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President Saleh Lashes Out Against Extremist Religion-based Rhetoric

President Ali Abdullah Saleh spoke strongly against religious posturing and extremism. In a lecture to the mosque preachers, religious clergymen and ulama of Aden last week, he said, "I have heard many unbecoming stories about fanatic attitudes. We will not tolerate any form of extremism or fiery rhetoric (by the preachers) that incites violence." The president was even more harsh. "I have personally heard you guys. Some of you lost control of yourselves as you go on that podium." In a clear escalation of his fight against the right-wing politicians

and religious zealots, including those under the umbrella of Islah, the President warned those who take the law into their hands. "You are religious leaders and as such you know your role. But you are not the police to start enforcing the law," he said. Some preachers had been in recent months pumping the public with hate speeches to the extent of implying it was their duty to enforce God's law on the land. Their followers who have taken the form of organized, clandestine groups have been flogging individuals apprehended while drunk, and they have been

intercepting and arresting couples who happen to walk the streets together unless they can prove they are legally related. "We respect the religious leaders of our society and we ask for their advice. But we will not tolerate any preaching that divides our people or deepens sectarianism among us in whatever form," he said. Yemen has embarked on a crackdown against fundamentalist groups. Some 3,000 Egyptian, Sudanese, Iraqis, Algerians, Palestinians, Pakistanis, etc., have been deported, over the last two months.

What is the Picture 4 Months after the Interest Rate Hike?

Starting from the 16th of July, 1995, the interest rate structure in Yemen changed. From a low 7-9% per annum, the rates rose to 20-22%, depending on the duration of the deposit. The target was to absorb the "abundant" cash with the public, reduce speculation, especially in the exchange rate market, and to encourage savings. Four months later, I have decided to gather data on the situation with the major commercial banks to see the impact on this decision. I would like to share with the readers my main findings. There has been a clear shift from current account holdings to term deposits. In all cases, time deposits have grown visibly. But that is just for the Riyal accounts. The numbers - shown in the adjacent table prove this. The same cannot be said of the US dollar deposits. Why has the dollar deposits not grown? One of the main reasons for this is that the

CBY is demanding to keep a good 25% of total deposits. Individuals and companies, it turns out, do not trust the CBY with their dollars, though they may not mind it holding their Riyals, which it can print at any time. Another interesting discovery is that, in spite of the screams of businessmen, banks' advances to the business community have not dropped markedly. Of course, they have not risen which would probably have been the case, had the interest rates not raised. Actually, total advances are expected to fall before the end of the year, if at least because the businessmen would like to avoid the high interest rates (over 30%), and partly because the banks can now buy T bills which are safer and carry a higher yield.

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

Comparison of C/A, Deposits, Advances as on July 15 & November 15, 1995

BANK	Current Accounts		Total Deposits		Advances	
	Riyal	Dollar	Riyal	Dollar	Riyal	Dollar
Indosuez Bank: July 15	4181 m	48.0 m	4519 m	40.0 m	7862 m	9.3 m
November 15th	3877 m	50.0 m	5201 m	38.0 m	6115 m	4.2 m
IBY: July 15th	2248 m	10.0 m	1269 m	5.3 m	2860 m	4.5 m
November 15th	1860 m	12.5 m	2157 m	7.3 m	2980 m	7.0 m
UBL: July 15th	121 m	1.9 m	604 m	2.9 m	591 m	1.2 m
November 15th	116 m	1.4 m	652 m	4.0 m	418 m	0.8 m
YCB: July 15th	875 m	12.0 m	463 m	8.6 m	1934 m	14.0 m
November 15th	979 m	11.1 m	861 m	6.5 m	1865 m	14.0 m
Yemen-Kuwait: July 15th	767 m	7.0 m	104 m	9.9 m	490 m	---
November 15th	533 m	6.9 m	247 m	11.2 m	422 m	---

Source: Central Bank of Yemen, and other sources.

CBY Auctions off 2 billion in Treasury Bill on Dec 5

On Tuesday December 5th, the Central Bank of Yemen will auction off YR 2 billion worth of treasury bills. The one-month bills will be sold on the basis of sealed envelope offers, which the bidders are expected to drop off in a big box in one of the five CBY offices in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah and Mukallah. The CBY had put a 10% maximum ceiling per any one purchaser. The bank has been distributing forms for the purchase of the T. Bills. The CBY has yet to set up an independent management for this purpose.

Many banks and corporations are planning to bid in the offers, and it looks likely that they will get the lion's share. The banks may buy the bill on behalf of their customers, for a fee, no doubt. Then again, the banks themselves may purchase the bills for their own account, given that they have a lot of excess liquidity which is already with the CBY. In other words, the CBY will not really gain access to much new money, but it will pay a much higher price for the old money. May be the exercise is worth it, as the CBY officials and experts insist.

President Saleh Rejects the Islamic Bank Law Bill

On the 16th of November President Ali Abdullah Saleh returned the Islamic Bank law bill to parliament with three pages of proposed amendments. A month earlier, parliament had passed on the bill to the president for his signature. According to

the constitution, if one month had elapsed, the bill would have become law without the presidential signature. Parliament now needs a two thirds majority to pass the bill, or will have to accept the presidential changes.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

SLIME Is Loooooosose All Over the Country

The Republic of Yemen continues to suffer from the visible prevalence of corruption, bribery, fraud and other forms of dishonest and shady dealings. Government administration is the worst case. As complaints increase, the inability of the rulers to check this deviant behavior has added credibility to the assumption that the rulers themselves somehow benefit from this irregularity.

The reform package presently sponsored by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are limited to technicalities. The package badly needs an element that will enforce the law and penalize the bad guys. Yemen needs an eleventh commandment - 'THOU SHALT NOT GET AWAY WITH IT'.

In any country, a minimum level of accountability is essential for the smooth working of the system. In Yemen, this minimum level does not exist. It does not appear that those in power are interested in installing any form of transparency or accountability. The reason is that the politicians are also traders, businessmen, investors, real estate speculators, and much more. Those with influence are also the ones who break the law.

So, where will the real reform come from?

The reform propagated by the IMF and World Bank, and graciously accepted by the Yemeni authorities involves more borrowing on the part of Yemen. The international organizations think that things will improve if more money is pumping into Yemen. Hence the IMF/World Bank offer to pump in some \$1,200 million over the next five years. This looks like a bad deal for Yemen.

Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work.

If the IMF, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be repaid?

In my opinion, providing easy loans is a visible mechanism to hold the country at ransom. The IMF and World Bank and other organizations know just too well that a lot of the money provided to our officials was not wisely used, to say the least. Why are they so eager to provide more?

If anybody wants to help Yemen, they should assist us in installing a system of accountability - full accountability. Until that is done, we cannot really speak of development or reform. Yes, Yemen does need help, but it should be in strengthening our judicial and parliamentary organs, which have been brutally marginalized by the executive authority.

Yes, Yemen does need help, but it should be in introducing an eleventh commandment. The crooks and thieves who hold exercise power and influence - at all levels - should not get away with it.

Gentlemen, slime is set loose and is mercilessly sprawling to cover the whole nation!

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemen Times Contact Address:
Telephones: + 967 (1) 268-661/2
Facsimile: + 967 (1) 268-663
Advertisements/Classifieds: 268-276
Post Office Box: 2579,
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Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Sanaa Bureau Chief: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Phone/Fax: + 967 (1) 268-259
Aden Bureau Chief: Shaber Musa'abain,
Phone/Fax: + 967 (2) 345-653
Taiz Bureau Chief: Abdul-Qader Mughalbes
Phone/Fax: + 967 (4) 231-590
Ethiopia Bureau Chief: Ms. Afrah Mohammed
Address: P. O. Box 1336, Addis Ababa;
Phone: + 25 (11) 513-599; Fax: + 25 (11) 753-944

Senior British Foreign Ministry to Visit Yemen

The Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom announced that Mr. Jeremy Hanley, The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with specific responsibility for the Middle East will be arriving to Aden for a short visit (a few hours) to Yemen. Mr. Hanley will meet with General Ali Abdullah Saleh and other senior Yemeni officials. Mr. Douglas Scrafton, the UK Ambassador to Yemen said that the purpose of the visit is: "to discuss how we can work together on issues of mutual concern in the future. A high level British official is expected to make an extended visit to Yemen in 1996.

Mansoor Rajih Still languishes in Prison

The Yemeni poet and writer, Mansoor Rajih, is still in prison. Amnesty International, PEN International, Human Rights Watch, UNESCO, and many world figures have written to the Yemeni authorities to let him go, after 13 years of imprisonment. Mr. Rajih, is in poor health and very depressed. According to Kirsti Blom of the Norwegian Writers Association, who visited him two months ago, he weighs some 40 kgs. and could die very soon unless he receives medical care urgently.

The Norwegian city of Stavanger has offered to take in the Yemeni prisoner of conscience and give him refuge and medical care. The ball is in the hands of the Yemeni authorities.

Attempted Murder of the Chief Editor of Al-Belagh Newspaper

In a circular distributed on 18th November, Al-Belagh newspaper indicated that its chief editor, Mr. Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Wazeer, was the target of an attempted murder. "On Monday the 13th of November, somebody played with the brakes of the personal car of Mr. Abdullah Al-Wazeer. The idea was to kill him and make believe it was a car accident," the circular reads. Abdullah Al-Wazeer, and his father Ali Al-Wazeer, leader of an opposition party, have been targets of previous murder attempts, including the bombing of their home.

Politics of Charities

A number of prominent politicians, businessmen, and public personalities met earlier this month and announced the establishment of the People's Welfare Society (PWS).

Most of the founders are leading members of Peoples' General Congress (PGC) party. Dr. Abu Bakar Al-Qirbi, the former Minister of Education, was elected President of the PWS. Members from all major business families in the country such as Hayel Saeed, Adhban, Thabet Brothers, Jayed, Shamsan, Shaibani and others are enlisted as founding members.

It seems that the ruling PGC is trying hard to match the more renowned Islah charity, which has been very active in many public self-help efforts. In addition, the Islah charity has engaged in major investments, last of which was the University of Science and Technology.

Many press reports and political parties have blamed the Islah for politicizing the charities and voluntary efforts.

Independent observers expressed fears of political exploitation of charities which will undermine both politics and charities and further jeopardize their already poor credibility.

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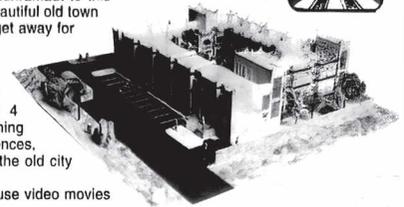
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LONDON CONFERENCE ON YEMEN: "No Spectacular Surprises !"

The Conference on Yemen organized by the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London was successfully concluded yesterday, Sunday, November 26th. The papers and studies presented, and their subsequent discussions were fair and objective. They did not offer, however, anything out of the ordinary. In hindsight, it has become quite clear that the fears of the Yemeni government were much overblown.

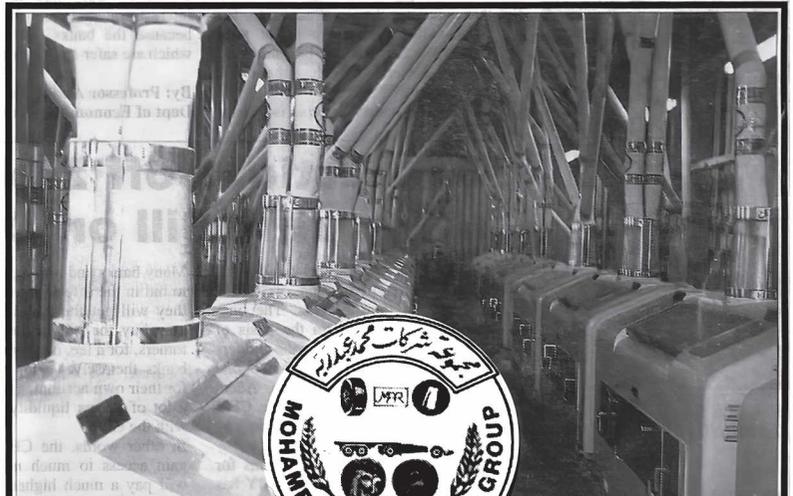
The government had worried that the conference - by bringing the political opposition in exile and the opposition in Yemen - will allow them to team up against the rulers in Sanaa. Nothing of the sort happened, at least not in the open. In fact, in the open, the opposition politicians who came from Yemen were at loggerheads with the opposition politicians who live in exile, accusing them of irresponsible behavior towards the basic interests of the nation. "Just because we are in the opposition does not mean we are willing to compromise the national interests of our country," stated one independent opposition politician.

