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Taiz Governor Rectifies Some PSO Blunders

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, the Governor of Taiz, visited the High School Teacher Training Institute in Taiz last week and met the Dean and the teaching staff. Accompanying the Governor was the Director of Taiz Security as well as the Director of the Taiz Political Security Office (PSO), and many other officials. The purpose of the visit was to apologise for the blunder committed by PSO officials against the dean, Mr. Mohammed Fayed Al-Shameeri, who was attacked and abused by PSO officers on October 16th, 1996.

The Governor's visit attempted to restore the personal honour of the victim by acknowledging the PSO mistake, according to Yemeni tribal customs. He also disclosed that the four PSO officers responsible for the crime had been transferred to other duties elsewhere. The victim, a leading Islah activist, was able to mobilize various forces to bring pressure to bear on the system, thus leading to the positive action of the Governor. Unfortunately, there are many other victims of PSO abuse, notably university professors like Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifani, who are

UK's Foreign Minister:

"Yemen's importance in the region is growing steadily."

Explaining the reason behind his first-ever trip to the Republic of Yemen, the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, said, "Yemen's importance in the region is growing steadily. It is a country which has the potential to play a significant role in the region's economic and political future." The British Minister also said that 'the economic reform measures have created greater confidence in the Yemeni economy'. Such developments will 'inevitably attract the interest of businessmen'. He disclosed that 'the British Trade Minister, who will also be visiting Yemen later this month, will seek to identify specific areas of cooperation between our two countries'. Visibly hopeful about the Yemeni democratization experience - which he described as unique - the British Minister disclosed that 'British observers will be present during the elections'



Beyond the bilateral dimension to the talks, the British official is in Yemen to discuss regional issues, notably the Arab-Israeli 'peace' negotiations.

Mr. Rifkind indicated that Europe has a distinctive contribution to make to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Full interview on page 5

Board of Trustees Resigns:

Sanaa University Goes on Strike

The Board of Trustees of Sanaa University announced in a press conference yesterday, 3/11/96, that it was tendering its resignation because "we find ourselves unable to work under these circumstances" and called for a limited strike. The circumstances referred to by the Board are related to the dispute over a large chunk of land, which the university had set aside to build the medical training hospital. The land was purchased by investors who are constructing an entertainment and residential/office complex.

"The investors, who are immigrant Yemenis, have purchased the land, first from the government, then from the tribesmen tilling the land, and finally from the army camp adjacent to it. We have all the legal deeds," stated Mr. Mohammed Naji Allaw, lawyer representing the investors. The university says nobody has the right to sell this land. It is part of the university campus. The university got a legal injunction to stop the construction. But the investors, protected by a large military group, continue unabated.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Need for Good News! Do You See It?

Yemen badly needs good news, but how do we get it. Some people say that you get good news if you look for it. It goes along the saying of Prophet Muhammad (May peace be upon him), "Tafa-alu bil-khair tajidooh" which is roughly translated into "Be optimistic and you will find good news."

So, let us look for good news.

1. There may be good news in the fact that Yemen's politics has found solutions to their competition for power. The People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) have sort of began to work towards an agreement. The opposition parties have been given a reprieve, and most have already been registered with the Committee for Political Parties, which is part of the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

The tension and in-fighting among the political parties has subsided, if at least for now. That is good news.

2. There may be good news in the economic performance. The inflation rate has been kept at a manageable 30%. The dollar exchange rate has been stabilized at around YR 130 per US dollar for over three months. The government budgetary deficit is being held under control. Pressure from outstanding foreign debt has been eased following the Paris Club arrangements. The only major hurdle is the recession, but even that could be overcome, if the present local and international investor interest becomes a reality. That is good news.

3. There may be good news in the fact that administrative reform has begun. The bureaucratic quagmire, the cumbersome paperwork, the inefficiency, and above all, the corruption and favoritism are a nightmare. But here comes the reform package. The civil service reform is now underway, promising to find solutions to, at least, some of those ills. That is good news.

4. Social ills are plenty, and the values seem to be crumbling. But there are many projects underway to help the poor. There is the safety net program, the public works program, the children's program, the women's programs. Many programs are underway, and they all target the vulnerable elements in society.

5. Relations with Saudi Arabia and Eritrea are steadily improving. Yemen is making real progress in relations with the West, and even more importantly, with the Gulf States. There is definitely some good news in our foreign relations.

There is good news if you look for it!

The Publisher


French Hostage Is Indeed Out

Last week, the Yemen Times reported that the French captive was out. The paper reported the event based on information from high government sources, supported by sources at the French embassy.

It turns out, the release only occurred on Friday night, November 1st.

President Saleh Formally Approves Arbitration Agreement

President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued law number 34 of 1996 approving the arbitration agreement between Yemen and Eritrea. Such agreement, signed in Paris on 3/10/1996, was also approved by parliament.

Two New Top-Level Advisors

Mr. Fadhle Mohsen Abdullah, a leading Yemen Socialist Party member and a former minister, was named advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Another former minister, Mr. Abdo Ali Qubati was named Advisor to the Prime Minister.

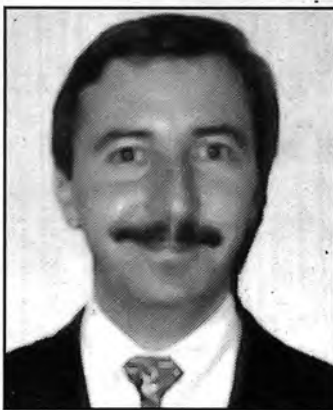
Both the president and prime minister already have a bunch of advisors who very little. The title of advisor is more or less ceremonial.

More Japanese Assistance to Refugees

The Government of Japan has decided to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees in various parts of Southeast Asia and East Africa. Some of the \$42 million assistance will be channelled to refugees in Yemen.

It is known that Yemen is hosting some 10,000 refugees, mainly from neighboring Somalia.

New GM for Aden Movenpick Hotel



Mr. John Vouillamoz, a Swiss, has taken over as General Manager of the Aden Movenpick Hotel. Mr. Vouillamoz has over ten years of experience in leadership positions in such hotels as Peninsula, Holiday Inn, and Movenpick in Egypt. Meanwhile, Mr. Cipert Schwartz, the former GM of Aden Movenpick is now the GM of Quseir-Sirena Beach Hotel in Egypt.

World Bank Offers More Funds to Yemen

A team of World Bank officials has concluded a visit to Yemen to evaluate the performance of projects in Yemen. At the end of lengthy talks with the Ministry of Planning and Development, as well as courtesy visits to senior officials, the World Bank team, headed by Mr. Inder Sud, Director, Country Division II, Middle East Region.

The World Bank has decided to up its annual allocation to US\$ 120 over the next three years. Now it is up to Yemen to absorb the funds.

ITT Sheraton Voted best Hotel Chain in The Middle East

The ITT Sheraton Corporation has been voted Best Hotel Chain in the Middle East by Business Traveller magazine. Manuel Garcia, Vice President ITT Sheraton Corporation, Director of Marketing Africa & Middle East Division, accepted the award during a ceremony in London recently.

ITT Sheraton was also named Best Worldwide Hotel Chain and the Sheraton Paris Airport Hotel Best New Business Hotel in the World by the magazine's readers.

The latest accolades come shortly after the Sheraton Kuwait was named Best Hotel in the Middle East by another leading publication, Executive Travel.

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Colonel Yahia Zaher

"Some 150,000 vehicles roam the streets of Sanaa."

Colonel Yahya Mohammed Zaher is the Director General of the Traffic Administration in the Capital, Sanaa. He has a law degree from Sana'a University, and a degree from the Police Academy. He had served in various capacities at the Ministry of Interior. Last month marked the passing of one year since he has taken charge of traffic circulation in the capital city. On the occasion, Adel J. Moqbil of Yemen Times interviewed him and filed the following report.

Excerpts

Q: We notice some positive developments in organizing public transportation terminals and depots. Could you tell us more about this?

A: This is an initiative on our part to organize better the intensive movement of public transport vehicles - especially the buses and mini-buses - and to assign specific terminals and parking places.

This problem had not been given its due attention from the Ministry of Transport which is responsible for such matters. Our decision was to find new and suitable bus terminals. We developed the plan and implemented it in close coordination with the drivers themselves.

I am happy to note that this has helped circulation in the city.

Q: Let us talk about numbers. How many vehicles are there in Sanaa?

A: There are about 15,000 cars registered in Sanaa as taxis. There are about 10,000 more non-Sanaa taxis. There is a similar number of private cars.

There are also the Government and Military vehicles. In general, I believe there are about 115,000 cars criss-crossing the streets of Sanaa.

Over and above those vehicles, some 18,000 cars enter into Sanaa city limits daily from other parts. These are vehicles carrying produce to the market, passengers from other parts, and many visitors of the city.

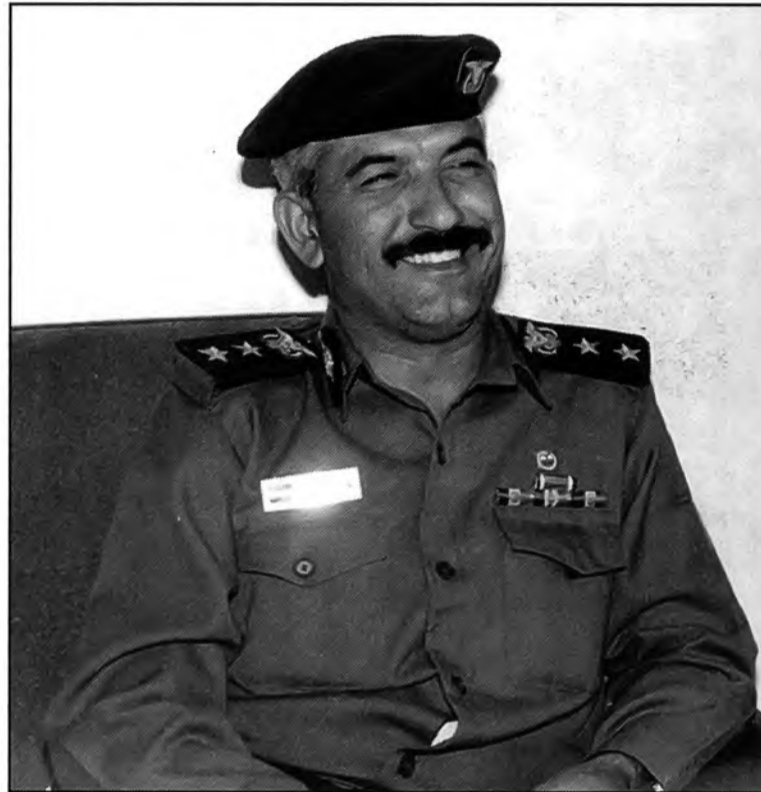
Q: How many people work in the Sanaa Traffic Department?

A: Overall, there are about 1200 employees. These include 200 officers and 1019 wardens.

Q: Isn't this force too small for a city of more than a million inhabitants?

A: Yes, it is. Our problem is further aggravated by the fact that we have to split our efforts into two fields. There is a lot of paperwork at the office associated with our job, and then there is the field work, which means manning the streets.

Q: You do get national service



draftees?

A: Yes, part of our force is composed of National Defense recruits. We get 400 recruits every year. This year, given the rising demand, we are going to get 600 draftees to work in our department.

Q: Are there reliable statistics

regarding road accidents?

A: There is an average of 300 to 400 road accidents reported monthly. The average number of deaths in these accidents is 15-20, and about 200 injuries. There are many cases which are not reported as the various parties agree amicably among themselves without involving the traffic department.

Q: What are the main causes of these accidents?

A: In general it is reckless driving by youngsters. Sanaa is home to the most affluent among our people, and these people tend to give their cars to their underage children. There are many other reasons such as driving vehicles which should not be on the road. Given the cost of spare parts and repairs, many people drive their cars even though some parts do not function properly.

There are many other social factors, as well.

Q: You had started modernizing the department. A modern traffic law was issued, computers were brought in to store vehicle and driver data, etc. What happened?

A: I am afraid those modernization measures were irrelevant to our conditions. Let me explain by

using examples. Law number 46 of 1991 dictated that traffic speed in city limits was not to exceed 20 kilometers per hour. That means an eternal clogging of our streets. We push people to drive a bit faster, simply to reduce the traffic jams. The law says that any violator of traffic rules can be fined on the spot. So, what difference does it

make to charge someone YR 50 (US cents 40) or YR 100 (US cents 80). In fact, some people who know the penalty, go ahead and violate the rule, and throw the money.

The computer part did not work either. You can imagine how many electric blackouts there are, and the machines are almost always down. Besides, computer repairs and program upgrading are a constant hassle.

Improvements in the system have to be realistic and relevant to the realities in which we work.

Q: You started replacing the old number plates with new ones twice. Rumours are already everywhere that the new number plates will also be changed. Is this true?

A: These are totally unfounded rumours which are really intended as a joke because we changed the number plates twice in a short time. I want to stress that the present plates are good.

Q: Has the replacement process been smooth?

A: The replacement process of old plates is still going on. All the old numbers going back to the pre-unity days have to go. Regarding the plates released after unity, we are focusing on defaced or discoloured plates. The procedure is quite easy and smooth provided the owner of the vehicle has all the documents.

