



PRICE
10 Riyals Riyals

• September 5th through 11th, 1993

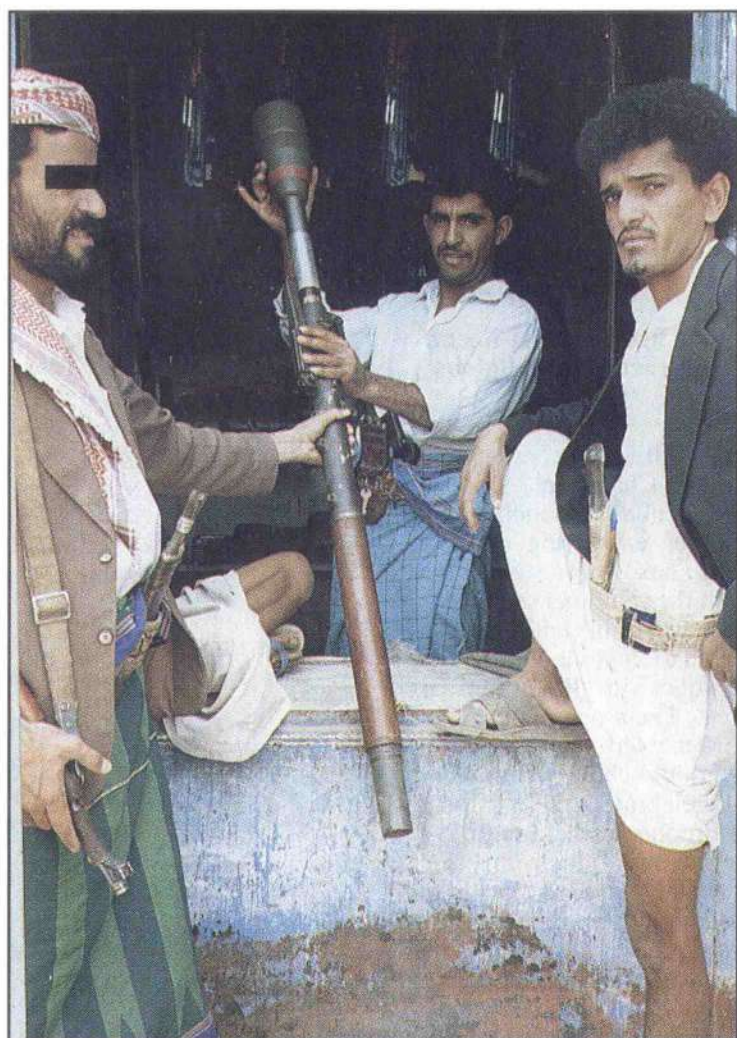
Volume III, Issue# 35 •

“Shall I sell you a bazooka?”

“Try it for two weeks, if you are not satisfied, come back for your money,” stated Mohammed. Another store keeper, Ali, stressed after-sale service. “At any time, we will be happy to replace broken parts,” he said. Neither man was talking about a household electric appliance. They were talking about weapons. Arms of all kinds.

About 40 kilometers east of Sanaa, and deep inside the Khowlan tribal land, lies Jihanah. That is one of many weapons markets in the Republic of Yemen. The famous markets, other than Jihanah, are Souq Al-Talh near Saadah city, Souq Al-Buqu’ near the Saudi border, Al-Husoon near Marib city, Souq Al-Shaneeni in Taiz city and numerous smaller markets in Amran, Kitab and elsewhere.

In Jihanah, some forty stores are lined up and openly sell the goodies. You can buy pistols, guns, machine guns, bazookas, grenades, bombs, anti-aircraft rockets, RPG, and various other hardware. “Of course, the prices fluctuate depending on supply and demand,” said Abdullah owner of one of the larger stores. Recently an important sheikh in the region has cleared off the market. He bought everything thus doubling price levels.



The prices of the weapons as of 30th August are given on page 5. “If you need to try one of our products, you are welcome to do so a few meters behind the stores. If you don’t buy

the product, you pay the price of the ammunition. That is the deal,” said Ali. Needless to say, any quantity of ammunition is readily available.

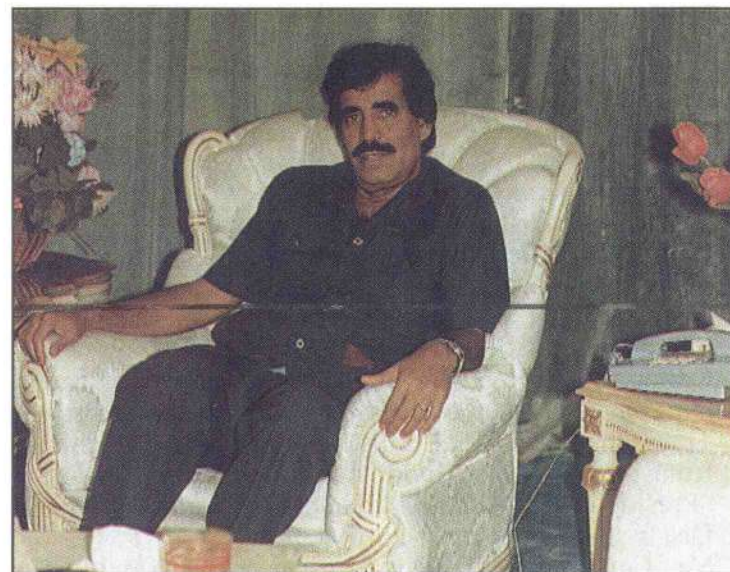
More details on p. 5

“Unless there is real and quick change, Yemen could be embroiled in turmoil.”

“Unless conditions improve immediately and in a visible way, I expect we will be thrown into turmoil and violence which may lead to chaos. I can envisage the December riots on a much larger scale.”

Those are the words of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times Chief Editor, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Mr. Al-Beedh warned that the country’s leadership needs to move away from its current policy of management by crisis. The Vice President was making a point regarding how decisions are made. Crisis management is when crises are forced on a system and they have to be dealt with, but, according to him, the system in Yemen creates crises in order to overwhelm everybody, and thus divert attention from needed reform. At 56, Vice President Al-Beedh is the father of six boys and two daughters, and already the grandfather of three. Trained as an engineer, the man has been in politics for the last thirty years - ever since he joined Harakat Al-Qawmiyyeen Al-Arab (The Movement of Arab Nationalists).



“I was repeatedly questioned about the court case of Yemen Times by foreign journalists and politicians during my tour. In addition, US Vice President Al Gore and Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan also raised the issue with me.”

Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh

The son of a farmer and a nomadic/bedouin mother, Ali Salim Al-Beedh lived a poor childhood. “My family’s first sedentary home was in 1963. My hard childhood has given me the ability to endure and persevere. It has also allowed me to be compassionate with

the poor and to better appreciate and sympathize with their conditions,” he says. “In our culture if you trick/cheat someone, you are seen as clever. We have to change this. We have to be straight with each other.”

Interview on pages 8, 9

TWO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A. IN PALESTINE:

History is being made these days as Israelis and Palestinians are working on a deal according to which they hope to live with each other in peace. The framework, to be signed this week, calls for the transfer of Gaza and Jericho to Palestinian self-rule, and then to gradually expand the territory of Palestinian self-rule to incorporate the whole of the West Bank and Gaza strip. This process is envisioned to take some five years. In the meanwhile, Israeli soldiers (and settlers?) will steadily move out of the Palestinian areas.

Of course, extremists on both sides are unhappy with these new arrangements. On the Palestinian side, there are vows to make PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat “pay dearly” if he accepts the deal. On the Israeli side, the right-wing fundamentalists are blocking the government and bad-mouthing it. The Yemeni government said it supports any deal accepted by the Palestinians.

B. IN SAUDI ARABIA:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken the first step in its democratization process last week. H.M. King Fahd has decreed the establishment of Al-Shura Council, which is an appointed House of Elders.

Although the Al-Shura Council is not a parliament in the real sense, it is already an important step in the right direction. The Council has the right to review government decisions and propose certain measures. If the Council and Cabinet disagree over policy, then the King intervenes to settle the differences.

At the same time, the King has ordered many steps to implement administrative reform, including a ceiling on the term of service for ministers, with the purpose of bringing in new blood to the cabinet. Finally the king has ordered financial reform in order to limit the drain on the government coffers due to inefficiency and corruption.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Faulty Media Coverage of Jimmy Carter's Visit

Before I put my reservations regarding the media coverage of the visit of former US President Jimmy Carter to Yemen, let me jot down some of the things I believe we all can agree on:

1. Mr. Carter still plays an important role in international politics, specially in democratization, human rights, and conflict control.

2. Mr. Carter's visit to Yemen was very important at more than one level.

3. The visit was good for Yemen's image.

Having specified those points, let me say that the Yemeni media, specially the government media, erred in many way in covering the events. To my mind, the most important mistake was treating Mr. Carter as an executive of the US government and handling the news on that basis. For example, Al-Thawrah, the official daily newspaper, wrote in a front-page story in bold letters and in red color, "President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Jimmy Carter Discuss Yemeni-American Relations."

Mr. Carter himself went to great pains to explain that his is a private visit in response to an invitation from President Saleh. He repeated time after time that he represents the Carter Center, which is interested in Yemen's human rights record and the democratization process.

I think Yemeni media officials thought they were making the visit more important by giving it an official twist. I spoke directly to the Minister of Information, Mr. Lousy, but he felt more irritated than anything else. "As an American citizen, he (Mr. Carter) has the right to negotiate with Yemeni authorities his country's relations," he retorted, obviously missing the point. Imagine how difficult the job of Mr. Arthur Hughes (US ambassador) would be if all American citizens here started negotiating their country's relations with Yemeni authorities, based on our minister's logic.

The point is that Mr. Carter's visit is important by its own rights, without representing officially the US administration. It could have achieved more if the media pushed the Carter Center's interest in learning more about the Yemeni interest and in helping it grow further.

Our vision is blurred because we think only things that come/represent officialdom and government are important. In the democratic world, prestige and status are not generated by the government, they are generated by private citizens who perform important services to society and the world community.

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Safer-Saiyoon Highway Coming Up for Construction

The Ministry of Public Works is expecting to finalize the co-financing arrangements with a World Bank delegation that is expected to arrive here later this week. The project under consideration is the 311 kilometers highway connecting Safer, a few kilometers from Marib, to Seiyoon in the deep hinterland of Hadhramaut.

The project, estimated to cost some one billion riyals, will open up new territory that has been off-limits due to harsh climatic conditions due to proximity to the Empty Quarter.

Other co-financiers are the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development and the Yemeni Government. The actual work is scheduled to start in the first half of 1994.

Sanaa/Aden Universities' First Scientific Conference in October

The Union of the Teaching Staff of the Universities of Sanaa and Aden is finalizing arrangements for its first conference to be held in Sanaa during 16-19 October, 1993.

According to Dr. Abdullah Al-Maqaleh, Chairman of the Union, the theme deals with the bottlenecks facing the country's smooth transformation.

Free Zones Lines Up Another Investor

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Yemen Free Zones Public Authority, Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, and Mr. Abdullah Al-Attas, Chairman of the Indonesian Petronyaga Group of Companies signed an agreement last week.

According to the agreement, the Indonesian firm will invest in industrial projects in the Aden Free Zone.

Accordingly, the agreement stipulates that a large chunk of land be set aside for the firm's needs in Aden.

Fifty Thousand Tons of Garbage Removed

Mr. Hussain Al-Maswari, Mayor of Sanaa, indicated that so far some 50 thousand tons of garbage has been removed from Sanaa city. It was indeed a dirty city. The total cost of the operation was YR 3.8 million. "Just a million riyals of that has been paid, and we owe some YR 2.7 million to the workers and other creditors," he pointed out.

He used the occasion to plead with the authorities to pay out the balance. By the way, the total needed amount is the cost of one of those fancy cars our officials have so many of.

Arafat Concludes Visit to Yemen

PLO's Chairman Mr. Yasser Arafat concluded a visit to Sanaa last week. During the visit he met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and former US President Jimmy Carter. "It is always good to visit Yemen," he said.

Mr. Carter Completes Yemeni Visit

US Former President Jimmy Carter concluded a three-day visit to the Republic last week. On his departure, he expressed his happiness with the visit, which he said was very useful and informative.

French Senators Arrive in Yemen Next Week

A delegation of French senators are scheduled to arrive in Yemen on September 11th.

The acquaintance visit will last for a few days during which the French group will hold meetings with members of the House of Representatives and various officials and public figures.

Vice President Al-Beedh Interact with Religious Sector

Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council, in a visible re-ordering of priorities, has begun to interact with the religious sector.

Last week, he laid down the foundation stones for several mosques in the Aden city area. Then on August 31st, he received the clergy and religious scholars with whom he celebrated the birth-date of Prophet Muhammad.

At another level, the Vice President also met with the leaders of the labor unions whom he urged to interact positively with the changes taking place in the economy. Finally, the Vice President met with the media people whom he urged to show courage and help the nation move along the right course.

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ODB Boosts Omani Exports: Oman Development Bank's export scheme, launched two years ago has made significant progress. The number of foreign buyers has steadily increased since the scheme of export-credit was started in November 1991. "Today there are 300 buyers from 33 countries," said Murtadha Fadhil, the bank's manager. "The scheme has grown dramatically. We have financed about 32 Omani exporting companies which are exporting to 33 countries," he said.

According to the program, the bank provides insurance to the limit of \$4 million per exporter, at a 5% interest rate. The program is aimed at providing insurance of upto 80-85% of non-payments. This has allowed Omani exporters to aggressively seek out new markets and build on existing ones.

