



YEMEN TIMES

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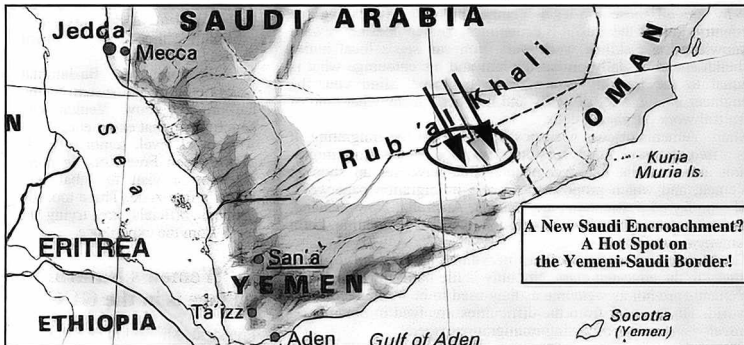
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Merry Christmas

Yemen & Saudi Arabia: Still Unable to Be Good Neighbors?

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Yemen's trouble-shooter with Saudi Arabia, is concluding a visit to Riyadh at the head of a senior Yemeni delegation which is trying to talk to Saudi officials on the recent border encroachments. The situation at the border, especially at the point where Yemen, Oman and Saudi Arabia, is especially tense. Rumors in Yemen as it that a confrontation between an encroaching Saudi contingent and Yemeni forces has left many casualties. The Saudis say these are not their regular armies, but nomadic civilians who keep moving from one location to

another. Many of these are newly "naturalized" Saudi citizens. Yemen and Saudi Arabia, signed ten months ago a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to discuss the border issue. "Saudi Arabia would just not let up," said a senior member of the Abdulghani government showing disappointment at continued Saudi pressure on Yemen. "We gave them all that they had asked. We gave up the Asir, Najran, Jaizan areas. We allowed the penetration of their products into Yemen. We rehabilitated their friends (sheikhs). What else do they want?"



Yemeni Qataris Send Appeal

A group of Qataris of Yemeni origin are in trouble. These are about a hundred and fifty adults and their families (about a thousand in total), who have been naturalized as Qataris under false names. "When we first came, that was some half a century ago, we settled here and found jobs. Then we brought in our nephews and cousins, as our children. They are our children, but of course, their names are different," explained one old man. As the "adopted" children grew up as Qatari citizens and started their own families, the false names became a problem. Many of them went to the authorities in search of a correction. As this happened, the authorities withdrew the Qatari passports, sacked them from their jobs, if these were 'sensitive', and re-structured their salaries and other

benefits, treating them now as foreigners. "Although our beloved Emir (ruler of Qatar) has given instructions to ease off, we are still troubled. We need to regain our Qatari passports and identity and return to normal life," pleaded another. Most of these individuals have lived in Qatar for several decades. Their children were all born there. They have asked the Yemen Times to plead on their behalf with the Emir of Qatar and President Ali Abdullah Saleh, to find a solution. They would like to hold the dual nationality of Qatar and Yemen, as the laws in both countries allow such an arrangement. Most of these individuals have a clean criminal record and engage in all sort of productive activities. Today, there are more than 25,000 Qataris of Yemeni origin.

PSO Trouble, Again and Again!

The Political Security Office (PSO) was in action last week, again against the Yemen Times. The PSO airport office stopped Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of the newspaper, as he flew in from Qatar at midnight on Thursday (14/12/1995). "At first, I thought they were still holding a grudge from my participation in the SOAS, London University conference held last month. Then one of the officers, while going through my bag piece by piece, spilled the beans. 'So, you want us to be friends with the Israelis, ha!' he said. Then

I realized the PSO's grudge has to do with my editorial last week, in which I urged the Yemeni Government to take an active and open role in contributing to the peace process," he said. After a humiliating baggage search, the PSO then confiscated the editor's ordinary passport, which it still keeps to-date. This behavior is illegal and unconstitutional. The PSO increasingly infringes on the rights of Yemeni citizens and it interferes in everything, including foreign policy, as in this case. When will this end?

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Brain Drain: Proof of Yemen's Bad Times!

Yemen is probably among the lowest countries in the world in terms of qualified manpower. Yet, Yemen is rapidly losing its top cream of skilled personnel. It is a horrendous flow of brain drain. Whatever the indicators, whatever the testimony and support of our friends, this outflow of all kinds of manpower, notably the skilled group, is telling a sad story of bad government. As the saying goes, "People are voting with their feet. They are leaving the country."

I have always known that the system of Yemen is not hospitable to the well-educated. It is a fact that the people who feel most at home in Yemen are the sheikhs and their tribesmen. The lawyers, engineers, physicians, PhDs, journalists, accountants, and other professionals are in a constant search for a home elsewhere in the world. With this happening, no one can convincingly tell me that we have a good government in Yemen.

The point was brought home to me last week in Qatar. I met there some of the pilots flying the planes of Qatar Airways. They were Yemenis. Instead of looking back to Yemen, they were working on settling in, for good if possible. Some two dozen Yemeni physicians have set up shop in the United Arab Emirates, this year alone. Some forty university professors have left Yemen this year and are teaching in universities in different countries ranging from Malaysia, to the UAE, to Jordan, and even to Libya.

Why are all these top-level Yemeni professionals leaving the country. Part of the reason is economics. Yemen does not reward knowledge and skilled work well. You can see a local junior sheikh spending daily on qat for him and his entourage what is equal to the monthly salary of an engineer. Mind you, the engineer puts in a lot of work, and it is hard to say what kind of fruitful work the sheikh does.

Many Yemenis discuss what possibilities exist for emigrating. It is a frequent issue in qat sessions. Proof of demand for emigration exists in the many companies that have set up shop in Yemen, and which propose to process immigration paperwork. The preferred destinations are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and of course, the USA. Some are even contemplating Latin American countries.

The bungled-up foreign policies of Yemen have added insult to injury to the educated class. Not only is life hard in Yemen, now Yemenis are not as welcome as they used to be in the rest of the world. This is clear from the difficulties involved in obtaining a travel visa, and in processing immigration papers.

One of the main issues is the association of Yemen with Islamic radical elements such as the jihad. Most people agree Yemen served as a transfer point. Some would even go further and say that Yemen served as a training camp for Islamic fundamentalist elements which seek to rock the boat of the New World Order.

Over the last four years alone, Yemen may have lost several thousand of its highly educated civilian class. This is a real vote on the conditions in Yemen. It is a statement on the way the regime treats the educated of the country.

Then some super official tells us that Yemen is heaven. Senior officials keep repeating that the good times are, or at least that they are coming. Who will you believe? The officials or the citizens who are leaving the boat.

By the way, there are flocks of unskilled and semi-skilled Yemenis who are banging the doors of embassies in search of visas to go abroad to work.

The Publisher


Is There a Deal or Not?

It is common knowledge that the three-month period stipulated in the Yemen's Gas Deal with TOTAL expires this week. The agreement had left the door open for Hunt, Exxon and the Korean Group who hold the oil concession to the exploitation at Marib/Al-Jawf bloc, to jump in. Towards that end, Mr. Ray Hunt has been in town for almost a week now.

As this paper went to print, a deal was not yet reached.

Yemeni-Indonesian Memo Signed

Yemen and Indonesia signed on Saturday, December 16th, a memorandum to foster trade and joint investments. The memo, called the Technical and Economic Cooperation Memo, is expected to encourage Indonesian investments in the Aden Free Zone.

Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Minister of Planning and Development and Chairman of the Free Zones Authority, who signed the memo on behalf of Yemen, is presently on a tour of southeast Asia to present Yemen's plans for the Aden Free Zone and to invite investors, especially those of Yemeni extract.

In Singapore, Mr. Ba-Jammal was briefed on the system of the harbor, and how Yemen can benefit from that experience.

At another level, senior officials of the Aden Free Zone is presently on a visit to Jabal Ali, Dubai's free zone. There too, the Yemeni officials are trying to learn from the experience.

"Yemen's Natural Place is in the GCC"

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in yet another appeal to the Gulf countries, said "The natural place of Yemen is with the GCC. If they ask us to join, we will gladly join in," he said.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper, Okaz, President Saleh indicated that "Yemenis now live in harmony and reconciliation." The Yemeni leader also indicated that Yemen and Saudi Arabia were working closely to resolve their differences and that the joint committees were doing a superb job.

Fire Destroys the Aden International Exhibition

On Wednesday, December 13th, a major fire destroyed a good part of the Aden International Exhibition. Government investigators could not arrest any body in conjunction with the fire, nor could they pin down or specify the cause of it.

There were reports of lives lost in the fire, although the loss in property was estimated at more than YR 10 million.

1996 Declared as Year of the Archives

The National Center for Documentation concluded last week its three-day seminar on the Systems of Paper-Processing and Archiving". Representatives from various international agencies participated in the seminar.

At the end of the seminar, Qadhi Ali Abul-Rijal, Chairman of the Center, announced the decision of the seminar to consider 1996 as the Year of the Archives.

Education Ministry Announces Vacancies for Teachers for 1995/96

Believe it or not. The Ministry of Education announced last week that it has vacancies for teachers in the 1995/96 school year.

Final Program for Media Seminar in Yemen

The final program for the UN/UNESCO sponsored and organized "Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media" scheduled to be held in Sanaa during 7-11/1/1995 is now ready. According to the program, the seminar will be launched by an opening ceremony in which representatives of the Yemeni government, the UN, and the UNESCO will address the audience. They will be followed by a representative of the Arab media who will give the keynote address, the seminar's first substance speech.