At the same time, the two opposition blocs have found lots of reasons to lash out against the rulers in Sanaa. The basic accusation is that the rulers have failed to achieve any real reconciliation, and they have failed to manage the country's affairs to the betterment of all its citizens.

One of the main points of difference was who started the war and why. The opposition in exile claimed that the PGC-Islah alliance wanted to push out the "Southern" leadership from sharing power, while the opposition from Yemen simply noted that the war was the result of a simple power struggle irrespective of region of origin.

Some one hundred persons attended the conference, even divided into three lots. A third came from Yemen, another third represented the Yemeni opposition in exile, and the final third was made up of orientalists and foreign researchers and scholars working on Yemen.

The Yemen Times will start to publish a summary of the debates and some of the documents discussed in the conference.



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Mr. Vijay Albuquerque

A Commitment to Personalized Service

When you talk to Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, the General Manager of Taj Sheba Hotel, you sense quickly that you are not talking to the senior executive of one of the two only five star hotels in Sana'a. A well cultured man, Mr. Albuquerque was a quick rise professional hotel management specialist, especially in the international hotel business. Academically prepared, he has an advanced Management Diploma from Xavier Institute of Management, Bombay and further advanced Post Diploma in Specialized Hotel Management at the Institute of Catering Technology, Bombay and summer School at Cornele University, Ithica, New York to gear him for an international career in hotel management. The 45 year old Taj employee since finishing education was promoted while still a management trainee to the level of General Manager Trainee. He took up GM positions of Taj affiliated hotels in Muscat, Oman, London and India (in different states) he has been in Sana'a less than a year now and has already settled down to become a well respected celebrity in the cosmopolitan Sana'a community. Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Albuquerque in his office, where we discussed the successful international food/culture festivals the Hotel Taj Sheba sponsors. Dr Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf concluded the interview which follows:



Q: What prompted your interest in sponsoring what you call the international food and culture festivals?

A: Let me emphasize that today, in Sana'a, the only entities that can sponsor international cultural festivals are the Ministry of culture and the 2 five-star hotels Taj Sheba and Sheraton. As a profit making venture, forget it, you are lucky to break even. There are inherent benefits that are all difficult to quantify. It is just a matter of good will. You might think of it as a cultural exchange opportunity which fosters friendly relations.

Look at the Welsh festival where you had many benefits: exposure of a culture, where Yemenis are living in (Cardiffe) and relating to the environment where Prince Nasseem (the Yemeni Rooster Weight class world champion boxer.

Q: What do you project your future international festivals to emphasize on?

A: We would like the future international festivals to emphasize on the arts-all kinds of art: painters, musicians, dancers, etc. and their exhibits. These need not be necessarily at the hotel building itself. This way you can have the cultural event spread throughout the country - like the Yemeni-Welsh festival. You will have performers seen in Sana'a, Aden and other towns. Thus cultural awareness becomes distributed in the country, and the good will of the hotel is an important gain.

Q: What about goodwill in either countries?

A: There is already a gain from the participants who participate from other countries in the festivals the hotel sponsors. The possibility of holding a Yemeni-cultural week overseas is a very good possibility.

Q: What other cultures have you presented so far during 94/95?

A: We have had French, Indian, Yemeni, Pakistani and now we have the Italian

festival.

For the future: In 1996, we will have Dahjic (Dhajakistan, Central Asia), French (an annual event), Lebanese, Indian (because of its popularity), Spanish Food Festival (since Yemenia is proposed to go to Madrid as an extension of the Rome Sector), Russian and Chinese Festivals.

Q: What is involved in the arrangement of the festivals?

A: It starts with conceptualization of the Festival. Then it involves getting people in foreign embassies to work with you to facilitate arrangements from the country being represented in the festival, arranging for participants - groups: artists and performers. These aspects of the event add new dimensions.

We offer knowledge to institutes that train caterers like the Tourism and Hotel School in Aden where we invite trainees to see how different foods of the world are prepared and served.

Q: You have just returned from London, where you were involved in efforts to sell Yemen as a tourism attraction. What have you done to sell Yemen as an ideal tourist destination?

A: Taj has participated in a number of Tourism Fairs and exhibits, in Berlin Milan and the World Travel Mart recently held in London. We hope to participate in Madrid to encourage Yemen tours for Spanish tourists - a new market. These fairs have helped to reinstitute tourism especially after the civil war. We notice the bounce back in the increasing number of tourists, which is unusual, but very comforting and encouraging for the future.

Q: Was the World Travel Mart participation worth it?

A: What made our efforts to boost British tourism to Yemen easier was the sentimental attachment Britishers have for areas where their forebears had gone to during the days of the British Empire, and Yemen and the UK have a long-standing

relationship - via Aden and Cardiffe.

Old officials who worked in British entities or the government, during colonial times have been keen on revisiting the places in Yemen where they worked, etc.

Q: Do other tour operators participate with you?

A: All through the year, we

keep in touch with other members of the tourism and travel industry. We are promoting the formation of a Yemeni-Tourism and Travel Club, where so far 20 members have registered interest in working to other to promote tourism to Yemen we realize that such a job could not and should not be as an individual effort or sponsorship. A col-

lective approach is the key to success. The present members represent all the airlines, major travel and tours operators, major hotels.

Q: What about the Gulf Market?

A: We are seeking expatriate staff in the Gulf looking for suitable vacation spots to go to. We want them to be interested in Yemen.

Q: What do you suggest?

A: Official procedures must be simplified for short vacation holders.

Q: To what do you attribute your ability to give what has been regarded as personalized service?

A: First the support of the Taj Sheba Hotel owners is very important. Then, you have the Taj service oriented policy. Yemeni and expatriate staff work harmoniously is an important help. Reward - incentives gives commitment. We undergo training of Yemeni staff in Taj hotels in India. We have six now and expect to send 10-12 in near future. Taj hotels are committed to personalized service.

Q: Please explain service break through?

A: It is a five day seminar to encourage the staff of Taj, other Shaheer Trading group companies and travel and tourism industry firms like Yemenia to become committed to service beyond the normal call of duty.

Q: Future plans for the Taj Sheba?

A: In 1996, around May, we will have complete renovations in the hotel started that will cost \$ 10 million. The work will go on for a year. After that you will see a totally new Taj Sheba Hotel.

Q: Last words?

A: All the people in the travel industry, the press (such as YT) and related government authorities must work together to boost tourism in Yemen.

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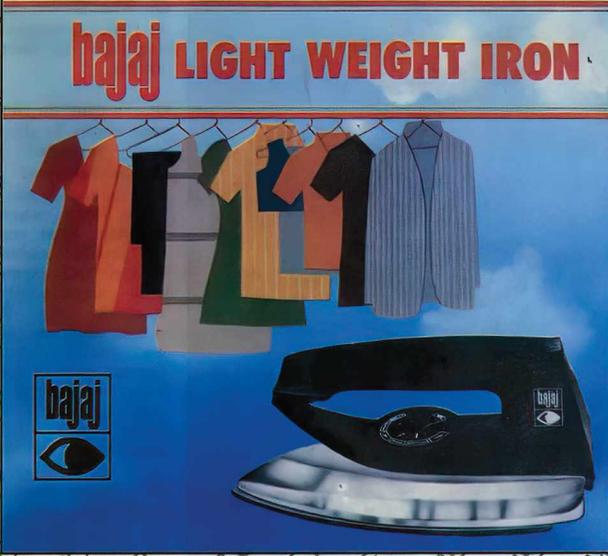
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private sector purchaser of bills would be a willing buyer.

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Contrary to claims made in the article, the T bills will physically exist; the auction will be transparent; individuals are not disadvantaged compared to

receive a certificate for each successful bid. The certificate can be discounted at the Central Bank at the same rate paid for the treasury bill at the auction, and it can be sold and ownership transferred to another investor. The auction will be a competitive price type auction, with applicants submitting closed bids which will not be opened until a specified time. The bills will be allocated to the applicant with the highest bid price in descending order until all the bills are sold. Any institution, business, or individual can bid directly, at the primary auction. Application forms will be readily available at the Central Bank, its agencies and commercial banks.

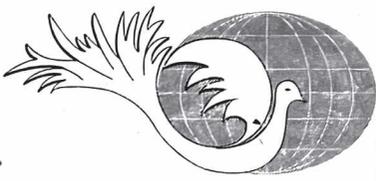
The article claims that individuals will be at a disadvantage compared to banks and companies with accounts at the Central Bank because their bid applications must be accompanied by a "good for payment" cheque. The article claims that he/she will lose interest on the bid amount for the period between the presentation of the bid amount and the auction date. And additionally, that if the individual bid is not successful, interest earnings will be lost on that bid amount since otherwise it would have been left in the bank. In fact, there will be no loss of interest in the period between the bid presentation and the auction because the cheques are to be dated

bills start to earn interest. Regarding unsuccessful bids, the process of accompanying bids with accepted cheques is routine in developed markets. Otherwise the auction would be extremely difficult and expensive to administer. Moreover, non competitive bids will be available for small individual investors since some bills will be kept aside at the average price for them to purchase.

With regard to the auction causing a run on bank liquidity, this is highly unlikely. Banks in Yemen have substantial excess liquidity on deposit at the Central Bank, which far exceeds the amount of the proposed auction. The Central Bank also has had considerable communication with the banks regarding the timing and terms of the auction, and they are well prepared for it.

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By: Robin Miller
Advisor, CBY



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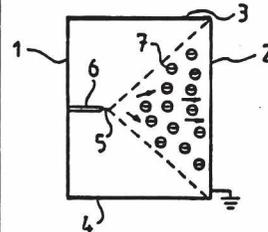
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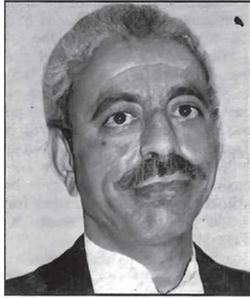


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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Thank You, Mr. President



Time and again this observer has pointed out that Ali Abdulla Saleh is not a man to let things get out of hand in this republic and that his good judgment surely will reflect the general feelings about the state of the country, which his people are complaining about. No doubt, the President's stay in Aden has given him a first hand observation of the many difficulties felt by our fellow Yemenis in the southern governorates after having to go through the hated civil war of the Summer of 1994 on their turf. But to continue to suffer needlessly as opportunists take advantage of the collapse of the institutions formerly run by the secessionist leaders and as partisan activities take advantage of their position in the ruling coalition to reap havoc and terror in the hope of replacing the Yemeni Socialist Party as the "de-facto" rulers of these governorates, is totally unacceptable to any Yemeni and not just the people of the southern governorates, and Aden in particular. General Ali Abdulla Saleh echoed the national consensus of opinion when he spoke in front of the ulema, or religious scholars, and Friday sermon preachers in Aden last Monday, as he gave a clear and blunt position statement on a couple of very important issues:

1) **On Religious extremism and Terrorism:** Surely, the religious extremists of the Islah (Yemeni Congregation for Reform) Party cannot expect the tolerant people of Yemen to sit idle while these misguided "zealots" disturb the peace, take the law into their own hands and impose their interpretation of religious dogma and worship as though they have an ordinance from God. Al-Mighty to disturb the peace of their fellow Moslems, simply because the latter may wish to erect a monument for one of their revered religious leaders or loved ones, especially if that deceased person, to be honored as such, had all the markings of good faith, piety and wisdom, which are far beyond what any of these present religious demagogues have shown, despite all their claims to be the true defenders of the faith. Surely these people cannot be allowed to interfere in innocent wedding feasts that do not show any violations of religious practice to speak of, by throwing harmful explosives that kill or maim children, who are not even subject to any religious obligations yet! Surely, it is not the right of any person to delve into the private lives of people by seeking proof of wedlock of any bisexual couple seen walking side by side in the street or going to the beach (fully clothed!) or having a picnic in the park (Incidentally, this observer was shocked on one occasion, while riding a cab along with a family of husband,

wife and two infants, and another passenger and the driver. The family got off near the gate of the park with their blanket and food, apparently seeking to pursue a restful picnic in the park. The picnic of the family was not the issue that bothered this writer. It was the discussion that ensued in the cab as the remaining passenger and the driver went on a tirade against the poor man and his wife for eating out in a public park where "so much, evil occurs"! Of course, this writer did not hide his annoyance at the curses and tirades against the poor family man and his wife and his yet still milk bottle fed infants. I shot the two with a heavy dose of common sense in the hope that they will see the light of their misconceptions about people, life and religion, and to realize that one should not let his beliefs carry them away to harning the characters of other people, whom they have nothing to do with in the first place. I am not sure whether these two extremists fully bought what I said, because the experience with people of this sort has been that if this kind of a mentality is confronted with a strong argument or a debate which they are unable to handle, they just leave or keep quiet, so you never know if they understand or not. I have seen it many times.) No one really objects to these people believing what ever they like as long as they do not get out of the basic tenets of Islam, but to force others to abide by the same beliefs this is anathema to Islam: "There is no compulsion in the Religion!" - The Holy Koran - which is undisputed legislation. Some friends have suggested that the President was appalled to find that the beaches in Aden were empty and that almost all leisure activity has ceased in the once boisterous city. When His Excellency inquired as to the reasons behind this, he was told that people of Aden have become terrorized to venture out to any leisure activity on account of the excessive enforcement that the Islah armed bands have given themselves as a right to execute without any legitimate authority to do so. The truth of the latter about the President can not be determined, but for sure the people of Aden, as well as the rest of the country, can not be subjected to this kind of vigilante activity by anyone, even if they are partners in the ruling coalition. There cannot be two authorities in the country-one legitimate and one quasi legitimate relying on partisan cover of a partner in the ruling coalition.

While this observer and, most likely, the President as well are fully aware that it is unfair to regard all

the members in the Islah Party as being extremists of the type discussed above, and in fact, have come to know many Islah members who would be just as appalled by the actions of these extremists. It was still essential for the President to underscore the necessity that the Republic of Yemen cannot and will not harbor terrorism and the imposition of excessive religious beliefs, no matter under what cover it comes, politically or otherwise. Moreover, the speech by the President should suffice to give the Islah leaders, most of whom can be considered to follow a more moderate line of religious activism, a signal to polish the image of the party from the ugly taints brought on by the bands of extremists who are exploiting their affiliation with the Islah Party, but apparently are really directed by foreign teachers - who are probably rejects or fugitives of their own societies - or zealous Yemeni patriarchs who have been misled into believing that extremism is the quick path to political power. The latter rely on the recruitment of followers that cannot prove any degree of culture or even religious knowledge worthy of mentioning. The Islah leadership should not let these extreme elements jeopardize the good standing of the members of this leadership among the people. In the end, it is the Islah Party that will suffer from such activities, as the next Parliamentary elections and elections for local councils will surely illustrate. In Yemen, there is one law, one state and every Yemeni is a Moslem committed to one constitution which all must abide by, especially after this constitution has been amended in accordance with the wishes of the Islah Party. That is the crux of the President's message to the religious leaders in Aden and it is also the truth!

2) **The Duty Free Port of Aden:** On Aden becoming an international duty free area, the President clearly is assuring that such an issue is a matter of personal concern: will and intention, as far as he is concerned. Therefore nothing should stand in the way of making it a realization. The observer cannot fail to admit that a personal commitment by the President in this regard is already 50% of the task done

successfully (The other 50% will come from all the relevant government agencies, Ministries and the general public). Declaring Aden a Duty Free port (which will presumably be done on 30 November 1995 - in conjunction with the festivities celebrating the anniversary of the British withdrawal from Aden, which is the climax of the struggle that began on October 14, 1963, and the 6th anniversary of the signing of the unification agreement of Yemen on the 30th of November 1989, a reality realized on 22 May 1990 and which became an irreversible fact on 7 July 1994) will not automatically mean that Dubai and Hong Kong will collapse in the wake of the competition that Aden will put up. Aden is still a long way from becoming a bustling commercial and industrial center, and for sure the road to this goal is not exactly laid with roses on both sides. But with the President's personal commitment, the idea should not be considered far fetched. The record speaks for itself, in this regard as oil and the unification of Yemen will certainly testify to the Presidents determination realize the impossible. To assure his personal commitment to this by confirming that extremism and Aden becoming a free port are just not compatible, is an important understanding that must be clearly shared by all Yemeni people. The President said: "We are working diligently to make Aden a duty free port. On this basis, Aden is (thus) going to be a commercial center, which means that people will be coming to it and these people will be from all walks of life, different religions and citizenships or types. We cannot just impose upon them our way of thinking or beliefs. We cannot also remain closed by ourselves. On the contrary, we have to provide the scope and environment that encourages these people to practice their trade and to make it prosper, because there is prosperity in this for Aden and all of Yemen." There is no way that anyone can argue with that.

Carry on, Mr. President! It is for your good and the country's when it comes with feeling and confidence.

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National Unity and Democracy in Yemen: a Marriage of Inconvenience

As a part of its review of Conference on Yemen organized last week in London by The School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, Yemen Times is publishing the paper presented to the conference by **Brian Whitaker** under the title of "National Unity and democracy a Marriage of Inconvenience." Of course the paper does not necessarily represent the Yemen Times views.

I want to talk about the relationship between national unity and democracy in Yemen, and in particular about the extent to which they have helped or hindered each other. As one Arab writer put it, "Unity brought democracy and democracy did not bring unity."

This is also bound up with the question on power, because in a unified state there can be only one ultimate center of power. Whoever has power controls the army, the security forces and the whole state apparatus. When two states are unified, there has to be a mechanism for determining where ultimate power lies, for turning *two* centers of power into *one*.

The idea of Yemeni unification had been around for a long time before 1990, and if we look at earlier attempts (such as the Cairo and Tripoli agreements of 1972) we find a proposal to resolve the question of power by creating what they called a "unified political organization" (in other words, a merger of the two ruling regimes to form a one-party government). Those earlier efforts failed, partly because of differences in political approach - traditionalist and free market in the north, Marxist in the south - but also because neither leadership was willing to be subsumed by the other and neither was unquestionably dominant.

By 1990 both sides were still reluctant to cede power, but two other things had changed. The first was that by then the leadership on both sides had compelling reasons for wanting a unified state. This was particularly important in the south, where the economy was in a terrible mess and the socialist leadership felt especially vulnerable as Marxist regimes collapsed in Europe.

By second change was that both parts of Yemen had begun moving towards democracy. In the south the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (the YSP) had actually announced a multi-party system in

December 1989 - five months before unification. In the north, all parties were banned, at least in theory. The president's political vehicle, the General People's Congress (of GPC) was not considered to be a party but an umbrella organization embracing all elements of society. However, during the 1988 parliamentary elections in the north this had begun to break down and there was vigorous campaigning by Ba'athists, Nasserists and Islamists, as well as the GPC.

In 1990, this movement towards democracy provided a convenient mechanism to deliver unification without having to address the question of ultimate power which had proved such a huge stumbling block in the past. Disagreements about the creation of a "unified political organization" were put into abeyance by the multi-party system. Instead, there was to be a coalition government in which the northern and southern regimes shared power on an almost (but not quite) equal basis. This allowed them to retain their separate identities and - crucially, as it turned out - their own armies.

That was not the end of the plan for a "unified political organization", though. Discussions about merging the GPC and YSP continued sporadically until a few days after the parliamentary election in 1993. President Saleh's view was that unification of the two ruling parties was a prerequisite for merging the two armies. The YSP, I think, was not really interested, but played along with the idea for reasons connected with the elections.

There's a theory, which was put forward before unification, that the *pursuit* of unity by the northern and southern regimes served as a form of conflict management, reducing the likelihood of war between them - if not always successfully. By the same token, it could be argued that after unification democracy had the potential to perform the same function and perhaps did so for a while, though ultimately it failed to prevent a war.

Having allowed formal unification of the two states to take place, democracy then became a barrier to consolidating the union. This was not the fault of democracy itself, but mainly of the way it was applied. There is often a tendency in newly-democratic countries to assume that all you need for democracy to function is open debate, free elections and so on. But it's also necessary to have effective

ways for resolving disputes and translating them into decisions that can be implemented. That requires a certain level of trust, and a willingness by all sides to play by the rules, even when decisions go against them. In Yemen after unification there was a distinct lack of trust. Typically, one side would be unwilling to compromise in a dispute without first testing the other side's willingness to give way on a second issue. The other side would then demand assurances of compromise on a third issue, and so on. This meant that disputes, instead of being tackled one at a time, became compounded and ever more intractable, until eventually the decision-making process became paralyzed.

Trust was further damaged by a long series of political shootings and bombings which probably came from a variety of sources but were directed mainly against the YSP.

The other major problem was that democracy placed the south and the YSP at an inherent disadvantage. The whole concept of democracy is based around the will of the majority, but after unification the south became a minority - in fact, quite a small one. Although census figures aren't particularly reliable, it is generally reckoned that the southern population accounts for around 20% of Yemen's total.

That didn't matter much at first because, in terms of the southern population, the YSP was generously over-represented in the transitional parliament and cabinet. But it became a problem as the first free elections drew nearer.

The new constitution specified that the 301 constituencies should have an equal number of electors, give or take 5%. This meant that in an elected parliament only 66 seats would be in the south. The YSP therefore seemed doomed to becoming a permanent minority party.

Initially it tried to prevent this by campaigning in the north, but it failed to make much headway. The 1993 elections saw the YSP relegated to third position behind the GPC and Islah. The results also confirmed that the Yemen's political divide was along geographical rather than ideological lines. Forty-four of the 56 seats the YSP won were in the south, and seven of the others were in Taiz and Ibb - northern areas which have a traditional affinity with the south.

In the respect the election results were actually very damaging to national unity. The geographical concentration of the YSP's support gave it leverage to demand more favorable treatment than its numerical strength warranted, using the threat of secession as a bargaining ploy.

This raises important questions about the YSP's aims. Should we regard secession primarily as a threat which the YSP eventually had to carry out? Or was there a deliberate intention to secede? It's tempting to suggest the latter because that's what subsequent events made it look like. But in reality, it's doubtful whether the YSP had a single, clear strategy - mainly because it couldn't agree on one.

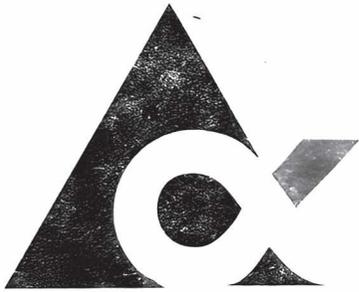
Back in 1990 there had been some scepticism about unification inside the YSP, with Salim Saleh Mohammed (the deputy general secretary) and others preferring a more gradual, federalist approach, but this was over-ridden by the urgency of the situation. Soon after unification other doubts crept in, and by the summer of 1992 there were voices in the south suggesting that the union with the north had been over-hasty.

There were several reasons for this change of attitude:

One was economic. The south had survived its near-bankruptcy after the loss of Soviet support, and there was growing confidence, particularly in the light of oil discoveries, that it was capable of developing on its own. This view was encouraged by the fact that the south would have more oil per head of population as a separate entity than if it remained part of the unified state.

