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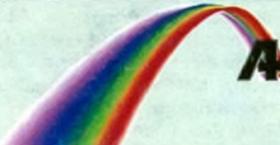
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Chatting at the Presidential Office: (from left)
Vice President Abdo Rabbo Mansoor Hadi, YT Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Raydan Al-Saqqaf, and Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abulghani.

President Saleh Stresses Coming Elections

"The hard days are behind us."

In a visibly optimistic mood, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic announced, "The hard days are behind us." He said the country was growing out of its pains and hardships at many levels. In two extended private conversations with the chief editor of the Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the President gave summary assessments of recent achievements, and his views on the future. "At the political level, we have healed most of the wounds, and the next elections represent a watershed in our evolution. They will mark the final cohesion of our people. These elections are critical for Yemen.

"At the economic level, the reforms and corrective measures have started to bear fruit. We expect 1997 to be the economic launch year. "At the military level, we have rebuilt the army, navy and airforce to an all-time high capability. "At the foreign relations level, we have finally overcome the aftermath of the Gulf War and the civil war of 1994. We are expecting 1997 to witness new break-throughs in our relations with our neighbors. The President said he extends his arm to all those who want to help prepare Yemen for the 21st century. "Nobody is blacklisted. All are welcome to join the construction effort."

A New Low for the Dollar Exchange Rate

The US dollar exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal hit a new low in the market this week. In yet the lowest exchange rate in a year, the dollar was selling at YR 124 in the open exchange market yesterday. For several months, the dollar exchange rate hovered around

YR 128-130. This week, the Riyal gained a solid 5%. Experts believe that the exchange rate could witness another dip. "There are many reasons for these developments. There is the optimism created by a more balanced government

budget. There is the looming gas deal. In Ramadhan, many immigrants send home remittances. Most consumer goods were stocked earlier, thus tapering off demand for imports," explained Ahmed Thabit, Deputy General Manager of IBY.

Prime Minister Paints a Positive Picture:

"Economy is in an upswing."

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abulghani stressed that the Yemeni economy was in an upswing. Speaking in a press conference held at his office on Sunday, January 19th, the Prime Minister elaborated the

many corrective measures taken and the various indicators that signal an improving economic situation in 1996. "1997 will be an even better year," Mr. Abulghani said.

More on page 7



Lawyers, Feminists, Modernists to Fight New Personal Status Law Draft

A lobby bloc is taking shape. This brings together a number of lawyers, feminists, journalists, university professors, and many other modernists and human rights activists in order to fight the 145 changes the Lajnat Taqneen Ahkam Al-Shariyah Al-Islamiyyah (Committee to Enact Laws based on Islamic Sharia) wants to introduce in the present Personal Status Law (Qanoon Al-Ahwal Al-Shakhsiiyyah). "We are not against Islamic Sharia. To the contrary, we are demanding a full and correct implementation of the Sharia. But we are

against the whimsical application of the Sharia based on the bias and twisted ideas of some individuals," said Shada Mohammed Nasser, a leading person in this bloc. Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Sousuwah, Deputy Minister of Information and Chairman of the National Women's Group, indicated that she will campaign within the executive branch of authority against the new changes. A group of activists are getting together next week to discuss the next step. "We shall chart out action plans for the period immediately following Eid Al-Fitr," Shada said.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

EMC: Between a Rock and a Hard Place, and Still Kicking !

Mainstream people, although a majority, are often caught between extremists. They usually end up being victimized, although they should prevail, in terms of numbers. But the extremists are more disciplined and more vocal. This is the predicament of the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC).

The elections are a milestone in Yemen's political evolution, but the extremist people want to spoil it. Who are these people? Well, I can lump them into two general categories.

A: Traditionalists:

Traditional power centers do not like elections, because it could mean a change in the center of power gravity. When they do accept to go through elections, they do all they can to empty them from their true meaning. Elections should reflect the will and desire of the people. The traditionalists either buy the people or coerce them. They do that even if it means breaking all the laws on the books. Therefore, they do not take kindly to people who document such behavior and irregularity. That means people who volunteer to monitor elections through organizations like the EMC are branded as "enemies". A case in point is the barrage of front-page anti-EMC articles recently published in the government *Al-Wahdah* newspaper.

B: The NYET People:

Then there is the other camp, usually made up of politicians and intellectuals who have lost touch with time. They are mostly leftists. Nothing, truly nothing, seems to please them. It is as if they have black glasses on their eyes and they see everything as black. Their answer is "Nyet" or "No" to everything. They now use all kinds of excuses to refuse the elections. To them people who work on the elections, like the volunteers of the EMC are "enemies" or at least "ignorant fools". They see the EMC as a source of some legitimacy to the elections. Thus, they try to dismantle or discredit it in different ways.

Fortunately for the EMC, and possibly for Yemen, the EMC survived the efforts to kill it. It has, in fact, come out stronger than ever before. It is now gaining momentum in its work.

The main factor in the survival of the EMC, so far, is that it does not serve the agenda of any political party. It tries to maintain strict neutrality and objectivity in its monitoring work. In addition, it is not easily frightened by the threat of misuse of power by the traditionalists or the threat of name-calling and slander by the Nyet people. Finally, the EMC is clean!

One more point. The EMC Secretariat has been receiving floods of encouragement messages from the general public. Indeed, the silent public majority is not as silent as many would think.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Sanaa Newspaper Threatens Badr Ba-Snaid with Murder

The Sanaa-based *Al-Rai Al-Aam* newspaper, famous for its black-mail policies and irresponsible language, published an article calling on Yemenis to kill the human rights activist and lawyer, Mr. Badr Ba-Snaid.

The lawyer, who has taken the matter seriously, wrote to the Attorney General, the Government and local and international human rights organizations. *Al-Rai Al-Aam* is printed at the Government press of *Al-Thawra*, almost free of charge.

Government to Establish Daily Newspaper in Mukalla

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has ordered the government to start a daily newspaper in Mukalla, Hadhramaut. The initial steps towards this end has been the repair and upgrading of the printing facility at Ba-Katheer Publishing House. This was also ordered by the President during his recent visit to Mukalla.

At the moment, the government of Yemen produces three daily newspapers - *Al-Thawrah* in Sanaa, 14th October in Aden, and *Al-Jumhuriyah* in Taiz.

President Saleh Covered 14,000 kms. in Recent Field Visits

President Ali Abdullah Saleh covered around 14,000 kilometers in his field trips, which extended from November 1996 till January 1997. Of this distance, he travelled 9,200 kilometers by car, and the balance by helicopter and boat. The President visited *Al-Baidha*, *Lahej*, *Abyan*, *Aden*, *Hadhramaut*, *Shabwah*, *Al-Maharah*, *Taiz*, *Ibb*, *Hodeidah*, *Hajjah* and *Sanaa*.

Agricultural Agreement

An agreement was signed on January 16 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water resources to implement the second stage of the *Wadi Hijr* agricultural project in Hadhramaut. The project will cost US\$ 6 million, 80% of which will be provided by the Arab Monetary Fund and the remainder 20% is provided by the Yemeni government.

The agreement, between the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture and the Russian *Kolkhos Brom Export* company, aims to achieve optimal usage of water resources and fertile lands available in the region. Improving the farmers' living standards and benefiting from all available natural resources are also some of the major goals of this project.

Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment

The third meeting of the Regional Work Team for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) has concluded its sessions in Sana'a on Tuesday 14 January. Organized by the Environment Protection Council, the meeting aims for better cooperation and coordination between countries overlooking the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regarding crucial environmental and marine issues.

A "Strategic Action Program" was prepared by Yemeni specialists from the Sana'a, Aden and Hadhramaut universities in cooperation with the UN and other related counties and organs. The first and second meetings were held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and Amman, Jordan, respectively.

The Signing of the Gas Deal

A final agreement on the Yemeni gas project was signed on January 19th by representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, the American Hunt and Exxon companies, the Korean Yukong Group, and Total of France. The initial production and export capacity of the project is 5 million tons of natural liquefied gas, to be increased in the future.

The US\$ 4.5 billion project involves the construction of a pipeline, 320 km long, extending from Marib to Belhaf on the Arabian Sea, in addition to liquefaction installation and an exportation port.

Exports are due to begin in 2001. The Yemeni government will own 60% of an operating company at the Marib field.

Negotiations are already underway to market the product to Korea, and an initial memorandum of understanding has already been reached with Turkey.

The Yemeni Government hopes to collect an average of US\$ 700-800 million annually over a twenty-five year period as revenue from LNG exports.



British Gifts to Handicapped Society

The Yemeni Society for Care and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped received gifts from the British Embassy in the form of modern sewing and embroidery machines. The head of the society expressed profound praise for the embassy's humanitarian gesture which reflects the positive cooperation in the social aspects in Yemen.

Arab Students Meeting Hosted by Sanaa University

Sanaa University will host - during 25-27/2/1997 - a workshop that brings together students from many Arab universities, higher institutes, and research centers. The event is executed under the umbrella of the Organization of Arab Universities, headquartered in Amman, Jordan.

Ministry of Interior Sets Up Security Zones in Marib

Vice Minister of Interior, Staff Colonel Mutahhar Al-Masri, instructed the establishment of four security zones in Marib. These will be spring-boards from which the state can bring under control any situations that may arise in the governorate. Marib has been notorious for its lawlessness in the past.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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- فكن معنا .. إستمتع اليوم .. وإربح غداً !
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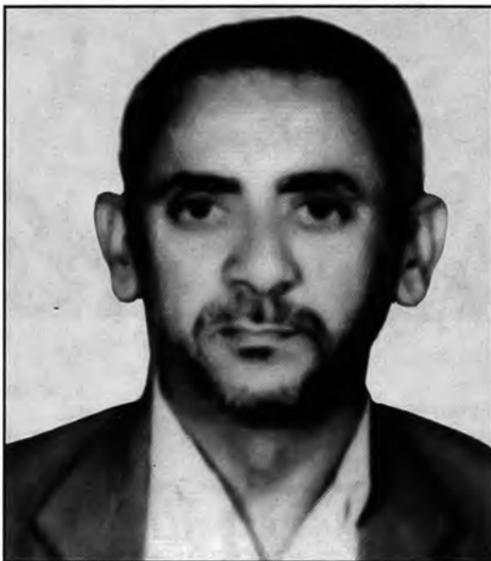
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Sheikh Abdullah Mahdi:

“Preparations for the elections are filled with violations.”

Sheikh Abdullah Mahdi, the leader of the Bloc of Independents in Parliament, is a leading intellectual and public figure from the Tihama. Mahdi, 50, participated in fighting the oppression of the Imam, and later of the militia soldiers who took over the Bait al-Faqeeh region. Termed as an agitator, he was imprisoned several times. He also took part in the second Qauqer rebellion against corruption in 1967 which demanded equal and full rights for the citizens of the Tihama. That revolt was led by Sheikh Yahya Monasser with the participation of the governorate's citizens, most prominent of whom were Sheikh Ali Amzeria and Sheikh Albaghowi Asla'a.

In terms of office responsibilities, Sheikh Mahdi was the mayor of Hodeidah, and the Chairman of the Cooperative Board of Bait Al-Faqeeh. He was elected to the first Shura Council in the early 1970s. He continued in parliament since.



Abdullah also participated in a number of local, regional and international political negotiations and debates.

