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Efforts to Establish Children of Emigrants NGO. Page 3.

An Open Letter to the Prime Minister. Page 5.

DAMT: Fantastic Tourist Attraction. Page 10.

Corruption Versus Moral Values. Page 13.

Next time you buy your copy of the YEMEN TIMES, make sure you get the real paper, not the clown's copy, we mean, the clone copy!

NASSERITE UNIONIST PARTY ELECTIONS

The Nasserite Unionist Party (NUP) is the only political party in the Republic of Yemen that has repeatedly achieved a peaceful transfer of power. Through rank and file elections consummated in a general convention, the party has achieved what others have failed to do - hold elections with no pre-determined results. Of course, other political parties hold elections, but the controlling person/group in the party always directs the results. The top people exercise control over the process. But not in the NUP.



The NUP General Convention was held during the 18-21 April, 1999. It was a slaughterhouse, reminiscent of Western party conventions. No body had control over the outcome and the big boys of the party

went through a lot of agonizing moments. The results were also startling. New comers represent over 40% of the Central Committee, and there are new people at the top echelons.

Read more on page 12

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New Blow to Economic Well-Being

Yemen Times sources are seeing more ominous clouds on the horizon for the Yemeni economy. Following the near-total collapse of the middle class (small/medium enterprises & businesses), there are now signs of serious cracks in the big business families of Yemen. According to the final accounts of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies (HSA), the Yemeni part of the business has suffered enormous losses in 1998. The Group's Yemeni business reported major losses in the Yemen operations, though the overall performance of the group - including international interests - was profitable. "We cannot continue in this way. It is not good for us, and it is not good for the country," explained a leading member of the group. As a result, the Group is expected to lay off nearly 1,500 employees over the next few weeks. The HSA employs roughly 10,000 persons, mostly in their Taiz factories.

Another family business group, the Thabet Brothers, saw their Yemeni profits cut in half, falling to almost negligible levels. Here again, return on the group's foreign investments has been high, thus more than making up for the loss in the Yemeni operations. The logical conclusion from such developments is that Yemeni investors may find it more profitable to invest abroad, rather than in their own country. According to an international expert, "The authorities should take decisive measures in support of local investments. That is not happening at this time." Local industrial and service activities suffer from pervasive smuggling, as well as from unfair competition, nepotism and favoritism leading to the rise of a new upper class connected to the power structure. "Unless these elements are checked, there is no reason for us to invest in this country," said one key investor.

Malaria Takes Its Toll

Nasser is fine. He is recuperating well in Paris, where he was shipped out for better medical treatment. Unfortunately, the fate of some 1.7 million Yemenis who are infected by malaria is quite different than the fate of the son of the Vice President of the Republic of Yemen, Mr. Abdo Rabbo Mansoor Hadi. Some 20,000 Yemenis die from this disease every year. Most of the victims are of a young and tender age, though there are many adults who also pass away.

Today, the Republic of Yemen is infested by the disease of malaria, as the disease strikes in many parts of the nation. In spite of impressive efforts by the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdullah Abdul Wali Nasher, and an able team of assistants, the rampage of the malaria parasite continues uncontrolled. "It is just an uphill battle. Remember the total governmental allocation for the health sector is only US\$ 3.6 per person. And a good part of that is lost to the bureaucracy, inefficiency, and of course, corruption. That is why I look for foreign sources of funding for our projects, including the malaria campaign," he said. Indeed, international support has been quite forthcoming, although slowly. The Yemeni government has begun to allocate more funds, but the uphill battle continues.

Read more on page 8

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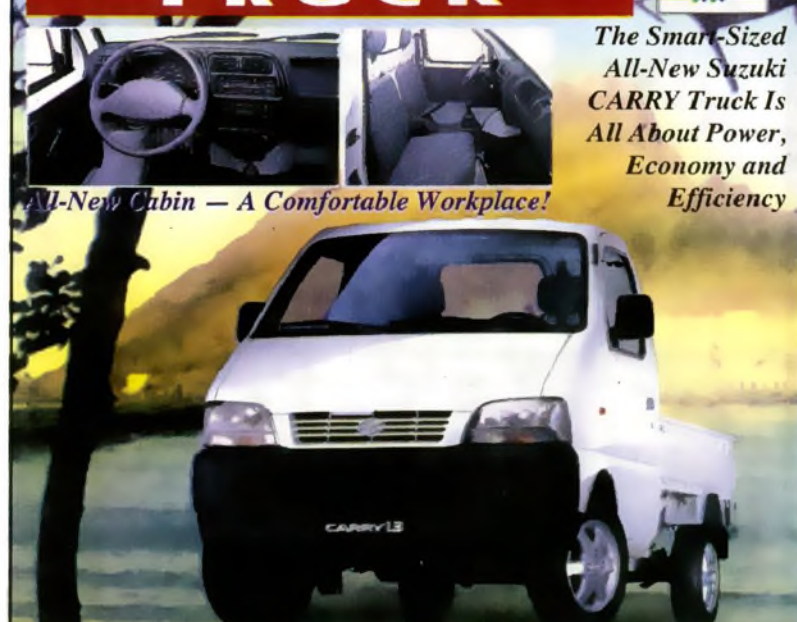
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OUR VIEWPOINT

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

These days, people routinely talk about the relationship between national sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations.

As the world moves into the 21st century, the rules of the game are changing. It will be noted that following World War II, the victorious nations sanctified an old concept - the integrity of the nation state. Relations between nations were the cornerstone of the United Nations system. A nation could not attack another, and if did, the world community would have the right to exact punishment. But a nation was more or less free to treat its own citizens as it wanted.

Today, that is changing. A new concept is taking over, and we can call it the integrity of the individual. What this means is that a nation is no longer free to treat its own citizens, or any other human being, as it wants. There are now rules to safeguard human rights.

This development - and a new attitude in the way we collectively manage our affairs - reflects a certain level of maturity and growth on our part as human beings. Countries of the world have a moral right to stop ruthless leaders when they suppress their own people. There is no reason to find excuses in the name of territorial integrity and national sovereignty to protect repressive dictators.

Another point often presented to shield dictators concerns who in the world community has the right to exact the punishment. Preferably, this should be done on a collective basis. But if that does not work, there is no reason why a solid bloc of humanity cannot act. This is the case with the NATO action against Serbia today. Yes, it is American-led. So what? After all, human rights are the business of everybody, and repressive regimes better watch out!

I believe that as humanity evolves and matures even further, we shall come to a time when the world works on the basis of the integrity of life as a cornerstone to our civilization. In other words, the world community would have the right to stop nations and regimes that engage in destruction of the environment, in chemical warfare, in senseless deforestation, or other forms of destruction.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

These are important milestones in the maturity and growth of humanity.

UNFPA Executive Director to Visit Yemen
Dr. Nafisa Sadik, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will visit Yemen during May 1-3, 1999. She will meet with government officials to discuss population and development issues. She will also visit UNFPA funded projects, and consult with key donors.

Dr. Sadik, appointed in 1987, was the first woman to head one of the United Nations major voluntarily funded programs.

A Bumpy Road Ahead for Yemeni-British Relations

Mr. Robin Cook, British Foreign Minister, ordered the shut-down of the British Council offices in Sanaa and Aden. The British decision is said to reflect the unhappy mood in London regarding the less than adequate (read, honest) response from Yemeni authorities regarding the on-going differences on legal and procedural matters concerning the trial of the Britons in Aden.

On the same issue, close relatives of the Britons jailed in Yemen have been refused entry visas to come and attend the trial and offer comfort to their loved ones. These include Mrs. Tasweer Begum, mother of Ghulam Hussain, and two of his brothers. They also include Souad & Nadia Ghailan, aunts of Mohsin Ghailan.

Mrs. Monica Davies, wife of one of the accused, was the only one allowed back into the country after direct intervention from Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister, following her repeated appeals. She sounded very frustrated in her letter to him. "I converted to Islam and saw a beautiful way of life and a religion that brings up good people with values. This is the first time I have had to go to people for help, and I find that the people giving me the most difficulty and problems are Muslims. I ask myself why?" Along the same lines, a delegation of British investigators is in Yemen to gather information on the connection of British nationals to international terrorism.

Society to Protect Minors
A new NGO, Yemeni Society to Care for Minors is going to be established tomorrow, Tuesday, April 27th. Mr. Mahfooth Salim Shammakh, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, has called for the constituent assembly to meet at the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce.

"Interested persons are welcome to join," he said.

Y2K Seminar Organized by Ministry of Planning

The Y2K Technical Committee of the Ministry of Planning and Development started a 2-day seminar explaining the efforts of various Yemeni sectors in trying to make their institutions and companies work smoothly on the turn of the century. The seminar that started yesterday, April the 25th will explain the progress and

the obstacles facing them in making their systems 100% Y2K-compliant. The Ministry of Planning, Electricity Corporation, Central Bank of Yemen, Procter and Gamble Co., Teleyemen, Yemenia, and other establishments submitted their research during the seminar.

Queen Arwa University's Cultural Week

The Queen Arwa University launches its Cultural Week today, Monday, 26th April. Dr. Wahiba Fare', Rector, said that this year's theme will be "Democracy's Day in Yemen."

The event is open to the public.

Yemen's Initiative to Resolve the Kosovo Conflict

The Republic of Yemen has done it again. We are now confronted with what is termed as a Yemeni

initiative to resolve the Kosovo problem. Mr. Abdullah Al-Ashtal, Yemen's Envoy to the UN, is expected to hand-deliver the initiative to the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan.

Yemen had earlier come up with an initiative to resolve the Somali civil war, mediated between Sudan and Eritrea, kicked off an Arab League initiative with respect to Iraq, and many other valuable, though unheeded contributions to international politics. Is this great or what!

Iraqi Art Exhibition

Artists among the Iraqi community residing in Yemen are launching an Iraqi Artistic Exhibition tomorrow, Tuesday, 27th, April. The three-day event is taking place at Gamal Abdul-Nasser Hall in Sanaa University.

YJS Starts Membership Screening Drive

Supported by a team of technical experts from the Federation of Arab Journalists, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has just embarked on a membership screening drive.

The new YJS leadership had promised, when it was elected two months ago, to look into the membership body. Many circles believe that some members were inserted by the People's General Congress in order to control the election results.

"Of the 1,800 members in the old list, we expect about half will disappear from the final list because they will not qualify as journalists," said Mr. Rajeh Al-Jaboobi, Member of the Board.

The YJS has circulated a form which all would-be members need to fill out. It also requires copies of various documents from applicants to prove they are journalists.



"I would like to strongly invite all journalists to apply for membership. I would like to especially appeal to those who have doubts about our integrity to try us out. It is easy for them to curse the darkness. I do wish some of the journalists opposed to us would help light a few candles," said Mr. Mahboob Ali, Chairman of the Syndicate. Indeed, his appeals have obtained results. Several key journalists have already completed their registration.

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll
Question is placed weekly at:
<http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>
The results only reflect the portion of people who use the Internet and submit their votes online

Question
Why do you think the country's administration, with all its power, still is unable to forbid carrying weapons in major cities until today?

Results

- Simply because it is too weak to face tribes, and other armed groups who consider weapons their honor and means for security, especially when there is no security provided by the state. (50%)
- Because of the economic difficulties, it is quite easy to get a weapon license by paying a few thousand rials (as bribe). (2%)
- The administration itself is based on militant grounds, and it is difficult for a militant to disarm others because it is their example. (34%)
- If it is truly willing to do so, I have no clue why it cannot achieve it. (14%)

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Mohammed Al-Amoodi:

“I wish that the officials concerned with emigrants will try to attract the emigrants and their children at home here in Yemen.”

The Yemeni society grapples with a problem it doesn't want to openly address. This is the discrimination exercised against Yemenis born abroad, especially those of African mothers. According to some estimates, there are hundreds of thousands of these people, forming a visible yet disenfranchised minority.

Now, there is something being done to help this situation. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Amoodi, is a 56-old Yemeni who was born in Ethiopia. He is married with 8 children. Mohammed is a well-known and active member of the Yemeni Emigrants' Children Welfare Society (YECWA). He works in pre-made garment manufacturing. He has been a resident of Yemen since 1984 after he had lived most of his life in Ethiopia.

Mohamed Bin Sallam of the Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Mohammed in order to know more about the society he works in, and to have his thoughts of the reasons Yemeni Emigrants' children need such associations.



Q: How far have you come in establishing the Yemeni Emigrants' Children Welfare Society?

A: We have finished forming the society's framework, charter and policy orientation. As an NGO, we work through the Ministry of Social Affairs which is responsible for licensing the NGO. Of course, once the founding members meet as a constituent assembly, there will be changes to be made. We have started registering members, and we will announce next steps soon.

Q: Who are the founders of the society? How many people are involved in the founding of the society?

A: There are nine founders in what we call the Preparatory Committee. The idea of the society was initiated by Mohammed Naji Al-Shatri, Mohammed Naseer, Naseer Qutabish, Abdul-Hakim Aaiad, Saleh Al-Sereihi and Abdul-Wahab Al-Sereihi.

Q: What are the objectives of the society?

A: The emigrant's children were not integrated in the Yemeni society. They were left at the margin. They should be included in the on going activities. Integrating them is one of our objectives.

We will also try to develop their working skills. We will help them find means to meet and organize social activities such as helping the poor and the needy and helping each other.

Most of these people are working in different fields. This will help us in the future to organize educational and training classes and help our members adopt new skills. Maybe one day we will be a self supporting vocational institution.

Q: Is there a link between the emigrant's children all over the country or you will just concentrate on Sana'a?

A: At the moment we are concentrating on Sana'a, but we have made some contacts. We found people willing to become members of our society in various cities. The numbers of potential members is very high.

Q: What was the reaction of the public to your project?

A: The reaction was overwhelmingly positive, especially among the intellectuals and the educated people. But the reaction of less educated people was less positive or shall I say, they have a few reservations.

Q: Did you get some kind of support from the Yemeni authorities?

A: As a matter of fact, yes, we did. We got a lot of support from the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs. They helped us in the drafting of the society's charter. They also extended more support by giving us tips on management and so on. Whenever we face an obstacle they come to our rescue. We also got some support from people at the Consultative Council. Actually, I was invited to speak at the recent Hearings of the CC on Emigrants.

Q: How many members do you have so far?

A: Well, as you know we just started. In less than two months, we already have 460 members.

Q: What problems confronted you?

A: There were no real problems. But some people accuse the association of trying to separate the emigrant's children from the society. Their excuse is that once the emigrant is back in the motherland, he/she is part of the community, and doesn't need to have an independent association. This is a false concept. The emigrants, whether abroad or at home, remain part of the community. We have many associations representing many towns and areas of the country, and this does not isolate them or cut off those towns and areas from the rest of society. In fact, this will strengthen the society and help it grow efficiently. In addition, some people try to embrace the association in order to serve their political ambitions.

