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As The Candidates Prepare for the Race for the Presidency: Please Show Some Competition

Time is passing by, and the candidates are showing their cards. But what is evident from the proceedings is that there will be little competition between the two candidates, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi. According to the regulations, the presidential campaign will start just 14 days before the presidential elections take place on September 23. So far, there are no indications that there is going to be a competitive race between the two candidates.

In a survey launched by the Yemen Times, it was clearly evident that the general public is not satisfied with the platform given by the relatively unknown second candidate, Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi, as it showed neither willingness nor sincerity and seriousness in going for the top executive position in the government. Furthermore, people feel that

he is not willing to put up a tough fight for the post. Notwithstanding his rejection of the Al-Thawri Newspaper objections, the position of the candidate is still not clear enough. Is he really eligible for competing, or should he just resign and withdraw rather than being used as a puppet. The widespread feeling among most Yemenis is that, in the end, the elections will be nothing more than a referendum. The only way to overcome such pessimism would be to have a real full fledged race, with both sides having access to the same resources needed to gain public favor. That would not appear to be the case in the first direct election for the Presidency of the Republic. Some even wonder if it was worth it to have the elections at all, for that matter..

After an 86% Passing Rate in the 1998/99 Exams High School Results are Out. Where to Next?

As the Ministry of Education announced on the 27th of August 1999, "out of 116,556 students, who took the 1998/99 High School Exams, 86,500 students became eligible for graduation." This means that more than 86% will have graduated this year. There were 12,146 absent and 12,000 students were refused entry to the exams.

In a press conference held by the Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Abdulmalik Al-Mu'alami in the Research and Education Development Center, he indicated that there were many cases of violations, cheating, and faking during the preparatory stages for the exams.

On the other hand, for the students, the problem is different. Even after knowing the results, and after enjoying the moments of success, students will now have to cope with an uncertain future. Among the problems they face are: the high fees of Sana'a University and the other private institutions of higher education, which many are unable to afford, the inability to find jobs as high school graduates, the difficulty of access to technical and vocational training and having to face administrative procedures for delaying or waiving the military draft and the educational service requirements, or else serve them with pay that will not be sufficient to subsist on, if they get paid at all! Then comes biggest problem, which arises when graduating from these universities and looking for a decent job. For sure, this will not be an easy task.

For Better Public Services and More Efficient Government? More World Bank Loans

The International Development Association (IDA), which is the World Bank institution that provides credits to the developing countries of the world, approved a total of \$ 181.5 million in loans to support five development projects in Yemen during the fiscal year 1999. The five projects are all public services, which are as follows:

1- Sana'a Emergency Power Station: The amount equivalent to US \$ 54 million, will be used to finance the 50 Megawatt power station, which can operate on

both Gas and Heavy Fuel Oil, to be built in Dhahban, an area north of Sana'a, to meet the increasing power generating gap. The demand for electricity has far exceeded the available generating capacity in the country in the main national electricity network. It is expected that the new generating capacity, will be the first to be built under a Build, Operate and Own Contract that will introduce private sector participation in the provision of electricity supply.

Continued on Page 14

Starting Next Week

The Yemen Times Will Take on a New Look!

Next week will witness drastic changes to the looks, layout, and printing of the paper. The major changes to the paper will be as follows:

- The printing of the paper will be enhanced because it will be printed in another printing house, which will add to the quality of the contents in text or graphics, thus making advertisements and graphical pictures more attractive.

- There will be improvements in the layout and categorization, which will be based on the latest survey results published on paper and on the Internet.

- A weekly competition will be held every week, and prizes will be distributed to winners on a weekly

basis.

- New sections like (From the Internet) will be allocated for the issues that Yemenis abroad bring to the people in Yemen through the Yemen Times Site at www.yemen-times.com

- The press review page will be enhanced and will include news and view point articles.

- More space will be allocated for news from other governorates, in addition to the Capital Secretariat.

- There will be a weekly page on social, political, and economic issues that concern the man in the street (corruption, education, qat, economic effects, poverty, and other day to day issues.) This is in order to give social problems fac-

ing Yemenis in general

- More up to day news articles will be available from, not only local agencies, but also from international news agencies such as Reuters, Associate Press, etc.

We aim to bringing the Yemen Times to even a higher level of efficiency and reliability. Hence don't get surprised if you see changes in the next issue of Yemen Times. We aim to keep the Yemen Times always on the top in Yemeni journalism..

Words of Wisdom

"It is not possible to remain silent when people in this day and age are exposed to torture. It is against Yemeni law. It is against international law. It is immoral and unethical. It is not acceptable in any religion. YET IT CONTINUES"

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf (1951-1999)
Yemen Times Founder

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See Page 4

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen 21 Forum: Dr Saqqaf's Main NGO Lives On

Today, we commemorate exactly two months since the untimely death of the founder of the Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Even though we have not completely gone over the shock of his passing away, we slowly have come to realize that we must go on without him. But we still know that his spirit will stay with us as long as his institution, the Yemen Times is still issued every Monday. Many people know Dr. Abdulaziz as the founder of the Yemen Times, but a few know that he also the founder of another establishment that is alive and active today. That establishment is the Yemen 21 Forum (Y21F).

The Y21F is an organization that aims to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing the efforts of Yemenis and foreigners residing in Yemen in support of the democratization and modernization process that the country is undergoing. It was established in accordance with Decree Number 123 of 1998 dated 14/11/1998 issued by the Minister of Culture. As the name indicates, the Y21F has the general objective of helping Yemen move into the 21st century. Now that the founder is not among us any more, every effort to strengthen and help the movement of this forum is a must. We should all join hands in order to make sure that the Y21F lives up to the intentions of its founder. In the meantime, there are many indications that the Y21F is indeed going to continue its mission and will definitely work to help the country move on to the next millennium. We have all the resources necessary to move on with confidence and hope. The members of the Y21F are anxious to do a lot in the forthcoming days. The Forum has already got a strong infrastructure and is willing to be a good example for other NGOs in Yemen to follow. The coming months will tell how effective and strong the steps of the forum will be, just like its founder wanted.

We have an elegant seminar room. We have a fine meeting room, we have a number of good computers. We can use all these facilities to do a lot for the country in all aspects.

We have the motivation and the ideas. We also have the staff and members. More important we have the drive and the momentum to do something for Yemen's real progress. Stay tuned for the works of the Forum in the near future.

Some people are seeking to manipulate the Forum by using other names. These forums act just as puppet forums or centers. Such forums have proven in the past to be temporary and with no genuine objectives; and the people behind them only aim at gaining material profit, with no comprehension of the aesthetic values involved. They claim to have similar aims and ideas, but tangible results are what matters. They will fail the test when they have to produce concrete results, because they are lacking in sincere intentions.

As the Editor-In-Chief of the YT and the person in charge of the Y21F, I want you all to keep up the hope in what the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf had established. The Y21F is not just a name, it is a strong establishment that will live on alongside with the Yemen Times, to deliver what really counts for the Yemen, and help it to move on beyond the Year 2000.

The Yemen 21 Forum is a foundation of a great man with a great objective. There is no question in that it will live on, to meet the aspirations of the Yemeni people for real progress and development, politically socially and economically, not only through the 21st century, but but beyond that as well.

Let us keep our hopes high!

Walid Al-Saqqaf
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

The Publisher
وليد عبد القادر

The Tension is Over

The tribes of Bani Dhebyan and that of Derhm Bin Ghalib Al-Ahmar met yesterday with the President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Shiekh Abdulah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar and other important social figures at the presidential palace to settle down the conflict between the two tribes. The problem resulted from the killing of Mr. Abdulkhalq Ahmad Mubarak Sharif in front of the Ministry of Local Administration around a month ago. As a result, the tension between the two tribes was very high. But the efforts of the president himself and Dar Al-Salam for Arbitration represented by Mr. Ghalib Al-Agdaa and others were successful in bringing the problem to an end. Shiekh Abdullah Al-Ahmar offered the tribe of Bani Dhibyan around 201 klashikovs and they accepted the solution in the traditional tribal way.

The First Forum on Arab Youth Starts

The First Forum on Arab Youth started yesterday in Sana'a. Delegations from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Bahrain, Tunisia, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait and other Arabic countries had arrived in Sana'a to participate in this forum, which will last to August 4, 1999. During the first three days, a number of papers like Youth and Violence, Youth and Education, Youth and Drugs, Youth and Sexual Diseases and the Role of the Media in Increasing Awareness among the Youth, will be discussed. Mr. Abdul Karim Haomash, Vice President of the First Forum on Arab Youth, said that holding such a forum in Yemen was the first of its kind. This would be the first collective effort towards confronting a common issue faced by many Arab countries.

Security Mess Continues

An extensive meeting was held last Friday July 30th, at Abdulaziz Al-Kabeer's house. Abdulaziz Al-Kabeer is the father of Abdullah Abdulaziz who was killed last Wednesday July 28th in the Al-Asbahi residential area at midnight. Abdullah was a victim of a clash between the followers of Mr. Naji Abdullah Assoufi, governor of Sanaa Governorate and the followers of General Saleh Ali Dahmash, Director of Khowlan Security. General Dahmash was accused of arresting Khowlan tribesmen and helping the Ministry of Interior in their apprehension. After a heated argument, firing took place and Abdullah was fatally shot. In their meeting, Khowlan's leaders were divided in their opinions. Some of them, who are known to be loyal

to a well-known personality in the Ministry of Interior, suggested that they go to the President to ask him for the dismissal of the Minister of Interior. The majority, however proposed going to Khowlan in order to reach a settlement of the conflict between Assoufi and Dahmash by the traditional tribal customs. In addition to this, Khowlan leaders asked for punishment to be meted out to those responsible for arresting Khowlan's tribesmen.

A Workshop on Electricity Renewable Resources Held

In cooperation with the European Commission, the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Electricity and Water have launched the Second Workshop on Electricity Renewable Resources. The seminar aims to work towards designing a policy and strategy for the power sector and the renewable energy resources. In the meantime, views will be exchanged over the power sector from August 1 through August 3 1999 in order to arrive to sound policies and strategies for the rapidly growing power sector. The workshop will be attended by several relevant personalities and institutions.

This workshop follows the Oil and Gas Conference in dealing with the Energy Sector.

The 11th Scientific Seminar of Taiz ENT Specialists Held

The 11th Scientific Seminar of Taiz, ear, nose, and throat specialists was held on Monday, 26 July 99. Dr. Hasan Al-Udaini stated that the meeting was successful and many topics were discussed by many lecturers like Dr. Yasin Abdul-Warith, Dr. Reda Fathi, Dr. Abdul-Malik A. Wahid and Dr.

Hasan Al-Udaini Himself.

The Chairman of the seminar was Dr. M. Abdo-Rabo and the seminar moderator was Dr. M. Al-Oodi.

Dr. Udaini thanked the attendants and Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries for sponsoring the seminar.

Universities Tuition Fees Go Up

The students' unions are telling students not to pay the increased tuition fees endorsed by the uni-

versities for the new year 1999/2000. This act is abusive and has to be rejected for it is against the constitution and increases the financial burden upon students, the students' union's declared. The fees of the Scientific colleges have increased from YR 500 to 8,000 and from YR 200 to 6,500 in the Humanities Colleges. The tuition fees are expected to increase to YR 10,000 next year, reliable resources said.



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Founded in 1991 by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



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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 that the presidential elections still
has a meaning after rejecting all candidates by
parliament, expect an ally of the President?

Results:

No, it has turned out to be a referendum, the current
President will remain and the other candidate
is just a puppet! (80%)

Yes, I consider it as a normal elections with no pre-
judged result, and a good step in Yemen's democ-
ratization process. (13%)
I have no idea, let's wait and see! (7%)

Next Week Question:

If you were in Yemen, would you be using your
right to vote in the presidential elections? If Yes,
for which candidate?

The Legal Expert, Dr. Mohammed Al-saqqa:

“The Elections more or less have Become Close to a Referendum than Elections”

The Parliament's rejection to screen Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, the opposition's nominee for the ensuing presidential elections, has created a big fuss among politicians. As a matter of fact, the Parliament's move has never been expected and this is why a number of outstanding political observers strongly believe that this motion could put an end to the elections well in advance of the actual battle. This is because the chance of healthy competition, expected to take place with the participation of the opposition's nominee is now obliterated. There is a strong conviction that this motion has turned the elections into a more or less form of a referendum.

To shed light on the legal aspect of this issue as well as other relative issues, Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqa, professor of the International Law and a well-known political analyst and filed the following interview.

Q: How do you comment on the procedures that produced the outcomes of the Presidential candidates?

A: In my opinion, the violation of the country's Constitution and Effective laws is the dominant rule. We are more often than not used to see the ruling authorities step over Law to reach their goals. The process of violation becomes more visible during the time of elections. With regard to the illegal practices that came along with the presidential elections of this year, let me refer here to the following violations:

1- Violations incurred to the General Elections Law

On February 24 1998, the government presented to the Parliament a new draft law of elections, to substitute law no 27 for the year 1996. On April 18 1999, the President of the Republic has signed in law the new elections law No 27. The problem here is that the final draft as signed by the president is different from the draft law presented by the Government to the Parliament. Of course this is not legal, for the articles passed by the Parliament and signed by the President are not the same articles contained in the Government's draft law. Another violation took place when the Parliament approved the financing of presidential campaigns through the public treasury. A law issued in the year 1996 completely bans financing the election campaigns through the public funds whereas article no. 75 allows each candidate to apply for financial assistance from the public funds pending on the Parliament presidium's approval. The second irregularity is that article No. 17 in the same law bans donations of any social dignitaries to any political party. However, article No. 76 of the new law cancels out law no. 17 and rather allows donations. Undoubtedly, considerable contributions of important donors will not go to the competitor of the current president.

On July 22 1999, the Parliament passed another amendment to the General Elections Law. According to this amendment, the Republic of Yemen has become one electoral constituency. Now this would be fine and okay in any country where there are no duplicated or unreal names in the voters' lists. In Yemen there is about 750,000 names that have been reported unreal, duplicated or non-eligible voters. The new amendment has made it possible for the voters of this kind to cast their votes in more than one electoral center. This in turn will lead to the freezing of a number of articles in the General Elections Law related to the voters' electoral home, the voters' lists and polling of voters in their respective electoral centers. The purpose of this amendment is to increase the numbers of voters through unreal and dishonest ways so as to cover the gap that may arise from the boycotting of elections especially in the Southern and the Eastern governorates of the Republic.

2- The legal stance of the Supreme Elections Commission

I will overlook here the frequent disrespect of the SEC to dates as specified in the Elections Law. But let me just point out to major violation committed by the SEC. This has to do with the Commission's naming of the day of presidential balloting to be on September 23, and the final declaration of results to be on September 26 (Revolution Day). Now Article 113 in the Constitution states that "Procedures to elect a new President should begin 90 days before the end of the President term in office, provided that the new President should be elected at least one week before the end of the presidential term." President Saleh's term in office terminates in October 5 1999. According to the Elections terms, presidential candidate becomes President if he scores simple majority (51%). In

case of the candidates' failure to score the required majority, second round of elections has to be organized in a period of 40 days maximum. Now the naming of September as the day of balloting virtually overrules the possibility of a second round, for the commission was supposed to name the day of balloting at least during the first week of August, taking into consideration the possibility of a second round. As things stand now, one can only wonder if the SEC knows in advance that the elections outcomes would be decisively settled during the first round of elections and therefore there would be no need for a second round!

