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عيد سعيد وكل عام وأنتم بخير

TREE-PLANTING: IN FULL SWING IN THE REPUBLIC

The Republic of Yemen plans to plant more than 2 million trees during this season, which extends for one month. The process was kicked off by President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday, 20th March, 1999. The effort has picked up momentum as ministers, governors, military commanders and community elders are leading the public in this important event.

Two groups of people are expected to have a major impact in the process - soldiers and students. Many military barracks are bringing out the soldiers to plant trees. Many schools are also taking one day off from their schedules for the same purpose.

In addition, sports clubs, cultural centers and many NGOs are also chipping in. One group that has never shown up in the past, nor is it likely to show up this year are the opposition politicians. It is

as if nation-building is not relevant to them. One final note. Tree-planting is good. But taking care of the trees until they are able to withstand reckless drivers and the goats of herdsmen is vital.



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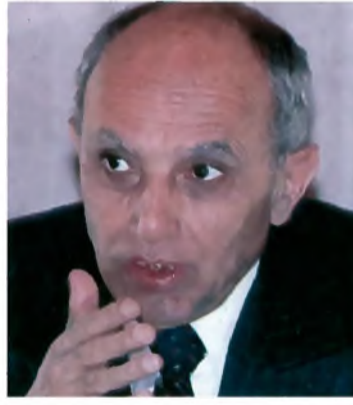
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Prime Minister Iryani:
"I pledge that from here on, my government will adhere to FULL ACCOUNTABILITY."

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister, speaking at the concluding session of the Second Conference for Government Economic Corporations, openly pledged his commitment to efficiency and full accountability in the performance of the government and its affiliated companies and corporations." The Prime Minister went one step further to take a public oath that he will not waver in the pursuit of better management of public resources. For four days - 20-23/3/1999, about 120 senior government officials who are managing the state machinery and public and mixed corporations have been discussing such shortcomings as inefficiency, negligence, and corruption in their work.



Continues on page 2

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THE MUWALLADEEN: A Shameful Yemeni Practice

A paper researched by Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf and to be presented to the Consultative Council hearings on immigrants to start on 10th April, 1999, shows that since the September Revolution of 1962, Yemenis abroad have transferred around US\$ 65 billion to the 'homeland'. The paper also points that it was the immigrant communities in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and the UK that financed prepara-

tions for the Revolution and the Free Movement in Aden. Yet, the children of Yemeni immigrants are dealt with in an ugly and racist way, especially if they are born of African mothers. A shameful term *muwalladeen*, denotes the policy of discrimination that has become a standard practice in Yemen today - officially and socially. This practice reflects primitive urges based on notions of

tribal purity which exist in the northern governorates. This discrimination did not exist in the former PDRY. Southerners adopted this ugly practice after unification so as to show that they share the same values. Saqqaf notes, "The practice is against Yemen's constitution as it creates a 2-class citizenship. It is also a violation of basic human rights which must be corrected."

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen's Relations With Its Immigrants

Next week, the Consultative Council will hold extended hearings on the "Role of Emigrants in Yemen's Development Process". A month later, that will be followed by the Second National Conference on Emigrants.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh makes it a point to meet with the Yemeni diaspora in his international travels. He went all the way to Birmingham to meet with the 12,000 British citizens of Yemeni extract during his UK visit. He met with them in Singapore. He met with them Indonesia and Malaysia. Senior officials constantly talk about the need to maintain the link with our people abroad.

But Yemen's relations can be separated into two distinct and often contradictory parts - relations with Yemenis abroad, and relations with the emigrants when they come back to Yemen. Let us look at the details.

Relations with the Diaspora:

It looks like Yemen is interested in stronger links with the Yemeni diaspora for selfish reasons - it wants their money. The President and other senior officials run from place to place inviting them to bring their money. They know there are some US\$ 25 billion in Yemeni assets stashed away abroad. They have their eyes set on this money. So, they tend to court them in the hope that some of them will bring their wealth to Yemen and share it with them...

Relations within Yemen:

Once a former emigrant is back in Yemen, he/she is given hell. There are immediate attempts to take away as much of his/her money as possible. They are seen as an easy prey. To add insult to injury, the emigrants' children, especially if they are born of African mothers, are discriminated against. They are seen as second or third class citizens. This attitude is basically a North Yemeni one based on tribal values of racial purity or whatever. After unity, and especially after the war, our Southern brothers adopted even more aggressive positions, simply because they want to show they belong and share the tribal values... What a pity!

Contribution of Yemenis Abroad:

History shows that since the September 26th Revolution of 1962, Yemenis abroad have sent back around US\$ 65 billion to the 'homeland'. Most of the money was used to build the new cities and to construct monumental dwellings in the countryside. The lofty buildings of Yaffea, Hugarriah, Jbb and other places offer visible testimony. Still, a lot of it was literally eaten up in the phenomenal rise in consumption.

What is really ugly in the attitude of the state and the general public is the racist element in this phenomenon. Children of former emigrants born of African mothers - the so-called muwalladeen, continue to suffer from discrimination. It was actually the Yemeni emigrants in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and elsewhere who financed the Revolution and the Free Movement in Aden. What a way to pay them back!

The Publisher
عبد العزيز السقاف

Mother and Women's Day Celebrated in Taiz

Organized by the Yemeni Women's Union (YWU), Taiz branch, a festival to celebrate Mother's Day and the World Women's Day was held in Taiz at the Cultural Center on Thursday, March 18.

Two kids from Al-Amal Nursery, kicked off the chain of events which went on for five hours. Representatives from different government and non-government organizations delivered speeches which stressed the rising role of women in public life. "No society can expect to make real headway if half of it is paralyzed," announced Ms. Suad Al-Absi, chairperson of the YWU/Taiz. She urged the community to make room and provide facilities that help mobilize the contribution of women to our society.

Then, more kids performed and acted. Their performance was marvelous and impressed the audience. The plays focused on children's rights and the need to protect the little ones.

At the end of the festival, certificates of appreciation were bestowed.

President Saleh Supports the YJS

President Ali Abdullah Saleh expressed full support for the newly elected leadership of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS).

President Saleh was speaking to Mahboob Ali, the new chairman of the Syndicate, and the elected board members, whom he received in audience on Monday, March 22nd.

Also attending the meeting was Hatem Zakarya, representative of the Federation of Arab Journalists, who supervised the elections last week.

The new charter adopted by the conference calls for re-alignment of the syndicate membership along professional lines. "Many people who are not journalists are now members. We will start a weeding out process," Mahboob told Yemen Times.

He added that a technical team from Egypt will arrive in Sanaa in two weeks to help the Yemeni side in defining and screening of journalist members.

Japanese Debt Relief Grant Aid

The Government of Japan extended to the Yemeni Government a debt relief grant aid amounting to US \$ 1.3 million. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged on Tuesday, 23rd March, 1999, between the Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, and Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador of Japan in Sana'a.

It is worth mentioning that the total amount of these grants extended in FY 1998 is ¥ 3,922,208,000. These loans were used to finance many projects, such as rural water supply projects, Ras Katneeb power station project, the project of construction of the berth of Hodaidah port.

Women Cultural Gathering Gains Momentum

The Cultural Gathering of Yemeni Women continues to build momentum in its activities. The project aims to improve the quality of life in Sanaa, specially with regard to garbage collection. The Minister of the State, Mr. Mutahhar Al-Saeedi, visited the group last week and expressed his appreciation and support to such important vital project. The American Cultural Attaché, Dr. A. Chris Eccel, met members of the gathering on Tuesday, March 23rd, and showed interest. He pledged to support such community level projects.

Yemeni-Romania Talks Promise Growth

Mr. Sorin Potanc, State Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Romania, has just concluded a three-day visit to Yemen. Potanc, 45, headed his country's dies in the joint ministerial committee based on the trade agreements signed in 1992.

On the occasion, Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times filed the following interview:

Q: How did the joint ministerial talks go?

A: We had meetings with different dignitaries from various institutions. We started with the Ministry of Trade where both parties shared recent development in our countries. We then discussed ways of improving bilateral cooperation. Specific issues such as attracting joint investments and the best way to increase the volume of trade between our two countries. We also had a meeting with the chamber of commerce, which, in my opinion, is the most important factor for improving and developing trade relations.

Q: What are the activities Romania is engaged in, in Yemen?

A: In the past, we had many projects in your country. Some of them are continuing. One of our companies is about to finish a project for extending electric lines contracted by the Ministry of Energy and Water. There others work in Aden in oil.

We in Romania really want to re-discover your country.

At the same time, we are inviting your businessmen and officials to re-discover Romania because many changes are happening. We studied geological studies done here. So we are trying to involve ourselves together with

your people to develop new projects in building and setting up small factories in different industrial areas.

Q: What are the issues that could hinder future cooperation between the two countries?

A: It depends very much on how involved politically and institutionally the business climate is. It also depends on defining and refining the judicial framework.

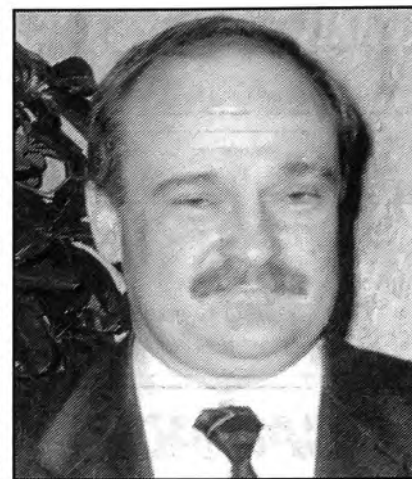
Besides, we need to sign an agreement to protect investment in both countries as well as to avoid double taxation, preventing fiscal evasion, and other measures necessary for creating the an economic environment helpful for business. On the other hand, I think we both have to work together to attract investment and funds, and to engage in joint ventures both between our two countries, and between the private and government sectors.

Q: What is the volume of trade between our two countries?

A: Unfortunately, it is very low. Last year, the trade exchange was only US\$ 1.6, while in 1992, or 1994 or even 1995, the value of trade was between forty to fifty million US dollars. Therefore, there is definitely a potential for both countries to increase trade to more than 100 million.

Q: What are the goods or commodities Yemen imports from Romania?

A: It is a variety of things, starting with mechanical, electronic and electric equipment to fast consumer goods. It depends on the company which is doing the import.



You may be surprised to learn that some of the Romanian products arrive in Yemen through third parties. I mean the importer is in another country, though the final destination is Yemen.

Q: Yemen has many agreements of the type being concluded with you. But they are not worth the paper on which they are signed. Are you sure signing the agreement is enough?

A: First of all, my job now is to finalize the talks with the Ministry of Trade and Supply and reach an agreement.

Second, we will start to take measures to implement them.

We have a joint committee established to promote bilateral trade. This comes after seven years after the first set of agreements were signed (in 1992). I see what you mean about implementation.

But what can explain this is that both countries were restructuring their economy. The transitional period to a full market economy is almost done.

I am confident that there is mutual benefit in stronger ties.

Continued from page 1:

Prime Minister Iryani..

Following a four-day conference, the top officials of the economic corporations of the government issued the following recommendations:

1. All economic units which participated in the conference should submit an executive program to be implemented within a specific period of time of their tasks. Such program should be submitted within 90 days starting from today's date.

2. The secretariat, headed by the Chairman of the Central Organization for Control and Audit, shall carry monitor program implementation of all agencies within the deadlines specified.