Q: Can you give us an approximate number of the pool of membership?

A: I am sorry, there are no good statistics as such. But I think the number is more than 1,700,000. Yemenis emigrated to many corners of the world. They intermarried and had children. So you really can't tell how many of these people are came here.

Q: What was your contribution in the emigrants conference of the Consultative Council held recently?

A: The conference was a surprise to us. It was during the time when we were busy finalizing our association's license. However, we attended the hearings and listened to the discussions with interest. The information will be of significant help to our future plans. It was also a good chance for us to announce the birth of our association. Now we are looking forward to the main conference, which will be held in mid-May. We are preparing to attract more people to join our association, and to help them settle in Yemen.

Q: The association needs a massive advertisement activities. Do you have the finances?

A: This is a problem we are facing. Currently we rely on the membership fees as income, and it is a nominal amount YR. 150 registration fee and YR. 100 as a monthly payment. We need to tell the public so that supporters from inside or outside the country can help us financially and morally.

Q: How do you feel about the attitude of some people towards the emigrants and their children?

A: There is injustice. There is discrimination. There is intimidation and segregation. This happens, in spite of the fact that many of the emigrants and their children did sacrifice for the revolution and the country. The emigrants and their children represent a high percentage of the educated people, and can hold responsible posts. However, the emigrants face a lot of harassment. For example, if one were to merely apply for an ID

card. We really don't know if it is the system and the laws, or the people at these offices that are creating all these obstacles. This has affected many of the emigrants, and given them an inferiority complex, in addition to other problems, such as fear of the rejection by society. They feel that people look down at them.

There is always a question on these people's mind. Will my children go through the same pains? If the answer is yes, they ask themselves if their children will be strong enough to take it? This question is out of worry over the well being of their children. When they apply for jobs, they feel that they are discriminated against and rejected. This feeling of being oppressed now lives with them.

Q: What was the role of the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs in overcoming this problem or ease the emigrants' pains?

A: In the past, I could say this ministry did no work. It was a mere name and offices. At present, we starting to feel that they are trying to do something positive. But I do not

believe helping alleviate the discrimination is not top in their agenda.

In the CC hearings, the main objective was how to attract emigrants' money. How to make emigrants bring back their wealth to Yemen! Not even one paper discussed the hell through which emigrants children have to

face. It was only through the forceful appeal of one member of the Consultative Council that we got to be invited, and given the chance to speak.

Q: What is importance of the coming emigrants' conference?

A: The First Emigrants' Conference is about how to attract emigrants to invest in the development of the country. But if the situation does not encourage you to come back, then this conference is useless.

I wish that the officials concerned with emigrants will try to attract the emigrants and their children at home here in Yemen.

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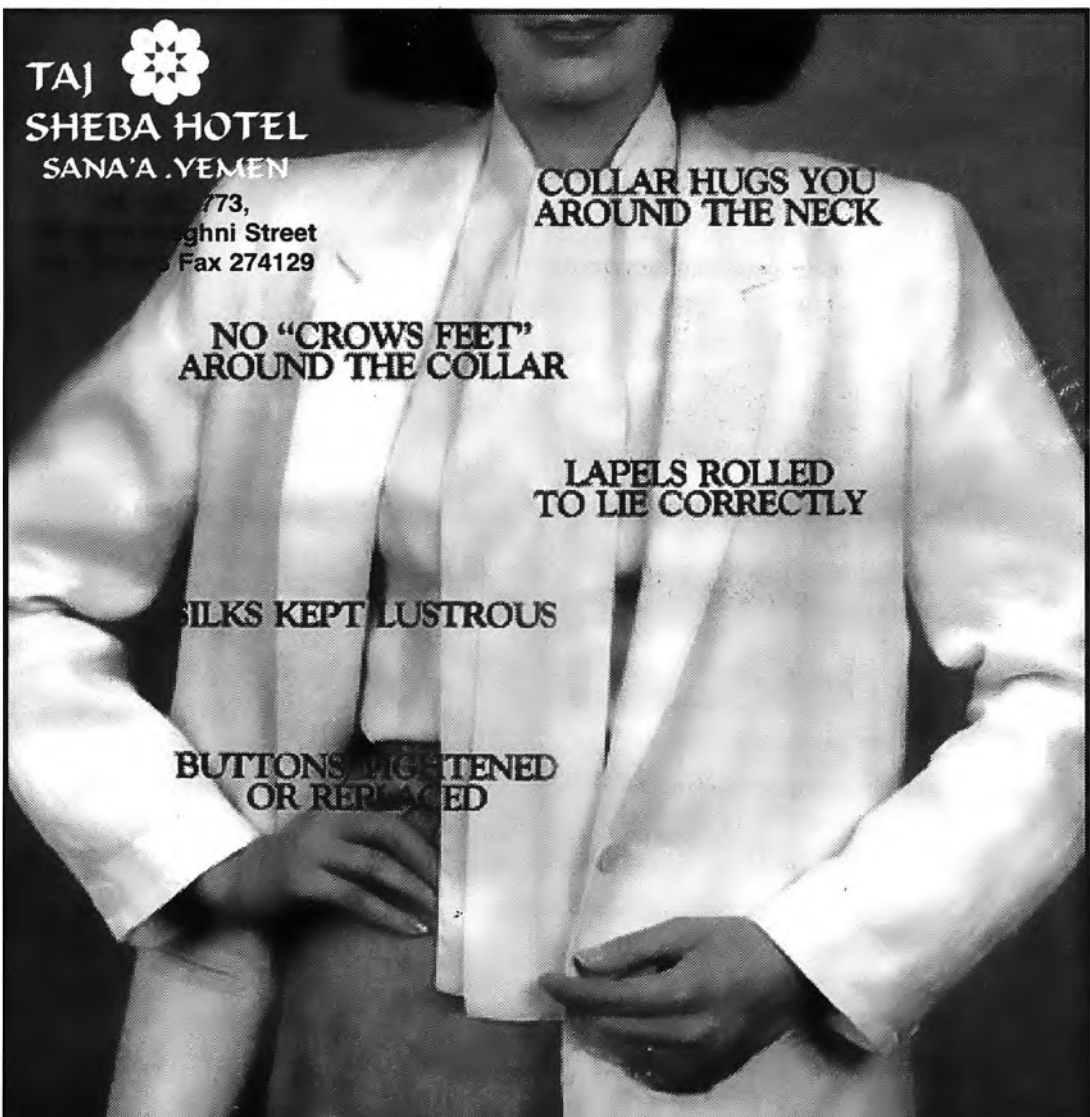
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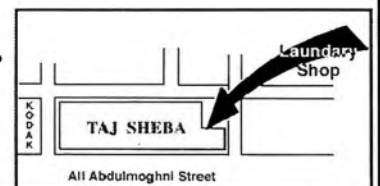
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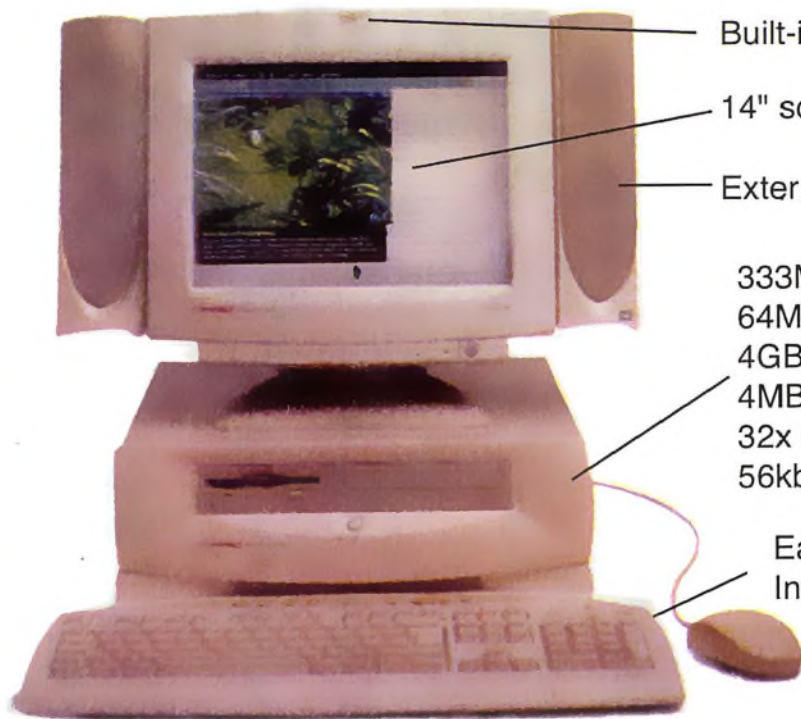
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Constructive Suggestions to the Prime Minister on His Government's Pledge of Accountability

I must say that the statement made by the Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, regarding his pledge to be held fully accountable, is an excellent one. I heartily congratulate him for the bold move as accountability of government is an assurance to rectify intentional and/or unintentional crimes committed by several high-ranking officials. I hope our Honorable Prime Minister fully understands the commitment he has made.

Our Honorable President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, exerted excellent efforts to establish friendly relations with almost all highly modernized, industrialized and leading countries of the world in all the beneficial areas. The President and his colleagues have also shown great interest in developing the Republic of Yemen by enticing the world to assist and invest in Yemen.

The recent inauguration of the Aden Container Terminal is an achievement which, with the full cooperation of all sides, shall be a success. I strongly believe that the Aden Container Terminal has every factor necessary for success, and will succeed by the will of God and the support of the Yemeni People and our vigilant leader, President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

I beseech our Prime-Minister, with the full cooperation and support of all Yemenis, to weed out the mischievous acts and blunders of a few selfish people. The work of these few people will hamper the potential progress of the Aden Container Terminal if we let them. Therefore, I feel that implementation of the above-mentioned pledge of accountability will be an important indicator of the orientation of our government. I mean that instant accountability ought to be exercised when and where necessary, with no discrimination or favoritism, and without paying any heed to who the violator is.

In order to show the fields where accountability is most needed, please allow me to point to the following:

1. Illegitimate Use of Armed Force (Armed Squads):

It is regrettable to note that in Yemen, in general, and in Aden, in particular, our people have suffered a lot since 1994 because of violent clashes and the break-down of law and order. In some governorates, the rule of law and order has fallen to nothing. The strong in our society are able to wipe out the weak. Unfortunately, I personally suffered from this situation as I was the weaker side in a showdown with an adversary. My personal property was raided and captured in an attack by an armed gang. I persevered,

and after four years of continuing battles, I managed to retrieve part of my usurped properties. But nothing happened to the violators - no accountability. It is as if nothing has happened, although I incurred a high cost. Who is to hold the violators accountable? It requires many honorable men and women, and a system with integrity.

Those forces with arms were from the army and tribes. Surely the vehicles used were of the army. So, who is to blame?

2. The Presidential Decree:

The decree directing the return of commercial properties to their original owners after twenty years of nationalization was another problem. Although it was seen as a blessing and an achievement, too many wrong actions have been committed by officials and subordinates in executing its directives. In fact, the officials used this law to make lots of money for themselves, and no action has been taken against them. No accountability. Why?

3. The Law Declaring Tenants to be Owners:

A law is a law. It has to be respected and executed. If it is not suitable, it has to be repealed by law. It should not be subject to the whims of officials, or of some courts of law. There are cases where title-deeds of ownership under the said law were not respected, and in fact abused by some officials. They go on abusing the system so long as there are no deterring measures exercised against them, and no accountability. The question is, until when will this end?

4. Corruption:

Corruption is a major evil, and it is more evil to propagate it. If our Prime Minister really cares for the welfare of Yemen and the Yemeni people, fighting corruption must be his top priority. It should be stemmed out of security, administration, judiciary, and, and, and...

Integrity and honesty cannot co-exist with corruption. It is either one or the other. I believe there are many good and qualified citizens, if rightly chosen, to help us march towards achieving our noble goals. Laws incriminating corruption will only collect dust if not implemented in full. Sentences need to be passed against the criminals, no matter who they are. Not even the simplest work can be done right now without paying bribes. What a pity!

5. Security:

It is vital and essential that law and order prevail if we really want Yemen to flourish. Where there is tranquility, safety, and security, there will be rational and sound thinking, as well as long-term planning.

Security along with a fair judi-

ciary are the foundations of life and prosperity. But the question is how to maintain security in the midst of so many discrepancies. There is a saying: "Where there is a will there is a way," and I hope that "will is there." The problem is where and how to start. I strongly believe that there ought to be a "purge" amongst the high-ranking officials throughout the security channels with no exceptions. No abrupt action is needed, a gradual process can do it, but we have to start at once.

On the other hand, to avoid undesirable repercussions, those who are to be flushed out should be compensated for "services" and where it is possible, alternative secondary posts may be arranged.

Finally, some of the very corrupt, arrogant and relentless officials need to be put on trial to serve as a deterrent to others.

6. Judiciary:

This is the cream of the garland in the crown on the forehead of Yemen. It is very conspicuous, and it is the first thing investors and even ordinary visitors look at. If any inadequacy is noted, it will reflect itself on the image and reputation of the regime. Foreign, Arab or other investors will not venture with their money because of corrupt judiciary coupled with defective security.

Inability and improper dispensation of justice may be caused by many factors - insufficient or inadequate knowledge, or corrupt personalities.

The state must organize concentrated refresher courses either locally or abroad. The state must print court decisions so that a judge's decision will be seen and watched by his/her peers.

7. The Place of Advocates:

There is much to be said concerning the law relating to advocates. I pray for an open heart and considerate patience. There is one consideration which weighs heavily in the calculations of local, Arab and foreign investors, who are very eager to invest their capital in Yemen. Their fear is that a genuine right of defense, the proper and unbiased right to judicial litigation, application and execution of the prevailing laws will not be allowed.

First of all, investors seek strong lawyers who are universally renowned as members of the Bar Council, whether locally, within the Arab world, or universally. If these lawyers are backed-up by the state by giving cognizance to their status, independence, and immunity, the investors will feel more comfortable in investing their huge capital. But, in a country where a lawyer needs to be helped and defended, investors will not come. Thus, the prestige of lawyers is an indicator of

respect for law and order.

I strongly suggest that serious and thorough reconsideration of the constitutional rights of Yemeni lawyers in the light of the rights of their peers ought to be made. Such thinking should be made fast and soon with a genuine drive to amend the current law concerning lawyers. This is because the Republic of Yemen has already stepped over the threshold onto the grounds of investment, and has opened a very big gate to welcome the huge ships entering the Aden Container Terminal. If this succeeds, many aspects will be explored, idle hands will find work to do and tranquility will prevail.

8. Repeated and Surprise Field Visits:

There is a need for field visits. This has to be adopted methodically and effectively by the officials and experts with the power to demand instant accountability.

