



In a Yemen Times Survey of 800 Persons in Sanaa Last Week:

- a. 79.1% of the Palestinians in Yemen Support Peace Accord with Israel.**
- b. 23.5% Expect Violence between the PLO and Hamas.**
- c. 51.4% Want to Go Back to Palestine Immediately, if they can.**
- d. 36.0% See Major Problems between PLO and Israel Over Peace Process.**

e. 56.4% of Yemenis Surveyed Support the Peace Accords.

A Yemen Times survey was carried out last week targeting the Palestinian community in Sanaa, as well as a randomly-selected segment of the Yemeni population. Two sets of questionnaires - one for the Palestinians, and the other for the Yemenis - were answered by some 800 persons living in Sanaa.

The main thrust of the questionnaires was to identify the degree of support (or lack of it) for the recent agreements signed between the PLO and the Israeli government. There was an overwhelming support among the Palestinian community. The newspaper has included in its survey, proportional numbers of members of the FATAH, George Habash, Nayif Hawatmeh, Jihad, Hamas and six other groups. Political affiliation does have a bearing on the responses, but not to the extent that one would conclude given the positions of their leaders.

All in all, some four-fifths of the Palestinians support Yasser Arafat and the deal he concluded. As one Hamas member put it, we don't support the deal because it is a good one, but because we are so cornered as we have nowhere else to go. Amazingly, both PLO and Hamas members feel there is very little room for violence between their groups in the future. "There are differences, but they will be handled through negotiations. We have had enough of inter-Palestinian killing, and we are aware this may be used against getting our full rights and in managing our affairs," most of the answers indicated.

More than one third, however, expect trouble between the nascent Palestinian entity and Israel. 36% think there will be serious problems in interpreting the accords and in pushing the peace process.

The majority are ambivalent about their preferences between a Palestinian state as compared with special ties to Jordan. They preferred to answer this question at a later date in the future.

Among the Yemenis, political affiliation did come out more strikingly. The traditional and Islamic-leaning groups were against the accords, while the elites and urban people were in support of it. On average, 56% of the Yemenis support the peace agreements. However, the majority do not agree to immediate normalization of relations with Israel. Only 22% of the Yemenis support an immediate recognition of Israel by the Yemeni government. Most prefer to wait and see how the accord works, and what other Arab governments will do.

That contrasts sharply with the Palestinian answers which show that the majority want the Yemeni side to bless the agreements and push forward in the peace process. When asked what they expected of the Yemeni government, over 80% said to support the PLO decision.

The numbers given in this article are averages of a highly variable answer-base. The answers are subject to a standard deviation error of plus or minus 7%.

f. 21.7% of Yemenis Support Immediate Recognition of Israel.

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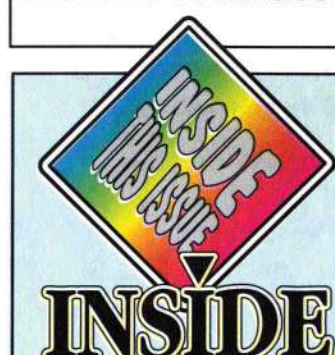
Croatian Onslaught on Mostar

Bosnia's Croatian forces, supported by regular troops from Croatia, have started a new offensive on the Muslim citizens of Mostar, a town besieged for over a year.

In spite of the presence of British contingency as part of the UN forces in Bosnia, the Croatian offensive continues unabated.

According to UN sources in Sarajevo, the death toll has been heavy as over a 100 persons have been reported killed and wounded. The UN has appealed for restraint, but that is all it has done so far.

Meanwhile, the duo doing peace shuttles have visited Macedonia, Turkey and other regional states.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Breaking the Powers of the Little Dictator

The most obstinate obstacle in the way of progress in our country today is probably the powers of the bureaucracy. The bureaucrat, whom we pay to manage the affairs of government, uses his/her post for self-enrichment. Every bureaucrat is a small dictator who twists the arms of any person who has any dealings with him/her.

The bureaucrat is at the core of the corruption of the government; and yet he/she comes out to play the 'holier than thou game.' We are told that we need the bureaucrat to control 'law-breakers, parasitic merchants, and various other groups who would otherwise exploit the public.'