3. Every organization shall send a progress report every four months to the Cabinet regarding the implementation of these resolutions, and the recommendations of this meeting according to the specified deadlines.

WELCOME HOME

Family members welcomed last week the return of two long-term Yemeni emigrants

Abdul-Rahman Al-Khazzan Aidaros Al-Khazzan

Abdul-Rahman has been living in Germany for the last 28 years, and Aidaros has been living in Saudi Arabia for the last 15 years. They have returned to visit relatives, and check out life in Yemen

All family members and friends say "Welcome back".

Mubarak Bamehriz, Hatem Bamehriz, and the rest of the family

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"We should practice what we say!"

There is a lot of talk about promoting the role of women in society. There is also a lot of talk about preserving our cultural heritage. Most of the talk remains talk, except in a few cases of foreign-sponsored projects.

But now we have a local company that has invested reasonably in achieving both ends. The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies have established a charity to finance self-help efforts by women. The program is called "Al-Usar Al-Muntigah" - or the "Productive Families".

They have also tied into the effort to help improve the lot of women. Women in Yemen traditionally do not earn income, even if they work. Their work is not remunerated. The modern sector has created situations in which women can not earn income independently of their male relatives. This has improved their place within the family and within society.

This is the story of one budding example.

Mohammed Bin Sallam, Hatem Bamehriz and Mohammed Abbas of Yemen Times jointly wrote the following interview.

Q: Could we start by an introduction of yourself?
A: My name is Amatal Razaq Yahia Jahaf. I head the Women's Development Center (WDC). I am a happy wife, mother of two and a successful career woman. I graduated from Sanja'a University's Faculty of Arts. I am also a writer, I write on topics related to women as well as cultural topics.

Q: Could you tell us about your work?
A: I manage the WDC. This is a charity center sponsored by the

modern embroidery, handloom, knitting, etc. We also have a section to promote goods that tourists like to keep as souvenirs. We also try to encourage and inspire our trainees to develop modern Yemeni dresses.

Q: Do you plan branches?
A: We don't have any branches so far, and the possibility of opening branches depends of the success and sustainability of this center. However, the Hayel Saeed Charity itself finances a large center in Taiz called the



Dubai's Shopping Festival, but unfortunately we could not.

Q: How many trainees do you have in the center?
A: The first batch of 86 trainees will graduate in May 1999. We can provide training facilities to about 100 trainees annually. All our facilities are free of charge including training materials. From my previous work experience, I noted that Yemenis tend not to respect the service that comes free. So we decided to ask trainees to pay a deposit. This deposit is refunded only if the trainee completes the course. Our center provides badly needed services and space is limited. That is why we want people to finish the course they enroll in.

Q: How much is the deposit they pay?
A: It differs from course to another. For instance, the tailoring course requires a deposit of YR. 12,000. It can be paid in installments.



Charity Society of Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies. We try to train women and help them learn new skills, in order to generate an independent source of income, and thus improve their living standards.

At the same, the purpose is to guide women to learn to produce traditional folkloric products, thus helping to protect and develop our traditional handicraft and culture. For instance, we have an on-going project to classify and duplicate traditional styles of Yemeni clothes. We are doing fine, so far.

Q: How did the WDC start? And how many people are working in the center?
A: We approached the government to support our idea of the center. But we got no response. Then, we approached Hayel Saeed Group, and they generously responded and embraced our project. We started in the middle of 1998. The center has 8 highly qualified vocational trainers. The center organizes annual training sections. Our courses are all of one year duration, because we want the students - mostly young and middle aged women - to learn everything possible about the skill they choose. We have different training courses, such as sewing, tailoring, traditional and

Productive Family Center. But it has a different policy, though it aims to achieve the same goals. We hope that our center will develop to be a bigger institution, which can cover the whole of Yemen.

Q: Do you have plans to expand the center's services to include other fields?
A: Our first priority, at the moment, is to focus on the work at hand. We do hope to establish new sections and departments within the coming two years. We will try to establish different training courses. We will also try to have branches in Sana'a governorate as a first step in the direction of expanding our services to other regions.

Q: Have much do you sell of the goods you produce at the center?
A: In spite of the fact that the center is relatively new, and is not yet quite known for many people, specially foreigners, we are able to market our products through the different bazaars, which are organized locally by some charities and other NGOs. We had an income of YR. 6,000,000 from the selling of these goods. We had hoped to take part in

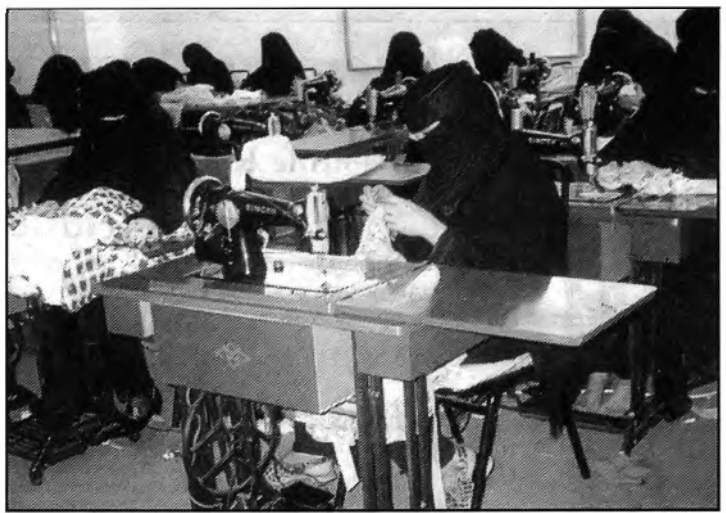
different languages; they were not able to understand our problems; in fact they did not want to hear us. So many sections of the center are closed now, it was only then when I decided to leave. The center was suppose to expand and there was a project by the UNDP to enliven five handicrafts, even these project did not see the sun, in spite of the fact that the center was instituted by the UNDP.

Q: What is the role that women can play in the development process?
A: Yemeni women contributed in many ways throughout the ages. They are still contributing. They work on the farm, at home, and in the modern sector. Since the beginning of the 70s and because of the changes in our

Q: Do trainees get a share of the profit the center makes from selling their products?
A: While they are under training, they get a fixed percentage. For example 30% for the tailoring class, 50% for the embroidery. This helps them to improve their living standards. Next year we will start a production unit in the center, where we will select the outstanding trainees to run it permanently. We believe that way that the center will be a more self-sufficient organization.

Q: Why isn't the government supporting such activities?
A: The government is very busy with its own needs. Why should our officials bother about culture or women?

Q: Why did you leave your previous job with the government in the National Center for Preserving Handicrafts (NCPH)?
A: I left for many reasons, mainly because of the lack of funds. We worked for 10 years without a budget for the center, also the treatment we used to get, we were neglected in many ways. We and the officials spoke to



society, Yemeni women began producing less for their family needs. New income and imports of ready-made products have enticed women to produce for the family. But, surely, women can be as productive as men.

I know our constitution and laws do not draw lines between men and women. But you see the discrimination in our culture, our social values, and our daily practice. I know that there is nothing to stop me from even running for president, but the reality is different. All over the world, governments encourage women to play their part in the development of society. Here in Yemen, we just speak about it in the media.

Q: What are the solutions to this problem in your opinion?
A: We should practice what we preach. I attended many conferences and I see many double standards. For example, Yemen had signed the International Labor Law, and there are contradictions with the Yemeni labor law. The question is why did we sign this law if we did not intend to honor it? If the government says that a woman can't become a deputy minister or a general manager, the people will submit to that. There is no need to have double standards. Our officials should say what they practice, not what they think foreign donors would like to hear them say.

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NDI: Vital Contribution to Political Transformation

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) plays an important support role in the transformation process of newly-democratizing countries. An arm of the Democratic Party of the USA, the NDI provides training, advice, international recognition and other forms of assistance to many countries, including Yemen. Here in Yemen, the NDI has been active since the 1993 parliamentary elections. It has since engaged Yemen in a constructive way in order to make sure the process continues, and in a smooth way.

To shed more light on the role of NDI in Yemen, Hatem Bamehriz of Yemen Times talked with Andreas Katsouris, NDI's program officer for Yemen in Washington DC. Andreas has just concluded a 3-week visit preparing for future NDI projects and cooperation in Yemen. Excerpts:

Q: Could you please tell us about your visit?

A: I am here on a 3 weeks visit. There are a number of purposes. First, we have some on-going programs in Yemen, and we have an office with two field representatives stationed permanently in Yemen. My job in Washington is to oversee and manage these programs. So it is useful for me to come to Yemen every now and then to follow up on these programs, and see the country.

Second, it is a good chance to talk to influential Yemenis that we are working with. This allows us to get an independent assessment of the democratic development here. Third, we discuss with our partners their views of our programs, and obtain feedback from them. For instance, on Tuesday 23rd March we had a one-day seminar in parliament on executive-legislative relations. This means interaction between MPs with people from executive branches to ministers. We brought a couple of international experts to talk about how to manage the relations between the two branches of the government,

and so I am here to facilitate that and also to observe the work that we are doing here.

Finally, I am interested to discuss future plans.

Q: What are the main activities of the NDI all over the world and especially in Yemen?

A: NDI is a non-profit non-governmental organization whose general mandate is to conduct programs that support transitional democracies all over the world. For instance, NDI organizes delegations to observe elections. When I say monitoring elections I don't just mean we are there on election day to watch people put their votes in the ballot box, but we monitor the pre-election process, the registration of voters, the level of education the voters receive, etc. That is one activity.

In a longer-term sense, we are also involved in training political parties and legislators by giving them some technical and institutional experience. We bring experts from countries that had longer-standing traditions of democracy. We also have programs with a small number of



parliamentarians in their constituencies, to improve communication between the constituencies and members. That is not to say there is only one right way to run a parliament, but we believe that countries that have been doing this for a long time can offer advice to countries that have just started this process. But, we don't only work with parliament, we help political parties by offering help them help in party management, how to develop, etc. We also work with non-governmental organizations trying to strengthen them because we feel they are the foundation of a lasting democracy.

Q: How long do you remain in a country giving such support?

A: NDI remains in a country so

long as there is need for its services and there is interest and cooperation from the host country. When NDI is no longer active in a particular country, it means it has a strong non-governmental civic community which keeps the process (of transformation and democratization) alive.

Q: You are planning a seminar some time in June, what is it all about?

A: This is something we are very excited about. It is called the 'Emerging Democracies Forum'. We hope that it is the beginning of a series of such events. What NDI is trying to do is invite delegations of about ten persons from twelve emerging democracies worldwide. These are countries that are small, and

which are in the democratic process and which don't receive necessarily very much international media attention. We want to bring heads of states, opposition leaders and also civic activists from various countries to Yemen for a three-day conference which is scheduled at the end of June.

The topic of this particular forum will be the relationship between political and democratic development and economic development. We think that every country has different experience and they can share their expertise, share the experience of one another and we hope it's the beginning of other events of this kind. It's a wonderful opportunity for Yemen.

Q: Before coming to Yemen you must have had some ideas about our democracy, now you came and saw it in real life. Did you find any different between what you read and what you saw, and how do you evaluate our democracy?

