



# YEMEN TIMES



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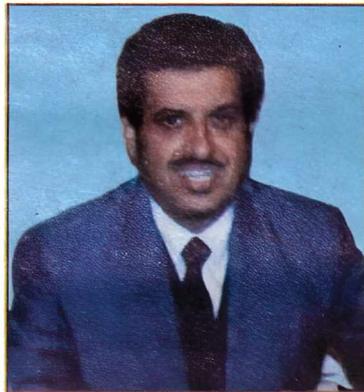


## IQS: The First Opposition Party to Hold Its General Convention:

# Meet the New Leaders of IQS

Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah (IQS) or the Federation of National Forces, one of the smaller opposition parties, held its first general convention in Sanaa during 15-16/7/1995. The meetings were marred by violence as splinter groups who lost in the elections tried to upstage the events. Grenades were thrown at the IQS central bureau in Sanaa and the office was 'showered with gunfire. Security forces were summoned, but their performance was not seen as adequate, or even biased. Under enormous pressure, the IQS concluded its congress successfully and announced the new leadership.

"We think that these events were encouraged if not instigated by the rulers themselves," stated Mr. Tareq Al-Shami, the newly elected Head of the Political Department. "Otherwise, how can you explain what is happening in broad day light." What is happening is the repeated attack on the premises of the party, the imprisonment of five of its members who were



defending the office, and the refusal to allow its mouthpiece newspaper, Al-Shoura, to come out on Wednesday as a special edition to report on the congress. "They tried to break us up and spoil our meetings. But we persevered and we won," said Mr. Taher Shamsan, the newly elected Head of the Party Organizational Department. "Actually, the external pressure has helped

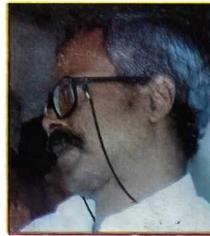
us a lot. It created a sense of unity and togetherness among the members to resist external pressure and threat," he added. At the end of the morning on Thursday, the 20th of July, 226 delegates concluded the congress by adopting a final communique and endorsing the election results. These include the formation of an 80-member Shoura Council (3 are women) headed by Reshad Salim,

a Financial Comptroller's Office headed by Ali Abdulaziz Nasr, and a nine-member General Secretariat.

There were a number of small party officials to cheer the success of withstanding pressure from the big guys. In a dramatic development at another level, the Minister of Legal Affairs, Mr. Abdullah Ghanim, who is also the head of

the Political Parties' Committee, sent a letter to the Attorney-General's Office ordering the closing down of this party, freezing its assets, and closing down its newspaper. This order has already created an uproar.

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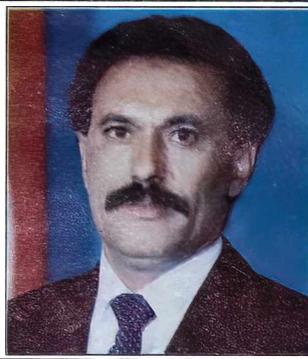


New leadership of the Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah: from left clockwise: Ibrahim Ibn Ali Al-Wazeer, Secretary-General; Reshad Salim, Chairman of Al-Shoura Council, Taher Shamsan, Head of Organizational Department, Tareq Al-Shami, Head of Political Department, Ali Abdulaziz Nasr, Financial Comptroller

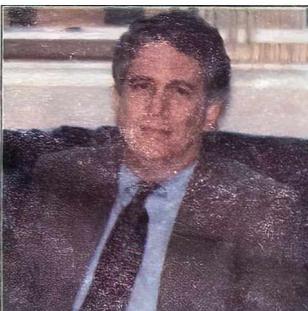


## President Saleh Plans Trip to USA

Yemen Times learned that General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, plans a visit to the USA in January 1996, with a possible stop-over in London, en route. According to sources, the visit will come following the adoption of a comprehensive reform and restructuring package to be concluded with the IMF/World Bank by October this year. It will also come after Yemen's success in sorting out all the lingering effects of the Gulf War.



## World Bank Offers More Funds



Mr. Caio Koch-Weser, Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, promised to make more funds available to the Republic of Yemen if it were to embark in earnest on a restructuring and reform package. "I think the key words here are enforcement and implementation," he said in a press conference, last week. He said he was hopeful of what could be done, but substantive measures need to be taken immediately to correct the many distortions in the economy. The World Bank has recently set up a representation office in Sanaa headed by Dr. Osman Ahmed to facilitate contact and cooperation with the government.



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Situations at Al-Mumtaz Restaurant

As a bachelor, I eat out a lot these days. One of the restaurants I go to is Al-Mumtaz Restaurant on Haddah Road. One evening last week, as I was finishing my dinner, the restaurant people were embroiled in a heated argument with one of the customers. The customers felt that the price of the meals was the same as before, although the dollar had come down vis-avis the Riyal.

The restaurant helpers went through a lot of pain to explain to the customer that he had to pay the prescribed price, otherwise they will have to get rough with him. At the end, he did pay.

I used the occasion to investigate relations with customers. "This is becoming unbearable. People always complain." I was told by the chief waiter. Yes, as the economic hardship bites into the budgets of households and individuals, every single Riyal counts. "What do you do if someone eats a hearty meal and then comes up and tells you he has no money to pay?" I enquired. "Well it depends. If the person is really broke, we often we let him go. If he has some money, he pays it and we forgo the rest. In some cases, we ask such individuals to come inside and clean up the dishes or do some other chores," I was told.

"Are there other complications with customers. I mean other than money?" I asked again. "Oh yes, we have lots of troubles. Consider the following:

1. One customer came around 11:30 a.m. and asked for breakfast. We told him he could have lunch. He insisted he wanted breakfast. He said he just woke up. We explained that we serve meals not on the basis of the time he wakes up, but on the basis of specific hours of the day.

2. One customer asked for eggs, but he said that we should not add anything to it. We didn't. But when we served it to him, he shouted, "But you used oil to cook the eggs." Yes we did, otherwise the eggs will be stuck on the pan. He insisted that it was none of our business if the eggs were stuck on the pan.

3. Some customers would ask for dishes we don't serve. When we tell them that their choice of dishes is not available, they lash insults at us.

"Lots of funny and crazy people walk through those doors. Every day has its own episodes," he said.

Yes, folks as the economic and social pressures rise, people can be forced into all kinds of behavior. This is neither funny nor simple. These situations did not exist in the past, and they are today the sign of the times in Yemen.

The Publisher  
*[Signature]*

# YEMEN TIMES

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### UK Embassy Announces 2 Projects Being Financed

UK Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Douglas Scrafton, announced that his government has resumed its aid program to Yemen. This week, the embassy has announced details of the first two projects that will be funded.

The first project is the Agricultural Environment Project (AgEP) being executed by the Hadharem Welfare Association (HWA) near Turba in Taiz Governorate. The project will build a dam, drill a water well, connect a water system, establish a nursery of around 15,000, and selectively engage in re-forestation and tree planting. The project, jointly financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the UK Aid Program and the HWA, is intended to replenish the area's natural water supply, to protect the habitat and to rejuvenate agricultural development.

The second project to benefit from the resumption of UK aid is an expansion of resources of the Department of English in the Faculty of Education at Aden University. The Department will receive a wide range of British text books, journals, reference materials and other teaching resources in order to give their students the best possible opportunities for their studies.

Yemen Times learned that the Embassy is at the moment considering the funding of half a dozen other projects in various parts of the republic.

### Internet in Yemen

At the prodding of the Yemen Times, the General Corporation for Communications is presently gathering information about how to provide an Internet service in Yemen.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Kassouf, Director General of the Corporation, told the Yemen Times that a decision is expected early in 1996. "The logical server would be TeleYemen," he indicated.

That is trouble for the project because TeleYemen may be wary of investing in a country that has just halted one of its larger investments - the mobile phone, without giving any reasons or compensation, so far.

### Ghalib Ali Jameel Appointed as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ghalib Ali Jameel was appointed last week as the Deputy Minister of the Foreign Ministry. His last posting was Yemeni ambassador in Riyadh. Mr. Jameel is a career diplomat.

A number of other decrees were also issued. Mr. Jazim Abdul-Khaliq was appointed ambassador to Belgium, while Mohammed Abdullah Al-Jayifi was appointed ambassador to Turkey.

### Farooq Kaddoumi Visits Yemen

Mr. Farooq Kaddoumi, the Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine, visited Sanaa last week. He met with senior Yemeni officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whom he briefed on the on-going peace talks between the PLO and Israel.

In a press conference held on the visit, the Palestinian official strongly criticized Israel for failing to deliver on its promises and agreements. "On many occasions, we agree on something, and then Israel fails to live up to what has been agreed upon," he told the media.

Mr. Kaddoumi also praised the unwavering support of the Yemeni people and government.

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# Re-Structuring the Ministry of Youth & Sports to Meet the Needs of the Yemeni Youth

About half the Yemeni population is under 15 years old. That means the mandate of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) covers at last seven million Yemenis, assuming that the infants are replaced by those between 15-25 years old. Yet, the MYS is probably one of the smaller ministries in terms of budgetary allocation and number of employees. Beyond the traditional tasks of tournaments in a few sports, the overall role of the MYS had been limited, until Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah took over some one year ago.

Dr. Rawah, a native of Taiz, has a PhD in linguistics. He continues to teach at Sanaa University College of Arts. He had earlier served as Vice Dean of Arts, Vice Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dean of the Language Center. Ismail Al-Ghabri, Sanaa Bureau Chief of Yemen Times, interviewed the minister and filed the following report.

**Q:** Let us start with a broad question. What are the main features of your programs for 1995?

**A:** If by programs you mean projects, let me state from the outset that the main determining factor is the financial allocations. Though the government is keenly interested in helping the youth of the country, the limited resources available to it are under enormous pressure as different needs compete against each other.

That is why we have started contact with other sources for financing. We have been in touch with local and international donors to secure funding for some of the high priority projects.

Going back to the question, the programs for this year, therefore, reflect our financial capabilities rather than our needs and ambitions. Let me say that we have various projects in many governorates. We plan to construct some sports clubs and athletic centers, equip some of the facilities that already exist, and organize many team-sports tournaments at the national, governorate and local levels.

We also plan to organize many individual athletic tournaments like body-building, wrestling, tennis, judo, boxing, etc.

Beyond sports, we have also many cultural and social events. During the summer, we have programs for boy and girl-scouts, summer camps, group trips, and many cultural and social competition events.

**Q:** Are you involved in any kind of training or sponsorship of promising young persons?

**A:** We have a program through the olympic committee which keeps a watchful eye regarding promising young talents. We take such individuals and provide training to enable them develop their abilities.

This is not an easy job, and it is a task that is better performed by the clubs and local organizations.

