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ENRON

Yemen Announces There Is NO Quorum for the Meeting

The Special Session of Islamic Foreign Ministers Is Postponed

As the clock ticked away, officials at the Foreign Ministry kept counting the responses to Yemen's invitation to an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference at the level of foreign ministers. They kept calling in search for "Yes" responses. Yemen had called for a special session of the Islamic Foreign Ministers will be convened in Sanaa on August 26th.

At final call, the number of countries

which expressed readiness to attend was only 21, far short of the two-thirds quorum required by the OIC membership of 51 countries. Many countries explained that they wanted to see the outcome of the present American-led efforts.

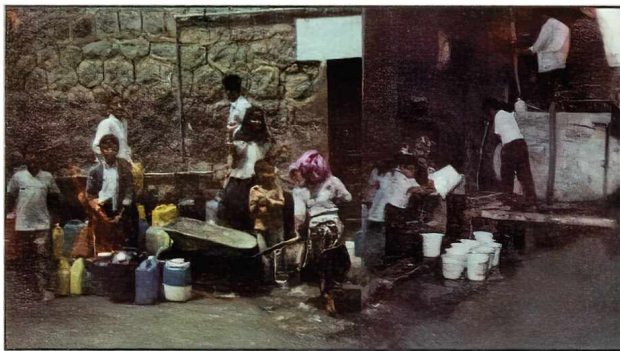
The Yemeni government expressed gratitude for those countries which had positively responded, and promised to work closely with all efforts in search of an acceptable solution to the Bosnian war.

The Republic of Yemen has raised some YR 500 million (about \$100 million) which is to be transferred as soon as possible. The fund-raising continues all over the country, and some YR 4-5 million is contributed every day.

Meanwhile, Yemeni volunteers have also registered to go and fight in the war. So far, some 560 young men have come forward as volunteers to be shipped out to Bosnia.

The Serbian on-slaught on the Bosnian Muslims continues, in spite of a Croat counter-offensive. Many Muslims are at ease of the continuous concessions demanded of the Muslims in the sequel of peace proposals. The last American proposal calls for relinquishing of Gorazde, a Muslim majority area, in return for some territorial gains near Sarajevo. The Bosnian government still resists this deal.

Water Situation in Taiz City Getting Desperate



The attitude of the Government of Yemen towards the plight of the people of Taiz cannot be described other than utter neglect, disrespect and totally irresponsible. The people of Taiz city - some one million of them - have been suffering from water shortage for more than one year now. But there has been no response, other than lip service and various promises.

A loan from the World Bank had been made available to drill new water wells in Dhi Sufal area. But the authorities have been "unable" or rather unwilling to implement the project, citing tribal differences regarding the area where the wells were to be drilled. Then, the Governor of Taiz, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Mohammed Ali Othman, recently took the initiative and drilled several wells inside the city itself. But the government refused to

release a meager YR 55 million it had promised and allocated in the budget to finance the pumps.

"The way I see it, the rulers are trying to punish the people of Taiz. I don't why, but the people of Taiz city are made to suffer on purpose," explained Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Noman, Member of the Parliament representing Constituency No. 63 in Taiz.

Dr. Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, a respected physician who is involved in many charity efforts, has a similar opinion. "I cannot understand why such a pressing issue is left on the backburner. The money is there. The need is there. Somehow the political will is not there," he said.

By: Abdul-Qader Mughalles,
Taiz Bureau Chief,
Yemen Times.

Hunt Gets into Gas Deal

It looks like Ray Hunt is getting his way on the Gas Deal, and that may just be what Yemen needs to kick off this project. Yemen Hunt Oil Company - owned jointly by Hunt Oil, Exxon and the Korean Yukong Group - is, after all, going to be part of the gas deal.

Ray Hunt concluded a successful visit to Sanaa earlier this month. He met with all the key people, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Then last week, Don Robillard, Vice President, flew in to push the deal further. Although the French TOTAL is going to be a lead partner, Hunt will be the operator in the exploration and extraction phase of the project, and it will carry at least 35% of the stakes.

According to a source at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources - who asked not to be identified - the Yemeni authorities have far more confidence in Hunt than in Total. "You see, if Hunt were sitting on the oil fields in Jannah or Shabwah, the oil would have long been flowing," the source added. Not surprisingly, Hunt has recently taken over as operator of the Jannah field from Total, and oil - up to 22,000 bpd, will start flowing "very soon".

Yemen recoverable gas reserves is some 16 trillion cubic feet of



Ray Hunt: Has reason to smile !

associated gas at the Marib Al-Jawf fields where Hunt is producing oil. An early exploitation hit a snag three years ago when Hunt and Enron got in each other's way on the deal. As the two American companies wrangled, Total came into play and got the lead role in the project.

The Yemeni Government, so desperate for foreign

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,
Yemen Times.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Need for Guidelines for the Transformation of the Nation

Two years ago, I was a first-hand witness to a squabble in front of the Turkish embassy. There was a heated argument between an old shepherd woman and two soldiers on duty guarding at the Embassy. The story is like this: She would come every morning with her goats and ransack the area, including turning over the garbage collection box. The soldiers, embarrassed at this, forcefully tell her she can't herd her goats in this area, and that she can't turn over the garbage boxes. Here is the way the two sides look at the issues.

View Point 1:

The old woman has been herding her one hundred or so goats in this neighborhood of Sanaa for a long time. The woman, from the Bani Matar tribe, thinks of this part of town as an extension to her tribe. She has been herding her goats in this place for a few decades. She sees nothing wrong in roaming in the streets with her goats. Moreover, she goes to the garbage collection boxes and turns them over, and sees nothing harm in feeding her goats.

Unfortunately, the city has encroached on her area, and the Diplomatic Quarter has replaced her grazing fields.

View Point 2:

Two soldiers - one from Taiz and the other from Ibb - are on a one-year national service guarding the Turkish embassy. They hassle with the old shepherd every day. They try to explain to her the concept of municipal zoning and the inappropriate nature of herding in this area. They also try to appeal to her sense of patriotism by telling her that she was giving the diplomats, or rather the foreigners, at the Turkish embassy a bad impression of Yemen. To their shock, the old woman told them, as far as she was concerned, they too were actually foreign to this "land".

The old woman cannot simply stop herding. It is her livelihood, and she has no alternative. Yet, it is also true the two soldiers cannot allow her to continue doing what she has been doing. It is not a matter of who is wrong or who is right. Both are right in their own contexts. I am bringing this story simply to shed light on the transformation our society is going through. The success and smooth evolution of our society requires that we work out alternatives, additional options and guidelines to avoid any tension or mis-understanding.

The Publisher


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Abdul-Wahid Hawash Attacked

Mr. Abdul-Wahid Hawash, Assistant Secretary-General of the Baath Party, was the target of an attack on Monday morning, August 14th, on one of the main highways of the city of Sanaa. Apparently, the attackers did not want to kill Mr. Hawash, but simply to frighten and blackmail him. Mr. Hawash and his group lead the Baath Party which has refused to succumb to the hegemony of the regime in Sanaa. Thus, a splinter Baath Party has been set which is more amenable to the rulers.

Seminar on Relations with Kuwait Slotted for 23rd August

The Yemen Times seminar on relations between Yemen and Kuwait has been scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 23rd of August. The three themes of the seminar are:

- a) Efforts on the part of Yemen to bridge the gap;
- b) Recent favorable reporting on Yemen in Kuwait;
- c) The next step.

Speakers include university professors, politicians, parliamentarians, and government officials.

Yemen and UNDP Sign Agreements

The Republic of Yemen and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) signed last week two agreements according to which Yemen will receive financial assistance to engage in its economic re-orientation.

The first agreement provides Yemen with \$ 1.09 million which will be used to support the privatization drive of the country. The second agreement calls for the implementation of two projects at the Aden Free Zone by the UNIDO.

TOTAL Announces Oil Discovery in East Shabwah

The French oil company TOTAL has announced that its early results on the drilling at Al-Turaibah in East Shabwah block has shown oil. According to government press sources, the field could produce up to 30,000 bpd.

A Joint Yemeni-Egyptian Fishing Company

The Republic of Yemen and the Egypt have agreed, in principle to set up a joint fishing company. The final version of the agreement will be signed during the upcoming visit of Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba-Padhle, Minister of Fisheries to Cairo later this month.

Egyptian fishermen have been trespassing into Yemeni territorial waters, thus causing tension between the two countries. Earlier this year, Yemeni marine patrols have seized and penalized Egyptian fishermen. Now, on the basis of the agreement, Egyptian fishing in Yemeni territorial waters will be, but Yemen will get a piece of the pie. Good going!

UNICEF Workshop

Thirty participants from UNICEF officers in the Middle East and Africa regions are engaged in a two-week workshop that started on August 12th in Sanaa. A circular explains that the purpose is to "ensure that UNICEF staff are conversant with UNICEF global goals and strategies for children and women in the 1990s."

MIDEAST

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Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal:

"We no longer have an excuse not to get on with our responsibilities."

The economic situation of Yemen is getting very difficult. The slow pace of economic growth, the lack of investments, the deterioration of the infrastructure due to inadequate maintenance, the frightening deficit in the budget leading to printing more fiat money and subsequently high inflation rates, the dramatic surges in the exchange rate, etc., are all symptoms of the sickness of the economy. One of the persons on whom rests the responsibility to revive the economy is Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development.

Ba-Jammal, several times minister, is spearheading the efforts to evolve the new five-year plan 1996-2000. He leads the Yemeni quest for foreign financing. And of course, he participates in many policy-making bodies.

Mr. Ismail Al-Ghabri, Chief of the Yemen Times Sanaa Bureau, filed the following report.

Q: You recently visited Amman on a specific task. Could you share with our readers some details?

A: Yes, I headed a large economic delegation to Amman. The idea was to follow up on some of the issues on which President Ali Abdullah Saleh and H.M. King Hussain agreed on. Also there were many points worked out in the meeting of the supreme joint committee headed by the prime ministers of both governments held in Sanaa recently.

The visit intended to implement some of the agreements. You will note that often we sign agreements and forget them. This is a problem many of our partners complain from. An additional reason was to learn from the Jordanian experience in economic development in general and in privatization in particular. I am greatly impressed by the Jordanian achievements.

Q: You are a focal point in the coordination with the World

Bank and IMF in the on-going talks about economic reform. What is going on?

A: You are definitely aware of the difficulties. We are working with the World Bank and IMF to engage in stabilization efforts, structural adjustments, reforms, etc. This involves taking the government out of the sectors in which it has no business staying, privatization, fiscal and monetary corrections, removal of price distortions.

So, we are working with those and other bodies to implement changes. Let me give you an example. Over 65% of government expenditures is on payrolls. At the same time, expenditures on purchases/maintenance of goods and services - Chapter 2 in the classification - is less than 10%. Imagine, you pay 65% and you provide only 10% to employ those 65%. This is a major disequilibrium which needs to be corrected. In any case, the 5-year plan requires that the reform packages and adjustments be part of the plan.



Q: Sometimes, the media has carried reports that the World Bank and IMF place conditions on the country?

A: Yes, they do. I am not telling a secret to tell you that there are two types of conditions.

First: There are a set of macro recommendations that are given to all countries. These are not conditions, but you are strongly recommended to follow them. They include things like monetary and fiscal equilibrium, budgetary prudence, market-based pricing, etc.

Second: There are conditions that specifically apply to the implementation of the project being financed or co-financed. For example, the system of 41 signatures that we have in Yemen to have a simple decision is not conducive to a good implementation.

So, they tell us, if you want us to help, you should straighten out your system.

Q: How far have you come on the 5-year plan?

A: We are not clear on where we are going. Even within the Ministry of Planning and Development, nobody really has an integrated macro plan. You will find islands. The island that deals with foreign assistance, the island that deals with projects, the island that deals with aggregates, etc. We first have to integrate all these islands into a unified vision and approach.

There are two major departures from the past: a) First the private sector will be given a bigger role. For example, the two cement plants envisaged for Hadhramaut and Bateis will

be left for the private sector. The Aden Free Zone will be left for the private sector, we will only provide the umbrella.

b) To pool up all the projects that have foreign financing and make them the core of the plan. For example, we have \$383 in World Bank allocations for some 24 projects which are ready for implementation. Although we will definitely review some of the projects, specially those in agriculture.

Q: Are there quantitative targets for the plan?

A: It is still early to discuss quantitative targets, but I can say, for example, we are targeting a minimum annual growth rate of 5%. We also have a target to lower the population growth rate. In my opinion the 3.7% annual population growth rate is not a correct number. I feel that there are some nomadic populations in places like Shabwah and Marib and other places along the former border between the northern and southern parts of the country which were never counted in the 1986 (Northern census) and 1988 (Southern census). But they were counted in 1994. So we have an inflated growth rate.

Q: What are the investment levels anticipated in the 5-year plan?

A: Of course, I have told that the major portion of the plan will involve the private sector and I cannot quantify that. Government expenditures on investment will increase dramatically. I hope that an annual investment of some \$600 million by/through the government will be possible.

Q: There are preparations for a donors meeting The Hague. Could you tell us about this?

A: Yes, the Government of the Netherlands has decided to invite Yemen's aid partners on our behalf, and they are leading this effort. I believe the meeting will take place during the later part of September or early October.