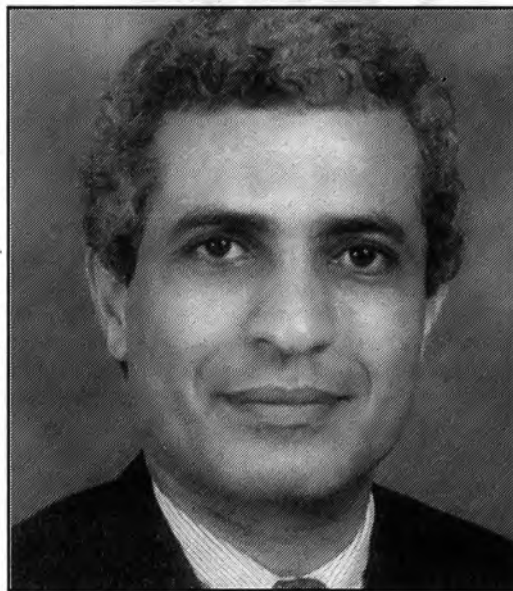
3- The Procedures governing presidential Nomination and the Parliament's endorsement

Article No. 107 in the constitution defined the nomination procedures and steps of the Parliament's endorsement of the presidential nominees. However, the ultimatum issued by the Parliament Presidium on July 3 boldly states that procedures of the nominees endorsement will be decided by the Parliament's presidium; without any legal reference to this procedure. This is exactly what happened on Wednesday, July 21 during the Parliament's session of Endorsement. According to Constitutional Article 107, each presidential nominee must acquire the approval of 30 MPs out of 301. The MPs were asked to put their names, constituencies, the names of nominees they approved and finally their signatures on the cards given to them during session. Now this act by the Parliament's Presidium is absolutely illegal and lacks in constitutional reference for two reasons:

First, the PP is not the parliament (the only authority of legislative powers. There is absolutely nothing in the Constitution, General Elections Law, nor in the Parliament's Standing Order that give the Presidium any kind of legislative powers. Nor does the Presidium have the right to invent procedures of its own. Second, the principle of secret balloting is a sacred right guaranteed by constitutions in an democratic country. Any thing to the contrary is a direct violations of the principle of secrecy.

Q: Why do you think the opposition have failed to obtain the required approval for their presidential nominee? And what is your assessment of the situation now there are two nominees from the same party?

A: In fact, huge blunders have been committed by both sides. On the opposition level, there is no clear strategic vision that defines the policies of the opposition parties. Most of their actions are



based on short-term objectives. Let me illustrate this by what happened during the 1997 parliamentary elections. At that time three opposition parties (of southern origin) decided to boycott the elections because the terms they asked to ensure fair and equal play were entirely rejected by the ruling party. However, those parties did not take into account the ensuing consequences of their decision that will certainly affect their position in any election in the future. I have strongly pointed out the necessity of a constitutional amendment to Article 107 (related to the 10% parliamentary approval) in a forum organized in Sanaa, dedicated to the presiden-

tial elections. There is no way for the opposition nominee to pass through the Parliament's screening, given the present strict of the parliament which is overwhelmingly dominated by the PGC and Islah Party. The President of the Republic, actuated by fear of the opposition's boycotting, announced in Aden in last November his consent to a constitutional amendment to article 107 create equal opportunities for the presidential candidates. The fault of the opposition was that they did not press on effecting this amendment

and instead rushed into announcing their consent to take part in the presidential elections. Later on the talk of an amendment died out and the opposition kept receiving assurances from the President and the Prime Minister of their support to the opposition's nominee in the parliament. I have repeatedly warned the opposition in my writings in Al-Ayyam newspaper of the importance to first effect the amendment, without which the opposition put themselves hostages in the hands of the ruling party.

As for the last part of your question, from a purely legal point of view, there is nothing wrong with these elections. Practically speak-

ing, however, I can not really call them elections as they be run between two runners from the same party. More or less they have become close to a referendum than elections.

Q: What is, in your opinion, the best step the opposition should take, now that their nominee has been rejected?

A: I have already given my advise to the opposition parties to file a case the Constitutional Department the Supreme Court to appeal against the illegal and anti-constitutional acts of the Parliament's procedures of endorsement. It appears that these parties are quite willing to try on this approach which, I believe, can achieve a number of positive results. At least, it will eliminate the possibility of taking a rash action motivated by emotional reaction. Also, this step will draw sympathetic attention from both local as well as international circles for adopting a civilized and legal approach.. And finally we, all of us, need to reassert the complete independence and impartiality of the Judiciary.

Q: Some of the opposition ask for a program for national reconciliation, your comment?

A: It is a good idea and Yemen is actually in need of this. However the question is where are the active opposition parties that could join hands together and come up with a clear and accurate program through which they could win the people's confidence before winning over the satisfaction of the ruling party?

Continued on page 14

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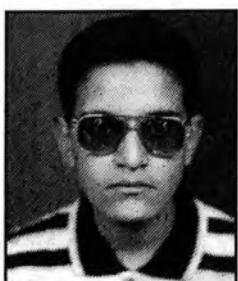
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Amnesty 1999 Report on Yemen: Empty Promises: Government Commitments and The State of Human Rights in Yemen

I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly three years ago an Amnesty International delegation visited Yemen and held talks with the Yemeni government. These talks were wide-ranging, frank and held in a spirit of co-operation. They included ways of addressing human rights violations, such as arbitrary arrest, torture, disappearances and the detention of women prisoners beyond the end of their sentence. The government of Yemen made a number of commitments to protect and promote human rights. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to monitor the human rights situation in Yemen. This report presents both the positive steps the government of Yemen has taken towards fulfilling its commitments of 1996 and the gaps that are yet to be filled. But most importantly it puts on the record evidence that human rights violations, of precisely the type the government pledged to end, are continuing. Arbitrary arrest and detention, including of prisoners of conscience, and torture continue to be reported.

"Disappearances" remain uninvestigated. The practice of detaining women beyond the end of their sentence appears to still take place. Other human rights violations also continue. The death penalty is still imposed, often after trials which fail to meet international standards for fair trial. Killings, resulting from the excessive use of force, still take place. In 1996 the government of Yemen clearly expressed its desire to take concrete action on human rights violations. But in 1999 little appears to have changed.

This report concludes by making concrete recommendations for action which the government of Yemen should take immediately to close this gap between rhetoric and reality.

II. THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENTS

In particular these commitments focused on addressing arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, some cases of "disappearances" and human rights violations against women. In addition the government undertook to consider the development of a general, pro-active program for the prevention of human rights violations and to inform the organization of any steps it had taken to fulfill any of its commitments.

1. Arbitrary arrests on political grounds

Amnesty International has documented dozens of cases of arbitrary arrest and detention on political grounds in Yemen since 1990. Politicians, religious scholars and journalists are often targeted for arrest. Many are prisoners of conscience. They are routinely detained for days, weeks or even months before being released, usually without charge. Such arrests are carried out by different branches of the security forces, in particular the Political Security (PS), which acts beyond any judicial control or supervision. During talks in 1996 the authorities acknowledged that the PS should be made accountable to the law and that consideration had been given to creating a public prosecution office to specifically supervise their activities. The then Attorney General agreed as a minimum to issue a circular with immediate effect to all arresting authorities, particularly the PS, to remind them that arrests can be carried out only in full compliance with the requirements contained in the Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP). These requirements include that arrests are prohibited except by judicial warrant or in cases of flagrante delicto, that is, in the act of committing a recognizable crime; that suspects must be informed of the reason for arrest; that detainees are guaranteed the right of access to a lawyer and relatives within 24 hours; and that any arrested suspect must be brought before a judge or prosecutor within 24 hours of arrest. It was also agreed that the circular would remind all arresting authorities that violation of these safeguards is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment, and that offenders will not escape punishment. In 1998 a visiting Amnesty International delegation asked the new Attorney General about this commit-

ment. He presented the delegates with a document entitled "General Instructions to the Public Prosecution to Apply the Code of Criminal Procedures". This document, issued in 1998, reminds members of the prosecution to abide by existing regulations concerning, amongst other things, investigation of criminal offenses, arrest and detention. As in the past Amnesty International recognizes and welcomes the many legal safeguards for the protection of human rights which exist within Yemeni law, many of which are repeated in the document General Instructions to the Public Prosecution to Apply the Code of Criminal Procedures. However, this document has not fulfilled the commitment made by the government in 1996, that such a reminder would be issued to "all arresting authorities".

Most importantly, this was to include one of the agencies responsible for many of the human rights violations documented by Amnesty International, namely the PS. Amnesty International has sought clarification from the government on this issue, however by May 1999 no reply had been received. It would seem that no concrete steps have been taken to bring arbitrary arrest and detention on political grounds to an end. Such practices to continue to this day and examples are detailed below.

2. Torture

Torture and death in circumstances which suggest that torture was a contributory factor continue to be widely reported. In 1996 the government acknowledged that torture took place but stated that this was not a result of deliberate policy. In response to Amnesty International's recommendations to investigate allegations of torture, provide redress for victims and prevent future torture, the then Attorney General made a commitment to establish a torture monitoring unit in his office. Amnesty International welcomed the initiative and recommended that such a unit should play a direct role in investigating all cases of alleged torture and that the unit's investigations should be conducted in accordance with both Yemeni law prohibiting torture and international human rights standards. In particular, investigations should be prompt, be guided by the principles of independence and impartiality, and any findings should immediately be made public. Amnesty International also recommended that the unit should take a preventative role including making itself known to the public and security forces alike, with explicit directives making clear that torture is a crime and offenders will not escape punishment, in accordance with Yemen's obligations under Article 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention against Torture). The unit should also conduct regular, as well as unannounced, visits to detention centers to interview detainees about their treatment and it should ensure that detainees are given an independent medical examination upon arrest and regularly during detention.

The former Attorney General wrote to Amnesty International in response to its publication in 1997 of the report Yemen:

Ratification without implementation: the state of human rights in Yemen. In this letter, of July 1997, he stated: "The General Prosecution established an administrative unit in the office of the Attorney General. Its function is to pursue cases of complaints of torture and raise them with the Attorney General for him to pursue legally and follow proceedings personally." However, the letter provided no details of the activities of the unit, of any investigation into torture it had carried out, of public information or directives it had issued, or of any visits to detention centers. In 1998, the new Attorney General told Amnesty International delegates that such a unit did not exist. The reason, he explained, was that as Attorney General, he already has the remit to investigate allegations of torture. Amnesty International wrote to the government requesting clarification of the mechanisms in place for investigation of torture in Yemen, but by the end

of May no reply had been received. Despite assurances that mechanisms are in place to investigate allegations of torture the reality paints a rather different picture, as the examples detailed below show.

3. "Disappearances"

Hundreds of victims have "disappeared" since the late 1960s in the former Yemen Arab Republic, the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY) and the current Republic of Yemen. People have "disappeared" following arrest by security forces or militia, particularly during or in the wake of political power struggles. Large-scale "disappearances" occurred during the civil war which broke out in May 1994, and in January 1986 in the former PDY when a 10-day civil war broke out between different factions of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

In 1996 Amnesty International submitted a detailed memorandum to the government regarding its concerns and including a total of 169 cases of prisoners who had "disappeared" in Yemen since 1970. The then Attorney General undertook to investigate cases of those reported to have "disappeared" since 1994. Of the 169 cases 27 fell into this category. Despite repeated requests for clarification of these cases Amnesty International has to date received no further information.

4. Human rights violations against women

During the 1996 talks the then Attorney General agreed to look into human rights violations against women, and in particular to order the immediate release of any women detained without charge or not charged with a recognizably criminal offense. The then Minister of Foreign Affairs proposed the establishment of an association to provide assistance to women prisoners. Amnesty International has to date received no clarification of any investigation into the detention of women beyond the expiry of their sentence and, when visiting Yemen in 1998, delegates were able to establish that this practice is continuing, unabated.

5. Pro-active human rights program

In 1996 the government of Yemen agreed to consider a pro-active human rights program. Amnesty International suggested that such a program should reflect the directions of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993 and the UN Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

The Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (Vienna Declaration) of 1993 recommends, amongst many other things, "that a concerted effort be made to encourage and facilitate the ratification of and accession to international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations." Yemen is a state party to most major human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which it became a state party in 1987, and the Convention against Torture, to which it acceded in 1991. As a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Yemen submitted its second periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1998. The government has also co-operated with the United Nations Working Group on

Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). Importantly, the Vienna Declaration also urges governments "to incorporate standards as contained in international human rights instruments in domestic legislation and to strengthen national structures, institutions and organs of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights."

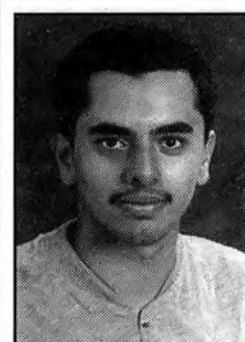
In addition to such safeguards as already exist in Yemeni law the government announced plans to implement a series of reforms concerning the legal and the

judicial system. A program of reform, including plans to enhance the independence of the judiciary and to implement training initiatives for judges, was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 1997. The composition of the judiciary was substantially changed in 1998, including a reduction in the number of Supreme Court judges. A new law has been drafted governing the legal profession. Amnesty International has called on the government to ensure that the existing legal safeguards against human rights violations are both maintained and built upon as a result of this ongoing legal review. The government has also taken steps, though somewhat limited, with regard to the establishment of national institutions working in the area of human rights. In 1998 the government of Yemen established the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights.

The government also established the Non-Governmental Organizations and Human Rights Committee. The mandate of the first committee includes liaising between human rights organizations and the government and monitoring the government's progress in implementing its human rights obligations under international law. The committee is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It also comprises the director of the Office of the President, the Ministers of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Social Security and Social Affairs, Justice, and Interior, the Attorney General, the director of the central headquarters of Political Security and the president of the Council for Judicial Investigation. The Non-Governmental Organizations and Human Rights Committee comprises journalists, academics and other professionals and acts as part of the President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh's Consultative Council. The committee is known to have carried out its own investigations into human rights violations but the documents it produces cannot be published. They can only be submitted to the President for consideration.

The composition of the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights and the role of the Non-Governmental Organizations and Human Rights Committee mean that neither institution complies with the Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in resolution 48/134 of 1993 (the Paris Principles). Other steps which the government has taken in this regard include some human rights awareness-raising measures. Activities undertaken by the government include, for example, the publication of stamps and works of art specifically designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Although the government had agreed to inform Amnesty International of any steps it had taken to fulfill any of the commitments made in 1996,

The organization has received no other information on a pro-active human rights program, and specifically what steps may be envisaged to ensure that legal safeguards are implemented.



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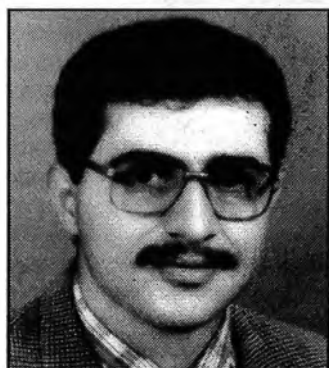
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SILVER
LINING

Are We Willing to Democratize?



