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Yemen Times Interviews Kim Campell

The Economy: Retrospect & Prospects? By Hassan Al-Haifi **Folkloric Dance** of Tihama Page 10

Under Secretary of State, Frank Loy Talks to YT Page 15

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagaaf's Death Began the Case of

Two days ago, the first hearings in the case of the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf were held in the traffic court in the municipality of Sanaa. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was killed in a tragic car accident in Hadda Street on the 2nd of June 1999. The case started with the presence of the driver of the car that hit Dr. Saggaf, Samir Ahmed Al-Sirri, his father, Dr. Ahmed Al-Sirri, the sons of the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf, Walid and Raydan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, along with their lawyer Mohamed Naji Allaw.

The session started with the normal commencement proceedings of the case and began the preliminary questioning of the driver and his father. The Prosecutor requested the full legal punishment for the driver for speeding and driving without a driving license, which lead to the unfortunate death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf.

Afterwards, the lawyer of the heirs of the deceased indicated that the investigation by the prosecution was still far from complete, as many questions still remain to be answered. After completing his statement, Mr. Allaw requested the court to compel the prosecution to undertake a thorough investigation to cover all the missing elements that would enable the

Court to arrive at a just ruling on the case.

The text of the Mr. Allaw's statement is on page 5.

The attorney requested that he be allowed to meet with the driver to discuss this issue, but the court refused, based on the legal premise that such a thing can only happen after all the missing elements in the investigation have been cleared up. The father of the



driver. Ahmed Sirri: then

requested some time to find a good lawyer to study the case. Consequently, the case was postponed until the 18th of July 99. Until the next session, the driver will stay in prison, and the car will remain held in police custody.

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His Majesty, King Abdullah of Jordan's One Night Visit to Yemen

The Ties Just Keep Getting Better

Jordan's King Abdullah arrived in Yemen on Friday afternoon on the start of a four-nation Arab tour to discuss the Middle East peace process and the efforts to convene an Arab Summit.

King Abdullah, accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul-Raouf al-Rawabdeh, and the Director of The Royal Court Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti, discussed with President Ali Abdullah Saleh means to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Discussions also included the ways to have Arab nations join hands and remove any obstacles towards clearing the air between them, and perhaps having an Arab Summit with the participation of all countries without exception. His Majesty left Sanaa yesterday morning to go to Sudan, which is the second leg in his trip, which also includes Morocco and Muaritania.



The Emerging Democracies Forum

A Success for Yemen and a New Milestone for the Yemen Times

The Emerging Democracies Forum achieved all the marks of success. The success was to be split between the Yemeni people and Government on one side for hosting the Forum, which was widely hailed by all the participants. On the other side, the Yemen Times went to print for five consecutive days, including 2 issues on Monday the 28th of June, for the regular weekly edition and the daily Forum edition. The organization, preparation, security, and media coverage of the Forum were satisfactory to all. The delegate members were impressed by the hospitality and kindness of the people.

The Yemen Times, on the other hand, has proven that it can produce a daily publication, and with the collaboration of the National Democratic Institute. was able to keep the Forum participants and other interested parties, in Yemen and worldwide, well informed on all of the developments in the Forum. Many hailed the 2 successes as good reasons for restoring the confidence in Yemen. It showed that indeed achievements are possible, even amidst all

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the widespread evidence of uncertainty. With extremely high quality printouts, useful information about Yemen's democratization, as well as profiles of the NDI, political parties, and participating countries, and more than ten interviews with key figures in the EDF, the special edition marked another success for the paper.

The Yemen Times wanted to be true to the aspirations of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, that the Yemen Times shall always remain a pioneering establishment in the fields that best serve the interests and rights of the Yemeni people. We are growing stronger, and so is Yemen. We therefore urge our readers that they should maintain faith in the country and its independent press, and should never lose hope in the future. The three-day Forum concluded with the drawing up of the Sanaa Declaration, which summarized the proceedings of the Forum and called for the transformation of the conclusions into real action that will be felt by the people themselves. The full text of the Sanaa Declaration appears on Page 7.





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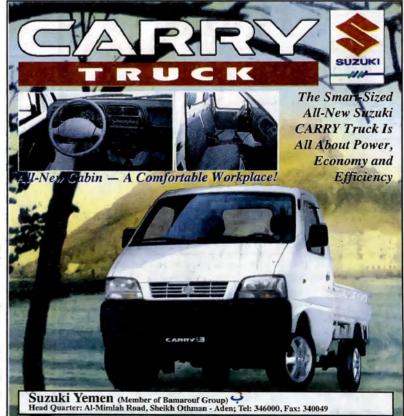
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OUR

This column will still be occupied by viewpoint articles written by the deceased until the issue on 12th of July, i.e., 40 days after his death.

Survival Depends on the Ability of a System to Correct Itself

One of the basic requirements for the continuation or even the survival of any system (whether it is a government, a company, an institution, an organization, etc.) is its ability to overcome its shortcomings by

itself. If a system is fossilized, it risks falling apart or withering away. This was the problem of the former USSR, as it failed to discover, acknowledge and correct its mistakes. This also happens to be the strength of the American system, which, in spite of its many problems, has the ability to constantly correct itself.

I am using the above introduction in order to discuss whether the present system in Yemen has this ability or not. One key quality of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his team of assistants has been their visible flexibility and ability to move with the times. The point is, however, whether such adjustments are for real and deep enough. In my opinion, three major adjustments will determine the future of the system headed by President Saleh.

- 1.Generational Transition: One of the key factors in the future success of the regime will be its ability to instill a smooth and peaceful generational transition. Many key assistants of the President in the civilian as well as in the military are people whose ages are now over 60 years. This means new blood is badly needed for the regime to move into the 21st century. Unfortunately, the old guard continues to hold on to the reigns of power, and the younger people are still waiting in the wings. The ability of the system to correct this problem is going to be a key factor in its future.
- 2. Transparency & Accountability: Corruption and mismanagement are two problems associated with the present regime. Its ability to show that it has the courage and will to address these issues is an important step. That will require ensuring a certain degree of transparency in the workings of the state. More importantly, accountability, based on a system of reward and punishment should be applied vis-avis individuals, whether those who perform their duties properly or those who abuse their authority. The credibility and legitimacy of the system could depend on this, especially at this time of economic austerity.
- 3. A Sense of Fair Play: One of the key problems associated with our system today is that there are some people who are above the law. They do whatever they like with visible impunity. The system must project a sense of fair play among the citizens of this country. If there are individuals who break the law, the state should not be seen as appeasing them. Law and order and full equality among citizens, irrespective of their military, tribal, social, financial, etc., background is imperative. The general public must believe in the even-handed dispensation of justice by the state and in its fair play.

Those are key issues that the President and his men need to ponder as the country prepares to move into the 21st century. I believe they are very critical, not only for the prosperity and strength of the regime, but for its very survival.

Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Yemen Times Founder





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IMF approves \$50 Million Payout for Yemen

The International Monetary Fund approved a \$50 million payment from its loans to Yemen on Monday, and said the government had coped well with lower oil prices and a difficult external environment.

IMF Deputy Managing Director, Shigemitsu Sugisaki, said in a statement that inflation was likely to stay below 10 percent this year. The non-oil economy would expand by 4 percent. "Directors praised the authorities for accelerating the pace of structural reforms," he said.

"Directors urged the authorities to preserve the gains achieved thus far by adhering to a prudent mix of fiscal and financial policies for the remainder of 1999, especially in view of the vulnerability of the budget to oil market volatility."

Yemen is receiving money from two separate IMF loans, a concessionary credit designed for poor countries and a longer-term arrangement designed for countries showing strong commitment to reform.

Execution of Murderer

Abdul-Fattah Ahmed Qaid, who was convicted of killing a compatriot, was executed publically on Wednesday, the 30th of June, bringing the total number of people put to death in Yemen this year to at least 21.

Adair International Oil & Gas, Inc. Resumes Its Exploration in Yemen

Mr. Jalal Alghani, Vice Chairman of Adair International Oil and Gas, Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board: AIGI) announced today that the company is proceeding with the geological evaluation of the exploration concessions in the Balhaf Graben in Yemen. The renewed evaluation began when the company reached an agreement with a Wall Street Investment House to become involved in the exploration.

Mr. Alghani is originally from Yemen, and Adair has tremendous expertise in the area through his relationships, there and the geological studies Adair Oil completed prior to the Yemen Civil War.

"Yemen has a tremendous amount of potential and is largely unexplored, but Hunt and CanOxy have made substantial discoveries there, resulting in the production of approximately 200,000 barrels per day for each company. This production, and the renewed stability of Yemen, has Wall Street's attention,"

YEMEN TIMES ONLINE Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question:

Do you think one of the recommendations of the Emerging Democracies Forum should be to stop the state monopoly over electronic media (TV, Radio, etc.)?

Results:

Yes, of course, because true press freedom should include all sorts of media (92%)

No, only printed media should be free (3%)

I don't know (5%)

Why do you think Islah Party chose President Ali Abdullah Saleh as their candidate for the upcoming presidential elections? (*Results Next Week)

states Alghani.

Adair is also moving forward with the Sugar Refinery to be located in Aden, Republic of Yemen. The project is in conjunction with the Arkel Group, who is one of the foremost developers of such projects in the international arena.

The feasibility study on the 20 MW natural gas power plant with Wartisila as a partner is now complete, and Adair is working with a financial agency to complete the package. The feasibility shows an anticipated return of 26% for years 1 thru 10 and 35% return on investments after 10 years.

"ADAIR is very actively pursuing natural gas fired plants and could not be more pleased with the results, especially with the initial feasibility study now complete, and the agreement for the land being reached. Additional information will be forthcoming on this project in the near future," stated John W. Adair, Chairman.

SOURCE: Adair International Oil & Gas, Inc.

Yemen Jails Policeman for Prisoner's Torture Death

On Thursday, the 1st of June the Mahweet Primary Court sentenced a policeman to 10 years in jail for torturing to death Mohamed Al-Kawkabani, held on theft charges. The sentence is a good mark for the country. It was the first conviction in a case involving torture in Yemen.

The court also sentenced two soldiers to up to five years in prison for participating in the tortures, which lasted three days. The court ordered the officer to pay up to three million rials (\$19,000) in "blood money" to the victim's family. The sentences will be reviewed by an appeals court.

Clearance of the YJS Membership Completed The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate

declared on Saturday, July 2 the completion of the clearance membership in the syndicate. The process is done in accordance with the regulations of the second general conference of the syndicate which was held in the middle of March 1999 and in application of article 34 of the new system of the syndicate, which asserts the clearance of the members of the syndicate within three months of concluding the conference's activities. Around 1131 applicants applied to the syndicate council to get applications for membership before May 20 1999. While around 752 members completed the procedures for membership, the syndicate council accepted 270 of them. The others were enrolled in the other three files of membership, i.e. in the not working, affiliated or undergoing preparatory training periods. The possibility of accepting applicants is still open.

PGC Permanent Committee Meetings Started

in the coming few weeks.

Members can obtain their cards

The permanent committee of the People General Congress holds its fifth ordinary session within the sixth public conference of

Mines Survey Agreement Between Yemen and UN Signed

An agreement between Yemen and the United Nations was reached for undertaking the initial survey on landmines, which was signed on Monday, June 28. The agreement was signed by Mr. Mutaher Al-Saedy, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the



Chairman of National demining Committee for the Yemeni side and Mr. Yang Yung, UN Assistant Secretary General for Planning Affairs at the United Nations for Peace Keeping Operations, and the Canadian Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Daniel Hobson, whose country is the major donor of the \$1,800,000 which has been earmarked for the survey project.

Mr. Qasim Abdulsalam Al-Shaibani, Head of he National Demining Program, disclosed that the Survey aims to evaluate the extent of the efforts that will be needed to complete the clearing of mines, and to determine their locations. It is anticipated that the Survey results will come out two years from now. The area to be covered by the Survey encompasses about 2,250 villages. The noteworthy aspect of the Survey is that Yemeni women will form 25% of those engaged in Survey.

the party. In this session, President Saleh gave a speech hoping that the activities of this conference would be very serious, frank, and clear, and that his members would be just in the political activities. He also asked the members to evaluate the political work during the previous four years of the party, in correcting the wrong and implementing every thing new on the political and economic levels.

Relatives Refuse to Bury Haddah Road Killing Victim

The Al-Huraibi family is still refusing to bury the son of Sharaf Al-Hureibi, who died in a stabbing near a cafe on Haddah Road some three weeks ago. They are still awaiting the promises of the authorities to apprehend the alleged killer and "bring him to justice." In a letter to the President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the father of the victim urged the President of the Republic to provide justice, and said that the victim could only have justice from him and God.

Islah Nominates President Saleh

The Highest Organization of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform agreed by a majority to the candidacy of the President Ali Abdullah Saleh for the presidential elections.