The first working session will start in the afternoon under the theme "The Situation of the Media in the Arab World: The Issue of Independence and Pluralism". From there on, the seminar will take the shape of paper presentations in the mornings, and working groups in the afternoons.

The morning session of the next day will address the theme of "Public Service Media". The working groups in the afternoon will be on "Women and the Media", and "Monitoring of Press Freedom".

The third day will address legal and political aspects in free and pluralistic media. The issue of press censorship will weigh heavily on this day. The afternoon workshops will deal with strengthening of professional organizations and training. The training dimension will also take up the next

day, while Thursday (January 11th) will be devoted to the final report and declaration of the seminar.

Some 150 media personalities representing all the Arab countries and the relevant international organizations will attend the seminar, which will be held at Haddah Hotel. In addition, key and effective international organizations such as Article XIX, Committee to Protect Journalists, FIEJ, Amnesty International, and others will send representatives.

"The choice of Sanaa as the meeting place for this important media event comes to underline the world community's support for Yemen's efforts in working towards an open and free press. I hope that the Arab media will use this seminar to overcome the obstacles that hamper freedom of the press in the Arab World," said Nejb Friji, Head of UNIC and the official spokesman for the Seminar. He also said that the caliber of the participants gives hope that something tangible will come out of this seminar.

The seminar will lead to the Sanaa Declaration which will outline the participants' planned course of action as well as what the UN and UNESCO are willing and able to do in support of a free and pluralistic Arab media.



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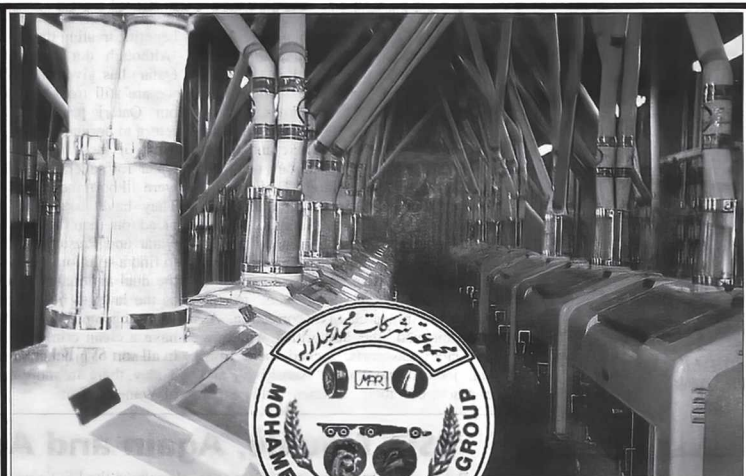
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An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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Tourist Advisor Kim:

"Yemen has the potential for a great tourist industry. But it will take some doing."

Zohng-Chill Kim, came on a short mission as Special Advisor for the Republic of Yemen on Tourism Policy and Development. He was seconded and financed by the government of Korea (South or Republic of Korea).

He is the founder, in 1972, of the Korean Folk Village (Yong-In) which aimed at conserving/preserving historic, cultural and traditional heritage. The idea was to operate a Living Open Museum. Mr. Kim is also a former Executive Vice President of the Korean National Tourism Corporation.

The Republic of Yemen has a significant tourist potential which could be used to generate income, especially in the form of badly-needed foreign exchange. The ancient sites, and the old cities such as Sanaa, Sa'adah, Shibam, Seiyoon, Tarim and others, hold the prospect to apply the concept of Living Open Museum. Hence, the handy nature of the expertise of the Korean expert.

Once in Sanaa, Zohng-Chill started to work. He developed many ideas About what could be done and how to go about it. He even worked blue-prints for certain projects.

Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Kim at his office in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. He was interviewed by Ismail Al-Ghabri, Sanaa Bureau Chief.

Excerpts:

Q: Tourism should logically play a major role in Yemen. Yet, we are unable to kick it off. What do you think?

A: First of all, I would like to mention that your country has thousands of years of history, culture and heritage. You have an indigenous character or identity. There are many things that evoke awe and fascination. Just mention the name of Queen of Sheba, the Marib Dam, the Incense Trade Route, and the many relics of the past. So the potential is there.

Yemen also is well-endowed with geography, good climate, a long shoreline, high mountains, deep gorges and valleys, and vast deserts. There is another potential there. The handicrafts, the folklore, and the many other



aspects of socio-culture give a romantic notion of Yemen. There is more potential there.

What I am saying is that, 'Yes, Yemen has a great attraction as a tourist destination'. But that is not enough.

You need the infrastructure - the hotels, the airlines, the operators, etc. You also need a system. There should be facilities for visa processing, and other documents. You also need the overall ambience. People who visit Yemen should feel they are safe, and they are welcome.

So it takes a lot to kick off a tourist industry. In my opinion, Yemen can do it. So, tourism means of kindness, hospitality, friendliness and services.

Q: What is in it for Yemen? I mean what can Yemen expect from the tourist industry in real terms?

A: Of course it is not possible to give specific numbers before hand. But remember there are countries which attract millions of tourists every year. If

Yemen attracts enough tourists, it can generate employment, taxes, and revenue.

Q: You are here advising. What exactly do you do?

A: Yemen's tourism organization is a government authority. It needs some information on how to promote tourism. There are some technical services like financial services for tourists, like tour guide systems, like advertizing techniques on how to sell a tourist destination, etc.

Your country is not well promoted yet to the outside world. But before promoting your tourism to the world community, it is important to have an awareness of the importance of tourism for your own people. Because if you don't have a full appreciation, you will soon stumble over many issues. One that keeps coming back is security. Another is cultural 'erosion'. Tourism is like a great orchestra, which consists of many different players. If one person makes mistakes, the whole thing is destroyed. Tourism is an orchestra which includes people from top man - president - to the ordinary person in the streets. They all have to support the industry.

So I am here to advise. I ask your officials what is the slogan you use? What is the image of Yemen you promote? What is the special theme that gives your country uniqueness?

Yemen has a mystic value of its own. Its identity is like a time capsule which combines the ancient and modern. This is a good theme, and we are working on it.

People living in big cities like New York, Paris, Tokyo, London, Seoul, etc., know modern life and they are fed up with it. They want to come back to their origin. In a way, Yemen offers that. But you have to package it well!

Q: Do you think the investment is there to package this product?

A: That is part of the job of the tourist authority. I think the money is there, and the willingness to invest is there. It takes creating the system and ambience to tie the knot.

Q: Where do you think Yemen's tourists would come from?

A: Of course, you have your traditional markets - mainly Europe. Germany, Italy, France, and the

United Kingdom. There are other Western countries as well.

But then again, you can tap new markets in the Far East, notably Japan. There is also Korea. This year, some 3 million South Korea will travel abroad.

At the moment, Yemen attracts less than 50,000 tourists a year. This is nothing. Yemen can easily attract ten-fold that number. But it takes some doing to tap these markets.

Q: How can Yemen tap those markets?

A: I think the first step is to place Yemen along an on-going tourist track. This means you link up with other destinations such as the Gulf, Egypt, Jordan, East Africa, etc. With time, then you stand as a destination by your own right.

But first, a commitment needs to be shown. I would like to suggest to your government to make tourism as a national strategic industry. Is the will there to do this?

Also remember, it is not just a question of numbers, it is a question of optimizing. You can get a large number, but of very low-spending tourists.

Q: What is your assessment of lodging facilities (hotels) in Yemen?

A: Hotel accommodation in Yemen is very inadequate - both in quality and quantity. Only in the main cities does one find good hotels. Even here, the quality is way high up, and the majority are very poor. There is very little in the middle range. In the small villages, which are attractive for tourists, lodging is inadequate, if available at all.

Q: What is the main impression you are going away with?

A: I would not be surprised if there is a tourist boom in Yemen over the next few years. But, I want to warn of the need for preserving quality of service.

At this time, I would like to quote a statement made by former US President Jimmy Carter, who I believe, visited your country in 1993. He said, "I never saw such a tourist attraction like Yemen. I think Yemen is an "Open Air Museum" and a fantastic tourist destination.

Every inch of Yemen is a museum. But that is not enough to bring tourists. You need to work on it and develop the atmosphere to attract the visitors.

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Abubakar Al-Saqqaf Wins Case Against Sanaa University

Last week witnessed a landmark in Yemen's evolution towards a nation based on civil society. Judge Abdul-Malik Al-Jindary, presiding over a session of the West Sanaa Primary Court, announced his verdict in favor of Professor Abubakar Al-Saqqaf and against Sanaa University.

As the judge summarized the long verdict, he stated that the administration of Sanaa University had no legal basis for firing Professor Al-Saqqaf in June 1994. The judge also noted that the staff and professors of the university were free to engage in any political activities they choose, and they cannot be penalized on that ground. He then ordered the university to pay all the salaries of the professor since June 1994, and to pay all the expenses of the lawyers and others costs.

A happy Al-Saqqaf spoke to the Yemen Times later on. "I am very happy with the justice that was rendered, and I would like to use this opportunity to thank this young judge, Mr. Al-Jindary for his courage," he said.

I also would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues in the Department, the College of Arts, and the university as a whole. My colleagues actually refused the university's instructions and continued to enable me to teach. I finally would like to thank the Sanaa University's Professors' Syndicate which stood by me and gave me a loan to keep going," he explained.

Speaking about the fallout of the case, Abubakar hoped that the university administration would learn from this case and realize



that the university should abide by professional and academic rules rather than along political favoritism.

In terms of the meaning of all of this, he said that the decision is a landmark, and it shows there are judges, journalists, lawyers, and other professionals who are willing and able to stand up to the excesses of politicians. "Unfortunately, however, these are individual efforts. They are islands which have not, as yet, come together to form a larger team or entity."