Yemen has many good friends. Germany has committed DM 100 million annually, the Netherlands is leading the development efforts, and Japan is chipping in, and many other bilateral donors. We also have the support of many international and regional organizations.

Q: Centralization of authority seems to be a problem. Are you addressing this issue in the plan?

A: We already have. You will note that according to the new arrangements, each minister can decide on any project with foreign financing to the maximum limit of \$1 million. The minister does not need anybody's permission, he can go ahead with tendering and all other formalities himself.

The Tendering Committee can similarly decide on projects with foreign financing up to a maximum of \$3 million, without recourse to the cabinet.

In the same way, each governor can decide up to a maximum of YR 50 million without need for reference to anybody.

Now we have to teach these people how to use these new powers. Let me insist here that we no longer have an excuse not to get on with our responsibilities.

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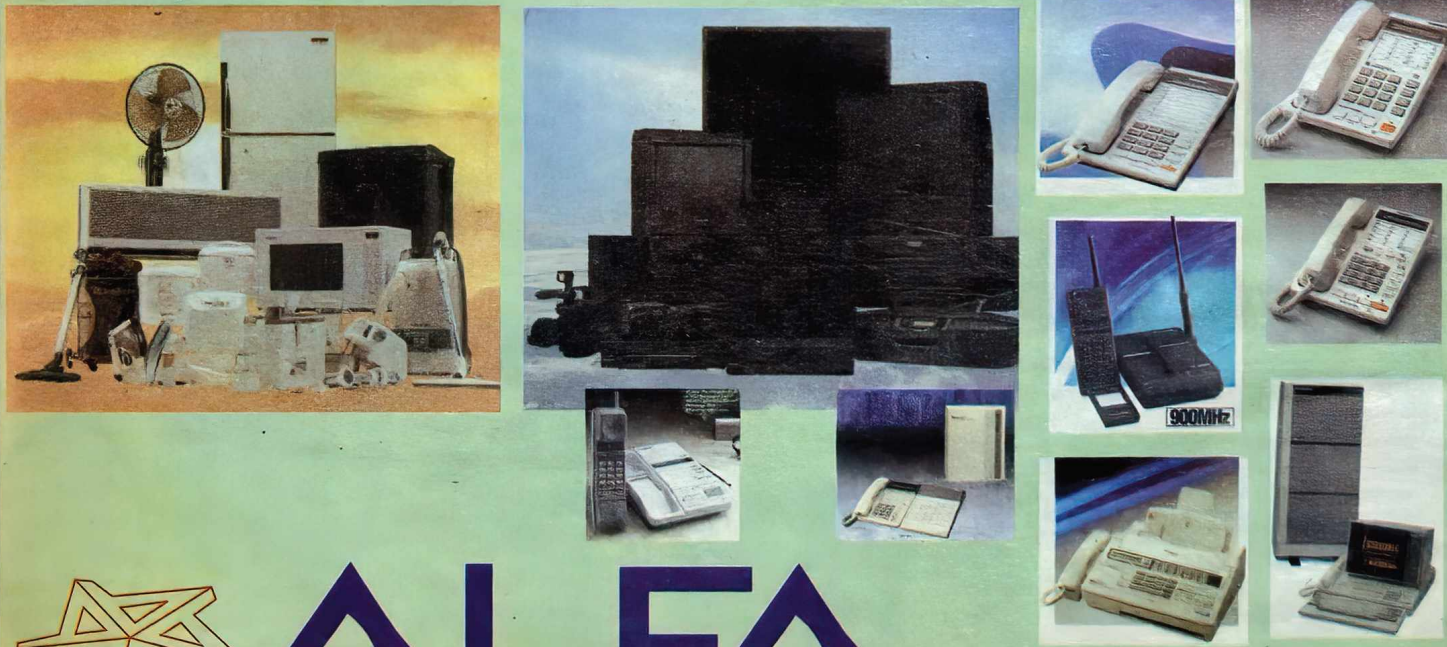
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Yemen Struggles to Evolve a Clear Position in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

Yemen's Women National Committee, which spearheads the country's participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in September in Beijing, held a flurry of meetings and training workshops in order to evolve a clear-cut position. During the 12-14 August training session, it was clear there was a divergent opinion regarding the position to take on the status and role of women in society. Some 30 female participants argued heatedly about the formal position of the country. There were also a few men to give "advice". In the final analysis there were two positions. The Islah Party wanted to draw on Islamic teachings and tenets, while the People's General Congress pushed for a position more in line with the world attitude on the issues.

The matter is yet to be resolved, although Yemen is trying to learn what the position of other Muslim countries is going to be. The most problematic issues include those aspects of the Beijing Declaration which deal with male-female relations; the right to birth control; the legal status of women in terms of inheritance, work, family; equality of the sexes; etc. Meetings continue on the matter.

Meanwhile, many international and local organizations are pressing ahead to use the occasion to elevate Yemen's women's and improve their lot. The most recent workshop itself was sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the UN Population Fund. The workshop aimed to train the delegation going to Beijing on dialogue and communication skills in order to interact positively with other delegations.

The group also studied the work plan and the Beijing Declaration, which is the document to be adopted by the conference and which will become a work guide for the countries and international organizations with regard to women's program.

The Declaration is divided into ten parts each dealing with poverty, education, health, corporate and financial organization, equal power sharing, assignment declaration and international perspective, legal awareness, human and children rights, violence against women, impact of wars and disarmament, information, and resources.

Thus ten groups were formed to handle each of the ten dimensions in the Declaration. Each group met separately to discuss and study its field. At the end of their deliberations, the participants came up with



views to reflect the Islamic/Yemeni values and agreed to work to change some statements.

Yemen Times, which attended the sessions, spoke to two key participants, as follows:

1) Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Susuwa: Assistant Deputy Minister of Information and Chairperson of the Women's National Committee:

"The goal of these meetings and work shops is to get acquainted with the various methods of running a conference. Evidently, we also hope to evolve a unified view among the government and non-government delegations. Finally we hope to work out a clear plan for women, which I believe is most important," she said.

"The main concern and priorities for Yemeni women include the illiteracy problem and the overall participation of women (in public life), which is directly affected by illiteracy. Other issues include the deteriorating economic and health conditions which have serious negative implications to women. We have also addressed the general issue poverty, of which women are the first victims.

"We have also prepared a report on the effects of qat on Yemeni family life, especially on women's

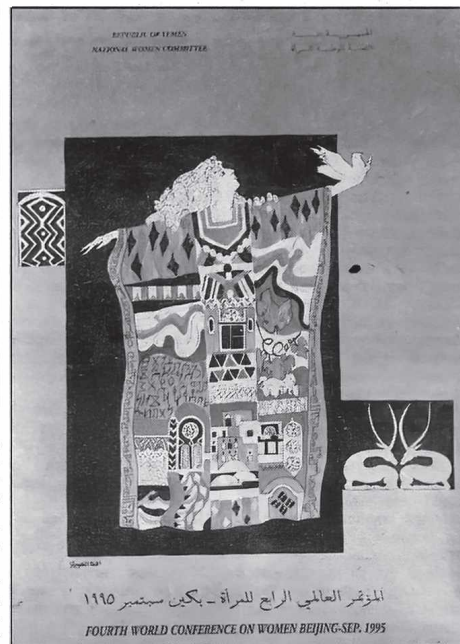
lives - an issue that is special to Yemen (and some of its neighbors). I must stress the importance of implementing and monitoring the decisions of this conference," she concluded.

2) Ms. Leila Deeb, Project Organizer at the United Nations Women's Development Fund:

"The reason for having a non-governmental delegation along with the official delegation is to ensure a better chance for the implementation of the document. The (Yemeni) government does not always implement what it signs."

Regarding the preparations at the workshop, Ms. Deeb stated, "We expect the Western media to attack the Arab delegations' views. Therefore, the workshop shows how to deal with such situations, and how to steer clear from provocative media."

In terms of differences among the participants, she added, "Many women are calling for equality (with men), but its meaning has not been defined. Any way, men and women are equal in their rights,



duties and obligations. Unfortunately, there are countries which don't accept this equality of rights for religious or legal reasons. This would ultimately lead to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration according to each country's laws and customs," she pointed out.

By: Sara Abdullah Hassan,
Intern at Yemen Times.

Is Yemen Losing the War Against Polio?

By: Mohammed Ali Kolaise,
Director of EPI Program,
ADEN.

At 10:30 am on May 13, 1988, the 41st World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate poliomyelitis from the world by the year 2000. It decided on the goal of eradication of polio from the face of the earth, rather than simply trying to control it to, say 90% of the under one year children. It called for an additional set of activities relating to the detection of all suspected polio cases, to promote investigation and diagnosis, and to initiate an aggressive containment operation wherever probable or confirmed cases of the disease are found.

The Health Assembly emphasized that the eradication effort should be pursued in ways which strengthened the development of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) fostering its contribution, in turn to development of Primary Health Care. On September 30th 1990, the World Summit for Children in New York - which brought together over 15 delegates, including 71 presidents and prime ministers - affirmed the same objectives.

Here in Yemen, the Government of Yemen - represented by the Ministry of Health - collaborated with UNICEF to develop strategies for child survival of which one of major goal is the eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.

Moreover, the Government of Yemen has ratified the Convention on the Right of the Child, and the parliament approved it in December 1990. This was followed by a presidential endorsement in January 1991. The instruments of ratification were presented to the Secretary General of United Nations on May 1, 1991.

What all this means is that there is a huge task to be undertaken before the next four years pass - eradication of poliomyelitis in Yemen. The most essential and effective measures to

succeed in the eradication of polio include the following:

1) To achieve and sustain a high level of immunization coverage (not less than 90% with four doses of oral polio vaccine to be administered to succeed in poliomyelitis eradication. This coverage should be attained at all levels. The program's objective should be to have all newborns and infants vaccinated before they reach their first birthday.

2) To establish an effective disease surveillance system which includes the following activities:

- * Routine reporting system.
- * Sentinel reporting system.
- * Case investing system.
- * Outbreak investigation.

These two dimensions above are very important and are considered as the key elements for polio eradication. On the basis of those two dimension, we can say that the present status of the EPI program in Yemen is not encouraging. It is not enough for the officials to issue promises or to sign documents. The immunization coverage is lower than 55% for children under one year old. A proper, reliable disease surveillance system is lacking. Moreover, the program suffering from too many obstacles thus hindering its progress.

These include:

- * Poor political commitment.
- * Insufficient financial support by the government to cover even the essential needs for the immunization activities (operational and field costs)
- * The common weakness in primary Health care reflects limited impact of immunization activities, even while the progress efforts covered only 60% from the population.
- * The program lost a lot of its equipment and tools during the recent war. It also lost vehicles, freezers, gas cylinders, injections, and many other instruments.
- * The program's efforts are ignored in spite of

the high infant morbidity and mortality in the country.

* Absence of motivation for health workers.

Those are only some of the factors which affected progress and achievements of the program. Even then, the EPI program has achieved a tremendous success in reducing infants morbidity and mortality through immunization.

Nowadays, the question raised is: Can Yemen reach the global goal of Polio Eradication by the year 2000. Eradication of poliomyelitis in Yemen by the year 2000 - as important as that is in ending much human suffering - will definitely be difficult to achieve.

It is a pity that is the case, because all the children need to be protected against this disease is routine immunization. Dr. Nakajima, Director-General of World Health Organization, pointed out repeatedly that it will never be easier or cheaper to eradicate polio than it is now.

Therefore, if there is a serious political commitment to the EPI program, the government gives its wholehearted dedication, some meaningful success can be achieved. I would like to point out the following requirements to make Yemen a country free from polio.

Political and Governmental Action:

* A strong and effective political commitment to the primary health care with more emphasis on EPI activities, which should be translated into sufficient financial support, improving the personnel base, extending the accessibility of health care, upgrading logistics systems and providing sufficient transport to cover the outreach and catchment area of the program.

* Reaffirm prior commitment by the Yemeni Government to health related international conventions and the like such as the Alma Ata Declaration (1970); the Global Strategy for Health for All by the year 2000 (1981); the World Declaration on Child Survival (New York 1990). It

is also necessary to reaffirm the validity and relevance of the nationally endorsed quantitative and qualitative goals, objectives and prioritized interventions especially the child survival strategies (1991) of the national reform program.

The WHO recommended strategies for polio eradication are simple in concept.

First: Support routine immunization systems to immunize as many infants as possible with 3-4 doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV). High routine coverage reduces the incidence of polio to low levels and forms the base for the polio eradication initiative.

Second: Polio eradication strategies include the adoption of National Immunization Days (NIDs). These national campaigns administer 2 doses of OPV to all children under five, including those who have previously received the basic course of immunization. The objective of the campaigns is to stop the spread of wild polio virus by both boosting the immunity of children who have already been vaccinated and to immunize children not previously reached by routine services. As the virus cannot live for long periods outside the human body, this is very effective.

Third: Polio eradication strategies call for the establishment of extremely sensitive surveillance systems, capable of detecting the last case of polio in the country.

Fourth: The strategy for polio eradication is to use surveillance data collected to plan and conduct localized immunization campaigns, targeting high risk regions where the last cases of polio occur.