By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor, Yemen Times

The action of the parliament with regard to the no confidence motion against the opposition's nominee Mr. Ali Saleh Obad was actually a great shock to all concerned. It clouded the horizons and created ripples in the minds of political analysts who were totally staggered and openly expressed their resentment and unhappiness with this action. They believe that the ensuing presidential elections are now pointless and are deprived of free and fair competition in the true sense of the term. Rather, it is an action against the Article 5 of the Yemeni Constitution which dictates that the political system is based on political plurality for effecting peaceful exchange of authority. But, unless a fair-play and healthy competition is to take place, political plurality can not exist and thus democracy becomes just a mere shallow slogan without any real meaning. The requirement of the obligatory recommendation of 10% of the members present is at any rate irrational since it doesn't mean anything decisive or meaningful in a fair competition. Moreover, it stipulates that all the candidates should have the ratification of the parliament, a practice not found in any democratic country of the

world. The presidency is supposed to be open to all who are eligible under the provisions of the Constitution. Sometimes a presidential nominee might be dependent, but popular and has a chance to compete strongly. Therefore, the parliament might not recommend him because he might compete the nominee of the ruling party. This means that the rights of some people are confiscated which is entirely against the spirit of the Constitution. Suppose either Dr. Faraj bin Ghanem or Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman accepted to be the nominee of the opposition. Then, was the parliament going to behave in the same way as it did with Ali Saleh Obad? Or was it a matter of finishing a show-down with Mr. Obad. Some might claim that the parliament recommended Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shabi as an independent nominee. But, who can not understand the game? He is a member of the permanent committee of the PGC as well as one of its representatives in the parliament and he hasn't yet announced his resignation from the membership of the party. So, what does this mean? Two members of the same party are competing against each other. How come? Therefore, it has become very clear to everyone that Mr. Najeeb is just what we can call a mere dummy or puppet candidate, which in practical terms means that there is only one candidate left in the fray.

In the final analysis, the rejection of the opposition's nominee is seen by many observers as an attempt by the ruling party to

throttle the infant democratic process in Yemen. In fact, it has been nipped in the bud, particularly in view of the fact that it is the first presidential elections which should have been used to stabilize democratic processes in the country. This is because no real elections can take place without real healthy competition.

Of course, the nomination of Mr. Saleh Obad by the opposition was not quite convincing and successful, for he is not the fittest man to effectively voice the will and safeguard the interests of the whole rank and file. He was, of course, not expected to win the elections. However, he could have been able to make the elections a little bit competitive and meaningful and would have lent a credibility to the whole exercise. But, what happened actually means that the political arena has become virtually a one-man domain as the opposition's nominee was kicked out of the ring. Some observers think that the government and People's General Congress (PGC) have failed to qualify at the acid test of democracy and have proved that they are not in sound position to compete against any strong challenger, though the PGC has lately confirmed in its sixth General Conference that the affiliation to it is increasing and that its members swelled to over 2 million. Therefore, it doesn't stand to reason why the PGC should feel scared to compete against the opposition's nominee.

More importantly, the recommendation of president Saleh

and Mr. Najeeb Al-Shabi has made the elections a myth and turned them into a mere referendum just like what usually happens in Syria and Egypt. In fact, that has marked the end of the elections before they have started.

Yemen has recently been the seat of the Emerging Democracies Forum, an important event in the history of the emerging democracies. The event was a good pointer of the democratic growth in Yemen. We should all be aware of the fact that the world is keenly watching what is happening in Yemen with a lot of interest and concern. But now, ironically the first experience of the presidential elections has been aborted. So, how will the world view it? These elections should not have ruled out the opposition's candidate since it was going to set a very healthy precedent by way of strengthening the democratic norms and values in the country. Do we want to show that we are not qualitatively superior to some other Arab countries which are incapable of embracing democratic institutions? The opposition rightly condemned the whole scenario, looking down upon it as a theatrical farce, a confiscation of the rights of the opposition to take part in the ensuing presidential elections and a usurpation of the people's freedom of choice.

Some legal observers also consider the parliament's recommendation of Mr. Najeeb Al-Shabi, the son of the first president of the former South of Yemen Republic, as a good omen meant to prepare the Yemeni people for the possible nomination of the son of the

president Saleh for the forthcoming elections.

Now, the opposition's nominee is gone. In the general public estimation, these elections are no more meaningful and valuable as it will not yield anything substantial in the political horizon of Yemen. Rather, they will be a source of frittering valuable resources of the country without anything tangible in return. This sizable misinvestment can better be used in launching essential

developmental projects the society badly needs.

The most important thing to be done now is that the Article 107 of the Constitution regarding the existing practice of 10% members present and voting has to be scrapped and I believe president Saleh will be able to do that so as to prove to the world that we are willing to democratize. Let's hope the justice prevails and the democratic norms are vindicated.



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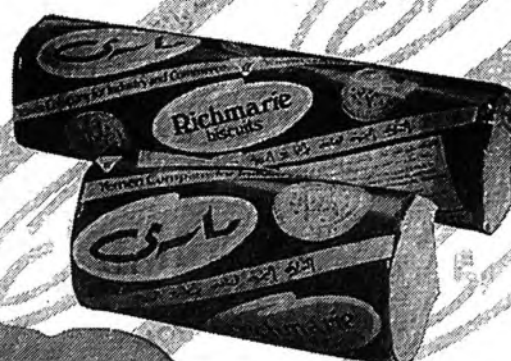
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ماتر للإعلان

Transportation in Yemen: Present & Future

International Transport: A Vehicle For Economy

Given the importance of transport industry for the national economy and trade promotion, the Consultative Council has organized a Forum dedicated to discuss transport conditions in Yemen, obstacles and future horizons during the period 18th through July 20th, 1999. Abdulaziz S. Alariqi, a leading transport economist, has followed the events of this important forum. The Yemen Times met with Mr. Alariqi and talked with him on the importance of transport industry.

First we asked Mr. Abdulaziz Alariqi about the issue of globalization and liberalization of trade. In short we tried to address a burning issue related to the new order in economy and its impact on marine and international transport. On this important topic, Mr. Alariqi said: "I think the answer to this question gives a full summary of this forum organized by the CC and directed by such an experienced personality as Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani. In reply to your question, let me tell you that in the New World Order, the port is no more the final destination, nor will it be the starting point. The port has now become a mere passage of commodities movement and a knot in an interdependent chain of means. Traders and merchants

no longer move to the port (the traditional place of delivery). The same thing holds good for the producers and manufacturers whose commodities can be picked up at their factories and plants. The technological advance in transport and logistics has made it possible to receive and to ship the products at factory/merchant stores. This is now done through what has become known as the International Transport Contract Door To Door Credit. This operation is organized and controlled by a set of international rules issued by the International Chamber of Commerce which primarily tries to cope up with the resultant changes within the framework of the GATT Agreement.

As we said above, the International Transport Contractor can now forward the consignment from the exporter's site to the importer's through an integrated system of transportation, including trucks, steamships, trains, aircraft or vessels used in river transport. The revolution in communication technology has enabled both importer and exporter to trace and track on the consignment anywhere in the world, either on board of a steamship, an aircraft, etc. This technology has helped businessmen to send/receive the



Mr. Abdulaziz S. Alariqi

original documents of the consignment in less than few seconds."

On how far Yemen has advanced in the field of "International Transport Contract" Mr. Abdulaziz says:

Since globalization is an inevitable world trend, it will be necessary for any country to catch up with systems that can enable it to meet the requirements of the international transport so as to produce efficient services, smooth passage of commodities through the local transport system. Let me stress that the efficiency of the International Transport System very much depends on the efficiency of local means of transport, such as highways, rivers, railways, air and sea ports. Completion of the basic and legal framework for the electronic exchange of data is similarly important. This mechanism should enjoy complete legal recognition and any documents produced through this way must be treated as legal. (Skoda Customs System is one track in the course of this development. This issue needs to be addressed as quickly and seriously as possible.

Transportation, Its Condition, Obstacles and Future

A symposium on "Transportation, Its Condition, Obstacles and its Future" was organized by the Consultative Council headed by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, President of the Council. Mr. Abdulghani hoped that the symposium would come out with practical recommendations and suggestions that could improve transportation in our country.

During the discussion, the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Abdulmalik Assayyani, pointed out that the symposium will try to reach practical solutions to remedy the present shortcomings in transportation, which is very crucial due to its connection with other economic sectors. The symposium was attended by Mr. Muhsin Al-Aini. A number of papers were presented and discussed by the representatives of the relevant organizations and a number of practical strategies were suggested.

In his paper, Mr. Khalid Al-Kohlani, representative of the General Organization of Civil Aviation and Meteorology, highlighted the important role played by the organization in the field of general development. He specified the following obstacles to air navigation:

- 1- The deteriorating state of the tourism industry in the country especially during the last few years.
- 2- The commercial stagnancy.
- 3- The low per capita income.
- 4- Lack of promotion of some of the foreign companies in our country.

He also presented the following solutions:

- 1- Improving tourism sector.
- 2- Improving the commercial movement
- 3- Improving the standard of the per capita income.
- 4- Following an open-air policy.

In addition, he talked about the following achievements:

- 1- A number of national qualified specialists are now able to manage the civil aviation affairs properly.
- 2- The Yemeni air navigation has been under control.
- 3- A regional center for air navigation has been established.
- 4- Face-lifting a number of airports.
- 5- Improving Aden International Airport.

Another paper presented in the symposium was about the strategies for tackling export and import problems. The paper was presented by Dr. Mohammed Ahmad Al-Hawi and Dr. Mansour Ali Al-Bashiri. They talked about the importance of export in the fields of economic and social development, underscoring the important Yemeni exports. Elaborating on the point they explained that the average of the petroleum exports in Yemen was larger than the average of all the other exports taken together. Eatable animals and

food came next. In addition, the paper pointed out that the export average of the private sector did not exceed 2.7%. This, in fact, reflects the weak base of exportation in our country. There is a connection between transportation and exportation sectors. This requires developed means of transportation away from monopoly. Land transportation is owned by both governmental and private sectors, but the most decisive role is played by the private sector. It is noticed that monopolizing transportation is hindering the industrial and commercial activities and thus leading to an increase in the production and the cost of the product.

Sea transportation

Yemen is gifted with long coasts along the Red sea and the Arabian sea. The Government is trying to promote the Yemeni harbors by providing them with advanced equipment. One of the Government's greatest achieve-

ments in this regard is Aden free zone. There are, of course, other harbors but sea transportation has its own problems. Here are some of them:

- 1- The absence of organized naval lines due to the deteriorating state of exportation.
- 2- The complicated routine followed by the harbors administration that makes the coast of shipping very high.
- 3- Except Al-Hodeidah harbor, the other Yemeni harbors lack the storage and cold storage facilities. This hinders the fast exportation of fish and the agricultural products.

Air transportation

The participation of air navigation in transporting goods is still modest. Finally, Yemeni exporters must be supported with regard to shipping fish and the agricultural products in order to enable them to compete in the foreign markets.

Ahlam Al-Mutawakel
Yemen Times

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Announcement

During the current session of the Indo-Yemeni Joint Committee Meetings, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Supply and Trade of the Republic of Yemen complained to Indian delegation that spurious drugs from India and Thailand are flooding the Yemeni market. It was explained by Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (east) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Leader of the Delegation, to Their Excellencies that these spurious drugs do not originate from India but from some other sources, may be with a view to defaming the Indian drug industry. It is again emphasized that the Indian medicines are prepared under strict quality control. In case of any doubt the Yemeni importers may ask for the Certificates of the World Health Organization from the Indian drug manufacturers in respect of their various preparations.

At the same time we recommend that the Yemeni drug stores should not entertain the petty businessmen who go to other countries on tour and buy cheap drugs from the petty sellers selling medicines and drugs at pavements for a quick profit because the quality of such drugs can not be guaranteed. The drugs should be imported either direct from the Indian exporters or through their agencies in Yemen.

The Myth of Oppressed Yemeni Females



Dr. Azza Muhammed Abdo Ghanem
Professor of Psychology

The other day, I took some foreign females to a Yemen wedding. They were so astonished by the luxury and euphoria of it all. Women irrespective of their age - young and old - or their status - rich and poor - or their looks - pretty or ordinary - were so exquisitely dressed with beautiful dresses and gold jewelry it was hardly possible to envisage them as an oppressed group. Some of them carried bundles of expensive Qat and a hubbly bubbly and was driven by a male family member who would call later to return her home. This evinced clearly care and respect on the part of male partners whether it was a husband or father. This picture repeats itself in all quarters with all women wearing the latest fashions - per-

haps the rich with greater extravagance.

It was rather paradoxical but most becoming that nations called for democracy a few weeks ago, stressing female freedom and participation as well as pluralism from the heights of Sana'a. Yemen has enjoyed three female rulers long before Western democracies. Bilqis the Queen of Sheba ruled long before Islam, established a well known civilization and irrigation dams (and it is said married King Sulaiman later). The remains of that empire can still be seen in Marib and God knows how much is hidden under the buried town. Asma bint Shihab was the wife of king Ali Al-Sulaihi and his right hand. She was renowned for her literary ability and eloquence as well as knowledge of jurisprudence.

She was imprisoned after her husband's assassination by Alahwal but managed to get her son to rescue her 8 months later and returned with him to help rule Yemen for many years from Sanaa.

Sayede Arwa Al Sulaihi ruled for almost 40 years before and after her husband's death. She was educated by Asma bint Shihab - her mother in law - and was well known for her intelligence and wisdom. The country flourished

economically due to her rule with Jibla as her choice for the throne. So around 1000 years ago first Asma then Arwa sowed the seeds for female respect and participation which we are told in contemporary times is of paramount importance.

But it was Islam in its teachings that outlined the quality rules. It is reiterated in the holy Quran how men and women are equally responsible in duties, obligations, punishment, and rights long before any other religion or ideology ventured into such issues. So 1400 years ago, Islam stipulated the rules in a most intricate and detailed system. Distortions that have cropped up were due to ignorance, the interference of social mores and customs and the meddling of some of those who implement with other intentions.

There are so many issues that were clearly specified as landmarks of equality for women e.g. personal ownership of property, choice of a leader, choice of a husband - long before women of other religions were allowed to do so.

Yet all that the west can see is that female rights have been usurped by the right of the male to take more than one wife - which was an exception and not a

general rule. We forget how many murders of spouses would have been avoided, and how many adulterers would have been prevented.

This is not the place to discuss the details of such issues, but it is the intention of this article to dispel the myth and the misconceptions that women in Yemen have no rights, no power, no freedom etc. They do have a lot. However the problem is that the marital contract sets duties and rights for each partner-complementary rather than identical. Just because these differ from the status quo or expectations or baseline of the newly born democracies it does not mean that they are fallacious or inferior. It is simply a different equation. You have to accept it with all its paraphernalia and stop patronizing others.

Women in Yemen had political rights to vote long before many other democracies. There has been a positive change of attitude even to active participation in decision making and executive positions. The recent election of a doctor of medicine to the highest executive committee of the GPC party by a wide majority is such a positive sign. Another development is the soon to be

first female ambassador to a European country, a highly intellectual female who has been a deputy minister for some time. Another academic female started a private university on her own. We have had female deans of faculties at the universities. We have a female study center at the university. We have had nearly 26 females in the foreign core. We have over 100 female members of staff at Sana'a University alone i.e. 12% of the total. We

tance, divorce rights, polygamy, the right as a witness, the veil, decision making-management and responsibility.

