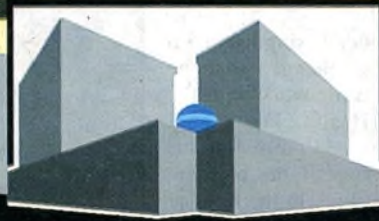
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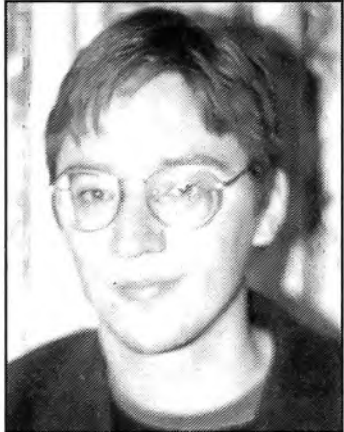
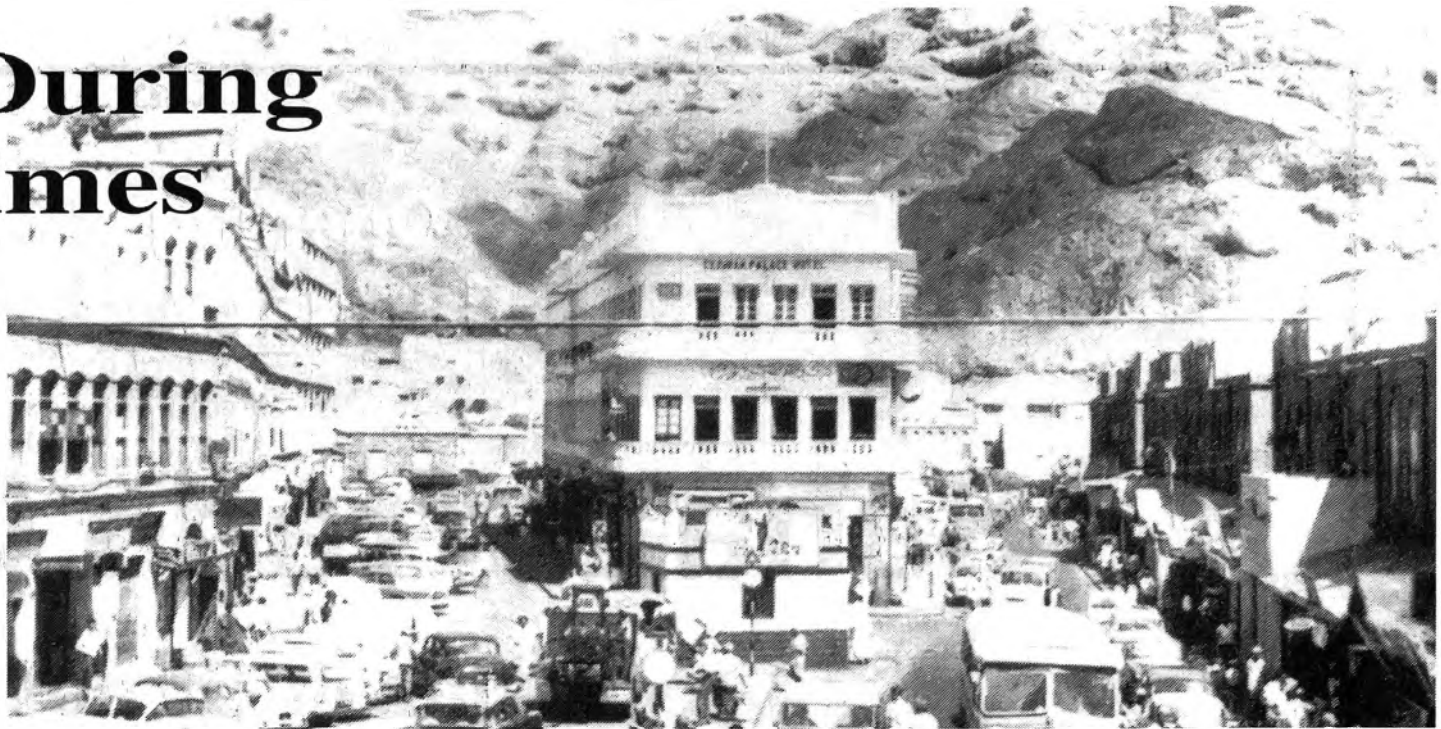

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Setting the Standard

Aden Police During Colonial Times



Mr. John Matthew Willis, author of "Colonial Police in Aden, 1937-1967" presented his research for his MA in Arab Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies in 1996. He started his career after his graduation with B.Sc. in History from the University of Louisville in 1994. His future plan is to attend the University of New York for his Ph.D. in History & Middle East Studies. Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to Mr. Willis and filed the following interview.

Q: How did you first think about doing a research on late colonial Aden?

A: It was almost by accident, while I was doing my research in the Library of Congress and was looking into references on the social history of the Arabian

Peninsula. I found a series of colonial annual reports on the police, health services, etc. This directed me to look at Aden specifically, and Yemen in general.

Q: Could you briefly about the police in colonial Aden?

A: There were two branches of the police; a civil branch and an armed branch. The civil branch had to do police functions, which were walking in the streets unarmed, and making civilians obey the law.

The second branch, the armed police, were trained along military lines, armed with rifles. They were housed in military barracks along the main road out of Crater. Their duties included crowd control, riot control, dispersing labor demonstrations, etc.

Q: In what events was that Aden police force employed?