The bank also assists in the establishment of new export-oriented projects. Since its inception, ODB has contributed to 380 enterprises. "The total soft loans provided to these projects are about \$300 million," Mr. Fadhil explained. Most of the projects are of industrial nature, and many are located in the Rusayl Industrial Complex.

The industrial sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is about 4.5%. "We hope by the turn of the century, that percentage will have at least doubled," Mr. Fadhil stated.

Speaking about priorities, the Omani official indicated that the Omanization process plays an important role in their loan considerations. "We encourage enterprises to employ Omanis, and if necessary, to train them before they take on. We will cover their expenses during the training period," the ODB general manager said.

The bank has not engaged in service-sector enterprises in a major way. "If there is an important linkage effect, we will provide funding, but that is still limited." Yet more than private services, the bank has gone into providing subsidies to clinics, schools and other services.

The ODB, in certain cases, agrees to become a share-holder in important projects, although it limits its financing to a minority shareholder status. In these and other cases, the bank has a feasibility and technical departments which help in the selection of machinery and project structure.

ODB's portfolio, as of today, stands at around \$60 million, and has had a hand in most of the industrial projects of the country.

"We expect the bank's capital to be doubled before the end of this year. If that happens, we can then double the loan ceiling with which we now work," stated Mr. Fadhil.

The Sultanate of Oman which has determined last year as the year of industry, has achieved a lot at the industrial front.

Pakistan's Telecom Acts Tough: Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) has launched a major campaign to recover its telephone dues from defaulting politicians. The PTC has issued notices and disconnected telephones of many prominent politicians, asking them to clear their past dues.

The caretaker government has also made it mandatory for all politicians aspiring to contest general elections in October, to provide a no-objection certificate from the utility companies, including PTC, along with their nomination papers to take part in the elections.

Corrupt politicians owe million and millions of rupees to the utilities companies and were not willing to pay in view of their influence. Campaigns of similar nature in the past have failed because of interference from the politicians.

According to sources in the PTC, it will take harsh measures like publishing names of defaulters and seeking help from courts for recovery, once the "appeal to conscience" phase of its campaign is over.

As on 1st July, 1993, defaulters owe the company Rupees 5.9 billion, of which the private sector's share is Rupees 2.4 billion, while the balance is owed by politicians and government organizations.

Among defaulters, there are over 2000 subscribers who owe more than Rs. 100,000, and half of them owe more than Rs. 200,000.

Ironically, the federal government is at the top of the list of defaulters. Total amount due of it is almost Rs. 900 million. Provincial government are also big debtors to the PTC. Sindh by far leads the lot with Rs. 728 million. It is followed by Punjab with Rs. 196 million and Balochistan with Rs. 79 million in arrears.

In addition, public corporations and other state authorities are also big defaulters - owing in total Rs. 213 million.

The PTC is now pursuing all debtors and defaulters to cough out the dues or risk having service terminated. Already, senior bureaucrats have seen their telephone lines disconnected until they pay their dues.

If the Pakistani embassy in Sanaa has been unable to reach some of the officials and politicians, now it knows the reason.

Meanwhile, the senior PTC officials have instructed their managers to proceed with the tough measures and not to revert to top management for any considerations.

"This time, we are bent upon not letting anyone get away with defaults, no matter how important he is," a top management executive declared.

Past Inefficiencies Catch up with Pemex: Mexico's giant state-owned oil industry is under the knife, and the pain will get worse before it gets better, analysts say.

Widely criticised for years as a bloated, inefficient dinosaur weakened by rampant corruption, the state oil monopoly, Petrolios Mexicanos (Pemex), the fifth largest oil company in the world, has shed off half of its labor force - 120,000 jobs - since 1989.

Analysts further say that the layoffs reflect a wider battle for the soul of the company between young technocrats brought to power by free-market proponent President Carlos Salinas De Gortari and old-guard managers who prefer traditional protectionist policies and state guarantees of jobs.

But more jobs will go, and the limited restructuring the company has undergone so far may be just the tip of the iceberg. But the Pemex drive for greater efficiency has provoked angry responses. Laid off workers

have held sit-ins for more than a year in Mexico city's central square. Last week, they burst into the company's landmark Pemex tower headquarters, trapping staff in their offices for several hours to protest the lay offs.

Pemex says it is reviewing the demands for compensation as called for by the law. Most laid-off workers side with former oil union chief Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, whose corruption was well-documented. Yet, he offered job security to the workers. "Things have gone from bad to worse," said one former worker.

Protests have also been more low-key, in the form of foot-dragging within the company. Other forms of protest, like eternal complaining, are also common.

Pemex's drive to act more like the private international oil companies is forced on it by international competition. It has no other choice but to shed off part of the past.

On the Anniversary of the Downing of its Passenger Plane, Korea Demands Full Compensation:

For the first time in recent times, the Russian navy has called on South Korea. The timing of the visit marks the anniversary of the downing of a South Korean airline over former USSR territory. The Russians expressed regret, but took no responsibility for the tragedy.

Three weeks back, an official request has been filed by the government of the Republic of Korea to the Russian government demanding full compensation for dowing the Korean Airlines passenger plane on September 1st, 1983.

The plane had strayed off its flight course and passed over the then-USSR territory of Sakhalin, and was subsequently downed by Russian fighter planes, thus killing all 269 passengers and crew

on board. Although they were mainly Koreans, other nationalities were also on board.

The compensation request was handed over to the Russian Ambassador in Seoul on Thursday, August 19th.

The Russian side continues to side-step the issue of taking blame, and consequently, to be liable for compensation. The Korean side insists on full and legal compensation as called for by international law.

The impasse, it seems will remain a stumbling block in the bilateral relations. The Republic of Korea and the Federation of Russian Republics have established normal diplomatic relations in 1990. Although some progress has been achieved, unless this matter is resolved, there will always be a ceiling on the leve of bilateral progress.



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Sandwiched between Aden and Taiz and Neglected by Its Officials:

Lahej Governorate Yearns for Attention

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Mervat Duweikat, Yemen Times.

It is a large governorate in terms of size and population. It has had an active role in the Revolution, and in creating the modern state. It is rich in agricultural and mineral resources. Yet, Lahej is a forgotten governorate relegated to second class status and left in the backwaters of neglect. The capital, Al-Howtah, is a broken-down town of about 25,000 persons. The only asphalt road in the town is the one passing by it connectin Aden and Taiz.

It has two secondary schools and a few primary schools. A medium-size "hospital" is there, although it does not function properly.

"The governor, Mr. Selah Al-Aajam, is never there. He is always in Sanaa. When he does come to Lahej, he is on transit. A temporary stay before he leaves again," that is the bitter



Al-Howtah - Capital of Lahej: A Broken Down City



The Governor's Office- Lahej's White House of Sorts: Empty most of the Time

complaint of a local citizen.

"The Deputy Governor, Mr. Mohammed Rashid is overwhelmed and preoccupied with building a mafraj on the fourth floor. He too is incapable to do anything," stated an old woman,

who is the neighbor of the

Deputy Governor. The Yemen Times went to the governorate six times - three times in an earlier trip, and three more times in last week's trip. We could find neither man.

"The governor is in Sanaa," we were told. "The Deputy Governor is at home."

We went to his home three times, but to no avail. "He went out with the contractor to buy cement," we were told once. "He went with his assistant to fetch water for the construction," we were told in our second trek.

The third time around, Mr. Shaafal Omer Ali, Member of Parliament from Lahej governorate called him by phone and found him. He arranged for us to go and see him at once. When we arrived at his home, four minutes later, we were asked to catch up with him at the governorate's resort where he went to relax following his so many errands.

We went there, but he was not there because called up by the contractor as he needed a new supply of bricks.

It is a case of extreme neglect and carelessness. The people

stare blankly at us as we asked them how they felt about the whole thing. They are scared to say and at a loss as to where to start.

"Less than 6% of the projects assigned for 1992 were carried out," stated Mr. Shaafal. He was bitter about the irresponsibility that such a situation reflected. Not only that, but many of the projects that had been started during the former PDRY, were left uncompleted. Thus, you have schools, clinics, roads, and other buildings that have not been completed.

"Let me give you another example. According to Government Decree 65, some YR 35 million was allocated to resolve the land disputes in Lahej. The money was to be used in implementing the law that ordered the return of all nationalized land, by accomodating the needs of the land-tenants. Of this amount, and over the last three years, a mere YR 3 million was

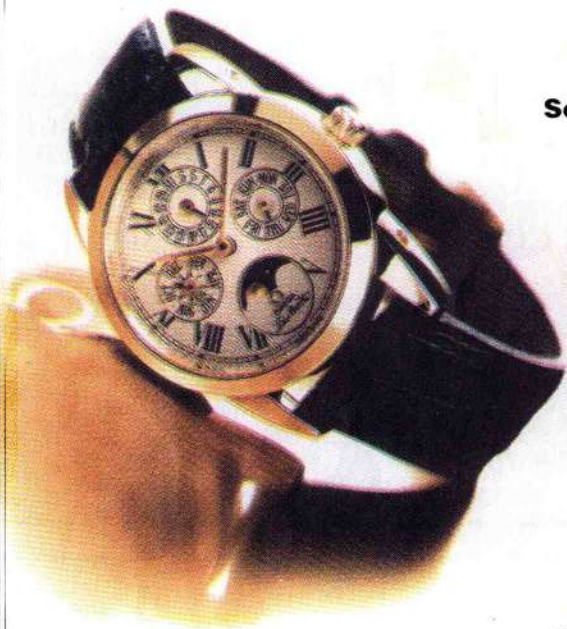
paid out. Thus, most of the conflicts and differences persist. Then, come those who declare that land-related problems were resolved in many part of the former PDRY, except Lahej. Let me tell you, my feeling is that someone is trying to make this governorate look bad," he stated.

"Senior officials on their way to Aden stop by. The president, vice president, prime minister, various ministers have all stopped for a few moments. They shower the people with promises, and soon enough, they are gone," complained Nageeb.

The governorate needs immediate attention, if conditions are to improve. We hope our officials see the need of the people here," he concluded.

Mr. Shaafal felt there is a lot of room for optimism if our officials will perform the minimum of their tasks.

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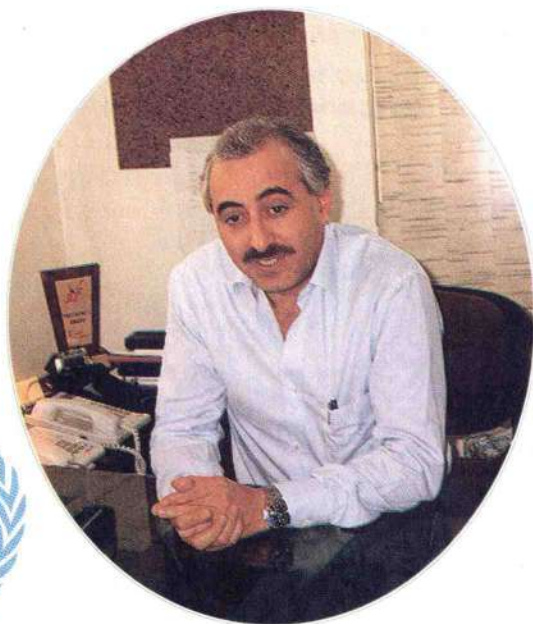
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فاكس: ٢٧٥٥١٧ - ص.ب: ٢٧٥

Yemen's Flourishing and Uncontrolled Weapons' Market

"What we have seen in one trip can equip an infantry division!"