**Q:** Your functions are closely related to those of the Ministry of Education. Do you have joint programs or policies?

**A:** Agreed. Our efforts should complement each other, and we should coordinate and join hands. I am afraid this is not happening at the moment, primarily because of discrepancy at our end. We hope to overcome this and work in close coordination with the MOE. Both sides realize that the school and club feed and reinforce each other. Officials in both ministries see the need for working together, and we have now set joint committees to evolve activities which will be sponsored and organized by the two ministries.

We are, in fact, even considering changing the structure of our ministry to allow such coordination take place and at an acceptable level.

**Q:** The country is in a hard currency crunch, at the moment. How has that affected your participation



in international matches?

**A:** Of course it has affected us as well as other ministries. That is why, we do not have any major participation in regional/international tournaments in 1995. We are even missing out on the football matches, say for technical reasons.

But let me stress here that we will participate in several regional and international events in 1996. This is very important.

**Q:** A delegation from Qatar just concluded a successful visit here. What were the main results?

**A:** The brotherly visit of His Excellency Sheikh Mohamed Bin Eid Al Thani, Chairman of the General Board for Youth and Sports, at the head of a large delegation, was indeed successful. It came in response to an invitation from me, and it reflected the warm and special relations between our two countries.

Regarding the outcome, we have signed a protocol which government our cooperation. The details are there, and you can see the generosity and support of Qatar to Yemen.

**Q:** The world is plagued with drugs and other poisons which target the youth. We have had cases of these in Yemen. What are you doing in this regard?

**A:** Yes, the world is suffering from this modern disease, and the youth circles are especially vulnerable. Let me hasten to say that the Yemeni youth are in a far better situation than the young folks of many other countries.

Still, we should relentlessly fight against the drug pushers and we should arm our young people with the necessary awareness of the dangers.

Moreover, we should open up outlets for the energy and time of our young people. This includes recreational facilities, sports and cultural clubs, etc.

The task falls on several ministries but mainly on the Ministry of Health, MOE and MYS. Together, we are drawing up a five-year plan.

**Q:** Have you completed the formation of teams and clubs to play in the local, regional and international matches?

**A:** We are working on this, but as I indicated earlier this year is out in terms of forming teams to play in tournaments. These will happen in 1996, and we will report the team formations in due time, hopefully later this year.

**Q:** There are almost no cultural youth clubs. Why?

**A:** There are many reasons why this is the case. But the main reason is that we have not met the basic minimum for the success of cultural flourishing. We have no programs that would sponsor bright kids and help them grow. There are persons who are gifted in music, skills, arts, drawing, etc. Who is there in society that will promote these individuals.

**Q:** Any last comments?

**A:** I want to use this opportunity to urge local and international donors to help us in any way possible to meet the Herculean task facing us in this field.

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The worry in government circles, as well as in the business community, is that the Riyal will depreciate even further. Some people are talking of an exchange rate of YR 200 as the target equilibrium rate. We will have to wait and see.



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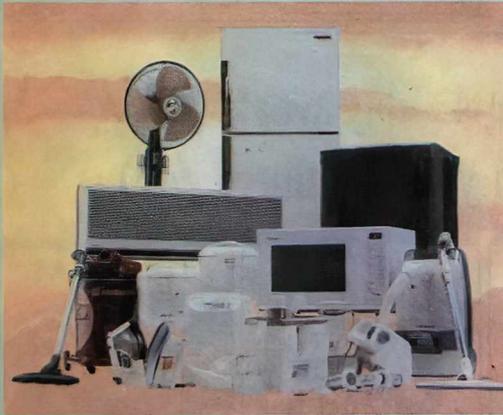
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# UK Ambassador Breathes Life in Yemeni-British Cooperation

Mr. Douglas Scrafton, 46, UK Ambassador in Yemen, describes himself as lucky, for having come at a time when Yemeni-British relations are shaping up. Actually, he himself had a lot to do with the improvement in the bilateral relations.

On the occasion of the first disbursement of UK assistance to Yemen, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa, Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, spoke to the ambassador and filed the following interview:

**Q:** Things have been shaping up at more than one level in the UK-Yemeni relations. Could you give us some details?

**A:** I am fortunate to have arrived here in Yemen at a time when London's drive to improved relations have found a positive response on this end.

Let me enumerate three levels at which there are visible improvements:

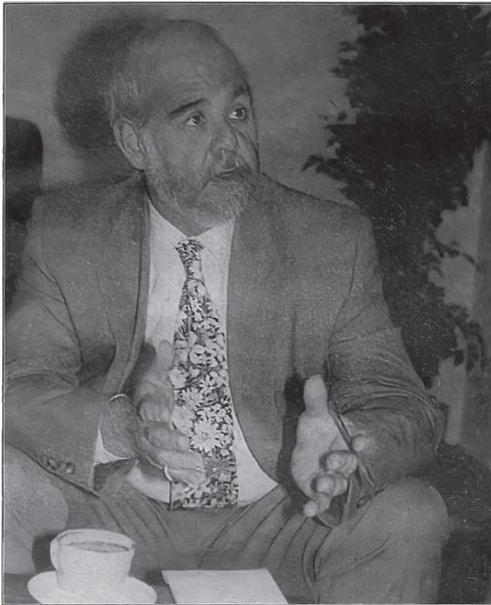
**1. Resumption of UK Aid:**

You know that we have resumed British assistance to Yemen. Although the amounts are modest, they are sufficient to make a real contribution to the development of Yemen. As of this month, we have started disbursing our aid funds.

UK assistance to Yemen was terminated in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

**2. British Council:**

The British Council has, of course, its independent management. I am happy to note that the British Council is operational again. The library is open, the scholarship program is on, and shortly, the English language



teaching program will be resumed. The target date for resumption of teaching is October 1995.

**3. Visa Services:**

I am aware of the difficulties that visa applicants face. I want to assure that all visa applicants who are entitled to get a visa, do get it, and those who are not entitled to get a visa, do not get, irrespective of the intervention. We are here to apply the immigration rules, and we have no flexibility over that.

Let me say, however, that we are aware of the physical space problem associated with applying for a visa. I have asked for, and obtained, from London a new counter which is already in place. We have also nearly doubled our staff. This means we can now interview two applicants at the same time, rather than just one, as has been the case.

We also are working on a more comprehensive solution to this high demand for visas in that the construction of a much larger

visa section is being planned. Please bear with us in the meanwhile.

**Q:** The two countries have exchanged high-level official visits recently. How do you assess the bilateral relations.

**A:** Yes, both Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament, and Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, have recently visited London. Nick Browne, Head of the Middle East Department at Foreign Office, visited Yemen. As a result, there has been considerable progress in the bilateral relations.

I would describe the bilateral relations as good, though they can be improved. But that is the job of Dr. Hussain Al-Amri (Yemeni ambassador in London) and myself. I would like to point out that there are a lot of factors that help us in this matter.

1. There is a 70,000 strong Yemeni community in the UK, and a small British community in Yemen. These are the bridge that allows personal and human relations to develop.

2. The two countries have a long history of contact and association. In many ways that has allowed each side to understand and better appreciate the aspirations and sensibilities of the other side.

3. There is a substantial Yemeni investment in the UK, and there is quite a bit of British investment in Yemen. I expect this to grow even further in the future. For example, a British trade and industry delegation visited Yemen recently and was able to explore the economic potential for trade and investment. Their conclusions will, of course, be passed on to British firms.

4. Finally, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Yemen Times for opening a UK Office and issuing a UK edition. This will provide an additional bridge for the two countries to come closer.

**Q:** Let us move on to an international issue - the Bosnian tragedy.

**A:** My government has supported all the peaceful efforts to stop the suffering of the Bosnian people. We have not seen that providing arms would help resolve the problem. We have supported the various efforts

whether under the umbrella of the UN or NATO. What is happening in Bosnia is indeed a tragedy and I want to assure you that my government is keen to see an end to it. My government, along with other governments are searching for options to resolve this matter.

**Q:** Any last comments?

**A:** I happily note that our two governments and peoples are reaching out to each other. This is an important factor in achieving closer and better relations. We will definitely spare no effort in this regard.

**صبراً آل السقاف**

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## Friends of the Museum Committee

**By: Salwa Sanabani,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.**

A Friends of the Museum Committee is under formation at the moment. Its purpose is to establish at the National Museum (in Sanaa) a corner entitled Arabia Felix Maps which will become home to a priceless collection of irreplaceable early Yemeni cartography. The idea is to purchase, at token prices, maps which are presently owned by a small group of foreigners and donate them to the museum, for the benefit of future generations.

The history of the Yemen has intrigued many of the voyagers and adventurers of the past, including many geographers and scientists. In the process, a rich collection of maps and drawings are available which show the development of the art of cartography over the last five hundred years.

The National Museum does not possess a single map of this kind of Old Arabia Felix. At the moment, 27 original old maps and prints from Niebuhr, Dapper, Tiron, Oreluis, Schnek, De Wit, Blaeu are available to form the first collection of the Arabia Felix Maps. These maps, once purchased and donated to the Museum, will



be on continuous display to be seen by the people and visitors of Yemen.

The Friends of the Museum Committee is presently discussing with the authorities how to make its goal a reality. The Committee hopes to raise the money needed for the purpose. According to Dr. Jack Veerman, a leading member of the Friends of the Museum Committee, if the required \$18,000 are collected by the end of August,

1995, an exhibition of the maps in the National Museum is planned to coincide with the anniversary of the September 26th Revolution.

Needless to say the names of the donors will be cited in the documents of the Museum. Individuals, companies, and other groups interested in making a donation, may kindly contact:

**Grainne Henry,  
(01) 216-050**

## NDI Workshop Described as Useful

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) held a symposium entitled "The Political Party Training Forum" during 17-20/7/1995. The goals of this symposium is to get discuss the Yemeni experience. The symposium also sheds light on the different roles of the parties while respecting certain national rules and parameters. Some 75 persons from the administrative apparatus of the different political parties participated in the workshop.

The basic objective of the symposium is to identify the different experiences of other countries and use them to help develop and strengthen the Yemeni democratization process and experiment. That objective was repeated in the opening remarks of both the NDI speakers as well as the representatives of the three large parties - namely, the People's General Congress, the Congregation of Yemeni Reform (Islah) Party, and the Yemeni Socialist Party. They all stressed the importance of the democratization process and welcomed the chance to learn from various countries' experiences.

The NDI was established in 1983 and has worked with 53 countries since its establishment conducting programs and political consultancies, with an aim to work with political parties and institutions to promote and develop democracy. NDI provides the following training programs:

A. political party training, by bringing expert trainers from around the world to forums where members of fledgling parties can learn first-hand the techniques of organization, communication and constituent contact,  
B. Electoral process assistance, by reviewing electoral systems, monitoring elections, studying the electoral codes, recommending required improvements, providing technical assistance for political parties and nonpartisan associations to conduct voter and civic education cam-

paigns, organizing election monitoring programs, providing observer delegations and helped deter electoral misconduct or exposed fraud.

C. Legislatures strengthening, by assisting on the legislative procedures, staffing constituent services, legislative oversight, executive legislative relations and the function and role of party caucuses.