A: In 1947, it was the announcement of the partition of Palestine. This was compounded by the general post-war economic depression. It was a large-scale riot that ended up with focusing on the Jewish residents of Aden. Their stores, houses and so on, were looted and burnt by fanatics. In 1948, the cause of the riots seemed to be the indiscriminate use of firearms among the crowds. Some died and a number of people were injured.

A large number of Jews and Arabs as well fell prey to the

riots. The number of people injured by policemen is not fully known. People interviewed after the events were mainly Arabs, who came from the neighboring protectorates to the colony of Aden. On the other hand, a large number of the rest were either national Somalis or Indian, Baha'i followers, Parsees, Sikhs or Jains.

Q: Who were the elite of the police force?

A: The highest ranks were taken by the British. But among the inspectors were professional Arabs, Somalis, Indians, and so on.

There were six police divisions in the British colonial system of Aden: for crowd control, riots, labor disturbances, morals (including qat banning, prostitu-

tion, gambling), city (keeping the streets clean), and traffic.

British citizens in Aden used to complain that Arabs did not know how to drive. Driving regulations were rather complex then. Policemen were always working so hard to control the traffic. There were carts at that time, some camels, donkeys. But there were lot of cars by 1940s, the 1950s and 1960s.

Q: What were the main crimes dealt with by the Aden police?

A: From the annual reports, we can see that major crimes were things like smuggling, theft, murder. For instance, at least an average of 5 murder cases were recorded every year in the period from 1947 to 1960 in the colony of Aden alone.

Q: What about Qat?

A: There was really no problem with Qat until 1957, when the legislative council, largely consisting of middle-class people, decided to banned qat. The British agreed that this includes the sale and use of Qat within the boundaries of the colony of Aden.

It was a failure, as a report published in 1958 described it. The police did not have enough people to control the border between Lahj and Aden. A large number of people complained about it. Men went every day out of Aden to chew Qat.

People started using refrigerated boats to import it from Harar in Ethiopia, so the legislation had really no impact. During that period a lot of qat was coming from the Abyssinian highlands.

Q: Was there any corruption in the Aden Police?

A: Some people were disciplined because of accepting bribes. That was the biggest complaint by people against the police. The trouble with recruiting police and the chief of police specifically was, at one point, lack of good housing. There was a shortage in housing which was always not enough for the police. Policemen wages were not particularly high.

Q: What is the most interesting thing you found through your research, something you did not expect?

A: What was not expected is the daily resistance to police. For instance, people would not cooperate with the police when they are trying to do investigation for a homicide case, say.

Lahj Pop Singer: Fadl Kuraidi

The renowned Yemeni singer Fadl Kuraidi is one of the artists who had contributed in the march of the domestic song over thirty years. He was born in Lahj in 1952 and completed his elementary and

intermediate studies in Al Houata schools. His singing talent surfaced at the early age of 12 and was encouraged by his father to go ahead with upgrading that talent.

Kuraidi's father took him to the

well known artist of the sixties Fadl Al Lahji who taught him how to use the lute, a thing which Kuraidi excelled in.

In the early sixties, he was influenced by the Lahji lyrics and started to imitate some of the famous singers at that time and in 1961 he joined the Lahji musical band.

Kuraidi practiced singing as a hobby and he managed to cope between it and his work with the Ministry of Health. His family played a big role in promoting his talent, since two of his brothers had tried their luck in the field of singing.

Following the independence of the southern part of the country, Kuraidi joined the Lahji musical band that was encouraged by the state to reflect the revolutionary changes witnessed by both north and south of Yemen at that time.

In the eighties, Kuraidi recorded a number of his Lahji songs with the radio and television which had a great effect on circulation of his songs and his popularity among Yemeni expatriates in nearby countries.

Near the end of the eighties, the renowned artist shifted his job from the Health to the Culture Ministry and joined its musical troupe in which his distinguished Lahji songs were performed. Those songs were recorded with the radio and television in his own voice or that of other Yemeni singers.

And so our famous singer, Kuraidi, continues his sincere artistic march that is admired by all those who hear him.



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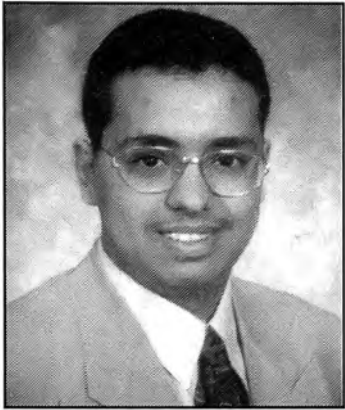
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Taiz

Smuggling Continues to Harm National Industry



Local industries are the pillar of our nation's economy. But due to the influx of foreign products legally or through smuggling, the national industry in Yemen is now in a real impasse and is exposed to bankruptcy.

To address this problem, Emad Al-Saqqaf and Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi of Yemen Times Taiz Office, interviewed Mr. Mohammed Tawfeeq Abdulraheem Mutahhar, General Manager of Tawfeeq Abdulraheem Mutahhar for General Trade and Transportation, one of the largest companies in Yemen.

The firm specializing in petroleum products, was established by his father in 1961. Today, it has the biggest gas-filling station in the country. Headquartered in Taiz, it owns a fleet of 202 large tankers, which distribute gas and petrol all over the nation.

The company also represents many other products including leading brand lubricants. Mohammed, following in the footsteps of his father, who is still the chairman, is already playing a decisive role in the company's decisions.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: What is in your mind the reason behind the deterioration and stumbling of some local industries?

A: Actually, the reason is that these factories don't have protection. The influx of the foreign products is very detrimental to the national industry. Another thing is that these businessmen don't have needed facilities. Let me give you an example of this. We tried to establish a gas station in Aden. We installed the machines but we were shocked to find no electricity and water in that area. We went to the concerned authority but they didn't have necessary for introducing these essentials. We were forced to buy them ourselves. This raised the expenses of the station-establishing from 20 million to 32 million, you see.