A: I think Yemen has made a considerable progress and I think that is something all Yemenis should be proud of. I suspected from the inside that looks as if the progress is slow, but progress is slow in these kinds of process, and from the outside, outsider would look at Yemen and say look they have two successive parliamentary elections, there are vibrant political parties, there are civic groups that have different rule to advocate to their works, I think it's very encouraging, but I think Yemen has also a long way to go in building the institutions of democracy, and also to educate the citizens on what their

responsibilities are and what democracy is? And what to expect from the democratic process? I would say Yemen has made a lot of strides and has other strides to make. My worry is that people expects quick results from this sort of process without paying attention to how it works.

Q: The performance of the economy is an important factor in the democratization process. How does this feature in your programs?

A: I am not an expert on the subject, but I think it is understandable that people want their basic needs first. If you don't have enough food to eat, whether the government is elected or not elected does not really matter at a certain point.

A democratically elected government will try to provide a better living standard to its people. So there is need on the part of responsible governments to do economic reforms. That tends to generate some suffering due to the adjustments and corrective measures.

Unfortunately, the result is that people associate democracy with the economic hardships. In my opinion, the suffering is due to mismanagements and mistakes of the past, and which are addressed by a responsible system. Thus, the two phenomena - economic hardships and democratization are not necessarily related, but they both sometimes occur at the same time. You can say they are both what may be called a very dramatic change.

By: Hatem Bamehriz
Yemen Times.

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN Y.S.C.

present their sincere wishes
and congratulations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani
and his Government,
and the Yemeni people
on the occasion of

Eid A-Adha Al-Mubarak

Many Happy Returns to All



بنك اليمن الدولي

ش.م.ي

تتقدم

بأصدق التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى حكومة الدكتور عبدالكريم الارياني

وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبى

بمناسبة قدوم

عيد الأضحى المبارك

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

Eid Mubarak



بنك اليمن الدولي ش.م.ي.
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN Y.S.C.

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

When Was the Last Time You Talked to Yourself?

The Timeless Realms of the Spirit

Samira Ali Bin Daair,
Social Worker and Activist

The article about Taiz on the back page of the issue of Yemen Times dated 15th March, inspired me to write this piece. What shall I call it? Maybe just my usual stream of consciousness eruptions about life and its many splendored but forgotten bits of joy strewn here and there.

No, I am not quite interested in the touristic aspects of Taiz, although I have often felt that there are many neglected historical structures in Yemen that could very well compete with the Acropolis and the Colosseum! No this piece is not about all that. One sentence in Abdulaziz Saqqaf's article jarred me into life because it happened to coincide with one of my most intense spates into the metaphysical.... Some people call it middle life crisis. I don't know what to call it really.

I guess we think that we have outgrown the uncertainties and questioning that took place when we were teenagers or at university, when we were all rebellious, a Socialist or a something ist. Everybody was going to change the world or else realise at some point like Omar Khayyam that events will relentlessly unfold, within the scheme of things, no matter what...

Well, the disturbing questions keep coming back maybe not so neatly timed like every decade, but every now and when "the

world is too much with us" as Wordsworth said.

It was this bit the Yemen Times editor said about being a Calvinist and not imagining how a person can spend a whole evening staring into space and relaxing. I assume this meant the protestant work ethic which in the language of simple folks like me translated into never having a moment of leisure to dream and just be, and sitting under a tree in the Wadi and lazily watching the cattle graze was tantamount to a Sin.

Well, and if you happen to be like me, not exactly rich, it would be difficult to buy "indulgences" for forgiveness as was the case in the old days with Roman Catholics before the Reformation. I must say I prefer the Islamic middle ground about taking care of the affairs of the world and acting as if you were going to live forever, and yet believing in the hereafter and not forgetting that you might drop dead at any moment.... The sense of "balance" that has been forgotten by Muslims themselves, to say the least.

As I sit here thinking of the

mountain of paperwork awaiting me at the office, thinking of my daughter's impending birthday and all the preparations I had not made yet for a party of 20 small children, and the fact that we had run out of everything at home and I needed to do the shopping ... And yes, the washing machine had broken down. Should we fix it yet again or was it better to buy a new one...? And yes, I badly needed to talk to a very good friend whom I haven't seen for ages...oops! There were all those duty visits to relatives that I kept putting off ...The pile of unsorted papers at home and the attic had not been cleared for the past hundred years... My teenage son was getting too exhaustingly argumentative and my teenage daughter needed a pep talk because of something that had happened at school... The little one needed help with her homework...

I don't know why I suddenly feel so tired and without having done anything at that, beyond sitting on my computer and writing this...! It must be the constant fluctuations in the adrenalin level.

This good friend saved my sanity by stepping in at the right moment, and bringing a very thoughtful present consisting of a small journal and a pen (in the old days I always used to carry one in my bag) and a beautiful book called "Inner Simplicity". It inspired me to spend the whole Friday afternoon lying in the garden and reading it, suspending all but the absolutely necessary activities.

By evening, I felt like a completely different person from the harassed woman of yesterday. Incidentally a lot of women sign a contract at marriage that specifies the legalities in the event of a divorce, but I made a covenant with my husband, that if at any point of time, we felt that life was getting too cluttered, we should step back a little from the world and just be. Though it has been difficult to always follow it through, we have tried to remind each other of that contract? That is why the woman who wrote this book made me feel she was talking to me about my present situation.

I don't like the famous saying: Great minds think alike because it is so presumptuous. However, haven't any of you ever read a book and said to yourself, this writer is talking about me and my thoughts? I would like to share some of those thoughts with some of you who might be interested.

The book is all about removing the clutter from our lives, and sifting through the things and activities which are really important to us and discarding those which are not. It is a matter of defining priorities. It is about slowing down and simplifying life in order to enjoy the things that really matter.

Inner simplicity means tuning in to what is the best that this world has to offer, such as the love of family and friends, the wonders of nature, and the serenity and clarity that come from silence and quiet contemplation, exploring other levels of consciousness, connecting to a power that is larger than ourselves, creating a balance between our outer and our inner lives...

We have spent so much time pursuing careers and creating fortunes that we have neglected our inner selves. Devoting more time to our inner lives will contribute to enriching our outer lives... but it does not mean going everywhere, doing everything, and being all things to all people.

Doing too much and having too much get in the way of being able to enjoy the things we do want in our lives, and to simply be who we are. Create your own sanctuary and escape to it whenever you need to escape and heal yourself of all negative feelings. This is all so mundane I suppose and most of us have done it without thinking about it so philosophically, but there are times in life when we need to be reminded of the most obvious... and that's when this book inspired me to take a good look at my life and reassess certain aspects of it.

I guess some people are destined to single-mindedly pursue a task which will change society and the world at large. Those famous

people who have chosen at great personal cost to leave a legacy of great thought to the world and others who have sacrificed their lives to bring about revolutions which they believed would result in a better world for the coming generations. But for the rest of us, we have our bit to do for society but we also have our bit to leave for ourselves as separate entities from the clutter of the world. As it is said in Islam, "Alnafs laha hakuk alayek" the soul has its rights upon you. Islam also emphasizes the fact that honest work towards building a good society is important.

It is also said "ta'ammul saa khairoun min sabeen sanaa salaa" an hour of meditation is preferable to 70 years of prayer, which really means meditating on the why of existence and achieving a balance between the needs of the spirit and those of the physical world.

It is believed that all the great religions came to answer the needs of that particular society in that point of time, and rectify their excesses. Christianity, for example, was very spiritual because it came at a time when the jews were very materialistic people, just as the Taurat (Testament) had dealt with the more material aspects of life. Islam is meant to be a synthesis between the material and the spiritual and "balance" is the key word.

All the great religions came in a sequence to serve a purpose at different stages of human history to take humanity to a stage where they achieve this sense of balance in life. An inner sense of alignment with the self is vital, or we become like cars with bad alignment which go in all crazy directions. I remember a sentence from one of the famous Indian thinkers, (I am not sure if it was Tagore) "There is a moment of non-thought that has the potential of becoming the focus of all thought", and I am sure everyone has had this experience of trying hard to think of solutions that don't come and then in a flash it comes when you are not deliberately thinking of it.

Who was it who said that life is what happens to you when you are doing something else. So many unique moments of life are missed because we push through just always doing and performing as if we were robots which have been programmed to always operate only within defined parameters. It is not surprising this should happen to us in a world which encourages conformity, and because of institutions that penalize those who attempt to stray a little from the strait-jackets of systems.

Fundamentalism is usually associated with religious fundamentalism, but I think it comes in many forms.... The ideas propagated about the kind of life we should all pursue in order to fit into the so-called "yuep" culture is a kind of extreme fundamentalism. The fact that if you don't work 27 hours of the day you are labelled as "lazy" is also a kind of fundamentalism that started with the "American dream" and all the ensuing workaholism. Several researches into work dynamics and on effective management of time have proved that it is counter-productive to work beyond a certain number of hours, because it has been proved that people work effectively and produce good quality work within a certain number of hours.

Some may spend 12 hours a day in the office and not produce any real work. We all have deadlines to meet. But it has rather become a status symbol to be seen always working late which implies that one is doing a very important job. Maybe we are trying to escape from ourselves.

To me, the street sweeper is an important person doing an important job (especially in Sanaa where there is litter everywhere). It always seems that we in the developing countries copy the developed world whatever it does, though after a time gap. When extreme feminism in the West is discarded, we begin to pick it up here ... and so on.

I was reading an article in an American journal about the change of heart in most Americans about family life and that more Americans are opting for cutting down on the number of hours so as they can spend more time with their families. Here, I listen to a lady I know proudly announce that she cannot remember the last time she didn't work late at the office. A wise man once said he had never heard of anyone confessing at their deathbed that they had regretted not spending more time at the office. Lest I be accused of being lazy, I have had my full schedules in life to saturation point. But thank God for that safety valve that always pulls me back and I stop in my tracks. I wonder if anything can compensate me for that moment when my little girl wants to share with me the little picture she made, or for when she had to call me several times the other day before I could hear her to tell me, "You know, Mama. Time is more precious than gold." "Why is that?" I asked her. Her answer was that one can buy gold, but the richest man in the world cannot buy time once it is gone. Here answer made me stop and really think .

A friend of mine who lives in Zambia said that she was quitting a job that even Machiavelli's enemies would envy. She said she had realised that she was really stressed from the fact that she had a flipchart in her bedroom ticking off things she needed to do the whole time. This predicament is not solely that of female professionals, but on both sides of the fence. There are professionals who spend their lives pushing papers from one end to another and others who try to bring more meaning into their endeavours. The stay at home might enrich our spirits and lives.

Much as we may like our jobs, we do need at some point to go inwards and have our own space so that we can become better parents, better people.

What can substitute the joy of watching the sunrise and smell the fresh crispness of a new day and watch the rays of the sun give a majestic hue to the mountains? Or watching a multicolored butterfly perched on a beautiful flower and observe the love and joy of giving in the flow of life . The poor of the Third World work hard for a living.... and yet they seem to have a better sense of balance maybe because they are closer to the realities of life. At the end of the day, what is it all for without the small joys of life as we rush with our pagers and mobiles....

Any answers out there?

نظافة مائتي مثال
كربستال
 جديد
 الجديد
 رغوة وفيرة... نظافة أكيدة
 الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السن والصابون
 والحاصلة على شهادة الجودة العالمية الأيزو 9001
 تأسست 1981 م - ص ب 422
 ذكركم 137 - رقم الجمهورية اليمنية
 وائل لإعلان

نعني، ونبارك للذة المهندس
 محمد عبده فرحان
 بمناسبة إرتزافه مولوده اسمها
 «زين الشرف»
 جعلها الله فرة غير والديها
 المهندس
 حافظ طربوش، خالد عبده فرحان، المهندس أحمد عبده فرحان

Yemen's Young Entrepreneurs: LEADING THE WAY TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

"No mountain is too high to climb. No dream can be beyond reach."

