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Monday, 7 April 2003 - VOL. 13 • Issue No. 630 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



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As 29 Yemenis were prevented from leaving to Baghdad, 30 are there to defend it:

Street war begins

YEMEN TIMES STAFF & REUTERS NEWS SERVICES

Baghdad - As recent report from Iraq confirmed that US forces have entered Baghdad on Saturday, Iraqis as well as hundreds of Arabs are bracing for a long and exhausting guerrilla fighting that could be carried into the summer, when soaring temperatures would sap the American will to fight.

Despite the superiority of the US military, there is hope amid Yemenis and Arabs that the US forces will not be able to continue for

too long. "We will do our best alongside our Iraqi brothers to find Americans face to face" said one of the Yemenis who arrived in Baghdad recently to fight US forces. The Yemeni government however, tried to limit the number of Yemenis leaving to Baghdad as much as possible. It was reported that Yemeni authorities at Sana'a airport prevented Thursday 29 persons from leaving the country for Syria on their way to Iraq to join 30 others who have already arrived in Baghdad last Wednesday.

Continued on Page 3



Latest tactics of US-UK forces concentrate on overwhelming Baghdad's defense. Courtesy BBC



U.S. soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 70 Armor, conduct a search of a military complex in the town of Kerbala, southwest of Baghdad, April 5. U.S. army troops fought street by street battles with Iraqi para-militaries in the central city of Kerbala on Saturday in an attack aimed at protecting the backs of U.S. forces moving into Baghdad. It is expected that a long street war would take place in the streets of Baghdad, leading to months of possible severe humanitarian miseries. REUTERS/Peter Andrews

Anti-war protests continue

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the war on Iraq enters its third week, protests in Yemen against the war continued last week. Thousands of people took to the streets last Wednesday in massive protest demonstrations to denounce continuation of the war and the killing of innocent civilians.

Civil society organizations staged a protest that headed for the Iraqi embassy in Sana'a to show solidarity with the Iraqi people. The organizers demanded President Ali Saleh and other Arab regimes to expel US and UK ambassadors from their countries and sever all sorts of relations

with the aggressors. They demanded that all goods from these countries should be boycotted and prevented from coming into Yemen through customs outlets on borders and that all possible assistance should be provided to the Iraqi people at these moments of suffering. They also urged Islamic religious scholars to declare Jihad against the invaders and that Arab leaders should stop land and sea facilities offered to the US-UK troops. The protesters also sent similar messages to the UN Secretary General, demanding an immediate action to stop the war. The protest demonstration on its way to Iraqi Embassy was highly guarded by riot police.

Continued on page 3

Key al-Qaeda suspect arrested

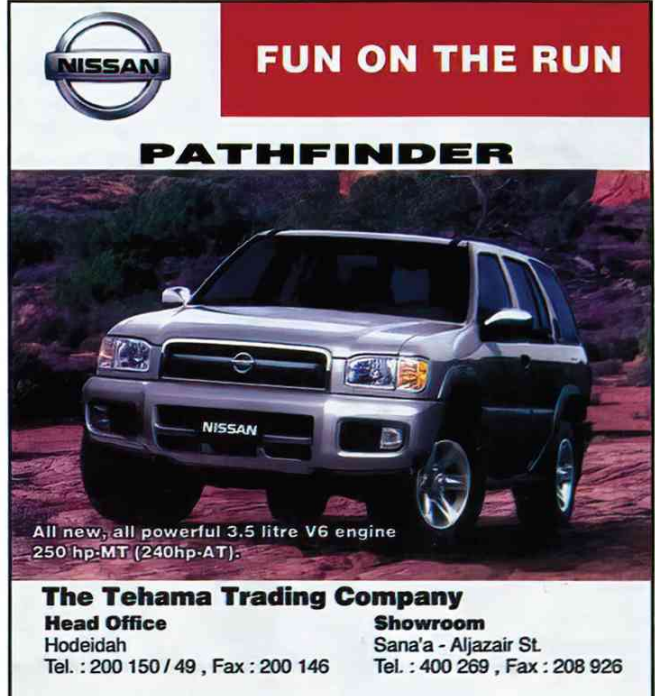
YEMEN TIMES STAFF & NEWS SERVICES

Fawaz Abdullah al-Rabaei was one of the arrested al-Qaeda suspects last Tuesday, a well-informed security source said Saturday. Al-Rabaei was arrested along with another person at al-Urkoob area, Abyan governorate and was taken to Sana'a Security sources in Abyan said last Tuesday that two persons were arrested while having a car full of explosives. He was arrested by chance as the security was looking for the two persons who escaped a checkpoint after shooting a soldier who discovered their

explosives in the car and wanted to take them to his chief. They killed the soldier and ran away.

The security started looking for the murderers and by chance they discovered that one of the killers was Al-Rabaei, a most wanted by the Yemeni security and FBI. Security authorities said last December that they thwarted terrorist operations that were to be carried out against US interests and that Al-Rabaei was one of the masterminds of them. He escaped, according to security sources, an ambush made by the security last August at Beer Ubaid area.

Continued on Page 3

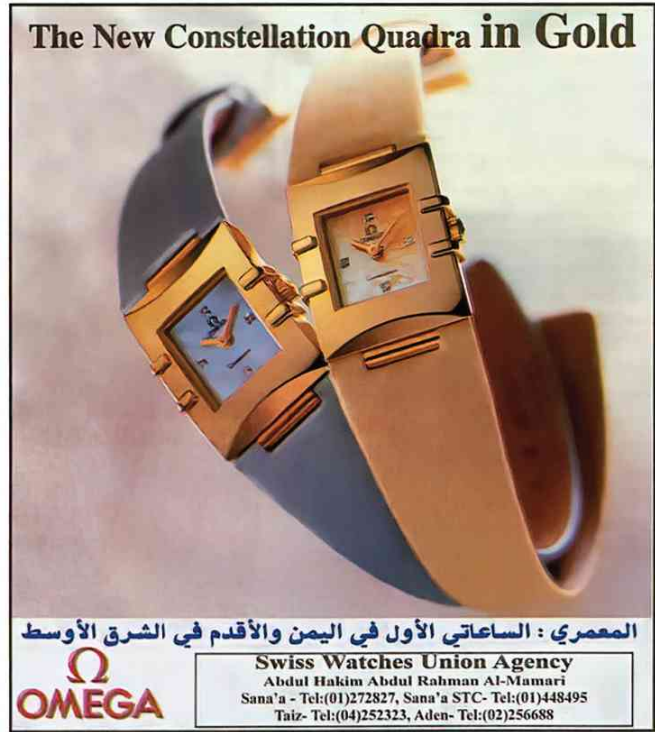


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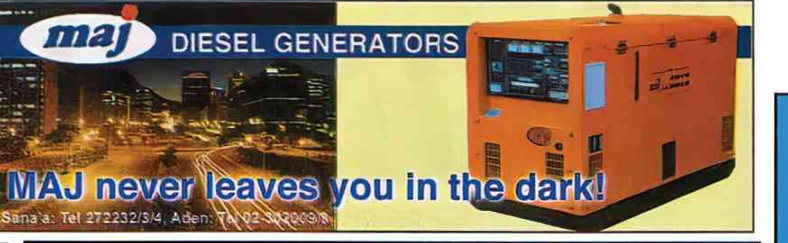


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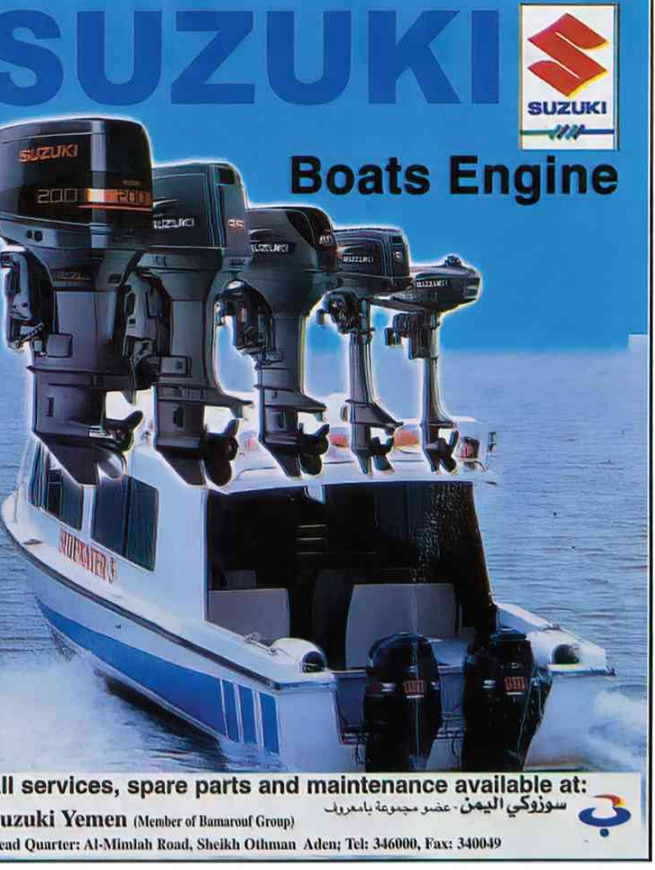
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Military plane crashed, 2 killed

Two persons were killed in a crash of a Yemeni military plane last Wednesday after taking off from al-Anad military base in Lahj government. An official source at the Ministry of Defense said that the two pilots,

killed in the accident, were on a training errand. It said the plane is of L39 model. A military commission was set up to investigate into the reasons of the crash.

Thirty one military personnel had been killed in five of such accidents during the last four years. A military plane was smashed last February while flying over Socotra island and eight were killed and four injured.

YJS calls for donation for Iraqi journalists

In solidarity with their Iraqi counterparts and in defense of the freedom of information and due to the Anglo-American air strike on the Iraqi information complex and television facilities close to the Information Ministry in Baghdad and elsewhere, in an attempt to mute the heroic voice of the Iraqi public and media and due to a shortage in the Iraqi broadcasting equipment and supplies, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) opens the door for donations. These donations will be in support for the Iraqi journalists to enable them to obtain photographing and recording equipment along with recording tapes and all facilities that Iraqi Journalists might need to fulfill their professional role in the conditions of a relentless war on the Iraqi public, which has never been witnessed in history.



Preparations for elections in full swing:

Counting votes to start in committees' headquarters

Mr. Abdu Mohammed al-Ganadi, Head of the information sector of the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) confirmed last week that counting votes will start in committees' headquarters once the polling process ends on the night of April 27. He denied in a statement to Yemen Times reports about the unwillingness of the committee to start instant counting of votes at polling centers. He stressed that the boxes would be

taken from polling stations to the committee headquarters for counting. He also confirmed that SCER called upon all the executive officials, military leaders, and school and university managers not to exert any kind of pressure on voters and that any such practices will result in lawful trail. He requested from all political parties and organizations to do their best to avoid violence in all forms and to work together in making the elections

process free, secure and honest so as to enforce Yemen's democratic experience and make it a model for future elections.



Abdu al-Ganadi

Interior Ministry receives more Hyundai cars

A source in the Interior Ministry told Yemen Times that Hayel Saeed Anam Group delivered to the Ministry a batch of 70 new Hyundai vehicles to be used by the ministry for various purposes including guarding and protection of embassies and foreign installations. This extra measure comes days after

the war against Iraq started as an extra precautionary measure by the ministry. The source said that importing Hyundai vehicles by NATCO, the agent of Hyundai in Yemen, was exempted from custom duties, hence facilitating the delivery of the cars to the ministry in due course.

Conference on kidney transplants concluded

The first Yemeni International Conference on Kidney Transplants and Diseases of the Urinary Passages, which lasted for three days, was held at the Aden University Hall concluded on Monday.

The conference was attended by a large number of specialized physicians from different nationalities such as Saudi Arabia, Netherlands, Japan, Canada and Austria, beside a delegation from the International Society for Kidney Diseases and Organ Transplants. During the conference, many lectures were delivered followed by discussions and arguments pertaining to the main causes of kidney disease

and other ailments of the urinary passages and the various activities in the area of kidney diseases and organ transplants. The conference confirmed the need for conducting a program with the aim to train Yemeni physicians and nurses on kidney washing and publishing a regular bulletin on kidney diseases protection. The conference also spotlighted the imperative necessity of rehabilitating new staff and setting up a center for kidney transplants in Aden. During the conference, six kidney transplant operations were carried out by the surgical team composed of Dr.

Faisal Shaheen from the Saudi Transplants Organs Center, Dr. Hussein Al-Kaf preparatory committee head, Dr. Nadi Hakeem, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sayyari and Dr. Anas Zarqa. The most heart-warming news was that Yemen Times has come to learn that there are seventy Yemeni nationals are ready to donate a kidney each. These people are really and show that there are really many people who wish to do a good deed, and they deserve to be praised for their willingness to sacrifice for their fellow suffering Yemenis.

In an intention to enhance journalist skills in Yemen:

Media Institute to organize more training sessions

The Media Institute for Training and Qualifying has revealed last week that it will launch a number of training programs for journalists in the near future. The institute had organized several training courses last February and March.

"Media training and qualifying is given great importance by the institute in which media cadres get further training towards enhancing their qualifications and skills." Dr. Abdallah al-Zalab, the institute's dean said.

Al-Zalab added that the carried out activities would be culminated and reflected on the media actuality.

Some of the training courses implemented so far include: a course on elocution and Arabic language attended by 30 trainees from different media organizations. Another course on the basics of computer and Internet usage



A panel of attendees during the Internet training course

was organized for 38 trainees. A course on Internet training was also organized in Hadramout and attended by 19

trainees. In addition, a seminar on the needs of television production was carried out by the institute.

Children shape tomorrow

Starting on Saturday April 5, Ebhar for Childhood and Creativity Foundation in cooperation with German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung started a five-day workshop entitled "Children shape tomorrow" to teach drawing techniques. During the event, 30 talented children from different schools in Sanaa have participated in drawing competitions.

The students were offered simple topics about children rights and envi-

ronment to be their drawing themes. An exhibition is to be held at the Culture House following this workshop. The exhibition is expected to include all the paintings produced by the children during the workshop. It is worthy mentioning that participant children will send a letter to all Yemeni political parties in which they would request to include children rights and their challenges within their electoral agenda.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the Arab volunteers to fight against US and UK in the war on Iraq will have any effect on the outcome of the war?

- Yes, they will make a huge difference.
- Yes, but their effect will be limited.
- No, they will make no difference whatsoever.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the Yemeni leadership should allow Yemenis to go to Iraq for Jihad?

No	52.4%
Yes	39.4%
I don't know	7.8%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

While Arabs divert their attention to Iraq

KAP marks Earth Day

BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A symposium titled "Palestine for Palestine, Our Land, Our Right & a Symbol of Our Dignity", was held in Sana'a at the Kana'an Association for Palestine's neighborhood, KAP on March 30, 2003.

The symposium coincided with the first anniversary of the KAP's foundation.

During the inaugural ceremony, a speech was delivered by Mr. Yahya M. Abdullah Saleh the KAP Chairman, aimed basically at the current development incidents that has taken place in the Arab lands such as Palestine and Iraq.

"The Arab lands are exposed to a barbaric assault through the use of lethal weapons produced by mankind," the KAP Chairman said.

"Yemen is among the few countries where the peoples' will is interwoven with the will of the political leadership," Mr. Yahya added.

In this regard, the KAP Chairman

stressed that new horizons had been broadened for the Palestinian exports to enter the Yemeni markets.

"This will not support the Palestinian's economy, but also encourage the Palestinians to struggle and hold out to any conspiracy where the mankind has been exposed to," Mr. Yahya further noted.

As a part of its continuous support, 500 academic fellowships have been allotted for the Palestinian students by the political leadership.

On his part a speech was delivered by Mr. Yahya Rabah the Palestinian Ambassador where he highly praised the KAP's efforts to mark the Palestinians Earth Day.

In his speech, he made clear that the Palestinian issue is the door for all Arab struggle against all different challenge.

He further noted the talk of today was diverged and restricted to the Iraq's issue and that the Palestinian cause seems to have no time.

He highly spoke of the president's decision to support the Palestinian

struggle. This manifests itself when the Palestinian products have been exempted from custom duties.

The subject of discussion dealt by participants during the symposium was the president's decision to exempt the Palestinian exports from custom duties.

The decision has been depicted by participants as a wise one that should be adopted not by Yemen but by other Arab countries.

On this regard, preparations are underway to set up a committee entrusted with keeping contacts with the concerned officials in Palestine. The decision will positively enhance the strategic ultimate goal of the Palestinians to boldly encounter barbarism, and atrocity of the Israeli aggression.

The symposium was chaired by the KAP's Chairman, Mr. Yahya M. Abdullah Saleh and attended by eminent professors, economists and other eminent social figures such as, Hafez Meayad, Mr. Ali Ashater, Saba



From left, Mrs. Gama'an, a businesswomen, Mr. Yahya Rabah, Palestinian Ambassador, the KAP Chairman, Mr. Yahya M. Abdullah Saleh, and Mr. al-Kibsi, an expert at international affairs during the Palestinian Earth Day symposium, March, 30.

University Reactor, Najat Gama'an, a businesswomen and Dr. Ahmed M. al-Kibsi, an expert of political and international studies.

It was also attended by journalists, mediemen and correspondents of local and foreign news agencies.

Continued from page 1

Street war begins

The volunteer fighters denounced behavior by the airport authority and even clashed with them. Some of them were arrested while others set a strike inside the airport for some hours and went back home without their passports.

Some sources said that the Syrian airlines said that the passengers should have a round trip ticket which the Yemeni fighters did not have. However, some informed sources said that the Yemeni authorities have denied travel to many people to Syria and that orders have been issued that newly issued passports mainly for ordinary workers should be monitored. "The Yemeni government is very sensitive to this issue which would embarrass it before the US with which it is having good cooperation, mainly in the war on terrorism," said one of the Yemenis prevented from leaving.

Even though a few dozen Yemenis may not be of great significance in the overall outcome of the war, the greatest fear of US and UK forces is resembled in what is now called "unconventional" fighting, which may range from sniper shots to suicidal attacks.

This comes after U.S. troops staged a foray into Baghdad for the first time on Saturday, taking the 17-day-old war to topple Saddam Hussein right into his battered capital.

The Iraqi president, in a message read on television by a minister, urged his armed forces and people to step up attacks on the U.S. and British invasion forces.

"The criminals will be humiliated," the message said. "To hurt the enemy more, raise the level of your attacks."

Iraq denied any U.S. forces were in

Baghdad and said its troops had driven the Americans from the international airport — a claim that a U.S. military spokesman said was groundless.

U.S. military sources said at least 20 Abrams tanks and 10 Bradley fighting vehicles had rumbled up a southern highway through Baghdad's Dawra suburb before swinging west and linking up with troops at the airport southwest of the city center.

A Reuters correspondent who drove freely around the sprawling city of five million later in the day saw no sign of U.S. forces in areas he visited.

U.S. Major-General Victor Renuart said the incursion had been a "clear statement of the ability of the coalition forces to move into Baghdad at times and places of their choosing."

He told a news conference in Qatar such operations would continue, adding: "This fight is far from over."

Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, reading a message he said was from Saddam, said invasion forces were concentrating on Baghdad, but weakening elsewhere in Iraq.

Iraqi television showed footage on Friday of a smiling Saddam touring Baghdad streets, greeting admirers as smoke rose in the distance. It was not clear exactly when the footage was shot.

It is feared that the street war that could continue in Baghdad for a long time would lead to a severe humanitarian disaster for the 6-million residents of Baghdad. Already hundreds of families were reported to have escaped the city which is slowly turning into a battle field with the most devastating conventional weapons on earth.

Anti-war protests continue

They raised banners painting US with terrorism and that its aim is to control oil of Iraq. They also carried pictures of civilian victims, calling angrily that resistance should continue. Some protesters were carrying their passports and tickets, being ready to go to Baghdad for fighting against the invaders.

A similar protest took place in Taiz on the same day where protesters staged strike at al-Ujainat cemetery to show their complete frustration over the Arab regimes which could do nothing to stop the war, rather some of them are facilitating the war against Iraq. The protesters who were around 10000 burned a stuffed effigy as a symbol of the Arab political regimes.

Mr. Eiz Eddin al-Asbahi said that the strike "stressed the deadness of a positive Arab stand against the aggression on Iraq, Palestine and all Arabs." Another politicians said that addressing the dead people might bring a result for the Arab leaders have been completely deaf to the calls of their

people. Yemeni political parties and other civil society organizations discussed the possibility of sending some doctors to Iraq as well as Mujahedeen. After the strike, the protesters including men and women students went angrily in the streets denouncing the war and the US aggression.

Thousands of Yemeni college of medicine students at Sana'a university also staged a strike last Sunday for four hours in protest against the war. They burnt US-UK flags and a stuffed effigy for US president, George Bush. They also said they would start a blood donation campaign for Iraqi people.

School students of Sana'a also protested the war last Thursday and shouted death for the US and UK. They strongly denounced in a gathering at al-Dhorafi stadium the killing of children and civilians in Iraq.

Moreover, the Yemeni opposition parties demanded that no people from the invading countries should come to Yemen to monitor the upcoming elections.



"Aggression starts in Iraq and ends up in Mauritania," slogan was spoken up loud and clear by the protestors. Photo by Mohamed Al-Qadhi.

Key al-Qaeda suspect arrested

His escape came after finding out a plan to carry out massive terrorist operations, targeting Yemeni and foreign interests, in addition to some prominent government figures.

Al-Rabaei used to work at the Yemeni presidency office before joining al-Qaeda.

The suspect al Qaeda member named in an FBI terror alert is one of 11 men arrested in Yemen on Tuesday.

Al-Rabaei also known as Furqan, is believed to be a Yemeni national born in Saudi Arabia in 1979.

Police in the capital Sana'a say he was arrested on March 28 with 10 oth-

ers in the northern province of Marib after a helicopter-chase.

US officials have said al-Rabaei is believed to have ties to al-Qaeda, but is not linked to the October 2000 attack against the USS Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden, in which 17 US sailors were killed.

Yemeni officials said at least two of the 11 arrested were on the government's most wanted list.

The other most wanted suspect, whose name was not released, is believed to be involved in a November attack on a helicopter and a wave of explosions in Yemen last year.

Child rights discussed

The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood (HCMC) prepared with participation of interested bodies in childhood issues a detailed report about the children reality in Yemen.

To add the spirit of transparency for this report the HCMC along with National Supreme Committee for Human Rights and cooperating with UNICEF organized especial 2-day workshop to discuss the Second periodical report for Yemen on the level of implementation for Child Rights treaty.

Dr. Waheeba Fare', Minister of Human Rights, Mr. Abdulkareem al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs and labor, Mr. Leonard De Vos, UNICEF representative in Yemen and Dr. Nafeesa al-Gaefi, general secretary of HCMC attended the opening ceremony.

About 35 participants represented the concerned ministries and governmental and governmental civil society institutions were divided into 8 groups. Each group discussed one of the eight dimensions mentioned in the report.



Panel scene from the event

They were asked to comment on the report and enrich it with their notes and suggestions that therefore would be taken into consideration and included in the recommendations of the workshop.

Mozna al-Habshi, media consular in CHCM, told Yemen Times that they are studying the participants comments and suggestions in order to prepare the recommendations of the workshop that will be distributed then.

It is worth mentioning that the report will be submitted to the International Committee for Child Rights in May 2003.

The General association tobacco

The annual meeting for NCTM

The General assembly for National Company for Tobacco and Matches held its annual meeting in Hada Hotel headed by Mr. Tawfeeq Saleh, the chairman of board directors.

Mr. Tawfeeq said that the profits of the company last year were about YR 1,713,440,00 indicating that the increase in sales and revenues represent firmly and continuously success and the company powerful financial status.

He also displayed the contributions that the company offers representing in supporting the youthful and sport clubs besides adapting various developmental programs in which 139 computers

are distributed to different governmental universities, schools, and associations in different governorates.

Through the meeting they listened to the report of finance auditors about the general budget and the final accounts of the company and the factory for the fiscal year of 2002.

Chairman and members of board of directors took their responsibility for all things related to the revenues of the last fiscal year. The board of directors was authorized to nominate a finance director for 2003.

The company is one of the biggest supporters for the sport activities as well as it establishes dam in the capital.

Yemen's poet honored

Sulaiman al-Absi was honored by the General Book Authority last month in Sana'a.

A number of speeches and expressive poems were delivered by the poet. Sulaiman, the great Yemeni poet, has devoted his life to writing about Yemen and Yemenis.

During the honoring ceremony, Mr. Khaled Abdullah Arowaisan, the Chairman of the General Book Authority delivered a speech and said that the poet had been honored according to the president's directives.

During the celebration, a speech was delivered by Mr. Abdulwahab al-Maqaleh entirely focused on the al-Absi's poetical life.

The ceremony was attended by a number of poets, writers, and eminent professors such as, Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh, Dr. Ahmed Salem al-al-Qadhi Deputy Minister of Information Minister and a host of others.



Sulaiman al-Absi

Yemen Times honors companies

Taiz- Hudaidah bureau Mr. Immad al-Saqqaf has on behalf of the Yemen Times handed over certificates of honor and appreciation for the General Industries and Packages Company. Mr. Mohammed al-Basha Marketing Manager received the honor certificate on behalf of the Company.

Mr. Immad al-Saqqaf has also honored the Yemeni commerce and Industry Company YCIC. Mr. Mourad Tarzi assisting marketing manager has on behalf of the company received the honor certificate.

Mr. Immad has also honored Mass

Advertising Company. Mr. Waheeb al-Harawi Director-General of the company has received the honor certificate.



Mr. Waheeb al-Harawi (left) receives certificate



Mr. Mohammed al-Basha Marketing Manager receives the honor certificate on behalf of the Company



Mr. Mourad Tarzi Assisting Marketing Manager receives certificate

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Dr. Raoufa visits Yemen Times

Dr. Raoufa Hassan head of the cultural development programs planning organization accompanied by a number of media students at College of Information visited the Yemen Times last week. She met with the chief editor and discussed the current events and latest developments.

Dr. Hassan expressed her admiration of the standard the newspaper has reached and wished the YT and its staff further progress and success.

Dr. Hassan is a pioneer writer and one of the early founders of the Information college in Yemen. She was also the first Dean of the Media college and is working now as a visiting lecturer at Oledenburg University in Germany. In Yemen currently she is supervising the graduation projects of the students accompanying her in the YT visit along with Dr. Abduljabbar Sallam head of the Media Section at the College.



Dr. Raoufa and her students meet Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief

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البركة

مياه صحية نقية

انقى مياه صحية في اليمن



انتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بتعبئة المياه
في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.اي.تي)

They all float, war in Iraq and election fever in Yemen

Each in an orbit

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

People in Yemen are nowadays preoccupied in what is going on in Iraq due to the US-UK-led aggression.

The invasion of Iraq targets Iraq's oil and its other resources and to share them for many coming decades by the invaders and their supporters.

Nevertheless, the Yemeni government is still insisting on holding the parliamentary election scheduled on April 27. Would the election process be safe, particularly if the war against Iraq intensifies and be protracted for a long time?

On my own part, the Yemeni masses are positively responding to and expressing their hatred against the countries launching the aggression on the people of Iraq the catastrophe befalling on them.

The state's paying no heed to what is going on in Iraq, such as mass killings, demolishing of houses, destruction, will be a big mistake made by the state. When the Yemenis believe that the authority in Sanaa has not taken clear and strong stand for rejecting the US-UK aggression against Iraq, many furious Yemenis could resort to carrying out fierce acts in expression of their

stand. Such act may target the election supervisors particularly, the British or the Americans.

Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zandani, the Chairman of the Islah Shura Council, in others' point of view was right.

Sheikh al-Zandani has expressed his concerns and fears last February over dangers that surround the country as a result of the possible US-led attack against Iraq.

Those dangers could lead to spoil of the atmosphere of elections, create chaos or political disturbances in Yemen. The Sheikh has demanded for postponement of the elections.

Other political parties leaders have turned their backs and have not listened the Sheikh's advice and above all, no positive initiative has been taken to boycott the forthcoming parliamentary elections except that by RAY Party which has fallen into straitened circumstances due to the lack of financial aid from Saudi Arabia.

The justification of boycotting and not participating in the upcoming elections can be attributed to the economic and political deterioration.

According to what the party says, "it will not go to elections unless an entire change in the ruling system has been effected before holding any parliamentary elections."

On the other hand, a number of political observers believe that the US-UK-led war against Iraq will create complications on the part of the local political

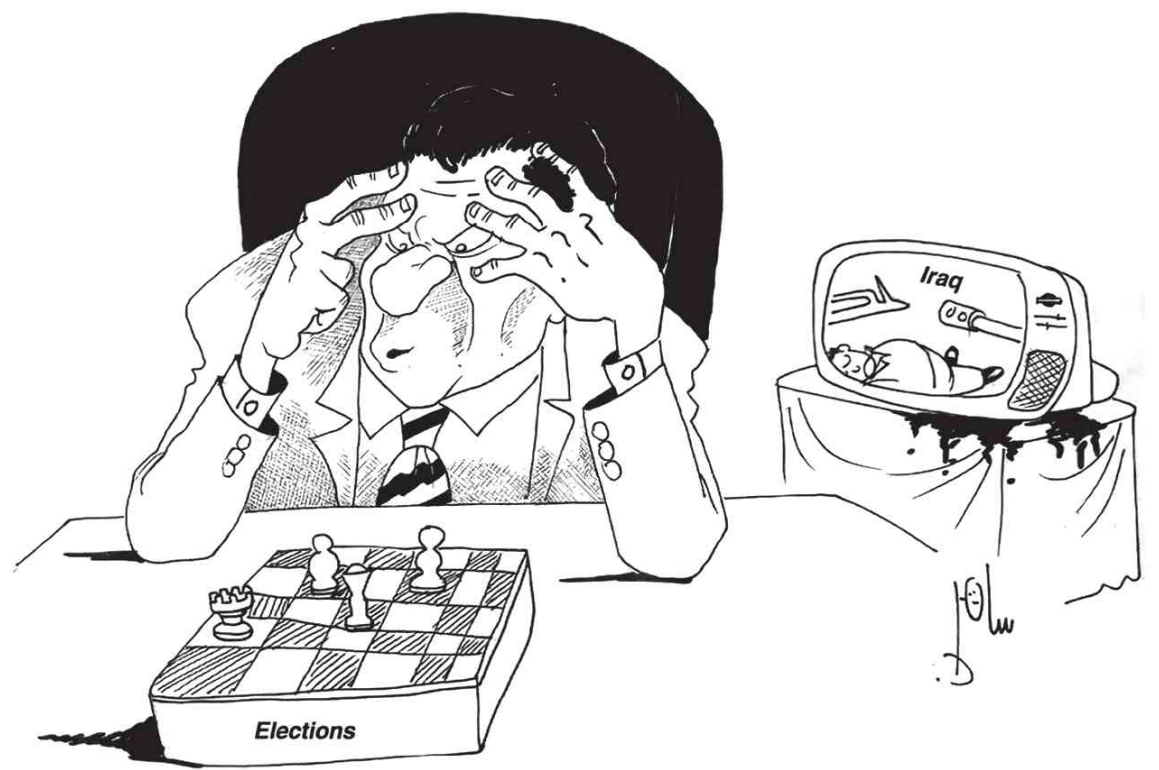
arena. This could manifest itself in postponing the 27 April parliamentary elections.

The excuse might be very strong on part of the authority to in order to encounter all by claiming that the situations are not suitable for running elections and postpone them for 60 days. Acceptance of such a pretext could not be so easy especially that the authority had actually postponed the elections that were scheduled in April 2001 when conditions were normal.

Some politicians warn that response of the angry public to the US-led war against Iraq will not be easy, though others see that the parliamentary election is not an American commodity to be boycotted. It is connected to arrangement of the Yemeni legal affairs of the political system. Boycotting elections will create an internal political crisis.

Those politicians has criticized the government's stance. There should be a deep concentration on the president's initiative in order to be politically aligned with encountering the possible dilapidation as a result of the US-led aggression. What has been presented before the political leaders is not the US-led unrelenting war against Iraq, but election and nothing else.

Political observers see that the Joint Meeting Parties have attempted to form a unified vision with a view of calling for a national alignment where the president has previously called for.



At another level, some politicians feel doubtful about the success that could be made on the part of the national alignment in reality.

They entirely depend on some previous experiences where failure is destined. But those politicians have agreed that the call for the national alignment particularly in such circumstances considered to be a positive aspect.

Other political pessimists said: "So, the approach of the coming election on April 27, the political forces in the ruling party and the opposition seem to be at a crossroads, either reaching to an electoral deal in order to enhance a strong existence of modernizing movements within the parliament itself or the political parties.

This could be achieved through

building a modern state away from the tribal influence and arm regulations.

In order to reach to an agreement, the parties have to put an end to political conflicts and purge extremist elements.

The most important thing is that the academic curricula have to be rightly selected away from the ideological conflicts.

Control of elections amid support & doubt

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Efforts at controlling the elections and preventing their neutrality become the focus of attention of some politicians and other organizations, while democracy in Yemen is still in its stage of infancy.

In addition, all the election bylaws and legislation are still in the process of being drawn up and tried and. There is a need to enhance and improve the democratic experience.

Political observers see that the non-government organizations can play an important role in monitoring elections to ensure that the election process remains a neutral, since these organizations are representative of the society and constitute an integral part of the public.

For healthy, honest and competitive elections, the presence of these organizations is indispensable.

Participants during the National Organization for Monitoring Elections

Seminar, (NOEC), which was held two weeks ago, recommended the following,

- Putting great stress on the necessity to include democratic concepts and practices within school and university curricula.
- Urging voters to cast their votes during elections.
- Reviewing some provisions of the Elections Law and its Procedural By-laws in order to include civil society organizations in the elections monitoring process.
- The political parties and the members of the Supreme Elections Committee must give easy access to community organizations to participate in the main and subordinate branch elections committees.

In the symposium, Mr. Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani, the Chairman of the



Dr. Khalid Jaghman

Shoura Council (Consultative Council) said that the symposium tried to evaluate the local organizations' assessment and the mechanisms of monitoring elections at the local level.

The Chairman of the Shura council focused on the significance of elections in enhancing Yemen's democratic experience and in promoting democratic values among the public.

Dr. Khalid Jaghman, Research and Studies representative at the NOEC said that the main objectives of the NOEC are to enhance and deepen the democratic experience in Yemen.

The presence of the representatives of election monitoring committees is of great importance.

"We know that democratic work is valuable in the national work and that the NOEC will cover the whole election constituencies in the governorates of the republic," Mr. Khalid said.

"We will retain those who have good knowledge in monitoring elections and will also cooperate with the local as well as international organizations in order to make ensure success of the

election monitoring process," he further noted.

The activation of local monitoring of elections comes at a time in which the inactive role of the international organizations was beginning to be felt.

It is to be worth noting that a number of the Yemen political parties have declared that they will reject to participate in the coming election in case of US or UK election supervisors attend.

It is anticipated that the international supervisors will be reduced compared to the last years.

These organizations have to play their role properly. More in sorrow than in anger, those organizations' ultimate aim is just to collect money, denotations and not to monitor to ensure neutral elections.

Some observers see that if those organizations have discard any political affiliation, it is believed that they will play a pivotal role in recording violations and infringement which might accompany the polling day due to be held in the coming month of April.



Al-Arabi Magazine says:

Old Sanaa threatened of collapse

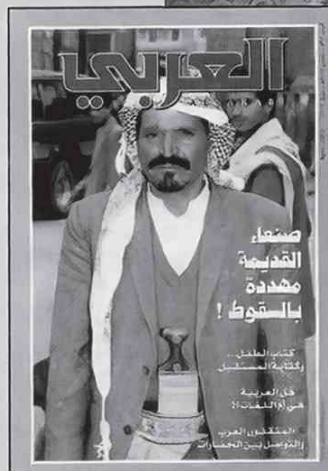
In its issue number 533, Al-Arabi magazine said that Old Sanaa is threatened of collapse. The magazine, which is a cultural monthly published in Kuwait by the Ministry of Information, dedicated the main report of its issue to Old Sanaa and exposed the difficulties and grave dangers facing the old city.

"The Great Mosque is surrounded by many buildings that are now all abandoned. When I asked why, I was told that the buildings are all threatened of collapse due to lack of maintenance and repair." The report said. According to the report, the main reason was stated to be the neglect of the government in carrying out its duties in repairing the devastating effects of improper pavement of streets that probably led to the blocking of sewage pipes, leading to internal leakage of sewage into the infrastructures and walls of buildings and consequently resulting in

dangerous cracks.

The residents of Old Sanaa told Al-Arabi's reporter Ibrahim Al-Mulaifi that the danger is far more serious than many could think as the threat of collapse applies to tens of buildings that are attached to each other like aluminum and any collapse of one building could cause a catastrophe to hundreds of residents.

The magazine goes further in stressing that further neglect to the city could not only result in the collapse of the buildings and loss of lives, but would probably result in the dropping Old Sanaa from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.



Cover Al-Arabi magazine





Behind the scenes in the Iraq War

HARUN YAHYA
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The plan for the Iraq war, which has erupted in the face of opposition from the entire world, was drawn up at least decades ago, by Israeli strategists. In its attempt to realize its strategy of destabilizing or dividing the Middle Eastern Arab states, Israel has Egypt, Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia on its list of subsequent targets.

As these lines are being written, the United States of America has already begun striking at Iraq. Despite the fact that most countries of the world, and even the majority of the allies of the USA, opposed it, the US administration was determined for the strike to go ahead. When we look behind the scenes to see from where this persistence derives, we find that it is Israel, which is solely responsible for the bloodshed and suffering in the Middle East since the beginning of the Twentieth Century. The State of Israel's policy aims for the fragmentation of Iraq have long historical roots.

Israel's Plans to Divide Iraq

The report titled 'A Strategy for Israel in the Nineteen Eighties,' by the Department of Information's Hebrew-language magazine *Kivunim* (Directions), aims to make the entire Middle East a living space for Israel. The report, drawn up by Oded Yinon, an Israeli journalist and formerly attached to the Foreign Ministry of Israel, set out the scenario of the 'division of Iraq' in these terms:

Iraq, rich in oil, on the one hand, and internally torn on the other, is guaranteed as a candidate for Israel's targets. Its dissolution is even more important for us than that of Syria. Iraq is, once again, no different in essence from its neighbors, although its majority is Shi'ite and the ruling minority Sunni. Sixty-five percent of the population has no say in politics, in which elite of 20 percent holds the power. In addition, there is a large Kurdish minority in the north, and if it weren't for the strength of the ruling regime, the army and the oil revenues, Iraq's future state would be no different than that of Lebanon in the past. In Iraq, a division into provinces along ethnic/religious lines, as in Syria during Ottoman times, is possible. So, three (or more) states will exist around the three major cities: Basra, Baghdad and Mosul, and the Shi'ite areas in the south will be separate from the Sunni and Kurdish North.

We believe there is little need to recall how this scenario was partially implemented after the 1991 Gulf War, with Iraq being effectively, if not officially, divided into three parts. The fact that the US plan for the occupation of Iraq, which is on the agenda at the time of writing, could again spark off such a division, is a concrete threat.

Israel's Role in the Gulf War

The implementation of the Israeli strategy goes back to 1990. Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in a sudden attack on August 1, 1990, giving rise to an international crisis. Israel headed the list of those forces which encouraged that crisis. Israel was the fiercest supporter of the attitude adopted by the United States in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait. The Israelis even regarded the United States as moderate, and wanted a harsher policy. To such an extent, in fact, the President of Israel Chaim Herzog recommended that the Americans use nuclear weapons. On the other hand, the Israeli lobby in the United States was working to bring about a wide-ranging attack on Iraq.

This whole situation encouraged the idea in the United States that the attack against Iraq under consideration was actually planned in Israel's interests. The well-known commentator Pat Buchanan summarized this idea in these words: 'There are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East - the Israeli Defense Ministry and its amen corner in the United States.' (<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/pat-buchanan1.html>)

Israel also initiated a serious propaganda campaign on the issue. Since this campaign was largely waged in secret, the Mossad also entered the equation. Former Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky provides important information on this subject. According to Ostrovsky, Israel wanted to wage war with the United States against

Saddam long before the present Gulf Crisis. So much so in fact, that Israel began to implement the plan immediately after the Iran-Iraq war. Ostrovsky reports that the Mossad's Psychological Warfare department (LAP - Loh Ama Psicologi) set about an effective campaign using disinformation techniques. This campaign was aimed at representing Saddam as a bloody dictator and a threat to world peace. (Victor Ostrovsky, *The Other Side of Deception*, pp. 252-254).

A Mossad Agent Describes the Gulf War

Ostrovsky describes how the Mossad used agents or sympathizers in various parts of the world in this campaign and how, for example, Amnesty International or 'volunteer Jewish helpers (sayanim)' in the US Congress were brought in. Among the tools employed in the campaign were the missiles launched against civilian targets in Iran during the Iran-Iraq war. As Ostrovsky makes clear, the Mossad's later use of these missiles, as a propaganda tool, was quite peculiar, since those missiles had actually been directed towards their targets by the Mossad, with the help of information from US satellites. Having supported Saddam throughout his war with Iran, Israel was now trying to portray him as a monster. Ostrovsky writes:

The Mossad leaders know that if they could make Saddam appear bad enough and a threat to the Gulf oil supply, of which he'd been the protector up to that point, then the United States and its allies would not let him get away with anything, but would take measures that would all but eliminate his army and his weapons potential, especially if they were led to believe that this might just be their last chance before he went nuclear. (Victor Ostrovsky, *The Other Side of Deception*, p. 254)

The Israelis were so determined on this matter, and with regard to the United States, that on August 4, 1990, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy issued a diplomatically worded threat to William Brown, the American Ambassador to Israel, stating that Israel "expects the U.S. will fulfill all of the goals it set for itself at the beginning of the Gulf Crisis," in other words that it will attack Iraq. According to Levy, if the United States failed to do so, Israel would act unilaterally. (Andrew and Leslie Cockburn, *Dangerous Liaison*, p. 356.)

It would be of enormous benefit to Israel to have the United States engage in the war and for Israel to remain entirely uninvolved: and that is indeed what happened.

Israel Forces the USA to War

However, the Israelis were actively involved in the United States' war plans. Some US staff officers involved in planning Operation Desert Storm received fine tactical advice from the Israelis that 'the best way of wounding Saddam was to strike at his family.'

The Mossad-inspired propaganda campaign reported by Ostrovsky set up the necessary public backing for the Gulf War. It was again, a Mossad local assistant, who lit the torch paper for the war. The Hill and Knowlton lobbying firm, run by Tom Lantos of the Israeli lobby, prepared a dramatic scenario to convince members of Congress on the subject of war against Saddam. Turan Yavuz, a noted Turkish journalist, describes the incident:

October 9, 1990. The Hill and Knowlton lobbying firm organizes a sit-in in the Congress on the subject of 'Iraq's Barbarities.' A number of 'eyewitnesses' brought to the session by the lobbying firm maintain that Iraqi troops killed new-born babies in the hospital wards. One 'eyewitness' describes the savagery in enormous detail, saying that Iraqi soldiers killed 300 new-born babies in one hospital alone. This information deeply disturbed the Members of Congress. This worked to President Bush's advantage. However, it later emerges that the eyewitness brought by Hill and Knowlton to Congress was, in fact, the daughter of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington. Nevertheless, the daughter's account is sufficient for the Members of Congress to give Saddam the nickname 'Hitler'. (Turan Yavuz, *ABD'nin K'rt Karti* (The US' Kurdish Card), p. 307)

This leads to just one conclusion: that Israel played an important role in getting the United States to wage its first war on Iraq. The second one is not much different.

The Pretext of 'War Against



A US Army combat engineer with the 3rd Infantry division (ID) passes a dead Iraqi soldier as 3rd ID task forces clear and combat engineers secure a bridge over the Euphrates river to push the 3rd infantry's convoy of more than 3000 vehicles towards Baghdad April 4. REUTERS

Terrorism?

Contrary to popular belief, the plan to attack Iraq and overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime by force was prepared and placed on Washington's agenda long before the environment of the 'fight against terror,' which emerged in the wake of September 11. The first indication of this plan emerged in 1997. A group of pro-Israeli strategists in Washington began to put forward the scenario of the invasion of Iraq by manipulating the "neo-con" think-tank, called PNAC (Project for The New American Century). The most notable names in the PNAC were those of Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney, who as Defense Secretary and Vice-President respectively, would be the most influential figures in the George W. Bush's Administration.

An article titled 'Invading Iraq: Not a New Idea for Bush Clique: 4 Years Before 9/11, the Plan Was Set?' written by William Brunch and published in the *Philadelphia Daily News*, sets out the following facts:

But in reality, Rumsfeld, Vice President Dick Cheney, and a small band of conservative ideologues had begun making the case for an American invasion of Iraq as early as 1997 - nearly four years before the Sept. 11 attacks and three years before President Bush took office.

An obscure, ominous-sounding right-wing policy group called Project for the New American Century, or PNAC - affiliated with Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rumsfeld's top deputy Paul Wolfowitz and Bush's brother Jeb - even urged then-President Clinton to invade Iraq back in January 1998. (William Brunch, *Philadelphia Daily News*, Jan. 27, 2003)

Is Oil the Real Objective?

Why were the PNAC members so determined to overthrow Saddam? The same article continues:

While oil is a backdrop to PNAC's policy pronouncements on Iraq, it doesn't seem to be the driving force. [Ian] Lustick, [a University of Pennsylvania political science professor and Middle East expert,] while a critic of the Bush policy, says oil is viewed by the war's proponents primarily as a way to pay for the costly military operation.

"I'm from Texas, and every oil man that I know is against military action in Iraq," said PNAC's Schmitt. "The oil market doesn't need disruption."

Lustick believes that a more powerful

hidden motivator may be Israel. He said Bush administration hawks believe that a show of force in Iraq would somehow convince Palestinians to accept a peace plan on terms favorable to Israel (William Brunch, "Invading Iraq not a new idea for Bush clique" *Philadelphia Daily News*, Jan. 27, 2003)

This, therefore, is the principal motivation behind the plan to attack Iraq: to serve Israel's Middle East strategy.

This fact has also been identified by other Middle East experts. Cengiz, andar, a Turkish Middle East expert, for instance, describes the real power behind the plan to attack Iraq thus:

... Who is directing the attack on Iraq? Vice-President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. These are the 'senior level' backers of the attack. Yet the rest of the iceberg is even richer and more interesting. There are a number of 'lobbies.'

Heading these lobbies are the Jewish Institute for Security Affairs team, pro-Likud and Israeli-right and known for their close relations with US arms manufacturers. These have close relations with the 'arms lobby,' Lockheed, Northrop, General Dynamics and Israeli military industries ... JINSA's fundamental principle is this: America's and Israel's security are inseparable. In other words, they are the same thing.

JINSA's objective is not solely the overthrow of the Saddam regime in Iraq; it also supports the overthrow of the Saudi Arabian, Syrian, Egyptian and Iranian regimes with logic of 'total war,' and the subsequent importation of 'democracy.' ... In other words, a number of American Jews on the same wavelength as the most extreme factions in Israel at the moment comprise the hawks in Washington. (Cengiz, andar, 'Iraq and the "Friends of Turkey" American Hawks', *Yeni Safak*, September 3, 2002.)

Israel's Project of 'Secret World Domination'

In short, there are those in Washington who are encouraging a war aimed first at Iraq and then at Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran and Egypt. The most distinguishing feature of these is that they are lined up alongside, and even equivalent to, the 'Israeli lobby.'

No matter how much they speak of 'American interests,' these people are actually supporting Israeli interests. A strat-

egy of waging war against the whole of the Middle East and turning all the peoples of the region against it cannot be to the United States' advantage. The adoption of such a strategy can only be possible if the United States is bound to Israel, by means of the Israeli lobby, which is unbelievably influential in the country's foreign policy.

It is for these reasons that behind the strategy, which began to be set in motion after September 11 and is aimed at re-arranging the entire Islamic world, lies Israel's secret plan for 'world domination.'

Ever since its foundation, Israel has aimed at restructuring the Middle East, making it manageable and no threat to itself. It has been using its influence in the United States for that purpose in recent years, and to a large extent directs Washington's Middle East policy. The post-September 11 climate gave Israel the opportunity it had been seeking. Pro-Israeli ideologues, who for years had been propounding the falsehood that Islam itself - not some militant radicals who use Islam as a shelter - posed a threat to the West and the United States, and who encouraged the mistaken concept of a 'clash of civilizations,' have been trying to incite the United States against the Islamic world in the wake of September 11. As early as 1995, Israel Shahak of the Jerusalem Hebrew University wrote former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's obsession with 'the idea of an Israeli-led anti-Islamic Crusade'. Nahum Barnea, a commentator from the Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot*, stated that same year that Israel was making progress '[to] become the Western vanguard in the war against the Islamic enemy.' (Israel Shahak, 'Downturn in Rabin's Popularity Has Several Causes', *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, March 1995.)

All that has happened in the years which have followed is that Israel has made its intentions even clearer. The political climate in the wake of September 11 prepared the ground for this intention to be made a reality. The world is now witnessing the step by step implementation of Israel's policy of the fragmentation of Iraq, which was planned decades ago.

The Only Way to World Peace: An Islamic Union

The situation may be summarized as follows: Israel's aim is to restructure the Middle East in line with its own strategic interests. In order to do this, in order to rule the Middle East, one of the most sensitive

regions in the world, it needs a 'world power.' That power is the United States; and Israel, thanks to its influence there, is trying to place a mortgage on that country's Middle East policy. Although Israel is a small state with a population of only 4.5 million, the plans drawn up by Israel and its backers in the West are actually directing the whole world.

What needs to be done in the face of this?

1) Counter lobby activities? need to be adopted in the face of the Israeli lobby's influence in the United States, in order to develop dialogue between the United States and the Islamic world and to invite it to seek peaceful solutions to Iraq and similar problems. A wide section of the United States wishes to see their country adopt a fairer Middle East policy. Many statesmen, strategists, journalists and intellectuals have expressed this, and a 'peace between civilizations?' movement must be carried forward in cooperation with them.

2) The approach inviting the US administration to peaceful solutions must be carried forward at governmental and civil society level.

Alongside all this, a deeper rooted solution lies in a project we can resolve all the problems between the Islamic world and the West and deal with the fragmentation, suffering and poverty in the Islamic world and totally alter it: the establishment of an Islamic Union.

Recent developments have shown that the whole world, not just Islamic regions, is in need of an 'Islamic Union.' This Union should heal the problem of the radical elements in the Islamic World, and establish good relations between Muslim countries and the West, especially the United States. It should also help to find a solution to the mother of all problems: The Arab-Israeli conflict. With Israel retreating to its pre-67 borders and the Arabs recognizing its right to exist, there can be real peace in the Middle East. And Jews and Muslims - both Children of Abraham and believers in one true God - may peacefully co-exist in the Holy Land, as they have done during past centuries. Then, Israel would need no strategy to destabilize or divide the Arab States. And it will not have to face the results of continuous occupation, in forms of terrorism and constant fear of annihilation. Then, both the Israeli and Iraqi (and Palestinian) children may grow up in peace and security. That is a Middle East that any sane person should work to see.

Iraq: US must investigate civilian deaths

Amnesty international is extremely concerned at the increasing number of incidents in the conflict in Iraq, which have led to civilian deaths and casualties.

"United States authorities must conduct an independent and thorough investigation into an attack yesterday on a civilian vehicle that resulted in the deaths of seven women and children". Amnesty international said today.

"Anyone suspected of unlawfully killing civilians must be brought to justice".

Amnesty international pointed out in a press release on 1 April 2003 that US and UK forces must take all necessary precautions to protect civilians, regardless of any violations by Iraqi forces.

"The duty to protect one's own soldiers cannot justify any violation of international humanitarian law. The military must implement measures that will safeguard the lives of civilians and other non-combatants and ensure that incidents like this are never repeated".

According to the Washington Post on 31 March soldiers with the US Army's 3rd Infantry Division opened fire on an unidentified four-wheel drive vehicle as it was approaching a US checkpoint near al-Najaf.

The newspaper reported that an officer initially ordered the soldiers to fire a warning shot, but as the vehicle came closer to the checkpoint, the officer ordered the soldiers to stop the vehicle. It is unclear whether the soldiers had fired a warning shot before one or more of the Bradley Fighting vehicles



An injured Iraqi girl is brought to a Baghdad hospital by her parents who said their daughter was hurt during an air strike April 3. U.S. armoured units thrust forward virtually unopposed on Thursday to just 10 km (six miles) from the edge of Baghdad and were preparing to seize the city's airport, the U.S. military said. REUTERS/Akram Saleh

opened fire with 25mm cannons, killing 7 of the 15 passengers in the civilian vehicle.

The US Department of Defense reportedly stated that the shooting after

the driver of the vehicle had ignored shouted warnings and warning shots, which does not appear to be consistent with the version of the incident reported by the Washington Post.

Video clip of Irene Khan talking about civilian casualties.

http://emedial.amnesty.org/civilian_deaths_ram

Saddam loyalists man Baghdad defences

BAGHDAD, April 5 (Reuters) - Paramilitary forces, dressed in black and carrying AK-47 assault rifles and grenades, headed towards the outskirts of the Iraqi capital on Saturday while soldiers in full combat gear dug in around the city.

But I and other correspondents travelling around Baghdad saw no sign of U.S. troops or armour inside the city.

With U.S. military spokesmen saying American forces had reached the heart of Baghdad, forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein moved into position across the city or headed south towards the battle front.

Trailers and buses full of Saddam's Fedayeen, the black-attired paramilitary forces under the command of Saddam's eldest son Uday, drove south on one thoroughfare.

"Move out of the way," they shouted as they sped away from a military compound, touting AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and clutching Chinese-made hand grenades. Armoured personnel carriers were also driving south.

Driving freely around the southern outskirts, the south east, the south west and near the presidential palaces and the main security buildings of the Iraqi capital, I saw Iraqi troops preparing for battle and boarded-up shops.

The sound of heavy artillery fire could be heard from the fringes of the city, but there was no sign of U.S. forces. Soldiers in full combat gear and members of Saddam's Fedayeen crouched on the corners of highways leading to the south and east.

Iraqi forces appeared to be repositioning themselves constantly.

Saturday that American forces had pushed into the heart of the battered Iraqi capital for a first time in the 17-day-old war. The push, the spokesman added, was "more than a patrol that goes in and comes back out".

The southern outskirts of Baghdad looked like a war front, with scores of Iraqi soldiers and paramilitary forces heading out to confront an approaching U.S. enemy.

Overnight raids left more government complexes in ruin.