In the recent past, the President has engaged in some field visits which have achieved a lot of success. Now this has to be generalized. Ministers, governors, commanders and other senior officials must pay repeated and unannounced visits to field offices.

9. Foreign Aid:

There are no more secrets to hide, especially not from the donor countries and international sources of financing. Our country suffered and continues to suffer a lot from many abnormalities. We have been crippled by inept and greedy officials. Even the foreign assistance that comes to the country is mostly eaten up by officials who have become middlemen. Many projects are mishandled, thus depriving our people of badly needed services. The generosity of foreign donors is compromised by such abuse.

I do not wish to dwell more on the details of this matter, but I beseech our prime minister to do his utmost, with the help of honest officials who care about the welfare of Yemen, to see that this aid does reach the correct Governorate and is honestly utilized for the purposes set forth by the donor. Then accountability should be observed and maintained to guarantee that the project achieves the desired goal.

I believe the Honorable Prime Minister has all the information he needs to take action. All that I can say is that it is about time to take decisive measures. Of course, fighting such major irregularities requires a strong approach. Such a package must include better salaries and allowances for the public employees. I feel very confident that he has the formulas to address this important issue.

Mohamed Shafi A. Karim,
Crater, Aden.

"Friends of Yemen Need to Come to Its Support Now."

On Friday April 16th, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of Yemen Times, made a presentation to a large gathering of experts and officials on the "New Role of the Media in the Context of New Technologies." The event in Montreal was co-organized by UNESCO, Orbicom, and the Universities of Quebec and Montreal.

On Monday, April 19th, Dr. Saqqaf gave another address organized by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Ottawa. The occasion was attended by Canadian officials from the Foreign Ministry, CIDA, NGOs, and various think-tank organizations. He talked about the twin-transformation in Yemen - political democratization and economic reforms, and the interaction between Yemen and the donor community, especially Canada.

The following is a summary of the second presentation.

It is a pleasure to be back in Ottawa among old friends. I am especially indebted to Dr. Norman Cook at CIDA, and the various friends from the Foreign Office.

I shall limit my address to two reasons why Canada should engage in Yemen more actively. But first, let me start with a brief history.

On May 22nd, 1990, the political parties that controlled the former Yemen Arab Republic (People's General Congress) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (Yemen Socialist Party) decided to reunite the nation. They found that the only system that would allow them to co-exist was a multi-party political system. Thus, our democratization process started.

Since then, the country's roller-coaster ride on this path has been anything but steady. We have had a civil war, a tremendous effort to reign-in opposition parties, crackdown on the press, co-optation of NGOs, etc. But, the seeds of democracy continue to endure. They are even growing.

I believe the reason behind this tug of war is a philosophical gap in the understanding of our leaders of the meaning of democracy and its mechanisms. This is true even of those who studied in the West.

In my opinion, the tools of democracy - elections, press freedom, transparency, accountability, NGOs, etc. - are all important mechanisms to manage change. The basic tenet of a democratic system is that change is inevitable and necessary, and that such change must be managed peacefully and gradually.

Thus, it has little meaning to apply the tools of democracy without arriving at at least some of its objectives. What is the meaning of elections if they bring no change? What is the meaning of press freedom if there is no accountability? What is the meaning of NGOs if their leaders are appointed by the authorities?

Thus, we witness relentless efforts by some elements in the regime to turn the clock backwards, so far unsuccessfully. That is because even as the efforts for a reversal continue, the forces of democracy continue to develop roots and grow.

Reason Number One: Critical Mass for Democratization:

In my opinion, as our world gets ready to cross over into a new millennium, Yemen is approaching new cross roads. An adequate level of critical mass has been created to allow the democratization process to achieve a new milestone. In my opinion, the next watershed has to do with the attitude and perception of the ruling power center. If President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his men accept that their powers are limited to only influencing people and events rather than controlling them, then the process will reach new highs. If the rulers of Yemen continue to seek to control events and people, then our democratization will face more difficulties.

It is here and now that the foreign friends of Yemen can come to the nation's assistance. A regime visibly beholden to foreign aid-partners and international relations will definitely pay attention to the position of countries like Canada. Such nudging by the friends of Yemen will allow a redefining of the structures and roles of the various actors in the transformation process. It will also allow new approaches and attitudes towards the concepts and tools of democracy.

Reason Number Two: Difficult Neighborhood:

At this time in history, Yemen finds itself in a difficult neighborhood. On the Arab side, most countries are ruled by authoritarian systems in which the ruler draws legitimacy through divine providence. In other words, the rulers are accountable to God, not to the people. Their main job and first priority is to uphold their vision of God's dictates, not the interests of the people. On the African side, there is a lot of turmoil and instability. There is a civil war in the Sudan. Eritrea and Ethiopia are at war. Somalia is plagued by another civil war. There are visible cracks in Kenya, etc. The success of the transformation process of Yemen thus can play a dual role. On the Arab side, it spearheads the democratization process and offers a model. It is no secret that since the Yemeni process was unleashed, many of the countries of the region have slowly moved towards democracy. Qatar had municipal elections, Oman embarked on parliamentary elections. Even Saudi Arabia now has some sort of parliament. For Africa, a successful Yemen (read, stable) offers an important window to work to bring back peace and stability. Yemen, as the closest neighbor and one with historic links to East Africa, can play a constructive role in the return of sanity to that part of the world.

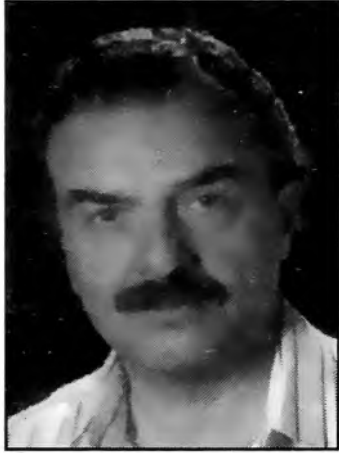
For those and other reasons, I believe Ottawa needs to engage Sanaa more visibly. Stronger cooperation between Canada and Yemen is an important vehicle for regional democratization and stability.

This is an OPINION page.

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

Access to Information is Access to Development

By: Riad al Khouri
Beirut-Based Economist



getry mentioned above.

Anyway, whether you're teaching in a primary school in rural Yemen or using state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment in Beirut, the whole range of ICTs — including new and traditional media and communications tools and approaches — can make a significant contribution as instruments and drivers of economic growth and positive change. While technologies alone cannot solve the problems of poverty and sustainable development, ICTs offer an enormous potential to generate, access, disseminate and share knowledge at all societal levels and thus bolster development in general.

However, there are also dangers, threats and obstacles that must be addressed: information flows and knowledge acquisition may be influenced or even impeded by power, institutions and peoples' interpretation of, and attitudes towards, information, its sources, and the transmittal medium. Exploring this complex issue is a vital part of the world dialog that is being pushed by the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP). The GKP is an informal grouping of organizations committed to sharing information, experiences and resources to promote broad access to, and effective use of, knowledge and information as tools of sustainable, equitable development. This partnership currently numbers over forty world class bodies from the state, business, and civil sectors alike. The GKP includes financial institutions (e.g. the African Development Bank, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the World Bank), cultural organizations (the British Council, UNESCO, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), stalwarts of international business (Price Waterhouse Coopers, Daimler-Benz Chrysler, Dell Computer), governments (Canada, Malaysia, and Switzerland),

numerous UN organizations (FAO, WHO, ITU) and others operating nationally, within regions, and worldwide.

Hosted by the government of Malaysia, the GKP will be convening its second Global Knowledge conference (GKII), in Kuala Lumpur, 7-10 March 2000. The event will attract some 2000 participants from around the world, representing industry and business, government, civil society, NGOs, and international and development organizations.

The first GK conference, held in 1997, explored ways in which new ICTs are providing valuable possibilities for individuals, communities and states. However, this also poses special challenges for developing countries and the world's poor, and one of GKII's main themes will be access: assuring universal access to information and communications technologies and to the knowledge that can be tapped using these technologies. GKII will thus focus on globalization and its impact.

A key to sustainable development in the 21st century will be access to and use and sharing of knowledge, information, data, and communications channels as well as the requisite technological means. Those who do not have access to knowledge and the fruits of the technological and information revolution are in danger of becoming marginalized and part of an underclass, and such a phenomenon is starting to become apparent in the Middle East. The challenge is therefore to enfranchise the poor and disadvantaged so that all are afforded access to information and learning.

GKP is inviting its partners and other actors to share their experiences at GKII. In particular, the partners will explore the impact of information and ICTs on public policy formulation at various levels as well as the significance of access to knowledge for particular cultures. The challenge for GKP at GKII will be to capture the diverse experiences of a wide range of development partners in a way that facilitates productive dialog leading to effective action.

Regional events leading up to and involved with GKII will help to broaden participation and input and to sharpen the focus of the overall endeavor. For our part of the world, a linkup with the third

Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF) is planned, as some of the meetings of MDFI-II (in Cairo) and GKII are being held on the same dates. A relatively new ICT, video conferencing, will be used to hook up the conferees in Egypt with colleagues in Malaysia.

Ultimately, GKII — and its partners such as MDF — must focus on an agenda promoting the use of ICTs to further equity, fairness, social justice and intelligent and informed decision-making. Otherwise, a disastrous and paradoxical outcome of the current world explosion in ICTs will be to deprive people of information and to cut communications between groups, particularly the rich and the poor in the same cities or countries. This negative trend is already evident in parts of the Middle East and elsewhere. It will be one of the tasks of the GKP to reverse it.

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بمناسبة عقد قرانها بالشاب
أحمد محمد سرخان.
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المهنيون، جميع أفراد عائلة النهاري وعائلة قنبر

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تهانينا الحارة

مع اطلاله العام الهجري الجديد ووسط جو عائلي بهيج تم زفاف الاستاذ

فؤاد علي شرهان

على ربة الصون والعفاف ابنة السيد نوري حسين سريع

وبهذه المناسبة نرفع إليهما تهانينا الحارة

مع تمنياتنا لهما بحياة جديدة سعيدة.

المهنيون:

م/ أكرم عبد الجبار السقاف، م/ محمد الطيب، د. ماجد العنسي،

عارف الأصبحي، فؤاد الديلي

وجميع آل شرهان وآل سريع وكل الأصدقاء

Yemen's Oil Hopes Dwindle, Even As Prices Shape Up

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen exceeded 121,000 barrels per day of oil production last week. Its overall average for the Masila Bloc in Hadhramaut now stands at 215,000 bpd. That is the good news.

Yemen Hunt Oil Company's output continues to fall as the Marib reservoir is steadily depleted and no new investments are made for secondary, let alone tertiary extraction. As a result, the average level of production has fallen to less than 130,000 bpd. With the output of the adjacent Jannah bloc, the

YHOC production barely touches on 150,000 bpd.

The real disappointment, however, is the French connection. Neither in oil nor in gas have the French been able to come up with anything that comes close to good news. TOTAL's concession of East Shabwah Bloc sounded promising at one stage. However, that is no more. But it is with the gas (LNG) project that the TOTAL flop is most obvious. To date, there has been no progress to report. To add insult to injury, the Yemeni officials have agreed to extend the

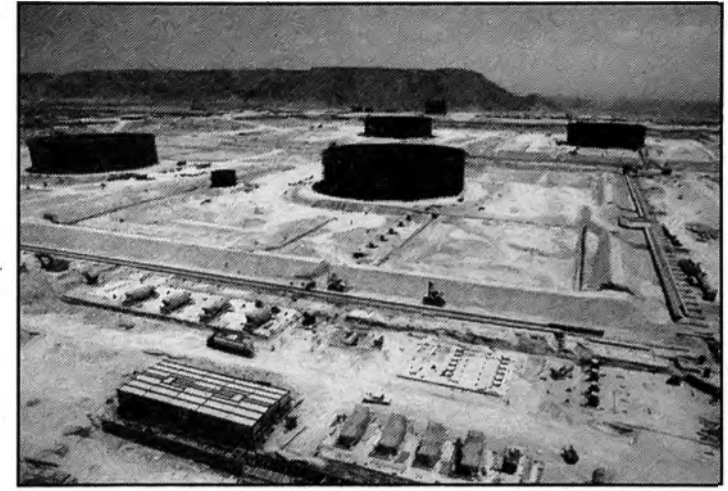
company's hold over such a vital project.

CanadianOxy has not only introduced more modern technologies, it has also added additional fields that allow it to maintain and increase its level of output. Recently, the company has acquired new concessions in which explorations are expected to begin soon.

CanadianOxy also stands out for another reason. It has shown visible social responsibility in financing projects related to the environment, education, water supply, road construction, health

services, and various charity efforts. "I want to express my gratitude to the company for agreeing to pay for the airfare of the Canadian medical doctors who are coming to Yemen to provide free medical surgeries to Yemeni patients," explained Dr. Abdulla Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of Health.

Indeed, the team of medical doctors from the Medical College of Western Ontario and other Canadian universities are coming on their 8th visit next October. Along the same lines, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative



Council, wrote a letter to Vic Zaleschuk, President and CEO of Canadian Occidental Petroleum, thanking him for financing the education of 20 Yemeni students in Canada. The first batch of 10 candidates have been nominated, and six of them are already in Canada. Another

batch of ten will be nominated this year.

Meanwhile, oil prices have begun to shape up. Western Texas oil now fetches more than US\$ 18 per barrel in the market. That is good news for Yemen and other oil exporters.

Mohammed Al-Namir: "Budget Limitations, Dualism, and Centralization are the Major Obstacles Facing Community and Family Development in Yemen"

By - Ismail Al-Ghabiry, Yemen Times

Introduction

Mohammed Saleh Al-Namir, Director General of the National Program for Community and Productive Family Development (NPCPFD).

Born in 1955, Al-Nadirah, Ibb Governorate. Married with ten children.

I finished high school in 1977, continued my studies in Syria, and got a Technical Diploma in 1982. Then I traveled to Germany for advanced studies in vocational planning and economic education.

-I worked at the ministry of education 1982-1990. I held many posts:

1. In charge of the preparation and supervision of the vocational education.

2. Manager of the industrial education and the vocational training department.

-Deputy of the examination supervision committee for occupational high schools, and member of the curriculum committee.

-After unification I worked as the public relations general manager at the ministry of labor and vocational training. I then switched to my present job in the National Program for Community and Productive Family Development.

Q: Would you give us an idea of the goals of the NPCPFD?

A: The Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs is working to develop, and improve the human resources, and aiding the socially insured classes through various means, such as rehabilitation and training of targeted social classes. As a result, the NPCPFD was established in 1988. At the time of establishing the center the following points were considered:

1. Rehabilitation of the less fortunate, and women's training programs are the most effective means of lifting the living standards of these classes, and main-

taining their dignity and preventing crimes, which might result from economic hardships.

2. The need to support and uplift the local societies, especially the productive ones, and enhance their resources.

3. After the success of the NPCPFD in training the poorest class of the community giving preferences to women, in 92 the ministers council issued a decree declaring full support to the program and giving it financial and administrative independence.