Retail Price List As on 30th August

Product	Price
Pistol (Russian)	12,000
Automatic Gun	45,000
Machine Gun /30	110,000
Machine Gun Size 12/7	450,000
Machine Gun Size 14.5	900,000
Artillery Size 20 mm.	3,200,000
Stingers (Anti-aircraft)	450,000
Hand Grenade	800
Car Bombs	400
Tank Bombs	3,500
Infrared Gun Telescopes	15,000
Communications/Telephones	5,000

Source: Field Survey, Jihanah Market

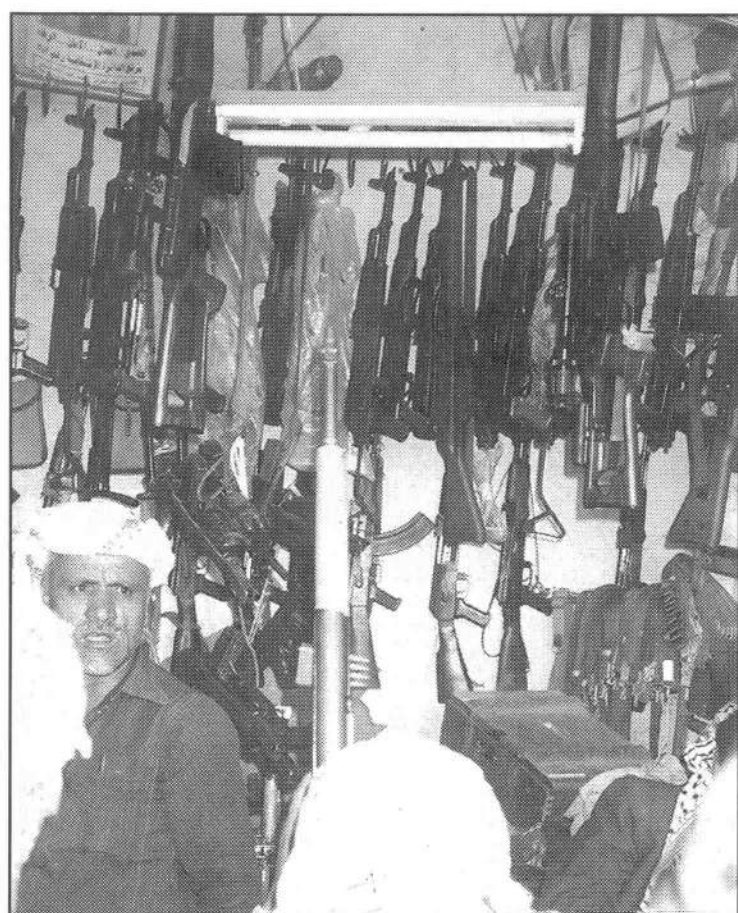
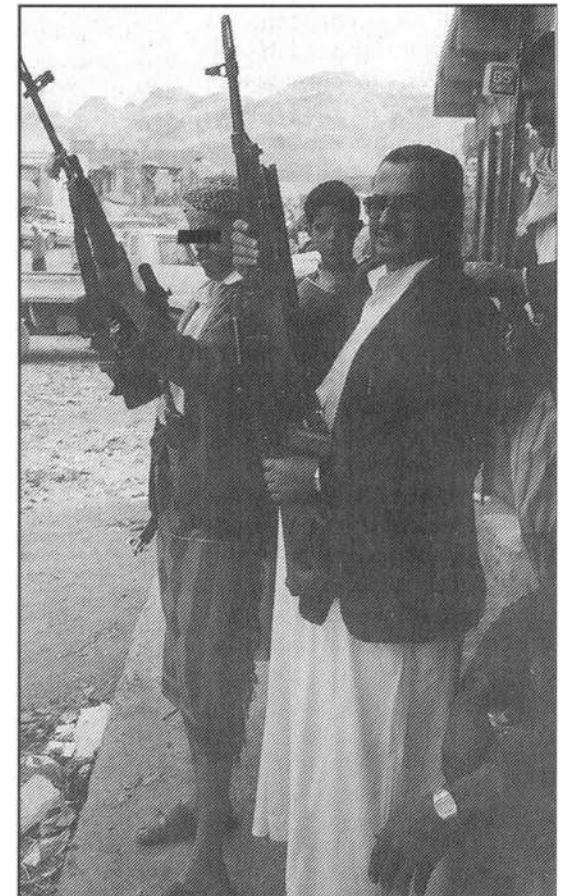
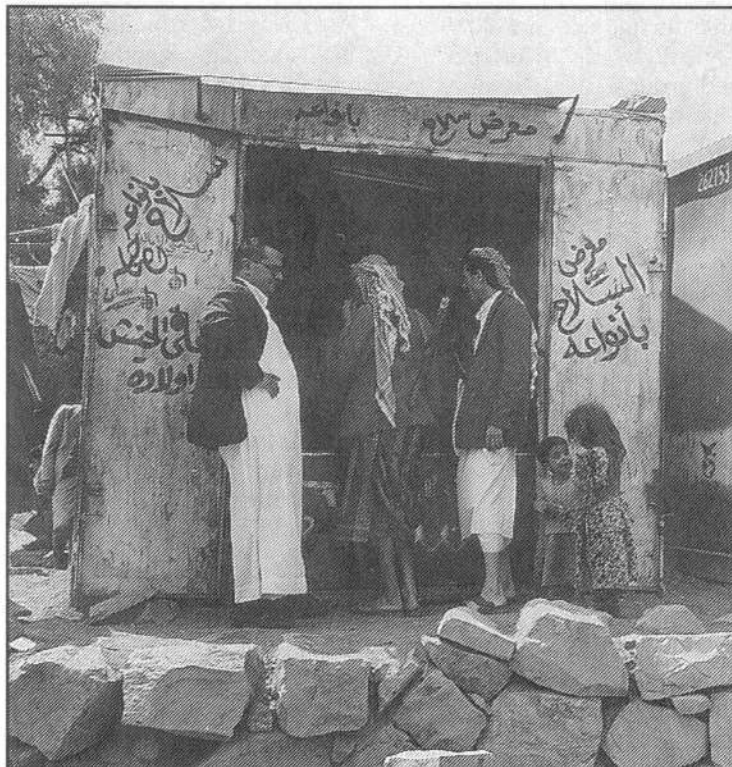
Where do they get the hardware? That is a question that has a simple answer. They get from the Yemeni army. As the army has no proper inventory and no check system, many of the army commanders or even junior officers sell truck-loads of goodies to the merchants. "In the past, we used to get the goods from commanders in the army of the former YAR. These days we get more supplies from the army of the former PDRY," said Ali.

What we have seen in one visit can easily equip an infantry division, and they tell us the heavy stuff is out of sight.

According to the laws of this country, carrying arms or even trading in arms is not illegal, but you do have to have a permit - in both cases. But as the law cannot be enforced, the people do not need the permits.

The merchants will do one more service to their clients. If you need

the goodies delivered, leave the address to which they are to be delivered - anywhere. With all the potential risk involved in the arms business, there are few incidents. The reason is that the market has its own codes, to which all merchants and middlemen strictly abide.



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Contest of the Ten Most Corrupt Yemenis

1. Those who speak about corruption without getting into those responsible for it, are not logical. Those who speak about the merits of the system without referring to the demerits are not objective, as there is sides to the coin.

When we want to resolve our problems, i.e., to correct the corruption in the system, we have to go to the root-cause. We have to address the person behind the corruption, even if we end up forgiving him/her. The reason is that knowing the cause is the first step in moving on to better conditions.

Acknowledging corruption by itself is not enough. Even if the corrupt person acknowledges the problem, that is not enough. The wrong doer has to stop doing wrong, and move to the other side by doing right.

This does not need any magic or inventions. All we need is to move people from wrongdoing to the doing good and legal things.

2. The Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC), which instead I call the Central Organization for Sleeping without Accountability (COSA) has not pressed charges against any official since it was established, in spite of prevalent corruption.

We demand of the COSA to fulfill its job and investigate the direct and indirect roles of the officials in creating the dismal conditions of today. The officials of the past are also the officials of the present and will remain the officials of the future. So the COSA can trace their role in plundering the country.

I invite the COSA to send to my column in this paper, whether in writing or by telephone, to send the list of violators of the law.

If COSA cannot pin down any wrong-doers at a time when so much wrong is done, when will it be able to do so.

3. Until COSA wakes up, let me propose a contest in which the people of Yemen will determine the ten most corrupt persons in Yemen. In this contest, I ask citizens to name ten persons who, in their opinion, are the most corrupt individuals in the country, who need not be limited to the government bureaucracy. Let me mention that we have prizes lined up for the contest. Please observe the following two conditions:

a) Please list the ten most corrupt persons, and specify why/how you chose each one in an objective way.

b) If you work for government, please add another list of the ten most corrupt individuals in your organization.

c) We welcome any prizes to be given out to the best answers, provided they are from legal sources.

d) Please send answers to Bi-Wudooh Column, Al-Ummah newspaper, P.O.Box 1678, Sanaa. Deadline for entry is 14th October, 1993.

Please be objective.

Al-Ummah shall publish the results using only first initials of names to avoid complications.

Ahmed Ahmed Al-Washaly, Al-Ummah, Sanaa, 26/8/1993.

Why Liquidate the Public Sector?

In a backward society like Yemen, we cannot imagine development taking place without the full participation of the state in investments and economic growth, specially in infrastructure and large projects.

If the role of the state in economic development in advanced countries is relegated a secondary role, we cannot envisage the same thing in Yemen where the state is the biggest owner of resources, the most important employer of manpower, and the largest investor.

In other words, the state is the largest capitalist entity in our society. Therefore, the calls for privatization simply means a call to freeze the most important party in the development process.

Now let us look at the background to this call. Those who call for privatization say that the type of ownership has a direct impact on the level of productivity and efficiency. They say state enterprises are a failure and they point to the Soviet experience as an example. But I want to say that the Soviet model is simply a case where economics was subordinated stagnant ideologies, and the USSR committed suicide following the abortion of the Khrushchev reforms in the 1960s. That means it is not the type of ownership that dictate the failure of the Soviet model, but the preponderance of ideologic and political considerations in the economic decision. Otherwise how come the public sector in Western Europe (where it represents 30% of the economy) or in Scandinavian countries (where it represents 45%) did not fail? Or even the case of China whose economy is driven by the public sector and which has successfully competed in world trade leading to a \$ 26 billion surplus in its balance of payments, including with the USA.

Coming back to Yemen, let me point out that scores of the public sector projects which the government proposes to liquidate are profitable.

It is true that there are certain public sector projects which are in trouble and incur annual loss, but there are many similar enterprises in the private sector. In both cases, we have to study why they have failed. In my opinion, the problem is not the type of ownership, but the type of management, the internal regulations and the general atmosphere under which they work, and the high level of corruption that permeates the enterprise.

Therefore, I conclude that any company - whether private or public - fails for any or all of those reasons. The practical solution is to study the reasons behind the failure and address them, not to implement a whole-sale liquidation of the companies.

I recently attended a seminar in which a leading figure of the Federation of Labor Unions spoke. He argued there are four types of public sector companies:

a) Successful companies that make profit.
b) Successful companies that

have a management problem and whose problem can be resolved by depoliticizing the management.

c) Companies with difficulties and which may be resolved by getting into partnership with the private sector.

d) Losing companies which could be privatized.

In all cases, the rights of the workers must be protected.

Without having any major objection to the conclusions of the official, I have a reservation against the solution he proposed to the fourth type of companies. I just don't believe the change in ownership will resolve the problem. Because such a conclusion is based on a premise that state ownership is the problem.

Another person, so-called economist, gave a hasty analysis of the problem. He bluntly stated that "defending the public sector is defending corruption." He gave the Military Economic Corporation, whose name was recently changed to Yemen Economic Corporation, as an example. The employees working in this corporation are on government payroll, it uses military hardware such as transport facilities, warehousing, etc., at no cost, it is given monopoly of consumer goods and foodstuff, it enjoys exemptions from customs and taxes... and yet, it makes a loss. How can we take that?

While I don't want to argue the case of the Military Economic Corporation, but it has served as a symbol of corruption, and it became a focal point for the efforts of anti-public sector companies.

This confusion is unfortunate as the two issues are different. It is a management problem. Let me list the management changes in a few public sector companies to make my point.

Until very recently, the Grain Corporation was in trouble. Then a young and energetic man, Qassim Al-Sabri was appointed to head it. In a short while it became very successful, to the extend that its profits last year was over YR 120 million.

Until recently, the Drug Company, under the able leadership of Abdullah Al-Tuhami, was making high profits and at the same time serving the nation. Then there was a change in management, and the company's fortunes changed. Today it is in bad shape.

A third case is the Textile Factory in Aden. Here the company is burdened with excess employment. To return to a profitable situation, the factory has either to dismiss some 600 workers, something hard to do, or to upgrade its machines and modernize the plant, which requires a new capital infusion. Which alternative is better for the nation?

Let me conclude by stating something many people forget to mention. The prices offered by the private sector to buy public sector assets are peanuts. For example, the price offered for the Textile plant in Aden is less than half the price of the land, let alone the building and machines.

Editorial, Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa, 29/8/1993

The Patriotic Spy

I do not know if this is a true story or not, but I remember it all the time as I look at our conditions.

The story is about a secret service of an Eastern country which found that one of the senior officials of the country lives far beyond his legal means. It also found out that the official receives lots of "gifts" from a western nation.

Yet, the secret service, which has put the official under close surveillance and supervision, found that the man does not send out any secret messages. They followed him in the bathroom, in his bed, at work, on the streets... there was no proof of any secrets wired out. At the end, the secret service brought in the man and asked him how come he was showered with all the gifts from an enemy state without sending anything to them in return.

The shocking discovery was that the man's mission was to destroy the institution under his command by appointing weak and inefficient persons to manage its various departments and sections.

This story comes to me as I see our leaders destroy our institutions and organizations because they appoint loyal, although inefficient persons to manage them. Due to tribal and sectarian considerations, our top people shun qualified persons and appoint idiots to run our corporations and companies. If we make a list of our organizations, we will be shocked with the low qualifications and abilities of the management.

By: Izzadeen Saeed, Al-Shoura, Sanaa, 29/8/1993.

May Gold Help the Government

There is doubt that the current stage of our civilizational progress is critical, and it requires all decent Yemenis to join hands and work towards achieving our noble goals.

It is for this reason that our coalition government has a tall order as it is responsible for charting and guiding our course towards a better future. We are lucky that this government is headed by one of Yemen's most mature politicians and a person who is able to interact in a cool and logical way with all persons and groups.

One important field on which the government needs to focus at once is financial and administrative reform, which it should tackle in a gradual, yet steady, manner.

It also has to slowly wipe out the bad heritage of the days in which they country was divided. As the government does not possess a magic wand, we should not expect it to find solutions to all issues.

But it is a matter of resolve and determination.

We should all lend a helping hand and work to enable the system specially by exposing those who thrive under conditions of lawlessness and chaos. We should make unity and democracy the cornerstones in our approach to our future. We should work hard to stop the opportunists and those who use the country's difficulties for illegal self-enrichment. Beware, as our people can differentiate between good and bad!

By: Aaref Mahfooz, Al-Thawrah, Sanaa, 1/9/1993

That Wonderful Woman

Everyday, on my trek to work along the coastal highway, and between the Regal and Caltex roundabouts, I meet a woman who from time to time waves at the passers-by. She works with the road repair and maintenance crew fixing our highways.