But there are actively the most practical and common sense explanations for all exceptions and idiosyncrasies that run parallel to general rules. An intransigent law would create difficulty for special cases and the beauty of Islam is that it is a whole system of life and not only of beliefs.



enjoyed coeducation since 1970 at all our universities. Women get equal pay in all spheres of the public sector.

So on both the official level and the personal stance, females have a great deal of power in spite of the fact that we have not been able to solve the illiteracy problem of over 70% of females in Yemen. There are many issues that need to be clarified in future papers, issues that are used to stretch to gap and exaggerate the gender differences e.g. inheri-

To close let us just look at some of the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (P) that convey the following meaning:

Precedence of the mother over children: your mother, your mother, your mother, then your father.

Preference of girls: your best offspring are girls. It is best to start your family with a daughter. Who ever supports needy girl shall end in heaven. If you buy a gift for the children start with the daughters.

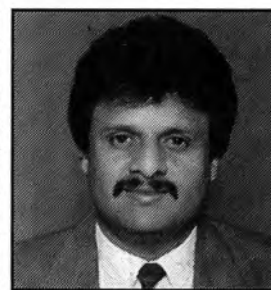
We May Reach a Cure for AIDS: A Research in Need of Funds

I have a reasonably wide experience in the field of ENT. My doctoral thesis is entitled "Plan Immunomodular in the Treatment of Vasomotor Rhinitis." I participated in a scientific seminar on ENT held in Dusseldorf, Germany. During the seminar and in recognition of the contribution made by my Ph.D. work, I was awarded the title of inventor. I have devised a new method for treating vas. rhinitis through stimulating the immune system by using plant X, which is available in Yemen.

During my research on viruses that infect the upper respiratory system, I reached very important information and conclusions. these viruses were RS, A, and B. My findings were recognized by the Virus Research Institutes in St. Petersburg. I also studied the following:

- 1- The effects of plant X in stimulating the lymphocytes rosette in vivo and in vitro.
 - 2- the anti-viral action of plant X.
 - 3- the effects of plant X on bacterial activity.
 - 4- Plant X belongs to a species of drugs called adaptogen.
 - 5- Using plant X as a cure for an efficient vasomotor rhinitis among patients with immuno deficiency.
 - 6- The normalization of immunological indices shown by using a preparation made from plant X.
- there are many scientifically important possibilities regarding the potential effects of plant X when used with particular concentration in treating the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). The following points should be considered:

- 1- This preparation is theoretically capable of rebuilding the immune system, limiting the virus attack, and increasing the T-lymphocytes helper



By Dr. Fareed Mohammed Saeed, Ph.D. ENT Specialist

cells which are targeted by the virus.

- 2- The decrease in bacterial infections caused by the immuno deficiency, as the preparation has an anti-bacterial activity.

- 3- it may have an effect on the transcriptase enzyme, stopping the multiplication of the virus.

It is well known that the virus adheres to the T-lymphocyte membrane. Within a short time, the virus crosses through without its outer wall. It then swims naked in the cytoplasm of the host cell. The virus at this stage has the form of a single RNA strand accompanying the reverse transcriptase enzyme. Under the effect of this enzyme, the virus becomes a double-stranded DNA-the main molecule of life. The newly created DNA enters the nucleus of the infected T-lymphocyte. It combines with its chromosome; thus, directing it to intensively produce the AIDS virus. This takes over completely destroys the lymphocyte releasing proviruses that attack other T-lymphocytes and macrophages. When the T-lymphocytes are used up, a serious deficiency in the immune system against opportunistic infections takes place.

Concluding from above, hypotheses can be made and tested by a series of in-vivo and in-vitro experiments. Laboratory and clinical experiments can also be used to verify the hypotheses.

This was the program I executed in coordination with the Virus Research Institute and the herbal Drugs laboratories in St. Petersburg. Both institutions expressed deep interest in the subject, bearing in mind that the raw material for this cure is widely available in Yemen.

Since we are still ignorant of the answers for many important scientific questions, we can make assumptions and test them with serious scientific research. A cure for the AIDS epidemic could be within our grasp. If found, such a cure could save humanity a lot of suffering and misery. The researcher needs technical and financial assistance from international organizations. Serious scientific research in the AIDS epidemic is a concern for all humanity. Yemen could be raised in status if the cure is found by one of its sons.

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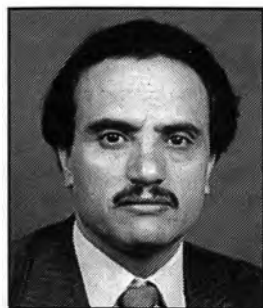
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ARIEL

125 جم ١٢٥

Corruption Versus Development



By:
Ismael Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times

Billions of Rials taken from the citizens do not find its natural way to its right place in the Treasury, instead, it is often captured by some specific individuals. This money, when taken mostly illegally by some official organizations, is not recorded as incomes into the budget. This, in fact, does prove the shortcomings to be found in our economy and does give us an example of the illegal defalcations taking place in many official organizations. Hence, we find it a must to highlight this problem in an attempt to draw the attention of those in charge to it. Numbers included below appeared in a report by the Delegation of the Financial Affairs in the parliament. We are here reporting the same numbers due to their significance.

According to the Auditing System the following shortcomings are to be found in the Internal System for Auditing:

- Lack of the basic roles of accountancy.
- The Yemeni Councils for Development do not make roles to organize their responsibilities, incomes and overhead charges.

- Accounts for development lack the basic rules of accountancy. There are no accounting units, account books, analysis and auditing records according to the financial and accounting guide.
- The absence of accounting councils for some of the illegal accounts and fees specially fees related to the development councils.
- The Government does not make the programs, budgets and the final accounting of the accounts.
- The Government does not make any plans to control people in charge of these fees and accounts.
- These accounts and fees are not liable to any kind of auditing. This is mainly due to the lack of auditing sections.
- The absence of the qualified employees to run the development councils properly.

In the following lines we will mention some numbers of such illegal fees:

- The amount of money allocated to the cleanness of the Secretarial Capital for 96-97 was YR109,975,684. What was actually spent in the same period was YR213,995,311. Certainly, this money was not spent on what it had been allocated to because we do not see any positive results besides the following reasons:
- Only 87,588,603 was spent on cleanness work, the rest was spent on other purposes. For example, YR17,853,574 was spent as allowances besides 15% of the whole sum which was given to the revenue officers.
- Some of the governorates officers take money from that allocated to the cleanness work before

recording it in the accounting records. For example, in Hodaidah, YR171,130,000 was taken from the incomings.

- In Hadhramout, officers responsible for the money allocated to the cleanness work are unknown. These officers take money from the citizens and spend it away from any kind of control.

- In Hodaidah, YR315,500 was given to the engineer for spare parts without knowing their real price. This in fact goes against article (315) which says that the engineer is to assume the cost of the equipment he is using.

- 10 pieces of lands were given to the engineer in Hadhramout as part of his dues.

- In Aden, most of the money wasn't spent on cleanness work. Actually it was spent as follows:

- YR19,776,941 (71% of the whole sum) was spent as allowances.

- 1,700,244 was spent on stationers (6.1% of the whole sum).

- 25% was spent for transportation, furniture and traveling.

In Taiz the following violations were made:

- Bidding was not according to the legal legislation. For example the purchases were done without announcing for tenders.

- Fuel is given illegally for unrelated purposes.

Thus the money spent on the cleanness work during the period 96-97 in the Secretarial Capital, Aden, Hodaidah, and Taiz reached YR437,090,460,13.

Cleanness is very important not only for our health

but for improving the industry of tourism in our country. In fact cleanness of the cities emerged as a natural phenomenon due to the internal immigration of the countryside people to the cities as well as the great civilization development. The fast shift from one mechanism to another in the field of the cleanness work indicates the shortcomings the cleanness system is undergoing. These shifts were done without pre-planning and each one was worse than the other. The last mechanism applied was the 100% privatization of all the cleanness work. This step was supposed to take place step by step taking into consideration the little experience of the private sector in this regard.

A lot of finances collected by different official offices all over the country are not used to improve the public services they are collected for. This indicates that this money does not help improve the general public services. Cleanness of the cities has been one of the basic demands of the Yemeni people due to its great importance in our life. In addition to this, cleanness is a sign of civilization and development. Due to the financial crisis our country is facing, the Committee for the Financial Affairs made some field visits to some governments to know more about the fees taken from the citizens illegally. It also asked the Central System for Auditing and Accountancy to provide it with the information available about these fees. After receiving and studying the information, the committee came up with the fact that the continuation of imposing these fees by the governmental offices had encouraged the officials to try to increase their income even in an illegal way and ignore the legal fees which might help lessen the insufficiency in the general budget.

Emerging Democracies Forum, Sana'a 28-30 June 1999

My wife, Sarah Searight, and I attended the Emerging Democracies Forum (EDF) in Sana'a. We were invited by Dr. Abdulla AbdulWali Nasher, Minister of Public health, on behalf of the Yemen Government to attend as observers representing the British-Yemeni Society, in the absence of any official British delegation - an invitation we gladly accepted. We received the treatment and hospitality normally given to VIP officials, being the only carriers of the "British flag", and had to explain and answer for the absence of other British delegates.

Participation

The EDF was a major event in the spread and consolidation of democracy amongst smaller countries. Organized primarily by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in USA, it was attended by senior delegation from 16 countries which had begun their transition to a democratic system within the past decade or so. Drawn from 4 continents, these included 5 Commonwealth countries and from the Arab world, Yemen and Morocco although Jordan too was added. Delegates ranged from the President of Mali and the Prime Minister of Namibia through parliamentary leaders (in power and opposition), senior government officials, representatives of civic and judicial bodies, unions, social workers, academics, media and NGOs, to name a few.

Outcome

The conference succeeded in providing a forum in which this diverse assembly of professional people could openly air and discuss common problems, clearly formidable, in the transition process and be aware that they were sharing a common experience. A Namibian woman delegate called it "interesting, relevant and timely". A lengthy declaration was drafted (text attached), read by Dr. Iryani, Yemen Prime Minister, and adopted in the final plenary session presided over by the Presidents of Yemen and Mali and co-chaired by Kim Campbell, former PM of Canada, and Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia. Hillary Clinton, who cancelled her ME tour including Israel and Yemen because of her visit to Kosovo, delivered a video-taped message on women's issues.

Yemen as the venue

The holding of the EDF in Sana'a was a major achievement on the part of the organizers NDI and more particularly of Yemen. The organization for 2-300 participants was massive (a new plenary session hall to hold 500 was purpose-built in the grounds of the Presidential palace in just 6 weeks) and everything - conference session, accommodation, transport and logistics - went like clockwork.

Democracy in Yemen

For Yemen, hosting the EDF was of course of major significance

in placing itself in the forefront of the democratic movement and in demonstrating that its commitment to the democratic process is genuine, on at least equal footing with the other nascent democracies, and irreversible. In the sessions, Yemenis of all parties voiced their opinions, including criticism of the party in power (for instance, on corruption) without restraint. Free expression in the press is normal. The President stressed that democracy and development go hand in hand, even if prompted by the IMF/WB. The democratic process in Yemen, even if incomplete, is now a fact which deserves fuller recognition and welcome by the international community.

Neighbors

The hosting the EDF by Yemen is due in large measure to Dr. Iryani, the Prime Minister, in dialogue with the NDI. It was an act of both vision and courage, for Yemen's neighbors are profoundly suspicious of the developments taking place over their frontiers. They gave the conference no media coverage (Al-Jazira from Qatar mentioned only the arrival of the President of Mali, in a midnight bulleting). Yet Yemen is not afraid to stand out as the sole example in Arabia.

Perception of Britain

While Britain's financial contribution to the EDF was recognized, the absence of an official delegation from Britain was

widely remarked with dismay, and our presence was welcomed in its stead. The opposition Socialist party used it as a sign of rupture of relations, and I was questioned in media interviews (the government newspaper Al-Thawra, opposition press and a lengthy TV interview) as to the reasons for the absence, which I did my best to explain although my role was merely in representing a friendship society.

Prime Minister's message

The Prime Minister deliberately found time before the final plenary session to call us in and express his "disappointment" with the British Government for not sending a delegation, neither officials nor parliamentarians, despite the offer of "smuggling them in and keeping them in the hotel". He agreed with me, however, that the present clouding of relations was a temporary blip in longstanding cordiality. Dr. Iryani is a firm anglophile. I interpret this not only to his time spent in the UK but to seeing a strong relationship with Britain as a necessary counter-balance to the pervading influence of the USA. He gave me a clear message of his disappointment in our Government's response. It seems that a chance to respond with support for his vision and courage has been missed. (How long will such opportunities last?) I undertook to convey his polite but clear message of disappointment but also of the hope for an early restoration of normality.

Britain's attitude

I believe that Britain has allowed short term considerations, serious as they may be concerning the tragic deaths of British tourists and the ongoing trial of Britons on charges of insurgency, to cloud our view of the significance of the EDF and the importance of showing support for a young democracy. It is an immense pity.

Security and Travel Advice

The Yemenis say there is no security risk to Britons arising within Yemen but do see any such risk as brought upon ourselves at the instigation of individuals we harbor within the UK itself. This situation is incomprehensible to them and, while I did my best to defend our judicial principles, it is hard not to see their point. Our failure to resolve this situation is causing perplexity but it seems imperative to lift the adverse travel advice so that Britons can return to Yemen to carry on their normal business and British tourism can recommence. (Was negative travel advice issued in the cases of Luxor and Ethiopia two years ago? If not, why is Yemen singled out?)

The British Council

The closure of the British Council teaching facility is seen as another inexplicable decision. English is an essential requirement today and large numbers of Yemenis are demanding it; the teaching even paid for itself. It seems incumbent on us to teach English to the poorer nations as a priority for our overseas development funds, and, as Dr. Iryani also said, teaching English makes us friends for life. How can we be so short-sighted as to cut this off?

Program of events

On a more positive front, my wife and I found the Yemenis full of expectations of the exhibition which has been proposed by P&O Events for June 2000 in Olympia as part of the Antiques and Fine Arts Fair. It is intended to demonstrate the attractions and fascination of Yemen in former times and today. Planning will start in September. We also learned of the possibility of the larger exhibition that started with a solely archaeological content in Paris and is about to open in an expanded form in Munich, moving under the auspices of the Fondazione Memmo to Rome and then possibly to London in late 2000. This is in an of Yemen photographs (by June Taylor) and text (to be written by my wife, Sarah Searight) as a comprehensive "perspective" on Yemen. Sponsorship is being sought in Yemen and if forthcoming, publication is planned to coincide with the Olympia exhibition.

Yemen's importance

One question particular requires an answer: why is Yemen important to Britain? The answer seems simple. Yemen is has embarked on a path to democracy to which it is fully and irreversibly committed. It sees the democratic process as essential to development. In this it is unique in Arabia. While its neighbors are suspicious, Yemen is striving to keep peaceful relations. In its transition to full democracy it deserves all encouragement and support from Britain whom it regards as its friend. We should have the magnanimity to respond in kind.