M. Bin Sallam interviewed him and filed the following report.

Q: The first politically pluralistic parliamentary experience is nearing its end. How do you evaluate this experience?

A: The parliamentary experience in our life is a bitter one. The post-unification elections were held in an atmosphere lacking in awareness of the importance of political diversity. In addition to that, the experience faced some very major political shake-ups. The three coalition partners were engaged in trying to avenge themselves on each other. This

led to strong polarization within the coalition itself due to the accumulation of the past's bad experiences. All these manifestations threw very dark shadows indeed on the whole experience. Parliament reached a stage of disappointment and frustration because of the political alliance between its leadership and the executive authority.

Q: How was the performance of the independent bloc in parliament?

A: In view of the many political arrangements and changes that governed the coalition's influence in formulating any decisions, the performance of independent MPs was a modest one. This was especially so when the Yemen

Socialist Party left the actual political arena. It is true that this party is still active, but its existence is more a formality than a real participation. An independent MP has to struggle inside and outside parliament. But the bipartisan, or the earlier tripartite, coalition dominated all proceedings. This led to the conviction among many independent MPs that a better process could not be possibly achieved. They tolerated all the violations of the constitution, the laws and parliamentary traditions for the sake of keeping the cohesion between the legislative and executive authorities.

Q: In your opinion, what will

become of the independent bloc? Were they actually effective during the last period?

A: Despite the rather small number of independent MPs which remained since the convening of the present parliament in May, 1993, they have been working as effectively as possible. They successfully exposed plenty of going-ons between the coalition and the government, and took strong stances toward many violations. Originally, independent MPs constituted about one-sixth of parliament, but many of them were absorbed within PGC, Islah or the YSP.

Q: How do you view the development of political life in Yemen?

A: The development of Yemeni political life is dictated by the march of time toward change and progress. Unfortunately, there are no real positive efforts made to support and enhance real political practice. In spite of its development, the political experience in Yemen is going through many setbacks due to the coalition parties' efforts to direct its outcome for their interests. The evolution of political life in Yemen does not progress according to the general concept of development. It is a sort of reduction of all accepted political norms, almost like a cinema trick.

Real political practices are absent from Yemeni life. Elections are directed by partisan and regional mobilizations and influences, not

by political activities made within an atmosphere of unrestrained political freedom. As for the man in the street expressing a political opinion or idea, this is only a way of letting off steam. It is very well known that the authorities follow the age-old adage: say whatever you like, and I'll do what I want.

Q: You represent the Tihama constituency. What efforts have you made to benefit your constituents?

A: My primary promise to my electors is to have the loins share in fighting corruption on all levels in society. I am trying my very best to serve my people at constituency 177, Beit Al-Faqeeh.

Q: There are reports of recent government move of withdrawing regular army units from patrolling border areas with Saudi Arabia, and handing over that task to the tribes living in those areas? Is parliament aware of this?

A: This issue has not yet been officially acknowledged. The matter of Saudi patrols entering Yemeni territories has become - due to monotonous repetitions - quite ordinary in view of the Yemeni authorities and public. Tribes in these border areas are usually the first to benefit from such incursions.

The border issues have not yet been settled by the executive authorities. The whole matter is entrusted to the head of the Hashid tribes, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer who is also the speaker of parliament. This sends a clear and reassuring message to our Saudi brothers. It is not strange that border protection issues are assigned to the tribes. Since end of civil war in the late 60's, many sovereignty issues were left to the tribes to deal with. In return for the tribal role, large amounts of money and arms are channeled to them by the state.

Neighboring countries also pay these tribes with petrol, food and regular sums of money. Such prevalent phenomena still persist even in the outskirts of Sana'a, where army officers belonging to various tribes resort to playing "hosts" to diplomats and foreign tourists. In such cases, the state quickly tries to propitiate the hostage holders by giving them generous compensations in return for releasing their "guests."

This has become quite a worrying phenomenon which will continue for a long time to come. We, the people, have an important duty in taking part in the establishment of the state of law and order. It is the modern civil state, from which all such negative aspects will disappear.

Q: What is your opinion about the Islah and PGC coordination in the political arena regarding the next elections?

A: The fact that these two parties are in government, managing all political, economic and administrative activities, has given them massive opportunity to exploit public funds for electioneering. What is spent on propaganda and their branch and basic committees, amounts to billions of riyals. This is done at the expense of vital economic, agricultural and social development projects.

As an example, Islah uses religious forums such as mosques and religious institutes to mobilize its supporters in big "caravans" traversing the width and breadth of Yemen to disseminate propaganda for their party. Millions of riyals from the public funds are exploited in these campaigns. As for the PGC, one can talk even more. During the last three months, we have witnessed an impressive mobilization effort. I believe that the rivalry between the PGC and Islah will lead to ominous possibilities, if they don't agree. And if they agree, our elections and free competition will be compromised. What a predicament!

Ramadan Kareem



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INTRACS Universal Ogden (Middle East) Ltd. New Year, New Company and New Business

December 1996 witnessed the birth of a new company - Intracs Universal Ogden Middle East - created Universal Ogden and INTRACS. The new company, which will cover the whole Middle East region, is equipped to play a major role in the catering and supply business. Principal target sector is the oil business, although the company will address the needs of a vast array of businesses such as camps, embassies, schools, etc.

On this occasion, Yemen Times talked to officials of the new company.

1. Mr. Chris Abbot, General Manager

Q: What is the official name of the new company?

A: Intracs Universal Ogden Middle East. We look on Yemen as being a starting point for the Middle East. We are going to establish a strong presence in the country. Universal Ogden was not present in the Arab world, although we did provide services worldwide to catering and oil industry. We have dealings in Europe, Canada, the USA, Latin America. We have been in the business for 50 years.

Q: What is the ownership structure of the new company?

A: It is 51% owned by Intracs and 49% by Universal Ogden.

Q: Universal Ogden is a well-known international company. How did you pick your local partner?

A: We have, of course, studied the possibilities. Our impression from talking to existing and potential customers is that we have picked the right partner - Intracs. This is a company that has a strong market presence.

Q: Given that the oil business in Yemen is already a decade old, would you say that you have been late in coming into the market?

A: I don't think so. From what people have said to me, I think we have arrived just at the right time. There have been a lot of changes over the last few years. Things have now stabilized, a lot of improvement is taking place and the country is growing. We already have three contracts and hope to build on this. So, I don't think we're late.

Q: What kind of market share is your company looking forward to?

A: There is still great potential in Yemen because the market is defined. You can see exactly where the blocks are and the amount of potential there is. For a company like ourselves coming in, this is an important factor. We hope to eventually have a large share of the market. At the same time, we will be looking to expand in other Middle East countries.

Q: Are you branching out of the oil industry?

A: Not really, we do offer additional hotel services, facilities, other services in remote locations. We also supply private catering functions. Today's market is asking for a larger scope of services. Customers are looking to have less contractors, and less sub-contractors. They want one company to provide a variety of services. That is what we are hoping to do. We already



provide security services to customers. The oil companies in particular wish to deal with as few people as possible. Our focus will remain the oil industry.

Q: What unique services do you offer?

A: We are now providing many services for oil companies. These services include customs clearance and transportation from Yemen to Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and back to Yemen. We also ferry urgent equipment by sea, as it takes less time than by road, approximately 8-10 days from anywhere like Saudi, Emirates, Oman and so forth. We are the only company doing that.

Q: Where are your branch offices?

A: We have bases with full facilities for catering and transportation in Mukallah, Aden,

Ma'arib, and Hodeidah. In addition, there are many smaller bases.

Q: What kind of back-up does Universal Ogden provide to the new joint venture?

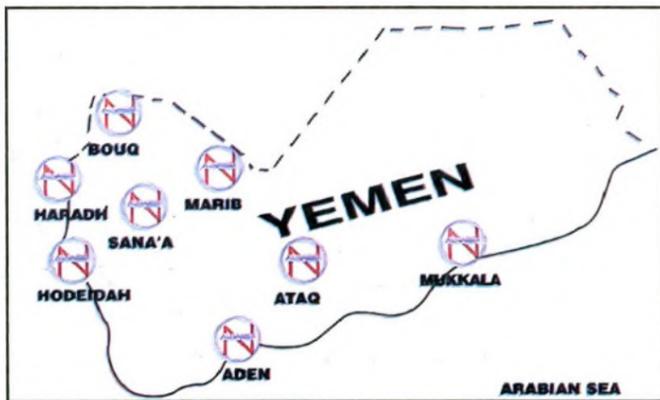
A: We operate according to very high standards, ISO 9002. With what I have seen of Intracs systems, they have an excellent documentation already. We have been working on platforms in the North Sea, and will introduce the latest systems and procedures being operated in Europe. We are keeping an open mind, and looking at every opportunity that comes our way. Universal will be 50 years old in 1997 and Ogden is already a 100 years old. More business is coming into Yemen, in particular, and the region as a whole. We have contacts with companies in other locations. When we go into these ventures,

they welcome us. Our European Division is headquarters in Aberdeen and the Division Manager, Bryan Rennie, who is also responsible for the Middle East.

Our main operation headquarters is in New Orleans, where our President, Barry Blackwell is located.

Q: When did you sign the joint venture contract?

A: We signed the agreement in September, 1996. We have officially started business on the 1st January, 1997.



Abdullah Al-Kharraz
Chairman - INTRACS



Kirby McDonald
Chairman - UOS

From left:
Bryan Rennie, Jaafar Al-Kharraz, Christopher Abbot

COMPANY PROFILE: UNIVERSAL OGDEN:

1. Versatility:

Universal Ogden offers a complete range of remote site services providing customers with the flexibility they need to create the package that is right for them. "Whether the project is large or small, simple or complex, we bring to it the same dedication to your complete satisfaction."

2. Experience:

As one of the pioneer remote site service providers, Universal Ogden has handled every conceivable kind of assignment. "We know our jobs, and we understand your needs."

3. Size:

Universal Ogden is proud to be one of the world's largest remote site support firms. "Our size gives us the resources to better meet your needs - in purchasing, financing, personnel assignments, and a hundred other factors that add up to a successful remote site operation."

4. Value:

Universal Ogden's quality services represent an investment in your remote site operations. "Our range of services and global market presence means that the quality you deserve is available at a competitive price."

Those and many other factors, are summarized by the phrase, "That is the Universal Ogden advantage."

COMPANY PROFILE: INTRACS - The ALNASSER Company

1. Early Start:

It was in 1986 when Mr. Nasser Abdurabo Al-Kharraz founded the Yemen Transportation and Services Company. That was the very year Yemen started exporting oil. The company was re-registered as Intracs in 1994.