Shops in normally busy districts, such as New Baghdad, were almost all shut, and far fewer cars were on

the roads. Long queues formed at petrol stations still open.

What cars there were sped faster than usual. Drivers, who rarely give Baghdad traffic lights much respect, ignored them completely.

Heavy artillery and rocket launchers were positioned in the Dawra area, home to the main oil refinery feeding Baghdad and an area where a U.S. spokesman said American tanks drove early on Saturday on a reconnaissance mission.

Palm trees and farms provided cover. Iraqi artillery occasionally fired to the south and southeast.

Inside the city, checkpoints were

installed on the road to the airport and the paramilitary directed traffic. Heavy military gear could be seen moving on roads around the centre.

Republican Guards were seen around one presidential compound in the city. Soldiers spilled out of pickup trucks and took up positions near main highways. U.S. fighter jets flew overhead. A convoy of police cars with sirens wailing drove in the centre of Baghdad. Policemen fired AK-47s in the air and raised pictures of Saddam and Iraqi flags to celebrate what Iraqi officials said was the recapture of the airport.



Iraqi policemen hold their AK-47 rifles in front of the Palestinian hotel in Baghdad April 5.

REUTERS

Suicide bomber attacks US unit at Baghdad airport

NEAR BAGHDAD, April 5 (Reuters) - A suicide bomber has attacked U.S. Army soldiers at Saddam international airport, a U.S. Marine gunnery sergeant said on Saturday.

"The last order we just got said there was another suicide bombing at the airport, so be especially vigilant at roadblocks," U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Mark Woodward told Reuters.

"The order was just today so I'm assuming it (the attack) was either last night or this morning."

Woodward, whose Marine Mechanized Infantry Unit is southeast of Baghdad, had no information on casualties or details about the incident.

U.S. and British forces have been on heightened alert for possible suicide attacks after an apparent suicide car bomb killed three U.S. soldiers, a pregnant woman and the driver of the car at a checkpoint northwest of Baghdad this week.

Four U.S. soldiers also died in a bomb at a checkpoint last Saturday.

Iraqi Information Minister

Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf threatened on Friday a "non-conventional" act against U.S.-led forces at the Baghdad airport, where U.S. soldiers say they are in control but have come under heavy artillery fire.

Sahaf hinted Iraq may use suicide attacks against the U.S. forces but ruled out use of weapons of mass destruction.

"We will commit a non-conventional act on them, not necessarily military," Sahaf said. "We will conduct a kind of

martyrdom operation." Iraqi officials often use the word "martyrdom" in describing suicide attacks.

Sahaf said on Saturday Iraqi troops had expelled U.S. forces from the airport, which the United States denied.

Major General Victor Renuart told a news conference at U.S. command headquarters in Qatar he was not aware of any suicide bomb attack against U.S. troops at the airport.

"I heard the reports about a potential suicide bombing at the airport... I tried to check. It has not come up on any radar scope," he said.

Bush, Blair prohibited to visit Holy Land

GAZA, April 5 (Xinhua) — Chief of the Palestinian Fatwa (legal advice) Council in the Palestinian territories announced that both US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are prohibited from visiting the holy sites in the Palestinian territories.

Sheikh Ekrema Sabri, the Mufti of Jerusalem, said that the Fatwa Council and all Islamic scientists issued this legal opinion that it is taboo for any Muslim to participate in the US-led war against Iraq.

The legal opinion also said that all Muslims in the Arab and Islamic countries are prohibited to offer any aid to the US and British forces "that are leading an aggressive war against the Iraqi people."

"This war which is against Iraq and the Iraqi people has no Islamic legitimacy," said Sabri, adding that "this

continuous war aims at stealing the country from the Iraqi people and not liberating it as they claim."

Chief of the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem has also said last week that Bush, Blair, US Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld, and British Foreign Affairs Minister Jack Straw are prohibited from visiting the church.

Sabri said that the decision to prevent the American and British leaders from visiting the Palestinian Islamic and Christian holy sites "is because those leaders are criminals of war and kill children, men and women in Iraq."

"Who does appoint those leaders to shoulder the responsibility of what they say liberating Iraq," Sabri said. "This criminal play must be stopped immediately and give a chance to the international diplomacy to solve the problem."



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FEWER CARS ON ROADS

A U.S. spokesman said early on



War at home lost by USA

By RUSSEL WALKER

While most people are watching pictures of Baghdad and Iraq on TV for the latest war developments, they simply do not realize that the US has already lost the war.

The US has a 6.4 trillion-dollar national debt which is growing. The monthly deficit of payments is about 35 billion. In the last 6 months the US dollar has fallen about 20% against all major currencies. The Euro has become the currency of choice for many nations, challenging the dollar for world financial domination. Bankruptcies are at an all time high. Many states are having the worst financial crisis in their histories.

Conservative estimates reckon that an Iraqi war will cost US taxpayers between \$200 and \$300 billion dollars. This will occur:

- even as elderly Americans on fixed incomes live in poverty, unable to afford proper medications and care
- even as our environment, our schools, highways, mass transit, and railroads deteriorate from lack of funds
- even as the quality of American life sinks so that the quality of Israeli life, based on the illegal occupation of Palestinian land (condemned by U.N. resolutions), may improve.

- even as Red China continues to improve its industrial progress and offer more items including rockets and nuclear bombs to a world market for sale.
- even as US industry continues to shut plants and lay off workers.
- even while we give foreign aid of about 15 billion a year with new proposals to increase the foreign aid beyond that figure.
- even as the stock market continues its three-year slide with no bottom insight.
- even as petroleum prices are about as high as they have ever been

The United States is collapsing around our ears. It's mixture of politically correct lunacy, corporate fascism, media spin control and economic decay is simply not sustainable for much longer. What the whore media parades as strength is really weakness. What we are told is wisdom is simply stupidity. What we are told about economic prosperity is in reality a rigged fraud, careening into a black hole of bankruptcy. Our deliberately undermined economic system will soon come crashing down, just as our historic enemies have carefully planned.

The US Has Lost Its Soul

It is estimated that with the first Gulf

War and the ensuing 10 years of bombing that Iraq has lost about 1.4 million people. That will make some sickies happy but the US has told every lie, paid any bribe, killed any woman, child and non-combatant without regard for the sanctity of life or any of the basic values of Western Civilization. Rumsfeld calls this freedom. I call it evil.

I have seen many news clips of thousands of Iraqis in the streets with automatic weapons. How many people in the streets in the US do you see with automatic weapons? For a couple of minutes maybe followed by 10 years in jail.

Bush calls this liberty. I call it utter hypocrisy. We will see a long lasting guerrilla war to remove the alien occupation force from the land. You can bet your bottom dollar that if Bush rebuilds Iraq that no one will be allowed to have automatic weapons except the alien foreign masters who will be hated for their omnibus criminality.

Bush talks about ending terrorism. I thought that is what Afghanistan was supposed to do. Instead the US uses "Shock and Awe" super MOAB (Mother of all Bombs) to terrorize a civilian population. Fortunately, it has not worked.

If you or I were to try to bribe a government official it would be a violation of the Hobbs Act. Bush can offer bribes in the billions (of taxpayer's money) to



Plumes of black smoke rise to the southeast of central Baghdad as U.S. forces advance from that direction April 5. REUTERS

many governmental officials and still be regarded as an honest Christian man. I can only conclude that you can fool some of the people all of the time.

Bush talks about the weapons of mass destruction. Well, the US is the all-time world leader in this field. We nuked the Japs. We used Agent Orange and other herbicides in Viet Nam. Agent Orange was both a biological and chemical killer. Every shell used gunpowder or a

substitute for its propulsion. That is the use of chemistry as an agent of destruction pure and simple.

We allegedly have a First Amendment in this country. When it comes to the proselytizing and furthering the aims of Zionism then nothing can come in its way. Just as Trent Lott spoke the truth only to sell his soul due to newspaper pressure, Jim Moran knew right to call ourselves Christian.

for his beliefs. Every other Congressman and Senator should have stood up for Moran but they knew what had happened to James Traffiant and were afraid. The Bible talks about the 'fear of the Jews' five times. Some things never appear to change.

The bottom line is that when the US fights for the Jews, we loose all sense of morality and decency and forfeit any right to call ourselves Christian.

After Iraq, the world

By LUIS V. TEODORO

The U.S. justifications for attacking Iraq — which have metamorphosed into just one today, and that is, to "liberate" the Iraqis from Saddam Hussein — have not been convincing except to the converted.

The United States tried but failed to connect the Iraqi government to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda. Its claim that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction the U.N. weapons inspections roundly contradicted, and U.S. troops now in Iraq have found not a trace of the biological, chemical and nuclear weapons the U.S. claims Saddam Hussein is either developing or has stockpiled. It has also been argued that if the possession of weapons of mass destruction were grounds enough for regime change, Israel, which has a nuclear, chemical and biological weapons arsenal, is a better candidate for U.S. invasion.

The argument that Saddam Hussein is a ruthless dictator who has killed and tortured his own people and should be removed from power by force has not been particularly convincing either. It is not because the Butcher of Baghdad is no dictator, but because the world teems with many others. Some of them, like Saddam himself, were U.S.-supported and armed. Others are still in the U.S. pantheon of allies and clients.

Despite world-wide skepticism over the truth of U.S. claims, and despite their being contradicted by a vast universe of contrary facts, the United States has nevertheless seemed determined to attack Iraq. George W. Bush's determination was evident from the day he identified Iraq as one of those countries that together with Iraq and North Korea comprised "the axis of evil." It was persistently and transparently obvious as the debate over Iraq progressed.

Now that it has finally invaded, the U.S. attack has stalled, though only momentarily, says the U.S. military. The war is not going the way as predicted by Bush's armchair warriors — referred to as chicken hawks in certain U.S. media circles — led by the Donald Rumsfeld has resulted in Bush's declaration that the U.S. will do what it takes and however long it takes to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

These suggest that it is not the facts that drove the U.S. to attack Iraq, and not the facts — whether it be world opposition, its own constituents' desires, the growing list of civilian casualties, or the casualties U.S. forces are likely to take — that will keep its forces fighting urban guerillas and Saddam's regular forces, foul weather, and the vagaries of its own technological superiority.

What drove it to Iraq, and what will keep the U.S. there until Iraq is in ruins and Iraqi dead runs into the tens of

thousands is something else. That something else is a blueprint, of which the attack on Iraq is a small but indispensable part.

The blueprint is called "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century." It is a report completed in September 2000 by the Project for the New American Century, a far-right think tank that includes, among other founding members, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. PNAC describes itself as a "nonprofit, educational organization whose goal is to promote American global leadership." According to its Statement of Principles, however, its main concern is to provide the U.S. with "the vision to build upon the achievement of past decades," and to provide it "the resolve to shape a new century favorable to American principles and interests."

For these purposes, the U.S. requires "a military that is strong and ready to meet present and future challenges; a foreign policy that boldly and purposefully promotes American principles abroad; and national leadership that accepts the United States' global responsibilities."

The lengthy Report (90 pages) was completed before George W. Bush came to power, but it is obvious that the PNAC report assumed that "the national leadership that accepts the United States' global responsibilities" would be Bush.

The Report envisions a global Pax Americana — i.e., "maintaining global U.S. preeminence, precluding the rise of a great power rival, and shaping the international security order in line with U.S. principles and interests." This strategy must be advanced "as far into the future as possible." What's more, the U.S. must have the capability to "fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars" to extend U.S. power throughout the planet.

The Report emphasizes military strength as the means to achieve and secure U.S. global dominance ("preeminence" is its preferred euphemism), and identifies four "core missions" for the U.S. military: (1) defend the American homeland, (2) fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars, (3) perform the "constabulary" duties "associated with shaping the security environment in critical regions," and (4) transform the U.S. forces to exploit the revolution in military affairs brought about by technological advances.

Towards these ends, the Report urges the U.S. to maintain U.S. nuclear superiority, build up the personnel strength of the U.S. forces, develop a global missile defense system, and control both cyber space as well as outer space (it proposes the creation of a U.S. Space Forces whose mission will be to control

space).

These means should assure the United States "full spectrum" dominance in land, sea, air and space. Interestingly, it also calls for "shifting permanently based forces to Southeast Europe and Southeast Asia," where the Philippines is located. (Once host to U.S. bases, the Philippines since 2001 has opened its territory to U.S. forces, and allowed the construction of "temporary" facilities for them.)

Where does Iraq fit into all this?

The Report speaks of "the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf (which) transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein." The Report in fact admits that what is envisioned is for the U.S. "to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security." To achieve this, "the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification" for moving U.S. forces into the region.

In short: Saddam Hussein is an excuse to deploy U.S. troops, and their sea and aircraft and other equipment into the Gulf region, so the U.S. military will have "a more permanent role." That role is likely to be not only that of playing the region's "constabulary" by intervening in the countries where the U.S. believes its interests are under threat or potentially under threat. It will also include that of achieving "regime change" in countries other than Iraq.

In the short term, securing the Gulf region will assure the U.S. a virtually unlimited supply of oil (U.S. oil reserves are currently at their lowest in decades) as its multinationals exploit that resource. In the long term it will mean a region reshaped by military force into docile states more agreeable to the U.S. and its ally Israel, whose long term survival as the dominant state in the region will also be assured. It will have strategic significance as well by assuring the U.S. permanent access to the oil resources its military needs to fuel its land, sea and aircraft.

The emphasis on developing the U.S. military's multi-theater capability — meaning its ability to fight two or more wars simultaneously — is premised on the need to force other states hostile to it in line. The U.S. has already identified two of those states as Iran and North Korea, which in PNAC circles are assumed to be the next U.S. targets for "regime change" or some form of military, including nuclear, attack. The pretext would be that North Korea poses a danger to the United States because it has nuclear weapons, and that Iran harbors terrorists.

Bush laid down the premises for the attack on Iraq and other states in his address at West Point last year, in which he claimed for the United States the right to launch preemptive attacks on

those countries that in its view could threaten it. The Bush doctrine has since expanded to include the U.S.'s first use of nuclear weapons — a departure from the policy of nuclear deterrence of previous U.S. administrations.

In the context of the PNAC blueprint, the US invasion of Iraq is both a test as well as a first step in the implementation

of the breathtakingly arrogant, dangerous and globally destabilizing policy the U.S. has adapted. What happens in Iraq would be, in U.S. calculations, the turning point for remaking the Middle East and eliminating potential rivals and hostile regimes. As one right-wing U.S. academic put it, "Does anyone really believe that we will not do anything

about North Korea and other 'rogue states'?"

After Iraq, the prospect for this century would thus be more war, including the distinct possibility of nuclear war so the world's only remaining superpower can gain total control over the entire planet. Today, Iraq. Tomorrow: the world.



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What's ahead in Baghdad?

BY JOHN CHALMERS

DOHA, Qatar (Reuters) - The battle for Baghdad has begun in earnest, but don't expect a dash for the ultimate prize in this U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Analysts say that unless U.S. General Tommy Franks feels supremely confident that Iraq's command and control capabilities have been crippled and that Republican Guard divisions on the outskirts of the capital are in shreds, he will wait for reinforcements and shore up his troops' long supply lines.

The commander of British forces in Iraq — who have been stopped short of Basra, a less-fortified city only a fraction of the size — said on Wednesday that the "decisive phase" of the campaign to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had begun.

But he cautioned against expectations of a quick end.

"Decisive phases often take time," said Air Marshall Brian Burridge told BBC radio. "I wouldn't want to give the impression that within a day or two this is going to be finished."

Analysts say signals from U.S. Central Command that the pause on the frontline 80 km (50 miles) short of Baghdad is over could be a psychological tactic.

More likely it is tightening the noose, hoping that the Republican Guard, Saddam's best trained and best-equipped troops, will crumble and the people of Baghdad will rise up.

"There is not a final push or even a first push. There is not a push to invade Baghdad...it is a standard operation — they want to eliminate the Iraqis' potential," said Paul Beaver, former publisher of Jane's Defense Weekly.

"All the headlines in the papers today are hilarious. This war could go on until the autumn."

MORE BOMBARDMENT

U.S. forces are tightening a pincer movement on the southern approaches to Baghdad, with the 1st Marine Division charging up along the Tigris river on the right side and the 3rd Infantry Division heading for the Euphrates on the left.

The Baghdad Division of the Republican Guard based at Kut, 105 miles southeast of the capital, appears to have been taken out of the picture by the 1st Marine Division when they seized a key bridge over the Tigris.

But there are two divisions of the combat-hardened Republican Guard on the southwest of Baghdad and one to the south. Although they must have been savaged by days of heavy U.S. air bombardment they are likely to be well dug in.

"I can see more bombardment to soften up the Republican Guard: I still think one is some little way from getting to the gates of Baghdad," said William Hopkinson of the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London.

The aim of continued bomb attacks would be to cut off Iraqi communica-

tion and supply lines, destroy their tanks and artillery positions and sap their morale to trigger surrenders or defections.

Hopkinson also expects precision raids, backed by on-the-ground intelligence, to seize key Republican Guard leaders — "like pulling off the leaves of an artichoke one at a time."

One thing U.S.-led forces need to be wary of is a possible retreat by Republican Guard forces into the city, which could draw them into a potentially bloody and protracted urban battle.

To avoid this — a scenario analysts often refer to as "a knife-fight in a phone booth" — they could insert airborne troops between Republican Guard divisions and the city gates.

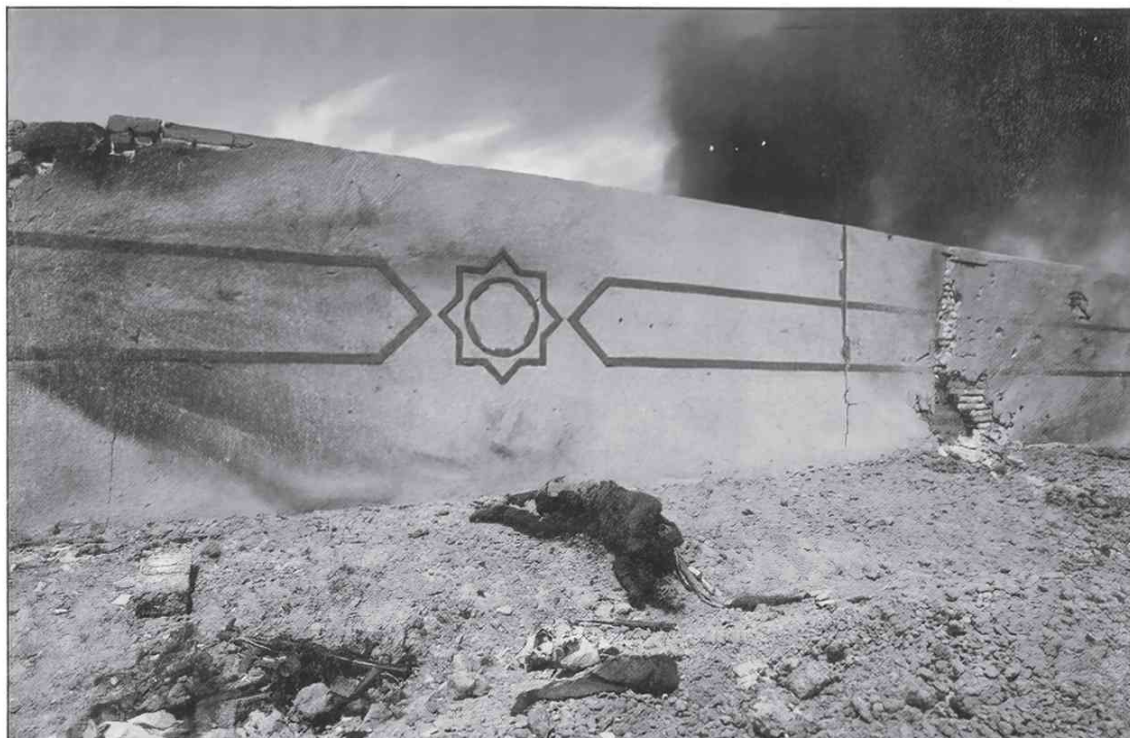
Bolstering troops, supply lines

One U.S. defense official said securing a crossing over the Tigris and encircling Karbala to the southwest were critical steps as U.S. forces prepared for a major assault on Baghdad.

But, asked if such an attack was imminent, the official said: "Imminent would imply that it's going to happen today. That's not necessarily true."

A senior Central Command official said just two days ago that Franks was expecting a "layered" defense of Baghdad, whose inner cordon would include officials of Saddam's ruling Baath party, militia and Republican Guard infantry.

He suggested that, rather than take



An Iraqi militiaman lies dead next to his anti-Tank Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) outside a factory in Basra's industrial estate April, 3.

these on, the U.S.-led forces were hoping anti-Saddam sentiment in the southern cities of Basra and Nassiriya will reach a "tipping point" and spread.

In the meantime, Franks is likely to wait for the 4th Infantry Division, whose forces are now in Kuwait but are still waiting their kit, to join the frontline and also bolster supply lines

whose vulnerability has come in for heavy criticism.

Indeed, 101st Airborne Division troops launched a fierce attack on the central city of Najaf on Wednesday, signaling that despite advances toward Baghdad commanders are still working to secure areas behind the frontlines where sporadic Iraqi resistance has

continued.

With all the focus on the south of the city, is General Franks quietly preparing a surprise prong from the west?

"They may just have special forces on that side," said Tim Garden of the Center for Defense Studies at King's College, London. "But the west is the great unknown in all this."

Iraq reconstruction - if oil can't pay who will?

BY DAVID CHANCE AND MONA MEGALLI

LONDON/DUBAI, April 3 (Reuters) - The reconstruction of Iraq will be the most expensive aid operation since the Marshall Plan for rebuilding Europe after World War Two, but wrangling between the U.S. and Europe means it is unclear the funds can be raised.

Any dreams that Iraq, which has the world's second largest oil reserves, could neatly finance its own reconstruction have evaporated due to massive debts and run-down oil infrastructure.

Europe and Japan, which have helped bankroll reconstruction in ex-Yugoslavia and Afghanistan, face budgetary constraints. Some Europeans may not pay for a war they do not agree with and in the absence of a post-war United Nations mandate.

That leaves one source of finance, the United States, which economists say may have to underwrite the cost, estimated by some at \$100 billion, using Treasury bonds as collateral, something that would not add to U.S. debt.

Iraq's problems are larger than those of Afghanistan and Yugoslavia. To put its needs in context, \$100 billion is the aid given to 36 post-conflict countries in all of the 1990s.

Adjusted for inflation, the figure is almost as big as the amount spent in the post-World War Two Marshall Plan.

"We would really have a contingent liability on the U.S. Treasury," said

Professor Valpy Fitzgerald, a development economist at Oxford University and an expert on reconstruction.

U.S. Treasury officials decline to comment on the issue of financing reconstruction, saying they are holding discussions, but if the U.S. runs post-war Iraq, the kind of international solidarity which saw donors dig deep for former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan is likely to be in short supply.

The U.S. is considering \$2.5 billion for aid and rebuilding.

Germany has already said that the country which caused the damage should pay and European Union president Greece warned on Wednesday of new difficulties after the war ends.

"The management of issues in the (post-war) period by the attackers will trigger new conflicts and crisis," Prime Minister Costas Simitis said.

Building on oil a chimera

Before the U.S. war on Iraq, there had been concerns Saddam Hussein would damage Iraq's oil infrastructure, thus hitting the country's ability to export and so its ability to pay for rebuilding after the war.

That appears not to have happened, but there are plenty of other pitfalls for a country which was once one of the richest developing nations. Per capita income was \$4,000 a year in 1980 and is now \$150 a year.

Even before the first U.S. air strikes were launched on March 20, Iraq needed

billions to shore up basic services for its 26 million citizens, 60 percent of whom are dependent on food aid, and an oil sector ravaged by 12 years of U.N. sanctions and decades of economic mismanagement.

The U.S. has suggested Iraq could use \$11-\$14 billion a year in oil revenues for reconstruction.

But any attempt by the U.S. to take Iraqi oil receipts would be on suspect legal ground as there is around \$142 billion in enforceable debt claims on the country as well as up to \$300 billion in reparations outstanding from the invasion of Kuwait, plus \$57 billion in contracts signed by the Iraqi government.

Washington could also create another flashpoint with states like Russia, which is owed \$8 billion, if it supports a call by Iraqi exiles for forgiveness of all Saddam-era obligations.

In a benign economic scenario, oil export earnings would rise, enabling the country partly to fund its own redevelopment.

But with oil exports running at around \$10-\$12 billion a year there would not be enough money to finance humanitarian needs, debt repayments, even assuming a generous debt relief.

Yugoslavia saw 66 percent of its debts written off after Slobodan Milosevic was ousted as a debt to gross domestic product figure of 150 percent was deemed unsustainable.

Analysts calculate that Iraq debt payments alone would be \$1.6 billion annually for the first five years based on a 66 percent write-off and a five-year grace period, stepping up to \$4.8 billion for the next 10 years.

Repairing existing oil export installations will require \$5 billion and rebuilding electric power infrastructure could cost \$20 billion to restore its pre-1990 capacity, according to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Gulf, foreign and domestic capital

Other potential sources of capital are Gulf Arab governments, companies and banks which are sympathetic to the



Iraqi citizen walks in side a bombed building in Baghdad.

REUTERS

plight of Iraq, foreign multinationals and domestic savings.

Gulf bankers said that it was Arab governments — some of which hold billions of dollars worth of Saddam-era claims — that would put money in for strategic and political reasons.

"Once there is an acceptable regime change in Iraq, it becomes much more important to them. Afghanistan meant nothing by comparison," a senior Arab banker based in Bahrain said.

"They feel guilty about what is happening to the Iraqi people, plus the fact that a stable Iraq is very important to them," said the banker.

The minimum requirements for private sector capital would be a stable government, not an interim U.S. administration, peace and clear rules and regulations, as well probably as some sort of

government guarantee, probably from the U.S. Treasury.

The private sector has the experience, but appetite for projects in developing countries has evaporated in the wake of Enron's experience in India and the sequestration of foreign investors' assets in Argentina after the country went bankrupt.

"The only way to get the private sector involved would be by so heavily insuring the risk and then raising money on the U.S. corporate market to do it," said Oxford's Fitzgerald.

Problems in the global economy are also likely to limit the willingness of firms to risk their own capital as they are suffering from overcapacity in domestic markets, low domestic prices, weak share prices and poor credit outlooks, said consultant Robert Shephard.

"In the current environment, few firms are willing to tell the rating agencies or their shareholders that they are investing in riskier areas of the world," said Shephard, formerly responsible for global project finance at Bank of America and Nationsbank.

There is still capital in the country which could be invested, but that requires a stable currency and central bank.

Typically in post-conflict situations, the International Monetary Fund likes to insist on high interest rates to stabilise the currency, which cuts local risk appetite.

"Domestic investors, peasants, shopkeepers and so on are highly exposed to domestic monetary policy and interest rates which are affected by the IMF," said Oxford's Fitzgerald.

تهانينا فھمي

القبعات، اكايل الورود واجمل التهاني للزميل العزيز

فھمي عبدالواحد احمد صالح

رئيس القسم الرياضي في صحيفة الجمهورية
بمناسبة محقده قرآنه المبدون

تهانينا فھمي، واطيب التمنيات بھيا سعيده
المھننون،

عماد السقاھ، فاروق الكماي وطاھم صحبيۃ يمن تايمن،

Top Egyptian cleric hails volunteers for Iraq war

CAIRO, April 5 (Reuters) - Egypt's top Islamic cleric gave his blessing on Saturday to volunteers wishing to help Iraqis in the war against U.S. and British forces, but blamed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for the conflict.

Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, the state-appointed grand sheikh of al-Azhar mosque and university in Cairo, said the war on Iraq was an attack on all Arab countries, but added that Saddam could have avoided it by going into exile.

"Whoever wants to go to Iraq to support the Iraqi people, the door is open, and I say the door for Jihad (holy struggle) is open until the day of judgement," Tantawi told a news conference.

"Whoever wants to go to support the Iraqi people, I welcome that, I welcome that, I welcome that."

"I say to him go with peace and I wish you well. We do not prevent anyone from going to help those who are facing injustice."

Activists say hundreds of Egyptians have signed up with the country's lawyers' union to fight alongside the Iraqis against the U.S.-led war, now in its third week.

Baghdad says thousands of Arab volunteers have arrived in Iraq and are ready to "martyr" themselves in the war to unseat the Iraqi government.

Despite his support for the Iraqi people, Tantawi, spiritual guide to hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world, said Saddam should have ceded power to avoid it, as suggested by the United Arab Emirates.

"If President Saddam Hussein had



An Iraqi policeman holds his weapon and flashes a victory sign in front of the mosque next to the Palestinian hotel in Baghdad April 5, 2003. Iraq's information minister said on Saturday Baghdad was firmly under Iraqi control and denied U.S. reports that troops had reached the centre of the capital. REUTERS

responded to this request, then all these problems would not be happening

now," Tantawi said. "The war against the Iraqi people

must, must, must stop as soon as possible," he added.

Writethru: Fire breaks out in as Siliyah Central command in Qatar

DOHA, April 5 (Xinhua) — Fire broke out at US As Siliyah base being used as US Central Command forward post in Qatar on Saturday, Abu Dhabi TV reported.

Loud sirens sounded in the headquarters where Over 100 foreign reporters covering the news briefing held by Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart were evacuated immediately, Xinhua

correspondents reported. Fire brigades rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire, Abu Dhabi TV said without elaborating the cause of the blaze.

Turkey decides to expel 3 Iraqi diplomats

ANKARA, April 5 (Xinhua) — Turkey has decided to order three Iraqi diplomats in Ankara to leave the country, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported Saturday.

The decision was made because the Iraqi diplomats were involved in activities which did not suit their mission, the report said.

The Iraqi Embassy in Ankara has been informed of the deci-

sion and the three diplomats are expected to leave Turkey within next week. The three diplomats were deputy commercial counsellor Ahmed Matlup, first secretary Muhammed Hikmet and second secretary Katip Sabah El-Duri, said Anatolia. Local television NTV said the decision was made under the pressure of US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who paid a working visit to Ankara earlier this week.

Arafat, Mubarak discuss situation in Mideast over telephone

GAZA, April 5 (Xinhua) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed Friday over telephone the current situation in the Middle East, official Palestinian Wafa News Agency reported. According to the report, the two leaders discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories, war in Iraq and the issue of forming a new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet.

"President Arafat briefed his brother President Mubarak on the latest developments related to the Israeli military escalation of incursions, killing of Palestinians and the demolition of their homes," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a top aide to Arafat.

Arafat, who has been confined in his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah for about two years, met with dozens of Palestinian children Friday

to mark the Palestinian Child Day. Arafat promised the children that an independent Palestinian state would be established and one day they would

hang the Palestinian flags on the fences of the old city of Jerusalem, on the mosques and churches.



Undated photo of a Palestinian man carries family belongings picked up from the rubble of his house demolished by Israeli soldiers. REUTERS

Blast rocks a Beirut McDonalds restaurant

BEIRUT, April 5 (Reuters) - A small blast ripped through the toilets of a McDonalds restaurant on the edge of Beirut on Saturday, security sources said, the latest in a string of attacks on fast food outlets associated with the United States.

At least two people were lightly injured in the blast, caused by a small chunk of dynamite hidden in the toilet of the restaurant, the sources said.

Security forces evacuated the building, and were checking it for any other explosives, they added.

Anger at Washington has swelled in Lebanon since the start of the U.S.-led war on Iraq last month.

Anti-American sentiment had already been building up over the course of the 30-month Palestinian uprising and attempts by U.S. ally Israel to crush it.

There has been a string of bombings at fast food outlets associated with the United States since May 2002, when one person was injured in the bombing of a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in the northern port city of Tripoli.

In November, small blasts shook three restaurants in Beirut and northern Lebanon, including two Pizza Hut outlets.

Israeli army raids Gaza, Hebron

GAZA, April 5 (Xinhua) — The Israeli forces raided at predawn on Saturday Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza Strip, Palestinian security sources and eyewitnesses said.

The sources said that the Israeli forces backed by five tanks and armored personnel carriers that stationed at the nearby Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom raided the camp and carried out a large-scale searching campaign.

Witnesses added that Israeli troops broke into a number of Palestinian-owned houses in the camp, causing panic among the residents.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces carried out an incursion overnight Friday

into the West Bank city of Hebron and imposed curfew on the area, Palestinian security sources reported.

The sources said that a big number of tanks and armored vehicles raided the old city as well as Al-Hawouz, Wadi Al-Hariya and Al-Salam Street, calling on residents through loudspeakers not to leave their houses.

"We heard heavy shooting, and then a number of Israeli soldiers started ransacking the houses," an eyewitness said.

Palestinian medical sources reported on Saturday that five Palestinians were injured during the incursion, three of them children under the age of 15, and described their condition as critical.

Top Shi'ite cleric rejects any US-led govt in Iraq

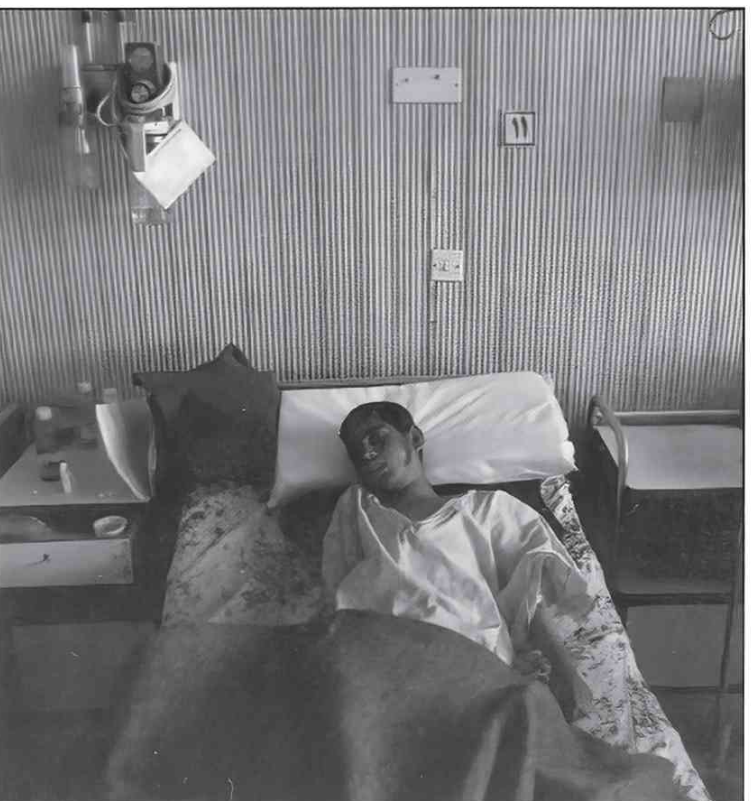
BEIRUT, April 5 (Reuters) - Lebanon's top Shi'ite Muslim cleric urged Arabs and Muslims on Saturday to resist any American or U.S.-backed government set up to run Iraq immediately after the war.

"We as Arabs and Muslims...will not give any legitimacy to any government set up in Iraq under an American administration or through efforts by the American administration to project legitimacy on some who will act according to its instructions," Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah said in a statement.

visited Israel in 1998 at the expense of a lobbying group — the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs — which argues that the United States needs Israel to project U.S. force in the Middle East.

Lieutenant-General Jay Garner also put his name to an October 2000 statement blaming Palestinians for the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian violence and saying a strong Israel was an important security asset for the United States.

Lebanon and neighbouring Syria, which maintains broad political and



An Iraqi boy wounded during an air strike lies in a hospital in the town of Hilla some 110 km south of Baghdad April 2. REUTERS

"We must confront any man that America tries to place in the position of administering Iraq under any title," he said. "Especially when the American man...whose name they are suggesting on the basis that he will come to set up an interim government or administration...is the American who most lives (Ariel) Sharon's mentality," he said, referring to the Israeli prime minister.

The retired U.S. general earmarked as civilian governor of occupied Iraq

military influence in Lebanon, are staunchly opposed to the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Fadlallah was the spiritual guide to Lebanon's Shi'ite Hizbollah guerrilla group during the 1975-1990 civil war, when Washington believes it carried out car bombings of its embassy and Marine barracks.

Lebanon's Syrian-backed Hizbollah helped end Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000.

Vatican says Iraq war raises great moral question

VATICAN CITY, April 2 (Reuters) - The Vatican said on Wednesday the war in Iraq could have been avoided and the growing death toll on both sides raised a "great moral question".

"As the war wears on, the great moral question is always the same," chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told Reuters.

"Is it worth the many deaths on both sides along with the suffering, destruction and hate when there were other peaceful means to make the threat from Iraq harmless?"

Navarro-Valls' comments were the Vatican's most direct criticism of the conflict since it began. Pope John Paul has made numerous generic peace appeals in the past two weeks.

The spokesman's comments were a clear criticism of both sides in the war for not having allowed diplomacy to avert armed conflict.

The Vatican had urged Iraqi leaders to disarm in accordance with the will of the international community but at the same time deplored military intervention to resolve the crisis.

The pope led the Vatican in a vigorous campaign to avert war. He met numerous politicians and sent top envoys to both Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and U.S. President George W. Bush in his drive for peace.

The Vatican has also expressed deep disappointment with the United States and its backers for having gone ahead with the attack without the consent of the international community.

Speaking on Tuesday before a United Nations commission on disarmament, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations, Celestino Migliore, praised anti-war protesters.

"The extraordinary mobilisation of men and women that we see almost everywhere...indicates that the cause of peace is making great progress in the conscience of humanity," Migliore said.



Iraqi Kurd children walk up to a bombed Iraqi military truck in a former military outpost in territory newly acquired by Kurds and U.S. forces after a defensive retreat by Iraqi government forces south of Arbil, northern Iraq, April 5. REUTERS

UK strips radical Muslim cleric of citizenship

LONDON, April 5 (Reuters) - Britain has revoked the citizenship of a radical Muslim cleric who applauded the September 11 attacks and was banned from preaching at a London mosque, Home Secretary David Blunkett said on Saturday.

Blunkett said he had informed Abu Hamza al-Masri his citizenship was being stripped. He is the first person targeted under new measures aimed at deporting immigrants whose words or actions are deemed to "seriously prejudice" British interests.

"I have sent him a letter withdrawing his citizenship," Blunkett told BBC radio. Masri now faces deportation.

Egyptian-born Masri, a hate figure in British tabloids that have focused on his missing eye and hook in the place of his right hand, has been vilified for applauding the September 11 attacks in the United States and the deaths of Americans and an Israeli in the crash of the space shuttle Columbia.

He was banned from preaching at the North London Central Mosque after police raided it in January in an investigation into the discovery of ricin poison. The mosque has since been closed but Masri has continued to preach in the street outside.

Masri, who lost an eye and both forearms while fighting Soviet forces in Afghanistan, has called Osama bin Laden a hero.

FIGHT ALL THE WAY

But Masri's lawyer, Muddassar

Arani, said the cleric had not received the letter and would resist on the grounds that removal of nationality breached EU protocols on human rights.

"We will fight this all the way," she told Reuters. Blunkett's action follows the introduction of new powers on April 1 allowing the government to strip immigrants holding dual nationality of British citizenship if they "seriously prejudice" the country's vital interests through word or deed.

But Arani said the action would leave Masri stateless because he had surrendered his Egyptian nationality "years ago".

Masri, nicknamed Dr Hook by the tabloid press, holds a British passport through marriage to a British woman.

He is suspected by the United States of links to bin Laden's al Qaeda network — charges he has denied — and is wanted in Yemen on terrorism charges.

Blunkett said the move was not made because Masri was a "big mouth" who just said silly things the government did not like.

"The evidence that would obviously have to be produced if this man appeals... would be about the way people are encouraged to take part in the jihad (Islamic holy war), they're encouraged to fight us overseas and issues of that sort."

He would not speculate on how many others the government might target under the new laws but said no one



An August 25, 2002 file photograph shows radical Muslim cleric Sheikh Abu Hamza al-Masri addressing the sixth annual rally for Islam in Trafalgar Square, London. REUTERS

would be sent back to a country if they might face the death penalty.

"We are not starting a kind of hunt round for people...who don't warrant it. I want to deal with people who our intelligence and security services believe are a risk to us."

A record number of asylum seekers entering Britain and the recent arrests of several refugee applicants over terrorism-related cases have fuelled a fractious debate over immigration.

The new measures are part of a wider plan aimed at chopping by 50

percent the number of asylum seekers arriving in Britain — more than 100,000 came last year — and stopping what the government says is an abuse of its generous benefits system.

One Muslim leader said Masri had no influence in the wider Muslim community but removing his citizenship could backfire.

"By removing his citizenship you give him publicity. Maybe it will make him a sort of hero," said Syed Aziz Pasha, Secretary General of the Union of Muslim Organisations.

Iraq postwar installed

DUBAI, April 5 (Reuters) - The United States plans to install the first stages of a civil administration to run post-war Iraq in the southern port of Umm Qasr within days, a U.S. official said on Saturday.

Members of the Pentagon's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) are scheduled to start operating in the port as early as Tuesday, the official said.

"What we are going to start trying to do, even before the fighting is over in Iraq, is to move to the areas in Iraq that are relatively peaceful, places like Umm Qasr, and to start moving ORHA into Iraq," the official, who asked that his name be withheld, told Reuters.

ORHA has become the focus of international controversy. The United States faces criticism for assuming the leading role in immediate post-war Iraq instead of the United Nations.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell

has rebuffed the near unanimous demands from members of the European Union and NATO to put the United Nations in the driving seat.

Retired U.S. General Jay Garner is set to make his media debut in Kuwait on Monday as the man whom the United States has named to be Iraq's temporary postwar civilian administrator.

The following day, ORHA's operation in the southern region is set to be launched. It will expand rapidly and then spread to other areas, the official said.

"It is a fair assessment to say that this is the first step to set up a civil administration in Iraq," the official said.

Garner's team will administer three regions, with retired General Buck Walters in the south, retired General Bruce Moore in the north and former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Barbara Bodine in the central region.

Russian ambassador leaving Iraq-ministry

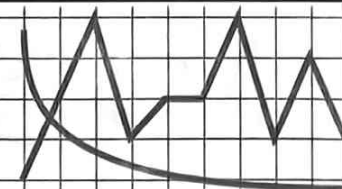
MOSCOW, April 5 (Reuters) - Russia's ambassador to Iraq is leaving the country as part of staff reductions to ensure diplomats' safety, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

"In order to ensure the safety of embassy staff, their numbers will be reduced to a strict minimum," spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

Yakovenko said ambassador Vladimir Titorenko was among those being evacuated, but gave no further details. Russia is one of only a handful of countries to keep its embassies operating in Baghdad.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador to Moscow this week to complain about air strikes it said had hit the district in which the embassy was located and endangered staff.

YT Business



Liquefied natural gas

More clarifications

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In clarification of what has been published in last week's issue on developing and marketing of the Yemeni liquefied natural gas which was based on statements by Director-General for Gas Affairs Taha Ahmed al-Ahdal published recently in Oil and Minerals newspaper, the oil official has tackled certain axes on this topic. We are in this article to explain and shed light on the whole subject as mentioned by that official.

The first premise as mentioned by Mr. al-Ahdal is:

The situation of the project:

The major activities relating to the

LNG have been finished, except for marketing. The more important of those activities was the technical side which had been finalized and the documents required for inaugurating the second phase of the project had become ready. Studies related to the increase in efficiency of the project had been completed in the first quarter of the year 1998.

The second aspect is the marketing. In this regard Yemen had begun marketing the LNG outside the framework of the investment project for 1997 when foreign partners had joined to participate in the Yemeni Company for Oil and Gas following negotiations lasted for some time.

Al-Ahdal mentions in his article in that newspaper that the marketing activity began after signing an agreement by

participants from two major areas for traditional markets for LNG, namely, Korea, Japan and Turkey and a number of other Asian countries. Regarding the targeted new markets there were India, China and Thailand. Up till now those marketing activities are fruitful. They have revealed significant results and placed the Yemeni project in the first place of other new competing gas projects.

These marketing efforts, though did not lead to obtain commitment to maintained buying of the Yemeni gas, they had found abroad a momentum for the project that would result in the Yemeni Company for LNG gaining of a share in the world market of this commodity as it would be possible to depend on the Yemeni project for providing gas sup-

plies for world markets.

Al-Ahdal has also recommended to setting up a strong strategy aimed at finding markets for gas and also to include definition of goals.

The second premise as mentioned in al-Ahdal's article is:

Evaluation of possible options:

Al-Ahdal sees that renewing the agreement on development of the gas project and its exportation was among the options. The government has adopted the option of extending work in the present agreement on developing gas in order to reach at the best economic benefits. That option enables the project team to continue in its marketing efforts and entering into agreements on selling with buyers without the Yemeni gas

company being exposed to pressures for offering concessions regarding any of the advantages accumulated in its favor in markets.

Therefore for the purpose of clarification of what has been reported in the previous article we say that we did not mean that the companies which renewed the contract for investment of the Yemeni gas are now exporting it, but rather limited quantities of gas are being exported by the Yemeni company of gas in mercantile ship.

Yemen depends in operating the gas project on the group of investment companies and it has obtained their acceptance for exporting it to Asian markets. This activity would supply the government budget with hard currency that helps boost the national income.

The Road Ahead

The feel-frustrated factor

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

Why are some countries experiencing rapid economic developments while others are left behind? That is a result of the quality of the governance in these countries, i.e. the quality of the economic, social and political institutions, and in particular the law and order institutions.

Law enforcement is an important factor to consider before investing in business, particularly in a society like ours, where our cultural traditions of dominion and self-defense strongly support people being armed, especially if you are a Yemeni coming from a strong tribal background, because we, Yemenis, are fond of having guns. In fact, unofficial numbers claim that there are over 50 million pieces of weapons of different sizes and types in the hands of Yemeni civilians, this is such a scary reality reflecting that everybody around you have access to weapons, including your not-so-ethical competitors. As such, businesses have to preserve the right to remain alive and active, otherwise the sense of liberty is lost.

Additionally, our system of law enforcement and the police are not responsible for the safety or security of you or your business, their only obligation is only to protect "society", whatever that means. This is such a disturbing factor for businessmen and their ability to do business in our economy, because stability is important for fueling our economic progress hence it encourages investments, both foreign and local. Furthermore, instability discourages foreign investments, chasing away migratory capital and in turn cause a drop in the value of the local currency. This usually happens in developing countries where there is too much corruption.

Poor governance and corruption are closely interlinked. Corruption undermines good governance, and bad governance produces corruption because the root causes of corruption lie in the absence of delegation of power and authority. However, our struggle against corruption has a limited success through disarming only peaceful citizens leaving violent and aggressive members of the society armed, and so providing for more instability in our society.

With regard to business, corruption occurs at points of economic interests; there are firms, pressure groups and citizens who try to maximize their gains by paying bribes, while public officials try to maximize their illegal earnings and wealth. Those who bribe may seek to avoid or reduce costs, through illegal reductions in taxes, limp enforcement of regulations, or dropping criminal charges, even if that included extortion or undue influence.

Consequently, even if businessmen learn about the legal measures that can help them incase of such incidents, it is important for the government to eliminate corruption in the law & order institutions to facilitate justice and maintain the sense of liberty, otherwise, businessmen will only be more frustrated in trying to carryout business and invest in our country.

Endnote: We need better political stability through control of arms and elimination of corruption, especially within the law enforcement agencies for our economy to revive and grow.

Advertising budget: How to get the most out of it

By AHMED S. ALI MUQBIL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES
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Anyone interested in success in business needs to ask some questions relating to marketing and promotional services. What are the key success factors that each one of us should do in this respect?

They are broadly similar, and include the need to recognize change, understand our customers, putting the needs of our customers first, structuring our business entirely around the needs of our customers, responding to change, invest in strategies to convert into an opportunity, outthinking our competitors.

Every business is involved in marketing whether we believe ourselves to be or not. Because without marketing, which I define as the management of change for profit, business would cease to exist. And companies invest in marketing because they believe it will help change their business for the better.

This can be a qualitative change in terms of brand image or corporate reputation, or it can be a quantitative change in term of increased sales of a particular product or attracting new customers to a service.

We should work this way because we have to believe that an orchestrated approach, combining a number of marketing communications activities, will help the client or brand to achieve its objectives better than the use of any particular skill on its own. That is not to say there is no role for the specialist quite the contrary. However, when there is a broad opportunity, it is foolhardy not to take into forms of promotion work well together.

Thus, the key success factor is to recognize the strategic continue that exist along the marketing communications line-recognizing that some message are broad, for example, packaging and advertising and some are targeted for example, sales promotion and direct marketing. Each has a specific role to play in establishing business success but synergy can be created by using project management to ensure that each of these separate communications vehicles contributes to the greater good of the brand image by communicating a core message.

The next section of our marketing communications plan should be an identification of our goals. Although the plan should deal with marketing communications and not marketing, it's often helpful to include a brief review of marketing goals that have been set for the brand.

That will assist us in seeing how the program is designed to support and assist in the sales and profit objectives of the company. Typically, marketing goals are stated both long-term and short-term and

most short-term goals are for the coming year or coming financial period, long-term goals are from three to five years.

Whether the goals are short or long-term, I believe they should be expressed quantitatively that is, in number of figures that can be measured. I would also suggest that in this section we should give a brief description of the basic marketing mix that will be used by the brand or company during this period. This mix is the combination of pricing, distribution, promotion, place and the like that will be used to support the brand.

The next element in your marketing communications plan will be the budget and this is always the thing that is uppermost in the mind of the person who has to make the decision about investment in marketing communications, how much is the campaign going to cost, and how can we could be guaranteed a return from this investment.

Ideally, we should include a note on what traditionally has been spent on the brand and what spending is proposed in the next period. This can take many forms such as a recap of the past five years expenditures, the relationship of advertising to sales or distribution, or numbers of units operated or other factors. I would also suggest that we include here a budget for evaluating the market communications plan. This will necessitate getting proposals from market research companies for pre- and post- testing competitive expenditure can also be included in this section.

The next section in our plan is marketing communications. As you can see, I have been moving from the general marketing objectives to the specifics of the marketing communications program. Therefore, I will spend a little bit more time on that than I will on the rest of the marketing communications mix.

There are three main rules for developing effective advertising strategies. They apply to every product or service and to everyone who and every company that hopes to develop or he involved in effective advertising.

They rules are as follows:

Rule 1

All advertising must take the customers view. This simply means that advertising strategies and the resulting advertising executions must always be directed to what the customer or prospect wants to hear or see or is interested in, not just what the advertiser want to say or do.

Rule 2

Advertising is delivering sales messages. Advertising is simply one way a company has of delivering sales messages for their product or service to a large number of prospective customers in many different locations at the same time.

Advertising is nothing more than that but nothing less than that. Thus, if delivery and acceptance of a sales message won't influence the receiver to purchase, then it is unlikely the advertising will be successful no matter how interesting or entertaining it may be. First and foremost, advertising must persuade. That is the basic premise of a sales message. And persuasion usually occurs when there is a benefit for the receiver, not just for the sender.

Rule 3

Customers buy benefits, not attributes. Most people are not interested in how a television receives radio waves and through some complex technologies process converts those into sounds and pictures. There are really only interested in how television can benefit them in their daily lives. Far too often Irish clients are interested in telling consumers how they make things rather than in the effect that this particular product is going to have on the buyer. The benefit is the end result the buyer gets. The attributes are those things that make the benefit possible. Consumers are interested in benefits not attributes. The distinction between attributes and benefits is a key one in developing effective advertising strategies.

Now how should we write a marketing communications plan? One way to write and define the plan is to describe what it is not:

1. The marketing communications plan is not a marketing plan. It does not contain marketing objectives such as sales or profits or returns on investment. The marketing communications plan is part of the marketing plan and contains only that information relevant to the advertising or promotion or corporate identity program to be conducted for the brand during the given time period. The marketing information belongs in the marketing plan and not in the marketing communications plan.
2. The marketing communications plan is not a sales document. Although it is important to be enthusiastic about the program that has been developed, the purpose of the plan is to provide an outline of what is recommended and what is to be done.
3. The marketing communication plan is not a ponderous tome. The objective isn't to show how much information has been gathered but to communicate clearly and completely what is proposed for the coming period and why those recommendations are being made.

Specifically, a marketing communications plan should cover the following:

Situation analysis

On the other hand, the situation analy-

sis would comprise four sections.

The first is company and product history and this should be a brief sketch of the company and a little more on the history of the brand what initiative have been undertaken in the past and their success, current market share data and anything relevant to the sales history of the brand.

The second area is product evaluation and this should be a brief descriptor of all those elements which might effect sales of the product or service including the benefits offered, distribution, pricing and so on. It should point out those areas that will impact specifically on the success of the marketing communications program, for example, if the brand has a distribution problem, the problem should be pointed out. It is also important to point out the assumptions that are being made about the marketplace and marketing activities during the period of the plan. You should point out which of these assumptions will be likely to affect the marketing communications program. For example, if prices are to be increased during the course of the plan, some statement should be made about what affect this might have on advertising response.

The third area is consumer evaluation. This paragraph should give an accurate picture of the target markets to whom the marketing communications will be directed and it should be as specific as possible including demographics which you probably all know about, but should also include psycho graphic and geographic data. Psycho graphic data is very important in getting underneath the skin of your consumer and understanding how he or she behaves, how they use the product now, what attitudes they have towards the brand, how they feel about the competition- in short, any information that will give better picture of the target market.

And the forth area should be a competitive evaluation. Obviously, in order to know your consumer well, you need to understand the competitive territory.

Moreover, you could include information on current competitive advertising, brand imagery or any other information that has come to you from market research. It is important to identify the amounts of money being invested by each of your competitors in developing and managing their brands. This will help support the budget proposed in the plan and will give you a benchmark against which to measure subsequent brand performance.

To conclude on how to get the most out of the advertising & promotional budget, I would like to leave all me readers who were and still interested in this subject with the 7 heavenly virtues of marketing communications that can lead to more effectiveness:

1. The first heavenly virtue is to deliver a

significant competitive promise or benefit to your consumer. This promise may be either rational, emotional or a combination of both. But it must come out of the product. It can be depicted in words, a picture or ideally in both.

2. Build the brand personality. Every brand has what we call a personality bank, which is a basis of the second heavenly virtue. In this bank are store the perceptions of the brand-its personality. Every time you run a dull, offensive or misleading and you make a withdrawal from the personality bank, every piece of communication, including advertising and sales promotion, should make a deposit in the personality bank instead of a withdrawal. Every piece of communication should be designed to build a long-term personality that is always welcome in the consumer's life.

3. Be specific. Pin things down, present evidence, facts, and the consumer will reward you. Don't ever be too complacent to present them in a fresh, uncomplicated way. If you back up your promise, you often cement a sale.

