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Failure of Men and the System Leads to an All-Women Initiative:

Cleaning Sanaa City as a Priority Action

Their numbers have grown to over a hundred women. They take the role of women as partners in public life seriously. That is why the Cultural Gathering for Yemeni Women (CGYW) was formed as an NGO on 9/10/1998. "We have agreed to meet on the first day of every month. The woman who hosts the meeting covers its costs. We discuss plans of action in a cordial atmosphere," said Ms. Takiyyah Al-Ahmar, niece of the Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar. Other leaders of the movement include Ruqayyah Al-Hajri, Ibtisam Al-Zafri, Amatal Razzaq Jahhaf, Dr. Hafsa Munshi, Maryam Muqbil Al-Basha, Muthirah Abdul-Halim, Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil, and many women from well-known families living in Sanaa. The group plans many activities, such as city-cleaning, as well as discussions on respect for children's rights, population



issues, violence against women, the disastrous effects of qat, and increasing rights awareness among women, etc. Committees were set up to address those and other issues.

"The top priority, however, is to help control the garbage situation in our city. Sanaa. We decided that cleaning up Sanaa was a priority," Ibtisam said. Towards that end, the main actions taken so far include the following:

Continues on page 6

Parliament Takes Measures to Boost Attendance:

YEMEN'S PARLIAMENT: Dismal Record of Participation

As the House of Deputies finishes the first half of its term, there are many means of assessing its performance. One tool for such an evaluation is the level of attendance. During the first 563 days of its life, the period extending from 18/5/1997 till December 31st, 1998, the House held 222 full-house sessions. That does not include the meetings of committees and sub-committees.

The highest level of attendance was a perfect 100% or 222 sessions for MP Ahmed Hamoud Mufleh, and the lowest was 11 sessions or less than 5% attendance by MP Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anisi, Minister of Communications. The overall average level of attendance for the whole house was 138 sessions or 62.2%.

Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Soufan,

Secretary-General of the House of Representatives, indicated that the House had spent the last two sessions before adjourning last week discussing the issue of attendance by members. "We have made a decision to strictly apply the House's rules which call for deductions in the remunerations of the absent members," he disclosed.

More on page 5

Yemen's Deteriorating Political Atmosphere

UNDER SIEGE

There are eight newspapers which are haunted by cases in court today. These include the Yemen Times, Al-Ayyam, Al-Haq, Al-Shoura, Al-Thawri, Al-Rai Al-Aam, Ray, among others. There are several journalists and columnists who are in prison. On Saturday, February 6th, Abdul-Latif Al-Kutbi, Chief Editor of Al-Haq, was released following a four-day ordeal in prison. Haitham Al-Ghareeb, Lawyer and columnist, still languishes in prison in Aden. Noman Kaied Saif, had been released from prison a week ago after 3 days in prison.

Four weeks ago, Mohammed S. Al-Hadhiri's brother was mistakenly beat up in place of his journalist brother.

Al-Ayyam's chief editor was summoned for interrogation on what his paper had published. Yemen Times' chief editor was summoned for interrogation on what his paper had published. Two newspapers - Al-Shoura and Al-Rai Al-Aam are blocked from circulation.

The Political Security Organization (PSO) sends armed bands to arrest opinion leaders and journalists, mostly at night.

Yemen's political climate has soured up tremendously over the last few weeks. It seems that the rulers of Yemen want to turn the clock backwards - to the days of authoritarianism. They will not succeed, of course. But they will succeed in inflicting more suffering on the Yemeni people, and bring more instability to the nation.

Pro-democracy activists held an urgent meeting on this matter. Report on page 2.

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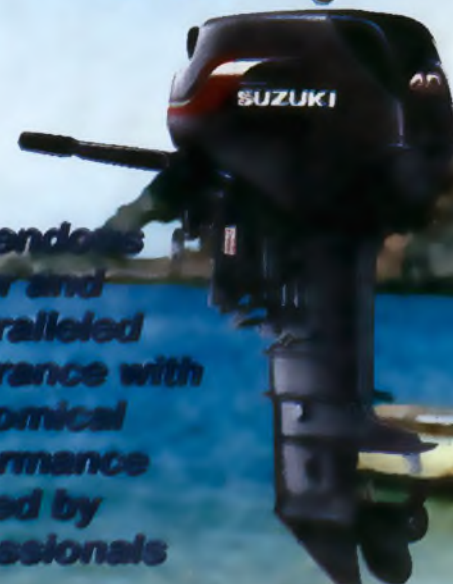
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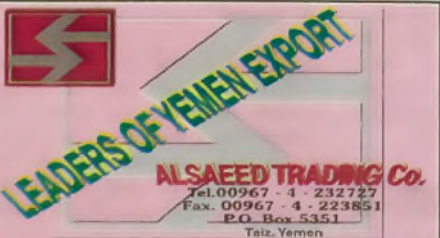
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OUR VIEWPOINT

"Wolf, Wolf!"

Many pro-democracy Yemenis, who have previously suffered and continue to suffer at the hands of the Yemeni security apparatus, are in a strange way delighted with the on-going court case of the Britons being tried for "terrorism" in Aden. They see the Britons as allies in the fight to reign-in the lawless and ruthless behavior of certain elements in the country's security corps. Specifically, the Yemenis see two silver (or rather golden) linings in this development.

First, there is a chance to make Yemen's security apparatus start telling the truth. Self-righteous yet corrupt security officers tell lies and twist facts at will. They tell lies to the public, the international community, and even to the leadership of the country. If Yemen wants to make any progress in administrative accountability and in respect for human rights, this lie-telling practice has to stop.

Today, the experience with the Britons shows that not many people believe the word of the Yemeni security authorities, even if they were telling the truth. The problem is that our they have been calling "Wolf, wolf!" for a long time.

In the past, they were able to get away with it because it was their word against those of victimized Yemenis. The world, headed by friends of the regime, gave the Yemeni officials the benefit of the doubt. They even looked the other way when the lies were not that plausible.

The first silver lining, therefore, is the pressure on the security apparatus to shape up and tell the truth. After all, they are today against a formidable foe that can mobilize world attention. Will the security stop crying "Wolf!"?

Second, the security forces, especially the political security office and the criminal investigation bureau regularly engage in torture. Now, they have done it to foreigners, who are demanding full accountability. Our rulers did not care enough when the torture victims were our own people. Now, they are forced to check this ugly practice, because those who have suffered are foreign.

To add insult to injury, after they engage in torture, these twisted officers intimidate judges, lawyers, attorneys, medical doctors, government officials and others to cover-up for them. They demand that these officials go along their lies, and even vouch for them.

With foreign pressure mounting, there is now a good chance to reign in the sick officers and make them pay for torturing people. On paper, Yemen does say and agree that torture is against our own laws, as well as contrary to many international conventions and agreements which Yemen has signed and ratified. Yet, officers and soldiers who regularly torture others are not held accountable.

The basic premise for Yemen's joining the world community is that it agrees to live by world rules. These include more tolerance of differences of opinion, and acceptance that rivals can mobilize themselves and their supporters in a bid for a transfer of power in a peaceful and legal way. If the rulers block this possibility, which is a remote one in any case, then they are inviting violence.

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YR 100 Billion in Debt

With the new issue of treasury bills last week, the total value of all outstanding T-bills issued by the Central Bank of Yemen on behalf of the State of Yemen is close to YR 100 billion. While most of the money goes to finance the deficit in the government budget, some of it is used as a tool to dampen inflationary pressures by withdrawing purchasing power from consumers. Mr. Abdullah Al-Olofi, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, indicated that the average interest rate paid on the T-bills is 18%. He also indicated that there should not be worries about repayment. "These bills are recycled. As old bills mature, new ones are issued," he said.

206,000 Persons on the Payroll of the Ministry of Education

One of the biggest problems of the budget of the Government of Yemen is the disproportionate amount of payroll expenditures. Of the total budget, some 60-70% goes to salaries.

The situation in the Ministry of Education gives a glaring picture of the situation. Dr. Yahia Al-Shu'aibi, the Minister, told the Yemen Times that the number of teachers and support staff has reached 206,000. "We are trying to transfer to 30,000 persons to a fund to be established by the Ministry of Civil Service," he indicated.

Yemen and Jordan Form Expert Team to Encourage Bilateral Trade

At the end of the official visit of Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Hourani, Jordan's Minister of Trade & Industry, to Sanaa, Yemen and Jordan agreed to set up a team of experts to develop ways and means to activate bilateral trade. The two countries had signed an agreement last year to set up a joint free trade zone, but nothing happened.

Along with the minister, 35 trade and industry delegates came to Yemen and set up an exhibition in Sanaa.

Suzuki Yemen in Aden Sponsors Civil Defence Drills

During the period March 1-12 of 1999, Suzuki Yemen, one of the Ba-Ma'arof companies, will sponsor a training program in Aden. Mr. Ali Abubakar Ajroomah, General Manager of the company, disclosed that the program will include emergency life-saving drills, first-aid, and proper reactions to explosions, fires, etc.

At the end of the program, which is implemented in collaboration with the Aden Civil Defence, trainees will receive certificates. Aden's governor kicked off the effort.

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

In your view, why aren't there any other candidates for the upcoming presidential elections?

Result

- Who would ever risk his/her life in trying to compete against the president of Yemen? (34%)
- Candidature for the presidency post is not encouraged by the state, in fact it is indirectly forbidden. (24%)
- The campaign requires millions of Riials, which no one wants to risk for nothing. (10%)
- People only know Ali Abdullah Saleh. There is no way people could vote for another person who shows up suddenly for a few months. (5%)
- Everyone is happy with his/her position. Who cares of becoming president? (24%)
- I don't know or another reason! (3%)

The New York Times on the Yemen Times

The New York Times, arguably the world's most influential newspaper, ran an article on March 4th by Wayne Robins shedding light on how the internet has given us access to newspapers in remote corners of the world. He was pointing to the excellence that now abounds and comes together in the world of media, even from small newspapers. He mentioned several newspapers that are available online.

Here is what he said about the Yemen Times:

Quote

"The Yemen Times, for instance, an independent weekly published in Sanaa, the capital, did a resourceful job a few weeks ago in presenting the context for the recent kidnapping and disastrous rescue of British and Australian tourists (www.yementimes.com). But even more interesting was a deeply personal letter from the paper's editor, answering a Government accusation that he was 'working for Western intelligence agencies, international Zionism and the Masonic movement.'" Unquote.

Pro-Democracy Activists Come Together to Discuss Deterioration of Political Climate

Some fifty pro-democracy activists representing a wide political spectrum met on Saturday, February 6th, to discuss the visible deterioration in Yemen's political environment.

Professor Hassan Ba-Zara'ah, Chairman of the Yemen Office of Rabitat Abna Al-Yaman, the host, gave the gathering evidence of the deterioration. "That is the evidence on erosion of the level of tolerance and plurality," he concluded.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Ruabyi who chaired the meeting warned of the grave consequences to these developments. He then invited ideas and proposals as to what can be done.

The group adopted a proposal put forth by Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Con-



sultative Council's Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs. "We need to urge President Ali Abdullah to issue a law specifying the tasks, role, tools and budget of the Political Security Organization. "From my expe-

rience, most of the violation is committed by PSO. If PSO is brought within the law, then many of the violations will disappear," Saqqaf pointed out. The group plans another meeting for next week.

PGC: Grass-Roots Level Democracy

The two million members of the People's General Congress (PGC) are going to elect new leaders. Elections have already started in 620 local branches. By late April, elections will take place at the governorate level. In July, the Sixth Convention of the PGC will be held in Sanaa, in which all top leadership posts will be up for grabs.

Journalists' Syndicate Conference Starts on 15/3/99

The General Secretariat and the Central Committee of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate met on Saturday March 6th, 1999. They decided to hold the Second General Conference during 15-17 March, 1999.

Representatives of the Federation of Arab journalists and other organizations have been invited to attend.

CC Holds Hearings on Health Services

The Consultative Council started on Sunday, March 7th, a three-day hearing on health services in the Republic of Yemen. The Minister of Health and many senior staff members are presenting documents and studies about the situation of health services in various fields. The CC will then present recommendations for a plan of action.

Al-Jazeera Information Technology & Communication Exhibition 99 (JETCOM99) Visited by 20,000 People

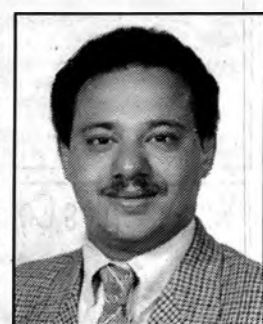
The number of visitors of Al-Jazeera Information Technology & Communication Exhibition 99 JETCOM99, which was held at the Expo Center in Sanaa, had reached around 20,000 visitors during the 5 day period of the exhibition from February 28th to March 4th. Most of the visitors were businessmen and people interested in IT services and products. Hence, the average number of visitors per day was 4,000 visit.

Mr. Omar Seyf Al-Nahmi, the Marketing Manager of the Apollo Company for international exhibitions stated that participating companies had expressed their satisfaction with the number of visitors at JETCOM99. He also stated that the great attention given to the exhibition shows the awareness of Yemenis in regards to learning about new technologies and to cope with the digital revolution around them. Mr. Omar stressed that the companies, which participated in the exhibition had achieved what they aimed at, and that was to introduce their technologies and products to all people interested in computer and communication technologies in a direct way. "The exhibition had opened new horizons to secure the participation of even a larger number of companies in the coming years on an International level" he added.

Apollo Company in turn will continue to preserve its success in launching JETCOM and will try to make it an annual event with the participation of the largest international companies.

The launch of JETCOM comes as part of a series of international specialized exhibitions, which the company is trying to hold during this year. One of them will be the first Health and Medical Equipment Exhibition at the end of next May with the participation of Arab and International companies, which are specialized in the field of medicine and medical equipment.

It is worth to mention that on Thursday the 11th of March, a ceremony will be held to honor companies that participated in JETCOM99, and a prize draw will also be held for exhibition visitors. Various prizes will be distributed to the winners during the ceremony.



Mr. Omar Al-Nahmi,

Widyan to Open New Jotun Multicolor Showroom

Sanaa city will witness the opening of The World's Finest and Leading Tinting System from Jotun Paints.

Jotun's color mixing system was introduced in 1974 and has been thoroughly tested in every detail. Today, the Jotun's patent Multicolor system offers customer a choice of 16,000 colours from the data base. The Multicolor centre showroom is located at Zubairi Aser and will be inaugurated at 10am, on March 11th, 1999.