I don't know who she is, and I did not stop to ask for her name, but I think a lot about what she does. To me, she is a symbol of the greatness of Yemeni women, and their ability to do anything the men can do.

As I pass by, sometimes, she is discussing something with the Chinese engineers, another day she is explaining something to the technicians, and often she supervises the work.

I saw in her by daughter or younger sister rising up to do something meaningful to our society.

Our people, men and women, can be very productive and useful if we get the proper atmosphere. The job of the government is to help create this atmosphere.

I would like to remind our partners in building modern Yemen - women - that if they want, they can participate in any job in any field. This is a private choice.

I wish this woman all success, and I will continue to salute her in my heart, and will wave to her as I pass by every morning, until shoe and the crew move on to repair another part of our road system. She deserve our salutations to which she answers with a beautiful smile.

By: Abu Maram, Aden, Aden, 31/8/1993



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A New Theory on the Origin of Life

Abridged and adapted for Yemen Times by the Science Desk.

Forget about primordial sludge or inter-galactic dust as the likely origins of life on earth. A new contender is bacteria deep under the surface of the earth. This subterranean life is still there, and its total mass may amount to more than all life forms on or near the surface, claims a US scientist.

About 12 years ago, scientists unexpectedly discovered life in the form of bacteria in numerous very hot ocean vents. This life existed independently of solar energy and photosynthesis for its primary energy supply, and independently of all surface circumstances.

Its energy source comes from chemical reactions. Liquids and gases rising from cracks in the ocean floor combine with substances available in local rocks and in ocean water. At the chemical interface, energy is liberated, which sustains life in the form of bacteria.

Such life may represent only the first known examples of life which depends on subterranean energy, says Harvard University professor Thomas Gold.

Upwellings under land surfaces would be harder to find than those under the ocean, but they may be evidenced by deposits of methane and other hydrocarbons in basement rocks, says Gold. Hydrocarbons have unexpectedly been brought up by drills in the superdeep well of the Kola Peninsula, Russia, and by the German Continental Deep Drilling Project.

Previously unknown, thermophilic, anaerobic microorganisms have been brought up from 67 kilometers deep in the granite rock of Sweden, at an ancient meteorite impact site.

Bacterial molecules are so widespread and ubiquitous in sedimentary rocks that some scientists believe they amount to more than all the organic matter on earth's surface. Gold calculates that the total subterranean bacterial biomass is equivalent to a 15-kilometer layer of living material if it was spread over all the land surface.

Bacteria can live at higher temperatures than any other known organisms: 100 degrees centigrade has been verified. Where pressure is enough to lift the boiling point of water, an upper limit of 150 degree may be possible.

If we assumed an upper temperature limit of 150 degree, then a depth limit is reached between five and ten kilometers in most areas of the earth's crust. Gold suggests that bacteria can get down to that level in less than 1,000 years, assisted by water. Water deep in the earth's surface is subjected to tidal

accelerated transportation system.

Rocks that have hydrogen, methane and other fluids, percolating upwards are prime candidates for the origin of life on earth, claims Gold.

Underground temperature, pressure and chemical surroundings are constant for geologically long periods of time. Deep underground organisms would be protected from high, fluctuating levels of ionising radiation or ultraviolet light.

Photosynthesis is a relatively complex process and would have evolved later.

In his book, *The Life Puzzle*, A. G. Cairns-Smith, writing about the origin of life, pointed out that once self-replicating adaptive systems have been formed that may well adapt gradually and change to a totally different chemistry.

Gold suggests that underground life may also be found on other planets where surface conditions are inhospitable for life. Hydrocarbons are plentiful on all the gaseous and solid planets and satellites and on numerous asteroids, comets and meteorites.

If the planets in our solar system were formed from the same solar matter, the interiors of the solid planetary bodies may not be too different from the earth's interior. Similar conditions to those of the earth at a depth of 10 kilometers will be found at greater depths in the other solid planetary bodies - because they are smaller.

Gold suggests that the search for life in the solar system should not end with the negative results obtained from the surfaces of the moon and Mars. Future space missions could look deep under the surface of these and other bodies.

Deep drilling on distant planets is beyond the scope of present space exploration programs, but there are other options.

Geological forces have brought material from several kilometers underground, up to the surface of the Marinera Rift Valley on Mars. Samples from there, and from relatively recent craters on the moon and other bodies, says Gold, may turn up microbial

molecules, the remains of life in the past- and imply the continuing presence of sub-surface. Gold does not suggest, nor rule out, the possibility that life can begin in widely separated points in the universe. But he believes that the sheer number of rock which crash into each other and onto major planets and moons, may provide a mechanism for life to disseminate across space.

Chemical processes in the deep, hot interior of the earth and other planets- even though it is too hot to support life as we define it- may nonetheless, be of interest to biologists, suggests Gold. If 150 degrees centigrade represents the likely upper temperature limits for bacterial life, then this limit is reached at a depth of a few kms. But chemical reactions which may be the precursors of life can occur at much higher temperatures- indeed some require temperatures in excess of 1000 degrees. As an example of a pre-life form, Gold points to the self-replicating properties of crystals. Gold rejects the theory that fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum may have a microbial origin, as has been suggested by others who found bacterial molecule remains in deposits. None of these fuels is free of bacterial alteration and contamination, but bacterial remains occur only where there is enough oxygen for bacteria to have survived, says Gold. Gold believes that fossil fuels are not the remain of biological organisms, as current theory holds. He believes that oil and gas stream up almost everywhere from hundreds of miles down in the earth's mantle. As an example, he gives the Gulf area where oil and gas fields representing more than 50 per cent of the world's recoverable reserves, are found in an area 500 miles long or less than two per cent of the earth's surface. The earth's surface is thinner in the Gulf region and the hot mantle is closer to the surface. Fluids and gases arising in the mantle rise to the highest point where they pool - and that happens to be the Gulf area. Biological molecules are from subterranean bacteria which feed on the oil.

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بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للأخ العزيز
(أحمد عبدالرحمن الأديمي)

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مع دعواتنا وتمنياتنا بالرفاه والبنين

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د/عبدالعزيز السقاف ، طلال عبدالله السقاف ، خالد عبدالله علي السقاف
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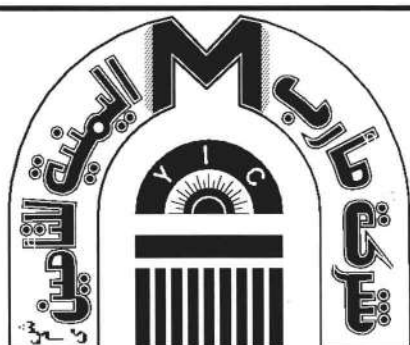
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Prominent Businessmen Talk to Yemen Times

Abdullah Ali Al-Sunaidar in Sanaa: "Helping Farmers Become Productive."

Interviewed by: Mervat Duweikat

Abdullah Ali Al-Sunaidar, General Manager of the Sunaidar Group of Companies, is one of the young entrepreneurs of this country. Abdullah, 35, is a graduate of the College of Economics and Commerce at Sanaa University. He is the Chairman of the Ghamdan Charity Society, Member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Member of the Board of the Yemen Kuwait Bank, and Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemen American Friendship Association. Abdullah is a former champion of table tennis in Yemen.

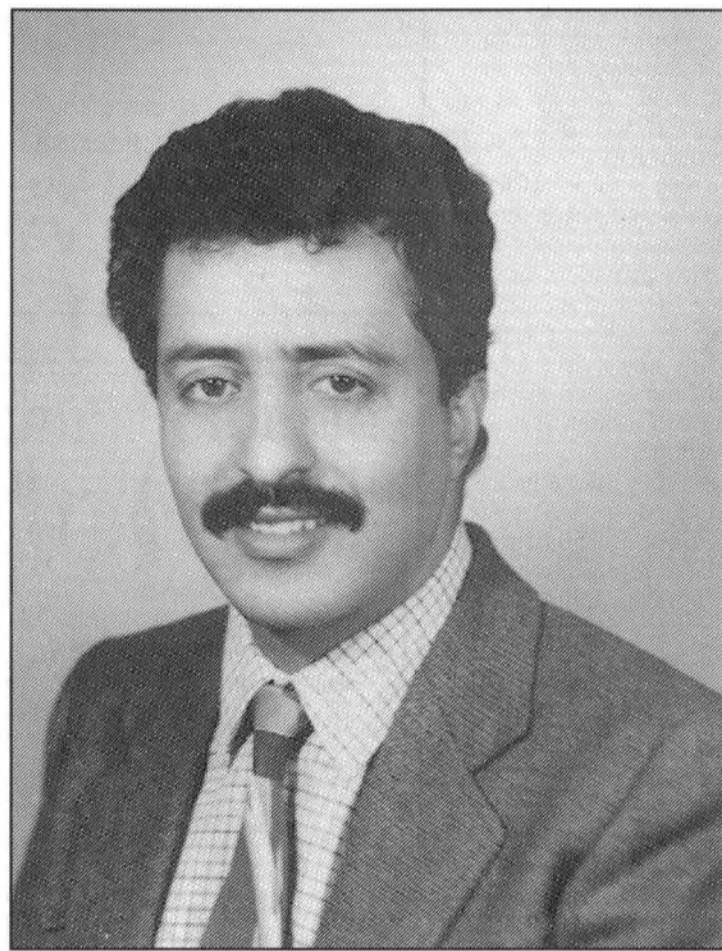
"The business climate in Yemen is improving steadily and I hope that we can play a role in speeding up the economic recovery," Mr. Al-Sunaidar said. The main activities of the Sunaidar group are in two categories:

A. Imports, installation, repair and maintenance of heavy machinery, specially related to agri-business. "We deal mainly in water pumps, which represent 70% of our business. Recently, we have picked up a bid to supply farmers, through the Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank, 600 water-drilling pumps," explained Mr. Al-Sunaidar.

B. Industrial factories, specially the plant which produces red bricks for construction purposes. This plant produces 72,000 high-quality bricks per day. Given the role played by this plant in the reconstruction efforts following the 1982 earthquake, President Ali Abdullah Saleh awarded it a national prize.

Over and above those two categories, the group also has interests in numerous other firms, including a 40% stake in the Yemen and Kuwait Bank. "We are now in the final stages of carrying out a factory that will produce water pumps. We are putting up 60%, while Italian interests will put up 40%. The factory will produce first-class Italian pumps under license," he indicated. Finally, Al-Sunaidar group has gone ahead with plans to build low-cost housing complexes in Sanaa in order to help address the need for housing in Yemen.

With reference to the investment climate and general economic situation, Mr. Al-Sunaidar said that the country was still more or less virgin and can absorb investments in any field. "The first thing needed in this regard is to create the appropriate climate in the sense that the law protects the rights of the various economic actors in the country. We need to be reassured on this count because there is a high level of lawlessness," Abdullah indicated.



"Another thing we need is basic statistics and good information. If these are available, they made it easy to reach good decisions. I am talking about statistics

need a preliminary feasibility study, you are stuck. Who do you go to for simple data? Most probably, you have to go to a foreign company, even for a pre-feasibility study. Why don't professors at the universities and the other specialists perform this task," he asked. In other words, the investors have to attend to every little thing in their businesses and the much-needed support services are not available.

"The Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry can play a meaningful role in addressing some of these problems. It is able and willing to lend a helping hand, if the bureaucrats would let it," he said. Entrepreneur Abdullah Al-Sunaidar also stated that his group has plans to invest in other projects, notably in the Aden Free Zone. "But we will have to wait and see how conditions evolve in the country," he concluded.

regarding market size, labor, prices of capital, foreign exchange, etc.," he added. The country also needs basic research in various fields. "For example, if you

Ahmed Hayel Saeed in Taiz: "Promoting Self-Help Projects."

Interviewed by: Al-Izzi As-Selwi

The Hayel Saeed Anam Group is one of the most philanthropic business families of Yemen. They are engaged in charity work all over the country. But their most interesting, albeit not necessarily the one with their highest contribution, is the "Productive Families Project." "This is an exceptional project that



combines charity work with good economic sense," says Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Vice President and General Manager of the Group. The idea is to seek out women who have fallen on hard times because they are widowed or divorced, or simply because they were born into poor families. These women are invited to the Productive Families Project where they are trained to make products which society needs. "For example, they can produce uniforms for schools, hospitals, factories, etc. They could make household decorations, they could make garments and other embroidery, etc.," explains Ahmed Hayel.

At this moment, there are sixty women being trained in various skills. Other batches have graduated. What happens then? The Hayel Saeed Charity and Social Welfare Association then bankrolls them for a short while. They are given advance payment on their products. The idea is to enable them buy raw material, pay for incidentals and their own up-keep. Then what happens? The Association buys the products from these women. "By doing that, we try to protect them from the senseless swings of the market. We also keep their accounts, as these women are mostly illiterate. Our own factories and clinics/hospitals are captive markets for these women's work," Ahmed explained.

A quick visit to the project shows a lot of women busy learning as well as at work. A number of sewing machines and other tools are available for the industrious ones. The manager of the project, who shunned our camera, and would not even tell us her name, told us the work of the week - shown in the picture below - was valued at several thousand Riyals. The Yemen Times team bought a few beautiful hand-made office

decoration items and other products.

"The daily income of the women depends on their efficiency and kind of product. As a minimum, however, they make YR 100 per day," she said.

"I am proud to be able to take care of myself. It feels good to earn my keep," said one of the young participants, divorced at an early stage of her marriage. "Now I do not need to beg any of my male rel-



atives to give me money. I can earn it myself and I thank the Hayel Saeed Anam Group for this."