Finally: Every one involved in the polio eradication initiative should be proud of the fact that his or her local efforts are making possible the realization of the global goal. TARGET 2000 can only be achieved by ensuring that village after village, region after region, the country is made polio-free. The eradication of polio is within our grasp. We owe it to our future generation not to let it slip away.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

ON PROJECTS AND BIG BUSINESSES

The two men left the office building of the foreign contractor silently. One was an Engineer and the other was considered the Ministry's financial administrative expert. They had come to discuss the contractor's recent decision to stop the works on a major construction project being supervised by the Ministry. The Engineer, whose name was Hisham spoke first "I remember when this project was being discussed by the Senior Projects Committee in the Ministry that I proposed that the Ministry had the capable personnel to undertake the project in one of its public corporations. I even suggested that the amount for the whole project would not exceed half the budgeted amount suggested by the consulting engineer who undertook the designs and prepared the tender documents and who told them that he is sure that getting a foreign contractor would be a lot less expensive than a Yemeni job". His friend, the financial manager for projects Saeed said "You talk like you just started to work on projects yesterday. You know or you should know by now that, in projects, what is supposed to be can never be what is going to be! Its almost a cardinal rule!"

war things are going to change, and government is going to do serious business from now on," said Hisham.

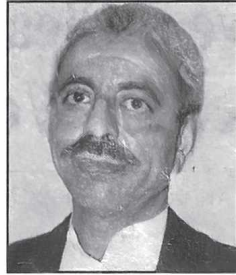
Saeed looked at his fellow employee in a quizzical way: "I hate to say this, but I can't believe you're that naive. Believe me, in Yemen everything is out on the open. So, I can't understand how you don't see properly. Government in Yemen is, seriously speaking, big business, all right and it seems that the war has confirmed that it is going to stay that way for some time to come. "But who runs the business?" asked Hisham somewhat disturbed by what his friend said, but not sure exactly what he meant.

"The same people who run the government! It is as simple as that" Replied Saeed.

When they arrived to the Ministry, they went to their General Manager who immediately asked "How did it go? Are they withdrawing their notice to stop the works?"

Hisham and Saeed looked at each other, not sure who should answer. After hesitating for a while Saeed answered: "They want to receive payment before even considering to withdraw the notice!"

The GM said "We will pay them. don't they realize the



importance of this project from a political point of view?

Saeed answered again "They are businessmen and not politicians!"

The GM said "They are a big company and can wait for the money".

Hisham said "their head office insisted that they stop the work".

The GM said "Call them to come and see me!"

Saeed said "No talks without payment of all overdue invoices, was their last remark to us".

The GM asked: How much do we owe them?

Saeed said, "US\$ 2 1/2 million!"

With his eyes sparkling, the GM said. "If they come and see me. I can help arrange for the payment of some of the amount".

He told them to await further instructions from him in their offices.

As Hisham and Saeed walked back to their offices, Hisham asked "Why doesn't he arrange for payment without having them come and see him?"

"Look", said Saeed "if he was serious about getting them paid, the problem would not have gotten so big in the first place because payment would have been arranged as the invoices were received.

Hisham recalled. "When the invoices came to me for approval, I checked them quickly and compared them with the quantities I had previously certified on site, along with the supervising consulting engineer. I saw them to be all right so I approved them and passed them up to the GM to instruct for payment.

Saeed said "They were then passed to me but without any comment or instructions. In bureaucratic language, that means hold with you until further notice. I just accumulated the invoices, and to this day no further notice has been given, until the contractor himself gave the notice of stopping the work. That is when they asked the two of us to visit the contractor".

"What do we do now?", asked Hisham.

"Being as you are the project director you should get the contractor to talk 'informally' with the GM to work out a solution. If the contractor sends his representative over for talks, then you should excuse yourself. If the GM wants you to stay, be will let you know", advised Saeed "The GM may need me for information," pointed out Hisham.

"Sorry Buddy, you are not a partner in the business. If you get too sticky, you will never manage another project again," clarified Saeed.

"But I want the project to finish on time without piling up additional costs," Hisham declared.

"What you want is irrelevant to the business which is what they want," cut in Saeed.

"Delays of project completion cost money, especially foreign currency, which is very dear to Yemen these days. Moreover,

contractual problems also arise which tie us up so much in meetings, arbitration proceedings and other legal hassles," Hisham explained to Saeed what the latter already knew.

"That is beside the point," declared Saeed and added. "The people in the business do not think that way. For them all these hassles mean opportunities to make an extra Riyal here and there, tax free and no questions asked, if you include the right people in the organization to share in the bounty and if you have the right cover and the right pull from those who are above you. This could mean political backing or a rendezvous of interests, which are not necessarily all lawful or ethical, but that never really made that much of a difference in this business, anyway. Have you ever heard of any corruption cases being prosecuted, tried and convicted?"

Hisham looked disturbed by what Saeed was saying: "Saeed is it not up to you as project financial director to control the expenditure of public funds?", he asked Saeed, but the question was more on the joking side, for he knew that nothing that Saeed could do or say could effectively lead to any serious action by the responsible authorities, which could lead to the application if remedies, accordingly.

"No matter what one does, the boys in the business will find a way out of it, and anyone who makes a fuss will find himself canceled out of the system without a job or a position, and maybe without a salary. I have seen it happen so many times to a lot of good and professional people. People like us are just

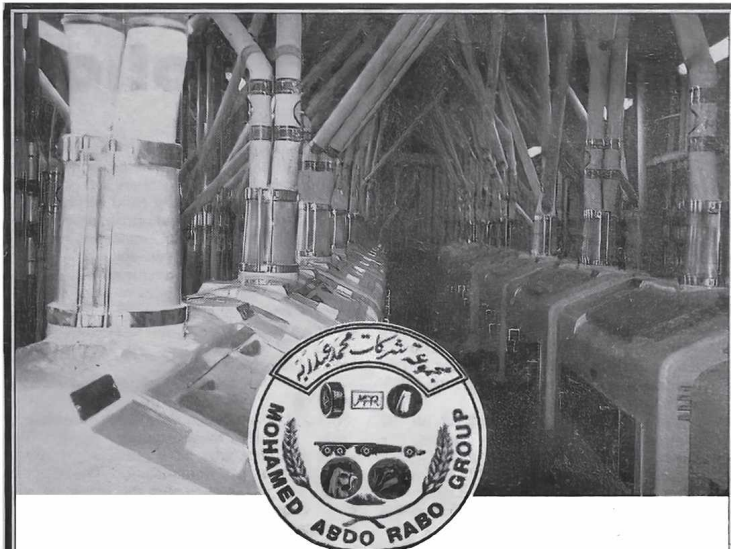
legal decorations for the business. There are some of us who do become a part of the business and secure our livelihood with all the comforts amenities that modern living requires, very quickly, in addition to having a nice cash position. But most of us hang on to the system, with an increasingly dimming hope that the government cannot just continue to operate this way, forever. As salaries become worthless as time goes on, the temptation to join the business is getting the more lucrative many a weak conscience, whether the position is financial, administrative or technical. Every profession can find his way into the business. It is just a matter of conscience," Saeed explained the circumstances which the normal employee faces in such a difficult environment to work in, where even the conscience of men is put to the hardest tests!

Hisham began to realize now that he can really trust Saeed and that the latter was not a bona-fide member of the business establishment that has overtaken the government.

He knew that a guy like Saeed could have gone far into the organization, had things been normal, especially when considering his qualifications and professional experience.

Then Hisham told Saeed: "Isn't there anything that can be done to bring an end to all this nonsense in government and return government to its normal, honest and straightforward job of managing the public interest?"

Continues next week.



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The Yemeni Economy: Diagnosis & Prognosis

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



There seems to be a general consensus that the economic difficulties of the nation are the most pressing issues today. There also seems to be a rising level of acceptance that the policies and individuals who have been managing the economy have not succeeded in their mission. Even the World Bank, which usually does not embark on direct frontal criticism, writes: (Yemeni) Government efforts... have frequently been misguided and counter-productive."

Therefore, it is important to look for new policies, and hopefully new individuals, to shore up the economy. In this article, I will discuss the main components of an economic adjustment and reform program.

THE DIAGNOSIS:

But first, let me give a summary assessment of the current situation, the way I see it. The inefficiency and mismanagement of the economy over the recent past can be seen in the following symptoms:

1. No Growth:

Yemen GDP, valued at YR 250 billion, witnessed a visible stagnation, or even a contraction. Over the last few years, the growth rate in the non-oil economy was negative. In the last year (1994), the growth rate was -4%. Of course, the oil sector, which has a very limited linkage effect, has been growing. Oil output increased by 19% in 1993 and by 56% in 1994. Yet, this has not reflected itself in the overall welfare of the economy. This situation also led to a deterioration in the unemployment rate, which is now estimated at 40% of the manpower.

No new investment is observed. Total investment is around 10% of GDP, with 62% undertaken by foreign, oil companies, and another 25% undertaken by government companies. In other words, the Yemeni private sector has been with-holding any new investments.

2. Inflation:

The inflation rate in Yemen has moved to triple digits. The urban-based annual change in the consumer price index grew from 45% (1991) to 51% (1992) to 62% (1993) to 103% (1994). The cost of living has been rising to such an extent that tertiary and secondary malnutrition have become prevalent in a large segment of the poor. "You can casually see poor people digging into the garbage dump in search of something to eat," one foreigner observed.

The high cost of living and the low level of legal/official income are often blamed for the corruption and bribery in the system. "When you do not pay someone enough to make ends meet, and you give them power or authority, you can't expect them not to abuse such authority to increase their income," complained a businessman. As a result, bribery, often extracted through blackmail, has become the order of the day all over the economy. "Even school teacher - who are supposed to serve as role models - engage in corruption."

3. External Debt:

Yemen's pressing external debt is in the neighborhood of \$8.6 billion, of which nearly \$ 6 billion is owed to the former USSR. The Government has steadily failed to service this debt, and the arrears have by today, represent 50% to the total debt. In 1994 alone, arrears amounted to

\$1.3 billion.

The Government's policy had been in the past, to service its dues to the debtors beyond the former USSR. Now it has fallen behind, even in this limited commitment. As a result, the country's credit worthiness has been ruined. The Government of Yemen needs at least half a billion US dollars in total foreign financing to meet its debt service obligations. The present serial debt re-scheduling tactic will eventually lead to total failure. The country badly needs a scheme for debt and debt-service reductions.

4. Fiscal Nightmare:

The government's budget looks like a recipe for trouble. Total revenues - as a percent of GDP have fallen from 31% (1991), to 25% (1992), to 22% (1993), and to 19% (1994). In 1995, total revenues are expected to rise, primarily because of the adjustment of the official exchange so that a total of some YR 20 billion will be increased due to the re-pricing of oil and imports.

On the other hand, expenditures have remained around 42% of GDP throughout the recent few years. Yet, the recurrent expenditure component in total expenditures has risen consistently, and today, it represents an overwhelming 89% of the total, and of which the payroll alone represents 68%.

The deficit is almost totally financed through the Central Bank.

The political system, if it were to muster enough will, could reduce expenditures by 15-20% overnight by wiping out ghost employees and soldiers from the payroll. It could also increase revenues by 15-20% overnight, if it were to collect taxes owed to it in Sanaa City alone. It is clear, however, that the fiscal system is managed so as to provide the political system with a safety net in its relations with power centers in the country. Therefore, it is not really an economic issue, but a political one.

5. Price Distortions:

The Yemeni economy is notorious for the price distortions embedded in it. Let us take examples:

a) Electricity is priced at 18% of its actual cost. It now goes for some YR 2 per kilowatt hour, whereas it costs around YR 11 to produce. The Minister of Electricity himself says that society pays a lot of money for candles, battery lighting systems, generators, and other forms of back-up during electric black-outs. This means society would be willing to pay a much higher price for a reliable supply of electricity. So, why is the price still so low? Nobody knows the answer. Yet, the Public Electric Corporation incurs a deficit of one billion every year.

b) Water is in the same predicament. Shortages often force households to pay any average of YR 200 per cubic meter - ten times the metered rate. So, why is the price still low? Why can't water supply be more reliable in return for a higher pay? And remember, Yemen has one of the

lowest per capita renewable water supplies in the world, and is depleting its underground water reservoirs at an alarming rate.

c) Petroleum prices are fixed well below their market levels. If viewed with the comparable prices, Yemen is charging less than 40% of the world rate. That is why you can see individuals abusing the cheap gasoline, diesel, cooking gas and other petroleum derivatives.

d) Food subsidies place a major financial burden on the state. The annual subsidy for wheat and wheat flour in Yemen claims US about \$250 million. The subsidy is paid by allowing importers to buy foreign exchange at YR 12 per US dollar, which is about 10% of its value. As a result, distributors are supposed to sell a 50 kg wheat bag at YR 180, and a 50kg wheat-flour bag at YR 240. These prices are so much lower than the world prices that merchants routinely smuggle out the subsidized wheat/flour to our neighbors. As the World Bank sadly notes:

"The irony of this flow of subsidies is inescapable. The Yemeni society - poor by any standards - is in effect providing subsidies to Saudi Arabia, a much wealthier country."

e) There are many other price distortions caused by subsidies in the services (health, education, etc.) and in the commodities (cement, cloth, etc.). Most of these distortions are promoted under the guise of helping the poor. The truth of the matter is that only a small fraction of the subsidy goes to the intended target group.

