



On the Basis of the Aide Memoire Exchanged between the Government and World Bank:

Simplifying Tariff Schedule, Liberalizing Trade,

Shedding off 60,000 Employees, & YR 115=1 US\$



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YEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS

Times ornce to announce that a proposed cricket team tour to Sharjah was can-celled. "The UAE Embassy informed me that visas were only available for non-Yemenis, including Indians and Pak-istanis," he said. "I just wish they had told us this three weeks ago when we applied, and not on the very day of our planned departure," he complained. 0000 KLIVI MSTERDAM SUN.&WED.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics Sanaa University.

Last week, the Government of Yemen and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) exchanged the Aide Memoire which amounts to the agreement on the restructuring of the economy. The details were worked out during the Economic Recovery Credit Mission which spent three weeks (October 25 through November 15th) in Yemen holding intensive talks.

A similar agreement is to be concluded shortly between the Yemeni Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a stabilization program. The details of this were finalized during a visit here by the IMF mission last month. The Aide Memoire is basically the conditions stipulated by the World Bank Board for releasing of funds under the Economic Recovery Credit (ERC), which are expected to start flowing as of March, 1996.

The release of funds is also conditional on striking a deal with the IMF, which is expected to take place before the end of the yea

The Aide Memoire addresses three major

dimensions in the economy, as follows:

1. Trade:

According to a new tariff schedule, the vast array of customs tariff rates will be reduced to four bands: 5%, 10%, 15% and 30%. That would greatly reduce the rates, though tobacco and its products will still carry a higher burden.

Even then, as the exchange rate will be changed to YR 115 per US dollar, total tariff receipts in 1996 are expected to rise to YR 25 billion, compared to the YR 16 billion for 1995.

The World Bank has pushed for amendments to the Foreign Trade Law. These amendments, accepted by the Yemeni government which promises to act on them before end of December 1995, entail the abolition of the import bans licensing and replacing it with a tariff of 30%. That means, Ethiopian qat will definitely be flown in. Also part of the trade liberalization, all exports will be exempt from government restrictions' licensing or prior approval.

In any case, Yemen's foreign trade law will be revamped to "bring it into con-formity with the requirements of the World Trade Organization, and to incorporate GATT-consistent procedures and mechanisms"

2. Privatization:

Based on an agreement which is to be incorporated in the 1995-97 privatization program, the government will shed off 20% of its total employees in the public and mixed sectors. This means it will dispose of some 35,000. Another 25,000 employees from the government bureau-cracy will be "retired".

Within three months, the government has promised that six public enterprises will be brought to the point of sale. If there is no taker, these enterprises will be placed on a liquidation schedule. In one year's time, the government agreed to bring an additional 10-15 public enterprises to the point of sale.

3. Investments:

The General Investment Authority (GIA) will be re-structured with an eye to dismantling its multiple licensing system. In addition, as from January 1996, it will no longer be necessary for the GIA to grant customs duty exemptions as these will be automatically done given the the new structure of customs tariffs. Also by January 1996, the government promises to "eliminate the current

product-based negative list applying to private sector investments, which inhibits competition".

4. User Charges

The government has agreed to at least double many of the user charges and service fees. Energy costs are expected to rise by 50%; while water, sewerage and electricity charges are going to be subjected to a progressively rising rate as the level of consumption increases.

Educational, health and other services will also cost more. The user charges for these services are expected to rise by 50% in the next fiscal year.

Most of the policy actions above have been worked out during the World Bank mission to Yemen in August/September, and they were confirmed by the Yemeni Government during October in Washington DC. But the Yemeni Government's approval is not enough.

According to World Bank sources, the Yemeni Government has done a lot in the past to re-align its economy, but it has also always fallen short on its promises. "It is more important to see decisions translated into steps on the ground," the sources said.

Many observers are worried that 1996 will be a hot year in Yemen, given the hardships caused by the re-structuring. A further doubt is cast on the scene given. that it is the year preceding elections.

A New Partnership between the PGC & YSP !

UAE: Stingy on Visas for Yemenis

By: Shaher Musa'abain. Aden Bureau Chief. Yemen Times

Sunday the 26th of November, 1995, saw the re-emergence of a new partnership between the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). The two sides agreed to divide halfway between them the 55 delegates of (YSP). Aden in the elections of the Yemeni Jour-nalists' Syndicate (YJS). That effectively shut out Islah journalists and others. There were many irregularities, including stopping many journalists, notably Ali Al-Saqqaf, from participating in the elections.

In addition, the two parties openly dictated to journalists - who are members with them - how to vote.

It is getting worse and worse for Yemenis to get visas to the United Arab Emirates.

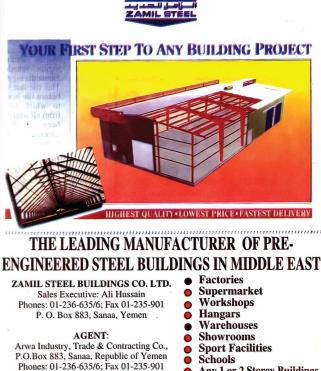
On Thursday, November 30th, Mr. Don Sheridan, Chairman of the Yemeni

sneridan, Chairman of the Yemeni Cricket League, walked into the Yemen

Times office to announce that a proposed

"It is, of course, the prerogative of each journalist to vote the way he/she sees fit, even if by taking orders from his/her polit-ical party. But if this is the case, the YJS will cease to become a professional organ, and it will simply become a shadow political party," said an independent journalist. The Islah was especially bitter about the results. "We thought our partnership with the PGC was strategic, as the President and other senior PGC politicians keep repeating. It is now clear they are willing and ready to dump us at the nea tunity," an Islah journalist said. arest oppor-Elections for the Sanaa delegates of the

YJS are scheduled for December 6th. They will demonstrate any new patterns in the shifting alliances of the PGC. The YJS is influential in Yemeni public life.



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The Government of the Emirates regularly fails to issue visas to legitimate Yemeni travellers including businessmen, journalists, medical doctors, athletes and others. According to UAE Embassy sources, Yemenis, like Iraqis, have to obtain a special clearance, which takes some three months from date of application. Yet, Yemeni officials keep repeating that the UAE and Yemen have overcome the fallout of the Gulf War. So much for talk. Next time President Saleh talks to UAE President Sheikh Zayed, could he please mention this problem to him.

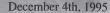
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Kids, Old Folks and the Poor Are **Exposed to the Cold**

As the winter months advance, the cold weather steadily takes hold. Thus living in the highlands of Yemen where the temperatures plummet to below zero, by necessity, requires protection. The protection of a home where one sleeps, the pro-tection of heavy clothings, and the protection of a good bed and a good cover. To a growing segment of our people - both in the countryside and the cities - these forms of protection may not be available. If you drive through Sanaa early in the morning, you will see individuals and families who are spending the night on the street, without adequate protection from the cold.

It is the duty of society to protect these groups, and provide for their basic needs. It has become a common sight in our cities to see the poor, especially the children, scavenge the leftovers thrown by families as they go through trash bins. These kids, women and old folks also man street intersections and take advantage of the red lights to ask for alms from car drivers and their passengers

Our society is, of course, poor. But we are not too poor to provide for our own. We need to share some of our fortune

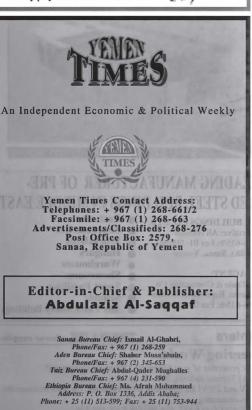
provide for our own. We need to share some of our fortune with the less well-to-do segments of our people. I am not a communist, and I don't care if some people hasten to point their finger. Actually, I think I am a good capitalist, and it is good capitalism to make sure there is harmony in society for the sake of stability. It is in this light that I urge the wealthy to take care of the poor. By the way, this is the basic point of conflict between President Bill Clinton and the Repub-licans in Congress - both good capitalists. "How much the rich should help the poor and how to go about it?"

In other countries, the tax system works. Here in Yemen, the tax system does not work. That is why it is imperative to devise new mechanisms, and to introduce campaigns to help the poor once every short while.

Among the international community in Yemen, they do bazaars, fairs, and similar other efforts, the proceeds of which go the poor through charities and NGOs. The last of these was done by the International Women's Association at the French Ambassador's residence, last week. The wealthy Yemeni individuals and families must think of a similar dwice that will analyke them to chin in to hale the neor

similar device that will enable them to chip in to help the poor. similar device that will enable them to chip in to help the poor. The cold weather is a good excuse and a pressing one to use for this purpose. Maybe the rich dudes should try the cold weather one night to get a feel of the kind of hardship and suffering a growing segment of the Yemeni population. We must show the poor that we care about them, and that the system takes their needs into account. We need to show them they have a stake in the system, so that they play a constructive role in it.

that they play a constructive role in it.



Yemen Celebtrates the **30th of November**

The Republic of Yemen cel-ebrated the anniversary of 30th of November. The occasions marks the independence day of the southern part of Yemen (the former PDRY), as well as the day on which the Yemeni unity agreement was signed.

UK Small Projects Assistance to Yemen

The British Embassy in Sanaa has announced details of further small projects assistance to Yemen - this time in the fields of education, research and government administration.

The UK will support the resource center of Sanaa University's Edu-cation College. It has decided to provide training for the center's librarian, equipment, journals, books and other reference tools such as CD-ROM material. A gift of the British Library research coupons will give researchers and staff access to the huge stores of information at the British Library in London.

British assistance will also go to British assistance will also go to Yemeni government offices to improve their efficiency and quality of service. Funding is available for training in financial English and financial planning and in use of auditing technology such as computer software for the such as computer software for the staff of the Central Organization for Control and Audit, the Min-istries of Planning and Develop-ment, and Finance, and the Central Bank of Yemen.

Abu Dhabi Fund **Provides US\$ 68 Million** Loan

The Yemeni Government and the Abu Dhabi Fund signed last week an agreement according to which the fund will provide \$68 million.

UNESCO/UN Delegation Prepares for Media Seminar

A UNESCO/UN delegation is in A UNESCO/UN delegation is in Sanaa completing arrangements for the Independent and Pluralist Media Seminar for the Arab region, scheduled to be held in Sanaa during 6-11/1/1996. This the last visit by the sponsors before the holding of the seminar, to which some 100 journalists from all over the Arab World have been invited. In addition.

been invited. In addition, observers from regional and international organizations concerned with freedom of the press will also attend

The UNESCO/UN have been sponsoring and organizing regional seminars on the same theme in other regions of the world. So far, a Santiago Seminar for the Latin American region, a Windhoek Seminar for Black Africa, and an Alma Atta Seminar gion, a Black for Central Asia, have been held. The Sanaa Seminar is expected to lead to a Declaration to be issued which will boost the trend towards freedom of the press and removal of censorship in the Arab region.

Investment Agreement in Aden Free Zone

The General Authority for Free Zones and the Yemen Company for Investments signed an agree-ment to undertake investments in the Aden Free Zone. The Company, which represents various Arab and international interests, will finance projects in warehousing, shipping and bun-kering facilities, and industrial activities. activities.

This is the first tangible step in realizing the Aden Free Zone



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CONDOLENCES

Dr. P. Venkat Reddy

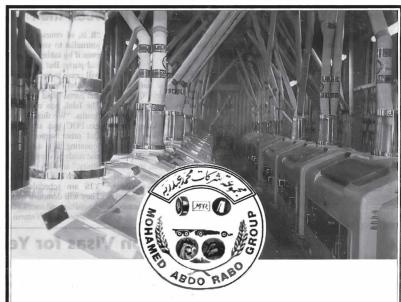
Dr. P. Venkat Reddy, renowned radiologist and X-RAY Technologist, Yemen Medical Center suddenly passed away due to a sever heart attack while in his

clinic on Sunday 26 November 95 at about 6:30 pm. at a young age of 43. Deeply mourned by his close

friends, colleagues and the Indian community.

May his soul rest in peace.





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A Fresh Doze of **German Aid to Yemen**

Yemen and Germany seem to be working smoothly together. This, in part, has to do with the sort of spiritual association and fondness that has developed between the two nations. But also in part, it has to do with the generous German aid package to Yemen. After all, Germany has given Yemen well over 1.3 billion DM over the last three decades.

Last week witnessed the signing of new agreements according to which fresh German assis-tance will be channelled towards Yemeni development. Most of the projects are in water, sewer and health projects, and vocational/technical training. In the past, German aid used to be channelled to basic infrastructure such as roads and airports. Now, the shift has moved to util-ities and manpower development.

The agreements came following a one-week visit by a German team led by Dr. Gerhard Adamek of the Federal Ministry for Economic Coop eration and Development.

Dr. Adamek is an Arabologist, with over three decades of association, and still counting. It all started in Beirut in 1962, where he started learning Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Since then, he has taken charge of his country's cooperation with a vast array of Arab countries, including the Arabian Peninsula, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. In short, as he aptly puts it, "I know widely the people and I feel comfortable in the culture.

His first contact with Yemen is more of a recent nature. He first visited four years ago, but has since intensely kept in touch, to the extent that he easily names the remotest of Yemeni villages. At the end of his tour of Yemen last week, Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf talked to him and filed the following report.

Q: You have just concluded a tour of various governorates inspecting current and planned projects. Could you tell us projects. about it?