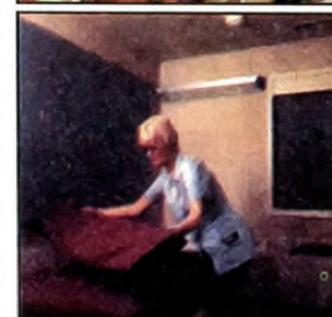
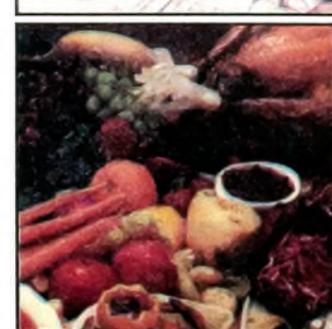
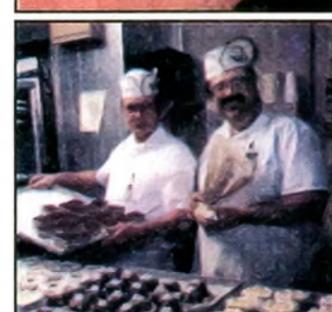
2. Strong Client Base:

The list of companies served in the past and/or being served in the present by Intracs includes Baker Hughes Inteq, BHP Petroleum, British Embassy, Canadian Mountain Minerals, CMC, Dogus Construction, Enzed, Emochem, Exxon Oil, Exxon Chemicals, Exeter Drilling, Geoservices, Gulf Helicopters, Halliburton, Hasco Oiltools, Kappa Energy, Nabors Drilling, Nimir Petroleum, Shel Marketing, Sperry-Sun Drilling Services, Total Petroleum, US Embassy, WGM, Yemen Kuwait Shipping & Forwarding, Yemen Hunt Oil Company.

3. Transport/Logistic Equipment:

Intracs has grown to be one of the leading freight distributors throughout the Republic of Yemen. To meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of oil companies, the company has established an unrivaled network of depots and laydown yards using over 60 trucks and vehicles supported by heavy loading machines such as forklifts, cranes, etc.

Those and many other factors, have made our company "The Number One In the Business."



Services:

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Your Best Choice for a
Remote Site Partner

Overland Transportation
From - To Gulf Countries &
General Oil Field Transportation

Customs Clearance
Freight Forwarding

Travel, Tourism and Cargo

Giovanni de Vita:

"There is an extensive cooperation between Yemen and Italy."

Dr. Giovanni de Vita, Deputy Head of Mission - in charge of commercial/consular affairs at the Italian Embassy - is leaving Yemen at the end of two years and ten months of service. He is headed for Jakarta, to do more or less the same job. On the occasion, Yemen Times interviewed Mr. de Vita.



Q: What is the overall impression you are leaving with?

A: I have lived in Yemen at a time which was critical in the history of the country. I arrived here about one month before the break-out of the 1994 civil war. Thus, I am an eye-witness to the evolution since.

Q: As an outsider, can you tell share with us your views of the political situation?

A: I believe that Yemen is undergoing a transformation, and that is the main impression I have. But whether this transformation will succeed is a different matter. I hope it does.

Yemen is trying to install a pluralist political system, which is very good. This is not an easy process, and it takes a long time. But it gives the country an extra glamor, especially when it is compared to other states in the region.

Q: What kind of bilateral cooperation exists?

A: Of course, you know that Italy was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with Yemen. That was in 1922, followed two

years later by the then USSR. So, our relations and cooperation go back deep in history. At the economic level, we have strong trade relations. I believe a third of Yemen's imports come from Italy. For example, most of the pumps and irrigation equipment come from Italy. Agip, an Italian oil company, is back exploring for oil. In education, we have a growing cooperation. At this moment, 20 Yemeni post-graduate students are on scholarship studying in Italian universities.

At the medical level, we have had a long medical presence in Yemen. A center for specialists in hearing disabilities is being established with Italian support. Many Yemenis will go to Italy for training. At the archaeological level, work will be resumed later this year. We have also provided considerable humanitarian assistance. There is extensive cooperation. The formation of the Yemeni-Italian Friendship Association makes future cooperation even more promising.

French Diplomats Visit EMC

Mr. Francois Limouzin-Lamothe, Charge d'affaires, and Jean-Francois Bretton, Cultural and Information Attache, at the French Embassy in Sana'a paid a visit to the Head Office of the Elections Monitoring Committee. The visit aimed to exchange views and information on the progress on preparations for the elections. The visitors were also briefed on the work of the EMC so far, and the plans for the coming months.

Mr. Limouzin expressed the support of his government to the coming elections in particular, and the democratization process in general. "We will do all we can to help your country succeed in its political transformation and economic development," he said. He also expressed support and appreciation for the work of the EMC. He finally indicated that French journalists and observers will probably be joining others on elections day.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Secretary-General, Shada Mohamed Nasser, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, and Salwa Ahmed Dammaj, Secretary-General for Financial and Administrative Affairs, received the French diplomats. On the other hand, German Ambassador Dr. Helga von Strachwitz and EU Office Head in Sana'a Rainer Freund are planning to visit the EMC over the next few days.



3rd of 5-Piece Series on Ramadhan Food:

In Hadhramaut, It Is RICE and FISH !

Well, we leave the mountains for a break to breathe the coastal air of Mukallah. Here is a unique cuisine that Yemenis of the lowlands indulge in to satisfy their appetite in the holy month of Ramadhan.

Hadhramaut is the heart of generations of popular movements and migrations for which the Yemenis have been known for as they travel far and wide throughout the world as warriors, merchants, or just curious sightseers, looking for fun. The Yemenis of Hadhramaut have spread the word of Islam to as far places as Indonesia where there may be close to a million Yemenis of original Hadhrami stock.

Mukalla sits at the emptying place of several wadis or valleys that send off torrential rain floods that flow from the depth of Hadhramaut and into the sea. It is a town that, no doubt, speaks a lot of buried history in its sands.

From the first look at the city, one can sense that there is a lot of mystery that awaits to be uncovered beyond the mountains that gently slope to embrace the port city that overlooks the Arabian Sea. This is really not a lesson in geography, so let us get back to the subject of munching in the month of Ramadhan.

The Hadhramis leave the issue of breaking the fast to the faithful worshipper. If he likes, he can do it in the mosque, or at home. For those who decide to break the fast at the mosque, the task is quiet simplified - coffee and dates. No complicated stuff.

For those who think that this is just cutting it too short, they may decide on breaking the fast at home and thus savor more openers for ending the daily fast: dates, coffee, sambousa, labaniah or mahallabia, etc.

The Hadhramis of Al-Mukalla, like their brethren in Sana'a are not interested in pushing back dinner too long after the sunset prayers. This is understandable given that the iftar (fast breaking meal) is really simple and limited. Whether at home or in the mosque, they rush back to eat their dinner.

The dinner menu could contain many varieties of food that originate in other regions of Yemen or even from overseas. But it is bound to include any or all of the following:

- Soup, with crushed wheat and lamb meat
- Rice and fish

- Aseed, which unlike the Sana'a Aseed, is made from wheat flour and dates and with the famous Do'an honey poured for additional sweetness.

- Malloukhia with meat
- Samouna: A sort of stew with okra, eggplant squash and meat and potatoes with a spicy tang to it.

In addition the Mukalla dinner would include other delicacies such as Bagiya or ground beans and flour and assorted vegetables fried in small spherical shaped drops, Sambousa, and Salads.

Bread in the Mukalla diet can comprise of any of the following:

- * Malouj: Hadhrami large wheat flat bread, but without the phenigree to make it soft.
- * Maize Bread
- * Routu

Of course, the Mukalla dinner menu will also include roasted meat, fish or poultry - that delicious and famous Mandi meat. It will in addition include vegetables in other forms as well as those mentioned above.

Being a coastal city, Mukallah has an elaborate assortment of fish menu. This can include:

- Dairak (mackerel)
- Zinouh (red)
- Tamad (Tuna)
- Jahsh
- Shrimps
- Lobster and other readily available sea food.

Desserts include:

- labania (custard)
- mahallabia (another custard plate)
- khamir which is a dough ball fried and smothered in syrup or glazed with sugar.

For the pre-fast meal, the Hadhramis limit the final session of food by eating some of the leftovers from dinner, although many would also prepare another course of rice and fish.

One must point out that the Hadhrami diet in the interior region, the famous Wadi Hadhramaut, includes more meat at the expense of fish. Geography dictates this change.

In addition, the use of varied vegetable and stew varieties will probably be more visible in the meals of Wadi Hadhramaut. Of course, the dates of Hadhramaut lead in the fruit parade, which includes bananas, mangos, papaya, and other fruits mostly grown by the farmers of the lush interior wadis of Hadhramaut.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that STORK COMPRIMO B.V., a Company organized and existing under the laws of The Netherlands domiciled at Radarweg 60, 1043 NT Amsterdam, The Netherlands, are the sole and exclusive proprietors of the following invention:

METHOD FOR REMOVING SULFUR-CONTAINING CONTAMINANTS, AROMATICS AND HYDROCARBONS FROM GAS.

The invention relates to a method for removing sulfur-containing contaminants in the form of mercaptana and H₂S from natural gas, which may also contain CO₂ and higher aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, and recovering elemental sulfur, wherein in a first absorption step the sulfur-containing contaminants are removed from the gas,

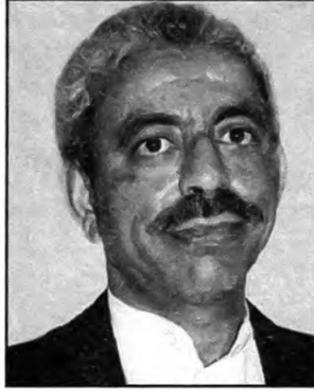
to form on the one hand a purified gas stream and on the other hand a sour gas, which sour gas is fed to a second absorption step in which the sour gas is separated into an H₂S-enriched and mercaptan-reduced first gas stream, which is fed to a Claus plant, followed by a selective oxidation step of H₂S to elemental sulfur in the tail gas, and an H₂S-reduced and mercaptan-enriched second gas stream, which second gas stream, if desired after further treatment, is subjected to a selective oxidation of sulfur compounds to elemental sulfur.

It is hereby declared that the aforementioned STORK COMPRIMO B.V., claim the full, sole and exclusive right, power and authority to make, use, exercise and vend in the Republic of Yemen, the aforesaid invention and that they will take all legal steps against any person or persons infringing such rights.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

RAMADHAN: More Than Just Fasting!



On the ninth lunar month of the Muslim year, coinciding with the year 610 AD, approximately 1520 years ago, the first verses of the Quran were recited to the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him). Prior to that, the Prophet Mohammed, driven by the social decay and the oppression he saw in Mecca, had sought private meditation and isolation - to get away from it all - in a cave in a mountain called Hira, outside the city of Mecca. He (P) was disturbed that so much social and political injustice was allowed to exist, and to continue, even though, he himself was born into the privileged class, and could benefit from the whole mess that Mecca was in at the time. But what alternative is there to a dog eat dog world, that Mecca seemed to reflect, where the weak and poor had no hope and they were victims to a social bondage and a cruel merchant class, notorious in its exploitation of misguided religious sentiment for the sake of profit.

Mohammed (P) saw all the injustices of his home town as being instinctively unnatural. There must be a better way! He needed help to find out just what that better way is. He figured by his isolation and private meditation, the answer could be found. It is that driving force in men that compels them to take the steps that necessarily may not mean much then and there, but are a necessary part of fate just so that destiny can be fulfilled. Yes, Mohammed needed answers to many questions: Why do people succumb to the worship of stone and wooden idols that are themselves man-made? Why do certain people impose their will on the majority of the people rejecting any rights that these people might have? How can society allow any of its members to suffer from hunger, deprivation and oppression? Yes, these were the issues troubling Mohammed (P) when he had reached the age of 40. Those were the preludes to a prophetic destiny which Mohammed (P) really had no ambition to fulfill at the start.

Mohammed (P) was in meditation just seeking answers to troubling questions that any man with far sight should ask if he lived in an oppressive society like that which existed in Mecca and the rest of the Arabian Peninsula at that time.