6. Attitude to Private Sector:

Finally, there is the attitude of government officials towards private business. Inept and extremely crooked government officials and army/security officers put on a holier than thou air in their interaction with private initiative. Not only that, but officialdom projects the image - through the media - that the private sector cannot be trusted and that businessmen are crooked and not patriotic. The experience of Yemen has proved just the opposite.

About 100,000 employees

working in the 150 or so government companies are a drain on the economy. Their continued livelihood depends on putting down private initiative. Unless the private sector is fully brought in, development and growth will continue to falter.

THE PROGNOSIS:

Now we know what the problem is. Can we work out what needs to be done to help the situation? In theory we can. In fact, Yemen has become well-known for promising things on paper and not delivering on them. For that, we will probably end up in the Guinness Book of Records. What this means is that we cannot trust the authorities for what they promise on paper, we need to see their implementation on the ground.

Having said that, let us say what the main components of a reform package would be:

1. Growth Oriented Effort:

The main issue in this reform package is to generate more economic activity. The issue is not to correct price distortions or to set the fiscal system straight, although those and other efforts are extremely important in their own right, but the issue is how to create the environment conducive to growth. It is this consideration that should determine our national priorities.

In my opinion, all corrective measures, however important they are, should be prioritized in terms of their importance and contribution to growth. This in itself offers us a good guideline for establishing reform priorities and re-structuring phases.

2. The Private Sector Leads the Way:

The second attitudinal aspect of our re-orientation should be to rehabilitate the role and status of the private sector - whether local or international. For all its shortcomings, the private sector is by far superior to the Yemeni government which has proven without a shred of doubt in my mind - it is a collection of all bad things. I remember in my student days in the USA when I used to chuckle as the professors kept speaking of corrupt, African

leaders who have driven potentially rich countries to poverty and disarray. The ability of a few individuals to run down a whole country used to amuse me. It doesn't any more. But when I talk of the private sector, I am talking of a wide-based sector - the so-called middle class, not a few individuals tied into the corrupt political leadership. In other words, our efforts should be geared towards "privatizing" the private sector by establishing companies whose shares are held by a broad base of people.

3. Administering Development:

The way the system works today, the technocrats and bureaucrats are simple employees who take their orders from military/security

officers and a bunch of tribally-strong individuals. In other words, the technocrats and bureaucrats are not decision-makers, irrespective of the facade. That means the most educated and able individuals are not the decision-makers. To the contrary, decision-making ability lies with the least educated individuals of our society. Hence the trouble.

It is important that the pattern of authority be re-structured so that those capable of managing this country will do so. Indeed, it is rather troubling that the educated individuals have agreed to play this subservient role in a system that in which everybody is beholden to the center of gravity.

Continues on page 12

VACANCY FOR A FEMALE DOCTOR

ICD (International Cooperation for Development) - a British Non-government organisation - is looking for a female Doctor for a primary health care project which offers service to the refugee population in Sana'a.

MCH DOCTOR

The Refugee Health Project requires an experienced female doctor with expertise in MCH or gynaecology. The doctor will be required to provide curative treatment within the center and to manage a referral system to other health facilities where necessary. This will require close liaison with local health institutions.

Candidates should have supervisory and training experience and a commitment to transferring their skills to others. Excellent English and Arabic are required, and a knowledge of Somali language would be an advantage.

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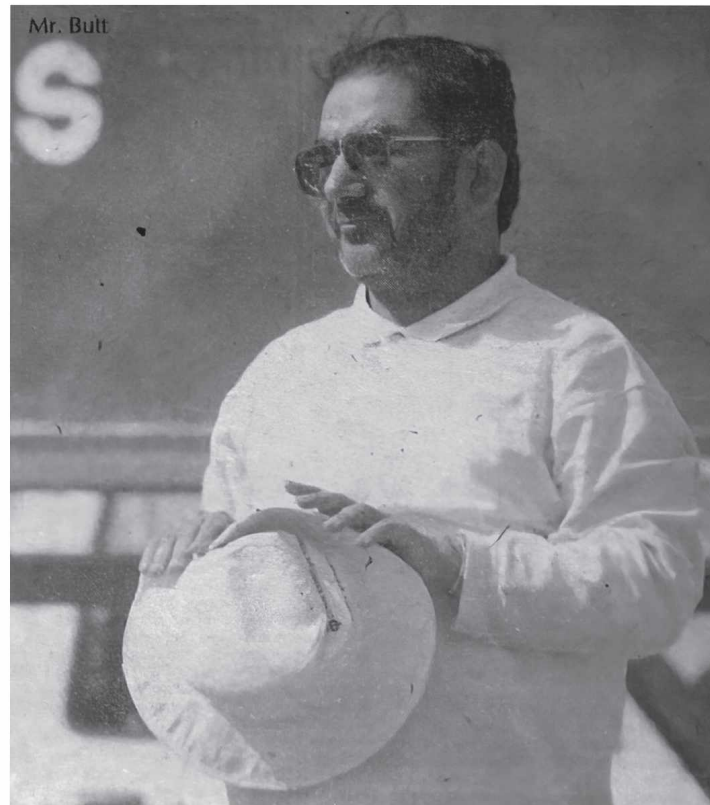
In honor of Mr. Inayatullah Butt CHALLENGE CRICKET MATCH THE PAKISTANIS CARRY THE TROPHY



Mr. Butt receives his award from Don Sheridan



The final score on new scoreboard with Pakistani players and guests



Mr. Butt

From the Chief Editor's Desk:

It was an occasion to honor the man who has been so instrumental in establishing the Yemen Cricket League. After all, it is at his home, one afternoon that the idea blossomed into action. Thus, the Cricket League interrupted its regular matches to play a special one for Mr. Inayatullah Butt, who is going back to Pakistan.

It was just fitting that the Pakistani Team won the matches home with the trophy. But that was not the point, as Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, who attended part of the final match, and the evening celebration - partly to bid Mr. Inayatullah Butt - who has grown into the father figure of the games. "The point is that we should all play some sport, irrespective of our age. Our businessmen could learn from this example," he said.

Don Sheridan, the coordinator of the games, gave a brief summary background on how the games got started. He used to occasion to thank the sponsors and all supporters. The key persons who were instrumental in the growth and success of the cricket games include Ken Service, who headed the efforts to establish the rules and umpiring committee, Peter Bradley, who headed the fund-raising effort, and many other individuals.

Friday, August 18th, witnessed the successful conclusion of the second season of the cricket games. From the first to the second seasons, already much progress has been achieved, including the establishment of a Yemeni team. With preparations for the third season to start soon, more progress will definitely mark this game.

Is it possible cricket will grown into an impor-

The Yemen Cricket League postponed its customary Friday league game to play a special challenge match in honor of Mr. Inayatullah Butt who returns to Pakistan this month after many years in Yemen.

The match was played at the Al Thowra Stadium and was attended by His Excellency The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawah, who was Chief Guest of Honor, and many of his official. In addition, the occasion was honored by the presence of Their Excellencies:

The Ambassador of India, Mr. Venkutraman;

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Arif;

The Ambassador of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr. Scrafton.

On a fine day, after the many recent overcast ones, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat first. After an early loss, their run rate settled down, generally to about 5 or more runs per over and the batsmen always looked comfortable. Nonetheless wickets fell regularly to some good catches in the field.

PAKISTANI XI

Abid	Caught Tahir, bowled Waris	16
Arif	Caught Waris, bowled Anthony	1
Masood	Caught Waris, bowled Abbas	19
Salman	Run Out	15
Shafqat	Caught deSouza, bowled Abbas	10
Nasir	Caught Waris, bowled Tahir	4
Shafat	Not Out	30
Baber	Not Out	23
Extras		20
Total for 6 wickets after 25 overs		138

(Did not bat: Aslam, Masroor and Manzoor).

Abbas was the best bowler with 2 wickets for 28 runs.

The International XI were always struggling to match the Pakistani run rate and were clearly upset by the loss of early wickets. Garry Looker as captain played a gallant innings, falling to a catch as last man out.

INTERNATIONAL XI.

Garry	Caught Aslam, bowled Shafaat	39
Ranjan	Caught Shafqat, bowled Salman	2
Prem	Run Out	11
Waris	Caught Shafqat, bowled Masood	6
Tahir	Caught Shafqat, bowled Masood	0
Anthony	Bowled Masood	6
Abbas	Caught Salman, bowled Arif	16
Imdad	Caught and bowled, Arif	4
Tawfiq	Bowled Salman	1
Kushdil	Bowled Masood	0
Geoffrey	Not Out	4
Extras		9
Total, all out		98

Masood was the best bowler for the Pakistan XI getting 4 wickets for 12 runs.

The victory of the Pakistan XI proved to be an appreciated going-away present for Mr. Butt!

The Man of the Match Award was given to Masood.

Fielding Points:

Shafqat 5.

Waris 5.

Everyone who attended the match was impressed by the sight screens erected behind each wicket, as also by the scoreboard which was sponsored by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. All these excellent fixtures were constructed under the supervision of Mr. Habib Ali Ghazi of Clyde, to whom thanks are due.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Mani who photographs the action each week and whose work is building up to be a great record of the "early" days of the Yemen League.

The next match of the League will take place next Friday, August 25th, starting at 1000 hours. It is between the PCC and the YCC.

The current League positions are as below:

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
PCC	5	5	0	0	10
YCC	5	3	1	1	7
IECC	4	1	3	0	2
MRF XI	5	1	4	0	2
L&JCC	4	0	3	1	1

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The help of the Yemen Times in providing space for this and previous articles is appreciated.

A function was held at the Taj Sheba Hotel on the evening of 18th August 1995 to honor Mr. Butt's return to Pakistan.

It was attended by His Excellency The Minister of Sports and Youth, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawah as Guest of Honor and by Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of India and Pakistan. Before the assembled, which included players and officials of all five league teams and their guests,

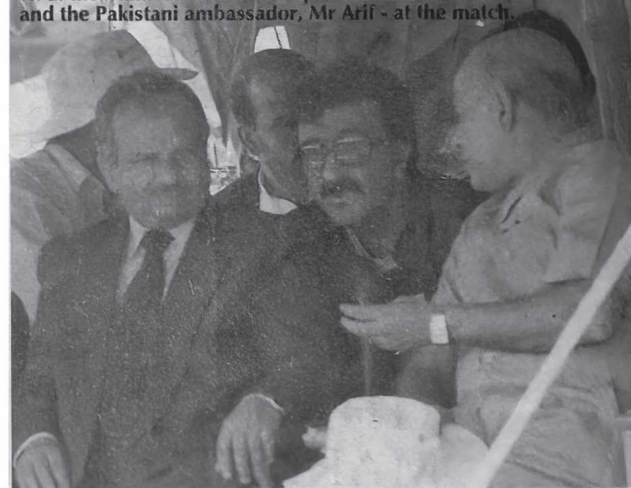
Mr. Butt was presented with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of his work in the establishment of the Yemeni Cricket League. The award was made by Dr. Don Sheridan, The Vice Chairman of the League Committee.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Butt was overwhelmed with emotions. "I am one lucky person to have such good friends," he exclaimed.

From left, the ambassadors of Pakistan, UK and India at the match



H. E. the Minister of Youth & Sports with Khalid Zokari and the Pakistani ambassador, Mr Arif - at the match.

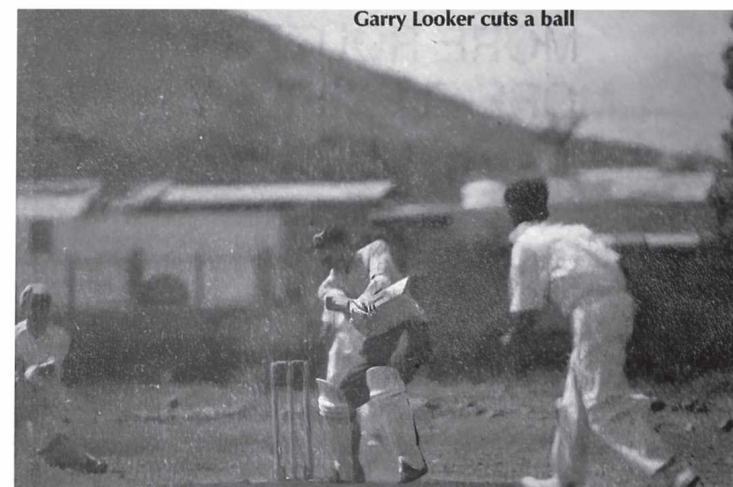


He has also asked to be kept informed regarding the outcome of the present tournament and how the cricket game in Yemen evolves in the future.

Players and Officials



Garry Looker cuts a ball



Photographed by Ganapathy Parameshwar

Investments the Red Sea Islands The Tourists Are Coming BACK !

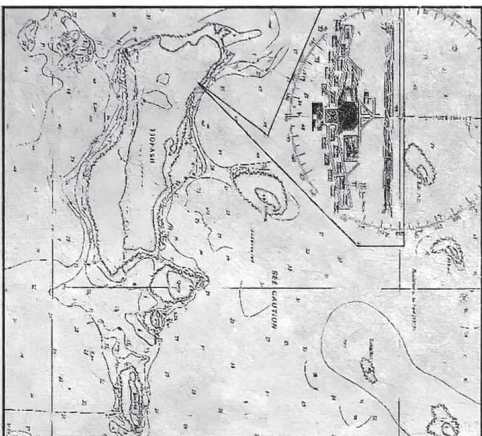
This is the tourist season, and Yemen has witnessed the return of a steady flow over the last few weeks. The majority are from Europe, notably from Italy, Germany, and increasingly from Spain. The major bottlenecks are direct flights and facilities in Yemen, mainly accommodation.