Ahmed Hayel explained that the uniforms of the doctors and nurses in the Mustashfa Assaeed Al-Takhassusi (The Happy Specialized Hospital - another gift from the Hayel Saeed Group to society - are all purchased from the Productive Families Project. In

the same way, all the uniforms of the workers in the Hayel Saeed Anam factories are also purchased from this project. This way, they (the women) are sure of a market. But we hope they will expand their markets to serve other clients," he said. Given the quality of the work, and the prices they charge, there is no doubt the products are marketable.

The Hayel Saeed Group, by working to enable female members of society become independent earners of income, have transformed their lives. This is something the Ministry of Social Affairs and all the government organizations have failed to achieve. I hail this business family for its caring heart and for its compassion.

Ghazi Alwan in Aden: "Providing Housing for the People."

Interviewed by: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Ghazi Alwan Al-Saqqaf is one of the entrepreneurs who made an early commitment to investments in Aden. Today he is involved in a few projects, but the most visible one is the Al-Areesh Housing Complex - located on the beach front just a few kilometers outside Aden on the Abyan highway.

"We plan to hand-over the first batch of houses by December, this year. We will have a hundred villas ready to be turned over to the citizens who have purchased them," explained Ghazi.

Project Manager R. Sharma went to great lengths to explain the engineering and architectural decisions in implementing the project, and which aimed at meeting the environmental and other requirements of the location. "Even the design, with lots of open space, was made to fit the climate, and to maximize benefits from the beach-front," Sharma said.

Ghazi Alwan, however, is not going to go ahead and build the 1000 units originally envisaged in the project plan. "Look, we did not get any services from the utility companies. We have just contracted a French firm to build the drainage and sewer system of the housing complex. We are now concluding a deal to purchase a central electric generator. Even the water, although promised by the government water company, we are waiting to see what will happen. We cannot drill water wells on the shore, because we will get salty water," he complained.

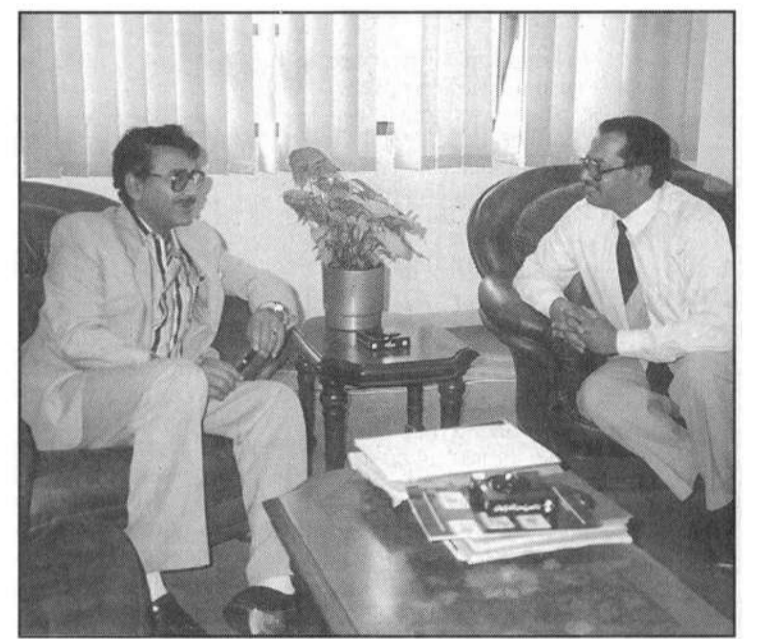
How can investors take care of all the services. It adds to the cost, and it is very inefficient. The government must provide the basic infrastructure, and then we can build on it," he repeated. "I think that Aden will need many housing projects given the influx of people from all over the republic in search of jobs and business opportunities. As the commercial

and industrial capital, and as the first free zone of the country, the city has become like a magnet. So we have decided to help by investing in housing complexes," Ghazi Alwan added. His company also has another major housing complex to be built. That is located on the hill-side of Shamsan mountain. "We will build 140 villas in the form of terraces in a way that no one villa will block the view of another. From any one of these villas, the residents will be able to see the sea, Khor Maksar, Sheikh Othman, Al-Ma'alla, and the harbor," Al-Saqqaf explained.

"We are now carving the mountain side. We had hoped to start the project in July, but delays became inevitable," he said.

The Ghazi Alwan group is also contemplating new investments in three construction-related industries. The first is a concrete ready-mix company, the second is a marble company which will produce slabs for floors, ceilings and walls, and a third company which will produce cement blocks for walls.

Outside the construction business, Ghazi Alwan Al-Saqqaf and his partners have other successful enterprises. There is, to start with, the poultry and hatchery company and the household



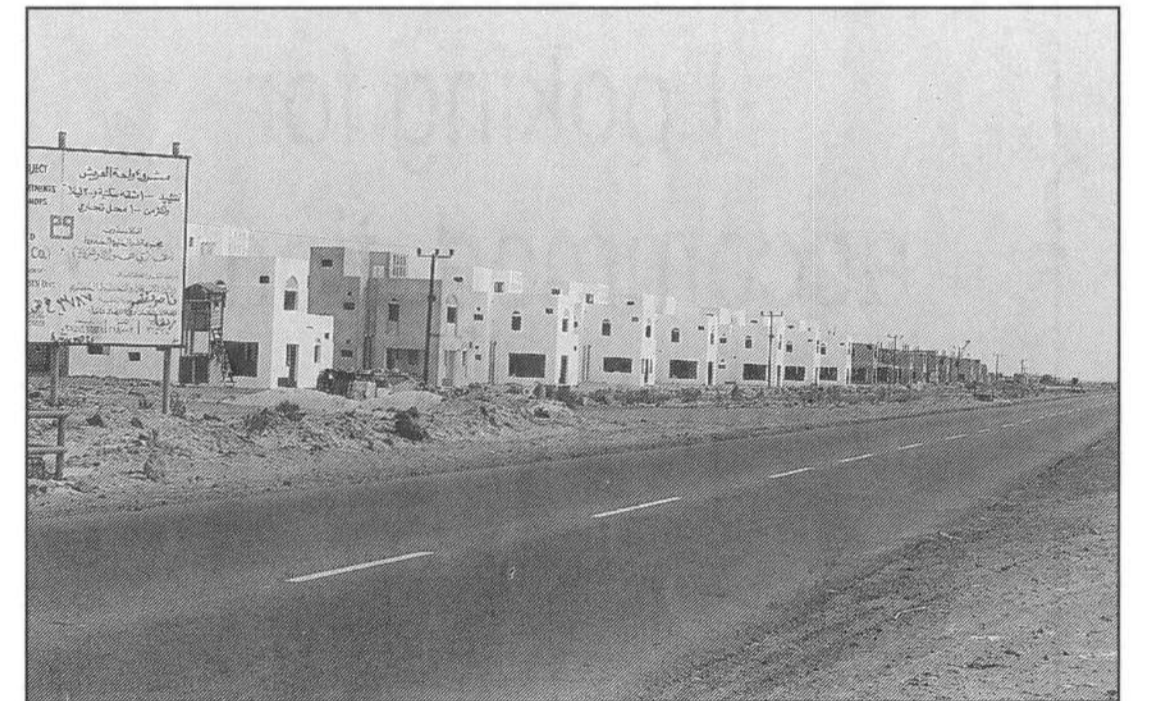
and office furniture company - both in Taiz. These two projects play an important role in the economy as they satisfy daily consumer demand. The group also has a pioneering model farm outside of Sanaa city which produces seedlings, flowers, and various fruits such as apples, peaches, nectarines, etc. "I would like to especially point to the strawberries, which are of high quality," he said.

Ghazi has also been involved in a lot of community-service projects. He has financed the reconstruction of the Aden Gate, and he has committed to reconstruct the Salt Mill - both

part of the ancient heritage of Aden city. He has also been instrumental in helping in many cooperative projects in his native village - Hadharem in Hugarriah.

"Much can be done if the business climate is right. We need the government to help create a suitable environment, and the business community will take care of the rest," he said.

Although concerned about the difficulties and problems, Ghazi concluded his conversation with a positive tone. "The situation improves steadily, and we look forward to better times. Once the Aden Free Zone is in full force, change will be more visible," he said.



INTERVIEW WITH ALI SALIM AL-BEEDH

Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf interviewed Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, at the latter's residence in Aden.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you tell our readers a little bit about yourself?

A: I was born into a poor family. My father was a farmer, and my mother a bedouin. I lived most of my childhood with my mother who used to work as manual worker on the water wells in the countryside of Hadhramaut among her nomadic tribe - the Al-Hamoom, in Ash-Shihre district. I did my basic education in Hadhramaut. As I excelled in my early education, I was given a scholarship outside the Al-Katheeri and Al-Quaiti Sutanates. So I was sent to Aden. That was in 1956.

I specialized in mechanical engineering and joined the National Workshop in Aden. Later I continued my university studies in Egypt, in the same field.

Q: You have frequently decided to isolate yourself from the center of power and practised the politics of seclusion, mostly in Aden. Why?

A: Often things are done in a way that I think is wrong and does not serve the nation. If I remain near the center of decision, the chances for confrontation and conflict are high. So I decide to stay away and give all sides a chance to think things over and not force ourselves into conflict.

Q: Are you in seclusion now?

A: No, I have been away from Aden for too long. I wanted to see how much of the promises made by the president and prime minister

to the new governor of Aden have been delivered. So far, I am afraid, very little has been fulfilled.

I plan to return to Sanaa after a while, but first, I will visit several governorates.

Q: What do you do when you are angry with something?

A: My background has given me certain qualities of

patience and perseverance. I try to seclude myself and settle down. I take time out and try to think about the issues that made me angry. Often, with time, my perspective of things changes

town that there is a serious schism within the YSP. Is that true?

A: Yes, we have differences, and it is a normal thing in political parties which have an internal democratic system. In parties managed by dictators, you cannot find differences. We have our differences, we are not afraid of them. But I assure you we will come out stronger and

laborious job so that people do not play with it at whim. I believe certain changes are needed, but we have to bring in all sides to discuss the proposed change thoroughly. At the end, parliament has to approve of the changes as a first step to putting them to a national referendum.

Q: What is the most pressing issue ahead of us?

A: Preparing for local elections. Many politicians are trying to side-step this issue, but they can't. The next milestone in our democratic process is local elections and they have to be carried out. I believe this is a critical matter. We have to implement local elections which were called for in the agreements and which are also called for in the constitution. We cannot apply things in a selective manner.

Q: What do you think of the Yemen Times?

A: First, let me say I have not read it regularly, but I hope to do so. I think it is a courageous paper and I respect its integrity and decency. By the way, many people raised questions regarding your court case. Even US Vice President Al Gore and

Q: There is talk around

Q: What about constitutional amendments?

A: I think we should first respect the existing constitution and apply it fully. We must make amending the Constitution a difficult and



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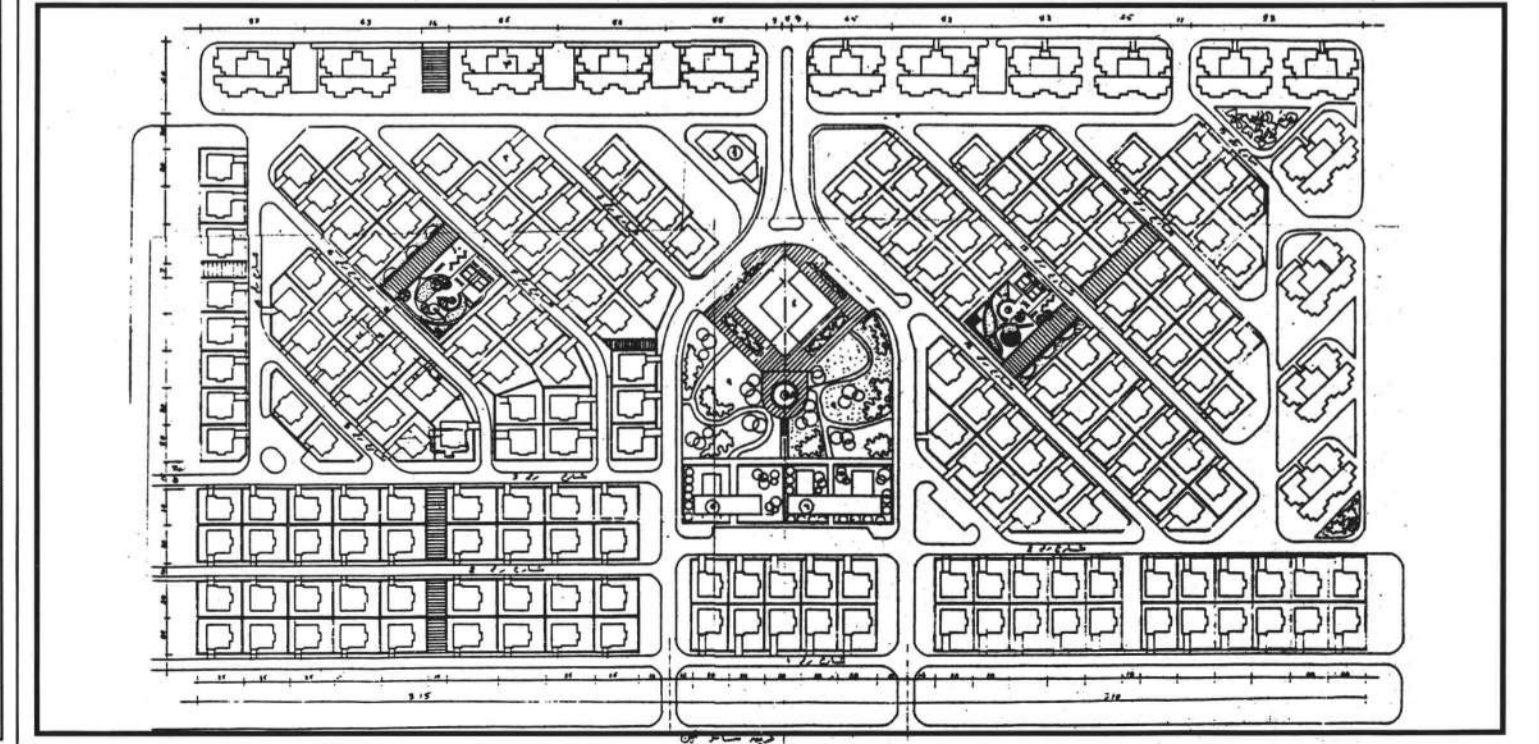
The PCMA has moved to its new headquarter office as of September 1st, 1993. The new premises are situated on the left-hand side of the main road leading to Haddah town, just after the traffic lights at the intersection of Hadda and 60 Meter Roads.