The Multicolor center/showroom will soon become a center for

colour designing and painting techniques in Yemen and will be manned by an expert to help and guide the customers in their choice of colours and to assist them in their use. Engineers, architects and interior designers will greatly benefit from the facilities offered in this showroom.

Added to it, the colour scanner, which is a part of the tinting system can scan and match any colour under the sun, be it a piece of fabric or painted sample. Not only that, Jotun's multicolor system also incorporates a colour

vision display unit whereby the customer can match and visualize the effect of the selected colour scheme before buying.

"With the opening of showrooms in Sanaa and Taiz and more activities from Jotun Paints, we promise to change the image of paint industry in Yemen and upgrade it to the international standards in the way of quality, choice and colours," said Mr. Rashad Hayel Saeed, General Manager of Widyan Trading Company Ltd., Aden. They are the sole selling agents in the Republic of Yemen.

Tawfeeq Al-Khamiry:

"If our officials are serious about economic growth, law and order must prevail."

The predicament of Yemeni businessmen is indeed a difficult one. They have to cope with many problems - all at the same time.

First, they have to handle the fall-out from the reform programs. Many investors who had invested under certain conditions now find their investments evaporating and their enterprises rendered useless.

Second, the condition of law and order is not so good. Many people fear even for their own lives. Third, they are under pressure to be 'patriotic' and put their money in the country through new investments.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to one of the key investors and businessmen of Yemen, Mr. Tawfeeq Mohammed Ali Saif Al-Khamiry. Tawfeeq, 36, hailing from a business family, started work in the business world even while he was in school. Therefore, 'he has the feel for it' as the saying goes.

Excerpts.

Q: Could you tell us about your beginnings in business?

A: I started work in business with my father when I was in school. We had many shops in Sana'a. Today, we work in many areas and represent various international companies.

Q: Do you specialize in certain fields?

A: In Yemen, most business people have no specific specialization. We deal in electronics, jewelry and watches, and medical apparatus. We also represent international companies that have no offices in Sana'a. For example, we represent the American Junior Motor Company.

Previously we had engaged in oil exploration, but that did not work out well, meaning we did not hit oil.

In tourism we represent The Yemeni Company for Hotels and Investment. We were involved in considerable efforts to strengthen our hotel business given the work done in Haddah Hotel. We are looking forward to engaging a 5 star hotel management company that can offer professional facilities and services.

Q: How do you assess the economic situation in Yemen?

A: The economic situation in Yemen is depressing, but things are bad in many corners of the world. We are expecting an international economic collapse. The victims, at least in the beginning, are always the small countries, our country included.

Besides the slump in oil prices has hurt many Arab countries. This is particularly worrisome in countries which depended on oil revenue in almost a total way. But the stagnation has also been affecting us.

We are a multi-sector economy, as there are many other areas of activity such as agriculture, tourism and fishing. They should be organized and mobilized by professionals and honest administrators to protect this wealth. Bad administration and corruption results in unemployment and complications.

Finally, I think it is necessary that the government provides security in order to secure more investments.

Q: What advantages and facilities are offered to investors in Yemen, and what is the future of investment, especially for the hotels and the trade sectors?

A: Regarding new investments, many companies were turning to Yemen. The General Investment Authority has done its best. But there were obstacles that investor faced.

For example, there is a large gap between what the law stipulates

and the reality. I am referring here to bureaucrats who create all kinds of hurdles simple to get your money. I request the General Investment Authority to remove such obstacles.

Q: What exactly stands in the way of new foreign investors coming to Yemen?

A: I think our officials and media are fixated on foreign investors. I think it is more relevant to focus on local investors. Once local investors are encouraged, the foreigners will come.

But, if I may answer your question about the obstacles, the justice system does not work in Yemen. Commercial Courts impose an advance payment on you when you sue somebody. Such payments are not refunded, even if you win the case. It reflects poorly on Yemeni justice, a factor that keeps investors away. Some tax laws are unfair, and their application is not universal. There are many obstacles including an undeveloped infrastructure and utilities.

Q: If a foreign investor wishes to pack up and leave, do the authorities permit him to transfer his fund back? And what about Yemeni businessmen, are they permitted to transfer some of their capital abroad for any reason?

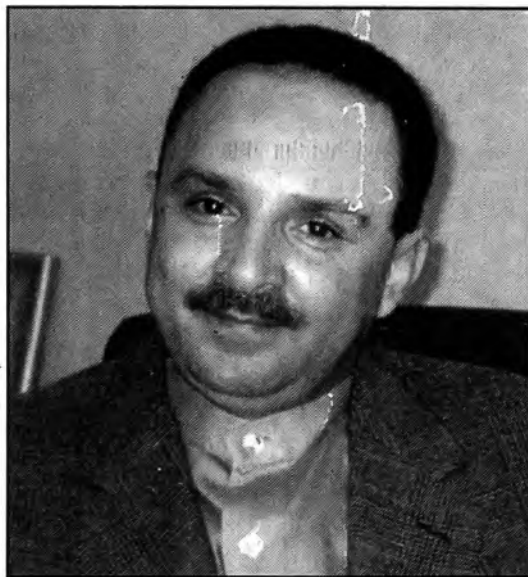
A: Regarding Yemenis there are no obstacles to transferring their capital. An investor can transfer his money any time he wishes. The law states that a foreign investor can transfer his capital, but bureaucratic difficulties come at every step. Some bureaucrats impose obstacles in proper implementation of the law. At the very least, you will agonize over slow completion of procedures and other paper-work. Every employee acts according to his mood, knowing that there will be no accountability.

Q: Our sources indicate that there are problems in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As a member, could you clarify for us the causes of these problems?

A: I feel sad for the things that occurred recently at the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. These are personal problems for personal interests.

Some members do not perform their roles as stipulated in the law and charter of the chamber. I hope that there will be a real push on the part of businessmen to put the interests of the business community as a whole, and of the country above all other.

I think there must elections soon to be supervised by the Ministry of Supply and Commerce.



The Federation is at crossroads, and it is important to behave in a professional way.

Q: How do you assess the role of the public sector and do you encourage the privatization of this sector?

A: I don't agree privatization is the answer to all problems of the public sector companies. Of course, in some cases, this is appropriate, but in many cases, the protective umbrella of the state is required for social harmony. We cannot let the profit-driven private sector control the livelihood of the people.

I believe in free trade, but there are guidelines. But the government's supervisory role should not be taken to mean favoritism, nepotism or other forms of distortions leading to monopolies and oligopolies. For example, during the last ten years five businessmen took the subsidization of wheat and flour, while citizens are hardly able to receive their small shares, this event is well-known but nobody investigates or punishes it.

Our government stands today against market freedom. It creates many obstacles. I agree with an organized privatization of the public sector, especially in cases where companies and corporations lead to enormous burdens on the public budget. But, the process must be selective.

In other words, we cannot pass a total judgment.

Q: How does commerce work in Yemen, with no economic indicators, statistical data or field research and studies? Is there any proposal for founding a center that could assist in providing such data?

A: I agree with the idea of having an organized center for producing accurate, reliable and up to-date data for the private sector. This will be an important development in the Yemeni society.

A good data base is an important requirement for wise decisions whether in government or business.

Such a center would help a lot and I am willing to participate in financing such an endeavor.

Q: The Yemeni private sector is facing today huge problems that slow its growth. Some of the problems relate to the old ways of thinking and doing business in Yemen's private sector. What do you think?

A: There is a great need to continue to upgrade and modernize all enterprises. You have passed a general sentence which is not correct.

Many business households and companies have been training

their young folks and new generation of employees. Many private sector companies have a very modern and computer-based administrative structures.

Q: In spite of the presence of several businessmen in parliament, private sector influence is still very weak, even when enacting laws on business. Why?

A: In the past, people thought that legislation was part of politics. Therefore, they left it to the politicians. Today, we have a rising number of MPs who have a business background.

Even then, however, I agree that the private sector should participate more actively in legislation. This applies first to those who are already in parliament, and second it applies to all of us outside the legislature.

But, there could be a conflict of interest here. Some members of parliament who have business interests, try to influence legislation that could serve their personal interests.

Q: You have major investments in tourism-related businesses. Recently, tourism was badly hit. What do you think should be done?

A: The government should exempt tourism-related activities from taxes and other dues until market conditions change. Otherwise, this sector will be crippled for a long time.

Besides, of course, there are other measures that need to be taken. These include implementing the law in a better way,

introducing new publicity and marketing methods, etc.

Q: What do you think of the reform program?

A: These are steps badly needed by Yemen. It is like taking a bitter medicine. You need it to make sure you are better at a later stage.

I think subsidies should be ended. The Government should improve its bureaucratic performance including better tax collection methods and more optimal expenditure patterns.

The reform programs are good, but we should watch out for the following:

- the process should be transparent and open;
- those involved in it should be held fully accountable;
- law and order must prevail and on an equal footing to all;
- the vulnerable members of our society must be helped.

The economy must be put back on the right track. You cannot continue taking painkillers to treat an illness. I think the time is right to take bold measures. The point is you have to have the people of Yemen believe in what you are doing and what you are trying to achieve. It is a question of credibility.

Q: Smuggling has recently grown out of proportions. What do you think should be done?

A: The question has two parts. Firstly, there are customs tariffs. In my opinion, the state should reduce tariffs in order to reduce the incentive for smuggling. Some levels of tariffs are high.

Secondly, we should enforce the law. In some cases, there is proof that the people involved in smuggling are senior military/security officers or tribal leaders who are closely associated with the system.

Is there someone in town who can stand to these people? Is

there someone in the power structure who is willing to knock his head with these people?

Q: Do you think that some local products are not up to the international specifications?

A: It is true that not all local products are up to international specifications, we should make that clear. We should have an administration to determine the specifications of the products - whether local or foreign. So, this should not be a pretext to build new walls and barriers against trade.

Having said that, it is also true that we have become the dumping ground for foreign goods which are not up to standard. Some goods whose validity is about to expire is re-exported to our markets at nominal prices, thus killing national products.

Q: According to the WTO, Yemen has to be fully integrated in the world market by 2006. Are we up to such demands?

A: I think we are moving to a world without borders. We have to accept that and see how we can positively interact. Yemen is not yet ready for such a move. But, we should prepare ourselves.

I think some people address this matter as if it were a conspiracy against us. It is not. In fact, we can benefit from a stronger association. But we have to understand what is at stake, and prepare ourselves.

Q: How do we prepare?

A: That is up to the government, media and educational institutions. But I think the reform program is one part of the preparations.

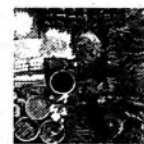
Q: Anything to add?

A: I feel sad for our situation. Yemen offers a great potential which our politicians are unable to harness and mobilize.

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PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Sheraton Sana'a Hotel General Manager, Mr. Fadeel G. Wehbe recently attended the B.I.T. Fair held in Italy under the umbrella of Republic of Yemen.

The Government of Yemen and the World Bank held a "Yemen Capacity Building Seminar Workshop" from February 27 until March 4, 1999. The speakers were His Excellency Mr. Abdulrahman Tarmoun, Vice Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Christopher Ward, Acting Resident Representative of World Bank Mission in Sana'a and Mr. Afif Al-Saqqaf, Financial Manager of World Bank Mission in Sana'a. There were 64 participants from various Ministries and projects funded by the World Bank.



Mr. Mansour Al-Awadi, Charge d' Affairs of Kuwait Embassy choose Sheraton Sana'a Hotel as the venue to celebrate Kuwait National Day which was held on 27th of February 1999. Honored guests included all Ambassadors, Diplomatic Corps, Government Officials, Businessmen and VIP Mr. Ali O. Al-Ghannam, General Manager of Arab Hotels Company.



Mr. Wehbe
General Manager

Sheraton Sana'a Hotel General Manager, Mr. Fadeel G. Wehbe and Director of Sales Mr. Sherif Sabry will be attending the I.T.B. Fair in Germany from 4th of March until 11th of March 1999 to promote tourism in the German market under the umbrella of Republic of Yemen.



Mr. Sabry
Director of Sales



Sheraton Sana'a Hotel Guest Relations Officer, Ms. Anne Role explaining the benefits and advantages of becoming a member of Starwood Preferred Guest Programme. Mr. Frederick Frink is a frequent guest of the hotel and also a member of "S.P.G.". His next destination will be Dubai, Bahrain, Hong Kong and back to the United States. His comments were "Sheraton Sana'a does it better!"

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Political Parties Series # 7

People's General Congress

Starting with issue number 4 of January 25th, 1999, Yemen Times is running weekly profiles of the political parties of Yemen. We print the information as received from the parties. The aim is to inform the public - local and international.

The PGC: Background

The People's General Congress (PGC) was launched on August 24th, 1982. The PGC describes itself as a political organization of the people created to continue the march of the Yemeni national movements and unity. It is governed by democracy at all levels and structures. The National Charter, the PGC's ideological reference, guides and directs the party's objectives, programs and performance.

Here are its broad guidelines:

1- The PGC adheres to and works through the principles of the Yemeni revolution and the Constitution. It is committed to the defense of the country's unity, sovereignty, independence, the republican system and the national achievements.

2- The PGC adheres to democracy, political pluralism and the peaceful exchange of government powers. It works for the creation of the state of law and order common in the civil society and to eliminate all forms of backwardness.

3- Membership in the PGC is open to all Yemenis who meet the following requirements:

- a minimum age of 18 years;
- The applicant not belong to any other political organization or party, nor can be associated with an organization or society which contradicts the principles of the PGC.

Structure of the Party

1- The General Conference: The General Conference is the PGC's highest authority. During its 4-year term, the GC convenes in two regular rounds, of which one is an election round. The GC can be invited to convene for an extra round upon a request from the PGC's president or a request from two thirds of the members of the permanent committee or a request from two thirds of the GC members.

2- The PGC's Chairman:

The chairman of the party is responsible for instructing and monitoring all PGC activities and policies, based on the PGC's rules and constituents.

3- The Organizational & Financial Inspection Committee:

This is a seven member committee elected by the GC. This committee is accountable to the chairman and works under his supervision.

4- The Permanent Committee

The PC is a leadership body responsible for streamlining the PGC's works and policies during the sessions of the GC. The PC consists of 501 persons elected from among the members through a secret ballot. Certain party executives gain automatic membership to the PC due to their posts. The PC meets every 6 months. Extraordinary meetings can also be held as requested by the chairman or the secretary general

or as proposed by a third of the PC members.

5- The General Committee:

The PGC's politburo is known as the General Committee. It follows up the implementation of decisions, plans, programs and policies approved by the permanent committee and the General Conference. The General Committee meets every month and consists of 31 members.