Julian Lush,
The British-Yemeni Society

Sadiq 99

The Brilliance of Yemeni Art

Sadiq Ghalib is a very distinguished artist. He came back from Saudi Arabia in the beginning of the 90s. He has been able to establish a wide reputation in a very remarkably short time. He has participated in many shows and festivals in Yemen and other countries. The last festival he participated in was the Taiz Third Cultural Festival in which he presented two portraits: "The First Injury" and "Deprivation". He was also chosen by Taiz University to supervise the work of the Yemeni artist; Ishtiaq Kaid who traveled to Egypt to participate in Ain Shams University Festival for plastic arts held on July 17. The Yemen Times met the artist, Sadiq Ghalib, and had the following chat with him:

Q: Will you please brief yourself? and which one appeals to you more; painting or sign-writing?

A: My name is Sadiq Ghalib, known by Sadiq 99. I was born in Gabble Habashi in 1963. My start was at school. When a child, I used to spend my pocket-money on sheets and colors. It was Al-Zubairi school that played a great role in molding my talent. I first started with painting, sign-writing came next. As far as plastic arts is concerned, I do not belong to a specific school. All schools of plastic arts appeal to me and I always travel through them in pursuit of beauty. Sign-writing is an art by itself and it has its own pioneers. Unfortunately, this art is now threatened by computer writing programs which only serve materialistic purposes.

Q: Have you been influenced by other artists?

A: No, but I like the works of some of them. For example, I like the Surrealist Salvador Dali. Among the Arabs, I like the Lebanese Wajeh Nahlah and in Yemen, Abdul Ghani Ali Ahmad.

Q: What were your best portraits that made you popular?

A: My best portrait is a romantic

one called "Deprivation". This portrait expresses the ever-lasting longings of woman to man. In fact, my portraits often have a social and romantic sense and most of them are surrealistic.

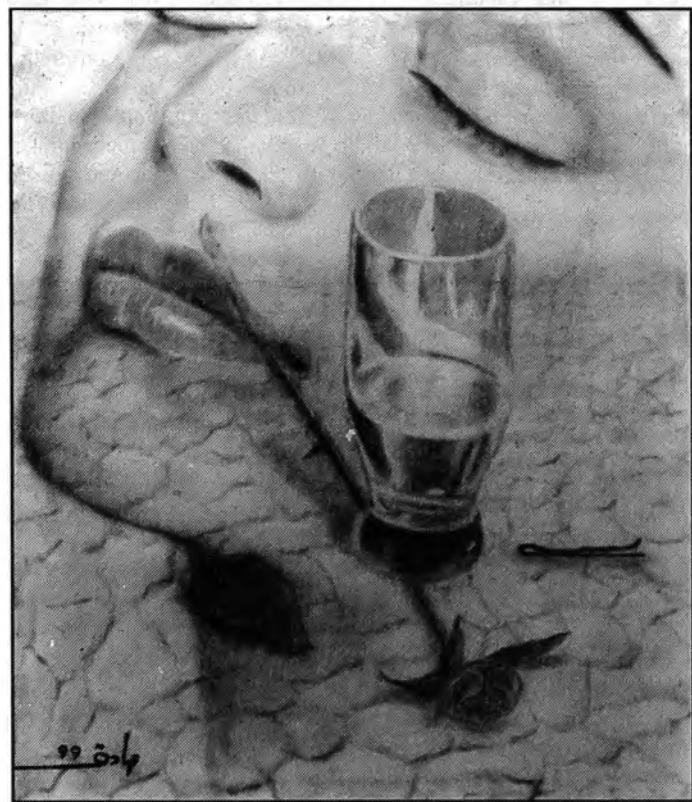
Q: How do you evaluate plastic arts in Yemen? How do you perceive its future?

A: Plastic arts know no limits. Unfortunately, in Yemen the well-known artists have retired to commercial advertisements. Plastic arts' future in Yemen seems promising. There are a lot of good young artists in Yemen

4- Establishing a syndicate for solving the artists' problems.

Q: Do you think that the media has served plastic arts in Yemen?

A: We would like the media to pay special attention to plastic



who will lead this art to its glory. I am sure that these young artists will be up to our expectations, especially, Hakeem Al-Akil.

Q: What are the obstacles that face the artist in Yemen? How can he overcome them?

A: The obstacles are as follows: 1- The absence of a real school for teaching plastic arts and its principles.

2- The absence of galleries.

3- The artists' tendency to publicize his works.

4- The false pride of some artists who refrain from helping the new generation of artists.

Q: What would you do if you were the Minister of Culture?

A: I have never hoped to be a minister, but I wish to see the following in Yemen:

1- Galleries.

2- Helping talented artists participate in international exhibitions.

3- holding monthly symposiums and seminars.

arts and the Yemeni artists.

Q: What are your ambitions? Have you achieved some of them?

A: I am still in the beginning of my career. I have participated in 24 international group shows and I have made more than three solo exhibitions in Yemen and other countries. I also have entered many national and international competitions. When I was in Saudi Arabia, I participated in many exhibitions there and others in Egypt and Jordan. Many prizes and certificates were awarded to me and I am still keeping them. My hope is to see plastic arts in better condition. Another hope is to draw the picture that I have been looking for and have not been able to draw yet!

Q: At the end of our interview, would you like to say anything else?

A: Yes. I would like to ask the syndicate in Sana'a why it hasn't got a branch in Taiz. Finally, I thank the Yemen Times and its members and may God bless its founder, the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Farouk Al-Kamali
Imad Al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times, Taiz

The Impact of the Animated Films on the Yemeni Child

The allotted programs for children, like cartoons or translated foreign stories, are produced not for our Muslim children but for the Western children. Even the Western society discards a lot of various kinds of these films, such as, films of scientific fiction, space films and the hostilities taking place in space. All these kinds of films have clearly been proved by scientists, to cause havoc on the children's psyche, because they are easily and willingly accepted by children which later manifest in violent acts. Consequently, it becomes exceedingly difficult to change their attitudes. Besides, children become engrossed in imagination. Examples of such films are Grandizer, Brave Trios, Turtles and the White Fish. In addition to this, there are kinds of animated cartoons and films which comprise love stories; for instance the smartening up of the female cat's eyelashes in order to look sexually attractive and the concentration on displaying the manners of combat to woo the female. All these animated cartoons have their harmful impact on the children's intellect that is shaping up.

Negative effects of the media on the young generation:

Undoubtedly, TV is one of the most influential means which has its far-reaching effects on the

audience in general, and the young generation in particular. Psychologists have observed that TV gratifies the children's natural impulse for adventure. Moreover, it strengthens their desires to assert an independent entity away from the control of their parents. Psychologists also point out that TV engenders a certain harshness of feeling which leads to a gross misconduct. The violent acts, detective programs and melodramatic adventures including, killing, clashes, burning, and death can potentially disturb the children and perhaps, some of them might develop emotional disturbances or complaints of psychological diseases, such as involuntary bed-wetting and soon some of them may even experience panic. In the state of Boston in the U. S. A. a nine-year-old child has failed in almost all school subjects and suggested to his father for sending a box of poisoned confection to teaching staff of the school. When his father asked for the reason, he said that he has taken the idea from TV. Psychologists and specialists media studies have confirmed that the TV has a wide negative role on the adolescents. It takes the young minds away from the practical realities motivating them to a sickly and dreamy world. Once children were asked about a historical personality

who is an emblem of courage and bravery. One of the children replied that it was Grandizer!

Another authority on TV says "TV inscribes in the minds of the children an epidemic and utilitarian values culminating in absent-mindedness, paralyzing and hindering the progress of intellect and giving a free hand to a sickly and ghostly fantasm". After this, I wonder how we can teach our children the importance of self-abnegation, values of patience, necessity of persistence in life and so on. Watching TV might become an addiction like that of drug. Is it possible for our TV to help our addicted children get rid of this crisis?

- Grandizer: violence,
- The White Fish: War
- Captain Magid: football-victory by the use of force,
- Adnan and Leena-passions of love affair,

The skiing Heroes-impact of the use of the modern machines, all these films have been watched by our children of all ages with the following inevitable consequences: increase of misfortune, quarrel with each other in the street and in the school, involuntary bed-wetting, making passes at the young girls, smoking, running away from school and going to cinema.

By: **Abduh Moqbil Abduh Ahmad**

Yemen Times to Publish a Tourist Guide

Yemen Times, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Tourism, will be publishing a special colored English tourist guide this summer. The guide will be the first of its kind in quality and contents, since it will include various valuable information about the touristic and historical areas and regions in Yemen. The guide will also include helpful information about the travel schedules for flights and trips that are organized by travel and tourist agencies, plus information of hotels, tourist resorts and clubs.

One of the key advantages of the guide that it will expose tourist companies and agencies who plan to extract tourists, in other words, it will contain advertisements about travel and tourist companies, commercial quality hotels and resorts, and companies who want to target the group of tourists in Yemen. The guide will be distributed with issues of Yemen Times free of charge, and will be available in hotels, airports, tourist and travel agencies, Yemenia offices, touristic locations, and will be available in bookstores and other places as well. The guide will not only be a guide for 1999, but it will be used for the years to come, and can be used in Yemen and abroad for the purpose of giving tourists willing to visit Yemen an idea of the country and its facilities. For more information about this tourist guide, and for posting your advertisements, please don't hesitate to call Yemen Times office in Sanaa at Tel: +967 (1) 268 661.

يَمَنُ تَائِيْمَزْ بِصَحْفَةِ اَصْحَابِ دَلِيلِ سِيَّاحِي

رغم أن اليمن بلد مضياف وسياحي، إلا أن التعريف باليمن ضعيف لدرجة كبيرة، ونحن إذ نبدأ موسم سياحيا هذا العام، فقد قررت صحيفة "يمن تائمز" بالتعاون مع وزارة الثقافة والسياحة أن تصدر دليلا بالألوان وهو الأول من نوعه عن السياحة في اليمن. سيصدر الدليل صيف هذا العام وسيضم معلومات غنية عن المناطق السياحية والأثرية والرحلات والعديد من البيانات التي ستغطي جميع مناطق اليمن هذا إضافة إلى مجموعة مرموقة من الإعلانات للمصايف، الفنادق، مكاتب الطيران والشركات السياحية، وإعلانات متفرقة عن شركات أخرى.

هذا الدليل سوف يكون مرجعا ليس فقط في هذا العام وإنما للأعوام القادمة أيضا وسوف يوزع في داخل اليمن وخارجه، حيث سيوزع على الفنادق، المطارات، مكاتب وشركات السياحة، مكاتب وشركات الطيران، وحتى على طائرات اليمنية، إضافة لإرفاقه مع نسخ الصحيفة المتوفرة في الأسواق والتي توزع على المشتركين.

لمزيد من المعلومات أو لحجز إعلان في الدليل، يرجى الاتصال بصحيفة يمن تائمز على هاتف: 268661



COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

From a Democracy to a Mockery

Khalid was speaking to his friends as they approached the coffee shop at the University Grounds: "I can now officially state that our democracy has achieved maturity as a full fledged mockery."

Amr, a fellow student, not too interested in the politics of the day was somewhat stimulated by Khalid's statement: "Why do you say that. Just a couple of weeks ago, the Conference of Emerging Democracies was held in Sana'a, which implies international recognition of the strides Yemen has made in its democratization process."

Khalid was surprised by Amr's rising interest in politics: "Amr, you mean the Conference of 'submerging' democracies. I can assure you that Yemen's democracy is the only democracy known to be retracting. The worst part of it all is that our Parliament had gone to insure that it will go out of its way to placate the executive authority rather than uphold the democratic principles, which it is responsible for safeguarding."

Farida was on her way to class as she joined them at the coffee shop, for a cup of tea before class: "With the Parliament we have, did you really expect that further democratization can be achieved

by members, who probably do not even know the name of the constituency they represent? In fact, I would not be surprised if the members of Parliament do not even know what a Parliament is supposed to do, let alone the principles they must uphold."

Khalid: "Now, there is a woman who really knows what is eating at my heart. Just 10 days ago, I was listening to a debate of the Lebanese House of Representatives, and I could not help but sigh a hundred times."

Amr: "Does Lebanon have a Parliament? I thought that Yemen was the only democracy in all of Asia and Africa, not just the Middle East!"

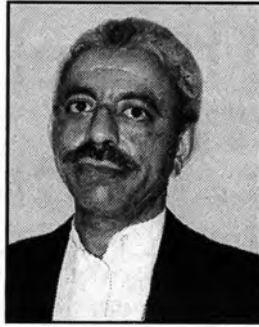
Khalid: "Yemen is the only democracy in the region that is not a democracy, but a mockery of the democratic process, that no democracy anywhere can rival. As I was saying, listening to the debate of the Lebanese Parliament made me wish that our members of Parliament could be up to par with the messengers of that Parliament. One cannot fail but be impressed by the eloquence and level of high intellect the members of the Lebanese Parliament showed during those debates of the Lebanese budget and other issues."

Farida had another view: "I was fascinated by the order and adherence to the rules on parliamentary procedures those Lebanese MPs showed. I cannot believe those members just a few years ago represented different factions from a senseless civil war just a few years ago."

Amr: "Look our parliamentary debates are also aired on TV. Isn't that a sign that our democracy is genuine?" Farida had a comment on that: "If they do not like what any MP says, they will cut it out of the televised debate, which are only aired after the censors have turned the tape of the debate into a garbled conglomeration of sentence fragments that have no ends or beginnings."

Amr wanted clarifications: "Who are they, and why don't the MPs complain about having their statements subjected to censorship?" Khalid was ready with the answer: "Read George Orwell's 1984, and you will know who they are. Big Brother is clearly present in our democratic process."

Amr spoke somewhat feeling lucky: "I have no big brother, so I do not have to worry about that."



Farida: "This Big Brother Khalid is talking about is no blood relative, but that mysterious omnipresent evil that turns democracy into a farce."

Someone who was sitting at a nearby table came to join them, although not really a friend of any of them:

Hi, fellow students, aren't you impressed by the democracy we have become?"

Khalid smelled Big Brother's presence: "I can assure you we are impressed by the democracy that others have, which we certainly could learn a lot from. How is Big Brother doing?"

The newcomer, whose name was unfamiliar to any of the other students said: "You know my big brother?"

Khalid knew that this guy had very limited literary intellect: "I meet him in qat chew sessions and have seen him almost every place where people gather! He seems to be always there, taking note of the vibes in the street and on the trees and everywhere you go!"

The newcomer seemed somewhat puzzled, but still wanted to distract some more ideas being circulated by the group: "Yes, that is my big brother all right, he is very well placed socially. He helped me get a job with the government. But everyone always talks about my Big Brother, as though I have nothing to portray that will overcome his omnipresence."

Amr seemed to be sympathetic to the inferiority complex of this strange person: "Look, friend you are young and maybe you will soon pick up on your big brother's charisma."

Farida seemed to catch the climate they were in: "Where are you working at the National Safety Council, or the Gossip Collection Division of the University Security Division?"

The newcomer did not want to be the subject of discussion: "I am just interested in what you were talking about, I think that our Parliament has shown that it can make decisive decisions rather quickly."