One of the actors in this business is George Corbin of the Milano-based Eldorado Viaggi, who has been responsible for bringing first-class tourists. The Egyptian-born Corbin has been in the tourism business for more than a quarter of a century. Not only is his experience extensive, George has developed a specialized kind of a tourist line - the exotic. This often meant conquering remote islands. The challenging and pioneering work, also meant he will record a string of firsts in tourism. In 1961, he organized the first diving group in the Red Sea. That was at Hurgada, Egypt. In 1965, he organized the first expedition to the Dahlak Islands, in today's Eritrea. In 1970, he organized the first Italian tourist dash into the Mauritius Islands, to be followed by another first into the Maldives a year later.

He has been honored by the Indian, Maldivian and other governments.

Now, he is working on Antufash - Yemen's 10 x 3 kilometer island off the Luheyya Harbor on the Red Sea. "I have many ideas for Yemen. The country has an enormous potential - not just the hinterland, but the coasts and the beaches," he explained. Indeed Eldorado Viaggi has produced many colorful and attractive brochures advertising Yemen as a good tourist destination.

George's new focus is Yemen's beaches and islands off the Red Sea. "After over a year of surveying the islands and coasts, working with Ghamdan Travel, Eldorado Viaggi has chosen the island of Antufash as the target destination," he indicated. The company expects to develop diving in the area.



The company has obtained official license from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to operate a camp site to assist diving on the island. "We are going to establish a diving school in Sana'a for Yemeni interested in this," he added.

Starting from September, the company is planning to bring in its first batch of Swiss tourists. "We have been working to introduce Yemen as a tourist destination in the Swiss market for the eight months," he added.

George Corbin is putting together an investment package for investors to build a tourist resort on the island. "On the first phase, this involves \$ 2.5 million, and it could go as high as \$ 4 million for a capacity of 160 beds," he explained. "We are ready to discuss this and other projects with serious, local investors who are ready to move in with us," he added.

Foreign investors are, of course, concerned with the political and economic situation in Yemen. The hope is that the Ministry of Tourism and Culture does not make them hesitate further by placing unrealistic demands on such investors.

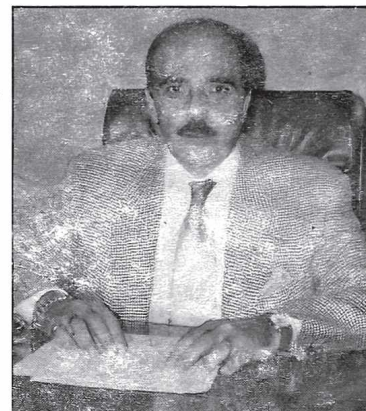
Sheraton's New GM Seeks to Lead Market

The Sanaa Sheraton Hotel has yet another new general manager. He is the fourth in less than two years. Many people feel Claudio Nardini is what the hotel needs, and he is here to stay.

Mr. Nardini, 47, is Italian by birth. "I have the hotel business in his blood," he says. His parents were hotel-people, and he has grown into it.

Claudio, speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish, and has had a comfortable cultural exposure to the Orient. After all, his wife is Egyptian, and he has worked all over the world. "I have worked in all four major continents." His work experience covers Egypt, England, Germany, India, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, USA, etc.

Salwa Sanabani, Social Editor of the Yemen Times, put together the following report.



Q: You have such an impressive background. Why did you accept the position here?

A: I accepted the job here because our (Sheraton) president told me that the hotel here was going through some difficulties. As he knows I like heavy challenges, he offered me the job. He explained to me that Yemen is a beautiful country, the weather is fantastic. The hotel itself is nice and has god potential. Unfortunately, not much has been done for a very long time, nor was there management continuity. In short, I like challenges, and there is one here.

Q: What do you think is your main task here?

A: There are several main tasks. The hotel is a little bit aged. It needs new capital investment particularly in furniture, fixtures, and equipment. I am working with the owners to upgrade all our services from reception to the beverage outlets to the telephone answering services. The hotel truly has potential and could be one of the nicest hotels in the Middle East. It has a beautiful layout. The rooms are very spacious. It has the gardens and a lot of open space, and it has a commanding a panoramic view of the city.

I need a lot of cooperation and I am putting together a good team. I already have some good staff but some posts are vacant and I need to fill them fast.

I expect that by the end of this year at the latest, the guests and patrons should be able to see a major improvement in the service department. That is my personal task. Before the year is out, our guests, will notice a tremendous change in the quality of services, cleanliness, security and even gardening.

I am here to lead the market and add to it.

Q: Will you be involved in marketing Yemen as a whole as a viable tourist destination?

A: I have only been here for four weeks, so my involvement so far, is limited. I have already met all the major tour operators here in Sana'a to try to attract new companies.

I have invited, at our cost, an American radio station called Good Day U.S.A. The reason for that is to see if we can open a new market, specifically the American market which is a huge market. There are people who are interested to come to Yemen but they need to know what and where is Yemen. So, this radio station group consist of broadcasters who will broadcast live and direct to the US. The audience is between 60 to 90 million people.

Q: The problem in the recent past has been between the manager of the hotel assigned by the Sheraton, and the representative assigned by the owners. You represent the Sheraton. But do you have the owners' backing?

A: I have the total backing from the owners - the representatives, and the chairman in Kuwait. I feel that there is no obstacle or hindrance. In fact, at the moment, the owners are listening to my proposals for new investments. This is positive. I strongly feel the owners are backing me in my efforts.

Q: There has been talk of new owners taking over the hotel?

A: That is not true.



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-Good knowledge of the English is needed.

-It is essential to be trust worthy and reliable.

-Good understanding and ability to use computers are essential.

-Knowledge of the German language would be an advantage

• Send your application and C. V. to IDAS project office in Taiz P. O. Box 4332

• Dead line for receiving applications is 31 August 1995



ERITREA: Attracting Foreign Investment

Eritrea is on the verge of issuing a new banking law and another law establishing a central bank. For a country that has no currency of its own, monetary policy is a tricky matter. At the same time, the country has embarked on an ambitious drive to entice investments from abroad. To shed light on those two issues, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Tekie Beyene M. Acting Governor of the National Bank of Eritrea and Chairman of the Eritrea Investment Center. Excerpts:

Q: It is very intriguing that when an independent country uses the currency of another. How does it work?

A: Our situation is indeed unique. In fact, a lot of experts, friends, visitors, investors come and ask the same question. We now use the Ethiopian currency, but Eritrea is in the process of issuing their own currency.

Let me give two specific economic reasons why we are going to have our own currency.

a) The economic situation of Eritrea currently is very different to the economic situation of Ethiopia. They are pushing an expansionist monetary policy. Because of this, if there is an inflation in one country, the other country has to bear it and vice versa.

b) Their policies are oriented towards import substitution, because they have a vast country and a lot of resources. Ours is export oriented.

Of course, we will continue to coordinate efforts with the Ethiopian authorities. In fact, we believe in monetary unions. The world is working towards that goal. But this will come maybe 20, 30 years down the road. Monetary union could come through proper economic development, and not only between the two countries, but we do believe in the Horn of Africa, as a whole. At the moment we use the Ethiopian Birr which is controlled by the authorities in Addis Ababa.

Q: Are you consulted in the Birr money supply?

A: No!

Q: So you are just as on the receiving end?

A: Yes.

Q: How soon do you plan to issue your currency?

A: I don't know exactly, but I think by 1997. We are now doing our homework on this matter. We need full preparations on such issues as design, the redemption process, logistical decisions, etc.

Q: At the moment how does the National Bank of Eritrea regulate the banking activities?

A: Now we have one commercial bank with a lot of branches all over the country, and one housing bank. We are about to establish a savings and development bank. This will provide credit for agricultural and industrial sector projects. We are also about to establish an insurance corporation. The National Bank of Eritrea through a law to be enacted next week (this week) will regulate the normal banking and monetary activities.

Q: Is there any form of economic being worked out between Ethiopia and Eritrea?

A: Quite a few. The two governments are closely working together. It is interesting that Ethiopia - from the Eritrean point of view - has moved from enemy number one to friend one.

A specific project that is being discussed at the moment is the establishment of a free trade area between the two countries. This is going very well. According to the arrangement, commodities and services would flow between the two countries with out any tariff or any other barriers.

Q: Are these banks private?

A: We welcome that option. If there is an offer that is acceptable, we welcome it. We also welcome any joint venture with foreign investors in this sector. For example, if a reputed foreign bank comes and wants to go into a joint venture with one of the commercial banks, it can be done. We are especially interested in up-to-date known how.

Q: (Eritrean) President Isaias Afwerke spoke very much about the need for investments. How forthcoming have foreign investors been?

A: Let me say that over the last two and a half years, a total of some 300 projects have been filed with the Eritrea Investment Center (EIC). Out of these, 116 have been approved by the end of July, 1995. (Please refer to the table of approved projects). These have a total capitalization of about 700 million birr (about US \$ 100 million). This is enormous for a small country like Eritrea.

Q: Out of these 116 projects, how many have been executed or under actual execution?

A: Out of these, as of today, 57 have already been implemented, and the rest are under various stages of implementation. We have about 300 projects, different kinds. But

Summary of Investment Projects for Period Ending 21/07/1995

Project Sector	No. of Projects	Capitalization in Million Birr
Manufacturing	42	116
Hotels & Tourism	17	101
Construction	17	172
Agriculture	10	43
Fisheries	15	55
Trade	6	12
Mining & Quarrying	4	not available
Transportation and Communications	2	not available
Gas/Electricity/Water	3	23
TOTAL	116	700 m.

most of these investments are local, because Eritreans are living abroad and there are a lot of projects especially when it comes to tourism is foreign hotels, resorts on the coastal area along the Red Sea. There are also foreign projects in manufacturing, housing projects, new technologies, etc. We have a very good project in agriculture which introduces the drip irrigation system. The majority of the investments in the fisheries and mining are foreign. In fact, you will be surprised many mining companies insisted on opening offices here before the legislation was out.

Q: What kind of minerals are you prospecting?

A: Gold, copper, and other minerals including oil.

Q: The new investment law has been enacted, but there is also a land law. Some people complain that this land law states that all land belongs to the government. Can you explain the confusion?

A: There is no confusion. We just wanted to liberate the land. The government studied and researched carefully the land issue and decided that this is the right approach. At this particular moment when Eritrea is becoming a very interesting place for investors - with all the macro policy and the other sectoral legislation in place - land speculation is expected to become a problem. If we just leave it to the private sector, land speculation will just go up and hit the roof. It would thus become a major part of any investment.

Land is government owned and it is. The government has no intention to make money out of it. If a very good and interesting project comes to us, and the government thinks that this can play a good role in the country, it can give it free. That is why the government said land is government owned. So that land could be given readily to investors. Now when it comes to the details, we will handle that with the people. If you come with your project to me, a viable project, and you ask for 10 hectares of land. We should be in a position to give you the land on a lease basis for 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 years renewable into the future.

But in the final analysis, once the lease has expired after so many years and once the business is gone, nobody has claim over the land. It is government owned.

This is a lease system which accommodates all kinds and sizes of investments. You establish a very big agricultural project on any size of land. As long as the business is going on, it is yours you can even sell it, provided the buyer will continue the business and pays rent to the government.

This is a different approach than the case in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, the system is also based on a lease. What they do is put a certain land area up for auction and the highest bidder, irrespective of the project gets it. That only helps jack up the price - exactly the thing we're trying to avoid. Moreover, by having the government in the picture, investors do not have to hassle with locals.

Q: Are you in terms of your investment needs also securing some kind of long term financing abroad? What do you have in now?

A: Yes, as I said before, we have this investment of development banking being established now. This is going to give credit on a long term basis to small, medium and big projects, in housing. Housing is the constrain in Eritrea today as not much has been built over the last several decades. In our banking system we are trying to implement the universal system of banking. If a housing bank is licensed, it may engage in any other banking activities. Similarly, a commercial bank may engage in project financing.

We hope to create competition among the banks in order to better serve the market. That is good for the customers and for the share-holders.

Q: Any final comments?

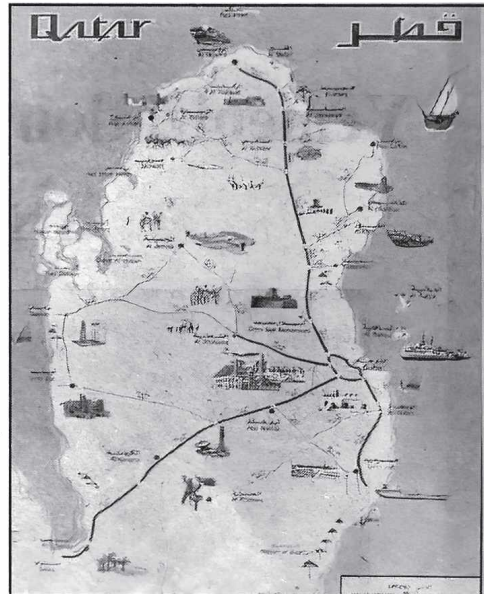
A: I want to say that we welcome investors. The climate is already good. I am sure that in a very sure time, this place will be crowded with investors.