In a report on July 3, 1999, the Highest Organization of Yemeni Congregation for reform declared a statement regarding the candidacy for the presidency. It states that "In reference to the changing circumstances and taking the general, national welfare consideration, into Organization declares that the President Ali Abdullah Saleh is the Candidate of the Yemeni Congregation of Reform for the coming presidential elections, as he is the most capable person to take the responsibility of guiding the country in the coming peri-

Fresh Oil Pipe Blast

On Saturday, 3rd July, a group of tribesmen in Marib carried out a new oil pipe line blast (the 24th episode in a series). The new incident took place at point 28

on the highway connecting the oil fields to R'as Issa, the seaport for oil export on the Red Sea. Yemen Times sources say that a huge fire was seen in the area following the incident, which resulted in oil leakage of 16 barrel per hour. So far, the identity of the tribesmen is still unknown, while sources in the Ministry of Oil stated that experts and technicians in Hunt Oil Company will start mending the puncture in the damaged pipe in the few coming hours.

USA Laboratories Win Contract Worth \$4.5 Million

USA Laboratories has signed a contract worth \$4.5 million over the next three years with Middle East distributors in the Republic of Yemen to market and sell its entire line of nutritional supplement products.

USA Laboratories' nutritional supplement products, including Pharmacist NutriceuticalsTM, USA Sports LabsTM and Burn OffTM, will soon be made available to customers throughout the Middle East in pharmacies, GNC stores and health and fitness stores.

According to Charles Stokes, president and CEO of USA Laboratories, this latest contract in the Middle East is representative of a rapidly expanding international market for high quality, nutritional food supplements. "We're finding that USA Labs products are welcomed overseas, as health-conscious consumers throughout the world are looking for new ways to supplement their diet and traditional medical care naturally. Although we have been exporting vitamins and nutriceuticals for many years, we continue to be amazed at the rising demand for these products in other countries."

Based in Burns, Tenn., USA Laboratories is one of the world's leading producers of nutritional supplements. Dedication to high-quality products and superior management has enabled USA Labs to achieve an Inc. 500 status for the past three years. It is the only nutritional supplement manufacturer to have achieved this sta-



Kim Campbell, Former Canadian Prime Minister to YT

"One of the Main Themes of the Conference is How to **Balance Economic Reforms with Political Reforms"**

The idea of democracy is gradually becoming universal. It is not just the western world that is trying to adopt and defend the idea of democracy, but the developing countries as well. The Emerging Democracies Forum held in Sanaa from June 28-30 was an important event in the history of emerging democracies. It has proved that the participating countries are aware of the changes and transitions taking place all over the world. That is, the globalization of trade and commerce has made it necessary for each country to start some economic as well as political reforms. They must do this in order to meet the challenges and live up to them, so that can move peacefully into the 21st century, and not be left behind in this fast paced world.

The Emerging Democracies Forum was also an indication that the mature democracies are willing to stand up for and help these emerging democracies in exchanging their ideas and experiences to overcome their common challenges. The forum was really a universal democratic demonstration, and it was rightfully able to attract the attention of the world.

Ms. Kim Campbell, Former Canadian Prime Minister, was among the important participants in the forum. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor discussed various topics relating to the forum and the participating countries with Ms. Campbell, and filed the following interview.

A: I was honored to be asked to larly Yemen? because of that candor.

are being made, I think will last face many of the same issues. Sana'a 1999 in ten years and see it in your opinion? in democratization.

ment?

will be very important.

Q: Could you please give us a ference will be beneficial for the brief idea of your participation democratic process in the

enjoyed it very much. I think my very helpful when people realize going to make this a landmark what can I and my country do to ference has been the great honesty problems they have. It is very easy fits of it so much better, than if their effort halfway. of the participants. People are not when you are struggling to make a there was just a representative sitting around and just congratu- major social change to get dis- from every government. What I Q: Do you think the discussions lating each other on their progress. couraged, to think "Oh, we're mean is that there is a broader were successful? They have been looking very hon- never going to get there, or our commitment to go beyond seeking estly at the challenges that they problems are unconquerable," face, the barriers that still exist to and it helps when you realize that ment, to really making a demofull democratic development. That other societies are dealing with the cratic society. makes me feel very optimistic same issues, and sometimes have approaches that can help you. I Q: Some people say that we can First of all, it means that people think it gives you the courage to not have a democratic system get benefit from one another. If continue, because nothing is easy, with a tribal system, where the they actually talk honestly, they even in mature democracies like tribal system controls every can share ideas and get approach- my country, we have lots of polit- thing. What is your opinion? es to help deal with the issues in ical problems, and lots of chal- A: Well, my understanding is that

beyond this conference. I think Q: What are the challenges that But it is also important to underwe are going to look back at face the emerging democracies stand that societies do not have to

think is going to have a lot of fol- few international meetings where democracy. low up from this conference. So I you have such a range of people in think that is the most important each delegation, where the gov- Q: How do you think the emergthing, that the people who count erning party will actually bring ing democracies can move into are the decision makers who know members of the opposition, will the 21 century? a lot about this conference, and actually bring representatives of A: Hard work. That is why their



power in a democratic govern-

their countries but it means that lenges. So I think that that is a the power of the tribal sheiks is the commitment is very real and very important part of this confer- not what it used to be, and Yemen so I feel very happy about this ence. Plus the fact, that I do think is not the first country that has had conference. I also think that you that it has been a very interesting to reconcile traditional systems of can feel that atmosphere here, that combinations of countries, which power with modern democratic people feel it has been really use- represent every continent, every government. I think it will happen, ful and the connections that are type of religion, every type of cul- as the Yemeni people come to see being made, the relationships that tural background, and yet they the advantages of democracy to them in terms of their prosperity. throw out their traditions. They as a very important development A: Well, I think your Prime don't have to turn their back on Minister gave a very eloquent their history. But those traditions commentary on Yemen's prob- can be incorporated in their sense Q: It was noticed that the media lems, that are faced by many of of identity, and yet, where they are has not been discussed in this the others. Illiteracy is a great no longer useful institutions, they conference. What is your com- problem, the status of women, can be put aside and replaced by development of education, and useful institutions. So it is not a A: True, certainly the media in simply building the institutions. matter of rejecting our traditions. this region has been discussing it. Economic development is very For example, my background is I think it is up to those of us who important, and one of the main Scottish, and the Scottish are very have been here to help raise the themes of this conference is how tribal people, believe me. You profile. But I am less concerned to balance economic reforms with have never see a more blood about than that important opinion political reforms. It is not easy, I thirsty or violent group of people groups are aware of the confer- think there are many challenges. than the Scotts in their history. ence. The countries, including my But the most important thing is the Nowadays, we don't carry these own, who have sponsored it are all commitment to make the changes. old animosities, but it is part of very active internationally in sup- I have been very impressed by the our history. We have moved on, porting democratization, the passion that people bring to the and in Canada we have many peo-World Bank is here. The NDI, discussion. This a very unique ples who are proud of their histowhich sponsored the conference, I meeting, because there are very ry, but are part of a modern mature

the organizations that lobby the commitment to that hard work government. Those little commu- inspires those of us who are here Q: How do you think this con- nities that have come here to from mature democracies, and

co-chair the conference, and I A: Well, I think it is sometimes participation in a conference, is tainly been my reaction here, is

A: I think so, but I think the discussion I chaired could have gone on all day. There is much more to be more opportunities to meet. render to Yemen to enhance the resourceful people.

SANA'A . YEMEN

Not necessarily this whole democratic process? group, but maybe small A: Well, we have been here on a riences.

and Yemen?

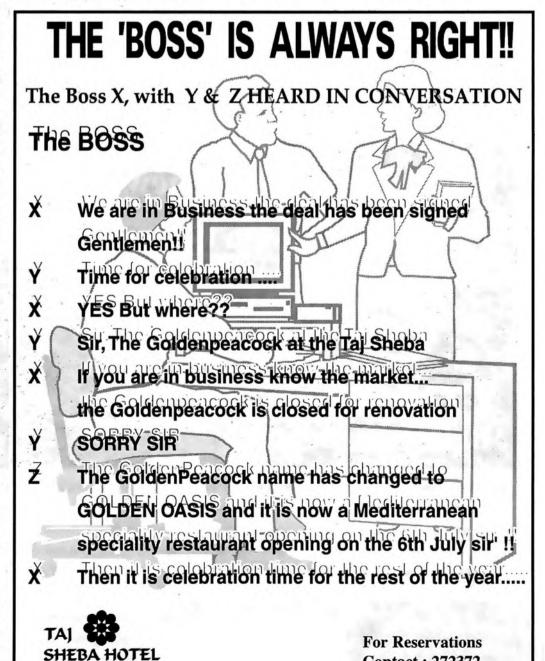
Yemen studying in Canada, tion and development. there are Canadian companies who are here, and I think that Q: Any last comment?

benefit from that trust.

groups will get together, and number projects involved with that's why creating the rela- land mines, and issues like that, tionships is so important, So and we'll certainly be back. The people from one country can senior representative of the CIDA, meet people from other coun- Mr. Martin Cook, is here, and I tries, and they can build think he will go back to Canada to friendships and continue to discuss possible things we can do. share the value of their expe- I can't be specific, I think that it depends on what kind of assistance the people of Yemen would Q: How do you see the rela- like to have from us. But I think it tionship between Canada has been very valuable for us to be here. Mr Cook has been here A: Well, it is a warm relation- before, and is a great supporter of ship, and I have been delight- Yemen. So I think we will contined to discover that there sen- ue to do whatever it is that is pracior Yemenis who have been to tical and helpful. I'd like to see us Yemen. The president of your increase our economic relation-Consultative Council was ships, and to share our knowledge there, there are students from of various aspects of democratiza-

Contact: 272372

there is a great deal of poten- A: Just that it has been wonderful are so different from the normal even more to help. That has certial. But I think what is important to be here. It was wise of the is that Yemen's commitment to Yemen government to host this democracy sends a very powerful conference, because it means that strongest impression of the con- that they are not alone with the conference. It will make the bene- help, because we want to meet message to countries like Canada, people get to know not just the that this is a place that we can representatives of Yemen, but the build relationships and trust, and people of this area personally. I that is so important. Not just peo- think it will be very positive in ple from the government, but peo- terms of the support Yemen is ple throughout your country will going to have from all of us in this transition. But the people of Yemen have to do it, and you are be said. But I think that there will Q: What support can Canada very intelligent, very clever, very





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Continued from Page 1 (The Quest for the Truth):

Text of the Statement of Late Al-Saqqaf's Lawyer

Rejection of the Presentation of the Case to Court Due to the Incomplete Investigation by the Prosecution

Chairman of the Traffic Court. Judge, Abdul-Kader Al-Hitaree. On behalf of my constituents, the heirs of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf the late Editor-in-Chief of the Yemen Times and Chairman of the Human Rights Committee in the Consultative Council, who was fatally hit by a car on June 2 1999. We hereby present this plea hoping that it will be fully and carefully examined and that you will accept our request to have the case referred back to the Prosecution in order to conduct a more thorough investigation so that all the underlying mystery of this case will be exposed.

The reasons for this plea are the following:

I- It is clear that the President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, has designated an Investigation Committee chaired by the Minister of the Interior to consider the impact of this accident on the Yemeni community and to make sure whether or not the accident was intentional; in view of the as the victim was involved in defending human rights. Unfortunately, our constituents were not able to check the results of the investigation this committee. made by Moreover, the Traffic Prosecution started interrogating the alleged driver, who fatally hit Dr. Al-Saggaf and the witnesses he presented. After a few days from the date of the accident, the Prosecution presented the case to the Court without hearing the call of the heirs of the Deceased for their rights and before even getting any order from the court. The whole investigation report did not exceed six pages. This is in violation of Article 123 of the Criminal Law, which provides that the Prosecution must take down the plaintiff's charges and that the victim's or his heirs has the right to attend all the proceedings of the investigations. If they were not present, they have entitled to check what has been done as soon as the investigations are completed.

II- By not hearing the victim's family, which is considered to be the most important procedure, the Traffic Prosecution has violated Article 18 of the Criminal Law, which provides that the Prosecution, the Court and the Appeals Court are obligated to ascertain all the elements of the case, its reasons, its circumstances and the character of the accused. The Traffic Prosecution did not give the victim's family a chance to make sure about the truth, by not listening to them and to their request, during the investigation, to listen to the witnesses, who should be brought only upon the request of the victim's family as confirmed by the by the law. All this is in violation of Article 125 of the Criminal Law which provides that the litigants have the right to produce whatever requests they want,



which must be written down by the investigating prosecution. This is further stressed in Article 165 which indicates that the investigator should listen to the witnesses, summoned by him, the plaintiff and the defendants, or who came all by themselves to testify.

The prosecution sufficed only in hearing the testimony of the defendants witnesses in the case, Canadians, whose names were not even put down or whose eyewitness accounts were not taken.

2. What explanation is there for not finding any evidence that the breaks were not used by the driver of the car that perpetrated the

accident, and could that have been the negligence of the driver to avoid the accident or his inability to do so or other reasons. The classifications to these questions from a technical point of view is warranted from a specialist in a complete report on the accident is supposed to have been made available, which should have included the conditions of the car and its tires.

3. Where did the watch of the defendant go, which disappeared at the time of the accident, 6. Were any blood tests taken of the defendant to checked if he was under the influence of drugs or intoxicants at the time of the accident? If not, why?

7. Was any check made on the background, conduct and record

driver's license.

III. We have previously requested the Police Prosecution to complete the Prosecution., in keeping with Article 223 of the Criminal Law, and it did not respond to our request,. Whereas

stand based on hearsay, or to raise charges of the methods by which the case was presented, which is what we altogether do not wish to happen.