In 1997 the ministers council issued yet another decree reassuring continuation of support to the center and the importance of expanding it to cover the rest of the country.

The program makes use of the donations made available by different sources, such as the interest on the Kuwaiti loan (this source terminated in 1996.), as well as financial support from the Arab League, the Yemeni Government, Japanese and Netherlands governments, in addition to the support from the Canadian Development Program and the United Nation Population Fund.

The program had achieved such positive results as the rehabilitation and training of more 9051 women before 1998, of which 83% belonged to poor families. 55% of these women work in different places such as homes, cooperative societies, and development centers.



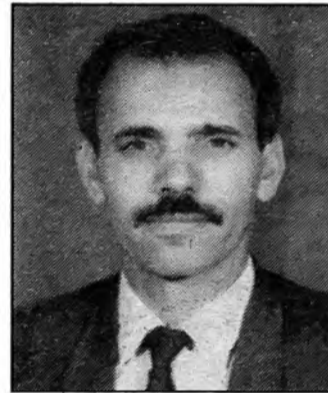
Q: Why do we need such a program?

A: The rapid population growth in Yemen is the major obstacle facing the growth of development in the country. According to the International standards, we have a very high fertility rate and this causes imbalance and unfavorable situation to our social and economical growths. A high living cost, a very low income and the Yemeni social practice of extending support to needy relatives, especially in the absence of social support to senior citizens, all these together lead to more wretchedness and a high poverty rate.

Studies showed that due to the above mentioned reasons, women suffer a lack of adequate nutrition, they are anemic, and they facing a high risk during birth. Therefore the only way to ensure a sufficient and suitable standard of living is by training these families or a member of these families to be productive and provide their families with the necessary day to day needs.

Q: How do you describe this project?

A: This project is an extension of the productive families and community development project, which has a very broad base all over the country. It started before unification by doing social, economical and educational surveys. It started in Sana'a, Taiz,



Hodeidah and Ibb. After unification, through its previous experience, the project expanded to cover the governorates of Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Shabwah. The program continued to expand, with 41 centers as follows: 4 centers in Sana'a, 3 in Aden, 3 in Taiz, 7 in Hadhramaut, 3 in Abyan, 2 in Lahj, 3 in Hodeidah, 3 in Shabwah, 1 in Marib, 1 in Hajjah, 3 in Ibb, 1 in Dhale', 3 in Al-Mahara, 2 in Dhamar and 1 in Sa'adah.

All these centers are equipped with adequate facilities and equipment with trainers for the beginners' levels. The centers have good experiences in the following fields: tailoring, handicrafts, embroidery, decoration, households, and computers, in addition to other educational activities such as eradication of illiteracy.

We are planing to introduce 10 more specialties, for instance leather, plastic and accessories production, poultry farming, perfume manufacturing, etc.

I can say that we have established a strong base of good living, for the families living within and under the poverty level. 8871 were trained at these centers, the centers are packed, and we can't meet the overwhelming enrollment requests because of lack of sufficient funds. We are planing to interject a new phase in the project, by introducing mobilized units and renovation of the old ones and establishing a additional production units.

Q: What are the objectives of

A: The project has general objectives as well as particular ones.

The general objectives :

- To accomplish the Yemeni government's strategies, to uplift the living standards of poor families, to support the local private societies by helping them develop their human and financial resources, so they can help develop their areas.

- To create public involvement and commitment on one hand and coordination with the government on the other hand, to uplift the Yemeni family's social, health and economic understanding.

- To increase the individual's and the family's income, and to provide more job opportunities for the poor and the people with limited income.

- To improve the Yemeni women's skills, in order to help them participate in the economic and social reforms.

The specific objectives :

To rehabilitate and develop the human resources living in poverty through the existing centers.

To rehabilitate and train the rural families through the mobilized units.

To upgrade the standards of the Centers graduates, and train them to manage fund generating projects

To develop and educate the different classes of the local community within the center's neighborhood in different aspects such as health, social, family education, handicapped and other social problems.

To provide advice and assistance to the women's productive activities and all the income and job generating activities.

To establish permanent and seasonal markets and help graduates to sell their products.

The ministry of insurance and social affairs attempts to set up 75 more centers within the coming five years (2000- 2004). 25 centers

and 50 centers in rural areas, supported by 25 production units and 25 mobilized units.

Q: What are the future plans for this project?

A: The project in coordination with the UNDP is about to start a project of \$ 450,000 to support and develop 5 centers in Hadhramawt and Hajjah. This project is part of the poverty eradication program.

The program will also found a new project to aid and develop eight centers in Aden, Abyan, Al-Dali, Shabwah and Marib. This project is funded by the European Union.

We are also preparing a study to set up 75 centers more within the coming five years (2000- 2004). 25 centers will be in urban localities and 50 centers in rural areas. This project will hopefully be financed by the World Bank and the Yemeni Government.

There are many organizations that we would like to work with, such as the Social Development Fund (SDF). The SDF is supporting the program by training and upgrading the trainers' skills. The Canadian Development Program also is one of these organizations, which had instituted 7 production units in different governorates.

Q: What are the obstacles that you face?

A: There are three kind of obstacles: technical, financial and administrative.

Technical obstacles can be summarized by the low standard of the training and administrative cadre we have, especially after the shift to supporting non-governmental organizations.

The financial problems are due to the insufficient backing, and the insignificant budget allocated for the program. The program runs 33 centers, while only having a sufficient budget for 11 centers.

The administrative side is equally important. Dualism is a major obstacle. People don't know they're duties, responsibilities or limitations. This is a major problem. Centralization is also costing us a lot of time, because the procedures take a very long time to complete.

Con't. from page 1:

WHEN MALARIA STRIKES...

The plasmodium falciparum - the parasite that causes malaria in Yemen - resembles a tiny football, visible only through a 1000-power microscope. It can lodge in the nasal passageway, mouth or throat. Usually, saliva in the throat, the tiny hairs in the nose and windpipe, and coughing, keep malaria's microbes out of the lungs... - BUT NOT ALWAYS.

Although not a major killer in the West, malaria in Yemen accounts for 20,000 deaths every year. Often, it seeks out the weak: tiny tots, the elderly, and people of all ages whose resistance is sapped by other ailments and/or malnutrition. It is prevalent in the countryside, especially in Hodeidah, Taiz, Ibb, Dhale' and Lahej.

Zainab, 30, woke up one winter day with special flu symptoms - slight headache, dry cough and chills. She knew there was something wrong. But it was already 6:00 am and she - as mother/wife, had to take care of the family's needs. A strong



Female Anopheles mosquito is the transmitter of malaria

woman from a village in the mountains near Habelain town in Dhale', she had not complained of many things in the past.

Zainab first completed a few household chores, tended the family livestock, and then left the house to fetch water from the nearby well. She got weaker and weaker as she drew up the water, and was just able to make it back home before she collapsed. The family was still asleep. There was no one to care for Zainab. A woman not given to much complaining, she was left on her own.

Omar is a teacher at a government school in Sanaa. At the young age of 26, he is fit as a horse, or so he believed.

Last December, he became ill. He thought it was a common flu. He took sick leave from his work at school. Unaware, he had been seeded with plasmodium falciparim - a parasite generously distributed by the female of the anopheles mosquito, Omar stayed at home waiting for his "flu" to subside. But a day later, he awoke delirious from fever - he thought he saw hair growing out of the wall. Sweat was beading on his forehead,



Latest antimalarial vaccine is still under experiment

and his body was trembling as he asked for more covers, in spite of very high temperature. Relatives and friends rushed him to hospital, as he gasped for air. By the time he arrived at the hospital, he was unconscious.

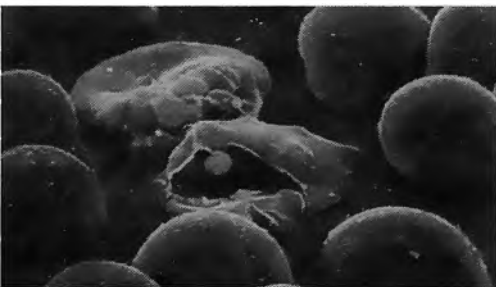
The doctors did not take long in the diagnosis. Omar was struck by malaria. The parasite lodging in the mucous membranes of his upper respiratory tract now stuck to his trachea. There, his cilia - undulating microscopic hairs - tried to force the invading bacterium back up his windpipe. But, perhaps because his millions of cilia

were paralyzed. The bacteria swept past more cilia in the windpipe - then down into the teacher's lungs.

Every day, there are some 5,000 new cases of malaria patients in Yemen. If these people are lucky, they survive the ordeal after a few days' battle. If they are unlucky, they are either dead or stuck with repeat attacks of the disease.

Given the gravity of this problem, many people wonder why the authorities do not give it higher priority. It is doubly puzzling when one notes that senior state officials have also been exposed to it. Over the last few months, the prime minister, Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani; the Vice President's son, Nasser; two ministers; a governor; and many other notables have been among the victims. Of course, the senior officials do get special care. And in almost all cases they are flown out for treatment.

Doctors strongly urge patients to immediately seek medical assistance if they suspect malaria. "The germ reproduces explosively," explained Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Professor at the College of Medicine at Sanaa University. Indeed, every half an hour or so, the bacterium divides, as do its progeny and all their descendants. In one day's time, each pneumococcus becomes a colony of a trillion.



Anemia then results when blood cells have become infected

TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF THE INVADER.

At first sign of the infection, the body reacts. White blood cells begin to multiply in the bloodstream. The battle between these knights of the immune system and the fast reproducing plasmodium falciparum soon clog the hundreds of millions of alveoli, the microscopic air sacs that make up the lung. As sputum builds up faster than the patient can cough it out, his/her lungs become damp sponges, barely able to provide inhaled oxygen for the bloodstream. If the situation persists, the patient dies. Immediate hospitalization to get a strong dose of antibiotics administered is life-saving.

Gasping for air and thus inhaling twice as much air as normal, malaria patients try hard to get oxygen in. But too little passes through the congested lungs into the haemoglobin, the pigment that gives blood its red color, and carries oxygen to the cells of the body. The patient also endures terrible nightmares with sweat beading down the forehead and other parts of the body. Sleep is haunted by terrifying visions and the days are plagued by anxiety and restlessness. Time is the critical factor at this stage.

Omar was lucky to have been hospitalized quickly. That saved his life. Zainab was not that lucky. The nearest hospital is a day's drive from her village, and on bad roads. Besides, her family did not have the cash at hand to ship her out immediately. They still mourn her.

The Minister of Health is not leaving a stone unturned in search of financing. "I need all the help I can get. Even small amounts of money will go a long way to save many people's lives," he pleads.

Alwasm

Alwasm in Arabic means "marking" and in the popular language it means rod, or it can be a knife or something of that sort which is used to make a mark on the body of a human being or cattle, or whatever.

In the old days, alwasm or maisam was used for therapy. The rod is exposed to fire until it becomes very hot, and is then applied to a specific part of the body. Many old-timers will readily tell you that it works. It was used in combination with herbs, a large variety of leaves, some sticks and roots of trees, etc.

Thus, the primeval man had to use to all the possible methods for the sake of remaining in good health. Alwasm or branding was one of these medical ways to keep fit and healthy. Up to this day, it is used for the treatment of many kinds of dangerous illness, such diseases are as diarrhea of small children, epilepsy, backaches, magraine, kidney diseases and other body aches. Furthermore, people believe Alwasm is actually used for curing black magic. A hot iron can rid the body of the evil forces, the Jinn.

This branding iron should burn specific places of the body such as the head, neck, leg, abdomen, shoulder, back, feet, etc.

I had a chance to be with some people who had gone through this kind of medication.

S. M. who is in favor of this practice says "one year back I always felt an acute ache beyond bearing in my knee. I was about to lose the ability to walk. Physicians failed in putting this terrible pain to an end. Eventually, they advised me to tend to the hot iron. When they put it on my leg, I was crying in pain. The pain was unbearable. But about three days later, I felt completely well. Try it when you don't feel to well, it is really very effective."

On the other hand, there are a number of people who are firmly against Alwasm. Let's see what Miss. L. S. thought of her agonizing experience with Alwasm. She says, "I am so thin and always unhealthy. Our neighbor - May God forgive her - gave my mother a secret tip on how I can regain a

healthy and strong body. She told her to burn me twice by a branding iron. My poor mother hastened by mistake to put one on my face, and the second fell on my neck. As a result, my situation is getting worse. Alwasm adds new psychological anguish to me, I am deformed and at the same time suffering from an acute and unbearable pain in my neck, the burning iron affected a nerve in my

neck. It is based on this personal experience that I strongly oppose such 'therapy'."

It is worth mentioning that the people of Yemen are unfortunately going back to these old ways, in spite of the many developed medical facilities that exist.

The reason is because alwasm is considered to be a way to regain good health quickly, easily and at low cost.

I should conclude my article by asking why people prefer to use such a backward method? I guess the answer to this question is economics. Owing to the hard financial conditions, and living hardships which are going from bad to worse, people find themselves helpless and forced to turn to such primitive methods. Local medical practices do not exactly inspire confidence either.

By: Haifa Yahia Qanber, Taiz.

إنا له وأنا إليه راجعون

نتقدم بإصدق التعازي والمواساة

للأستاذ علي صالح عبدالله

وكيل وزارة التأمينات والشؤون الاجتماعية

في وفاة والدته فخر الله لها

واسكنها فسيح جناتها.

الأسيفون:

د. عبد العزيز السقايف.

الأستاذ / محمد بن سلام.

الأستاذة / عفرأ زبير أحمد

UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

UNDP



VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts in its Poverty Programme Regional Development Project in Yemen:

1. National Team Leader	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.29
2. Programme Officer for RCIF-CCST	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.63
3. Expert in Institutional Building, REGDEV	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.87
4. Expert in Community Development	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.88
5. Expert in Rural Credit	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.91
6. Expert in Informal Sector	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.92
7. Expert in Rural Sociology	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.93
8. Expert in Gender Issues (Female Expert)	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.94
9. Expert in Participatory Rural Development	Sana'a	Sub-line	17.95
10. Expert in M & E	Sana'a	Sub-line	14.29
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16. Admin/Accountant	(Bani Sa'ad, Al-Mahweet Govt.)	Sub-line	13.48

These positions are open to Yemeni Nationals Only

Brief Description

Regional Development is one of the four major components of the Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program. The aim of the Regional Development is to assist local communities in five selected regions in Yemen, to participate in setting-up participatory development institutional framework as a mean of poverty alleviation within the communities. Moreover, communities will be capacitated to undertake planning, implementation and set-up of development funds within their regions.