The general public and especially the intellectuals were jubilant about the verdict.

Dr. Hameed Al-Iryani, a well-known businessman and intel-

lectual, said that the decision of the university's administration was incorrect to start with. It was an effort to get even with Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf, given his political views. I am happy that the legal system has corrected this mistake," he said.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami of the Center for Research and Yemeni Studies added that the decision gives hope that something can be done against the corruption and excess of the politicians who have expanded their control to include even the universities. "We need similar bold steps. We need people who can stand up and say this is wrong, even in the face of the highest politicians. Only such people can

build a modern Yemeni nation," he said.

Dr. Abdulaziz Tarmoom, Professor at the College of Economic and Commerce, said that all like-minded intellectuals who seek to help in Yemen's transformation must join hands in supporting any person who is victimized for his ideas or thoughts. "We should learn to come to each other's rescue. Otherwise, we will all be slaughtered, one at a time," he said.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Maqaleh, Professor at the College of Arts and Chairman of the Professors' Syndicate, was also joyful of the outcome. "I do not agree with many things that Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf writes. But I am not going to stand by and watch him being penalized just for that. We will support the right of any university professor to have his/her own thoughts and express them," he said.

Dr. Amin Al-Himyari, Professor at the College of Agriculture, said that there is reason to celebrate. "This is an important day for freedom of expression and the right to have one's views, irrespective of whether the senior politicians or the university administration like them or not," he stated.

Dr. Abdulghani Qassim of the College of Education also expressed similar sentiments. "It is imperative that the university professors provide society with a role model. Irrespective of our divergent political views, we should spearhead society's resistance to the excesses of the politicians and their preponderant dominance," he said.

Yemen and Eritrea: Military Confrontation Replaces Dialogue

Last month, Yemen and Eritrea argued over territorial rights as well as ownership of three islands - Greater Hunaish, Zuqar and Little Hunaish - that lie halfway across the Red Sea, exactly facing Yemen's Khokha coastal village (Please refer to map). The issue started as an economic dispute because Yemeni fishermen were sprawling the area, and because Yemen was talking to a Western company to lease the Greater Hunaish island which was to be transformed into a tourist resort.

As the official Yemeni-Eritrean talks bogged down, Yemen dispatched a military contingent which was stationed on the island earlier this month.

As talks continued between the two sides to no avail, and given that the Yemeni military presence was seen as a way of forcing a solution, Eritrea responded militarily.

On Friday December 15th, Eritrean naval forces occupied the island and

took in the military contingent as prisoners. Yemeni officials, embarrassed by the military humiliation, started talking about external support for Eritrea in its recapture of the island. There were also ominous warnings of a Yemeni paratroop landing to recapture the island.

Meanwhile, as the heads were cooling off, direct talks between the two sides were resumed on Sunday, and are expected to continue through the week.

The Yemeni authorities have been inviting the ambassadors of key countries in the world to explain their position, and to warn against the potential for escalation of the military confrontation. Neighboring countries are also nudged to try to intermediate. Ethiopia is a country that is most likely to play a role in bridging the gap between the two sides. Egypt is another country that could play a role.

Unless a face-saving solution is found for both sides, the situation could quickly get out of hand and degenerate into a full-scale war.



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The United States Agency for International Development and the Republic of Yemen Government are pleased to announce that six long-term academic scholarship for Academic Year 1996/1997 will be offered to qualified Yemeni candidates. These scholarships will be for **Master's degrees only**, and are designated for the general areas of management and Administration. The scholarship should be in one of the following fields:

1. Public Health Management / Administration
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6. Educational Administration

Two of the six scholarships will be offered specifically for female candidates only. In addition, at least two of the six scholarships must be in health related fields of study.

Interested applicants must meet the following requirements:

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- 2) 2.5 cumulative grade point average in B. S. / B. A. degree program
- 3) A minimum of two years of work experience after obtaining their B. S. / B. A. degree; female applicants must have two years of work experience
- 5) Below 45 years of age

Qualified candidates should prepare a file containing the following documents:

- 1) Bio-Data Sheet/Resume
- 2) Copy of I. D. card
- 3) Three certified copies of Bachelor's degree transcript
- 4) A minimum of three recent letters of recommendation
- 5) TOEFL exam report
- 6) GRE or GMAT exam score report, or proof that the applicant has registered to take the appropriate exam within two months
- 7) Candidate's statement of objectives
- 8) Narrative from candidate's place of work to confirm the need of his/her training and ensured employment after the completion of his/her Master's program

Government employees should submit their complete file to the Manpower Sector of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform. Faculty members from Yemeni universities should apply through their university's Department of Higher Studies. Private sector applicants should submit their files directly to the Ministry of Planning and Development.

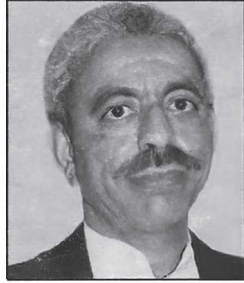
All nomination must be received by these institutions no later than January 15, 1996. Under no circumstances will nominations be accepted after this deadline.

For further details, please contact the Department of Cultural, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation at the Ministry of Planning and Development in Sana'a, **Tel: 250101-250105**

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The New World Order Takes a Proper Turn



In the early part of the 19th century, America or the United States of America, had just emerged as an important power in the Western Hemisphere. Although only 1/3 of its present land mass size, yet it had proven itself as capable of facing up to three European powers, Britain (twice with the American Revolution and the War of 1812) France and Spain (War of 1803) the European powers continued endlessly to grab off colonies wherever they could from each other, or in those areas still not colonized, Mr. James Monroe, the fifth American President issued what became known as the first important American foreign policy declaration... This policy statement was to avoid getting embroiled in the continuous inter-European feuds and to prevent the feuds from undermining the stability of the Western Hemisphere, where a lot of countries have relatively been released from European control. The Monroe Doctrine was issued about 1820 to prevent any further attempts by Europeans to bring their squabbles across the Atlantic. On the other hand, it told Europeans that they should keep their troubles to themselves while the newly emerging countries of the Western Hemisphere will keep their troubles to themselves.

Of course, such a policy was not exactly adhered to by either side, as the Europeans still had colonies in the hemisphere, which the US could not help but seek to end them. The Spanish American War finished off the remaining Spanish control in the Caribbean Sea (1898).

The British were allowed to wage their war against Argentina over the Falklands in the 1980s. On the other hand, the 20th Century saw America or the US forced into the Eastern Hemisphere conflicts and it also began a course which would lead to an increased accumulation of US interests developing there as the Twentieth Century progressed. The Second World War also saw the first assault against US territory by a foreign power as the Japanese insisted on monopolizing military prowess in the largest ocean of the world, the Pacific Ocean, could never be challenged by any power. Pearl Harbor ended any hope of maintaining on "isolationist" policy. Moreover, the world is a lot smaller than it was in the

19th Century. Thus American presence in international affairs became more unavoidable as the 20th century progressed.

The involvement became detrimental to the outcome of the two world wars and to facing up to the Communist threat lead by the former Soviet Union. Moreover, under the Cold War power equations, the role of the US was as a leader and an initiator of international trends. With the Soviet role in international affairs evaporated, the US did indeed reach global power exclusion. The US became a global super power.

It is hard to say if America had prepared for such a rare international situation, as a government or a people, but where its interests were at stake, there was little hesitation in implementing any action that was necessary to uphold those interests and secure them, by all means possible (The Second Gulf War, or Operation Desert Shield). On the other hand, should this role also be directed towards regulatory activities that may portray involvement in situations where American interests are the least affected by? This had been the dilemma which bothered the minds of the American Foreign Policy Makers as the New World Order was ushered in. How much should global responsibility be stretched in international affairs (See Yemen Times: Common Sense Issue Nos. 10 and 11 for 1995: On East, West and Global Responsibility).

The recent pivotal American involvement in the Balkans is an indication that the Global superpower can not be expected to watch if certain situations are approaching sheer madness, and have gone beyond all acceptable human barriers or limits in one way or the other. For the United States, such a decisive step in the extent of America's role as a global superpower must pass through tough hurdles, especially when considering the strong isolationist inclinations of a large segment of the population, if not the majority of the population, and where American interests are not at issue.

On the other hand, the American involvement had been strongly resisted by America's European Allies, for reasons that apparently turned out to be a source of concern that perhaps the European Allies were not really interested in arriving to a quick halt to the bar-

barity that was being unleashed by the Serbs. As it turned out, without American involvement to the rescue, there is no telling how much madness we might have been subjected to viewing and how much innocent blood would continue to flow in the gentle slopes of a land that should only see peace, since God has endowed it with so much beauty. As it turned out also, all the warnings against such an involvement were false and perhaps intentionally misleading, because there were forces in the area who, in fact, wanted the Bosnian nightmare to continue, for some reason or another.

The American Administration's direct and firm decision to participate strongly in the efforts to bring peace to Bosnia should really be viewed beyond the possible political considerations of the upcoming Presidential Elections. In fact, this observer is inclined to believe that the risks are there that the impact on the election campaign effort could be more negative than positive, as the recent Congressional attitude towards sanctioning the use of American forces in the Balkans saw the very mixed public reactions to such an expedition seem to show.

For Mr. Clinton, the decision to overrule all the difficult considerations against US involvement in the Balkans, and to insist that a global super power role implies regulatory activities to certain extent, must be congratulated and acclaimed as a monumental foreign policy initiative that reflects a strong sense of conscience that outweighs political considerations.