Q: What are the consequences following the breakdown of the national industries and establishments?

A: They are really unspeakable. Many factories and companies will close down; some have already done that. Many businessmen face problems with their bankers. In other words, they do not have the necessary facilities. They are bankrupt.

When such factories close down, the unemployment growth rate will ride high, the price of the US dollar will witness a free rise vis-a-vis the Yemeni Riyal, and we will witness many other economic problems that will plague our society.

Q: What is the stance of the government in this regard?

A: We can't lay the whole blame on the shoulder of the government. It is always said that there is some foreign attack on the national industries. The government has to show no leniency with smugglers, the real headache of the national economy. Stiff measures have to be imposed against this evil deed. The government has also to follow up the implementation of the laws it passes. We have been working in this business activity for around 30 years. So, if we don't know the situation in Yemen well, we would have closed down. We have faced a lot of problems with tribesmen and bandits. Only some days back, two tankers drivers were shot down and the tanker, containing gas was lashed with bullets. We informed the local authorities, but we were told to report to the Ministry of Interior. The police reached the place and found the two drivers killed. Who did it?

Q: Is it true that the absence of marketing management for the national products make them marginalized and thus unknown to the consumer?

A: Marketing is very fundamental either for the local or the foreign goods. They both need it. In fact, the local one is very much in need to marketing because of the illiteracy in our society. People in Yemen have an already made feeling that any foreign product has a very high quality which is not necessarily true. I don't agree with those who say that the deterioration of some factories is that they don't mesh with standards of quality and promotion because this doesn't serve the interest of the producer, particularly these days where products from all over the world are at the consumer's hands and available everywhere; any businessman is trying to get the consumer's satisfaction.

Q: What is the impact of this fluctuation of business activities on your business?

A: With regard to petrol, there is no problem. We used to face the headache of smuggling petrol. But it has stopped only in some parts in Marib due to the similar price of petrol all over the world. But we face a problem with engine lubricants and gas. The government issued a number of licenses for businessmen to establish gas stations.

The problem is that the cylinders of these new stations are not brought from the international recognized and famous companies in Italy, Brazil and so on. Rather, they are made in some workshops in some of the neighbor countries and then smuggled to the country with the trade mark of these new gas stations.

Q: Any last word?

A: When the government issues licenses for businessmen for constructing factories or any other establishments, it has to consider many things. When it, for example, issues a license for constructing a biscuit factory which can cover the whole country, it should not give licenses to build similar factories. This is because this doesn't interest of the previous as well as the new factories. It is not also good for the government because when the two factories weaken, the taxes it levies on them get lesser and lesser.

Mareb/Sanaa

German Captives Speak of their Ordeal

After being held captive for 25 days (December 6-31) by the Bani Dhabyan tribe, four German citizens were released on new year's eve. This came in an atmosphere ominously over-

generous to us."

Ms. Inge Brunner:
"The first four hours of being held "guests" were the worst. Our abductors or "hosts" led us on a

the kidnapers might shoot us or something. On the contrary, we felt quite safe with them and confident that they'll not harm us. "Thank goodness we got out safe and sound with many memories

who occasionally visited them. There, the food was not good. We starved, only having the Ramadhan evening meal with the rest of the family. Rescue came with a bumper of tinned food sent by the German Ambassador. We told our "host" family that we cannot fast like them. They understood and appreciated our situation. So we were fed bread, rice, eggs, chicken, etc."

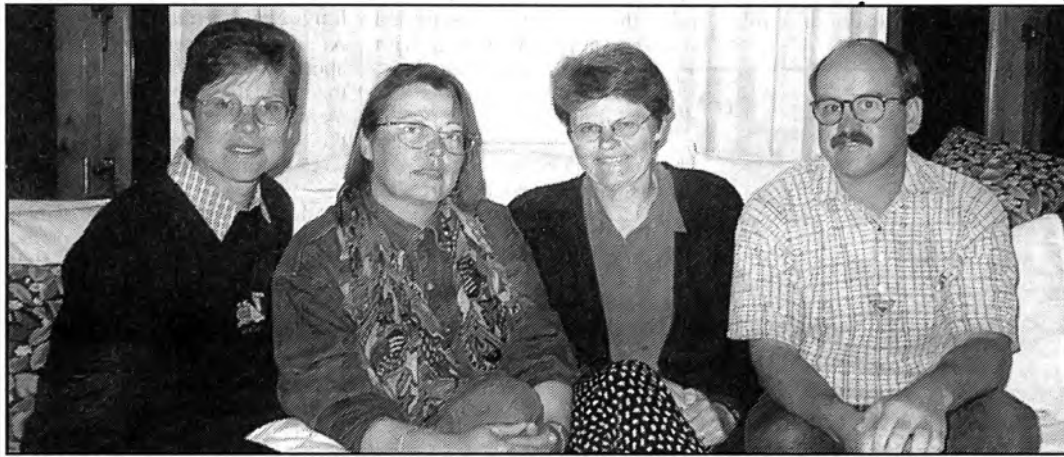
Ms. Roswitha Adlung:

"During my time in captivity, I tried to write my memoirs. But I had to hide the papers because our captors banned us from writing, taking away the papers whenever they found them. I wrote in their absence.

"Yemen has a lot to write about. It is a country that deserves some risk in order to see it. I'll certainly come back again. But I can't recommend it to others because of the lack of security.

"The unfortunate thing is that the areas where kidnappings take place are just the places which tourists come to see, being rich with archeological and historical sites. I'm sorry to say that we were taken away in broad daylight on a road built by Germany.