Continue on page 5

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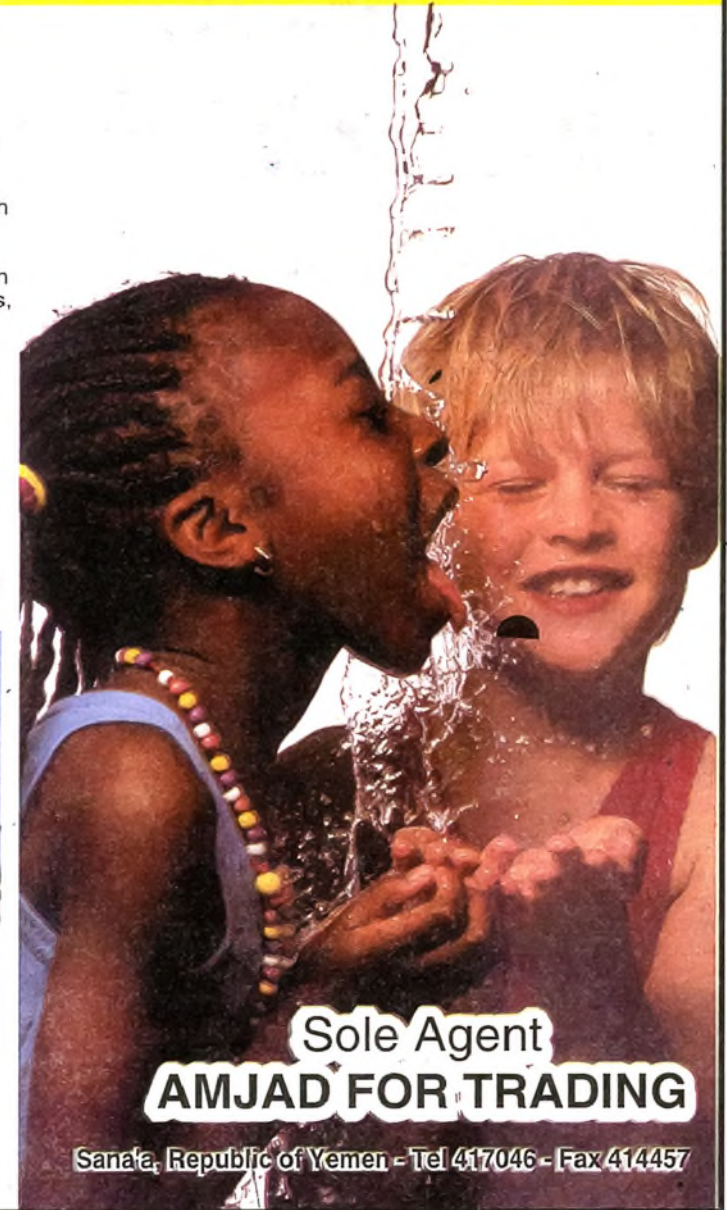
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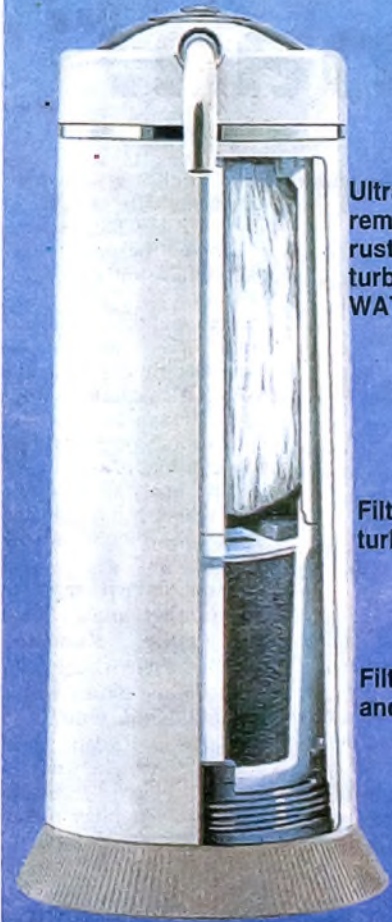
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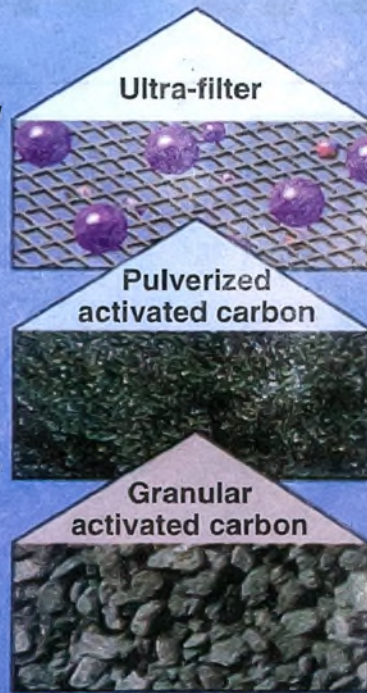


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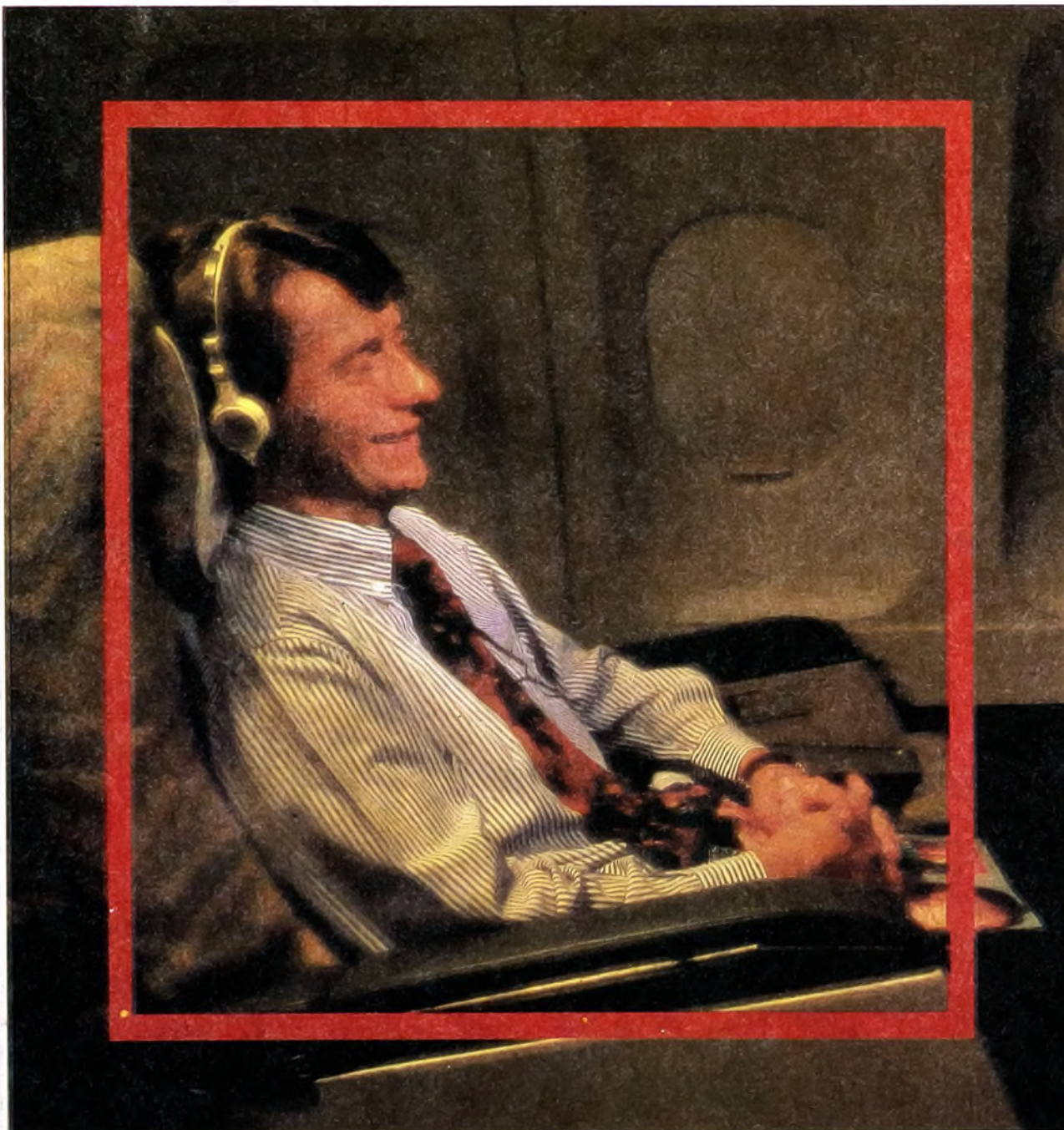
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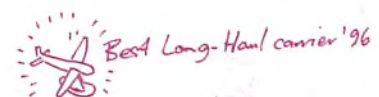
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UK Foreign Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, talks to the Yemen Times:

“Europe must complement and reinforce the US mediation effort (in the Middle East).”

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, a Scotsman, has been a leading figure in the ruling Conservative Party. He has been in charge of several ministries since June 1983. Among the main ministries which he has headed are Scottish Affairs, Transport, Defence, and Foreign Affairs (since July 1995).

A lawyer by training, Mr. Rifkind, 50, graduated from Edinburgh University. He has represented the Pentlands division of Edinburgh in parliament since 1974.

This is his first visit to Yemen, which our officials have described as crucial. He comes with a large contingent of journalists and assistants.

On the occasion, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of Yemen Times, interviewed the British official.

Excerpts:

Q: Could you share with our readers the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: Yemen's importance in the region is growing steadily. It is a country which has the potential to play a significant role in the region's economic and political future. This will be my first visit to Yemen. It is right that I should visit to follow up the very useful discussion I had with Dr. Iryani during his visit to London in June on a wide range of international, regional and bilateral issues.

Q: British businessmen have been shuttling to Yemen more frequently. Are we set for a stronger UK-Yemeni business association?

A: I certainly hope so. Britain has been one of Yemen's major trading partners for many years. But there is room for an even closer commercial relationship. British companies have a reputation for supplying high quality goods and services at competitive prices. The economic reform measures recently implemented by the Republic of Yemen have created greater confidence in the Yemeni economy. This will inevitably attract the interest of businessmen. Anthony Nelson, our Minister of Trade, will also be visiting Yemen this month, which will give us another oppor-

tunity to identify specific areas of cooperation between our two countries.

Q: How about official development assistance. Will we see a more visible British participation in Yemeni development?

A: You should not overlook the important role that Britain plays in the development of Yemen through international agencies such as the United Nations and the European Union. For example, Britain contributes 15% of the European Union's development budget. And I think that the Government of Yemen would agree that the British roles in recent discussions at the IMF and Paris Club were wholly constructive. We would, of course, like to do more in direct bilateral co-operation as well. In the past year we have assisted with a number of projects in the educational, medical and other fields, and with the exciting Aden Free Zone project. I hope that we can provide similar assistance in the future.

Q: Britain is the modern world's oldest parliamentary democracy. Is the UK interested in Yemen's democratization experiment? Will Britain send observers to the Yemeni parliamentary elections



scheduled for April 1997? Are you providing any form of assistance?

A: We are following the preparations for the forthcoming par-

liamentary elections very closely. Yemen's democratic experiment is unique, and we naturally wish it well. We hope that British observers will be present during

the elections, together with other international observers, and that they will witness free and fair elections. We also hope that all of those who are entitled to vote will do so: democracy will only succeed if the people support it by making full use of their democratic rights.

Q: Recently, top European dignitaries have been visiting the Middle East. Does that indicate a higher European interest in engaging the Arab countries?

A: Europe certainly has a key role to play. We are one of the largest aid donors to the Palestinians, and have consistently supported the positions of principle and international law underpinning the Peace Process. There is extensive consultation within the European Union about the political and economic role that the Union should play.

In our efforts to advance the Peace Process we and our European partners will continue to maintain our close links with the Arab Countries of the region, while also, keeping up our dialogue with Israel. The recent appointment of Ambassador Moratinos as the EU's envoy to the Middle East Peace Process should be seen in this context. Britain has a distinctive contribu-

tion to make. We enjoy good relations with the Israelis and the Palestinians, as well as other important actors in the region. We have a good dialogue with them all. My visit this week is a part of that regular dialogue, and comes at a time when the Peace Process is high on the international agenda. I have been reinforcing with the Israelis and the Palestinians the need for urgent progress in the negotiations, and have reiterated Britain's willingness to work with all our friends in the region to achieve a durable peace settlement.

Q: French President Jacques Chirac has called for a European involvement in the Arab-Israeli peace mediation effort, side by side with the Americans. What is your government's position?

A: What we need is for the international community to speak with one voice and to concert their efforts in assisting those working for peace in the region. President Jacques Chirac is right to say that Europe has an important contribution to make to the Peace Process. Europe must complement and reinforce the US mediation effort. Our envoy will spearhead the EU diplomatic effort.

Cont'd from page 3:

Traffic in Sanaa

Q: Who determines fares in public transportation?

A: At the present, fares for a cab-ride are arbitrary. They are decided by the driver according to the type of vehicle and the ability of the passenger to argue. But, for public transportation, such as buses and mini-buses, fares are determined generally by market conditions and public acceptance.

I have to say that these private buses are indispensable because they help in solving the problems of transportation inside Sanaa especially in view of the absence of any public transport establishment whether governmental or otherwise. For a few Riyals, say YR 10 (US cents 8), you can take a ride from one side of town to another. That is very inexpensive indeed.