Interested candidates are requested to contact Regional Development Project office for Poverty Alleviation Programme Office, Sana'a for details and Job Descriptions of the posts. Application should indicate post title and sub-line with detailed Curriculum Vitae, and to be forwarded to:

Regional Development Office for Poverty Alleviation Programme
Amman St., Opposite Al-Manakel Restaurant
Bldg. next to Al-Nahdha School
Tel: 206 271 or 216 222
Fax: 400 384
Sana'a

Applications should be received not later than 15 May 1999.

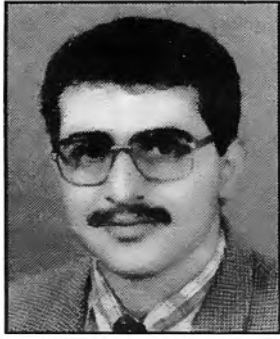
Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply. Acknowledgement will only be sent to short listed applicants meeting the requirement

May 1st: Hard Times for Yemeni Workers

Introduction

The world has assigned special days for particular world occasions. Celebrating these occasions means a lot for the target people of celebration. When we celebrate, for instance, women world day, it reveals to us that the globe confesses the significance and vitality of women in the society; there is a worldwide recognition after a long time of oppression and man's unipolar control. The time is, moreover, an opportunity to honor the activists for their hard work, which serves promote the development if their nations as a whole. it is also a good time to evaluate the work all along the year so as to promote the work further and also have a grip over the obstacles.

For us, we in Yemen celebrate all national and international anniversaries. But they remain



just decorations and an imitation of others. In other words, we celebrate the World health Day and paint "in the year 2000 health for all" while a good number of our people are crippled or plagued with a good many diseases. Over 12% of the Yemeni population is infected with malaria. some 20,000 Yemeni die of malaria and over 6000 Yemenis die every month of malaria, dysentery, respiratory diseases, typhoid, hepatitis B, AIDS and other illnesses. Estimates indicate that 41% of the Yemeni population suffers from one disease or another. Of these, a solid 90% pass away annually. nearly 15% of the Yemeni populations is afflicted with hepatitis B. The list can go on, yet we continue to sing our miracles in the field of health. We also even celebrate the World Water Day, while most of our cities are under the strangle-hold

of thirst. We celebrate the World Population Day, which is a great chance to alarm the world of the jeopardy of population explosion and the importance of birth control, while our government and people are not equally aware of population explosion in Yemen. Estimates indicate that annual population growth rate is 3.7% and that 42% of the total population today (17.7 million) is represented by infants and children. The proportion will reach 46% by the year 2005 and 50% by 2010. It is a staggeringly alarming problem, isn't it?

The list of such national and international occasions will go on. As a matter of fact, they turn to mere decorations and time for shallow glorification of, sometimes, phantom achievements, void of their real meaning and actual context. For the masses, these times are moments reminding of frustration and depression for it is very saddening for them to see our officials singing through the various mass media and eulogizing their 'accom-

plishments', while in reality these poor people can not find even aspirin in public hospitals, not to mention other essential facilities. This is depressing when our officials spend millions of dollars for their medical check-ups abroad. It is confusing for them to see our miraculous accomplishments in the media only.

Labor World Day

I will seize this opportunity to talk a little bit about the Labors World Day, meeting the first day of May. this occasion is also saddening for us, because out of Yemen's total workforce, around 36% are unemployed. Most of them are returnees from the Gulf countries because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Some might tangle that they are jobless because of lack of profession. That is right, qualified people are to be needed. However, there are also some people who are highly qualified and have graduated from well-esteemed universities and even with career-oriented specializations. yet, "We don't have vacancies right now" is a casual reply they find wherever they go in search of a job. Thus, joblessness is not related to lack of qualifications? Of course, NO!

Therefore, we urge these companies and organizations to make their job vacancies restricted to Yemeni nationals only, if they are really interested in helping it, for it can only be built by its own people, if need be by qualifying them and giving them technical training.

Another plight of our workforce is a result of the erratic privatization process of some public institutions. This has brought into being a good number of jobless people owing to their discharge. And even more the number of the dismissed people is expected to grow up in the future. Another thing is that the influx of many products through smuggling into the Yemeni markets has given the Yemeni business activities hard times and put them at the horns of a dilemma. The resultant business fluctuation has forced our businessmen to discharge some of their employees as a way-out for their financial straits. This has raised the unemployment rate dramatically.

Poverty and Unemployment

Poverty has become the main headache of the country right now. Most of the population live below the line of poverty. The results of the third annual family budget survey released some months ago by the Central Statistical organization offer a horrible and dismal picture of the economic hardships of our people. The daily expenditure per capita is less than a dollar, where Qat and food takes up 65%. This difficult situation has made even children search for work. People in Yemen are now ready to do any career. They have stooped a lot to conquer the horrible economic nightmare of unemployment. University graduates are not now shy to serve as waiters in restaurants. The government seems to be unconscious of inflow of the university graduates who find streets their sole shelter. The government should stop this influx if it can not

ensure them jobs. That is, its educational policy should focus on career-oriented subjects. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was wholly right when he wrote in the editorial of the Yemen Times issue 16 forget about universities and other giant institutions. We must focus on small training and educational organization, which can quickly adapt to change". He also suggested the establishment of cyber cafes or youth clubs and urged Dr. Iryani, the prime minister to take the initiative. Will the people in authority listen to this wise call?

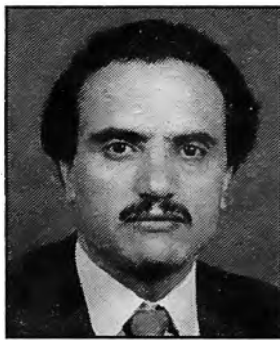
Aden Free Zone: A Promised Land

In spite of the dismal picture of our ostentatiously current deteriorating economic conditions, the opening of the Container Terminal of the Aden Free Zone left a silver streak in our horizon. In the final analysis, economists believe that this zone could bring back its prosperous and bright past, where it served as a world trade route linking the Orient and the West. it is expected to catch a lot of investors due to its strategic trade position. In other words, it could provide the unemployed Yemeni workforce with a good-number of work opportunities. This could breathe a new life into these people who are scattered in streets doing nothing. In fact, it could alleviate the hardships and ailments of these people who have been too patient with their government which talks much and works little. We do keep our fingers crossed in the hope that the Aden Free Zone would be a promised land full of employment. But this can't take place unless the government ensure full application of law and order, the main ingredients for attractive many investments into the zone. so, will it do it? I hope so!

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

Public Opinion and the Press

By:
Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times



It is worth mentioning that the press is regarded the fourth authority in the hierarchy of any ruling system in the world besides its executive, judicial and legislative authorities. Thus, the press should be ready to observe the correct implementation of the laws and regulations in society. In this sense the journalist is just like the moment historian with all its reflections and interactions. The journalist is the pulse of the public opinion and expresses his pains, worry, agony, complain, satisfaction and dissatisfaction. In the democratic societies the public media apparatuses acquire a distinguished place both in the public opinion and the authority and its opinion/analysis arouse the concern of all the sectors in society. It is not a point of criticism which the journalist should point out/arouse as articles but he should point to those strong as well as those weak ones aiming to guide/direct the nation toward reforms and modernization. Criticism of any shortcomings or excesses in society should have within it the sense of tackling for criticism here aims building up society. Whatever published should go under proof reading, assessment and aims at the end the progress of society and the publisher of any article is responsible for what he/she writes or explains. He should not insult/humiliate or write something which affects or distorts the facts. In other words, he should be the conscience of the

nation. On the other hand, the journalist should have a protection of the authorities in order to express his opinions/visions freely and without any oppression for the demerit practices are guaranteed and covered by the constitution of the nation. What we aim in our article is to see the press and the official media interact positively for the benefit of all and should have a role in the on-going transformations. We want to see our press in a better position with concern of issues that change the face of society. We want the journalists to combat corruption, frivolity, irresponsibility and disorder but in a constructive way. Today, we see hundreds of issues talking about corruption and else of defects here and there and some of those issues might topple down ministers but they are confronted with coldness and irresponsibility and even negligence. This procrastination and negligence confirm that there is no way to combat it since there is no sponsor/supervision apparatuses to stop them. We talk about violations, excesses and shortcomings but no one listens and we point to complaints of the citizens and no one is ready to see them. The question is that there is an absence of seriousness among some of the apparatuses to combat corruption and listen to the voice of righteousness. The reform package in itself is a complete program to reform administration, economy and

finance of the state on sound basis. The campaign of the president lately to combat corruption is a good sign on the way of implementation. The first priorities of that campaign is to permit the press and the official media to publish things about what the president announced as a program so as to launch the country to the safe side. Otherwise what is the meaning of writing or disclosing the defects and excesses without anyone to follow or read or even take it into consideration. It is just a point of view I wanted to recall in general.

Some of our companies are troubled with the complex of preferring foreign workers to Yemeni ones. They view these non-Yemenis as something Yemen can not create like them ever. They are paid in dollar and accommodated with all facilities. Actually, I can guarantee that there are Yemeni who are much more better and can even compete, but are not given a free room. In fact, Yemen has a lot of talents which can do wonders if tapped and nourished well.. Therefore, this foreign-preference complex help increasing the unemployment growth rate al lot. People from Iraq, Africa, India etc. are to be found in these companies and international organi-

DAMT:

Touristic Attraction Awaits Investment

Damt is a magnificent touristic location. In spite of many tourist advantages - its location, historic significance, hot water springs, and other attractions - tourist investments are no where to be seen.

The climate, ever spring, is an extra bonus for visitors. It has many green valleys and lush mountains. Thus mountain-climbing is exciting and offers beautiful views. The place boasts impressive historic relics dating back to the Sabean civilization - 3000 years ago.

The area is comfortably located halfway between Sana'a and Aden. It lies about 60 km south east of Yarim, itself an ancient town. Along one-side of the tarmac road, verdure blooms abundantly and wells give life to this greenery, although digging them costs a lot and takes a long time. The scenic beauty and the chain of dark-brown mountains accompany travellers driving south until the northern approaches of Aden.

About three kilometers before you knock at the doors of this district, the first crater, on the

left, stands high. The volcano is not yet dead. The evidence is the steam and hot water that flows out of the crater. Given the high mineral content, many people come to bathe in this water, as they believe it has medicinal properties.

Unfortunately, garbage is a big problem here, as it is in many parts of the nation. One can't see the edges of the asphalted road because of the dust and garbage covering them. Bright-blue stalls, full of everything one needs, are like the guards at an entry gate. Many private clinics, like Dar Al-Shifa and Al-Salam serve those who need urgent therapy. The hot springs esplanade, as they named it, is situated in the center of Damt. Two superb hotels wall the natural fountain. Sulfuric water squirts out of the top of this fountain through an iron pipe covered by a rounded source and wrapped by sulfur sedimentary matter. On the right side of the fountain, there is a swimming pool with vaporizing water and adjacent to that is a small cafeteria which

shows video films and serves many kinds of fresh drinks. Vapor baths, next to the cafe, are natural ones, even with a light look one can see the rocky walls and many deep pools. They have been adopting the Turkish baths idea.

Really, this is not the most magnificent thing in Damt, but the best is the two craters on the left side of the way leading to Aden. One can walk up to the big crater on an iron ladder with 117 stairs. The big crater's diameter is approximately 70 meters and it is about 100 meters high. The top way circles around the seemingly bottomless mouth, holding green water. From there, a fantastic scenery enraptures the eye; one can easily behold the traces of the drying sulfuric water line whirling and turning gently.

In fact, that was a brief description of the site, now I must draw upon the focal point concerning the tourist needs to set up there. First, and most importantly, cleanliness campaigns and washings must be looked to, particularly the vegetables municipal souk. Furthermore, there must be enough order for licensing shops and stalls. In this respect, there must be a two lane road and asphalt through the whole town of Damt as well. Pavements are also a civilized feature to have on the road. As a complement, parks and gardens must be worked out

to deck the town and please the visitors and tourists.

Sports have their fascinating effects on the body and soul, so it is necessary to set up halls and stadiums equivalent to the number of visitors: tennis, billiards and ping-pong tables must find their way there. Fun fair is another pastime to be also considered hereby. Yemen has a remarkable cultural and historical heritage along eras, and our handicrafts are unique - there is nothing like them all over the world. Therefore, we must show off

these features to let the whole world know about us.

As long as we have a conscious understanding of such needs and suggestions, "why don't we do it today and not to put off till tomorrow?"

We hope to see a promising effort to do so.

Habeeb Ibrahim
Member of the International
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Sana'a

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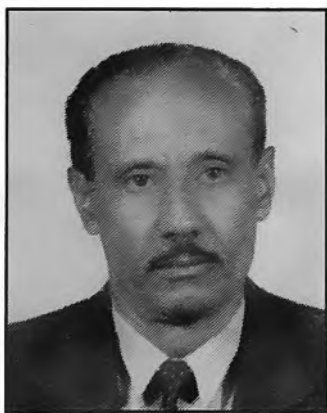
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THE PHENOMENON OF STEALING YEMENI SONGS



Many of our artists and people concerned with our Yemeni art affairs, especially Yemeni songs, pointed out repeatedly, on interviews, press and other media, the phenomenon of illegal art stealing of our Yemeni heritage, the new era of effacing the identity and originality of Yemeni songs. Our famous Yemeni singers who founded and performed our artistic heritage will remain undoubtedly the shining stars that reflect and guide our cultural and artistic civilization.

This is a dangerous phenomenon of stealing Yemeni songs by artists from neighboring countries, artistic production companies, and video clips, an act that affects the identity and uniqueness of Yemeni songs. Those stealing our heritage gain fame and money from something that does not belong to them.

then we hear or see many of our old songs that have been reproduced and broadcast on radios or television stations with adopted names of lyricists and music writers, mostly from the Gulf.

In some Arab and European countries where such acts of taking other singing traditions are legal, artistic companies permit the reproduction of old songs to be performed by modern singers without paying any attention to their real composers or lyricists. Old Yemeni songs became a profitable financial source without any respect to the identity of their real artists, not mentioning their names, nor their extended efforts to produce such art and receiving nothing on return.

A sad situation Yemeni artists and intellectuals suffer is erasing the Yemeni song's identity and a deformation of its origin. Gulf artists will occasionally point out that the origin of their works was in Yemen.

We have repeatedly clarified to our brothers in these countries that Yemeni songs are part of Arabic songs. Our nations have the right to be influenced by, and sing them; such matter would increase our pride in our Yemeni artistic identity. It is traditionally accepted to relate the song to its people. Anything else would be a deliberate behavior to erase the origin of our songs, ignore the

unique artistic styles Yemeni artists enjoy and our isolation from the Arab singing arena.

In brief, our feelings of despair increase. This is a threat to our cultural structure, our heritage and artistic sources. The concerned parties should make a decision to stop. Otherwise, if these acts continue without any accountability, our heritage and art will end soon. It will be associated with new names and gain a new identity.