6- The General Secretariat:

The GS is the executive body of the party. It is responsible for carrying out the daily work and routines of the party in all fields. The GS consists of: The Secretary General, Assistant Secretary Generals, Heads of Departments.

7- The Secretary General:

He is the chief executive officer of the party. He is responsible for administration and management of all PGC activities. He is charged with following up implementation of plans, programs and organizational decisions.

8- Assistant Secretary Generals:

Six assistant secretary-general assist the secretary-general.

9- Specialized Departments:

The PGC has nine departments for the following fields:

- a- Organizational Affairs.
- b- Political & Foreign Relations.
- c- Finance & Administration.
- d- NGOs.
- e- Ideology, Culture & Media.



25 June-02 July 1995.

The fifth GC (second round) was held in Sanaa, during 24-26 August 1997.

Preparations are under way to hold the first round of the Sixth Conference soon.

Rules & Principles

The PGC is committed to the following:

- To Islam as a creed and Sharai'h.
- To faith in Allah (God), the country, the revolution, and unity.
- To adhere to the republican system and to consolidate national unity.
- To respect the constitution and to implement the peaceful transfer of power.
- To adhere to democracy and political pluralism and to guarantee the right of expression in all forms, to respect national and responsible opposition and to protect human rights.
- The Judiciary is an independent authority and a cornerstone in building a modern state.
- The family is the basic cell in the social structure, and its values are based on the Islamic religion and national ethics.
- Women are the other half of society and discrimination based on differences in sex are not justified. Nor can these differences justify the absence of women from active public life.
- Economic freedom is essential for harnessing the creative energies of the individual and for promoting rapid economic growth.
- To adopt local administration systems to expand public participation in public life, in cooperation with central authorities.
- To safeguard the citizen's national and private freedoms, to protect him (her) against unfair aggression and not to allow house-breaking or putting him under surveillance, and to protect him against arbitrary arrest or detention beyond the judicial power of the court of law.
- To ensure public rights and freedoms and to respect freedom

of the press and expression of opinion, and to guarantee the right of creating institutions of civil society (NGOs) such as societies and syndicates according to the constitution and the law.

- Social justice and equality are fundamental for achieving social solidarity and peace.

- To categorically prevent the exploitation of public service and funds for personal ends.

- To stress commitment to honest and constructive political competition.

- To keep the military and security institutions away from partisan conflict and to underscore their role as a symbol of national unity and the people's tool in defending constitutional legitimacy.

PGC Stretches Its Hand to Other Players

- The courageous step taken by our country to adopt plural democracy as a system of government poses a real challenge in order to build a successful democratic system that combines political pluralism and economic efficiency. In this regard the PGC will, in cooperation and coordination with the other political parties and organizations, embark on efforts to reach a working political charter relying on the common denominators which form the principles and ethics of democratic practice.

- Effective political upgrading requires a great deal of courage and initiative based on self-assessment and self-control and to shun egotistical actions. This can be achieved only through realization that the national concern is one whole unit. The prevalence of the spirit of tolerance among the different political powers is essential for a healthy democratic practice in the present as well as in the future.

It is in this light that the PGC embarks on continuous dialogue with all local partners and regional and international friends.

Continued from page 1:

Attendance of Parliamentarians...

Members Who Attended

Less than 100 Sessions or 45%

Name:	Number of Sessions Attended
Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anisi	11
Ahmed Mohammed Soufan	14
Abdul-Rahman Mohammed Al-Akwa'a	14
Sultan Ali Al-Aradah	23
Ameen Ali Al-Okaimy	27
Mohammed Al-Khadem Al-Wajeeh	36
Shu'aib Mohammed Al-Fasheq	37
Naji Mohammed Jumaan Al-Jadr	39
Hassan Mohammed Mokait	41
Ali Aayedh Masha'al	46
Mohammed Ali Mazria	54
Mohammed Ahmed Duwaid	58
Saleh Saleh Hindi Daghsan	60
Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh	61
Ahmed Ali Haidar	65
Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Bahr	65
Mohammed Ali Al-Maqrami	68
Ahmed Hamdan Abu Masha'af	71
Mohammed Moh'd Al-Razoom	72
Sadeq Abdullah Al-Ahmar	72
Yahya Mohammed Al-Matari	74
Hussain Ahmed Abdul-Qader	76
Saleh Fareed Al-Aulaqi	78
Hussain Yahia Al-Zubairi	81
Sadeq Ali Al-Dhabab	81
Yahya Nasser Al-Asadi	82
Hassan Ali Anan	86
Yahya Mohammed Al-Sanabani	92
Abdul-Bari Abdo Jailan	93
Mohammed Hassan Al-Amoodi	95
Ali Abdul-Latif Rajeh	98
Abdullah Hussain Rokkan	99
Rashad Lutf Al-Sha'oori	99

Members Who Attended 200 Sessions or more or 90%

Ahmed Hamoud Mufleh	222	Ensaf Ali Mayo	208
Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shamri	221	Salem Taher Al-Ardhi	208
Ahmed Ahmed Al-Oqari	220	Saleh Mohammed Shaatal	208
Ahmed Mohammed Al-Qafri	219	Abdullah Alawi Al-Makdi	207
Ali Mohammed AOthrub	217	Mohammed Ali Al-Shadadi	207
Mahdi Saleh Al-Ja'adi	217	Saad Al Din Ali Bin Talib	207
Ahmed Mohammed Ba-Muallim	215	Haitem Ahmed Haitem Hassan	206
Naji Saleh Al-Qawsi	215	Mohammed Ali Al-Raziki	206
Khaled Ali Al-Maflahi	214	Mohammed Ali Amran	206
Mohammed Mahdi Al-Kuwaiti	214	Mahdi Mahdi Al-Hatif	206
Mohammed Saleh Darmoosh	214	Abdullah Ahmed Al-Oudaini	205
Abdo Abdullah Reshid	213	Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Aleemi	205
Abdullah Mohammed Al-Maktari	213	Mohammed Ahmed Al-Mikdad	205
Ahmed Mohammed Al-Dhabibi	213	Yahya Mohammed Al-Ahdal	205
Majood Taha Al-Saeedi	213	Abdo Mohammed Noman	204
Mansoor Ali Al-Hanq	213	Aazam Abdullah Al-Saar	204
Abdullah Sinan Al-Jalal	212	Mamoon Ahmed Al-Shami	204
Ahmed Saleh Al-Fageeh	212	Saeed Moqbil Tahir Al-Shoaibi	204
Alawi Ali Al-Mashur	212	Saleh Kasim Mohammed Kasim	204
Mohammed Saleh Al-Ameri	212	Ahmed Murshid Al-Hamairi	203
Aayedh Mohammed Al-Shayif	211	A'zzam Saleh Selah	203
Mohammed Mansoor Al-Bakri	211	Nasser Omar Ahmed Shaikh	203
Sameer Khairi Ridha	211	Saleh Mohammed Saeed Moh'd	203
Abdo Hashim Al-Alawi	210	Ahmed Ahmed Sharaful-Deen	202
Ahmed Mohammed Al-Khalani	210	Abdul-Razazaq Mohammed Qatran	202
Hayder Thabit Shamsan	210	Al-Khader Ali Al-Kafish	202
Saeed Mubarak Dawman	210	Mohammed Yahya Al-Sharafi	202
Abdul Haj Al-Hamli	209	Abdul-Latif Hayel Thabit	201
Adel Abdul-Rahman Dhamran	209	Ahmed Mohammed Al-Zuhairi	201
Ismail Mohammed Saleh	209	Ahmed Mohammed Qaatabi	201
Mohammed Abdul-Rahman Darmoosh	209	Mohammed Kaid Al-Dabasi	201
Nasser Abdo Arman	209	Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Rafai	200
Ahmed Abdullah Oshaari	208	Abdul-Raqeeb Abdul-Hamid Salim	200
Ahmed Abdul-Malik Al-Maqrami	208	Mansoor Ali Waseel	200

JOB VACANCY

The United States Information Service (USIS) announces a vacant position within its organization for an Information Assistant who reports directly to the American Public Affairs Officer. The Information Assistant monitors and reports regularly on Yemeni media, carries out the planning and drafting of information materials of US policy for the Yemeni media, advises the PAO on public affairs aspects, maintains the highest level of contact with Yemeni media and the Ministry of Information, and supervises all World-net Interactive programming at post.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepares media reports on a daily basis for developments or opinions of importance to the bilateral relationship.
- Implements all public affairs campaigns of the US Embassy. Maintains personal contacts with highest level of target audience in the media.
- Provides information in response to inquiries from the local press and other sources.

Desired Qualifications:

- Education: Completion of secondary school is required. A degree in the liberal arts, political science, journalism, international relations are desirable.
- Prior Work Experience: Two to three years' experience in communication or media related work and translation is desirable.
- Language: A high competence in written and spoken English and Arabic is required.
- Skills and ability: Ability to work under time pressure, scan, comprehend and summarize quickly. Able to use word processing programs.

How to Apply:

Interested Applicants should collect application form (OF 174) and submit it with a C.V. and qualification certificate related to the above-announced job. Application will not be accepted after March 19, 1999.

This is an **OPINION** page.

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

YEMENIS: Doomed to Emigrate For Ever?



**Mohammed Ahmed Abbas,
Columnist, Yemen Times.**

BACKGROUND:

For those who continue to argue that conditions in Yemen are good, the stampede of Yemenis to get out of the country is a strong vote against them. As the saying goes, "People are voting with their feet." The point is that citizens do not leave their homeland and their loved ones unless conditions are really bad and there is little hope of improvement in the horizon.

Yemenis nowadays leave for any of three reasons. First and foremost, there are the economic hardships. The living conditions

of Yemenis continue to deteriorate. So, people leave in search of better opportunities. Second, political instability is a major push factor. Many individuals simply decide to call it quits because of the expected melt-down they think is coming given the unending political power-struggle. Finally, there is the breakdown of law and order. Shoot-outs, bomb explosions, attacks on people, kidnapping, etc., have become a routine and regular occurrence. In simple words, people no longer feel safe and secure in this country. Hence they leave.

THE STAMPEDE:

Wherever you go, you find Yemenis trying to get out of the country. There are many manifestations to this stampede.

1. Immigration Ads:

Many Yemeni newspapers carry advertisements of companies that offer services to enable would-be

immigrants the facilities they need. In fact, the options are to go to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and other societies.

2. Queues at Embassies:

The long lines in front of various embassies in Sana'a is another manifestation. The people are willing to try out any country in order to get out. The run on embassies explains the difficult job of consuls and the stringent measures taken. It also explains the forgery of visas that has become a common problem.

3. Asylum:

As soon as they land, many Yemenis try to ask for political asylum. Many European nations (notably, the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian States) have become preferred targets.

THE CONSEQUENCES:

As a result of the bad conditions at home, the nation of Yemen has lost a rising number of its best people. Many highly educated Yemenis have left this wretched land, in what has become a classic case of "brain drain." Medical doctors, university professors, pilots, engineers, television announcers, computer programmers, oil/gas experts, economists, architects, and many other highly talented and trained people have left the country.

The drain continues as there is no letting-up in the horizon. In fact, many Yemenis who are being educated/trained abroad are trying to short-circuit the cycle by going directly to wherever the opportunities are rather than going through Yemen.

ORDAINED FATE?

Some people say that there is nothing new in the present predicament. Yemen is destined to overflow with population leading to waves of immigrations. This fatalism is intertwined in local and even world mythology.

Myth has it that Sezeef was punished by the gods to carry a huge boulder to the top of the mountain. As he nears completion of the uphill journey, the rock falls off his shoulders. He has to start the journey over again. Just as poor Sezeef's life is exhausted in an endless hard labor, so are Yemenis. Or so the belief goes.

Have the gods decreed that men living in Yemen are doomed to hardship? Were they fated to endless tiredness and hard labor? Or to put it more bluntly, was this man predetermined to face history as an unavoidable fate? Is he asked to fight endless challenges or seek better chances in other lands? How hard it is when real life is confused with that of the myths! And how much harder it is for a nation which believes it is destined to doom.

Any one who reads the history of

Yemen will find adequate proof for the extensive mingling of myth and history leading to a fatalistic belief that we are ordained to emigrate. If one were to ask for more proof, read what the history books tell us about the destruction of the Great Marib Dam and the subsequent waves of migration to the northern Arab lands. Those migrations are linked to the myth of the collapse of the dam. As the myth has it, it broke down because of a mouse! What a mouse that must have been. It must be the ancestor of the Mighty Mouse.

While modern scientific studies refute this wild idea and attribute the collapse of the dam to lack of proper and regular maintenance, this point of fact is irrelevant. What is more important is what sticks in the collective memory of our people. What is important is what they believe, and they believe the mouse did it, and it was a sign for them to get going.

The waves of emigration continue in spite of stringent visa requirements today. This endless flow has made emigration a striking characteristic in the history of Yemeni evolution.

There is one way to stem the flow - improve conditions in Yemen. This involves a comprehensive policy of visible development, socio-political harmony, reduction in the level of alienation by strengthening the sense of belonging, and above all, by controlling the population growth rate. In other words, we have to have a better system here at home.

In a few weeks, the Ministry of Immigrants Affairs will hold a major conference to discuss relations between the immigrant communities and the homeland. One of the key parameters of the conference is how to strengthen the attachment of immigrants to the homeland and increase their sense of belonging. I am afraid that is a misplaced priority. Yemenis in the diaspora do not need to be taught they should feel an attachment to Yemen. They do so naturally, as the experience of second and third generation Yemenis in Birmingham (UK) or Brooklyn (USA) shows. Our people do not melt into their host communities, which is actually bad for them. But, my point is here is that the conference should find a way to strengthen the attachment and a sense of belonging to Yemen by the people who are in Yemen. It is these Yemenis living right here who need the re-assurance.

We have to re-interpret history in a less fatalistic or mystic way. We are not compelled to accept that we are destined to over-populate Yemen and then seek to maraud or over-whelm other lands.

The prevailing view of history and the mix between myth and reality is extremely far from being valid, for it is Man through his contest with circumstances that makes better living conditions. Never is there a pre-ordained concept of history.

Social phenomena, of which migration is one, are historic occurrences governed by local and regional conditions. So we will have to bear in mind when

talking about migration that it is a relative phenomenon. It is not and should not be treated as an absolute item.

What really happens when we embark on the study of social phenomena is that we tend to forget that these phenomena have passed through several stages of development and have acquired a certain shape which might appear to the heedless examiner to be a fixed and unchangeable fate.

WHERE DO WE GO?