We implore Your Honor to act in keeping with the Law to rule that



Judge Abdulqadir Al-Hittari

and thus could not be said to have arrived to a full gathering of the circumstances surrounding the case. This leads to raising a number of questions, summarized as follows:

1. Why did not those who were accompanying Dr. Al-Saqqaf at the scene of the accident, namely, Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirby and Mohammed Al-Tayyib hospitalize the victim, and why were they not called to testify. The same is also true of the other witnesses at the scene of the accident, an American and 2

which was a gold Omegas watch, assessed at over YR 1 Million, and who took it?

4. How did the defendant state that he was unable to see the victim, as he claimed that the trees prevented from viewing the victim, whereas as the shrubs were at a height that did not exceed the midsection of the body.

5. What is the justification of the driver being at the site of the accident at that particular time of the day, so far away from his domicile.

case like this, which raised a number of questions, and thus need to be looked into.

8. Why was not the victim taken to the nearest medical institute,

of the defendant, especially in a

nearby. Why was he left an 1 1/2 prior to his arrival to Al-Thoura Hospital?

9. Why did the car owned by theta victim disappear from where the victim had left it parked. It was more than an hour later that the son of the victim was asked to pick up the car

which is the Police Hospital

where the victim had left it parked. It was more than an hour later that the son of the victim was asked to pick up the car form Colonel Al-Moushiky, from the intersection of the 60-Meter Road rather than from the Police Precinct, or why was it not taken to the Yemen Times premises, which is well-known.

10. What are the results of the search of the defendant's car, and what was found in that search.

11. Why was there no wait for the testimony of the witnesses, especially Information Officer of the National Democratic Institute and the Resident Representative of NDI, Mr. Derek Butler, who were there. Why were not the blood heirs of the victim called to hear their testimony? Why was the case presented to Court prior to the completion of the investigation in a thorough manner?

12. How was the speed of the hitting car estimated to be 50 kmph, while it had catapulted the victim more than 8 meters in the air, and there were obvious big dents, broken glass and lights. Yet the Traffic Police concluded that this damage was the result of a 50 kmph speed.

13. Why was not the father of the defendant called at the time, being as he is the responsible person of the accident, as the defendant was not holding any

the legislators have authorized us in Article 20 the right to object to their decision to present the case to you, we therefore appeal to you, anticipating that you will uphold the rights of our clients to deal with the case of their father, in accordance with the law, as is the right of all citizens, who should all be entitled to equal justice before the law.

Our desire is that our clients obtain their legitimate and humanitarian rights to reveal all the facts and truths surrounding the killing of their father, which can not be ascertained through the trial, as they cannot concede to a trial hearing prior to having their rights under the investigations still unfulfilled. Before compelling them to take a refusal

the referral of the case to the court is not proper, and must be corrected by returning the case to the Prosecution for further fulfillment of the investigation, which will enable our clients to obtain their full rights of a thorough investigation of the case to arrive to the full truth of the case, and to have the case, then take its proper just course, based on the Law and the Islamic jurisprudence.

With all due respects.

Mohammed Naji Allaw Ismael Abdullah Al-Madani

Lawyers acting on behalf of the heirs of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT Environmental Protection Council

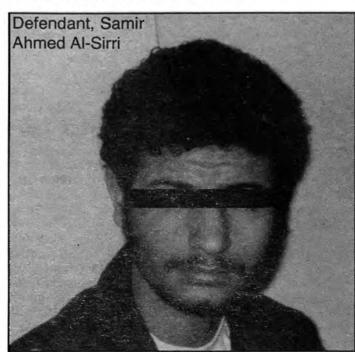
The Environment Protection Council (EPC) in conjunction with the donor supported Capacity Development Project Phase (III) would like to contract a suitable candidate for the Data Department to be involved in the elaboration and continuation of the activities started last year related to the set-up of data base management systems, including their geographic application via G.I.S. an

Environmental Data Base Manager

The contract is full time and fixed for 12 man-months with no possibility for extension.

- The candidate must have a proven record in the build up of environmental
- data bases, including G.I.S. applications.
 The candidates has post graduate training and/or PhD degree in environmental sciences or related fields with emphasis on data management and organization obtained through a recommendable institute preferably from outside the region.
- The candidate must have full command of the English language and proficient in the programming applications of MS-Access and Integraph software.
- 4. The candidate will be responsible for the continuation of the construction of environmental data bases, actively participate in the preparation of the annual state on the environmental report and participate in he interministerial working group set up under the EPC on data and information management on environment in Yemen.
- The candidate must assist and recommend improvements for the harmonization of data flow procedures within the department and the EPC in general.

For more information contact the EPC Telephone 264112. Application forms are available and have to be submitted at the latest till Thursday 8th of July before 12.00 hours at the offices of the Capacity Development project and refer to the following: sing application form, CV, copies of university degrees. A committee will invite only those who are short listed.





COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Economy: Retrospect & Prospects?

Part One: Retrospect

As one goes through the major markets of Sana'a, one is not impressed by the rather poor activity and traffic of shoppers, at the wholesale as well as the consumer level. In a city of around one million inhabitants, this would be a clear sign that the Yemeni economy is not generating income on a widespread basis, in order to induce more consumer spending. For sure, this is not a reflection of consumers being well stocked up, as this is the beginning of the month, and one cannot miss noticing that the overriding conversations in gat sessions and public transport (the mini busses) is on the difficulties of households trying to meet their utility bills, let alone meeting the other household requirements, such as food and clothing. As for family vacation trips, that has been scratched out of the household budget, even before the First Family Budget Survey of 1994. For several years, the government has become aware that there are "some" problems with our economy, and it was never difficult for the government to come up with the excuses, with a view towards at least convincing the donors that it is "monitoring" the situation. As for the Yemeni people, the government seems to care very little whether anybody

is convinced or not by what the

Government says, or at anything the Government does. It even comes up with statistics and indicators which are not anywhere near a true indication of where the economy really stands. Moreover, the Government will insist that whatever the problem is with the economy, it arose out of circumstances that are beyond its control, and "external" factors have a heavy influence on the economic situation in the country. There are even "conspiracy" theories that are ready made to help absolve any suspicion of Government failure in addressing the economic problem, and all the other problems, which the Yemeni people seem to have difficulty finding solutions for. Notwithstanding all abstract theories, nevertheless, there is a stagnant economy, that is close to zero economic growth, if not below it, and a serious unemployment situation. This is true for both skilled and unskilled, educated and illiterate, that may be put at around 40%, if we are to lend some credibility to government figures. Furthermore, there is a deteriorating currency, and not even the price rebound of oil has helped to maintain the stability, to say the least. While the Government has acknowledged to Yemen's donors that there are some difficulties, its unabashed public



Yemeni citizens that they have never been better off!

There are some very basic fundamentals that would call for more concrete explanations, and, to a certain extent, accountability for the inescapable assertion that even if the government itself may not have been the cause of an economy with a slump, it has at least failed to address the problem. It needs to deal with the problem in such a way as to activate econometric models to produce positive trends, which could lead to getting investors to have some confidence in the economy and would raise the hopes of heads of households that at least it can't get any worse! On the other hand, the Government cannot be ignored in any effort to make a clear and rational evaluation of the the economic picture over the past decade and a half. There are three obvious reasons that surely lend support to this deduction:

1) Long-term, and to a considerable extent, short-term macro and micro economic behavior, is more often than not, a direct function of Government policy – or the lack of it, where it might be called for. When speaking of government policy here, it is not just implied that it is only economic policy that has a strong bearing on the economy. For example, earlier this decade, we saw the government make for-

eign policy decisions that obviously lacked any kind of economic foresight, thus bringing back a million emigrant Yemeni workers from overseas. These workers had formed the backbone of the economy for almost two decades before they were sent home. While the matter of the propriety of such a foreign policy is not the matter being discussed here, it cannot be ignored that the decision did lead to Yemeni expatriate workers loosing an irreplaceable preferential status, which they acquired in the Gulf states. Prior to the governments decisions, Yemenis were the envy of almost all the other expatriate communities that flocked to claim their stake from the Persian Gulf Oil boom. Whatever the moral or "nationalistic" justification behind the decision to adopt such a policy, which never clearly defined Yemen's position vis a vis an obvious lost cause, the economic implications were devastating. It was not long before Egyptians and other foreign workers, whose governments knew where to put their foreign policy stakes, replaced those Yemenis.

2. The Government is the biggest active entity in the national economy, not just by its function for the formulation of economic and other sectoral policies that have an effect on the economy, but by its colossal spending habits. Furthermore, its budget management, or mismanagement, to be more accurate, has, especially for Yemen, had a profound impact on the state of the economy. On the other hand, by virtue of its size and the economic activities it has pursued, rather inefficiently, there can be no escape from the presupposition that the government indeed has not been very helpful in steering the economy out of its inability to generate growth and job opportunities for a rapidly rising population (close to 4% a year, according to Government's own statistics). In addition, the mismanagement of the government's own economic activities is bound to filter down to the other sectors Thus, rather than the Government producing optimal models to look to for guidance and example in managing economic affairs, one is seeing government enterprises that are running inefficiently, and operating in the red, thus becoming constant drains on the government budget, as well as those of their customers - the people of

3. Economic performance of a country is gauged by quantitative yardsticks that have been developed to help government policy makers come up with policies that orient the economic activities in the country to produce positive trends, which will show that Government policy makers really understand what those indicators mean and what kind of a picture they reflect of the people's real conditions as they live through these indicators. But unfortunately, the Government continues to view the economic indicators that it comes up with, as an academic exercise which must be dealt with "scientifically" and thus the human factor has no place in the analysis of these indicators. On the other hand, it is no secret that most of the senior government officials are separated from the economic plight of the majority of the people of the country. They seem to have been immunized against the economic ills of the nation, as they close themselves up in their plush residences, with no concerns about their salaries not being able to make ends meet. On the contrary, senior government officials seem to always be enjoying their own booming economy that they have created for themselves. How they do it has been a mystifying matter that opens up serious questions about the absence of accountability and adherence to any minimal ethical standards of public responsibility.

As an observation on the side, one of the biggest economic disappointments has been the slow disappearance of the once growing middle class, most of who are, in fact government employees, at the mid-level positions, and professionals. Yet, even these government employees are unable to come up with any convincing argument to their prosperous supervisors, that they are suffering extreme hardships, as their incomes, which used to range from the equivalent of US \$1,000 - 2,000, has now dwindled down to well below US

Thus, it would seem plausible that the Government leaders should realize that, no matter what explanation they come up with for the state of the economy, they are still not free from the responsibility of getting the economic mess of the country straightened out, by first straightening out themselves. More on the economy in the next issue when we look at the prospects for the future.

"Part Two: Prospects" to be published next week.

In the Memory of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

media continues to assure the

Ceremony in Al-Turbah, Taiz

On Tuesday morning, June, 26, the commemorative ceremony for three deceased: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Poet Abdullah Salam Nagee, and the leader of the Mugahedeen, Abdullah Ali Al-Hakeemi, was held by the United Public Forces and Al-Wahda Club at the hall of Al-Wahda Club. The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including Mr. Abdoh Alsalam Razaz, the General Secretary of the United Public Forces, Mr. Abdoh Alelah Al-Mohabi, a member of the consultative council and the chairman of the party in Altorba, the Director of the Security Office, as well as a huge number of people.

The ceremony was inaugurated with the recitation of the Quran, followed by a word by Mr. Aref



Abdoh Saif Al-Adeemi, the Chairman of the commemorative ceremony and the man in charge of propaganda and thought in the United Public Forces, Altorba branch. Some of his main points were the following:

The late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was one of the very few people who held high qualifications in the country, which is a sign of his strong



capability as well as of his extraordinary features. His great excellence in science and ethics have been magnificently reflected by the various deeds he has done. He was a successful model in all that he has done, and that was mainly because he was never been after money or leadership. He

was actually a lighthouse leading Yemen and Yemenis to prosperity.

Mr. Aref Abdoh also talked about the deceased, Abdullah Salam Nagee, the poet and geologist who devoted his life to others, talking about their difficulties and problems inside and outside the country. He also mentioned the leader of Almogahedeen Al-Hakeemi, whose first annual passing away memorial will be held in the coming days. Al-Hakeemi was the first Yemeni to establish the Scientific and Mystical Confederation in Britain. He has also published a magazine there.

A word from the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's family was said by Emad Al-Saqqaf, the Bureau Chief of the Taiz Office, Yemen Times. He talked about the late's unique abil-

ity to take upon himself the responsibility of creating a better tomorrow and establishing the well-being of Yemen. He said: "I am really grateful to you all for holding this commemorative ceremony and paying tribute to the great and faithful man, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf." He went on to say that the late is not dead, because even if he left us in the body, his soul is still alive in the hearts of the people whom he defended and struggled for. He

also said that the late was the kind of man we need. He said that we would never forget this man and we would go on in the same path and footsteps he started. He concluded his speech by saying that we should all participate in establishing the free democratic Yemen that Dr. Al-Saqqaf struggled for.

The word from the members of Culture Public in Al-Hogariah was presented by Mr.Hassan Al-Madanee, the vice chairman of the Culture Public. He talked about the grave losses Yemen suffers by losing these great people

A speech for the literary man, Abdulla Salaam's family was presented by his son, Sahl Abdullah. He thanked all those present, and those who participated in organizing the ceremony.