In reality, it is the little dictator - the bureaucrat, who has become public enemy number one. For example, if you remove the bureaucrat from the process of merchandise imports, the prices could fall by as much as 30%. That is the margin allocated for the bureaucrat for allowing the merchants to bring in the goods. Reform is badly needed, and it should come in the form of reduced government in its totality, and reduced powers to those who remain in the bureaucracy.

Nobody is opposed to the functions of government, but they should be streamlined and clearly defined. We should also insist that bureaucrats who mis-use their powers must be penalized. I would like for our government to make examples of some of the employees who have become model dictators, extracting money from anybody who comes close to them. Most often than not, the bureaucrat would break any law if properly bribed. But if you don't want him/her to break the law, he would still charge you to implement the law. I am not saying that all bureaucrats are like that, but the majority do fit the description. In my opinion, no reform is possible without bringing down the little dictator.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
Telephone +967 (1) 240.466
Facsimile # +967 (1) 240.367

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Horizons Printing & Publishing, Tel: 612844, Fax: 612845, P.O.Box: 12503.
الأنفاق للطباعة والنشر، تلفون: ٦١٢٨٤٤ - فاكس: ٦١٢٨٤٥ - ص.ب: ١٢٥٠٣

Laser Graphic Design & Technical Support by:
OSys of Yemen • Abdulla Faris & Associates, Inc. Sanaa, (01) 240.316

Yemeni-Saudi Talks Scheduled for October 9th:

Yemen Times learned that the next round of Yemeni-Saudi border talks will take place in Riyadh starting from October 9th. In spite of four rounds, so far, not much progress has been achieved.

Yemeni-Omani Airline Accord:

The Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman have concluded the first round of talks concerning the establishment of a direct air service between Yemen and Oman. For this purpose, Mr. Saleem Bin Saad Al-Ma'ashari, General-Manager of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, visited Sanaa last week.

Yemen to Host an Inter-Palestinian Conference:

The Republic of Yemen has offered to host a conference that will bring together all the Palestinian groups to discuss their differences regarding the recent peace accords. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, and Hamas leaders have accepted the invitation. The conference is expected to take place during the second half of coming October.

Traffic Accident Kills Tourists:

A traffic accident along the Saadah-Sanaa highway on Monday September 13th resulted in the death of three Spanish tourists and two Yemenis - the driver and guide. The main cause of the accident was stated as bad road conditions.

Strike in Taiz:

The medical profession in Taiz was in a virtual shut-down for three days last week.

The medical syndicate of Taiz, in retaliation to flagrant abuse of power by the security police against its members, called for a total strike which was fully observed. "The syndicate is now waiting for the governor to take action against the security officers, otherwise the strike will be resumed and extended," stated a press release by the syndicate.

A New Saudi Threat to Oil Companies Operating in Yemen

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has sent a new letter to oil companies operating in Yemen demanding that they stop their work. The companies simply ignored the letter, in most cases. "Most were advised by their governments to simply ignore the letter," according to oil company source.

According to Yemeni government sources, the Saudis have hired a new legal consultant, a former employee of the State Department, who has advised that the wording of the earlier letter was not appropriate, and that he would now draft a better letter.

At another level, the Shabwah incident against the TOTAL installations was also seen in Sanaa as Saudi-instigated. The tribes and marauders involved in the attack were all linked to the Saudi authorities, according to a government source who asked not to be named.

TOTAL has returned to its work.

Parliament Rejects a \$5 Million Government Loan

The House of Representatives has rejected last week a government request to ratify a loan agreement for \$5 million. The money was to be borrowed from the OPEC Fund and was to go to finance small-scale industries. The Parliament pointed to misuse of resources and lack of clarity in the application of the money as the reasons for refusing the deal.

IMF-Yemen Talks

An IMF delegation has been wrangling with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Yemen regarding their fiscal and monetary policies. The two sides reviewed the interest-rate structure, credit systems, and other aspects of monetary policies, as well as the expenditures and revenues of the government on the fiscal side.

"It looks apparent that the Yemeni officials will be forcibly fed with the IMF medicine, which they could have taken on their own and at a smaller dose," according to an observer in Sanaa.

258 School Textbooks and 18 Million Copies

The Ministry of Education has embarked on a major effort to ensure that textbooks are available to pupils and students, early on in the school year.