We should start by stressing the fact that conditions and resources in Yemen do allow for the blooming of a prosperous society. There is ample proof in history. We have had our share in human civilization, we have contributed and interacted positively at many stages of human history. Second, we should realize that the days of opening new frontiers

in unclaimed land masses are gone, and that is no longer a feasible possibility.

Third, Yemenis have to put their act together and create a system that will meet their needs here in Yemen. Today, our fate and our chances of a good life are determined by our skills at management and optimal allocation of resources rather than by fate or of anything else.

Immigration is a major part of our history as well as of our present societal structure. We cannot change that. But unleashing floods and hordes of people onto others' lands is no longer feasible or acceptable. We should do something to stem the flow. At the same time, our aid partners should help us in creating a good system at home. It is only through the creation of good government that we can keep the Yemenis at home.

Cont'd from page 1:

Women's Initiatives...

1) Visiting girl's schools to explain how the spread garbage is a health hazard, an environmental problem, and an eyesore, and what they can do.

2) Preparing posters and banners that call on all to clean up.

3) Visiting families in neighborhoods where garbage seems to be mishandled, to explain what the families can do to help address the problem.

4) Contacting mosque preachers and asking them to include in

5) Starting actual work on one quarter - Asbahi area, which will be used as a model.

7) Working with local community elders at all stages.

The group also plans to undertake many other initiatives. These include visiting hospitals to help improve health services, visiting prisons in order to make sure the minimum humanly-acceptable treatment is given to all, especially to the women, printing



their sermons advice about hygiene, cleanliness, and how to contribute to a better physical environment.

5) Coordinating with municipal authorities to more regularly collect garbage and assign fixed dumping grounds far from residential areas.

6

pamphlets about political rights for all, etc.

Some men are amused by the initiatives, but are scared that the women could in fact succeed.

By:

Ahlan Al Mutawakkil,
Yemen Times, Sana'a.

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Tel: 215777 Fax: 212300

VACANCY

Doctors Without Borders or Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), a French non-governmental organization, is looking for:

Translator (French or English)

for its project in Hazm Al Udayn district, Ibb governorate. This is a remote area and MSF will assist with housing.

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Qualified applicants will be contacted directly.

Ahmed Mohammed Sharafuddin:

“The ability of parliament to do its job is hampered by the distorted distribution of power among the branches of authority.”

Ahmed Mohammed Sharafuddin is one of the most distinguished and well-respected members of parliament. He is reliable, with near complete attendance, prepares his positions well for parliamentary discussions, and speaks with authority and confidence. Mr. Sharafuddin, of the Islah Party, chairs the Trade and Industry Committee in parliament. Over the last few weeks, parliament passed several laws related to trade, industry and taxation of business. Besides the regulations, it has also considered several policy and pricing options. Mr. Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Sharafuddin, as follows:



Q: What are the most important issues and laws that your committee dealt with during the last two years.

A: The Committee on Trade and Industry is one of 19 committees in parliament. Within the fields of trade and industry, we have passed many laws, discussed many policies, and studied many steps. I am satisfied with our achievements, so far.

Q: How do you assess implementation of the reform program? And what are the benefits to the people, so far?

A: The government, of course, is responsible for implementation of what has been called the financial and administrative reform program. However, what we have seen so far, either through reports on government activities to the parliament or through our daily contacts with the public, is something very unsatisfactory.

Notwithstanding the propaganda and posturing of the official media, we see little substance in terms of achievements that can be said of relevance to the life of our people. No one really cares about the public or the country's high interests. Every official seems indifferent to the situation. In fact, I can say the extent of improvement in the lives of the people due to the implementation of the reform program is non-existent or intangible. This is especially true in the administrative dimension of the reforms. On the financial side, one can endlessly list violations. Examples of financial abuse abound. We receive many complaints from all sides, but notably from the citizens and businessmen. All this proves that the government gives lip service to the reform program.

The real situation as we see it today can only point to two facts: decline and disorder. Let me tell you this. The Committee for Trade and Industry in parliament paid field visits to 7 governorates in the republic. We saw proof of lots of corruption and embezzlement of public funds, especially with the subsidized commodities of wheat and flour. As a parliamentary committee, we were supposed to check if these two commodities reach their designated targets among the public. What we found was that the policy of subsidies goes to enrich a privileged few. Our poor citizens get no break because of the amounts of money the government pays as subsidies. Everyone talks about corruption and corrupt officials as if they are invisible. Starting with the president and going on downward to the lowliest official, they talk about fighting corruption and

revenue. It creates an underground economy. It encourages a law-breaking culture based on bad moral values.

In short, smuggling is disastrous for our nation. Yet, it cannot be controlled because those who can control it, and do have the power, are involved.

Q: You mentioned sub-standard goods being smuggled into Yemen. Are substandard goods actually legally imported into Yemen?

A: It is the duty of governments to check the quality of products that are brought into the country. This is necessary for health, envi-

ronmental, economic and other reasons.

Parliament has a supervisory role vis-avis the government. But we cannot order them to their job, if they are not doing it. Ideally, we should be able to exert more pressure, but that is not the case, given the distorted distribution of power structure among the branches of authority. The ability of parliament to do its job is hampered by this reality.

While I am on the subject let me mention that our committee had prepared a draft law on standards and measurements. We discussed the details for one year. Then the government withdrew it.

Q: Your committee legislates for Yemen's trade policies. Are you considering membership in the World Trade Organization at all?

A: It is true that we pass legislation on trade and industrial activities. But the initiative is often taken by the government, which sends proposals of laws to us. We also respond to the needs of the business community.

The issue of membership in the WTO has not come up yet. It will be more relevant in a few years as the world economies are increasingly integrated. Besides, least developed economies like ours have until the end of 2005 to take adjustment measures. I believe this matter will be the responsibility of the next parliament.

Q: Do you believe in full integration in the world market?

A: This is a political rather than an economic issue. At the economic level, we should care about what happens to our

industry and economy when we compete head-on with much stronger competitors. We are already suffering from what is wrongly called the 'open-door' policy. Actually, this is a policy of no responsibility, which has inflicted a lot of damage to us. Let me specify:

- 1) Any such policy should be gradual and with full awareness of the consequences.
- 2) We should be against dumping policies that are exercised against us. Dumping policies should not be confused with open policies.
- 3) We should have complementary measures that will protect Yemen's interests.

Q: Any final comments?

A: Trade is important and we should encourage it. But it should not lead to the destruction of our industrial investments. In Taiz alone, for example, 14 plants were closed down last month leading to lay-off of 1,700 workers. We should pay attention to these developments.



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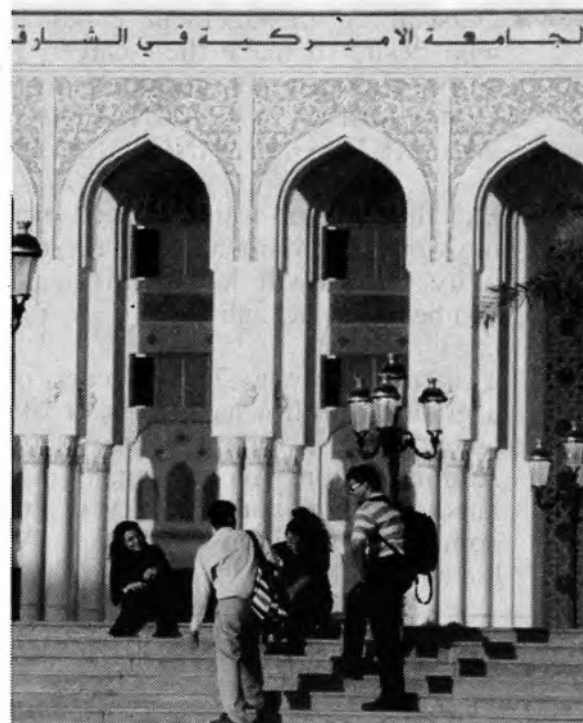
Individual meetings shall be held at the Hotel on Wednesday, March 10, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

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on Thursday, March 11 and Sunday, March 14, 1999



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Mr. Salim Youssef Al Qasser, Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Affairs

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NURSING: Current & Predicted Challenges



qualified nurses. This proposal was submitted in 1995 and has still not been acted upon by the Ministry of Health.

2- The number of Yemeni nationals choosing nursing as a profession remains low. The social stigma associated with the job requires some awareness and effort to overcome.

3- Though salaries for the whole sector remain low, those of the nursing cadres are especially low compared to medical and some paramedical personnel.

4- There is no specific budget for nursing services, particularly for training purposes, which makes implementation of plans a very difficult exercise.

While there is lots of praise and discussion enshrining the objectives and goals of health services, using such phrases as holistic care, a multi-disciplinary team approach, nurses as leaders of care and other such jargon, nothing is done to convert these talks into realities.

Nursing is a difficult job. It requires knowledge, skills and self-perception which lead to the ability to work through a broad spectrum of relations. At times, these relations are independent as in the delivery of care, they are also occasionally dependent, as in theater wards, and they are often mutually interdependent.

Understanding the driving forces of the health system in general, and within nursing in particular, are important factors in the way health services are delivered. As the person in most contact with the patient, the nurse is a vital factor in the speedy and proper recuperation of patients. To be able to deliver on her job, the nurse's abilities are shaped by her education, experience, and standing in society.

The performance of nurses, there-

fore, is dependent on the maturity of the profession as a whole; the ability of individual nurses to work in a world of tension and pressure; in building lines of trust, cooperation and teamwork in meeting challenges; and in a socio-culture that offers enough understanding and appreciation. It all has to come together and make sense to all partners.

It is for those reasons that our attitude towards and approach to nurse training and education is so important. Such approach encompasses all levels - from entry into nursing, to basic nursing education program, and to the opportunities for lifelong learning.

The founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale was a highly independent person moving easily through society exerting great influence. Nonetheless she structured a nursing profession which was highly structured and disciplined, and which was exclusively made up of women. It is only in recent times in some countries that nursing has become less structured, less rigid, less hierarchical. It is also in recent times that the percentage of men in nursing has increased. Men in nursing usually hold a disproportionate number of senior roles in nursing. None of the above is to highlight any superiority of either sex. It is merely to highlight that the perception of nursing is often associated with a society's general

1995 Statistics of Population, Service Delivery Institutions, Nurses, Midwives & Doctors

Governorate	Population	No. of Hospitals	No. of Health Centers	No. of Health Units	No. of Nurses	No. of Midwives	No. of Doctors
Sana'a Capital	1,007,975	8	6	0	421	57	818
Sana'a	1,980,967	3	85	148	164	17	167
Aden	582,962	7	2	12	558	166	588
Taiz	2,287,567	9	86	73	609	11	471
Hodeida	1,814,692	4	36	107	206	1	120
Lahej	658,103	8	9	102	807	3	78
Ibb	2,031,807	7	11	36	126	7	103
Abyan	429,881	6	2	83	763	108	41
Dhamar	1,089,209	1	26	59	72	2	45
Shabwa	391,0232	4	2	45	391	0	38
Hajjah	1,309,306	5	35	65	37	3	63
Al-Baida	528,108	2	13	30	33	4	45
Hadramaut	902,216	7	9	145	739	0	176
Saadah	504,043	4	6	46	23	4	42
Mahweet	418,393	1	13	11	25	1	46
Mahara	116,675	2	5	17	158	0	14
Maareb	173,581	3	18	62	19	5	16
Al-Jawf	162,909	0	12	49	23	1	9
TOTAL	16,389,426	81	376	1,090	5,174+631 expatriates	390	2,880

Source: Health Information & Statistics Dept.

Nursing is a highly respected profession all over the world. Nurses are known as the angels on earth, giving their tender care and bringing comfort to people in pain.

Somewhat the picture is different here in Yemen, and that might explain why not many people are attracted to this profession, especially females. That is because of society's attitude towards nurses, and because they look down at them, especially if they have to spend night-shifts at the hospital. This not-so-helpful value system and many other reasons explain the frustrations and disappointments in nursing here over the last three years.

Given my personal and direct involvement in this sector, I will try to summarize our predicament in the following four points:

1- The failure to segregate nursing positions from technical positions is a major problem. The Department of Nursing proposed changes to the existing law regarding disengagement of nursing posts from technical grades and updating each group's minimum requirements in order to incorporate higher degrees of nursing education and experience levels, and to attract and retain

attitude towards women. Where women are being viewed with respect and understanding, the perception of nursing as a valued and respected profession has also come. Whether there is any causal relationship is a matter of debate, but nonetheless the two are associated. This is evidenced not only by such things as improved payment, payment being a reflection of society's value of a profession or trade, but also by greater collegiality and interaction between nurses and other health professionals such as doctors, physiotherapists etc. and by nurses taking up senior positions in government and in business.

As socio-economic pressures achieve greater intensity and complexity, knowledge increases, the demands placed on health professionals and nurses increase, and the many roles and relationship increase in number and complexity for the nurse and other medical personnel. A significant failing of health systems is the lack of cross fertilization between the health professions, resulting in a lack of understanding of each others roles which can have impact on the oft-quoted "team approach" to health care.

The concept of coordination of care is central to the philosophy of nursing yet there is little emphasis on the skills and knowledge needed to achieve this. Both basic and advanced nursing education programs are often more remarkable for the absence of any focus on interpersonal skills, group/organizational behavior and cultural perspectives than they are for their inclusion.

Today, health services across the world are having to find significant new ways of organizing and coordinating. In the future we will need to move away from talking of coordinating to making it become a reality.

Beverly Henry in her editorial in the Winter 1993 edition of *Image*, a journal of nursing scholarship states:

"Inter-organizational, inter-sectorial, and inter-disciplinary relationship all need to function properly. Unnecessary duplication has to be recognized and done away with. Conflict has to be minimized so that the sick and vulnerable conserve their

precious energy for getting well, for staying healthy, or for dying decently. These gaps in caring and curing have to be brought to light. And for high-quality health results at reasonable cost, nursing and medical services have to be modified so as to facilitate the procedures and performance of each.

I would like to conclude my humble efforts by throwing some light on the challenges that the Department of Nursing is likely to face in the coming few years

1. Attempting to attract more nationals to the nursing profession.

2. Enacting the Nursing Practice Act.

3. Raising the awareness of the public regarding nursing's role within the Health system.

4. Introducing the necessary changes into the civil service laws to support nursing efforts in attracting, retaining and developing qualified nurses.

5. To reorient nursing services and education towards primary health care strategies.

6. To introduce more quality improvement programs to reach to desired standards of nursing.

7. The Department of Nursing will study and review in collaboration with the department of employment and personnel affairs the current nursing posts, and the obstacles for proper human resources management and man power development.