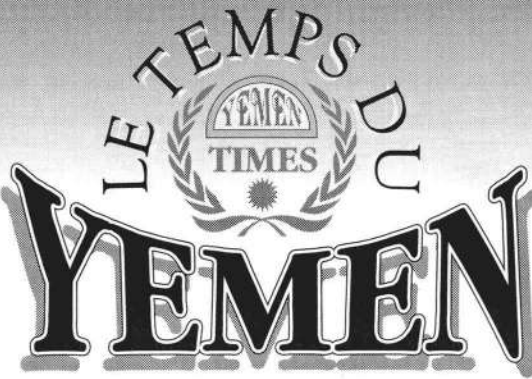
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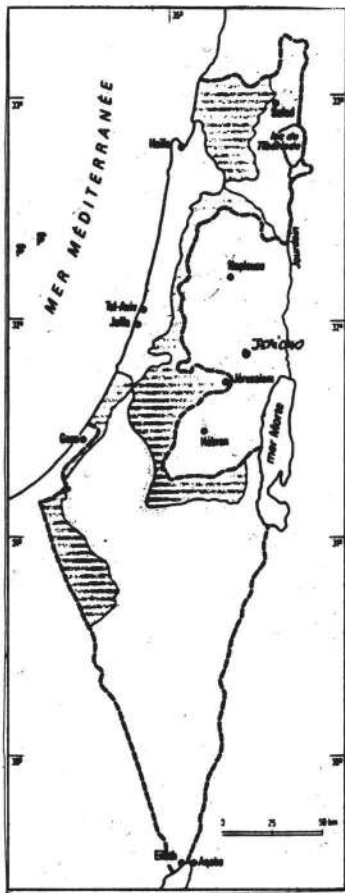


The French Pages

PROCHE-ORIENT

Accord historique entre Israéliens et Palestiniens

L'accord prévoit l'instauration d'un régime d'autonomie dans les territoires occupés, à commencer par la bande de Gaza et Jéricho, ville de Cisjordanie. Le début d'un règlement du conflit israélo-arabe se profile à l'horizon.



conseil d'autonomie seraient organisées. A partir de la troisième année du régime d'autonomie, le statut définitif des territoires serait envisagé, ainsi que la question de Jérusalem.

Retrait armée israélienne

Le premier ministre israélien Yitzak Rabin a déclaré que cet accord, présenté comme une percée historique, devrait être signé au cours de la nouvelle session des pourparlers de paix, qui s'est ouverte mardi 31 août à Washington. Mme Hanane Achraoui, porte-parole de la délégation palestinienne, a estimé "qu'une nouvelle phase est atteinte" dans les négociations israélo-arabes lancées par la conférence de Madrid en octobre 1991.

Selon Mme Achraoui, c'est à l'OLP directement qu'il appartient de signer un tel accord, mais elle n'a pas rejeté l'éventualité d'une signature par la délégation. "Si l'OLP nous le demande, nous serons heureux de le faire. Il faudra que nous soyons mandatés pour cela".

Selon elle, l'accord prévoit en outre un retrait de l'armée israélienne de la bande de Gaza et de Jéricho et son redéploiement dans le reste des territoires occupés.

Pour l'administration américaine, un accord entre Israéliens et Palestiniens a toujours été la condition sine qua non d'un progrès dans les discussions de l'Etat hébreu avec ses voisins syriens, libanais et jordaniens. "Nous aurions préféré que les deux dossiers (palestinien et syrien) avancent simultanément, mais nous ne sommes pas fâchés" des progrès enregistrés dans les négociations israélo-palestiniennes, a déclaré un responsable proche de la délégation syrienne.

Les négociations entre la Syrie et Israël concernent le plateau stratégique du Golan, conquis par l'Etat hébreu en 1967 et annexé en 1981. De son côté, le Liban exige toujours l'application de la résolution 425 de l'ONU sur un retrait inconditionnel d'Israël du sud du Liban. (AFP)

En Bref

Le Soudan se prépare à un éventuel embargo pétrolier: Le Soudan et tout particulièrement l'Etat occidental du Darfour vivent dans la crainte d'un embargo pétrolier, après la décision de Washington d'ajouter le Soudan à la liste des Etats qui soutiennent le terrorisme. Le Darfour a été le premier à adopter des mesures visant à surmonter un pareil embargo s'il était appliqué. Le gouverneur de cet Etat limitrophe du Tchad a décidé de suspendre le trafic routier dans toute la région en vue de rationaliser l'emploi du carburant.

Inauguration de la grande mosquée de Casablanca: Le roi Hassan II du Maroc a inauguré lundi 30 août à Casablanca la mosquée qui porte son nom, trente deux ans après avoir fait la promesse solennelle à son peuple d'édifier sur l'eau l'un des plus grands lieux de prière musulmans. Avec le minaret le plus haut du monde (200 mètres), la mosquée pourra contenir 25 000 personnes. L'esplanade qui la borde est prévue pour 80 000 autres fidèles.

Visite de sénateurs français au Yémen: Dix sénateurs français vont venir en visite au Yémen du 10 au 17 septembre. Leur programme prévoit de nombreuses rencontres avec des personnalités yéménites et un périple en Hadramaout, à Mukalla et Aden.

En compétition pour la même terre depuis 45 ans, les Israéliens et les Palestiniens ont fait un énorme pas dans le règlement du conflit. Lundi 30 août, le gouvernement israélien a entériné à une écrasante majorité un accord négocié secrètement en Norvège depuis le mois de mai avec l'OLP. Cet accord prévoit l'instauration d'un régime d'autonomie dans les territoires occupés, à commencer par la bande de Gaza et Jéricho, ville de Cisjordanie.

L'accord, tel qu'il a été présenté en Israël, est constitué d'une déclaration de principes, d'un mémorandum et d'annexes sur la coopération économique entre Israël et la future administration palestinienne.

Santé, éducation, emploi et tourisme

Selon l'accord, les Palestiniens de la bande de Gaza et de la ville de Jéricho prendraient rapidement en charge la santé, l'éducation, l'emploi et le tourisme. Par la suite, l'autonomie serait appliquée dans le reste des territoires occupés et des élections pour un

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Campagne de propreté

Monir Hassan Al-Ariqi, Etudiant au département d'anglais de l'université de Sanaa.

Je crois que nous pouvons le dire: la campagne de propreté qui bat son plein actuellement est très importante. Elle fait prendre conscience à chacun de l'importance et de la nécessité de la propreté, qui est essentielle pour nous défendre contre les maladies. Je pense que si chaque personne se sentait le devoir de garder la ville propre, nos villes seraient plus belles. Elles donneraient de notre pays une meilleure image, car le Yémen a sa porte ouverte vers le monde extérieur.

Il faut continuer le nettoyage de notre patrie afin de donner une bonne impression aux étrangers qui nous rendent visite. Le gouvernement devrait soutenir cette campagne. Nous ne voulons pas qu'elle s'arrête. Il faut par ailleurs que le gouvernement trouve une solution au problème des eaux usées à Sanaa, la capitale du Yémen.

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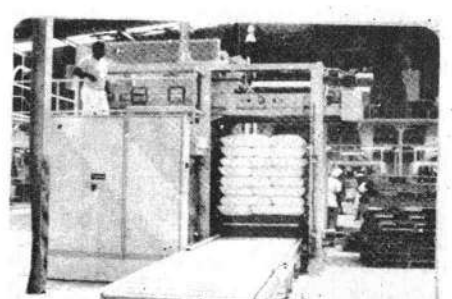
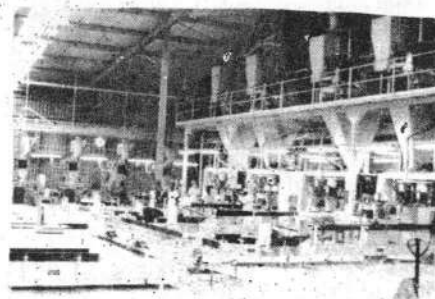
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الحديدة: ت: ٢٢٣٤٦٠/٣ تليفون: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
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SOCIÉTÉ

Mariage juif à Saada

La communauté juive de Saada est toujours bien vivante. La semaine dernière, elle mariait deux de ses enfants. Un événement pour une communauté qui ne compte plus au Yémen que 400 personnes environ, la plupart au nord du pays.

A la sortie de Saada, sur la route de Sanaa, des maisons éparpillées au milieu de champs cultivés forment le village d'Al-Sahn. C'est dans une de ces maisons faites de boue et de paille séchée qu'une partie des membres de la communauté juive de Saada se sont réunis. C'est la maison de la famille du marié. Saïd a 18 ans et épouse sa cousine, Ousna, qui a le même âge.

Le marié trône sur un lit

Aujourd'hui lundi, les hommes se sont réunis pour une partie de qat. Ils sont une vingtaine de tous âges, de l'aïeul au garçonnet. Une toile marron a été tendue entre le mur de la maison et un muret de pierres. L'espace ainsi protégé du soleil fait office de *mafraj*. Celui de la maison était trop petit pour accueillir tout le monde.

Le jeune marié trône sur un lit métallique. Derrière lui, une couverture a été tendue. Les hommes se passent la *chicha*, la pipe à eau. Ils ont gardé leur tenue de tous les jours.

Le vent souffle et fait battre la toile. Une voiture à plaque noire s'arrête devant la maison. Deux policiers en civil en descendent et s'invitent à la partie de qat. Un ange passe. Un coup de vent plus violent fait soudain s'écrouler le muret sur les deux policiers. Plus de peur que de mal.

Le lendemain mardi, la fête continue dans la maison de la famille de la mariée. Les

deux parties se sont rassemblées dans le salon pour mettre au point le contrat de mariage. Les femmes préparent le repas. Elles ont mis leurs plus belles robes dont les couleurs chatoyantes brillent au soleil. A leur cou, des colliers de pièces d'or. Certaines ont le front ceint d'une parure en or. Les hommes n'ont pas fait de frais vestimentaires. Seul le marié est habillé de neuf. Chaussures vernies et robe blanche immaculée boutonnée jusqu'au col. Aujourd'hui encore, il trône sur un lit métallique dans le *mafraj* de la maison. Dans le salon des femmes, la mariée elle aussi est installée sur un lit. Un voile noir lui couvre le visage. Ni l'un ni l'autre ne descend pour participer au repas.

Galette de pain, morceaux de viande, *hilba*, le repas est typiquement yéménite. Seule différence, on l'arrose d'un verre d'arak, l'alcool que fabrique les juifs pour leurs besoins personnels. Par petits groupes, les hommes s'agglutinent autour des plats. Les femmes mangent de leur côté.

Rassasiés, les hommes se retrouvent dans le *mafraj* pour une nouvelle partie de qat autour du marié toujours imperturbable. Deux voisins musulmans habitant le village viennent s'associer à eux.

La fête est interrompue par un incident provoqué par des musulmans arrivés en voiture. Ils viennent chercher de l'alcool. Bagarre. Un juif reçoit un coup de *jambiya* sur



Deux camarades de jeux à Saada, le juif et le musulman.

le front. Le sang coule. Il est emmené à l'hôpital tandis que les autres vont à la police.

Tristesse dans la maison. La fête est gâchée. Le musulman d'Al-Sahn vient apporter son soutien à ses voisins juifs. Maigre consolation.

Des juifs très religieux

Ils sont environ quatre cents à vivre actuellement au Yémen. Ce sont les derniers représentants de la communauté juive du pays. La plupart habitent dans la région de Saada, au nord. A Sanaa, la communauté, naguère importante, n'existe plus depuis longtemps.

Ils ont décidé de rester dans leur patrie d'origine après la grande vague d'émigration vers Israël dans les années 1940-1950. En 1949, l'opération "tapis volant" permit à 47 000 Yéménites d'émigrer vers Israël.

Orfèvres dans la vieille ville de Saada

A Saada, on les rencontre dans la vieille ville, tenant des boutiques d'orfèvres. Habillés comme leurs compatriotes musulmans, ils sont reconnaissables à leurs papillottes qui pendent le long de chaque oreille. Leur langue et leurs coutumes sont celles de leurs voisins arabes. Certains vivent à Saada, d'autres n'y viennent que pour y travailler et ont leur maison dans les villages voisins.