A: This time I am only here one week. My colleagues and I visited Aden, Abyan and Ibb govvisited Aden, Abyan and Ibb gov-ernorates. The purpose is inspect the implementation of existing projects, and to study new ones. The visit has led to the agree-ments just signed with the Yemeni government.

Q: Could you highlight some of

the projects? A: We visited two projects which were started in Abyan Govern-orate in the field of the family support services and also some projects in higher education and primary schools - all located in Ja'ar.

We also have an agricultural project in Al-Kod, Abyan called Innovation Development of the Agriculture Sector (IDAS). The purpose is to introduce new ideas that will be useful for the farmers

In Aden, we have a new sewer project costing about 75 million Deutsche Marks, which can start Deutsche Marks, which can start in the beginning of next year. Of course, some procedural and administrative steps need to be taken in preparation for this big project. In the Tihama, we have six sewer

projects in the cities of Mokha, Zabid, Baital Faqeeh, Mansoora, Bajil, and Hajjah. The total cost of this project is 80 million Deutsche Marks. In Hajjah, the project includes a water system, as well.

We have a Water Loss Reduction project for Taiz and Mukalla for a total cost of 15 million DM. This project aims to improve the water distribution network

vystem. We have just inaugurated at Aden a technical training institute for a total cost of 20 million DM. This is the biggest technical institute in the country.

We have also finalized now a big

we nave also imalized now a big project to modernize the water and sewerage facilities in Ibb. This is worth 54 million DM. We also completed a water system for Mahweet, but I do not believe this is a model project as it is expensive. The water is number of modernizin our 2000 pumped up a mountain over 800

Q: That is a long list of projects. The total values amount to some 250 million DM.

A: Yes, we have many projects in different arts of the country. But the money is not all new. Some of it was allocated in earlier agreements, but was not disbursed due to inefficient pro-cedures cedures.

Q: How have the procedures improved now?

I believe that the admin-A: istrative system has improved since the end of the war. Before that the system was paralyzed, but now we are more than satisfied.

The president himself has done a lot of changes, as is especially visible in Aden.

The German side has expressed satisfaction about the quick progress in the mechanisms and

procedures. Our own system in Germany has also improved. We can now look forward to a smoothly operating system.

Q: I understand you have intro-duced some conditions for dis-pensing of the funds for the new projects. Could you tell us a little bit about that?

bit about that? A: Yes. To start with let me say that we are optimistic about the economic reform package being negotiated and concluded with the World Bank and the Inter-national Monetary Fund. As a corollary to that, we have demanded some improvements be introduced in the adminintroduced in the administrative system.

Let me use an example. The National Water And Sewerage Authority (NWASA) branches need to be given more power to manage their affairs and to limit the centralization that exists now. This will be implemented regarding the Aden branch of the NWASA.

Another dimension has to do with tariffs. The tariffs charged presently for water and sewer services are extremely low. They have to be increased so that resources are available for maintenance, repairs and expansion.

A third improvement has been in the bid acceptance procedures for awarding projects. These have been simplified, and some of the powers have been delegated to local authorities.

Q: The German assistance program itself has two arms - a financial arm, and a technical arm.

arm. A: Yes, financial matters are handled by KfW, while the tech-nical aspects are done by GTZ. Let me also mention that we have 35 German volunteers who

are doing a marvelous job. These are mainly nurses, midwives, and other similar health-related jobs. They work in Arhab, Amran, Sa'adah, Manakhah, and Abyan.

Q: Let me talk about your vision of the aid program. Why do you help Yemen?

A: Well, as you know Germany has a large aid program to the developing countries. We see this as part of our duty to bring more peace, stability and harmony to the world. Yemen is one of the least devel-

Yemen is one of the least devel-oped countries, and we have old ties and friendships with it. I believe, our projects in Yemen can be lumped into four major categories. These include water and sewerage, primary education and wording training health and and vocation training, health and family planning, and agriculture and land/urban use.

Q: I know you sign official agreements and you channel your aid through the government. Have you considered channelling some through NGOs? money

A: In principle we already do that in many other countries. Non-Governmental organizations or NGOs, as they are often called, are an important development partner. First let me say that support of NGO projects is already done in

Yemen in two ways - through the small projects embassy fund, and through the IDAS, which I have

through the IDAS, which I have mentioned earlier. Second, we finance NGO projects through German NGOs. In other words, a Yemeni NGO has to link up with a German NGO before we can get involve in financing or otherwise.

In Yemen, there aren't many active NGOs, and when they are active, they are geographically limited

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In any case, I believe, this is an area in which we expect much expansion in the future

O: Let us look at the future. How do you see Yemeni-German association and the continued flow of German assistance?

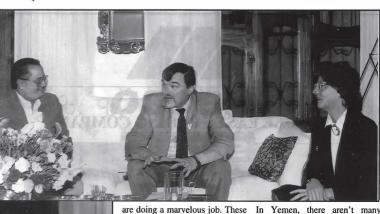
A: I see no problem in the future and I believe our association will

continue strongly in the future. Of course, the economic and political evolution of Yemen will determine such an association. We value highly your country's efforts to democratize. When I efforts to democratize. When I read the Yemen Times, and I read it regularly in my office in Germany, I can see there is freedom of the press in Yemen. I think a pluralist political system, respect for human rights, and freedom of the press are all pre-requisite and necessary condi-tions for continued German assis-tance. I believe those conditions tance. I believe those conditions will continue to be met by the Yemeni authorities.













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London Conference on Yemen "Nothing Spectacular"

During the 25-26th of November, SOAS of the Juring the 25-26th of November, SOAS of the University of London organized a conference on Yemen. Papers were presented by American, Austrian, British, Egyptian, French, Iraqi, Lebanese, Russian, Syrian, and Yemeni politicians and andired existing the presence upper and political scientists. In general, the papers were balanced and objective.

Several panel commentators enriched the discussion sessions which were lively, to say the least. The overall attitudes can be summarized by the fol-

lowing observations: 1. No one disputed the issue of Yemeni unity, which all sides supported and said was a national

which all sides supported and said was a haddnai goal and achievement. 2. All sides agreed that the war was a sad event, although there was visible disagreement regarding who and how it was started, and the purpose behind it. All sides agreed to shun any violence, and to resort to only peaceful means in interacting with the politics of Yemen.

conversation).

correspondence.

4 - Yemeni Nationals preferred.

3. There was concensus that the ruling regime in Sanaa was anything but a model. There is need to

4. The coming elections were seen as a milestone in Yemen's political evolution, if they are done right. There was much apprehension they will not be

5. There was much apprenension they will not be done right, if at all. 5. There was a concensus that the country needed state-building, but the visions diverged regarding how to go about it. The Document of Pledge and Accord was seen by many as still a useful vehicle for this number. for this purpose.

6. The economic difficulties of Yemen were the focus of attention, as speaker after another thrashed out statistics to prove the gravity of the economic situation. All sides agreed reforms were necessary, but there were divergent points of views whether the IMF/World Bank sponsored packages will do

the job. 7. The need for cooperation between the opposition

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in exile and inside Yemen was repeated, although no format was established in the conference. It was agreed to hold post-conference closed meetings to determine ways to link up. 8. There was a clear division between the opposi-

8. There was a clear division between the opposition in exile and the opposition in Yemen regarding many issues, especially regarding the interaction with the rulers in Sanaa. The Yemen opposition seemed more "pragmatic".
9. Among the senior opposition in exile politicians who attended were Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri, Salem Saleh Mohammed, Abdullah Al-Asnaj, Mohsen Bin Farid, Suleiman Nasser, Anees Hassan Yahia, Ali Abdul-Rahman Saleh, etc.
10. Among the senior opposition politicians in Yemen who attended were Omar Al-Jawi (Yemeni Unionist Party), Ali Saleh Obad (YSP), Mohammed Al-Maqaleh and Abdul-Karem Al-Kheiwany (Hizbul-Haq), Hassan Al-Odaini (The Nasserite Unionist Party), etc.
11. Among leading public figures attending were Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Mohammed Abdul-

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Malik Al-Mutawakkil, 12. Among Yemeni University professors who attended were Dr. Hassan Bazara, Dr. Abdulaziz Tarmoom, Dr. Mohammed Abubakar Mohsen, Dr. Mohammed Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Mahmood Jamal, etc. 13. Among leading Chief editors of newspapers who attended were Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (Yemen Times), Hisham Ba-Shraheel (Al-Ayyam), Ahmed Tarboosh (Al-Wahdawi), Abdul-Bari Taher (Al-Thawri), Abdullah Sa'ad (Al-Shoura), and many editors and journalists. 14. Among leading university professors interested in Yemen who attended were Dr. Michael Hudson (Georgetown University), Dr. Robert Burrowes

(Georgetown University), Dr. Robert Burrowes (University of Washington), Dr. George Joffe (London (Lancaster University), Dr. Barbara Allen Roberson (University) of Warwick), Dr. George Joffe (London University)

University). 15. Among leading world scholars on Yemen who attended were Liesl Graz, Dr. Ursula Braun, Maria Holt, John Roberts, Brian Whittaker, etc. More on page 7

Our Rights, and . . . Then Peace !

Lebanon, is the smallest state in the Fertile Crescent. It is a pic-turesque country with a proud people who have significantly developed a strong attachment to freedom and democracy and an advanced understanding of what advanced understanding of what modern institutions and systems are all about. In addition, the Lèbanese people have developed knack for trade; aptly so as the descendants of the Phoenicians. But the Lebanese have also availed in more a perfection excelled in many a profession including accounting, finance, engineering, administration, journalism and even coiffure.

But Lebanon sadly became a showdown area of many regional showdown area of many regional forces which took advantage of Lebanon's democracy and openness. The "civil war" of Lebanon was a sad epoch, but something that all sides want to put behind them. The biggest obstacle to stability in the country is the refusal of Israel to withdraw from a southern strip of Lebanon, the so-called "security buffer", to

called "security buffer", to "deter" Palestinian guerrillas' intrusions into northern Israel. The Palestinians have left, but the Israelis insist on staying because now it is talking about the Lebanese danger to its border.

In any ease, much can be said of Lebanon, whose people have left their impact in as far a place as the two Americas, for more than several generations. On the occasion of Lebanon's

national day, Yemen Times inter-viewed Lebanese Ambassador Hassan Saleem Barro. Yassin Al-Haj filed the following interview:



Yemeni-Lebanese relations are

A: From the day of my arrival in Sana'a, I met with the Yemeni leadership and was greeted with enthusiasm. I get all the support I need from the Yemeni people and authorities in doing my work. Our relationships are very good. I expect more in the future, espe-

cially in trade and tourism. As both Lebanon and Yemen witness more stability, significant progress in this relationship at all levels are expected.

Q: What do you think of the "normalization" of relations with Israel?

A: I think peace will come, since powerful international entities are involved in pursuing it. We do want peace, but peace must come to restore our rights. It must be a just and comprehensive peace. We hope that the Israelis follow new approaches to settle disputes and that they withdraw from the occupied territories, in Lebanon or Syria, in accordance with the pertinent international resolu-tions. We are waiting for peace.

O: What is the situation now in Lebanon?

A: We are now in the second stage of our reconstruction. One can quickly see that Lebanon has become a workshop. Much progress has been made.

Q: What is the importance of

the 21st of November? A: It was on the 21st of November, 1943, when Lebanon became independent. Basically it is the birthdate of modern modern Lebanon.

Q: Any final words?

A: I renew my gratitude to the Yemeni leadership, headed by General Ali Abdulla Saleh, for their unfailing support for the Lebanese people. I also thank their efforts to bring about Arab reconciliation and solidarity.

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O: What new developments in there?

<u>Common</u> Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS THE CURE

"Read all about it, the second dose of the govern-ment's reform program is coming," the young boy was shouting at the top of his voice. The two guys sitting in the restaurant could hear his voice coming almost through the glass. One of them said as he angrily crushed the cigarette in the ashtray:

ashtray: "Oh really! Now, the second does is coming! God help us, we have not even gotten over the fantastic ilts of the first dose."

You doctors should not care, first dose; second "You doctors should not care, first dose; second does, what does it matter to you? There are plenty of disposable syringes. Its the butts that have to take those doses that really feel them!" said his companion, Fouad, who is a social worker and has a strong inclination for political criticism. The doctor could not, at first, understand whether his friend was complaining about the medical pro-fession or about what the newspaper boy was shouting. So he retorted, "Our doses relieve people from illness whereas the government's doses never go beyond the skin tissues of the sick economy this go beyond the skin tissues of the sick economy this country is suffering from!" Fouad was not sure whether to hit at the pro-fessional confidence of his medical friend, who had

studied high school with him 15 years ago, or to lay everything out against the medical profession and the government's tireless efforts to cure the ills of the economy. "I think there is a strong similarity between the way you guys handle sick people and the way the government handles the sick economy. However you guys talk nicer to the sick people Our government has trouble talking to those who are well, let alone those who are sick."