After that, an elegy by the poet was presented. Ahmad Yahia Daghes, a member of the Yemeni Literary Men Association.

Then a speech on behalf of the martyr Al-Hakeemi was presented by his grandson, Anwar Al-Hakeemi, who said that the deceased's memory would go on as his life was full of sacrifice and struggle.

A word from the House of Coordination of Opposing Parties in Lahaj governorate was presented by the representative of the house, Mr. Mohammed Hassan Fareed. He said:

"Dr. Al-Saqqaf has left, leaving us and this country alone to face the difficulties, obstacles and the corrupt. He also wondered who would be able to say no and expose the corruption to the public."

To express the deep love and respect for the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf, a speech in the English Language was presented by Nabeel Saeed Abaas, who said if Al-saqqaf has left us for good, his ideas, values and principles are still alive and will be immortalized in the hearts of the people who love Yemen.

An elegy was also presented by Mr. Farea Abdoh Farea, a well-known literary person, who said:



"These people are alive through their deeds, which will stand through time. It is our duty to remember these people and to give them their due."

Mr. Taha Al-Gukaiba also participated in this ceremony, with an elegy to the dead.

The concluding words were said by Mr. Mohammed Soltan Abdullah, the vice chairman of the United Public Forces's branch in Altorba, in which he said that Dr. Al-Saqqaf was a multidimensional figure who did a lot to help the people of Yemen. He also said that it is a heavy loss for Yemen and Yemenis, to lose such people who could have done even greater things if they had lived. He asserted that great people are judged through their actions, and these people have been distinguished through their strong support for justice, human rights and freedom, especially Dr. Al-Saqqaf. He was successful in reflecting a picture about Yemen to the outside world. He said that the way is still long before us, and that we should devote ourselves to the supreme values of these people. At the end of his speech, he thanked all who participated in organizing that commemorative ceremony, and all those who attended it.



Sana'a Declaration

"We who attended the Emerging Democracies Forum in Sanaa, Yemen from June 27 to 30, 1999 from 16 countries, assembled to acknowledge our democratic achievements, to address common challenges we face in the transition to full democracy and to reaffirm our commitment to democratic rights and principles. The Forum was a unique gathering, bringing together a diverse group of participants and countries whose democratic advances are less known.

We recognize that the transition process is not complete and that much needs to be done to consolidate our democratic systems and to implement further political and economic reforms. While we are proud to have joined the growing community of democracies, the international community has tended to focus on countries that are considered strategically more important or are in crisis. However, democratic progress in our states contributes to peace, stability and prosperity both within and beyond our borders. Reflecting the importance of all sectors of society in this endeavor, the participants at the Forum included government officials, members of governing and opposition parties, and representatives of labor, business and civic groups from Benin, Bolivia, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana,

Guatemala, Guyana, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal and Yemen. We represent a diversity of democratic experiences, but our attendance at this Forum demonstrates the universality of the democratic ideal. This group of nations with different traditions, cultures and historical experiences was brought together by a shared commitment to democracy and a belief that the promise of economic prosperity enjoyed by all citizens is more likely to be realized in a democratic political environment based on respect of human rights, popular participation and rule of law. Further, we share a commitment to:

Pursue economic reforms and secure fundamental workers' rights while making every effort to educate and build widespread consensus for these goals;

Improve protections for human rights for all our people;

Hold regular free and fair elections, with special attention to the need to build public confidence in the process;

Develop our legislatures as an essential instrument for broad public participation and representation as well as for policy debate and oversight of govern-

Empower democratic governance at local levels;

Deepen our commitment to, and

implement measures to ensure, the full participation of women in political life;

Ensure that the rights of minorities are respected and that every effort is made to engage marginalized groups in the political system:

Broaden the democratic experience by adopting all reasonable means to encourage public access to, and participation in, the policy making process;

Support the strengthening of civil society;

Uphold the freedom of the press; Address the urgent challenge of corruption by instituting meaningful reforms, including those that increase governmental transparency;

Foster judicial independence, in order to enhance public access to legal redress and ensure that the laws are fairly applied to all.

These are the principles that brought us to Yemen, which we discussed in the context of our specific experiences. Following are some examples of measures recommended by Forum participants that give concrete expression to our shared democratic principles. The successful implementation of economic reforms is advanced by:

Transparent and inclusive decision making, the involvement of civil servants, the public labor, business groups and political parties in the design and implementation of reforms;

A social safety net to meet basic human needs and/or a complementary poverty alleviation program; and

A recognition of the role of the civic sector in the implementation of economic reforms, including the use of such groups to help deliver government-funded social services.

Public confidence in elections is enhanced by:

Working towards the establishment of independent election commissions that are nonpartisan or politically balanced;

Regulating, by legislation, government financing of elections to ensure that they are fair and equitable for all parties; and

Inviting election observers, whether domestic or international, to mount more comprehensive efforts, including the monitoring of registration and campaign periods.

The legitimacy of parties and legislatures is advanced by:

The adoption by political parities of internal democratic procedures, ongoing training of political leaders and elected officials, and public accountability and transparency;

The implementation of legislative procedures that ensure public access to plenary and committee meetings, the holding of public hearings, and the provision of committee documents and bills to the public.

Public participation in democratic decision making is enhanced

Providing for private ownership of media and ensuring the impartiality of state-owned media -through independent boards or other means;

Ensuring that governments and political parties take measures to increase the number of women in parliament and appoint women to key government posts;

Conducting civic education in schools, non-governmental organizations, parties, and the media to address cultural attitudinal and legal barriers to the political and economic participation of women:

Encouraging governments and legislatures to enhance the viability of non-governmental organizations, including removing legal barriers and providing tax exempt status, and engaging non governmental organizations in policy debates;

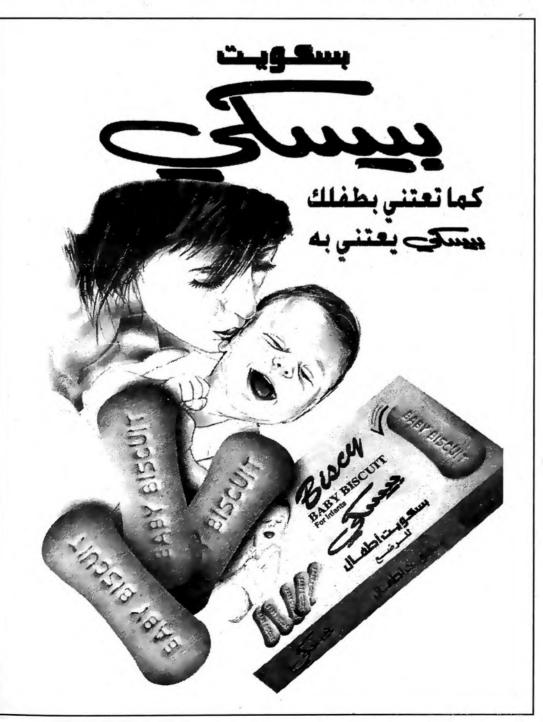
The achievement of good governance, the improvement of administration, controlling corruption and strengthening the rule of law can be advanced by: Instituting public information mechanisms, such as budget transparency, freedom of information laws and the publication of regulations;

Depoliticizing and professionalizing the civil service;

Implementing comprehensive anti-corruption commissions, ombudsmen and auditors general, codes of conduct and financial disclosure rules, and open procurement process.

As a result of this conference, we hope to establish mechanisms between our countries to continue the sharing of ideas and experiences through consultations, exchange programs, an interactive web site and other means. We also look forward to working together in a variety of international fora to promote democratic principles and practices. We intend to support the efforts of other countries that are beginning the process of democratic transition.

The international community should renew its commitment to countries working to build democratic institutions and processes and dedicate the resources for this task. In particular, the donor community and the international financial institutions, in considering loans, aid and debt policy, should give priority to those countries implementing political as well as economic reforms. These political reforms would include measures that advance popular participation, build public trust in elections and legislatures, and enhance government transparency and accountability"





المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

د/ محمد أحمد السعيدي - المدير العام بأحر التهاني والتبريكات لقائد مسيرة الديمقراطية فخامة الرئيس

على عبدالله صالح

وإلى مجلس الثواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر وإلى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني وإلى الشعب اليمني بمناسبة نجاح أعمال وفعاليات

المنتدى الدولى للديمقراطيات الناشئة

تتويج لنجاح النهج الديمقراطي لبلادنا لتكون اليمن مقرا لافتتاح هذا العرس الد يمقراطي العالمي العظيه

On behalf of

National Water & Sanitation Authority Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Sayedi

present his congratulations to

PRESIDENT ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and his Cabinet, and the Yemeni people on the successful conclusion of the

Emerging Democracies Forum

in Sanaa during 27-30 June 1999, which is one of the most significant events that will ever be held in the Arab region and the world. We express our delight and pride in having the honor for our country to host such an important democracy supporting forum.



Islam and Family Planning

Dr. Azza Mohammed Ghanem Professor of Psychology

Please let me share with you this excellent presentation, that was given by Sheikh Nasser Al-Shaibani, the Minister of Endowments, at the recent May 1999 meeting of learned men of religion, Decision Makers, Members of Parliament and Mass Media presenters. I am only sorry that you could not personally hear the fascinating comments of this eloquent and knowledgeable Hopefully, some of our Non-Muslim readers will be coaxed into becoming better acquainted with Islam, this great religion that is not only an intricate system of belief and worship but also a complex legal and social web, a way of life that has called for equality, justice, democracy and fraternity fourteen hundred years ago, long before any other civilization raised such issues. If a few have deviated and erred on Islamic lands, then it is their fault and their fault only. Generalizations are really dangerous in such matters.

I did try to keep to the actual text of the Sheikh's paper with no personal additions, but a few omissions of repetitions were made when the partial text seemed to suffice.

The Sheikh's Speech:

Researchers today pay a lot of attention to the problem of family planning as a social political issue that is of paramount importance to the future of nations. One of the outstanding features of Islam is that it aims to rectify and improve the way of life of human beings, and to solve prevalent problems and set a legal social system that ensures stability, safety and equality for all

One of the major extant prob-



lems is the high population growth rate, and the relatively low increase in production. This leads to a relative drop in the standard of living. There is a need to halt this population explosion, in order to alleviate poverty, misery and deterioration

Raising animals is easy and profitable, the establishment of factories is also easy once funds are available, but bringing up children is very complicated and arduous, yet few give it much thought. In the human sphere, it is not quantity that matters, but rather quality. We must be able to bring up good children of sound caliber, sufficiently prepared for the tasks of life. This is a great burden, a responsibility that is quite serious.

Islam does not advocate large numbers of weak, sick and ignorant offspring. Islam demands that bring up strong offspring, physically, mentally, spiritually and morally. It refuses a froth of people that are like the froth and bubbles that float on flood water.

The Hadith of the Prophet Mohammed (P) said this:

Nations will encircle you Muslims like hungry people surrounding their food box. People asked if this was due to the meager numbers of Muslims. On the country, came the reply, Muslims would be abundant but similar to the froth and foam that covers a flood. Your enemies

will not fear you and Allah will throw into your hearts the weakness caused by the obsession with life and the fear of death.

Islam encourages planning and organization in all matters of life, including family planning. The importance of organization and planning is clear in many verses, e.g. Surat Yassin "It is not for the sun to overtake the moon, nor doth the night outstrip the day. They float each in their orbit."

Order and organization are at the core of worship and dealings in Islam, from the basic laws of a group of prayers, to the battle field laws for fighters. Those who ponder Islamic shariah and jurisprudence will realize that the Islamic system stipulated in worship and daily life is clearly outlined in the most intricate details and rules; e.g. buying, selling, money matters, fasting, Hajj, Zakat etc. Without organization and planning, our lives and beliefs will collapse.

The family is the nucleus of society, and its basic cell and must follow a system to fulfill is existence. Family planning in Islam ensues from the love and responsibility of a responsible family supporter. He loves his kids, and cannot watch the young ones in need of things he cannot provide. He brings them up in the correct manner, and educates them in an age when education has become crucial for a healthy sustainable and strong future existence.

The Hadith of the Prophet goes: It is a child's right to have the father teach him literacy, swimming, marksmanship, and to be fed and supported by his parents from unblemished sources.

Another Hadith says: It is a sin for a person to l

It is a sin for a person to lose the person he brings up or supports due to negligence.

Imam Al Shafee interprets the verses in Surat Al Nisa:

"Thus, it is more likely that ye will not do justice" to mean that it is due to having too many children that you may end up in injustice.

Ibn Abbas, one of the Prophet's companions, said that the abundance of offspring is one of the two poverties, and the paucity of offspring is one of the comforts. The Prophet had advised that you ask Allah for relief from the stress of calamities, the path of unhappiness, the evils of injustice and the jeering of enemies. One of his companions clarified that the stress of calamities is being poor and having lots of children.

The Quran tells the stories of prophets like Abraham and Zechariah, who asked not for many children but rather for righteous and good offspring.

Humans pray to God for healthy, strong and righteous offspring that can create goodness, power and happiness for the family and community.

Imam Abu Hanifa advised his friend not to marry until he was sure he could cover the spouse's needs.