4. Simplicity. The greatest advertising is the simplest advertising. The consumer is interested after all in only one thing- "what's in it for me". Good advertising tells them briefly and is gone. Remember the 60-second of darkness brought to you by Guinness? Remember Benson & Hedges pure gold?

5. The fifth heavenly virtue is directness. The best advertising makes a point quickly and unequivocally. Do not be obscure or over subtle in advertising if many people, smokers alike-don't understand silk cut advertising. Many creative people in advertising agencies design advertising to appeal to their colleagues rather than to appeal to their consumers, beware.

6. Talk person to person. When you know your consumer, make sure that the advertising talks directly to them in a language that depicts them in the way they really are. Does the current American Express advertising campaign achieve this? Does Heinz tomato ketchup achieve this? Does National Irish Banks achieve this?

7. Do the unexpected. Good advertising embraces all the other virtues and combines them with surprise, which is the seventh heavenly virtue. Remember, after all, that our identity is what makes us different from other people not what makes us the same. Make it a rule never to create trite, cliché-ridden advertising just because that is what everybody else is doing.

To conclude, when it comes down to it, it's all about the right thinking and the right creativity, but first and foremost the right thinking.

Words of Wisdom



One of the major problems of underdeveloped societies is their inability to look ahead. Good planning is probably the most crucial factor in success - whether in business, in government, or even in life itself. We in Yemen suffer enormously because we are unable to look ahead. The ability to look ahead comes with training and education; it is not an inherent part of the individual. It is something people can acquire.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999) Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

True freedom

I want to share with you my views about the fate of Iraq, if we assume that it falls in the hands of the US and UK in this war. The coalition claims that it is there to liberate Iraq from Saddam Hussein. They claim that they will bring democracy and freedom to Iraq, but we remain suspicious.

Yes, we are suspicious and we have the right to be so. After all, this war has not received international legitimacy, was not approved by the international community, and was not based on the will of the people of the world, and does not represent the wish of the Iraqi people. Freedom cannot be enforced on any nation. Only Iraqis can decide on what they want and need.

So, doesn't this assumed "freedom" contradict with true freedom?

No doubt, this so called "liberation" of Iraq, would create splendidly strong and flowery relations with the US and UK, and possibly Israel. Whatever happens in the future, Iraq-US relations would always be strong. This will probably go on regardless of what the US does to Arabs in supporting Israel or acting against Arab interests. Iraq won't have the freedom to say no to the US any way. After all, wasn't the US the country that 'liberated' Iraq? So Iraqis will continue to owe this favor to the US forever. How can you be free when you are in debt all your life?

Doesn't this contradict with freedom?

Iraq won't be able to produce its own strong weapons again. It will be a country that basically lives and survives with limited ambitions concerning military might. In this particular case, it could be a repeat scenario of post-World War II Germany and Japan. Countries like the US, UK, and others will have the right and freedom to develop their military capabilities to whatever extent they feel necessary while Iraq won't have this very right.

Doesn't this contradict with freedom?

The Iraqi regime that could be appointed after Saddam is gone, must be loyal to the US and UK, and must be in coherence with business interests. Hence, this regime will have to consult those countries on many things that may even be related to local political as well as commercial affairs.

Doesn't this contradict with freedom?

Overall, Iraq may become a colony without explicitly saying so. After all, the Afghanistan example is clear. Its leader was appointed by the US directly out of orders from the White House. Whether we want to admit it or not, Iraq would be seen by the world as a US colony. How can a colony be free?

Doesn't this contradict with freedom?

Finally, what if the US and UK fail to find solid evidence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction when the war is over? Wouldn't the two countries try to diminish this issue and say "life goes on"? Shouldn't the world prosecute those powers if we find out that the basis of the whole war was wrong?

Doesn't this contradict with freedom?

Yes, this so called 'freedom' brought to Iraq by the US and UK is not true freedom.

True freedom means that you have your will in your hands.

Freedom means that you can stand up against any unjust power and say "no!"

That is true freedom.

The Editor

Will US determination on Palestine be equal to that shown on Iraq?

The dangers ahead

BY ABDULLAH AL RAHIM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Will the invaders take Baghdad? Will the Saddam regime collapse? The current going tempts us to place our wagers on the answer, No. But George Bush tells anyone who will listen, America will win the War. We have the right to ask him, will America win the Peace?

Should America win and our wager is lost, that last question we asked above will be the test upon which everything we have been told this war is about, will stand or fall. It will not matter then how many nay sayers have been proven wrong or vindicated. It will not matter how much super fire power was deployed to vanquish a nation progressively stripped of its military resources over a period of 12 years prior to this obviously, long planned onslaught. Neither will the whereabouts of Saddam matter then. What will matter, and this is the single most important element, will the Dual Axis [my apologies for copying Bush] carry out their pledge to install a truly democratically elected Iraqi government, to rebuild a nation that they largely destroyed by their bullets on the battle field and their ballots at the United Nations.

Thereafter, will this Dual Axis turn south-west of Iraq and live up to their repeated promises to address the Palestinian rights? Will their determination on Palestine be equal to that shown on Iraq?

We have serious doubts, but we would like nothing more than to be proven wrong.

We have followed this enterprise from its beginning in 1979 to 1990 to this day. Nothing we have seen inspires confidence or lends credibility to the claims of the Dual Axis, both of whom have been cynically involved up to their ears with the events that unfolded throughout this period. And now comes what is seemingly the beginning of the end game as orchestrated in Pennsylvania Avenue and obediently followed by Downing Street.

Their success in Iraq will give them the impetus to turn to Iran, the second member of Bush's Axis of Evil and then beyond, in their attempt to complete their global stranglehold.

Consider the re-designed regional political map. There is Afghanistan, literally an exclusive American colony, windfall of 9/11. Go westwards, to Iraq, now being bombed into becoming another American colony. Sandwiched in between lies Iran, precariously in the process of being surrounded, a tid if not careful, crushed. Now go eastwards. You will find Pakistan, already surrounded by a hostile India and an American Afghanistan, and if not careful, also crushed.

These are the most advanced Muslim states, one is under attack, the other two waiting in line.

With America militarily trying to crown its position as a sole, unchallenged super power, a cross Atlantic duel is taking place between America and France, which has seen the danger America poses to the very survival of the European Union as an independent entity able to balance America's global influence. France fears that, should America achieve its ambitions, the EU, now with a population and economy equal that of America, will be forced to continue to play second role to

America and will be blackmailed by an America powered by its newly conquered global resources. Apart from any of France's professed or even possible moral considerations, this fear is the cornerstone of France's opposition and threat to veto the US/UK war intentions, thus forcing them, if they so wished, to go to war without international legitimacy with all its ramifications. Moreover, Europe, the Arab world's close neighbor, will bear the brunt of the chaos and instability ensuing from America's domination of the region. Although Germany and Russia share the French vision, the former does not possess the global reach and the latter does not possess the economic independence that France possesses, two elements which gave France the strength to challenge America.

As America aggressively tries to stay at the top, the question is, what price will we and the rest of the world pay?

Wishful thinking always permitted, no Arab government should believe that its closeness or support of the American enterprise will save it from the falling axe. Throughout its history, and many of America's European allies will testify, America's friendship has neither exceeded its shortsighted vision nor gone beyond its narrow interests. This invasion is not about Democracy or Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, it is about preserving the American way of life at the expense of others.

With the impending final solution on the three Muslim states, the only ones with a real potential to emerge as regional powers able to challenge America's regional ambitions, the axe will fall not only on our region but beyond, upon Europe, Asia and the rest of humanity, unless of course, we and others now threatened, unite to put the brakes on the current super power.

Iraqis are doing their part, tragically but heroically alone. Only a week and all pronouncements of a swift victory have been toppled. The Shock and Awe proved to be more on them than Iraq. The US/UK decision to dispatch an additional 100 thousand soldiers to the frontline underlines not only Iraq's determination, but also the extent of wishful thinking that went into their invasion plan. No Iraqi woman has showered the armed Romeos with flowers, and no Shia uprising has materialized. Reaction to this resistance will be even more panic bombing, resulting in even more civilian casualties. In turn, this only promises increased public outcry throughout the world and increased pressure on the Dual Axis to end the invasion.

Faced with its failure to achieve a swift victory, America has started first to look for external scapegoats. Russia and Syria have been accused of supplying military hardware to Iraq. This move will soon be discounted if found useless. If the additional forces also prove useless and the war continues to go against them, the US and UK will most likely want to go back to the United Nations, as already indicated by their support of the UN decision to restart the Food for Oil program, an option they rejected earlier.

After ignoring the United Nations and questioning its relevance, they will probably make silent efforts to use the UN to obtain a face saving way out of their quagmire. Ironically, they might have to go on bended knees to the very countries who opposed the invasion and who consequently were the subject of a massive American tirade.

Indeed, these countries will rightfully relish such a vindication. During a speech making visit to London last week, the Foreign Minister of France, traditionally a US/UK ally, said a lot indeed when he refused to tell a journalist who his country would like to see win the war.

Meanwhile, judging from press statements, subtle fiasco finger pointing has already started in Washington. This will increase if the war's current tempo continues. Heads will roll, the first, Richard Perle, was the US Defense Department's foremost anti-Arab and the strongest advocate of invading Iraq [apart from being an advisor to Israel's Netanyahu]. He was forced out last week. We are told he resigned because of a 'commercial conflict of interest'! Because of his preference of a techno war over a soldier's war, Rumsfeld, Perle's boss, is already being accused of dangerously underestimating the invasion's manpower needs.

Cracks within the Dual Axis have also become apparent. The junior partner, the future Ex-Prime Minister of Britain, reportedly had a 'very candid' discussion with Bush. America is unwilling to share the Iraq re-construction business with British companies, apart from little crumbs, i.e. sub-contracting to American companies. This, at a time when British MPs and companies are demanding to know from Blair what the Return on Investment will be.

The Dual Axis' current predicament reminds me of an ancient Arab proverb which says, "had I known the future, I would have chosen the present". Indeed, had they known then, what they know now, would they have chosen the path they took?

The US and UK, by this aggression, have opened a huge Pandora's Box. Should the invasion be stopped by a UN ordered ceasefire with subsequent withdrawal and Saddam remains in power, Iraq can, justifiably, and probably will, demand war reparations from America, Britain and all the countries which directly participated in this invasion. Iraq, seen as a David who resisted Goliath & Co. will very likely be able to muster overwhelming international support. It should always be remembered that this invasion, which has not obtained a UN approval, has no legitimacy. Illegitimate invasions cannot go unpunished or at least un-compensated. The most recent example happened over the past 12 years with the US and UK acting as Prosecutors-in-Chief. Additionally, the possibility of war crimes prosecution for civilian casualties must also be examined. Moreover, we can never overestimate the danger this invasion has created for other nations, be it China invading Taiwan or one of the Koreans making a re-unification invasion of the other. Indeed, more than anything else, it is this dangerous prospect established by this dangerous precedent that makes it imperative for the international community to ensure that America and Britain are not allowed to succeed in their dastardly deed or allowed to withdraw with impunity.

Whatever the Dual Axis may not have achieved so far, this they certainly achieved immensely; they turned Saddam Hussein into a hero and ensured massive support for him. There is a more than 50/50 chance that Saddam might still have his job, long after the second Bush has lost his. Like father, like son.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Winning Hearts?

The conniving deceptive mischief, by which the Bush Administration is managing its foreign policy, never ceases to amaze the observer. With obvious developments to the contrary, the Bush Administration has tried to project a dog-good image for conducting its blatant and uncalled for aggression against the Iraqi people under pretexts that will only convince the naive and gullible of any constituency, let alone the Moslem and Arab constituencies of the world. Needless to say, the American public is being fooled the most, for they are the ones who stand to sacrifice so much for the evil intentions of Mr. Bush and his clique of insistent and adamant sponsors of narrow interests that are rail-roading the United States into an obscure future and challenging realities, which could signal the beginning of the demise of the nation that once was regarded as the model of human cohesion and integration. What happened? America, that awesome power of seemingly unlimited might has let itself become the tool of arrogance and narrow interests, knowingly or unknowingly, and more important, has become trapped in that chauvinistic drive that usually holders of power and might become blinded by, as they see this power and might as a sound mechanism for letting their egos and selfish motives become the underlying burden of an entire nation. Notwithstanding the lies and distortions that have been the major elements that have geared the foreign policy of George W. Bush and his ugly Administration, there is nothing that the latest carnage in Iraq that serves the interests of the Iraqi people, the Arabs, the Moslems and last but not least the American people, who surely will remember later on that this Administration has indeed cost them dearly.

All along, we hear how Bush and his clique sing us this song about "liberating Iraq" and ridding Iraq of its "dictatorship" and all the BS that the Administration is filling us with daily, while they rain upon the Iraqi people tons and tons of dynamite, not discriminating between armed and unarmed, men and women, infants and grownups. Yet, the Pentagon and those corny retired generals, who have taken over the "free" American media during this ugly war, which the United States is waging against the Iraqi people, are insisting that they are doing all they can to ensure that no civilian casualties are hit, and that they are "not targeting" civilians. Even if we assume that this is true, the point of the matter is that civilians are being killed by the hundreds, and wounded by the thousands, so what is the point of trying to convince the world that it is not the intention to do so. If that is the case, we might as well throw all those "good intentions", which the Bush Administration wishes us to believe are behind its ugly carnage in Iraq. Judging by the current statistics, the Bush Administration, based on a daily average, is responsible for more deaths to Iraqis than Saddam Hussein ever caused, for the past decade and a half. Give us a break, Mr. Bush; you will be accountable to God for every innocent Iraqi blood you spill in Iraq.

We must bear in mind some very important aspects that have become quite clear, ever since Bush started his blood-bath in Iraq:

- 1) The Iraqi people never requested George Bush to "liberate" them. Moreover, the international community through its legitimate international organ, the United Nations never mandated this aggression, but on the contrary insisted that it is illegitimate.
- 2) The allegations continuously made by Bush and his clique have all proven false and to date we have yet to be shown even the slightest evidence to back such allegations. There are no weapons of mass destruction and there will not be any found.
- 3) Iraq was not posing any threat to the United States and had no intentions of waging any hostile activity towards the United States.

In fact all of Bush's violent actions, since he took office, have been undertaken without due process of law or any foundations of legitimacy. In any case we have good reason to believe that the Ansars could never be associated with the Baghdad regime or with any of the other group in Iraq. This observer makes these absolute claims, not so much in defense of what the Ansars stood for, for we are not really aware of the platform they stand for, but one can expect that they did not pose any justifications for destroying all of Iraq, as this group was operating in an "American protective zone".

In fact this is the first time that war has been waged based on assumptions and innuendoes that have no foundations of truth or justifications that can logically be consumed by even the most gullible of human beings.

The fact of the matter is that Bush and his criminal gang knew full well that they would not find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. They also knew that they would not find the Iraqis ready to receive them with flowers and roses; otherwise they would not be hammering the Iraqi people with all the weapons of mass destruction, which Bush is raining upon the population of Iraq. But the ulterior motives of Bush's barbarity are bound to come out, but regrettably this will have to await a lot more death and destruction. One of the fundamental mistakes of the Bush Doctrine is that it fails to take into consideration the affinity that Arabs and Moslems share towards each other. The first one being of blood kinship, while the second is a spiritual kinship. Given the right length of time and the continuous disregard for the significance of Moslem gripes against the unholy affinity between the United States and the international Zionist establishment this blood and spiritual affinity will eventually come together to produce an antagonism that the United States will wish that it was never nurtured. Time will also come when Americans will regret the day that George W. Bush was allowed to enter the White House.

Letters to the Editor

Readers speak on the Iraqi War

Arab's problem are terrorism & oppression

Give me liberty or give me death. Praise God and pass the ammunition.

The equation is simple - attack the Pentagon, attack the World Trade Center, attempt to attack the White House and you will be eliminated by any and every means possible so help us God.

The Middle East has a problem with controlling terrorist groups. The Middle East and other countries must address their attitude towards enemies of America. The Iraq regime is going to be another history lesson.

As a 4th generation American - I believe the war in Iraq will bring the world closer. The Iraq people will see our soldiers are a mix of everyone in the world.

We all want the same thing - freedom from oppression.

Our new policy will involve eliminating a petroleum-based economy in America. Our mode of transportation is already changing to other forms of energy.

Saddam has found what he has been looking for all these years in America, and that is a means to an end.

Mark T. threez@pe.net

Again asking: Why do they hate us?

I am from the United States and have been watching the war on Iraq ever since it started. I cannot believe the things I see on the Arabic channels, people who hate the US and burn the flag and curse the US. All the Arabic channels do is put on the news what the US bombings do to the civilians in Iraq. What about what Saddam Hussein has done to his people. He can kill them, torture them, starve them and that's ok, but US does something and it is wrong. What is wrong with you people, can you not see what this man is

doing to his country? Are you that blind? What is so wrong about the Iraqi people being free? I am proud that my country is a free country where people can breathe and have a life and be free. You people need a life, and you call yourself Muslims. You say this is done in the name of your religion. No religion tells you to kill people, torture them or starve them.

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More letters on page 18

YEMEN TIMES

Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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America implements its hegemony strategy...

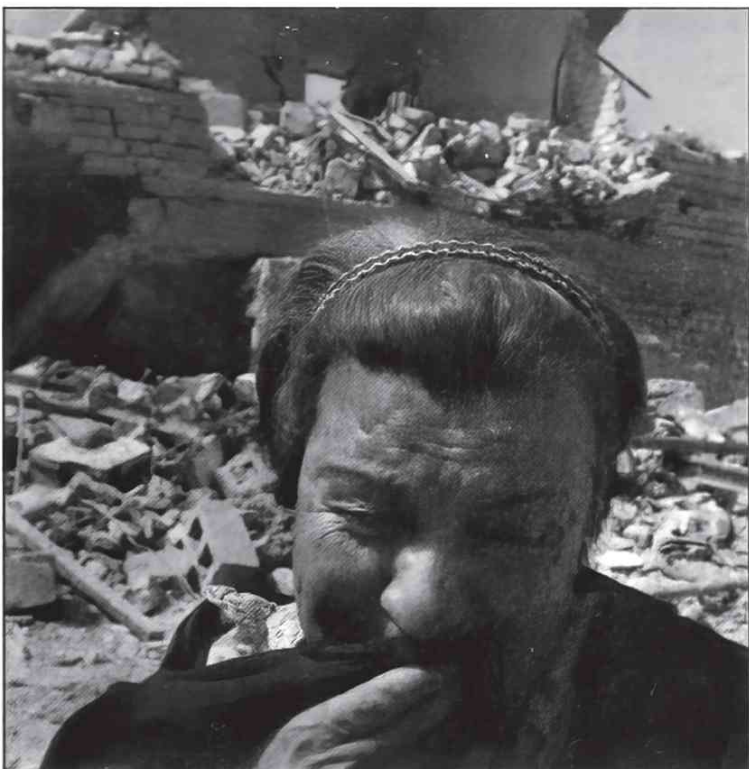
Law of jungle



By MOHAMMED KHIDR
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As the days and weeks of the US-led war of aggression on Iraq go on, the course of events prove falsity of the justifications presented by both the American and the British administrations to give any legal reason for launching their illegitimate attack on this country. First of all both the U.S. and the British governments have taken their decision to go to war outside any authorization by the United Nations Security Council or any resolutions adopted by the international community, supposed to act in compliance with rules of the international law and conventions.

When both of the U.S. & British administrations had failed to win an international approval of their plans and policies regarding the Iraq crisis from the UN and their attempts to obtain a voting of approval to their proposed draft resolution, frankly stipulating an automatic authorization for the use of force against Iraq after an expiration date of a specified ultimatum, those administrations, supported by the Spanish government, decided to act outside the corridors and halls of the UN Organisation and held their summit in a remote Portuguese island in the Atlantic Ocean to take their decision of launching a war against a sovereign state which is member of the United Nations. The U.S.-British-Portuguese summit gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the



An Iraqi woman sits crying in front of her destroyed house following an air strike on the outskirts of Baghdad April 2. REUTERS

political leadership of that country to step down and leave the country; otherwise that tripartite alliance would take an action for ousting the regime by military force. The three states have evidently decided in their summit to act according to dictates of the law of the jungle, i.e. to take the law into their own hands, with apparent disregard towards all international conventions and norms.

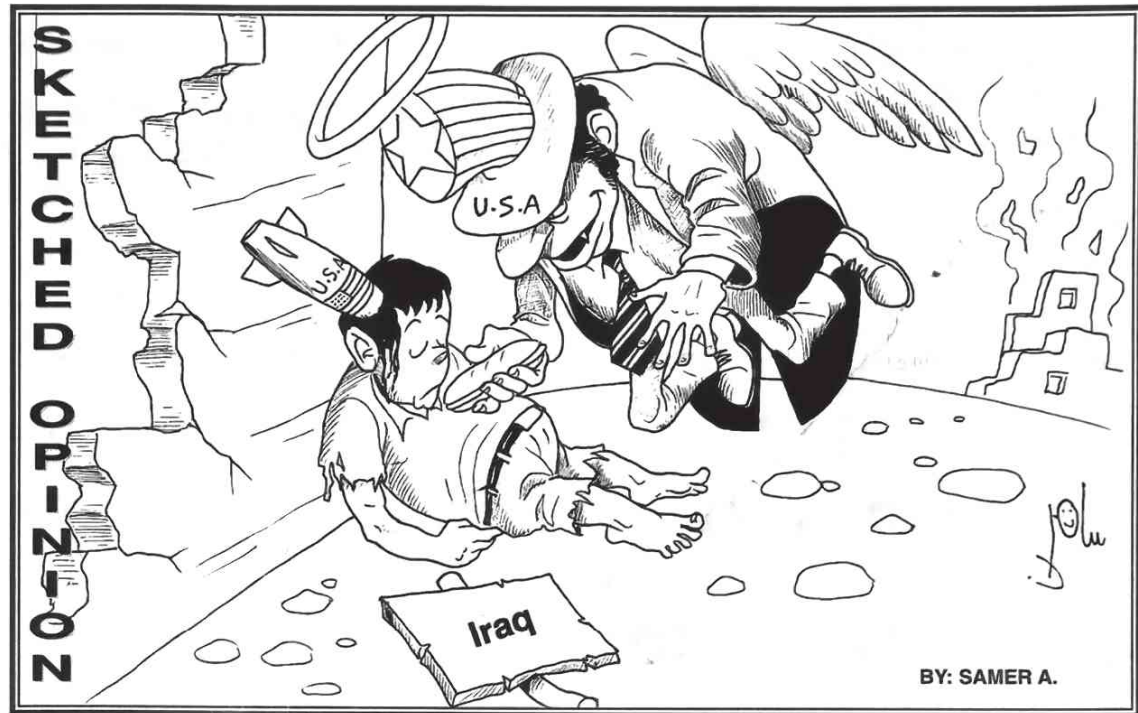
They argued that Iraq was not cooperating fully with the UNMOVIC teams of weapons inspection aimed at seeking and destroying the alleged weapons of mass destruction claimed to have been still possessed by Iraq. To refute those countries allegations one should refer to reports offered to the UN Security Council by chief weapons inspector Hans Blix and Mohammed Al Baradie Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in which they proved that Iraq was cooperating with weapons inspectors and facilitating their work in a way leading to clear the country from weapons of mass destruction. In one of his reports Blix had also said that Iraq was cooperating in a proactive way. Both chief inspectors asked the Security Council to give them reasonable enough time to finish their mission in Iraq and thus the whole crisis could be settled peacefully and according to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The majority of the Security Council 15-member states are against the use of force in this crisis and against passing a new UN resolution other than the resolution 1441, which was still being implemented smoothly by Iraq and the only exceptions were the United States, Britain and Spain.

For many months ago America and Britain kept massing up their military forces in the Gulf and beating the drums of war in the region, refusing to admit that Iraq was cooperating with the UN relevant resolutions, and when Iraq accepted resolution 1441 and admitted weapons inspectors into Iraq and began implementing it they said the threat of using force compelled the regime in Iraq to abide by it. Let's concede the idea that the military pressure made Iraq obliged to accept and implement the said resolution. It is then a good thing to support the diplomatic effort with military threat if it would lead to the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

Since the ceasefire in 1991 between the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq following the eviction of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, American and British military strategists have not stopped drawing up plans for effecting a change in the political structure in Iraq which they allege poses a threat to particularly the American interests in this vitally important region of the world and to its hegemony plans designed to this oil-rich region. The events in Kuwait in 1990-1991 and the war that ensued after, paved the way for America to occupy the Gulf region, or as it terms it the "warm waters" and consequently its oil wells. And since the mid of the last decade America has been planning to achieve this end, and that what it has actually started doing since 20 March 2003. In their preparations for this war of occupation and colonialism against Iraq, America and Britain depended greatly in their most intelligence efforts on some Iraqi dissidents, claiming to be an opposition, living in America and Britain, who have given them exaggerated and false information on the actual situation in Iraq and nature of the relationship between the regime in Iraq and the people. They have told them that the people there and the armed forces and various components of the society would welcome their invading forces the moment they would put their feet on the Iraqi territories and the first shots they would fire there. They told them the people in Iraq would receive their forces with cheers and the army would surrender themselves and their arms to their troops, with the exception of forces which protect the regime that attached their destiny to the regime itself. Upon theirs and the information they were given by many of the so-called Iraqi opposition, both American and British administrations have based their military plans for a swift and easy achievement of their goals.

Developments of the ongoing war of occupation against Iraq have proved that the Iraqis with all of their segments do oppose and resist the war it is being waged against them. The Iraqi received the occupation forces with bullets instead of flowers and ever since the resistance of the people supporting their armed forces and paramilitary units is getting intensified day by day. The war the American and the British planned to



take only a few days or a week before the collapse of the regime is now in its third week and in its beginning and looks to be dragging for much longer than the Anglo-American invaders had predicted or planned for it. The occupation troops are still roaming in the deserts of southern and middle Iraq and all the towns and cities there are still in the face of attackers, inflicting on them heavy losses in men and equipment and the first batches of their dead and wounded are carried to their countries. All this has toppled the strategies and plans of the Anglo-American forces upside down and reversed all their expectations. The aggressors have waged on the Iraqis in the south to revolt against their government and welcome and support them but instead of that they are fighting against them along all the past three weeks.

In the Arab and Islamic world, across Europe, Asia, America and Australia there are daily massive protest demonstrations condemning the war and demanding its stop. Interests of the American, British and the countries supporting the war are under constant threat by angry demonstrators, while hatred to whatever American and British is growing very fast all over the world.

Inside Iraq the forces of occupation are perpetrating many unsightly atrocities against the civilians. Thousands of deadly bombs and missiles target around the clock the civilian's houses, schools, hospitals and infrastructure causing massive deaths and destruction everywhere in retaliation for the people refusal to support their campaign and for resisting their occupation of their homeland. Hospitals every day receive tens of wounded innocent defenseless children and women for treatment from wounds inflicted on them by tons of explosives dropped by the aggressors' warplanes or missiles fired from their warships. The aggressor's bombardment would not spare anything, even food and medicine barns and water supply systems. For more than two weeks the people in the city of Basra in southern Iraq are suffering from shortage of water and electricity and food and thousands of them became homeless because their houses have been demolished in fierce bombardment and their situation is heading

for a human catastrophe. In the areas that fell in the hands of the Anglo-American forces the people are treated in a humiliating and degrading way in violation of all human rights conventions. Civilians who go out of their towns in quest of food and water are prevented from returning to their homes and families and thus leaving them separated from their families that need their care and protection. Those who are in desperate need of food and water are not given help unless they give the invaders information on resistance units inside their towns and providing them with coordinates to be used in bombarding the town's installations and facilities. It seems that the occupation forces have invented a new version for the program of oil for food and developed it to information for food program. They want them to be guides for killing their kinsmen and destroying of their infrastructure, which is a behaviour violating all international conventions and human morals. All world TV channels show how the Iraqi prisoners of war are inhumanely treated at the hands of the occupation forces that belong to countries bragging of being democracies and want to disseminate their model of democracy all over the world.