According to sources at the Textbook Printing Corporation, the ministry has contracted them to print 18 million copies of 258 different textbooks. The total cost of the deal is almost YR. 500 million. The Ministry looks set to meet its book requirements by printing locally.

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Election Fever Grips Pakistan:

With elections some twenty days away, an election fever has gripped the people of Pakistan. While the two main contenders, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), have launched their campaigns both in Punjab and Sindh, the campaigning has generally been confined to levelling accusations against each other.

No real issues have been touched upon and are unlikely to be tackled during the coming elections. Like the manifestos, the utterances of Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif have been strong on rhetoric and weak in substance. However, one area which Mr. Sharif is trying to exploit for his electoral purpose is his government's economic record.

Unfortunately for him, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moeen Qureshi's actions and statements are damning as far as Mr. Sharif's economic record goes. Yet, it is important to mention that in keeping with his government's neutrality, Mr. Qureshi has been careful not to blame Mr. Sharif directly. On the contrary, he has gone out of his way to blame all the governments of Pakistan over the last two decades for the mess in the economy. Nonetheless, the steps he has taken to straighten the crumbling economy have been seen as really being an indictment of Mr. Sharif's handling of the economy.

Under fire for some time for the steps he had taken to shore up the country's sagging

economy, Mr. Qureshi put up a defence which sounded like an economic chargesheet against Mr. Sharif's government. He claimed that if he had not come out with his package and other measures, the country would have been declared bankrupt and insolvent. He said that when he took over in July, the country was on the verge of a financial collapse with no reserves available to import petroleum.

The greatest indictment of Mr. Sharif came when Mr. Qureshi talked about abandoning the yellow cab scheme, perhaps Mr. Sharif's most favorite of all the schemes that he had initiated. Meant to eliminate unemployment, millions of rupees were sunk into it. Mr. Qureshi disclosed that the import of yellow cabs had cost the country \$750 million and another \$700 worth of these cabs were imported. "While important sectors such as education, health and social welfare were neglected, there was no justification for the yellow cab scheme, though its intents may have been good," he said.

A third complication in the race is the coming of Murtaza Bhutto, who has snatched away part of the following of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, his sister. In many instances, youth from the rival wing of the PPP carry pictures of Murtaza and chant slogans in his favor. They have taken over many stages where Benazir Bhutto was due to deliver a speech. The turn-out for the elections is expected to be low, given the frustration that has overwhelmed the Pakistani people.

Fighting between Somalis and UN Forces:

UN forces in Somalia have exchanged fire with Somali forces in Mogadishu repeatedly over the last few weeks. At the same time, clan fighting among the Somalis have also re-emerged.

US helicopter gunships opened fire last week on rival armed Somalis who clashed in southern Mogadishu in battles that claimed several lives. Clan fighting with automatic weapons and rocket-launchers grew fiercer as helicopters overflowed the scene before intervening.

Earlier on, fighting between Somali armed groups and the UN forces have led to a visible deterioration in the level of trust between the two sides.

Pakistan troops said that two US soldiers were wounded earlier when their tanker truck was hit, probably by a rocket, and an AFP photographer at the scene said that several children were also badly injured. Other attacks on UN troops were also reported.

Tension continues to reign. Last week, Cobra gunships fired on armed Somalis who had ambushed UN troops, leaving one soldier dead and six wounded. The Cobra attack killed and wounded more than one hundred Somalis.

UN officials, defending the attack, blamed the ambush on the militia of the Habre Gedir clan to which the renegade warlord General Mohammed Farah Aided belongs.

Major David Stockwell, military spokesman for the UN Operation in Somalia, in response to the killing of Somali civilians, said, "... everyone on the ground was a combatant," pointing out that women and children were throwing grenades at the UN troops, and as a minimum, they were giving the militias a human shield against UN forces.

Meanwhile, the Somali in-fighting between the Habre Gedir and Hawadele clans have expanded and intensified. The problem started with a theft of a car rented by the CNN crew, and which had a small contingent of Somali nationals at the time. Several members of the two clans have died in numerous incidents last week.

The US and UN reactions to Somali threats have been less than considerate. Any situation that develops is dealt with based on the assumption that all persons on the other side are enemies. The US commander who had ordered the gunships to shoot Somalis pinning down the convoy explained that he was unaware that there were children among them.