Moreover, it is also a reflection of confidence that the American people will not fail to understand the wisdom behind such a difficult decision in view of the humanitarian aspects that have given the Bosnian "Civil War", some of the ugliest displays of man's inhumanity to man.

One cannot truly say that the agreement, in Dayton Ohio reached between the leading players in the conflict that smeared the beautiful landscape of Bosnia-Herzegovina would be easily implemented, in light of the complex nature of some of the procedures which are included in it, and the ethnic sensitivities that are bound to linger on for many generations to come, no matter what kind of agreement is reached, but the most important thing for now is to cease the carnage and move beyond the map playing by not so serious European "peace" negotiators and the deliberate stalling of Dr. Boutros Ghali to take effective actions that would indeed bring a halt to the madness. If time proves that the Dayton Agreement did not work, there is nothing to prevent amendments, as may be required. The important thing is that wars of the Bosnian type cannot carry on endlessly, while the entire world does nothing more than proclaim its outrage and sends bandages and dry milk, and prevents the victim of a planned genocide from exercising their right of self-defense.

In reflecting back to the tragedy in Bosnia, the observer cannot fail to admire the courage of the Bosnian Muslims - government and people - in facing up to the unusual aggression faced and their confidence that the conscience of the world will not be content


with just issuing declarations and sending a couple of negotiators to continuously play with the maps on the walls of comfortable conference rooms in Geneva or London. Nor will the world conscience be stalled while Boutros Ghali comes up with the proper decision needed to safeguard the UN forces that were supposedly there to avoid the human carnage that was proceeding under the watchful eyes of UN forces, that could do nothing more than tip their blue helmets to cover their eyes. Tragedies like Bosnia need effective and firm actions that fully underline the message that the world community will not allow for men to unleash hatred and the thirst for blood to achieve outdated nationalist ambitions that seek to glorify a certain people at the expense of the annihilation of another people.

That kind of nonsense went out a long time ago, when ignorance and the ego drove men to unleash the most effective killing machines against whole populations just so a factory in another country can be fed with the raw materials to keep that factory going. As a world getting smaller, and as democratic ideals take precedence above all interests, it is pleasant to see the United States taking the initiative on deciding the proper actions where human morality is at stake. Only with the Americans taking the initiative as will the proper international trends be set and will the criminals of the world who possess the tools of statehood be forced to realize that human life and moral values are not just media slogans thrown to please ignorant masses that are indifferent to anything that does not affect their own little worlds.

This observer sincerely hopes that American foreign policy has truly taken a turn for the better and will now cater to a truly strong sense of responsibility that comes with the unusual opportunity unequalled in history, whereby we have one global superpower with men of conscience who hold the reins of power.

It should not be surprising to see the United States continue to deal with its peaceful efforts in the Middle East with the same understanding that has dominated its efforts in the Balkans, according to which the human side of the dispute takes precedent to any other consideration and moral questions are not just shied away from.

From the progress made, so far in Syria, it seems that President Hafez Al-Assad has seen that the US can be made to understand the proper positions that are necessary for a durable peace, in the Middle East or the Balkans or any other hot spot that still reeks with the menace of men who think that nothing should stand in front of them achieving their chauvinistic dreams, through lying about history or through religious facades, that God will surely not be taken in by, or through the use of hatred and sadistic tactics that seek to destroy all the cultural heritage which many generations of idealists have worked and given their lives for. It is time for good to overcome evil in the world. That is the message Mr. Bill Clinton is giving in the Balkans. It is a message that is well read and understood.



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A World of Economic Crisis



Economic problems and issues occupy first priority on the international scene, today. The Western economies have experienced visible instability in their economies activities leading to major difficulties in international relations, part of which is manifested in the restlessness among the different classes

and groups. It looks like the economic system of the West has given rise to enormous problems due to its failure to meet the needs of new conditions, and its inability to adjust to new circumstances, part of which entails the West making room increasingly for non-Western communities. The Western economic system is also based on a continual struggle among the different economic groups and classes, thus there will be no peace on earth as long as this system in its present form reigns.

The economic system is fundamentally based on the freedom of the individual to carry out whatever commercial or industrial projects and joint transactions he/she likes, to produce the items he/she chooses, in the quantities he/she decides. In other words, each individual enjoys full freedom in making his/her decision, no matter what the consequences to others or society.

This system is based on three foundations:

- Personal interests are an aim by themselves, because a person works only when there is a personal profit that pushes him/her to work.
- Competition is a means of work, because human beings are controlled more by their motives than by any other force; hence the competitors to get through the difficulties of work.
- Freedom is a condition, because the loss of freedom destroys competition, paralyzes activities, and prevents the achievement of personal profit.

Atmosphere of Free Economic Activity:

Creating an absolutely free atmosphere for

economic activities has become the job of the state. But this drive, especially after machines have replaced humans, resulted in a number of dangerous economic crisis, of which one can mention:

- Inflation and rising prices.
- Closing up of factories and the subsequent high unemployment, followed by the fall of income and deteriorating quality or standard of living. These conditions often push people to revolt, attack the symbols of the system (burn factories, destroy government buildings, etc.) because they see in them the source of their misfortune and misery.

The Trade Cycle.

Economists use the term 'trade cycle' to denote alternation of periods in which wages, employment, prices and industrial output rise and fall. Although there were trade cycles during the earlier centuries, they became more pronounced with the advent of the industrial age. The most severe depression, that of 1929-1933, began in the United States of America and spread over the Western countries. It is evident that governments can do something to prevent severe trade cycles. But that requires hard work, skill and a high level of coordination and commitment among nations. But this state coordination and intervention is contrary to the full freedom of individuals - hence the contradiction within the present world economic system.

The existence of severe economic problems means that the states have to play a greater role in control of the economy.

The situation in foreign trade has changed dramatically during the last thirty years, and these changes have affected among the countries of the world. Changing political circumstances have affected the ease or difficulty of trading among countries. The changes in the financial powers have also affected the relations among countries and blocs.

The West Lives Beyond its Means:

Knowledgeable sources indicate that the severe economic depression is partly caused by countries living beyond their means for an extended time. This is especially true of governments. The British government, for example, is expected over the next three years to sustain a budgetary deficit of 12%. The American Government has an even more serious deficit, which has been the reason for the

quarrel between the Clinton Administration and the Republican Congress. Most other Western societies and governments also live beyond their means, thus depleting the world, while at the same time claiming to be helping the poor countries.

As a matter of fact, the budgetary deficit has been used as a pretext to minimize aid to the poor nations. Most of them justify that by stating that the foreign aid had been granted to inefficient organizations (e.g., the UN) and corrupt governments headed by totalitarian individuals. Thus, it has been asserted that the Western governments have the right to lower their foreign aid. Many Western governments have already done that.

The Banking System Does Not Work Well:

One of the pillars of the existing Western economic system is the international financial system, especially the banks. But the banks have been plagued by failures, mismanagement and corruption. We have heard of the classical bank of Britain because one of its employees in Singapore bugled up. Japan also had its banking scandal. It lost an estimated US \$ 1,000 million in one of its banks in the United States of America. Then there are the numerous savings and loans association troubles in the USA. There are the countless cases of banks going under.

The whole system needs to be overhauled.

Then there are the problems associated with financial instruments, stock markets, etc. Insider information-based trading has always been a pain in handling.

Conclusion:

My point of view is that a well-organized campaign needs to be carried out to cope with the world economic crisis and its effects. There must be an economic policy leading to full employment, and to the expansion of private and governmental industries in every part of the world. Various attempts need to be made to improve industrial relations, reform trade rules and organizations, and curb the free-bargaining jungle law of pay negotiations. These efforts could lead to greater productivity. Whilst other economists had argued that a country's wealth was its land, or its balance of trade, Professor Adam Smith, a famous economist said that

wealth was labor, and that labor was more productive if specialized or skilled. He attacked excessive regulation of economic affairs by central and local governments, and advocated freedom for individuals to pursue their own economic interests. Mr. John Maynard KEYNES, an economist whose writings helped to end laissez faire and shaped our modern system, says in order to stop unemployment the state needs to finance "public works" even through deficit-spending. Unemployment could also be alleviated by making the distribution of income more equal. This would increase the demand for consumer goods.

Unless there is adequate trade among countries, there could be no achievements towards economic growth, higher employment, and a rising standard of living for humanity at large.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle
Sana'a.



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عده الحكيمي ، محمد علي هيثم
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

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أجهزة حاسوب آلي (كمبيوتر) وتوابعها

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TIRETYTE maintains constant air pressure by sealing all causes of air loss including rim and bead leaks, tread area punctures and the normal porosity of tire.

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TIRETYTE extends tire life by proper air pressure maintenance. A properly inflated tire will run cooler and last much longer. A high pressure truck tire underinflated by just 15 p.s.i. can cost over 25% in tread life.

PREVENTS CASING DAMAGE

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- 2) ADEN: Molla Daga
- 3) TAIZ: Beer Basha- next to cargo community. 2-Bait al-Sofari, Al-Haseb
- 4) HODAIDA: Kilo Khamsah. 2-Jaizon st Al-Rabash exhp.
- 5) IBB: Taiz st.
- 6) DHAMAR: min street. next to Sawal station.

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JAP

Harmonious Mix of Local Cultural Heritage



Q: You have been in Yemen for nearly two years. What are your impressions?

A: It was always my dream to come to Yemen. I am happy this dream has become a reality.

My first contact with Yemen was a short visit (5 days) to Aden and Sana'a before unity. Then in early 1994, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs nominated me as ambassador to the Republic of Yemen. I was accredited on February 10th, 1994.

I have many Yemeni friends, and I visited many cities and villages. I find the people of Yemen very kind.