Increasing nursing posts and making changes in the present grades and salary scale are pre-requisites to encouraging females to join the profession.

8. Nursing units in governorates (in the hospitals) are not established properly, chief nurses in some hospitals are not nurses, and staffing level requirements is not accurately established. As a result certain health centers and

health units suffer from shortage of staff. The department will carry out studies on staffing levels in governorates, hospitals and health centers, and set up methods to be undertaken by the department in order to establish proper staffing levels for all hospitals and health centers.

9. The current nursing staff performance is to be properly appraised. Nursing management has no means of identifying levels of performance and taking the necessary actions to respond to it.

There is no structure for professional development such as opportunities for training and education and career development.

10. The absence of nursing legislation in the Republic of Yemen subjects the public to the risk of unsafe practices and leaves the nurses without a legal cover for their actions.

11. The department has many responsibilities and objectives to meet without the authority and resources to accomplish the desired goals. The role of the department of nursing is not yet defined. This has led to the interference of other disciplines with nursing responsibilities.

12. The department of nursing will establish the nursing registration system to register all nurses wishing to practice in Yemen, these who are working in the Ministry of Health as well as in the private sectors.

The challenge for the department of nursing is to register nurses and update the system in order to maintain a detailed and accurate profile of nurses in the Republic of Yemen. Let us all remember that this is for the good of everyone.

By- Abdul-Hameed A. Manaa, Manager, Nursing & Midwifery Department, Ministry of Health.

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Engazat Trading Company, Information Systems Division (ISD) carries out its business on the basis of a set of values. They represent an overview of its business philosophy to meet market needs and the environment in which the company works. Thus, it is the quality of products and services that differentiate ISD from the competitors.

To the customers, the value of ISD is best measured by what the company holds as valuable in conducting business. This is the value of knowledge - intelligently and aggressively acquired and applied to solving customers' needs.

VISION & FOCUS:

In the computer and information industry, change occurs quickly. In order to predict trends and market requirements, ISD's focus is on the business at hand. That means staying abreast of those issues that directly impact customers' needs - technologies, standards, market trends and service needs.

POLICIES:

- To offer and maintain a high quality professional service;
- To be competitive, yet profitable;
- To be independent, yet flexible.

SERVICES:

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- Technical Support and Training
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فاكس ٢٤٧٩٢١

فاكس ٢١٤٧١٩

ENGAZAT:

Yemen's Fastest Growing Computer Company

Interview with Mr. Majdi M. Al-Masri, Marketing Manager of Engazat Trading Co. on the sideline of the on-going Jezeera Information Technology and Communication Exhibition.

Q: Would you please give us a brief idea of your company?

A: The Information Systems Division is one of the successful divisions in Engazat Trading Company, which taking the power from its mother group of companies, Abu Tawfiq Trading Group. This group was established in 1975, started leading the market with the professional business and dedication. One of their views was to target the Information Systems market, so there was the Information Systems Division (ISD).

Q. Let us start with basics. What companies do you represent?

A: Mainly our company is a Compaq System Reseller & Compaq Service Provider, in addition to another five dealerships which are Lexmark printers, Alis Printers, Alcatel Cabling, Simple Technology and Soho Basic.

Q: What products are you exhibiting?

A: We are offering our customers all the above mentioned products as a total solution, starting from Home PC's, Business, up to Enterprise.

Q: What else in the new technologies?

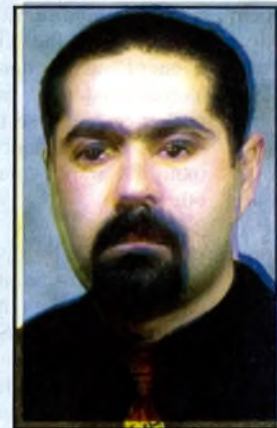
A: The most visible among these is the pocket-size machine which offers many facilities, including e-mail, internet access, as well as rack mounted enterprise servers and Remote Access servers.

Q: How are visitors and customers responding?

A: We are very gratified with the response and interaction. Ours is the most visited section.

Q: What other kinds of services do you offer?

A: We always believe that the reason behind



Mr. Majdi Al-Masri
Marketing Managers



Mr. Fahmi Al-Wahashi
Division Manager

a trouble free Network and its success is due to a reliable service in maintaining complex Network systems.

In addition to the mentioned services ISD offers a comprehensive range of services including:-

- Consulting and project management
- Network design and Remote Monitoring
- Hardware and Software Installation and Commissioning
- Disaster Recovery for hardware and data
- Maintenance and Services

ISD offers six levels of maintenance agreements after sales warranty.

Q: Do you think your market share is growing?

A: We are making visible strides in the market, as Yemen's fastest growing computer company.

Q: What is your company philosophy as a whole?

A: Our Company Philosophy is: Market Leadership by offering:

- High Quality Services
- Value for Money
- Customer oriented service

Above all, we take the customers satisfaction personally.

**ISD OFFERS SIX LEVELS OF MAINTENANCE
AFTER SALES WARRANTY**



Some of Engazat team during GITCOM 99 Exhibition

A Wanderer Artist and a Yafiee Song Legend

Rediscovering Yafiee Songs

Through Yahya Omer Al-Yafiee

Yafiee type is an original Yemeni traditional art the first classical generation of singers had performed. That was on the first quarter of the 20th century when the artist Yahya Omer Al Yafiee founded this type which were highly appreciated by audience and became well known among other traditional types in Yemen and the Arab Peninsula. The following are some features of this art and its pioneer, the poet Yahya Omer Al Yafiee, famous with the song "Abu Maajeb". The poet is considered one of the most ancient artists in the Yemeni contemporary song poets. Living in the 11th Hijri century in India, same as the artist Sultan Bin Herhara, both played a major role in developing and spreading Yemeni and Gulf songs.

His Life

Living a life full of searching and exploring, a continuous travel starting from Yemen heading towards India, Baroda, Kelketa and Haiderabad, that could explain the use of some vocabularies as iYa merkeb Al Hind abu dejlini.

Yafiee songs have special style that reflects the softness of his music and voice, the strength of his words. These factors helped in wide spread Yemeni songs in the Indian Continent and the Arab Gulf. It's quite obvious that there are many similarities in the

musical common tradition of Yemen and the Gulf. Original Yemeni music chants us here in Yemen and they have the same influence on those in the Gulf as iAghtenim zamaneki and iYa men alal arsh aatelatei and many other songs.

His Poems in Songs:

I would like to point out here that the artists songs have a lot of features from the Sanaani art of singing, such combination had widely spread for its special style and Yafiee songs became strongly attached to the Sanaani songs as if they were two sides of a coin. The Yafiee art has strong ties with the Yafiee family than others, such conclusion made this type of singing more valuable, young generation of Yafiee singers such as the artist Al Khalidy and Salim Al Bariee sang this type proudly and passionately.

Record Companies and Their Role in Spreading Yafiee Songs

During the 30s when Aden was witnessing a booming stage of the traditional artistic movement, record companies were founded, Adlon Company recorded some Yafiee songs for a number of singers for whom all their music were put by our artist, Yahya Al Yafiee.

Gulf Artists Sing for Him:

In 1941 the Bahraini Singer,

Dhahi Al Waleed, recorded the song "Ya Markab Al Hind yabu degalen" also the Omani singer, Salim Rashid, recorded the same song the Yemeni artist, Yahya Al Yafiee, had composed and put the words for. An evidence that showed the widespread impact of Yafiee work.

Professional Yemeni singers and the Yafiee art:

It is worth mentioning here that Yemeni Singers were quite effected by the Yafiee type, as the singer Mohammed Murshid Naji and Mohammed Saad Abdullah and many others, also singers from other countries as the Saudi artist Mohammed Abdo and Abdul Majid Abdullah choosing from the Yemeni artistic stream some of their features.

In conclusion we feel proud of our Yemeni artistic identity, and especially the distinguished features of the artist Yahya Omer Al Yafiee who wondered a lot settling finally in India where he married there but has no children. His creative works live in our memories hoping that our young generation could make use of and would protect our original artistic Yemeni streams.

By:

Hind Shaker Mohammed
Yemen Times

Yemen and The Arabian Felix

Yemen, the cradle of civilization, occupies the south-west of the Arabian peninsula. The fertile soil and the higher average annual rain contributed to the success of agriculture and the ancient Yemeni's settlement, who established great civilizations. Yemen was the link with the ancient world and dominated the international trade then. Yemen was famous for its frankincense and incense. Yemen was rich and wealthy; so the Greeks called it "Arabia Felix" or Happy Arabia. Although Yemen is an agricultural country, but the variation of climate helps to vary the crops. "Happy Yemen" is famous for its delicious grapes and coffee as well. We can find on the other hand that a lot of crops are being grown like wheat, cotton, apples, and oranges.

The Yemenis are very friendly, brave and generous. The tribal traditions dominate their life. Although Yemenis are fond of carrying guns, as a tradition, but they harm nobody without reasons. The prominent social custom is chewing 'qat'. But still the worst tradition is 'REVENGE'. Al-Sheikh is the head of the tribe and who able one to solve its problems.

The unique Yemeni uniform can distinguish the different regions. But the famous Yemeni dagger may indicate the class and position of the man who wears it.

'As-Salta' and 'Bain-as-Sahn', are the most popular and delicious Yemeni food.

The Yemeni unity is considered as a significant achievement in the present age. Many attempts had been done to unify the two Yemeni parts, but unfortunately many conspiracies delayed it. The unity is a new addition in many aspects of life, for instance in the political, economical and social fields. No doubt, "Unity is powerful".

Tourism is one of the prominent and important aspects of life. Although Yemen is considered as a cradle of antique civilizations, there are many antiquities deserve to be seen and observed. Yemen has many antique cities as Sana'a, Aden, Mareb and other cities, but the most interesting one is "Shibam" the two of skyscrapers of mudbricks. Also the first thing which attracts the visitor's attention is the unique type of architecture.

The mild weather, the finest landscapes, the grassy hillsides and the verdant valleys qualify Yemen to be one of the most attractive countries, therefore thousands of tourists, flow it round the year.

Nowadays Yemen is striding towards the 21st century with a steady progress. Many changes and improvements, in different aspects of life have been done. The achievement are many;

paved roads, big hospitals, many schools, museums, modern airports and factories are built. Since the discovery of petrol many changes have happened rapidly. But the picture was very, very different only short time ago. The Yemeni people are vivid, practical and hard workers. I think a very glorious future is awaiting them. I wish that.

By:

Abdul-Mahmoud Idris Ibrahim
Sanaa.

Results of a Yemen Times Survey of 316 Female High School Graduates

By: Ahlam Al-Khawlany,
and other YT Staff,
Sanaa.

In a poll of 316 females either those who have already graduated from high school last year, or those who are finishing high

3. Do you want to continue your education?

4. What is the field of education that you prefer?

5. If unmarried, would you marry right away and stop your education, if an acceptable groom proposes?

architecture or decoration (5.7%). Surprisingly, humanities and arts, and sharia/law - two traditionally female-dominated fields of study, ranked low - 3.2%, and 2.5%, respectively. The new field of computer science and informatics also came low in the priorities.



school in three months, the Yemen Times found interesting results.

Of the total number of women polled, whose ages range from 19 to 21 years, only 6% were found to be married. That immediately points to a significant delay in the marriage age for Yemeni women. However, more than 39.24% of the respondents said that they would immediately marry, and stop their education, if an acceptable man proposes to them.

The random sampling was based on enrollment in four different schools in Sanaa city. These are Khowlah Bint Al-Azwar, Aeyishah, Arwa and Shuda'a Assabeen. Last year's graduates in Safiyah and Bab al-Yemen in Sanaa were also polled. The written questionnaire was distributed to around 400 persons during 26/2 - 3/3/1999. Exactly 316 women returned the filled-in forms.

The six-question form is simple, as follows:

1. Age:
2. Present level of education?

6. Do you want to be a career person? What line of work do you aspire?

Education was a priority for most of the women surveyed. Exactly 60.76% said that they are not ready to marry because they have to pursue their education, or that they would only marry if their partner would allow them to continue their education.

Three fields of education featured more prominently in the preferences of the women who plan to join the university. First and foremost was the field of languages - English and French languages and literature having taken top place - 31%. The second field of preferred study is political science - 22.8%. As if President Ali Abdullah Saleh's existing headaches were not enough, the young women say they want to join politics. The third highest category of educational preference was medicine - 17.7%.

Other fields of study which also featured were business (7.9%), engineering (6.33%), and home

Only 1.6% women opted for it. It is believed that lack of knowledge of the opportunities rather than lack of interest explains the low figure for computer science. The fact that the field does not exist in Yemeni universities could also account for the low choice. In terms of career, most of the respondents stated that they were going to be career women. Interestingly, the thoughts went towards the private sector, and even more specifically towards starting their own small enterprises. At least 50% thought they would start their own businesses. However, 105 women or 33.2% think of joining the government service, primarily as teachers. But not all women wanted to go to work, as 45 of the respondents or 14.24% thought they don't mind staying at home and raising children and looking after the 'home business'.

Of course, the sample is too small, and too skewed geographically and in range to allow generalization of the results. But the results do serve as indicators of vital dynamics in our society.



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Moustafa Bahran:

“The NCAE has two tasks: peaceful use of nuclear energy & radiation control

Science, engineering, technology and other fields of the hard sciences are the backbone of modern economic progress. Any society that wants to make headway in the world today, needs to make its mark in these fields.

But, though those fields have economic advantages, some of them, such as nuclear technology, chemical production, etc., have military applications. It is this twist that has rendered the world a less safer place.

The Republic of Yemen is a late starter in the sciences. Actually, there are those who would argue that we have not started yet. But, over the last few years, the political leadership has shown interest in this dimension. Professor Moustafa Yahia Bahran spearheads Yemen's efforts in this regard. Moustafa, 40, is a graduate of the Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, USA. Today, he is Professor of Nuclear and Particle Physics at the Department of Physics at Sana'a University. He is also Presidential Science and technology Advisor, as well as the Founder and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Yemeni Scientific Research Foundation.

Last week, he was named Chairman of the National Committee for Atomic Energy (NCAE), a newly established organ.

Mr. Bahran is an active scientist. He participates in many international conferences and meetings.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times filed the interview below.

Q: You have been the presidential advisor of science and technology since 1995, what exactly have you been doing?

A: It is very hard to list all the work done over three years. But I will attempt to briefly cover the major activities. The office of the Presidential Science and Technology Advisor (OPSTA) does the following:

- Organize various technical and expert gatherings. Between April of 1996 and October 1998, we have organized seven symposia, conferences, and meetings in areas of science and technology, peaceful application of nuclear energy, cyber economy and research and development.