D. Local government, by providing information and advice on the processes of the division of responsibility between mayors and municipal councils, and between local and national authorities. In addition it provides the mechanisms and processes which enhance communication between local officials and their constituents.

E. Civil-military relations, by bringing together military and political leaders to promote dialogue and establish mechanisms for improving these relations.

F. Civic organization, by supporting and advising nonpartisan groups engaged in civic and voter programs, familiarizing the population of their rights and responsibilities as members of a democratic community and enhancing the organizational capabilities of civic organizations.

The NDI invited expert speakers and lecturers from countries that are undergoing political transformation in Europe (Hungary), Africa (Senegal), and Asia (Bangladesh), in addition to the USA.

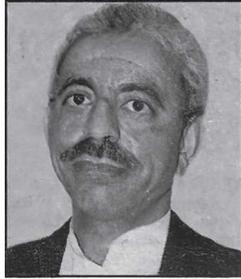
According to the participants, the general sessions and the small workshops have been effective eye-openers to many issues that were not fully evolved. The symposium also brought together, for the first time, large numbers of political party activists from all shades and colors of thought.

"I can summarize everything and say it was a useful experience," said one participant.

# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## There We Have It Again: Appeasement /Indifference to Aggression



Before World War II turned into death and destruction on such a scale that no power on earth could stop, dictators like Mussolini and Hitler and Tojo were having a good time gobbling up whatever they could and annihilating whomever they liked, without so much as a whisper to them by any of the powers that existed then, to cease such lust for blood, greed for territory and unethical quest for glory which the newly rising Fascist dictators were pursuing during the last half of the 1930's. It was a wonderful time for these benevolent despots, knowing that a streak of cowardice has fallen on those who purport to defend freedom and all the great moral values that human civilization has attempted to implant on this planet over the centuries. No one can find the words to describe the disgust and anger at the international community, especially those who have put their shield of approval on "protecting" approximately 200,000 Bosnian Muslims forced by their "protectors" to be driven into enclaves which were supposed to be "HANDS OFF" as far as the newly developed Mongol hordes that

roam the gentle slopes and hills of Bosnia Herzegovina spreading death and destruction everywhere as though it is their God given right to which the entire world submits to without as much as a whisper telling them: "Hey! You just cannot do that kind of stuff! What logic and what moral dictates are those that prevent a people from defending themselves, on the grounds that their "protectors" are in danger? What has the United Nations and NATO done for the Bosnians who have time and again, told the world: "We do not wish to trouble anyone, We can take care of ourselves. Just let us be on equal terms with the aggressor and we will bear full responsibility for defending ourselves, as is our legitimate right to do so according to all the relevant international laws and conventions and the Charter of the United Nations. "? If the Great Powers, prior to World War II, have not done anything to stop the aggression and merely followed a policy of appeasement towards the Axis Powers, we now have a peculiar case where the aggressors are actually assisted by the Great

Powers in its wild rampage to annihilate the indigenous population of an internationally recognized state. Under different excuses, the United Nations, the Europeans, the Global Superpower (the USA) have allowed a bunch of Serbian thugs to make a farce of these great entities' commitment to protect people who the former encouraged to leave their homes and group together in six pockets so that it will be easier to "protect them". These "protective enclaves" are proving to be making the tasks of the aggressor much easier as the circumstances seem to make it right to start overtaking them one by one, with the UN, not yet relieved from the hangover from its 50th anniversary celebration, and the rest of the protectors dragged by a rising new anti-Islamic Crusade that has begun to surface as part of the theme of the New World Order. No defense can ever be found for the laxity of the "protectors" in meeting their commitment to defend Srebrenica, Zepa Touzla and Gorazde, which the Serbs have decided

to overtake, feeling assured that the "protectors" will just look the other way. Mr. Boutros Ghali is busy on a tour of Rwanda, at a time when his visit there is not warranted. Mr. Clinton seemed to have forgotten all his campaign pledges to end all the inhumane suffering that plagues the Balkans. Great Britain's Prime Minister never saw a need for having a "Muslim" state in the middle of Europe, although it is noteworthy to mention that HRH Prince Charles, a few months ago went on a big publicity campaign calling for Western understanding of Islam as an important source of the modern development of the West and the similarities between Islamic and Christian dogma, which the UK Prime Minister is the least impressed by. France took the opportunity to make a lot of noise about a rapid deployment force to be sent, which the latter most likely knew would receive a cold reception from the other protectors in NATO, but it may have been a good opportunity to shift the eyes of the world from its nuclear testing operations in the South Seas. Germany is afraid of military intervention anywhere, especially in the Balkans.

Has the Crusades mentality taken prominence again in the West after being "dormant" for a number of centuries? This writer asked a Canadian Correspondent, who has a strong interest in Islamic - Western Affairs and who has recently visited Bosnia (Mr. Gwynne Dyer) why is it that the West is so indifferent to the plight of the Bosnian Muslims? He assured me that, on the contrary, most of the Western press has been much more sympathetic towards the Bosnians and has never failed to point out that the West must do all it can to end the tragedy in that beautiful country, bearing in mind that the Bosnians are not just made up of Muslims. There are many Serbs as well who fight with the Muslims, on the pretext that they can not stand

the demagogic nature of the Serbian militias, that are made up of many former criminals or uncultured "red neck" type of farmers. The other problem is that with the end of the Cold War, many interests in the West are looking for a new enemy to keep these interests active and thriving and it seems that Islam is providing these interests with their needed "enemy" to replace the Communists. As for Bosnia, the Correspondent expects the Eastern enclaves to be allowed to fall with the Bosnians capable of holding out in the remaining enclaves. If the position of the West and the New World Order has now become clear, the attitude of the rest of the Muslim World is really the more frightening! The international Muslim Community is obligated by dogma to come top the aid of their brethren in Bosnia, without any hesitation or laxity. Appeasement by Western countries to the Serbs, may not be so surprising, but the general attitude by the Muslim countries of the world has not been very well in keeping with expectations. In fact the attitude of Muslim states has caused many of the populations in these states to wonder if these states are working more to serve Western designs to reactivate a continuous "Inquisition" against

Muslim peoples throughout the world. Memories of Southern Italy, Sicily, The Iberian Peninsula, Greece, other parts of Yugoslavia (Belgrade once boasted 300 mosques, alone!), the Philippines, Palestine and other areas that were once areas of a strong, if not a dominating, Muslim presence are crossing the minds of many Muslims in the world as they see with their eyes the sadism and humiliation which their brethren in Srebrenica are being subjected to along with the rest of the Bosnians and other Muslims in the Balkans. These same Muslims are overawed by their governments' almost cowardly reac-

tions. These Muslims are now demanding that their governments must go beyond issuing condemnations and appeals for the merciful sentiments of the Great Powers, which obviously are not forthcoming. Muslims feel that their governments must start thinking along the lines of collective firm actions that will force the West to start more serious actions against the Serbian mobsters.

In general Muslim states should consider the following methods of making the West understand that a proposed showdown with Islam is not going to be healthy for the West and for peace and stability to reign in this planet:

- 1) Allowance of Muslims throughout the world to organize large protest demonstrations against the betrayal of the UN and NATO of their commitments to protect the Eastern enclaves of Bosnia.
- 2) An indication of the damage to Western interests that is now at stake, unless serious remedial action to the Bosnian problem is implemented with a view towards imposing international legitimacy and a just and honorable peace in the Balkans and Chechnya and Palestine. Such actions could include closing the oil pipeline taps and boycotting of Western goods and if necessary, releasing any protection of Western interests that are found in Muslim countries.
- 3) Pursual of collective efforts by Muslim countries to organize defensive actions against further "inquisitions", by first of all bringing peace between Muslims fighting other Muslims. Then taking note of the alternatives available to face any efforts by the West to disregard the right of Muslims throughout the world to live in peace, free from the fear of persecution and sadistic "Crusading" zeal. Srebrenica is not the first, nor will it be the last! As this writer stated in an earlier discussion in this column, the Muslim World has nothing else to lose!

## Proper Administration of Privatization Is Key to Yemen's Economic Growth

The concept of privatization of the state's general corporations and other establishments given the present circumstances is surely justifiable. However, the transformation of these governmental establishments requires more study and scrutiny specifically on implications of the change in ownership.

The privatization process is instrumental in promoting efficiency and in contributing to the economic growth of the country. My concern here is the methodology to be applied in effecting the transfer of ownership. We should be careful in undertaking the privatization process.

It is a matter of fact that privatization differs from one country to another. So in the case of Yemen, if the government wishes to attain a tangible results, a proper study should be carried out in order to identify the possible negative and positive impact of privatization by taking fully into consideration the local conditions of the country.

Let me site an example. If the state decides to privatize a government hospital, there are a lot of factors that needs to be considered. For instance, the per capita income of the beneficiaries, the type distribution of the

patients, and numerous other factors. At another level, the Government cannot, unfortunately, wash its hands off any responsibility on this matter. One of the objectives of the 26th September Revolution is "To combat diseases and ignorance".

However, there are many state corporations which are a big financial burden. Those kind of establishments should be immediately privatized. But again here, when we talk of privatization we should not forget that the right procedures should be followed in transferring the ownership of the establishments from the state to the new private owners.

Note the following points:

1. The real value of the property being sold should be paid to the government.
  2. The asset should be auctioned off in open bidding to which interested persons have easy and free access.
  3. Employees of the corporation being auctioned off should be encouraged to buy shares.
  4. Yemenis living abroad and immigrants should be encouraged to participate in the hope of generating part of the value in hard currency.
- In short, the privatization should not lead to a monopoly or oligopoly situation.

Indeed the wide distribution of ownership will contribute in a long term in the success of the company itself. Moreover, privatization will carry weight and credibility among the people if things are administered well right from the start.

The state should not allow big cats to monopolize these establishments nor accommodate them to strike a shady deal. I am quite certain that some of these corruption minded elements are targeting the assets of these establishments. They plan to acquire these assets at only a fraction of their values, and this they achieve through corrupt officials and officers.

The approach of selling state property to any individual through private and secret does will do a lot of harm to the nation. I am sure by raising awareness on this issue, the approach may be revised.

The Government has to help create jobs for people. They way government companies are privatized will affect the unemployment level. Unemployment will rise if the present methods persist. If the privatization process is properly administered, this need not be the case.

BY: ALI SHAREEF,  
SANAA

## " D " day of Yemen Economy ?

Two weeks back was the "D" day of Yemeni Economy. Out of the blue rose the mighty Riyal and the Dollar toppled drastically. In a short time, the rate fell to seventy something Riyals per US Dollars. Why? God knows. Some people were holding large quantities of dollars in their hands. They were crying as they tried to dispose of the dollars which were falling by the hour. You could virtually have bought any amount, but funny enough, there were not enough Riyals in the local market! This reminded me of the year of the great crash - 1929, about which I read in the books. In one night following the crash, hundreds of people threw themselves off high buildings in New York, Chicago and London. They had lost their capital and their worth in the market. In Yemen nothing of the sort happened. But many people did lose a lot of money. Strange enough, neither the Central Bank of Yemen, nor the Ministry of Finance said a word about the casualty. Also strange is the fact that no drop in prices followed. In a few days it was all over!! The dollar was rising again. By now the rate is around 130 Riyals. The Riyal was riding high for only a few days. Then it was over. Well, this is Yemen.