Q: Cars usually park on both sides of the road which leads to traffic jams. Have you considered encouraging private investors to open parking lots?

A: These ideas already exist. There have been plans for constructing parking lots since 1979. We have plans to construct multi-storey car parks, especially in the center of town and the congested areas. These plans need funding. These plans, however, come before ours. The important thing is to designate the appropriate space which is the work of city planners (Ministry of Housing and Municipalities). Then comes the role of investors - whether public or private. Our role comes only after the parking facility exists. We can then enforce appropriate parking regulations.

Q: What are the awkward sit-

uations that have resulted in your daily dealings with the public?

A: People differ in their education, moods, social and psychological background. Dealing with a non-uniform group of people is a very difficult thing. Traffic wardens need exceptional abilities to strike a balance between performing their duties and satisfying the public. We face many problems which we try to solve as smoothly as possible. I do not deny that some traffic wardens commit some wrong practices, but I think these are mainly in response to provocation and violations by drivers. I hope these are very limited and individual cases.

Q: It is often said that a traffic warden stands in the street waiting to be bribed (money for qat). What do you say?

A: A traffic warden is part of this society, and such behavior exists in many establishments. Traffic wardens are ordinary humans with human frailties and weaknesses exist. I do not condone such behavior, but remember a regular conscript (draftee) receives about YR 1300 (US\$ 10) per month, and a regular warden receives about YR 4000 (US\$ 31) per month.

Q: Could you tell us about the Traffic Week which is due to be held next month?

A: This activity has been centrally planned by the Ministry of Interior. It will extend from 18-24 December. This year,

there will be two exhibitions: one for photographs depicting major road accidents and the second for paintings by school children representing their ideas and opinions about traffic matters. Preparations are fully underway, and we hope to present something useful and interesting.

Q: What kind of problems do you face in your work?

A: There are many problems, mainly financial and technical in nature. There is an increasing need for traffic lights, as the road network expands. There are repairs and maintenance that are needed. There is the need for new road signs, etc. But the pressing issue is that citizens should obey traffic rules and regulations.

Q: Those are typical problems of any organization. Are there any unique issues.

A: I think one of the troublesome aspect of our work is that we have to deal with many ministries at the same time. We are part of the Ministry of Interior. Traffic is regulated by the Ministry of Transport. Road construction and repairs is the job of the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to stress to the readers of Yemen Times that traffic issues and concerns are not the responsibility of just the traffic police. All people must participate in making traffic flow more smoothly and safely.

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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Conferences On Nails, Hair and Walking Raisins

"Where are you going?", said Abdullah to a fellow reporter for a newspaper that has just started circulating.

"I am going to cover the Conference for Manicuring Finger Nails. Some of the biggest nail experts will be attending," replied Munir anxiously.

"Conference about what? Cutting fingernails? You've got to be kidding!!" remarked the veteran reporter to his anxious friend.

"You didn't hear about it? The conference has been in the news for weeks," explained Munir.

"I am sure that all the government's attention will be focused on this important event. I heard that nail grooming gift-sets will be issued, to those present at the conference. Women will be given nail polish and nail polish remover," said Abdullah jokingly.

"Is that right?" asked Munir, "at least I can go back home with something worthwhile!"

"What was the reason for calling the conference?" asked Abdullah.

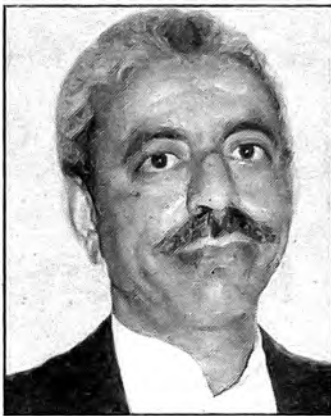
"The government is working towards beautifying the country before the 21st Century comes around. The most obvious place to start, they figured, is fingernails. A report by the Ministry of Health has shown that Yemenis are very careless about their finger and toe-nails. In fact, at the Council of Ministers' meeting where the report was discussed a month ago, it was found that 50%

of the ministers had nails that were more than a quarter of a centimeter long. The other 50% had nails that were unevenly cut. Of the latter, 80% were found with toe-nails that have ripped through their socks," clarified Munir.

"You cannot blame our Ministers. They are so busy that they do not have time to go through the tedious chore of manicuring. Besides, the only scissors they have are solely used to cut inauguration tapes for the projects their ministries are implementing. Besides, the Ministry of Finance does not allocate funds for nail-grooming tools, except for the Foreign Ministry and then only for the diplomatic corps, from First Secretary upward," pointed out Abdullah.

Farida, an outspoken critic of everything and anything that the government does not do joined the duo. "Why doesn't the government do something about solving the problem of rain drainage from the roofs of houses? Look at that, my new scarf is going to be ruined. How can I go to the conference, now? I can't take my muddy scarf off, because my hair is not in order and..."

Munir interrupted. "Don't worry. In two weeks, we are going to have a conference on hair-care. I am sure you won't have to face that problem again!"



Abdullah added. "Most likely the government will come out with a resolution that all Yemenis should go back to using 'head clay' to wash their hair, like they used to do before shampoos flooded the market."

Munir suggested, "I do not think so. After this Conference on Manicuring, people will not have the nails that will enable them to scratch and scrape muddy shampoo from their heads."

Farida interrupted, "The government should not waste time and money on these conferences. What has come out of the previous conferences? You know, I have a full room of conference papers accumulated over the last six years. Come to think of it, why doesn't the government sponsor a conference on how to recycle all the paper that has been circulated in the conferences held in Sana'a and other cities. We can probably solve the paper requirements for schools over the next ten years."

Abdullah came back to nails and rain gutters. "Hey, Farida, the mud on your scarf is dry now, you can scrape the dirt off with your nails; before you have to cut them off at the conference. Someone tells me that before being admitted into the confer-

ence, all those attending must cut and manicure the nails of the right hand and the left foot."

Farida asked, somewhat puzzled, "Why the right hand and left foot?"

"In a poll taken by the agent for a nail care kit's manufacturer, it was found that people tend to kick with the left foot first when they are angry. As for the right hand, it was discovered that the caterer had received phone calls threatening that the cakes to be given in the coffee break had better not be coffee cake with raisins. Otherwise, they would scratch the waiters' eyes out. In order to save nail cutting money, the sponsors asked a random sample of the participants, 'Which hand would you use to eject the eye of anyone who made you angry? Out of 10 persons surveyed, 7 answered that they would use the right hand since it was considered impolite to use the left hand, especially in public.'

Farida asked, "Why the fuss about raisin cakes?" Munir volunteered the answer: "The last conference on fighting crawling pests, broke up suddenly during the coffee break when half the raisins started jumping off the raisin cakes as the participants cut slices on to their plates. The other half waited, until the guests sat down, to offer a lively rendition of the cockroach twist, picked up from the latest insecticide ads on TV."

Abdullah wanted to provide an update on the conference craze in Sana'a: "Considering all the conferences, seminars, workshops and other public events, one would think that there would be nothing that we are unable to do properly."

Farida added: "The events themselves are not really the problem; conferences and other public gatherings are important forums for sharing expertise and arriving to consensus about procedures and approaches. We are at a very critical stage of development and it is important that the right inputs are pursued to make the development process smooth and void of any bottlenecks and snags. This is where conferences become useful - issues are brought out on the open and different viewpoints are assessed to come up with acceptable solutions to the shortfalls in our social order."

Munir added: "Conferences are vital for the democratic process, since people learn how to arrive to collective decisions. Yemen needs the increased reliance on collective decisions to enable democracy to set in on all the activities of life where many people are involved."

Abdullah was not impressed: "That is all very well, but all these public functions are held for particular purposes, which seem to never really penetrate beyond the conference room. In the end all it is a lot of talk, a lot of print."

Munir was somewhat confused now: "But Abdullah, these conferences are covered by the media and the public knows about them."

Abdullah was not shaken: "Munir, these conferences are not covered by the media to keep the public informed. Public officials insist on press coverage to make sure that they are kept on the spotlight. Once the public officials leave the ceremonial elements of the function, most of the press leave. Thus most press reports on these conferences will give you an attendance report, but will rarely give descriptive and analytical overviews of the proceedings or the results. In fact, you will find most press reports reliant on pre-printed handouts which are circulated by the sponsors of the conference during the ceremonial opening.

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Farida said proudly: "Look, I sit out the entire conference and speak when I find it necessary to do so. I also issue detailed reports on the proceedings and the results."

Again, Abdullah was not impressed: "But once the show is over, you consider the curtain closed on the matter, altogether, not just the function. When have you ever gone back to society to see where the impact of the conference was felt in the real world. Outside the conference rooms of the fancy hotels of our city? I follow your writings, and what you say has some truth in it, but you could inject some analyses and give an inkling of the public's side on the issues being discussed, especially their expectations. In the end, the conference should be gauged by the latter - otherwise, why all the fuss, in the first place?"

Munir was learning: "Abdulla, you have really made some substantive remarks here. Farida, these are words of wisdom you should take to heart. Abdulla can really be regarded as a serious professional reporter, who should be given Emeritus status among the media crowd."

Abdulla was not really interested in flattery: "Munir and Farida, you are young and ambitious and take your work seriously. But you must always bear in mind, that what you write must appeal to the general public and must arouse their monitoring spirit on the issues you write about. The press is the medium between the public at large and the establishment. Tell those people that these conferences are really meant for them and show it, otherwise show that the funds expended might have been useful in other areas of public interest. What we have to do is not always pleasurable, but then our job is to inform and not just to please."

Farida was understanding but still skeptical:

"The conferences are so many and frequent that it is hard to keep track of them once they are over, in terms of effectiveness. Moreover, some reporters find them a source of additional income, since their employers are not considerate enough to give them decent pay that will free journalists from having to surrender to easy temptations, which may not be illegal, but nevertheless pose serious questions of professional ethics. I have known journalists to fight amongst themselves for the

coverage of a particular public event, if they know there is a gratuity to be given and a chance to rub shoulders with some big shots."

Munir was not hiding anything from anyone: "Look, there is no harm in picking up the 'bonus', since everyone gets it, anyway. A reporter can still be on guard with regards to public interest. Besides reporters have to also provide for their families."

"The issue of press staff benefiting from sponsors of events they cover, strikes me as a serious drawback to objective news coverage. That is why I refuse to cover such items unless I am sure the paper I work for should not make me have to succumb to the temptation; for the sake of safeguarding press freedom and its role in protecting the interests of the public", said Abdulla.

Farida was confirming what Abdulla had just said: "I was once in a special seminar on news coverage, and the trainer from Germany pointed out that in Germany, as is the case in most democratic societies, good journalists are, relatively speaking, very highly paid. They have no second thoughts about rejecting 'gratuities' or 'bonuses'."

We suggested to him to give the same talk to our bosses and convinced them that the people who work for the press, should only be taken care of by their employers. It is so important for the sake of democracy. Even government media staff should be the last journalists to be under the influence of possible questionable payments from other sources. Come to think of it, I think it is time that the press syndicate or union starts to set the standards of ethical press coverage and highlight the importance of sufficient remuneration for journalists to uphold professional ethics.

"Back to nails and other similar conferences. It is essential that you use the opportunity to indicate that the public is not impressed with the waste of time with such conferences. Moreover they hold back many officials from carrying out their jobs", Abdulla was continuing to teach the aspiring journalists tools of the trade.

Farida pointed out a word of caution: "But take care that what you write does not lead to other forms of nail grooming that will not be covered by the conference."

Munir and Abdullah said at the same time: "God forbid!"

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WFP Allocates US\$ 95 Million in Food-aid to Yemen over 1997-2001

When the Executive Board of the World Food Program met in its Third Regular Session during 21-24th October in Rome, it was overwhelmed by issues of 'Food Insecurity, the Poor and the Hungry' worldwide. One of the countries it was handling was the Republic of Yemen.

Indeed the situation of Yemen is rather precarious.

Yemen is one of the least developed countries and a food-deficit country. Its per capita GNP is US\$ 280. The various economic and social indicators are distressing. The child mortality rate (under 5 years of age) is 137 per 1,000 - double the average of even the low-income countries. School-enrollment is about one third the average of low-income countries. About 21% of the population (some 3.1 million) suffer from various levels of malnutrition, as they have insufficient resources to meet their basic needs. Of these, the condition of 1.7 million - mostly children and women - is described as desperate.

Some 70% of the population is under 16 years of age - leading to a high dependency ratio - and the annual growth rate is a staggering 3.9%.

In short, Yemen is classified among the "vulnerable" of the world.

To further complicate the situation, the government is implementing structural adjustment measures, which call for the elimination of subsidies for food, energy and other basic goods and services. These will naturally adversely affect the employment, income and household security of the people, especially, the low-income groups.

"The WFP saw the need for urgent countermeasures to stem

the increase in hunger and food insecurity," explains Mr. Dali Belgasmi, the WFP Country Director. "WFP assistance to Yemen is centered primarily around the social sector (health and education) and expanding gradually, with food for work, in support of agricultural production and environmental rehabilitation," he added.

The Republic of Yemen relies on imports for 70% of its food needs. The cultivable land, at the moment, is a mere 1.3% of the total land area of the country,

producing less than one million tons of cereals, giving an overall productivity of 1.1 tons per hectare - among the lowest in the world.