There were also complaints about creeping "north-ernization" of the south. Many in Aden regarded their old system as essentially a good one, bringing *nidham* (order, discipline, etc.) against what they characterized - or perhaps caricatured - as *fawda* (meaning chaos or anarchy) in the north.

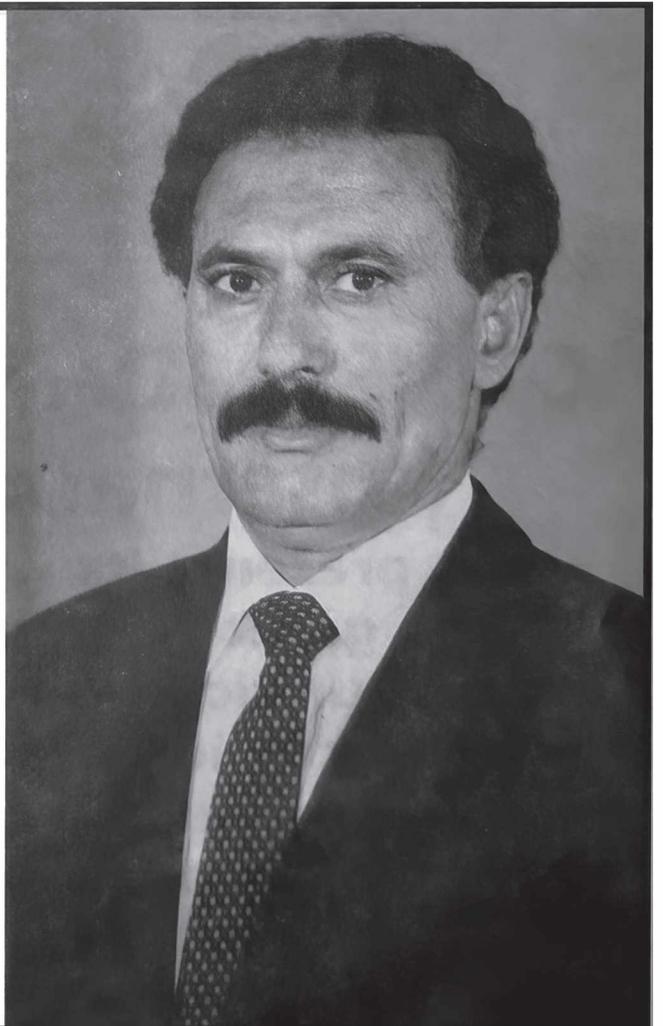
In fact, it was the change to a market economy rather than unification that destroyed many of the better aspects of life in the south. Among other things, it ruined the free health service and long-term social planning went by the board. The spread of the northern qat-chewing habit to the south was due mainly to land privatization, because cultivation of qat had previously been banned on state-owned farms. **Continues on page 11**



Tetra Pak Tetra Pak Yemen

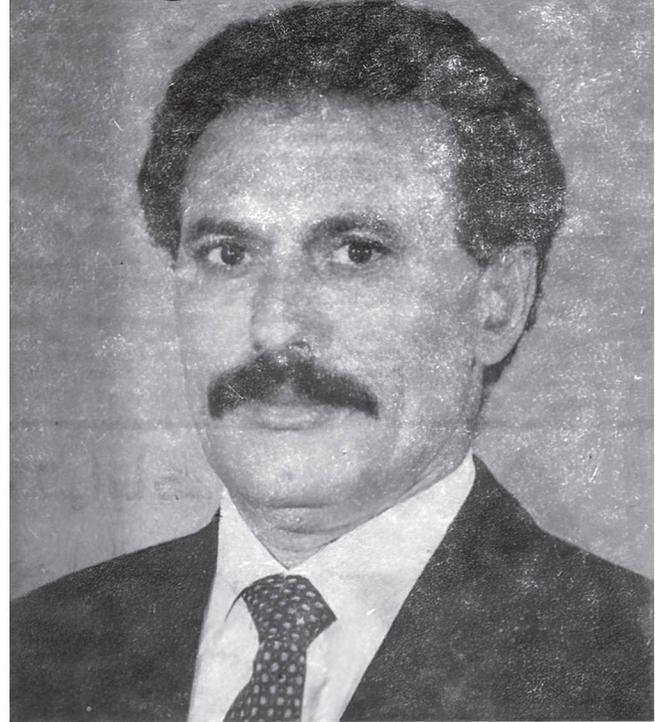
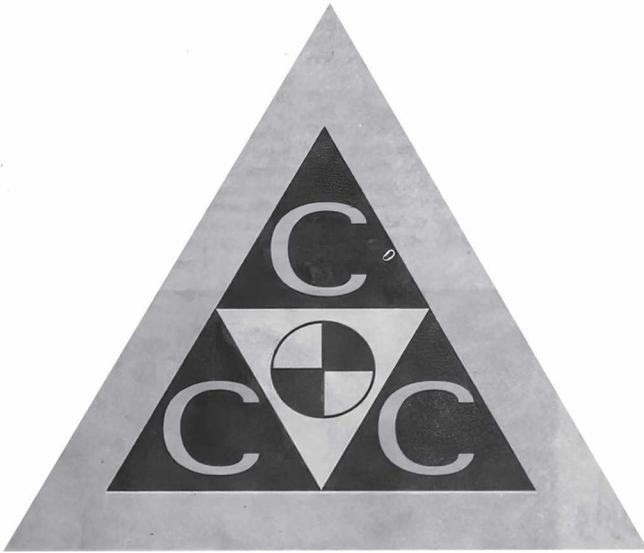
The world leader in supplying complete systems for processing, packaging and distribution of liquid food extends to the Yemeni people, leadership and government its warm congratulations and best wishes on the anniversary of signing unity agreement and departure of colonial force from Southern part of homeland.

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وأرق الأمانى وأزكى
التبريكات للشعب
اليمنى المناضل وقيادته
السياسية المظفرة
بمناسبة ذكرى
الاستقلال ومناسبة
الذكرى السادسة لتوقيع
اتفاقية الوحدة اليمنية .
وكل عام والجميع بخير.



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الى شعبنا اليمني الابي والى الحكومة الرشيدة
والقيادة السياسية المظفرة بزعامة الفريق علي عبدالله صالح
بمناسبة ذكرى جلاء الاستعمار من جنوب الوطن
ومناسبة ذكرى توقيع اتفاقية الوحدة اليمنية المباركة .



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مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

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مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

١- الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة المحدودة

٢- الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السمن والصابون المحدودة

٣- الشركة الوطنية لصناعة الاسفنج والبلاستيك المحدودة

٤- شركة الصناعات المتنوعة و مواد التعبئة

٥- شركة الالبان والاعذية الوطنية

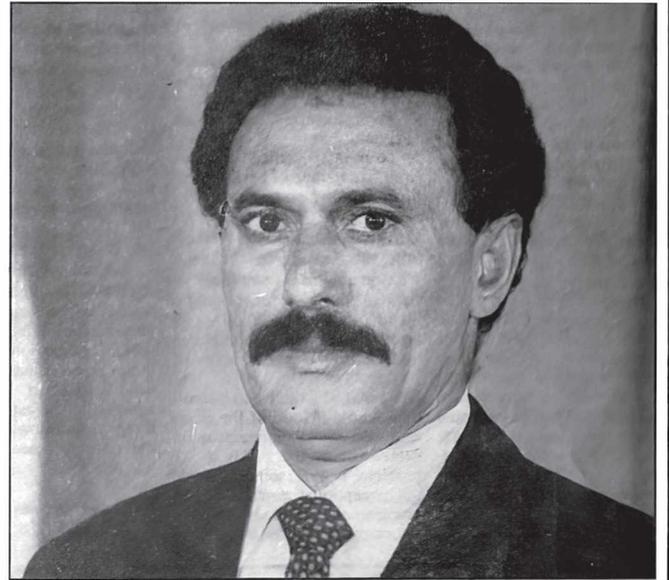
٦- شركة الشرق الأوسط للتجارة (متكو)

٧- الشركة المتحدة للصناعات

٨- الشركة اليمنية للتنمية الزراعية والحيوانية



ASCA



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4 . General Industries and Packages Co.

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8- The Yemen Company for Agriculture & Livestock Development

TALKING TO THE DEAN OF DHAMAR TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE

The sharp shortage of qualified basic education teachers in Yemen is more than evident. It is an old story repeated by the beginning of every school year coupled with both calls and promises for Yemenization of basic education teachers and complains of the very high cost of foreign teachers.

To attain these goals a series of teachers training institutes were established all over the country. Dhamar Higher Teacher Training Institute was one of those institutes which came into existence in 1993.

Higher teacher training institutes are academic institutions that aim to train and qualify teachers. These teachers are responsible for teaching the first four years of basic education with the ability to tackle the many problems. The target was to improve the quality of teachers. Yet, in hindsight, we have to ask whether these teachers do really receive a good quality education to do their jobs? This is one point. Also in hindsight, I can say that the pressing issue of scarcity has affected the way these institutes produce the teachers.

Though academic achievement at these institutes is supposed to be of a high quality, it is not. Many questions on the quality of training need answers.

To get a closer look at how these institutes work, I made it a point to speak to Mohammed Nasser Al-Haj. Mohammed Nasser Al-Haj is an energetic young man who is an educationist. He started his career as a teacher, then as an English inspector. After that he was promoted to director of examinations. Then he occupied the post of manager of the control and inspection department. After that he was appointed director of the management and services sector. Today, he is the dean of the

Higher Institute at Dhamar. Excerpts:

Q: The establishment of the Higher Institute is a new phenomenon. How do you assess the experience, so far?

A: I think the establishment of the higher institutes for teacher training, in general, is an excellent step in pushing forward the wheel of development in education and in improving the performance of the Yemeni teachers. I can say that the higher institutes have done well.

Let me indicate that establishing the Higher Institute of Dhamar is a very worthwhile experiment and time will prove that.

Q: What are the goals of the Higher Institute?

A: The major objectives are:
1- To upgrade the competence of the Yemeni teachers;
2- To improve the status of the Yemeni teacher both financially and professionally;
3- To provide specialized teachers to cover the first four years of basic education;
4- To Yemenize the educational system;
5- To train specialized teachers from five to nine of basic education in one or two subjects.

Q: With regard to interest and the enrollment criteria, what problems do you face?

A: Of course we confronted a lot of problems most of which are related to geographical division. For example, many of Yarim natives came to Dhamar Institute to enroll their names instead of Ibb Institute, because Dhamar is quite nearer than Ibb. The other problem is that some students got exceptional cases and recommendation letters from senior officials after the closing

date. However, we managed to overcome such problems.

Q: Concerning the qualification of the institute staff, Does the institute possess highly-qualified teachers?

A: Certainly, the institute enjoys a number of highly-qualified Yemeni teachers in addition to the well-qualified and experienced Arab teachers.

Q: Do the textbooks offer a good does for equipping good class teachers?

A: Yes, they do. The textbooks are designed in such a way as to meet the needs of the class teacher. Therefore, there is no doubt that textbooks give amount of education and that is of course refers to the efforts of Training and Qualifying Deputy who played a vital role in construction these institutes and in providing the textbooks.

Q: There is a rumor regarding the low academic and educational quality. What can you say about it?

A: Not all rumors are true. On the contrary, those who graduated from several institutes and different Governorates showed high competence at teaching than those who studied at similar institutions.

Q: It is said that job grades () are guaranteed for the students. How true is this?

A: In fact, jobs are ensured and no need for anxiety. Most graduates got their jobs easily since there is coordination with the head office of education in addition to the establishment of these institutes which is due to the urgent need of class teachers.

Q: Any last comments?