However, all this does not mean that Islam is against having children. On the contrary, when the Prophet was asked by a man interested in marrying a sterile woman he said "Marry those who can bring you children, because I want to show you off on the day of judgment." This is one of the main sources of support that Muslims quote for producing lots of children. But is it this quantitative aspect that is important for the general benefit of Islam, irrespective of whether it weakens Muslims qualitatively? The flexibility of Islam allows for family planning. If individual and collective ben-

efit is conditioned upon quantity and numbers, then that is what should prevail, but high quality must simultaneously be maintained. How could the Prophet be proud of a weak, ignorant, retarded nation, no matter how profuse.

Organization and planning is a relative matter which should be compatible with regional needs. Thus, when a country suffers from population increase then it needs planning. However if a country enjoys a low population growth, with high production and habitable areas, then it needs to increase its growth. Some nations may exercise family planning for a period of time and relax that later when conditions improve. There are numerous examples of health, social, and economic circumstances that necessitate family planning. Successive pregnancies could

lead to poor health in the mother and child. The Prophet has warned against non-precautionary relations between husband and wife that could result in pregnancy during breast feeding. Breast feeding milk is spoilt by a new pregnancy and weakens the infant permanently, affects the fetus and exhausts the mother. Breastfeeding should last for two years as in Surat Al-Baqara: "Mothers should breastfeed their infants two years for those who wish to complete the suckling". Because total abstinence would be a hardship, withdrawal was practiced by the Prophet's companions and accepted by him.

stances are the presence of a hereditary disease in one of the parents that passes to the offspring, poor health of the mother, or fear of wrong doing. What is meant by planning is the

Amongst the other circum-

postponement and delay of pregnancy by using a safe, medically supervised means for a period of time. The prevention of becoming pregnant is not tantamount to abortion or killing a fetus.

The Quran states:

"Do not kill your children for fear of need. We shall provide for both you and your children." Surat Al Anam.

"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We shall provide for both you and them, slaying them is terrible sin."

Surat Al Israa.

These two verses refer to the actual murder of children, because the Arabs before Islam used to bury the female infants alive for fear of poverty or future shameful misconduct. That practice was forbidden and stopped by Islam.

As far as the prevention of pregnancy is concerned, there is not destruction or killing involved because the conception has not occurred. Imam Al-Ghazali explained the difference between abortion and withdrawal. The latter is permitted. In abortion something that exists is dislodged and destroyed, calling for punishment.

Family planning can be a necessity at times for our present and future well being.

All spheres should cooperate, especially the mass media, to create awareness, to enlighten, and to educate the citizens. There are many factors which kept the proper change in attitudes from affecting all for the good. The previous attitude that strength is in numbers has to be rectified in the light of the present circumstances that may show that numbers could be more of a burden than an aid. But personal freedom of choice is so very essential, that these choices must come from within an individual's acceptance and espousal of the basic principles.

We must show everyone that Islamic law and jurisprudence has a clear objective of ensuring the goodness and righteousness of all in their life, in their beliefs, and in their daily life problems. We need to seek for a happy life, rather than foreboding hardship. "Allah wishes for you ease rather than hardship." Surat Al Baqarah.

Al-Jumhuria Hospital's General Manager to Yemen Times:

"We should receive foreign doctors and be in immediate contact with them to gain experience"

Name: Dr. Abdullah Alhamedi Job: Manager of Al-Jumhuria Hospital

Mr. Abdullah: At the beginning, I would like to welcome and thank the Yemen Times for their great cooperation and help. I also take this chance to offer my heartfelt condolences for the death of Dr: Abdulaziz Alsaqqaf - may God have mercy on him.

The Hospital's Situation

The hospital consists of seven floors and various departments; there is an emergency department, another one for women and we are constructing an exterior emergency department. Unfortunately, we can not open it, mainly due to our limited resources. There are also departments for other surgeries as well, for example brain and nerve surgery, nose, ear and throat surgery, eye surgery, intensive care, cosmetology, children surgery and dermatology. This is on the basis of the general departments. However, regarding the hospital

activity, the hospital receives hundreds of sick people every day in the morning shift. We also perform around 25 or 30 operations – sometimes more and sometimes less. In respect to the doctors, we have professional doctors with different specializations.

We have also recently started asking for teachers from the university, since this is an educational hospital.

Recent Improvements

Any person who knew the hospital before 1997 can see these quickly. We are proud that we have done reconditioning on the ground and top floors. We have also opened sections on the seventh floor. All departments are very crowded, at least double what they used to be. The number of patients increased significantly from 97-99. The emergency section was very small, but now runs 24 hours a day, and receives many patients. The number of the operations made has also increased by four times, it is now around 600 to 700 operations a year. However, this does not mean that we have reached the top, but we will try to do the best we could do.

Q: What are the difficulties you face as the manager?

A: We really face some difficulties from some of the doctors. They don't follow the rules and are always creating problems. I am sorry to say this, but it is a reality. The main reason for this is that there is no accountability and punishment. As a result, we find that such doctors behave in bad ways.

Q: Do you get enough support from the Ministry of health?

A: Despite its limited resources, the Ministry of Health is doing its best and is helping according to its abilities-this is not enough though.

Q: What are the newly opened sections in the hospital?

A: The seventh floor is now open, as I mentioned previously. We have also repaired and reconditioned old sections. We plan to enlarge the emergency



and laboratory section. We are also going to open the National Center for the Handicapped on Sunday.

Q: What is the budget of the hospital?

A: It was 10 million rials per month in 97, but it has now reached 40 million rials per month.

Q: How much is people's annual support?

A: We made statistics but we could not say the exact number for certain, because sometimes it goes up and sometimes it goes down

We spend this money on buying things for the hospital, and the rest is saved.

Dr. Ahmad Ali Alanisi Q: How do you find your situ-

ation here as a doctor?

A: I have spent a long period

A: I have spent a long period as a doctor, around 24 years, but

most of it was in Taiz. When I was transferred to Sanaa, I found that the administration has been working in leaps and bounds to improve things in the hospital, not only this but the doctors' income has also increase as well. As a mater of fact, the General Manager has been quite instrumental in creating the good atmosphere for hard work and sincerity. He has been open to suggestions that will help in the development of the work. I really appreciate the sincerity and dedication of the administration, and its understanding.

Q: How do you find the hospital's present situation different from the past?

A: Al-Jumhuria Hospital has been improved and developed a lot, this is something that can not be denied.

Q: Are the changes enough to render good service to the people?

A: As I mentioned previously, things have improved a lot. It is obvious that this is not enough, but it is a good sign of progress.

Q: Do you think the hospital is

in need of foreign doctors?

A: It is true that there are excellent Yemeni doctors, but it is also a fact that we are far behind

the up-to-date medical process-

es, so I think that it is highly important that we receive foreign doctors to gain experience and improve our performance.

Q: Is there a special section for those who are burned?

A: There is no section for that, but there is a special clinic that deals with such cases.

Nema Alzobairee, a nurse

Q: How do you find the treatment towards women in the hospital?

A: The treatment is very good. All the staff are cooperative and do their best.

Q: Are there more Yemeni or foreign women?

A: There are Yemeni as well as foreign women employees, but Yemeni women are more.

Q: Do you think that there is a special need for foreign women employees in the hospital?

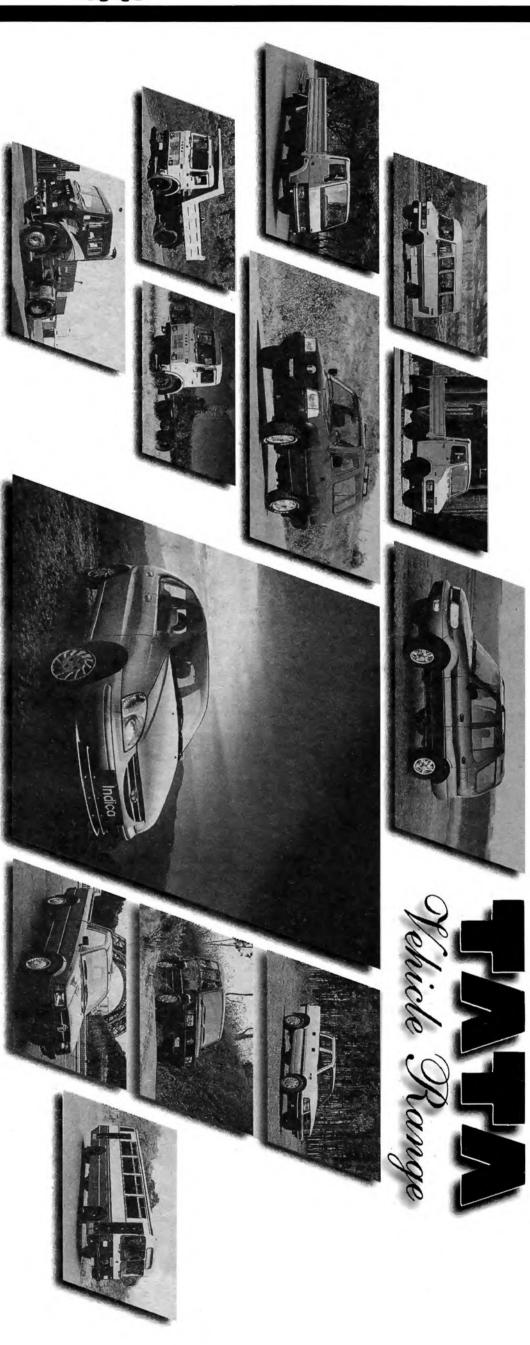
A: I think Yemeni women employees are qualified enough, so there is no need for foreign-

Q: How do you find things after the new changes?

A: Change is always possible, but we don't face any problems and are happy with our jobs.

> By/ Ahlam Al-Khawlani, Yemen Times





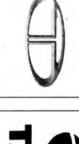
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#6 in a Series:

Folkloric Dance of Tihama

In Yemen there are many and different kinds of popular dances which were presented during Local as well as International Cultural Fairs. These dances reflect the glorious historical heritage of the Yemeni people. This particular artistic expression has become one of the streams of Culture and Art and therefore has deserved the government's care . as represented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism which organized an annual fair for Yemeni Folk Dances. Among the different and rich kinds of folk dances, the Tihami one occupies an important place. As a representative specimen of the Tihami dances, I paid a visit to Al-Jarahi town to get closely acquainted with this important tradition.

It is important first to refer to the leading role Al-Jarahi Cultural and Literary Club has played in reviving the town's cultural environment. It seems that Al-Jarahi's public awareness of the country's artistic values is perhaps far better than the official one in the area. This club (or Forum as it was named by the locals) has organized a number of cultural and artistic events and thus contributed a lot to give the necessary momentum to keep the area's cultural heritage alive. For this purpose, the Club has founded Al-Ma'asalah, a folklore dancing team. Members in this team were chosen for their accomplishments and abilities in the Tihami Folk dance.

Al-Ma'asalah Folk Group, following a number of successful public performances in many parts of Hodeidah Governorate, has become a great attraction to

team, known for their distinguished individual talents, have shown an extraordinary mastery of all Tihami folk dances, especially a well-known Tihami dance called Al-Hakfah. Al-Hakfah folk dance, known for

the whole area's artistic life. Its

having a unique taste and flavor, is performed by a group of six and sometimes more than six men dancers. The musical instruments for the performance of this dance have come out from the area's musical traditions. They include a wind instrument called in Tihama Al-Kasabah, something similar to the flute. It is a 12 inch pipe made of plastic or sugarcane with five small holes and two openings on the top and at the bottom. The drum is also used during the performance of Al-Hakfah dance. This drum, called in Tihama Al-Marfa'a, is hollow on the inside, and made of mud and earthenware covered on top with a piece of cow's skin tightly fastened down. Thegroup usually performs their dance with the notes of the flute and the beats of the drums. The group begin this dance in a row (see picture), and later they move around themselves in circular motions. Suddenly, the tempo of the dancers turns into fast bodily motions as the dancers will go down and move up in a quick and stunning successive motions. The spectators, taken away with

this dazzling motions, unconsciously find themselves moving with the dance. The dance is often performed during happy occasions or in special seasons of harvest, during which many players will take part in the dance to express their joy of these happy occasions.

The artistic structures of these folklore dances can only reflect the glorious civilization of the Yemeni people and its expansion back in history. The Tihami folklore dances give us some picture of the people's great care to maintain and preserve their ancestral traditions. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Culture to pay some attention to these important but unknown places. The folklore dancing group in Tihama should be encouraged so as to push ahead the creative energies of these groups to its maximum degree. Such groups represent essential branches to the country's cultural and artistic movement. In this respect the Ministry of Culture and Tourism can organize special events in which these groups can participate actively to enliven folk dances and other traditional arts. It is through these means that these groups can have the opportunity to promote tourism in our country. It is important to refer here to the fact that Al-Ma'asalah folk

group has taken part in many local events and national occawithin Hodeidah Governorate. Again, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned officials to the importance of such groups to the whole

country's cultural image. I hope my call will receive attentive ears in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

> Saleh Abdulbaki, Cultural Editor, Yemen Times

VACANCY

BGP International is now seeking for the

Administrative Secretary (I-Male; 1-Female):

- Job Description :-
 - Provides administrative support to the office
 - Provides secretarial support to Manager & Senior Staff
- Qualification / Skill Requirements / Education:
 - Age between 22 26
 - 1-3 years of administration or secretarial experience
 - Relative good management, co-
 - ordinating and organizing ability Excellent communication skills including fluency in written and
- spoken English
- Good at computer wordprocessing, graphics and spreadsheet
- Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time.
- Completion of senior high-school education

Others:

- Flexible, kindly, personality, outgoing.
- Good team workers. - With driver's license

Please send your written application including your resume in English and salary expected together with a photo to: Mail or fax C.V. (Resume) to:

BGP International Mr. Bao Xianghua P. O. Box 7057 Sana'a - Republic of Yemen Fax: 1-412367 Email: sambgp@y.net.ye

Applications must be Yemeni Nationals possessing a valid Yemeni ID card.