Of the total cereal production, wheat - fast growing to be the dominant staple - is only 180,000 tons, a mere 10% of the 1.8 million tons consumed in 1995. The balance was imported (1.6 million), plus 34,600 tons provided by WFP and other donors.

Hence the food insecurity which is addressed by the WFP.



WFP Project Distribution and Allocations for the Five Years 1997-2001

Sector of Project	1997 Beneficiaries/Costs		1998 Beneficiaries/Costs		1999 Beneficiaries/Costs		2000 Beneficiaries/Costs		2001 Beneficiaries/Costs	
	Beneficiaries	Costs in \$	Beneficiaries	Costs in \$	Beneficiaries	Costs in \$	Beneficiaries	Costs in \$	Beneficiaries	Costs in \$
Education	111,750	6,612,140	100,750	6,074,060	115,000	7,068,311	119,000	7,432,264	123,000	7,815,604
Health	14,750	3,956,533	20,000	5,486,755	20,000	5,595,272	25,000	7,133,128	25,000	7,275,642
Agriculture	15,000	4,021,875	20,000	5,454,332	25,000	6,952,753	25,000	7,090,961	25,000	7,232,624
Total	141,500	14,590,548	140,750	17,015,147	160,000	19,616,336	169,000	21,656,353	173,000	22,373,870

Source: WFP: Country Strategy Outlines, WFP/EB.3/96/6/Add.4; 20 September, 1996

Book Review:

A New Book Offers Basic Data and Outlines Policies on the Yemeni Economy

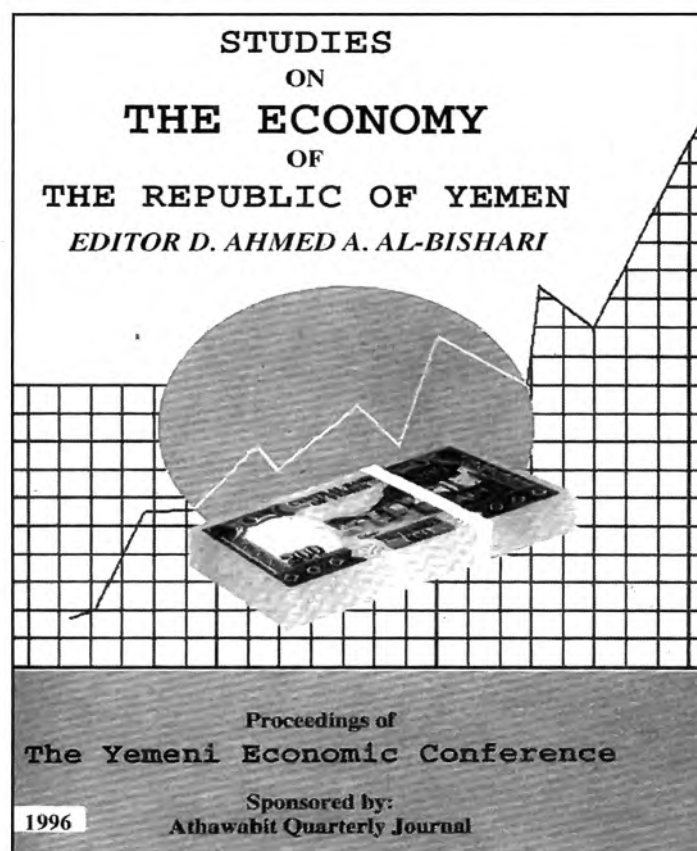
The world of economics is a vast and complex one. This is especially the case in developing countries where many and diverse variables come into play without logical explanations. In addition to the internationally recognized factors that influence world economies, there are strong and unique local factors that affect the economy of developing nations.

Yemen is a developing country which is going through massive economic transformation. This is the main message of a book "Dirasat fil-Iqtisad Al-Yamani-Studies in the Yemeni Economy" - 1996 edited by Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari. The book is a collection of studies to the First Economic Conference sponsored by Al-Thawabit Magazine, a publication of the People's General Congress.

This book represents a welcome addition that fills a gap in the statistics on the Yemeni economy. The book - about 550 pages of material in Arabic - offers abstracts and summaries in 50 pages of English.

More than 30 papers were submitted at the conference by renowned Yemeni economists and practitioners. The papers deal with almost every aspect of the economy. The main topics are development, investment, agricultural policies, trade and the balance of payments, government budget deficit, unemployment, economic consequences of war, inflation, exchange rates, Islamic banking, social security, privatization, and the stabilization measures being implemented by the government in collaboration with the IMF/World Bank.

The book divides the problems troubling the Yemeni economy into two types. The first type includes persistent problems such as sharp rises in inflation, persistent shortage of foreign currency, low productivity and poor performance of economic units, government budget imbal-



ances, balance of payment deficits, and low savings.

The second type of problems are called seasonal. These include supply bottlenecks in some goods and services, speculation in foreign currency and widespread smuggling.

More than forty recommendations, which were adopted by the conference, are listed at the end of this book. The recommendations stressed the need to specify a clear economic philosophy which determines the development strategy. The conference also called for a larger involvement of the academic community and urged the government to employ research and studies in order to assess conditions before taking decisions.

The efforts expended in the book are to be commended. The data and analysis will help in further informing specialists and students of economics, government officials, the business community, the general public and any interested persons.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari, the brain and dynamo behind the conference and book, said that Al-Thawabit regularly publishes such important documents. It has just released its quarterly magazine with a lot of data on the water situation in Yemen.

These publications are available at local bookstores. Interested persons may write to Al-Thawabit to P.O.Box 13632, Sanaa, or call (01) 283-265 or fax (01) 283-265.

"Lately, we have concluded, in cooperation with the relevant Yemeni apparatuses and the donor countries, a study on Yemen's food needs and consumption. I have presented the conclusions of the study to the Executive Board, and we will discuss the policies being planned to boost the WFP policies in Yemen. There was

major concern with regard to the fate of the vulnerable groups in society. That is why the WFP assistance targets these elements," Dali said.

Mr. Belgasmi also indicated that the subsidized wheat imports are a major economic loss and heavy burden on the state treasury. "Only 20% of the subsidized wheat goes to the poor," he

explained.

Over the next five years, WFP food-aid will grow from US\$ 14.6 million in 1997 to US\$ 22.4 million in 2001, giving a cumulative total of US\$ 95.2 million, as the above table shows.

"Most of this will go to children (schools), women (mother-and-child health care units) and poor farmers through food for work



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The Challenge of the 21st Century:**AGEING: An Achievement and a Challenge**

One of the main achievements in the 20th century has been a considerable increase in the numbers and proportions of older people in both developed and developing countries. This is referred to as "population ageing".

• Today, there is an estimated **540 million elderly people** (60 years and more living in the world with around **330 million** of them in developing countries.

From a demographic point of view, population ageing is characterized by a shift towards lower mortality and lower fertility. In other words, more people reach old age while fewer children are born.

• Over the last fifty years, mortality rates in developing countries have declined dramatically raising the average life expectancy at birth from around **46 years in the early 1950s** to almost **64 years in 1990**. By 2020, it is projected to reach **72 years**.

• More recently, equally sharp falls have occurred in birth rates in nearly all developing countries except for most of Sub-Saharan Africa. Total fertility rates in China, for example, declined from **5.4** in 1970 to the current **2.0** level, the respective figures for Brazil being **5.0** and **2.8**.

Population ageing has become an important development issue that requires urgent action. If left unattended now, it may have far-reaching consequences for public health services throughout the world. Projection for the first quarter of the 21st century, prepared independently by a number of organizations and scientists, merit the closest attention.

• By 2020, the number of elderly people worldwide will reach more than **1,000 million** with some **710 million** of them in developing countries.

• Within the next quarter-century, Europe is projected to retain its title of the "oldest" region of the world (elderly people represent around **19%** of the total population now and will represent **24%** by 2020).

• The "oldest" country by 2020 will be Japan (**31%**), followed by Italy, Greece and Germany (all above **28%**) and Switzerland (**27.4%**). Today, the country with the highest proportion of elderly people is Greece (**22%**).

• By 2020 the proportion of population aged 60 and over is projected to reach **23%** in North America, **17%** in East Asia, **12%** in Latin America and **10%** in South Asia.

• By 2020 seven developing countries will be among the ten countries with the largest elderly populations in the world: **China (231 million)**, **India (145m)**, **Brazil (30m)**, **Indonesia (29m)**, **Pakistan (18m)**, **Mexico (15m)** and **Bangladesh (14 million)**.

In developed countries, population ageing has evolved gradually as a result of improving living standards of the majority of the population over a relatively long period of time after the industrial revolution. Technological breakthroughs in the field of medicine, including the development of new and effective drugs and vaccines, contributed to this process much later.

In developing countries, population ageing has a more rapid character. It is being accompanied by persistent poverty and misery and is mostly accounted for by medical interventions based on the use of



advanced technology and drugs. These have provided effective means to treat and prevent many diseases that kill people prematurely.

• In France, it has taken **115 years** (1865-1980) for the proportion of the elderly population to double from **7** to **17%**. It is projected that the same doubling in China will take **27 years** (2000-2027), or will occur **four times as rapidly**.

• From 1985 to 2025 the rate of increase of elderly populations in developing countries is expected to be **up to 10 times higher** in countries such as Colombia, the Philippines, Kenya, and Thailand, as compared, for example, with the United Kingdom and Sweden. These developing countries are expected to experience a **300% increase** in their elderly populations over a period of only **40 years**.

The rapidly growing numbers and proportions of older people in both developed and developing countries mean that more and more people will be entering the age when the risk of developing certain chronic and debilitating diseases is significantly higher. As such, population ageing presents new and serious challenges for national and international public health.

By 2020, three-quarters of all deaths in developing countries will be ageing-related and caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diseases of the circulatory system (CSDs), cancers, hypertension and diabetes.

• In Latin America, NCDs are on a steady increase. In Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay, for example, CSDs together with cancers are already responsible for around two-thirds of all deaths. In Cuba, hypertension prevalence in men and women has reached **34.5%** and **5.7%** of women and **2.9%** of men.

• Population surveys in a number of African countries indicate that hypertension rates are on the rise, as is the prevalence of diabetes. In Seychelles, hypertension affects **22%** of the population; in South Africa - **16%**; in Mauritius - **14%**. Diabetes affect from **4%**

to **15%** of the population in the three countries.

• In South East Asia, with an average life expectancy of about 60 years, CSDs and cancers are now the two leading causes of mortality. Hypertension has been found in India, Indonesia and Thailand to affect up to **15%** of the adult population. Diabetes reaches industrialized-country proportions in urban populations.

• NCDs have a major impact on health economics. According to the American Heart Association, in 1996, cardiovascular disease in the USA will cost **US\$ 151.3 billion**, including medical treatment and lost productivity from disability.

• Diabetes mellitus alone, which affects some 100 million people worldwide, claims on average, **8%** of total health budgets in industrialized countries.

Population ageing has also been projected to aggravate the magnitude of mental health problems within the next quarter-century. This will happen because of the increasing life expectancy of those with mental disorders and an ever-growing number of people reaching the age at which the risk of such disorders is high.

• Estimated at **22 million** today, the number of people affected by senile dementia in Africa, Asia and Latin America may exceed **80 million** in 2025.

Visual impairment and vision loss increase dramatically with age. One disease that is especially notorious in this respect is cataract. Cataracts may have different origins, but they are mostly relate to the ageing process.

• Today, there about **38 million blind** people in the world and a further **110 million** have low vision. Cataract is responsible for **16 million** cases of blindness worldwide. In most countries of Asia and Africa, it accounts for more than **50%** of all blindness and more than **40%** of all low vision cases.

• Usually, ageing-related cataract can be treated with a relatively simple operation to remove the opaque lens. Increasingly, cataract surgery includes the use

of intraocular lens implantation, which, however, requires sophisticated technology and adequately trained personnel. In the US alone there are some **1.35 million** cataract operations performed each year at a cost of **US\$ 3.4 billion**.

These are but a few examples that can demonstrate the magnitude of the public health aspects of population ageing. They certainly do not cover the whole range of the ageing-related public health aspects. Furthermore, many developing countries are already facing a double affliction: the newly-emerging health problems of an aging population, and continuing high rates of communicable disease.

The emerging social and public health consequences of ageing, especially in developing countries, need to be taken very seriously. In the majority of these countries, poverty, lack of social security schemes, continuing urbanization and the growing participation of women in the workforce - all contribute to the erosion of traditional forms of care for elderly people.

In order to respond to public health challenges of population ageing, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched in April 1995 a new program on ageing and health which stems from and builds upon the achievements of its predecessor - the program of health of the elderly. The emphasis of the new program is on healthy ageing rather than on "the elderly". Its key components include policy development, data base development, advocacy, community-based programs, training an research.

Living longer offers unprecedented opportunities for creative personal and social lives, but it also presents individual and societal challenges related to quality of life in old age, including independence, social interaction, health care and community involvement. In order to answer these challenges countries have to develop sound and affordable policies that perceive ageing as a natural process which continues throughout one's lifetime. Effective community-based programs need to be part of parcel of such healthy ageing policies.

The creation and strengthening of a reliable data base is a prerequisite for the development of national policies on healthy ageing. It is also crucial for awareness-raising among policy - an decision-makers about the magnitude of population ageing and its public health consequences. This awareness is still low, particularly in developing countries.