I understand there are difficulties which the Yemeni government and people face at the moment. But I should say I admire their efforts to address the situation. This has been in the form of economic, political and social reforms. I can already see that these difficult times are going to give way to better times.

At another level, when we look at the political structure and overall atmosphere in Yemen - in comparison with that of other Arab countries - life here is far more desirable. This is due to the democracy, freedom of expression and political pluralism that exist in Yemen.

In short, I can say that my impressions are very good.

Q: Can you describe the Yemeni-Japanese relationship?

A: Yemeni-Japanese relations are very warm. We have had many exchanges of visits from both sides, unfortunately, more from Yemen than from Japan. Japan is contributing effectively to the development process of Yemen. (Please refer to box on next page for volume of Japanese assistance.)

I think more can be done if Yemen were to appoint an ambassador to Tokyo. I have been assured that this is going to happen soon, and I am waiting for the nomination.

In general, bilateral relations are excellent.

Q: Do you receive the necessary support in doing your work?

A: I appreciate very much the kindness and understanding of the officials of Yemen to me. I get the full support I need, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government here.

Q: Japanese tourists are travelling all over the world. What are the chances some could come to Yemen?

A: Of course, that is not exactly my field. It is up to the travel and tourist industry to make arrangements. We on our side have issued a report stating that Yemen is a safe country for travel, and that there are no worries on this count. Such reports can be distributed among the tour operators.

I know that there is interest in visiting Yemen among the Japanese public, but they need to be informed more. Also arrangements need to be completed in terms of logistics. I see this component in our cooperation as happening in the near future.

Q: How does your government view the transformation of Yemen?

A: My government support the political transformation leading to a pluralist democratic political system in Yemen. We encourage Yemen in embarking on economic adjustment, which is going to allow a faster growth rate in the future.

As you know, Japan expressed its strong support for the unity of Yemen in the recent civil war. We have now resumed full technical and financial assistance to Yemen.

Q: Can you tell us more about Japanese Aid to Yemen?

A: We focus our efforts in the basic services such as electricity and water. We also have a medical team in Yemen to give advice on tuberculosis. We have supported educational TV programs. We have provided equipment for the television network and transmission. Now we are financing the Aden telephone network expansion program.

Q: You also have an on-going small-scale embassy projects.

A: Yes, we have a successful program to support small-scale projects through NGOs and their voluntary grass-roots level organizations.

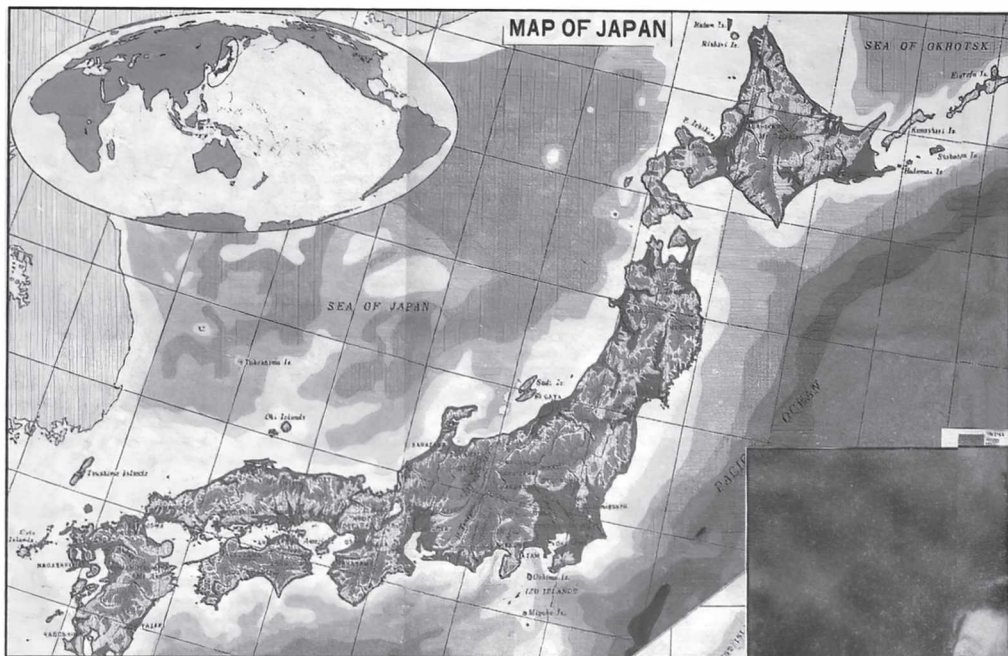
Q: In my visit to Japan in September 1995, I asked about the volunteers and when they will return to Yemen. When do you think we shall see Japanese volunteers here?

A: We have sent a lot of reports concerning that. I know that the volunteers will return to Yemen. But Japanese paperwork, like that of Yemen, is rather long.

Q: Any last comment want to make?

A: That geographic distance between countries is no longer a problem in today's world. So I hope as many Japanese officials and people come to visit Yemen and also as many Yemeni officials and people go to visit Japan. In other words, we have to promote exchange of visit between our two countries.

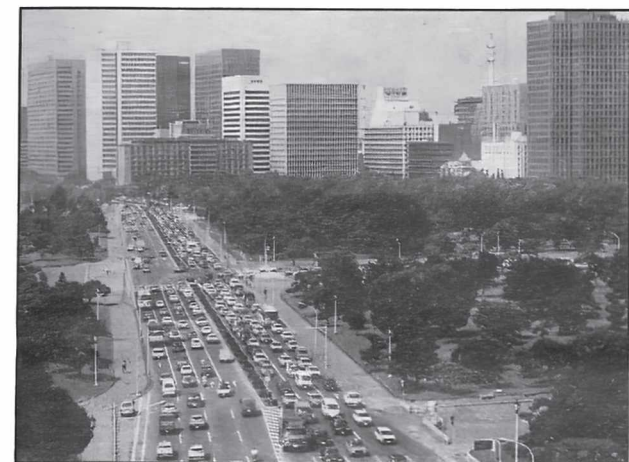
On this occasion, I would like to express my appreciation for the very good activities of the Yemen Times.



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 His Majesty Emperor
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AN:

ge & Modern Technologic Sophistication


JAPANESE ANNUAL AID TO YEMEN

| Year | Total in 100 Million Yen |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1976 | 4.00 |
| 1977 | 48.72 |
| 1978 | 5.85 |
| 1979 | 82.00 |
| 1980 | 6.48 |
| 1981 | 10.26 |
| 1982 | 96.19 |
| 1983 | 22.68 |
| 1984 | 22.42 |
| 1985 | 29.45 |
| 1986 | 11.78 |
| 1987 | 134.51 |
| 1988 | 243.62 |
| 1989 | 89.29 |
| 1990 | 25.55 |
| 1991 | 37.71 |
| 1992 | 34.16 |
| 1993 | 37.71 |
| 1994 | 13.28 |

JAPAN: WHERE THE WILL TO PROGRESS NEVER BREAKS

Japan is a group of islands that stretch from the Russian occupied islands of Kunashiri, Etorufu, the Hobomai islands and Shikotan to the Southern tip of South Korea, in a curve like chain of several hundreds of islands. The archipelago occupy an area of 378,000 square kilometers (146,000 miles). The four main islands clustered together in the middle are Hokkaido (83,250 sq. km.), Honshu (230,940 sq. km.), Shikoku (18,808 sq. km.) and Kyushu (42,164 km).

The Japanese people are ~125,000,000 strong and follow Buddhism and Shintoism.

The archipelago that makes up Nippon, Nihon, Japan, or the Land of the Rising Sun is an Asian country that has managed to steer its own course while still willing to take in new ideas that are born and developed elsewhere. But Japan does not simply copy the ideas and products, it gives them a Japanese flavor and evolves their use in a spectacular way - a phenomenon that has become known worldwide as Japan.

Civilizations have come and gone throughout the Seven Continents of the world, but the Japanese heritage never seems to crash into a dead end, no matter what natural catastrophe may be hit the archipelago as time goes on, or whatever challenge history has presented. The will of the Japanese people to overcome the difficulties brought on by world events seems unbreakable.

Japan is a country that sits on some of the most unstable ground in the face of the earth. The site of many a natural catastrophe, including earthquakes that approach '8' on the Richter Scale, volcano eruptions, typhoons and other natural calamities. Yet, the Japanese continue to outdo all the efforts of nature to bring them to heel. This is not to say that the Japanese are defiant of God's will, but it does underline the fact that the Japanese can live with it, and take the test which nature puts up to state to the world that perseverance, hard work, ingenuity, and the steadfast will to succeed and overcome all obstacles to progress. At the same time, the Japanese way of life seems to stress harmony with nature, and a strong sense of peace of mind as the proper style of life, no matter where man lives.

Japan is a classic example of a nation that withstands the test of time. Not only do the Japanese withstand the test of time, they actually become hardened by the continuous terrestrial instability and the historic developments of the world. At the end, they come out on top and to carry on as a living culture that dates back to more than two thousand years of recorded history.

Time and again in history, the Japanese have resisted international pressure, in one form or another, and they overcome the powers that have tried to overwhelm them - the phenomenon often referred to in the Japanese media as "Here come those black ships again", in direct reference to the naval blockade of Commodore Perry. But when resistance proves futile, then the new course is to learn from the foreign powers as much as possible and incorporate that knowledge to the benefit of the Japanese people, and where possible to the world at large.