The Yemeni artistic movement should be activated and work hard to catch up with the cultural and artistic changes according to the requirements of the new age. Being an inspiration and a cradle of Arabic culture as history tells, I would like to suggest the following:

FIRST:

The Ministries of Information and Culture should give their priorities to extend sincere efforts to study the effects of such phenomenon on our culture and heritage, as well as looking into the legitimacy of our country being a member of the International Organization of Composers and Lyricists, like other Arab countries.

SECOND:

The two concerned Ministers should prepare for an

enlarged meeting to discuss the current situation of the Yemeni artistic movement, finding logical solutions for these crippling difficulties that keep Yemeni songs away from the development movement, and finding a method of changing the dark situation into a bright one.

Our satellite channel should reconsider the programs session in a reasonable way, a reflection of our arts and culture with various forms and colors should be considered. A matter that we could confirm our rights in the Yemeni singing traditions.

Making a comprehensive study of the artistic programs presented to the audience. Qualified singing groups could be hosted with famous Yemeni artists. Such acts will assist in representing the best to the locals as well as other Arab countries.

THIRD:

The concerned officials of the Ministry of Culture should activate the role of artistic supervision on local production companies that trade in the rights of publishing and benefit from old and modern artistic productions of our artists.

Finding suitable solutions for our singers who perform their works on the TV and Radio Station without receiving their financial rights. A reconsid-

eration on the formation of a special committee for musical classification. This committee will carry out the work of studying and testing the voices and the artistic production that can improve our arts level as used to be in the ancient days.

In conclusion, we do hope that the concerned parts will take the necessary procedures to find logical solutions to stop this phenomenon due to the great effect it causes on our Yemeni identity.

Not all the news is bad, good news is also emerging. An example of that is the latest law approved by the General Management of Artificial Works Department of the Ministry of Culture. The law will prohibit music production and distribution studios from trying to copy or reproduce original Yemeni works without their owner's permission. In case of violations, expected punishment could reach to closing down the establishment, imprisoning the ones responsible and paying huge amounts of fines. It is worth mentioning that this has been a long-awaited step, which if implemented, may prevent Yemen's music industry from turning into an illegal music hacking market.

The ones who will benefit most from this issued law are all famous Yemeni singers and musicians who have spent decades of their life for their wonderful works, which are still admirable today. Among these singers is Ayoub Tarish Absi who has many excellent works that many companies wanted to reproduce and sell with a mini-

all the profit without getting any permission from him. If these regulations are put into effect, music distribution companies can only reproduce and copy the right of a singer's songs with his/her personal permission. The company and the singer can then sit together and make any kind of deal which will satisfy both parties.

However, issuing the law in itself is not enough. It needs to be implemented soon before it is too late. If the law covers all musical works, and if it lasts for a long period of time, it will turn out to be the rescuer of Yemeni musical industry. I personally encourage the Ministry to go ahead with this step and put it into effect as soon as possible. I also think that this will be a factor in increasing the competition between music producing and distributing companies in attracting singers and in producing original works instead of reproducing old ones. The law will also give the artists the power and self confidence that would drive him/her to even produce better and in-depth musical works that would benefit him and the music distribution company he works with.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Tourism for its courageous and important step in issuing this law, and would request that they begin implementing it in order to increase its credibility in the views of Yemeni artists.

By: Saleh Abdulqawi
Cultural Editor
Yemen Times

Letters to the Editor

Remember Your Roots, Always..

I am a Yemeni living in England. I was born and bred in England and see it as my home. However, I am Yemeni in origin and I appreciate my culture, history and Yemeni roots. I have never been to Yemen, and wish to go when I finish my academic degree. My family is still in Al-Dhali near Aden and I can't wait to see them and know about my family's history. Every Yemeni living abroad should always remember who he is and where he is from. Remember we should be proud of our origin and should represent Yemen in the best way I can.

Adib Abdulla Mohammed
England

Thank You Yemen Times Online

I am a student at Osmania University in Hyderabad City in India. I found that the most convenient way to connect with home (Yemen) and know what is going there was through the Internet. And our (proudly) newspapers easy to get through the net compared with other constructed websites. Thanks to the team of Yemen Times for the hard efforts and achievements in creating and updating the Yemen Times Online site at (www.yementimes.com) which made this newspaper available to us as Yemenis living away from home.

Mohamed hussein alhebshi
India
m_al_hebshi@hotmail.com

Dear Editor

Your editorial in the April 16th issue struck a chord with me. Sometimes, two people thinking similarly is dangerous because they fail to see the faults with which they may be faced, but in this instance I agree with you that technology will determine the future.

I am reminded of a paper I wrote in 1997 as a result of working in a country with a developing economy. Later that year I also spent a wonderful time in your country.

In both instances I remarked that the goals towards which the country was moving would be frustrated, and perhaps even denied, by a lack of telecommunications infrastructure.

I enclose my letter the following article.

Telecommunication as a Strategic Tool for Job Creation
Telecommunications will be the key to a country's global competitiveness in the 21st century. The ability to create new jobs will be directly related to the quality, cost and ready-access of the country's telecommunications infrastructure.

Inexpensive, ubiquitous

telecommunications will be the enabler behind the implementation of information management and information delivery systems. Information-based systems will be more and more dependent upon the timely and effective dissemination of information. And the only way that this dissemination can occur is when an effective telecommunications infrastructure exists. Countries, which do no planning for their telecommunications infrastructure, will not be competitive in tomorrow's world.

For example, in Canada 99% of households have a telephone, 50% have a computer and about 25% have a modem linking that computer to the telephone network (in 1997). In most of the rest of the world that is many times the norm. Even in what Canadians would consider industrialized countries, the insertion of computers is dramatically little. For instance less than 15% of homes in European countries (in 1997) are equipped with a computer and less than five per cent have a modem.

The most important factor in the development of a cheap readily-available telecommunications infrastructure is the vision of the existing government. All-pervasive telecommunications not only enables ready transfer and movement of information for an industrial world (i.e. more jobs), it also enables the ready transfer of all types of information, some of which may not be kindly disposed to the government in power. Information is a two-edged sword and some governments and cultures do not look kindly upon information, which exposes their deeds or which allows for free and open discussion of policies and actions. Our Canadian-based ethnocentric viewpoint must be taken into account when we begin to make pronouncements on the wisdom (or lack of it) of certain governments in accepting or rejecting our view of what is "right". Just because a free exchange of information works in most western style democracies does not mean that a similar free exchange works in other countries. As our jurisprudence states, just because I have the right to free speech does not mean that I have the right to yell "fire" in a crowded theatre.

Therefore if developing countries are to remain job competitive in tomorrow's world, they will have to maintain a fine line between free and ready access to telecommunications and the necessity of maintaining a sense of order acceptable to their citizens. This will only be done through a clear set of guidelines and regulations, which are maintained and implemented fairly and consistently. Capriciousness does not engender fairness.

Unfortunately, those countries,

which do not develop adequate telecommunications guidelines, may find themselves left behind in the race to create new jobs. History only repeats itself: the 18th century job creator was the British textile tycoon; in the 19th century it was the American steel magnate; the 20th century has the international oil tycoon; but the 21st century will belong to the three or four global telecommunications companies who will dominate the information movement market. As the rest of world comes to realize the new order, those who prepared for it first will be those who take advantage of it most.

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Hudson, QC
Canada
Email: langlo6@ibm.net

No One Will Help Us If We Can't Help Ourselves

I am a 12-year-old, whose mother was born in Aden. She took me in December to see what Aden is like, because I had never been there before. I feel very sorry for the people in Yemen, because it is a beautiful country but has been spoiled by the people's laziness, and basically no one wants to be responsible for anything. In England they have terrible weather, but the people have worked so hard, and kept it nice and clean, all the buildings are in good condition etc. The roads and cars are new.

Unfortunately in Yemen, the story is different. People there seem to be sitting around like someone will descend from the skies and sort out things for them. God gave us a brain and hands, so why can't the Yemenis keep their country clean. The amount of filth, rubbish bags, and stink that I came across in Aden, I have never seen anywhere before. Secondly everyone is addicted to qat, which is a curse. I think the government should try to do something about this. The beaches in Aden, are so nice, but not kept properly. I am sure that if attention were given to make Aden an attractive place for tourists, everyone would benefit greatly.

Salim Hamid
London, England

Dear Editor,

I came across an article in your publication dt. 29th March, titled, "LEADING THE WAY TO THE NEW MILLENIUM". I was highly impressed by the same. The depth of knowledge and insight is wonderful. Kindly forward my heartiest congratulations to the author, Mr. Ossama Sallam. Also, I request you to kindly allow me to download the page and forward the same to leading news papers in my country (India).

Nicky Khandwala
Bombay - India

The Meaningful Education

This article is based on an article titled "What True Education Should Do?" by Sydney Harris, an American writer, and I am applying it to the education system in Yemen. When most people in my country, Yemen, think of the term "education", they think of a student as a kind of a living empty bag and the instructors are expected to pack education into it. However, education as it was known a long time ago since the time of Socrates, is not stuffing pieces of facts into the student's mind, but rather drawing out knowledge from him. I also add that education in Yemen should build the balanced personality of the students through helping them acquire the Islamic morality and ethics. The most significant part of education, as it was stated by Ernest Hocking, a well-known American philosopher, "is that instruction of a man in what he has inside of him" (quoted by Harris). We should also remember that Socrates never said, "I know learn from me" but rather said, "Look into your own selves and find the spark of the truth that God has put into every heart, and only then you can kindle into a flame." and through an illiterate lad without even a day in school, he managed to prove to the astonished spectators that the lad "knew" geometry - because the principles of geometry were already stored in his mind, waiting to be called out.

Therefore, instructors are supposed to be more concerned with what should be taken from the student's mind and how that can be done rather than what should "go into" it.

In Yemen, it became common, in the recent years, to hear many students saying "I have been learning for a long time but I don't know anything". Such expression reflects their dissatisfaction with the bag-stuffing view of education.

In most of the Yemeni schools, students are so stuffed with mass of facts and such indigestible heap of materials that they don't get enough time to think about what they are learning. That is, they are too busy to draw on their own resources or analyze or evaluate those materials. The students, in this case, are forcing themselves to memorize everything they are exposed to whether it makes sense or it does not because their ultimate goal is to pour those abstract facts they have already memorized onto the exam's sheet. That is why most of the students forget everything a short time after passing the test or the exam and that is one of the main reasons that causes the deterioration of education in our country. Now many students in the high school level lack the basic skills of reading and writing in all subjects without exception.

Yemeni students are famous for their devotion and persistence in their studies but new creative educational methods are necessary to be adopted soon. Education should draw out what is hidden in every human being - and the teachers are supposed to help their students find the reasons, use their internal knowledge to discover what is good and do it, acquire the ability to examine the evidences and come to conclusions.

The job of teaching is not to fill full the empty bags and then close them up, but to assist the students to open and uncover the wealth within. To come to a conclusion, the creative component should be encouraged in our schools and the amount of memorization should be reduced. Moreover, teachers are supposed to teach their students how to get knowledge from a variety of resources. Our students should learn how to be independent and creative rather than information-recipients. Only then, the students will be able to apply what they know. As it was said by Sydney there are pearls in each of us, if only we knew how to cultivate them with adore.

Ahmed Modhesh Thabet
Portland State University

To my best newspaper Yemen Times

I wish to begin by hoping that you have had a blessed and happy new Hijri year (1420). May Allah make it a year of success and prosperity for all of us. Secondly, I would like to thank you a lot for your efforts in providing us with local news about our country as well as and communicating with us in every occasions. Thirdly, I would like to inform you about the winter season here in China and how we suffer a lot from strange weather. I spent all my life in Hodiedah City, which is famous with hot weather and consequently came to Wuhan in China, which has a freezing winter. So I like to give Idea about what happened:

Winter and Bad Weather

بأقة من الورد والياسمين نرفها إلى الأخ
طارق سعيد عبدالله البركاني

بمناسبة الزفاف ودخوله القفص الذهبي.

ولأخ عبدالسلام عبدالغني البركاني بمناسبة ارتزاقه المولود الجديد الذي أسماه أسامة

فألف مبروك

المهزونون: تائف عبدالسلام البركاني، بشير محمد أحمد البركاني، أحمد عبدالغني البركاني.

هلال عبدالله سلطان البركاني، تائف عبدالله طه السقايف

وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

إن أجمل لحظات السعادة وأسعد أيام الحياة هي أيام الفرح.

نهني الشابين

الدكتور / عماد جاهد الشميري
الدكتورة / أنشواق أحمد مهيوب

بمناسبة عقد قرانهما الميمون.

تمنياتنا لهم بالسعادة الدائمة.

المهزونون: جميع أطباء الأذن والأنف والحنجرة في مستشفى الثورة العام

عنهم الدكتور نصر الشميري

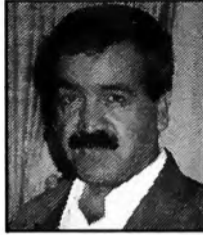
Continued from Page 1:

Nasserite Party Convention

On the occasion of the 9th Ninth General Convention, the Yemen Times interviewed the following persons:

FIRST INTERVIEW

Abdul Nasser Taha, Secretary-General of Al Ittihad Party in Lebanon.



Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: I am here at the invitation of the Nasserite Unionist Party to participate in their Ninth Conference activities.

Q: How did you did Yemen?

A: I had many different ideas on this country, dear to all Arabs. The re-unification, the democratic process, freedom of the press and expression, etc. are all important achievements. This nation is also homeland to important pan-Arab national movements. This is to be expected as Yemen is the original home of all Arabs.

Q: How about the Nasserite Convention?

A: There is a distinctive importance to the Nasserite Unionist Party. The conference also shows their important presence in Yemen.

Q: What kind of contact or cooperation exists between your party and the NUP?

A: We have constant contact, and we share in participation in several pan-Arab gatherings. We exchanged information and coordinate positions vis-avis regional and international issues. After all, we are both Nasserite parties, which makes us close in reading of history, strategy for the future, etc.

SECOND INTERVIEW:

Mohammed Al Khateeb Abu Fakher, Member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fateh).



Q: Is this your first visit to Yemen?

A: No, this is not my third visit to Yemen. I am here this time to attend the Ninth Convention of the Nasserite Party.

Q: How do you assess the meetings so far?

A: Of course, our participation is limited to the ceremonial sessions of the occasions. The substantive meetings are limited to the party rank and file. But my feeling is that we are witnessing a truly open debate.

Q: What is your vision concerning the future of Arab democracies?

A: The Arab regimes are facing a crisis. The Arab public is not participating in the real decisions regarding the great risks the Arab nation faces. In any way, it is not possible to pass a blanket judgement of democracy in all Arab countries. There is tremendous difference.

THIRD INTERVIEW:

Dr. Abdullah Dahhan, an elected member of the new Central Committee of the NUP



Q: What are your impressions of the on-going convention?