QATAR: Preparations for the National Day

The State of Qatar is in full gear these days preparing for the National Day which falls on September 3rd. This will also be the first national day celebrations under the new Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Aal Thani.

Foreign observers note a sense of purposefulness since the new Emir took over recently. "There is a visible drive to activate things. This is especially true in the field of the gas fields which require massive investments," an ambassador noted. As a result many companies have flocked into the country offering to get into partnership in the projects and investments.

The Ministry of Information has issued invitations to many newspapers and journalists to visit Doha and witness the change in the mood. Yemen Times, one of the newspapers to be represented in the events, will run stories from Doha.



ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR AN END TO TORTURE AND FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF PAST DETAINEES

Following reports that the Legal Advisor to the Israeli government will no longer allow the shaking of detainees interrogation, Amnesty International is calling on the Israeli government to ban of any torture or ill-treatment of detainees immediately.

Members of the Ministerial Committee for the General Security Service will be meeting this week to decide whether to extend the exceptional dispensation for the use of increased physical pressure during the interrogation of suspected supporters or members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. A "moderate" measure of physical and psychological pressure is permitted under the secret guidelines for interrogation used by the General Security Service.

Amnesty International believes that either the guidelines for interrogation permit the use of torture or ill-treatment of detainees, or that they are also frequently violated with impunity. Palestinian detainees in Israel have been systematically subjected to methods of torture including hooding, shaking, beating, sleep deprivation while standing or sitting in painful positions and prolonged confinement in closet-sized cells.

In April 1995 a 30-years-old detainee, 'Abd Al-Samed Harizat, fell into a coma during interrogation less than 20 hours after arrest and died three days later without regaining consciousness. Autopsy reports concluded that he died from brain hemorrhaging consistent with severe shaking.

An Amnesty International medical mission which arrived in Jerusalem on 10 August 1995 discussed the treatment of detainees with Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations and with former detainees who had suffered torture or ill-treatment. The delegation included Dr. Gorm Wagner, Associate professor of physiology at the University of Copenhagen, and Dr. Karin Helweg-Larsen, a forensic pathologist-- both members of the Danish Medical Group of Amnesty International.

Some detainees told delegates that they had been given insufficient and improper medical attention, one asthmatic detainee had been medically examined and given an inhaler. He was blindfolded, rather than hooded, in order to leave his mouth and nose uncovered, while being deprived of sleep for over two days mostly sitting tied onto a kindergarden-sized chair.

"We welcome any ban on shaking is not enough," Dr. Gorm Wagner said. "We are convinced that other methods of pressure in use in Israeli detention centres constitute torture and we urge such methods be banned by the Israeli Government immediately. There is no doubt that the shaking procedure used by the General Security Service during interrogations causes brain damage".

"I asked a former detainee to shake me as he had been shaken, but stopped him after three seconds. twelve later I was still feeling the after-effects". In a recent statement Prime Minister Rabin said that 8,000 Palestinian detainees had been shaken. Hundreds of these may still be suffering from different neurological problems due to brain damage. Amnesty International believes that an independent medical evaluation of shaking detainees must be initiated.

Delegates also met the Presidents and Chairman of the Ethical Committee of the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) and the Israeli Psychiatric Association who assured them that they would investigate any case where a member of its organization was shown to have acted improperly in condoning torture by failing to report it.

The IMA has sent copies of the professional ethical codes forbidding doctors from participating in torture or humiliating treatment to all its members. The chairman of the IMA's Ethical Committee agreed to make attempts to contact doctors working with the General Security Service in order to include them in their efforts to combat torture.

تهانينا بالزواج الميمون

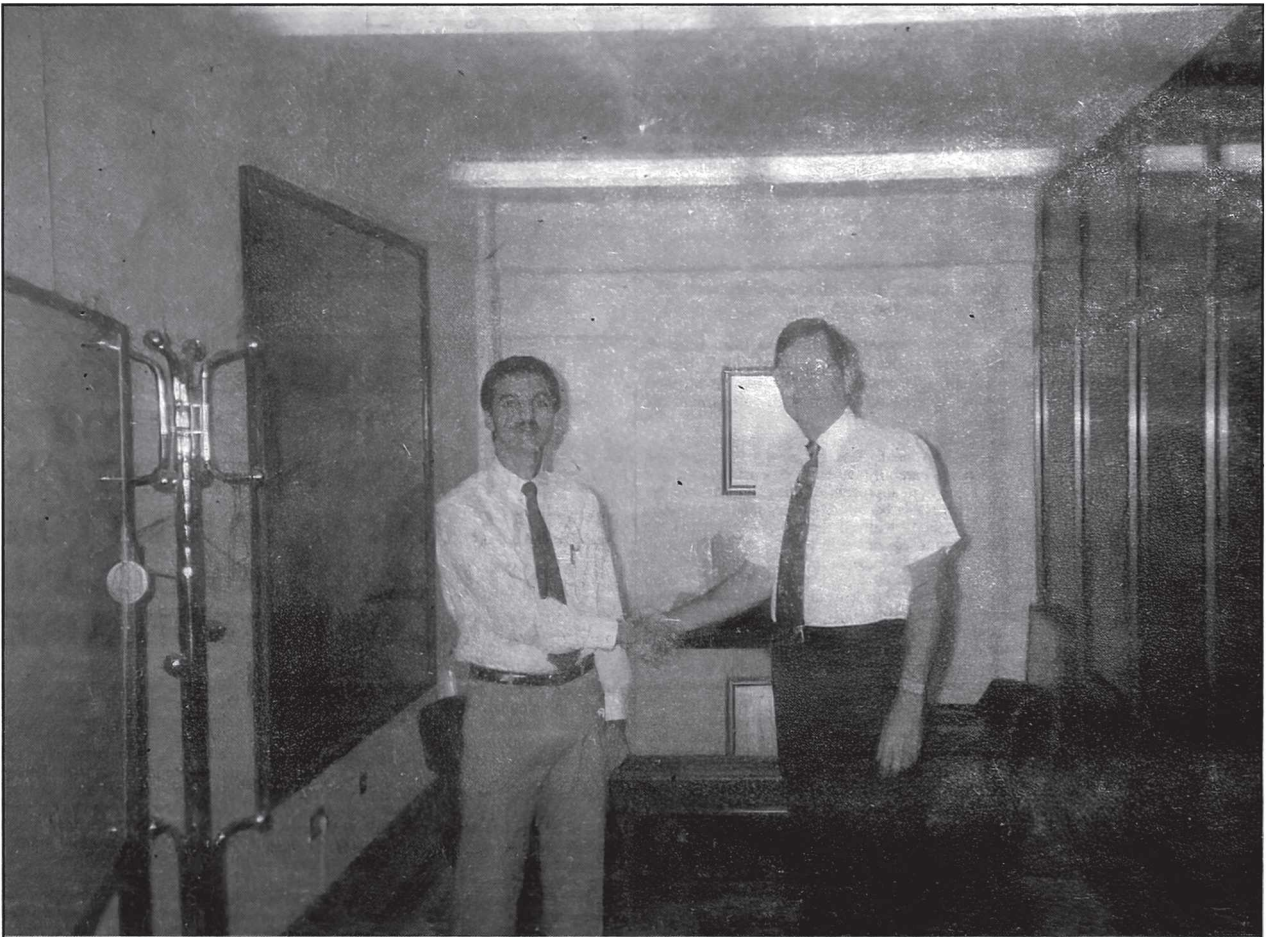
نتقدم بآحر التهاني وأغلى الأمانى للشافين
شوقي سلطان ذبحاني وعبدالله محمد
سعيد الشطفة بختاسية الزفاف

المهندسون :

غسان نجيب ياسين الشيباني
وهيب عبدالله مرشد
رؤوان نجيب الشيباني
علي طه القيسي

At YHOC, Yemenization & Training Program Continues

A New Training Manager at YHOC



Amin Moh'd Zabara was employed by Yemen Hunt Oil Company in December 1989, after graduating with Honors as a Chemical Engineer from the University of Tulsa in the USA.

Working with YHOC, Amin spent approximately four and half years as a Process Engineer working in the Production Operations, Construction and Engineering Departments. During this time, Amin worked on such Projects as helping to enhance the Kamil Field production by a process simulation program

entitled HYSIM. These assignments also gave Amin a chance to become acquainted with all plant operations in the production of oil and gas.

During March 1994, Amin was transferred to the Industrial Relations Department working in the area of professional manpower development. At the beginning of 1995, Amin was sent to the USA to work with some professional training institutes to determine the best courses that will help in developing Yemeni personnel for their targeted positions.

On July 24, 1995, Amin Moh'd Zabara was promoted as the Manager of YHOC's Training Department as part of the ongoing Yemenization effort. This will be a challenging position for him. Every one at YHOC wishes him all the best.

When asked how he felt when he heard of his promotion Amin replied, "I am excited about the new challenging position and would like to thank YHOC's management for giving me the opportunity to serve the company."

Freedom's Fitful Tide

Adopted and abridged from an article by:
Joseph E. Ryan, The World & I.

The democratic revolution that has swept the world over the last decade seems to suggest that a dramatically greater number of people in the world are today experiencing the fruits of freedom.

But a 1995 report by Freedom House, a New York-based human rights organization, says that only 76 out of 191 countries are truly "free". The study was based on a comparison of each country's political rights and civil liberties. And while this number of free countries represents an increase over that of the previous year, the overwhelming majority of people in the world are still not free.

According to the Freedom House study, only 20% of the world's population live in one of the 76 free nations. In other words, 80% of people worldwide enjoy little or no freedom. Why is freedom absent, or, at best, slippery, in more than 100 countries? Before we can advance the cause of freedom, we need to understand the factors that have undermined liberty in these political systems.

There are several factors, including social and political strife, that are hurdles to freedom in struggling countries.

* Many nations, such as Russia and the Eurasian states, are having rough transitions from communism and other dictatorships to true democracy.

* Crime, corruption, and drug-dealer penetration of politics - notably in Latin America - corrode many of the benefits of freedom.

* Household/family regimes involvement in politics (e.g., in the Gulf countries) and outright military government (e.g., in Syria) always collide with freedom.

* In many developing countries, notably in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, dictators and pseudo democrats use widespread vote fraud and lesser irregularities to thwart the popular will (e.g., Yemen).

* Generally, widespread poverty makes freedom difficult but not impossible. Several small island countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific are comparatively poor but manage to remain free.

* The political ramifications of fundamentalist Islam are a serious obstacle to freedom throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

1993: YEAR OF THE BIG DECLINE

In the years since 1989, there have been many heartening gains for freedom in the world. However, there have also been some dramatic downturns.

During 1993, Freedom House measured a sharp increase in "not-free" countries. Their number increased from 38 to 55, as ethnic and religious conflicts intensified and as many nations slipped on the road to democratization. Of the 27 countries that changed categories, moving among free, partly free, and not free, only three moved in a positive direction.

The lesson of 1993 was that severe, negative change can occur, even in the midst of a global democratic revolution. Many governments showed that they were simply going through the motions of democratization for the sake of foreign aid. Some rulers put on the air of democratic nature simply to remain in power.

A case in point was Kenya. That country's president, Daniel arap Moi, allowed partly free multiparty elections to take place in December 1992. However, it was clear in 1993 that he had no intention of letting the new opposition parties function completely freely. Accordingly, Freedom House had to move the country's rating from partly free to not free.

Viewing the declines in 1993, Freedom House analysts wondered whether the post-1989 democratic revolution was over. Fortunately, that was not the case. Democracy continued to make gains in 1994, but, overall, gains and declines were about equal last year. Twenty-two countries had measurable improvements in freedom, while 23 suffered losses.

LOSSES IN 1994

The same factors that prevent or endanger freedom in general were also chiefly responsible for the particular losses of freedom in the 23 countries in 1994. Several countries had ethnic and religious problems that undermined freedom.

The Albanian government placed restrictions on the Greek minority in that country. In Kazakhstan, a combination increased presidential domination and Russian-Kazakh ethnic tensions helped make that country not free. In both Mali and Niger, Tuareg rebellions flared up, damaging the development of these fragile, new formal democracies. In Yemen, a

power-struggle has led to civil war, which ended reducing the margin of democracy considerably.

As the world watched on television and did little to stop it, Rwanda carried out ethnic carnage on a shocking scale. Turkey had increasingly restricted civil liberties as the government-Kurdish war continued. Algeria became one of the worst-rated countries in the world in 1994 as the violent struggle between the government and Islamists intensified.

Regionalist tensions burst forth into civil war in Yemen in 1994. The governments of the previously separate North and South fought for control. Ultimately, the conservative military elements of the north defeated the leftist South. The end result is less freedom for the people of Yemen. Meanwhile, corruption is running rampant, thus damaging the credibility of the system as a whole.

Crime, corruption, and drug-dealer penetration of politics drove freedom down in the Western Hemisphere in 1994. Trinidad and Tobago suffered from increased criminal violence and corruption. St. Kitts-Nevis endured government scandals and drug-related crime and corruption. In Colombia, drug lords continued to hold sway over large portions of the country and the political system.