"As a female I felt very sorry to see young children carrying AK47 rifles and hand grenades. These children must go to school instead to grow up into responsible adults. I also felt deep sympathy with the women. They do virtually everything: taking care of the children, cooking, looking for firewood, bringing in water, looking after their men folk, etc. Despite all that they were treated rather harshly. I though, by the men."



From left: Inge Brunner, Petra Vangelista, Roswitha Adlung, Norbert Degen

shadowed by the death of four British hostages in a shoot-out between government forces and their allegedly Muslim extremist captors.

The Germans arrived safely in Sanaa on the first morning of 1999. They were met by Yemen Times reporter, Mohammed Bin Sallam.

This is what they have to say about their time in captivity:

Mr. Norbert Degen is a tourism expert who came to Yemen to evaluate the country's tourist potential and the development of its tourism industry.

He said: "This is my first visit to this country. I came with my three colleagues to closely look into Yemen's tourist attractions and the type of services provided. We run a travel agency in Germany and we wish to provide German visitors to Yemen with all the information they need.

"We had to have first-hand experience of Yemen and get the feel of the country. Our Yemeni experience culminated on December 6 with "forced" hospitality. We were kidnapped by a gang of the Bani Dhabyan tribe in Khawlan. Our abduction took place in broad daylight, on a traffic-laden highway, and with full view of security and army personnel. They did nothing to assist us. It was very weird and quite different from kidnappings in other countries.

"Despite Yemen enjoying a numerous potential for a fully fledged tourism industry and despite its gorgeous scenery and the legendary hospitality of its people, with all honesty we cannot recommend it to our clients. If we do and they get abducted, just like us, then we would be infringing the ethics of our profession.

"In addition to safety and security, Yemen must also provide its visitors with a good tourism infrastructure. We sincerely hope that this country will be safer for travelers in the near future. The government must never use force with kidnapers nor should it resort to retaliatory measures.

"Those kidnapers are in need of basic public services to alleviate some of the hardship they have to endure. The government should really improve their areas by raising their living standards. They'll definitely abandon the kidnapping of foreign tourists if they feel that they are well looked after by the state. If the situation remains as it is, the kidnappings will continue and become a cry of protest by disadvantaged people. Although we still believe that abduction is a vile crime, the perpetrators must never be hanged. They were very kind and

very rugged mountain road. We got shot at from different directions. We became very frightened.

"After our arrival at their hideout, the kidnapers made it up for us with generous hospitality. They treated us very nicely with a lot of respect, trying to make our stay as comfortable as possible. This was despite their hard and austere life.

"Physically, we were OK, being well-fed and taken care of. However, with the passing of time, nervous tension increased and psychological pressure mounted. We were afraid that the government would use force trying to free us with uncalculated consequences, just like what happened to the British hostages. We never feared that

to tell to our friends and relatives."

Ms. Petra Vangelista:

"Our captors were very generous, bringing us all we wanted - food, cigarettes, fruits, etc. During the first two weeks of our captivity, we were the guests of a gracious Yemeni family. Women and children always wanted to know our needs so that they can answer them. We were allowed to wander in the vicinity of their home. Then we were moved to a second and a third place. While being moved, we were closely guarded.

"However, in the third place, the situation changed completely. We were placed in a 5x2.5m room, along with seven children, their parents and some relatives

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Technical Innovations for Yemen - 2

Synthetic Fuel from Natural Gas

By:
Future Industries Consultants,
Sanaa

A new cost-effective process has been proposed to convert natural gas into liquid fuels and other products via the Fischer-Tropsch process. The key secret is a new catalyst that confirms product and quality yield. Synthetically-produced hydrocarbons are usually high-quality products and are free of sulfur, metals, particulates, and aromatics. Those criteria are environmentally preferred.

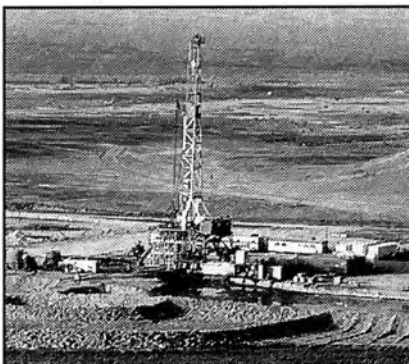
The process is a two-step technology. Firstly, natural gas is partially oxidized with air to produce a nitrogen-diluted mixture consisting of carbon monoxide and free hydrogen. This mixture is called the synthesis gas. The old technology for production of synthesis gas uses oxygen. The new technology eliminates the separation of oxygen from air using a cheaper starting material air. The capital investment is much lower in the synthesis gas production step which uses a proprietary, refractory-lined carbon steel vessel with a nickel-based catalyst to produce what is claimed to be "near ideal" hydrogen/carbon monoxide ratio.

Secondly, the synthesis gas is converted into hydrocarbon chains of varying lengths. Nitrogen gas, which passes through the two steps and rejected to atmosphere, is used to remove reaction-generated heat. By eliminating the recycle-compressor loop, construction is cheaper.

The two steps are exothermic. Heat generated by the process

and combustion of the tail gas are easily converted into plant power needs or exported as surplus high-pressure steam of electricity.

Yemeni wealth of natural gas is much more than its wealth of oil.