After some very tough lessons in history, the Japanese realize that they must play an active role in spreading the message of peace and international cooperation in all the fields that work towards improving life on earth and providing a fair opportunity for all people to join in the fruits of progress, socially, economically and politically. As a result, Japan today is the world's largest aid donor, dispensing some \$14 billion in annual aid to developing countries. After several centuries of a Spartan-like way of life and a militarized society, the Japanese society has come to regard war and the use of lethal weapons as a human crime that must be outlawed. They have taken the first step to outlaw war by incorporating such an ideal in their constitution. Such a wise decision was taken after the sad events of the Second World War. Such an attitude has helped to focus the thinking of the Japanese people on development of peaceful efforts. History has taught Japan that world power does not necessarily come through a monstrous military machine.

Today Japan is the envy of all many countries for the success it has achieved in economic prosperity and technologic sophistication without having to sacrifice its values and culture. Other countries have failed because they did not follow the proper channels for improving the lot of their people. They tended to neglect the need for horizontal cultural development, while all the facets of society continue to focus on modern gadgets and machines. The harmony needed for a stable transformation is thus lost. This is where the Japanese uniqueness offers a good model. Japan has preserved its local culture and identity while at the same time acquiring Western technologies and know-how.



ictures:

ter above:
Akihito & Empress Michiko

starting from left:
al Japanese home,
n in Kyoto, the map of Japan,
Osaka, Tokyo Disneyland,
nshu Bridge.

FILMAKERS FOCUS ON YEMENI CULTURE

QAT: Yemen's Cultural Drug

3rd of 3 films:

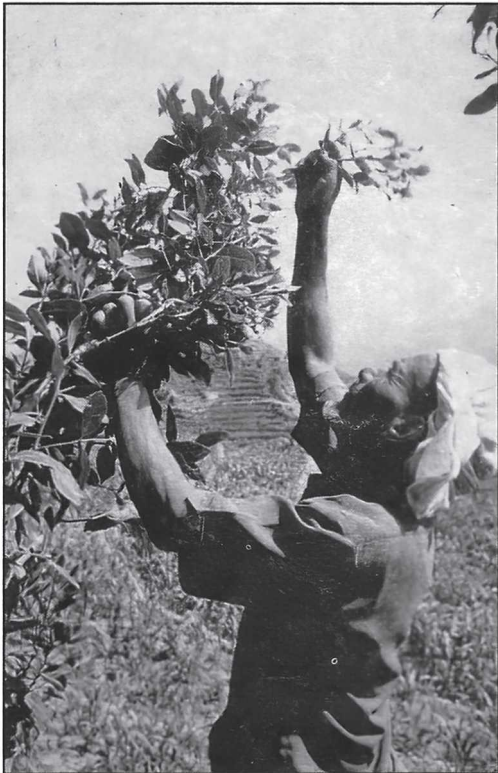
By John Miles

Throughout history, the ancient land of Yemen has beckoned many explorers eager to understand the country shrouded in a veil of mystery to the outside world. Even today, Yemen still casts this mystical charm, and in April 1995, a British Film production company decided to document many facets of Yemen's unique culture and traditions. The film crew have been producing three films in Yemen over the last 7 months.

This magical land, once ruled by the legendary Queen of Sheba, is one of the world's oldest inhabited regions. Early explorers, such as Marco Polo visited Yemen known then as "Arabia Felix, where frankincense, myrrh and Mocha coffee soon brought Yemen fame in the Arabian world. In spite of its past glory, Yemen has a chequered history of frequent wars, and colonial invasions. Although the country unified under the flag of democracy in 1990, the land is still governed by tribal laws, adjudicated over by sheikhs.

Equilibrium Films chose Yemen as the focus of its films, due to the lack of International media interest concerning the country's rich and diverse culture and social traditions.

The films will help bridge the gap in international understanding of the unique cultural traditions of Yemen.



The third film of the series "Yemen's cultural drug: dream or nightmare" will explore how qat is incorporated into social and cultural life of the Yemeni people. Qat is a controversial plant which is illegal in many countries, including Saudi Arabia and the U.S. The qat tradition has existed in Yemen since the 13th century and is still an important aspect of daily life. At the qat party, Yemeni's chew the most tender shoots of the plant and store them in their cheek for hours at a time while they swallow the intoxicating juices.

The daily lives of virtually every member of Yemeni society are affected by the plant. The history and culture of South Arabia are still relatively unknown to the rest of the world, and Qat, so widely used there is equally a mystery to the West. Yemeni's are primarily drawn to the tender leaves of the Qat plant for their socially stimulating and euphoric properties.

Three quarters of Yemen's men and women chew Qat, and on a Friday afternoon up to 80% of Yemen's population will be chewing the plant. Male Qat sessions are open to everyone, and people usually bring their own Qat and water flasks. Yemeni women who still wearing the veil in public chew Qat at their own social gatherings known as "Tafrita", where they dance and smoke water pipes.

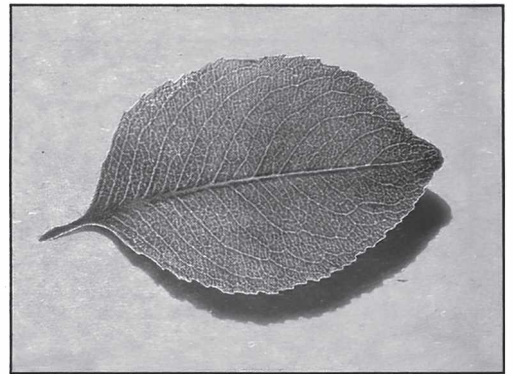
Qat chewing is central to the Yemeni's social afternoon gatherings (magayal) where gossip is shared, business is conducted, disagreements are settled. Poetry may be recited, and musicians may play a large lute-like instrument called the Oud whilst others dance.

The traditional importance of qat chewing at social events like weddings will also be explored. As the qat helps stimulate a harmonious atmosphere and facilitates the creation of *qasida* poems.

"Unfortunately all but the poorest classes are addicted to the Qat habit, more or less, the degree of addiction being proportionate to the amount procurable... It permeates every class that can afford it, and many that cannot as sometimes a man will starve himself and his family to get it. (1915, Wyman Bury).

The origin of the Qat plants (Catha edulis & Catha Spinosus) and their use as a stimulant are obscure. The plant is native to Yemen and parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, where historians believe the plant appeared around the 12th and 13th century. Due to the high annual expenditure made on Qat, the community regards the plant as a status symbol, whereby citizens are judged by the quality and the expense of Qat they chew. The community also admires those with bulging cheeks because they are able to store the most leaves.

Helfritz, a European visitor to Yemen in 1936 had a somewhat harsh view concerning the plant: *To the Southern Arabian, Qat is as important as the Koran. It is a poisonous drug, but he calls it an essential stimulant. Qat-chewing is practised by everyone. Men,*



women and children are Qat addicts without exception. It is said that the Yemenites can in case of need, do without food for several days, but that it is impossible for them to exist a single day without Qat.

There is also controversy within Islam, as the Koran stipulates that one should not drink alcohol or use intoxicants. Therefore, in Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Somalia, Qat chewing is "Haram" or illegal. Yet many Muslim Yemeni's attribute many wonderful effects and properties to mastication in relation to serving Allah:

"It enables us to pray without becoming drowsy throughout the night of Ramadan, and to work without tiring from noon to night"

In the face of an unstable economy, many Yemeni's costly qat addiction is becoming a burden on their families and is threatening to tear them apart.

Over the years, Qat has grown into Yemen's main cash crop. Income from Qat growing replaced the income lost from their dying coffee industry. Presently, due to the high price of Qat, many Yemeni's spend 1/4 to 1/2 their annual income on their addiction. The Government is reluctant to curb the Yemeni's growing appetite for Qat, as the tax imposed on the precious plant represents approximately 35% of the countries GNP.

Varied viewpoints condemn the use of qat as it is seen as suppressing the growth of Yemen by diverting and wasting its wealth and time, whilst others maintain that qat expansion has improved terracing and irrigation of the country.

The film crew lived an extended period of time in Qat growing communities which enabled them to adapt to the Yemeni's rhythm and pace of life to get a privileged insight into their unusual

world and agricultural way of life.

The film also examines the social cultural and historical importance of qat. Through interviews, the viewers will get an insight into the conflicting views concerning the euphoric or depressive characteristics of the plant. There will be medical views both supporting and condemning its use. The use of fatal pesticides is also examined.

It seems that if the Government were to ban or suppress the expansion of qat, it might have a revolution on its hands:

"People need qat...If anyone, even the Prime Minister tries to take even one tree of mine, I will kill him." Farmer Wadi Dahr.

Equilibrium Films has a tradition of making anthropological, environmental, and educational documentaries.

John Miles, the Director and Producer, recently completed a film for PBS

shot in the rainforests of the Brazilian Amazon, examining the culture and mythology of the recently contacted Arara Indians.

John Miles is also an official "Royal Geographical Society" photographer whose work has been widely published (Sunday Times, Vogue, UNESCO, Geographical Magazine, BBC and Channel 4) and has been shown in exhibitions (Royal Academy, ICA, Venice Biennale) in the UK and abroad.

His visual documentation of remote cultures has taken him from the rainforests of Papua New Guinea and Borneo to frontline wars in Afghanistan

Dawn Hurley is a Canadian Sound Recordist and Associate Producer on the films. She has given a unique insight into the Yemeni women's perspective and cultural traditions in highland communities as well as at weddings.



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وليد آدم عثمان بمناسبة إطفائه الشمعة الرابعة
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زرم عثمان ، عثمان سعيد أبويك
وجميع أفراد الجاليتين الإرتيرية والسودانية

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شركة أمان للتأمين
AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

شركة أمان للتأمين (ش. م. ب. ع.)