That is the spirit that drives a new crop of Yemeni entrepreneurs. These are young people who have studied in the West, and are today in the driver's seat for part of our economy.

Here is the story as seen by one of these young businessmen.

No mountain is too high to climb, and no dream can be beyond reach as long as there is a "defined goal", "a well thought out strategy", "clearly established objectives", "effective implementation", "exceptional dedication", "intense long hours", "unwavering determination", and most of all, "one must believe". Looking around me today, a euphoric emotion runs through me as I see other newly established "service conscious" Yemeni establishments on the path of development and growth, founded by sound practical business principles.

The growth of small businesses goes hand in hand with the growth of the economy and plays a vital role in decreasing the unemployment rate. Equal opportunity and fair competition are essential in the development of a healthy and prosperous market place. It is for this that young motivated entrepreneurs have come to realize that to compete against the other larger organizations, they must not solely depend on "Price" and "Quality" as their determining factor. They rather need to utilize all the current sales and marketing tools already available, in addition to constantly probing the latest concepts/ideas/mechanisms made available to date.

The acknowledgement of "Service" as the critical third element has tipped the scale in favor of those whom clearly understand that, in this fast pace time we are living in, end-users are demanding quality service and are willing to pay a marginal percent more if necessary.

Having said this, it would be appropriate at this time to elaborate on the connotation of "Service conscious." For example, a service conscious trading firm, simply stated, is a firm that is conscious/aware that "optimal customer satisfaction" is only derived if the customer is satisfied with the purchase price, the quality of goods received and most significantly, the service quality rendered (initiating from date quote request is received by seller until final receipt of goods by end-user).

To many "none service oriented" traders, the process of buying and selling may seem like a piece of cake. However, in reality this is far-fetched from the truth and even further where commodity trader is made available via international sources. In essence, so much can go wrong during the transaction of the trading process. For example, seller could delay goods for reason of neglect to follow-up, products supplied incorrect, quantities supplied incorrect.

Now you have a very dissatisfied "customer" as he/she is confronted with anxiety and stress involved with the big question; "What do I do now"? The headache is compounded exponentially, if for example, a wrong part (critical for operations) is received and as a result the customer's plant is now in a situation where it may have to stop operations. This is the time when your customer had wished his/her lucky stars that purchase was transacted via a reliable "Service conscious" company.

So, what do "Service Conscious" organizations have to offer? For one, they cut buyers Aspirin consumption expenditures to the absolute minimum. Although, you and I know that, the real cost savings is not tied-up in Aspirin as much as it is tied-up with the loss that would have been associated with the shut-down of a factory, electricity blackouts or the reduction in the flow of crude oil. In general, there are several fundamental elements for which enables Trading "Service Conscious" companies to become efficient, effective, and reliable.

1. The Service Concept must be clearly established, integrated and given top priority in the Company's overall strategic objectives.
2. Maintain very close communication with their customers and suppliers at all times.

3. Give special consideration and attention to the expediting and material control Functions.
4. Must capitalize very heavily on all available Communication Systems/Networks, information systems in addition to other resourceful tools.

a) Should have more than one telephone line and fax line
b) E-mail address (es).
c) Utilize the Internet to its fullest capability. To cite some examples of Internet services available today:

1. On-line purchasing.
2. Generating export documentation for new shipments.
3. Managing your logistics process via different types of tracking systems (i.e., Airfreight, Ocean freight, U.S. Domestic freight, custom brokerage etc.)
4. Quickly determining accurate duty information and receiving immediate answers to worldwide duty and tax questions.
5. Scan regularly updated news and information that effects your international business.
6. Simplifies processes by making products/services and information easy and conveniently accessible.
7. On the spot production information as to discontinued items, replacement items, etc.
5. It is imperative that there is an outlined clearly defined procedural workflow for which all company staff must strictly adhere to.

In lieu of the above fundamental Service elements, a Trading Company must still prove itself worth of what it preaches, but this can only be achieved by the test of time. It is only after numerous successful transactions that a buyer begins to gain confidence and reassurance in the supplier's ability to perform to the standard service level required. At this time a bond is established between the buyer and supplier leading to a long-term business relationship reinforced by the supplier's continuous, consistent reliable service rendered.

It is very clear by now that "service", as a third element, is fundamental in the progress of Yemeni establishments on the avenue of sound astute business practice. It is only recently that Yemen witnessed a trend of newly established service-conscious organizations, which have given a new enhanced addition to business community in general. As a result, this has allowed many private and public establishments on the demand side of the Yemeni market to apply and take advantage of the quality service that is now being offered by young, inspired, energetic Yemeni businessmen and businesswomen.

There is a number of firms which have seized the opportunity and are now capitalizing heavily in employing the services of credible Yemeni organization, in addition to working very closely with them to further develop and strengthen the "customer/supplier relationship". At first, I would like to thank Canadian Occidental Petroleum-Yemen management for their relentless efforts and significant progress made in their "Vendor Development Program". The success of said program is highly attributed to the continued and undeviating efforts exerted by Samir Zewar and the many others at CanOxy's procurement team. I would also like to thank Yemen Hunt Oil Company, Jannah Hunt Oil Company, Mr. Andre Ducleier and Ms. Leila Al-Hayouti of Total Yemen and the many others whom are now utilizing the Services to the Yemeni Vendors and for which, I am certain, have found to be mutually rewarding.

It is critical that we, as a society, adapt ourselves to meet the challenges of the changing times. We must not impose ourselves out of weakness but rather out of strength. Strength only comes about by confronting the endeavors inherent in a free market and upgrading ourselves to meet the coming of the new millennium.

I salute the many young businessmen and businesswomen who are working relentlessly around the clock to make a momentous change in the maturing Yemeni business dealings. I also encourage everyone out there to pursue their dreams and, most of all, to "BELIEVE".

By: Osama Sallam,
Managing Director, ALLISI CO. LTD.

All workers and employees of Thabet Bros Group of Companies

present its Sincere wishes and best congratulation to Yemen's
Leader And Son,

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani, and his
government,

Speaker of Parliament, Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar,
and the Parliament Members,

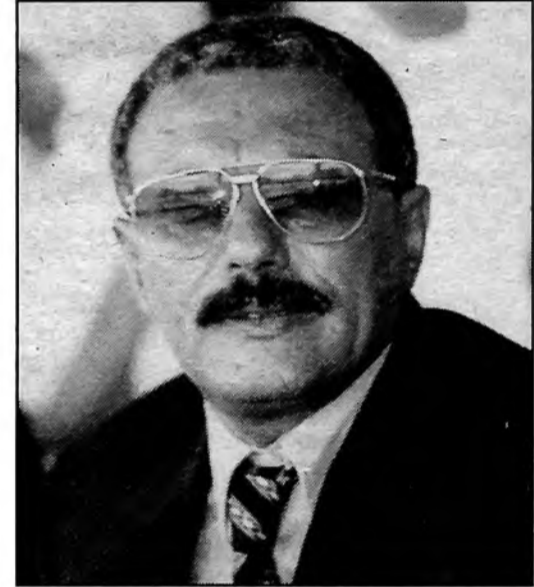
Chairman Of Consultative Council, Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul
Ghani,

and the Council's Members,

And to all Yemeni people on the occasion of

Eid Al Adha Al Mubarak

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL



مجموعة شركات اخوان ثابت

تتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية ورائد نهضتها

وإلى الحكومة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني وجميع أعضائها

وإلى الشيخ عبدالله الأحمر رئيس مجلس النواب وأعضائها المقرونين

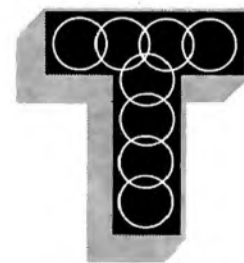
وإلى الاستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني رئيس المجلس الاستشاري

والسادة أعضاء المجلس

وإلى الشعب اليمني الكريم

بمناسبة اطلالة عيد الأضحى المبارك

كل عام ويمينا قيادة وحكومة وشعبا في تطور ورخاء وإزدهار



Eid Mubarak

The CHALLENGE of RAPID Population Growth

Why Do We Have Large Families?

By: Mohammed Ali Al-Haj,
Secretary-General,
National Population Council.



The high rate of population growth is one of the major challenges confronting the Republic of Yemen today. The economic burden of a rapidly growing population is evident in every home and every family. One can see these days one tradition and custom have it that families should buy new clothes for their children on the occasion of the eid holidays. Given continued rise in the cost of living, families with a large number of children have been devastated.

But that is a simple example. The more ominous threat to society is that its limited income will be devoured by consumption and nothing will be left to save for future investments. In addition, whatever annual economic growth is achieved, is more than off-set by a high population growth.

Let me ask, why do we have a high population growth? I can give several answers to this, as follows:

1) Hedge Against Child Mortality:

In the past, families used to have a large number of children because of a high infant/child mortality rate. Thus, by having a large number of children, the parents are assured that at least some will survive. Today, however, improvement in medical services and health conditions have resulted in a lower child mortality rates. This means that a higher percentage of children will survive.

2) Children Are a Blessing:

Indeed, we look at children as a blessing, which is true. But what happens if one cannot take care of the blessings. The point here is that it is more important to fully provide for the needs of a fewer number of children, than to have a larger crowd which is neglected.

3) Children Are an Investment:

In a society that has not yet developed the full system of social security, old-age pensions and other forms of compensation, children are the parents' hedge when they are unable to earn income. In reality, however, the collective income of a large number of children who are not properly educated may be far less than that of a smaller number of children who are better trained and educated.

4) Children Farm the Land:

In the past, families used to have a large number of children because they work the farmland. To hire labor to work on the land is costly, and the abundance of children provides free manpower to the family. Mechanization has reduced the brute human force required in farming the land. Besides, many families have moved to cities, while still producing large families.

5) Family Planning Is Against Islam!

Some people think that family planning is against our Islamic religion. This is untrue. Actually, it has been reported that the Prophet Muhammad himself has practised family planning. The other day, I was pleasantly surprised with an article by Sheikh Nasser Shaibani, Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs. His message was that the power or influence of Muslims is not measured by their numbers, but by their capabilities.

6) No Family Planning Tools:

Many families, especially the wives, complain that they do not have access to family planning tools. This is true, particularly in the countryside. This is exactly our job.

We at the National Population Council are working to make the necessary information and family planning aides available to women. Our nation cannot cope with the consequences of a high rate of population growth. For example, at the present rate, the nation is required to add 1,800 new seats in our schools every day. We just don't have the resources.

It is important that we all plan our families so that we have the optimal number we can handle.



What Are the Main Activities of the NPC?

What is Population's IEC Policy?

Population issues are multi-dimensional issues and are interlinked with health, social, economic, environmental, and other issues. Population IEC is deemed to be considered as a multi-sector integrated and interlinked system. To address such a complicated issue, the National Population Council came up with the IEC. The English abbreviation "IEC" represents the initials of the words Information, Education and Communication. This refers to a comprehensive and integrated program aiming at increasing the public's awareness and its behavior and attitudes through the use of a mixture of technologies and communication facilities. In this sense it is a systematic approach for achievement of pre-designed results. Within the framework of its objectives, the IEC covers 3 inter-related activities:

1- Population Information:

This activity calls for generation, production, exchange and dissemination of population data which can be used to raise awareness on population issues among circles of decision-makers - politicians, administrators and academicians. The most important means to be utilized are the radio, television and newspapers.