The massive killing operations and massive destruction perpetrated by the invading Anglo-American forces in Iraq are alleged to be aimed at liberating the Iraqi people from their regime and destroying the weapons of mass destruction allegedly possessed by Iraq, whereas they themselves are using the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction in killing the civilians and pounding the civilian infrastructure of the country. It is a kind of liberation based on annihilation of the Iraqi people. It is the liberating of Iraq from its people, sending them to graves or become refugees in various parts of the globe. This is the kind of freedom the American and the British administrations want for the Iraqi people.

The world community is strongly demanded to act seriously to stop this crime against humanity and save the Iraqi people from the barbaric slaughter they are facing at the hands of the Anglo-American invading forces. This is a dangerous precedence in interna-

tional relations among nations and could lead many world disasters. In standing by the Iraqi people and preventing the grave consequences of this barbaric campaign, the entire world is saving itself from chaos and return to the law of the jungle and to establish a world community where all nations could live in peace and prosperity and stability under a world order observing all peoples rights to freedom and sovereignty.

Who will stop this war?

Saeed Ahmed Mosa
For the Yemen Times

“What will happen if there is a war?”

This question was raised many times in the last few months and could be heard everywhere you go. The question was usually followed by another: “What would the attitudes of countries be if it happened?”

Well, now that the war has already started, yet the loudmouths continue to ask: “Who'll stop this war? Why is the world silent about it? Where is the Arab spirit of defending each other?” Will this go on for ever? We in the Arab world are talkative and all we produce is words with no action.

The United States of America is willing to openly destroy Iraq, the cradle of Arab civilization, yet Arab leaders continue their routine of giving speeches, condoning, holding summits, and yet, they are doing nothing fruitful.

In fact, most world leaders are looking at the developments with ease, silence, hesitance to act, and greed in what could be possible benefits after the war is over.

But people in Arab countries are found to be weak and neglected? Other than a few protests here and there, there are no real positive reactions to this brutal war.

What about the principles called for by the superpower of the world, namely decent life, freedom and democracy? Aren't those supposed to be a right for all nations and not the West alone? Why then are Iraqis killed and deprived from decent living?

Did the 9/11 tragedy create the wrong conception that lives of those in modern countries are more valuable than the rest of the world? Hence, they had the right to go to war and kill innocent civilians?

What about what is going on a daily basis in Palestinian? What about the killing of those children and women and elderly?

Without any condemnation from the world, Israel is creating hatred amongst nations and violating every human right imaginable. If we look very carefully to the attitudes of Israelis, we would find that what the US is doing today in Iraq does not vary much from what Israel is doing to Palestinians.

Finally, I wonder, who has the say to stop this bloody war on Iraq, especially as the US is the only superpower in the world, and the UN cannot stop it?

This is a serious deviation of international law and legitimacy. It is a serious blow to international justice and human values. But one cannot refrain from asking, who can stop this war?

The damage we are doing to our relations with the Middle East could last a generation

“We will have 100 Bin Ladens”

THE INDEPENDENT

In the last weeks of the United Nations' ill-starred diplomacy and the first hours of war, one section of the globe observed an uneasy silence. Hesitant and divided, the Arab world was biding its time. Now, the Arab countries are finding their voice, and their words offer the first warning of the new regional climate that the United States and Britain will face once this conflict is past.

“When it is over, if it is over, this war will have horrible consequences,” were the ominous words from Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian President, yesterday. “Instead of having one Osama bin Laden, we will have 100 Bin Ladens.” Mr Mubarak is one of the more moderate Arab leaders.

From Syria to Indonesia, from the West Bank to Morocco and back to Iraq, the warnings are multiplying. The Iraqi regime is threatening more suicide attacks on Allied forces as an integral part of its national defence strategy. An Egyptian drove a lorry into a queue of US troops in Kuwait. Islamic Jihad says that it will increase its attacks in Israeli

to demonstrate support for Iraq.

Throughout the region, the streets and markets are seething. There are almost daily demonstrations in Jordan and Egypt. In Afghanistan, the Taliban, utterly vanquished more than a year ago, have begun to mount sporadic attacks. Their long-silent leader, Mullah Omar, has called for a jihad against American troops and Afghans who work with them. And the Qatar-based television station, al-Jazeera, beams out its 24-hour reports from the war zone, more graphic, more culturally accessible, less apologetic than anything the BBC or CNN provides.

The alliance ranged against Iraq may, as US officials insist, be more numerous than the one that fought the Gulf War 12 years ago. But the Arab countries that supported that war are now conspicuously absent. Those, such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia that are assisting the so-called coalition, are doing so with utmost discretion. Among the entirely predictable effects of their involvement will be to strengthen conservative, theocratic elements at the expense of the very democratic reforms the US and Britain insist they are hoping for.

All the omens suggest that Mr Mubarak is right. When the war is over, the consequences will indeed be disastrous. It is hard to see how American and British relations with the countries of the region can be mended during our lifetime.

Two naïve attempts were made at the outset to limit the damage. Our governments promised faithfully that they were not waging war on the people of Iraq, only on the tyrannical ruler who was hated by the Iraqis themselves; we were not going to be conquerors, but liberators. And because our governments believed that they were waging war on behalf of Iraq's people, they promised also to minimise civilian casualties.

Had Saddam Hussein and his Baath Party been “decapitated” in the first air strikes, those guiding principles might not now sound as insubstantial, even hypocritical, as they do. There might have been just a slim chance for the Allied troops to be welcomed as the liberators they hoped to be. The uncomfortable reality, however, is that after less than two weeks of war, the Allied troops are regarded across the region as invaders, and Iraq's despotic President

as a patriot.

This reversal is potentially the biggest and longest-lasting defeat of this war – the enormity of which has been at least partially grasped in London, but in Washington, it seems, hardly at all. War may not be the ideal time to start planning to win back friends and influence people. But there is good reason not to alienate still further those whose acquiescence you may need before the inevitably difficult post-war settlement. Washington's very public upbraiding of Syria and Iran could well return to haunt the United States. It accused Syria of helping Saddam Hussein's war effort, Iran of seeking to obtain illegal weapons of its own. Both issued angry denials. That both accusations were made at a reception for American Jews only signalled to the Arab world where US loyalties lay.

Mr Blair's approach has been altogether more forward-looking and sensitive. Ministers are encouraged to appear on al-Jazeera and other Arab stations. The Government understands the importance of communicating the message, abroad – as at home. Mr Blair also understands that one of the obstacles to

communicating with the Arab world is the unresolved Palestinian issue. By calling for the publication of the “road-map” to Middle East peace at every opportunity, Mr Blair, at least, signals that he is aware of Arab priorities.

But he faces a conundrum. To his evident vexation, he has still not won the argument for war at home; how can he win the argument abroad? What is more, his efforts to show that he can see another side of the argument are constantly frustrated by the clumsy and ignorant approach of Washington. The longer it takes to remove Saddam Hussein and the more desperately Iraqis fight – for their homeland, if not for the regime – the less likely it appears that the principle of avoiding civilian casualties will endure. And Mr Blair's efforts to show “evenhandedness” between Iraq and the Middle East are not matched by a willingness on Mr Bush's part. The “road-map” remains unpublished.

The war will be won. Mr Bush's all-American determination will ensure that it is. But the cost in Arab resentment and global insecurity may be considerably higher than even Mr Mubarak fears.

Continue from back page

... Jamal Al-Hada interviewed

On the other hand, my country is rich with its old distinctive architecture, which reflects on the realism spirit of the Yemeni artist.

What I would like to convey is that art is a message, through which people can communicate. I would like to be able to make contact with them with a language that does not need words to reach them. Art can transcendently express what is in the human spirit.

Q4- What colors does the artist's brush adore?



Yemeni-Old man wears a turban

A-Color emerges from the spirit and my brush often adores the warm colors that harmonize with the portrait to give an expression and to deliver beauty, in whatever form.

Q5-What are the most significant local and international exhibitions, in which you have participated?

A-I have taken part in many activities abroad, especially while studying, in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt.

Locally, I have contributed to local art exhibits, where there were also selected

works from all the foreign nationalities.

I have also set up two of my own personal exhibitions:

- 1-The first exhibition was titled "Sana'ni Illustrations"
- 2- The second exhibition was called "Songs That Emanate from the heart"

Q6- To what extent does the weakness of art culture and the lack of awareness for the true principles of art affect the Yemeni artist?

A-Lack of understanding for the true principles of art does not come up from nothing, but it rather from accumulated sediments from the early life of the artist.

B-With respect to the Yemeni artists. First of all, we lack any kind of encouragement for developing talent, starting with the-family, then the educational institutions and the government. However, there are interferences that are beginning to reflect an interest in showing up talent gradually and desperately.

We can say that the artist and the receiver both walk on the same track; when there is work and creativity for the artist, the receiver becomes a part of this work, since there is continuous contact.

Q7- The Plastic Art Syndicate and the Ministry of Culture: what are they providing for you?

With regards to the Syndicate, the Syndicate has been established with its own bylaws and then it suddenly disappears. It cannot stand up to any difficulty, which it is confronted with. Thus, art in our reality is in a pitiful situation, as it has really not obtained any real support to develop and grow.

As for the Ministry of Culture, that is about to be the only hope that shows up in this field. So, we hope more tangible support and encouragement will be provided to the development and enhancement of plastic art

Q8- Yemeni professional artists have all the capabilities of creativity

but they are greatly suffering and hindered because of lack of real support. What are your comments?

A-As I have said the professional and talented Yemeni artists are depressed for the successive relapses that they face.

In my opinion, whatever the capabilities and talent that the artist has are worthless, unless there is support to enhance art and make it sustainable. Therefore, the artists are missing many opportunities to hold exhibitions or to participate abroad in international exhibitions.

Q9- What art schools does Jamal adore?

A-In the beginning I was affected by a number of international schools. Now I try continuously to find my own school and have my own personality, which does not submit to imitation and mocking. Thus, I will manifest a plastic reality, by which I can express beautiful art and deliver my message to the world as well.

Q10- What is your final word?

Art is a message and every artist should convey his message honestly.



A girl in bride dress with traditional jewel

British poet laureate attacks war on Iraq

By PAUL MAJENDIE

Britain's official poet has taken the highly unusual step of writing a poem condemning the war in Iraq.

Andrew Motion said that from Eden to Babylon, death was cutting a swathe through one of the cradles of civilization.

But the poet laureate insisted he was not unpatriotic, saying that he "wished well" for the British troops fighting to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The poem, entitled "Regime Change", was a break from tradition for the poet laureate, who is appointed by Queen Elizabeth's household and traditionally writes non-political poems to commemorate major national and royal occasions.

After reading the poem out on BBC Radio on Thursday, Motion said: "I wouldn't say this poem is precisely unpatriotic but I would say it is violently opposed to the war."

"Even though my opposition to the war is very vehement, like many other people who are opposed to it, I do nothing but wish well to the troops themselves."

It is Motion's second anti-war poem. He wrote a 30-word poem Causa Belli questioning the motives of war in January.

His work followed a rich tradition of British protest poets — Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen were famed for graphic imagery bringing home the horrors of World War One trenches.

Those protest poets buried the romantic view of war epitomized by Shakespeare's "Henry V" as the young monarch urged his troops to "stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood".

Britain has had a poet laureate since the mid-17th century and the famous roll-call ranges from John Dryden to William Wordsworth and Lord



Reuters

Tennyson.

Tennyson sparked controversy after the Crimean War when he wrote of the brave but foolhardy Charge of the Light Brigade with the line "The soldier knew someone had blundered".

Motion wrote a ceremonial poem to mark the death of Britain's Queen Mother last year but has also written about Nelson Mandela, homelessness, national identity and bullying.

"My underlying feeling is that poetry ought to be part of general life rather than being ghettoized," he said.

So on Thursday, he pitched into a fierce national debate about the war which has polarized opinion in Britain.

Reflecting on the irony of war being fought amid names famed in different cultures, he read the poem on BBC radio:

"Advancing down the road from Nineveh

*Death paused a while and said,
Now listen here you see the names of places round about They are mine now and I have turned them inside out.*

Take Eden further South At dawn today I ordered up my troops to tear away its walls and gates so everyone can see that gorgeous fruit which dangles from its tree.

You want it don't you? Go and eat it then and lick your lips and pick the same again.

Take Tigris and Euphrates. Once they ran through childhood-colored slabs of sand and sun. Not any more they don't. I have filled them up with countless different kinds of human crap.

Take Babylon The palace sprouting flowers which sweetened empires in their peaceful hours.

I have found a different way to scent the air. Already it's a by-word for despair.

Which leaves Baghdad, the star-tipped minarets, the marble courts and halls, the mirage heat. These places and the ancient things you know you won't know soon. I am working on it now."

LONDON, April 3 (Reuters)

MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

50

Written by Abdulrahman Mutahhar

Translated by Janet Watson

Gat

Ma – Mus'id, since you're the one who got your sons hooked on gat, it's you who'll have to feed their habit and supply their gat! It's a real battle to give up an engrained habit!

M – I no longer know who I'm battling with and who's on my side!

Ma – If your pocket's full, it's on your side; and if your pocket's empty, you can't even bank on your children being on your side!

M – What a philosopher you've become! There are no flies on you! And all this time I'd thought you were an innocent!

Ma – I know nothing about philosophy, but I'll tell you one thing! The only innocent around here is you! You get your sons hooked on gat, and now that they're hooked you go and attack them because they still chew! There's no point, Mus'id!

M – It's not up to me to supply them with gat so they can chew. I'm only supposed to supply them with food!

Ma – Why didn't you just leave it at that, then? What on earth made you get them addicted to gat?

M – It's your fault, Mus'id! You're the one who made them addicted!

Ma – Stop trying to shift the blame and run away from the facts! If you don't, you lay down your gun and I'll lay down mine and we'll sort this out in a proper tribal manner.

M – What good would that do? I've already sold my gun to pay for your sons' gat; and you haven't got a gun, and wouldn't even know how to fire one if you had!

Ma – So now what should we do? You'd better have a look around for things to sell or pawn. Your sons are totally hooked. They don't seem to have any

purpose in life other than their bag with gat. 'They dropped me in the sea of passion and left me, though my robe measured no more than a yard.' And Mus'id, with no skill whatsoever, manages to get his sons addicted to gat when their robes are no more than half a yard long!

M – Mus'id!

Ma – Now what?

M – I went over to see my uncle and complained to him about my sons. I told him that they weren't studying properly and they wouldn't stay at home. I'd started to worry about them wandering about the streets and in the souk. He told me that the only thing which would keep them at home and help them to study was gat. He said, 'Give them a little gat to stop them wandering around the souk!' I had absolutely no idea, Mus'id, that they'd become so addicted they'd start looking around for things to sell and pawn!

Ma – Fine! It's your mess, you sort it out! I want nothing to do with it! I'm telling you, your sons are interested in nothing but their bag of gat even if it means them sleeping on the streets!

M – So what should I do? I've tried all possible ways to convince them of the harmful effects of gat, in terms of money, health, particularly the effect on the family's income, and the pure waste of time.

Ma – What did they say when you told them all that?

M – Oh stop will you! You don't want to know!

Ma – Why don't I want to know?

M – They said, 'We'll give up chewing the moment you and the other fathers give up, Dad! It's not right for you to continue chewing gat when we can't!'

Ma – Did they really say that to you, or are you making it up?

M – Why on earth should I make it up? They also told me that the taste and effect of gat was so cool that once you've tasted it you'll go back for more!

Ma – Some of the cool effects of gat show when you see your toes sticking out of your shoes. You can't buy another pair because of the gat! Then the safe door's broken, and the windows are smashed, and the telephone's been cut off and they're about to stop the line altogether. We only ever buy chicken when we know someone's coming for lunch so that they don't go around saying we don't eat anything as a result of gat!

M – Mus'id!

Ma – What is it now?

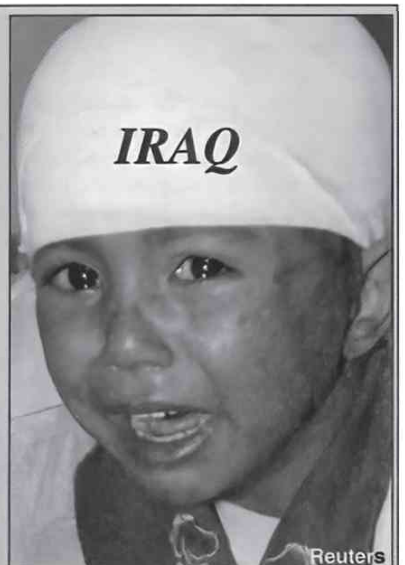
M – Don't shout at me and don't go around clucking like a mother hen. At first, I was the only gat addict. Then I let my sons try it and now there are five of us. Whatever money we have we use for the bus or a motorbike to go straight to the gat souk. Don't you see, Mus'id? All the valleys and fields and farmland has been set aside for gat. The amount of gat brought from the countryside to the towns increases at the same rate as the amount of land set aside for gat. The main economic and social activity takes place in the gat souk. You'll find everyone at the gat souk – from grandfathers and fathers down to grandsons once they've reached the age of fifteen. And I'll tell you this, Mus'id, the gat problem won't go away until God brings in a generation which is absolutely convinced of the harmful effects of gat, and then uproots the gat bushes which themselves uprooted the coffee trees and all the fruit trees we used to have! i.e. when I am still a child.

Alone!

By MRS. NASIRA ALVI (PAKISTANI)
SANA'A, YEMEN
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*May Arabs are alone!
But I'm not alone.
See Mr. Kofi Annan!
you made us alone!
why don't you know?
Bush is alone!
Now is alone!
After is alone!
He is alone!
He will be alone!*

*How you celebrate the day of mother?
My mother is gone!
But I have my mother (Homeland)
I'm with her
I will be with her. (grave)
Why don't you know?
your mother is gone!
(Coalition forces are out of their country)
You are alone!
You are alone!
You are alone!
You will be alone!*



Reuters

Health conditions in Yemen

From bad to worse!

PREPARED BY ISMAIL AL-GHABERY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The existing government health system since the 1970s is based on a traditional system for the provision of health services. This system consists of health units, centers and hospitals. It has witnessed noticeable expansion over the last decade, as the number of health units expanded from 912 to 1,821, the number of health centers rose from 392 to 574, and the number of hospitals increased from 74 to 116 with a bed capacity of over 11,000 beds. The number of doctors during 1995-2000 also rose by an average rate of 7.3% per annum, and the number of nursing staff rose by 6.7%. However, the number of people per doctor is still 4,810, whereas for the nurses it is 2,400 per nurse and the number of people per hospital bed is 1,664. These rates are by all standards considered very poor, even when compared to developing countries and other Arab States such as Syria and the Sultanate of Oman, where the same comparative figures are seven times higher than they are in Yemen.

The government health sector still suffers from poor service provision, quantitatively and qualitatively, due to the low expenditures on the sector, in general, and on investment, operations, and maintenance in particular, and the inequitable distribution of facilities and manpower, which are concentrated in cities,

until coverage of health service reached 80% in urban areas compared to 25% in rural areas, not to mention the absence of rational use of the health services.

Illness and death rates due to prevalent diseases are greater than the rates for non-endemic diseases. The situation becomes worse due to the population's lack of access to safe drinking water (40% of the population), due to the low percentage of coverage of the sewerage network, to which only 6.2% of the population have access, and from an environment that helps to make diseases and endemic ailments widespread, like malaria and schistosomiasis. The most widespread and most serious diseases in Yemen are diarrhea, malnutrition, complications of pregnancy, severe respiratory diseases, malaria, schistosomiasis, liver diseases, and tuberculosis, with an increasing number of the AIDS carriers and infected patients.

Extreme centralization in the health sector also resulted in affecting the regulatory and control functions of the Ministry of Health and Population, the weak capacities of regional health departments to plan and execute health programs and services to the people effectively and efficiently, apart from the poor participation of the local communities in the health system. Despite poor efficiency of the service and the resources, which are limited to start with, and the lack of confidence in the primary health facilities at the village and district levels, inhabitants in those areas are compelled to



bypass the primary health facilities and resort to government health facilities and the governorate or central levels, which adds to strain on the central services.

The increase of demand for public general and specialized medical and

health services and the inability of the government sector to meet needs also led to the rise in the number of private hospitals and clinics, which rapidly became widespread, with an increase from the modest numbers in the early 1990 to 90a private hospi-

tals and 550 clinics in 2000, with the concentration of most of them in the major cities, especially in the Capital Secretariat. However, the high cost of their services make them inaccessible to the majority of people, not to mention that the poor

control of these facilities and the lack of application of the regulations against malpractice contributed to the general deterioration of the standards of quality of services.

Text from the Poverty Reduction Strategies paper

UNESCO sets alarm

Water no longer flows naturally

By Koichiro Matsuura*
© UNESCO

The following article is a summary of the author's intervention for the Twentieth Century Talks recently organized by Jérôme Bindé at UNESCO for the International Year of Freshwater, and in anticipation of the 3rd World Water Forum due to take place in Kyoto. [Other experts taking part in these talks were Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Egyptian Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources and President of the World Council on Water, scientists Claude Allègre and Charles Virismarty, and Michel Camdessus, former General Manager of the IMF and Chair of the International Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure.

Water has made a noticeable entrance in the international political arena. With this a new awareness has dawned: what if this apparently perpetual gift from the skies were yet not inexhaustible? It is also the end of symbol: what if this source of life, which is at the heart of so many rituals and hygiene practices, no longer stood for regeneration and purity?

We must face the facts: water resources are growing scarce, and water quality will have an increasing cost. As for purity, it is now difficult to keep count of the regions where soiled water generates death rather than health. UNESCO, responsible

for the creation of the pioneering International Hydrological Programme in the Seventies, had long anticipated this new water deal, which has been recognized by the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg as one of the most critical challenges facing the world today.

Whether in the Northern or the Southern hemisphere, access to clean drinking water is essential to human security and to sustainable development. It is considered more and more to be a right. However, 1.2 billion people still have no access to drinking water and 2.4 billion are deprived of water purification services. And yet, the world has enough freshwater resources to cover most needs in drinking water; but the uneven distribution of water resources shows great disparities, both social and geographical. The problem, therefore, is less to do with quantity than with availability. Water quality is also a growing concern.

Water resources, given their extreme sensitivity to human activity and intensive exploitation involving highly technical engineering, are less and less natural - in a way, water no longer flows naturally. This indicates the need for a new water culture, which could combine caring, sparing and sharing. It is high time we responded to the needs of a growing population for food, health and energy by adopting a more "sober" attitude. As with any right, the right for access to water also sets obligations: the obligation for public authorities to ensure distribution, the obligation for users to prevent wastage.

Agriculture alone is responsible for two-thirds of the consumption of

water drawn from natural reservoirs. To improve yields, to install drainage systems, to prevent excessive irrigation responsible for ecological disasters, these are our goals. Furthermore, global water withdrawals have increased sevenfold, and industry-related water consumption has been multiplied by 30 in a century.

Implementation of scientific research could bring considerable changes in these areas as well as others, providing information were circulated and changes of behavior followed. Science and education are therefore conditions for these improvements, which prove more and more urgent as city needs increase - not an example of thriftiness, since wastage is estimated to represent 40% of urban consumption!

This wide range of problems cannot be addressed efficiently without reinforced political willpower, strong involvement on the part of civil society, and a better form of synergy between public and private sectors.

As well as this, waste water production has been multiplied by twenty over a century. As for diffuse pollution related to agriculture (nitrates, pesticides...), industry and urban development, they are a continual threat to water reserves. Food safety is at risk, ecosystems are being disrupted, water-related diseases cause millions of deaths each year, especially in developing countries - pollution is henceforth regarded as a major public health concern. If we fail to react, this could jeopardize the future of these resources and with it, the quality of life, and even the survival, of future generations.

In order to eliminate disparities and protect water, freshwater must be recognized on an international level as a common good and heritage. This conception, which emphasizes the importance of sharing, is also a contribution to peace. For water, that increasingly vital issue, has also become a strategic one. In the world 261 river basins are divided between different States, generating a risk of "water wars".

The international community must prevent conflict over water allocation from overcoming dialogue by providing solid legal instruments, especially in areas where water shortage is combined with political tensions.

Water has become part of the economic circuit. Given the huge investments required by waterworks, free access to water is no longer to be considered. But access to drinking water for all cannot be guaranteed without taking into account the income and needs of users in order to adjust price scales: this new water culture is also ethical. The search for equity should preside over decision-making processes concerning great water projects.

It is common, for instance, for large dams, which are often necessary to stabilize river flows or produce energy, to have a very high social and human cost: many disasters could doubtless be avoided by promoting dialogue. This, again, implies an effort towards education, information and training.

UNESCO has decided to define water as one of its main priorities over the next few years. In this area our competencies are an asset: besides providing support for prospective studies in the area of

water, for research in hydrology and for innovation, the Organization can federate on the international level the commitment towards education which is vital to the process of sustainable development.

If we delay in setting up a real sense of eco-citizenship, by fostering thrift and public-spiritedness for one

thing, the day may come when the Earth can no longer be dubbed a "Blue Planet".

* Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

The ongoing war of aggression waged against Iraq for the third till week now is still capturing the main headlines of the Yemeni press, official and private sector; in addition that majority of article, analyzes and commentaries are still devoted to talk about its developments on the ground. Moreover, the newspapers publish pictures showing the large numbers of civilian victims killed or wounded because of the brutal American and British warplanes and long-range missiles, and also show the amount of huge destruction the aggressors bombardment is causing to the civilians residential houses and installations of Iraq's infrastructure. News and developments of the war are attracting most of the newspapers attention despite that Yemen is approaching from the date of holding its parliamentary elections on the final days of this month. Commentaries and articles are devoted to condemning the illegitimate war aimed at occupying Iraq and control its riches especially its oil wealth, calling the Arab and Muslim peoples to begin acting against the American, British interests and also of those supporting or participating in the war.

Al-Sahwa weekly 2 Apr. 2003. Main headlines:

- Losses of the aggression reach London and Washington
- Al-Rantisi: American arrogance enhances stand of peoples with the Palestinian cause
- New American failure prolongs period of al-Mouayad detention
- Detainees from the Friday demonstrations released
- Lawyers: Differentiation between voters, violation of the law
- Hindrances before opposition candidates

The editor of the newspaper says in his front page article that every day tens of innocent victims fall as a price for the illusions that have become controlling the Bush administration in Washington. The world always remember the victims of the war crimes perpetrated by terrorists and criminals who ruled the world at a time peoples are unaware, exploiting their striking military power they possess. Despite of the sorrow and grief and anger dominating the Arab citizen everywhere he has not to forget that the Arab official order is the major and the first side responsible for this speedy downfall and collapse of the homelands and peoples dignity and sovereignty. Those searching for an effective way for siding with Iraq have to turn back to themselves and look for the reasons why they accepted despotism and totalitarian rule that led the nation to uncountable disasters paying for it from our lives and those of the coming generations.