Only those candidates selected for an interview will receive an acknowledgment.

All documents submitted by the applicant to the Company shall become the property of BGP Yemen and will not be returned to applicant. Deadline for the application is 18th July 1999.



Queen Arwa University

The University

Queen ARWA university is a non-profit and non-governmental Organization established in Yemen January 1995. it gained recognition by the Ministry of Education and the Council of Higher Education Resolution No. (1). The first license was obtained with the establishment of the International Yemeni Institute for Development. It was in 1995 that the University laid the foundation for its first college, the College of Technical Sciences. Address: P.O. BOX 11586, Sana'a-Yemen Location: 60th St, Fag Attan, past the UNDP Offices Tel: 00967 1 416909 Fax: 00967 1 209544

The Department:

Departments of Arabic and English Languages Anthropology Department of Social and Psychological

College of Humanities and Social

College of Commercial Sciences and Administration:

Department of management Department of Accounting Department of marketing Departments in where the study may extend for two academic years: Department of Library Sciences Department of Secretarial Studies Department of Tourism

College of Engineering: Department of decoration Engineering

Department of Computer Engineering
Department of Architectural Engineering

College of Law

College of Higher Education: Department of Psychology Department of Women Studies Department of Social Services Department of Educational Administration Department of Managerial Development

College of Science

College of Educational Sciences: Department of Educational Social Services Department of Special Education

The Objectives

The following points give a summary of

- the main objectives of the University:

 Developing different yet specialized courses in higher education, in cooperation with other educational institu-
- Providing other social and scientific establishments with specialists in different areas of development, particu-larly in the fields of Women's Studies, Environmental Studies, and Population Sciences.
- Implementing educational programs to enable students to keep pace with advancements in technology, the arts and sciences.
- Forging cultural and scientific links and exchanges with universities, institutes and scientific establishments in the Arab world, as well as abroad.
- Offering equal educational opportunities to people, especially girls who have been unable to secure enrollment in other universities due to some pressing circumstance.

Entry Requirements

The following conditions need to be ful-

- The applicant needs to obtain his secondary school certificate, or any equivalent degree to twelve years of
- Pass an advanced stage English examination.
- Pass an entrance exam and interview. A commitment to pay all tuition fees, as stipulated by the University.
- Forwarding all the required documents for enrollment to the University administration.
- Completing the official, admission application form. Submitting ID card or any other doc-
- ument certifying the identity of the
- A certificate certifying that the appli-

- cant has completed his compulsory, military service or a certificate of postponement.
- Students from abroad need to forward a certificate or residence.

Fellowships:

On March 1998 Queen ARWA University has opened a Scholarship fund to accept donations from individuals and organizations to cover the 20% of the total beneficiaries to girls from rural and poor families, also for the handicapped and gifted students. The University covers the rest of the fund.

This fund will provide scholarships for living costs and study materials and the tuition fees.

Hours of Study

The following are the credit hours: 148-162 Credit hours to obtain the BA

75 Credit hours to obtain the Intermediate

24 Credit hours for Postgraduate Diploma. 18 Credit hours for MA.

Certificates

The University offers the following certificates:

- The BA Degree after the completion of four successful academic years.
- Intermediate Diploma after the completion of two successful academic
- Higher diploma following the BA Degree after the completion of a nonsuccessful year.
- MA degree in Humanities, Administration and Sciences

Registration

The University welcomes registration every day from 8 a.m. to 1. p.m. and 3 to 6

Registration continues yearly, until the 15th of September of each academic year.

Since its foundation in 1995, Queen Arwa University has developed institutions of democracy and development, and received membership into the largest, local and international associations through teaching Gender, Development and Democracy as a university requirement, as well as responding to the needs of society in Yemen. Over 200 students have enrolled in the Institute of Development & Democracy. The Institute has now became a main body of training at QUEEN ARWA University.

The Yemeni Institute for Development (YIDI)

The Yemeni Institute for Development was first established in 1989 to participate in the development of human capabilities. The Institute aims to forge relations with institutes inside and outside Yemen. It offers educational and developmental services in the Republic of Yemen, believing that the issue of development has become a scientific, academic issue, with economic, social political and cultural ramifications.

Women Development Studies

This department is responsible for con-ducting academic research for the following purposes:

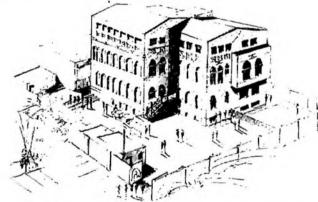
- Providing basic information and statistics for research and studies conterning women and development Conducting innovative research in
- the field of women studies. Providing technical and academic
- studies about women. Training members of different gov-ernmental and non-governmental establishments in development fields.
- Creating links with similar centers, institutes and organizations.

Department of Childhood Studies Children Studies can not be separated from

women studies and from development in general, thus 'this department's purposes

- 1. Providing basic statistics concerning childhood. Conducting new research and studies
- in the fields of motherhood and childhood studies Providing different technical and academic studies in subjects related to
- organizations. Pursuing relations with similar organizations which support and have a scientific interest in different fields related to children.

governmental and non-governmental



Department of Computer Studies and Managerial Development

Conducting scientific research in development and management requires the ability to deal with technology. This departmen has been established to support the work of the aforementioned departments, and it

- Developing skills in conducting research and preparing and applying
- Providing practice in designing and planning specific projects.
- and distributing information in all fields related to development, women and children studies, and administration.
- Coordination with local and foreign establishments and organizations. both governmental and non-governmental, that have interests in developmental issues and in studies related to women and children.
- Preparing studies and arranging conferences and seminars to achieve the above aims.
- Publishing and distributing books and research in the field.

Department of Democracy and the Development of Civil Society Institutions

The goals of this department are:

- Raising the awareness of democracy
- to Yemeni society at all levels. Encouraging studies and research covering the concepts of democracy, human rights and civil society.
- Enhancing the role of civil society institutions and participating in raising the level of their effectiveness.

Enhancing the effectiveness of these organizations through training and cooperation in all development and

democracy related activities.

- Participating in democracy rehabilitation programs, through cooperating with democratic, development and civil society world-wide.
- Raising the awareness of the importance of human and equal rights through training, rehabilitation, and participation in the proliferation of these concepts in academic curricula.

The Administration of the Institute

The Institute has its administrative staff, as well as a group of consultants and a specialized staff of academic teach-

The Financial Resources of the Institute The Yemeni International Institute for

- Languages and Development is a non-governmental organization. It depends on donations for achieving its developmental and educational activities.
- Funds come from different activities like consultations, research and teaching.

Location of the Institute

The headquarters is in Sana'a, and the Institute has another branch in Taiz. It has the right to establish other branches and to extend its educational activities to other governorates.

Arabic Language Instruction for Non-**Native Speakers**

Please see YILI section for studying Arabic at Queen ARWA University. http://www.y.net.ye/arwauniversity

Dear Editor, I completely concur with the view set forth by Mohammed Bin Gabr. Indeed, Yemen is poor in natural resources and rich in human and cultural resources, and steps must be taken to develop these. Economic development and reform progress is a painfully slow and invisible process to the majority, but must be undertaken to guarantee a secure and stable future. I would ask the people of Yemen to look to several historical precedents, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for guidance. Around the turn of this decade, a series of decisions were made in the Kingdom to implement industrial reform and to take measures to improve and strengthen the nation's heavy industry. This was done because of fluctuations within the oil market, which the economy there was heavily dependent on. Oil revenues were then utilized in the building of factories, further development of the telecommunication and transportation infrastructure, while government subsidies were reduced to help pay for it and to correct budget shortfalls. The same course was also plotted in Iran by the late Shah and his father, that is to pour extensive monies into this exceedingly costly and arduous undertaking, all the more so because any actual benefits from these actions take many years to come to fruition. The political instability and economic chaos that followed the revolution there, governmental infighting, mismanagement of state-run industry, and the protracted war with Iraq led to hard economic times, yet Iran both survived and prevailed. There lies no doubt that it was not only the tenacity of the Iranian people, but the presence of this heavy industry left over from what the Shahs had built that enabled Iran to recover. It was known at that time that putting these long-term investments into action would produce economic hardship to the people and that suffering would result, but there was little other choice. For Iran (and the Kingdom) to move into and thrive in the modern age, what must be done is to follow other historical examples of imitation, such as the first true exchanges of culture that followed the Islamic conquests. After suffering several nasty setbacks in Egypt at the hands of Napoleon, the Vizier decided to import military strategists and to copy Western military weaponry and methods due to their proven success on the battlefield. This accounts for the first "opening up" of the language and cultural barriers that existed between Islam and the West, and soon there were Muslim military colleges using French military textbooks with French advisors that were recruited into the Sultan's armies, and this fact is quite remarkable in that the Empires had existed for so long with so

little exchange between them. It

was both frightening and painful to the Ummah at the time who feared corruption and pollution of Islam by the West, though again, there was little choice.

I give you these examples as all being success stories, where reforms were carried out that accomplished great things, and ensured survival of both peoples and nations. However, Yemen has my sympathy, for with such a large population and so few natural resources in comparison makes for a tough job, though not an impossible one. I would be inclined to suggest that your leaders to focus on what makes Yemen strong, that is its people. Education and developing laborintensive industries as well as making for a more friendly investment climate to bring in capital to build is what is called for. In addition to that, the Saudi example of economic diversification is a well-thought out and viable plan, though the resources of Yemen would call for action on a smaller scale.

To compete and succeed in this age also requires computerization and development of hightech related industries, and the way to achieve this would be with closer ties to the West. We in the United States are not interested in plunder or in taking advantage of poor and underdeveloped nations. We are interested in getting them "on their feet," and on a level comparable to our own, for as each country focuses on specific industries that they excel in, all benefit, and this economic theory has been proven correct time and time again. It is my, and my country's, hope that Yemen and other nations will achieve economic success and will further exchange both goods and ideas not to the detriment of one, but to the benefit of all.

> Glenn Spiecker Manhattan, Kansas - USA

A Friend From China: Lamenting The Loss of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

I only learned of the tragic news at 10 p.m., June 2nd, when a friend of mine phoned me to inform me of the bad news. I was utterly shocked by the passing away of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. The only thing I could do then was cry. Ten minutes later I found myself searching my things to find his picture that I once tore form his paper, the Yemen Times. As I kept gazing at his photograph, many images of my encounters with him flashed back in my memory just like a movie.

I first had the chance to read the Yemen Times on March 20th, 1995 when I came to work as an ophthalmologist in the Chinese Medical Team in Yemen. I was very impressed by the high standard of the paper. So I kept reading all articles published in the newspaper for more than two years. It was my best guide to learn more about Yemen. I then started to contribute to the paper some articles about Yemeni Eye

Diseases. At the end these articles proved to be beneficial to Yemeni doctors and patients alike as they became part of "Atlas of Yemen Eye Diseases," a book which I finished writing on February 4th 1997. I sent the book's manuscript to Mr. Yu XingZhi, former Chinese Ambassador to Sanaa asking him to write the forward. Then I sent the book to Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, YT Chief Editor, who gave me a phone call to ask me to meet him on 8 February in Aden Hotel. That was my first meeting with Dr. Al-Saqqaf. We had a wonderful chat about the book, and at the end Dr. Saqqaf said, "You have done something good for the Yemeni people and that's why we should help you to publish the book. I will ask President Ali Abdullah Saleh to help in the funding of the publication of this book. When he was briefed on the contents of the book, President Saleh was very happy and immediately ordered the publication of the book.

On March 3rd, 1997, I joined the Yemen Times staff, where I worked for over three months. Here I had the chance to observe how hard Dr. Al-Saqqaf was working. He started working at 6 in the morning, and worked until late in the evening, including Fridays. But his dedication to his job did not affect his care for his family. One evening as he was working alone in the office, I brought him some food with a cup of tea. He smiled and said "Thanks Dr. Li, tonight I am going to have a dinner party with my wife and family at home."

I also had the chance to meet his wife, Mrs. Aziza Al-Saqqaf and I was really touched by her kindness, patience, and love to her husband. I also was very impressed with his parental ties. His children were very lucky to have a father like him. He was very loving, tender and kind towards them, but at the same time he was very strict when it comes to work or school duties. With the help of Dr. Al-Saqqaf, I was very happy to meet the President of the Republic two times. The first time was when I finished publishing my book in Sanaa. President Saleh met former Chinese ambassador Mr. Yu Xing Zhi, Dr. Al-Saqqaf and myself on 6/6/1996. President Sale was really happy with the book I have published. He said that this book was part of the very good relationship between the two peoples of Yemen and China.