A: The Higher Institute in

PALMA

Cooking oil

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النباتي النقي

Vegetables Pure Cooking Oil

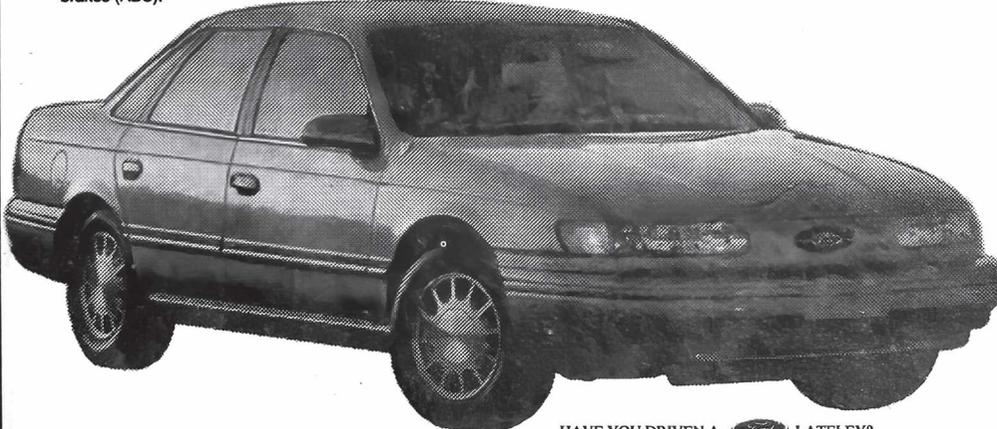


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Dhamar is in its infancy and there is no financial support so far to make a good job of it. We are so hopeful that the ministry of Education will strive for allocating a certain budget for these institutes and constructing hostels and food for both male and female students.
Interviewed by:
Khalid N. Al-Mazjji.
Dhammar.

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Continued from page 7:

National Unity and Democracy a Marriage of Inconvenience

There is also no doubt that the idea of separation was fostered by the Saudis and other Gulf states, for reasons of their own.

In general, though, there was little that could be considered specifically southern in the YSP's grievances against the Sana'a regime: they were also shared by many in the north.

Furthermore, there was no real basis for a separatist struggle in the south on ethnic, religious or linguistic grounds, and very little specifically southern nationalist feeling. In fact, the boundaries of the old southern state were difficult to justify on nationalist grounds because the frontier with the north had been created by the eternal forces of British and Turkish imperialism.

I think a more accurate way to describe the YSP's position shortly before the war would be to say that it reverted to what it had been before 1990 and, indeed, throughout most of the history of the PDRY: support for unity in principle, but not under the regime in Sana'a. The consequence of this was that YSP policy ran along two different tracks at the same time: one unionist, the other separatist. In other words, they were keeping their options open.

On the one hand they were trying to bring down Saleh but retaining secession as a fall-back if that failed. On the other, they were seeking secession as a platform from which to bring down Shale later. Initially, in 1992 and early 1993, the YSP began to use the threat of separation in the hope of extracting concessions from Saleh. In effect, it was seeking reform of the Sana'a regime, but still within a framework of unity. Some of the YSP's opponents go further and suggest that even at that stage the YSP was attempting to topple Saleh. Certainly the riots that hit five northern cities in December 1992 around deep suspicions in the GPC, whether justifiably or not.

Almost immediately after the 1993 elections, the YSP's attitude hardened noticeably. It began issuing demand which, if accepted, would have weakened Saleh (possibly to the extent of bringing him down eventually) and which, if rejected, would provide the pretext for a separation.

Long before the war, the YSP set about creating a *de facto* separation. The start of this can be traced back to August 1993 when the party leader, Vice-President Al-Baid, met his American counterpart in Washington. That meeting, arranged with some subtlety and without Saleh's permission, marked the start of the South's separate foreign policy. Afterwards, Al-Baid never returned to Sana'a, and other YSP ministers joined him in the south. The YSP civil servants who were working in the north also returned to their old jobs in the south. The southern army started acquiring new weapons and recruiting, the old southern secret police started in business again and by early 1994 Yemen was, for most practical purposes, two states.

But while all that was going on, the YSP was also pursuing a unionist track in the north. In the run-up to the war, for instance, it made strenuous efforts to get promises of military support from disaffected elements among the northern tribes. Several leading figures in the YSP have since confessed that they expected the fighting, when it came to take place mainly in the north.

This ambivalence about secession who maintained up to and even through the war. Why, for instance, did Al-Baid delay proclaiming the Democratic Republic of Yemen until almost three weeks into the war? I'd suggest two reasons.

The first was that he opted for secession reluctantly. He knew it would be unpopular with the Yemeni public; it would cost him what support he had among disaffected northerners; and it risked splitting his own party (as indeed happened).

The second was that he declared secession mainly for external reasons, when it became clear that his forces were losing the war and he badly needed international support. The timing of the announcement was linked to diplomatic activity and was aimed at securing international recognition, so that sympathetic states could provide arms openly rather than secretly.

The text of the document proclaiming the DRY is interesting because of its deliberate ambiguity. Clause 2, for example, stated that "Yemeni unity remains a basic objective" and nowhere did it attempt to define the new state or specify its boundaries.

While there is no doubt that the document *did* proclaim a secession for the purposes of international recognition, it could also be interpreted—by those who wished to do so not as announcing the partition of Yemen but as creating, in a less territorial way, an *alternative* state: "democratic" Yemen as opposed to "undemocratic" Yemen.

Al-Baid elaborated on this idea shortly afterwards at a press conference in Mukalla when he described the DRY as "a nucleus for a unified Yemen" and the act of secession as "the reconstruction of the state in part of Yemen's territory".

That, in essence brings me back to my starting point: that when the dust settles what we find is basically a struggle for power. Both sides wanted to control Yemen, but as far as the YSP was concerned, if it couldn't control the whole it wanted to control part of it for the time being.

In a struggle like that it's not really the business of non-Yemenis to take side. But as a journalist who watched the conflict quite closely, I think much of the international press coverage has been over-sympathetic towards the YSP leaders. It makes a little story to portray them as heroes or innocent victims, but I don't think they were either. That is not to excuse everything that was done on the northern side, but it's important to adopt a questioning approach and try to sift the reality from the

propaganda.

On the question of terrorism, for example, the YSP was certainly an aggrieved party, but not a totally innocent party. We should remember that not all the terrorist training camps were in the north, and that Carlos the Jackal carried a South Yemeni passport for many years.

It's also worth bearing in mind that Ali Salim al-Baid and the other Hadramis who controlled the party were a faction within a faction within a party. They were on the winning side in the YSP schism of 1986, and many of those who were on the losing side in 1986 fought against them, alongside the northern forces in 1994.

We might also speculate about what would have happened if the YSP and its allies had not been defeated. My own view is that it would have been highly destabilizing, not only for both parts of Yemen but for the region as a whole. It is unlikely that the Saleh could have survived a defeat—which might have caused sort-lived rejoicing in some quarters. But most of the scenarios beyond that are grim: an extreme Islamist regime in the north perhaps, or a wholesale disintegration of Yemen. I don't think there was any perfect solution to the conflict, but we are probably fortunate in having got the least bad of all the possible outcomes.

Salih's victory in the war consolidated unity but at a cost to democracy. Given that Yemenis in general value unity highly, and that democracy before the war had become a vehicle for co-existence rather than a means for resolving deference, the loss is perhaps not as great as people imagine.

Yemen's political is now hopelessly fragmented and the press more restrained than it was. Although the exiled opposition front the Mowj, has some powerful friends abroad, I think it is unlikely to become a credible alternative because it is so closely identified with Saudi interests in the eyes of many Yemenis.

For the moment, Salih's GPC is ruling in partnership with Islah, though that may not last. The south is also represented in the government, after a fashion, by former supporters of Ali Nasser's faction of the Socialist Party. The more perceptive figures in Sana'a recognize that this is not enough, and that there is a leadership vacuum in the south. There is some evidence that old tribal sheikhs are moving in to fill it, which may or may not be a bad

thing.

The post-war economic situation has brought a rapprochement with Saudi Arabia and the United States. That in turn has led to a tougher government line against Islamic extremists which seems to be putting the alliance between the GPC and Islah under strain. It is conceivable that the coalition might break up, but I think it's more likely that Saleh will try to drive a wedge between the traditionalist wings of Islah and the religious militants. In many ways the traditionalists are natural allies of the GPC. On the other hand, the militants played an important part in helping to win the war and some of them are still armed, so ditching them would be a serious business.

Balancing the various political elements and playing one off against the other is Saleh's area of great expertise. Following the old principle of never making too many enemies at the same time, he is unlikely to rid himself entirely of the religious militants without first gaining some new friends. So there are hints of a reconciliation with the YSP and perhaps even the exiled Mawj—which is what the Americans seem to want. There are reports of some opposition figures being invited to return from exile, and this could benefit Saleh by sparking quarrels among the exiles over whether or not to return.

But there is also the danger for Saleh in a reconciliation with these recent enemies: some powerful voices, especially in the army, oppose it, arguing that it would negate their efforts during the war.

It might be argued that this leaves a situation full of risks and uncertainties, though in terms of the interplay of Yemen's political forces it's actually quite familiar territory. The chance are that predictions of disaster will remain unfulfilled, and those of a new dawn likewise.

On a more positive note, the extension of democracy to regional government, much discussed before the war, now seems achievable without risking serious damage to national unity.

And despite the upheavals of the last five years, Yemen still has a constitution, and a democratic framework, which in many ways is more progressive than anything its neighbors possess, though its full potential is unlikely to be realized for some time.

HUMAN GENETICS: WHO EXPERTS PROBE INTO INHERITED THROMBOPHILIA

The World Health Organization (WHO) is harnessing rapid advances in the study of human genetics by translating scientific knowledge into disease control. One such area is hereditary blood diseases, which include, among others, haemophilia, sickle cell disorder, thalassaemia and thrombophilia.

Together with the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH), WHO is probing into thrombophilia. An expert meeting on this subject - the first ever jointly convened by WHO and ISTH - has started in Geneva today in Geneva. It is called to make a review of the problem of inherited thrombophilia and prepare practical recommendations for national health care services. The organizers also hope the encounter will help raise professional awareness of thrombophilia-related problems.

People with thrombophilia, whether inherited or acquired, are predisposed to the formation of obstructive blood clots which could be dangerous to their health. For example, venous thrombosis, which affects one in every 1000 in the general population, may have serious morbidity caused by pulmonary embolism

and stroke and these may even lead to death. In cases when genetic explanation of thrombophilia is likely, it is called inherited thrombophilia.

Inherited thrombophilias are common among hereditary blood diseases. They are caused mainly by deficiencies of anti-coagulant factors in blood. Some causes of inherited thrombophilia, resistance to activated protein C, for example, occur as frequently as 2-3% in the general population. Progressive knowledge of these causes suggests that their nature is genetic rather than environmental. As such they represent a public health problem in both developed and developing countries.

Thrombosis may occur in conjunction with surgical interventions, immobilization, pregnancy or with oral contraceptive use. (However, in women of reproductive age throughout the world, the risk of developing venous thromboembolism resulting from the use of combined oral contraceptives is low. That risk should be weighted against other risks to women's health - unwanted pregnancies and abortions, for example.) Thrombophilias are currently

treated with blood products which have to be thoroughly screened to avoid transmitting pathogenic viruses, such as the hepatitis viruses and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. This raises the issue of safety in the treatment of thrombophilia patients.

The three-day meeting (6 through 8 November) is chaired by Professor Pier Mannucci of Italy and brought together internationally renowned experts from Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. They are attending the meeting as participants and observers and will review the frequency, epidemiology, classification, molecular defects, as well as global and regional aspects of the problem of inherited thrombophilia in the context of hereditary blood disorders. They will also consider different approaches towards an early diagnosis and detection of the disease, and work out reasonable recommendations for its prevention and for its safe, cost-effective and efficient treatment.

WHO report.

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Îles

Le Yemen et l'Erythrée se disputent trois îles en mer Rouge, la Grande et la Petite Henaish et Jabel Zogar. Cette semaine, de la rumeur d'incidents armés, officiellement démentis, on est passé à l'annonce d'une volonté réciproque de dialogue, puis à l'affirmation par le chef de la diplomatie yéménite que les trois îles appartiennent au Yemen depuis les années 70. Un promoteur yéménite y construit actuellement un complexe touristique.

en bref

JOURNALISME — Un journaliste algérien, Abdelhamid Benzine, vient de recevoir le prix annuel de l'Organisation internationale des journalistes (OIJ). Il s'est opposé dans les années 80 au FLN. Aujourd'hui, il est condamné à mort par le Groupe Islamique Armé (GIA). Il vit en exil à Paris.