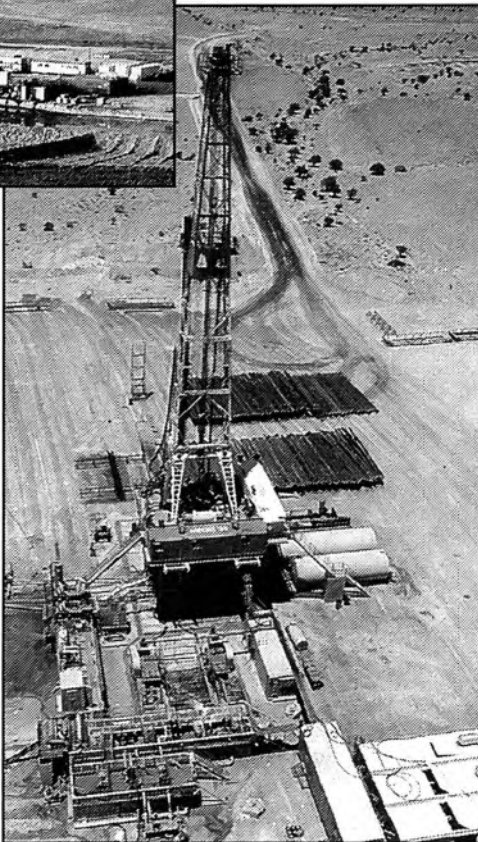
A study has been performed by Hunt-Exxon a few years ago to convert natural gas into synthetic oil using Fischer-Tropsch process.

The proposal was rejected as the project will not be profitable. Using the new technology will change the situation. Selling its natural gas as liquid fuel will be very profitable to Yemen.

The tedious export processes of natural gas will be eliminated, starting from the special gas pipelines, cooling units and special export terminals to

gas vessels.

The synthesis gas itself is an excellent starting material for many other petrochemicals beginning from ammonia and its subsequent fertilizer products and the highly demanded methanol and ending with the endless list of alcohols, aldehydes, acids and olefins. Tackling this new technology will put Yemen into a new era of innovative petrochemical production. The issue is worth a study.



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Achieving Genuine Language Learning

Mr. Terry O'Neill is one of the two writers of the English Language course now being used by schools in Yemen.

Q: How long has the ELT been involved in the English language program in Yemen?

A: It's been over a period of about 12 years. We received from the ministry of Education the Yemeni syllabus for English. In the late '80s we came and we went around schools and checked the whole situation. Then we produced draft materials which we tried in specific areas for the period of two years '90 - '92. After the contents were tried and evaluated, we produced the first book and that's been on going now.

At the moment there are five books covering the whole course in the first five years of English. In next September, the sixth year book will be introduced into Yemeni schools, completing the six-year course.

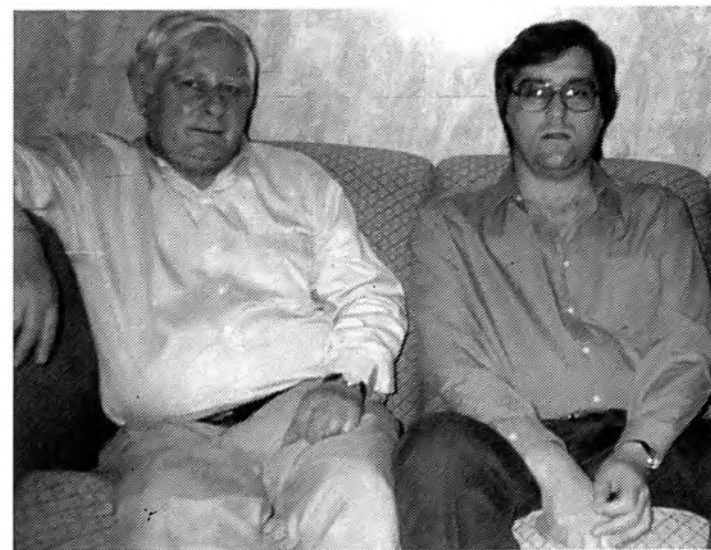
Q: Could you tell us about the conference you have attended in Yemen?

A: Part of the reason for the conference is to meet with school inspectors from all over the country. One thing they will be doing is when they return back to their areas they will be gathering feedback from all the teachers about the six years of the Crescent English course. Then we will have a complete review of the course starting at year one again, based on the comments which we have received from the teachers who have been using the book.

The whole point of an English language course is it can't stand still. Obviously we will be looking for an on-going improvement as we go back in revising the book from next year.

Q: Most of our school graduates can't even write a simple sentence in English. How do you explain this?

A: I think that is an exaggeration that they can't even write a simple sentence. The thing is what you have got is a whole complex which involves the teachers, the level of skills of the



teachers, the actual course book. There is also the question of the inspectors and the advise they give to teachers. So what you have got is a big package, you also got the attitude of pupils towards learning English e.g.; the girls tend to be much better than boys and that raises the question: Why?

Q: What are the problems facing the Yemeni student in learning English?

A: The major problem is that in some areas there are large classes. In some areas there are teachers with no proper training. The point is one should not look at the negative side, these problems are been addressed extensively. In our conference we have addressed these problems.

Q: Do you think we should introduce the English curriculum to primary schools in Yemen?

A: That is a question which is totally the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, and how they see things. Remember my role is as a writer to develop the course, but it is not my place to say anything. The ministry decides what they want to do. I would not be so rude as to try and tell the ministry what to do.

Q: How did you find the participants coming from different governorate in Yemen?

A: I have never seen a more

enthusiastic group of inspectors anywhere. Their level of skill and their level of commitment I can regard as very high.

Mr. Richard Peacock is the Manager of the Education Division at the ELTA/OUP and is responsible for all the production of their text books around the world.

Q: As the education manager what are you planing for Yemen?