The second time I was very lucky to meet with President Saleh when he visited China in 14/2/1998. Dr. Al-Saggaf was a member of the visiting delegation. Following their visit to Beijing, they visited Hefei, the Capital of the Province I lived in. Dr. Al-Saqqaf phoned me at home and invite me to meet President Saleh along with other members of the Chinese Medical

Team working in Yemen. In this meeting, President Saleh highly praised the humanitarian assistance the Team has presented to the people of Yemen.

Among the many things I remember about the late Dr. Al-Saggaf was his fearlessness of death. He knew that one day he will die but he knew best that he should do every thing he can to serve his community before the hand of fate descends upon him. I personally think that his passing away was a great loss not only to those who knew him, but to the whole nation. Dr. Al-Saqqaf was a true patriot, a light to every one who loves his country. The Yemen Times that he founded is Yemen's best link to the outside world. I should refer here to his great contributions to promote Sino-Yemeni relationship. May his soul rest in peace and blessedness.

Professor, Li Jun.

Dear Editor,

I am an undergraduate student reading Philosophy and History of Art expecting to graduate this month with an Upper Second Class Degree at the University of Kent in Canterbury (UK). During my university years, I assisted in the publishing and editing of some of the articles in the university newspaper 'Kred': mainly

concerning local news. My career plans are geared toward journalism, especially in Yemen as your country interests me greatly. I have a major interest in different cultures, and I have

traveled throughout Europe, and visited Morocco and Egypt for three months each. During these times I kept a daily travel journal where I recorded my emperiences and impressions. I believe that working in your country will be a very valuable experience. On request I can provide you with my resume and samples of my writing.

Tania Gessi



Queen Arwa University

Arwa Junior College

Queen Arwa University, an expanding educational institute aimed at meeting Yemeni society's needs in the field of education, has decided to establish a junior college. Our junior college prepares Yemeni students in subjects required to undertake the following examinations for admission to British and American as well as Middle East universities using English language as a medium of instruction.

GCE Ordinary and Advanced level **British Examinations:**

> (London) a) TOEFL

American Examinations: b) SAT1 &SAT2

We are looking for flexible enthusiastic / teachers who possess a relevant degree supported by recent teaching experience. The ability to demonstrate good teamwork skills and a willingness to adapt the learning environment to meet the individual needs of the student is essential. Applicants are invited for the following posts, to be effective as soon as

- Humanities & Social science
- · Science & Mathematics
- Languages and Literature

For further information, please contact:

Queen Arwa University Course enquiries, Junior College Sixty Rd., PO Box 11586 Sana'a-Yemen Tel: ++9671-416909 / 415991, Fax: ++9671-415992 E-mail: arwauniversity@y.net.ye http://www.y.net.ye/arwauniversity/

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Valid till Sep. 30th, 1999

Standard room

Sngl/Dbl

Sngl/Dbl

Locals

YR8000

Foreign residents

US\$ 75.

Superior room

Locals

YR 10000

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Package includes:

Above rates are inclusive of tax & service charge.

- Free entrance to Abu Nawas night-club
- Free entrance to swimming pool
- VIP amenities & fruit basket in room
- 2 kids "16 years old & bellow" can share parents room free of charge.
- 50% discount on the above mentioned room rates for children below 16 years in extra room.

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For more Details

Please contact us Tel: 02-232911 Fax: 02-235655-232947 E-mail: adenmovenpick@y.net.ye







لنتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية المشير على عبدالله صالح وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر،

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني، وإلى المجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبد الغني، وإلى الشعب اليمنى البطل

بمناسبة ذكرى يوم النصر العظيم، السابع من يوليو وكل عام وانتم بخير

عن مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم على محمد سعيد أنعم، أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

Our heartfelt congratulations and felicitations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister and his Government
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer and Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani and Consultative Council, and the Yemeni people

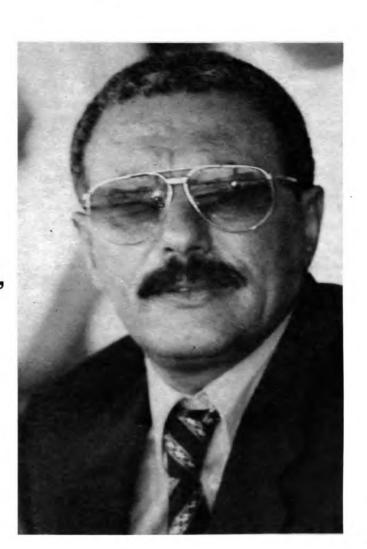
On the occasion of the anniversary of

Yemen's Victory Day, The 7th of July

on behalf of

Hayel Saeed Anaam Group of Companies

Ali Mohammed Saeed Anaam Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anaam





Algeria Street





Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas

الطريق

Attariq, Aden Weekly, Independent, 29/6/1999

Front-Page Headlines

- 1- In Al-Maharah, a citizen was stoned to death for raping his own daughter.
- 2- Upon his inauguration of EDF, the President says "We hope that the Forum will come out with a joint outlook that can fortify Yemen's democratization."
- 3- Attariq newspaper is excluded from taking part in covering the EDF activities.
- 5- The verdict on the British suspects will be concluded on July 25th.
- 6- A number of military staff lay hands on citizen ownedlands in Mukala.
- 7- Complaints that funds allocated to Motherhood and Children Care have been chopped up.



Al-Wahdah, Sanaa Weekly, Official, 30/6/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1. The President of the Republic discusses bilateral ties with the President of Mali, and receives a number of delegations taking part in the EDF. 2- Concluding with great success, the EDF approves the Sanaa Declaration.
- 3- Dr. Yassin Saeed Nu'oman,

one of the YSP's leading member accepts the presidential nomination.

5- The agenda of PGC's presidential candidate will be approved during the PGC general conference this coming

6- UAE is to open its local markets for Yemen's agricultural products.

B- Issue's Editorial

The choice of Yemen to host the Emerging Democracy Forum is a real testimony that every Yemeni should feel proud of. Even without this choice, we know that our democracy, at least on the regional level, remains the best, notwithstanding the many shortcomings and defects commonly related to democracies in the Third World.

However, Yemen's hosting of this important event is a positive indicator of an international wish to help Yemen, and to improve its democratic experience by avoiding the shortcomings and wrong practices which accompanied the 1993 elections and became more evident in the 1997 elections. This must be better realized by the State, for its cooperation in this issue is a strong factor in the process of creating a model of the peaceful exchange of power, and the embedding of the leadership of a political plurality in the building of the State of Institutions, as well as Law and Order.

There are a number of factors for the hosting of Yemen of this unprecedented event. One of these factors is the accumulation of two parliamentary elections, which were cited by many observers as being reasonably free compared to elections in many third world countries. Beside, Yemen is at the outset of the presidential elections, the first ever to be held in the history of the country. However, the most important factor is an Article in the Constitution which restricts the terms of the Presidency to two five years terms. This particular Article has given Yemen's democratic experience a "shade" of seriousness that does not exist in many emerging democracies. This issue has been received with serious appreciation by the champions of the Forum, who will keep an eye out to prevent potential backsliding. Nevertheless, turning this article into reality requires a strict political and economic program that should be preparing the country for the real stage of peaceful exchange of authority during the coming ten years of President Saleh, as he is the strongest candidate to rule the country at this particular time.



Attagammu,

Aden Weekly, Mouthpiece of The Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party, 28/9/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

1- Mr. Abdullah A. Ghanem, Minister of the State for Legal Affairs and Brigadier Abdullah Al-Bashiri, Secretary General of the Presidency are in a mission to verify the reports of an alleged letter, delivered to Prince Sultan, with a forged signature of the president.

2- The governor of Ibb did not

like to be disturbed at night when he ignored a phone call informing him of a bus crash. The bus was only carrying 26 passengers!

B- Issue's Editorial

These days, the Emerging Democracies Forum is being held in our country for the purpose of bringing together developing countries of democratic orientation so as to exchange relevant experiences.

Now many people think that the practice of multi-party parliamentary elections is the consummation of democracy. Those people tend to forget that countries and states are not created by elections. It is through geography, along with certain social and economic conditions that states can come out into light. Strong economy produces businessmen and financiers who pay taxes and consciously interact with the middle class to eventually establish themselves as an independent power working with the political community to best serve the public good. There is yet another basic factor underlying the strength of any country, and that is education, without which any democracy is metamorphosed into bigotry, and restricted to narrow self interests, as is the case in our present political life.



Al-Shoura,

Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of Federation of the People's Forces, 4/7/1999.

A- Front-Page headlines

1- In the Presidential race, Islah Party nominates President Saleh for the Presidency in a move said to be related to Islah's ambition to get the post of vice-president.
2- In a press statement, Dr.

Farres Al-Saqqaf and Mohammed Al-Makaleh say that the coming presidential elections will be a referendum on the State's nominee, requesting a minimum degree of "fair play."

3- FPF's Secretary General incites Arab Americans to take part in the elections, either inside their present or original home countries.

4- In Marib, a fresh blast in an oil pipe line causing an oil leakage of 16 barrel per hour.

5- Mr. Mohammed N. A'alaw, the lawyer authorized by the family of the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf to follow investigations related to the fatal car accident, requests reinvestigation by the Attorney General's Office.

لوحدوي

Al-Wahdawy, Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of The Nasserite Unionists Party, 29/6/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Unprecedented Security alert at the opening of the Emerging Democracies Forum. 2- Mr. Abdul-Malek Mekhlafi, the Party's Secretary General, states that economic reforms have done harm to Yemeni democracy.
- 3- The Nasserite MPs say "No" to a loan agreement extended to our country by the International Development Association.
- 4- Khawlan threatens retaliation for the killing of Al-Sharif, one of the tribe's sons.
- 5- The Army starts pulling out its forces from Khoradhah area, Saber District.

Issue's Editorial

No doubt, every honest citizen, every freedom seeker and democracy lover in this country is filled with patriot pride when Sanaa embraces the Emerging Democracies Forum. Nonetheless, this feeling of pride should have been greater had the

nomination of Sanaa to host this Event been based on objective international standards that testify that democracy in Yemen is immune against potential distortion or twisting.

However, there is a certain apprehension that the holding of the Forum has been dictated by international interests within a regional formula designed to serve the interests of the domineering World Powers. If such an assumption stands true, the purpose of this nomination is to clear up the image of a regime which has persisted, consciously, on impairing the democratic experience.

We believe that the champions of this Forum are not unaware of the State's crooked and antidemocratic practices, which run contrary not only to the people's historical democratic background, but also to their recent pro-democratic aspirations. Given this unhealthy, anti-democratic atmosphere, credit should be given entirely to the opposition parties working under the umbrella of the Opposition Coordination Council, for their unyielding struggle for real and not formal democracy.



Al-Thawry, Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of The Yemeni Socialist Party, 1/7/1999.

Front-Page Headlines

- 1- The Emerging Democracies Forum concludes with the Sanaa Declaration.
- 2- "Mukbel" YSP Secretary General declares that the YSP agenda for presidential race is designed to save the country.
- 3- Dr. Yasseen S. No'uman says that the masses are waiting for reform.
- 4- Asking his followers not to strike back, Abul-Hassan calls for national reconciliation and political dialogue.



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

The WFP is seeking to fill the following vacancies in its Office in Sana'a. Interested applicants should deliver their applications along with their detailed CV's in English. Applications from qualified female candidates are encouraged. Applicants should be Yemeni nationals.

1) NATIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER

The responsibilities of the National Programme Officer shall include but not be limited to the following:

• to assess and plan the utilization of resources made

- to assess and plan the utilization of resources made available to WFP in Yemen;
- liaise and provide advise to governments, governmental and non governmental organizations and institutions, specialized agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors on optimum utilization of these resources;
- work in close coordination with national counterparts responsible for the implementation of WEP projects:
- Monitoring of Project Activities to analyze output indicators
- Visit Project areas, inspect warehouses and project accounting and initiate necessary action for improvements and monitor food distribution:
- To collect relevant data relating to the economy of the country and prepare relevant information required for various development projects.
- Issue and interpret operating policies, rules/procedures and maintain up-to-date records;
 co-ordinate with field staff to ensure timely
- provision of information and action relative to the planning and implementation of activities;

 consolidate and edit data provided for programme planning documents; project proposals, project
- documents and project implementation reports;
 maintain information on all related aspects of activities within Yemen Country Office and advise
- management whenever appropriate;
 develop and maintain effective work relationship with counterparts, donors, NGOs and other UN agencies;

- establish priorities and plan, co-ordinate and monitor a work plan and those under his/her supervision;
- draft clear concise reports/correspondence in English and Arabic
- perform other related duties as required

Qualifications:

University Degree. Preferably in economics, agriculture, business administration, development studies or a field relevant to international development assistance. Computer skills. Knowledge of relevant WFP specified software (Microsoft Office 95). Excellent command of written English and Arabic.

Language: Excellent command of English and Arabic

Experience

At least 5 years progressively responsible, Job related experience in business administration, development or food aid support; progressively responsible experience in public sector management, development projects, and/or operational aspects of national, bilateral or multilateral food aid or commercial transactions.

2) SECRETARY (BILINGUAL)

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

- Act as a full time secretary, type and prepare correspondence, documents and reports in Arabic and English.
- File correspondence, reports and documents, arrange appointments both internal and external.
 Draft correspondence of routine nature, receive
- visitors, place and screen telephone calls, and attend to routine requests for information.