PESSIMISTES — Trois Français sur quatre sont pessimistes sur l'évolution économique de leur pays, et 60% jugent que les nouveaux impôts annoncés par le gouvernement seront insupportables, selon un sondage du quotidien économique La Tribune.

DROGUES — Les saisies de drogues sont devenues fréquentes dans la région. En Arabie Saoudite, 377 kilos de haschich, soit une valeur de trois millions de dollars, ont été saisis. Pour information, 191 personnes ont été décapitées cette année en Arabie Saoudite pour trafic de drogue. En Iran, trois policiers et cinq trafiquants ont été tués récemment au cours d'un affrontement. Un groupe d'une trentaine de trafiquants tentaient pénétrer au Pakistan.

GARDE DU CORPS — Indignation en Egypte : deux gardes du corps d'un prince saoudien ont battu deux Egyptiens qui se disputaient avec son chauffeur. Les deux gardes ont été arrêtés, le prince s'est excusé, mais les Egyptiens se plaignent de plus en plus d'être maltraités par les riches arabes du golfe en vacances en Egypte. Le prince, un frère du roi Fahd, loue depuis quatre ans les trois derniers étages d'un palace du Caire.

MODE — Un défilé de mode au Koweït ? C'est maintenant possible. Le ministre des Waqfs (biens religieux) et Affaires islamiques a promulgué une Fatwa les autorisant. Sous conditions : les défilés "doivent se tenir dans des lieux réservés exclusivement aux femmes. Les vêtements doivent cacher les parties du corps comprises entre le nombril et les genoux". "Les photos de ces défilés ne doivent pas être reproduites".

MENACES — L'ambassade d'Egypte à Sana'a a reçu jeudi soir des menaces d'attentats à la bombe. Les mesures de sécurité ont été renforcées. (AFP)

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

Poésie : Arthur Rimbaud

"Un piéton, rien de plus"

Rimbaud, à Aden la maison, sa fonction, "l'oeuvre-vie", l'Afrique et l'Arabie. Beaucoup plus que de la poésie : de la philosophie. Recherches obsessionnelles et existentielles.

INTERVIEW — Rimbaud, il est tombé dedans quand il était petit. Alain Borer faisait partie de la délégation de poètes, écrivains, critiques, et divers, Français et autres, venus discuter (un peu) de lyrisme au cours du deuxième Séminaire Rimbaud de la maison du même nom, à Aden. Alain Borer parle du poète, de la Rim-baldie, où Aden occupe une place importante, de voyages et de philosophie.

«S'il y a un enjeu sur la question rimbaldienne, et c'est l'objet de toutes ces discussions, il est déjà de comprendre que Rimbaud n'a pas fui l'Europe, plus exactement qu'il n'est pas renégat à ses idéaux de jeunesse. Au contraire, il est toujours le même, à travers toutes les périodes de sa vie, à travers tous les voyages, qui d'ailleurs n'ont pas commencé en Afrique. Il est resté toujours le même, c'est-à-dire un jeune homme d'une exigence absolue, et qui cherche autre chose, cette autre chose-là qui n'a pas vraiment de contenu, et qui est déjà dans sa poésie — cette autre chose-là sans laquelle on ne peut pas comprendre sa poésie. Et cette autre chose-là, il faut bien l'appeler métaphysique.

Cette dimension métaphysique est à l'oeuvre dans la vie : c'est ce que j'appelle une "oeuvre-vie". L'oeuvre-vie de Rimbaud, c'est ce qui fait son unité, profonde, constamment. On peut comprendre que dans ces dix années d'Arabie et d'Afrique, il n'a pas cessé de chercher ce qu'il cherchait déjà dans la poésie. Ça c'est une chose, pour moi, vraiment vitale — vous comprenez que je passe 25 ans de ma vie là-dessus, et que je ne peux pas m'arrêter. Ce n'est pas une passion normale, c'est quelque chose qui te prends, mais surtout qui concerne au delà de la littérature.

Ça, c'est le contexte de l'histoire des idées concernant Rimbaud. Cette question est évidemment centrale. D'ailleurs Rimbaud aussi est central dans l'histoire de la poésie. Ce n'est pas une chose qui appartient au 19ème siècle, mais qui inquiète sans arrêt et les surréalistes, et la beat generation, et les jeunes gens de maintenant, et tous à leur façon.

Pourquoi avoir cherché cette maison de Rimbaud à Aden ?

J'ai refait tous les voyages de Rimbaud, ce que j'appelle la Rimbaldie. Bien sûr Charleville, les Ardennes, la Belgique, l'Angleterre, et puis la Suède, Java, l'Abyssinie, et puis l'Arabie.

En Arabie, c'est un de mes grands bonheurs, vraiment : le 14 mars 1988, avec quelques amis poètes, dont Chawqi

Abdelamir, et quelques Yéménites, j'ai cherché la maison dont parle Bardet, l'employeur de Rimbaud en 1880. C'était un réflexe rimbaldien un peu obses-

sionnel : je vais dans un endroit, j'essaie de ranimer la mémoire. Un peu comme vérification, sans illusion. Et puis je l'ai trouvée, le 14 mars. Je l'ai, en quelque sorte, reconstruite.

Il y avait un document d'Alfred Bardet, l'employeur, un type qui avait le même âge, qui venait de louer cette maison, à Crater. On a publié les souvenirs de Bardet, dans les années 80. Il arrive à Crater, il voit une belle maison pour installer sa factorerie, elle est à vendre, il la loue. Et puis j'ai eu l'occasion de retrouver et de publier des photos de Bardet, représentant la maison. Malheureusement, les documents ne coïncidaient pas, c'était été trop beau... Il a fallu de longues et passionnantes recherches, c'est-à-dire s'égarer, parce qu'Aden est un lieu où l'on s'égare. C'est un lieu qui correspond tellement à ce poète, d'ailleurs. C'est un lieu qu'il déteste, et donc adore — parce qu'on n'est pas dupe, quand il déteste quelque chose, c'est qu'il l'adore ; en général, il fait comme ça, pour les Ardennes c'est pareil.

Il s'est trouvé que j'ai pu rassembler des documents qui, tous, étaient incomplets, et reconnaître la maison. C'est un moment assez magique.

Dans la vie de Rimbaud, cette maison a une importance précise ?

Oui, parce que c'est un vagabond, comme il le dit — il a dit une très belle chose : "Je suis un piéton, rien de plus". C'est donc un paradoxe puisque c'est le seul endroit non seulement authentique et intact, mais encore où il a vécu. Pas plus de six mois, mais six mois, pour les Rimbaldiens, sur les 10 ans d'Afrique-Arabie, c'est pas mal.

Il se passe une chose très intéressante avec cette maison. Ce n'est pas la maison de Rimbaud, ce n'est pas un lieu de pèlerinage. Les lieux de pèlerinage, d'ailleurs, on tourne autour. Là, on entre, on s'installe, on repart après avoir fait des projets et des échanges. Il y a quelque chose de très important : premièrement, cette maison est située dans une des régions du monde où la

culture française est conchie par des gouvernements incapables, sauf au Yemen, où ils sont ouverts, attentifs, fidèles, fiables, disposés, sympas. C'est donc une

avancée, une tête de pont. Et d'autre part, des poètes éminents, des écrivains fameux y viennent. Ce n'est pas un lieu où des écrivains vont dire des choses définitives, c'est un lieu de rencontres avec les Yéménites, avec tous les



Arabes, qui fait signe, qui fait symbole. Et les autres disent "En effet, il y a un lieu où l'on parle, où l'on se rencontre, où il se passe des choses", c'est bien plus important que le contenu de ce que l'on peut dire dans un colloque. Par exemple, voilà l'idée, il y avait aujourd'hui une jeune fille de 20 ans qui vient se dévoiler, littéralement — Rimbaud dit "littéralement et dans tous les sens" — et qui vient lire ses poèmes. Voilà, ça, c'est la Maison Rimbaud.

Vous dites : chercher la maison, c'est ranimer la mémoire. Aujourd'hui, est-ce qu'on peut dire que la maison telle qu'elle est devenue ranime vraiment la mémoire de Rimbaud ?

La mémoire, c'est des histoires

de famille. L'important, c'est la présence, quelque chose qui est de l'ordre de la présence d'un grand poète, qui a des aspects rebelles fameux, mais qui n'est pas que ça. Du point de vue arabe, qu'est-ce qu'ils ont vu arriver les Arabes à Aden : des militaires casqués, des curés, des diplomates, des médecins, tous 40 balais, casque colonial. Et voilà qu'en 1880 arrive un jeune homme, 26 ans. Et ce jeune homme, il ne vient pas avec un modèle de civilisation, il le fuit. Il ne vient pas prendre le minerais, il vient chercher du travail. Il est donc comme tous les Arabes en France en ce moment. Et ce n'est pas tout : il a déjà achevé son oeuvre, et cette oeuvre est majeure. Elle n'est pas encore connue quand il arrive ici, et les poètes des générations suivantes ne vont pas s'en remettre, mais ultérieurement.

C'est ce qu'ils voient arriver. Parce que Rimbaud, en Arabie, précède son oeuvre. Un jour, il commença à la traduire, et par conséquent, étant donné qu'il y aura eu ce séisme dont il aura été à l'origine en France, il se produira probablement, souhaitablement, la même chose dans la poésie arabe. Autrement dit, avec le retour d'Arthur Rimbaud à Aden, c'est le retour d'Abu Nawas, le grand poète rebelle de la tradition arabe, qui avait profondément changé l'histoire de la poésie et de la métrique.

Mais pourquoi donner tant d'importance au passage de Rimbaud à Aden alors que justement son oeuvre de poète est déjà achevée ?

Parce que ce n'est pas une question de littérature. Si c'était une question de littérature, ce ne serait pas très intéressant. Ça concernerait les amateurs. C'est

une question d'oeuvre-vie. Il y a la dimension oeuvre-vie qui fait qu'il n'est pas seulement dans la littérature. Parce que c'est une entreprise poétique qui pose la question : "Qu'est-ce que c'est que vivre ?".

Justement, est-ce que la recherche obsessionnelle derrière Rimbaud, ça ne ressemble pas un peu à la recherche philosophique — c'est-à-dire faire des recherches sur Rimbaud, n'est-ce pas voué à l'échec ?

D'abord vous avez trouvé le mot juste : philosophique, au sens où la poésie n'est pas un exercice, mais une question philosophique pure, et que pose la langue. D'autre part, ce sont des questions philosophiques que celles type "Où est-ce qu'on va, où est-ce qu'on est ?", "À Aden, tiens ! c'est curieux, drôle de pays". Ce sont des questions philosophiques de se dire "D'où je viens ?", "Qu'est-ce que c'est que ce pays-là ?", "Où je vais ?", ce sont des questions philosophiques de se dire "A quoi bon ?", et tout ça...

Il faut resserrer ça sur cette philosophie-là, pas sur l'exercice littéraire. Ce qui se passe sur Rimbaud, ce n'est plus tout à fait de la poésie, parce que ça a été abandonné, et ce n'est pas non plus seulement de la biographie.

Trop de recherches ne cassent-elles pas la poésie, trop connaître ?

Ben oui, mais... Plus on connaît, plus on apprend, plus on comprend qu'on ne sait pas. Il n'y a vraiment que des faits pour croire qu'ils savent trop de choses. Et ce sont dans les domaines qu'on connaît le mieux qu'on fait des découvertes. La première découverte vraie, c'est de savoir qu'on ne sait pas grand chose. Si on s'intéresse vraiment à fond à un sujet, on connaît déjà pas mal tous les autres. Et puis qu'est-ce qu'on connaît dans la vie, au fond, à fond — parce qu'on sait tous bricoler, la vie est approximative — qu'est-ce qu'on connaît à fond, moi je dis, modestement, une chose. C'est pour ça qu'il est difficile de trouver un vrai compétent... Et qu'il y en a tant, partout. »

Illustration : Rimbaud par Picasso, 13/12/60.