Electoral irregularities in Macedonia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a corrupt electoral system in the Dominican Republic undermined the freedom ratings of those countries in 1994.

The military had a measurably negative impact on freedom in 1994, especially in the Gambia, where soldiers overthrew one of Africa's oldest democracies. Freedom slipped a notch in Paraguay as military influence over the government grew. In Lesotho, military and royalist elements overthrew a new democratic government temporarily, but international pressure, especially from South Africa, restored the weak democracy.

Rival Liberian warlords continued that country's civil war as promised elections failed to take place. In Nigeria, the military government eviscerated those few civil liberties that were left in 1994.

The Kenyan, Mauritanian, Yemeni and Tanzanian rulers all cracked down on opposition groups to varying degrees last year. All four have taken at least some steps toward democratization, but the countries' governments and political cultures are still fundamentally authoritarian.

Finally, Vanuatu, a Pacific island democracy, remains free overall but has some new restrictions on the press and trade unions.

THE WORST-RATED COUNTRIES

Twenty-one countries are at the very bottom of Freedom House's not-free list. In these worst-rated not-free states, rights and freedoms are absent or virtually nonexistent due to the extremely oppressive nature of the regime or extreme oppression in combination with civil war.

Countries join this group when extreme violence and warlordism dominate the people in the absence of an authoritative government.

Nine are communist (China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam) or formerly (or not so formerly) communist states (Afghanistan, Angola, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

Twelve of the 21 worst-rated have Muslim majorities (Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

Islam per se is not an obstacle to freedom, but militant Islamist policies are the problem. It is possible for Islam and democracy to coexist, as they did in the Gambia for 30 years. Islam can even be compatible with feminine leadership. Two Islamic countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh, have women heads of government.

In addition to fundamentalism, the other problem is that Islam predominates in many countries with low levels of development. There is no doubt that underdevelopment and fundamentalist Islam make a powerfully negative mix. When economies are good living conditions for the Muslim masses, the Islamist political slogan, "Islam is the answer", can be very reductive.

In addition to the 21 rated countries, are six worst-rated related territories. They are East Timor and Irian Jaya/West Papua (both occupied by Indonesia); the Indian-held portion of Kashmir; Kosovo (the largely Albanian portion of Yugoslavia); Nagorno-Karabakh (contested by Armenia and Azerbaijan) and Tibet (occupied by China). These six territories share some characteristics with the worst-rated countries. Three territories (Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Tibet) are in communist or formerly communist countries. Ethnic and/or religious conflicts are involved in all six.

For 20 years, predominantly Muslim Indonesia has occupied the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which has a substantial Catholic population.

Indonesia has received less attention for its activities in Irian Jaya/West Papua, where the government has been settling Indonesians from Java to assert control over the Papua population.

Kashmir has been a powder keg since the 1940s, when its Hindu ruler decided to join India against the wishes of the Muslim majority that wished to join Pakistan. The most recent cycle of Kashmiri violence dates from 1989, when the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front stepped up the violent separatist campaign. India responded with military occupation and direct rule by the central government.

Denial of local rights also exists in Kosovo, where Serb officials have imposed their rule. Kosovo's elected legislature remains underground. Since the 1980s, war has raged in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is legally an Azeri territory but has an Armenian majority. The intensity of the fighting has made freedom impossible.

Finally, China annexed Tibet in 1951, and has oppressed both ethnic and religious expressions of Tibetan nationalism ever since. Like Indonesia in Irian Jaya/West Papua, China has sought to reinforce occupation by planting non-indigenous settlers. Eventually, if Chinese migration trends continue, Tibetans may become a minority in their own land.

THE GIANTS: INDIA AND CHINA

The biggest population living in the worst-rated category is Chinese. As long as China remains not free, more than 20 percent of the world's population is unfree. The legacy of communist rule and centuries of pre-communist authoritarianism is a culture with little notion of democracy. While it is true that there are prodemocracy currents among university students and other intellectuals, China as a whole remains authoritarian in orientation.

Even the most optimistic scenarios about China's immediate future don't project its becoming freer than Singapore - which would be an improvement, but not to the level of liberal democracy. One could reasonably expect that a "Singaporean" China would reject liberalization on the grounds that economic development requires "order" instead of democracy.

The largest partly free population lives in India. In 1991, Freedom House decided to reclassify India from free to partly free. Several characteristics moved India into this category: religious, regionalist, and ethnic violence; emergency national rule over several areas; substantial corruption; and electoral irregularities.

Since Freedom House reclassified India, numerous Indians have complained to the organization about

the partly free designation. Inevitably, they say that their country is "the world's largest democracy" and is, therefore, free. Unfortunately, India is one of three dozen countries in the world whose formal democratic status is not enough to make it free.

In the absence of the rule of law and a decent range of civil liberties, formal democracy counts for only so much. Nonetheless, there is a strong relationship between freedom and democratic forms. Two-thirds of formal democracies, the countries with reasonably competitive elections, are free.

One cannot say that about any other political system. For example, one could not state that two-thirds of the countries with military juntas, traditional monarchs, or one-party systems are free. There is clearly a connection between the credit India receives and its formal democratic status. India and the other partly free democracies, called semidemocracies by some scholars, have multiparty systems and competing centers of private power.

Combined, China and India account for nearly 40 percent of the world's population. There will not be dramatic improvements in the percentages of the world's population living in freedom unless and until these two giants change course.

Several Asian governments take the attitude that human rights conventions apply to them only when it is convenient. They have claimed a "cultural exemption" for themselves from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the existing international human rights covenants. The genuine human rights organization in Asia object strenuously to the "cultural exemption" argument. Human rights activists are keenly aware that international covenants give them a legal weapon and a public relations tool that they can use against governmental oppression.

Aware that the very existence of Asian human rights groups undermines the governments' claim to cultural exceptionalism, many states have set up puppet "human rights" groups. Known as GONGOS (Government - organized non-governmental organizations), these groups are meant to confuse Westerners about the position of Asian human rights activists. Similarly, some countries have propped up their own opposition parties and have driven the true opposition out of business, and sometimes out of the country. The world is neither confused nor fooled by such tactics.

While there are certainly cultural differences among nations, culture must never be an excuse for denying rights to anyone, most observers agree. If one culture is allowed an exemption, then all cultures would be exempt. Instead of having universal human rights standards, we would have universal exceptions. That would be an enormous obstacle to freedom, indeed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Al-Rusul Model School

announce opening for registration for the new school year. The school has two systems - the Arabic curriculum based on the Ministry of Education in Sanaa, and an English curriculum based on the University of Oxford. In both systems, very qualified teachers are in charge.

Registration has started as of 20/7/1995, and we receive prospective students and their parents every working day during 8-12 in the mornings. The school is located near Hajar Mosque on Haddah Road.

Information About the School:

- * The Al-Rusul School - both systems (Arabic and English) have all levels of education: Kindergarten, Primary, Preparatory, and Secondary.
- * Even among the private schools, Al-Rusul Model School stands out.
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**AL-AYYAM: Aden: 16-8-95****(Independent):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Opposition Council Accuses the Ruling Coalition of Obstructing Democracy
- 2) Amnesty International Issues a Circular about Prisoners of Political Security (in Yemen)
- 3) Member of Parliament, His Guard and Driver Confess to Killing (of Ali Abdulla Al-Dhali'iy)
- 4) Omar Al-Jawi Suggests that Yemenis, Especially Those Entrusted with Collecting Contributions, Donate all their Armaments to the Bosnians Instead of Using Them to Kill Each Other.

Article Summary:**Committee Formed to Investigate Corruption And Violations by Previous Management of Yemen Drug Company.**

In its feature article of the week, the paper probes the deteriorating position of the Yemen Drug Company and affirms that the previous management represented by Abdurrahman Baker, the former Chairman is the cause of all the company's poor performance over the last 6 years. Some of the scandals:

- Previous management took over the company with inventory that amounts to US \$ 70,000,000.
- YEDCO used to control 80% of the drug market, and now only 5%.
- A number of its prized agencies (Upjohn, Squibb, others) have been sold by the previous Chairman to the Private Sector with the price going to his pockets.
- A number of suspicious transfers of foreign currency to and out of Yemen, which can not be accounted for, all of which amount to US \$ 500,000,000.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa: 17/8/1995:**(Mouthpiece of the Armed Forces):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) 15 countries agree to attend the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference in Yemen
- 2) A joint venture fishing company formed between Egypt and Yemen.
- 3) First cultural Arabic-English dictionary published by Yemeni Author

Article Summary:**New Oil Finds in Al-Turaibah and Jannah (Shabwa)**

"New" Oil finds are to be announced very shortly by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources said the article in Shabwa which were discovered by Total and other companies in Block No. 5. These "new" discoveries should add 30,000 barrels per day to the country's output.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden: 14/8/1995:**Yemeni Press in a Week***by: Hassan Al-Haifi***(Mouthpiece of Al-Tajammu'u Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani Party)****Main Headlines:**

- 1) "Psychological Shakes" or Games Played by the "Big Boys" Are Behind the Fluctuations of the YR/US \$ Rates.
- 2) Building the New Government of Yemen
- 3) The Liver Virus and Blood Donations.

Article Summary:**National Reconciliation**

The editorial of the paper clarifies the meaning of national reconciliation, as the opposition group sees it. "It is not the bringing together of the antagonists of the civil war, but of the various groups, parties and associations that are still active in the social and political theater of the country." This is in order to overcome some of the outstanding issues left over from the war, most of which are the result of the excesses of the Ruling Coalition. The reconciliation will enable all political organizations to be given their proper roles commensurate with their weight and social standing.

AL-MITHAQ: Sanaa: 14/8/1995:**(Mouthpiece of the People's General Congress):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Abdulaziz Abdulghani, The Prime Minister, Speaks Out on National Identity
- 2) 2000 Applicants for 340 Places in the Medical College of Sana'a University
- 3) Group or Mass Weddings in Hajjah Sponsored by PGC.

Article Summary:

Judge Al-Hattar: The Establishment of a Permanent Relief Office for the Bosnian Muslims
Judge Hamoud Al-Hattar, Chairman of the Yemeni Organization For Human Rights announced that the estimate of the total contributions collected on behalf of the Bosnian relief effort has reached YR 600 Million + US \$ 500,000 + Saudi Riyals 1 million in cash, in addition to the assistance, "in kind" such as medicines and food items. He also said that a suggestion has been made to set up a permanent office for the Relief of Bosnian Muslims.

AL-WAHDAH: Sanaa: 16/8/1995:**(Official):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Minister of Provision and Commerce: The Exchange Rate of the Riyals is the Real Indicator
- 2) In Morocco: Study on Sana'a Achieves Second Rank in Symposium on Islamic Cities
- 3) The Escape of Hussein Kamil (Saddam Hussein's Son in Law) Raises Suspensions and Presumptions.

Article Summary:**This Is What Is Happening!**

In his weekly column, Demonstrative Pronouns, Hussein Al-Awadhy explains how the present conditions of the country are not getting the proper attention they should, where in many cases, some who should be concerned do not even admit to the existence of any problems and refuse to listen to any discussions of the relevant issues and the deterioration of the general state of the country.

Others would go far as to regard such discussions as security risks and a danger to the stability of the country! Moreover, the remedies so far prescribed hardly touch on the superficial aspects of these problems, thus leaving the core of the problems untouched. On another note, there is no forward outlook, or benefit from past experiences. Our attention is mainly focused on today only - now only.

On the political front, partisan sentiment has overtaken our thinking, even in government positions as the primary considerations in position assignments relies on partisan sentiment, without any regard to experience, qualifications and seniority and past performance. On this the columnist bluntly states: To those whose party ID leads them to this kind of behavior, they must know that the nation is not the property of only the People's General Congress or the Yemeni Congregation For Reform (Islah) Party, and history will never forgive this deplorable exploitation of public service positions.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa: 15/8/1995:**(Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Confiscation of Smuggled Equipment
- 2) In the Capital: A Police Chase and Gunfire
- 3) Recognition of the Present Reality Is the Right Course for the Future.

Article Summary:**The "Unionist" Position**

On the recent establishment of the Higher Coordinating Council for the Opposition, the editorial of the paper considers the steps taken by the opposition

bloc as an important initial step. The council will work towards regulating the relationships between the various opposition parties as well as the opposition parties adherence and dedication to democratic practice. The opposition should start from now preparing to achieve the maximum gains in the 1997 parliamentary elections in order to be able to win effective positions in the ruling power structure. Without such a goal, the justification for the existence as an opposition party or bloc has been forfeited.

AL-HAQ: Sanaa: 13/8/1995:**(Mouthpiece of Rabita Abna Al-Yemen):****Main Headlines:**

- 1) In Ahwar District: The Assassination of the Head of the PGC Branch and the Manager of the Leasing Station and the Wounding of a Member of the Permanent Committee
- 2) The Sale of Electricity Meters at Exorbitant Prices
- 3) The Families of Escapees Delay Their Trips Abroad

Article Summary:**Is It True?**

A certain group has gone to secretly start enlisting and recruiting youth to go and fight in Bosnia. It is also rumored that the first wave of these volunteers has already left Bosnia just a few days ago. Is this true?