The doctor just wanted to stick to the government's treatment of the economy, for he liked the way his friend criticized the government and the politicians. "Look Fouad. Our government has concluded that its first phase of reform was successful. Delega-tions to and from the World Bank and IMF have spoken in praise of the government's efforts. The Prime Minister has made it clear to Parliament that the future for Yemen promises to be a rich and

"Stop right there!" cut in Fouad. "Don't tell me about what the Prime Minister said or what the World Bank said or what those suitcase officials speak of. Come see the thousands of cases of poverty stricken families and the awesome suf-



TIMES

fering they go through. Families whose-bread-winners have killed themselves because they can't manage to feed the kids. Respectable families whose children have been rounded up by the criminal investigations department, because these children have been forced to become swindlers or ick-pockets to try to come up with the loot to feed heir families, because the father cannot find a job. their their families, because the father cannot find a job. Good families, who kept their women secluded and chaste, that have to send their young daughters to street intersections and risk being molested and insulted by "dirty" boys driving the cars of their big government official fathers. You do not know that the first dose is really an overdose of hell for these people. We go home sick everyday from all the suf-fering we see! In our work, all the prescriptions you doctors can write will do nothing to relieve the ill-nesses of the people we have to deal with." Dr. Ibrahim wanted to get away from the tragic conditions his friend was battering him with. "You have to understand that the national economy needs long term treatment before its effects start to filter

long term treatment before its effects start to filter

long term treatment before its effects start to filter down to all the brackets of society." "Short range or long range, government economic remedies only work for the rich and the powerful. They only have a negative impact on the majority of the malcontent and the deprived of the society. They put the rapidly diminishing middle class, in a demeaning way." The Doctor was putting out the government's argu-ments. "You must remember what the secessionists have done!?"

have done!?

have done!?" "You are not going to sing that song to me, are you? The Secessionists, the Imamate, the Reac-tionaries, the Bourgeoisie/Capitalists . . . etc. We have heard all of them monster names, which our different governments for more than 30 years have told us are the source of all our troubles. That record is broken; you hatter change it "

record is broken; you better change it." "Anyway," the doctor said, changing the record indeed, "what do you think of the second dose? From what I have read, it is bound to decrease the From what I have read, it is bound to decrease the government's budget deficit by boosting govern-ment revenues; customs rates will rise as the official exchange rate reflects market rates, a petro-leum or gasoline price rise means added govern-ment income, the utilities will now have a chance to break even and may become self-sustaining without need for government subsidy; the Central

Bank's new treasury bills will provide the govern-Banks new treasury bins will provide the govern-ment with liquidity without having to print new money. There are so many other measures that will improve the government's financial position." Fouad stopped eating after hearing his friend give a lecture on the coming financial developments, as the World Bank would only be pleased to hear. He remarked. "Beautiful music to my ears. Do you

remarked. "Beautiful music to my ears. Do you really believe that the same mob that messed up the financial situation in government can straighten it out again? As far as the real sufferers of our dif-ficult economic and financial conditions are conficult economic and financial conditions are con-cerned, these remedies are like you doctors pro-posing to cut off the right hand of a guy who came to you for treatment of second degree burns in his left hand, on the argument that the pain of the amputation will make the patient forget the pain in the left hand I know, my mistake was to choose to go into social work at such an opportune time when misery and suffering seems to have become the hobby of our government. Tell me, how much can you burden the people with higher costs of living. you burden the people with higher costs of living, when at least a third of the national work force cannot find jobs to make an honest living and those who are working or living on fixed incomes find their earnings dwindle every day. Improving gov-ernment revenues will only give comfort to our cutthroat officials and an assurance that they can continue to bleed government coffers with added confidence. Your news only makes me visualize serious social unrest brewing, in the near future, which is bound to lead to more crime and social disobedience

The doctor tried to boost the morale of his friend: "Fouad, increased oil production and the export of gas will create new jobs and provide better incomes in the near future. It is just a matter of time and you

in the near future. It is just a matter of time and you will see that the only people who will be out of work are social workers. There is enough for everyone in the wealth to come. If you add Aden becoming a free port, then all I can say is that the sky is the limit to our coming prosperity!" Fouad was quick to respond. "Given the way our government manages things, you cannot even expect relief to get us to stand straight right here on earth, even if every backyard had an oil well gushing! Where is the present oil revenue going? The people in the street swear that they do not see any of it going their way. The only people to benefit from all that you say are the same people who have been the very source of the discontent of the people From all that you say are the same people who have been the very source of the discontent of the people of Yemen for so many years - the government offi-cials, the sheikhs, the upper merchant class; all of whom will continue to sponge off the returns before even giving the government a chance to use some of the money to clean up the streets from all the wet and dry filth that has overwhelmed the country.

and ary fifth that has overwhethed the country. "Nobody believes anything the government says anymore. You can continue to play the same tunes the government media puts out. But I hope you are not expecting me to buy their music, are you?" Fouad was not sure if his friend was sincere in his arguments on behalf of the government. Ibrahim then decided to reflect a feel for his friend's concarre. "Where do you think the remedy line?"

concerns. "Where do you think the remedy lies?

"My good doctor, the cure is reforming the govern-ment!" said Fouad. "But we have already seen new appointments," the

"But we have already seen new appointments." the doctor pointed out. "Dr. Ibrahim, you know and I know that the musical chairs game our officials have been playing, every now and then, do not lead to any improvement in the functioning of government. For how long has this prime minister been prime minister? For how long have many of our ministers been ministers and senior members of the government bureaucracy? The government reforms I am talking about requires an overhaul of the system and organizational set up, the activation of controls and the confirmation that honesty becomes the rule rather than the exception." Fouad hoped that his friend now understood.

Triend now understood. "Fouad, we have democracy now in Yemen," said Ibrahim. "The channels are there for people to let the government know how they feel. The govern-ment is bound to react to criticism by instituting more effective reforms. Don't you agree?" "God only knows how much ink has been wasted and how many voices have been lost tring to get

"God only knows how much ink has been wasted and how many voices have been lost trying to get the government to see light. But, to no avail. Moreover we have a parliament that seems to perform only 5% of its real duties. Its agenda is clogged with trivia and side issues that fail to even touch on the real concerns of the majority of our people, who had counted on their delegates in par-liament to put a halt to all the fun that the boys have been having for so long." Fouad pointed out that one of the main pillars of democracy is to hold offi-cials accountable. cials accountable

"Democracy is a way of thinking that comes with effective applications and acceptable forms of effective applications and acceptable forms of behavior recognized, respected and adhered to by all members of society, even if a loss is entertained by any given party or individual. I tend to agree with you that we still have far to go in the institu-tion of democratic ideas and practice." Found added: "More important, the people of the country have to feel a greater sense of importance

country have to feel a greater sense of important, the people of the country have to feel a greater sense of importance and involvement in the society they live in, no matter what bracket they come from. They must find a way to make sure that their opinions are given the rightful weight in the decision making process. On the other hand, the law must be applied to all matters with equal effect on all members of to all matters with equal effect on all members of society.

Anyway, this is a totally different subject. Let's return to the issue of the second dose of reforms as the government calls it. As a doctor and intellectual, how do you see the treatment or remedy to be for our pitiful conditions?"

Dr. Ibrahim was ready with his answer. "I am a doctor of medicine, not an economist. But I am of the opinion that there is a real need in reforming our way of thinking as a government and as a people. For the former, it does not seem likely that they are going to be reformed in anyway, no matter how many dosages they are given, unless the latter realize that only they can get the former to shape up or which any or ship out!





Paper Presented to the London Conference on Yemen THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF REFORMS

There is now a lot of literature concerning the tran-sition of countries towards systems that are more market-oriented and friendly to democratic rule. Many countries which had a history of author-itarian rule and state-directed economies have now entered into what is sometime called a dual transi-tion. Yean can be included into this cataoort tion. Yemen can be included into this category. Yet, it occupies a peculiar position. It is the only country that added the more difficult challenge of boold with the state of the sta

country was an obvious dimension of the crisis that led to the internecine war of 194. Bit it would be wrong to believe that the rulers of Yemen, preoccupied with their in-fighting and rivalry, entirely neglected the economy. Turning back to the period between the proclamation of unity in 1990 and the adoption of a program of economic, administrative and financial reform last March, one is struck less by the paucity than by the wealth of ambitious but little-implemented reform plans.

plans. The first was introduced by Prime minister Haider Al-Attas in 1991. At the Geneva donors' meeting of July 1992, the Yemeni government made new of July 1992, the Yemeni government made new pledges of reforms in exchange for sustained development aid. Similar promises appeared in the austerity program published after the urban riots of December 1992. The Document of Pledge and Accord, presented in January 1994 by the National Dialogue Committee, which included representatives of most political parties, also devoted a conspicuous place to the issue of economic reform. 1995, of course, witnessed more reform plans and nledges.

1995, of course, witnessed more reform plans and pledges. The reason why so many plans were designed is obvious. When the two parts of Yemen united in may 1990, they were both in a dire economic situa-tion that only worsened in the following years. The former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) had lost the financial support of its socialist allies. Foreign currency incomes were minimal, apart from limited remit-tances and the export of sea products, raw hides and honey. Production of crude oil had started in the Shabwa field, but remained at low levels. Agri-cultural production had been severely hampered by

the Shabwa field, but remained at low levels. Agri-cultural production had been severely hampered by collectivist policies and industrial establishments owned and run by the state had a low productivity and produced goods of poor quality. The former Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) had always been more market-oriented and ben-efited much more from the remittances of its numerous workers in the Gulf and the West. As the volume of remittances started to decrease in the mid-eighties, oil production/exports from the Marib field provided the government with new revenues. The YAR was also able to obtain large amounts of grants/credits from multilateral/bilateral donors. Unfortunately, mismanagement and a high level of corruption did not allow optimal use of resources. After unity, officials thought that the new country would receive massive help from the same donors who encourage the afore-mentioned dual transition of the economic and political system. An influx of private investments from rich Yemeni migrants and from foreign companies was also expected. This optimistic plan never materialized. Not only was foreign aid from a number of countries ter-minated due to Yemen's position on the Gulf crisis, but the country was doubly punished by the sudden return of close to a million of its workers and their families.

families. Needless to

say, foreign capital stayed away, Needless to say, foreign capital stayed away, except for oil investments that provided the govern-ment with millions of US dollars in signature bonuses upon signing of concession agreements. Added to these came the savings brought back by the returnees who had to live off them before trying their luck as day-workers, taxi-drivers or shop-owners owners.

owners. These two sources of incomes plus the remainder of foreign aid and expanding oil-exports offered the government enough breathing-space to repeatedly postpone the implementation of the reforms that the country needed. itry needed.

In the meantime, the economic situation continued to worsen since the country has taken the habit of living way above its means. Regular printing of vast quantities of new bills was another short-term solution that only accelerated the rate of inflation. Before giving some indicators of the growing crisis of the economy, one must concentrate on the figure

of the economy, one must concentrate on the figure that should be of great concern to anybody inter-ested in the future stability of the country. According to the December 1994 census, the total population Yemen was 15.8 million. The annual growth rate of 3.7% is one of the highest in the world. Growing urbanization and the unexpected addition of returnees in 1990 are putting heavy pressures on an already inadequate urban infra-structures. The countryside does not fare better. It

is either not or under-equipped in terms of schools, health centers, feeder roads and access to clean water. Existing infrastructures are not maintained properly and in many places health centers, for example, are closed because they ran out of drugs and there is no money to pay doctors and nurses. It is such a despairing state that the population will double in less than 20 years if the current growth rate remains the same. Such a growth threatens all efforts of reforms. The only successful way to reduce it is to improve the standard of living and particularly the level of female education. The issue of structural adjustment in Yemen has thus little to do with satisfying the conditions of foreign donors, do with satisfying the conditions of foreign donors, but a lot to do with the political survival of the rulers. Other indicators (drawn from UNDP sources) show

how urgently needed the reforms are: - Unemployment was 20% in 1991. By 1994, it had

reached 37%: - Despite heavy import taxes, the deficit in the current account was almost a billion US dollars in 1994. High custms tariffs is an incentive for massive smuggling; - The exchange rate of the Riyal has been the most

visible indicator of the worsening crisis. In January 1990, 5 months before unity, a devaluation in the YAR brought the official rate at 12 riyals to the dollar. By the end of 1990 there was an active parallel exchange rate market. In the following years, the parallel rate steadily went up. It reached YR 50 per dollar at the end of 1992, the hundred rivals mark was reached during the 1994 war, and when the latest reform program was announced in early 1995, the rate was over 150;

early 1995, the rate was over 150; Efforts by the government to curb the unofficial devaluation of the country's currency were diverse but always in vain. They included arresting money-changers, establishing special rates for import of basic commodities and for oil companies, etc: A lot indicator is the inflation rate which clong

- A last indicator is the inflation rate which, along with unemployment, is taking a heavy toll on the population. Figures for inflation, like all other sta-tistics in Yemen, are to be taken cautiously. Yet the

trend is clear: prices of most goods and services have been increasing at an accelerating pace. According to the UNDP, the annual inflation rates were 15% in 1991, 50% in 1992, 70% in 1993, and more than 100% in 1994.