Amr wanted to understand: "I am not sure I understand, do you mean on the benefits they get and the extra allowances. That is all that seems to get anywhere with our Parliament. As for the other decisions they seem to be well guided on the decisions they should make."

Khalid: "They are only guided by the level of comprehension they possess."

Farida: "What comprehension? These people have no level of comprehension to speak of. I can remember the Parliament of the period before the hated Civil War, when we had parliamentary members who were indeed very patriotic and seemed to have a far better comprehension of their roles and the issues of the day."

Amr: "Well, I know that the only issues these parliamentary members know, are the latest currency issues, in both local and foreign

currencies."

The little brother had to say something: "Why are you so critical of people you elected to office?"

Khalid wanted to make sure that little brother has nothing to report: "Amr here is not an expert on political affairs. He has been upset by the Lebanese Parliamentary debate, and he thinks all Parliaments are like that?"

The listening ear spoke: "So you agree, Amr that our Parliament is unrivaled. The way they decided on the Presidential nomination only goes to prove how they have made the Presidential elections another forward step in the democratization process."

Khalid whispered into Amr's ear: "Choose your words carefully, Big Brother is listening."

Amr still failed to understand: "I told you I have no big brother!"

Farida wanted to assure Amr: "We all have a Big Brother; he is everywhere even in our sleep."

Sensing that he was about to be exposed the little brother got up and excused himself: Sorry guys, I have to go give a report. I hope that I can join you again."

Farida muttered something as he left: "I am sure his report will be interesting to his big brother. Maybe he will get promoted."

Amr continued to show his naivete: "Whom do you mean him or his big brother?"

Khalid responded: "His Big Brother is already at the top of the ranks. As a matter of fact he has shown that he is even at the top of our Parliament!"

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Al-Saqqaf,

Let me first express to you my admiration of your insistence to follow suit in the footsteps of your father despite the enormous difficulties you face and will face in the future. As the future will prove the legacy of Dr. Al-Saqqaf will not be limited to Yemen Times, and the honorable family he left behind but will be manifested through the students he educated at Sana'a University and inculcated in them the values of resistance, honesty, and condemnation of corruption, selfishness, and monopoly of power. It is an irony that the fate served the oppressors by taken Dr. Al-Saqqaf in times his country, and his students needed him most. Had Dr. Al-Saqqaf been with us today, the course of events may have taken another direction. Dr. Al-Saqqaf would have been a perfect candidate for the presidency of Yemen. But we believe in God and we accept his judgement even if it is painful and harsh.

Second, let me comment on your view point (Yemen Times, July 26). You said that parliament's move to approve only two candidates for the presidency of Yemen has killed competition in Yemen's upcoming election. Let me add to what you said the following point. Real competition in Yemen never existed. Even in the zenith of democracy in Yemen, which lasted between 1990-1994, real competition was never fully accomplished. And

as the immediate events following 1993 elections demonstrated, legitimacy in Yemen is derived from the parallel of the gun, and not from the ballot box. If the parliament's move killed something I think it was the illusion we have had in the last few years, the illusion that we live in a democratizing country. I have heard many specialists on Yemen in the West talking about the events of 1994 as the marking the end of democracy in the country, but I choose, like many other Yemenis, to live with the illusion that we were a democratizing country. From my point of view, the parliament's denial of the candidacy of the opposition's candidate and the candidacy of many others, and its approval of Saleh and his hand-picked opponent Mr. Al-Shaabi has pronounced the illusion of democracy in Yemen dead.

As the mainstream literature on democratization teaches us, we can never talk of democracy in a country where the most powerful decision makers are not chosen in fair and competitive elections. In the case of Yemen, we can not talk of democracy under a constitution drafted to preserve the interests of the victorious factions in the war and exclude large segments of society from taking part in politics. I think you would agree with me that the constitutional requirement that the candidate to the presidency must be approved by 10 percent of the members of parliament

was tailored to fit some interests in society and exclude others. As you wrote, it is a disappointment to many Yemenis who wanted to live with the illusion of democracy. We all knew that the president was going to win any way for the obvious reasons that we all know. We also knew that even if there was a miracle and he was defeated, he would not quit. But all we dreamed of was a sense of competition and a sense of equal citizenship where Yemenis from all the regions could have the symbolic right of running for the presidency of their country.

Finally, a side note, Dr. Al-Saqqaf has passed away, but his enemies, the enemies of all Yemen are still alive. We know them no matter what masks they wear or language they speak. I am sure you and all students of Dr. Al-Saqqaf are aware of this fact. To face them, we need to line up and God will be with the righteous.

Abdullah Al-faqih
Political Science Department
Sanaa University

Better Not Be Graduates!

Before I commence my frank essay let me assure you that it does not mean the ruin of your hopes. My intention is not to depress you but to make you know and judge.

First of all, I would say our future is dark, sinister and gloomy. This does not mean that I am pessimistic. On the contrary, I am one of the most opti-

mistic students of my batch. Since my early school days I have made up my mind to become an outstanding young man with perfect command over the English language. My high record in English at school has given me confidence and has pushed me forward to achieve my aims. I knew that dreaming did not make one a good English speaker. Therefore, I joined university and worked hard.

Gone are the days when a university student used to aspire for a bright and promising future. Nowadays university students have a hard time. Many difficulties and obstacles stand on their way and after a long voyage in the sea of knowledge, they come to be graduates. It is true that they come to an end to their first voyage when they are used to sailing together but this means the beginning of the second voyage when each has to sail alone on his own. Every one has to face the challenges of life and look for his future. In fact, every one is floating in the ocean of uncertainties, little knowing where the wind will take him.

Before graduating one conceives life as beautiful and wonderful. But after graduating he comes to face the terrible realities around him as he begins moving from one place to another in search of a job that satisfies his basic needs and requirements. After the long, fruitless search, he becomes frustrated and disappointed. For wherever he goes, he finds the same reply and stock phrases "No Vacancies". Even meritorious students who should be given posts grow old before getting what they deserve. So I

have every justification to say that our future is dark and gloomy.

Murad Saeed Saeed, Aden

Why Islah Nominated Saleh

I start my article by explaining why the Islah Party, which is the largest opposition party, nominated President Ali Abdullah Saleh for the upcoming presidential elections. That happened even before the ruling party, PGC held its sixth conference. This step of Islah had resulted in a violent and a theoretically illogical response by the PGC, because instead of showing appreciation to Islah, the ruling party launched direct attacks at the decision.

In the view point column of Al-Thawra a phrase came out "such decisions are actually a way for bargaining and for gaining political profit." This was a statement that confirms that the PGC has realized the true dimensions and actual benefit for Islah from such a decision. The PGC leaders realized that they are facing a situation that they had never thought of. A situation where they could not in any way get between the President and Islah. On the other hand, the other opposition parties did not like the decision at all. They believe that this decision was made due to a secret deal between the two parties, or at least between the leadership and Islah.

However, the question one could ask is "Why did the Islah Party nominate President Saleh anyway?"

Analysts tried to answer this question in several ways:

The Islah Party understood the

true situation, which had been studied by its leadership by so long. They believed that the President will definitely be re-elected and will stay in power for the next period no matter what due to many factors:

1- The agreement among the military forces (army, police, etc.) to vote for him

2- The way the president had convinced the western powers of his commitment to democracy and the new world order, resulting in gaining their trust

3- His determination to hold on to power

Hence, the Islah party realized that it would be better for the party to nominate the president for many reasons:

1- The close contact with the President away from the PGC - which does not wish such a thing to happen - will in fact help in strengthening the relations between Islah and the President, and facilitate its political career overall.

2- Keeping the President on their side will help in maintaining the accomplishments, which the party had gained through the years.

3- Not participating in the elections would rather avoid them going into paper work and extra financial burdens they cannot adequately handle at the moment.

4- Not helping in glorifying another unknown person from opposition who could have a negative impact on the party in the future. In other words, what it knows is better than what it doesn't know.

Ra'id Al-Saqqaf, Sanaa

1 of 2 in a series

Aden port development and the Opening of the Aden Container Terminal

By: Captain Abdul Moti H. Mohammed

Introduction to the paper

If you stand on Jebel Shamsan some 600 meters above the city of Aden and look out to sea, the horizon is about 45 miles away. From here you can see the ships which move between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and pass within a few miles of the harbor.

Aden has been a major regional center at various times over the past 3000 years. Over this long time span, visitors with vision have always been impressed by the port and by the opportunities for trade which it offers. Marco Polo and Ibn Batuta both noted the prosperity of Aden as a shipowning center.

Just under 160 years ago Captain

Haines and the British arrived, to stay for 125 years. Captain Haines stated when Aden was a small village of around 600 persons, that Aden could again become a major trading center. The latter part of the British period proved him correct and Aden grew to become one of the busiest ports in the world. Aden was declared a Free Port in 1850 as it took control of Yemen's coffee export trade. From 1869 the Suez Canal shortened the sea distance between London and Bombay for over 10,700 miles around the Cape of Good Hope to 6270 miles through the Mediterranean and Red Sea.

Aden's coal bunkering and re-provisioning trade accelerated. Aden was fortunate to be connected to the London/Bombay

telegraph cable in the 1870's, giving it great advantage in east/west communications. By 1901, Aden Inner Harbor had been dredged to 30 feet to handle the largest ships of those days.

In 1919 Aden introduced oil bunkering and became, by the 1950's, one of the world's top ship bunkering ports, handling up to 6,300 ships a year. Calls by cargo and passenger vessels made Aden the world's 4th largest tax-free shopping port. It became the regional base for dhow, coastal, and deep-sea traffic. Dhows trading between the Gulf, Pakistan, the Red Sea and East Africa were regular callers and Aden handled over 1500 dhows annually in the mid-1900's.

The oil refinery and oil harbor were built in 1955 and Aden began to import and refine crude oil, primarily to provide the oil fuel needed by the ships bunkering at Aden.

Why Aden?

What makes Aden so uniquely suitable for its role as a port and distribution center in the region? Aden offers shippers and shipping companies many advantages, which have helped to make the port a regional center during its long history and will continue to favor it in future. These advantages may be summarized as follows:

- The port lies where the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden meet, directly on the main round-the-world and the Far East to Europe/America trade route.
- It requires a deviation from this route of only 4 nautical miles to reach the pilot station.
- It has clear approaches from waters 20-40 meters deep without reefs, well marked by aids to navigation.
- A well-planned and easy channel extends only four miles from the fairway buoy to the inner harbor berths;
- Aden offers deep water in one of the world's largest natural harbors, protected from prevailing winds during winter months by hills 500 meters high to the south and east and from the summer SW monsoon by hills 350 meters high to the south west;
- It enjoys clear weather and is able to operate for 365 days a year.
- Aden is around 4570 miles from NE Europe and 3640 miles from Singapore, around 9 days from Europe and 7 from Singapore on modern container ships.
- It is very well placed to provide transshipment services to East Africa, the Red Sea, the sub-continent and the Gulf, and;
- It enjoys a dry climate with temperatures of around 28c through the winter and 38c during the summer (between May and September).

Based on these splendid advan-

tages. Aden developed and expanded its port services until 1967. When the Suez Canal closed for 8 years. This, added to the uncertainties following national independence, led to a severe downturn in Aden's trade at a time when other states in the region were beginning to generate substantial oil revenues. New ports in the region handling massive amounts of construction and project cargo then grew to become major cargo centers in the 1970's and 1980's.

Aden had no facilities for han-

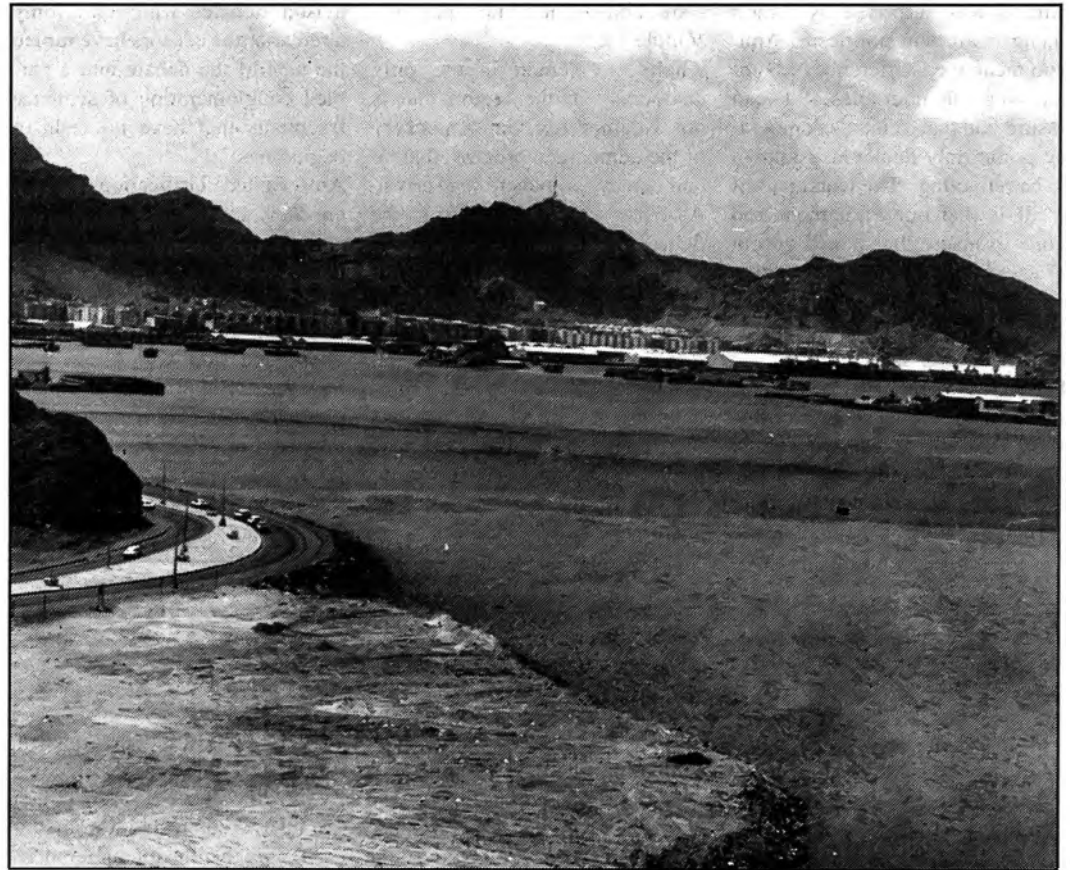
dled, in 1998 57,537, and increase of 427% over 1997. Volume will reach over 100,000 TEU at Ma'alla in 1999 thanks to the recently generated volume transshipment containers.

Recent developments

Although, with the construction of the Ma'alla Terminal, trends were positive, the port was very conscious during the 1990's that Aden's position as a service and distribution center for the Region had been lost to competitors. YPA has always believed that it

These are summarized as follows:

- The Terminal should have a depth alongside of 18 meters to allow the world's largest container ships to be berthed, and to allow for any likely future growth in ship size.
- The Terminal should be aligned in such a way those ships entering the inner harbor would have sufficient sea room in which to stop and turn.
- The Terminal should be designed with adequate space for future expansion as traffic



dling containers during these years and was starved of investment capital. All dry cargo was handled at buoys in the inner harbor before being transferred to the Home Trade Quay by lighters. Double handling; the accepted means of working cargoes in most ports up to the 1960's, continued at Aden into the 1980's.