Hôtellerie

La dynamique de l'Aden Hôtel

L'Aden Hôtel Mövenpick se refait une beauté. Et mise sur la zone franche.

Aden. — Seul hôtel de luxe sur Aden, le Mövenpick est pourtant loin de faire le plein. Ses quelque 200 chambres accusent un taux d'occupation de 30% — tout juste de quoi atteindre l'équilibre financier. Si l'on en croit Cypert Schwartz, General Manager.

Débarqué il y a quelques mois, Cypert Schwartz tente aujourd'hui de redorer l'image de son hôtel. Les quelques balcons détruits, par la dernière guerre ont été remplacés. Trois étages sont en rénovation. Et

le service et l'accueil se veulent plus disponibles et courtois que jamais.

Il faut dire qu'une échéance intéressante beaucoup le Mövenpick : la création, enfin, de la fameuse zone franche. C'est d'elle que doivent venir de nouveaux clients, du moins Cypert Schwartz l'espère-t-il, à défaut de venir des circuits touristiques qui ne passent pas systématiquement par l'Aden Hôtel.

En évitant le Mövenpick, ils évitent sans doute l'un des meil-

leurs restaurants du Yemen — certains disent : le meilleur. Ils évitent aussi l'un des meilleurs hôtels, comme l'affirme Cypert Schwartz, regretant l'absence de concurrence qui lui permettrait de le prouver.

Aujourd'hui, Cypert Schwartz espère voir revenir les clients du night club, du restaurant, et de l'hôtel. Des soirées à thème vont être organisées. A l'Aden Hôtel Mövenpick, la dynamique a repris le pouvoir.

Publi-Reportage

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة وجميع العاملين فيها
تتقدم

المؤسسة الوطنية لتعبئة المياه الغازية - عدن

بالتهنئة القلبية الحارة للقيادة السياسية الفذة
والحكومة الرشيدة ومجلس النواب والى
الشعب اليمني كافة بمناسبة ذكرى الجلاء
وبمناسبة ذكرى توقيع وثيقة اتفاقية الوحدة
اليمنية المباركة في الثلاثين من نوفمبر .

The Chairman of the Board of Directors
and all employees and workers of
**The National Bottling
Organization - Aden**

Present their heartfelt congratulations to
the Yemeni People, Political Leadership,
House of Representatives and Government
on the anniversary of 30th of November
(**anniversary of the departure of the colonial forces from the
southern part of the homeland**) and
the sixth anniversary of the signing of the
Yemeni unity agreement.



CANADA DRY

MORE THAN A CHOICE TO REFRESH YOUR DAY



Lime

Fruit Flavor

Orange

Cola

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الإدارة وجميع العاملين
تتقدم
المؤسسة الوطنية لتعبئة المياه
الغازية-عدن
بالتهنئة القلبية الحارة
للقيادة السياسية والحكومة الرشيدة
بمناسبة ذكرى الثورة اليمنية
٢٦ سبتمبر + ١٤ أكتوبر.
تمتنية للشعب اليمني دوام التقدم والرخاء.

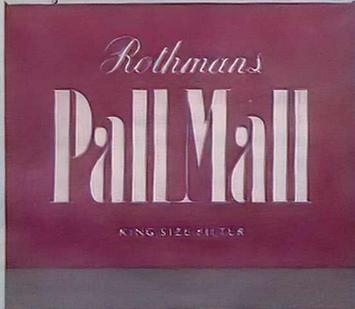
The Chairman of the Board
of Directors and all Employees
and Workers of

**The National Bottling
Organization - Aden**
present their felicitations
on the anniversary of the
26th September & 14th October
to the Yemeni people
and political leadership.

Many happy returns to All

NATIONAL BOTTLING ORGANIZATION-ADEN

Tel: 345967/341314, Fax: 342238, P. O. Box: 352, Crater, Aden.



ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة
وجميع العاملين فيها

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت المحدودة

The Chairman of the Board of Directors and all
Employees and Workers of

National Cigarette & Matches Industry Ltd.



presents its heartfelt felicitations and
warm congratulations to the great Yemeni
People, The Government of Yemen and
our Political Leadership on the occasion
of the 30th of November and the sixth
anniversary of the signing of the
Yemeni unity agreement.

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني
والحكومة الرشيدة والقيادة السياسية العظيمة
بمناسبة ذكرى جلاء الإستعمار من جنوب
الوطن وكذا بمناسبة ذكرى توقيع اتفاقية الوحدة
اليمنية .



AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-11-95 (Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Cairo's Al-Gumhurria Newspaper: "Al-Zindani and Bin Laden (Saudi Arabia) are at the Top of the Sponsors of International Terrorism"
- 2) Official Document Discloses: Tens Of Millions Are Lost to Ministry of Education Contractors
- 3) The Suspect of Igniting Radfan Violence Escapes with the Assistance of Islah Officials

Article Summary:

Who Really Stopped Al-Shoura's Printing?

The Editor-In-Chief of Al-Shoura Newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Popular Forces Party, denied the statement made by Abdulrahman Al-Akwa'a, the Minister of Information to one of the papers last week, in which he said that the paper was not stopped by the Ministry of Information, but by the Minister of Legal Affairs. Mr. Abdulla Sa'ad pointed out that the Ministry of Information was the one which issued the "stop print" order to all the presses and it was the first thing done by the Minister when he took over office as Minister last July. Mr. Tariq Al-Shamy was also surprised by the MOL's statement which also stated that the Minister was willing to execute any court order which to allow the paper to go into print again. The Secretary General of the PF party assured that the Court Order has already been issued by the Sana'a Appellate Court headed by His Honor Hamoud Al-Hattar, who is also the Chairman of the Yemeni Human Rights Committee.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-11-95 (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Defense Ministry Official: "Yemen Completes Its Authority Over the Three Islands (Under Dispute With Eritrea)"
- 2) They (the Coalition) Have A Right To Differ...And We Have A Right To Know (Reasons and Motives)
- 3) Oufra Hazza'a (Israeli Yemeni Singer) and the Right of Citizenship

Article Summary:

An Appeal to Have Immunity Rescinded from MP Sa'atar

At a large mass gathering in Sa'ada, the representatives of the people of the province demanded that the immunity of MP Abdulla Sa'atar be rescinded so that the Islah extremist can be taken to

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

court for inciting sectoral strife by encouraging his party affiliates to excommunicate any religious leader who does not follow the line of the extremists in the Islah./ The 2 day conference of 2500 dignitaries in the province also requested that delegates be allowed to meet the Governor (Islah) to air their grievances, except that the latter refused.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-11-95 (Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President, To Religious Leaders In Aden: "The Religious Leaders Are the Guardians of the Unity of Yemen And We Shall Not Permit For Anyone Who propagates Divisions and Sectoral Differences."

"Diligent Efforts To Stimulate Activity and to Simplify Procedures In Aden Port"

- 2) The Yemeni - Eritrean Talks Ended With In A Frank Atmosphere...Dr. Al-Iriani: "Our Country Is Prepared To Solve Any Conflict In Accordance With Principles Governing International Law"

Article Summary:

The Council of Ministers

In its routine weekly meeting the Council of Ministers:

- discussed the proposed Information or Media Policy and the Policy pertaining to news services of the Government and confirmed that this policy should confirm the basic tenets of freedom of the press and freedom of expression and that all the media will work towards enlightening the people and broaden their horizons and that access to information must be facilitated with a view towards being truthful and adhering to all the values of equity and sincerity in all handling of information in all the media channels.
- approved the award of contract for the Hajja Water and Sewerage and the Hodeida Provincial Secondary Towns Water Projects which went to the China Road and Bridge Construction Co. in joint-venture with Joseph Ribbel Bradder of

Germany at a total cost of YR 1.4 billion, financed by Germany.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: San'a (Weekly) 20-11-95 (Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The World Bank Tracks the Minister of Fisheries
- 2) The Law of Political Parties: The Liberation Front Party is Canceled!
- 3) Aden Fights AIDS

Article Summary:

The Tragedy of Coalitions

The opening editorial of the paper points out that any coalition government is bound to lead to failure and problems for the country. Of the three coalitions, so far tried out since unity, none had so far worked to bring stability and the prioritization of the national interest to all other interests, especially partisan interest. The problem is that coalitions end up being struggles for the "spoils" of political victory in government positions and assets, where portfolios are considered "party property". The problems of the present coalition were highlighted by the boycott of the Council of Ministers weekly meeting by the Islah ministers (a precedent).

It is unthinkable that the coalition partners do not gain from the previous coalition experiences or from how the other coalitions in the world operate, like in Israel. Our coalition partners do not believe in give and take or compromise, which would go a long way in assuring smooth sailing of the government.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-11-95 (Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) None of the Political Parties is Considered Legitimately Registered ... No Legitimacy To Any Party That /Does Not Conform to the Law of The

Political Parties.

2) The Human Rights committee of Parliament Meets This Coming Tuesday To Discuss Illegal Residents.

3) The General Civil Aviation Authority Responds (To Article Last Week): The ICAAO Has Given Generously to Yemen and Warning Was Not Given

Article Summary:

1) The Second Doses Of Reform:

Rise in Exchange Rate (Official)

Rise in Cost of Services

The article sheds light on the government's intentions to implement the second stage of the economic, financial and administrative reforms which are highlighted by the following:

- official rate for US Dir. to rise to YR 130
- Petroleum Prices (Gasoline) to rise by 100%
- Utility costs, telephones and other services also to rise

2) A Message to Yemen Via A Patrol Boat

An Eritrean Patrol Boat recently stopped off The Larger Hunaish Island to give a warning that the island and all the other isles nearby are "Eritrean Territory". The authorities in Sana'a took the necessary measures to deal with any threat to Yemeni sovereignty over the islands.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly) 22-11-95 (Independent)

- 1) The President Is not In Aden For A Vacation
- 2) Typhoid and Malaria Spread In Al-Dajia'a
- 3) Amnesty International Searches For Six Persons Missing Since 1986
- 4) A Protest Rally in Al-Hamy (Hadhramaut) Due to Lack of Water Supply

Article Summary:

Historical Ruins Found in Jija "Colony", West of Shibam

Three km west of Shibam Hadhramaut, an American Archaeological Expedition has proceeded with its excavations in Jija Colony and has come across ruins of temples and other structures as part of the fourth stage and second season of its mission and have already found the outlines of the fifth stage. The article did not point out the age of the findings nor the sponsors of the expedition. The article gave some description of the findings, so far including furnishings and decor. Dr. Adul-Aziz Bin "Uqail, an official of the Yemeni Authority of Antiquity branch in Hadhramaut is leading the Yemeni Participants in the dig.

Letters to the Editor

"The Project of Election"

There is a project of water in Al-Khabt which is one province of Al-Mahweet. This project has not worked yet, because it is not in a suitable place. It is on top of the mountain. I mean this project should be done in another place (Valley of Al-Mosaneba). It was founded at the time of the elections and stopped after finishing of the elections.

Now we have some questions about the project.

- 1) Why did they stop it?
- 2) Why didn't they put it in a suitable place?

By: Mohammed Nasser Gashan
Al-Mahweet College.

Dear Editor,

Through my favorite Yemen Times I want to thank the Department of Geology at Sana'a University and the Ministry of Oil and Minerals Resources about holding the International Conference on Yemen Geologic Formations. I am in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science an exhibition of services and exploration technology. This exhibition will provide a rich information about the minerals and oil in Yemen Republic and will give a clear knowledge to any visitor.

I hope from God to help them in order to provide rich data and information for future use by the ministry and associated companies.

When there is a good relationship between the ministry and the oil and other companies and planning in our country, I think the minerals and other resources of the country will produce good results for a good (better) life for the Yemeni society who look forward to the future these days with a hopeful eye.