Following the May-July war in 1994, the govern-ment started to blame its former socialist partner for the delay in correcting economic imbalances. New promises of quick reform were made. Pres-sures from the World Bank and the IMF were also growing and the cost of the war had to be added as

a new, burden on the economy. Immediately after his re-election as President of the Republic, General Ali Abdallah Saleh launched a Republic, General An Addanan Salen Jahnched a new slogan of "Rising Against Corruption". Up to date, not one prominent personality known for exploiting the parallel exchange market or engaged in illegal activities have been arrested. In fact, cor-ruption and disorder continue to grow in prevalence and volume.

and volume. But the economy also suffers from a number of other problems such as the low productivity of agriculture, the negative impact of expanding qat production and consumption, inadequate legal protection becoming an obstacle to foreign invest-ments, and the dominance of vested interests within a tightly knit ratroage system that prevents for a tightly-knit patronage system that prevents fair

competition. It was only in March 1995 that the government started implementing parts of a new reform program. In January it had already adopted a decree organizing the privatization of about 130 public-owned establishments. Until then the Yemeni Socialist Party and the trade-unions had been hostile or were putting unacceptable conditions. But even without socialist ministers, the government had a hard time to design its program of reforms. The announcement was preceded by a public row between the ruling partners, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the People's General Congress. The Islah party, positioning itself as a defender of the poor and oppressed, fol-lowing its Islamic orientation, was calling for radical measures intending to destroy corruption and make the economic system more fair and transradical measures intending to destroy corruption and make the economic system more fair and trans-parent. Among its demands were a proper evalua-tion of the number of government employees, including numerous absentee members of the security and army apparatus. Current estimates show there are of more than 900,000 people the government's payroll. Islah also demanded the creation of Islamic banks and a reform of the Zakat (Islamic alms) collection system. Underlying these demands were on-going efforts by Islah politicians and businessmen to establish their own business network that would include new corporations or corporations taken-over from the PDRY's former public sectors. Demands for social justice are thus used to allow for the creation of a network of busi-nesses that would compete with the existent one which is one of the pillars of the President's ruling system. At the end, the reform program announced in

March and subsequent measures were certainly not as radical as Islah expected, but they were wide-ranging enough to give the impression that, for once, the government was serious about starting the structural adjustment of the economy. One negative point was that the government did not care to point was that the government did not care to involve the opposition parties in the program. A chance to build a broad-based consensus was lost. A conference organized by the PGC to discuss economic reforms took place in May 1995, but by then the opposition had already condemned the program as too little and too late. As violent reactions were expected the government

As violent reactions were expected, the government was careful to position security forces in the major towns to prevent an outburst of public anger against the reforms. Despite calls for calm and heavy police and army deployment, riots broke out in Aden, al-Beidha and Dhamar. Worse, the value of the riyal continued to drop until in July, it plum-meted to an all-time low of 160 to the dollar. Many Yemenis had hoped that after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Arabia in February. Saudi assistance would be resumed. But even after a visit to Saudi Arabia of President Saleh in June, Saudi funding did not come and the rush to passports offices for a possible reopening of the Saudi labor market proved just as illusory. By July, the rise of the dollar provoked a series of

price-rises of many basic commodities and threatened to create social unrest. In order to deflate this ened to create social unrest. In order to deflate this risk the government reneged on its official policy and encouraged massive imports of cheap goods from Saudi Arabia and waived all import taxes. Together with the usual arrest of money-changers it created a successful deflationary pressure but also dealt a costly blow to the big merchant houses that had expected to sell imported commodities paid at previous free market dollar prices. Traders and importers were signed out and blamed

previous free market dollar prices. Traders and importers were singled out and blamed for high prices whereas a handful of other traders who quickly went into officially approved smug-gling of goods from Saudi Arabia made good profits. This was one of the first clear cases of the government putting political interest, with the risk of social unrest, above the political interest, with the risk of social unrest, above the imperative of

economic reforms. The value of the dollar plunged to 70 riyals in late July but returned to the losing side of the reforms. Private sector employees who did not benefit from cost of living allowances or real salary-rises were doubly hit by the reform program. The decision, emphasized by the govern-ment, to leave the price of cooking gas and diesel unchanged can be interpreted as a gesture toward Yemen's poor, particularly its rural population. The Government which depends on the support of the tribal population, has every interest in keeping diesel prices low. After all diesel is mostly used for water-pumps in the countryside and for long-distance trucking. Both are activities dominated by economic reforms. The value of the dollar plunged

7/

distance trucking. Both are activities dominated by tribesmen.

Social groups that are protected from the harshness of the measures are government employees in general, while touching/downsizing the military and security remains a taboo.

security remains a taboo. To sum up, and not surprisingly, the government took the limited risk of antagonizing groups it does not fear. In the long run, the current reform steps will certainly prove insufficient, difficult decisions will have to be taken. To what extent will the gov-ernment be ready to alienate some of its old allies, including at the highest level remains to be seen? Another dimension to think about is the political repercussions of the reforms. Key to successful economic adjustment in other countries has been a broad political support for the reforms often

broad political support for the reforms often expressed through an elected parliament's approval.

expressed through an elected parliament's approval. A late rediscovery of the original principle of the British democracy, "No taxation without repre-sentation". The alternative would be a strong gov-ernment able to impose its will even on long-time friends who might suffer in the process. According to its electoral calendar Yemen is now poised for a renewal of its Parliament in April 1997. Yet there is no case of a government taking harsh economic measures before elections, especially when coalition partners will most probably become electoral rivals. The contradiction between good electoral rivals. The contradiction between good economics and bad politics seems obvious, unless the government really believes that a few cosmetic measures will satisfy the IMF and World Bank.

By: Renault Detalle, PhD Researcher,

French Center for Yemeni Studies, Sanaa.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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SOAS Workshop on: "The Hadhrami Diaspora"

By: Linda Boxberger. University of Texas at Austin

A workshop entitled "South Arabian Migration Movement in the Indian Ocean: The Hadhrami Case, c. 1750 to c. 1967" was held at the School of Case, c. 1750 to c. 1967 Was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the Uni-versity of London from April 27-29, 1995. The workshop focused on the unique culture and history of Hadramaut and its emigrant communities which span the Indian Ocean region. The event, organized by Dr. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. William Gervase Clarence-Smith of the Center of Near and Middle Factorn Studies at SOAS was represented Gervase Clarence-Smith of the Center of Near and Middle Eastern Studies at SOAS, was sponsored by the European Science Foundation, with assis-tance from the British Academy, Inchcape PLC, and SOAS. Participants came from the UK, US, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, East Africa, and Saudi Arabia, representing the dis-ciplines of Islamic studies, anthropology, history, sociology, and literature. The subject of Hadhrami migration crossed not only disciplinary boundaries, but also the conventional geographic boundaries which divide the area studies of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. the Middle East.

More than thirty papers contributed by participants formed the foundation for three days of roundtable discussions on the following topics: Economic Origins of Emigration from Hadhramaut and the Economic Impact on Hadhramaut of the Diaspora; Political Origins of Emigration from Hadhramaut Political Origins of Emigration from Hadhramaut and the Political Impact on Hadhrami Society; Religious Divisions Between Hadhramis; Hadhrami Social Identity in Relation to host Soci-eties in the Diaspora; Hadhrami Roles in the internal Politics of host Societies; Economic Niches Occupied by the Hadhramis in Host Soci-eties; Relations of the Hadhramis with other ettes; Relations of the Hadhramis with other Diaspora; the Hadhramis and Colonial Rule. Each topic was introduced by a discussant who gave a summary overview of the topic, indicating salient points from carious workshop papers and raising issues for further discussion.

During the three days of lively and sometimes con-tentious discussions, new questions were con-tinually raised and old assumptions were ques-tioned. How do you define Hadhrami communities of the diaspora? Do you count number of genera-tions away from the homeland and how do you take into account self-identity of the community members? What were the political and economic

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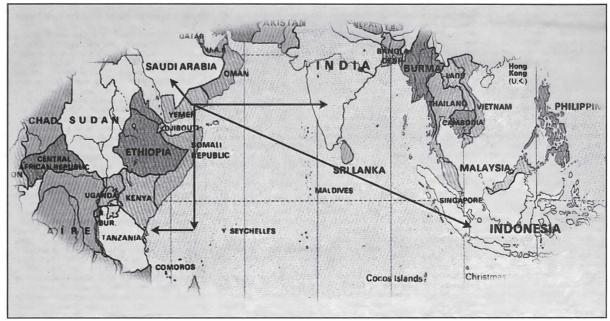
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"push and pull" factors contributing to emigration? How did they differ for emigrants of different social strata and economic class? How was emigration affected by the economic cycles of the host com-munities and the Indian Ocean region as a whole? What were the relationships'between the homeland and the diaspora communities and among different Hadhrami communities of the diaspora? Between emigrants and the host communities? Between new emigrants and the foreign-born in the emigrant communities? To what extent was the social stratcommunities? To what extent was the social stratification system prevalent in the homeland rep-licated in the diaspora? How did marriage function as a means of assimilation into the host communities and how did different marriage patterns of host communities affect the process of assimilation? What was the religious influence of Hadhrami emigrants in the region? How much of their influ-

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نقدم يوروستار-٩٥٠ جهاز التقاط بث الاقنية الفضائية الأول في العالم بقائمة برمجة باللغة العربية We present Eurostar-950 The first Arabic-language programmable receiver.

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يوروستار العالمب

الوكلاء الوحيدون في الجمهورية اليمنية:

محلات الرضا للتجارة العامة

س. ب. ۲۵۲۵۳، هاتف: ۲۱٤۱۱۰۶ - ۲٤۹۹۸۹، فاکس: ۲۱٤۱۰

جهاز التقاط بث الأقنية الفضائية الذي يستخدم لغتك!

A Receiver that can display in the Arabic language!

ĈNN

MENU. TUNE

ence was direct, due to proselytizing, and how much indirect, due to their example and inter-marriage? What were the advantages and dis-advantages of the colonial rule for Hadhrami emigrant communities? How did the colonial powers' percention of the University of the colonial powers' perception of the Hadhrami communities correspond to those communities self-perceptions and to reality? What role did Hadhrami communities play in anti-colonial and nationalist move-ments of their adopted countries?

Discussions were frequently punctuated with calls for additional research in order to provide a fuller picture of this unique culture of migration. Further study of Hadhramaut and its emigrant communities is needed to identify the "social technologies" available in the "cultural tool-kits" (in Abdalla Bujra's terms) employed by Hadhrami emigrants which enabled them to survive and thrive in different host communities, economies, ad colonial environments

At the same time, further study of the emigrant communities and the social, economic, and political communities and the social, economic, and political conditions surrounding them in the host community environment is needed to elucidate the differing courses of development which took place in dif-ferent areas of the region. This workshop provided a first step in the process of bringing together those familiar with the Arabian homeland of Hadhramaut with specialists in the societies which hosted with specialists in the societies which hosted Hadhrami emigrants. One hopes that there will be more opportunities in the future for collaboration across disciplinary and area studies boundaries in order to illuminate this unique aspect of Indian Ocean history.

From: Yemen Update, Summer/Fall 1995, # 37

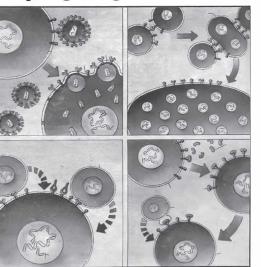
Yemen's Campaign Against Aids

The 1st of December of each year has been designated as the World Aids Day. On this day, the world is alerted to the dangers of this killer disease by the media which

killer disease by the media which carries different warnings. Here in Yemen, the Government has finally decided to drop its half-hearted shy approach to this problem. "Our Government used to believe it is shameful to acknowledge the presence of this acknowledge the presence of this disease in Yemen. Now that the problem has forced itself on all of us, given the rising number of cases, the attitude has changed,"

cases, the attitude has changed. explained one medical doctor. Today, all kinds of experts, medical doctors, preachers, social researchers, and others are given air time on television, the radio, and in the official newspapers. The message is also carried through the mosques, schools, clubs, and even government offices, whose walls are decorated with various kinds of warnings. There are, of course, three ways which the virus is transmitted. The

first and foremost is sexual contact with a "carrier". This is probably the most worrisome to the Yemeni government, as 75% of the cases, government, as 75% of the cases, especially among the young, are inflicted through anonymous sex. Aden city, which has taken the boldest stand against aids, not because it is the most plagued, but because it is able to address the issue more openly is now begin. issue more openly, is now begin-ning to publish data on the number of victims. According to hospital sources, there are now over 280 documented cases in Aden city. These are the patients which receive whatever medical-treatment can be given. The second way the disease is



transmitted is through the use of contaminated blood. The blood banks of Yemen are adequately equipped to guard against con-tamination. Therefore, it has become hazardous to take a blood infusion from any existing stock As a result, most patients get their donors - and after the necessary checks - execute the blood transfer directly.

Yemen has no real drug problems to worry about transmission of the disease through contaminated drug needles.

The third and final way in which aides is transmitted is from mothers to their newborn babies. Again here, the magnitude of the

problem is small. The Ministry of Health, in col lab-oration with the World Health Organization's Office in Yemen, have published a lot of literature, posters, stickers, booklets, etc., alerting individuals to the dangers of aidee One friebtenjing sticker of aides. One frightening sticker

of aides. One frightening sticker reads: "Every day, aides claims 6000 new victims. Don't be one of them." Another reads: "Aides is a disease that stays with you until it kills you. Beware of it." The Yemeni campaign has just started, and it is already making a mark mark.

By: Ramzy Al-Saggaf, Yemen Times.



Think It Over with Us, Will You ?