Continued from page 7**Diagnosis/Prognosis:****3. Fiscal/Monetary Adjustments:**

The government must find a way of living within its means, so long as it is unable to collect the revenues due to it. This year's budgetary deficit will definitely be lower. But this is misleading since envisaged investments have not been released, and the revenue will rise by at least YR 20 billion due to exchange rate adjustments and the subsequent income from oil and customs proceeds.

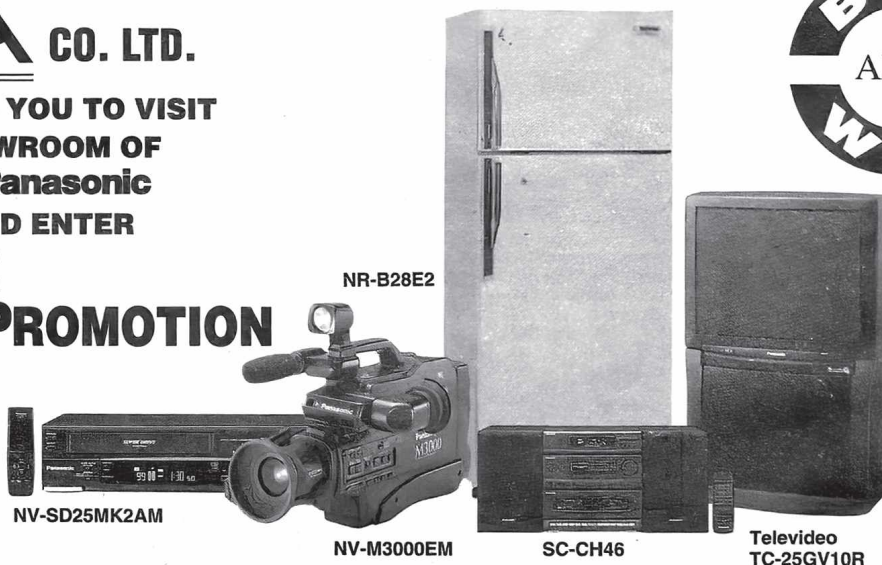
At the monetary level, it is high time for the Central Bank of Yemen to treat the commercial and other banks as partners in the policy-making rather than as trouble makers. In truth, it is the government that is trouble maker since it is the source of all the disequilibrium.

Exchange rate adjustment should be viewed with the long-term in sight. For example, at YR 100 per US dollar, the Yemeni Riyal is definitely over-valued. This is a basic concept the CBY has to internalize. In addition, although private investments are now small, raising the price of credit does not help either.

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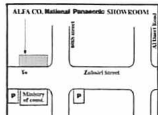
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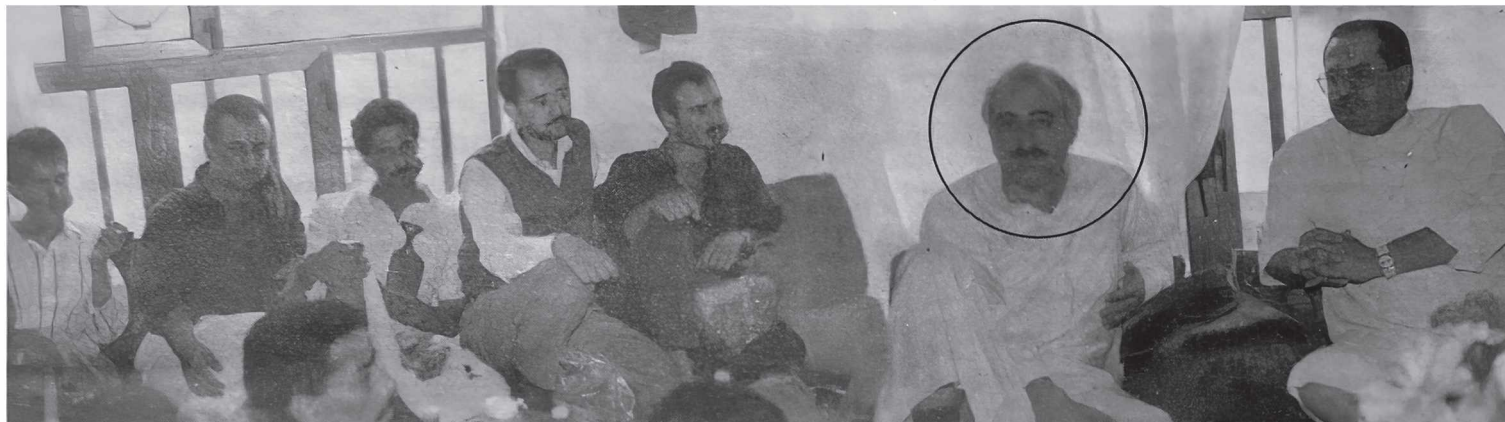
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CCC Support for the HWA



Last Friday, August 18th, the guest speaker at the the Friday Chew Forum of the Hadharem Welfare Association was Mr. Hani Shehadeh, Area Manager - Republic of Yemen, of Consolidated Contractors (International) Company (CCC). Mr. Shehadeh spoke of the long association between Yemen and CCC. "Our very first project was here in Aden, when we got the contract to build the Aden refinery," he said explaining the keen interest of the company in helping Yemen.

Over the last five decades, CCC has built some of the largest projects in the country. It built the Aden Refinery and the facilities with it, the Hunt Oil Company installations, notably the pipeline extending from Marib to the Red Sea, Canadian-Oxy's gathering system and pipeline extending from Maseela to the Arabia Sea, the College of Agriculture at Sanaa University, the Laboos Road, and many other huge projects.

"Our company specializes in engineering and construction work, and we are the largest Arab company and the 26th worldwide," he added. CCC also engages in a lot of charity and philanthropic activities assisting the local populations wherever the company works. "Here in Yemen, we have been very forthcoming in supporting our brethren in Yemen whenever the occasion called for such support," Mr. Shehadeh stated. Indeed, CCC helped during the 1982 earthquake, the floods of 1988, the various wars, not least of which the 1994 civil war. The company also helps individual NGOs and voluntary groups which are engaged in development and self-help programs.

"I am happy to make a YR 500,000 donation to the HWA in support of its many projects. Our office has a follow-up system which evaluates the degree of effectiveness of NGOs. I am happy to declare that the HWA is among the highest ranking in

terms of cost effectiveness and efficiency, and in terms of matching funds arrangements. That is why we would like to make this contribution, and promise to assist in the future," he indicated.

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the HWA expressed the gratitude of all members of the organization.

At another level, execution of the Agricultural Environmental Project (AgEP) proceeds at a good pace. The British Embassy in Sanaa, which is a co-financier of the project has released this week the

first installment of its contribution. This has gone towards the purchase of a water pump, pipes and other accessories, mainly from Al-Sunaidar & Sons in Sanaa.

The execution of the AgEP is done in three phases: Phase One is the Water Network, Phase Two is the Nursery and Landscape Structuring, and Phase Three the Dam.

Finally, this week has witnessed the resumption of training at the Women's Development Center which was implemented with Japanese assistance.

1996 FULBRIGHT



SCHOLARSHIPS

The United States Information Service in Sanaa seeks qualified candidates for a limited number of scholarships in the United States.

Fulbright Program

Candidates for Master's level study must have a bachelor's degree and submit a project proposal. Applicants should have achieved a score of 550 or higher on the TOEFL test. Contact the AMIDEAST office off Baghdad Street (216-975) for application materials. **Application deadline is September 15.**

Candidates for postdoctoral scholarships must have a Ph.D. and be interested in pursuing a research project in their field at a university in the United States. Applicants are required to submit a detailed research proposal. **Application deadline is September 15.** For information contact 216-973.

Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program

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

إعداد:
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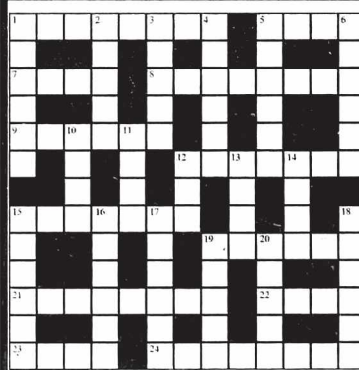
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Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouk Institute by

Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى المسجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس.

سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز».



Contest No. 41

Across

1. Exercise shoes.
5. — Bunny (cartoon).
7. Fix, repair.
8. When most football matches are played?
9. Type of soup behind a bull?
12. Falling in wintry flakes.
15. (Usually black) Big-Cat.
19. Mixes in.
21. Gets better.
22. Hand over, donate.
23. Opposite direction to west.
24. 17 Down plus 20 Down!

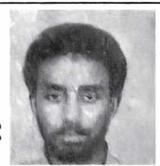
Down

1. Drum for two boys?
2. Where to find Delhi, Bombay and the Taj Mahal.
3. Blackboard stand!
4. Large planet with rings.
5. Part of a rabbit warren.
6. James Bond's job!
10. Ripped.
11. Twelfth of a foot.
12. Teacher's title.
13. Egg-shaped.
14. (Flat or steam) smoother.
15. They keep law and order.
16. High part of a castle.
17. Number of players in a cricket team.
18. At the back of a ship.
19. Buffalo.
20. Number of an octet.

Correct answer for contest No. (40)

AUGUST REPEAT
UUEKEWAEH
NUNIAKTAR
IREFERO
IDIOT EASION
LNNARTTC
POSTS ONION
SEPARNNU
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LREBELI
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NEDE RBEFE
TENDER LISTED

WINNER OF CONTEST NO 40:
Usama Atta El - Manan



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The King of Food Is Here!

By: Fatma Rawah,
Yemen Times.

One of the world's very best chefs is in town, courtesy of the Taj Sheba Hotel. Satish Arora, Chef Culinaire of the Taj Group of Hotels is in Sana'a to put his professional mark on the Indian Food & Cultural Festival Week (24-30/8/1995).

Chef Arora, an Indian from Punjab, has won world fame and acknowledgement for his remarkable innovative talent in cuisine and its presentations. So much so that he is generally referred to as the "Kitchen King". King he is, also by association with royalty. After all, Satish's mastery was required to cater to the special needs of individuals like Queen Elizabeth II (UK); Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus (Netherlands); King Hussain (Jordan); Prince Charles and Lady Diana; President Francois Mitterand (France); Prime Ministers Edward Heath, Margaret Thatcher and John Major (UK); Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Aal Khalifah (Bahrain); Prime Ministers Indira and Rajiv Gandhi (India); President Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia); Prime Minister Bob Hawke (Australia); President Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe); Prime Minister Nakasone (Japan); Astronauts Yuri Gagarin and Neil Armstrong; film stars, boxers, talk show entertainers, sports stars, etc.

Mr. Arora, who has risen through the ranks of the Taj Group of Hotels since he first joined in the mid-sixties, is keen to pass on the knowledge and expertise. "It is vital that what I have developed and refined is learned and improved upon by a new genera-

tion of chefs. That is why I have written a book on the subject," he said. Indeed, his book "The Best of Indian Cooking" was released last year by Centurion Books Ltd of the UK.

It is not the first time that Chef Arora visits Yemen, he had visited here, and had supervised the kitchen facilities of the Taj Sheba Hotel.

Chef Arora started his career in cooking when he was only 21 years old, although his interest in cooking started much earlier. "I used to make one or two dishes when my mother was not at home and present them at the dinner time," he said. The mother who was keen to divert the boy's interest in cooking to something more "manly", she rarely expressed appreciation for his delicious dishes. The somewhat odd relations with the mother is now passed on to his teenage daughter. "I can't believe he is such a good cook, as they say. He never cooks at home," complains his daughter. The reason for that is clear. "My wife is an equally good cook, and the family kitchen is her domain. I know how I hate others to meddle with my kitchen, so I leave our family kitchen to her," he explains.

"In 20 years of experience in my profession, I can tell you that ingredients talk to us. I don't even use a spoon to measure quantities. I use my hands and there are times when salt tells me stop,



enough," he said.

1983 was a big break for the Chef when he was selected to take charge of the food to be catered at the Conference of the Common Wealth Countries, that met in Goa.

"I remember how many sleepless nights I spent in order to satisfy all 40 heads of governments based on their taste of food," he said. At the end, Indira Gandhi said to me, 'Well done my boy,' and patted my shoulder. "I felt tears of happiness in my eyes," he said. Margaret Thatcher who

was standing beside them asked for the Chef's cap and signed on it. That was a proud moment for Chef Arora and his colleagues. On the same year he was given responsibility to look after the 26 hotels in the South and Western regions in India. Sometimes he travels abroad to design the kitchen of Taj Hotels, to improve menus, to offer cooking classes, etc. He also does training of the young chefs.

In everybody's profession there are good moments and bad moments. So it is with Chef Arora. There were times that things went wrong. But most of the times, he succeeded well, and enjoys his work. One of his good moments was in 1991 when he was cited as one of the 20 best chefs in the world. Other good moments were when he received his awards of his three medals. The first medal from the Swiss Press Club, the second a gold plated medal received on the 25th Anniversary of the Okura Hotels in Japan. The third medal from the Master of Chefs Organization in France.

Chef Arora plans to hold two teaching sessions during his one-week stay here in Sana'a. The first is for cooks from the among the international community, and the second, from the local community.

Chef Arora has also promised to leave behind a special dish. He will suggest a lobster plate that will make your mouth water. But for that, you will have to wait for the Yemen Times, next week.

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