2- Population Education:

This activity aims at providing the general public with information gradually and in a "user-friendly" manner which helps to take population related decisions, based on increased knowledge and awareness. Population Education will affect the population trends and the individual's behavior in the long term.

This activity can be carried out through the regular education sector, schools, faculty, etc., or via the irregular education sector such as mosques, youth centers, cooperatives, illiteracy eradication classrooms, sports clubs, military encampments, health institutions, etc.

3- Population Communication:

This activity urges the people to adopt behavior based on their concerns and needs. It is a dual

operation. In this operation, the target audience does not stop receiving information, when he/she feels that his/her knowledge on population issues has increased.

This approach is based on discussion and exchange of ideas and views between the sender and receiver. Population communication is a significant means for convincing target population groups. An example of the population communication approach can clearly be shown in the direct contact between the agricultural extensioners and farmers. Seminars, meetings, lectures and social networks are other examples of the population communication.

How Does the National IEC on Population Program Work?

The IEC program works at three levels of activities. These are:

1. National Level Activity:

Programs at this level are designed to cover a number of sectors. Such programs always are based on a comprehensive national view.

2. Sectoral Level Activity:

Programs at this level are drawn up from The National Level Programs. They deal with specific sectors such as education, youth, health, etc.

3. Specific-Level Activity:

These are programs implemented with specific target groups in mind. For example, a certain category of the population; such as, rural women, age group 15-50, factory workers, etc.

What Will the IEC Program Do?

The importance of this program has become clear. It can be summarized as follows:

1- This program is considered part of the planning of population fieldwork. Such program connects the general theoretical level of the population policy with both its objectives and the executive dimensions in the population IEC field.

2. This program shall play an important role in

unifying the view and in prioritization of the work in light of clear and specific national aims.

3. This program enables the Technical Secretariat of the National Population Council and other concerned bodies to evaluate the work in order to assist in the development and expansion of such work.

4. The program will define the roles of various actors in this field and coordinates among the components to achieve a unified drive and direction.

Towards implementing the IEC, the NPC organized a workshop during the period 27 Feb.- 4 March 1999. It focused on the following objectives:

Development of a Master Plan for the IEC Program on Population:

- Situation analysis, including:
 - Analysis of relevant policies
 - Analysis of the current IEC projects and activities
 - Specification & projection of the target population
 - Analysis of socio-economic and cultural conditions relevant to the Program
 - Identification of important persons, groups and organization connected with the IEC Program
 - Analysis of the problem situation.

- Setting objectives with a summary in the form of an "objective tree"
- Strategy design
- Preparation of a logical framework
- Assessment of the Programs feasibility and writing the program justification.

At the end of each workshop:

- The participants should be knowledgeable about the important issues affecting population dynamic, as well as the factors affecting them.
- The participants have basic knowledge about strategic planning
- The participants will be motivated to support and contribute to the implementation of the IEC Program

• Back on the job, the participants will share the



knowledge and skills they have acquired during the workshop with their colleagues

- A core group of at least three persons will have been formed who have the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for and conduct similar planning workshops in the future.

What Is Reproductive Health Concept?

Reproductive health is the complete physical, mental and social well being of a person. It is not merely related to the functioning of the reproduction/sexual organs.

Reproductive health objectives include:

1. Ability to reproduce
2. Women finish their pregnancy and post delivery safely.
3. Produce a safe newborn that can live and grow up safely.
4. Ability of the couples regarding birth control by avoiding any health risks.
5. Safe sexual relations of couples.
6. Avoid diseases and practices that damage the reproductive health.

Key Experts Address the Issues



Dr. Klaus Wahl,
European Expert with the Program,
says:

"The European Commission is assisting the National Population Council (NPC) through the Technical Secretariat which is the implementing arm of the NPC. Rapid population growth is a great threat to this country. All other efforts to modernize the nation will become useless if the country cannot control its demographic explosion. So I think this is one of the major problems this country is facing.

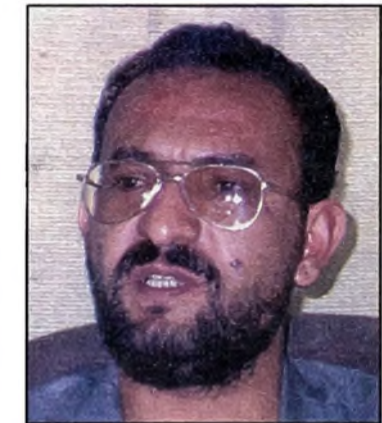
"To help Yemen control its rapid population growth, we must understand the driving factors of the demographic explosion. If nothing is done, in 18 years, the population will double. To maintain the present living standards, which are already low, it means you need double resources, which are already scarce. But even if it were possible to double the resources, which is unrealistic, still the people would have the present poor living standard.

"If population growth is not checked, people will become poorer, there will be more suffering and more unrest.

"This population program will lead to an information, education, communication and education campaign on population issues. We had 57 participants in last week's workshop. I am happy that a lot of community elders, opinion-makers and intellectuals from different governorates show great interest in this topic. We also had officials from the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Guidance participate. This means that the problem is acknowledged by religious figures.

"We emphasized that this problem cannot be solved only by donors, or by one ministry. Thus, the most important outcome of this workshop was more awareness of the problem and to engage all the ministries to work together to address this problem.

"After a long evaluation of the process, we selected four different governorates as models which stand for the different regions of the country. We chose Hajaiah to represent the mountainous area, Hodeidah to represent the coastal region of the Red Sea, Taiz to represent the plateau region, and Hadhramaut to represent the arid and coastal regions of the Indian Ocean. In addition, the project will address urban sites, especially in Sanaa and Aden."



Mujahed Ahmed Al-Sha'ab,
General Director of Information,
Education & Communication, says:

"We have two on-going projects. One is funded by the State of Yemen and the other is funded by donors. Both projects have one goal, namely to increase awareness on the problem of population growth. In both projects we maintain a certain degree of balance between the possible and ideal goals.

"We run educational activities through the official media, mainly radio and TV. We also use the service of the press. We have two pages on population education published weekly in Thawrah and 14 October newspapers.

"We also take advantage of certain social establishments to spread education on this problem like Health centers and Family care Societies. The Ministry of Education has including a program on population education in its curricula, etc.

"The problem of population growth should be everyone's concern. It affects the whole population whether rural or urban; in the mountains or deserts. So the best media to reach all people is the radio, being the most affordable and accessible and the cheapest means, and then the TV.

"The main question of tackling this issue is coordination. The most important achievement in this regard is that we have completed the draft of the National Program for Information, Education and Communication on Population, which will cover this gap. It will be the mechanism through which we can coordinate our activities

"What is really important is to offer information and education, and then to quickly move on by offering services to give the public access to birth-control tools. So generally, we work closely with health departments and family care associations to provide the necessary services related to the problem of population growth and how to tackle it.

"In a 1997 survey on Mother and Child Health, it was shown that 20% of Yemeni women are using contraceptives. Half of these were using modern contraceptives. There are also traditional means used as contraceptives like herbs and other methods. Some of these methods are really effective."



Amin Marouf Al-Jana'ad, Assistant
Secretary General OFNPC-TS, says

"We held a national workshop, during the period 27 Feb.- 4 March 1999, for generating information which will lead to the draft of a national IEC on population program. In addition we have a project, financed by the EC for implementing IEC activities.

"We are probably the first ones to tackle this problem head-on, and to have the Yemeni authorities address this problem.

"Since 70% of the Yemeni people are in rural areas, four governorates shall have been taken to represent the whole rural population. But 30% of population, which is urban, is still not covered. It will be represented by the cities of Sanaa and Aden. Thus, in total we have six targeted sites where we are going to start work.

"The funds we have at hand will cover our activities up to the year 2003. This of course includes the European donors' contribution. So as you see, we cannot really plan long-term projects. But we have a medium-range view of our work.

"In my opinion, the first and most important factor that will determine the success of the program political commitment to this problem. In this regard we have conducted a number of meetings with opinion leaders and decision makers and urged them to be actively involved in this vital problem. We also invited their perspectives. We have also expanded our contacts with prominent community elders, religious leaders and other prominent public figures who have influence with the public. In several governorates, we organized seminars on population issues. The ministry of Endowments and Religious Guidance is now a full partner.

"Let me share with you that the general position of the Yemeni public on this problem of population is undecided. That is good, because we do not have to fight a negative attitude. All we have to do is provide information that will allow the Yemenis to decide wisely on this matter. "We have to do our best to help people understand what is at stake. To show them that there is no conflict between religion and birth control. For that we have to engage more religious and social leaders."

Consolidated Contractors International Company CCC



present its Sincere wishes and best congratulation to
Yemen's Leader and Son,

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani, and his government,
Speaker of Parliament,

Sheik Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar,
and the Parliament Members,

Chairman Of Consultative Council, Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani,
and the Council's Members,

And to all Yemeni people on the occasion of

Eid Al Adha Al Mubarak

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL

شركة انحداد المقاولين العالمية سي سي سي

تتقدم بأصدق وأخلص التهاني والتبريكات إلى زعيم اليمن وإبنها البار

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر رئيس مجلس النواب وأعضاء المجلس
وإلى الاستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني رئيس المجلس الإستشاري وأعضاء المجلس
وإلى دولة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني رئيس مجلس الوزراء والسادة أعضاء المجلس
وإلى جميع أبناء اليمن العظيم

بقدم عيد الأضحى المبارك وكل عام والجميع بخير

Eid Mubarak

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MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL



مجموعة شركات علي الحباري وأولاده

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وإلى جميع أبناء شعبنا العظيم

بقدم عيد الأضحى المبارك وكل عام والجميع بخير

Eid Mubarak

Mohammed Al-Ghabri: A Story of Success and Frustration

In Yemen, which is quite an underdeveloped country, innovation and innovators are outlandish terms. That is why, when a person comes out with a claim of having discovered or invented something, the first reponse on people's face is a wicked smile. That is because we have such a low esteem of ourselves as a nation of achievers.

The reason is that, as a nation we are totally dependant on others to feed us. As individuals, we don't even know what we consume. This complete dependence on the outside world has turned what was once a "great civilization" into a parasitic population of free-riders.

There is nothing more telling in our state of affairs than the fact that there is patent registration procedure in Yemen. The Ministry of Trade and Supply as well as the Ministry of Industry are supposed to be handling such matters, but they are actually at a loss when someone comes for the service.

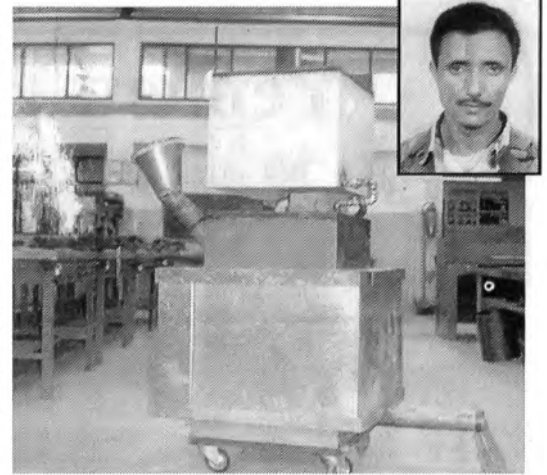
In such place any civilized feat might end in a heap of oblivion or neglect. Yet, the few-and-far-between promising talents are end up getting lip service.