Think it over with us, will you? With a picture

In order to tackle a problem, we should first understand what the problem really is and what are its main causes. I have read several articles and attended some miniconferences concerning the state of education in Yemen and its dif-ficulties. In fact in each article and conference, many of those difficulties have been discussed and a big number of suggestions have been given to help overcome them. But all th articles and conferences ignored, in my opinion, one main point which really obstructs the

process of learning specially at the village level. I would like to seize this opportunity and shed light on this obstacle which I personally experienced

experienced. Two months ago I went to visit a sister of mine who lives in a village 40 km far from Sana'a. There I met many people and had friendly chats with them. Since it was my first visit, my brother-in-law took me round. While we were sightseeing, we saw a quite small building which looked dif-ferent from all other houses. We approached it and it was the school of the village

ferent from all other houses. We approached it and it was the school of the village. I couldn't believe what I saw. The school building could almost be written-off. The windows were all broken and there were no doors. The classes were dirty and dogs were all over the place. It seemed as if no one had used it for decades. "This must be he old school. It is no longer in use and there must the old school. It is no longer in use and there must be a new one." I told myself. But my brother-in-law surprised me by saying, "This is the only school we have here and is the one we use." I was shocked and turned my face to him and we had the following talk:

When was this school built?

When was this school out?:
More than 16 years ago.
What about chairs? I can see none.
Students here never sit on chairs. They sit on the

build - What's the total number of students here?

Just a few and they are all boys.
And girls? I suppose they go to another school.
(Laughing) No, girls never go to school. It is a stigma to teach girls here. I can say that no female in our village can even read or write here. They just help by working in the fields, and of course,

at home. And strangely enough, even the boys do not continue their education. None has reached the secondary stage. They always leave school early and join the army or go to cities to work as waiters or brick layers. - But why? - It is simply due to them. I mear

they are never serious about their studies. They are usually irregular in their attendance and they default. They don't like learning at all

all.
What about their parents?
It is really difficult to explain their role. Unfortunately most of the parents if not all are illiterates.
They seldom encourage their They seldom encourage their children to pursue education. Moreover, they prefer

their kids helping them on the farms. - And teachers? Don't you think they can encourage

the students?

I really sympathize with them. They are not respected by many villagers. You know what happened last year. An Arab teacher slightly punished a naughty pupil. As the result of this, the father of the kid came to school accompanied with three men. He immediately started scolding the teacher accuring him that he was merely a begreen. teacher accusing him that he was merely a begger. Not only this but he also threatened him with a gun and asked him to leave the village

Now let us ask ourselves the following question: Is it enough to provide villages with schools and teachers in order to elevate the process of learning there?

there? I think not. what I have mentioned above is an evidence of the general attitude. Having a school built is not doing the job especially in villages. We should think of some strategies by which we can first convince the villagers of the importance of edu-cation. For instance, the headmaster should be bible mediate attention what here are a should be cation. For instance, the headmaster should be highly-qualified and tactful so that he can arrange friendly meetings with parents. In such meetings the headmaster can gradually enhance and strengthen the relationship between teachers and fathers. This, in my opinion, might help improve the learning attitude in villages. In conclusion, I would like to invite the readers' suggestions which will help reaching hetter results. reaching better results

By: Abdullah Saleh Al-Hashedi Al-Kindi Language Institute, Taiz

ACTIVIATING THE BANKERS' ASSOCIATION

Yahia Addailamy, Chairman of the Yemen Bankers' Association (YBA), and his colleagues in the newly-elected board (Please refer to box), are working overtime to activate the YBA. "We are considering many options. We have taken up an independent office for the YBA - thanks to the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development," he said.

ment," he said. Mr. Addailamy, who is also a leading banker at the YBRD, spoke of a newsletter, regular meetings among bankers, seminars, getting involved with the banking institute, and other forms of activities. "We are also hoping to get more and more involved in monetary policies as the country is seriously trying to come to grips with the sector's problems." he indicated. In an interview with the Yemen Times, the YBA chairman sounded hopeful about the recent moves by the Central Bank of Yemen. Speaking about the plan to issue treasury bills, he said, "I just wish they would have consulted us more on the subject.

they would have consulted us more on the subject. We will in any case interact fully and positively, but it would have helped if they got adequate feedback from those in the business."

feedback from those in the business." On October 1st, representatives of the banks working in Yemen met to elect the board members of the YBA, and they discussed and approved the charter of the association. "That was a milestone charter of the association. "Init was a milestone in the activities and cooperation of the banking community in Yemen. And although the Central Bank of Yemen is not directly involved in the YBA, we actually work with it," Mr. Addailamy indicated indicated.

The main problem facing the Yemeni banking community, according to the YBA Chairman is shortage of adequately trained personnel. "Theresubtrage of adequately trained personnel. "There-fore, I think our first priority is to embark on efforts to train and qualify the local personnel. We will invite experts, and introduce new systems towards that end," he indicated.



YBA Board Members:

- I DA DOaltu IVIEIIIDEIS. Mr. Yahia Addailamy, Chairman, (YBRD) Dr. Ali Al-Bahr, Vice Chairman, (Agribank) Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdany, (YCB) Mr. Mahdi Allawi, (Arab Bank) Dr. Abdul-Kareem Aamer, (Industrial Bank) Mr. Abdullah Al-Barakani, (Agricultural Bank) Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, (Yemen Kuwait) Mr. Mihdhar Al-Saqqaf, (Indosuez Bank) Mr. Zaki Ahmed (United Bank Ltd.) Mr. Bassim Kemal Mahdi (RafidainBank) Mr. Khaled Khainah (National Bank)

An Open Platform for Engineers

is Eng. Saba T. Anam Al-Suleihi, and he invites all engineers to is Eng. Save and he invites all engineers to attend and enrich the talks. Starting at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday, engineers flock to the third floor of the building

which houses the Cement Authority next to Hadda Cinema. Join the group!

Eurostar Launches New Drive in Yemeni Sat/TV Market

EUROSTAR entered the very competitive satellite television receiver and related accessories market, earlier in the year. They offer a full range of products in the line, and they recently introduced a new receiver with a built-in positioner. Yassin Al-Haj interviewed Mr. Mani, Gulf Region Sales Manager, during a reception at the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel.

Q: As this is your first visit to Yemen, what do you think the market potential is for your product?

A: Well, for our products, basically I think we have a good start in this relatively new market. It is only one year since we first entered the Yemen market. We hope we will succeed, and we are gearing for the market. Consumers in Yemen already accept our products, and I hope they will continu to support us.

Q: What do you think of competition in the Yemeni market, especially because you know we have many competitive products and brands?

A: I don't want to compare our products with any other brands. Basically, I want to say we stand out, because as I told you we have the only brand with the complete range of products and accessories. For example, Echo Star does not carry the complete satallite systems. They specialize receivers or some other in products.

On the other hand, EUROSTAR is the only company in the which carries market the complete range of satellite television receiving products.

We also stand out in terms of quality as our products enjoy full and sustained consumer satisfaction. You can basically ask any consumer, and he/she will tell you about our super products.



Q: I think you have had a chance to see the market in Yemen by now. What do you think of your market share?

A: I visited the market twice, and I have been pleasantly surprised. I have only been in Yemen for two days, but I am happy with what I saw and heard.

I also got feedback from our customers, sales dealers, and distributors, all of whom I met. All were pretty confident and happy with our products.

do not see that there are products and services that we cannot take care of. On the whole, I see no major difficulty which we cannot handle.

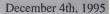
Regarding the market share, I feel I do not have sufficient statistics. In any case, it is very early to judge, because it is only one year that we have introduced Eurostar products in the market. People here have just started getting used to our products. So, I think by my next visit, I can you what the share of tell EURÓSTAR is in the Yemeni market.

Q: You said before that you were going to launch a new kind satellite televsion receiver. What is this receiver?

A: It is a new type of receiver with a built-in positioner. It is a new product by EUROSTAR. and hopefully, it will be the hit of 1996 in the Yemeni market.







A NEW FILM ON YEMENI TRADITIONAL MUSIC: "Yemen's Lost Soul"

By: John Miles*

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Throughout history, the ancient land of Yemen has beckoned many explorers eager to understand the country shrouded in a veil of mystery to the outside world. Even today, Yemen still casts this mystical charm.,

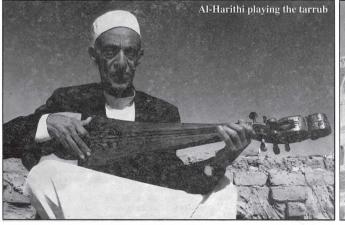
This magical land, once ruled by the legendary Queen of Sheba, is one of the world's oldest inhabited regions. Early explorers, such as Marco Polo visited Yemen known then as "Arabia Felix", where frankincense, myrrh and Mocha coffee all of Felix", which brought fame to this Arabian land.

Arabian land. In spite of its past glory, Yemen has a chequered history of frequent wars, and colonial inva-sions. Although the country unified under the flag of democ-racy in 1990, the land is still governed by tribal laws, adju-orted ouer by choiles. cated over by sheikhs.

In April 1995, a British Film production company, Equilibrium Films, decided to document many facets of Yemen's unique culture and traditions. After seven months of hard work,

After seven months of nard work, the film crew have finally produced three films on Yemen. The films will help bridge the gap in international undergap in international under-standing of the unique cultural traditions of Yemen.

The first film "Yemen's Lost Soul" documents Yemen's traditional musical heritage. Yemeni poetry and song is music.



respected and renowned throughout Arabia. Music, song and poetry, form an integral part of Yemeni an integral part of Yemeni weddings, funerals, qat chewing parties, religious celebrations and various social occasions. The film is about the country's foremost remaining traditional musicians and singers and

records their moving songs intercut with the stunning and majestic scenery of Yemen. The film gives an overview of the country and journeys through the country's desolate villages perched on steep, terraced moun-tainsides and the rich Arabian markets buzzing with local life and color. The musical traditions are as diverse as the countryside

Fruit-flavored Cream Biscuits

though the film explores three representative styles of music from Hadhramaut, Sana'a and Lahei

Until only a few decades ago, during the reign of Imam Yahya (1914-1948), musical instruments, singing, concerts, gram-ophones, radio, dance and theater - were all forbidden. As a result. musicians and singers went underground and per-formed only in secret. Many musicians were imprisoned musicians were imprisoned while some exiled themselves to Aden, Djibouti and Ethiopia. During this period, musicians were ostracised and categorized with the lower "impure" classes of butchers and barbers. It would be seen as a great shame for a

father if his daughter married a musician. Even after the revolumusicians continue tion. receive little respect for their craft.

Many have lost heart as musicians are not paid for their art. In fact, royalty payments hardly exist in Yemen and songs are duplica ed on every street corner. most impossible for a musician to live from It is Yem his/h craft. This is partly due to the profession of 'musician' not being recognized and frowned

being recognized and frowned upon in Yemen. Musicians find their main creative outlet in daily "Magyal" - the afternoon *qat* chewing sessions. Qat is a plant native to Varman ac Ethiopia Yemen or Ethiopia which many musicians claim increases their concentration and their creative energy. Musicians enjoy singing and playing at these important social gatherings where their social gatherings where their lowly status is elevated to that of

a folkloric hero.

Unfortunately, many of the country's great musicians are emigrating to Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, where unlike in Yemen, they are warmly welcomed and receive financial support. Already the art of playing the

four stringed instrument "Tarrub" or "Gambouse", the original oud or lute is fast disappearing. The Tarrub is a pre-Islamic instrument dating back to more than a millennium. It is carefully carved out of a single carefully carved out of a single piece of wood, with goat skin stretched over it to give it res-onance. The painstaking work takes over four months, whereas today's lute-takes a mere 2-3 weeks. There are almost no known craftsmen still making the Tarrub, as the more popular Iraqi and Egyptian lutes have superseded it over the last three decades. Mohammed Ahmed AlHarithi is one of the few remaining traditional musicians who can still master the subtle instrument, as it requires an eagle feather to play it.

Through music and interviews, the musicians give a poignant testimony of their life and frus-trations in Yemen. Yemen's Lost Soul offers a dynamic insight into Yemeni culture, and is a valuable record of a wine a Arabian bland of

of a unique Arabian blend of music which is fast disappearing. Equilibrium Films has a tradition of making anthropological, environmental, and educational documentaries.

* John Miles, the Director and Producer of Yemen's Lost Soul, recently completed a film for PBS shot in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon, examining the culture and mythology of the recently contacted Arara Indians.

Successful Italian Food & Music Festival

Ismail Al-Ghabri. Sanaa Bureau Chief, Yemen Times.

Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa hosted an Italian Food and Music Festival last month. This was one of a series of festivals, and comes immediately following the Welsh food and music festival in October. The Italian festival, like all its predecessors, attracted many visitors. Lovers of Italian food and music

flocked to the hotel as the two chefs and two musicians success-fully gave the whole hotel a distinctive Italian taste and atmos-

"We have been involved in similar kinds of Italian food fes-tivals for long time. We orga-nized them in Dubai, Bahrain, Portugal and Saudi Arabia. But this one in Yemen is unique The Italian cuisine is very rich and diverse with recipes as old as seven centuries which were preserved and developed by genera-tions of professional chefs. We have served some of those dishes in Sanaa, the feedback of the people was extremely positive and encouraging," said Emilio Ozana, the master chef.

Ozana, the master chef. The group brought most of its food ingredients from Italy, although they bought in Sanaa some ingredients, including a black mushroom with very strong taste and odors, along with some other kind of spices. Of course, they also purchased some typical



Italian cheeses - 50 kilograms of

II. The menu was delightful including irresistible variations from starters to deserts. Pastas and pizzas evidently dominated the tebles. the tables.