Now let us try to analyze what happened.

Such a fluctuation may have resulted either of a practical objective reason, or just a psychological one.

Well, if it were due to a practical, objective reason, this should means a large sum of dollars was infused into the foreign exchange market, most probably by the Central Bank. But where could the CBY get such a large amount of dollars in cash? There were reports of such an action. A cloud of Dollar has passed over Yemen? No reason could be given.

In a qat chew one Thursday afternoon, the talk was about the dollar. No one could give any plausible reason for the drastic drop. All economic theories failed to work in Yemen as things are going grace a ALLAH.

The laws of demand and supply didn't apply to the over two weeks simply because there wasn't any demand for the Riyal. People were not getting rid of their dollars.

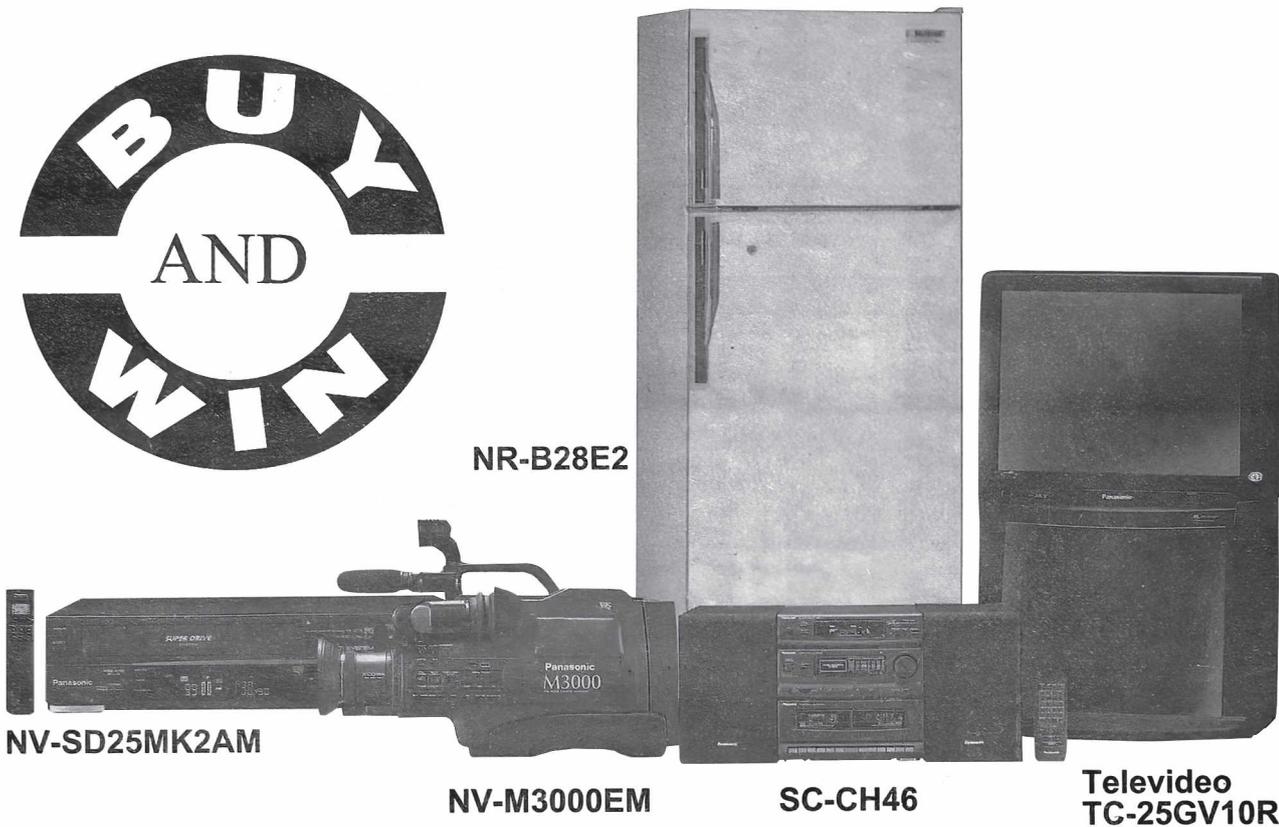
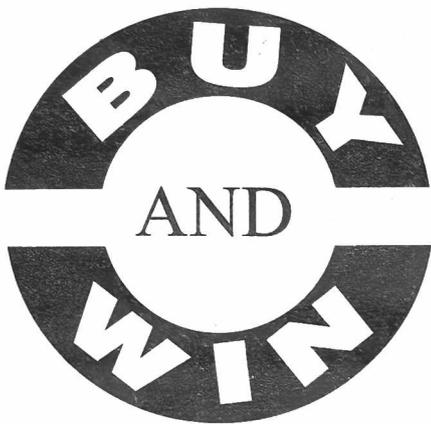
Some of the folks tried to explain the fluctuations on the basis of the tour of the president. But this didn't look plausible either.

At the end we agreed. The rise of Riyal was another Yemeni miracle.

Alhassan Mohammed Abdallah.

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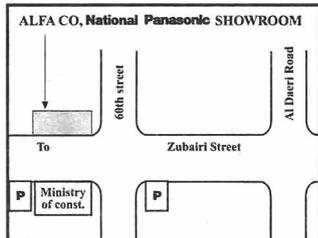
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# ARAB BANK

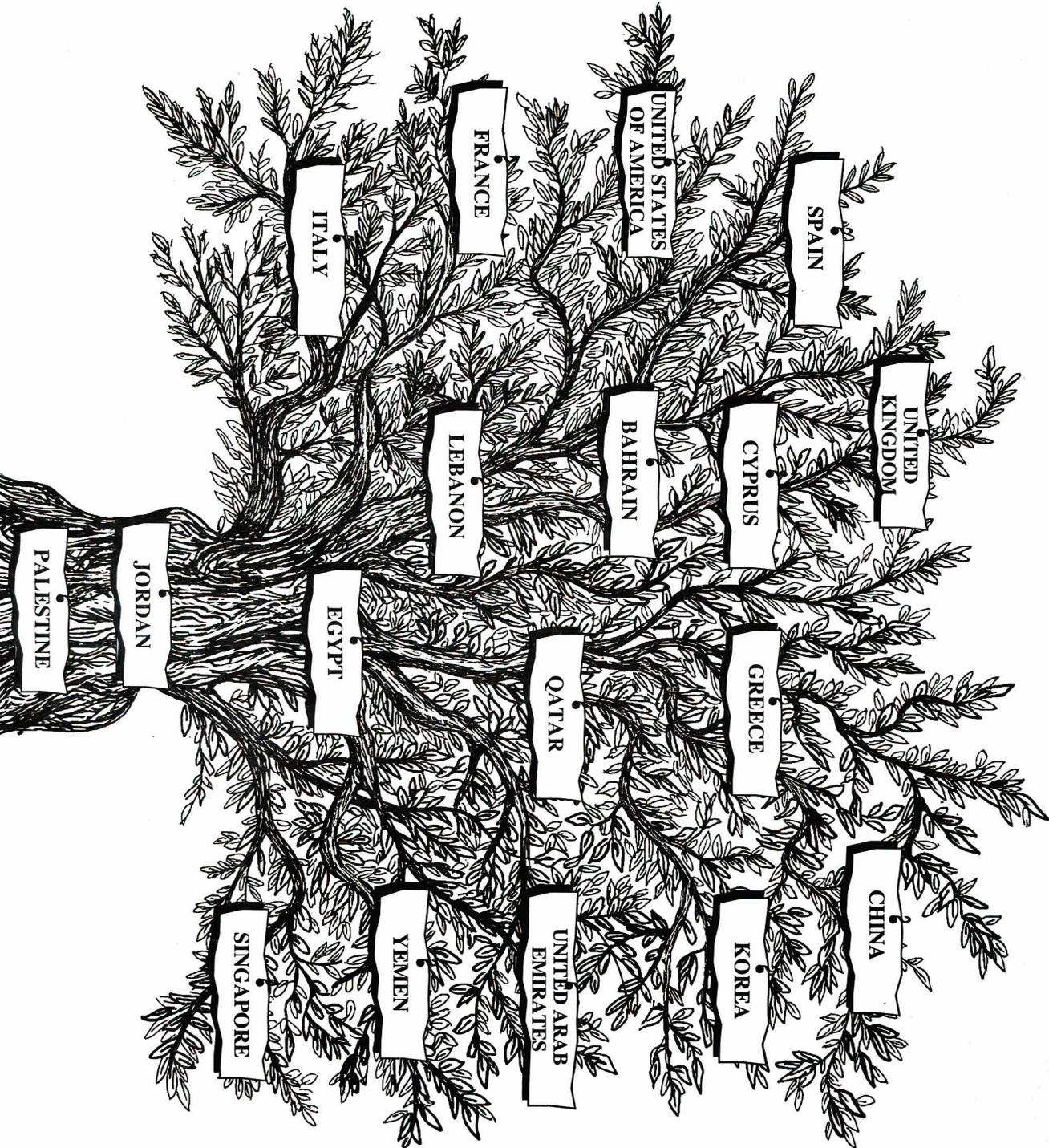
Established in Jerusalem 1930

## The 65th Anniversary of Arab Bank

on the morning of 14 July 1930 the Arab Bank was established in Jerusalem with a paid up capital of 15000 Palestinian Pounds (about US\$ 75000). Arab Bank's head office was moved to Amman and the bank was reincorporated in Jordan. This year, the Arab Bank celebrates its 65 anniversary. It is a public shareholding company owned by 3000 shareholders from all Arab countries. Currently, Arab Bank Group has a worldwide diversified network of more than 300 branches. It is one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab world and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial lending, real estate lending and international banking.

### Sister Institutions, Subsidiaries

Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership	Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. - Zurich, Geneva	100%	Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64%
Arab Bank Australia Ltd. - Sydney	100%	Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50%
Arab Bank (Austria) AG - Vienna	100%	Oman Arab Bank - Oman	49%
Arab Bank AG - Frankfurt / Germany	100%	Arab National Bank - Saudi Arabia	40%
Finance . Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A. - Geneva	100%		



# The Fascination with Fountain Pens

By: *Letizia Jacopini*

Fountain pens have a fascination all their own.

But why actually is it that so few of us remain indifferent when confronted with this small, seductive and extremely useful object?

And how to explain that strange phenomenon of recent years which has seen the return of the fountain pen both as a commonly used tool and as something to collect - from an obscure passion cultivated by a few eccentrics to a widespread phenomenon.

If the fountain pen were simply "something that writes", its fascination would be no more intense than that of a pencil, a felt tip or a ball point pen.