A: As a member of the Nasserite Unionist Party and as a Yemeni citizen concerned with the democratic process, I am proud with what we have achieved. We have been looking forward to this day to enhance democratic reality in Yemen.

Q: On the lights of the resolutions of the ninth Nasserite Convention, how do you see the Nasserite experience in Yemen?

A: Talking about the Nasserite experience could take long as it encompasses approximately half a century. Every body knows that Nasserite move-

ment in Yemen draws on principles of the 23rd of July Revolution under the leadership of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Q: Does your party have plans to expand the horizontal and vertical presence?

A: The convention discussed the general lines of the party that include possible expansion of the party's membership base. We hope that we will be able to implement the resolutions in this matter.

Q: How do you evaluate political participation in Yemen?

A: Party affiliation in Yemen has gained wide depth after the unification, political pluralism, and democracy. The political map is constantly drawn and re-drawn as parties make gains and losses. We in the NUP will extend our hands to all national forces to improve the implementation of the democratic concept.

FOURTH INTERVIEW:

Dhia El Din Dawood, a lawyer, is Secretary General of the Arab Nasserite Democratic Party (ANDP).



Q: What bring you to Sanaa?

A: I was invited by the Nasserite Unionist Party to attend its 9th convention. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Party's 8th convention, so I was careful this time not to miss the opportunity.

Q: What are your party's relations with the NUP?

A: We in ANDP extend our hand for maximum cooperation with all national parties and political forces on the Arab World, especially at these critical times. Arab rulers are now isolated from their peoples and are thus unable to influence or direct events. That's why I said that these populist parties should take the initiative and play a leading role.

Q: Yemenis often talk about the democracy margin which they believe exist in their country. They are also trying to further improve on it. What is your own assessment of this?

A: I think we should encourage any progress in the direction. I do feel the tide of democracy in Yemen is moving in the right direction. Compared to the rest of the Arab world, the situation in Yemen is much better.

We have seen in this convention a spectrum of contrasting political parties, a thing which does not exist in other Arab countries. Add to that the fact that the Government itself receives the participants, hosts them and does every thing to make their stay easy and comforting.

Q: How do you look to the future of Arab democracies?

A: It is difficult to be over optimistic, given the many tragedies and shortcomings. I think in recent years we have witnessed democracy beginning to

ebb in some places in the Arab countries. What happened in Lebanon is in my opinion some sort of regression. Some signs of democratization in a number of the Gulf countries is now being reigned in. There is also a feeling that democracy in the Arab countries of North Africa has backslided. There are other places, however, where the tide of democracy is still strong, which is a good thing to see. In any case, I think as parties it's our responsibility to take the initiative and not to leave the future of democracy to be determined by the rulers. We have to compel them to move ahead with democracy.

FIFTH INTERVIEW:

Mohammed Abdulmajid Mangounee, Member of the Politburo of the Arab Socialist Union Party, a Syrian opposition party.



Q: Is this your first visit to Yemen?

A: Yes, Yemen has always been a place of interest and reverence for the Arab man. I was attracted to visit Yemen by the impressions I formed through reading and through my contacts with my friends. When I first landed in this country, I was happily surprised by a number of encounters. First and foremost of all is the greatness of the Yemeni person who conquered his difficult physical natural habitat. He cultivated mountain sides, a sign of this greatness.

Q: What do you make of the political climate in Yemen?

A: I was very delighted with the political tolerance in this country and the friendly atmosphere existing between the different political bodies and their open mentality to accept the Other. Although I was invited by the Nasserite Unionist Party, I have been able to meet with leaders in the PGC, the Islah, and even in the Ba'ath Party. These meetings have created an impression that no matter how contrasting the views can be, there is a national consensus to deal with them in a civilized way. In short democracy in Yemen, though young, has created a hope that it is possible to have democratic systems in the Arab Homeland.

Nabila Ahmed A Al-Absi
Teacher, Education Specialist.
Member of the Central Committee of the NUP.



Q: What are the main achievements of the 9th General Convention of the NUP?

A: I think there are many achievements. The very

democratic climate in which the events took place is in itself important.

Q: As a woman, are there any gender specific issues that you promoted?

A: Of course, we discussed ways and means to empower women. Female participation in public life, and in the overall development of the nation is vital.

I am happy to note that seven women were elected to the Central Committee of our party, a solid 10% of the total.

According to the ninth national congress of the Democratic Nasserite Peoples Union, the real meaning of democracy is the adoption of the principle criticism and self criticism and work with it. The conference stand on the positive and the negative issues and strategies of the past will help us to organize ourselves in a better manner. We will escape the negative aspects of the past, and undertake more positive steps and overcome the previous mistakes.

Concerning the outcome of the conference, it was done in a democratic way and was satisfying. It was representing the majorities opinion. One of the main conclusions was the increase of the female members for the central committees by 10 % of the total number.

We in Yemen live in an acceptable democracy despite of all the obstacles and overtaking the laws regarding the protection of freedom of expression because we still have the hope to make things better.

Alwahdawi organization is a distinctive phenomenon in Yemen and that's because of the congresses it has held.

And the Nasserite experience has proved its presence in the Arabian countries.

Newly Elected General Secretariat of the NUP

1. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlafi, General Secretary
2. Ali Saif Hassan, Assistant General Secretary

General Secretariat Members

1. Abdul-Quddoos Al-Midhwahi
2. Abdulghani Thabit
3. Sultan Hizam Al-Utwani
4. Ali Al-Yazeedi
5. Dr. Mohammed Abu Baker Muhsin
6. Dirhim Ali Ahmed
7. Abdulmajeed Yaseen Noman
8. Hamdan Zaid Mehfil
9. Hashim Ali Abed
10. Abdulraqib Fateh
11. Abdullah Mohammed Saleh Al-Maqtari
12. Mohammed Saeed Dhafir
13. Abduaziz Sultan

بسكويتية
زينة
أبوولاد



أطيب منه مستحيل ؟

Corruption Versus Moral Values

It is shocking and disturbing to see our moral values eroded. The withering away is dramatic.

Let me use a personal experience to explain what I am saying. One time, while I was walking around with a friend, out of the blue, a speeding car almost overran my friend, had I not pushed him aside in the last seconds. It was one of those huge and fancy 4-wheel drive cars popularly known as "Laila Alawi" - fashionable among our senior politicians, government officials, sheikhs and other influential people.

This hazardous moment changed the focal point of my view of the epidemic virus devouring the whole structure of the society. He was enthusiastically and firmly saying that everybody should be corrupt so as to prosper and hit the big time. It is not only that, he tried to convince me that even ordinary clerks could not ensure their survival unless they become corrupt and bribers. What he said actually overwhelmed me with surprise. Not only that, his odd and freak ideas created ripples in my mind. He went on arguing that being an honest person means leading a very miserable life, full of poverty and unhappiness. To illustrate his argument, he started giving some examples. He said that he knew some people who all of a sudden and in a flash became well to do, sitting on a bed of luxury. It is because of nothing but being officials at the customs authority.

Actually, some people receive a salary of 10,000 YR per month. Paradoxically, they spend more than 2-300 per day only for qat let alone the other family expenses. How come? Isn't this something incredible? Where does all this money come from and what is their source? The answer comes casually: bribery and other illegal means. This is because some other officials receive the same amount and hardly could they keep their body and soul together. Their dignity and honesty prevent them from taking money under the table. My friend was giving vivid examples to highlight the big chasm between the two types of the salaried people. Instead of eulogizing and approving the people who take to and observe honesty and morality, they are seen as lacking the attributes and characters of manliness and strong personality. In fact, embezzlement, bribery, ... etc. have become signs of one being courageous and alert. Most cynically, one being honest is a sign of foolishness, being novice and lacking experience. This is the main criterion for putting people into categories and differentiating between the "alert" and "non-alert" today. To add insult to injury, if one is a new employ-

ee at any office and wants to perform his job dutifully, the old rotten apples won't let him off. Further, the more he/she goes on the right track, the more pitfalls and tricks they will create for him/her, or at least the person will be isolated. "Be clever and alert lest you should be lost" was the closing "advice" of my friend when saying good-bye.

I was left in a daze. It is, in fact, disheartening and it freaks me out to hear such a pessimistic tone even from university students, the most illuminated figures of the society. His speech is an indicator of how fast corruption is working in the whole body of the society. Furthermore, it has become an ordinary routine and way of life. This is very hazardous, heralding ominous tomorrows for the coming generations. It is very frightening to feel that the institutions of the society are perverted and corrupted. This state is encouraged by the state of lawlessness and unaccountability. Therefore, we can not expect any real growth and development in a society where most of its institutions are easy prey for corruption. And we should not expect any reform or development while the majority of our institutions are corrupted.

Accountability is the key word of development, for corruption is the major hindrance of development and evolution.

As a matter of fact, the state of lawlessness and absence of accountability is the main motive behind the degeneration of the moral values of the people, for when one takes bribes and is never held accountable and even if he is so, he will apply some method with the judges or whoever else to prove himself innocent and "honest." So, we can say that the state of poverty and the perversion and corruption of the judi-

cial system feed on each other and help spread corruption amongst the other institutions and establishments of the society. This is because these two elements are behind the perversion of the mortality of the people. The need of money will force people to sacrifice everything, including their honesty and dignity, of course, this is not to generalize, for there are honest peo-

ple who can not be sold out to the devil whatever the price. What I want to say is that the corruption, to speak generally, is behind the withering of the moral norms. Of course, when I talk about corruption in general I include in it the state of unaccountability which makes people think of morality as something of the past and they become money-hungry. They become very selfish and

seek after interests through various legal or illegal means, leaving their morality behind their backs. This is why some people could hit the jackpot in a very short time. What is worse is that even universities, the most revered

institutions and illumination halos of the society, have been perverted and corrupted too, for university certificates have been sold through falsification. What more should we expect?

Well, I believe the perversion and corruption of the institutes of the society can be fought against if the people in authority are serious about it. But, if the most

important institution of the society, that is the institution of moral values, is perverted and corrupted, then it becomes very difficult to stop this very hazardous epidemic virus. Building human civilization nations does not depend only on economic evolution and building skyscrapers, but also the castles of human and moral values. This is because in a society where dishonesty, for example, is found, we should not expect any real growth to take place. The European civilization today offers a good example. So, are we all aware of this?

By: Mohammed Hatem Al Qadhi
Taiz Office Editor,
Yemen Times

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Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas



RAY,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the League of Sons of Yemen,
20/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Deputy Minister of Health Resigns.
2. MP Mohamed Allaw Questions the Minister of Interior on the Saeed Village Incidents.
3. The Rabtah Presents Its Vision of the Procedural Factors for Successful Elections.
4. Escalations of the Confrontations in Amran, and Arrest of 100 among the Supporters of Sheikh Sowdah.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Normalization of political life in Yemen in order to reduce the level of violence requires many actions. These can be summed up in introducing real political reforms that allow for a balanced participation in decisions. The specifics include a wide-ranging local government, judicial reforms leading to effective and independent justice, removal of factors of fragmentation and internecine tribal conflicts in society, addressing financial corruption and administrative negligence, enforcement of the law, etc.

Introducing these steps will reduce the level of violence in our society. Things being as they are, there is little meaning in holding elections. We know that the results are dictated in advance and the elections are merely a carnival to give the results legitimacy. Sadly, such steps will backfire because people will lose hope in achieving any change. It will also cast a shadow of doubt on democracy and those organizations supporting it.

Our party believes that there is no way out but through a minimum level of participation and democracy, to shun violence, and reconciliation that will allow the past wounds to heal. All this cannot be achieved except through meaningful and serious dialogue which excludes no one.



Al-Ummah,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
Hizbul-Haq,
22/04/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Campaign to Loot and Destroy Yemeni Heritage Continues.
2. The Sheikhs Demand Accountability from those Responsible for Attacks on Dhale'.
3. Demonstrations in Hadhramaut.
4. Objections in Dhamar Against the Behavior of Authorities.
5. In a meeting chaired by the PGC Secretary General, Dr. Al-Iryani, the General Secretariat approves the names of the PGC members

who will take part in the electoral committees for registry.

B: Issue's Editorial

The NATO strikes on Yugoslavia continue at an intense and speedy tempo. Yet none of the goals for which these strikes are launched have been achieved. Enormous numbers of the displaced refugees are still pouring into the neighboring countries, waiting under agonizing conditions.

At the threshold of a new century, the international community is writing down another black page of human savagery as the civilian Kosovars find themselves torn between NATO's promises and the Serbs hellfire. The continuity of this human tragedy is directly brought about by the Fascist mentality and immoral conscience of the Yugoslav President Solobodan Milosevitch. Not only has this Milosevitch abandoned humanity, but he is also putting on a bullheaded attitude of snobbishness, causing the innocent civilians in his country and in Kosovo to pay dearly for his stupid obstinacy. If Milosevitch's whims were not curbed, the Kosovar's tragedy will undoubtedly become a real curse on the coming century and the NATO will be trapped in deep water. However, it seems that the NATO has no choice but to keep up pressure on Milosevitch till he gives in to Rambouleh terms. The other scenario, in case of taking place, would mark the NATO's first defeat. Therefore we rule out that this mighty tiger will afford Milosevitch any form of concession.



Attariq,
Aden Weekly, Independent,
20/4/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. A tribal attack launched by Al-Jebah tribe on the town of Nessab in Shebawah governorate as a result of tribal animosity and reprisals between Al-Jebah and Al-Dulah tribe of Nessab. So far, the fight has ended with the death of four and the injury of another four.
2. A citizen of Dar Sa'ad, Aden, declares that he will be running for the presidential election against President Saleh.
- Mr. Ali Bin Ali Sabihi informed the paper that he is applying to the Parliament to nominate him for the coming presidential election.
3. The 2 villages of Mersebah and Al-Kerb in Zubaid, Dhale'a, have been exposed to arbitrary shelling fired at them from the military sites of the Armored Brigade 135. The Shelling created a state of panic among the area's population.
4. A high ranking military officer has arrested three citizens in Abain. The General staff

officer of Brigade 312, positioned in Abyan, detained the three citizens over a dispute over a piece of land. The officer disregarded legal ownership documents of the three citizens.

B: Issue's Editorial:

It is nice to see a number of Aden's community leaders taking the initiative to declare a National Council that will embrace a group of distinguished political and social dignitaries in the city of Aden. The new NGO council is expected to contribute positively in defending the citizen's political, economic, and civil rights.

It is not a shame that this step has come late, though it's absolutely shameful that Aden should continue to be paralyzed and indifferent to public issues. This city should occupy its position not as an opposition echo, nor as a government tail, but as the leading place in the Yemeni National Movement which wrote down brilliant pages in the process of social enlightenment and cultural transformation. Today we sincerely hope that Aden will play its role in the socio-political interaction to move forward in the building up of a Yemen of justice, equality, progress and freedom.