 Typing speed at least 40 Arabic words per minute,
- and 5 English words per minute.
 Perform other duties assigned.
- Qualifications:

- Completion of Secondary Education.
- Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time.
 Thorough knowledge of computer/Word processing and Excel and modern office experience and good knowledge of Arabic and English languages.

Experience:

2 to 3 years experience in secretarial work.

3) LOGISTICS CLERK The responsibilities of the Logistics Clerk shall include

but not be limited to the following:

To maintain inventory of all food shipments, with

- the relevant information on their movement.

 To computerize/compile data regarding the despatch/delivery of all shipments from the port to
- EDPs.
 Typing correspondence documents, statistical tables, reports, and draft material in Arabic and
- English etc.

 Follow up dispatches from central stores to various
- EDPs.
 To prepare monthly port position reports of all food shipments arriving in the country.
- Maintenance of correspondence of Logistics sections, manuals, files and office records.
 Any other duties assigned.

Qualifications:

Completion of Higher Secondary Education. Knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic. Computer literate, having familiarity with Windows/Word Perfect 6.0 and Excel work processing software.

Experience:

2 to 3 years experience in clerical tasks.

All applications to be submitted to the Representative by 12 July 1999 (12:00 hrs) in closed envelope clearly marked from the top of the outside (APPLICATION) at the following address:

UNDP/WFP Building, off 60 Meter Road, Sana'a, or P. O. Box 7181 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Importan Notice

The Yemen Times received a letter from the Embassy of Morocco providing the correct map of the Kingdom of Morocco, and indicating that the map released in the Yemen Times Supplement about the Democratizing Nations Forum was not correct. We bring to your attention to the fact that the first map was provided by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of the profile of participating countries. Below we publish the map that came from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco:



ننوه بأن السفارة المفربية قد ارسلت لصحيفتنا تصحيحا للخطأ الذي ورد في خريطة المملكة المغربية التي نشرت في ملحق يمن تايمز المخصص لمنتدى الديمقراطيات الناشئة. ونلفت النظر بأن مصدر الخريطة المنشورة هو المعهد الوطني الديمقراطي (NDI). وهنا ننشر الخريطة التي أتتنا من السفارة المغربية:



TIMES

Under Secretary of State, Frank Loy to Yemen Times:

"Yemen is a Kind of Success in the Move Towards Democracy"

The Emerging Democracies Forum is a real manifestation of the worldwide interest of the emerging democracies. In fact, it was a recognition of the appreciation of the world for the efforts of the developing countries to democratize.

America is one of the strong supporters of these efforts. An example of this is the participation of Under Secretary of State, Mr. Frank Loy. On this occasion, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor talked to Mr. Loy and filed the following interview.

Q: Could you please give us a brief idea of the nature of your participation in the conference, and your impression of the discussions of the previous days?

A: I participated all day yesterday in the morning session. I heard every participating country make a statement about its experience. I must say that that was a remarkable experience for me. These were stories are of very serious efforts to build democracies in very difficult circumstances, and I learned a lot. I was able to present just a brief comment from the US. Yesterday afternoon I participated in a session that asked a very difficult question "How do keep the momentum of democratic change going when you have to take difficult economic steps?" That was very interesting. Today I led a session on the participation in countries governance of the civil society, the non-governnon-democracies. So one part of our relationship is based on the fact that Yemen has made such important steps towards democracy. So I would say that our relations are good, but not particam right in that belief, then there is no reason to think that the path shouldn't continue on that road.

Q: Do you think that we can create a match between



If you have updates or additions to this list, please call Anwar Al-Sayyadi at Tel: 268661

IMPORTANT Numbers

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity problems	177
Telephone enquires	118
Aljumhury Hospital	274285
Athawra Hospital	246366
Kuwait Hospital	283282/3
Red Crescent	203131/3

BANKS			
Yemeni Banks:			
Central Bank	274310/1		
Commercial Bank Sana'a	213662/6		
Hodeidah	217040/3		
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3		
National Bank of Yemen	275373		
YBRD	271623/4		

BRANCH OF FORE	IGN BANKS:
Arab Bank Ltd.	276592/3
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

GOVERNMENT OFFICES:		
reign Affairs	2025	
terior Affairs	2527	

INSURA	NCE
Radio Station	282061
TV Station	332001/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
Tourism	271970/2
Immigration	250761/3
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Foreign Affairs	202544/7

INSURANCE COMPANIES:

Y. I. & ReInsurar	nce Aden	273311
Marib Insurance	Sana'a:	206112/4
	Aden:	255668
	Taiz:2	222162/3/4
H	Iodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General	Sana'a:	265191
	Aden:	241171
	Taiz:	221561
H	lodeidah:	239184
United Ins. Co.	Sana'a:	272890/2
	Taiz:	215012
H	lodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance	Sana'a:	214093
H	Iodeidah:	240354
AIRL	INES	

Hodeidal	: 240354
AIRLINE	S:
Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Austrian Airines	272432
British Airways (Sana'a)	267929
British Airway (Aden)	241534
Cathay Pacific	272432
Egypt Air	275061
Emirates	244444
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75
KLM	278747
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	213400
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	272540
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	279210

USD-YR Exchange Rate: 160.70

Sunday evening 4/7/99



Sana'a:			
1. Embassies:		Tunisia	240458/9
	209689/206350	Turkey	263476/241395
Algeria	209689/206330	U. A. E.	248777/78
Bulgaria		U.K.	264081/4
China	275337/341	U. S. A.	238842/52
Cuba	417305	2. Honorary Con	
Czech Republic	247946	Austria	266725
Djibouti	415985	Belgium	286965
Egypt	275948/9	Canada	208814
Eritrea	209422	Denmark (Taiz)	04-215170
Ethipia	208833	Finland	207018/20/21
France	268888	Greece	272218
Germany	413180/413174	Spain	208745
Hungary	263586	Sweden	207595/470
India	243440/248343	Switzerland	414844
Indonesia	414633		
Iran	413552/3/4	3. International	Organization
Iraq	269571/4/5/6	FAO	207331/607
Italy	269165	UNDP	415505/6/7
Jordan	413275/6/7/9	UNHCR	201856
Kuwait	268876/9	UNICEF	211400/1/2
Lebanon	203959/733	WHO	252220
Libya	267636/4	World Bank	413706/8/10
Mauritania	264188	European Union	248495
Morocco	247964	Aden Consu	lates.
Netherlands	263323/4/63	Auch Consu	ates.
Oman	- 208874/5	China	233115
Pakistan	248812/3/4	Egypt	231270
Palestine	264236/66	Germany	232161
Poland	413523/4	Japan	232219/233282
Qatar	269654/7/11	Libya	233611
Rumania	205515/209003	Oman	233433/460
Russia (FR)	278719/283142	Russia (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	240429/30	Saudi Arabia	233009
Somalia	208864	Somalia	241101
Sudan	247885	U. K.	234117
Syria	414891/2		

Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel (HO	0) 275028/9/30
Universal-Zubeiri	245888
Universal - Bonia	272861/2/3
Universal Aden	221146, 243475
Universal Taiz	225383/4
Universal Hodeidah	226980
Universal Mukalla	(05)354842/4/5
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Abdul-Mughni	274698

Audul-Mugilli	2/4090
Haddah	204538/550
Shauob	250833
Zubeiri	260834/5
Head Office	232381/9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

HOTELS:		
Sana'a (01)		
Sheraton	237500/1/2	
Taj Sheba	272372/3	
Plaza Suites 20907	4/209903/205483	
Hadda Hotel	415212/4/5	
Shahran Hotel	418320/1/2	
Aden (02)		
Movennick	232911	

Elephant Bay Beach Resort 202055

Crescent Hotel	203471/2/3
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239158
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	239336
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Mareb (063)	
Bilquis Mareb	2666/2371
Sadah (0751)	
Al Mamon	2203/2459
Mukalla (05)	
Hadhramaut	2060

Al-Itimad 552493 **COURIERS:** Sana'a: 240741 255333 Aden: 213489 Hodeidah: 218168 DHL 268551 American Express 272435/6 FedEX Sana'a: 412604 Hodeidah:(03) 247422 Aden:(02) 232911 Taiz:(04) 232838 mental actors. We got many very strong views. Among the views that were frequently expressed were those that reflected the desires of women to be more fully representative in their societies, and to have more political and economic values. There were other issues that were talked about. All together, I think that it is quite a successful and remarkable conference.

Q: Why is America trying to show a good picture of Yemen, and to attract the national attention towards Yemen?

A: You mean by the establishing of this conference here?

First of all, we did not initiate this conference. We are guests here. The conference I believe was the idea of your Prime Minister, who got together with the American NGO, the National Democratic Institute, to help implement that, and we have actually contributed funds to the NDI in order to permit this conference to go ahead. So we are very supportive of this conference, but we did not start it. I think it is a good idea to have this conference in Yemen, because Yemen is kind of a success story in the move toward democracy, and the government of Yemen and president Saleh made some very courageous decisions to move this country from where it was ten years ago to where it is today. I think that it is a wonderful idea that that be recognized. So while we did not bring the conference here, we are delighted that it is here, and that Yemen has an opportunity to describe how far it has gotten along this long road that leads to democracy, which I might say never ends.

Q: How do you see the future relationship between Yemen and America, particularly if we consider the important location of Yemen?

A: Well, I see the future between Yemen and the US as very bright, and not particularly because of the geographical location, but because we like to support emerging democracies wherever they are. We think that America is going to be better helped if we have democracies around the world than if we have

ularly because of its geographical location.

Q: Does this conference signal that America has changed its policy towards neighboring countries, particularly Saudi Arabia?

A: No. We have good relations with almost all the neighboring countries of the peninsula, and we hope that they will continue that way. We are very frank with them too when we meet with them. We have differences with them from time to time, but we hope to continue our good relations with every country in the peninsula.

Q: Is America trying to make Yemen a good example for these countries?

A: I don't think I would put it that way. I think countries have to figure out for themselves how to govern themselves, but when a government chooses the road to democracy, we do want to be helpful.

Q: How do you see the democratic transition in Yemen? Is it going forward?

A: I think so. We have known cases where all of a sudden what looked like a smooth road to democracy got a little wobbly, but I have no reason to think that will happen here. As I talk to people, it seems to me that the belief in democracy, and the belief that democracy is valuable, not only as a matter of principle but in a very practical way, because it is a way to attract investments, a way to resolve disputes without fighting. I think those kinds of beliefs are quite widespread in this country. If I

democracy and a tribal system in Vernen?

A: Well, I think to a large extent you have done so. It is not perfect, and you know you have long traditions here, and to a some important extent you have married the two together. For example, as I understand it, you have let certain tribal groups settle some disputes, family disputes and the like. You sort of build that in the system. I am not an expert on Yemen, but my sense is that you are addressing this very difficult problem of how to combine a more modern democracy with a more traditional culture, and that Yemen is doing that very well, and I'm quite optimistic.

Q: How far do you think this conference will help development in Yemen?

A: I think the conference generally will be a positive development, because people learn from each other and they take courage from each other. This is not a directly important milestone in the path towards democracy. It is kind of s meeting place of ideas and I think those are useful.

Q: Any concluding comment?

A: I would just would like to add that I am delighted that this conference took place here, because it gave me a chance to come here. I have never been here before, and I have only seen a little bit of this country, but I am absolutely fascinated by it, and I am absolutely fascinated and very impressed by this great experiment in democracy that this country is taking, and I am sure that it will succeed.

الف مبروق أجمل التاتي والتبريكات نزفها للأخ الزهيل الإستاذ/ حسه الحيفي بمناسبة انتاقه حفيدة سُميّت ((علم الله قرة حيه والديها وجدها

جعلها الله قرة حينه والديها وجدها المحنوون جميح أفراد طاقه صحيفة ديمه تايمزه



The Internet:

It is Not a Game. It is a New World!

Unfortunately, many Yemenis today think that the Internet is some kind of a game that children play with and enjoy. These people are mostly the ones who have never used a computer in their lives. What they hear from the printed and electronic media makes them get the impression that it is just a graphical interface with cartoons, pictures, and such stuff. When asked why not learn about the Internet, these people respond by statements like "Who wants to play with the Internet anyway?"

The reason behind the little knowledge these people have about the Internet is the ignorance of the official media to this important service. The internet has become an essential part of any company trying to meet the requirements of our era. This is the era of information, and if an organization was to compete in it, it should have the Internet installed and integrated into its system. If information in a company was not presented in the easiest, fastest, cheapest, and most interactive manner, it will definitely miss an important factor for success. Even though Yemen Times Online (www.yementimes.com) is by far - as statistics indicate - the most widely read Yemeni site on the Internet, and due to our realization of the its importance, we are yet committed to doing more. We are planning to make many new enhancements to the site, and perhaps add an online merchandise directory. We are also planning to bring about a very important change to the site. It is the addition of visual and sound contents. Indeed, Yemen Times Online will soon include video and audio clips. It will be a big leap towards realizing the power of the Internet and doing our best to use it. After all, the Internet is not a game, it is a totally new world full of chances and opportunities. I hope the others would realize this and get themselves involved before it is too late.

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher



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