National policies on ageing should rely on the results of research aimed at cost-effective public health interventions to improve the quality of life in old age. Such results need to be widely shared among countries. Improved knowledge and skills of primary health workers to deal with ageing-related problems could be achieved through training activities.

Living longer is both an achievement and a perpetual challenge. Investing in health is the only way to ensure that more people will reach old age in good health and capable of contribution to society intellectually, spiritually and physically.



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The Italian Embassy announces the holding of a competition for the recruitment, with a contract, of an employee of Italian or foreign nationality for executive functions (Secretarial / Typing.)

the candidate must not be less than 18 years or not later than 40 years old at the final date of application.

The candidates must have excellent knowledge of the Italian, Arabic and English languages, as well as typing in the above mentioned languages and the use of the computer.

The written applications for participations in the competitions must arrive, either directly or by post, to the Italian Embassy, Sana'a, P. O. Box 1152, not later than 25 November 1996.

For further information, the interested persons can address Mrs. Simonetta Bartolomei,
Tel. 265616/269165

VACANCY

THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IS LOOKING FOR A FEMALE TELEPHONE OPERATOR (to be filled immediately)

Requirements:

- 1- Fluent in both English & Arabic languages
- 2- Able to type English and Arabic (30 WPM)
- 3- Working experience for at least 5 years
- 4- Good communication skills
- 5- Able to do translation from English to Arabic and vice versa
- 6- Holding High School Certificate
- 7- Can start working now

Interested persons should submit C. V. and application letter by 15 November, 1996 to the Embassy of Japan:

Embassy of Japan
Building No. 2, Street No. 38, off Algier Street,
South West Safia
P. O. Box 817
Sana'a

or by fax: 1-209531

Bab al Mandab: A Natural Wonder

By: David B. Stanton,
YOS Chairman.

Each year, Yemen hosts a miracle of nature which is witnessed by few people. As temperatures fall in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, millions of birds seek the warmer climate of Africa. Following traditional migratory paths

which have been used for millennia, huge numbers of these birds funnel through Yemen towards Bab al Mandab, the narrowest point of the Red Sea.

In late October and early November, hundreds of thousands of hawks and eagles gather at Bab al Mandab before departing on the short flight to Djibouti and beyond. Except by the soldiers who

keep the peace at the Bab, and the fishermen who live there, this spectacle passes unnoticed. Only the bedouin trappers who annually migrate to the area to catch the falcons which pass through, seem prepared to benefit from the migration.

This year, a team of ornithologists from the Yemen Ornithological Society (YOS) and a group of students from Sanaa International School were allowed the privilege of entering the area during the peak of the migration. This privilege was extended through the good grace of Mr. Hussein Al Guneid, Secretary General of the Environmental Protection Council, and General Abdullah Shedewa, Base Commander at Dhubab.

The team, including 6 Yemenis and a number of other nationalities, ranged in age from 8 to 62. Arriving in Dhubab on the morning of Thursday, October 24th, the group was soon impressed by the accumulations of birds which had gathered in the area. In addition to resident and migratory seabirds, a



Bird watchers at the Bab al Mandab Excursion

picture by Cindy Farwell



A falcon trapped by a bedouin, and tied to a sack of sand to keep it put. picture by Cindy Farwell

number of hawks and eagles could be seen along the coastal route to Bab al Mandab.

Arriving at Bab al Mandab, team members were amazed to see hundreds of hawks and eagles soaring and circling. The remainder of the day was spent identifying and counting birds of nearly 70 different species.

Due to time constraints the group had to leave the following day. It became obvious, however, that 11 in the morning was the peak migratory time. By 7:30 am small numbers of hawks and eagles had formed small circling flocks. These coalesced into larger groups which finally melded into a huge spiraling chimney of birds numbering in its thousands. As one student later said, "the sky was black with eagles!"

As this flock of birds headed across the narrow straits towards Djibouti a second accumulation formed in its wake. By noon, fourteen successive waves including hundreds of thousands of birds, had formed and dispersed across the

Red Sea. It was an event of overwhelming proportions and we were all moved at having been allowed to witness it.

In closing, I would like to suggest that not only is this a natural event of global importance, it is also a potential source of revenue for Yemen. In a world where up to 100 plant and animal species are driven to extinction every day, one of the best hopes for wildlife is "Eco-tourism." Countries which stand to profit from their natural resources in a sustainable way are countries which can afford to protect their wildlife.

The migratory spectacle at Bab al Mandab would draw hundreds, if not thousands, of free-spending eco-tourists to the area if it were developed in a manageable way. While there are possible negative effects from this traffic, the potential benefits are enormous. This would be far more profitable, and sustainable, in the long run, than the trapping of falcons which is the only means by which the migration is presently exploited.

Advice to Yemenis at the end of the Second National Population Conference:

"Have fewer children!"

The Second National Conference on Population Policies, was held in Sana'a from 26th to 29th October. Fourteen research papers were submitted and discussed during the conference. The conference adopted the updated Population Plan for the years 1996-2000.

On the occasion, Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times asked several participants in the conference one question: "How effective do you think this conference was/will be?"

Here is what they said:

1. Mr. Amin M. Al-Janad, Assistant Secretary General of the National Population Council

The conference was successful from the beginning to the end. The discussions were frank and responsible. The papers submitted were thorough. They are objective and offer analysis of population and development issues. I believe that the presence of a large number of participants with widely differing backgrounds enriched the meeting.

This plan has the support of many international organizations so as to enable it secure the necessary funds. The plan took into consideration the decisions taken by various international summits in Cairo, Copenhagen, Peking, etc. Local Developments, concerns and priorities represent the crux of the updated plan.

The conference called for programs to execute, follow-up and evaluate the strategies. The issue requires urgent action given the huge burden on the country's resources. We must confront population problems by suggesting and implementing practical solutions that must be regularly reviewed and updated. The thrust of our efforts must be to enlighten the government and society as to the ramifications of population problems.

People have become aware that this is not an easy problem to solve. The fact that the population of Yemen will be 31 million by the year 2012 is quite worrying to all. Such an increase in population will put huge demands on already scarce resource. This is not the problem of Yemen alone, but it is a regional and an international one as well. Population problems take a very long time to come to satisfactory solutions. We have to be patient & resilient.

2. Prof. Mahir Mahran, Secretary General of the

National Population of Egypt, Ex-Minister of Population and Family Planning, and co-organizer of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September in 1994.

I am grateful to be invited to participate actively. I have been following very closely the development of population activities in Yemen. I received, during the last 10 years, many Yemeni governmental and other delegations. I missed the first population policies conference held in 1991 because of commitments in Egypt, but I was very keen to attend this one. I am very pleased to see such a well organized and objective conference. It is non-ceremonial with active participation of people interested in the topic. The discussions were very frank, self-criticism was great, democracy prevailed through out all sessions. The fact the President Ali Abdullah Saleh attended the conference will be appreciated not only here but also by international agencies. There is no hope for a program in which the leader of the country is not participating or leading. In Muslim countries, the leadership is very important, so I must congratulate you on this activity and I am sure it will have its after effects.

3. Ms. Angelina Eichhorst represented the European Union at this conference. She is an old hand on population issues.

I am impressed by the way the Yemenis are tackling the population issues. You are very open in your discussion and very direct you talk everything. There were very good comments and good papers submitted by participants. People expressed their opinions openly and were not scared to say what they think. Although the problems are enormous, we have to know what to do now and in the future. We have also to know what has been achieved in the past. In my opinion, and many Yemenis think so as well, it has to start with education, awareness building and making people aware of what their problem is. The European Union is ready to help in education programs. We hope that, together with the Yemeni government and all organizations to come to coherent actions and send the same messages. We must try to be on one line together.

As an example, I was in Taiz last year I spoke to many women there. One pregnant woman said that she asked her husband to take her to the doctor. He replied, 'Why do you want the see a doctor? You are not dying.' She said it in a funny way, but it is

very sad and makes you think that many women know what they feel and want.

The EU has fully supported the National Population Council in Egypt. We didn't give much support to Iran, but intend to do so in the future. We have provided a lot of help to Tunisia which is doing an excellent job regarding population and health issues. We would like to help Yemen learn from the experiences of these countries.

4. Ms. Najeeba Abdullah Abdulghani, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine at Sanaa University's Medical College and works as Clinical Adviser to "Options for Family Care Project"

The conference gave me a good opportunity to acquire information about the factors affecting population growth.

There has to be an urgent plan of action to implement the recommendations.

The most important place to start is to educate women. And I do not mean just primary level only, but they must be able to partake in higher education. Then and only then, we can talk about women gaining their full rights in society.

5. Ms. Egbe Osifo, a Physician and Health Specialist at the World Bank (Human Development Group, Middle East and North Africa Region).

It has been an extremely interesting and informative conference and I was very impressed with the high level of debate stimulated by the papers submitted. The discussions on multi-sectoral approaches have been very innovative and thought provoking.

I was pleased to note that many people are worried about rapid population growth and its harmful effects on mother, child, and society.

It appears that several of the papers and comments will be useful in the on-going debate about Yemeni women and their place in society. Several papers emphasized the issues of sex inequality, especially in access to education, health care and economic opportunities. Ideas have been put forward by participants of how to deal with, and further explore, these issues. The vital questions are how are these proposed changes are going to be made? What should people do next? The diagnosis has been made, but there is need to carry on.

6. Ms. Aneesa Mohammed Al-Hirwi, Director of the Parties and Organizations Bureau at the Presidential Office.

There were about 13 papers that included the main concerns of motherhood and childhood and rapid population growth. Some papers dealt with health and education which are closely associated with mothers and children. The issue of rural women who are deprived of education was also discussed.

They were all good, but some were not very comprehensive. An excellent paper was submitted by Mr. Al-Tihami. It include extensive data relating to almost all aspects of motherhood and childhood from birth to death. some participants recommended that this paper should be present on national TV. in order that people become aware of the past and present of Yemen and what must be achieved in the future regarding population issues.

Educational centers and the Ministry of Information did not provide enough awareness regarding this issue. For instance, I heard some young men in the conference hall commenting on the fact that educated women having less "fertility" than illiterate ones. They were arguing against marrying educated girls thinking that they are sterile and incapable of conception. They were confused between infertility and the ability of educated women to limit their offspring and regulate pregnancies. Such gross misunderstanding are due to lack of education and awareness.

7. Ms. Rusaina Mohammed Ismail, Assistant Professor of Ecology at the College of Education, Sana'a University.

The conference addressed vital issues associated with population. In addition to the usual issues of rapid growth and family planning, other issues such as human rights and reproductive and natal health issues were also discussed.

No success can be achieved in population issues without the participation of the people and involvement of the NGOs. I hope the government will see light and include grass-roots organizations in its efforts. The National Population Council must cooperate with NGO's and various societies. The Council has many experts working for it which is a great asset for implementing population programs. It must not rely on people in Sana'a only but include other governorates where there are strong popular participation with a long history.

It is important to educate women regarding family planning. But more importantly, we have to provide cheap and easily available contraceptives. It is also important to raise women's awareness about immunization, but more important is to provide the essential vaccines.

There is still a great need to raise women's awareness especially those living in rural areas. Contraceptives and vaccines must be made available for people of limited income. Total reliance on the private sector in providing these materials, which is costly, will lead poor people to refrain from family planning an prefer bringing more children.

More on page 14

A Short Fiction

THE LIVE CORPSE

I just kept moving, unaware that my tapping along the marble floors made the only sound. Otherwise it was all silent. Then I came upon a white-paneled door with the sign that said 'LAB'. I felt my hand paw the handle, push it down, and in I went. It was easy.

The room had a hazy appearance, sending one in a trance. And then, I saw him there, bent over the apparatus laid before him. Arrays of flasks connected by serpentine tubes to various equipment, giving an altogether confusing impression.

He gave me a sidelong glance and an uneasy feeling crept upon me. Perhaps it were his deep set eyes or his complexion that made me uneasy, and I shivered. "Hey, this is your first year in medicine," he said, casually. I felt myself nodding in agreement.

Then he turned round, facing me. He looked too immaculate in that starched overcoat. My yes strayed onto the equipment. I knew I had betrayed my curiosity.

"Nature counteracts any disease with another. She does choose the lesser of the two evils to get rid of the other. And sometimes death can do that," he explained.

I was baffled by his words. Again, I knew it was all too plain on my face, for he looked at me, then beyond. "Well," he said, "there is a so called phosphogluconate pathway used for obtaining energy in the red blood cell, and you should be knowing about the sickle cell anaemia."

Suddenly I felt myself searching for words, and then they came forth. "It is a hereditary disease in which the RBCs contain abnormal hemoglobin S that eventually precipitates giving them the appearance of sickle rather than biconcave discs."

"Yes," he agreed. "Now, hereditary diseases like the sickle cell anaemia trait or inhibition of the phosphogluconate pathway are widespread in the malaria-infested regions of the world. Why?" he paused, directing the question more to himself than to me.

"Only to prevent malaria itself," he went on. "So they are an advantage. yet a drawback - a disease! Yes, but to prevent another. You see, a sickle-shaped RBC discourages malaria. And again, inhibited phosphogluconate pathway in an RBC prevents the malaria falciparum parasite to utilize it for its own purpose. How can nature be so enigmatic!" he exclaimed.