One of these stories is about Mohammed Al-Ghabri, a budding Yemeni inventor. His first innovation was a mobile biogas plant which can be used in

place of natural gas for heating or lighting. Mr. Al-Ghabri went through difficult times trying to introduce himself to the relevant circles. Each time he took with him the design and prototype of his invention, till finally he found some attentive ears - not in Yemen, but in the United Arab Emirates. He was invited by the Sharajah First Arab Youth Forum in December 1998, where Mohammed's invention received full appreciation. The scientific Tribunal Committee conferred him with honors. The inventor was awarded a patent certificate.

Mohammed Al-Ghabri's activity did not stop at the bio gas generator. He has also designed a system that can be used in reducing air pollution. However he is yet to complete his experiments. The reducing air pollution system will be useful to help solve the increasing problem of air pollution especially in Sanaa," he explained.

The question remains. How can our society nurture local talents and skills if it ignores achievers?



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BE GOOD TO YOURSELF. FLY EMIRATES.

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 newspapers' editorial is also translated.



الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserite Unionist Party,
23/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. In Redaa, Collective Arrests, and Plundering of Homes.
2. The Efforts of the Authorities to Co-opt Civil Society Organizations Prepares for Destruction of Democratic Margin.
3. Preparatory Committee to Launch League of Yemeni Journalists.

B: Issue's Editorial:

In a few days, we shall witness an important event for our party. That will be the 9th National Convention of our party. This is an important occasion for the rank and file to give their judgement on the leaders who represented them in our party. It is also an important venue to air the people's views on the absolutely dark days through which our country is living. The Nasserite Unionist Party condemns the efforts of the authorities to reduce the democratic margin for liberties and freedoms, and laments the efforts by the ruling party to control all civil society organizations. As our party puts the final touches in preparing for the 9th National Convention for our party, it aims to give back to the masses their power in order to give their say on the issues to be presented. We have no choice but to press ahead in our noble march.

Attagammu',
Aden Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Attagammu' Al-Wahdawi
Al-Yamani,
22/03/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Abdul-Kareem Al-Fusayyel Elected Secretary-General of the Party.
2. In the Conference of Journalists: Direct Orders from the PGC.
3. Has the Border File Been Withdrawn from Prince Sultan?

B: Issue's Editorial:

Civil society is made of political parties, unions, syndicates, guilds, charities, sports clubs and other NGOs. The main difference between them and other organizations is that they are non-governmental, and non-profit oriented. Given these facts, what makes so many people fight to control them? For example, how do we explain the recent fights among PGC people in their elections in various branches? Is it the prestige? Is it that the PGC is a centerist party? Is it the material gain they get out of such posts? Citizens know that what is happening is not really political affiliation, because that is decided at the PGC by other means. But what we see is the fusion of the state with the party, and thus the integration of all kinds of corrupt and deviant behavior taking control over everything. The same events were repeated with the so-called Conference of Yemeni Journalists. As the saying in Arabic goes,

"Fire will eat itself, if it does not get what to consume". We are thankful that the army and security and police forces are forbidden from belonging to political parties. Otherwise, the stakes would have been much higher.

Ray,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the League of Sons of Yemen
Party,
23/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Al-Thawrah Hospital in Hodeidah Refutes the Existence of Cases of Aids in Dental Department.
2. The Authorities Stop the Rabitah Party from Opening a Branch in Rusud.
3. Wide-ranging Interaction with the Preparatory Committee for "Yemeni League to Defend Journalists".
4. Positive Results for MOWJ's activities in USA and UN.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The recent past has witnessed a concerted effort to control and co-opt civil society organizations. We have seen efforts to clone parties, to take over the Journalists' Syndicate, and closing down of newspapers. Our party has repeatedly announced its condemnation of efforts by politicians to control civil society organizations. Such control has proven in the past to be harmful to our democratization process.

If we give those who are pushing for such control the benefit of the doubt, we can say there is a mix-up of issues. But, if we were to go far, we could say that the ruling powers are trying to undermine every potential rival or competitor. The efforts by politicians to control civil society organizations is dangerous and must be stopped at once.

Al-Haq,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
League of Sons of Yemen,
21/03/1999

Front-Page Headlines:

1. The Prosecutor Describes the Aden Army as Nazis, and a War between Two PGC Sides.
2. Have the Ministers Presents Their Financial Worth Statement Before Taking Up Their Posts?
3. Citizens Dismayed by Withdrawal of Their IDs When Making a Call from the Public Telephone Booths.

Al-Belagh,
Sanaa Weekly, Independent.
23/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Lawyer Allow: Security Forces Push People Out of Their Home in a Village in Al-Baidha.
2. The President Receives a Letter from Saudi Leaders.
3. Opposition Parties Condemn

Cloning of Civil Society Organizations by the Authorities.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The decision taken by the Iraqi regime was not wise. It decided to forcibly withdraw 18,000 pilgrims from performing the Haj takes away the freedom of the people to practise their religion. But that is not the first unwise decision by the regime in Baghdad. It has consistently refused to respond to pleas for peace and a solution to the crisis. Recently, the Islamic Revolution Organization, which opposes the Iraqi regime, recently refused to accept US\$ 97 million which was allocated by the American administration to dislodge Saddam Hussain. But, rather than deal with this organization in an honorable way, the regime in Baghdad now accuses it of murdering Ayotallah Mohammed Al-Sadeq Al-Sadr and his two sons. We are dismayed by such unfounded accusations, and demand that the Iraqi regime rescind its decisions to call back the pilgrims. The policy of ruling by crisis and making more enemies will not benefit the regime in Baghdad.

Al-Ehyaa Al-Arabi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Ba'ath Party,
22/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Military Confrontations in Dhamar, Poisoning in Old Sanaa, and Saudi Tanks Surround Iraqi Pilgrims.
2. The Experience in Palestine Is Definite Proof of the Wicked Ways of the Zionist-American Schemes.
3. Press Conference for the Opposition Coordination Council.

B: Issue's Editorial:

In all its actions, the USA shows clearly that it thinks very little of the Arabs. The USA does not miss any chance to pull one over the Arabs. The examples are many. Look at the US policy vis-avis Israel and the Palestinian issue. Look at the Afghan problem. Look at what the US is doing to Iraq. Now we have a new policy. The USA openly declares that it will bring down any regime that refuses to submit to its blackmail. It openly finances what it calls 'opposition' and trains them to topple legitimate states which are represented in the UN. Today, there is a new trick. The Americans want to be selective in terms of who they would allow to acquire advanced technology, and who they would not. In this policy, the Arabs can expect to be left out of everything that has any real meaning.

Apart from the armament situation, the USA, and its British ally, lead the way in supporting the Zionist entity. Of course, they would block efforts toward Arab unity and solidarity.

That is why the question is relevant. Will Arab leaders and peoples wake up? Will they realize the American tricks? Will Arab wisdom return by supporting Iraq and Palestine?

Vacancy Announcement for IUCN focal point TERMS OF REFERENCE For IUCN Focal Point for SEM1V In Yemen

Under overall supervision and guidance from EPC and in full-cooperation with MAI and PMU and with technical support from IUCN the Focal Point is responsible for supporting the implementation of SEM-1V according to the objectives, approaches, activities, outputs, inputs and time table specified in the approved operational document. In particular, she/he will make sure that communities are properly selected according to the identified criteria, that Community Animations (CAs) are identified by their own communities and support to develop processes by which the indigenous Natural Resources management systems (INRMS) thoroughly understood, strengthened supported according to specific needs.

She/he will:

1. Assist in planning and running the training courses foreseen in the Operational Document (O.D.) and in particular in providing on-going training and assistance to the members of the Animators.
2. Help to identify and support the national consultant(s) in charge of the study of INRMS in the four regions.
3. Assist the National Coordinator, the RCSC and the CAs in identifying the initial twenty communities to take part in SEM-1V.
4. Assist the communities to select their own CAs, and with the help of the later, in the identification of community problems, indigenous natural resource management system, and the elaboration and development of community projects relevant to Subprogram IV.
5. Assist in preparing and updating workplans for SEM-1V and TORs for national and international consultants.
6. Facilitate the work of national and international consultants.
7. Assist in promoting and organizing, as often as possible, meeting and exchange visits with personnel and other relevant participants (in particular community representatives) in other SEM subprograms.
8. Assist in monitoring of SEM-1V activities.
9. Help the national coordinator in preparing progress reports for SEM-1V.
10. Prepare and submit quarterly reports to EPC and IUCN with copies to MAI and PMU.

Qualification:

Applicant should satisfy the following qualifications:

1. Applicants should be of Yemen Nationality.
2. He/she should hold B.Sc/M.Sc. degree in relevant agriculture and socio economic disciplines.
3. He/she should have knowledge of socio economic issues and in particular of community participation issues.
4. He/she should have five years experience in project management and community based work.
5. He/she should be fluent in Arabic and English, speaking and writing.
6. He/she should have proven capacity in coordinating work between line ministries, local communities and NGOs.
7. He/she should have proven computer skills and proven capabilities in reporting development.

Post Duration: 12 months expandable to 18 months where starting date mid April 1999.

Salary: US\$ 1000 payable in local currency at UNDP exchange rate valid at time of signing the contract.

Interested applicant should submit CVs to PMU Address P. O. Box 19665 not later than 7/4/1999.

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي



إعلان عن وظائف شاغرة مستشارتان

يدعو برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي كل من لديها الرغبة والكفاءة للتقدم لشغل الوظائف المذكورة أعلاه. هذه الوظائف معروضة فقط لمن يحمل الجنسية اليمنية أو العربية من النساء.

شروط الوظيفة :

وضع خطة عمل وجدول زمني للأنشطة المهنية ، والتدريب في مجال الحياطة والتطريز، نشر الوعي بين النساء في مجال البيئة ووضع برنامج لمحو الأمية وتوعية المرأة وتدريبها حول كيفية الاستفادة من المنتجات البحرية لصنع أدوات مفيدة. وتنظيم معرض للمنتجات كل أربعة أشهر للحصول على دخل والتدريب على تسويق المنتجات. بالإضافة إلى وضع برامج لتدريب المدرسين وغيرها من المهام.

المؤهلات :

- * شهادة الثانوية العامة إلى جانب دبلوم في هذا المجال كحد أدنى. بالإضافة إلى خبرة كبيرة في مجال الأنشطة المدرة للدخل مع خبرة في مجال البيئة وبرامج محو الأمية.
- * موقع العمل : منطقة اللحية والخوخة - محافظة الحديدة .
- * الفترة الزمنية 6 أشهر قابلة للتמיד.

على من ترغب في التقدم لشغل هذه الوظائف ارسال طلب مرفقاً بنسخة من السيرة الذاتية إلى :

قسم شؤون الموظفين - برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ، ص.ب 551 - صنعاء .

ترسل الطلبات في فترة اقصاها 8 أبريل 1999.

لن يتم قبول الطلبات التي تصل بعد هذا التاريخ . كما تقبل فقط طلبات المتقدمات اللاتي تنطبق عليهن الشروط المذكورة أعلاه.