"Our only regret is that the res-taurant - with its 80 seats - was not enough, as the hotel had a

full house on every evening." "Both of us have a long expe-rience in cocking and cuisine," Mr. Anastasio, the second chef Mr. Anastasio, the second chef said. He manages a school for training chefs in Budapest. He is specialized in making pizza, fish and other assorted dishes. He ran a restaurant for ten years in Bologna. Asked about the possibility of starting an Italian restaurant in

starting an Italian restaurant in Sanaa. the master chef said "it is a good and feasible idea." He

noticed that there was demand for this cuisine.

this cuisine: In the meanwhile, he was willing, and he did leave behind some recipes. His Yemeni assistance at the Sheba hotel were very quick to pick them up. Emilio Ozana said that he didn't have acquab time or concerturing

Emitio Ozana said that he didn't have enough time or opportunity to taste the different varieties of Yemeni cuisine. But his limited exposure, he concluded that "Yemeni food is delicious."

"Yemeni food is delicious." The music played over dinner was traditional and a composite of old and new. In general, it was relaxing and enjoyable. "We are very happy that this festival was a success. I am sure there will other opportunities in the future," stated Mr. Vitaliano Napoleone, Italian Ambassador in Yemen, who played host to the customers. customers.

ingers Cream Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce Ltd.



Over 4000 candidates competed for the 444 seats in parliament last week. Egyptian elections have been completed successfully, with no surprises in the results. President Hosni Mubarak's Nátional Democratic Party (NDP) mercilessly swept everything and everybody in front of it. The real surprise was, however, the chaotic nature of the elections and cries of foul by the

opposition parties. Even though the ruling NDP hailed the elections as a democratic showcase, there have been many reports of complaint that tainted the process. The problems cited are many, but here is a quick run-down:

1. In a nationwide sweep that had began before the elections and continued throughout election day, the police rounded almost a 1000 Islamic political activists, some of whom had been designated by candidates as their observers. As a result, many who are not yet caught by the police, are either in hiding or on the run.

There were also reports of fraud and irregularities which were partially confirmed by human rights groups, diplomats, and foreign observers. 3. There were reports of violence in the streets. In some cases, there were shootouts with several

people killed and injured. Most Yemeni politicians follow the elections in Egypt and how they proceed, because most of what happens in Egypt, in one way or another filters through to affect Yemen. "Either the experience is directly replicated, or at best, aspects of it are copied by us," explained one apprehensive opposition politician. Maybe the 1997 Yemeni elections will show many symptoms of Egypt's last week elections.

THE RIVADH EXPLOSION Who Done It? Saudis !

Evidence has been compiled to point the finger at Saudi nationals as having been responsible for the devastating explosion in Riyadh last month. Six persons have been killed and 60 injured in the interview in that incident.

According to the information gathered by Saudi and American specialists, the perpetrators are now believed to have been dis-gruntled Saudis, though they had

Evidence has been compiled to external support to set up the point the finger at Saudi nationals devices. Even with the 3 million as having been responsible for Saudi Riyals reward, there have been no tangible clues leading to the arrest of the terrorists. Saudi Anabia has two kinds of opposition to the system. There is

an extremist puritanical group which believes the Kingdom is not Islamic enough. This group also wants the infidels (read Americans) out of the country, and is probably the one respon-sible for the blast. Then there is the liberal opposition which seeks to expand the participatory base of the system. This group is not violent and has not taken up arms against the rulers. arms against the rulers.

Meanwhile, King Fahd, 76, was hospitalized last week. Although reports from Riyadh downplayed the event, the King's health is said to be deteriorating.

تعزية تعازينا الحارة للأخ/ وسيم طاهر السقاف وذلك بوفاة والدم المرحوم طاهر محمد عبدالهادي السقاف

الذي وافته المنية يوم السبت ١٢/٢/ ٩٥م في مسَّقط رأسه بالحضارم/تعـز. نسأل الله المولن القدير أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته ويدخله فسيح جناته

ويلهم أهله الصبر والسلوان ول حول ول قوة الا بالله وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون. الأسيغون

د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف وطاقم يمن تايمز، الإستاذ/مصطفى عبدالله السقاف، أجهد عبدالله السقاف، عبدالقادر مغلس، مجهد عبدالله السقاف، خالد عبدالله السقاف، طه محمد عوض الأديمي، رائد عبدالمولى السقاف، عارف أحمد الزريقي، عمَّادِ أُحْمِدِ السقاف، رضاء عبدالرحمن السقاف، وليد عبدالله السقاف نائف عبدالله السقاف، نائف نورالدين السقاف، رضوان علوي السقاف رمزي علوي السقاف، يوسف الشريف وكافة أعضاء جمعية الحضارم الخيرية.

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standard. The independent front suspension and the long wheelbase combine to help smooth the ride.

SOMALIA: Is the UN Undermining the Peace Effort?

Mr Jama Mohammed Ghalib. Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Mohamed Farah Aidid-led government, concluses visit to Yemen which he described as part of a tour of countries. "We are ernment, concluded a ten-day working hard to patch up our country, and we have now put our act together. Even then, we

country, and we have now put our act together. Even then, we do not get a sympathetic ear," he complained. The Aidid government controls about half the country, and other warlords divide the other half among themselves. These include the Ali Mahdi faction which controls part of the capital city Mogadishu and surrounding areas, the SNA faction (remnants of former dictator Siad Barre) of former dictator Siad Barre) of former dictator Stat Barre) which controls parts of the south-western regions of Gedo, Baay and Bakool, and the SNM group which had declared secession in the northern region. The Transitional Government, which before the former of

The Transitional Government, which brings together fifteen of the sixteen movements which had signed the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement in March 1993. "Since then, we have the Nairobi Declaration of March 1994, the Mamorandum of Understanding Memorandum of Understanding of October 14th, 1994, and the final Memorandum of September 15th, 1995. All these are impor-tant steps in confidence building among the Somali factions, and important efforts at rebuilding the nation," the Somali official said

The official was especially bitter about the UN role. "Even as Egypt's Minister of State of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Boutros Ghali, was pushing wrong policies in Somalia to the extent of delivering dissidents to the then-ruler dictator Siad Barre. These were murdered," he said. Foreign Minister Ghalib went on These were murdered," he said. Foreign Minister Ghalib went on to explain that the UN role in Somalia was simply destructive. "Even before taking office as UN Secretary-General at the end of 1991, Boutros Ghali appointed a special representative who did not have any knowledge of the country. Mr. James Jonnah was simply at a loss, and he ended following his boss's directives to folle wing his boss's directives to the letter

When that did not work, a more seasoned envoy was named, Mr. Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun. But he was unable to do his job because Dr. Ghali's directives contra-dicted what he saw as the policies

11

dicted what he saw as the policies to pursue. He quit. "Basically, the UN involvement does more harm than good, even today. Instead of limiting itself to the humanitarian aspect, the UN is trying to shape the future of Somalia," the 15th September 1995 Memorandum complains. The Minister adds, "Even fol-lowing the new initiative to patch the country together, overcome our difficulties and consolidate the peace process, the UN is working hard to undermine this effort."

Derg Trials Start in Ethiopia

The trial of the former rulers of Ethiopia started in Addis Ababa on November 28th. 45 persons which were part of the ruling body, known as the Derg or military junta, ruled the country for nearly two decades after toppling the late Emperor Haile Sellasie. They are accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. 35 of them categorically denied the charges levelled against them by the Special Prosecutor while ten of them refused to reply or even interact with the prosecutor. Included among them is the former Prime Minister, Major Fikire Sillasie Wogderess. The top man, Mengestu Haile Mariam, is also being tried in absentia. The Derg, which introduced a Marxist system in Ethiopia, had ruled the country with an iron fist, aptly termed the reign of "red terror" in which hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians lost their lives, and many more field the country. The trials will be resumed on February 13th, 1996, when the presenter is presented in present

when the prosecutor is expected to present evidence of the atrocities committed by the Derg. The trials are open for local and international observers and lawyers.

By: Afrah Mohammed, emen Times, Addis Ababa,



A REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

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have been short-listed for interview.

135

Légende ou réalité ? Si l'on en croit l'agence officielle, le doven des véménites, décédé il y a peu, avait 135 ans. Ce qui ne serait qu'un ioli exploit si l'on n'ajoutait à cela que l'heureux (?) homme s'était marié 11 fois et avait eu 36 enfants. Ce qui ne serait qu'un détail si l'on n'aioutait que le plus jeune étant âgé de 15 ans, l'heureux papa aurait eu 120 ans au moment de la conception ! Son secret ? Pain complet. miel, et produits laitiers. Allez, au régime. (MFI)

en bref

ARCHITECTURE — L'opéra-tion de préservation du Vieux Sana'a a reçu le prix Aga Khan d'Architecture, à Solo (Indonésie), avec onze autres projets, selectionnés parmi 442 canselectionnés parmi 442 can-didatures. Sana'a, comme quatre autres projets, a été choisie pour son approche réussie de l'aspect architectural et social du développement urbain. Le prix triennal Aga Khan d'architecture, "la plus importante récompense de ce type, créée en 1977, a pour objectif de récompenser des oeuvres qui répondent aux besoins et aux aspirations des sociétée musulmanes," couligne sociétés musulmanes", souligne le comité du prix en France.

<u>MENACES</u> — Le Yémen a démenti que l'ambassade d'Egypte à Sana'a ait reçu des menaces d'attentat à la bombe. menaces d'attentat a la bombe, comme l'avait affirmé l'agence officielle égyptienne MENA, reprise par l'AFP. Le ministère égyptien des Affaires étrangères affirmè toutefois avoir rappelé aux autorités yéménites leur responsabilité.

PRISON - Il avait menacé des <u>PRISON</u> — Il avait menacé des propriétaires de bars et ordonné à des jeunes filles de porter le hidjab (voile islamique). Un jeune islamiste **algérien** de 21 ans a été condamné à cinq ans de prison par le tribunal de Tizi-Ouzou (Kabylie).

POÉSIE — "La poésie sous l'embargo". Tel a été le thème d'un séminaire qui s'est tenu pendant le festival de poésie en **Irak**. Une centaine de poètes arabes ont participé a ce festival, poètes peu connus du Maghreb, du Yémen, de Lybie, du Soudan, et de lordanie et de Jordanie

CHANGE — Tous les changeurs illégaux de Sana's illégaux de **Sana'a** ont été arrêtés, en fin de semaine dernière. En cause : la dépréciaété derniere. En cause : la déprécia-tion du rial, monté jusqu'à 127 pour un dollar. Après cette campagne d'arrestations, la deuxième depuis septembre, le dollar est redescendu autour de 110/115 rials.

SIMONE, ON M'A CASSÉ MES LUNETTES, JE N'VOUS ENTENDS PAS — Léon Zitrone est mort. Journaliste, pionnier de la télévision française, conu pour ses commentaires de mariages princiers et pour Inter-villes, il avait 81 ans. (AFP)

Contact : François Petitdemange, Yemen Times. Tél : 268.661/2. Fax : 268.663. P.O. Box : 2579, Sana'a, Yemen.

Economie

1996, année austère

Le Fonds monétaire international et le Yémen sont d'accord : moins de fonctionnaires, plus de taxes, plus d'impôts... Année difficile en perspective.

Sana'a. en retraite anticipée, hausse de 50% du prix de l'essence, aug-mentation du tarif des communications, de l'eau, et de l'électricité, hausse des taxes douanières et des impôts... L'année 1996 au Yémen sera placée sous le signe de l'aus-térité. Ainsi le veulent le gou-vernement yéménite et le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), qui ont décidé ensemble de cette deuxième série de mesures.

Parallèlement, afin d'atténuer le choc des réformes économiques, les autorités s'emploieront à mettre en place un filet de sécurité pour les couches défavorisées de la population, ont assuré à l'AFP des responsables économiques du gouvernement. On se souvient qu'en mars dernier, une première

- 25.000 fonctionnaires série de mesures adoptée par le e anticipée, hausse de gouvernement — doublement du prix de l'essence, augavait provoqué des manifestations parfois violentes, notamment à Aden.

Pour le Yémen, l'objectif de ces réformes est clair : il s'agit d'assainir l'économie nationale, et d'augmenter les revenus du Trésor, tout en continuant l'amélioration de l'administration. Le pays a engagé depuis mars un vaste programme de réformes structurelles inspiré par la Banque mondiale (BM) et le Fonds monétaire international. Le programme prévoit notamment l'arrêt des subventions de l'Etat, la privatisation des entreprises publiques, l'assai-nissement de l'administration et la réduction de la bureaucratie.

La réforme de l'administrtion et la privatisation de l'économie doivent permettre de juguler la l'inflation et le chômage, estimé à 35% de la population active. Le programme vise également à réduire le déficit chronique du budget ainsi que le déficit de la balance commerciale, qui a dépassé 2 milliards de dollars au

depasse 2 miniaros de donars au cours des trois dernières années. Le Premier ministre yéménite, Abdel Aziz Abdel Ghani, a affirmé que cette deuxième étape des réformes — qui devrait com-mencer en mars 1996 — "vise à améliorer le niveau de vie des ameitorer le niveau de vie des Yémenites et redresser la monnaie nationale", qui a perdu 80% de sa valeur depuis début 95. M. Abdel Ghani a assuré que le Yémen obtiendrait, après le lancement de

cette deuxième phase, des prêts du FMI pour augmenter ses réserves en devises, consolider le rial, et redresser la balance des paie-ments. La Premier minsitre compte également sur l'aide du Fonds monétaire arabe (FMA), relevant de la Ligue arabe, qui vient d'accorder au Yémen un prêt de 68 millions de dollars pour son programme d'ajustement écono-mique structurel. Il porte à 459

millions de dollars le total de prêts consentis par le FMA au Yémen. Enfin, le Premier ministre a rappelé que la Banque mondiale avait accordé en octobre un prêt de 100 millions de dollars, dont 80 millions serviront à financer emplois. En guise de carotte, "la BM a promis d'accorder 20 millions de dollars sup-plémentaires si le projet de création d'emplois s'avère efficace", a déclaré à l'AFP le se-crétaire d'Etat aux Finances, M. Abmad Gbaleh Ahmad Ghaleb

Dans les milieux financiers il y a encore peu, certains ne croyaient pas en la volonté réelle du Yémen de soutenir ces réformes à risque social extrêmement élevé, incluant le FMI dans le clan des scep-tiques. L'annonce de cette deuxième étape est un début de démenti, de la part du Yémen, comme de la part du FMI. Même si celui-ci, après avoir inspiré les réformes, prend ensuite le temps d'attendre et de voir. **F.P.** avec AFP



A la recherche des liquidités perdues Comment renflouer les caisses de la Banque centrale ? Méthode FMI : vendre des bons du Trésor. Les avis sont partagés.