- We have established the Yemeni Scientific Research Foundation (YSRF) based on the recommendations of the April 1996 Symposium, entitled "The Status and Future of Science and Scientific Research in the Republic of Yemen."

- We have established the Document Delivery Service (DDS) for Yemeni Scientists, which provides free of charge any piece of literature in any sci-

entific field from any where in the world to the Yemeni scientific community. This is a three old service. I take this opportunity to invite all Yemeni scientists to take advantage of this service by contacting OPSTA.

- We have established the Yemeni Scientist Index (work in progress) which is a data base that attempts to list enough information about every scientist in the Republic of Yemen to be distributed to all interested parties.

Q: What does the National Committee for Radiation Safety do?

A: The NCRS, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has the following projects:

- Upgrading Analytical Laboratories of the General Corporation for Minerals and Geological Surveys at the Ministry of Oil (project completed).

- Rinderpest Surveillance at the Central Veterinary Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (project completed).

- National Center for Radiation Oncology at Republican Hospital

in Sana'a (project in progress).

- Upgrading Radiation Protection Infrastructure (in progress).

- Feritigation at Al Erah Station of the General Authority for Agricultural Research and Extension (in progress).

- Isotopic Hydrology at the National Water Resources Authority (project approved and about to start)

- Projects under negotiation include the following:

- 1- Screening for Newborn for Thyroid Deficiency at Aden Health Office.

- 2- Non Destructive Testing of industrial products with the Ministry of Industry.

- 3- Screening and Management of Cancer at the Central Health Laboratories.

- 4- Improvement of Diagnosis of Animal Diseases in Yemen Using Nuclear Related Elisa Technology at the Central Health Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture

- 5- Animal and Plant Breeding Testing, General Authority for Research and Extension - Ministry of Agriculture

- 6- Rusts and Drought and salinity Tolerance of Grains with the General Authority for Agricultural Research and Extension.

- 7- Insect Control with the General Authority for Agricultural Research and Extension.

The above projects include equipment, training and expertise, for example:

- More than 30 training opportunities abroad have been arranged for more than 20 different persons.

- Twenty fellowships abroad ranging between three months to 2 years have been granted to 19 different persons.

- Six scientific visits mostly in health sector.

- More than 24 IAEA experts have been received (for example one medical expert left Sana'a on the 24th of last month, another medical expert is leaving this Thursday and an agriculture expert is arriving this Friday).

Q: What efforts are there to

assist universities and research institutes in developing suitable technologies for Yemen?

A: Neither OPSTA nor YSRF has enough funds to assist universities. Yet, certainly OPSTA is doing everything in its power to do just that. I would like to speak about the YSRF, in detail, as follows:

YSRF was established on the 25th of September 1996 based on the recommendation of the now famous science conference of April 1996 organized by OPSTA. The main promise of YSRF was to support the Yemeni Scientific community through grants to carry out research proposals and other services.

The main idea was to convince the private sector to finance such studies through YSRF in service of the developmental process in general and the private sector in particular. YSRF finance comes through donations from government and the private sector.

In September 1996, a large number of a well known businessmen committed themselves to certain donations to YSRF, but only a small number of them did actually deliver. Thus YSRF does not have yet the budget that it aspired for.

I want to use this opportunity to thank our donors and tell them that their contribution has paid off. I also invite those donors who did not carry through with their commitments to come and see for themselves the excellent work that has been accomplished. Briefly, let me outline what has been accomplished under these circumstances.

- We have established our offices in the former USAID buildings.

- YSRF organizes a yearly conference called Science Conference covering all scientific fields. Last year's Science Conference 98 was held in Sana'a during 11-13 October 1998.

The Science Conference 99 will be held in Aden during 11-13, October 1999.

Once again, I take this opportunity to welcome all Yemeni scientists to actively participate in

this important yearly event.

- YSRF has instituted what is probably the first internationally refereed scientific journal in the Republic. It is called "The Yemeni Journal of Science" (YJS). YJS will publish original internationally refereed research papers in all facets of science. The first issue plans to publish the papers of Science Conference 98 once refereed.

- YSRF had invited research proposals to be submitted before December 1997 in order to be financed some time in the middle of 1998. This being the first experience of YSRF staff supervising this process, the per review and refereeing took longer time that expected. We do this in cooperation with Iowa State University. But, it was finally finished in December 1998. On 18 February, 1999, the Board of Directors of YSRF approved to start financing a number of the mentioned proposals. We are now in the process of delivering funds to the granted scientists.

I take this opportunity to call on our Yemeni colleagues to submit new proposals for the year 99 before July 31st of this year accompanied with an application form that can be obtained from YSRF office.

- YSRF has instituted a book series with a proposed name "Science Book" in order to publish original scientific books authored by Yemeni scientists in all field of science.

Q: Recently, the cabinet passed a proposed presidential decree establishing the National Committee for Atomic Energy (NCAE). What is the background and purpose of this?

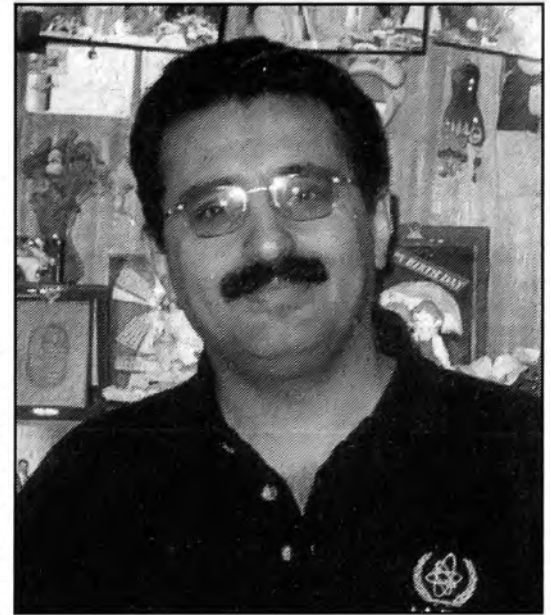
A: NCAE is going to replace both the NCRS, and the Yemeni General Atomic Energy, which

had existed on paper. The NCAE comes to answer a requirement submitted to the Yemeni government by IAEA in order to further technical cooperation between the Republic of Yemen and the IAEA in the field of peaceful applications of nuclear energy. In fact, a number of visits by IAEA officials have stressed the need for such organization.

The NCAE is going to have a dual job. It will promote peaceful application of nuclear energy, and will protect the public and the environment from the hazards of ionizing radiation (basically continuing and enhancing NCRS activities). It will do its work in coordination with all concerned government agencies. In other words, the actual peaceful application of nuclear programs will be carried out by government and/or the private sector. It is important also to mention that NCAE is very much needed to carry out urgent needs such as protecting the public from the non-regulated ill-organized X-Ray facilities.

Another area of responsibility is the monitoring radiation levels in foodstuffs and other products in the market. We have to ascertain suitability of such products for human consumption. Or to assess radiation content and adherence to the legal standards.

Those are just examples of many other tasks that are assigned to the NCAE. Let me stress here that the NCAE is committed to peaceful application of nuclear energy. Its other job is radiation control on imports and other products for the well being of the public as well as a requirement of the international community.



YALI's Leap into Computer World

The Yemen-American Language Institute (YALI) is making news with its new ultra-modern computer lab. Dr. Chris Eccel, Information/Cultural Attache at the US Embassy and USIS Director, and Dr. John, Director of YALI, proudly gave me a tour of the new facilities.

Dr. Eccel pointed out that being computer literate has become a vital necessity for their students.

"The TOEFL exam today is done by computer, on-line. How can you pass the test if you learned English, but not know how to do the test by computer?" That is why there is now a computer lab for students to learn to become computer-literate.

The language program itself is now being revamped to cross into computer learning. "In some YALI courses, students might



ask 'Is this an English language program or a computer skill program?' Relax, it is both. No harm in getting two for the price of one," Chris explained.

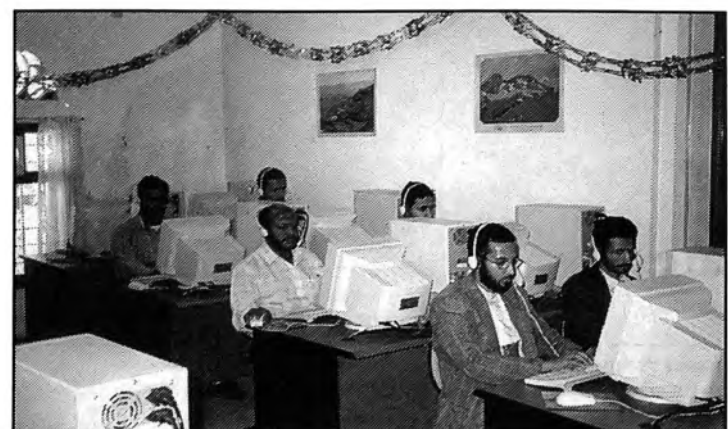
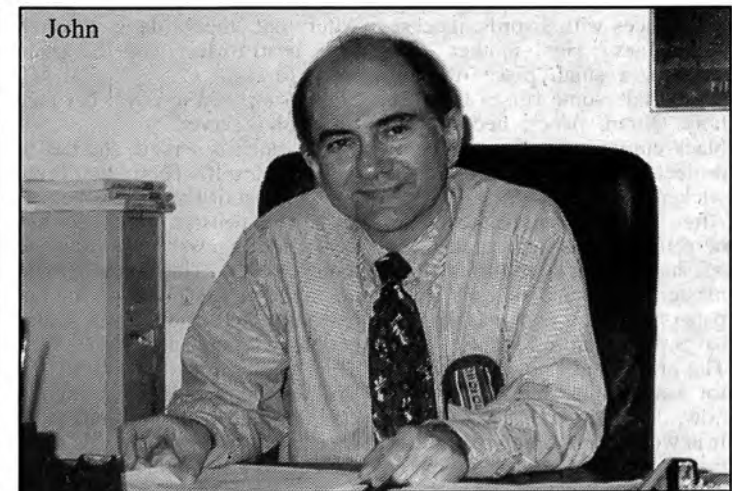
"Computer programs have two major orientations," adds John Scacco.

The Office Management tasks include "Searching the internet for organizational structures, mission statements, exchange rates, in-class professional presentation, etc., or could include using Microsoft Word templates to write business letters, faxes, memos, or using Microsoft Excel

to design budgets and pie charts". The International Business tasks include discussions and research in how the internet is changing the face of international business, or to buy/sell stocks as they follow the progress/decline of stocks; to read CNN financial news, or general news, or simply to surf the web for favorite sites and we pages.

Enrollment and training in the YALI computer lab is expected to start soon.

By: Hatem Bamehriz,
Yemen Times.



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Marriage Conventions in Taiz

Most conventions differ from one country to another and from one region to another. In fact, it can be very amusing to look at others traditions.

Let's look and see how people of Taiz hold their marriage festivities.

1- Engagement Stage

After the bride is chosen by the bridegroom's family, the bridegroom's mother and sisters go themselves to propose to the bride's mother. When the bride's family accepts the groom, betrothal day is assigned. Then the bridegroom's father, in the company of some respected persons, and bringing with him Qat, sweets (Halawa), raisins, nuts, chocolates, and some other presents, comes. They sit together chewing Qat, talking, and arranging the dowry and the expenditures of the wedding.

The bride's father introduces some conditions, he may ask for a dowry of YR 300,000, excluding the expense of marriage ceremony. In point of fact, the dowry differs from one family to another. It can extend to YR. 1,000,000. The two families agree on the day of the bridal as well as the wedding.

After that, the bride's family invites the bridegroom's family and some guests to a very colorful betrothal party. The bridegroom today has to give his bride a golden collar and ring. The drums, songs and dances go on till midnight.

2- Marriage Stage

The bride celebrates her marriage for about six days. Of course, the bridegroom is not supposed to see his bride for a month before the wedding.

Marriage festivals take several days, each with a special meaning. They are

1- The day called Al Zakarah is a traditional day in its atmosphere, bride's clothes, guests' clothes, songs, dances, gifts, etc. In the early morning of this day, cars full of girls singing, clapping and shrilling accompany the bride to a public bathroom. They bathe the bride, beautifying and dressing her in lovely clothes.

When the bride arrives home, her family and guests receive her with drums, cries of joy, songs and dances with swords, incense, and aloes. Her mother puts shathab, a small piece of cloth full of salt, some verses from the holy Quran, paper, needles and black cummin inside her clothes to protect her from the eyes of the wicked women.

After this, the bride has to shelter herself under a tent called Al-Mashara with a bowl full of flour, plaster, color candles, eggs, some papers, shathab and mashkor, or roses with beautiful scents.

The bride used to disappear there for some time, but this is rare now.

It is worth mentioning that all the guests are invited by a woman called the Mokathia. About ten days before marriage, the bride's mother asks this woman to go to every house in the neighborhood, inviting them to the first three days of the marriage ceremony. Also, this woman serves the bride during her marriage ceremony. While the bride decorates her hands and feet with henna and Alkhedhab, this woman carries the henna and decorate the bride's friends hands in order to get the marriage done quickly.

When lunch is served, the bride's friends hasten to feed the bride. The earlier a girl feeds the bride, the faster she will get married.

After lunch, the hairdresser beautifies and puts traditional make-up on the bride. The bride also puts on traditional clothes, and decorates or ornaments herself with silver necklaces, collars, anklets and so on. When the bride sits down, the singers start drumming, singing special songs for her coming, and people dance and shrill.

When the bride dances, her friends and others dance with swords, shathab, bowls of henna, and Mabkhara, which produces beautiful scents of incense. The bride's mother, her sisters, relatives, and the groom's mother and her relatives have to shower the bride with money while the bride is dancing. The bride will also receive gifts and congratulations from her friends and relatives.

Everyone who goes to congratulate her will bite the bride's knee in hopes of getting married next. The sense of happiness is indescribable. The excitement goes on until midnight.

The second day: "Youm Al Ghasl"

This day differs from the previous day. The bridegroom's family is to be involved from the early morning. The bride's family has to serve a hot delicious meal consisting of Zurbian; a mixture of meats and rice, Bint-Alsahn, Salta, and often different plates of food and sweets. Neighbors, relatives and the bride's friends assist in preparing the meal and other things.

When the groom's family and some of the other guests come, the singers receive them with welcoming songs. In the morning, the bride has to bathe and dress herself in a decorated green dress. During this time, the bride's friends go on singing and dancing for some hours.