A Al-Sahn, il y a trois maisons habitées par des juifs. Dans le *mafraj* de Moussa, une cassette en hébreu traîne sur un coussin. Le chanteur s'appelle Zion Golan et il est d'origine yéménite. Une étagère métallique croule sous les livres. "C'est la Thora et d'autres livres sur la religion", explique Youssef, un voisin.

"Je veux rester au Yémen"

Youssef est orfèvre à Saada. Il réalise ses bijoux en argent à partir de pièces appelées Marie-Thérèse. Sur le mur de son *mafraj*, une inscription en hébreu a été tracée: "Youssef fils de Youssef", signifie-t-elle. "Mon père, ma mère, mes frères sont tous partis il y

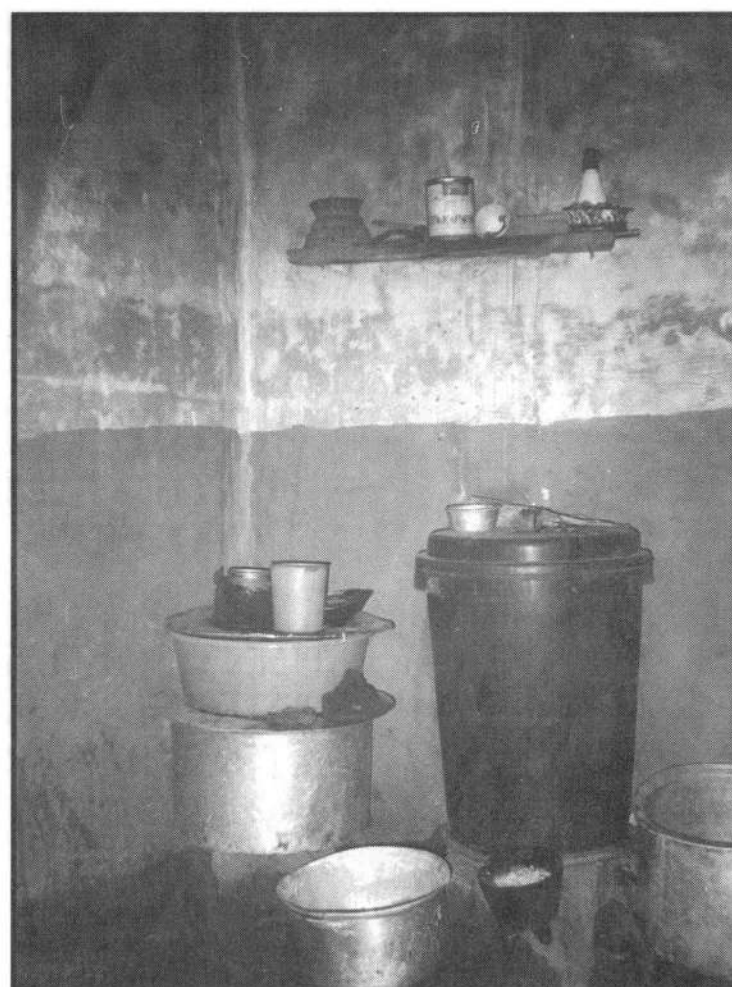
a huit mois", raconte-t-il. "Moi, je veux rester au Yémen. Je suis très content de vivre ici". Cette phrase revient comme un leitmotiv dans toutes les bouches des juifs yéménites rencontrés.

Pourtant, la communauté se meurt. A Al Sahn, il y avait cinq maisons habitées par des juifs il y a moins d'un an, ce qui représentait une quarantaine de personnes. Maintenant, ils ne sont plus qu'une dizaine à vivre dans le village.

L'école talmudique qui accueillait les enfants d'Al-Sahn vient de fermer il y a un mois. A Saada, Yacoub, 13ans (mais il ne sait pas exactement son âge), ne va plus à l'école depuis cinq mois. Elle aussi a été fermée. A la

fin, ils n'étaient plus que quinze élèves. Désormais, Yacoub apprend l'hébreu avec son grand frère.

Vendredi, en fin d'après-midi, tous les juifs se préparent pour le shabat. A 17h, ils allument la lumière et ne l'éteignent qu'à 17h samedi. Très religieux, ils respectent strictement la coutume. "Il y a des juifs en France qui prennent leur voiture le samedi. Nous, nous ne faisons rien. Nous ne fumons pas, nous ne faisons pas de cuisine. Nous prions le matin, l'après-midi et le soir dans notre synagogue, où nous nous réunissons. Là-bas, en Palestine, la religion juive est moins respectée. C'est pour cela que nous ne voulons y aller", explique Youssef.



La cuisine d'une maison juive.

*** Abdullah Al-Khadir:**

Abdullah Al-Khadir, Head of the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Vice Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was stopped from entering the federation's building in Sanaa by Chairman Hussain Al-Watary.

Al-Khadir is pushing for elections of the Board of Directors, whose term has long expired. Finally, he got on the old man's nerves and hence the order to the guards to block his entry.

*** Arthur Hughes:**

US ambassador in Yemen, Mr. Arthur Hughes leaves here this week on a long-deserved vacation. But it is not all vacation. The ambassador, while in Washington DC, will hold consultations with the state department.

*** Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed:**

Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed Anam, a leading member of the Hayel Saeed family and Chairman of the Yemen-American Friendship Association, returned to Sanaa on Friday, September 3rd, following a ten-day vacation abroad.

Abdul-Wassa was at hand to kick off the one-day festival held yesterday to honor the Sanaa Charity Association, which has spearheaded the cleaning process of Sanaa city. Other key figures in the community also attended the event.

*** Mohsin Al-Yusufi:**

Mr. Mohsin Mohammed Al-Yusufi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, returned to Sanaa on Thursday, September 2nd. Mr. Al-Yusufi had participated in a conference in Geneva regarding climatic changes in the world.

*** Dr. Nageeb Ghanim and Mr. Gysbert Bos:**

Dr. Nageeb Ghanim, Minister of Health, and Mr. Gysbert Bos, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Sanaa, reviewed last week Yemeni-Dutch cooperation in the field of health. Talks specially focused on the Dutch health efforts in Hodeidah, Redaa and Dhamar. It is worth noting that the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands is an important aid partner to Yemen.

*** Abdullah Ahmed Ghanim and Robert Douglas:**

Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Ghanim, Minister of Justice, received last week Mr. Robert Douglas, Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Yemen. During the meeting, the minister thanked the ambassador for his country's continued assistance to Yemen. The minister specifically thanked the ambassador for the computer and related software package donated by Britain to the Ministry of Justice in order to organize the ministry's work and its statistics.

*** Mohammed Nasser**

Alfadala: Mr. Mohammed Nasser Alfadala, charge d'Affairs of the State of Qatar in Yemen, held a reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel on September 3rd.

The occasion marks the national day of the fraternal state of Qatar. In a press statement on the occasion, Mr. Alfadala spoke highly of the Yemeni-Qatari relations.

*** Fuad Al-Kibsi:**

Famous Yemeni singer, Fuad Al-Kibsi got married on September 2nd.

Fuad represents a younger generation of Yemeni singers who have successfully carved a big part of the local and regional market.

*** Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah:**

Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, Foreign Minister, stated that any rapprochement between Yemen and her Gulf neighbors was going to be beneficial to both sides.

In a press conference on Thursday September 2nd, the minister also disclosed that H.M. Sultan Qaboos will visit Yemen in early October.

Regarding European aid to Yemen, he indicated that such aid is still minimal and that the West has given Yemen more moral support than financial in the country's democratization and political process. But we hope more is coming.

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Yemeni Kids Excel in Squash BUT WILL HAVE TO FIND SPONSORS

The Hashmi brothers, two Yemenis living in the United Arab Emirates, have left their mark on their international squash debut at the Hong Kong Junior Open Squash Championship held last month.

Wahyi Badr Hamood Al-Hashmi was the Runner-Up for the Trophy, Class of Under 16 Years. "Next time, we hope he will make to top place," said an exuberant and proud father. But he has one worry - how can he shoulder the expenses of training, and then the costs of travel and stay for the boys during the tournaments. "For other athletes, many government and companies foot the bill. For my two boys, I have to do it, but there is a limit how much I can stretch my resources," he said.



Wa'ad, 11, was also awarded the trophy for the youngest participant in the games. Given his performance, he will be seeded in the coming events of the Under-13

Games which will take place later this year.

"I would like to thank the Bin Jaber Group Fire and Safety Departments for co-sponsoring the boys' participation," the father noted.

The boys would also like to come to Yemen and play, if they get an invitation. If the Ministry of Sports and Youth can arrange an invitation, or if any company can sponsor their coming to Yemen.

The boys are training for hard to bring the Asian Cup to the Emirates and to Yemen. They will not all the help, and many can help, at least at the financial level.

Wahyi and Wa'ad were quoted as conclusion by thanking the W.E.D. and coach Iqbal Khan for their support and patience.



Aden Has Excellent Tourism Potential, But Work Needs to Be Done!

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

"Much more could be done to improve the tourism potential of Aden. It could be transformed into a hub. Hotel, airline, tourism and other professions could draw up a plan to transform Aden into a tourist attraction. Unfortunately, what is going on is the opposite. Whoever may want to come here, faces a pile of tasks and paperwork to complete, and that takes time."

So stated Mr. Robert Friez, the General Manager of Aden Hotel (Movenpick). Mr. Friez, however, remains optimistic about the potential. "Look if there is no conviction that things are improving, and to prove his point, he mentioned two major hotels under construction in Aden. The Holiday Inn and the Aden Hotel annex, both to be completed in about a year. That would increase lodging capacity by more than 150%. But a lot of work needs to be done before Aden could be transformed into a tourist hub.

"Let me give you examples. We try to bring in people who may find they have a couple of free days because of change of plans or whatever, and they may decide to come here on short notice. Now, they need to overcome formalities which could take days. Why? If the



immigration people have a letter from a local company that vouches for the visitors, what else would they need?" he asked.

There is work that is being done at another level, however. The hotel/tourism institute is doing a good job. They have some 60 trainees on a two-year course. I saw their programs. They are good. The tutors use technical/theoretical material, and they are bringing-in the real life experiment by using hotel managers and others.

The Aden Hotel presently caters to the business community. "Tourists make up a small portion of our guests," said Robert.

Aden could also cater to transit passengers who spend a day or two. "If we can attract just 50 transit (one-day) visitors, we will do a super job. We do not have the facility for a larger flow, at the moment," explained the Aden Hotel GM.

Speaking about Yemenization in the hotel business, the Aden Hotel General Manager said his management is supporting this drive and that it is helping employees rise quickly through the ranks. "But they have to earn it. Once qualified they move on up. We will support them and even give them loans," he pointed out.

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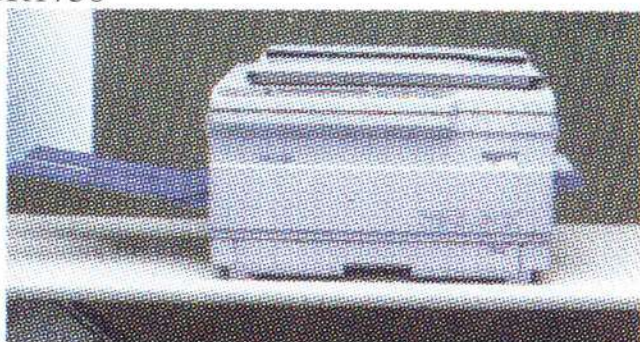


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STYLED FOR NEW ADVENTURES

Hasib Sabbagh:

“The CCC is interested in a long-term partnership with Yemen for the mutual benefit.”

If any foreign businessman knows Yemen, it is Hasib Sabbagh - not he feels foreign or anything. The CCC chairman has been associated with Yemen since 1952 - 90% of the Yemeni population has been born since.

“I first came to Aden in 1952, and the next year, I visited Taiz and Sanaa. We did in 1953, a preliminary study of a road project connecting Sanaa and Hodeidah. It cost us 25,000 Sterling pounds, and it was our gift to the Yemeni people. The Chinese later built the road based on our study,” explained Mr. Sabbagh.

Since then, Consolidated Contractors Company's business in Yemen has flourished.

The company, potentially the largest foreign interest in Yemen today, has constructed the Safer-Ras Issa pipeline, it has constructed the Mascela-Ash Shihr pipeline, the gas re-injection facilities in Marib, numerous highways, etc.

“Our business in Yemen is not a hit and run scenario. We are interested in a long-term association which yields positive returns to both sides. That is why we are instrumental in bringing foreign investors and in joining them in their investments. For example, we brought in Canadian Occidental Petroleum Company, and have taken a 10% stake in their operations. We are now working with Yemen Hunt Oil Company on the big gas project. We hope to succeed in landing this deal jointly with YHOC and other financiers. A lot of money needs to be



Hasib Sabbagh, Chairman, CCC

raised for this giant project. We are interested in joining in the construction of Batais cement plant. We are looking at all investment opportunities that will help CCC and the Republic of Yemen,” he explained.

Joseph Lammam, the country's general manager is even more optimistic. Joseph, a man held at high esteem by the Yemeni authorities, has constantly nudged his head office to get more involved with Yemen. “Look, we are a worldwide operation, but at no other place do I feel more at home than in Yemen,” said Joseph who has spent the last thirty years on and off in Yemen.

Mr. Sabbagh had a lot of kind words for Yemenis working

abroad. “They have proven themselves to be very industrious and capable. So, such energy and talent can be harnessed to help in the development of Yemen.”

The CCC chairman indicated that his company employs some 3,000 workers. If the major projects are completed without landing new ones, then the company may be forced to terminate the services of all these people, which may further complicate the unemployment situation of the country.