If it were simply that its beautiful decorations, the care taken over every detail and its harmonious shape make the fountain pen a physically attractive object, if it were just that it could be found in an infinite variety of styles, in the most curious of materials and unexpected colors, then the fountain pen would be on a par with a piece of jewellery or other object to be possessed, admired or shown off.

If it were just that the fountain pen symbolized the level of culture of the person using it, it would be comparable with a brand of whisky or a make of car, and, finally, if a fountain pen were just something we receive as a gift, a sign of the affection of people near and dear to us, perhaps given at high-school diploma or degree time, marking the passage from child to adult, then it would be no different from a myriad of other such objects which, however, hold nowhere near as much fascination for us.

The truth is that a fountain pen is something else: perhaps all of this as well, but certainly much, much more.

It is true that the fountain pen is a jewel that writes, it is true that it can express the cultural level of the person using it and it is also true that it can demonstrate affection or social progress, but it is also true that this strange object has a much more complex and profound fascination.



In the fountain pen there is a sense of nostalgia, of the rediscovery of values which are no longer part of our time.

To go on writing, a fountain pen needs care and attention and this gives a particular meaning to our time, our patience and our precision. The fountain pen helps us to find old and forgotten values again, taking us back to a time when beautiful writing was something to be proud of and choosing the color of the ink and quality of the paper was never left to chance.

But there's more.

The fountain pen has been something sought after and desired for centuries, something which has given man the magic of an infinity of writing.

In the curious miracle of a nib fed by a reservoir of ink, each fountain pen the legacy of every man's desire to leave a mark on paper at the speed of thought. But not just any old mark. Not the linear and anonymous mark of a ball point, not the standardized mark of a printed character or a computer, but the personal, modulated and unrepeatable mark of a nib which adapts itself to the hand which guides it and which traces out a handwriting unique and in every way individual.

This is the real explanation for the mysterious and powerful fascination of the fountain pen. It gives us a part of ourselves, our history and our uniqueness as a person, a part which evidently many of us feel is in ever greater need of being rescued and protected.

It is this that transforms each fountain pen from a simple writing tool into authentic tool of communication and culture. And it is precisely because this cultural stimulus is so incisive that the fountain pen, born in America, has become most expressive in terms of appearance and technique in those European countries with a longer tradition.

In Italy in particular, production of fountain pens has been remarkable for the use of the most advanced technology available over the years, the care and finish of the details and above all the development of style and design supported by a solid artistic and creative tradition. The Italian fountain pen, whether manufactured by a large company or a small workshop, therefore contains all the fascination of something which sums up the innovative spirit, individualism and creativity which are part of Italian culture.

It is no accident that the old and prestigious Italian makes such as Ancora, Aurora, Columbus, Tibaldi, Omas, Itala, Nettuno, Tabo, Zerollo and many, many more have made Italian fountain pens famous the world over, leaving among others the pens shown here as proof of this great skill and imagination.

## The Environment and the Role of the Society in Its Protection & Upgrading

By: *Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi*  
Environment Consultant



Environmental issues should be given more consideration among members of the society. Since environment elements are necessary for the socio-economic development of the people and its well being for present and future generations.

During the last few decades many natural resources degraded due to the so called economic growth or development. So many developments were not sustainable especially agricultural development which were due to mainly to lack of awareness among the society especially to policy-makers of the economic costs involved, in addition to the lack of environmentally sound alternative options which are acceptable to farmers, and to forest and fishing people. Thus community involvement in decision-making is the main issues in our present-time.

Many opinions nowadays indicate that environmental threat is growing day by day and this reminded the human being of their weakness and their wish to live together on our fragile planet (the Earth). That is, all men are in the same boat, and the world became as a village, so the man should be the core of the development, so we should stress that without taking consideration on the above mentioned principle of development depending on the capacity and participation of the people, our life will be endangered.

Due to the a fore-mentioned fact, educational programs are necessary in order to spread awareness among the public about matters related to the protection of the environment, at all levels: locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Several economic and social practices are causing severe consequences to the environment in Yemen and the time is come to define those responsible for this situation in order to prevent further deterioration. Many agricultural and industrial developments are harming nature and poisonous waters are causing severe damage to our natural resources, we should not be selfish, we should think about our

children and children of our children, they have the right to breathe clean air, to drink safe water in terms of quantity and quality and to have fertile soil for producing their food. We have the obligation to safeguard the future for the coming generations. Consequently those who caused pollution (nationally and international level) pollution should be held responsible for their action and forced to pay the price of cleaning up the mess.

These issues are global and we as Yemenis should be aware and update our-self and how to involve ourselves in regional and international conventions so we could get our rights for assistance and support in implementations of our policies which are sustainable and environmentally sound. The protection of the environment is national and international responsibility. It is horrifying or alarming to learn that half of the forests on the global and about one million of living species as well as one-third of the arable land on earth would be lost by the end of the present century. This means that our world is fitted with various kinds of pollutants and exhausting its resources. This process will heat up the earth's atmosphere and will lead to so called "climate change", this would have serious consequences, e.g. the displacement of about 120 million people living on the shores, due to the rise of the sea level. This is mostly is caused by the emission of carbon dioxide (co2) to the air or atmosphere. With a rate of 50% and this lead to the use of the temperature of the atmosphere of an average of about: 0.5 - 0.6 centigrade and that happened during the period between 1860 - 1980 and consequently the sea level raised up to 30 cm. (centimeter) (see "Environmental Research &

Studies). In this piece of information, we would emphasis on Agricultural Development in developing countries and why it lead to unsustainable development.

Many development projects were not sustainable, the objectives and decisions were not clear to the policy-makers or they were not aware of the level to take such decisions. For example, may be, as some FAO reports (The State of Food And Agriculture, 1989 ) stated that the policy-makers are often informed of the real costs of soil erosion, soil nutrient mining, forest destruction and marine pollution, or the national income and foreign exchange savings that could be generated through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. In addition, no Environmental Impact assessments necessary for decision-makers were provided, since the analytical tools used in advising policy-makers ignored or undervalued this tool (EIA).

Presently, many lands, forests and water which met the need of the past generations now decreased and fragmented and the yield became less due to less fertility of the soil, overpopulation introduction of new technologies, the mass movement of the rural population to the urban areas for better livelihood, large scale of chemicals, fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides all those are factors contributed to potential harmful to soil, to water and to environmental quality. Consequently, many farmers in rural areas are forced to change the types they grow.

For example in Ethiopia, the larger farmers grow significant areas of the low yielding but preferred grain crop. Small farmers however, cannot offered to do so and thus plant sorghum or other less well-liked grains which produce more calories per hectare. While in South Asia, due to land pressure and Green revolution technology and complimentary policies they favored the cultivation of cereal and neglected the development of high-yielding pulses (FAO, the state of food and Agriculture, 1989).

The poor rural house hold are forced into mining soil, nutrients

cultivating in fragile marginal steep slopes or overgrazing range land in order to feed themselves, consequently this will lead to deforestation, soil erosion and decline in water quality. The figure (attached) illustrates a typical example of the degradation cycle in rural households.

Lack of adequate research on new technologies suitable for target farmer's (small and medium farmers) has been one of the serious constraints in achieving significant progress. For example, what hindered appropriate contribution of the small farmers are in generally lack of access to credit, to input, price policies. Small farmers, development is economical efficient for creating a broad-based and long-term agricultural development, thus they might contribute in poverty reduction and in food security.

All in all, an appropriate technology could be introduced through soil and water conservation pilot scheme which is designed to show benefits to the farmer in the year of application because otherwise they are unlikely to be widely adopted. An appropriate technology could be enhanced and improved through rain water and flood water harvesting systems and minimum tillage as mentioned previously (read Rain Harvesting System & Sustainable Agricultural development, Yemen Times issue no. 29)

In addition it could be stressed an integrated role of the Agricultural six INS<sup>2</sup> (incentives, inputs, innovations, information, infrastructure and institutions).

In conclusions, it could be recommended the followings:-

- Increasing the level of awareness through education programs /Extensions & Pilot case studies/.
- training in EIA of on-going and planned projects.
- Support community involvement in planning and implementation stages.
- Improving capacity building through informing decision makers and general public about reasonable alternatives to eliminate or mitigate negative impacts and meantime enhance positive impacts.
- Support NGOs to promote environmental awareness among local populations

- efforts should be made of national and international level to encourage governments to formulate, sustainable agricultural development.

- For encouraging environmental protection, incentives could be provided for crops whose production is least damaging to the environment.

Continued from page 16

### War at the Summer School ...

In the region of Saada a number of assassination attempts and bombings have been registered over the last few years. Last May, some participants in the Ghadir Ali, a Shi'ite ceremony that was also an occasion to renew allegiance to the Imams before the revolution, were arrested in Saada. It was a way to condemn the continuation of this ceremony that has become a means to express defiance towards Sanaa and the rulers of Yemen.

Political liberalization has also allowed a political expression of Zaydis who consider that the use of Islam in politics should not be left to one single party. Hizbul Haq, the party of the truth, is one of the parties representing political Zaydism (others are the Union of Popular Forces and the Islamic Movement of Unification and Action). In order to avoid the charge of sectarian politics, the leaders of Hizbul Haq have been careful to recruit Sunni members. This effort of diversification was facilitated by the fact that descendants of the Prophet are numerous in the Eastern provinces of Yemen and were also subjected to ostracism during the socialist period and now suffer from the same people who persecute Zaydis in Sanaa and Saada. It might be noted here that despite differences of religious practices (many Hadhramis are attached to pilgrimages to the tombs of saints and are known to practice Sufi ceremonies, both of which are rejected by Zaydis). These groups are equally hostile to violence and take opportunity of the new climate of liberalization to revive their traditions. The traditional religious schools of the Hadhramaut, Ribat, have been reopened and are very active, their boarding facilities make it possible to recruit children of Hadhrami origin from as far away as Indonesia and Malaysia.

In the tense period preceding last year's war, Hizbul Haq was often charged of socialist sympathies supported by secret funding from the YSP. The fact that several YSP leaders were themselves descendants of the Prophet was one of the "proof" to explain this curious connection. Whether these charges are right is not the issue, truth is that despite obvious differences on the place religion should have in society, the two parties share a strong despise for anything tribal, be it on ground of a united Muslim Ummah or on ground of a classist vision of society. Even if using different criteria, the two parties also expect a kind of accountability of political leaders and put a strong emphasis on the importance of education and respect for state authority.

The raid on the Badr Center was another step in a conflict between Muslims. Like minded people to those who approve the destruction of tombs, are now giving orders to terrorize children who learn about a kind of Islam they reject. A few months ago a young student of the Tarim Ribat was shot dead by a policeman during a demonstration that followed heated debates between followers of conflicting religious groups.