A: Part of our workshop is to develop plans for the future of the Yemeni education system. Immediate plans are to finish book six for next year and then start a complete revision of the Crescent series in light of the feedback we receive from the inspectors. We also discussed the possibility of running future workshops for inspectors. We would like, if possible, to expand our program of workshops and teacher training.

Q: How do you evaluate the workshop?

A: We have been to many workshops and training sessions in the past, this one has been definitely the most positive and encouraging workshop we have ever had.

By - Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Yimes.

SANAA UNIVERSITY:

Losing the Academic Touch!

Starting the 1st of January, 1999, Sanaa University has gone on holidays. An official announcement said that the place is closed until the 28th. Nice break. This comes at the heel of a 2-week strike by the university teaching staff in search of better terms. The government had reneged on an agreement with the Union of the Teaching and Administrative Staff of Sanaa/Aden Universities, thus leading to the strike. The teachers went back to teaching only on 18th December.

To start with, the term had started with a 3-week delay. Classes which were supposed to start during September, actually started in the second half of October.

As a result of all of this, professors at Sanaa University will teach less than half the curriculum this term. In fact, some of the teaching staff has yet to set foot in class.

In many colleges, the length of the term has effectively averaged about four weeks.

The physical meeting of classes is not the only symbol of the fall in academic performance. The curricula has also shrunk to levels that are not acceptable at any other university, even inside Yemen. Plagued by neglect, carelessness, lack of accountability and other problems, the quality and quantity of teaching at Sanaa University have fallen way below the minimum academic dose. And there is no solution in sight. The problem is expected to continue to fester.

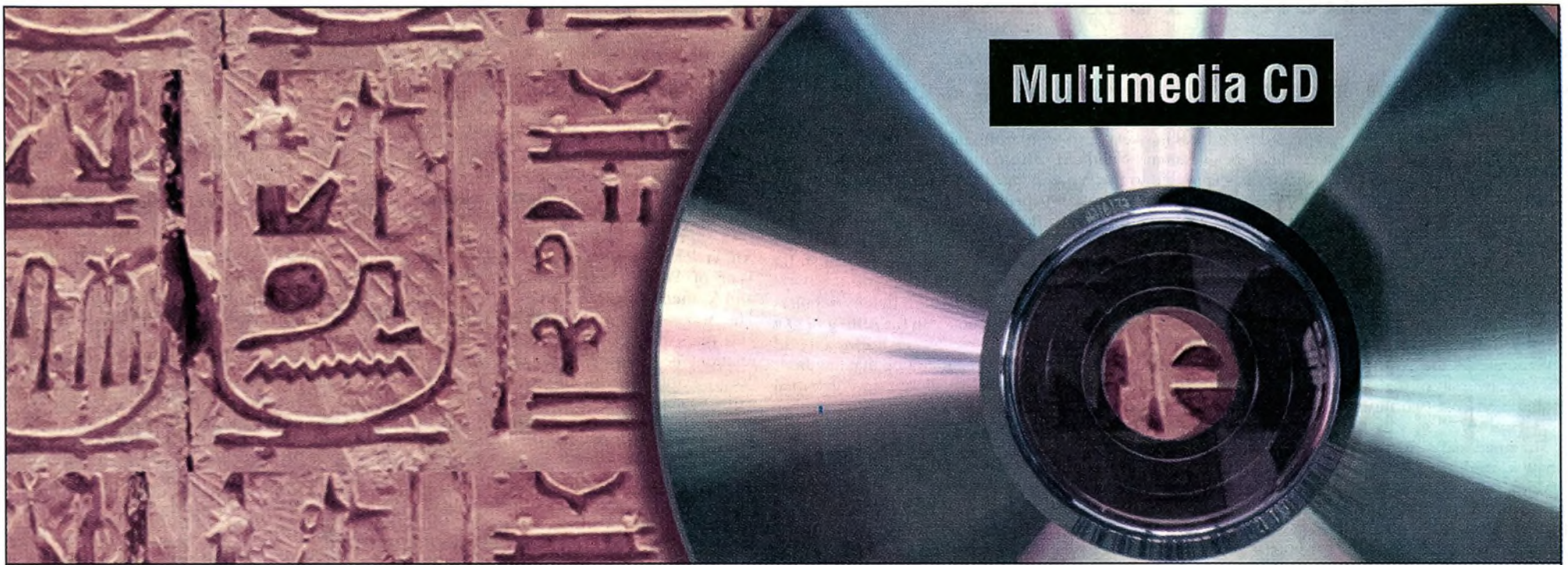
The main problem is politics. The university has been totally politicized. The political leadership of Yemen is heavily involved in the management of the university. Politics even gets into play in the admission policy of students.

The university has been unable to keep up with academic development abroad. Speaking to the head librarian at the Central Library of the university, he sadly notes that we have been cutting back on our subscription to academic journals and magazines. "From 200 subscriptions, we are today down to roughly a dozen," he laments.

The university has no real computer facilities, although in some colleges they have some units. "We keep these as decorations and to boast that we have computers," one professor at the College of Engineering quipped.

Some university professors have been trying to have access to the internet. The efforts have been futile, so far. "Connectivity is important for our work. We need to keep up, but nobody understands what we are saying," explained a frustrated professor of medicine.

A few years back, each college used to produce a quarterly magazine, mostly of research work done by the professors. Today, the whole university does not produce one magazine a year on a regular basis. "The university suffers from the stagnation that has hit the whole country," said an old professor. So much for academic professionalism.