There were other bothering issues as well. The rigid tribal system of Arabia had instilled an oppressive system throughout the Arabian Peninsula, in which the powerful got away with everything and were not subject to any limitations of authority. Authority was confined to those who had the power of money or the sword to impose their will. War, itself, was an economic activity, since the winning faction literally took over all the assets of the loser. In fact, the booty included the human beings who become slaves. It was, in essence a world of anarchy.

It must be noted that, Mohammed (P) was not a victim of the overall oppression that the merchant lords of Mecca - the heads of the tribe of Quraish - were imposing on the residents of the city. On the contrary, he was born into the privileged family of the Banu Hashim clan, who were regarded as the guardians of the Ka'aba. The Ka'aba was built by Ibrahim (Abraham, in the Old Testament) and his son Ismael, according to God's instruction, wherein the worship of God, Al-Mighty was first ordained. Ibrahim (P) was the first to declare the monotheism of Allah and at the same time set up a house of worship for all of mankind to turn to in submission to God.

That was the first step in the establishment of the monotheistic faith that eventually branched out into Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In Mohammed's time, Judaism and Christianity had been able to establish firm roots around the Arabian Peninsula, with Jewish tribes settling in certain parts of the Arabian Peninsula and Christianity reigning in the lands to the North and West of the Arabian Peninsula, with

some footholds in the Southern part of Arabia (Yemen proper).

Judaism and Christianity has mostly fallen into the hands of established ecclesiastic institutions which have distanced the worshipper from direct contact with God and provided the clergy considerable political and economic weight, somewhat overshadowing their spiritual functions. This power went to the point of influencing authority in many of the lands and thus became a political authority directly involved in shaping the political destiny of the land. For Europe, this meant the entry of the Middle Ages.

In Mohammed's (P) world, Ibrahim's monotheism had been replaced by a polytheism by which the merchant lords of Mecca had built up a lucrative trading operation, thanks to the pilgrims, who came from all the parts of Arabia to the Ka'aba to call upon their 300 or so gods within the black stone cubicle.

Many Arabs at the time of Mohammed (P) - and even before the revelations - would not fully accept the logic of their polytheist brothers and had some knowledge of the existence of a supreme being worshipped by Ibrahim and his son Ismael, their forefather, but were not really aware of a proper alternative to the practices of their brethren. With so much evil existing in the land, the Arabs were regarded as living in an age of 'ignorance' prior to Islam, symbolized by such horrible deeds as burying newly born baby girls.

Mohammed (P), as a member of the aristocracy of Quraish, the tribe that controlled Mecca had grown up quiet differently than most of his Quraishi peers. The Banu Hashim, Mohammed's clan, had stewardship over the 'House of God' as the Ka'aba was and still is called to this day. This gave them a sort of patriarchal authoritative role in the tribe of Quraish. Moreover, virtue, kindness and general purity of heart had become inherited traits for which the Banu Hashim had been highly regarded by the rest of the Quraishis and to a certain extent the rest of the Arabs.

Being an orphan - he lost both parents at an early age - Mohammed (P) was raised by his highly respected grandfather Abdulmuttalib, and later by his equally statured uncle, Abu Talib. Thus Mohammed was raised by guardians who had greater virtues than was ever called for by society at large, and he was quick to sense the improprieties in his own society. He led a generally virtuous life, becoming highly popular for his honesty and trustworthiness as well as his sincerity. He was never known to have indulged in any of the 'vices'. Even after becoming wealthy, engaging in commerce, through the management of the trading activities of a wealthy widow that was attracted by his virtuous track record, he still refrained from any overindulgence that was usually the streak of the wealthy people that surrounded him. His honesty was undisputed, to the point that he was given the title 'Al-Amin', the Honest One, or Trustee.

Even with all this prominence and social esteem, Mohammed was beset with a growing search for peace of mind, as he matured. It is this search that led him to conclude that the evil around him and the highly ceremonial idol worship and multiplicity of gods was not in keeping with the simplicity of bedouin wisdom, and surely not in strides with the monotheism that Ibrahim wanted his children to adhere to.

On one of the nights of Ramadhan, one of the last ten days of the month, Mohammed was relieved of the pressure that his mind was beset with. Angel Gabriel descended from the heavens to deliver the first revelations of the Quran to Mohammed (P). Thus began an extraordinary prophetic mission. Mohammed (P) was on the road to fulfilling the destiny carved out for him.

While many accounts have been given of that fateful Ramadhan night and of what Mohammed actually saw, the words that came down that night are awe-inspiring by themselves to reflect the magnificence of the moment. "Read! Read in the name of the Lord who created. Created mankind from a clot. Read your Lord is the Most Generous. He who taught man by the Pen, that which he knew nothing of!"

Islam was launched with the obvious message that the essence is knowledge, and the strength of the relationship between man and God can only be understood and enhanced through knowledge. What occurred to Mohammed (P) was no minor ordeal for any mortal. Mohammed rushed home in a daze asking his family to wrap him up in cloaks. But, no cloaks will stand in the way of a prophet's destiny; the scene at Hira was repeated again, in Mohammed's half daze and the second wave of revelations came down. "Oh, you who are wrapped in a cloak! Get up and warn! Utter the Magnificence of your Lord. Get away from all wickedness. Do not fall into fulfilling hopes of (worldly) gains. For your Lord, you have to be patient."

The barrage of early Godly instructions to the Prophet Mohammed were to herald the religion of Islam from an obscure corner of Arabia, to become the ultimate monotheistic experience of mankind: rejection of all the facade that man cloaks himself with in order to suppress the freedom that man is inherently born with.

Islam was born in Ramadhan. Thus, it is only fitting that Muslims throughout the world give the month its appropriate reverence and holy esteem. It is not just a month of fasting and worship. It is a month of deliberation to look into the state affairs of our lives, of the nation. It is a time to ask, as Mohammed (P) did 15 centuries ago: Why are we like we are? Why is there so much injustice? How can so much corruption be allowed to go on? Why is there such a large gap between the rich and the poor? Why can access to resources be limited to a few renegades who have no sense of the fact that these resources are for all of mankind to enjoy and share in the building of a better world for every man? Why has Yemen, in particular and many parts of the world returned to the 'age of ignorance'?

Ramadhan is that month when the mundane and the material of this world is set aside for a chance to communicate with the Al-Mighty in search of new meaning and deliverance from oppression and the evil that overtakes men. There are no mediums between God and man, and in Ramadhan the heavens are open to hear the cries of the destitute of the world who suffer from need and the whip of human tyranny. The search for freedom and dignity continues, even in this age when knowledge and logic have helped man reach the inner confines of outer space.

For one month, Muslims of the world go back to remembering the driving motives for Mohammed (P) who sought isolation and meditation in Hira. For one month Muslims are to remember that hunger among men is a crime that should be challenged by all human beings. For one month, Muslims are to remember that the wealth in their hands is really God's and that they are entrusted with it to turn it into productive capital that generates economic activity by which all benefit. It is not theirs to build large palaces and consume lavishly. The resources are not there to sit in numbered bank accounts that serve no one.

Ramadhan is a month of reflections! It is one time in which every one should do some soul searching. Pondering over our lives and our relations. It is a month of rising hope - for the nation and for the world at large!

YEMEN TIMES

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الصبر والسلوان،
وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون

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السفير عبدالرب السلفي،
سالم محمد حسين، علي عبدالله عاطف،
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جمال الشوبلي، علي عزان،
محمد عمر صالح، الشيخ صالح المرغدني،
الشيخ علي المطري

Continued from page 1:

Prime Minister's Press Conference

The specific issues touched upon by the Prime Minister were as follows:

1. On the Gas Deal:

"We are happy that the deal is being signed right now, as we are sitting here. It involves an investment of US\$ 4.5 billion, and will lead to a 5 million ton export of LNG."

2. On 1997 Reform Measures:

"We will continue the successful reform efforts, so far. We will proceed with more trade liberalization, removal of any lingering price distortions, reduction in bureaucratic controls, etc. The IMF/World Bank is providing a billion dollar over three years in conjunction with the reforms."

3. In the Aden Free Zone:

"Negotiations are presently under way to operate the harbor. Bids are being tendered to dig up and deepen the Ma'alla harbor which will be the container terminal. The bids will be opened next month."

4. On Administrative Reforms:

"I have heard many times that the administrative side to the reform program has not made much progress. This is not true."

- Let me refer to the establishment of the Attorney Offices and Courts dealing with financial embezzlements. These have already handled over five hundred cases.

- We have changed the internal structure and by-laws governing 15 ministries.

- We have re-assigned many senior officials who were suspected of misappropriations.

- We have simplified the customs tariffs.

- We have removed price controls of cement.

- We have removed import licenses.

Those are just examples of the many dimension of administrative corruption."

5. On the Sudan:

"My government has expressed regret regarding the recent incidents. We condemn any intervention in the internal affairs of the Sudan. We support the territorial integrity of the Sudan."

6. On the Indian Rim Countries:

"We are going to participate in the ministerial meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim countries to be held in Oman in March, 1997. I would like to mention that Yemen has strong historic links with the countries of the Indian Ocean. I think there is much to be benefited by all sides from this gathering."

7. On the Budget Deficit:

"We had planned to remove the budget deficit by 1998. I think we have basically done it already. The deficit in the 1996 turned out to be less than YR 2 billion, although it was anticipated to be around YR 25 billion."

8. On Interest Rates:

"We are pushing for a 7.3% growth rate during the Five-Year Development Plan (1996-2000). Towards that end, we are supporting all kinds of efforts to increase investments and income."

"It was necessary in the past to impose such a high interest rate in order to withdraw liquidity from the market. Such liquidity was used to speculate in real estate and foreign exchange currency deals."

"But now, I believe that inflation has been brought down and the Yemeni currency has regained people's confidence. So we are going to consider an appropriate interest rate."

9. On Presidential Visits:

"The visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the various regions have been extremely successful. The total value of the projects for which he laid foundation stones is in excess of YR 58 billion. This falls within the investment budget of the government."

10. On Democracy:

"I know some circles are frustrated by the excesses and abuse of democracy and freedom. But the answer to such a situation is really more commitment to democracy and freedom. We have repeatedly stated that there is no other way."

The Prime Minister's press conference took a solid hour and a half.



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خصم خاص بهذه المناسبة

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On the Occasion of 18th January, World Leprosy Day

LEPROSY IN YEMEN

By: Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati*

Leprosy in Arabic - jutham (th as in the) - dates back to some 1350 years in the history of Yemen. In ancient times the Abbassid Wali (Ruler of Yemen) M. Z. Abul-Madan, collected huge quantities of wood to burn all the leprosy patients found in the country's capital, Sana'a, at the time as a way of solving this problem. Fortunately, however, he died before he was able to commit this crime. More positively, the "Kaidoon Festival", a national leprosy day is traditionally celebrated on the last Friday of Rajab month. This festival was started in 1230 AD by Saeed Bin Issa Al-Amoodi in a village called Kaidoon in Hadhramaut. It is widely believed that on this day, leprosy cannot be transmitted and therefore healthy people mingle freely with lepers. In the 19th century and early 20th century, if leprosy sufferers were found among the crews of trading ships, the captain used to throw them into the sea or send them by boat to be put ashore in the coastal regions of Al-Mahara or Hadhramaut, or at Dhofar. The inhabitants of those areas became accustomed to seeing leprosy patients as strangers wandering in the deserts or mountains. Soon, a cruel legend arose that in order to be cured from the disease, the unfortunate cast-aways would kill human beings, eat their brains and drink their blood. In some areas of Yemen, there is still a belief that if leprosy patients walk in the rain,

the rain water will become contaminated and will eventually infect people who eat the plants irrigated by the water. All these wrong beliefs have tended to influence not only individuals but even decision makers of the government. As a result the leprosy problem in Yemen is considered more as a social than as a public health problem.