Sana'a. — C'est une grande première dans l'Histoire financière du Yémen. Ou plutôt une *petite* première : un coup d'essai, à valeur de test et d'expérience éducative. La première émission de bons du Trésor yéménites va être lancée mi-décembre. Objectif : renflouer les caisses de la Banque Centrale en devises locales, sans Centrale en devises locales, sans faire fonctionner la planche à billets. Une opération très souhai-table au Yémen, où une grande partie de la masse liquide est tésorisée : près de 50% de la masse globale échappent aux circuits économiques, enfouis bien au chaud dans les lessiveuses ou autres bas de laine. 50% un au tres bas de laine. 50%, un chiffre énorme qui pénalyse évi-demment l'économie nationale. D'où l'idée, apparues avec les experts du Fonds monétaire inter-pational (EAD). national (FMI), d'attirer ces fonds vers la Banque centrale, qui a besoin de se refinancer. D'où aussi une première originalité : contrai-

Politique - social

Aden. -

avaient même

Abdallah al-Ahmar,

"commencé

président du parlement et chef du parti islamiste al-Islah, s'est rendu la semaine dernière dans le sud

du Yémen afin de calmer ses par-

tisans. Ceux-ci avaient l'intention de manifester à la suite de

rumeurs sur une réouverture de la brasserie et des bars d'Aden. Les islamistes de la province de Lahej

affluer par centaines à bord de bus au cours de la semaine dernière à Aden", selon une

rement aux habitudes, cette et les experts du FMI n'ont donc émission de bons du Trésor fait appel à tout le monde, établisse-liards de rials de bons du Trésor ments financiers comme particuliers

Il a fallu — et faudra encore surmonter plusieurs difficultés. D'abord celle qui interdit l'exis-tence de taux d'intérêt pour raison islamique. On parlera donc d'appel d'offres, de prix d'achat et de prix

de vente (voir *quoi ?*), ce qui com-plique un peu les choses. Pour le FMI, qui co-dirige l'opération, il s'agit de changer considérablement certaines habitudes : celle de faire fonctionner la planche à billets, solution de la planche à billets, solution de facilité qui ne résoud rien et aggrave les problèmes, et que le FMI n'accepte pas ; celle de té-soriser — et quand le montant atteint 50%, on se dit qu'il y a du travail pour changer cette habitude-là.

Pour cette première expérience en la matière, la Banque centrale

Cheikh al-Ahmar a fait la

tournée de ses partisans à Aden et dans la province sudiste de Lahej pour *"les calmer et leur affirmer*

que ces rumeurs étaient sans fondement", selon la même source. Le président Ali Abdallah Saleh aurait assuré au chef d'al-

Islah, lors d'une rencontre à

dans le sud. Cheikh al-Ahmar a dû intervenir.

I'AFP

Aden : l'alcool inquiète les islamistes

Des rumeurs sur l'alcool et les partisans d'al-Islah prêts à manifester

source proche d'al-Islah citée par bière alcoolisée, ni les bars de la

Aden, que ni la brasserie, sul brasserie d'Aden avaient ainsi été établissement dans toute la pénin-sule arabique à produire de la mistes après la fin de la guerre.

pas visé trop haut. Seuls 2 mil-liards de rials de bons du Trésor seront vendus. Il s'agit en fait pour le FMI, d'une part d'éduquer les Yéménites à ce genre de système, avant de passer, ultérieurement, à la vente de bons du Trésor anonymes, donc librement transanonymes, donc librement trans-férables, et d'une durée plus grande, et d'autre part, de tester la réelle volonté du Yémen de résoudre ses problèmes écono-miques et financiers, condition sine qua none à l'implication du FMI dans le pays. Or le Yémen chercherait plutôt à se montrer bon élève (voir ci-dessus) bon élève (voir ci-dessus).

bon eleve (voir ci-dessus). Certains milieux financiers restent donc optimistes quant à la réussite de la vente, soulignant son "montant modeste", et que celle-ci concerne l'ensemble du Yémen. Les Yéménites argentés ont, eux, déi) l'habitude de ce garge d'oré. déjà l'habitude de ce genre d'opé-ration, et ne devraient pas manquer d'en profiter. Le place-

ville ne seraient rouverts. Il faut se souvenir que l'alcool

était autorisé à Aden et dans le

était autorisé à Aden et dans le sud du Yémen jusqu'à la dernière guerre. Avec la victoire du Nord, à laquelle ont participé active-ment les islamistes, ceux-ci ont repris des positions dans le sud desquelles ils avaient été chassés par l'ancien génime merciete la

par l'ancien régime marxiste. La brasserie d'Aden avaient ainsi été

ent court, à un mois, et sa flexi-lité, sont attractifs pour bilité, sont quelqu'un qui possède une tréso-rerie flottante, type commerçant. D'autres spécialistes financiers

se montrent toutefois plus dubita-tifs. Ils se disent prêts à jouer le jeu, mais restent sceptiques quant à la volonté des particuliers de venir déposer leur enveloppe dans Les fameuses urnes, un principe qui n'a rien de vraiment yéménite. Les pessimistes rappellert qui n'a rien de vraiment yemente. Les pessimistes rappellent en outre que les taux de dépôts fixes sont passés de 9% à 20% en juillet, et que "personne n'a semblé profiter de ce système attractif".

Les mêmes regrettent enfin que le FMI "ait la manie de trans-poser sa médecine internationale partout. Ce qui est bon pour l'Europe ne l'est pas forcément pour le Yémen". Pas forcément. Mais peut-être l'expérience Mais peut-être l'e mérite-t-elle d'être tentée l'expérience

François Petitdemange

Aujourd'hui, la création de la

Zone franche d'Aden inquiète les islamistes, et était sans doute à

l'origine des rumeurs. Zone

milliards de rials, répartis en bons d'une valeur nominale de 10.000 rials, sont mis en vente. L'acheteur d'un bon le 15 décembre recevra 10.000 fials le 15

janvier, quel que soit le prix qu'il l'a payé. Un souscripteur doit déposer une enveloppe spéciale cachetée dans une des deux urnes mises en place à la Banque centrale Dans cette enveloppe se trouve soit une autorisation de débiter le compte du souscripteur à la Banque centrale si celui-ci en possède un, soit un chèque certifié de sa anque. Le bulletin doit indiquer le prix que le souscripteur est disposé à payer pour un bon de 10.000 rials, et le nombre de bons qu'il est prêt à acheter, le maximum pour chaque souscripteur étant fixé à 285 millions de rials.

quoi

Des bons du Trésor pour un total de 2

Les souscripteurs vont donc faire fonctionner leur calculatrice : sachant qu'un dépôt fixe dans une banque, sur un mois, rapporte actuellement 20%. les achats de bons du Trésor devraient tourner autour de ce chiffre --- même si on ne parle pas officiellement de taux d'intérêt. Pour qu'un bon du Trésor rapporte l'équivalent de ces 20%, il faut l'acheter 9836 rials. La Banque centrale fait ensuite fonctionne l'ordinateur fourni par le FMI, et sa-tisfait les demandes les plus intéressantes, c'est-à-dire les plus raisonnables. En fait, elles devraient toutes se trouver dans une fourchette très serrée. Sur le total de 2 milliards de rials, 5% (100 millions) sont affectés aux souscriptions non com-pétitives : le souscripteur n'indique pas de prix : il paiera le prix moven des souscritpions compétitives, calculé par la Banque centrale. Pour les demandes non satisfaites, le chèque certifié est rendu. Une fois sa proposition retenue par la Banque centrale, le souscripteur se retrouve en possession d'un certain nombre de bons, matérialisés par des certificats nominatifs. Il a alors trois possibilités : les garder pendant trente jours, et recevoir 10.000 rials par bon ; avant terme, les réescompter, c'est-à-dire les revendre à la Banque centrale, qui paie les intérêts sur le nombre de jours : trouver un acheteur disposé à racheter les bons à des conditions débattues entre le vendeur et cet acheteur, cé qui peut présenter l'avantage d'obtenir un intérêt plus élevé

l'origine des rumeurs. Zone franche signifie en effet arrivée d'entreprises étrangères, avec ce que cela implique. Il pourrait donc y avoir d'autres incidents de la sorte au Yémen, en particulier au sud, même si les chefs des deux partis de la coalition montrent, pour l'instant, l'exemple : dans le calme. **F.P.** avec AFP F.P. avec AFP que le réescompte.



Crash Course on: Achieving Service Breakthroughs

A significant development in the wake of economic liber-alization in many countries across the world is the growth in service sector. In developed countries the service industries account for 60% of GNP and 76% of all new jobs. This trend is catching up in all the developing countries where business opportunities in service sector is expanding. Service companies like Airlines, Hotels, financial services

etc. are exposed to the forces of competition today, like never before. Customers are becoming more and more and more quality conscious and are refusing to accept the inef-ficiencies of the company if it is passed on to them as poor services. They have multiple options today. Thus prioritizing service quality on one side, and productivity and cost effectiveness on the other, is being seen as critical for the survival of these companies. Extensive research and survey has been conducted in the US and Europe, about the factors that



increase customer satisfaction in service companies and also the unique problems of managing service as different from manufacturing companies.

The Taj Group of Hotels, the second largest luxury Hotel chain in Asia with International operations in countries like England, USA, Oman. Yemen beside a large network in India, have been grappling with this issue to consistently improving service quality in their organitation across the world. Towards this, several service managem at training programs are being conducted for all levels of emplayees in their hotels. These program are aimed at understanding, changing customer expectations and creating a vibrant service culture with in the company, which can creatively respond to these expectathe swith well defined service concepts and service delivery systems. The company conducted series of service excellence programs which was continuously improvised to be in tune with the changing business environment.

We were particularly inspired by the ideas and insights shared in the book "Service Break Through", where the success stories of a number of reputed service organizations in US like Federal Express. Mariott Chain of Hotels, Citicorps, etc., were presented with graphic details of their operational strategies and service concepts. These companies provide service of very high quality and consistently meet or exceed customer expectations by changing the traditional rules of man-agement. The authors of this book who interviewed the Chief Exec-utive Officers of 15 most successful service firms while participating in the recent workshop at Harvard Business School, were convinced that these comparison that the firms the second se that these companies think differently about their business than do their competitors in well defined and distinct ways.



The workshop we designed with the title "Achieving Service Breakthroughs" primarily focuses on the following:

1. Understanding the business environment. 2. Understanding the strengths and limita-

- tions of your product. 3. Targeting your market segments

 Defining your customer needs.
 Defining service dimensions, stated in terms of the results produced to the customer - customer perception of quality service.

Understanding the value in retaining customer lovalty.



7. Empowering people to create a vibrant service culture. Looking at the important features of service delivery /stems / employee attitudes to exceed customer expectations. 8 9. Creating an action plan on specific time bound targets to improve

13

- System / Procedures

- Role of People Technology
- Add Ons

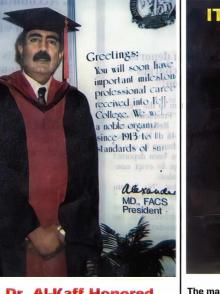
Mr. Vijay Albuquerque who was the General Manager at Con-nemara Hotel, Madras, India before his posting at Taj Sheba in Sana'a contributed to the design of this workshop when this was conducted at Connemara Hotel for the first time. This program was conducted by Mr. H. N. Shrinivas at the Taj



Sheba Hotel, Sana'a, during 25-29 November 1995. Executives of Shaher Trading Companies (like Xerox, Mercedes, YTT, Sana'a Bev-erages), Yemen Airlines and the Taj Sheba participated in the workshop

An interesting feature in this program was the role play exercises put up by the executives, where they were asked to simulate specific customer problem situations and enact the same by demonstrating how a company can deliver outstanding service to the customers as different from the routine normal service. To conclude the program. specific action plans were drawn up defining the steps to be taken by the executives in their respective companies to improve service quality and exceed customer expectations.

H. N. Shrinivas General Manager - HRD The Taj Group of Hotels, India



Dr. Al-Kaff Honored

Dr. Hussain Mohammed Al-Kaff, Dean of the College of Medicine at Aden University, was honored recently in Louisiana by being named as the first Yemeni to be accepted a FACS Member in the USA. His book, Sexually-Transmitted Diseases has also been accepted as a standard textbook used in teaching in many universities, in Yemen and abroad



The management team of Sheraton Sanaa Hotel gathered last month to congratulate Mr. Naif I. Zureikat, Financial Controller for Sheraton Sanaa Hotel, who was awarded the President Award for ITT Sheraton the Middle East and Africa Division.