March 29th, 1999

SPORTS

By: Jamal Al-Awadi

Athletics team to Ireland

The National Athletics team flew to North Ireland last Wednesday to take part in the international cross-country championship which will begin in March 27. Yemen is participating with both junior and senior teams of the following athletes:

Junior team:
A'ala Saqqaf.
Mustafa Muhia.
Nabil Suffy.
Isma'ael Dawlah.

Senior team:
Abdulrahman Abdullaziz
Mohammed Khwlany.
Anwar Omer.
Sameer Yafee.

The senior athletes were chosen according to their best local record, while the junior athletes had to compete for qualification.

The athletics team spent 10 days in local training camp coached by Mastiff Said, a Yemeni trainer. Mr. Saeed expressed hope that this participation would improve local record and add better qualification and experience given the importance of the championship in which world champs are to take part. The Algerian 1500 m. champ, Nooruddin Marcily, the Kenain champ Daniel Komen are among the leading participants. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Fuad Al-kumim,



chairman of the Athletics Union, said "This is the second participation of the athletics team after the first participation which took place in Morocco last year. This time we will compete in the 4 and 8 kilometers races". Alluring prizes have been allocated to the first five winners. Of course the Yemeni team is not expected to be among the top ones yet such events would hopefully contribute in improving local performance in this marvelous competition.

Athletics team to Ireland

Last Sunday, March 21st, chess open competition for girls was launched in Taiz with the participation of 14 female students from three schools and three sport clubs in the city. The competition was organized by Taiz Chess Union branch office with the cooperation of Female Sport Union and the Youth and Sport Office in Taiz.

Winners of the first round are:
Sarah Yassin.
Buthinah Mohgeb.
Saba Amin.
Gamilah Mohammed Ghaleb.
Nagat Mohammed Saif.
Ragha Ali Abdullah.

Salwa Mohammed Ahmed.

The second round ended with the following winners.

Sarah Yassin.
Nagat Mohammed,
Salwa Mohammed.
Buthainah Mohammed.
Muna Mohammed.
Yassmin Ali.

Activities of this competition will continue till Thursday 25th, March.

PASSION FOR PEOPLE



General Manager, Mr. Fadeel G. Wehbe and Mr. Aftab Ansari Director of Finance with the presence of Mr. Don Elliott VP - Dir. of Finance AIME, Mr. Hugo Geurtsen, Area Dir. of Finance, West Asia Starwood Hotels & Resorts, worldwide Inc. Mr. Ali O. Ghannam, General Manager of Arab Hotels Company.



Employee of the Year was awarded to Mr. Said Haza Ali, Front of the House and Mr. Saleh M. Saleh for Back of the House and Mr. & Mrs. Sheraton won by Cookie and Abdullah during the Annual Staff Party of Sheraton Hotel held last March 13, 1999.

شركة شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a

Karate Training Course: Concluded

General Training course for Karate coaches concluded in Sanaa on Saturday, March 20th. 33 coaches representing a number of governorates received the training which was sponsored by Dr. Abdullwabh Raweh, the minister of Youth and Sport. The course provided lectures on sport medical treatment, Karate Training principles and ways of building physical fitness. A number of distinguished Karate coaches in the Arab World

took part in the course which was held to unify basics and principles of Karate training in Yemen as well as to improve performance of the local coaches.

The course concluded with a ceremony during which local Karate coaches received the course completion certificates. The ceremony was attended by a number of officials in the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

ألف مبروك

أجمل التهاني وأطيب الأمنيات للأخ
يحيى حسن الذاري
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودة البكر التي أسماها
(أشواق)
فانف مبروك.
المهناون
محمد قاسم، علي سعيد، محمد مرعي،
خالد الخولاني، صالح العنسي، نعمان سنان،
وجميع موظفي الشركة اليمنية
لصناعة وتجارة الأدوية
وجميع موظفي صحيفة، يمن تايمز.

تهنئة

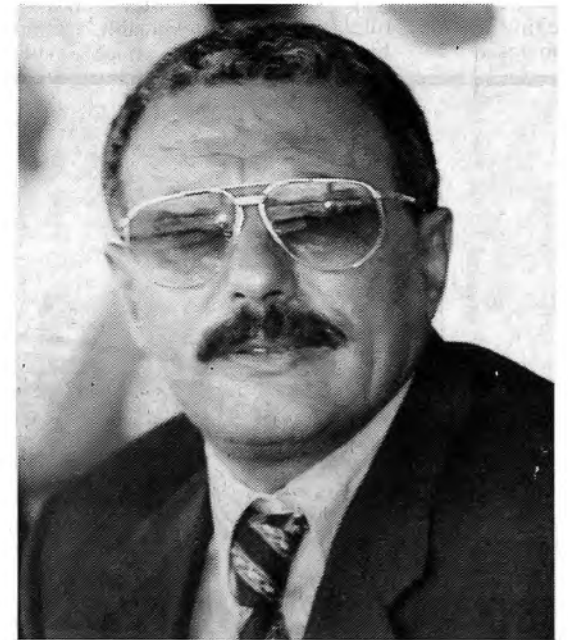
أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأخ
عبدالله عثمان الشميري
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولداً أسماه
(هازي)
ألف مبروك يا أبا مازن
المهناون
محمد حاتم القاضي،
وجميع عمال وموظفي جامعة تعز

تعزية

أصدق آيات التعازي والمواساة تقدمها للأخ
ياسين عبدالله الشميري
وكافة أفراد أسرته لوفاته والده.
سائلين الله للفقيد الرحمة
ولأهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان،
وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.
الأسبقون:
العقيد / أحمد محمد الحميري
ناصر مقبل الحميري
محمد وسعيد مقبل الحميري
عبد الرحمن سعيد، حسن الهنادوة
ياسر محمد أحمد

Arab Bank plc

Top Management, Staff and Workers of Arab Bank present their sincere wishes and congratulations to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh,
Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani and his Government,
and the Yemeni people
on the occasions of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak
Many Happy Returns to All



Eid Mubarak



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البنك العربي ش.م.ع

أسرة البنك العربي في الجمهورية اليمنية
تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى حكومة الدكتور عبدالكريم الارياني

وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبي

بمناسبة قدوم

عيد الأضحى المبارك

وكل عام وأنتم بخير



البنك العربي ش.م.ع

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ولمتانة في الأصل

الفروع العاملة في اليمن

إدارة منطقة اليمن: ٢٧٦٥٩٣

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٢٧٧-٢٩/٤٤

الفروع الأخرى: تعز: ٢٣١٥٢٣، الحديدة: ٢٣٩١٦٦/٧

عدن: ٢٤٢٠٩٩، الشيخ عثمان: ٢٨٧٣٦١

إب: ٤٠٧٣٤٥، المكلا: ٣٥٤٠٠٣

Ayoub Tarish Absi

Time To Be Honored!

Ayoub Tarish Absi is considered to be the leading singer of the country, and one of the most important pillars of the Yemeni songs in the modern age. His contribution has been, after all, quite outstanding.

When he was a child, he went with his father to Aden, then a British colony. There he started learning the holy Quran at the hands of the great Yemeni scholar Sheikh Al-Baihani, who was very much impressed by the melodious voice of the young Ayoub, who was asked to recite many verses from the Quran. But, little did Sheikh Baihani - and Ayoub's father for that matter, that the young lad had a secret hobby.

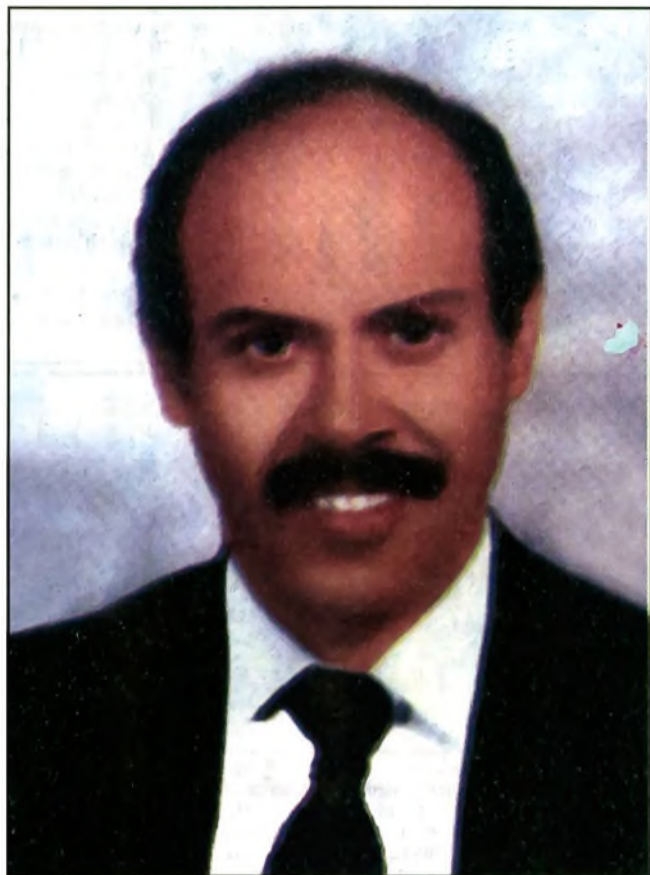
Due to his artistic inclination, Ayoub used to listen to songs secretly. He used to sing along with Om Kalthum, dubbed by Mohammed Abdul Wahab as the 'Star of the Orient'.

But the boy's infatuation with songs was not to remain a secret for long. Hearing Ayoub sing on a tape recorder, Sheikh Al-Baihani felt unhappy and disappointed. One of the boy's jealous friend had taped the singing boy and presented the cassette tape to the teacher.

Sheikh Baihani said that he expected Ayoub to become a great reciter of the holy Quran, but that the boy had sold out to the 'devil' by turning to singing.

That was the end of his association with Sheikh Baihani, and it was also the end of his stay in Aden. The father decided to send the boy back home to Al-A'abous in Hugarriah, Taiz Governorate. There was a silver lining to this move, which at the surface looks like a setback.

Back at home, Ayoub started singing some rural songs composed by his brother



Mohammed Tarish who was a farmer-poet. The move also freed the aspiring singer from looking above his shoulders.

Ayoub's glory days in the world of art sparkled when he came to know the late Abdullah Abdul Wahab Noman, one of the pioneer composers and poets of Yemeni songs. They started working together, one writes the songs, and the other sets them to singing. In this way, they complemented each other.

In fact, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqalih, a famous Yemeni poet, once said that we

couldn't talk about one without referring to the other, as they became like twins.

Yemen's September and October Revolutions, the unification of the nation, and other crucial political issues were given top priority in the work of the two talented persons. The poet wrote, and the singer produced the rhythm and songs. For those who may not know, this couple produced the national anthem of Yemen.

Yes, this mutual company and close relationship resulted in the production of a series of songs, we now refer to as the memorial and monumental

songs of Ayoub.

Ayoub sang national patriotic songs for the revolution. He sang many love songs - romance was a big part of his music. He sang for social occasions such as weddings, reunions, etc.

Then, in his old age - and over the last few years, in a fateful twist of events, Ayoub began turning to religious songs. His last cassette tape is full of wonderful hymns glorifying the Lord. Sheikh Baihani, long dead, would have loved this recent development.