IDEAS OF GUILT:

In many societies, leprosy is associated with ideas of guilt, rejection and isolation which were influenced mainly by social beliefs and religious misconceptions. Most Muslims would automatically recite a saying of Prophet Mohammad, that they should "run away from a leper as they would run away from a lion". Only few would remember that the Prophet ate from the same dish with a leprosy patient, that Ayeshah, the wife of the prophet, encouraged people to accept leprosy sufferers and that it was said she had a person with leprosy working in her house as a servant and sharing all their utensils.

Yahia Ali Nasser, a 20 year old male patient at the City of Light, Taiz, remembers his isolated wife in his village. He says, "When I started to have patches on my body and developed deformities of both hands, I was forbidden to join in meals with my family. I was put in a separate room without proper food or a proper place to sleep. I was not allowed in the mosque or in the souk

(market)."

A leprosy patient is forcefully divorced from his/her spouse, he/she is isolated from family, and is ostracized from society. His/her property is usually taken over by other members of the family. In fact, from the moment that leprosy is diagnosed, the patient is considered socially dead.

I remember, in 1986, during one of my field visits to Hajjah governorate, I met an old man living all alone in a cave outside the village on the charity of some village people. In front of his cave, he could see huge apartment buildings that his own children had constructed. It was very hard to persuade him to shake hands with me, for many a long year he had never met a healthy person.

In Al-Mahara governorate, near the border with Oman, I found a whole family living in one small room of their neighbor's home. They had deserted their own big house for the simple reason that a leprosy patient had died in that house.

And I recall once seeing the identity card of a patient, in which against the column "Profession" was written "leper". Before 1964, leprosy patients were subjected to obligatory isolation in unsanitary houses. These houses were built by the king in the North, by the British colonial administration or by the Sultans in the South of the country. The city of Light Hospital not far from the center of Taiz city, was built in 1964. It soon became a refuge for

outcasts. Houses grew up around the hospital and a leprosarium was erected nearby. Between 1964 and 1973 Taiz and Mukalla were the only places in the country giving medical care by dapsone monotherapy to leprosy patients.

REVITALIZED:

Leprosy work in Yemen was carried out by missionaries of charity from 1973 in Taiz, Hodeidah and Al-Sukhna. In 1982, during a WHO conference at Mogadashu, Somalia, I invited by Dr. S.K. Nooreddeen of WHO, Geneva, to visit Yemen. After his visit, leprosy control activities, which had fallen into stagnation, were revitalized thanks to his valuable advice and to direct financial aid from WHO.

In 1989, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Public Health and the German Leprosy Relief Association. This paved the way to the foundation of the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) in Yemen.

Today the work is being carried out in two different areas: running the skin and venereal diseases hospital at the city of the Light in Taiz which is also the headquarters of the NLCP and field activities covering 80% of the country.

In 1990, intensive health education programs were started in an attempt to overcome the long-entrenched stigma of leprosy making full use of the mass media. Slowly, attitudes are beginning to change. Mr. Ahmed

Al-Kafri a former leprosy patient living in the city of Light, says: "Ten years ago, there was no one to visit me. I was totally isolated. But now, thanks to God, I can visit my relatives in my village. My house is filled with visitors and sometimes I even find it difficult to play host to all of them." We now constantly hear similar stories in the City of Light, as lepers are gradually being accepted back into society. The grateful smile on the face of leprosy patients and the gleam of hope in their eyes serve to

encourage the NLCP of Yemen in its goal of elimination of leprosy. It is not very far away.

* Dr. Al-Qubati is Director of the National Leprosy Control Program based in Taiz.

In December 1996, he was named by the Director-General of the World Health Organization as a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Leprosy.

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to form on the one hand a purified gas stream and on the other hand a sour gas, which sour gas is fed to a second absorption step in which the sour gas is separated into an H₂S-enriched and mercaptan-reduced first gas stream, which is fed to a Claus plant, followed by a selective oxidation step of H₂S to elemental sulfur in the tail gas, and an H₂S-reduced and mercaptan-enriched second gas stream, which second gas stream, if desired after further treatment, is subjected to a selective oxidation of sulfur compounds to elemental sulfur.

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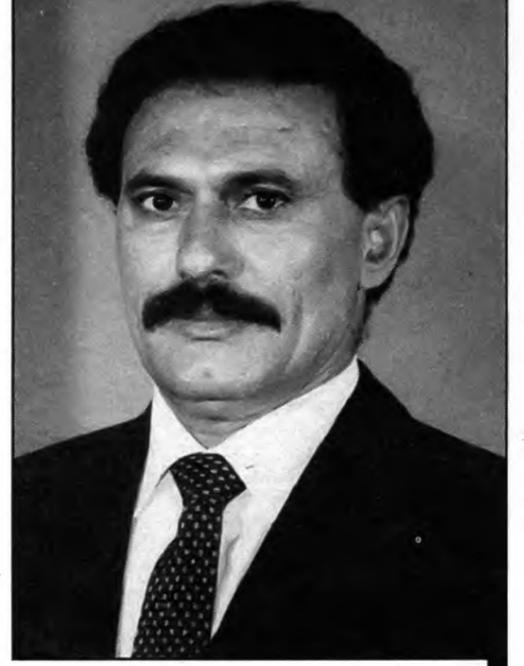
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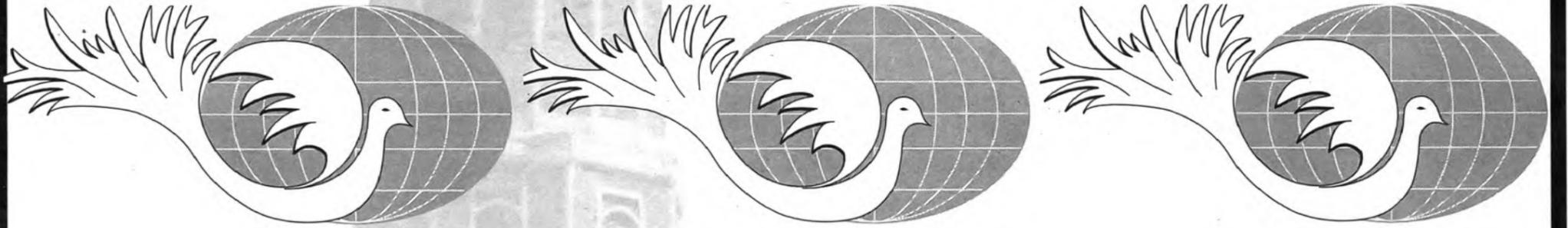
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To Live Longer, Better ... *BE ACTIVE*

By:
Dr. Fareed Mohammed Saeed,
MD, Police Hospital, Sanaa.

The human body is a powerful and sophisticated machine, and engages in extensive self-defense. We must always pay attention to the warning signs it releases, and heed its 'advice'. Feelings of discomfort, pain and sudden tiredness are all such signs indicating that we need to stop and reconsider.

The twentieth century may eventually come down in history as the century of physical inactivity. Our lifestyles have involved less and less physical activity. This is leading to many problems, the most visible of which is obesity. Lack of activity has given rise to this so-called civilization's disease. Scientific progress has led to a faster pace in life, and has had a negative side-effect on human health.

The human body's inner pace was not able to adequately adapt to the ever-increasing beat of the outside world. Modern humans have to think faster, and make more urgent decisions than was required of their ancestors. Faster body reactions require more changing and complicated biochemical and biophysical processes at cell level. But everything has its limits.

Biological processes can only change with a relatively low speed. When the limit is reached, diseases start to appear. How does this happen?

Adrenaline and nor adrenaline are formed in substantial amounts inside the body. They perform

several functions such as conducting neural stimuli within the sympathetic nervous system, generating reserve energy inside body tissues, and supporting blood vessels to keep arterial blood pressure at a specific level. The unnatural increase of adrenaline and noradrenaline leads to vasospasms, thereby continuously increasing arterial blood pressure. These two substances tend to mix with the myocardium, and deprive heart tissues of oxygen. Oxygen starved heart tissues will eventually die, and turn into scars. When the number of such scars increases, the myocardium will lose its elasticity leading to heart deficiency.

This is a dangerous condition which causes extreme heart tiredness at the slightest effort. Negative emotional reactions like anger and sadness can cause an increase in adrenaline and noradrenaline levels. In the past, such emotional reactions led to increased physical activities by our ancestors. Nowadays, people tend to suppress their emotions leaving high adrenaline levels in their systems which can only be reduced through physical activity.

So, as can be seen, the primary cause of vasocardial diseases such as arteriosclerosis is the widening gap between life's rapidly changing conditions and the slow response of the human biological processes. The term arteriosclerosis entered the medical dictionary comparatively late in 1904. Recent statistics and clinical researches have shown that fatty and carbide rich foods also play a major part in the

onset of this disease. Cholesterol coming from fatty food tends to accumulate in the blood vessel walls which are already softened by long oxygen starvation due to high adrenaline levels as mentioned earlier.

Insulin deficiency caused by eating carbide rich foods can lead to defects in fat and carbide exchange. Fat metabolism will also suffer leading to fat accumulation in blood vessel walls. Hence, it can be concluded that arteriosclerosis can be caused by a multiplicity of factors. These include dietary and psychological factors interacting with each others.

What is the solution? How can get rid of the negative effects of emotional reactions?

The answer is to accompany our emotional reactions with more physical activity. We must train our muscles to be more alert and efficient. Highly trained and active muscles demand more energy. Hence, extra adrenaline and noradrenaline will not badly affect the human body. Sport activities of all kinds are essential to keep the body and mind in top condition.

Physiologists have proven that negative emotional reactions can only be harmful if humans fail to find appropriate outlets to express them. When such outlets are found and difficulties are overcome, negative reactions will turn into incentives for the human body to productively channel its excess energies. Humans must learn to be assertive and strong willed in order to be able to confront life's growing challenges.

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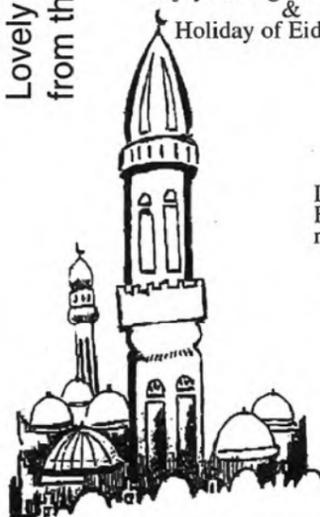
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YOS Activities Expand

The Yemen Ornithological Society is gaining momentum in its environmental engagements. Already, several bird-watching groups have sprung all over the country, but with three main focal points - Sanaa, Taiz and Aden. The main on-going activities of the YOS include:

1. Porter's Visit:

Mr. Richard Porter, the well-known British bird expert of BirdLife International. With a keen interest in Yemen, he is now back here. His intensive visit program (12/1-3/2/1997) includes meetings in Sanaa, and site visits to Hodeidah, Luhayyah, Mochia, Dhubab, Taiz, Aden and other sites en route.