The President Award is one of the most prestigious awards in the ITT Sheraton. It is awarded to indi-

viduals outstanding for hospitality in formance the industry.

Many of the people who deal with the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel know Mr. Zureikat for his broad smile and extreme courtesies.

The Yemen Times and all friends convey their congratulations and best wishes, and may Naif rise from one success to another.





Secretary

Ex-Assistant

General of the YSP) Denies That He will Soon

3) Letters of Threats Are Distributed to Artists in

Hadhramaut (To Abide by the Limitations Set Fort

Al-Zindani Continues His Attack on Democracy

and Political Pluralism. Referring to an interview in Al-Shorouq Magazine,

issued in the United Arab Emirates, the paper pointed out that the former member of Presidential

Council, present Chairman of the Consultative Council of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform

(Islah) and one of the leading patriarchs of the puri-tanical religious extremists, still looks with disfavor

to the institution of political pluralism in Yemen. The controversial religious leader insists that polit-

ical pluralism is copied from the West and is con-sidered inappropriate for Yemen. Zindani maintains

that political pluralism reveals our secrets to our enemies. He says, "Whoever becomes a member of

a political party has betrayed the country," and thus his loyalty to Yemen is questionable.

1) The Minister of Justice (from Islah) Levels a Number of Serious Accusations Against the

2) According to the Recommendations of the World

Bank: Privatization Will Hit All the Strategic

3) Eight Opposition Parties Register With the Polit-

ical Parties Committee and Renew Their Commit-

ment to Abide by the Law of Political Parties, But

"The University of Sciences and Technology Is a State Inside a State"

'Although I served as Manager of Security in the

University of Sciences and Technology, I was able

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-1-95

(Nasserite Unionist Party) Main Headlines:

People's General Congress.

Article Summary:

Raised Objections to the By-Laws.

with Yemeni and foreign students

Sectors

Presidential

Return to Yemen.

In the Letters),

Article Summary:

Council,

AL-HAQ: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-11-95 (Rabitat Abna Al-Yaman) Main Headlines:

1) Two Sons Kill Their Respective Fathers Aden Refinery Starts Assessing Bids for the Rehabilitation and Expansion Plans.
 More Exploration in Musaila Block

Article Summary:

1) The Government Spent YR 100 Billion Without Any Currency Cover

In an economic report issued by Sana'a University, a quantitative and a qualitative assessment of the Yemeni economic and financial condition was dis-

cussed. Some highlights of the report: - The government budget deficit is equal to 13% of

Ine government bugger deriver is equal to 15% of the Gross Domestic Product.
Unemployment is put at 31.5% of the workforce.
The World Bank estimates inflation at 55% per annum

- Government spending of YR 100 billion without

any cover. - Deterioration of the exchange rate by 42% of its original value to the US Dollar in 1992. 2) Only 100 Out of 620 Projects Executed

Of the 620 projects approved by the Investment Authority (as of 31 August 1995), only 100 have

been executed or under implementation, i.e. 17% of the number and 11% of the projected cost or the investment outlay. Reasons cited for this low implementation were

lack of stability in the political environment, limited follow up by the sponsors and their inability to secure financing.

2) SAWT AL-MUA'ARADHA: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-11-95

(Democratic Coalition of the Opposition) Main Headlines:

1) YR 340 Million Is The Cost of 140 Land Cruiser "Layla Alawi" 4w Cars to Be Purchased by the Prosecution and Judiciary Authorities. 2) Central Security Personnel Jeep Kills a Citizen

on the Street

3) Violations at the Sheraton Hotel

Article Summary:

Interview with the Vice Minister of Interior Staff Colonel Mutahhar Rashid Al-Masry, the

second most senior officer in the general security apparatus of the state, discusses the problems and ues confronting this overworked Ministry. High-

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al- Haifi

lights of the interview:

We have deported 3,500 illegal aliens. The "Algerian group was the one that raised a lot of commotion

The investigation with the Al-Dhale gang is over; their trial should start within a few days.

- The Algerian teacher entered as a student at Al-Iman University (An Islah institution), then changed into a teacher and then to a terrorist.

The land/real estate problem is at the top of our difficulties. It is the major cause of killings, thefts and road blockades.

- The conditions of the prisoners in the Central Security Prison are not satisfactory, nor are they

what we desire them to be. - There are prisoners in the Central Prisons without

any court sentences. - We constantly try to upgrade the qualifications of our officers and personnel to keep up with develop ments in crime.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly) 29 November 1995 (Independent)

Main Headlines 1) A Seminar to Melt the Ice between the Govern-

Y A sommar to break the between the Soverner ment and the Opposition
 Troops at a Roadblock Attack a Security Officer in Front of his Terrified Young Daughter

3) The Financial Times: "The Duty Free Port of Aden Prepares to Compete with Dubai and Jeddah."

Article Summary:

The London Conference The School of Oriental and African Studies (1-m)

versity of London) conterence on Yemen was, reported by this article which discussed a number of issues relevant to expected future developments of the country from a political, economic and social standpoint. Some of the highlights in the article are: - The population of the Republic of Yemen will be

29 million by the year 2006 - Gas liquification schemes will require US \$ 13 Billion in investment to produce 4 million tons

annually for export.

- It is imperative to modernize systems and institutions to get Yemen on the road to democracy and progress

- It is important that Yemenis get over the ego-tistical considerations and face the increasing religious extremism that could become a deterrent to the progress of the Republic in the future.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-11-95 (Official) Main Headlines:

1) Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar: "We strive to have the bounty of unity spread throughout the land. 2) The President at Aden University: "All political parties should join efforts to build the nation; our challenges today is the structuring of the economy and the development of human resources.

Article Summary:

"The Trial of Narcotics Smugglers" In the South Sana'a Court, the trial of a gang of narcotics smugglers has started. The six persons facing trial are what is left of a gang of about 30 who were caught by the Coast Guard units in the Red Sea. The patrol boat had following the boat of smugglers and when the boat tried to run away the patrol boat opened fire on it. Six of the gang were arrested and they were apprehended with 20 kilos of hashish consignment on board. The article did not disclose what happened to the remainder of the gang (24 of them), or any additional amounts of hashish.

The paper pointed out that the six are all Ethiopian natio als and that they had intended to drop the consigni ent, which was destined to a neighboring covery. Yemen is a transfer point for such traffic.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 30-11-95 (Yemeni Socialist Party) Main Headlines):

to discover many irregularities and the impunity with which the owners of the university work," writes Hizam Mohammed Al-Hubaishi. In a four-column article, the paper details many actions that do not conform with the law. Details are given of how the law is broken in the university's interaction

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

THE PREJUDICE

The Yemeni society looks down upon the Yemeni teacher. Why? In this article I would like to shed light on this issue.

First let's follow the reasons behind this prejudice step by step. People do not to appreciate the Yemeni teacher because, as they say, he's not qualified. Most of the people - even educated ones - are some-times likely to believe this.

The outer appearance and the usually small and slim body of the Yemeni teacher creates uncertainty about him. It does not inspire confidence. In addition, the low salary the Yemeni teacher receives makes him unworthy of respect among the people. Another thing that makes it worse is the employment of the secondary school leavers as teachers -sometimes in the preparatory and secondary stages. These are some of the main reasons behind the public's down-looking attitude towards the Yemeni teacher. Some of these reasons are because of the illiteracy that is widespread in Yemen.

Now let us look at some facts. It is a fact that there are many bright and very highly qualified Yemeni teachers. They are as qualified as any Arab or foreign teachers. They contribute and add a great deal to the promotion of education.

Judging by appearances or size of body often leads to wrong conclusions. It is true that most of the Yemeni teachers are thin and do not take care of their clothes. This is, however, due to earlier malnutrition and the low salaries of the Yemeni teacher. It is true that there are some teachers who do not take care of their behaviors or what they say or even of their appearance, but that doesn't necessarily mean that a thin and a teacher in ordinary clothes is not a good teacher.

It is a fact that a person who has or receives a lot of money enjoys respect from almost everyone. A doctor, an engineer or anyone who occupies such professions must be highly respected. However, a teacher does not receive such an applause because his income is low.

The employment of secondary school leavers in the teaching process has given a bad impression of the Yemeni teacher.

To sum up, the Yemeni teacher is well qualified.

big. He/she is trained to be a teacher, not a wrestler or a fighter. Besides, he/she is a person who has his/her own responsibilities and problems. He/she needs encouragement and support especially from the government and the so called educated class. The Yemeni society should restore the confidence in the Yemeni teacher.

By: Khaled Abdu Mohammed Teacher: Al-Kindi Institute

The Right to Respond:

"No Sudanese has been deported from Yemen under charges of extremist action!"

The Embassy of Sudan has written to the Yemen Times in response to its article "President Saleh Lashes Our Against Extremist Religion-based Rhetoric", page of Issue Number 48 of November 27th, 1995. The article names Sudanese as one of the nationality of people who have been deported under the Government's campaign to evict non-Yemeni extremists and religious zealots. The Sudanese Embassy insists that "No Sudani

national has been deported under the said charges." The letter from the embassy also states that most Sudanese in Yemen are are contributing to the welfare and progress of Yemen as teachers.

The Yemen Times referred the matter to the Ministry of Interior. According to the records, there were indeed Sudanese nationals who have been asked to leave the country. "At no time at all, even in the most visible of cases, have we levelled the charges of religious extremism. We simply get rid of them," the Ministry source indicated.

We ask the Embassy to refer to the Ministry for further clarification.

The Yemen Times appreciates the feedback and correction from the Sudanese Embassy, and especially from Mr. Al-Derdeeri, and would like to assure its effort at correct and even-handed reporting on the stories. We also welcome any additional clarification or suggestions from the embassy or other sources.

ANNOUNCING VACANCIES

1. Accountant:

A joint venture with a multi-national company is looking for an accountant with the following qualifications:

- 1. A degree is accounting or business administration.
- 2. A minimum of two-years experience in accounting.
- 3. Computer experience.
- 4. Fluency in spoken and written Arabic and English.

2. Marketing Representatives:

A joint venture with a multi-national company is looking for highly motivated dynamic marketing representatives to conduct and promote the sale of the company's product line.

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- 1. Degree in marketing or business administration.
- 2. Knowledge of both Arabic and English.
- 3. Experience in Yemeni market is desirable.

Interested candidates should should apply in writing giving details of qualifications and experience to:

> The Joint Venture manager, P.O. Box 525, Sanaa, Yemen or by fax to: (01) 242-693.

Letters to the Editor

The Yemeni teacher docs not have to be plump and

Letters to the Editor

1) Aden University Promotes Normalization with Israel 2) Salim Saleh Mohammed (Ex-Member of the December 4th, 1995





NOTE:

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CONGRATULATIONS

Students at al-Farouk Institute for Languages and Computer initiated a campaign against smoking. They wrote about the dangers of smoking and warned against the deadly effects of smoking. Participants in the campaign go around advising on the danger of smoking, and encourage non-smokers to stand up for their rights.

We would like to hail four female par-ticipants, who have made the institute and almost-cigarette-free place. Their meaningful contribution and responsible attitude reflects their concern for social social health.

The numbers below are as up to-date as our records show. If your number has changed, please call us at (268-661/2) for a correction. This is a courtesy service to our readers.



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حسب الرغبة ج عنمان لمدة سنة مع توفير قطع الغيادي همحل: ت الحيقي التجارية ALHAIKI TRADING CHOVSE شركة ارتكس التجارية المحودة . Sana'a, Al-Kumaim Trade Center Taiz, 26 Septmber Street صنعاء- مركز الكميم النجاري Tel: 221303 الاحسان الهمداني (حدة سابقا) تعز شارع ٢٦ سبتمبر جوار البنك اليمني فرع ٢٦ سبتمبر Hadda Street, تلفون: ٢١٩٨٣٥ Tel:219835 تلفون: ۲۲۱۳۰۳



Mr. Hassan Sobhi, Chairman of Yemenia, announced that Yemenia Alyemen airlines will be merged and start operating as a unified national airline as from the 1st of

January, 1996. In a statement he gave on the occasion of honoring the nine agencies with the highest sales per-formance in 1994, on Saturday December 1st, he indicated that the Government had two days artiger Government had two days earlier, approved a blueprint for the merger which will take place a month from date.

Mr. Sobhi added the fleets of the two airlines will now be combined two arrines will now be combined to efficiently operate an expanded network. He then expressed full commitment to the tour operators, ticketing offices, and airlines agencies and reiterated the national airline's support and cooperation. "The merger will give all of us economies of scale and better returns in our work, and will enable us to offer our customers more choices and better services," more choices and better services.' he indicated.

Speaking on the same occasion, Mr. Mohsen Al-Yusufi, Chairman

Mr. Mohsen Al-Yusufi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation and Meteor-olgy Authority, congratulated the airlines on the merger, and assured the travel and tourism industry on his personal support. The agencies honored are Uni-versal Travel & Tourism, Ashtal Travel & Tourism, AbM Tours, Al-Sunidar Travel & Tourism, Al-Mamoon, YATA, Yemen Inter-Continental, Arabian Horizons, and National Travel & Tourism. In 1995, new agencies are expected to 1995, new agencies are expected to take their place in the honor list.

By: Yusuf Al-Shareef, Yemen Times.







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