The growing radicalization between Muslims in Yemen is a matter of concern, all the more so when one knows that all sides are convinced to be right and when one side enjoys the occasional support of state authorities. In recent years Yemen was often charged of being a safe haven and a training ground for foreign Islamists, the highest authorities of the country have repeatedly affirmed they would not let this happen. One hopes that they will put the same energy to restrict religious debates to the exchange of books and tapes instead of bullets and

## YEMEN COMMERCIAL BANK Bids Farewell to Syed Shabih Mehdi Naqvi, and Promotes Sikander Mahmood to General Manager



Sheikh Mohammed Al-Rowaishan, Chairman

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Yahia Al-Rowaishan, Chairman of the Yemen Commercial Bank, threw a farewell lunch for Mr. Syed Shabih Mehdi Naqvi. Sheikh Rowaishan announced over the lunch that Mr. Naqvi was leaving his job as General Manager of the YCB. "He tells me that after twenty years of absence from his native Pakistan, Mr. Naqvi feels it is time to go back. We value his services highly, and we hope to be able to call on him if and when need arises. I wish him all the best," said the YCB Chairman.

Mr. Naqvi was the General Manager of the Yemeni branch of the Bank for Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which went under. He and the main BCCI customers were able to build the new bank. After some three years, the YCB is a solid bank which has a credible standing in the Yemeni banking community.

Sheikh Rowaishan also announced the nomination of Mr. Sikander Mahmood as the new general manager of the bank. He also has been with BCCI - Yemen Branch, and then moved on as Assistant General Manager of the YCB. "He is a professional banker who knows the market and has the respect and cooperation of the customers and share-holders," explained Sheikh Rowaishan. "We are comfortable in putting Sikander at the helm. He has my backing," the Chairman added.

Mr. Naqvi stated that he was leaving with mixed feelings. "I am sorry to leave Yemen because it is a place where I have been treated well and I made many friends. Moreover, it is here that I was able to create a new bank and nurture it, in collaboration with the board of directors and other friends."

Yet, he said he was excited about going back to his native Pakistan. "I have been away for twenty years, and it is time to return. I spent almost eight of those years in Yemen. Those are my most memorable years," he added.

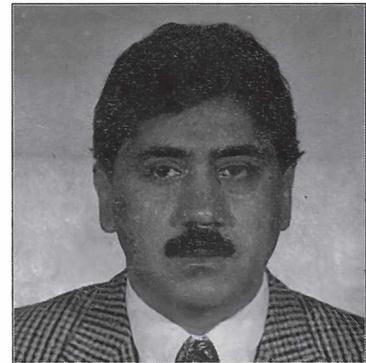
The lunch was attended by most of the senior staff of the YCB, representatives of the banking community, and many diplomats, journalists and friends.



Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdani, Managing Director



Mahdi Naqvi, Departing General Manager



Sikander Mahmood, New General Manager



Senior Yemeni Staff Members of the Bank



YCB Bank Staff Surrounding Mr. Naqvi



Sheikh Rowaishan, Mr. Naqvi, and several ambassadors at the head table



Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

## The L. B. W. Tray

When the new employee assumed his duties after he had completed the recruitment formalities, he met the Administrative Officer who initialised the file and passed it on to the department concerned. The old veteran, an experienced and highly capable manager, skimmed through the file and observed that the new employee has recently completed the secondary high school. He started giving him advice to set him straight. "See my boy, try to listen to my instructions carefully," he started.

"First: Implement the organization's policy in all aspects without any favoritism to anyone even the top management leaders.

"Second: Listen always attentively and show care and concern. Observe the body language of the speaker and take note of his/her tone and express sympathy and understanding.

"Third: Write effectively, minimize the words, make your writings plain, clear and readable, speak effectively, and prepare points.

"Fourth: Accept responsibility. Use feedback through which you ask, listen, and share facts. Then correct and amend accordingly.

"Fifth: Develop yourself continuously by reading books, magazines, etc., attend seminars, training sessions and take part in growth activities. There are many opportunities. I will provide you with full information about them in the future.

"Now come with me. Here is your office and here is the organization chart with your job description. Read them carefully and ask if you have any problems. Also here in front of you are two trays. The left one is for INCOMING correspondence, and the right one is for OUTGOING correspondence and avoid to use the third tray which is the L.B.W.!!

"I wish you good luck." He left the office and the poor lad alone.

The new employee was soon desperately eager to know the meaning of the L.B.W. tray. He was too shy to ask the manager of the meaning of the abbreviation L.B.W. He tried to get the meaning from his colleagues and friends, but he could not get the correct answer.

On the third day of his employment, he gathered his courage and went to his manager. In a decent and polite manner, he started. "Sir, please may I ask you something?"

"Yes, what is it," said the manager "What is the meaning of L.B.W.? What does it mean?" he finally took it off his chest.

The experienced manager looked at him, smiled benignly and said, "You are the first employee in our organization to ask and to want to know the meaning of this abbreviation. Many employees have been hired during my time and I have mentioned the same abbreviation to all of them. None of them came to me to ask about the meaning of L.B.W."

How can I explain to you the meaning of this abbreviation. You have the two trays in and out which are clear and simple. Now, the third one is the L.B.W. which means "Let the Bastard Wait". That is an un-operational tray.

When I learned what LBW meant, I was deeply shocked at the many L.B.W. trays used in the Yemeni bureaucracy. That, to me, reflects poor and irresponsible management.

By: Mohammed Abdo Saeed Al-Kubati,  
Yemen Airways,  
Sana'a

## United Nations or United Nonsense: Which is the Appropriate Name?

It's time for action. What is happening in Bosnia is haunting and unacceptable. The innocent, the old, the young and the sick are subjected to all forms of suffering, including death. One has only to look at the TV screen or flip through a magazine or journal to see what I mean.

Yet the United Nations, or shall we be more accurate and call it the United Nonsense is looking the other way while the suffering continues. Issues such as whether North Korea has the BOMB and places such as Latin America and Iraq have taken all its attention. Yet in Bosnia, people continue to suffer and die.

Let us go back to August 1990. Even before the last kilometers of Kuwait fell to Iraq, or the Kuwaiti dead became cold, the United Nonsense (as I choose to call it now) has already passed numerous resolutions against Iraq and started to airlift men and equipment to Saudi Arabia to correct the wrong that had been done. Not that I am against that, but now, with Bosnia, there is a lot of talk and no action. In spite of the passage of time and the genocide, no action has been taken to address the Bosnia problem. At the United Nonsense, all we see are half hearted attempts that give lip service to the issue. We see so many absurd meetings that lead to declarations and statements that they insult humanity and the world at large.

For the United Nonsense to justify and revert back its proper name of United Nations, we need it to take firm action on the Bosnia problem. Action that will solve the issue once and for all. And fairly. And to make sure that the problem will not erupt again. Just like it did with Kuwait. That by all means is not a tall order.

As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words. Let the UN do the duties it was created for, and the tasks for which member states pay dues. Or is UN muscle flexed only against Muslim perpetrators? I want to know. I really do.

By: Omar Salim Al-Hasny,  
Sana'a

## The Arab Mindset and Future Challenges

The Arab thought is in a state of sleep. It is being tested by the current crises to determine whether it is functional and to measure the degree of its readiness to cope with evolutionary and scientific challenges.

At a time when the world community is getting ready to move into the 21st century, which is described as the age of information and knowledge; when the industrial countries are preparing an integrative scientific system which would make the cultural communication between nations very close, the Arab mind is still under the strange hold of its regressive outlook. We went to go back to several centuries.

The sorry state of affairs in the field of scientific knowledge and technology in the Arab world is, without a shadow of doubt, a result of the frightening policy adopted by such traditional systems and mentalities. The present Arab mind-frame is apprehensive of technological advancement and is cared of it. Thus the urge to go backward and remain in a state of dormancy. This shameful attitude has resulted in creating despair and frustration for a good number of the educated and enlightened individuals in our society. Therefore, most of these intellectual leaders have been forced to the shores of other countries where there is a greener pasture. Unfortunately, many of our first-class professionals have emigrated.

A quick glance at the strategy of our regimes in choosing the ways and persons to manage development and modernization will manifest that they still beholden to the past. So they view the technological and scientific imports as anti-establishment and inimical to 'our great traditions' which they desire to maintain. So the fossilized state of the Arab mind is responsible for the general crisis in the political, economic, social, cultural and other dimensions.

There are so many factors which have pushed life towards this impasse exemplified by the abundant evidence of waste, inefficiency, carelessness, and inability to attain the possible. Abundant resources which have given the Arabs enormous wealth, and a large and agile manpower have not introduced the prosperity and plenty we aspire for.

The mind reason is that we have accepted to let our mind go to sleep. Our rulers want it this way. The whole system is oriented towards this end-result. Our intellectual subordination to the Western world leads to transforming the Arab human being to the ignoble status of an instrument consuming the culture and material output of the industrial West. As advertisement and media consumerism campaigns will indicate, we have become a consumption focal point.

The challenges that face the Arab mind are deep-rooted. They really represent a difficult exam to all educated Arabs. That is why the nature of the current situation calls for rising to meet those challenges. First and foremost among these is the need to resist our past-oriented tyrannical regimes. This is a basic prerequisite in order to know how to evolve and develop a technology-oriented Arab mind. But this will not happen unless we establish democratic institutions. These institutions will help flourish the Arab mind and bring about its victory against the forces of Arab backwardness and darkness.

Thus we can say that the focus of the crisis is manifested in the future challenges facing us. So when and if the Arab mind is able to triumph against the environment of backwardness and the forces pulling us to the past, we shall be able to move with confidence into the 21st century.

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,  
Faculty of Education, Taiz

## A Master Ophthalmologist at Work

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,  
Yemen Times



When you get into a conversation, you are immediately overwhelmed by his knowledge of the field. He is, of course, a leading ophthalmologist. He is Dr. Abdul-Majeed Masood.

Last week, I decided to go to his clinic and spend time watching and taking notes. Then I asked to see him for a few minutes.

The first impression I got was the diverse and yet prevalent nature of eye problems among the Yemeni people. "Many needlessly lose their eye-sight. They could be helped. Unfortunately, they either come for professional help either too late, or they don't come at all," lamented Dr. Masood. Part of the reason is that the service is not available except in the large cities, and another reason is the high cost of the service.

"Some patients travel abroad for the service because they have no confidence in Yemeni doctors. They are partly justified because ophthalmology is still in its infancy in our country, and there are many mistakes. The mistake is shared between unqualified 'doctors' and misapplication of the medicine by patients," he indicated.

Commenting on the various teams of reknowned foreign doctors who visit Yemen to offer special eye treatment, Dr. Abdul-Majeed said that in many of these cases, the expertise of the visitors is blown out of proportion. "Of course many are highly qualified people, but the advertizing process promises miracles, and thus misleads the public."

"Medicine is not just a profit-oriented business. Doctors do have to make a living and investors want to obtain decent return on their capital outlays. But there is a definite human element in the service. We should not be blinded by profits which lead to over-commercialization of the service," explained Dr. Masood, who is deeply disturbed by recent trends.