The effort will include observation, counts and assessment of changes in the habitat.

2. Omar, and the Bird Book:

Dr. Omar has become a central person in introducing and spreading environmental awareness in Yemeni schools. So far, he has made presentations in 15 schools. Both teachers and students have shown great interest in birdlife.

The presentations are made in conjunction with the distribution of the Yemen Children's Bird Book which offers descriptions and pictures of the avian world.

3. Corporate Sponsors:

Given the important work of the YOS, an increasing number of Yemeni businesses have decided to support it as corporate partners (US\$ 250 per year). These include Universal Group (Alwan Shaibani), Al-Sunidar Group (Abdullah Al-Sunidar), Hayel Saeed Group (Abdul-Wassa Hayel), Ikhwan Thabit Group (Abdul-Wahab Thabit), The Abdul-Salam Shamsan Group (Showqi Abdul-Salam).

Yemeni companies that wish to join the YOS may call David Stanton (YOS Chairman) directly at (967-1) 248-309, or through the Yemen Times.





SUDAN: Menaced by Rebels Assisted by Neighbor States

A collection of Sudanese opposition groups - assisted by Ethiopia and Eritrea - have launched a series of attacks, capturing territory in eastern Sudan. Advances by the rebel forces are threatening important cities in Kassala Province.

In response, the Sudanese Government has launched a major mobilization campaign, calling for Jihad - holy war. It has also brought a million men and women under arms. Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir has unleashed a major media and military offensive against the "forces of evil" which want to dictate their terms on the country and compromise its sovereignty and independence.

The regional response has enabled the Sudan to break out of its relative isolation, as country after another expressed support and sympathy. Even Egypt, with which Khartoum had uneasy relations, decided to overcome its difference and show support for the territorial integrity of the Sudan.

In one stroke, the Al-Bashir Government was able to overcome many of its internal difficulties by standing up to the external threat. It resolved a dangerously high unemployment problem, especially among the youth. It was able to overcome internal strife and dissatisfaction by focussing on the foreign invasion. And it was able to reach out to Arab and Muslim countries by presenting itself as the underdog in a foreign plot which seeks to undermine it. In short, the recent offensive against Khartoum did it more good than harm.

Qatar and Bahrain Work to End War of Words

A new round of talks between Qatar and Bahrain was successfully concluded last week. The meeting, chaired by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdulla was the second meeting in the four-state (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman and Kuwait) mediation committee set up in accordance with the GCC Higher council to bring an end to the Bahraini-Qatari dispute.

Reliable sources said the main objective was to stop the war of words between the two neighboring countries which are at loggerheads over ownership of islands.

The committee's first meeting held in Riyadh a week earlier discussed in detail a draft agreement of understanding to solve disputes between GCC countries as well as a memorandum to be signed by Qatar and Bahrain. Qatari Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Aal Thani indicated the serious desire of his country to improve the atmosphere. "Although the case is being deliberated with the International Court of Justice, we welcome any efforts to improve the atmosphere," he said.

The two countries are at loggerheads regarding Al-Ahwar and other islands tucked away in the sea separating them. This dispute has had a spin-off effect creating additional differences and accusations and counter-accusations of sabotage and conspiracy. At some stage, the two countries were almost on the verge of open warfare.

It is worth mentioning that the people of Bahrain and Qatar are the closest among the Gulf countries. In most cases, they are linked by relations of kinship.

Israelis and Palestinians Sign Hebron Deal

All of a sudden, the mood turned into one of joy and happiness. The Israelis and the Palestinians have signed an agreement according to which Israeli forces were withdrawn from most of Hebron city.

The agreement also calls for Israeli withdrawal from most of the West Bank hinterland by the summer of 1998. almost a year's extension on the Oslo Agreement which had called for withdrawal during 1997.

Extremists on both sides were unhappy with the successful conclusion of the agreement. Israeli settlers described the deal as a betrayal by (Prime Minister) Netanyahu to the platform on which he was elected. They vowed to fight the deal. Palestinian radicals complained that the deal enables the Israelis to continue to control large chunks of Arab land. They vowed to sabotage it.

The signing of the agreement is a feather in the cap of the American perseverance and patience. On many an occasion, American mediator Dennis Ross was on the verge of throwing in the towel.

The agreement was received with relief in many capitals worldwide. In the Middle East, Amman and Cairo rejoiced almost as much as the signatories to the deal. Both Jordanian King Hussain and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak played an important role in the consummation of the deal.

Israel now has to fulfill its new withdrawal promises according to the specified timetable.

In the meantime, it has to initiate negotiations with Syria and Lebanon regarding similar peace agreements.

Turkey MPs Face Probe over Mafia Connections

Two deputies in Turkey's coalition government face possible criminal charges over a scandal linking the state and underworld gangs, according to a report presented last week by the Turkish Justice Ministry.

"The government has fulfilled its duty and after completing the investigation in an administrative sense, passed it on to the judicial authorities," Justice Minister Sevkettin Kazan said.

Former interior minister Mehmet Agar and MP Sedat Bucak are among 35 people targeted for investigation in a report ordered by Prime Minister Nejmeddeen Erbakan after a car crash on November 3rd, 1996, in which a wanted gangster and a top policeman died in the same car. Erbakan commissioned a committee to produce the report, which also called for 85 people to be questioned as witnesses about the events leading to the unlikely group sharing a car.

Agar, who quit as interior minister in November, is to be investigated over the signing of a false police document for Abdullah Catli, the gangster who died in the crash.

Bucak, a government MP leading a Kurdish clan paid by the state to fight separatist Kurdish rebels, survived the crash with minor injuries.

Agar and Bucak are both members of Tansu Ciller's True Path Party which formed a coalition last June with Erbakan's Islamist Welfare Party.

Kazan said his ministry would approve any prosecutor's request to lift prosecution. Parliament needs to lift the immunities of Agar and Bucak if they are to be tried. Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, head of the center-right party to which both Agar and Bucak belong, has signaled her party members might vote in favor of lifting the immunities if the issue comes to Parliament.

A parliamentary commission is also expected to produce a report on the incident after a four-month investigation.

The prime ministry report also calls for an investigation into former Turkish police chief Agar and various security officials in connection with the murder of Turkey's "casino king" Omer Lutfi Topal last year.

The media and opposition have alleged that leading officials directed hit squads to kill Kurdish rebel sympathizers and business rivals. More than 1,300 people have died since 1992 in unsolved political killings, human rights activists say.

Pakistan's Candidates Fail to Touch Vital Issues

The election speeches made by candidates of Pakistan's political parties have by an large left one impression on the voters: the candidates have not touched the serious issues afflicting the country.

They have restricted themselves to trivial and non-issues despite the advanced stage that the election campaign has reached.

According to political pundits, candidates for elections to the National Assembly are supposed to broach issues of national importance in their campaigns or in the course of their speeches made at rallies.

However, they appear to be more concerned about issues of local nature rather than those of national importance or are taken up more by the differences prevailing amongst the political parties.

On intra-party matters, rival candidates are more taken up by opposition for the sake of opposition, relegating vital issues to the background.

The contestants appear to act more like candidates for municipal elections rather than those for the highest forum of the National Assembly or that of the provincial assembly. This tendency first cropped onto the political horizon when the elections were held on non-party basis in 1985 by military ruler General Zia ul-Haq and has since persisted into the subsequent elections. This time is no exception.

With just three weeks to go before next month's elections, only four parties have come out with their manifestos. These are Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan Muslim League of Nawaz Sharif (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of Imran Khan and Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) of Altaf Hussain. But even candidates of these parties have failed to project even the broad principles for which their parties stand.

As the campaign for elections picks up, these candidates while addressing their respective constituencies, have by large focused on petty local issues or have conveniently indulged in raking up their rival's personal lives. More and more scandals are coming to surface very other day.

This tendency of heaping blames on rival and digging rivals' past is very common in the Pakistani brand of politics from the very beginning.

The leadership of the political parties is responsible for this sorry state of affairs as it failed to provide guidelines on how to go about campaigning. This is probably because of the announcement of elections at a short notice.



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NOTICE

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The lobster quantities at the Aden cold stores in Aden Governorate are distributed according to the following volumes and standards:

Size	No. of cartons	Carton Weight (Kg)	Total Weight (Kg)
1/2	101	10 Kg	1010
2/3	296	10 Kg	2960
3/4	310	10 Kg	3100
4/3	424	10 Kg	4240
5/6	426	10 Kg	4260
6/7	167	10 Kg	1670
7/8	109	10 Kg	1090
8/9	59	10 Kg	590
9/10	45	10 Kg	450
10/12	34	10 Kg	340
12/16	29	10 Kg	290
Total	2000		20,000

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- 2- Price to be submitted in US Dollars.
- 3- US\$ 10,000 in cash or bank guarantee must be submitted with the bid. This amount will be returned to the unsuccessful bidder.
- 4- The quantity of lobster tails offered is from the production of December 1996.
- 5- Opening of the bidding envelopes will be at 1 pm 27/1/96 in General Corporation Building at Mualla - Hugaif.
- 6- For further information kindly contact the office of the General Manager, Coastal Fishing Co. Aden, on telephone Number 221123 or 213834 or by Fax No. 211843