يسر شركة أمان للتأمين ان تعلن ان الجمعية العمومية غير العادية للشركة قد اقرت في اجتماعها يوم الاثنين ٤ ديسمبر ١٩٩٥م رفع رأس مال الشركة من ٢٥,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال إلى ٥٠,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال (خمسين مليون ريال) على أن يسدد الأخوة المساهمون الزيادة في مساهماتهم في موعد أقصاه ٤ يناير ١٩٩٦م . .
وبهذه المناسبة ، ومع دخول شركة أمان للتأمين العام الثالث من عمرها ،
تؤكد التزامها لعمالها الكرام بتقديم خدماتها المتميزة في مجال التأمين .

لرؤسائنا الكرام:

أسعار منافسة، خدمات سريعة، تغطيات تأمينية شاملة، سرعة في دفع تعويضاتهم

هذا والله الموفق

AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

Aman Insurance Company is happy to announce that General Assembly, in its extraordinary meeting on Monday December 4th, 1995, decided to raise the company's capital from YR 25,000,000 to YR 50,000,000. The share-holders are required to pay up the additional capital latest by December 4th, 1996.

On this occasion, and given that the company is advancing to its third year, we are happy to confirm our commitment to all our customers of our high-quality service in the field of insurance.

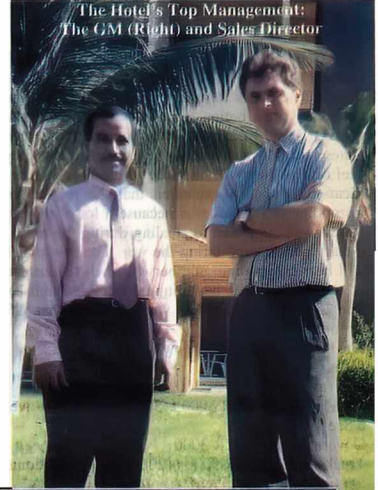
Our Customers may please note:
Our competitive prices, speedy services, comprehensive insurance coverage, and a quick settlement of claims.

ADEN MOVENPICK HOTEL: Caters to Your Business & Comfort Needs



Aden, and thus we consider this as our contribution to the development of tourism. The Aden Movenpick hotel also contributes well and regularly to the Tourism and Hotel Institute in Aden. We do all we can to respond to the Institute's needs and requirements for guidance, including giving lectures there.

for meetings, conferences, weddings and celebrations or any kind of events. It will have a capacity 300 persons. In the coming summer we are planning to set up a health club and a squash court and to modernize the tennis court. We have so many plans which we shall announce at the appropriate time.



The Hotel's Top Management: The GM (Right) and Sales Director

Aden Movenpick Hotel has introduced various programs which have converted the hotel into an attractive meeting point for tourists and guests. Movenpick Hotel has arranged a sequence of parties and activities which have increased the interest of visitors. The last of these was Black and White which was held at the Abu Nawas Nightclub. The program included singing, dancing and other forms of entertainment coupled with sumptuous food. There were also hilarious video-clippings, and various other performances.

The magic night dishes and drinks, accompanied by the Italian music build a fantastic atmosphere. Mr. Aidroos Obaid, Director of Sales in the hotel, said that those luxury programs aim an enhancing the service level of the hotel. "The staff of the hotel underwent a special crash



Our programs for the following year include reopening the Night Club. Here we shall work towards introducing belly dancing as part of the Night Club's entertainment programs, video clip music and other lively entertainment. Second, we plan to open the restaurant

Q: What is your point of view about tourism in Yemen?
A: Aden in particular, and the whole country in general, has a good tourist potential. Attention must be paid to tourism, because it is an important source of national income. Good services in accommodation and transport are needed because Yemen is rich with tourist destinations such as cultural sites, historic landmarks, beaches and mountains, etc. If the proper attention is



Q: Are there any new investments in the hotel?

A: At the present time, the hotel is under-going refurbishing in three floors of the hotel which were damaged during the last civil war, where we have completed repairing the electricity wiring, water piping, air conditioning and telephone lines. We are also full refurbishing these floors with modern furniture. These three floors should be ready to accommodate guests in January 1996. Also in the beginning of 1996, we shall proceed with renovating and refurbishing some of the other rooms with new decorations. Work is going on at the Queen of Sheba Hall, which was also damaged during the war. This should be ready soon to be utilized



training program especially in room-service by experts in order to enrich the service and attain maximum satisfaction of our guests," he said.

The man behind all this transformation at the Aden Movenpick is the energetic young General Manager, Mr. Cypert Schwartz from Holland. Mr. Schwartz brought to Movenpick a rich background in the hotel management business from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Scotland and Egypt. After six months with Aden Movenpick, Mr. Schwartz says he is happy with life at Aden.

To get more information about what is happening at the Aden Movenpick Hotel, Yemen Times interviewed him. Excerpts.

Q: What are the main components in your program for the coming years?

A: The basic thrust of our programs is to bring full life to the hotel. In order to do that, we follow three basic rules: first to provide quality service; second a constant search for originality and improvements; and third to meet the tastes and needs of the guests and visitors and other patrons of the hotel.

continuously at all times. To add an extra touch, we will import quality food products from overseas in order to raise the cuisine quality.

Q: How is the quality level of the hotel staff?

A: The management exerts every effort to train the local staff and qualify them to master the latest skills in hotel accommodation service, in a way that is appropriate to Movenpick's reputation and status. We pursue a vigorous training program because of the scarcity of qualified personnel and we always opt to make the hotel staff proud of being employed at this hotel. But, given the growth in the tourist facilities, some of the staff trained by us leave us to take on positions elsewhere. Even with this, we feel that our efforts will still pay off in the Yemeni tourist trade. This is because we want an active tourist industry in



given to the tourism industry, then Yemen and the tourists will stand to benefit.

But our focus is not just the tourist. Businessmen are also given our full attention and care. The Aden Movenpick Hotel gives businessmen spacious rooms that offer the guests sufficient space and comfort to do their work. There is, of course, the Business center which provides all the services needed by our business guests. We will soon add new services such as airport arrival and departure transport service and assistance in travel arrangements like passports, flight confirmations, ticket re-routing, etc.

We are ready for Aden that is a free zone and a major tourist destination.



AL-WAHDAH : Sana'a (Weekly) 13-12-95
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) President Ali Abdullah Saleh: "Relations with Kuwait will resume sooner or later. The work of the joint Yemeni-Saudi committees is proceeding Normally."
- 2) Central Bank of Yemen Sets 7-1-96 as the Next Bidding Date to Buy the Treasury Bills.
- 3) Garbage in Sana'a: Heaps and Hills of It

Article Summary:

The Traffic Police Chief on Traffic Fees

The General Manager of Traffic Police, Staff Colonel Ali Saleh Al-Zo'ary, disclosed that the new license plates for all types of vehicles will be ready for distribution at the beginning of the coming year. He also pointed out that the new plates will not have vanishing paint (actually they peel off) as they will be made to the best of specifications. He also explained that the reason for instituting new plates was because a lot of the old plates were subjected to stealing during the transitional period, and during the war. The new plates will bear governorate numbers (from 1-18) instead of names and will be bilingual (Arabic/English). The 750,000 new numbers will cost more than US \$5 million.

The new traffic police fees will be as follows:

License Plate Fees:

- For Taxis: YR 3000 (+ 300 for each seat over 6)
- For Private cars: YR 3000 (+300 for each Seat over 6 Seats)
- Government cars: YR 3000
- Trucks/ Freight: YR 3000 (+200 for each additional ton (minimum not given))
- Customs Exempt cars: YR 3000
- Diplomatic Plate cars: US \$100
- Replacement of lost plates: YR 2000
- Transfer of Title: YR 1500
- Driving License (all types): YR 1000
- Renewal of Driving License: YR 300
- Vehicle Registration Card: YR 500

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) : 12-12-95
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Dispute Between the Coalition partners Enters a Dangerous Phase: Talks of Early Elections and Accusations of Corruption
- 2) A Bomb Explodes in a Saada Mosque as the

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

Islah challenge Al-Haq Party in the Area.

- 3) Qatar Renews Its Rejection of the New GCC Secretary General and Will Boycott any GCC Meetings Chaired by Him.

Article Summary:

Saudi Attempt to Move Border Foiled

Official sources confirmed what has been widely rumored about border clashes between Yemeni and Saudi forces at the eastern border area known as the triangle area where the borders of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman converge. Reports say that the Saudis wanted to maximize gains as the survey company marking the border prepares to implement the Memorandum of Understanding reached last year with the Saudis.

They had withdrawn from their previous border military outpost in the area and moved groups of military personnel deep inside Yemeni territory. According to the same sources, they were quickly repelled by Yemeni forces in the area. The Saudis would like to have the border marked at 17.5 degrees latitude north, whereas the Yemenis insist that it should remain at 19.25 degrees latitude. No mention of casualties was given in the article.

26 SEPTEMBER: SANA'A (Weekly) 14-12-95

(Mouthpiece of the Military)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Telecommunications Project in Aden Costs US\$40 million
- 2) Council of Ministers Meeting:
 - Discusses By-laws of Aden Port Authority
 - Establishment of Higher Institute for Physical Education
 - Approves Enlargement of Sector No 38, South of Socotra Concession Which Was Given to British Gas
 - Discusses Dr. Al-Iryani's Mission to Eritrea
- 3) Re-deployment of Senior Officers Who Fought with the Secessionists and Payment of Their Dues

- 4) Trial of Al-Dhale' Terrorists on Sunday

Article Summary:

The Yemen of Peace

In its editorial, the paper states that the policy of RoY in settling disputes is through peaceful means as can be shown by the amicable settlement reached with Oman as well as the consistent efforts to come to terms with Saudi Arabia and Eritrea. It is the Yemeni government's view that violent confrontations will only lead to instability in the area, which will not benefit any country in the area.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 11-12-95

(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Getting the Help of the Secessionists to Clear the Mines
- 2) The Resignation of the Minister of Trade and Supply Raises Tension between the Partners in the Ruling Coalition to Critical Levels
- 3) The National Navigation Company Gives a 5-Year Concession to SAM to Subcontract all its Shipping Agencies

Article Summary:

Secret Visits

The paper reports that Aden recently received many senior military commanders, especially after the recent visits of the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The most recent visit has been the visit of a Senior American Official and his Military Attaché.