After coming out of the bathroom, her friends follow her in a procession, carrying a special incense with a strong bad smell which is supposed to protect the bride from the wicked eyes and Jinn. They also sing traditional songs and carry bowls of different roses. Then the bride puts on a collar of foil; small white flowers with a sweet scent.

After that, the bride is covered from head to feet with the green setara (dress).

She is supposed to cover her face till lunch is served.

When lunch is served, she has to take it herself. Then, the bride goes to beautify and dress herself in new expensive green clothes while the guests go to change their clothes. The bride should not smile or talk much during her marriage ceremony, or else people will laugh at her.

The whole day is spent in shrilling, dancing, singing, clapping and laughing, and other wise making merry. On this note, the day comes to and end.

The third day: Wedding Day

In this day, the bride will go to her groom's house. This day opens with warm procession. It is the day when the groom is to see his bride. In the morning, the bride's friends pack her bags. They fill them with incense, perfumes and different kind of sweet smelling flowers. The bride on this day has to put on white clothes. Guests come and congratulate the bride, and then chew Qat, and smoke the Mada'a (Lookah) at 3 o'clock. The bride's family has to distribute Qat, Pepsi, high quality chocolate,

water, cardamom etc. The bride usually appears by 5 o'clock. Her friends and relatives welcome her with hearty songs and dances. They also meet her with incense of two kinds; the first kind has a good smell and the second one is of a strange scent which is meant to expel Jinn and protect the bride. They hold a Quran, swords, and candles. They follow her with songs and dances from the gate to the bridal throne. This bridal throne is full of flowers of different kinds and colors, candles, and other decorations.

Later on, the bride's father, brothers, uncles and the groom's father accompany the groom to the bridal throne where they congratulate them and wish them a happy life. The groom has to uncover his bride's face. He also

gives her a collar of flowers.

They sit for a while and take pictures. Then they take the bride on a journey around the town. Cars full of people singing, drumming, shrilling follow the decorated car of the bride and the groom.

When the bride arrives the groom's home, a sheep must be slaughtered before she enters the door of the house.

The bride's mother and sisters should not accompany the bride to her groom's home. At this moment, the bridal comes to an end.

The forth day: "Al-Subhia"

In the morning, the bride's mother goes to the bride's house in order to bring her the breakfast con-

sisting of meat, liver, cake, etc. Later on, the bride and the groom go to the bride's father and brothers to give them gifts.

In the afternoon, the bride's father gives the couple a number of sheep or a bull to congratulate his daughter.

The bride puts on a beautiful new dress. When the bride appears, songs and dances and drumming begin.

The fifth day: "Al Raba"

Today, the bride and the groom's family go the bride's home to give presents in return. Sheep and similar presents to those which were given by the bride's father. Lunch is served in the groom's house.

In the afternoon, the bride's family and a company of guests

go to the groom's house to chew Qat, while males and the groom chew Qat in the bride's house.

The sixth day: "Al Shekma"

The bride's mother invites the groom's family and other guests to the shekma party. This is the only custom which is still held rigidly. This party is held a week after the marriage ceremony. The bride's mother distributes Qat, cake, sweets etc.

The day is spent in drumming, singing and dancing. The party ends with the dawn's breaking. At this point, the bridal is over.

By: Haifa Yahia Qanber of Taiz



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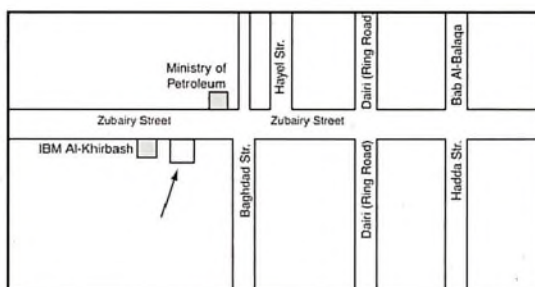
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Yemeni Press in a Week

Given the importance of this page to our readers, responsibility for it has been moved from one editor to a group. The newspaper's editorial is also translated.

Al-Belagh
Sanaa, Weekly, Independent.
02/03/1999

A: Front-page Headlines:

1. Cancellation of 12,000 Jobs.
2. Teachers Prepare for Nationwide Strike.
3. Arrest of Sellers of Stolen Travellers' Checks.
4. Ministry of Interior Intensifies Campaign Against Illegal Residents.
5. Expired Goods Enter Yemeni Market Illegally.
6. The President in an Interview with Al-Mustaqillah TV: "The Americans don't want the Arab Summit to be held, and our relations with them are okay."

B: Issue's Editorial:

Everyone has the right to express their views. This has been guaranteed in the constitution, and it was ordained by our Islamic Sharia. In our present democracy and political pluralism, it is the right of all parties to express their ideas and vision.

At the same time, any splinter groups within parties also have the right to express their views. The arbiter in such differences should be the courts, after the correct investigations are done through the Political Parties Committee (PPC) and the Ministry of Information. Therefore, the decision of the Ministry of Information to close down the two Al-Shoura newspapers (the original and that of the splinter group), was wrong. It should have asked the splinter group to issue their publication under a different name, or asked them to go to the PPC or the courts.

The Ministry has always referred such disputes to the courts. We hope it will continue in such course. Therefore, we expect the minister to go back on his decision to stop the two Al-Shoura newspapers so that he remains neutral in the on-going dispute.

Al-Mithaq,
Sanaa, Weekly,
Mouthpiece of the PGC.
01/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The General Committee Launches Today the Elections of the Branch Conferences.
2. Elements in Nasserite Party Try to Kill a PGC Activist.
3. Dr. Iryani: Technical and vocational education is the best ways to fight unemployment.
4. Elections Are the Best Ways to Choose PGC Leaders.
5. Moudiyah Court Continues Trial of Kidnappers/Assassins of Foreign Tourists.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The People's General Congress will remain the true representative of the of democracy and pluralism which is the practical means of the new life in Yemen given the circumstances. Thus, the institutional plans which were launched today by the General Committee in the meeting chaired by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the

PGC, is a true manifestation of our democratic orientation. The PGC bridges the gap between words and deeds, and offers yet another model of the values of democracy.

The new launch is destined to re-structure the PGC's cadres in the preparations towards the Sixth Convention of our party. We keep up with the changes in search of the national interest, to strengthen the democratic climate of our country, and to correct all imbalances in our political, social and economic life.

It is at this level of responsibility that the PGC proves that it is really the party of the present and future. This explains the attraction of so many new members, and the live interaction of our people with it. That is why it would be worthwhile for the other parties to follow the PGC model in their internal democratic practices and to avoid all posturing which offers no solutions to our problems or offer support in building the modern Yemen.

Al-Wahdawi
Sanaa, Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party.
02/03/1999

A: Front-page Headlines:

1. A Secret Agreement between the Authorities and the Al-Mihdhar Group.
2. Our Party Commemorates the 1st Anniversary of the Passing Away of Ahmed Tarboush.
3. Hunt Oil Co. Threatens to Stop Its Activities in Yemen.
4. Libya Celebrates Anniversary of the Launch of Jamaheery System.
5. Reports on the Meeting of Iryani with an Israeli Official.
6. US State Department on Human Rights in Yemen.
7. The Opposition Warns Against a Clamp-down on Writers and Journalists.

B: Issue's Editorial:

For the authorities to beat up a or arrest another journalist, has become something expected. For the authorities to clone a newspaper and issue a twin copy, unfortunately, is not something new. It has sort of become part of their job. But for the Ministry of Information to join this dirty game is something really bad. The decision by the Minister of Information to close down the newspaper of a legal political party is not something of which the minister can be proud, and he is a man who commands the respect of the people who work in the field.

It would have been better for the Ministry to confiscate the clone (forged) copy of the newspaper of Al-Shoura. Everybody knows the issuance of the duplicate copy is an attempt by the authorities to undermine the Federation of Popular Forces and its legitimate leadership. We see this as a prelude to the limitations that are expected to follow on political and partisan activities.

Al-Ummah,
Sanaa, Weekly,
Mouthpiece of Hizbul-Haq

4/3/1999.

A: Front-page Headlines:

1. A Wedding Celebration Turns Into Mourning.
2. Abu Hamza Threatens with Flying Bombs, and the Authorities Negotiate with the Jihad.
3. Wide Support for Uthman Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah, and Condemnation of Blocking of Al-Shoura Newspaper.
4. Armed Groups Levy Taxes at Mahabishah Area.
5. Two Killed in Aden, and Blasts in Dhale' and Shabwah.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Our nation is planning presidential elections, which are going to be on a direct popular vote for the first time. In preparations for that important event, there are many signals that have been released by the authorities.

Take the following examples:
- The Supreme Elections Commission has embarked on an effort to distribute quotas in the election committees, thus showing it doesn't really understand its job.

- The SEC is also proposing some changes to the law, as tailor-made to the desires of the majority party.

- The Ministry of Information has shut down Al-Shoura newspaper.

- The Political Security Organization has embarked on an arrest spree mainly against journalists and editors.

While such pressure mounts on civil society organizations, the authorities have opened talks with the Jihad group. What is the message from all of this?

At the same time, the new price hikes are expected to bring more suffering and hardship on our already wretched people.

If the above are some precursory measures, we don't want to know what will happen during the heat of the elections. We hope the President will judge these matters wisely.

Al-Thawri,
Sanaa, Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Yemen Socialist Party
4/3/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Objections Continue Against Splintering of Parties and Cloning of Newspapers.
2. The YSP Pays Homage to Abdul-Warith Al-Ibby.
3. PSO Arrests Kutbi and Al-Ghareeb, and the Prosecutor Summons Bashraheel and Al-Odani.
4. Launching of the National Committee to Defend Victims of Non-Agression.
5. The Government's Party Prepares for a Journalists' Conference which it Controls.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate is undergoing lots of pressure these days. Some journalists who work for the government, or who are supported by it, are trying to undermine the independence of the YJS. They want to control it in order to remove it from its true job.

Some people were pushing political compromises, and they even

used the name of the YSP in their literature to confuse the position of our party.

We hereby re-affirm that the YSP has always believed in open democratic processes. We have to fight together against the hegemony of any single party or person on our syndicate. Towards that end, we feel that corrective measures are needed first, and before any elections can take place. This means that the forgeries of membership which were used in the branch elections must first be corrected.

The YSP stands by its agreement signed between the opposition parties in the Supreme Coordination Council and the Islah party on January 1st, 1998. That agreement demands that all political parties stop meddling in the affairs of syndicates and other NGOs. We also demand that the agreement between the Federation of Arab Journalists and Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani be honored by clearing the membership of forgeries.

Al-Sahwa,
Sanaa, Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Consultations among the Leaders of Islah Party.
2. Parliamentarian Report Condemns the Agricultural Credit Bank and Accuses it of Violations of the Rules.
3. In a Letter to the Government, Parliament Asks the Reasons for Issuing 30 Laws during Its Recess.
4. Abrogation of the Quran as an Independent (Separate) Subject in Primary Schools Certificate.
5. Parliament Again Puts the YR 27 billion Violations in Its Agenda.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The other day while I was in a dabbab (minibus), an on-coming passenger threw a book at me, saying, "See what they are doing?"

At first, I was annoyed with the intrusion. Then I was absorbed by the book. It was one of the Hilal series, and its contents are distorted Bibles.

So, as you see, the new attack is coming via Aden. Why in Aden? The reasons are obvious.

The city suffers from a distorted cultural heritage, it is backward, poor, weak religious learnings, absence of model behavior, etc. At the same time, the doors of the city are wide open - no checks, no controls.

The doors of the church there are open. Close to it is a 'charity' business, and still close to it is a place for youth activities.

You can see the beginnings of the new drive. Rotary clubs are moving, at the university, women are asked to take off their veil, and evangelical movements in the poor neighborhoods. The satellite TV channels offer satisfaction to people's base desires and make our youth drift away from upright Islamic teachings.

Thus come the distribution of bibles to our youth. And I ask the question, "Who will stand up to this evangelical proselytizing?" This is an honest plea to our rulers. They should fully take up their responsibility towards God and our people.

Ray,
Sanaa, Weekly, Mouthpiece of Rabitab Abna Al-Yaman.
2/3/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Explosion at the Republican Presidency Office and the Security Arrests the Preacher of Al-Saddeeq Mosque.
2. The Government Will Implement a New Price Hike.
3. MOWJ Carries Letters to the European Capitals.
4. British Lawyer Unleashes Attack on Yemeni Security Apparatus.
5. Negotiations between the Political Parties and the Supreme Elections Commission Reach a Dead End.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Everyday, more and more indicators point to the fact that our region is undergoing a new historic re-structuring. Look at these facts:

- New escalation in the military confrontation in Lebanon that could spill over.

- The Arab Gulf is like a moving military barracks, with fiery letters carried by the military maneuvers, especially in the Iran-UAE border dispute.

- The Horn of Africa remains ablaze, as the Eritrean-Ethiopian war and the Somali civil war rage on.

- The Iraqi problem grows more complicated, and the scene is being prepared for more violence.

- Oil loses its glare, and drifts to the background of international influence and political decision-making.

Thus, all indications point to new developments and re-drawing of the map of the region.

Yet, our authorities are busy arresting a mosque preacher, breaking the pen of a journalist, or sharing the quota of electoral committees.

It is indeed a pity that the huge resources and potential of Yemen, and its glorious history are not employed in creating a better present and more promising future.

Attariq
Aden, Weekly, Independent.
2/3/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Ba-Aum Says: "The regime still works to divide Hadhramaut."
2. Al-Jafri Asks the Prime Minister of Britain to Mediate with Yemeni Authorities to Carry Out National Reconciliation.
3. Ba-Jammal: "Yemen succeeded in stopping media campaigns between Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iraq."
4. RSF Objects to the Closing Down of Al-Shoura, and the Arrest of Its Chief Editor.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Mr. Abdul-Bari Taher, Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, decided to freeze his syndicate role last week. He said he had reached a dead end in his efforts to correct the forgeries before the second conference of journalists. That in spite of many meetings of the general secretariat, central council and even joint meetings with a delegation of Federation of Arab Journalists. We regret the conditions to which the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has fallen to. We had hoped that the YJS would have overcome its difficulties and act as an independent and professional organization.

The most important issue is not whether a conference is held or not. The more important issue is how journalists can build a professional and independent organization that defends them and

their interests. Our syndicate should have a presence internally and internationally.