Undoubtedly, leaders of the Arab official regimes hope wholeheartedly

that Washington would decide early the result of the war before the cards could be reshuffled and fire extends to their thrones and the ground shakes under their feet. They see in the prolonged Iraqi steadfastness a real danger on this Arab regime. The writer concludes that our real problem lies in the first place in backwardness, despotism, suppression of freedoms and expression of opinion. These are the gaps through which the foreign invaders do infiltrate to threaten our sovereignty and dignity.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization 1 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Elections Committee hinders some JMP's candidates
- Influentials from the ruling party commit aggression on the deaf and mute
- Iraqi steadfastness torpedoed Anglo-American imperialists plans
- Blows should be dealt to American and British interests
- Members of Nasserite Organization continue fighting the invaders
- MP al-Atwani: Elections committee bears responsibility of ignorance of some electoral commit
- Call for boycotting medicines of aggressor countries

Columnist Hamdi al-Bukari says in his article that immediately after the arrival of around five thousand Arab volunteers in Baghdad to carry out martyrdom operations, the level of panic raised among field commanders of the Anglo-American invaders, even before their politicians who are going

to receive blows from all directions. And for fear of the news reaching their soldiers, those commanders worked hard to impose blackout on this news. The American and British soldiers, and Blair and Bush, surely know that the serious problem the Zionists face is the Palestinian martyrdom operations. No doubt therefore the war criminals now feel, on the battle fronts and the politics salons, disappointment the bitterness of which is increased by the fact that these people ready to die for saving Iraq are on the first batch.

It is certain that all of the Arabs and Muslims are time-bombs whose explosion would not stop in Palestine and Iraq but will pursue them everywhere.

Al-Balagh weekly 29 Apr. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Arab correspondent discloses crimes committed by Anglo-American troops in Iraq
- Allied soldiers spitted on the Muslims holy book and threw it to the ground
- Islamic leaderships: the Americans surrounded Mecca, prepare to strike Ka'ba
- Twenty Yemeni women volunteer to fight in Iraq
- Shiite opposition in Iraq declare jihad against American-British forces
- American experts indicate to imminent allied forces defeat
- American soldiers give bitter confessions
- Yemen's journalists union opens donations for helping Iraq's journalists

Writer Fa'ez al-Makhrafi says in his article that at all levels the war of aggression on Iraq by the U.S. and Britain and their allies has disclosed a host of scandals. The first of those scandals is that of Bush and Blair administrations. The second is that of the International organization. The third is that of the international effective powers at the UN Security Council that effective in steering the destiny of international relations. The fourth scandal is represented by the stands of all international organizations that brag of being humanitarian organizations, especially those concerned with freedom and human rights. The fifth scan-

dal the ongoing war has disclosed is that of the Arabs in their Arab League at levels of their representation.

The author says that definitely launching of the war by Bush and Blair and their supporters, has formed an outrageous scandal for them for many reasons. The most outstanding of these reasons is that this war does not have any legal or moral or human justifications. It has gone out of the frame of the UN Security Council relevant resolutions. The US and British administrations went alone to the war without getting support from any of the effective powers in the UN; France, China and Russia and neither from the world public opinion.

Annas weekly 31 Mar. 2003.

Main headlines:

- 200 Yemenis let for Baghdad, Yemeni women in Sana'a put on shrouds
- Military expert: Coming battles in Iraq longer, losses bigger from both sides
- In the Friday demonstration, 7 killed and 30 wounded
- The military and civilians voting together, reason of the problem, officials demand for separate polling
- Civil society organizations reject US aggression
- Yemeni women take to the street
- University guard shoots at students
- Information ministry confiscates "The Capital" newspaper

Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie says in his article that the entire world tried to make America go back from its decision to carry out its adventure of fighting Iraq, but President Bush insisted strongly to enter the war.

All know that the question is not related to weapons of mass destruction and not the establishment of democracy. There is no democracy but in very few of Arab countries. The aim of the war is not a question of removing a tyrant, as they claim. For we know many tyrants in the world governing their peoples by martial laws and states of emergency, under the very agreement and blessing of America. Why then Saddam Hussein in particular? Is the question is the control of the world economy through stealing the Iraqi oil

or the control on Baghdad the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate. The aim of installing a new Karzai pours in service of the Zionist entity state. In order to achieve this goal the American president Bush gave his people an image in that the whole matter was simple and that Iraq would not resist the invasion because the people there are fed up from their rulers and looking forward to the American democracy. Bush would grant democracy to the remnants of the Iraq people who daily come under the cluster bombs and the most sophisticated long-range missiles and other types of lethal weapons.

Against that image marketed by American president Bush, the entire world woke up to see on TV screens tens of American and British soldiers killed or wounded as well as prisoners of war. The battles have also made it clear the very high morale the Iraqi people and army are entertaining. Nobody can deny the American and British military technology compared to what the Iraqis possess. But before achieving their targets in Iraq the American and British forces would lose at least half of their military power. This is in itself a great victory for the Muslims and would make America think more a thousand times before trying to repeat the attempt in another Islamic country. We should not forget that the Almighty God would not accept injustice and supports those subjected to injustice.

Al-Raie al-A'am weekly, 1 Apr. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Yemeni Mujahideen head for Iraq
- Iraqi forces besiege American and British soldiers; Syria announces its standing by Iraq
- Yemen's journalists support the Iraqi people
- Islah domination in Sana'a aborts JMP force
- Iraq welcomes al-Ahmar message to President Saddam Hussein
- Huge financial flows into Yemen, deposited in various banks

Columnist Abdulhamid al-Shara'bi says in his article that the Iraqi steadfastness has revealed the actual volume of the American power that dominates the world and disclosed its weakness. It

is not as strong as some think or visualized by the media. Others weakness and submission to America made it appear as a powerful force. The Iraqi steadfastness has refuted and broken all prospects and analyzes and surprised all with results of the battle. Iraq, with unprecedented planning and control, has managed to change it from a technological war into a traditional one. We cannot rule out that in the coming days to see hand-to-hand fighting. If we take into account suffering of the Iraqi people during 12 years of blockade and economic sanctions, and targeting Iraqi civilians with American and British sophisticated weapons, each Iraqi would be converted to a time bomb ready to explode at any moment against the enemy till the danger against his homeland is over. The enemy is mistaken by thinking that aiming at the civilians in Iraq with their warplanes and missiles would intimidate them to raise the white flag but would increase their resistance to the invasion.

Al-Thawra daily, 5 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Friday prayers preacher lauds principled and brave stands of Yemen political leadership in support of the nation's causes
- US-led aggression fails to encircle Baghdad, faces fierce resistance
- Israeli occupation forces advance into Jenin and Nusairat refugee camp
- Tourist airplane crashes into a building in Boston, U.S.A.

Al-Thawra editorial says against the horrible images of the innocent victims killed or wounded as a result of the war against Iraq, it is difficult to understand the carelessness displayed by the international community regarding the destruction that includes all utilities of life in Iraq, hospitals, schools, factories, power stations and water services. International community heedlessness of its moral duties towards the aggression would leave its impact on security and stability in this sensitive region of the world and its reflections would extend to foundations of international relations and constituents of collective security as well as the UN role in keeping international stability and peace.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers *Provided by Xinhua*

Egypt

Al-Ahram

Egypt's Shura Council, or Consultative Council, is expected to debate a new bank bill on Saturday, which was approved by the Economic Committee of the People's Assembly last week.

Al-Akhar

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday had phone talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the latest developments of Israel's aggressions against the Palestinians.

During the phone conversation, they stressed the need to immediately set in motion a roadmap envisaging the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Al-Gomhuria

A huge fire destroyed five factories in an industrial zone in Ramadan City, east of Cairo, on Friday.

A total of 19 people, three of them firefighters, were injured in the accident.

The Egyptian Mail

About 1,000 people demonstrated against the ongoing US-led war against Iraq after prayers in Cairo's al-Azhar mosque on Friday.

They chanted anti-US slogans and called for "holy war" as prayers began.

Britain

The Daily Telegraph

US President George W. Bush will fly to Belfast on Monday for a summit with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on the war against Iraq and the progress of efforts to achieve peace in Northern Ireland and in the Middle East.

The Guardian

Senior American and British oil executives are being headhunted by the White House to advise Iraq's oil industry as part of America's plans for reconstruction.

The Times

American forces were sealing exit routes around Baghdad Friday night as they tried to trap Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

British and US intelligence officials believe that the Iraqi leader is still inside the capital, but they fear his two sons, Uday and Qusay, may already have slipped the net.

The Financial Times

The United States on Friday relegated the United Nations to a supporting role in the creation of a post-Saddam government in Iraq, leaving it to the US-led coalition to shape the process.

The Independent

The United Nations signaled its return to Iraq Friday by starting relief operations in Umm Qasr after aid agencies said the British-led humanitarian effort in the port was failing to meet even basic needs.

Philippines

The Philippine Star

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved Friday a three-point contingency plan to "lock out" the fast-spreading Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) from the Philippines, where there is no documented case of the dreaded disease so far.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Philippines' influential Roman Catholic bishops on Friday condemned the bombings of three Muslim mosques in the southern city of Davao on Thursday, warning they

could fan religious conflict in the strife-torn southern part of the country.

The mosque bombings were staged just after a terrorist bomb attack at a nearby wharf that left 16 dead and some 50 others injured.

The Manila Times

From the description by witnesses, police artists have drawn sketches of two suspects in the bombing of a wharf in the southern city of Davao on Wednesday night that killed 16 people.

Pakistan

The News

Pakistani Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Friday in Lahore, "Whosoever says Pakistan is the next after Iraq should rest assured that we are invincible and unconquerable. We stand tall and respected among Washington's friends and not foes."

Pakistan Observer

President Pervez Musharraf said here on Friday Pakistan has impregnable defense and is taking great strides in stabilizing its economy.

The Statesman

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), a coalition of six religious groups, on Friday staged a huge anti-war rally in central Pakistan's Multan city.

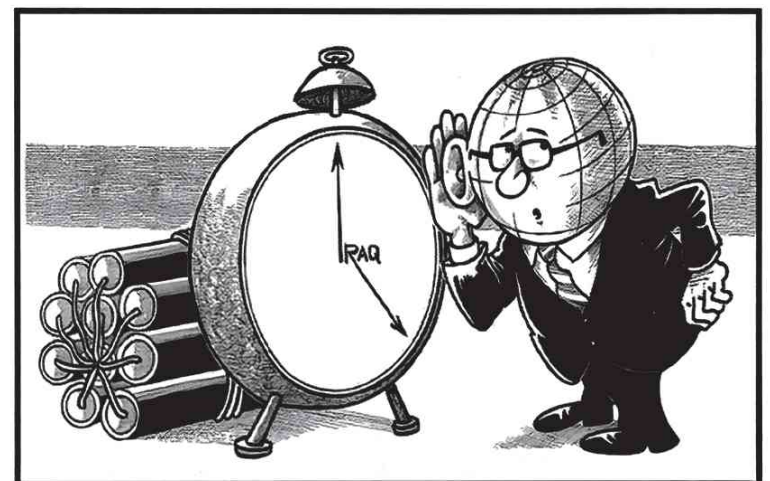
Kenya

Kenya Times

Kenya is studying the communique issued by the US government which asks all countries in the world to shut down Iraqi embassies, Minister for Foreign Affairs Kalonzo Musyoka said Friday.

Daily Nation

The Union of Kenya Civil Servants wants a 600 percent pay rise, saying most civil servants in the country could not meet their basic needs without a "substantial pay increment."



Nigeria

This Day

The All Nigeria People's Party and the United Nigeria People's Party have told an Abuja High Court to stop the general elections slated for this month for which President Olusegun Obasanjo has approved the release of 93 billion naira (about 738.09 million US dollars) to the Independent National Electoral Commission.

The Guardian

No fewer than 47 oil products marketing companies have been sanctioned by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation over the persistent fuel scarcity in the country because they diverted 165 trucks loaded with petroleum products.

Japan

Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nihon Keizai

The United States plans to install interim government in Iraq before end of war.

Asahi:

Japanese government purchased 104 tons of unnecessary beef under steps to counter BSE.

Yomiuri

A total of 513 candidates won seats in 43 prefectural assembly elections across Japan.

Nihon Keizai

Japan's second largest automaker Honda is to launch new large mini-van next spring.

Letters to the Editor

Readers speak on the Iraqi War

War on Iraq:

A defeat for justice

The war against Iraq is a defeat for humanitarianism, justice and common political sense. It has not been legalized by the UN, the only organization, that would have had the legal mandate. And the vast majority of countries does not follow.

Furthermore, Bush and his team do the greatest disservice to the US and its people.

There is no doubt, that this war is not simple, clean and cheap - it will be complex, dirty and expensive. And, moreover, the damages resulting from this war are completely incalculable, e.g.:

- Political: Destabilization of a region with a fragile balance of power.

- Economical: (Ongoing) disaster for the oppressed people of Iraq and tremendous negative impact on the world economy with huge succeeding secondary problems.

This will lead to tremendous anti-American sentiment all over the world with even increasing need of 'pro-active intervention' - a spiral of violence, that can not be controlled.

With this war, there is no more credibility left for the politics of the current US Government, credibility that the whole world offered to Bush after Sept 11, 2001. He missed the chance to ensure 'enduring freedom' around the world, satirizing this term and turning it into its contrary.

Personally, I am proud to live in a country, whose government has initiated the opposition against this politics, and whose people are mature enough to follow.

Werner Remmele
Mering, Germany
werner@remmele.de

Millions of Brits reject war

On behalf of millions of British people, I would like to say we do not support this war in Iraq. We are extremely distressed at the suffering that is being caused to the people of Iraq by the US and UK Government through military action.

We had a protest where between 1 to 2 million people went to London to show our total disapproval and we have had a number of television programs where ordinary people have questioned Tony Blair and showed their disgust with his intentions. Unfortunately the UK Government voted to go to war.

The US and UK government are lying about many, many things to their people to try to convince them and the ordinary people feel helpless and wish this could be stopped immediately.

Gina Laliq
United Kingdom
GinaLaliq@btinternet.com

An invitation to Australia

It is hard to restrain our anger at what is happening in Iraq, but we must if we want a civilized world for our children to grow up in. It will take time, but we must find a way to build international justice, as your Editor has said.

The Law of the Jungle, where the powerful do as they please, can only be defeated with calmness and clear heads, not with guns.

The UN must be re-built from the wreck it is right now. We of the small nations must all work together without thought that we are Muslims, Christians, Hindu, Buddhist or even atheist. What is important is that we

should all seek justice not only for ourselves but for the others of the world.

One of the huge benefits of world travel is that you get to see how other people live, and come to recognize that the way YOU live is not the only way, nor even is it likely to be the BEST way.

I invite you - or any of your readers- to come and live with me for a month to see how I live. If you can get here to Australia, I will be honored to have you stay with my family for a month. Only by learning to respect each other can we move forward in peace.

Michel Dignand
Australia
dignands@ozemail.com.au

I am a Shiite, and I support Saddam

I am an Iraqi citizen who just left Iraq (Najaf). I also want to tell you that I am a Shiite Muslim. I admit that I know that many people in Iraq, especially in the south, that used to dislike Saddam Hussein, who are now getting to like him. Right now, I along with every Iraqi -Sunni or Shiite- have become pro-Saddam. I will really like to send my personal greetings and love to our great leader Saddam Hussein.

Saddam has become our true leader and the leader of all Arabs by refusing to leave Iraq and save his life. He preferred to stay and defend his country.

Hassan Aldailam
hassanlam@hotmail.com

99.99% of Americans want peace

I am desperately searching for a non-American opinion on the war in Iraq, and I happened upon your website. Not just happened really, I had been logging on to an English version of Al-Jazeera, but it has since been blocked by the government. Not as free as we think..

Your editorial raised a lot of questions that "intelligent" Americans, that is to say Americans that can hold two independent thoughts in their heads at once, ponder every minute of the day. This war is making us crazy. We get only American spun journalism, and it is very difficult to believe that we are doing the wrong thing in Iraq. Although I agree with the viewpoint of your questions, I was wondering if you could give me an intelligent, straight forward answer to the questions Americans are asking all of time.

This is just you and me, two intelligent, concerned citizens of the world.

Does the Arab community know that 9/11 shook this country to its core? Shook so violently that half of all Americans will agree to any action if they think in doing so, future 9/11's will be averted?

Why aren't stories of Saddam's rape and murder of his own people discussed more, especially on Al-Jazeera? Do these stories exist?

Is Saddam the tyrant we've been told he is?

If so, why does the world resent us wanting to take down his regime?

Do you believe Saddam has chemical/biological weapons?

Do you think if we had a chance to force a regime change in Germany in 1939, we should have done so?

I am being misled by American journalists and government officials who tell me Saddam had killed 1.5 million Muslims?

Does the Arab community

believe we are targeting civilians?

American journalism does interview Arabs, but they could be just lying for the camera, for the government. I was searching for an intelligent, Arabic opinion. I hope you or your readers would respond.

Please know that 99.99% of Americans want nothing more than to sing, dance, pray, raise their families, and to help the world (peacefully) when we can.

Jeff Redlinger
USA
jeff@rmdesignstudio.com

I am boycotting "Yemen Times"

On the editorial published in issue 629 entitled "What Americans Should Think About":

a) Your opinion in this issue about Americans is drenched in bias and generalizations. It is deceitful, condescending, and full of the editors fancy.

b) I never thought that the Yemen Times would run with the pack.

c) If these kind of demonstrations were held against your own government, thousands would be killed, tortured, and the rest would end up in prison.

d) What captures a good writer's attention is not what everyone else sees. A good writer recognizes larger trends, deeper truths about the way human beings behave.

e) I am against this war. But I am also against your coverage of it for reasons stated in point (a).

f) To voice my objection, I am no longer reading your paper until you guys straighten up and get back on track.

P.S. "It is easy enough for a man/woman to walk who has a horse. The invalid is not to be pitied who has a cure up his/her sleeve."

"The invalid" according to the editor, is the short-sighted, un-informed, refusing to stand up, mousy, dim-witted, Americans. "My cure" is boycotting your paper until further notice.

I'm only half American. But you guys make me want to go out and hang up an American flag. And from the looks of the lines at the American Embassy during my visits, 1/2 of Yemen wants to come here.

Furthermore, I am not at all in support of the invasion of Iraq. However, you must know that the anger of the Yemeni people, (and tanked up by you), is misplaced. Psychiatric language; "transference."

I am very disappointed in the psychological manipulation of your people.

I have known Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf personally. I don't think that he would have resorted to the kind of tactics the Yemen Times has displayed recently. May Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf rest in peace...

Christina Henning
cslate@cavenet.com

Al-Haifi's "Try Valium" is to the point

I completely agree and support the article "Try Valium." However, after watching the American news, after reading American articles and after reading viewpoints of Americans, I have come to the conclusion that they are all blind, at least 99% of them. Americans just do not seem to view this war as a war that is killing the Iraqi people. They think that they are the liberators. They are also blind to think that the Iraqi people will welcome

them open-heartedly after having half of their family members killed by these so-called liberators. They do not seem to understand that when they drop bombs on some people, it is only natural for those people to view Americans as the aggressors and to harbor hatred towards the aggressor. This is a natural human reaction. It's the US who declared war on Iraq and not the other way around. Let's face it, all this nonsense about Al-Qaida is just an excuse to give reason to Bush for declaring the war on Iraq. Who does the US think it is to even dare invade another country? The US should mind its own business and stick to its own domestic affairs. The American people are being taken for absolute idiots, and they're buying it. Bush is following the foot steps of Hitler, and if he will not be stopped, who know how far this war will go.

Furthermore, The US is acting exactly like the Nazis did during WWII. Americans do not see this being American, but it is really outrageous to invade another country, drop bombs on civilians, and then attempt to call this as "Freeing the people." That is absolute nonsense and the American government really takes people for absolute idiots, which is very sad. It is for the Iraqi people to liberate themselves of Saddam if they want to and if they are unhappy with him, and it is no business of the US to stick its long nose in another country's affair. Moreover, it was the American CIA who put Saddam in his current position in the first place. The US should also start calling things by their proper names; for example, they should admit the fact that it is the US who is the aggressor and Iraq is the victim in this situation. No one asked the Americans to declare war on Iraq. The Americans do not belong in Iraq, that is why they should go back home. How would the Americans feel if their country would get invaded by another country, and if the other country would say that they're doing it in a positive attempt to get rid of a criminal such as Bush? How would they feel about that? I am sure that they wouldn't be very happy to see their people being killed in their own country. So they should try to put themselves in the Iraqi people's position and face the fact that the US is the aggressor, otherwise why would all those people all around the world be protesting so violently against this terrible war?

D. Sanchez

More "What if's"

What if 9/11 never happened?

What if Saddam Hussein was a peaceful man that did not gas his own people?

What if the Arab community did not preach hate?

What if the Arab community did not teach their children to hate by parading them around holding signs of hate?

What would happen if America never sent billions of dollars of humanitarian aid to Arab countries?

What would happen if America did not help feed Arab countries?

What if terrorism stopped?

What if your newspaper preached messages of love instead of hate.

We here in America do not hate the Arab nations. You won't see us in the streets holding up hate signs. If the

Arab nations could only channel their energies into feeding their people and building up their economy, none of this would have to be. And I am only a 50 year old mother from America.

Valerie Sedor
Binghamton, NY USA

Who's next on the US target list?

I wish to state my feelings about the "War on Iraq". I wish to show my anguish over utter disregard to the will of the United Nations by its Allies and US. The blatant hypocrisy shown by the US and its allies confirms to the following points.

1. It is a well known fact that U.S. which has encouraged the Taliban during the Cold War with the Soviets, & when the same Taliban supported Al-Qaeda hit them they Destroyed the Taliban and Installed a Puppet Government in Afghanistan. "Puppet Government" confirms this fact that by playing American Tune of supporting a war on Iraq.

2. There are several countries like India facing terrorism related problems.. One hit by Osama on the Twin towers led to Afghan War. India had several hits similar and far more devastating and US urges India to hold restraint. Why?? Why can't it hold the same restraint against Iraq?? Is it not Hypocrisy? Just because it is the lone super power, it's calling the shots.

3. If terrorism causes Death & Destruction in U.S., the same terrorism results in the same in other countries too.. Why doesn't US react in similar situations in other countries also.. Is the value of life of an American Citizen higher than that of citizens of other countries?? I believe a life is a life and nobody has the right to take it.. and I guess everybody agrees with it.

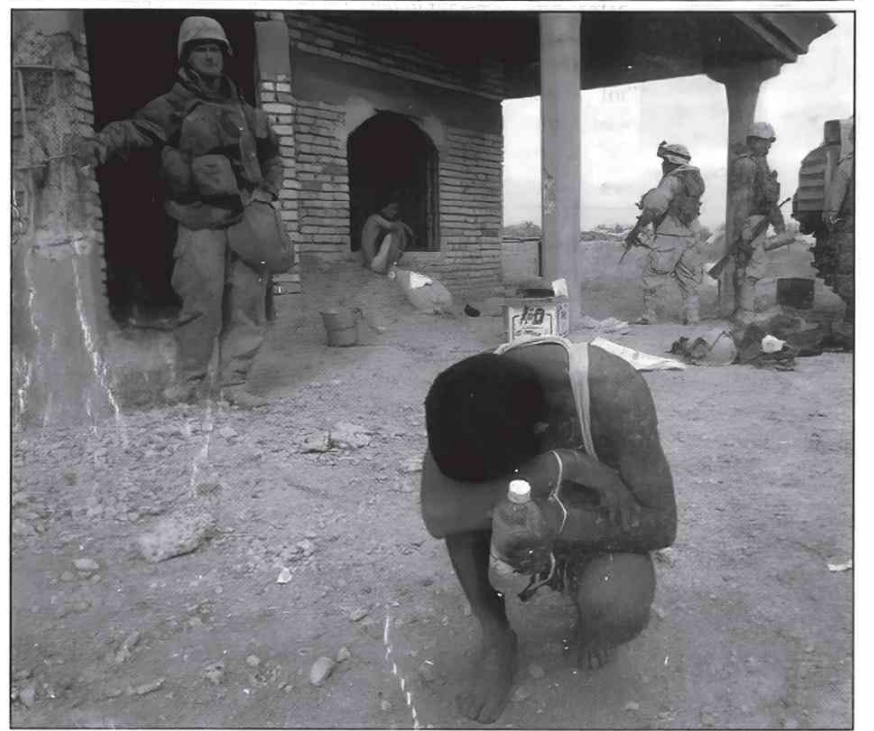
4. The U.S. has a total disregard for the will of the U.N. and has gone ahead with the war. What's the difference between the US and the so called rogue countries it says?? If Iraq has behaved like a rogue by invading Kuwait, US is now a bigger rogue since it is invading Iraq without UN Sanctioning.. (i.e., against the will of the world).

5. UN Inspectors have clearly outlined that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. And Iraq is providing full cooperation for the inspections, which only needed some more time to totally disarm. Why such a hurry to wage a war?? At the cost of death and destruction. For Oil?? It is not the Oil but the blood & Death of a father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Son, daughter that U.S wants to thrive.

6. The world felt sorry for the deaths and destruction on 9/11. The world didn't distinguish whether it was an American or another national or whether it was a Christian, a Muslim or a Hindu. It was a death of innocent human being. Then why does America distinguish??

7. If America wants to be a big brother, let it be so. But let it act with the same brotherly sense and do justice than act like a trigger happy thug. It should act with conscience and treat the other nations like brothers rather than try to take advantage of their weakness and benefit out of them.

8. & Finally, the issue of Great Britain. This, once upon a time great nation, lost its individuality and merely dances to the tunes of U.S.



This is an example of how Iraqi POWs are treated. US Army combat engineers arrest two Iraqis who claim to be members of the Republican Guard, after the engineers secured a bridge over the Euphrates river about 20 km outside Baghdad, during a push by the 3rd infantry's convoy of more than 3000 vehicles towards Baghdad April 4. REUTERS

It was the British who have supplied the arms and ammunition and the necessary equipment to Iraq to manufacture chemical weapons. Now it is the same people who cry foul. England should shun its opportunist attitude and behave more maturely than act like a vamp.

9. The actions of the policy makers in 'the U.S are the cause of 9/11, thus resulting in deaths of innocents. Every action has an equal opposite reaction. But ultimately it is some innocent, who's hurt while the policy makers enjoy the ball.

10. Now after Iraq.. Who's Next? North Korea.. After that.. possibly Pakistan.. then Libya.. The U.N is marginalized and the voices of Germany, France and China can just condemn American action and can do nothing about it..

11. To conclude, in India, we Hindu's have a Holy Saying "Sarvejana Sukhinau Bhavantu" which means "All The Living Beings Live In Peace & Harmony".

12. I hope the USA realizes this universal truth and stops the war on humanity.

Nanda Kishore
Chennai, India
nandtalk@hotmail.com

A question that I need an answer for

I have been following with interest the Yemen Times' account of the war. Mainly because the news on most western media sites is very repetitive and rarely gives any new information regarding the war. My question concerns the attitude of both the Yemenis and the Arab world in general.

I do not disagree that this war is brutal. War is something that happens when political means have failed, and it is never nice. To expect a war to be free of civilian casualties and painless for those not directly involved in it is unrealistic. Like you, I agree that this war is being waged not for the reasons presented to us, but for other, perhaps less acceptable reasons. Namely Oil. Let us not forget that protesting countries like France and Russia are also serving their own interests when protesting the war. Both countries have strong interests in Iraqi oil, and would not like for them to be

disrupted. It is naive to think that any government is for or against the war purely as a matter of principle, or "for the people". The world does not work like that.