It was all too clear. He turned away, heading for the apparatus. I knew I had been dismissed. Quietly, I left the room. The door closed with a click.

I dashed through to the Anatomy Laboratory. The Professor was putting on his gloves, his lips pouting in the struggle. My colleagues were already assembled around the cadaver. I came nearer, elbowed several times to have a better look at the corpse.

For a while, I stood staring. Then an uneasy feeling crept upon me. Perhaps it was its deep set eyes or its complexion that made me uneasy, and I shivered, unbelieving.

By: Abdulaziz Anwar Fakir,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Aden, Aden.

الف مبروك

نتقدم بأجمل التهاني وأعطر الأمانى للطفل

احمد صالح الضريبي

بمناسبة إطفائه شمعة الأولى من عمره

الف مبروك وعقبال المائة شمعة يا رب

المهنؤون :

بابا ، ماما ، وخالد عبدالولي الأديمي

وخلود خالد الأديمي وجميع الجيران

Two of Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh's Poems
Translated by *Translated by: Faraj Maw'id*

A DIALOGUE ON
INDIGENCE

'Had poverty been a man, I would have killed him.'

— Ali Ibn Abi

Talib

The poet:

Who can kill him . . . ?

Here, he is frequenting the quarters of the crushed people,

Mounting the horse of indigence,

Drawing the sword of grieves.

He slaughters us all young and old.

He lives in black hovels.

He wanders about in overcrowded quarters.

Oh, Ibn Abi Talib! Why don't you kill him?

Your sword is long,

And it has emerged from the pages of the Holy Qur'an.

How short my sword is!

How inadequate my words are!

My words are uttered through the lips of a human being

Who is powerless, who is insignificant.

Ali Ibn Abi Talib:

My Sword was long

But my deeds were short.

So, let my sword forgive me

Both lips which thirsted for a glass filled with blood of indigence

Have never been satisfied

Nor been bathed in the water of the red twilight.

Woe unto me! I have wasted time in vain!

I couldn't identify the face of the opponent in the darkness.

Indigence has been a fellow with feudal blood,

Living in a palace of which the balconies are bewitched.

He gets married to five,

He emulsifies the 'qat' trees.

My sword and myself have been looking for him

Amongst the poor, in the crowded public squares of starvation:

Here, he is planting the trees of misery,

And putting the tear-ashes up for sale.

He who wishes to kill indigence

Can kill him - here - on the dining tables of the of fortune.

In the tango soirees,

In the festivals of fashion shows.

The poet:

Has Death ever been a passage to Indigence

Or has Indigence ever been a passage to Death?

Oh, Ibn Abi Talib! Would you pass to us some of what God has taught you

Ali ibn Abi Talib:

Indigence is Death.

He who plunders you of a food morsel

Does plunder you of your soul.

He who strips you of your garment

Does take your skin off.

This is the alpha of things

And the simple truth of the annals of life.

TO THE EYES OF THE
YEMENI "ELZA"

It is you and only you that I see now
It was you and only you that I saw yesterday
Your eyes are my searchlight
And your face is my window and my usher
If I were asked about name, I would point out to you
If I were asked to present my passport, I would outspread on my soma
Your Arabian face which is spotted with hunger
You are I
Your feeble voice is uttered through my lips
As I have no voice
You have become my face and my voice
And my vision to the future
Oh princess of my love and of all ages.

You come naked in the evening
To lie - here - between my chest and my heart
And to bathe in the fountain of nostalgia
Oh my wine, my qat! What has happened then?
Night chases my and sneaks into my body
Slowly and slowly time passes, while you are there . . .
far-off . . . faraway
Evening comes but you never come
Why has your intimate communion with me been interrupted?
Has nigh spoilt our relations?
Or has the sand of the desert hindered you?
Come on!
Here is the horizon; it is extended in expectation
And the windows are wide open
Your bed is unoccupied;
The air is filled with your fragrance;
So, pour down heavily
Your face is pervading my room now
It spreads like trees, flowers,
Coffee-tree fields,
And a fountain of affection

Oh comers with sweet scents of Elza in your clothes
Let me embrace in her perfume the palm of longing
From her color let me sip my coffee
Before intelligencers come
And tear out my lips
Before their feet rummage through my blood in search of the places of
her secrecy
Before tears could wash your clothes
Before the features of Sana'a get lost amongst the ashes of the eyes
And the silence of the place.

TELEYEMEN and the Mobile Phone Joke:

Honoring Contractual Arrangements

It is a Cultural Matter. It is Legal Matter

The Republic of Yemen being in a fast complex changing world, has still a lot to learn. As many countries strive to develop communication technology in recent years, our beloved country ran well off the track.

In 1993, the Teleyemen company with agreement and permission from the Ministry of Communications introduced the mobile phone system in the country. Individuals, businessmen and companies signed contracts to obtain mobile lines and purchase mobile phones.

The system was quite successful for many months in year 1993. Suddenly, customers were shocked to learn that the mobile phone system was to be discontinued.

Customers contacted Teleyemen officials and complained about the shut-down disasters caused to people and individuals. Teleyemen customers were informed that the closure is only temporarily due to security

reasons and new measures to be taken. The actual time of the closure was during the political crisis near the end of 1993. Patiently, customers accepted the forced informal decision hoping a new sun will shine the next day. But they were quite wrong.... The waiting was to be long.

Several meetings were held between Teleyemen officials and government officials to discuss re-opening of the mobile phone system to customers. Exact and precise information about the talks were not announced. By now, it was common knowledge that the security apparatus concluded that the mobile phone was a security threat. Rumors has it that Teleyemen offered to implement a new detecting system costing millions of dollars to help the police and national security combat crime/instability. The proposal was rejected.

END OF PHASE ONE OF
THE STORY.

Security was just an excuse by government officials for a much deeper goal. It had a lot to do with business and money-making. Top-government officials wanted to privatise a big chunk of the company or allow competing communication companies into the country (American or French) - of course with top-government official interests and shares), if the mobile system is ever to return. But this proposal found strong opposition from the Teleyemen management. In fact, British interests threatened to withdraw the investment and raise hell.

Meanwhile, pressure from the government to keep the mobile system shut down continued successfully, as the consumer interests were side-stepped. Perfect. No hassle at all. Reluctantly, on the 26th of Sep-

tember 1996 the system was restarted for customer use.

Everyone jumped in joy and couldn't believe the news. Customers felt so confused that it was very hard to even understand what was going on. Many customers contacted the company to have their service restored. There was a new hitch. Teleyemen told applicants that it

will restore service on the basis of a new set of criteria. Read, security screening. The overall majority of customers were not allowed to have their lines back. Why ?????? Teleyemen informed customers that only business men with commercial registration licences, foreign companies and diplomats were allowed to have their services restored. Individual customers leaping back in amazement and shock, just walked out of the tower building feeling depressed and irritated about the complete ignorance and chaos. If I pay for a service, why should it matter what my job is?

REPORT OVER & OUT

Now, there is a good way to handle this situation. I strongly urge each and every individual who was rejected by Teleyemen to join hands and file a law-suit. We have a contract with this

company. We have paid our dues. The company is exercising discrimination, irrespective of who is ordering it to do so. Moreover, we can demand compensation for all damages caused from the Teleyemen. I suggest an amount of YR 5 million per customer. I think if the present policy persists, Teleyemen is asking for trouble.

NO EXCUSE ACCEPTED!

P.S. Everybody knows that Teleyemen blames the Ministry of Communications for its problems. The ministry blames some high guys. Question : Who are they ? Answer : Even if we knew, we couldn't tell you. And you wouldn't be able to do anything about it, anyway !

Mohammed Al-Malahy,
Sanaa.



Parliamentary Elections in Singapore Early in 1997

Singapore's Prime Minister said last week he will call for general elections after January 5th when parliament's present term expires, putting to rest the two months speculation among residents and the stock market. After that, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tog said he would still have three months before he must call elections in April under the constitution. "So I will go the full term and decide later on," Goh said, declining to give a specific date.

Hectic unofficial campaigning by the governing People's Action Party (PAP) in the past two months has given rise to speculation that the polls were around the corner. The stock market has been hanging on statements by ministers for hints about the polls even though a PAP victory is taken for granted in this tiny island-state.

The PAP, first under the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew and for the last six years under Goh, has ruled Singapore since 1959, and takes credit for bringing prosperity to the 3 million people of this once poverty-ridden country.

Speaking to residents of a neighbourhood in north-eastern Singapore, Goh said he had declared his intention to complete the full term of parliament when he took office in 1992.

The PAP controls 75 of the 81 elected seats in parliament. The opposition - Singapore Democratic Party - has three and the Workers Party has one. Two seats are vacant.

Recently, Goh and his cabinet colleagues have been visiting public housing estates every weekend, and the PAP has announced several new candidates.

With virtually no prospect of winning the elections, the SDP suffered a further setback when its leader, Chee Soon Juan, had to defend himself this week against charges of contempt of parliament. He was charged with deliberately falsifying data before a parliamentary committee in an effort to show that the government's share of health care spending is falling. Chee said the error in a chart that he used was a typographical error.

Deputy prime minister Lee Hsien Loong, meeting with residents of another neighbourhood, criticized Chee's conduct. "Everybody is human, everybody makes mistakes," Lee said, referring to Chee's defense at a hearing of the privileges committee, which is expected to announce punishment soon for him and three colleagues. The 4 SDP politicians face a maximum punishment of jail of about 2 months and fined 50,000 Singapore dollar (\$45,710).

Anti-Taliban Jets Bomb Kabul Again and Again

Residents of the shattered Afghan capital awake these days to the thud of bombs and staccato bursts of anti-aircraft fire. Fighter jets belonging to the anti-Taliban alliance scream in low over Kabul dropping bombs that rattle the city.

The early morning bombing raids that coincide with the dawn prayers have become a recurrent event.

The bombs have hit mainly the airport, although residential quarters have also been targeted. The concussion shatters windows and strews metal shrapnel around, though not many lives are lost. Residents daily sweep away the glass and repair the damage.

Last week, 2 air attacks hit the combined military and civilian airport on the northwestern edge of the city. The airport is still open, as domestic aircraft try to stay away from the jet fighters.

The Taliban, who now control two-thirds of Afghanistan, moved three Russian-made jet fighters from the military side of Kabul airport to the civilian side recently.

Taliban jets also have been bombing north of Kabul where soldiers belonging to an anti-Taliban alliance are dug in.

Anti-Taliban forces - who are trying to dislodge Taliban from the capital, launched a fresh wave of fighting around Hussein Kot, roughly 20 kilometers north of Kabul.

The recent bombing raids of Kabul follow reports that the Taliban army has opened fresh fighting in north-western Afghanistan, a region controlled by General Abdul-Rashid Dostum. Taliban says it has gained control of western Badghis province, while Dostum's spokesman in Pakistan said the "fighting is going on". He denied that Dostum has lost any territory.

Since the Taliban entered Kabul on September 27 most of the fighting has been waged north of the capital, where troops loyal to ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Masood are deployed. Dostum, who commands the second largest fighting force after the Taliban, also has soldiers north of the capital.

Dostum's air-fleet of two dozen is the largest in the country. Masood is believed to have four jets that he removed from the military air base at Baghrum, 50 kilometers north of Kabul before the Taliban invasion.

The fighting has been between the many Islamic factions vying for power in Afghanistan.

Emirates Gives Illegal Aliens Another Chance

On October 31st, 1996, the 3-months amnesty which the authorities of the United Arab Emirates had announced came to an end. An official source said that some 200,000 illegal residents had benefitted from the amnesty and left the country. "The UAE will allow those who have availed of the amnesty and returned to their respective countries to return to the Emirates to take up new jobs, provided they do so on a legal basis," the source added.

Some one million guest workers live and work in the UAE. Among these, an estimated 400,000 do not have proper documents. The amnesty decision which went into force on July 1st, targeted this block by giving them the chance to live the country without subjecting them to any penalties or fines. The announcement this week further confirmed that the amnesty meant that there was no stigma against anyone who returned to his/her native country willingly, in future visa and work applications.

Government sources indicated that the bulk of those who returned are from South and Southeast Asia. "Exact figures are still being compiled, but more than 160,000 persons from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines had returned to their countries." Another 50,000 had benefitted by arranging for new sponsors.

A study commissioned by the Ministry of Defence which looked into the population structure of the UAE, found that illegal residents constituted a security threat. The study said that the demographic imbalance did not link any particular community or nationality to the threat.

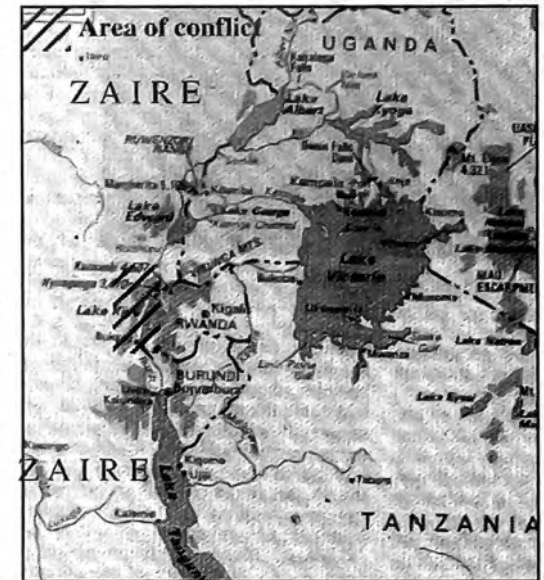
Starting from November 1st, 1996, police, immigration and labor officers are instructed to exercise full control of the entry points of the country. Many of the illegal residents came in by sea, while a large number of those already in the country simply stayed on after their legal period of stay expired.