Al-Gumhuriyah,
Taiz, Daily, Official,
4/3/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The President Discusses with Japan's Ambassador Bilateral Cooperation.
2. Council of Ministers Approves Policy for Water Use in Agriculture, Establishment of Media Training Institute, and Privatization of Yemen Drug Company.
3. The Speaker of Parliament Receives the Ambassadors of Cuba and Russia.
4. The Prime Minister Receives Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister.
5. Ba-Jammal: The Aden Free Zone will Move the Yemeni Economy from Isolation to Integration with the World.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The Council of Ministers discussed yesterday the consumption of water in the country. We have seen how wasteful use has depleted our underground reservoirs.

One of the solutions has been building dams and cisterns. This has helped, but it is not a final solution.

The final solution lies in the way we use water. The solution is with the citizens. The Cabinet has taken the first steps in the ultimate solution to this problem.

Al-Ayyam,
Aden, 3-a-Week, Independent,
6/3/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Parties, Political Organizations, International Circles Condemn Violations of Freedom of Expression.
2. Interrogation of the Chief Editor of Al-Ayyam.
3. Continued Imprisonment of Kutbi and Al-Ghareeb.
4. Following Armed Conflict, New Violence in Je'ar.
5. Night Patrols to Pursue Refugees.

B: Issue's Editorial:

If there were any one merit to totalitarian systems, it is its clear policy of intolerance of political pluralism and democracy. Such systems refuse press freedom, and use terrorism and violence to silence any dissent.

It remains a clear policy which is consistent with itself. Those who do not like the system have no choice but to leave.

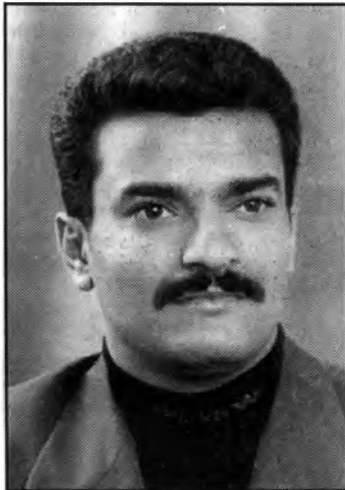
But our Yemeni state says in its political agenda that it is democratic and that it believes in political pluralism and it allows liberty to reign. But its practices on the ground are far different.

As preparations continue for holding the journalists' conference, we find measures that should stem only from a totalitarian state. How can we explain a chief editor of a newspaper and a columnist who are in jail at the Criminal Investigation Offices in Sanaa and Aden, even if what the two journalists had written is punishable by law?

It is clear from the duration and place of imprisonment that the aim is not to try them in court, but to demean and humiliate them. This is something we cannot accept for any citizen, whatever his/her place in society. We hope that all sides can learn to refer their grievances to the courts.

Director of Al-Thowra's Sports Department Khalid Al-Sowdy: "We Aim to Develop the Sports Department Through Suggestions and Analysis."

As part of the changes that are taking place in the official media sector, a positive development took place in the sports department of Al-Thowra daily newspaper. Mr. Khalid Al-Sowdy, a well-known young athlete and journalist has been appointed director of the sports department in Al-Thowra. The sports department in the past has suffered from looseness, ignorance, and financial shortages. However, this latest change leads many sports analysts and journalists to be optimistic about the Al-Thowra's future. Part of the reason behind this is that Al-Sowdy is known for his strong stand on supporting sports, and has been behind solving all sorts of problems and obstacles that faced the development of sports in Yemen. He is also a person who knows exactly how to handle issues like the lack of expertise in sports, and the required steps to correct them. Yemen Times also knows that this change will be a major milestone in the development of the



sports department of Al-Thowra, and in supporting sports activities in Yemen through the official media. This is mainly due to the position of Al-Thowra as the most influential daily newspaper in Yemen, which will now deal with daily sports activities. To hear more of the future ambi-

tions of Al-Sowdy, and how he hopes to improve and revive the sports department of Al-Thowra, Yemen Times Editor Jamal Al-Awadhi filed the following interview with Mr. Khalid Al-Sowdy, Al-Thowra's new director of the sports department.

Excerpts:

Q: What is the role of the sports page in Al-Thowra?

A: The sports page of Al-Thowra is of great importance due to the fact that it is in the most important daily newspaper, and is read by a large number of young Yemenis. I remember the results of a survey that showed that 60% of Al-Thowra readers are anxious to read the sports page of the newspaper. I can also say that the sports page is very popular among our readers as the Yemen Times sports page is among its readers. Everyone knows that during the twenty years since its first issue, the sports page staff in Al-Thowra has always been

keeping an eye on and reporting important sports events in Yemen. Since its first issue, thousands of sports columnists, reporters, and journalists have written in Al-Thowra, some of whom are still writing and many of whom are now well known politicians. For all of them, the starting point was this sports page.

Q: What are your future ambitions in developing the sports page you are directing?

A: We are aiming to publish a weekly supplement of 4 pages that will include major local sports news and sports analysis. We also aim to give more space to sports reporters and col-

umnists. In fact, we hope to have the chance of increasing the number of sports pages to two per issue.

Q: Have you made any changes to the sports page since you became director of the sports department?

A: You might have noticed that sports news has increased and now covers 3/4 of the sports page. The most important change to the page was the addition of a regular daily column titled "Today's Viewpoint." This special column is dedicated to articles coming from different sports writers analyzing and commenting on current sports conditions. Its aim is to focus on the problems of sports in Yemen and how to deal with them, and also to focus on new improvements and praise them. Many writers from different parts of the country and from different political backgrounds are contributing to this column with their genuine articles.

Q: What are the major obstacles to achieving your goals?

A: There are many obstacles, and mostly they are the financial and administrative problems facing not only sports departments, but all media sectors as well. This is due to the nonexistence of educated and qualified employees and modern equipment. One of the most important obstacles the sports page - and Al-Thowra in general - and is currently facing is that we are still using "antique" printing machines which may go off any time. Administrators at Al-Thowra's print house are planning to upgrade the whole printing system as soon as the resources are available.

Q: Any parting comments?

A: Here, at the sports department of Al-Thowra, there are many ambitions and hopes for the future. But at the same time, there are many problems and obstacles facing us. However, with determination and hard work we can always overcome our obstacles.

As The First Half of the Tournament Comes to an End After Crushing Last Year's Champion 2-0 Al-Ahli Halfway To A Championship Title

In the last match of the first half of the Excellent Football Tournament, Al-Ahli of Sanaa was able to defeat last year's (1997-1998) champion Al-Wahda of Sanaa 2/0. Although spectators were expecting a tense and exiting match, it turned out to be a disappointment. "An easy win. Al-Ahli seemed untouchable!" is what one Ahli supporter said. Spectators, who had hoped to see a strong match, left disappointed after watching an Ahli walkover. However, for Al-Ahli, a win is a win and 3 points are all it needed. After 13 weeks of hard work, it is ahead after the first half of the tournament with a 6-point lead over Al-Shaab of Ibb. Having 34 points, and scoring 25 goals to only 4 scored against them, Al-Ahli seems to be ready and motivated to begin the second half of the tournament in mid-March with strong hopes of obtaining the championship title. After the first half of the tournament Al-Ahli has proved that not only is it the strongest team on the attack, it has also proved to be the toughest on defense. On the other hand, Al-Shaab of Ibb is still in second place with 28 points after defeating Al-Majd in the 13th week. Like Al-Wahda of Sanaa, Al-Shaab of Ibb was also defeated by Al-Ahli in the 12th week. But because it was able to defeat Al-Wahda of Sanaa in the 11th week, it managed to hold tight to its second position. However, the 6-point gap between them and Al-Ahli puts Al-Shaab in a must-win situation for most of the next half of the

tournament if it wants to maintain its championship hopes. Al-Wahda of Sanaa is witnessing a sharp decline in its performance. No one would have imagined that last year's champion would go through such difficult times. Because of the many defeats it has recently sustained, Al-Wahda is now in danger of losing its third position to its closest rival, Al-Wahda of Aden. Many sports analysts and experts think that if the current team administration continues, the team will further decline, and will lose much of its support among its spectators. Having mentioned Al-Wahda of Aden, if there is one team that can be called the surprise team of the tournament, they are it. Indeed, after resolving all of its administrative problems, Al-Wahda of Aden is now witnessing one of its most competitive seasons of tournament play. It astonished football fans by winning two consecutive games; one with Al-Ittihad of Ibb in the 13th week, and the other against Al-Majd in the 12th week. Having gained a victory against Al-Ittihad of Ibb (the team that defeated the second ranked Al-Shaab of Ibb), one can appreciate how powerful Al-Wahda of Aden has become. This raises the possibility of Al-Wahda of Aden overtaking Al-Wahda of Sanaa in its position at third and becoming eligible to challenge for the 1998-1999 Excellent Football Tournament championship title. For fifth spot holder, Al-Ittihad of Ibb the story is quite different. Its game with Al-Zuhra was

supposed to be played in the same stadium in Sanaa where Al-Wahda of Sanaa and Al-Ahli were playing. However, because of the huge number of supporters of Al-Wahda and Al-Ahli and because of time limitations, the Yemeni Football Federation decided to postpone the match to the eight of March.

The representative of Abyan governorate, team Hassan was able to defeat Al-Hilal 2/0 in Hassan's field in Abyan. With this win, Hassan was able to take over the sixth place ranking of Shaab Al-Mukalla, and gain an overall 21 points in the rankings. On the other hand Shaab Al-Mukalla's loss drops it 2 spots in the rankings to the 8th position with 21 points. Al-Shula team was able to climb to the seventh spot on goal difference, with 20 points after its win over Al-Saqr of Taiz 4/0 in the 13th week of the tournament.

Al-Tilal team, which is currently suffering from disastrous administrative turmoil, was barely able to pull out a 1/0 victory over Taliya of Taiz. With this difficult win, Al-Tilal maintains its 9th position with 18 points.

All sports analysts and reporters have admitted that Al-Ahli deserves its standings and lead. It is seen as the most powerful team in the tournament this year, and is expected to win the championship title. But yet again, anything can happen in a game, and there are still a lot of teams left in this one. With these results, the first half of the tournament is over. The Yemeni Football Federation marked the 15 of March 99 as the starting day of the second half of the tournament. Football fans, teams, and coaches are now taking advantage of the 10-day break to refresh their energies, and study their experiences in the first half. For us, as readers, and sports analysts, we also will have a 10-day break to go watch other sports news. It is a fact that football is the main sport in Yemen, but we will always keep you up to date with other important sports activities.

Team	Points	Results			Goals	
		Won	Tie	Lost	For	Against
Ahli of Sana'a	34	11	1	1	25	4
Sha'ab of Ibb	28	9	1	3	23	12
Wahda of Sana'a	25	7	1	4	19	14
Wahda of Aden	24	7	3	3	20	13
Hassan	21	6	3	4	12	10
Shullah	20	6	2	6	21	13
Sha'ab of Mukallah	20	6	2	5	10	13
Tilal	18	5	3	5	24	20
Zohra	13	3	4	5	11	18
Saqr of Taiz	11	2	5	6	13	16
Hilal	8	2	2	9	10	21
Taliha	7	2	1	10	11	25
Majd	5	1	2	10	13	32



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ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Ministry of Pensions & Social Affairs announces that the constituent assembly of the Yemeni Association of Graduates from Germany (Vereinigung Fhemaliger Stipendiaten Deutschlands (VESD)) in Technical Fields was held on 27/2/1999/.

During this meeting, the members have adopted the charter of the association, and elected the following officials:

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Abdo Hossein Al Thoaily: Chairman
Abdul Rakib Ali Al Hamadi: Member
Ali Hussain Al Shami: Member
Abdulmalek Moh'd Al Marhabie: Reserve Member

This announcement was signed and stamped by:
The Ministry of Pensions & Social Affairs
Document Number 128, dated 3/3/1999

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Q: Does your company need employees with good English speaking and communicating abilities?

Q: Are you about to travel abroad and want to strengthen your oral English?

Q: Are you tired of courses that focus on writing and reading English alone without emphasizing the other important part "Speaking"?

Q: Are you one of the victims of an English secondary school educational system that did not give oral English its deserved attention?

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- The only institution in Yemen to offer 100% Spoken English courses is now open for registration.
- Beware that we are here talking of a pure English speaking system conducted by qualified senior training specialists. The course is of 5 levels, each level lasts 20 hours.
- Courses will include practical visits to foreign companies, tourism agencies, universities, and other institutions to strengthen normal day-to-day English speaking abilities
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Dhamaran Supermarket in Aden NOW OPEN!

Families and consumers had reason to celebrate last week. The Aden branch of Dhamaran Supermarket was inaugurated with much fanfare.



Abdul-Jalil Jazem
Director-General

Abdullah Jazem
Vice Director-General

There was another reason to celebrate. For first-time shoppers, which includes practically everyone to visit the new business, there were special deals and discounts. So, if you have not yet visited the store, stop by and check the quality and prices.

It is located in Al Mansoura, near the Weaving and Spinning Factory Square, telephone number: 346579; and fax number: 342223. The main Sanaa shopping center is already well-known for the high quality products it carries.

Mr. Abdul-Jalil Jazem, Director General, spoke about the center. "Our supermarket is distinguished from all others by offering many advantages:

1. We carry all the kinds of products that our clients need - from foodstuffs, to cosmetics, to electronics. In other words, it is a one-stop shopping experience.
2. We only carry quality goods. When shoppers visit the supermarket's aisles, they immediately recognize famous international brand names. The goods we carry come all the way from the USA, Europe, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and many other high-standard, quality conscious producers.
3. We offer bargain prices. We know consumers and buyers compare prices. Even when you give people good-quality goods, they also want the best prices.
4. We are very customer-friendly. Our employees go out of their way to help clients in any way they can.
5. Dhamaran offers delivery services to its customers. You

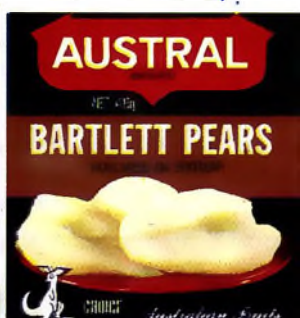


don't even have to come to the store. You can phone-in or fax-in your order, and it will be delivered.

6. Finally, we offer credit facilities to customers who open accounts with us.

The goods carried by Dhamaran Supermarket cannot be listed on a single page. The sections include foodstuffs, household appliances, gifts, cleaning and disinfecting materials, a special section for children's toys, electronics, plastic swimming pools, and many other goods. Finally, our visitors receive gifts and valuable presents in periodic lottery drawings. You don't even have to buy, just get your coupon and remember to bring it on raffle day.

Everybody is welcome at Dhamaran Supermarket in Sanaa and Aden.



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