The Ma'alla Terminal

The Port Authority fully realized that cargo-handling methods at Aden had to change and that the solution was to build new berths. By 1988 YPA had secured finance generously provided by the Arab Funds to construct the Ma'alla Multi-purpose Terminal. This gives the port its first alongside berths for large dry cargo vessels in its history. In 1993 the first container gantry quay crane arrived. A second crane was delivered in 1995, which now allows Aden to offer container transshipment services.

1997 and 1998 have seen steady growth, with 1998 showing an accelerating upward trend in number of ship calls and tonnages of bulk, general and containerized cargoes. Container volume almost doubled between 1994 and 1997.

In 1997 13,456 TEU were han-

was entirely possible to restore Aden to its former position as major port. Various developments in international shipping made the mid-1990's the right time to act.

Aden comes late to the modern container transshipment business, but there are certain advantages in this. The growth in ship size, re-grouping of shipping companies and changes in international trade patterns favor a terminal built specifically to serve the new generation of container ships, in the right location, offering a high standard of service.

Following unity in 1990, various studies by British, World Bank and other consultants concluded that Aden's geographical location would allow it to develop significant container transshipment services. The Free Zone Authority was established in 1990 and a concession agreement to construct and operate a new container terminal and Industrial Development Zone was approved in November 1995.

Port design objectives

In considering the design of the new container terminal, YPA had certain objectives which it wished to see implemented.

increases.

- The turning area should be able to turn of 350 meters or more in length.
- The quay wall should be constructed in mass concrete, without any reinforcing, to avoid cracking and the need for repair work in future.
- The inner harbor should be dredged across its full width to provide operational flexibility.
- Dredged material should be used to maximize benefit to the port and to the nation by providing new areas inside the inner harbor for future port expansion.
- The Terminal should be equipped to handle the world's largest container ships.

Various meetings with the concessionaires were held before construction work commenced and, with some compromises, the requirements of the Port Authority were implemented. YPA considers that it has given the concessionaires every assistance since dredging commenced in mid-1997 to ensure that they were able to complete their work without hindrance from this Government body.

The results of this cooperative approach by the port are now evident in the opening of the Terminal.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sana'a University announces the fourth Post-Graduate Program (Diploma and MSc) in

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

at the Civic Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering for the academic year 1999/2000.

The Program is supported by the Dutch SUS Project (Sana'a University Support) and implemented by both the Faculty of Engineering and the International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulics and Environmental Engineering (IHE) - Delft, The Netherlands. The Program is conducted in English language.

Interested persons are invited to visit Graduate Studies at the Sana'a University or to visit the SUS Project at the Faculty of Engineering for information on the required qualifications and to obtain application forms for the mentioned program (tel/fax 250514; e-mail: susi@y.net.ye)

Applications will be accepted until August 31, 1999.

Announcement from the German Embassy

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Yemeni-German diplomatic relations and continuous co-operation between the two countries, the German Embassy would like to launch a literature competition under the theme of

"The Yemeni-German Friendship at the Threshold of a New Millennium - Results and Previews"

The Embassy will welcome any contribution under this title, in the form of a novel, poem or science fiction, which should not be longer than 5 pages each. The work should reach the Embassy by its post-boxes:

P.O. Box 41 or 2562
Sanaa

The deadline for receiving these works is August 15, 1999. The contributions arriving after this deadline can unfortunately not be taken into consideration. The best contributions in every category will be published and awarded.

National Panasonic Technics

National Panasonic Products On Show

Alfa Trading Company held the annual exhibition for the National Panasonic Technics at Taj Sheba.

The seminar was initiated by a speech made by Hussain Mohammed Al-Rushaidi, the General Manager of the National Panasonic in which he welcomed all those present and said:

It is to our great pleasure to welcome you today in this beautiful and lovely morning. We are very delighted to continue our meetings which shows the strong ties that have joined us together which we always try to maintain and enhance.

Our company Alfa has been from the very beginning a strong investment and development in the construction of representatives and dealers in all the governorates of Yemen. We have also adopted a marketing policy that ensures the spreading of our products and makes them available to the public with a reasonable price and high quality. We also make all the spare parts available.

The Seminar of the audio/video products and home appliances are considered to be a new way of contact through which we provide you with the new in the world of National Panasonic, the famous pioneering company in electronics.

We are trying to benefit from our meeting with you today by listening to your suggestions about our products which you take the responsibility of providing to the public. So we hope that this seminar will yield the fruits expected as Mr. Fernando C. Layug, the Planning Manager in Panasonic Gulf Company and Mr. Fadl Merza, the responsible for selling and marketing in the same company have already said.

To give you an idea about our ceremony today we have the privilege to tell you that Mr. Fadl Merza will explain the features of the electronic apparatus especially the TV Tau of the flat screen.

Then, Mr. Fernando will explain the features of home equipment and the kitchen appliances that are on show in this seminar.

After that there will be an open discussion for Q and A related to the seminar. Then, we will have lunch together.

Let me also tell you that we will demonstrate these products from four o'clock in the afternoon to nine o'clock in the evening. We very much appreciate your coming.



Mr. Fernando C. Layug (left) and Mr. Emad Ahmed Saeed

Mr. Fernando C. Layug, the Planning Manager in Panasonic Gulf FZE, talked about their activities in Yemen and said: I am coming from Panasonic Gulf Gabal Ali Free Zone. We are supplying National Panasonic goods in Yemen as well as the surrounding countries in the Middle East, mainly Iran and Pakistan. We are doing this kind of products seminar of the National Panasonic products for the local user in Yemen. We are also doing this in other countries as well. We are doing all this kind of activities in order to provide all the information to the public about our products. We are



Mr. Hussain Mohammed Al-Rushaidi, GM



also explaining to them what the latest technology is and the new models we have, in a way that they will be able to know and find out what we have, their merits and their costs as well. National Panasonic Technics is our brand name.

He also added that we are doing this kind of product seminar every year or several times within a year to introduce our new models and



Mr. Fazal Mirza

the best technology that we have for the public as well as for our dealers because our dealers are the first direct link to the customers. It is only by providing them with this kind of information that they will be able to find out and enjoy the products of the National Panasonic.

As a comment on the Yemeni market he said: The market in Yemen is as I would say good. Good in the sense that our brand image and the demand for our national product is very high. Unlike different products existing in the Yemeni market which may last for a short time, our products have been and will be exercising a permanent value. So in our case what we want is to contribute to the development of the society by providing the people with good quality products and at very reasonable prices, but it is impossible that we will compromise the quality for the prices. Our prices, as compared to other brands, may be more expensive but then we have to put a lot of efforts and investment in the quality of our products. We want the local population in the Yemen market to be aware of the products they buy. For example, we import all our products through an exclusive agent called Alfa Company but unfortunately there are a lot of goods coming from different sources. Alfa Company provides full guarantee to the goods that we are sending and different products that we are buying. On the other hand, we can not control

the inflow of products to the Yemen market. So unless the government provides support to the local agent of each brand, it will be very difficult to provide the public with guarantee of our products. That is mainly because many local traders are buying the products from other sources in some parts of the world to bring them to the Yemeni market and sell them for a low price and, at the same time, with a big profit. However, if we try to examine this we will find that the only loser is the customers themselves because when they buy something cheap or something not directly from our company but the product breaks down, no matter how good it is, there will be no use of it since they do not give the same services that we do. What we believe in is that by providing the public with what they need with the best quality is the only way to improve our business and our reputation in the world and that is what our company is based on.

Addressing the people of Yemen Mr. Fernando said: The National Panasonic would like to extend its gratitude to the people in Yemen for their full support and patronage to our products without which we will not be able to continue our activities here. We also appreciate very much the Yemeni culture which is totally different from any other country. We hope and expect to see a lot of good development in the future for the Yemeni people and Yemen market in general. We also promise to go on giving the Yemeni consumer the best we can do through our company.

Mr. Fadl Mirza Ahmad, responsible for selling and marketing, talked about this occasion and said: As we have new products in our merchandise like digital moving cameras, digital TV, and digital video players, we thought that this will be the right time to conduct a product seminar here in Yemen. So we are here to introduce our products. The market and technology are changing very rapidly and we have to face the challenge of the new millennium. So I confidently say that whatever Panasonic products exist here they are considered to be the best and the latest technology in this millennium. Moreover, Taw televisions which have been launched all over the world are considered to be of the highest technology in a way such that you can connect any computer to them through its R. B. G. connection. I feel it is more competitive world and we are quite confident with our products.

Talking about the Yemeni market he said: unlike any other market the Yemen market is also a competitive market and a price-oriented market. Now lots of multi-national companies products are available in Yemen and we feel with our products we have a push forward. I would also like to give Yemeni people a message. They have to realize whether the products they buy are original or just imitation. They should also buy products with guarantee system.

He also added: I think that Panasonic is enjoying the leadership in the Yemeni Market through our agent Alfa which has quite a good influence here. They have their own expertise to strengthen the product image and it is quite satisfactory. We see that there are many products available from outside and the message is the same that the people of Yemen can enjoy the technology as any other country in the world. Yemen market is also very important for us and that is mainly because it always has a consistency in ordering. So if there is a growing demand, this is a sign of the development in the economic situation of the country. Then it will be a great opportunity for the business to operate. I would like also to tell the people of Yemen that we are striving hard in order to provide them with the best in technology so that they can be proud of obtaining the products.



شركة ألفا المحدودة
ALFA



Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas



Al-Mithaq,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The People's General Congress
26/7/1999

A- Main-Headlines

1- The No Confidence Vote against Moqbil came because The YSP did not recognize the legitimacy of the Parliament.
2- Al-Iryiani to the Human Development Forum: The State adopts the policy of providing unlimited options for the Yemeni people to live up to the challenging tasks of recon-

struction.

3- The Iranian Minister of Culture expresses his country's wish to vitalize mutual ties and reveals his intention to establish a public library in Sanaa.

4- Chairman of Supreme Elections Commission states that the SEC has received the files of the two presidential candidates, denying any political implications to the date of balloting and the sorting out of results.

B- Issue's Editorial

The PGC carries on the process of national achievements firmly

and confidently, without paying attention to the follies of those who try to bury the truth and to cloud the brighter aspects in our country. The future can be attained through sound foundations of a comprehensive development on which democratic practice, peaceful exchange of power and respect of human rights come first. These principles have been assimilated and practiced by the PGC as the best way to exploit human energies as well as material resources. Without providing equal opportunities to all citizens, the chance of effecting real progress and prosperity shrinks and the whole society slumbers in a state of stagnation.

For the PGC, democracy is an inevitable option and when well-organized it will certainly become an important factor for winning the future and passing well through the gate to the 21st century. This fact is not yet conceived by the Opposition Coordination Council and their defeated candidate. Nor do they realize the universal truth that wrong premises could lead only to wrong conclusion. The YSP and their allies in the opposition are now reaping the bitter fruits for boycotting the 1997 parliamentary elections. It is amazingly ridiculous that Moqbil should beg the approval for his nomina-

tion from other forces who are in variance with his political conventions and practice.



Al-Wahdawy,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserite Unionist Party,
27/7/1999

A- Main Headlines

1- The Opposition forms up a committee to design a plan of action to confront the Parliament's rejection of Muqbil's nomination.

2- The Opposition Coordination Council calls for the cancellation of the presidential elections as they have become meaningless.

3- In a record time, the Parliament passes a most serious amendment to the Elections Law.

4- The president's term in office ends coming October.

5- The government universities increase students' enrollment fees.

B-Issue's Editorial

In a debate seminar organized by the Future Studies Center in Sanaa, dedicated to discuss the Yemeni-American relations, two contrasting views emerged in relation to this topic. One view holds that democracy has already contributed to the improvement in the two countries relations, while the other one maintains that America's interest in Yemen is purely self-motivated. A third view, expressed by Mr. Jarullah Omer, a YSP leader, offered a compromising point when he argues that the US policy

towards Yemen is outlined through democratic as well as self-interest values. However, the Political Consultant in the US Embassy expressively agreed to the self-interest side in the US-Yemeni relations and described this side as absolutely natural in the International relations. Yet, she repeatedly referred to her country's support to democratic and human rights values.

Ironically, the seminar was held at the same day when the Parliament held its session that settled the endorsement of the presidential nominees. The outcomes of this session greatly disappointed the officials in the American Embassy, notably the Ambassador herself who exerted extensive efforts to persuade the ruling party, Islah, as well as opposition parties to actively participate in real elections run by different candidates and for different agendas. The resultant dismay must be far greater specially when it comes shortly soon after the Emerging Democracies Forum, which was apparently held to boost democracy in the participant countries.



Attariq,
Aden Weekly,
Independent,
27/7/1999

Main Headlines

1- President of the Republic arrives in Spain and meets with his brother the Saudi Monarch King Fahd.

2- Mr. Najeeb Kahtan declines that his nomination has been designed by President Saleh to

deprive Moqbil's of the voters in the South.

3- A mosque orator in Aden attacks the state's officials for corruption and injustice.

4- In Hadramout, the YSP invites the Party's Central Committee to convene in order to discuss the outcomes of the Parliament's endorsement.



Al-Sahwah,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The Yemeni Congregation For
Reform,
29/7/1999

A- Main headlines

1- Following their failure in the Parliament, the opposition parties produces contradictory assessment.

2- The Parliament fails in the discussion of Illegal Fees Report.

3- 20 thousand inflammable jet fuel stored in Aden Seaport.

4- Islah Party strongly condemns aggression on the Party's chairman in Al-Jouf Governorate.

B- Issue's editorial

Since the 1950s of this century, most governments in the Arab World have found themselves in a fierce conflict with the Islamist Movement that resulted in different hostile acts of execution, imprisonment, etc., which detrimentally affected the process of development in these countries. No doubt, foreign hostile hands were and still are beyond this adversarial atmosphere, for they succeeded in instilling the scarecrow image often attached to the

Vacancy

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Continued from Page 3:

An Interview With Dr. Mohammad Al-Saqqaf

Q: Do you think there is a real opposition in Yemen? And can we consider the existing parties real ones?

A: Frankly speaking, there is no real opposition in Yemen, neither in comparison to the advanced democratic countries, nor even to the democratizing countries. I may surprise you if I say that the Islah Party is the strongest opposing party though it is hard to think of it as an opposition party because of the strong personal ties between its leading members and the leadership of the PGC. However, it has a very strong presence in the political as well as social arena and this is what other opposition parties such as the YSP suffer from. In my opinion the main reason behind the deterioration of the opposition parties is the structure of the Yemen society in which two dominant forces prevail; the military force and the tribal force. The ruling party depends on the military force whereas the Islah party depends mainly on the tribal force. The YSP has lost its way between these two elements.

Q: In Taiz, a Document of Pledge and Accord was signed in 1964. Another Document of the same name was signed in Amman in 1994? Now this

issue is being raised. Why?

A: The vital issues pertaining to the building of a modern Yemen, in which all Yemenis are equal and ruled through civic institutions away from the dominance of the militaristic and tribal regimes are now revived because they have never seen the light of being. For this simple reason, they always come to the front specially during times of crises like the one we are having now.

Q: How do you assess the media's role in our country? And what are the major obstacles on its way?