Foreigners are attracted to the Emirates given the booming economy and the good prospects for finding high-paying jobs. If their paper-work is improper, these workers end up being abused and underpaid. "They are also unable to benefit from medical and other services. That is why correcting the situation is in the interest of the UAE as well as the workers themselves," it was explained.

East African Conflict: A Catastrophe Grows

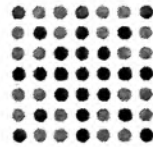
The conflict between Rwanda and Zaire has taken an ominous twist over the last few days as professional soldiers on both sides have joined the mobs in the conflict. The internal turmoil of Rwanda, which led to the exodus of hundreds of thousands of refugees into Zaire, has now been transformed into an open war between the two countries.

The region to which the Rwandan refugees fled, although legally part of Zaire, is actually inhabited by Tutsi tribes. The whole Mitumba mountain range, is ethnically linked to Rwanda, thus increasing expansionist tendencies in Kigali.



According to international humanitarian agencies, some 500,000 people are trapped, and relief supplies cannot reach them. They have warned of a major tragedy unless the fighting is stopped and food supplies reach the cornered refugees. Peace talk efforts have faltered as Zaire insists that the regular Rwandan army must leave its territory before it can sit down for talks. Meanwhile, the conflict could escalate and other countries, notably Uganda, could be embroiled in the conflict.


 فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a
 HOTEL

The British Council

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7 p.m. Monday 4th November 1996

7 p.m. Tuesday 5th November 1996

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“Yemen-Saudi partnerships offer opportunities for hard currency financing, transfer of know-how and experience, and new contacts & links.”



Mr. Khalifa A. Rahman Al-Gosaibi

Recently, Yemeni-Saudi relations have witnessed dramatic improvements. The better political understanding between the leaders of the two fraternal countries have opened substantial possibilities for business cooperation. One dimension to this cooperation has been joint ventures and business partnership between Yemeni and Saudi interests.

The first steps were taken by bridge individuals - Yemenis who have been working closely with Saudi Arabia.

One such persons is Saleh Salim Al-Zubaidi, General Manager of Naftyem - a Yemeni-Saudi joint venture. Actually, Naftyem-Algoasibi is the first Yemeni-Saudi venture in the new wave of partnerships that is promising to lead to important business deals. Such deals cover trade and investments in various sectors. Already many projects are in the catering.

Mr. Al-Zubaidi himself has business links with the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and of course, Saudi Arabia.

Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times spoke to Saleh Al-Zubaidi about Naftyem-Algoasibi and other aspects of his business.



Khalifa A. Rahman Al-Gosaibi

Q: Could you give us a brief about Naftyem-Algoasibi Co. Ltd. and related companies under this joint venture?

A: We had a joint-venture agreement between our Yemeni company NAFTYEM Consultancy and Oil Services Ltd., and with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ALGOSAIBI Group of Companies to establish a new company NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Co. Ltd. This company provides quality catering services to international oil and drilling companies working in the Yemen.

Q: Algoasibi is a large company?

A: Yes, indeed. ALGOSAIBI Group of companies include: Algoasibi Services Co. Ltd., Khalifa Algoasibi Cold Stores, National Fruit Juice Co. Ltd., Khalifa Algoasibi Real Estate Development Ltd., Construction Materials Chemical Industry, Sigma Paints Ltd.,

Algoasibi Thermal Air Industries Ltd., Arabian Vermiculite Industries, Khalifa Algoasibi Fishing Co. Ltd.

panies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also enabled us raise standard of the services to one of the highest Saudi Arabia and Gulf region.

Q: Why is this joint venture important?

A: NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Co. Ltd. represented the strong links between our two countries. This joint venture also enables a Yemeni company and its personnel to learn and benefit from the experience and expertise of such a large group as Algoasibi. Joint ventures are appropriate ways to obtain financing in hard currency, the networks worldwide, experience and know-how, contact, links, and other important resources.

Q: How helpful were the authorities in Yemen?

A: NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Co. Ltd. in involved in the catering services to major oil companies working in Yemen. We have been encouraged by the authorities.

Q: Any your future projects?

A: We are studying the construction of housing complexes and camping facilities for companies. We are also looking into providing recreational resorts to Gulf hunters.

NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Yemen - Saudi Joint Venture

<p>شركة نافتيم للإستشارات والخدمات البترولية المحدودة CONSULTANCY & PETROLEUM SERVICES CO. LTD</p>	<p>Algoasibi Services</p>	<p>إغذية القصبين ALGOSAIBI FOODS</p>
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<p>شركة نافتيم للإستشارات والخدمات البترولية المحدودة</p>
<p>شركة نافتيم للإستشارات والخدمات البترولية المحدودة</p>
<p>شركة نافتيم للإستشارات والخدمات البترولية المحدودة</p>
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Algoasibi Services Co. Ltd. شركة القصبين للخدمات المحدودة

Algoasibi Services Co. Ltd. شركة القصبين للخدمات المحدودة

Algoasibi Services Co. Ltd. شركة القصبين للخدمات المحدودة

Algoasibi Services Co. Ltd. شركة القصبين للخدمات المحدودة



NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Yemen - Saudi Joint Venture



NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI offers catering and support services to many leading private companies and public institutions and corporations.



CATERING is our main domain and speciality. Our operational flexibility provides for all grades and nationalities of Staff on site throughout the Republic. From operating VIP receptions to providing full



meal services around the clock, 7 days a week for over 10,000 workers on site. We have the flair that is vital in attracting and retaining a stable workforce.

The Cold Storage
The cold storage area covers 27,700 square meters, this huge and most modern complex under the name Khalifa Algoasibi Cold Stores and Food Industries commissioned and commenced operations in 1980. The frozen storage facility temperatures upto minus 30 degrees centigrade, along with chilled capabilities. The dry Warehouse is fully climate controlled and the complex includes a food processing facility. Being the largest in the area the building itself. The complex maintain the highest sanitary levels fully computerised and operated by the most modern equipment.



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زبائن ارامكس يتابعون شحناتهم عبر شبكة الانترنت

أصبح الآن بإمكان أي شخص مشترك في شبكة المعلومات العالمية الانترنت في أي مكان في العالم أن يتتبع مسار شحنة ويعرف وضعها مباشرة من خلال موقع ارامكس على شبكة المعلومات العالمية الانترنت.

لقد اعتاد زبائن ارامكس الحصول على أفضل الخدمات وأحدث الأساليب التكنولوجية مجتمعة معاً، فبعد أن أوجدت ارامكس موقعا لها على شبكة المعلومات العالمية، نجدها اليوم تضيف خدمة جديدة لمساعدة زبائنها وأي شخص يتعامل مع ارامكس على الحصول على معلومات فورية عن وضع شحنته لحظة استلامها من قبل مندوب ارامكس إلى حين تسليمها في وجهتها النهائية.

وما على الزبون سوى زيارة موقع ارامكس على شبكة الانترنت وإدخال رقم البوليصة التي أرسلت شحنته بموجبها، ومباشرة سيحصل الزبون على معلومات كاملة عن وضع شحنته، كما أن موقع ارامكس هذا يزود الزبون بمعلومات عن ارامكس وخدماتها وأحدث المستجدات فيها.

إن تتبع الشحنات هذا لا يرتبط بزمان أو مكان محدد، فعلى مدار الساعة وفي أي مكان يمكن للزبون أن يستفسر عن شحنته.

إننا باستمرار نعمل على تحديث وتطوير قدراتنا التكنولوجية لخدمة زبائننا بشكل أفضل مما يعطيهم القدرة على الحصول على المعلومات المتعلقة بشحناتهم في أي وقت وأي مكان بحيث نؤكد الشعار الذي ننادي به "إنه عالم صغير".

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AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) A: 13-10-96, and B: 16-10-96 (Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Hadhramaut Bids Farewell to Religious Scholar Abdulla M. Al-Haddad at His Last Resting Place
- 2) Ugly Murder in Sana'a
- 3) Professional Teachers' Union: Responsibility For Examination Results Does Not Rest With Minister of Education or Prime Minister
- 4) Parents: Our Children Are Compelled to Clean and Sweep their Schools

Article Summary:

The Silence of Others and The Response of a Humble Citizen

Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqaf, in a long article, volunteers to handle the response of the Supreme Elections Committee to the "Joint Talks" (Opposition and Islah) official complaint to the President on the violations of and by the SEC. He did this, since there had been no response given accordingly by anyone else. The SEC, based on the President's instructions, had given a response through Al-Thoura Newspaper on 13-10-96. There is no adherence to channels or direct communication accordingly. The SEC response had catered to three of the main issues raised by the "Joint Talks" letter to the President. The Fourth Issue, which pertained to guarantees for a clean and free election was left to the President. The Opposition and Islah "Joint Talkers" had scheduled a news conference for the 17th of October but the President called them to a meeting on the same date, thus postponing the news conference. The article went into the legal technicalities, where the author, using his legal expertise, pointed out that the SEC, in general did not provide satisfactory justifications for the violations cited by the Joint Talkers after admitting their occurrence. The same article appeared in the Islah paper Al-Sahwa.

AL-GUMHURIA: Taiz (Daily), 29-10-96.

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President: "We Are Confident That 1997 Will Be the Year of a New Start and Economic Revival."
- 2) The President Directs the Government to Pursue Efforts to Restructure Yemen's Foreign Debts
- 3) Israel Supports Peace With Syria in Return for Parts of Golan Heights



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

Article Summary:

"Deeds, Not Words Can Change Realities," By Najeeb Al-Asbahi.

Too much an ineffectual talk has verged on the point of sophistry or gibberish. There is a great need for fruitful work without which many issues will remain surrounded by thick walls of obstacles and frustrations. The huge resources of this country need a guiding hand to be able to change the negative realities. Economically, the state has a massive potential income that is to fully realized through taxation, custom duties . . . etc. The little that is levied is not properly used but wasted on unimportant issues. The other huge resources such as agriculture, fishing and above all, petroleum are not fully and beneficially exploited. Words are regarded by many as a magic wand that can achieve everything. We need an urgent surgical operation to remove the accumulating negative aspects of reality.

14th OCTOBER: Aden (Daily), 27-10-96

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Inaugurated the Second Population Conference.
- 2) Parliament Ratifies Agreement of Principles Between Yemen and Eritrea.
- 3) World Bank Delegation Will Arrive in Taiz Next Month.
- 4) Primakov Conducts a Tour of the Middle East.

Article Summary:

"Link Between Home and School", by Mohammed Al-Ameer

The school year has started. Teachers, pupils and parents are all getting ready for it. The great link between home a school has snapped victimizing the children. The only solution is to re-establish parents'-teachers' associations. These associations are primarily for creating real co-operation between school and family for helping children develop balanced personalities. The gap between school and family does not negatively affect pupils only but all

of society. Parents should be promptly informed of their child's progress and behavior. School and family must complement each other and establish strong ties between them. This way, a close knit and flawless society can be built.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-10-96 (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Supreme Opposition Council Rejects Meeting The SEC.
- 2) Islah may boycott elections
- 3) Opposition and Islah MP's Abstain from Parliamentary Session in Protest Against Arbitration Accord With Eritrea.

Article Summary:

"No Choice for the Opposition But to Boycott the Elections," by Ahmed Al-Faqih

The dialogue between Islah and the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition is dictated by shared interests. It serves a long term goal to rectify the progress of democracy in the country. Dialogue in itself is an advanced step many thought that the parties concerned will never dare to take. This dialogue must be evaluated according to its content not its media image.

The ruling coalition partners (PGC and Islah) have many alternatives, but the opposition has one bitter alternative which is boycotting the elections. This is particularly so in view of the plenty of evidence that the opposition now possesses which gives it the right for such a boycott.

26th SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 31-10-96 (Armed Forces Official Newspaper)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President, "We appreciate the World Bank's support for economic reform and development in Yemen."
- 2) Big Success Achieved by the Economic and Financial Reform Program.
- 3) Electricity Blackouts to End at Beginning of Next Week.

Article Summary:

"The Population Increase Council . . .!"

By Iskendar Al-Asbahi

It is ironic that Yemen should have, according to UNICEF, the highest population growth and mother and child mortality rates. Nobody can claim any decrease in the annual population growth since the establishment of the National Council for Population Policies. The population problem has become the "excuse" on which all shortcomings, failures, decrease in production, corruption, etc. are hung. World Bank reports state that water resources in Yemen are the poorest of all Middle Eastern countries. So population growth and unwise consumption of water compound this problem.

The 2nd Population Conference which held in Sana'a last week failed to mentioned many causes an factors that can lead to rapid population growth. But it failed to specify two important factors: the continuous electricity blackouts and the mushrooming honey shops. Some of these shops have adopted suggestive advertisement slogans such as "the bridegroom's mixture . . . stamina and vitality." This is probably the first advertisement in Yemen with a sexual innuendo!

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 18-10-96

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Yemeni Socialist Party Dismisses Allegations That Some of Its Members Joined the PGC
- 2) Military Groups Usurp Citizens' Possessions in Lahej
- 3) Government Intends to Give in to Demands by Kidnappers of French Diplomat.