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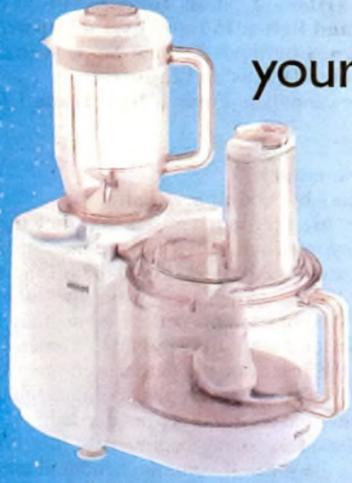
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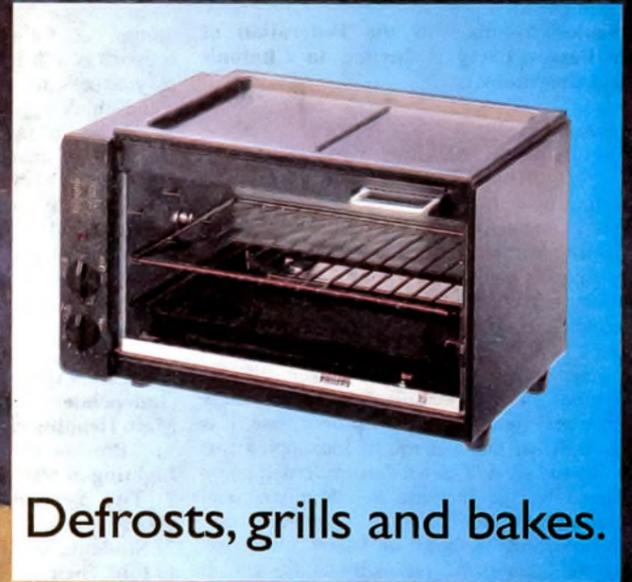
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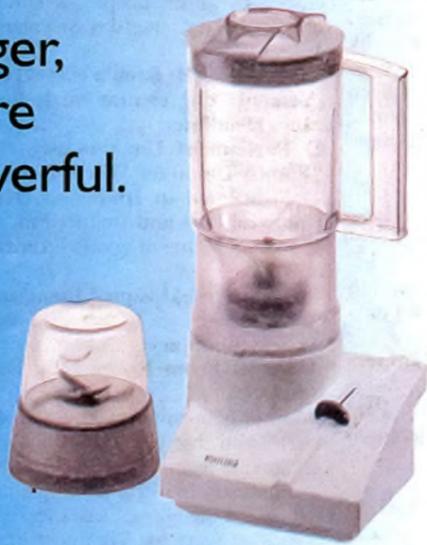
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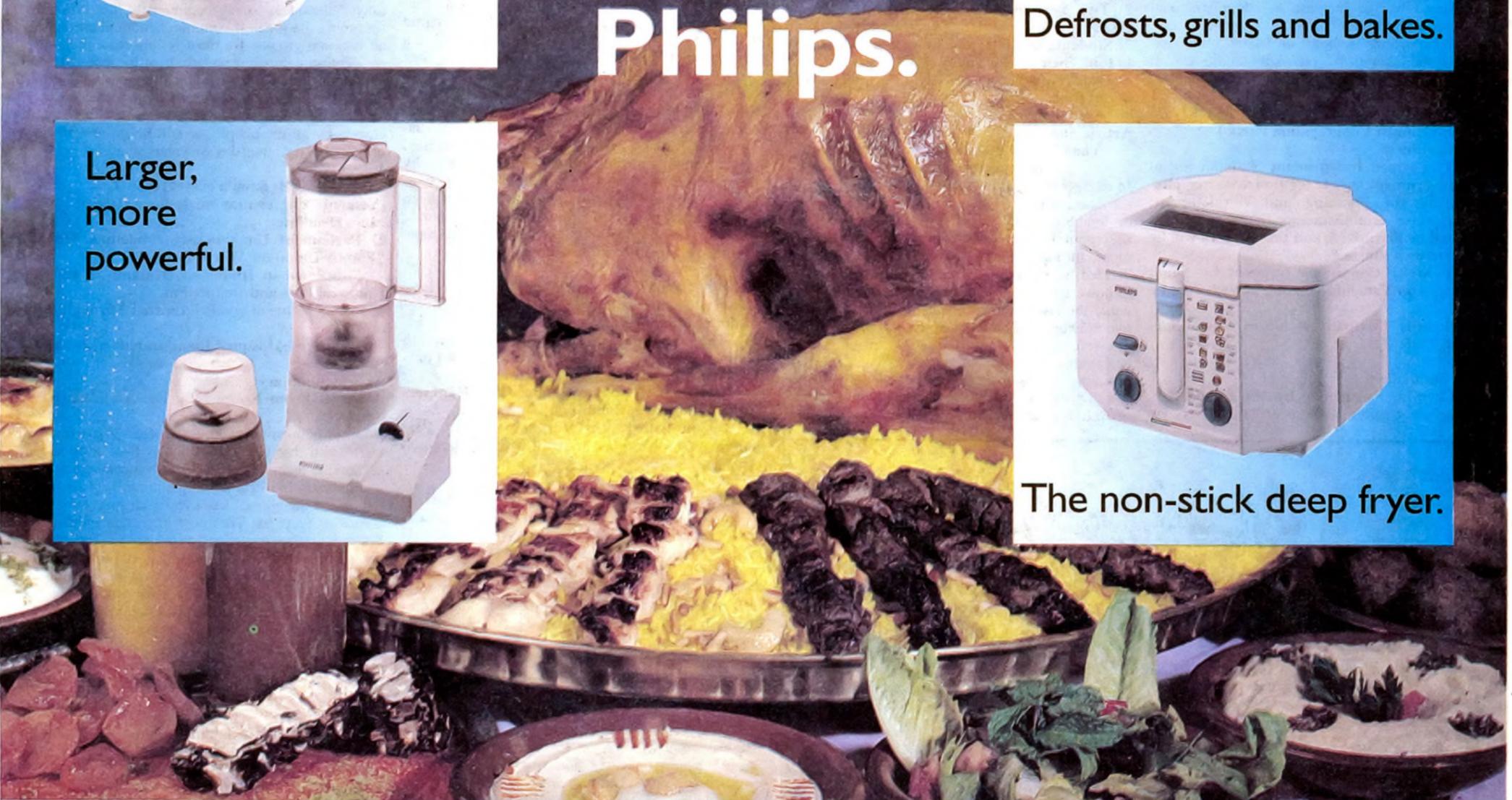


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AL-SHOURAH: Sana'a, (Weekly, 12-1-97)
(Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Agreement Between Coalition Parties and YSP Rules Out Dispute.
- 2) Head of Information Committee of Opposition Coordination Council: "The authorities reject dialogue and wage a defamation campaign".
- 3) YSP Secretary-General, "Abnormal circumstances still exist."
- 4) A Senior Member of the Federation of Popular Forces Party is Invited to Clinton's Inaugural Ceremony.

Article Summary:

You Kidnap, Therefore, You Exist
by Khalid Bin Tuaiman

There is no doubt that, due to the recent spate of kidnappings, many foreign tourists have refrained from visiting Yemen. And many foreign investment companies will now think twice before sending their personnel to this country. After a kidnapping incident, negotiations take place between two groups of kidnappers: the actual captors and the "kidnappers" of aid intended for disaster stricken areas. Since we still live in a society without the real foundations of a proper state, it is very doubtful that the scenario of kidnapping foreigners will end soon. This vicious cycle will go on accompanied by the increase in administrative corruption and misappropriation of public funds. This phenomenon is both un-Islamic and un-Yemeni, and should be rationally addressed. It must never be philosophized in any way whatever.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden, (Weekly), 13-1-97
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Newly Formed Independent National Social Bloc: Government tries to legitimize war results
- 2) Minister of Planning and Development: "Public sector establishments in Aden will be liquidated or privatized, and the workers will be allowed to own shares."
- 3) Very Strict Conditions Imposed by Saudi Authorities on Yemenis Wishing to Visit Islamic Holy Places.
- 4) Dockyards Company Achieves Great Successes in 1996.

Article Summary:

"Carrying Firearms" - by Abu Khalid
Carrying the traditional Yemeni Janbiah is one



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

thing, but toting various types of unlicensed firearms is a different matter altogether. Due to the easy excess to almost any type of firearms one could think of; kidnappings, highway robberies, bloody acts of revenge, land ownership battles and all sorts of mercenary activity will continue to increase in Yemen. A serious campaign must be carried out by the authorities to collect unlicensed firearms, and to review easy-to-get licenses. "You are ruining your country with your own hands," was the bitter remark of a foreign tourist in response to the 60 Street bloody battles in Sana'a for a piece of land.

AL-AYYAM: Ade, (Bi-Weekly), 15-1-97
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Presidential Intervention Ends Tribal Fighting in Shabwa.
- 2) Two Yemeni MPs Seek Political Asylum in USA.
- 3) Students at College of Law, Aden University, to End Their Strike Today (15-1-97)
- 4) Wide Support for the Newly Formed National Social Bloc.

Article Summary:

"The Craze of Land Plots in Hadhramaut"
by Saeed Awadh Baeesa.

In every social gathering or a qat-chewing session, the conversations always touch on the thorny issue of grabbing land plots in Hadhramaut. Many unscrupulous individuals have become rich overnight through crooked land deals. Lands are divided haphazardly, and sold for millions of rials to powerful and influential people. All this goes on while the law abiding citizens of the region live in overcrowded and dilapidated houses.

The reform program seems to take place in media campaigns only. It does not go beyond the redistribution of the same old officials on new positions in authority. Proper reforms must rely on nationally obeyed regulations and guidelines. As a starting

point, all corruption sources in Hadhramaut must be tackled and eradicated. Leaving the conditions as they are will only lead to weakening the control of the central authorities, and tarnish their image in the eyes of the people.

AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a, (Weekly), 13-1-97
(The People's General Congress)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President is Chosen as International Person of the Year 1997.
- 2) The President Presides Over an Extended Meeting of PGC's Supreme Committee.
- 3) Vice-President Visits the Island of Socotra.

Article Summary:

They Whine at 'Weddings' Also
by Abdullah Al-Saafani

The problem of some people, who are regarded as persons of eloquence and enlightenment, is that they look at everything pessimistically. It is true that journalists and media people in general have a duty to expose any negative aspects in life, but they should remove their "dark glasses" when looking at the bright and positive in this country. As an example, during the past years, the country's annual budget was a mere, belatedly declared statement. This year, when a prompt and accurately detailed budget showing positive progress was submitted by the government, the whinging and whining continued unabated. This state of affairs persists even when Yemen is praised by international economic institutions, and its leader is chosen as person of the year through an international survey.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a, (Weekly), 14-1-97
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Supreme Opposition Coordination Council Discusses Plans for Next Stage of Political Activity.
- 2) Jordanian Popular Opposition Hampers Zionist Industrial Exhibition.
- 3) For the Third Year Running Security Personnel in Hadhramaut are Still with No Personal Arms.

Article Summary:

Raise Your Head... Oh My Brother - Editorial
A few weeks after the infamous Balfour Declaration which promised the Jews a "national" homeland in Palestine, 79 years ago, Jamal Abdunasser was born in a little village in Upper Egypt (15-1-1918). His birth was an act of providence. He was destined to lead the Arab Nation in the face of increasing dangers. Nasser succeeded in his battle against the traditional colonial powers - Britain and France - which ended their dominance in the region forever. After losing the military battle of 1967, he, like the legendary phoenix, rose again from the depth of defeat to create the epic of the war of attrition, and prepare for liberation.

He was not a warmonger. His fiercest battles were waged against poverty and oppression. Aswan's high dam, free education for all, agrarian reform, industrialization are but few of his many great achievements. Arab people called him "father of the poor and weak". The chains of slavery typing the Arabs to day call for a new "Nasser" to break them.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a, (Weekly), 8-1-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Prime Minister: "Recent events that plagued tourism are exceptional, and will be dealt with accordingly."
- 2) PGC Official: "Elections are the main subject of dialogue between PGC and Islah."
- 3) Secretary-General of the Arab Baath Socialist Party: "We welcome any agreement between political parties in the national arena."

Article Summary:

Why Person of the Year 1997? - editorial.
It is very pleasing that Yemen's first man and its faithful son, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, was chosen as person of '97 by an international body. During his rule, Yemeni unity was achieved in 1990. He bravely led the war against the secessionists who tried to reverse the progress of time. He is not more patriotic than any other Yemeni patriot, but he bears a huge responsibility for realizing the hopes and aspirations of the honest Yemeni citizens.

With the people solidly aligned under his leadership, President Saleh has successfully steered the country's economy toward reform, and rectified

many of the civil war's repercussions. The economic infrastructure will witness greater successes during the next few years. Yemenis will never look back to the hardships of yesteryear, but will look forward to more successes and gains.

AL-THAWRY: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-1-97
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Arbitration Committee in Yemeni-Eritrean Dispute Resumes Activities.
- 2) The Tribes of Nihm Hold a Military Contingent, and Refuse to Hand over a Murderer.
- 3) Armed Conflicts Among Some Citizens in Taiz Lead to Deaths and Injuries.
- 4) Enducationalists Form a New Trade Union in Lahaj.