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Ramadhan Activities in Various Sports Clubs

Ramadhan Activities in Various Sports Clubs

Sanaa

Ahli Club:

Ahli Club of Sanaa is organizing several sports activities to mark the Holy Month of Ramadhan. These include basketball, chess, volleyball, football. The teams that took part were Yarmouk, Shurta (Police) and Zohra. Also at the Ahli Club, the Second Al-Imad Amateur Table-Tennis Championship, sponsored by Al-Hubaishi for Trade, was launched on Thursday, December 31. Participants were divided into two groups: veteran and young players. Members of several expatriate communities such as the Palestinian, Somalis, and Ethiopians also take part in Al-Ahli sports activity.

Wahda Club:

The football tournament organized by the Wahda Club is running throughout Ramadhan. A great number of football fans attend the matches held among teams of juniors and adults. Results so far are as follows:

Ahli 7	Farouq 3
Yahya 6	Nile 6
Rial Sanaa 7	Shurta 6
Shaab 10	Shurta 2
Odhr 6	Ahli 5

Ramadhan this year is distinguished by the large number of sports events organized by various clubs around Yemen. The main reason is that many private sector firms are starting to see the benefit of sponsoring sport activity.

Aden

It has become a tradition for Aden sports clubs to organize, during Ramadhan, a special football tournament named after the famous Sixties footballer Ali Mohsin Moraisi. Several clubs, divided into Groups A and B, take part in this tournament. The Hassan Football Team has been able to head the B Group

when it defeated Shoula 2-nil last Tuesday, December 29, at the Hobaiishi Stadium.

The champion of Group A is the Wahda team of Aden. It will play against Shoula. While Hassan will face Tilal. If the two leaders win, they will play against each other. Minaa team dropped out of the tournament following its defeat by Tilal and the Wahda of Aden in the first group. Shmasan dropped out of A Group following its defeat by Shoula and Hassan. The Moraisi Football Tournament was started in 1992, in cooperation with Aden Football Association.

Hodeida

As part of the Ramadhan football tournament in Hodeida, the Ahli of Hodeida defeated Mansouria Youths team 6-nil in a match held last Thursday, December 31, at Al-Oloufi Stadium.

A friendly match was held between the Sports Media team and Hodeida Football Referees team.

Hadhramaut

The Wahda Club of Mukallah, in coordination with the Yemen Writers Union's branch in Hadhramaut, organized on Thursday, December 31, a Ramadhan evening. Several participants talked about the relation between exercise and good health.

Football:

The Wahda Club in Shahair organized a football tournament among the city's clubs. The results were as follows:

Adult Tournament:	
14 October 1	Babahar North 0
30 November 1	14 October 1
Babahar South	26 Sept. 0

Junior Tournament:

Bin Akkas 1	30 November 0
Badhirs 4	Babahar South 0

Chess:

Organized by Mukallah Sports Club, in coordination with the Chess Association branch in the governorate, the Baghowaita Chess Championship was concluded on Friday, January 1.

Dhamar

The Ramadhan football tournament continues in Dhamar. In a powerful match held last week, Shabab Al-Fat'h defeated Al-Thawri 3-1.

In the under-17 football tournament, Tilal Al-Fat'h defeated Shaab 2-1.

Amran

As part of the football tournament organized by Football Association branch in Amran, Al-Majd defeated Al-Qadasi 4-nil.

On another level, cultural competitions are held at the College of Education assembly hall. Several university and college teams are taking part. Many sports commentators and media people have been following these competitions with a lot of interest.

Abyan

Ahwar Football Club has organized a football tournament for people's teams in Abyan. Following the preliminary qualifier matches, four teams qualified to the finals, led by Al-Majd which was never defeated. The other qualified teams are Shabab, Hilal, and Nasr.

The exciting final match on Friday, January 1, saw Al-Majd defeating Nasr 1-nil, thus winning the tournament's cup. The order of the top teams is as follows:

Al-Majd	first
Nasr	second
Hilal	third
Shabab	fourth

Isra Family Thanks Yemen Times

The Sports Desk at Yemen Times received a letter from the family of the Yemeni-Canadian female boxer, Isra Girgrah.

It ran as follows:

'We present our sincere thanks to Yemen Times, its Chief Editor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,



and the Sport Editor for introducing our daughter to the Yemeni public. Her appearance on the first page is greatly appreciated. Also appreciated is your keen interest in her future ambitions and hopes.

'We stress that youths can achieve a lot, if they find enough care and support. Yemen Times' interest in Yemeni youths, both in Yemen and abroad, makes it a very distinguished newspaper. This is enhanced by the paper's interesting articles in politics, economic, and social issues.'

Yours sincerely,

Isra's parents:

Mohammed and Sammirah Girgrah

Orphanage Football Tournament

Under the auspices of Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Akwaa, Minister of Information, a football tournament is being held at the Orphans Home in Sanaa. Nineteen teams from neighboring quarters, in addition to teams representing the Ethiopian and Sudanese communities, the Olympic Center, the Environment Supporters, are taking part in matches being held at the Orphans Home field. The tournament will continue until 25th Ramadhan.

Participant teams are divided into five groups:

1st Group: Teachers team, Fire Fighters teams 1, Tawfiq team and Al-Zawraa Club

2nd Group: Sudanese community team, Olympic Center team, Najma team

3rd Group: Ethiopian community team, Fire Fighters team 2, Al-Wael Youth team, Al-Jawarih Club

4th Group: Youth Forum, Munich, Orphans Home, Al-Nasr Club

5th Group: Environment Supporters 1, Al-Manar Club, Al-Taraji, Environment Supporters 2

The tournament is supervised by the Sports For All Association, in cooperation with Physical Education section at the Orphans Home.

VACANCIES

The American Embassy announces for three vacant positions within its organization.