Saleh Ahmed Sapoulan
Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a

Letters to the Editor

"AL-MAHWEET CITY"

Al-Mahweet city is one of the most beautiful cities in the Republic of Yemen. There are many people from other Governorates who reside in this city. The beautiful nature of the city, attracts the visitors from many countries in the world.

There are some problems and difficulties make many people who complain. Some of these problems are:-

- 1- Bread: There are three bakeries in the city, but usually they are closed. Some people are compelled to get bread wherever it is. you feel shamed when you see along queue of students and teachers stand in front of the houses to buy bread.

2- Housing problems:- This city is quite small, so there is no enough houses for rent in order to cover the numerous number of population who study in the faculty of education or work in any sector.

3- Electricity:- The problem of electricity is a complicated one. All people are worried about disability of it to cover the city constantly. Many in the private and public sectors are stopped for a long time daily.

Finally I hope that the attention must be drawn to this city because of its important as a populated city and one attractive center of tourism in my dear country.

By: Hassan Mohammed Saleh Gashan
Al-Mahweet, Faculty of education.

Dear brother,

I am Musa Banda of Ghana Citizen write this with greetings to you.

I was a teacher in one private school in Somalia and war broke there, that let me to come to Yemen, but while there is no problems politically, UNHCR refuse me as a refugee, and due of lack of passport and residents permit my life had change to hardship and difficulty.

Letters to the Editor

Second, I became a new Muslim in Yemen here, studied in Abdullah Farage New Muslim School, but the school had been closed, so I would like to go back to Ghana and further my studies there, the documents I would use to go is available but I don't have money to afford the ticket which is US \$900.

So I am begging all my brother in Islam to help me any how to make my journey possible, so brother I beg you try all means to help any way you can and I pray to Almighty Allah to bless any one who will come to my aid.

I don't have any means to buy my ticket because I was not working since I came here and UNHCR reject to buy me the ticket because I am not a refugee.

Kindly help me as a brother and I know Almighty Allah would reward accordingly. According to Holy Koran, Allah blesses a cheerful giver.

Hoping to hear from you.

Douglas Adjei is my name before I became a Muslim.

Thanks to Allah

Dear Editor

I am Doctor Ahmed Al-Sayaid, the Ambassador of Yemen in UNESCO's UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION.

Fine greeting to you and thankful for your labor and attention to enter Zabid among the historical cities, as part of international human heritage which is still drawing world and Yemeni attention to this city.

So, that is what made us want to send our open-letter across Yemen Times news paper to help and save this town from the havoc of bad-hands, that is represented by the wrong-way of restoration and repairs to the Great Mosque of Zabid. We are amazed for this attempt of demolition, from a group of workers pretend, that they are commanded by the Governor of Hodiedah Mohammed Hattem Al-Khawi to restore the

Letters to the Editor

Great-Mosque. But the problem is that this group has not any experience and knowledge in a technical way, also without any record of working on project in any responsible way nof dealing with monuments of historical heritage.

The reasons I write this is to point out that the work they are doing is leading to the roof of the Great Mosque in Zabid falling down soon.

The materials appear to be materials like cement and plaster, instead of sundries of al-Nawras local material like bricks. On the other hand, they try to cancel and deface the decorations and Islamic inscriptions, and other antiquity insid and the graphic arts of the Great Mosque fall down.

The Great Mosque is regarded as one of the unique buildings in Yemen and a land mark of Zabid. Muslims from various areas come to pray and beg for God's mercy in this testimonial to Yemeni architectural beauty. It was once the destination of students from all over the Islamic World., who came to Zabid to enrich their knowledge

The scholars and all intellectual body in the city are re-wakening to campaign together against this bad-actions of these destructive "renovators and request from you and every kind Yemeni to stop with us to correct these mistakes and destruction, which is said to be the work of the Governor of Zabid, may God allow him to see the right of way.

On behalf of the "Association of Sea-Gulls" Zabid.

تهانينا الحارة

نتقدم بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأستاذ

إبناس محمد عبدالواحد السقاف

بمناسبة عقد قرانها علي الشاب

وضاح عيديروس السقاف

فالف مبروك وأدام الله السورور

المهنوزون :

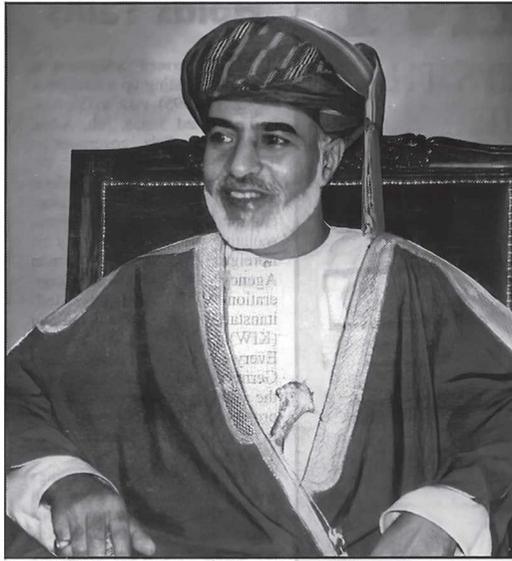
أم هشام محمد السقاف وإيهال ونادي

OMAN: The New Launch

The air is filled with joy. The people are rejoicing. The butterfly-shaped lights decorate the streets and highways. Muscat - a clean and beautiful city, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman, has reason to celebrate.

The sprawling urban growth is evidence of a construction boom. Its skyscrapers are located mainly in the commercial and business district of Ruwi. Al-Rusail harbors the main industrial projects, although there are industries scattered here and there. The seaport is active, and the airport is busy. Environmental considerations are an important dimension in the development of the city as well as the country. Lush greenery covers a good part of Muscat, while the old castles and palaces have been rehabilitated and well-maintained. The University is the focal point for young Omanis who are expected to shoulder responsibility for the next phase of the country's modernization. It is the 25th anniversary of the reign of Sultan Qaboos.

But the picture was very, very different only a short time ago.

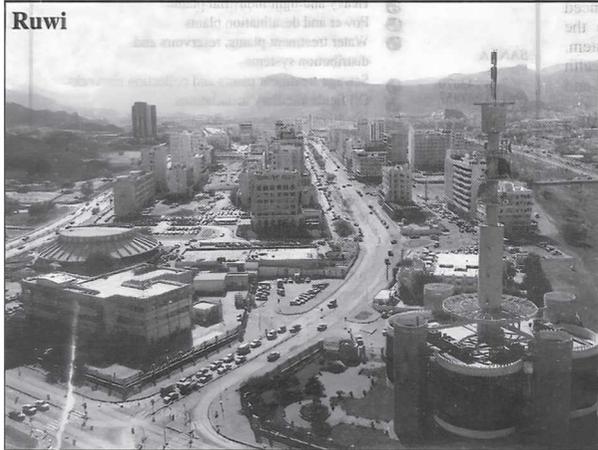


liantly-hued African-influenced printed textiles; the archtypical brass coffee pots - epitomizing the Arab tradition of hospitality; and the silver *khanjar* daggers, worn by every red-blooded Omani male on dress occasions.

Another lure for visitors is Nizwa, once the capital of the *Ibadhi Imam*, a religious leader whose influence at times rivalled the sultan in Muscat. Nizwa fort's huge circular mud brick tower still looms over the town, and the weekly market offers a kaleidoscope of Omani townspeople. Men haggle over antique silver daggers; others crowded the livestock yards or mill about the grisly butchers' stalls.

Further inland are the mudbrick town of Bahla, dominated by its hilltop fort, and the 17th-century palace of Jabrin, standing guard over the Empty Quarter, the burning sands of the Rub Al-Khali.

From Muscat, visitors can head southeast, crossing the desolate Wahiba Sands by four-wheel-drive vehicles to reach the old slave trading and ship-building port of Sur. Turtles breed nearby at Ras Al Hadd, the easternmost point of Arabia.



Ruwi

developing county - moderately but not excessively oil-rich. Now visitors can freely tour the ancient spice trading port of Muscat, the Sultanate's capital, and the sands and precipitous mountain valleys which lie beyond.

Omanis today enjoy a rapidly improving standard of living. Since coming to power, Sultan Qaboos has initiated and completed a massive overhaul of the country's infrastructure, building highways, hospitals and schools.

Omanis also retain a cultural and trading tradition which has become their trade mark. An Omani sailed from Muscat to the southern Chinese port of Guangzhou

(Canton) 800 years before Columbus.

Oman's empire once stretched from the East African port of Zanzibar to the coasts of modern day Pakistan. But Oman's prosperity dwindled after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. On his accession in 1932, the late Sultan Saeed inherited an impoverished nation, its people eking an existence from fishing and date cultivation.

Today the Sultanate once again finds itself in a strategic position, sitting astride the Straits of Hormuz where the Sultan's coast guard escorts tanker convoys through this narrow waterway at the mouth of the Gulf which separates the Iranian coast from the craggy tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

The distinctive mud brick forts guarding Muscat and other Omani towns reveal a long history as trading posts. Albuquerque's Portuguese caravels arrived in 1507, beginning an occupation which ended 150 years later.

Oman's rugged landscape can be an experience by jolting along rough, steep tracks in the jagged purple Hajar Ranges running parallel to the Indian Ocean; or up amongst the barren crags of the Sultanate's Musandam Peninsula enclave that juts out into the Straits of Hormuz. Muscat today has sprawled along the coasts, leaving behind the old city huddled around a narrow-mouthed bay, its pincers guarded by the twin forts of Jalali and Merani. The gold souk at Ruwi displays rows of gleaming baubles. Treasures to be found in the souk may include: a brass giraffe; an earthenware incense burner; the bril



Imagine, if you can, a country in which, as late as 1970, the cannon boomed out at sunset from the city ramparts as the gates of the capital swung shut, and no man dared walk the streets without his regulation lantern - no flashlights allowed. In this medieval fiefdom there were but three schools and twelve hospital beds.

Motor cars were rarely allowed by Sultan Saeed bin Taimur, who himself would travel around the town of Salalah in a car pushed by his retainers. He did not bother to have gasoline brought in. "And so he ruled for 4 decades until 1970, running on empty", observes Christopher Dickey in his book *Expats*.

In 1970 Sultan Saeed bin Taimur's son Qaboos bin Saeed, educated at Britain's prestigious Sandhurst Military Academy, came to power and began to steer his principality into the 20th-century.

On the Indian Ocean coastline of Arabia, the kingdom of Sultan Qaboos is today a middle income

A 1000-km highway leads southwest across the deserts, traversing the last refuge of the Arabian oryx, to old Sultan Saeed's hideaway of Salalah in the southernmost corner of Oman. Here in the province of Dhofar, land of the twisted trees that exude the sap of frankincense, the life-giving rains of the summer monsoon have created an enclave, a land of grassy hillsides and verdant valleys where graze the cattle of a tribal people speaking an ancient language which pre-dates Arabic.

On the 18th of November, H.M. Sultan Qaboos, while acknowledging the dramatic progress achieved over the past quarter of a century, promised a new launch. He has succeeded in bringing his country to the 20th century. Now he has to take it to the 21st century.

**By: Yemen Times staff.
Phillip Game contributed to this article.**



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German Delegation Holds Talks

A senior German delegation is presently winding up a one-week (22-29/11/1995) visit to Yemen. It has visited Sanaa, Ibb, Aden, Abyan and Taiz governorates. The group is headed by Dr. Adamek from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, and includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW).

Every year, a mission from Germany visits Yemen to assess the viability of German-financed projects and bilateral cooperation in order to decide on future aid to Yemen.

The group is holding meetings with government officials and has visited numerous regions where German-financed projects are being executed. Among the projects presently co-financed with German assistance are the Aden water/sewerage system, vocational training centers, health units and other infrastructure and service projects.

Dr. Mutahar Al-Saeedi, Vice Minister at the Ministry of Planning and Development expressed Yemen's full appreciation for German support. "We fully appreciate the assistance of Germany with which we enjoy especially good relations," the Vice Minister said.

Germany is Yemen's leading aid partner and the two nations enjoy special relations.

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