Speaking about the teaching of ophthalmology at Sanaa University, Dr. Masood who teaches at the College of Medicine, stated that this was a difficult field. It is made even more difficult by the absence of the required equipment and facilities. "Even then, we exert strenuous efforts to enable our students gain the information and ability to perform their duties fully."

The doctor is toying with the idea of starting a specialized private institute for eye care. "I think there is need to train doctors and their assistants in order to provide good service. Although there is urgent need for an institute of this kind, I have not felt the encouragement I thought would be coming, especially from the concerned circles. Thus, I am taking more time before I invest in setting up this institute," he said.

Abdul-Majeed performs in his clinic many operations, some complicated ones, on a regular basis. "It feels so good when you help people regain their eye sight. It is the most gratifying form of self-accomplishment. It is probably the most you can do for a human being outside of saving their very life," he said. Indeed, many of the patients I have spoken to have confidence in the ability of their doctor. "If anybody can help me, it is Dr. Masood," one patient said.

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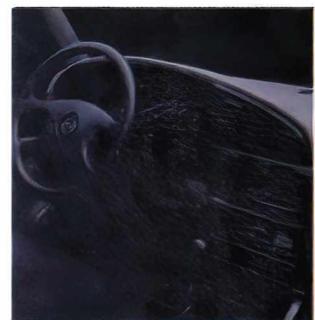
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## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

**SOUT AL-MUA'ARADHA**  
(The Voice of the Opposition [Said to be Organized by the Rulers]):  
First Issue, Sanaa, 12-7-95:

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) A. Al-Ashtal or A. Bajammal? Which One Will Be the New Foreign Minister?
- 2) The Minister if Information Denies That Any Steps Were Taken to Curb Press Freedom Or Freedom of Speech.
- 3) The Customs Authority Retrieves 2 looted buses (1 Belonging to CanOxy).

**Article Summary:**

**1) Only YR 32 Million Eaten Up by the T. V. Corporation During the War**

Referring to a report by a special investigating committee on the misuse of public funds during the last war, the paper detailed the way funds were misused to benefit the staff or to undertake purchases in clear violation of applicable rules and regulations. No Names were given.

**2) NO! (A Regular Column)**

**A Warning Against Eating Locally Manufactured Food**

Referring to a memorandum issued by an oil company subcontractor's physician, the article notes that the physician warned company expatriate staff from eating locally packaged/processed foods, beverages, etc. such as milk, oils vegetables, etc., which the memo cites as being unfit for human consumption!

**SOUT AL-YEMEN**

(Mouthpiece of the Free Constitutionalists Party), Sanaa: 13-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Dr. Hassan Al-Turaby: "Yemeni Passports Were Found With the Terrorists"
- 2) Amnesty International Reports on Executions Without Trials In Yemen
- 3) The Rulers in Yemen use The Yemeni Socialist Party As Scapgoats
- 4) Attack On Al-Hiwar Newspaper Publisher With Bullets Rather than Words (Al-Hiwar means dialogue)

**Article Summary:**

**An Objective Reading of the Seventh of July, 1995, Declaration**

Referring to the President's Declaration of 7th July, 95, after one year of the entry of the legitimate forces in Aden, the paper in its editorial notes that since the declaration, not one promise has been fulfilled to the full. Moreover there has been deterioration in just about every area, including democracy and the economy and other areas, whereby the rulers impose their own meanings to such issues as amnesty, plurality, reforms, peaceful transfer of power and even impose upon society their "opposition forces". The solution? A return to political dialogue, national reconciliation and the implementation of the Document for Pledge and Accord.

**AL-THOWRY**

(Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party): Sanaa: 13-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Opposition Bloc Denounces the Halting of This Week's Al-Wahdawi Newspaper Edition and the Attempted Attack on the Premises of Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah
- 2) Grenade Thrown to House of YSP Hadhr-ramaut Leader (Al-Quhoom)
- 3) Victory Through the Eyes of Children

**Article Summary:**

**The Right of Free Speech**

In the reader's opinion page a letter by Sherif Mutaahhar Al-Sirajy deploras the current efforts to curtail free speech as can be seen by the fact that three independent or opposition papers are facing trials simultaneously and the return of prior to printing censorship.

**AL-GUMHURRIYAH**

(Official Government Newspaper):

Taiz: 19-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Republican Decree Naming Ghalib Ali Jameel Undersecretary for Political Affairs in Foreign Ministry.
- 2) Opening Ceremony Of Resident Office of the World Bank: the Prime Minister Discusses with VP (Koch-Weser) of WB Future Cooperation between WB and RoY
- 3) After Completing Its Tasks, the Saudi Side of The Joint Yemeni-Saudi Committee Leaves Sana'a: "The Meetings Were Successful. We Are Confident of the Success of Future Meetings"

**AL-AYYAM**

(Independent): Aden: 19-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) VP World Bank Expects a Prosperous Future For Yemen
- 2) The Governor of Abyan Condemns Obstructions to Investment Projects
- 3) The Military Police Apprehend a Journalist at Job Site

**Article Summary:**

**The Camel Laughs (A regular Column)**

Veteran Columnist Abdu Hussein Ahmed gives a brief background account of one of the most dynamic Yemeni entrepreneurs, Mr. Amin Kassim Sultan (Al-Shamiry), showing how the man sweated through the ups and downs of his business. All along, he maintained a charming smile and a strong faith in God. The man is pursuing the return of his nationalized property in Aden with extreme difficulty. The editor acknowledges the unique character of Sultan which he regards as exemplary and worthy of being infused into other members of the merchant class.

**AL-WAHDAWI**

(Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionists Party): Sanaa: 18-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Opposition Agrees on a Program to Confront the Rulers With
- 2) The First Witness for Hunt Oil Co. Is a Yemeni Minister In Trial
- 3) The President in an Interview with Al-gumhurriyah (Cairo): "We arrested 14 members of the outlawed Al-Jihad Organization."

**Article Summary:**

**The Gasoline and The Dollar**

In the column "Logic", Dr. Abdul Haq Sultan notes that despite the gasoline crisis, which effected many people and the crazy fluctuations of the Dollar/YR rate, the government press failed to provide any analysis or factual information to enlighten the public on the peculiar situations that occurred in these areas. Moreover, if the authorities wish to cover up facts, why is it that the opposition chase after them and disclose them.

**AL-HAQ**

(Rabbit Abna Al-Yemen): Sanaa: 16-7-95

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Unofficial Entity Recruits Young Children For Its Own Militias
- 2) The IMF Recommends a Decrease in Government Staff
- 3) Yemen-Participates in the Search for the Addis Ababa Mubarak Attempt Planners.

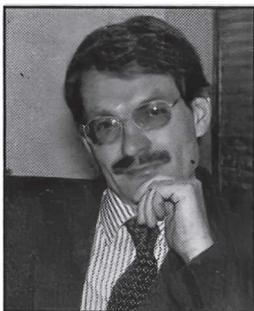
**Article Summary:**

**Canadian Oxy Announces Another Oil Find**

According to Ministry of Oil Sources, and announcement will be forthcoming soon on new reserve discovery by Canadian Occidental Petroleum Co. (Yemen) in the Al-Maseelah concession area of the company. At present the company is extracting 165 thousand barrels/day from a nearby area to where the new or additional reserves were found. The article did not give indication of the additional amount of the find, nor the expected daily output.

# China and Yemen

By: David Warburton,  
Berlin.



During his recent visit, China's Vice Foreign Minister noted that Yemen's relations with the People's Republic preceded the Yemeni revolution, and he even suggested that they went back to ancient times. His visit emphasized the vital nature of the relationship to each country, and although his suggestion that one should recall the relationship in ancient times might be a bit exaggerated, the remark that bilateral relations went back "many decades" is probably one of the greatest understatements in world history.

In the western mind, the word "China" signifies not only a country, but also "porcelain" because the first porcelain imported into Europe came from China, and the first porcelain manufactured in Europe imitated Chinese forms. This was a peculiar development, for the blue on white porcelain was basically acquired by European merchants in search of ballast, required because of their large cargoes of tea.

Tea was highly prized in Europe, but it was very light, and yet its bulk took up a lot of space, so that the merchants required heavy goods to accompany it, so as to keep the wooden sailing vessels sufficiently deep in the water for the long voyage back to Europeans had no goods which appealed to the people of the East at the time, and the European vessels were laden with silver, the only thing the East was interested in. (The silver was of course not European, but came from the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in America).

It might be thought that Yemeni-Chinese relations thus arose during the early decades of the 16 century A.D. when the Portuguese, the Dutch and the Ottomans were vying for control of the trade routes leading to Europe. Some of the pottery found in open foundation pits in Aden is Late Ming Chinese blue-on-white ware, dating the 17th century. One can also find beautiful fragments of multi-colored Chinese wares, which date to the centuries A.D., when the Chinese were obliged to tone up their image in new colors as the European manufacturers began to mass produce porcelain of a quality approaching that of the ordinary Chinese blue on white.

This was also - of course - the age during which Yemeni coffee began to reach European markets, and to compete with tea, so that China and Yemen are actually competitors in the European warm beverage market, whereas Yemen had previously served as a trading partner, passing Chinese and Indian wares on to European customers. There is however, no evidence that this competition ever led to serious rivalries, as the European market could consume seemingly unlimited quantities of both Chinese tea and Yemeni coffee.

This was however hardly the beginning of trade relations between the two countries, for the first appearance of the Europeans was no more than a ripple amongst the waves of traders sailing across the Indian Ocean. In fact, it was during the Ming period that the

Chinese Emperor forbade Chinese from trading overseas, and probably actually brought earlier Chinese-Yemeni bilateral contacts to a halt. The Chinese court was not actually able to prevent Chinese merchants from traveling, but the effect was that the Chinese traders had no diplomatic protection, and were thus trading at an enormous disadvantage in comparison to the other merchants who enjoyed the support of their respective governments. The result was probably that Chinese traders began to withdraw into spheres closer to their own ports. But, long before the Europeans appeared on the fringe to the Indian Ocean, Chinese and Yemeni traders had been instrumental in the world's trade system. It is well known that Chinese wares and Arabian horses destined for China were being traded in the harbor of Aden during the Rasulid period, while Europe was still in the Middle Ages.

From the European standpoint, the Arabian incense trade was designed to bring Arabian spices and incense to the Mediterranean and Europe, just as the coffee trade was intended to put coffee into European coffee houses, but the Yemeni trade must have felt that the purpose was to bring European gold and silver into their land, for investments, and probably also to be able to purchase exotic articles from India and Chinese traders, which could also be sold to the European customers.

At the same time that Islam spread across the Arab world, the tang dynasty slowly asserted its political control over large parts of China. For several hundred years the two great world empires flourished, producing their own individual artistic and architectural wonders, each seemingly independent of the other, and yet details reveal that the art of each incorporated

details of the other. During the years of the Omayyads, the silk road crossing central Asia will have been one of the main transit routes joining the two empires.