(1) SUPPLY SUPERVISOR

The position is located in the General Services Office, Warehouse Unit, American Embassy, responsible for the supply program for the Embassy and all associated agencies.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides supervision for 7 employees engaged in supply functions of warehousing and issuing supplies.
- Supervises replacement schedules and initiates orders for supplies and equipment.
- Overseas the delivery and placement of household furniture in residences and offices.
- Supervises the preparation of new household furniture in residences and offices.
- Prepares reports and other information required by the GSO.
- Manages all warehousing activities both personnel material and property.

Minimum qualifications:

Completion of secondary school is required.

Desired Skills/Abilities:

Should have a basis knowledge of US Government stock control systems and warehousing systems. Must have a knowledge of basis supervisory skills. Ability to deal effectively with tact with USG personnel and have the ability to demonstrate basic accounting and stock control skills.

Experience/Language:

Three to five years of progressively responsible experience. Level III English required.

(2) SUPPLY CLERK

The position is located in the General Service Office, Warehouse Unit, American Embassy, which involves clerical duties associated with the stock control of Mission's expendable property.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintains the stock record cards personal property cards, and custody cards of the home furnishings and equipment issued to American Personnel assigned to post.
- Directs and conducts periodic inventories of expendable supplies and non expendable property, and inventories of household furnishings and equipment upon the departure of American personnel to whom issued.
- Prepares and assists in the preparation of periodic requisitions to GSA or the Department of State.
- Maintains an up-to-date inventory minimum record levels in order to advise Procurement of needed supplies.

Minimum qualifications:

Completion of elementary school is required.

Desired skills/Ability:

Ability to speak, read, write, and type Arabic and English on typewriter or PC. Must be tactful, yet effective, in dealing with American personnel relative to inventories of household furnishing and equipment.

Experience:

Must have one to two years of supply or related experience.

(3) POLITICAL SPECIALIST

The position assigned to the Political Section within the Embassy, which produces analytical reports of board scope and complexity and provides information and data obtained from high level sources.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepare analytical reports in English on major Yemen political and social developments.
- Develop and maintain contacts among Yemeni government officials, political party officials, leaders and non-governmental organizations, and other significant personalities throughout Yemen.
- Advise Embassy officers on Yemeni political history and current development.
- Create and maintain biographic files on prominent personalities.
- Prepare press summaries, as required, on important issues.
- Interpret and translate as necessary.
- Schedule meetings for Embassy officers with prominent persons.

Desired Qualifications:

- Should have a college degree.
- Native Arabic speaker, fluent in speaking, reading, and writing English, and Arabic.
- Possess good knowledge of current Yemeni political conditions.
- Although the political specialist will work closely with Embassy Political Officers, the candidate should be able to work independently when necessary and should use his or her initiative to suggest projects.
- Must be able to type in Arabic and English. Computer and Word Processing experience is preferable.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants should submit an official form (174) and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhaher Himyar Street, Sanaa. A completed Embassy Application form and resume should be submitted, no later than Saturday 16, 1999.

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A Welcome Reopening

Marking Ramadhan and the dawn of the last year of this century, the Taj Sheba Hotel has reopened its famous Bilquis Restaurant. Following five months of extensive renovation and refurbishment, Bilquis now boasts more space and new color themes augmented by an artistic arrangement of beautiful Yemeni Qamaris (semi-circular stained-glass ports). Furniture motifs smack of sheer luxury.

The news of reopening the Bilquis Restaurant is being greeted with joy and relief by the Taj's regular patrons as well as expatriate visitors to Sanaa. The place, very conveniently situated in the heart of downtown Sanaa, offers a nice opportunity for the faithful to break their fast in pleasant surroundings with a wide range of traditional gourmet dishes provided with a five-star service.

The Sounds of Yemen

This auspicious opening has just come in time for Ramadhan. People in Sanaa can now enjoy Ramadhan meals in the tranquil surroundings of the Bilquis Restaurant, to the accompaniment

of Ud playing and traditional Yemeni religious chanting. "We endeavor to provide our customers with excellent, top-quality service and all possible conveniences to make this Ramadhan a month to remember," said Mr. Mayank Mehta, Taj Sheba's General Manager.

Greater Space Than Ever!

Instead of just 70 seats, Bilquis now has 130, a dance floor and more seating space in the adjacent courtyard. "With nice colorful umbrellas providing a cool shade, our guests can now enjoy themselves at the Bilquis' yard overlooking the swimming pool," announced a proud Mr. Shankar, Taj Sheba Sales Manager. "The comfort and enjoyment of the Hotel's patrons is our top priority. It gives us great pleasure, especially during this Holy Month, to make our guests relax and be comfortable,

whether they stay overnight or just come to break their fast and have an enjoyable evening," added Mr. Shankar.



and refurbished, but a whole wing of 82 rooms as well. "All the rooms now are furnished up to the highest standards of luxury, making us ready to receive the Taj's guests with comfort, a sunny smile and a personal warm service," announced the amiable Shankar. The exterior of the other wing will also be renovated to match the first half of the building's façade. Moreover, the Executive Club Floor will be opened soon. Among the excellent services it boasts are a Body Shop branch, 24-hour butler service, fax facilities, international newspapers, and much more.

Adel J. Moqbil,
Yemen Times

The Tent of Araby

After having the fast-breaking meal with a variety of traditional Arab and oriental food on offer, Taj Sheba patrons can then relax in typical Yemeni and Arab surroundings. "A newly erected tent by the pool, bedecked with lush, comfortable cushions and colorful oriental rugs, is a quite congenial place for relaxation, smoking Shisha, and chatting with family and friends," pointed out Mr. Shankar.

Luxury Rooms

It was not just the Bilquis Restaurant that got renovated



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