Al-Ehya Al-Arabi:
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party,
19/4/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, the YSP Secretary General, Chairman of the Opposition Council of Coordination (OCC) has announced that the OCC will nominate its candidate for the presidential election.
2. The Ba'ath Party apologized for not taking part in the electoral committees. The apology has come as a result of the Supreme election Committee's turning down of the Ba'ath Party's proposals related to the correction of the voters charts.
3. Two persons were killed and ten others were injured in Hazm Al-Jowf, in a fight that seemed to have been instigated by an oral squabble in Souk Al-Qat market place.

B: Article Summary

After being privatized, Government hospitals have now become as expensive as five star first class hotels. However, the services offered in these hospitals can not be compared even to the cheapest motels. Therefore, we would like to advise any patient to be hospitalized in a first class hotel room, as we believe that this will be less costly. Government hospitals are no longer offering free services and the patient is compelled to pay

for even trivial services like buying a syringe and paying for the nurse to discharge it. All this in addition to the intolerable costs of rooms which sometimes top the rates of luxury hotels rooms. Our Congratulations to the Yemeni people on the coming of the 21st century with an appropriate slogan for the Yemeni style privatization "Khuzimah (graveyard) for all in the year 2000"!



Al-Thawry,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
Yemen Socialist Party,
22/4/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. In a meeting chaired by the YSP Secretary General, The General Secretariat stated that the correction of the voters registry tables is a basic condition to the validity of the presidential election.
2. In a statement to the London based Ashark Al-Awset, the YSP secretary General says that the opposition presidential candidate will adopt a National Salvation Program.
3. Sanaa Community Teaching Syndicate strongly condemns the state's interference in the conferences and elections of the different syndicates and unions.
4. Tribal clashes continue in some areas in Amman Governorate between Qafalet O'ther and government forces. The Government forces are reinforced by the forces of some Sheikhs in the area.
5. Archeological and Security authorities are tight-lipped on another theft incident of unique manuscripts estimated at 147 pieces. The manuscripts were stolen from a place in the Historical town of Djibleh.



Al-Sahwah
Sanaa weekly, Mouthpiece of
Islah Party,
22/4/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. In a meeting chaired by the Islah Party's President Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer, Islah Supreme committee (the party's politburo) has decided not to take part in the electoral committees of registry unless the voters tables are corrected.
2. In his word to the inauguration ceremony of Al-Iman University, President Saleh describes the construction of the university as an achievement of the revolution.
3. Members in the Parliament have asked the government for more openness and clarity related to the draft law of pri-

vatization, while the government shows no intention to amend this Law.

4. After two weeks of the president's instructions, the correction of the voters tables is still stumbling and the repeated names in the voters' tables amount to half a million.
5. The inflation of the Yemeni Rial is a natural result of the economic reform policies.

B: Article Summary

I attended a meeting organized by the US Consulate in Aden which was devoted to the hearing and debate of the US State Department's report on Human Rights in Yemen. The meeting began with the reading of the report by the Human Rights official in the US Embassy. She concluded the reading by admitting that even the United States does not fully respect human rights. I must say that she deserves credit for such statement.

In relation to the Yemeni Government's record on the issue of Human Rights, the Yemeni attendants were divided into two teams: Anti- and pro-state. However, the two teams had one thing in common. Each group did their best to drag the American official to their sides believing the US Government to be a sincere defender of human rights all over the world. Each were issuing from a crude notion as the real essence of the US policy is only to further strengthen their influence in this country. In fact the United States is using each side against the other in order to widen the extent of this influence in Yemen.

The Issue of Human Rights can never be solved outside Yemen. It is time for all of us to realize the fact that we and we alone can solve this problem if we know what and what not to do in the world of politics. The US is far from being the defender of human rights. Disfigured humans are still born in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. The hunting tools of the black Africans are still possessed by the grandsons of the white American testifying to this man's racial superiority complex. The tents of the Red Indians, constructed in the wild areas in America, are still testifying to the horrible genocide perpetrated by the white American against them. When some one was asked to compare the CIA and the MAFIA gangs he said that there is no difference between them, for the methods used by the two sides are identical.



Al-Ayyam,
Aden 3-weekly, Independent
22/4/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Members in the Yemeni parliament are sending a call for accountability to the Government regarding the expenditure of tens of billions of YRs on fake projects.
2. A team of 3 officers from Scotland yard arrived in Yemen two weeks ago. The team is taking part in the current investigations related to the kidnapping and killing of 3

Britons. It is reported that the team has asked to meet with Abul-Hassan, the gang leader.

3. Mr. Mohammed N. Al-Sha'ef, an MP and chairman of special committee designed to discuss general elections and referendum draft, affirmed that the presidential elections must be held on time to avoid a constitutional vacuum.



Al Thawra,
Sanaa Daily, Official.
22/4/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines

1. The Parliament endorsed the law amending the republican decree related to the Court Fees and continued hearing on the General Election and Referendum draft law.
2. During its weekly meeting, the Council of Ministers endorsed the out comings of the joint Yemeni-Ethiopian committee meetings. The Cabinet also ratified a report submitted by the minister of health on the disciplinary measures taken against a number of drug stores and companies for their anti-public health safety acts.
3. In Aden city, Attwahi Primary Court has resumed hearings on case no 27 serious Crimes in which 9 Britons and one French were accused.
4. The Director of the media sector in the Supreme Election Committee announced that the voters tables will be revised soon adding the amendment of the Election Law is a necessity to avoid shortcomings.

B: Issue's Editorial:

At the end of coming June, The Republic of Yemen will host here in Sanaa a Summit conference for Emerging Democracies. Choosing Sanaa as the site of this meeting offers an international recognition that our democracy is growing. It also says that our experience has risen to world-standards, which enable it to become a model to be followed.

Yemen is often credited for the unhesitant and honest transformation to democracy based on political plurality and peaceful exchange of government. So far, this has been practiced in reality during two election experiences that were widely noted and appreciated in many places in the world.

President Ali Abdulla Saleh has never stopped emphasizing that democracy is a comprehensive system. Therefore he has been working in all directions to bring this concept into life. Democracy in this country will survive as long as there is the political will which enriches it with fresh inputs to ensure further improvement. This is clearly seen in 2 important events: The preparations for local government, and the presidential elections.

Free balloting to elect the president and the fixing of the presidency to a maximum of two 5-year terms are strong evidences for the credibility of political plurality and the civilized exchange of power

First Sports Competition Between Yemen and Kuwait Since the Gulf Crisis

The Yemeni Olympic football team won the match against the Kuwaiti Olympic team; the final score was one-nil. The match was a trial match held last Friday in Kadhma Sports Club in Kuwait.

The Yemeni team put on a good performance, as did the Kuwaiti team. The goal was scored by Basil Awad in the twentieth minute of the first half.

The Yemeni team played well together, filling the gaps in front of the fast Kuwaiti players. The Yemeni defenders withstood the continual attacks, and countered with strong attacks on the Kuwaiti goal.

In the second half the Yemeni player Adel Al Salemi almost scored a second goal, but it just missed the Kuwaiti goal. The Yemeni defense faced tough attacks from the Kuwaiti team, especially towards the end of the match, but the Yemeni defenders and goalkeeper

were successful in defending their goal. The match ended with the Yemeni team winning by a score of one-nil.

The Yemeni Team arrived in Kuwait last Wednesday, by invitation from Sheik Fahad Al Ahmed, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Football League. They were introduced by Mr. Ali Al Ashwal, Chairman of the Yemeni Football League when he visited Kuwait for the purpose of drawing lots for the Asian group. That this friendly match is the

first activity with Kuwait since the Gulf crisis reflects the good intentions of a new era. This is good preparation for the Yemeni team in getting ready to go through the tournament between Asian teams for the right to participate in the Sidney Olympics in 2000.

It is worth mentioning here that the Yemeni, Emirati and Qatari teams are included in one group. Al Sharja Emirate will host a match next May, while Al Doha will host a match with Kuwait next July.



Award for the Top Yemeni Sportsman of the Year 1999

The committee for nominating candidates for the International Olympic prize for the year 1999 held extensive meetings last week to lay down the requirements for candidates nominated for the prize. "Sports and Education" was the title of this year's prize, which means the winner of this prize should have contributed to spreading and developing sports and education in his country. This shows the importance of connecting sports with education, as this is an essential part of modern Olympic ideas.

Mr. Ali Al Sabahi headed the committee, and Mr. Naser Al Shatheli and Mr. Abdul Hamid Al Saeedi were members of the committee.

The last day of receiving application is the 15th of May; the com-

mittee prepared application forms which were distributed to all sports and youth offices in all governorates of the country. The candidates should meet the following requirements:

1. A Yemeni national
2. Still living
3. At least 35 years old
4. Preferably has worked in the field of sports (government or private), or sports educational programs in schools and institutions, or served in the field of sports and education and participated in their development for a period of no less than 10 years.
5. The candidate should have a some major achievement in the private or official sports activities.
6. A clean record, with no disciplinary action having been

taken against him for dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

7. The candidate should not be connected financially to the Olympic committee or the Ministry of Youth and Sports, or receive any subsidies from them.

8. Preferably a candidate who has done research and studies on sports and education that have been ratified by official parties.

9. Preferably a candidate with experience in sports and education authority, or has been assigned officially abroad in sports and education positions.

10. Preferably contributing to sports and educational achievements on both national and international levels, or having won medals or awards in competition or seminars and festivals that relate to sports and education.

The Forgotten Champion: "Waad" Participates in an Arab Tournament

At last the Ministry of Youth & Sports has remembered and honored the squash champion "Waad Hamood" who is famous in the Emirates, and who has had a solid performance in his Asian competitions. He has won many championships for Yemen, with his last achievement the winning of second place in Hong Kong in 1997. But due to the circumstances of his father's death, who was taking care of and financing his activities, his activities and training

stopped. No one knew this junior champion's situation, or knew where he had gone. Lots of professionals had predicted a bright future for him in international competition, but he had dropped out of sight.

At last Yemen Times has discovered that some preparation is being made so that Waad will be able to represent Yemen in the Arabian tournament which will be held from August 2-18 in the Jordanian capital of Amman. This

will be the last Arabian tournament held at the end of the twentieth century.

The Olympic council is ready in participating and adopting all the expenses incurred in Waad's training during the period of his preparation for the Arabian tournament. Some of the sports observers says if the private sector finances this Yemeni champion he might become an international champion in this game and his past performance is the evidence.

EMBASSY OF INDIA

SANA'A

ANNOUNCEMENT

PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN CARD SCHEME

A. 1. Understanding that the sentiments of persons of Indian origin to be closer to their original country and to reinforce their emotional bonds, as well as respecting their desire to participate in the development of the country of their origin, the Government of India has launched a comprehensive Scheme for the Persons of Indian Origin - Called the 'PIO Card Scheme'. Under this Scheme, persons of Indian Origin up to the fourth generation (great grand parents) settled throughout the world except for a few specified countries, would be eligible. The card would be issued to eligible applicants through the concerned Indians Embassies/High Commissions/consulates and for those staying in India on a long term visa, the concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai) would do the same.

2. The Fee for the Card, which will have a validity of 20 years, would be US\$1000.

3. Besides making their journey back to their roots simpler, easier and smoother, this Scheme entitles the PIOs to a wide range of economic, financial, educational and cultural benefits. The benefits envisaged under the Scheme include:-

i. No requirement for a visa to visit India;

ii. No requirement to register with the Foreigners Registration officer if continuous stay does not exceed 180 days. If continuous stay exceeds 180 days, then registration is required to be done within a period of 30 days before the expiry of 180 days;

iii. Parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of facilities available to the latter in economic, financial, educational fields etc. these facilities will include:-

(a) Acquisition, holding, transfer and disposal of immovable properties in India except of agricultural/plantation properties;

(b) Admission of children in educational institutions in India under the general category quota for NRIs - including medical/engineering colleges, IITs, IIMs, etc.

(c) Various housing schemes of Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Governments and other Government agencies;

iv. All future benefits that would be extended to NRIs would also be available to the PIO Card Holders;

v. However, they shall not enjoy political rights in India

The above step would go long way in renewing and strengthening the emotional bond amongst PIOs with the land of their origin. The attractive features of the scheme will further exhort to play an increasingly constructive role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the country of their origin.

B. The Reserve Bank of India simplified facilities for financial transaction by NRIs/PIOs. The changes are:

I. In order to simplify the procedures and to provide greater freedom to NRIs/PIOs for putting through financial transactions in India it has been decided to permit them to open bank accounts in India which will be at par with rupee accounts maintained by residents. They will now be permitted to open non resident (Special) Rupee A Accounts with bank in India which will have the same facilities and restriction as are applicable to rupee accounts maintained in India by residents in regard to repatriation of fund held in these accounts and/or income/interest earned on them. The procedure for opening such accounts will be the same as in the case of domestic accounts of resident individuals. This scheme has become effective from April 15, 1999.

II. RBI has also granted general permissions to:

i) Resident individuals, partnership/proprietorship concerns to avail of interest bearing rupee loans from NRIs/PIOs out of funds remitted by them from abroad or out of funds held in their bank accounts in India, on non-repatriation basis, subject to certain conditions one of them being that the rate of interest on such loans should not exceed Bank Rate plus two percentage points.

ii) NRIs/PIOs to transfer by way of gift shares held by them in Indian companies and to PIOs to transfer by way of gift immovable property held by them in India to registered charitable trusts/organizations subject to compliance with other applicable rules/regulations including the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulations Act, 1976 by the charitable trust/organization concerned.

iii) NRIs/ Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) for investment on repatriation basis in Air Taxi operations subject to, among other conditions, the approval of the Director General of Civil Aviation has been obtained.

iv) All domestic public/private sector mutual funds for issue of Units to NRIs/PIOs/OCBs on both repatriation as well as non-repatriation basis.

v) NRIs/PIOs/OCBs to place deposits with Indian firms, on non-repatriation basis and with Indian companies including Non-banking financial companies on both repatriation and non-repatriation basis.

vi) NRIs/PIOs/OCBs for sale of shares acquired under direct investment Schemes on stock exchanges in India.

III. The Reserve Bank will grant general permission to NRIs/PIOs/OCBs to invest in Government Securities and treasury bills while granting permission for investment in shares and debentures under the portfolio scheme.

Taking into account the facilities that are already available, and the above new measures, NRIs/PIOs will not have to seek specific permission of the Reserve Bank for a whole variety of approved financial/investment transactions. This should considerably reduce paper work and time taken for undertaking such transactions.

After the above changes come into effect, the areas in which facilities available to NRIs/PIOs/OCBs will not be the same as available to domestic residents, will primarily relate to investment by them in real estate/agriculture and plantation business.

All interested Persons of Indian Origin may contact the Indian Embassy for the application forms and other details.

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