In the succeeding centuries, ocean going craft will have enabled Yemeni traders to cross the seas, so that before the end of the Tang Dynasty - in the 10th century A.D. when Fatimid Generals were vying with local Yemeni rulers for the control of Sana'a - we know that Chinese wares were reaching Yemen, by sea, and a new world was opening up. In Yemen, the Ayyubids were followed by the Rasulids opening up a new world of prosperity. It may thus have been during the glorious days of Rasulid rule in Yemen that direct bilateral relations with China may have been initiated for the first time. Yemeni prosperity.

In the following centuries, Islam began to spread across Asia, beyond the bounds of the Arab empire, and a new world emerged after the Mongol invasions that ultimately led to the Ming Dynasty talking power in China and the Moghul rule in India. During the centuries that followed, Yemenis played an active role in the expansion of Islam, and Yemeni-Chinese trade began to flourish, and - aside from minor interruptions - it has continued to flourish until the present day.

Yemen and China thus belong not only to the modern world trade system nominated by the West, and to other system in which Yemen served as a middleman, but they also belong to a far more important one: with ties going back to times when the West had nothing to offer to the East, except gold, and all that it sought came from the East. And Yemen itself was one of the sources of those goods.

Continued from page 1:

# IQS Convention....

On Thursday, July 20th, the IQS held a rally in which it defied the order of the Minister of Legal Affairs and galvanized the opposition and independent persons against it. It also read out the communiqué of the convention. "The Itihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah Party Convention was held under the theme: A Modern Yemen Decentralized State," the communiqué or resolution reads. The Convention, coming under attack from splinter groups

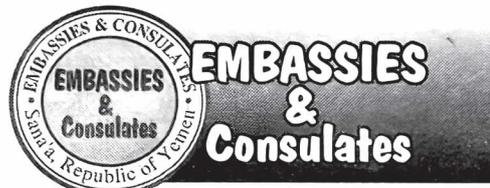
which are said to have the backing of the ruling parties, soon became a rallying point of the opposition parties. Even some members of the ruling parties were dismayed at the way the IQS members and their convention were hassled. At the political level, the resolution of the convention insisted that the salvation of Yemen rested on the full and sincere application of the Document of Pledge and Accord. "The issue of national reconciliation

remains a matter of vital concern and should be accorded priority in the country's evolution." At the economic level, the communiqué lamented the visible stratification of society which bodes a bad omen for the nation. "It is clear that the wealth of the nation is monopolized by a smaller and smaller group of people." At the cultural and media levels, the IQS convention complained against an irresponsible policy beholden to the rulers.

## NOTE:



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



Emergency Police	199
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Fire Brigade	191
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Electricity Problems	177
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Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
<b>Banks:</b>	
<b>Yemeni Banks:</b>	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
<b>Branches of Foreign Banks:</b>	
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Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
<b>Government Offices:</b>	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
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Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
<b>Insurance Companies:</b>	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sanaa	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co 01-272890-2	
Aman Insurance Sanaa:	214093
Hodeidah:	03-240354

<b>SANAA :</b>	
<b>1. Embassies:</b>	
Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	209688/89
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275848/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	248147
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/8
Iraq	216681/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	268887/8/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
Palestine	215404/5
Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
Romania	215579
Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	414892
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395

U.A.E	248777/78
U.K.	215630/33
U.S.A	238842/52
Vietnam	215985
<b>2. Honorary Consulates:</b>	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925
Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	209360/207054
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	203534
<b>3. International Organizations</b>	
FAO	207331/607
UNDP	215505
UNHCR	204963
UNICEF	231256/7/8
WHO	252213/204
<b>ADEN Consulates :</b>	
China	233115
Ethiopia	231335
France	255896
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Slovak	233630/232101
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13
FAO Branch	233722/232146

<b>AIR LINES</b>	
Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alyemen (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemen (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways(Sanaa)	248151/2
British Airways (Aden)	243475
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75, 265374
Iraqi Airlines	219431/224/5/6
Japan Airlines	219431/224/5/6
KLM	278747
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	272731
Pakistan Int'l	219431/224/5/6
Hover Airlines Intl., Inc.	205779
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel H.O.	275028/9/30
Universal -Zubeiri	267929, 273924

<b>HOTELS</b>	
<b>Sana'a (01)</b>	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272732/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	215212/4/5
<b>Aden (02)</b>	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
<b>Hodeidah (03)</b>	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
<b>Taiz (04)</b>	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997

<b>COURIERS</b>	
Aramex / Sana'a	243-925
Aramex / Aden	255-683
Aramex / Taiz	213-489
Aramex / Hodeidah	218-168
DHL	248017-249878
Life Express	205696
Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

<b>HOTELS</b>	
<b>Marib (063)</b>	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
<b>Sadad (051)</b>	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
<b>Mukalla (05)</b>	
Hadrhamat	2060
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## Contest No.37 مسابقة رقم 37

Prepared by: **Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer**

إعداد: **معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر**

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Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouk Institute by Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى السجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس. سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من "يمن تايمز".

## Contest No. 37

Across

- Show, disclose.
- The sportsman who got beaten!
- Not real.
- All the same sort of clothes?
- The moment for a cuppal
- Tie together.
- Point of a pen.
- Ancient Mexican Indian.
- Word to end of prayer.
- Say yes with your head!
- Scottish musical instrument.
- Look closely at.
- Character with strings attached?
- Flower on the lawn?
- The four weeks before Christmas.
- Cost of an item.
- What the dentist examines.
- Upward climb.

Down

- Deny.
- A saddle.
- From the USA.
- Animal's den.
- It ran away with a dish!
- Far away.
- Bohemian Rhapsody pop group.
- Scottish musical instrument.
- Character with strings attached?
- Flower on the lawn?
- The four weeks before Christmas.
- Cost of an item.
- What the dentist examines.
- Upward climb.

Correct answer for contest No. (36)

REFERRER MAJOR  
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M I T H R O B G O U B I N  
E H K M I N I E I N  
C A S T I C I L Y E T I I  
W I P E X I O I I N  
W P E C I N K M E  
I N A A E M O  
L E E K O D D H A L O  
I N S E C T G A H L O  
A O H L E A  
W A N G O S H E T T E

**WINNER OF CONTEST NO 36 IS:**  
Khalid Al-Boraei

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## WAR AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL ...AND BEYOND

By: Renaud DETALLE, Sanaa.

As everywhere in the world, Yemeni parents don't like to see their children spending all summer playing on unsafe and dirty streets. Those who can afford do register them in one of the numerous private institutes that offer English or computer courses. At a lesser price and most often for free, the majority will attend a religious summer school. Such schools teach about the Quran and Sunna, the life of Prophet Muhammad and his companions, give more or less sophisticated commentaries according to the age of pupils, and generally teach them the do's and don'ts of their religion.

Parents from Sanaa as well as regions remote had every reason to feel safe about their sons and daughters summer program when they registered them at the Badr Center located in a southwestern neighborhood of the capital. Yet, on Wednesday 19th July, around 9 a.m., a number of pick-up vehicles belonging to security forces blocked the street as other soldiers came over the orchard. The guards of the center were outnumbered and remained helpless as the 'police' opened fire on the facade of the building where the children were attending classes. The places where the bullets hit are now marked with red circles. Without any court order and without providing any explanation, the raiders kidnapped a number of children, most of whom were released from custody on the same day. In the course of the day, worried fathers showed

up with guns to enquire about and to protect their children. Last Wednesday's raid marks an escalation in an ongoing conflict between the Center and Sanaa local authorities. But this conflict is itself part of the strained relations between members of the Zaydi sect and some intolerant and extremist elements of the Sunni majority. As the director of the center, Dr. Al-Murtada bin Zeyd Al-Muharwari, explained after the event, a powerful member of one of the two ruling parties has been trying for years to block the construction of the Center on waqf land (religious endowment) surrounding the Badr Mosque. Many attempts to find a peaceful settlement failed and the issue has been brought to court a long time ago. But to no avail.

The Ministry of Awqaf (plural of waqf) and Guidance is pressed by the same person to support his stand though the Ministry tries to remain fair about an issue that has more to do with religious rivalry than with the ownership and development of a piece of land. The war-like operation might thus be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate the party which remains convinced of the legitimacy of its stand and expects the state to protect its rights.

The Badr Center is led by Zaydi scholars who are keen to transmit their own brand of Islam which they consider to be part of the Yemeni history and personality, for Upper Yemen at least. They never fail to distance themselves from other brands of Islam which have been imported recently in Yemen, from Egypt, Sudan, Iran or the Gulf States.

Zaydism is itself part of Shi'a, one of the two branches of Islam that appeared at Prophet Muhammad's death. Shi'ites believe that his successor, since none of his boys survived, should have been his son-in-law Ali. Hence the name shi-at Ali, the party of Ali. There is a long and bloody history of relations between Shi'ites and Sunnis who accepted the first three successors: Abu Bakar, Omar and Othman.

Zaydism was established in Yemen during the tenth century as the Imam Al-Hadi Ilal-Haq, who had been called to Yemen to arbitrate between warring tribes in the region of Saada, succeeded in bringing peace and established a state that was to exist till the 22nd of September 1962 Revolution, when the country was proclaimed a Republic. Like all Shi'ites, Zaydis give a special importance to anybody who claims descent from one of Ali's two sons, Hassan and Hussein. Since the end of the civil war and the reconciliation between republicans and royalists, the official doctrine of Yemeni governments downplays the differences that exist between Zaydism and Shaf'ism, which is the Sunni jurisprudential school that dominates in Yemen. The special privileges that people from the prophet's house enjoyed are supposedly extinct within republican and egalitarian Yemen.

After unity, the new climate of openness allowed the free and fearless expression of political and religious opinion. Zaydi scholars who used to be cautious for fear of being charged of nostalgia for the Imamate, started to speak out more freely and to try

to preserve and transmit the intellectual heritage of Yemeni Zaydism. Time allowed Zaydis to feel free from the long association of their sect with the Imams who were both political and religious leaders. Their enemies never tire to remind them that they view Zaydism as part of the "ancien regime".

The Zaydi revival had also been triggered by other events. One is the worldwide mobilization of Muslims struggling to assert themselves in a world that becomes more and more secular, an expression of this struggle being Islamic fundamentalism or simply Islamism. Another event, closely related to the first one, was the Iranian revolution which established a Shi'ite theocracy. Iran's influence in Yemen is minimal, but it certainly gave some people in Zaydi circles more courage to express themselves, and this was all the more timely since adherents of imported ideas mentioned above launched attacks against Zaydism saying that it is remote from true Islam. Yet Zaydism is one of the few sects that practice jithad, the possibility to innovate in terms of Islamic jurisprudence. For Sunnis the gate of jithad has been closed for centuries and remains so despite calls from Muslim reformers to reopen it.

The Zaydi revival takes place on intellectual grounds with the printing of Zaydi manuscripts, establishment of education facilities for children and publication of pamphlets and magazines. The Badr Center which is still under construction is part of this effort and the violence it experienced is not unusual.

Continues on page 10

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