Article Summary:

The Stone - by Abdulbarri Taher.

Our rulers are very much mistaken if they think that democracy is a charitable gift to be presented to the Yemeni people. All the martyrs and all the revolutions in Yemen aimed to achieve the rule of the people. A complete and perfect democracy cannot appear suddenly in our country. Yemen is still learning the basics of the democratic process. This does not mean, however, that political guarantees for fair and free elections are not needed.

Such guarantees must begin with the President becoming the greatest common denominator among all national groups. He must refrain from conducting an election campaign on behalf of his party. If the President throws all his political weight behind the PGC, then the elections' results will be sealed way in advance. Will the President become a symbol chosen by all the people, or will he go on carrying his party like a latter-day Sisyphus stone.

AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-1-97
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

Main Headlines:

- 1) Parliament Unanimously condemns Moon's "Family Union for World Peace."
- 2) Fishermen in Hudiedah Demand an End to Unlawful Fees and Deductions.
- 3) Rise in Value of goods Exported Through Port of Aden.
- 4) "Workers' Mosque" Inaugurated in Mukalla.

Article Summary:

A Moral From Korea - By Dr. Abdulkawi Al-Shumeiri.

What is happening in South Korea? What can we learn from that country, which is little in area but gigantic in technology? All its advanced technology and industry is worth nothing compared to the lofty values of manhood we saw emerging from the clouds of tear gas. The most important industry in South Korea seems to be that which "manufactures" the values of rejecting indignity, humiliation and surrendering to the germs of social corruption. Students in that country fought for months against highly trained and well equipped police forces.

The most dangerous threat to our nation is the strangulation of values and ethics through terror or enticement. The Arab nation has become a desert of morals and values. There is a lesson or two we could learn from the recent Korean events.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a, (Weekly), 16-1-97
(Yemeni Armed Forces Mouthpiece)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President: "The wheel of progress is now moving forward, and, God willing, it will never stop."
- 2) 70,000 New Social Cases Will Get Assistance from Social Care Fund During 1997.
- 3) The Investment Corporation has Licensed 939 New Projects Valued at YR 218 billion, and Creating 47,000 New Jobs.
- 4) Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed: "I won't form a new party, and have rejected all offers to join the ruling authorities or the Yemen Socialist Party."

Article Summary:

Building The Homeland - editorial

A decent homeland cannot be built by empty slogans. Yemen is for all Yemenis to live in with dignity and equality. Narrow and selfish partisan interests can only impede the march of progress of our nation. Any Yemeni wishing to honestly serve the homeland, will have to first understand the real needs and aspirations of the people. Progress cannot be achieved with a magic wand, but by true efforts and hard work.

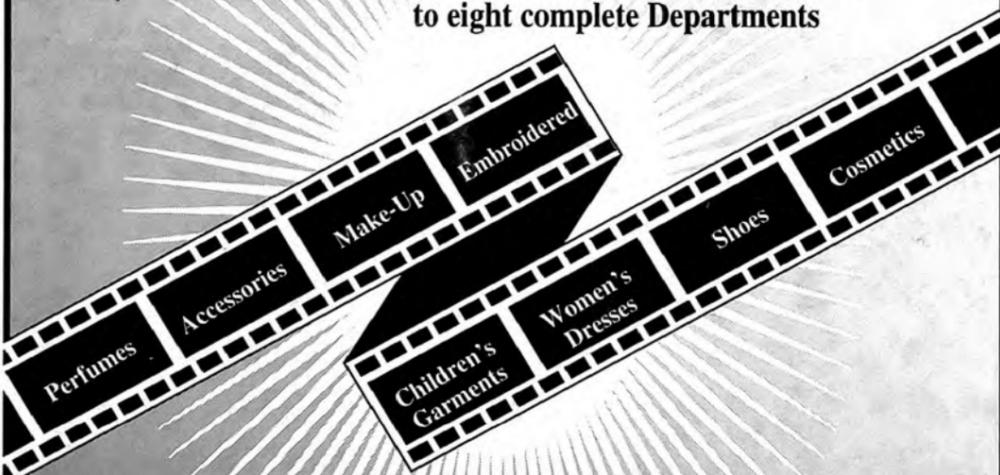
The President has stressed, on many occasions, the necessity for turning a new page, and eradicating the malignant ramifications of the past. All citizens must look forward with high spirits to a brighter future. Every decent man and woman in this country must bear his/her responsibilities for building a Yemen fit for the present and future generations.



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YEMENI BODY BUILDERS: Self-Supported Achievers

Yemeni youth in general are characterized by strength of will and determination in achieving their goals. Opportunities are, unfortunately, few and far between due to difficult social and economic circumstances. However, a group of hardy Yemeni youths have been able, against all odds, to achieve the impossible. Despite the lack of resources and modest equipment, they have gained international renown and much coveted awards.

A question is asked incessantly: Will these athletes grow to become international stars? Or will they be sucked into the whirlpool life's hardships? Yemen Times interviewed a number of these young men to ascertain their opinion and the challenges they face in body building.

1. Sameer Al-Jaradi:



Sameer Al-Jaradi, 21, started training at the age of fifteen, and was able to win, in spite of all difficulties, eight different championships.

Q- What sort of obstacles do you face, and will they ever make you quit?

A- Since I started exercising body building in 1989 at Al- sports club, we have been suffering from lack of proper equipment. The small training hall at

the club has forced us to divide ourselves into four alternately practicing groups. Our great love for this sport and its physical and mental benefits, has continuously pushed us forward. Through personal initiative, we try our very best to make available all that we require. We have reached the sorry conviction that the Ministry of Youths and Sports' aid for such activities will never reach us. But we will go on hoping for better care in the future.

2. Yahya Al-Rubaie:



Yahya Al-Rubaie is one of the most prominent body builders and a coach of this sport.

Q- Do you see any way of providing the necessary equipment for this sport in view of the dire lack of assistance and resources?

A- Due to the large numbers of youths wishing to take part in body building activities, we find ourselves in a real crisis. The Ministry of Youths and Sports has provided us with nothing to enable us to purchase the essential equipment for our activity. This sad state of affairs has led us to reconsider our future position and our ability to receive the ever increasing numbers of youths wishing to participate.

Necessity is the mother of invention. We have been able to manufacture the required equipment locally with high standards comparable with very expensive imported products. This was achieved through the personal efforts and generous contributions of our athletes. This way, we may just be able to protect our cherished sport.

3. Najeeb Al-Jawfi:



They call him the "lover of body building." Najeeb Al-Jawfi is not a locally distinguished player only, but an internationally famous one also. He became an expert in this sport, much sought after by international body building associations. But he has, unfortunately, stopped practicing.

Q- What has led you to abandon you beloved body building?

A- I loved this sport very much, and practiced with great devotion. But I became totally convinced that no matter how high the level we could reach, nobody is going to help or encourage us. I put all the personal efforts I could muster to improve the status of this sport in Yemen.

I received a personal invitation from the president of the International Union of Body Builders to

attend the international championship held in Germany in September, 1996. I was quite amazed by the fantastic levels reached by international body builders. I became extremely determined to assist and support this sport in our country.



4. Adel Al-Hammadi:

They call him the stubborn hero. His name is Adel Al-Hammadi.

Q- Could you tell us about your experience in this field?

A- I encountered many obstacles in my sports life. But that did not stop me from carrying on despite everything. I have to work as a taxi driver on my brother's car in order to be able to support myself, and provide the necessary nourishment for my Physique. My brother has been a primary source of help and encouragement for me. I sincerely hope to become an international champion in the future.

These aspiring Yemeni young men are full of enthusiasm and drive. They seek to achieve the impossible. And they will do it.



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New Sport Event in Yemen: Car Rally Next March

The Yemen Auto Club is preparing for the first car rally ever to be held in Yemen. Yemen Times talked to the Auto Club manager, Mr. Saeed Al-Saud about this new and exciting addition to the Yemeni sports scene.

Q: What system will you adopt in organizing the car rallies?

A: We'll be employing an internationally recognized organizational system to carry out this very exciting and high level sports event.

Q: Are there any specific models or makes of cars that will be allowed to participate?

A: It is not necessary to specify a particular car model, but any decent car can participate provided some important mechanical and structural changes are made.

Q: What sort of changes are required?

A: An internal protective metal cage must be installed to protect the driver and his navigator in case of the car overturning. Extra locks or catches must also be fixed to the car's bonnet. The engine will also need to undergo some special mechanical changes to increase its speed. The most important matter is to assign a maintenance team to accompany the competing team, and be ready for any mechanical faults and failures.

Q: Could you tell us a little about the regulations to be followed at the rallies?



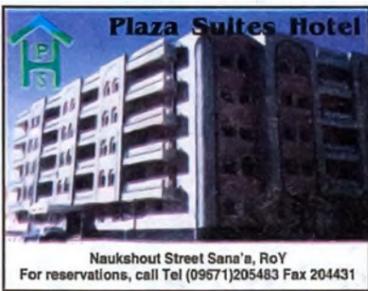
A: There will be a mandatory time of 3 minutes between the set off of competing cars. The regular stages of the even will be ruled by 3 basic elements: the distance to reach a particular stage, the time taken and the speed suitable to cover that distance. All these factors will be chosen carefully beforehand.

Q: Did you receive any support

in organizing this event?

A: We were granted a promotional certificate from the Yemeni Olympic Committee. We also won the much valued acceptance and approval of the Minister for Youths and Sports, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawah. We are now in the process of adding the final touches to our program which will start during next March.

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INTER-PARTY DEALS ON ELECTIONS

The People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) have been able to strike a deal regarding the coming parliamentary elections. According to the deal, the two sides have agreed not to compete against each other's candidate in a total of 150 constituencies, in a two-to-one ratio.

The PGC will name 100 constituencies in which the Islah will not challenge its candidate, and the Islah will name 50 constituencies in which the PGC will not challenge its candidate. Moreover, the agreement also stipulates that neither side will support a third candidate in the constituencies relinquished for the other side.

In the remaining 151 constituencies, the two sides will freely compete, and they may also coordinate and cooperate with other parties.

The arrangement also calls for a mutual withdrawal of the petitions filed against each during the registration phase. Finally, the agreement stipulates that both sides will honor, in as much as that is possible, to live to the guarantees and demands put forth by the opposition parties.

The PGC, once having consolidated its new deal with the Islah, plans to move on a similar deal with the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). The basic aspects of the agreement will probably parallel the deal with Islah. However, observers believe the PGC-YSP arrangement will be based on a three-to-one ratio.

A third party with which the PGC will possibly work on a deal is the Nasserite Unionist Party. Some PGC sources say that their party is interested in helping even the smaller parties succeed in a few constituencies. "I believe the PGC is looking forward to a parliament in which some six or seven parties are represented, in addition to the independents," said a senior PGC person.

Meanwhile, the fasting month of Ramadhan has allowed the tapering off of the election debates and arguments. This has actually offered a better climate for cool-headed discussion and understanding among the leading politicians.

A deal between the PGC and YSP is believed to be in the works. The main hurdle is the YSP in-ability to decide which way it wants to go on the elections, as a small group within the YSP is still calling for a boycott. The PGC is also reaching out to female and independent candidates. As Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Secretary-General of the PGC has repeatedly said, "We look favorably towards female and independent candidates." The next few weeks will determine the shape of the things to come in Yemeni politics.

Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.



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