DEVELOP IENT: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly) 13-12-95

(Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Aden Refinery processes 60,000 Barrels of Yemeni Crude Oil and 40,000 Foreign Crude. Gas Production is put at 200 Tons Per Day

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

"TREASURY BILLS"

"It was not the Embassy's fault!"

Qualified Engineers in the Ministry of Oil & Mineral Resources

MUNYE: Honest & Dedicated

Now I am confused after reading Robin Miller's well explained article, which appeared in the Yemen Times of Nov. 27th, 1995 (Issue 48/95). I know many developed countries issue long term Treasury Bonds with fixed interest rates to off-set government budget deficits. Some call these bonds "gilt-edged" investments as repayment is guaranteed by the issuing government.

Investors also use Treasury Bonds as a hedge against other investments which can go up or down (sometimes wiping off the amounts invested). In my view our government has taken a right decision to issue Treasury Bonds or Bills in order to tap the huge resources of idle money for use in the development of the country. It will also boost the peoples' feeling of involvement with the government. A forceful media campaign on TV, radio, and newspapers to explain the purpose, how they work and other features will raise interest among the general public to invest in these Treasury Bills. When Robin Miller says these Treasury Bills are "Virtually risk free" it means the element of risk is present, but certainly not high enough to lose your money.

What puzzles me is a confusion related to discounting. When you say the certificates can do discounted before maturity at the Central Bank at the same rate paid for the Treasury Bill at the auction, does that mean I get back only what I paid. Suppose I bought YR 9800 to purchase a TB with a face value of 10,000 riyals, am I going to get back 9800 if I needed the money before maturity?

According to the Yemen Times article, these TB will be for a period of one month. Most US Treasury Bonds are for 30 years or similarly long term. How useful is this, unless there is a serial automatic renewal. This does not make any sense.

Still, I personally shall not hesitate to invest my small amount of savings in these TB, as I have full confidence and faith in our leaders. But maybe the experts involved will explain more to us about how the TB work.

Sameer Sangane
College of Medicine,
Sana'a University, Sanaa.

The unfortunate cancellation of the Yemen Cricket League's tour to the UAE was far from the fault of the UAE embassy as you suggested in your article in the Yemen Times on December 4th (Issue 49). The visa applications for the tour party were not submitted until November 20, which was just 9 days prior to departure. Despite the very late application, the embassy and the immigration officials in the UAE were able to process visas for all but Yemenis who had incomplete application forms. I would like to publicly thank the staff of the UAE embassy and the UAE Immigration Department for their cooperation and help in getting visas for the tour party. It was a pity that the team were not sufficiently organized to apply and get visas in time for travel.

Ken Service,
AMOCO, Sanaa.

Editor's Note:

The Yemen Times did not say that it was the fault of the UAE embassy, we explicitly mentioned the Government of the UAE. We simply said that visa processing for Yemenis is an exceptionally long and arduous process, something dictated by Abu Dhabi rather than the embassy here in Sanaa. In fact, we realize that the embassy is often put in awkward situations when it finds its hands tied and unable to help. If the article suggested that the embassy was responsible, we apologize.

But, let our readers know one more time that the time period during which applications were processed, was enough for all non-Yemenis to get their visas. This is the point. That Yemenis need to go through a specially longer process, which does not apply to most other nationalities.

The Yemen Times, while respecting the systems and regulations of various countries to process visa applications, is concerned that Yemenis are singled out for special processes. That is why we suggested in the article that Yemeni authorities raise the matter with the UAE officials.

By the way, the Yemen Times was contacted by the UAE which said it had clarifications. We shall be happy to publish the same when and if it arrives.

I enjoy reading the Yemen Times, and I am very thankful for publishing such interesting, diversified and vital articles. I would like to state here my views on the issue of employing engineers in oil companies, on which the Yemen Times presented various views recently.

Fact 1:

It is out of the question to treat equally qualified engineers who are well educated in good universities, fluent in English language, and have a good experience in their fields with other engineers who still need much training and education.

Fact 2:

For the benefit of our country and for a smooth and good work, qualified engineers have to have precedence and priority to jobs that correspondent with their skills and experience. Unfortunately, most of the time, the standards for selecting people to key positions do not match the work requirements.

Fact 3:

There are qualified engineers who can and should replace foreign workers in many oil companies. These foreign workers cost the country a lot more, and in hard currency.

Fact 4:

If we compare the remunerations and rights of foreign workers to our engineers, we will find there is no comparison. For example, on average, the income of an engineer working for the Ministry of Oil does not exceed YR 10,000, which is less than one hundred US dollars per month. A foreign engineer working for an oil company would get about a hundred times more.

One reason for this mismanagement is that our engineers are not nearly as qualified for their jobs as the foreigners.

All of us have heard about the visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Ministry of Oil and his recommendations about the situation of Yemeni engineers in the ministry. However, nothing appears to have been accomplished till now.

Muhammad Nouraddin,
Computer Engineer,
Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources.

- 2) The Tax Authority Will Institute a Fixed Income Tax for Small and Middle Enterprises Beginning of 1996.
- 3) A Shortage of Conscience Rather than a Budget Deficit.

Article Summary:

Foreign Exchange Markets, The Yemeni Way

In a satirical commentary in the column: "Thoughts of the Mind", Ahmed Saleh Al-Assar, jokingly points out that the people of the major money markets of the world have requested special scholarships to learn the ways of our unique foreign exchange markets. They especially asked for internships in Suq Al-Milh and the alleys of the Republican Palace Street, in order to see how they can add to the efficiency and speed of the present international FX markets, since all the technology and expertise of the markets are not up to par with the Yemeni performance. The writer points out though that there are serious problems of control and said the possible use of counterfeited bills could never be ruled out.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 14-12-95

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform [Islah])

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Resignations of the Minister and Vice Minister of Trade and Supply: Reasons Go Back to Inability to Distribute Grain Supply Properly.
- 2) The Islah Applies to Register with the Political Parties Committee
- 3) Traffic Week Starts on Monday: Emphasis on Public Awareness

Article Summary:

New Agreement Between Islah and PCG

On Tuesday, the Secretary Generals of Islah, Mr. Mohammed Al-Yadoomy, and the PCG, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, signed a new Coordination and Cooperation Agreement which includes the establishment of a Senior Coordination and Cooperation team composed of three members from each party and subcommittees to deal with any problems or disputes that could arise between the ruling coalition partners. The text did not specify how such disputes are to be worked out and what solutions are to be given for the existing disputes.

In spite of the numerous tragedies that have fallen on the Somali people and nation over the past five years, due to the poor quality of leadership that has become characteristic of the Somali leaders, there is one Somali whose good conduct cannot be overlooked.

I know him by his first name, Munye. He is the general manager of the Somali fishing company. Unlike other managers who plundered the nation's companies and factories and shipped off their "savings" to foreign countries, Munye has succeeded to maintain ships under his command as they were left by the last regime. Moreover, his company is the only remaining working institution that employs people from what was once called the Somali state. About 400 employees work on rotational basis and many families depend for their livelihood on income generated by the ships.

In addition, the ships are constantly maintained at Aden port and the profit is deposited at a bank account which can only be withdrawn by a government of national unity. Although some of our compatriots might resent Munye's achievements out of envy or due to tribal prejudice. Nonetheless, his continued success in leading the company and he enjoys increasing support from the majority of the Somali people. In fact, Mr. Munye has done a commendable job which no one can ignore, and certainly deserves credit for his efforts.

I would like to use this occasion to congratulate him and I would urge "Keep Up the Good Work"

By: Mohammed Said Ismail,
Tawahi, Aden.

تهنئة

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**Islah Officials
on the Receiving End**

Islah officials are on the receiving end these days. They complain they are targeted, and that they are unable to their job. As a result, there is a string of resignations.

The Minister of Supply and Trade, Dr. Mohammed Al-Afandi, and the Vice Minister, Dr. A. Al-Mikhlaifi, have both resigned. Mr. Abdullah Al-Akwa', Minister of Water and Electricity, has asked to be relieved. Several other Islah officials have been complaining bitterly about being cornered and targeted.

"It is clear that Islah's aspirations to expand its base of influence is being checked by the PGC," said one observer from the diplomatic community in Sanaa. But, if that happens, what is to become of the partnership. The strained relationship is already creating rifts within the Islah party itself. As a result, it is believed that the Islah will probably undergo a schism as it is expected to be splintered into three groups - one group is expected to join the PGC, another group will go underground, and a third group will be a docile partner or opposition.

There is mounting pressure on the Islah to react to the PGC moves. One source of pressure is from the fact that by April 1996, it has to decide whether it will remain in partnership with the PGC or not. The PGC-Islah alliance document stipulates that either side can break off the partnership, but it has to do that at least one year before the parliamentary elections. Another source of pressure is the public which increasingly sees Islah politicians as willing to sacrifice the ideals for the sake of remaining in power.

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