A: Most of the newspapers belong to political parties. Few are the independent newspapers. For instance the Yemen Times, Alayam and Altareek. One fact about the development of newspapers in Yemen is their decline after 1994 mainly because of the great restrictions made on parties and their respective newspapers. This has directly and negatively affected the media. It is true that we have what can be called an independent media, yet, the effect of this media is so limited for two reasons. First is related to the high rate of illiteracy in our country. (75%). The second reasons is related to the small readership of newspapers.

Continued from Page 1:

World Bank Loans to Yemen

2- Second Public Work Project: This credit allocates an amount of US \$ 50 million. The project represents the Second Stage of Public Works Projects in Yemen, which are included in the National Social Safety Net. The SSN is a conglomeration of various social welfare projects and programs that are aimed at helping the poor and those adversely affected by the Economic and Administrative Reform Program. Thus, the ultimate goal of the Public Works Project is to decrease the burden on the poor through the creation of jobs and building infrastructure for the public, especially in urban areas, where there is extreme poverty, but with some rural projects as well. The projects entail greater beneficiary community participation and more private sector involvement in the construction and the sustainable management of public works projects.

3- Public Sector Management Adjustment Credit: US \$50 million. This project is the first of a proposed series of such projects. These projects aim will aim for the improvement of the efficiency of government financial and administrative functions in various sectors and operations, including budgeting, civil service, administration system, social services etc.

4- Sanaa Water Supply and Sanitation: An amount of \$25 million is allocated for this project which will address sewerage problems, and increase the efficiency of water supply, private sector involvement in projects related to the water sector. The principal part of the project is the Sewerage Treatment Plant for Sanaa.

5- Legal and Judicial Development: An amount of US \$2.5 million. The project will seek to identify the weaknesses in the Yemeni judicial and legal system and introduce new ideas and procedures that will enhance the overall efficiency and functioning of the system. An important aim of the project is to restore public trust and confidence in the system and enhance the application of laws and legislation with a view towards the equitable and fair implementation of the laws and legislations and amending those laws that are found to be unreasonable or act to hinder the imposition of justice.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نزهة
لشباب الخلق
الاستاذ / شكري سلطان سعيد
القدسي
بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقد القران ،
فألف مبروك.
المهنؤون، جميع أبناء الأشرع - قدس
عنهم؛ طارق مجاهد أحمد القدسي

الف مبروك

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نزهة لشباب الخلق/
ياسر عبدالمعطي أحمد صالح
بمناسبة دخولة القصر الذهبي، فألف الف مبروك.
المهنؤون؛
محمد عبدالعزيز أحمد النعم،
منير عبدالعزيز أحمد النعم، عبيد علي أحمد النعم،
عادل عبيد مرشد، عارف محمد سالم،
وجميع موظفي شركات هائل سعيد النعم.

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KIDNAPPING WITH A POSITIVE OUTCOME

Adviser to the Ministry of Health and Colleague Kidnapped on Their Way to Mareb

Kidnapping is one of the major problems faced by the Yemeni society. It is actually a nagging problem that needs stiff measures on the part of the government. In fact, it has become a common practice that some foreigners sometimes find interesting and funny. This is because the hostage may be held for a couple of hours or even minutes. This is actually

what happened to the German adviser to the Ministry of Health

Dr. Ernst.

Tenambergen and his Yemeni colleague. They were intercepted and taken hostage by local tribesmen last Saturday July 7 on their way from Sana'a to Mareb but released after intensive discussions. Yemen Times talked to Dr. Tenambergen, Seconded by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), in Yemen since June

Mr. Tenambergen



1997 and who believes that kidnapping can be of a positive outcome. Here is his full story.

"We were on our way to Mareb in a vehicle of the Yemeni-German health Sector Project to assist the health Office in Mareb in planning their development and its cooperation with districts for the coming 2 years. About 7 km out of Sana'a, the laughing crowd of a bus on its way to Sana'a predicted that we would be kidnapped by a group that has claims against the Government and is intercepting government vehicles and foreigners. We realized that after a couple of safe trips to mareb we had become too careless. Our colleagues in mareb had not been informed properly about our departure to send their guards in time and collect us from Sana'a as usual and we were driving in our 4-wheel drive Mercedes instead of the small Opel that would get stuck already after 10 meters off the tarmac. We surely did not like to get taken hostage but we also did not want to cancel the 3-day planning workshop with 30 people waiting. We decided to rely on the traditional Yemeni virtues of hospitality fairness and practical common sense and continued or voyage."

"Fifteen minutes later it happened. Two men on the road side took their Kalashnikovs when we passed and shot into the air. Three hundred meters further on two young tribesmen with guns stopped us. We stepped out of the vehicle while the leader of the group came running from the place where the shots had been fired. When we explained that we were on a mission for the Ministry of health he became very furious. He shouted that the government is not giving them anything and swore that they would keep us hostage. By then about 20 more tribesmen had gathered."

"We explained to them very politely: The Ministry of Health is realizing that support for Mareb and other rural areas was insufficient and that our mission was part of a new program to change this and help Mareb. It would be to the disadvantage of the local population if those who want to come and assist Mareb could not feel safe. Although we had been warned we had continued our travel in order to see them and explain this to them. We should be allowed to continue our mission."

"Then it all developed as we had hoped. There was a discussion of nearly one hour. At one stage, an elder tribesman took of his turban, lowered it in front of the leader of the intercepting group and pleaded for our release. The leader calmed down. We promised to see him in his village on our next trip to Mareb, shook hands and proceeded.

On our way back to Sana'a we felt very safe with two tribesmen from Mareb as guides and guards in the vehicle."

Amendment:

"I hesitated to talk too much about the event. It might harm tourism, our "kidnappers" and even the security forces along the road who allowed us to pass. But on the other hand, the lessons which can be learned may balance these disadvantage."

"Obviously, the unacceptable, violent action of some tribesmen is not merely chaotic and arbitrary. Also these ones seemed to have a case. We did not try to find out which one, but after knowing Mareb now for one year we dare to say that among other features of underdevelopment

there is no functioning social infrastructure in the governorate. The Ministry of health has paid much more attention to Mareb in the last year. By this it does not only fulfill a humanitarian obligation, it also contributes to national security. A fair share is social services is known to strengthen the feeling of identity with the nation especially in border regions."

"There will still be a period of uncertainty and misunderstanding. But this experience reinforces me believe that common sense has a chance everywhere as long as there is dialogue."

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأخ
فائز أحمد غالب نعمان
بمناسبة عقد القران.
المهنيون:
عماد السقاف,
محمد حاتم القاضي,
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

خالص التهاني والتبريكات للأخ
عارف علي منصر
وذلك بمناسبة الزواج
قائف مبروك.
المهنيون: هائل الصلوي، نجيب
الأسودي، وليد عبدالله السقاف

Sheraton Won the Cricket Match vs Taj Sheba

Sheraton's camaraderie vs Taj Sheba during the cricket match held last July 15, 1999 beating Taj Sheba with the highest score of 19.5 over. Team Captain Mr. Nadeem Khawaja scores 56 runs with 4 sixes and 6 fours and the rest of the team worked hard for the final victory!



WELCOME ABOARD

Recently, Mr. Sami El-Bitar joined Sheraton Sana'a Hotel as Deputy General Manager. He worked in Hotel Le Bristol Beirut, Lebanon as Managing Director for the past five years. Also had worked in different hotels in the United States.

Mr. El-Bitar completed his studies in High Technical Professional Education in Lausanne University, Switzerland.

Elephant Bay Beach Resort in Aden

The Elephant Bay beach Tourist Resort in Aden City is distinguished for its beautiful design and located in one of the most strategic and attractive areas of the city, which make it one of the best resorts in the city. It is located on one of the most glorious clean beach which attracts many citizens and tourist to come and relax in their vacations. The resort is located at Al-Tawwahi near "Heil" Mountain. It offers many facilities for swimming, tennis, football, and volleyball on its beach. It also provides many delicious meals and many oriental and western drinks.

البقاء لله

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محمد عزام في جمهورية مصر العربية

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للمهندس محمد عزام وجميع آل عزام

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وأن يدخل المرحومة فسيح جناته،

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون: أسرة الحكمة الدولية (H.I.C)

عنهم د. نجيب ياسين، محمد قاسم الحداد

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



Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity problems	177
Telephone enquires	118
Aljumuhy 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 FOREIGN BANKS:

Arab Bank Ltd.	276592/3
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd.	272424

GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	254032
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	332001/2
Radio Station	282061

INSURANCE COMPANIES:

Y. I. & ReInsurance Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sana'a:	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sana'a:	265191
Aden:	241171
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Ins. Co. Sana'a:	272890/2
Taiz:	215012
Hodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance Sana'a:	214093
Hodeidah:	240354
Saba' Yemen Insurance	
Sana'a:	240894/908
Aden:	253646
Taiz:	233082
Hodeidah:	226627

AIRLINES:

Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways (Sana'a)	267929
British Airways (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
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel (HO)	275028/9/30
Universal-Zubeiri	245888

USD-YR Exchange Rate:

160.60

Sunday evening 1/8/99



EMBASSIES & Consulates

Sana'a:

1. Embassies:

Algeria	209689/206350
Bulgaria	208469
China	275337/341
Cuba	417305
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	415985
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	263586
India	243440/248343
Indonesia	414633
Iran	413552/3/4
Iraq	269571/4/5/6
Italy	269165
Jordan	413275/6/7/9
Kuwait	268876/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	264188
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	263323/4/63
Oman	208874/5
Pakistan	248812/3/4
Palestine	264236/66
Poland	413523/4
Qatar	269654/7/11
Rumania	205515/209003
Russia (FR)	278719/283142
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	414891/2

Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	263476/241395
U. A. E.	248777/78
U. K.	264081/4
U. S. A.	238842/52

2. Honorary Consulates

Austria	266725
Belgium	286965
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215170
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	208745
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	414844

3. International Organization

FAO	207331/607
UNDP	415505/6/7
UNHCR	201856
UNICEF	211400/1/2
WHO	252220
World Bank	413706/8/10
European Union	248495
UNFPA	417713

Aden Consulates:

China	233115
Egypt	231270
Germany	232161
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Russia (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	233009
Somalia	241101
U. K.	232712/3/4/5

Universal - Bonia	272861/2/3
Universal Aden	221146, 243475
Universal Taiz	225383/4
Universal Hodeidah	226980
Universal Mukalla	(05)354842/4/5
Bazara Travel	78093/270879
Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Al-Nasim Travel	270750

YEMENIA BRANCHES:

Abdul-Mughni	274698
Haddad	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	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	415212/4/5
Shahrani Hotel	418320/1/2
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	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
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Mareb (063)

Bilquis Mareb	2666/2371
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Sadah (0751)

Al Mamon	2203/2459
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Mukalla (05)

Hadhrmout	2060
Al-Itimad	552493

COURIERS:

Aramex	Sana'a: 240741
	Aden: 255333
	Taiz: 213489
	Hodeidah: 218168
DHL	268551
American Express	272435 / 6
FedEX	Sana'a: 412604
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ADEN

When Will it Really Be The Second Capital?

Aden is a rocky peninsula linked to the land by a sandy area on the north, on which the town of Khoormaksar stands. It is located on 12° and 45 seconds latitude - north and 45° and 4 seconds longitude - east. It is surrounded by a number of islands, the biggest one being Seira on the north. Aden, for a long time in the past, has been known as a vital port that played an important role in the field of wide and diversified trade and cultural activities between Yemen and different nations. Aden lies in a strategic location that has allowed it, in the past, to contribute significantly to world commerce and trade. Besides its important location, it now has international anchorage facilities with state of the art technology built in to its modern equipment. Aden, with its magnificent shores and coastline, present a very fascinating prospect.

Aden in History

Lots of tourists come from all over the world to see the beauty of heaven manifested so well on earth, the site of one of the most ancient civilizations that dates back to 3000 years.

At that time Aden had the unique distinction of being the main port in the country and there were no other ports, except for a port in Shabwa. In 1847, Aden began to expand absorbing the towns of Al-Tawwhee and Al-Mualla. The Al-Mualla terrace was built in 1855 when the port used to receive a lot of ships. Crater is Aden's historic city and was given this name after the colonization of Aden. The best available historic sources indicate that the existence of Crater goes back to 3000 years. The name of Aden was also found engraved on a number of inscriptions found in a dilapidated castle near the Al-Ahbash mountain.

Aden's historic city, Crater, still holds many of its huge vestigial installations, which prove the existence of a once great and magnificent civilization in the past. This fabulous and rich heritage shows us



how dynamic Yemenis were in the past. Aden, like other towns, is moving towards the future. Technology, modernization is beginning to set in, but at the same time it will be able to maintain its

rich ancient civilization, which is reflected in many of its age old monuments that are unmistakable testimony to the past cultural heritage of Yemen.

Aden Today

Aden today is trying to revive its former glory and prosperity. The government of Yemen has declared Aden a duty free zone, in order to attract international attention and investment. Several laws have also been made to facilitate investment in the town. There is hope that such government action will help to restore the glory and prosperity of the city.

However, the tourism sector in Aden is now practically stagnant, despite the city's numerous attractions. There are some attempts that aim at reviving the tourism sector and increasing the facilities which investors can make use of in Aden. Some of the factors that affect the tourist industry in Aden are influenced by the economic downturn Yemen is going through. People in the tourist industry envisage Aden as becoming a promising tourist attraction.

It is quite evident that Aden has developed extensively since the reunification of Yemen in 1990.

The coastal shops and port facilities, all but abandoned in 1974, are now bustling and expanding rapidly. Aden is the fastest growing city in Yemen, and some citizens believe it could eventually surpass Sanaa, the capital, in importance as an important economic center.

On the other hand, even though the city is moving forward in the area of tourism, there is much that still needs to be done. One of the major headaches of the city is the random giving away of beach land. Beaches

these days have become the place where waste and sewage is dumped. Construction remains are evident in many beaches, yet no one is doing anything about it. Similarly, the airport of the city should be given priority in the improvements that need to be undertaken to make the city more attractive to tourists and businessmen. Landing at Aden International Airport, one is depressed to see the damages caused by the 1994 Civil War, which are still evident, even after 5 years. Why can't the government allocate a budget to clear that mess, which

reminds us of the miseries of wars? This gives the impression that the airport is totally ignored by the state. Some Yemenis even think that this is an indication that the whole city is ignored. Every person who has entered the airport of Aden is dissatisfied with its building, and organization, in addition to the procedures that travelers must go through when arriving or departing Aden. The airport is too small to be considered an international airport, and its modesty and primitiveness is evident everywhere in the building. Year after year, the airport is still the same, no improvement. This is the time when we

should all begin thinking of this city and its future, and the government should begin implementing a long-term plan for improving the city, with a view towards attracting tourists and international investment. Investment in the tourism sector is not and has never been a waste of money. Enhancing the airport



Why this mess and who is responsible?

will be a strong factor in this respect. We will wait and see whether the government will realize the true dimensions of the importance of Aden as the future tourist city of Yemen. Aden is no easy rival for Sanaa, but there should be considerable effort to make the city the commercial and leisure capital of the country, which it was envisaged to be. Many believe that if the city is given the attention it deserves, it has the factors that could make it the second capital of the country.

Yasser M. Ahmad
Yemen Times



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