Article Summary:

"Political and Electioneering Motives Behind Ratifying Arbitration Agreement,"

by Abu Bakar Abdullah.

Political and legal observers have described the ratification of the arbitration agreement between Yemen and Eritrea as unlawful. They also stated that this agreement aimed to achieve political and electioneering gains for one of the governing coalition partners. A parliamentary source indicated that the government is trying to distance itself from the arbitration results and put the blame on the parliament. Ratifying the agreement is intended by the government to direct the attention of the political parties away from the violations committed in registering voters for the upcoming elections. This can be proven from the dates set for arbitration which are after elections.

Letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor

New Medical Facts Relating Qat to Gastric Ulcers and Anaemia

By: Dr. Muayed Al-Azzawi, General Practitioner, Maarib.

Most Yemenis find no alternative to occupy their free time but to chew qat. It has become part and parcel of their lives. Therefore, they tend to disregard any advice to abandon this habit.

Qat chewing provides false comfort and temporary peace of mind. It causes many health and social problems not to mention its detrimental effects on the economy.

Through close medical observation and tests over a period of more than three years, I found that qat addicts usually suffer from hyperacidity or heart-burn in addition to many cases of bleeding peptic ulcers. I noticed that such cases are more prevalent in Yemen than in other countries.

According to the physiology of acid secretion, the spittle glands begin their function when the person smells or sees food. After that, the stomach secretes the acid due to the stimulation of a complicated net of nerves in order to receive the entering chewed food. The secreted acid liquifies the food entering the stomach. This process is involuntary and one cannot feel it. The same physiological process occurs when a person is chewing qat, i.e., the stomach secretes HCl acid to receive food and digest it. As long as the qat chew

remains in the mouth, the stomach keeps secreting HCl acid.

The symptoms begin with a feeling of hyperacidity which evolves into heart burn. The situation worsens leading to gastric erosion and later to gastric or duodenal ulcers. Continuous minor bleeding may occur which can ultimately cause anaemia. I observed a marked defect and a decrease in the haemoglobin of the blood among qat users.

Treatment and Advice:

As a first step, I advised my patients to take anti-acids, but the results were inconvenient. After much effort, I succeeded in convincing some qat users who were afflicted with gastric ulcers to give up chewing qat without taking any drugs. They kept on that for a trial period of 1-2 months. The results were positive and promising with a full recovery from gastric ulcers which led some patients to completely abandon qat.

This is a tangible fact, proved by tests and observations, condemning qat and its dangerous side effects.

Unfortunately, addicts don't listen, and the overall conditions of Yemen do not help people quit this bad habit. I can't help but wonder what this situation will ultimately lead to.

If you can knock off the habit, do it.

THEY ARE SELLING OUR HERITAGE !

I am very perplexed by the fact that the authorities are not even addressing the issue of smuggling of historic artifacts. I know there are at least eight shops which sell valuable pieces of Yemeni heritage. One of the famous places is in Al-Bonia, a few more are in Bab Al-Yemen.

This lucrative business has led to scavengers who are unearthing the ancient sites. Thus the damage is twofold. Not only do they steal and sell the precious pieces, but they also destroy the sites by going about the excavations in damaging ways.

Some kind of control and surveillance is needed. We do have agencies that are supposed to attend to this matter, but the enforcement components of these agencies do not work. Hence, the ease with which the thieves go about their business.

If this process continues for a long time, we will end up with less evidence of the grandeur of our past, so little of which already exists. I realize there are many pressing issues, but this matter does not require much money. It just requires a commitment.

Many countries jealously guard their precious heritage from the past. Yemen has a lot to be proud of. But should we let our past so exposed to unruly smugglers who would sell anything for money. I hope not.

Mayyadah Shamhan, Sanaa.

Contd from page 9:

Population ...

8. Ms. Rasheedah Al-Hamdani, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office, Sanaa.

This is the second population conference that I have attended. The discussions focused on two major issues: fertility and its relations to education and vocational training. The government should concentrate on these issues. I think this conference has sensitized people and made them appreciate the role of education in managing our lives. Many women came on their own initiative, which certainly indicates more awareness and interest on their part.

9. Ms. Jameela Al-Sharei, Prime Minister's Office.

I presented a paper entitled "The Role of NGOs and the Private Sector in Implementing the National Population Strategy. Ms. Asma Al-Basha, Fatima Mashhoor and Suad Abdulkareem Al-Iriani also took part in preparing this paper. We tried to highlight how and where some of NGOs and the private sector can contribute in implementing population policies.

The whole world now calls for a more active participation of NGOs and the private sector in various activities in society. One of the NGOs mentioned repeatedly in this conference is the Yemeni Family Care Society which is working on natal health and education both for men and women. The YFCS is a pioneer in the field of mother and child services.

The society was established in 1976 as a charity. It is a member of the International Union of Family Planning. There are many health centers in Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah and Aden which belong to this society. They provide health care and information to mothers and children and give advice on family planning.

The Society is now preparing a strategic plan for the years 1997-98. New sectors have been targeted such as the youth of both sexes. We are trying now to break new grounds such as rural and distant regions by mounting mobile clinics and sponsoring traveling medical teams. New branches will be opened in Ibb and Hadhramaut.

10. Mr. Thomas W. Hardy, Head of 'Options for Family Care Project'.

I think that conferences of this type are extremely important in a number of ways. One, to raise awareness among people of importance to issues related to population. Second, the impact of rapid growth of population on a whole host of issues that affect people in their day to day life such as health, access to water resources, education, employment, etc.

If the population of Yemen continues to grow at the present rate, all of these issues will be very difficult for the country to deal with in a successful way. There will simply be too many people. The value of such a conference is to make people aware of the severity of these problems and to suggest solutions that might be implemented by the government and its partners. It is very important for the people to understand that the government is supportive of programs that will address these issues.

I think the recommendations of this conference are typical referring to goals and objectives. The real challenge is how to translate these goals and targets into action plans. Where will the money necessary to implement such programs come from. There has to be a partnership among the government of Yemen, NGO's, private sector organs with donor agencies such as the one I am working for. Other partners in this process are the individual citizens of Yemen. Every one must contribute to the solutions of these problems. so the real challenge is to translate the goals of the conference into real action plans.

We are implementing projects in various governments. These are financed by USAID and their total value is just under US \$ 7 million over a period of slightly less than 4 years. We began in early in 1995 and will continue through to September '98. The focus of our assistance is the public health care system. Most of our assistance goes through various parts of the Ministry of Public Health.

The summary of all the points made by the participants is that Yemen's population growth cannot be sustained. Every effort must be exerted to bring it under control.

November 4th, 1996

By Jamal Al-Awadhi

Yemen Times Surveys Athletes on Facilities

The lack of training halls and facilities is the most important impediment to progress in sports in Yemen.

I was the coach of the national boxing team in Yemen during 1990-1995. The training process of the teams usually took place outdoors. Although most boxing technics needed closed halls for training, we never got any such hall. The other sport games (shadow games) like taekwando, wrestling, judo, karate, etc. have the same problem.

I have recently visited some sports clubs which have buildings used as training halls. I only found a humid and unhealthy buildings. There were many youngsters training. I talked to some of them and their coaches.

Here is what they said.

Mr. Mahfoudh al-Sayaghi, a karate coach.

"The popular Arabic proverb states, 'Establish a sports club and you can do without a hospital.' Sports clubs are the launching pads of champions. Training halls are the pre-requisite for many sports. They protect the trainees from the weather elements and safely house the essential training equipment. We do not ask for top of the range expensive halls. We wish to be provided with decent training venues and for the existing ones to be repaired and refurbished. The Japanese government provided the funds which were used in building one inconveniently situated hall. These funds could have been used to build several small sports halls for clubs within the city."

Mr. Badr Ahmed Rashid, a kyokoshnki (a new sport similar to karate) player.

"We train for this game in an old and damp hall. We have no one to complain to. Sports clubs receive very limited support from the Ministry of Sports and Youth. I hope that the Ministry would direct its

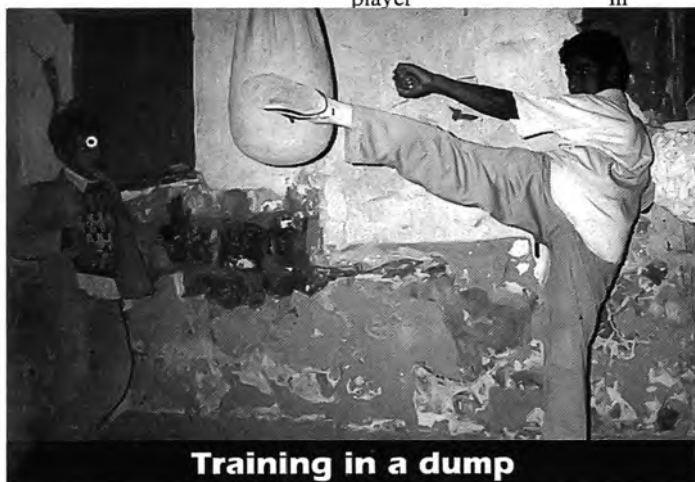
attentions toward building and maintaining sports training hall."

Mr. Adel Ahmed Sultan, a Taekwando player

"Our training hall is small and overcrowded to the point that we sometimes find difficult to breath. The hall is unhealthy and is used for many games and sports, in addition to taekwando."

Mr. Abdullah al-Maghrabi, the national boxing team coach and head of the Body Builders' Union.

"There is no sport training hall in Yemen capable of qualifying or improving the performance of any player in



Training in a dump

game. I, as head of the Body Builders Union, can confidently state that the progress this sport is making is only due to the private support of individuals. These people help in building halls and providing the necessary equipment.

The role of the Ministry of Youths and Sport is almost non-existent. The lack of planning that plagues the ministry is largely to blame for the decline in the level of Yemeni sports and the frustration of Yemeni sportsmen and women.

"If the losses incurred by Yemeni athletes in international competitions are properly analyzed and evaluated, the true problems and reasons can be discovered and remedied. But this does not happen because the emphasis is put solely on participating."

Yemen has many strong and healthy young people capable, with minimum of attention, of achieving great victories. Will this be realized, or are we going to continue hoping for another ready-made "Naseem"?

At the End of the 9th Week of the Excellent Football Tournament

Al-Tilal Still on Top

Al-Tilal team from Aden has proven itself, one more time, to be the master of the field. In the game played on Saturday, November 2/11/1996, it pulverized Shamsan, also of Aden, with a six-nil result.

The spectators got their money's worth of the game played in Aden. With that result, Al-Tilal's points now rise to 20, far ahead of the team occupying second place with 16 points.

On Friday, November 1st, three matches were played. Shaab Sanaa versus Shaab Mukalla in which the Sanaa team won by 1/nil.

Al-Itihad of Ibb against Hassan of Aden, played at own turf and its cheering supporters were happy with the results: 4/nil.

Al-Wahdah of Sanaa played against Al-Wahdah of Aden, also on November 1st. The result of this game was shocking as the weakest team was able to annihilate one of the strongest teams in the tournament.

On October 31st, two matches were held. The first between Al-Shu'lah of Aden bombarded Al-Ahli of Sanaa with 5/nil. The second was between Al-Zuhrah of Sanaa against Ahli of Hodeidah, resulting in 2/1.

The Excellent Football Tournament is sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall (International). The 22-week games are getting more and more exciting as first-class teams come tumbling down at the hand of unexpected rivals.

Yet, Al-Tilal of Aden continues to ride high, while another team from Aden, Al-Wahdah, trails the list.



Status at the End of the 9th Week

Team	Points	GOALS		GAMES PLAYED		
		For	Against	Won	Tie	Lost
Al-Tilal	20	20	8	6	2	1
Wahdah/Sanaa	16	17	8	5	1	3
Ahli/Hodeidah	15	16	16	4	3	2
Al-Zuhra	14	10	7	4	2	3
Hassan	13	11	9	3	4	2
Shaab/Mukalla	12	10	8	3	3	3
Ahli/Sanaa	12	9	12	3	3	3
Shaab/Sanaa	11	11	17	3	2	4
Shamsan	11	13	21	3	2	4
Shu'lah	9	18	14	3	--	6
Al-Itihad	8	10	20	2	2	5
Wahdah/Aden	7	9	16	1	4	4



Special Courses for Coaches and Referees in Karate and Table Tennis

1. A training course was started on Saturday 2nd November for referees and coaches holding black and brown belts in karate. Several members of the Yemeni Karate Union will be lecturing at the course. These include Abdulmalik Al-Arashi, Fadhil Al-Asbahi, Ibrahim Al-Waleed, Mukhtar Hameed Saif and Ahmed Al-Radayee.

The course, which will last until 9th November, will include theoretical and practical aspects given during morning and afternoon classes. Successful participants will be awarded official certificates at the end of the course.

It is worth mentioning here that the course is organized and managed by highly qualified Yemeni athletes.

2. Another training course was also inaugurated on Saturday, November 2nd, for coaches and referees in table tennis. Leading the lecturers in this course is Mohammed Al-Fadhly from Egypt. Some 25 trainees participate in this course.

Yemeni athletes in table tennis have shown exceptional abilities and have done well in regional competitions.

Both training courses are being organized and sponsored by the Yemen Olympic Committee. Since Hussain Al-Awadhi took over the committee, he has re-vitalized immensely.

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