Today, however, Ayoub, 57, suffers from a bad health. "My shoulder aches quickly, I can no longer play the ood for an extended period of time," he complains. He also has a repeat attack of malaria, something of which nearly a million Yemenis suffer.

But, the real problem his feeling of being neglected. The authorities have yet to honor him with any meaningful award. A government which has been more than generous with medal and decorations given to undeserving persons, Ayoub has yet to stake his claim. Thus, the old singer comes down with a constant seizure of the "blues".

It surely feels sad when you see a person who spent most of his life entertaining Yemenis, and bringing happiness to their lives, now being ignored and left to loneliness and depression.

My feeling is that the authorities will honor this man once he dies - posthumously, as they say. But I say, "Why wait. Do it now."

By: **Mohammed Al-Qadhi,**
Taiz Office Editor,
Yemen Times.

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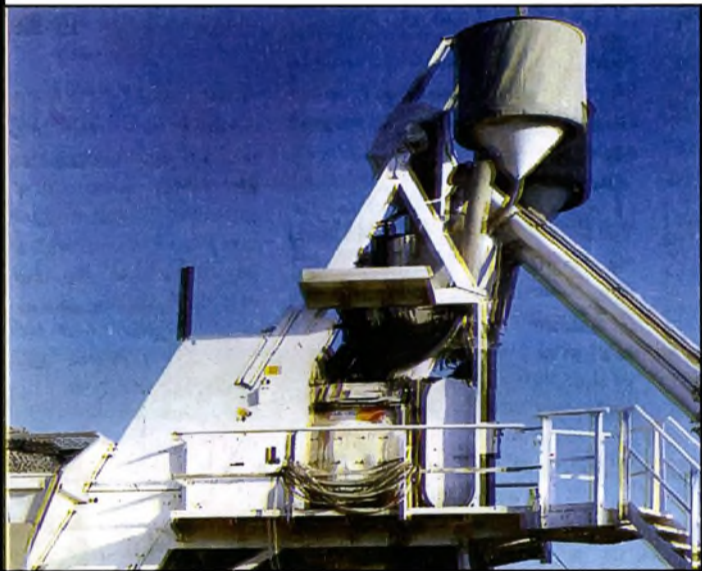
Aden's Containers Terminal Launched

The First Phase Towards Building Aden Free Zone

As was scheduled, Aden's Containers Harbor was officially inaugurated on Friday, 19th March in what is called the most spectacular event the city experienced for a long time. This giant project is just what the city and the whole country need at this particular time. A number of leading companies in the world took part in the construction of this important



other auxiliary equipment. Despite many difficulties during construction, the company was able to carry on all duties with remarkable success.

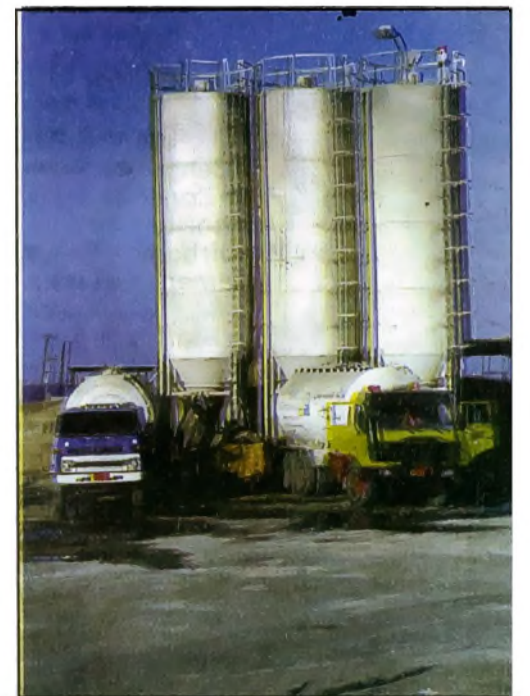


project. PSA and Hunday were among these companies in addition to some distinguished local companies notably Shafa Container Co. Ltd. This company is 100% Yemeni and is working in contracting projects. Its construction job in the con-

tainers harbor concentrated on concrete supply and the manufacture of paving blocks. The total quantity of concrete used in this project was on the order of 200,000 cubic meters, all produced under strict quality control using a state of the art plant, and equipment specifically imported for this project. Among the important plants are two fully computerized Batching Plants, three concrete pumps, a 10,000 litre per hour chiller, nine transit concrete mixers paving block machinery capable of producing up to 50,000 blocks per day and a host of



While paving of the Terminal Container Road.



The Official Opening of the Container Terminal of the Aden Free Zone Signals

A Historical Day for Yemen

On 19th March, 1999, the International Container Terminal of the Aden Free Zone was inaugurated and opened for business. The first ship has already anchored, unloading its containers. That step announced the return of Aden as an important international link in world trade.



place to load and unload containers at a capacity of 40 tons.

At the same time, the terminal has 22 giant trucks and 45 trailers all of which are part of the equipment to handle the work. In addition, fire-trucks, communication systems, and computers have been installed for immediate work.

As part of the first phase, 35 hectares of earth has been compacted, while 9.5 million cubic meters of undersea material have been removed by the Dutch giant driller which has a diameter of 700

meters and a depth of 15 meters.

Moreover, a quay of 680 meters with a depth of 16 meters has been constructed in order to allow the largest vessels to anchor. Total expenditures have reached US\$ 250 million.

NEXT PHASE:

As a next phase, preparations are underway for the industrial zone. Plans are being drawn up for the project to cover an area of 700 hectares.

On the occasion of the official opening of the Container Terminal of the Aden Free Zone, Mr. Dirhem Abdo Noman, Chairman of the Aden Free Zone, gave a brief statement, as follows:

"The inauguration is of the first of three stages. The first phase has a 1,650 quay and a storage capacity of 1.5 containers over an area of 60 hectares. The cost of the first phase is US\$ 187 million, and is implemented by PSA of Singapore, which is considered the principal contractor of the project. The contract was signed in June 1997, and had a 31 month validity."

"I hope that all of us will rise up to the responsibility on us in protecting this important achievement and in pursuing more achievements in the following two phases. I have been honored to have been among the team working under the able leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, to whom I offer congratulations on this important event."

Also on this occasion, Mr. Goon Kok Loon, Chairman of the PSA Group, said:

"We are extremely happy with the cooperation and joint effort that have allowed such achievement. We all know that there are many seaports and free zones; therefore, it is important that we work hard to attract business to the Aden Free Zone. We believe that Aden has a locational advantage for ships travelling from East to West, or vice-versa."

The PSA official also added that

the partnership between Yemen and Singapore is further consolidated by the official visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Singapore last week. "We reinforce each other through this partnership," he added.

Finally, Mr. Goon Kok Loon indicated that his company's interests are not just limited to the Aden harbor. "We are considering other options as the opportunities unfold," he concluded.



On hand for this historic moment were Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Sayyani, Minister of Transportation, Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanim, Governor of Aden, Mr. Dirhem Abdo Noman, Chairman of the Aden Free Zone, Mr. Ahmed Saleh Bin Fareed, General Manager of Yeminvest, and a number of officials from PSA, Hyundai and other contracting and subcontracting companies.

ADEN FREE ZONE PROJECT:

About 70% of the quay of the Container Terminal has been completed. Deepening and dredging of the depth and other basic technical and service facilities have been a 100% completed by January 1999. The necessary forklifts - 8 flexible and 4 standard, are in





شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة وموظفيها وعمالها
تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات والأمنية الصادقة مقرونة بالوفاء والعرفان
لقائد الشعب فخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر
وإلى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني
وإلى الأستاذ درهم عبده نعمان رئيس المنطقة الحرة بعدن
وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة تدشين المرحلة الأولى من تشغيل ميناء الحاويات بالمنطقة الحرة - عدن
وكل عام والجميع بخير



The Chairman, Employees, and Workers of
The National Cigarettes and Matches Industry
present their Congratulations and best wishes to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani and his Government,
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain Al-Ahmer & Parliament,
to the President of Aden Free Zone Mr. Dirhim Abdo Noman,
and the Yemeni People



On the occasion of launching the first phase of operating Aden Container Terminal
Many Happy Returns

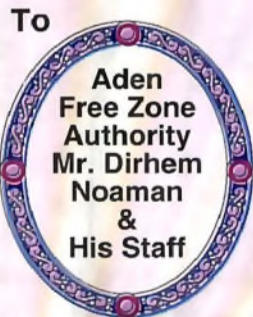
أجمل التهاني والتبريكات بمناسبة إفتتاح مشروع ميناء الحاويات بالمنطقة الحرة

Prefabricated Buildings Factory (PBF)
represented by chairman of the company Mr. Ali Ahmed Akabat,
employees and workers present their sincerest congratulations and
regards to his excellency

President Ali Abdulah Saleh,
to the regardful Government headed by
Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani,
to the Parliament headed by
Sheik Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar,
and to all Yemeni people



On the occasion of starting and operating Aden Terminal Container at Aden Free Zone
Wishing Yemeni people more development and progress



* We are very pleased to join your ceremony for completion
your project (Aden Container Terminal Project).

* We are lucky with you, that P.B.F do & success small part of this project

* We wish you fruitful interest for long time.

We hope to follow with you the second and third Phases

P.B.F

PREFAB BUILDING FACTORY



*National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Limited /Aden (NSMI)
An Economic Giant in the Yemeni Market*



A New Agreement between NSMI and Rothmans International Aims to More Development and Modernization

The famous businessmen, Sheikh Saleh Salim Bathawab, first established the NSMI in Aden in June 22nd, 1973. He was the person who built, structured, and took care of the company until it had become a well-known economic giant, which contributes to the budget of the country with its huge financial resources. On another level the company continues to have an influential and distinguished role in employing a large amount of local labor.

Realizing that modernization must always be in parallel with construction, Sheikh Bathawab made an agreement between his company and Rothmans International for modernization and development. One year before officially opening the company, Sheikh Bathawab had an agreement with Rothmans International, which is a world wide famous company in cigarette manufacturing. The aim behind the agreement was to benefit from the support and expertise of Rothmans International and to have it evaluate the quality of its products. He continued to renew the agreement, which made him have the award of excellence in June 1980 and in May 1991.

At the end of last year, specifically on the 8th of December 1998 in Dubai-UAE, the Chairman of NSMI, Sheikh Bathawab made another agreement with Rothmans International that lasts for 5 years. The agreement, which the administrative board had approved, will continue to be renewed every two years. Sheikh Bathawab headed the delegation to Dubai, which included lawyer Sheikh Tariq Abdullah, the law consultant of the company, along with its technical manager Hasan Ahmed



Signing the new agreement between NSMI and Rothmans International

Al-Saqqaf. The delegation then went into deep discussions with Rothmans about the final draft of the agreement. The Rothmans delegation included the Manager of the Middle East and South Asia Mr. Ian Moyer, Mr. Andrew Jibernt the Regional manager of Yemen and Levant countries, Mr. Tony Good the representative in Sanaa, Mr. Graham Tanner the law consultant, and Mr. Bart John the economical consultant.

On the demand of the NCMI, the agreement declared that Palmal and other international brand marks be promoted, and to give technical support in the production of Cigarettes with increasing quality, and enhancing quality control capabilities to improve the company in all aspects. The agreement also proclaims that consultations, technical programs, statistical analysis mechanisms, marketing schemes, and advertising strategies be given to the company. The agreement also emphasizes the importance of providing managerial and technical support to the company.



The delegations of the National Cigarettes and Matches