“I have discussed this matter with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He told me that there are numerous highways to be constructed in the near future. Hopefully CCC will execute some of these, and thus retain

its manpower,” Mr. Sabbagh said.

One more project that is eminent is the up-grading and modernization of the Aden Refinery, at a total cost of \$200 million. “We are involved in this project as well,” he added.

Speaking about the role of oil in the future economy of the country, the CCC chairman stated that it all depends on how the revenue is managed. “But let me say that the oil revenues will allow Yemen to become self-sufficient in financing its development program. The country, by the turn of the century, will not need any foreign source of financing,” he said.

Mr. Sabbagh also pointed out that the mineral sector could play as important a role as oil,

if not more. “Our company, in collaboration with others, is working on gold extraction just on the other side of the border, a few kilometers inside Saudi territory. There is no reason why the same formation could not extend into Yemeni territory. We also think other minerals - such as copper, lead, zinc, etc., could be found in commercial quantities in Yemen,” he added.

Mr. Sabbagh, who was the intermediary who arranged the visit of Mr. Jimmy Carter, former US President, has a strong tie with the Yemeni leadership. “I feel we are friends, before we are business partners with Yemen and Yemeni leaders.”

Mr. Lammam echoed the same feelings. “In all my years of work in Yemen, I

never felt I could not access any official, however senior he is. I have always felt at ease working here. There has not been a problem which we could not jointly resolve.”

What are the last comments the experienced Mr. Sabbagh wants to make?

“There are two things. First, please concentrate on education and training. It is the only mechanism that will achieve real development and the proper place for your country.

Second, do something about qat. I have seen through the years pervade all levels of society. In my opinion, qat will be the main obstacle to Yemeni development.”

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.



Joseph Lammam, GM, CCC - Yemen



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Continued from page 9:

Al-Thawrah Hospital...

Q: What could be done to help the medical services in Yemen?

A: Much could be done. Of course, part of it has to do with resource allocation. But more important is to put the existing resources to proper use. I assure you that a better management of the current resources is more than enough for our medical and other needs. I hope somebody is listening and reading this and paying attention to it.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to urge all persons to treat the medical service in a special way. This is because human life and human happiness is at stake here. It is crucial that we treat this sector in a different way rather than in the usual indifference and over-commercialization. I wish all a better health and hope they do not our services.

Continued from page 9:

Rashed Mohammed Thabit...

Q: What do you think of the proposed amendments to the constitution?

A: I am one of the few Yemenis who have worked on the constitution and studied it thoroughly. If there is need for constitutional amendments, I think it is the duty of the members of the House of Representative to treat this matter seriously. Otherwise, any party with sufficient votes in parliament will seek to make any amendments at its whims.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to use this occasion to express my congratulations to the Yemeni people on unification day. I hope Yemenis will build on this achievement with other achievements. We already have achieved the elections, notwithstanding its many shortcomings and mistakes. I feel much can be done if we are sincere and candid in our efforts to serve our country.



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LESSON #46

Looking into the Future, part one

Ah! The future! One of the simplest of the tense structures in English. Simply insert the helping verb "will" plus the simple form of the main verb and there you have it. Certainly, this is true, but there is a lot more to the expression of future time in English. In the next lessons we will look at four different possibilities for the future.

the Simple Future

This is the easy one, the tense learned early in one's English education. Here's a brief review.

subject + will + verb (simple form)* + rest of the sentence

examples: We **will know** the results tomorrow.

Today I am tired; tomorrow I **will be** tired.

* The simple form of the verb is usually the same as the "I" form in the simple present tense. The exception is "I am;" the simple form is "be." The simple form is also the infinitive without "to."

Practice A Change these sentences from the present to the simple future.

1. Ahmed studies at Aden University.
2. His family lives in Taiz.
3. Munira cooks lunch.
4. I walk to work in the morning.
5. Amat and Amal are at the library.
6. We don't work together.
7. You need to meet with the director.
8. Adel has time to go to the market.
9. I don't write letters.
10. We fly to Cairo.

Wait a minute! What about *shall*? The discussion of the distinction between will and shall could fill a grammar and usage book all by itself. I offer a brief summary here.

Traditionally, it has been taught that when *will/shall* are used to mean the simple future, *shall* is used for the first person (I and we) forms and *will* for the others (you, he, she, it, they). When *will/shall* are used to mean intention, command or choice, the pattern is reversed and *will* is used for I and we, and *shall* for the others.

The cold reality is, however, that American speakers tend to ignore the distinctions, and use *will* for all subjects. And rumor has it that even in Britain there is a gap between what is traditionally taught and what is spoken in daily life.

For our purposes in this lesson, *will* will be quite fine.

the Future with "going to"

This is the form which is heard frequently, especially in informal English. Originally, it was an idiom, but is now so firmly secure in the language that many consider it a separate tense. The form is very similar to that of the present continuous tense. Again, here is a brief review:

subject + form of "be" + going to + verb (simple form) +...

examples: We **are going to know** the results tomorrow.

Today I am tired;tomorrow I **am going to be** tired.

Practice B Look at the sentences in Practice A. Change them from the simple future to the future with "going to."

STOP! These practice exercises are misleading. Although the "going to" idiom is considered a future structure, like the verb phrase with the helping verb will, the two structures are not interchangeable. The expression with "going to" contains more certainty than does the simple future. Compare these sentences from the practice exercises:

Ahmed will study at Aden University. (simple statement)

Ahmed is going to study at Aden University. (perhaps he's already been accepted, plans have been made, his papers are in order, etc.)

Munira will cook lunch. (simple statement)

Munira is going to cook lunch. (she has plans to cook;perhaps she has a menu in mind and has even bought the necessary groceries)

WEEKLY IDIOM

TIME WILL TELL

This idiom means that we will have to wait and see what results or consequences an action will have. Sometimes it means that the speaker doesn't want to guess.

What sort of democratic government will emerge in Yemen now that the elections are over? Time will tell.



ANSWERS Practice A 1. Ahmed will study at Aden University. 2. His family will live in Taiz. 3. Munira will cook lunch. 4. I will walk to work in the morning. 5. Amat and Amal will be at the library. 6. We will not work together. 7. You will need to meet with the director. 8. Adel will have time to go to the market. 9. I will not (won't) write letters. 10. We will fly to Cairo. **Practice B** 1. Ahmed is going to study at Aden University. 2. His family is going to live in Taiz. 3. Munira is going to cook lunch. 4. I am going to work in the morning. 5. Amat and Amal are going to be at the library. 6. We are not going to work together. 7. You are going to need to meet with the director. 8. Adel is going to have time to go to the market. 9. I am not going to write letters. 10. We are going to go to the market.

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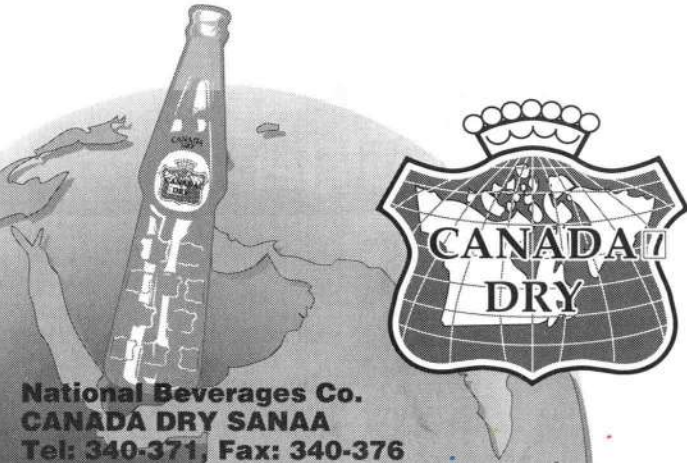
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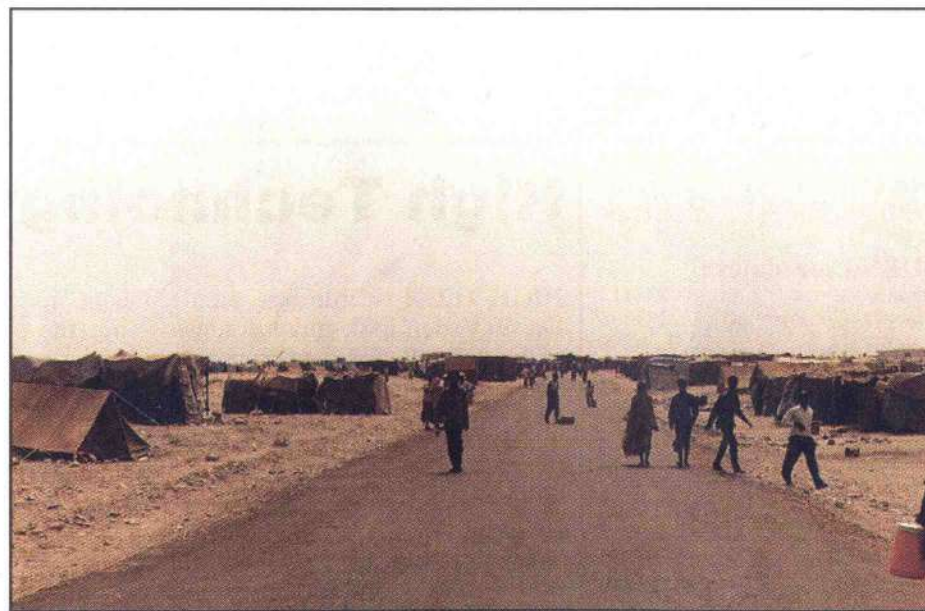
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AL-KOD SOMALI REFUGEE CAMP: Gearing up for Trouble!



A Picture with the Committee Members to Commemorate the Visit

By: Yemen Times Staff

"We have set a fifteen-man committee to start negotiations with the UNHCR and the Yemeni government," stated Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed, the man chosen to head the committee. In his opinion, it was sad that the Yemeni side should relinquish all control of things in favor of the UNHCR. The conflict with UNHCR, the umbrella organization which coordinates the assistance effort, erupted when the monthly rations were cut back this month. Please refer to table for details. "We were almost starving, and here they reduce the rations," complained Sheikh Ali Mahmood Yusuf, a member of the committee.

Monthly Rations per Person in Al-Kod Camp:

Commodity	A. Pre-August	B. Since August	% of B to A
1. Flour	13 kilograms	3.5 kilograms	27%
2. Sugar	1 kilogram	.9 kilogram	90%
3. Cooking Oil	2 kilograms	1.8 kilograms	90%
4. Beans	1.5 kilograms	.75 kilogram	50%
5. Macaroni	3 kilograms	.75 kilogram	25%

When Yemen Times confronted several committee members with evidence of refugees selling rations in the local markets, there was no denial. "Look we get these basic things and we have many other needs which are not met. We do not get any financial allowance. So some of the refugees sell part of their supplies to pay for things like soap, vegetables, tea, meat, cigarettes, clothes, shoes, travel expenses and other daily needs.



The camp itself is a wretched place covering about ten square kilometers. It lies off the Abyan road, some fifty kilometers from Aden. The refugees also have many other complaints to make. The bathrooms are not convenient. They are small cubic structures covered around with plastic.

Number of People/Dwellings at Al-Kod Somali Camp

Name of Quarter	Individuals	Tents	Hunts
1. Aden Quarter	1388	196	75
2. Sanaa Quarter	3650	590	62
3. Abyan Quarter	5326	536	361
TOTAL	11364	1322	498



They have a container in which the residue is collected, thus leading to continuous bad smell. "Moreover, these structures do not provide sufficient privacy to the individual," according to a complaint memorandum, dated 11th August, and sent to the Yemeni officials and political parties. There is one more additional complaint the Committee makes, and this time, it is against the Yemeni soldiers charged with security. "Some of these soldiers enter our tents and huts without permission. The wives and daughters are constantly harassed and this creates an uneasy situation for all of us," stated an elderly man, who was also a member of the committee.

There are already arrangements underway for those who want to return to Somalia. Many have signed-up to go. "It is better to go than just sit here and rot," stated a young man who said he had registered. "There are certain parts of the country which are peaceful, and to which we can return," he added.

Asked about their feelings regarding the showdown between General Aidede and the UN allied forces headed by the USA, many of the refugees would rather not comment. Most probably they are cautious not to antagonize the very UN that is giving them whatever limited help they are getting at the moment. "In any case, we would like to see our country recolonized," stated Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed. The mood is visibly anti-West, although not pro-Aidede. Four young women who hitchhiked a ride to Aden on the Yemen Times car were far less critical. "Look at me. Do I look starved?" one of them bluntly asked. The others indicated they were looking for ways to leave the camp and move to the cities, preferably Sanaa. "We have a problem with official papers. We can slip into any city, but if

- International Voluntary Organizations Working at Al-Kod Refugee Camp**
1. UNHCR,
 2. UNICEF,
 3. Care Australia,
 4. Medicins San Frontier
 5. Radda Barnen

we are caught, it is back to the doldrums," another stated. The UNHCR Representative at Al-Kod camp was not on site when we visited, and neither could we reach the UNHCR representative in Sanaa. August/September are, after all, vacation months. The Yemeni officials who were contacted expressed dismay at the complaints. "Look we are a poor country, and our own people are starving. We know that the international organizations are taking proper care of the refugees in Al-Kod camp," one senior official at the ministry of planning and development stated. Even then, he promised to contact the UNHCR office and find out what the trouble is. In the meanwhile, the time bomb called Al-Kod Camp keeps on ticking.