What I cannot understand as a Briton is how any Islamic country (and the Yemen in particular) feels duty bound to support other countries based solely on the fact that their primary religion is common. I myself am not religious but have several religious friends. Catholics in the UK do not automatically rally in support of Israel. Jews do not automatically rally in support of Israel. So why is there such a strong bond with Islam? I noted in a report on your website today, that anti war protesters were complaining about the unjust war in Iraq, and took the opportunity to shout "Death to Israel". Now, how is it that these people feel such things can be linked?

The Israel-Palestine dispute has been raging for decades with, lets face it, atrocities performed equally by both sides. What the hell does that have to do with a war on Iraq? Equally, I see people in Yemen declaring that Hindus are evil and should be killed. Presumably in reference to the ongoing Pakistan-India dispute over Kashmir. The war in Iraq may not be just, but it, like the disputes in Palestine and Kashmir, is not a war that concerns most of the Islamic community, so why treat it as if people are attacking your country? The sentiment in the UK is that Islamic protests often lose their credibility simply because they just protest against anything against Islam. That kind of attitude has no moral grounding (it is highly arrogant to suppose that one religion is correct, and all others are wrong), only a religious one. Here in the UK, religion plays a very small part in modern life (unlike the US), but anti-Islamic sentiment here is borne mainly from the attitude that a religion, formed so many years ago that not all of it's ideals can possibly be relevant now, is correct, and everybody else is wrong and therefore evil.

My current opinion of the war is that America is invading Iraq primarily for the control of Oil, and also to

protect Israel against missile attacks from Iraq. Wars have been raged for lesser reasons than this in history, so one could have the opinion that it is more just than most. I'm sure there are many good reasons to the contrary, that I am prepared to listen to. I am currently studying at a very International University in London, and debates continue constantly between my friends (including people from Greece, Turkey, UAE, Lebanon, Israel and many other places). From this I have heard many convincing arguments against the war, many of which I support, but the Arab world, and particularly the Yemen always seems to smear it's arguments against the war with the undertone that it is against the Islamic people, and therefore has to be unjust. That is not the way to convince people who do not follow the religion to get on your side.

Nick Huismans
nick@huismans.com

A poem on war

Circle, circle stone of mill;
Like a great tire.
Show Bush his mud hill;
To know life is like a gyre.

Why a human kills a soul;
To feed his gluttony of oil?
Savage; not only cruel;
He is sure a part of soil.

Did leer wrong at world again?
Divided kingdom between
Bush and Blair
But we will not a victim again
As they with us also share.

Bush who doesn't hear the universe;
Shouting saying no need war.
Listen to the people curse
Iraq is not a near star.

Hi! Old and crazy man;
Tell what a reason was?
Live peacefully now; if you can.
Where you decide to put your nose.

Terrorism only is your own;
Crimes come from you alone;
Peace scream to your down;
Save them and give up the crown.....

Rayed Al-Qubati
rayedqubati@yahoo.com

Responses from Todd
I have responses to the Editor, Al-Haifi and Bin Sallam. First to the editor I say:

You say I am misguided, brainwashed & uninformed because I believe what President Bush is doing in Iraq but who is really being brainwashed. In America, we have access to all types of media coverage. I can read The New York Times or the Yemen Times. What choices do the Iraqi people have? They get the Saddam Times and nothing else. I have read many, many Middle Eastern newspapers and I can tell you, without a doubt, that American media serves its citizens better than any other country. We are not perfect, to be sure but the truth is out there for us if we are willing to find it. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the average Middle East citizen. Shame on you. You and your ilk call America war mongers, yet it is you (the Middle East) that has been fighting each other for thousands of years, with no end in sight. Saddam "The Butcher" Hussein raped his country and his people with the blessing of people like you. Iraq should be a prosperous country, yet Saddam has 25 palaces while his people starve. I'd be very careful if I were you, Yemen, very, very careful indeed.

To Hassan Al-Haifi I say: I just read your article "Iraqi Insomnia?" and I am absolutely stunned. You seem to be somewhat educated yet the truth escapes you. How can you possibly condone the current Iraqi regimes atrocities? Saddam is nothing more than a murderous butcher. How can the Iraqi people possibly speak the truth. We here in America know the truth from the 1000's of Iraqi's now living here. Let's see...Saddam has 25 or so Palaces yet the average Iraqi citizen lives on 6 cents a day. Thousands of Iraqi people are starving daily but somehow this all gets overlooked.

Anyone who knows even a little about the Middle East, knows that Iraq has long been a breeding ground for terrorism. It's a playground for the bad guys of the world. God bless George W. Bush for finally putting an end to the madness in Iraq. Who's next? Yemen?

And to Your reporter bin Sallam I say:

Jihad, Jihad, Jihad! That's all we ever hear from these Islamic terrorists. Bin Laden called for Jihad, now he is hiding in caves, running for his life. I say be careful who you call Jihad against. After we clean up Iraq, who will be next? Yemen? It's your choice.

Todd DuQuette
Stockton, Ca - USA
nitydr99n@comcast.net

Dear Todd,

Thank you very much for your interest in the YT and in my column. I would like to assure you that I have never defended and will never defend Saddam Hussein or any of the Arab ruling regimes and even before George Bush ever heard of Saddam Hussein, I have been outspoken against him and his likes. Having said all that, I can assure you that the real ulterior motives behind the latest carnage in Iraq are far beyond the removal of Saddam Hussein and are not all together solely for solidifying American interests in the region. I appreciate the fact the majority of Americans, who support the Administration's seemingly innocent policy in Iraq do so for good intentions, but the fact of the matter is the consequences are neither good for the Iraqis, the Arabs or the Americans. Please read this week's column as I go more deeply into this and there are previous articles that underscore this point more plainly, if you wish to delve into the YT archives.

Again, I thank you for your interest and fully acknowledge your good intentions.

Hassan Al-Haifi

Who thought that the war is about the Iraqi people? "America must always come first"

By AMIN AL-DA'IRI

On Thursday, March 20, 2003, the US started its aggressive war along with its allies on Iraq in an attempt to overthrow the current regime, led by Saddam Hussein. This war was waged despite the fact that it did not gain the approval of the international community through the Security Council of the United Nations.

American and British administrations and army chiefs justified their military actions as an attempt to liberate the Iraqi people.

What I am very surprised at is the dangerous turn in the war, which is displayed in the outrageous slaughtering of innocent Iraqi civilians and the destruction of infrastructure facilities, which the Iraqis have devoted themselves for too many years to build.

I cannot refrain from thinking of the huge distance crossed by American and British troops to the gulf region for the war, the difficulties they had during their journey, and the high expenses the American and British people will pay to finance this war.

I want to ask: is all this trouble just for the sake of Iraqi people and their interests?

Logically, it is difficult to believe that this is the case, simply because the US in particular has never done something for the sake of others, it is its self-interest that was at the top of the agenda.

The reiterated claims the US administration has been repeating over and over again about the "noble" goal and legitimacy of this war, have cast doubt on the whole issue, and resulted in the disbelief of many nations that think that the US is deceiving the world.

With its short-sighted policy, the US leadership -not nation- is damaging the USA's reputation as a country of peace and justice. The Bush administration has proven again that a few materialistic interests of the USA are far greater than defending the ideals the US nation has been known for throughout history. After all, wasn't G. Bush Sr. who once said, "America must always come first"?

However, the war will eventually neither benefit the Americans, nor will it liberate the Iraqis, but will only damage international relations and weaken international justice, and I can prove that by presenting the following two points:

1- What the US and its allies are doing is an obvious interference into another nation's internal affairs, which can't be accepted by any

country around the globe.

2- Lurching this war without resorting to the United Nations is in clear breach of the UN's charter, regulations and resolutions. This will result in less respect for international regulations by other UN members, especially powerful ones. In brief, it will result in massive chaos around the world.

I wonder why the US and the UK insist on going on with this illegitimate war. Do they seriously believe what their intelligence sources suggesting about the expectations that Iraqi people would rebel against their leaders and welcome coalition forces with flowers? Isn't this closer to an illusion that they lived in and tried to make their own peoples believe so as to justify their aggression?

The US hasn't carried out a referendum concerning the Iraqi people's opinion on Saddam and those Iraqi citizens never asked the US for help to topple the regime in the first place.

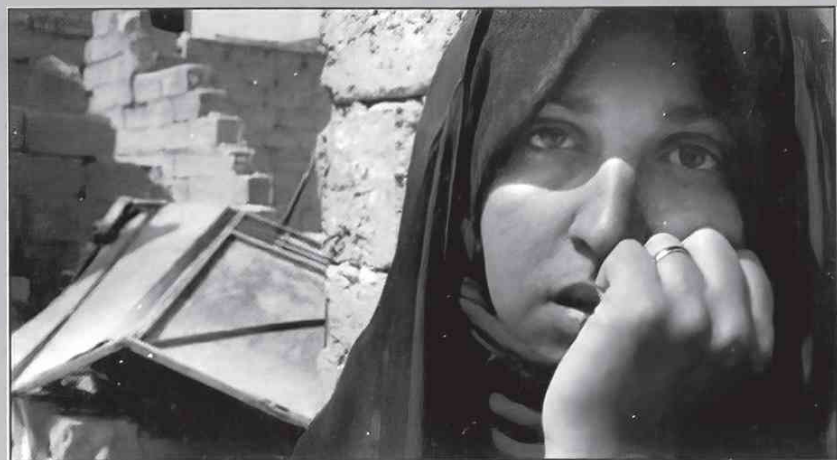
Therefore, the US and Britain are trying their best to convince world nations that they are committed to liberate the Iraqi people. But how can they convince the world if Iraqis themselves are not convinced? On the other hand, this war will certainly leave negative effects on US and UK relations with Arab and Islamic nations.

I want everyone in the US and the UK to realize that even if the war ends with an invasion of Iraq, there will always be unforgettable memories of the aggressive nature of this war -and every war- resembled in the innocent victims and destruction caused to the Iraqi.

The USA and its allies have not come for the sake of Iraqi people but for their own interests, and that can be illustrated in the following.

First of all, why did this UN impose economic embargo on Iraq? The truth is that the US has always wanted to be the most powerful country in the world and become the only superpower. But when a developed country starts meeting its needs economically and militarily, the US government feels bad about it because this developed country will maintain a steady line of progress and one day become as strong as the USA itself. Well, it may surprise you to know that Iraq was that particular country.

You may realize that this doesn't coincide with the fact that Iraq is the only Arab country to be able to produce military weapons and have a strong military arsenal. The USA wanted to destroy this emerging regional power and make it look like a model to other countries that may one day dare to do the same.



An Iraqi woman sits in front of a house destroyed during an air strike on the outskirts of Baghdad April 2. With President Saddam Hussein urging a holy war against the invaders, U.S. bombers pounded the southern fringes of Baghdad on Wednesday, where the vaunted Republican Guard is believed to be dug in. REUTERS/Faleh Kheiber

The Iraqi regime has rightly decided to produce its own weaponry after the many wars it went through in its history. After all, importing such weapons in case of continuous wars is an extremely wrong tactic as shortage of such imported military weapons due to some internal or external circumstances and some other related problems could have catastrophic consequences.

Iraq's oil wealth was the main factor behind its ability to establish its mighty military arsenal, and hence, Iraq's oil is a source of threat to the USA as well.

What I mentioned above is also the main reason behind the eruption of the various wars between Iraq and its neighbors. It is undeniable that those wars were incited or encouraged by the USA in a way or another.

The US succeeded in reaching its goal and went further to persuade the UN to send inspection teams to ensure that Iraq destroys all its military arsenal and continue monitoring Iraq's activity in this regard to prevent it from rebuilding it. Moreover, the Iraqi sources of military power couldn't be specified exactly, giving grave importance to the continuous monitoring of inspectors on Iraqi soil.

However, that wasn't enough to satisfy the USA, which feared that Iraq may have already started rebuilding its military arsenal. Hence, the world's super power exerted great pressure on the UN to start the oil for food program in order to have oil revenues barely meet the food needs of the Iraqi people, leaving little surplus

for other expenditures including those involving military purposes. This happened in front of the world, despite the fact that it violates the sovereignty of the country and damages its citizens' well being by depriving them from basic imported goods needed under the pretext that they are not part of the food for oil program.

This is and has been the US policy to impose its will on other countries, and it is also evident in how the government dealt with Sudan when it started producing its own military equipment. The only deference between the Iraqi and Sudanese cases is that the former was exposed to external wars but the latter wasn't.

It's worth mentioning that there are two important pillars for a properly established country. Those pillars are a flourishing economy and a mighty military.

These two pillars have been there in the two countries mentioned above before the USA reacted by bombing, embargoing, and waging war against. Hence, it seems that the US believes that it has the right to apply 'preemptive measures' including this war.

I think it's enough for readers to know that the US doesn't care about the interest of others but rather only thinks selfishly of its own interests. Let people not be fooled by the motto of "Iraqi freedom from Saddam Hussein's regime".

The truth is that the USA's war is merely for its own survival.

And I am sure that time will prove this fact to all who may still be in doubt.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Travel will lead to all sorts of possibilities that could turn out to be quite lucrative. Keep an open mind and don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar territory.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)
You have to stop waffling and start doing what you have always wanted to do. Get serious about your professional goals and make satisfying career changes.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
You will be emotional if things don't go according to plan, and you will discover that you aren't quite as in control as you'd like to be. Take a step back and you will find concrete answers.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Secret affairs will lead to your demise. Rumors will run rampant and affect your reputation professionally and personally. Do not make a poor choice today.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You must stabilize your position if you want to become a leader. Make sure that your motives regarding your generosity are for the right reason.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Try to work on creative endeavors and avoid too much interaction with others. If you are confrontational you can expect to face strong opposition.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Stick to your objectives and talk to those who can help further your cause. This is a great day to deal with people who can offer you knowledge and wisdom. Listen carefully.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
This can be a difficult day if you have to deal with legal or health issues. Talk to someone in a position of authority. Your all-or-nothing attitude may cost you dearly.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You must be careful how you handle a loved one. Misunderstandings will lead to tension. Communicate openly and honestly.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Take the initiative and ask your peers to pitch in. This is not the time to consider making a career move. Sit tight and do your best.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Travel, entertainment and spending time with people and groups that interest you will give you a new lease on life. You deserve a little pampering.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Keep your thoughts to yourself today. Don't expect the people you live with to understand what you're going through. Listen to close friends who have insight into your latest predicament.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Sana'a	Hi 29 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9	Hi 28 Lo 9
Aden	Hi 34 Lo 24	Hi 34 Lo 24	Hi 34 Lo 23	Hi 34 Lo 22	Hi 35 Lo 22	Hi 35 Lo 23	Hi 35 Lo 23

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178

I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (46): Expressing in how many cases a statement is true (II)

In making statements that have a broad generalizability, speakers use some phrases or expressions to indicate how certain they are about the validity of their statements.

- It's a healthy sign that people in Yemen have normally an attitude of tolerance to foreigners.
Sometimes he visits his relatives in his village.
Occasionally I participate in qat-chewing sessions.
In some cases road accidents are a result of mechanical failure, but in most cases accidents occur due to rash and reckless driving.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- 1. He is better than any student.
2. I am junior than him.
3. Mohammed is superior than Faiz.
4. It is the most perfect answer.
5. His motor car is more expensive than his neighbor's one.

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. She sings beautifully.
2. I like skating very much.
3. I met him yesterday.
4. She danced badly.
5. Call me anything else but a thief.

III. Increase your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

- 1. Treated badly by those in positions of power.
2. Towards the lower part or business center of a town.
3. Going in the direction that the wind is blowing.
4. The property that a woman brings to her husband in marriage.
5. The oldest and the most experienced member of a group.

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. Having or showing low spirits or sadness: down-hearted (adj)
2. Towards the bottom of a hill: down-hill (adj)
3. A part of the full price paid at the time of buying, with the rest to be paid later: down payment (n)
4. A heavy fall of rain: down-pour (n)
5. In accordance with practical realities: down-to-earth (adj)

B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following phrases in illustrative sentences

- 1. concierge; 2. confrere; 3. consommee; 4. cordon bleu; 5. corps de ballet

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. chateaux (Fr) (a castle or large country house in France): Prior to the revolution the French aristocracy rolled in luxury in their chateaux.
2. chatelaine (Fr) (the female owner, or wife of the owner, of a large country house in France): Many a chatelaine in the pre-revolution France didn't approve of the cruel practices of her husband.
3. chef d'oeuvre (Fr) (the masterpiece of an artist or writer): The painting Monalisa is considered chef d'oeuvre of the painter Leonardo da Vinci.
4. comme il faut (Fr) (according to proper social standards): You shouldn't put on the bright, gorgeous suit for the condolence meeting; it's not comme il faut.
5. communiqué (Fr) (a joint declaration by heads of two governments): After the summit, a communiqué was signed by the two leaders.

C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- 1. action, auction
2. address, redress
3. addict, edict
4. addition, edition
5. adder, udder

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. adduce (vt) (put forward as proof): I can't adduce any reason for his strange behavior.
reduce (vt) (make less): In order to reduce your weight you should exercise regularly.
2. acquisition (n) (gaining for oneself): He devotes his time for acquisition of English vocabulary.
requisition (n) (act of requiring): We have made a requisition for the supply of stationery articles for our department.
3. acquisitive (adj) (fond of acquiring): He is acquisitive of new ideas in various fields.
inquisitive (adj) (showing a fondness for inquiring into other people's ideas): He is disliked for his inquisitive nature.
4. acquittal (n) (setting free of an accused person by a verdict): The acquittal of the innocent person relieved all in the courtroom.
requital (n) (repayment): His requital of our kindness by such acts of ingratitude shocked us.
5. acrimony (n) (bitterness of temper, manner, language): You should deal with him cautiously as he is known for his acrimony.
alimony (n) (money allowance paid by a man to his wife, or former wife, by a judge's order): After he divorced his wife, he has been paying her an alimony as per the court's decree.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences

- 1. save one's bacon
2. backwards and forwards
3. barge into
4. lose one's balance
5. off balance

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. get a bad name (to lose people's respect): He got a bad name when his clandestine deals were made public.
2. a bad egg (a person of loose character): Beware of him. He is a bad egg.
3. go from bad to worse (to keep getting worse):

My financial condition is consistently going from bad to worse.

- 4. make the best of a bad job (to do as well as one can in a difficult position): After losing his job, he's making the best of a bad job in his efforts to regain his lost position.
5. it's a bad business (unfortunate, unpleasant): I don't want to ask him about his losing the job. It's a bad business.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Given below are ten simple sentences. Indicate against each whether it is declarative, interrogative, imperative or exclamatory

- 1. Most of us became very tired soon.
2. We got a ticket for the show without any difficulty.
3. Tell me all about the incident.
4. Who/whom did the teacher give her notes?
5. Work in the school begins at 8 a.m.
6. What a beautiful sight!
7. How did he speak at the meeting?
8. Please get me a pair of scissors.
9. Let us go on a picnic tomorrow.
10. How gracefully she walks!

Answers to last week's questions

- 1. Not only is money lost, but also health is ruined by chewing qat.
2. Not until two hours did Mansour give up his waiting for Moinul and went home.
3. Nowhere else can you get fresh fruit and vegetables in Hayel street.
4. Only rarely does Mohammed go to his village home.
5. No sooner did Dr. Abdul Aziz arrive home than the telephone rang.

C) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the proverb

AS YOU SOW, SO SHALL YOU REAP

Answer to last week's question

II. STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE NOR IRON BARS A CAGE

These lines from the English poet Richard Lovelace suggest that freedom and slavery are not so much physical conditions as they are mental constructs. He who possesses this rare gift of spiritual freedom mocks at the physical confinement and bondage. Freedom of the soul is the real freedom. The individual or the race that possesses this mental and spiritual freedom cannot for long be held in bondage in true sense of the term. As the lines imply, a prison doesn't consist of four stone walls nor a cage, of some iron bars. A mind that is simple and innocent would take the confinement as a blessing in disguise. Such a man can enjoy unlimited bliss of mental freedom although his body is in physical captivity. In the ultimate analysis what is of utmost importance is cultivation of a dispassionate, detached, objective mind that is least affected by external vicissitudes. Such a mind enjoys peace and tranquility that is complete and wholesome.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"... Allah means No injustice to any Of his creatures" S3:A103

VI. Words of Wisdom

Humble hearts have humble desires —George Herbert

A pageantry of Eloquence First Inter-college Elocution Competition at Hodeidah University

By DR. RAMAKANTA SAHU

Under the joint auspices of Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Hodeidah University, and Al-Adeeb magazine brought out by students of Arts college, the first Inter-college Elocution competition was held at Arts college New Hall on Thursday, 3 April 2003.



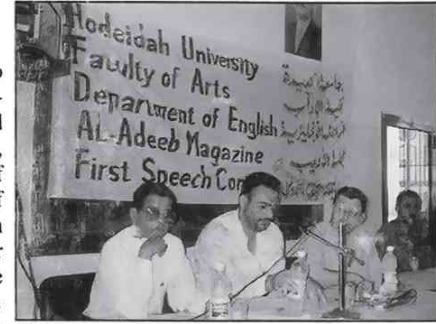
Dr. Mahyoub Abdel Rahman, Vice Rector, Students' Affairs, Hodeidah University



Dr. Ibrahim Omer Hugari, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Hodeidah University



Dr. Qassim Berihe, President, Hodeidah University



Panel of Judges



A section of the enraptured audience

thanks to the patronage, supervision and guidance by Dr. Qassim Mohammed Berihe, President of the university, Dr. Mahyoub Abdel Rahman, Vice Chairman, Dr. Ibrahim Omer Hugari, Dean, Faculty of Education, Dr. Khawlah Kaid Nasr Ahmed, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. (Dr.) Chhanda Roy, Head, English Department, Mr. Yassir Mohammed Nasser Ali, teacher and Al-Adeeb magazine committee, represented by Mr. Yahya Saleh, Editor.

The glittering ceremony got off to an enthusiastic start with recitation from the Holy Quran by Hussein Tanem (Level 2 Arts). The competition was organized in two phases. Prior to the competition a review committee consisting of Dr. Ashok Kumar Sinha, Dr. M. Nagarajan, and Dr. K. Thiagaragan had scrupulously screened the presentation-entries by the prospective participants and judiciously selected 25 entries who were to take part in the final event.

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu of Sanaa University, Dr. Luoy Abdel Wahab of the faculty of Medical Sciences, and Dr. Abdullah Shamy, Faculty of Education, both of Hodeidah University constituted the panel of judges to adjudge their performances.

Each presentation had a distinctive flavor in terms of brilliance of ideas and originality of approach as well as the presentational skills of the individual speakers, making the task of the judges really tough. However, after a careful analysis of different aspects of the presentations the judges announced their considered decision to the thunderous applause of the capacity audience:

- First: Waleed Hamoud
Second: Abdal Rahman Al-Ahdal
Third: Ameen Ahmed Al-Ahdal

Dr. Mahyoub Abdel Rahman, Vice Rector, Students' Affairs, in his address unequivocally expressed his great appreciation for the members of English Department under the dynamic stewardship of Dr. Chhanda Roy, Head, for their pioneering efforts and for so efficiently stage-managing the whole show. The Dean, Faculty of Arts, Dr. Khawlah, in her appreciative note lauded the fact that what originated as a small idea had so admirably blossomed into an event of such marvelous magnitude. She thanked the judges, the participants and all concerned for making the occasion a resounding success.

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, speaking on behalf of the panel of judges, thanked the organizers for giving them a unique opportunity of interaction with some of the most sensitive and intellectually poignant young minds of Hodeidah University.

Mr. Yahya Saleh of Level 2 (Arts), Editor Al-Adeeb, and Mr. Shadi Farouq, students' representative also spoke on the occasion. The events was very efficiently compered by Marwa Gawad.

As the colorful competition drew to a close, every body present felt a high sense of fulfillment and satisfaction for the accomplishment which is, by any reckoning, a glorious milestone in the annals of the history of students' activities in Hodeidah University.

The Winners



Waleed Hamoud (1st)



Abdal Rahman (2nd)



Ameen Ahmed (3rd)



Shadi Farouq

Speakers and Topics

Table with 2 columns: Speaker Name and Topic. Includes speakers like Talal Sadeq, Ibtihaj Saleh, Hafidh Hamza, Fatima Ahmed, etc.

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list.

- CLUES: Adaptor, Ampere, Area, Blind, Blades, Blender, Blower, Brain, Breaker, Broiler, Building, Cables, Cars, Caution, Charge, City, Commercial, Conductors...

ELECTRICITY

Word search grid for electricity. Solution: 6 letters. Words include: ROTAREGIRFERESUOHAND, ESMHOXCRESIDENTIALSA, CARETSAOTEHDNAMPERED, OFFICE SFNNPARODA OVNA, RENIOJIRTOLSVEIELDP, DTTINXREWHMETEENNTET, EYDATABESPWIREDRLGRD, RARURLRZKDRDZBROILER, RESWOADEDAOLREVOTSTP, AEXWLMZRLLEAALIRMOPI, SIEIEPEORHIRDALSO LRA, RRGTMSPERNEEBCBL LAWC, OOACTLTDODOLEUANONEO, TNSHISEINREGDNIBISPU, CEUNAVTAMNRSTGYLLPY, UGKWIUSEDALBUEUKDETL, DNSCANNEHCTIKFLLCISI, NAEOTRCO NNEC TSTPANN, ORJOYSTICKSGNIDNURG, COMMERCIALRETNIRPOHS

ANSWER NEXT WEEK Last Week's Answer: Negative

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عرش خاص... عرض خاص... عرض خاص

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Jamal Al-Hada to the Yemen Times:

“Every artist should convey his message honestly”

Jamal al-Hada is one of the talented and renowned Yemenis who did not receive any attention and the media have not shed light on. He could with his talent and his personal efforts to firmly establish his own brush in the creativity ground having his own marks and his distinguished plastic art.

His brush adores the warm colors and he does not follow any special school. So he sometimes non-representational and sometimes surrealist and classic in other time.

He sees that art is a language that is understood by all people and races. Bassam Jameel al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Staff, interviewed one of Yemen's talented artists, Mr. Jamal al-Hada, who talks to us about his experience as a Yemeni artist



Jamal Al-Hada



Innocence.. Artist inspiration (Aamal)

Q: How do you see the plastic art movement and the criticism it faces in Yemen?

A: The plastic art movement in our society is still characterized by a tendency to remain private. It is just starting to shyly appear and show its unique features through the distinguished works of plastic portraits of artists, who are able to simulate the Yemeni reality in a wonderful way.

C-Criticism is very important, as it can stimulate the artist to go ahead or it can depress him. So the more constructive is the criticism, the better are the results.

Q: Are you a professional artist or an amateur?

A: Artists, in general, and the plastic artist, in particular, if they tend to go

towards being professional, they will definitely cease being creative. . So, we just say that we are amateurs and want to continue to be creative.

Q: What's Jamal Al-Hada's philosophy and what point of view does he wish to deliver?

A: Every one has his own philosophy to adapt through, which he can manifest in his works. My philosophy is to start from the Yemeni environment, which was the fertile ground from which my talent burst. We live in a country that has a deep-rooted culture and roots that emanate from an ancient civilization, which is beautifully distinctive from other world cultures.

Continued on P. 15

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