Delors Calls on Europe to Strengthen the WEU:

"The European Community (EC) should assume more responsibility for its security and start pooling resources in common defence programs," EC chief executive Jacques Delors said last week.

Delors said that Nato remained the most efficient mechanism for ensuring security on the continent, but the Western European Union (WEU) alliance of 10 EC states should be built up into a strong regional security organization. The WEU had been declared the defence arm of the European Union envisaged in the Maastricht treaty, but it currently has little more than a secretariat and a planning cell in Brussels.

"The WEU must become a veritable European defence structure allowing the EC to act as a single political entity within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance," Delors explained.

The EC official pointed out that WEU's role was ill-defined regarding whether it should stand within or outside of Nato. "The WEU can assume both roles at the same time. But institutionally, the distinction (to make stand outside Nato) remains important and is linked to the conception we have of the future of the European Union," he said.

Driving the point further home, Delors pointed out that the 10 armored armies of the community are equipped with six different tanks and each one has its own program of research, development and testing, and its own ammunition and spare parts. "Just consider the costs involved and logistics difficulties," he asked.

At another level, Jacques Delors pointed to the humiliating failure of Europe in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. "The community should draw lessons from what has happened and continue to happen in the former Yugoslavia," he concluded.

Clinton's Drive to Reform Government:

In a few days, US President Bill Clinton will unveil his plan for health reforms which are expected to introduce major changes.

The US president has consistently attempted to reform or even re-invent the federal government. Two weeks ago, the president endorsed sweeping moves inspired by the findings of a six-month review team headed by Vice President Al Gore.

The proposals in the National Performance Review include cutting the size of the federal workforce by as many as 250,000, slashing the number of federal regulations, consolidating duties scattered around the bureaucracy, and extending the length of the federal budget from one to two years. The magic

word carried over from the American business giants is "downsizing"

One anecdotal example is the "steam trap" case. According to the review, the government tries to buy in bulk to save money. So when a \$100 steam trap that filters out dirt and oil from steam lines starts to leak, it is not immediately replaced. The office responsible for purchasing new traps waited for one year before it compiled enough orders to buy in bulk, thus reducing the cost from \$100 to \$90. In the interim, the traps each leaked an estimated \$50 worth of steam each week.

An observer summed up by saying, "The chief recommendation of Gore's group is to shake up the federal government the same way industrial giants have modernized."



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VACATIONING: That Illusion of Good Times!

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

Remember those talks deep into the night among the family members to prepare for that long-awaited vacation trip. The meticulous preparations and detailed meetings with hotel, airline, tour operators, etc. yield a fantastic program.

My advice is that you enjoy those moments of anticipation, for they are the real vacation - forget about the vacation itself.

Now it is moments before your departure. As advised by the airline office, you have to be at the airport at least two hours before departure time. You rush to the airport simply to sit there for the several hour delay.

Then you are told, "Oh, we are sorry we cannot seat you together." So you are parceled into two or even three groups. The consolation is that once on board, the hostess will help regroup you, which of course, does not happen.

On the plane, you are by accident next to a chatterbox who has visited your destination. He or she would like to ruin your vacation. You make eye contact and restrain his/her ambition.

But it is the guy behind you who is the source of your headache. He smokes in a no-smoking zone and you can't make eye-contact to express your indignation.

Wait more to come. You try to sleep during part of the flight time, but there is trouble. There is a baby crying three rows in front of you. "Ah yes, I know that



baby. It has been following me everywhere," you tell yourself.

Finally, you land, and hopefully all the luggage is there. The friend who promised to pick you up is not there. You are upset. To make things worse, you learn he/she has been there and waited and waited. At last, he/she left.

Hotel, yes, that is where you are going to stay. The program is nice and you meet people who have come on the same program. When comparing notes, you find that you have over-paid. Your neighbor has paid a third the money you paid for the package.

All along you tell yourself, "Okay, once the program starts, I will enjoy myself." It is as if you have not arrived.

For a few days, you are stuck with a group of foreigners who insist to prove to you how different human beings really are. Arguments abound, and you go every night exhausted in more than way.

At last, you are packing up. You are relieved it is time to go home. You have the best of those few days wherever it is you have spent your vacation.

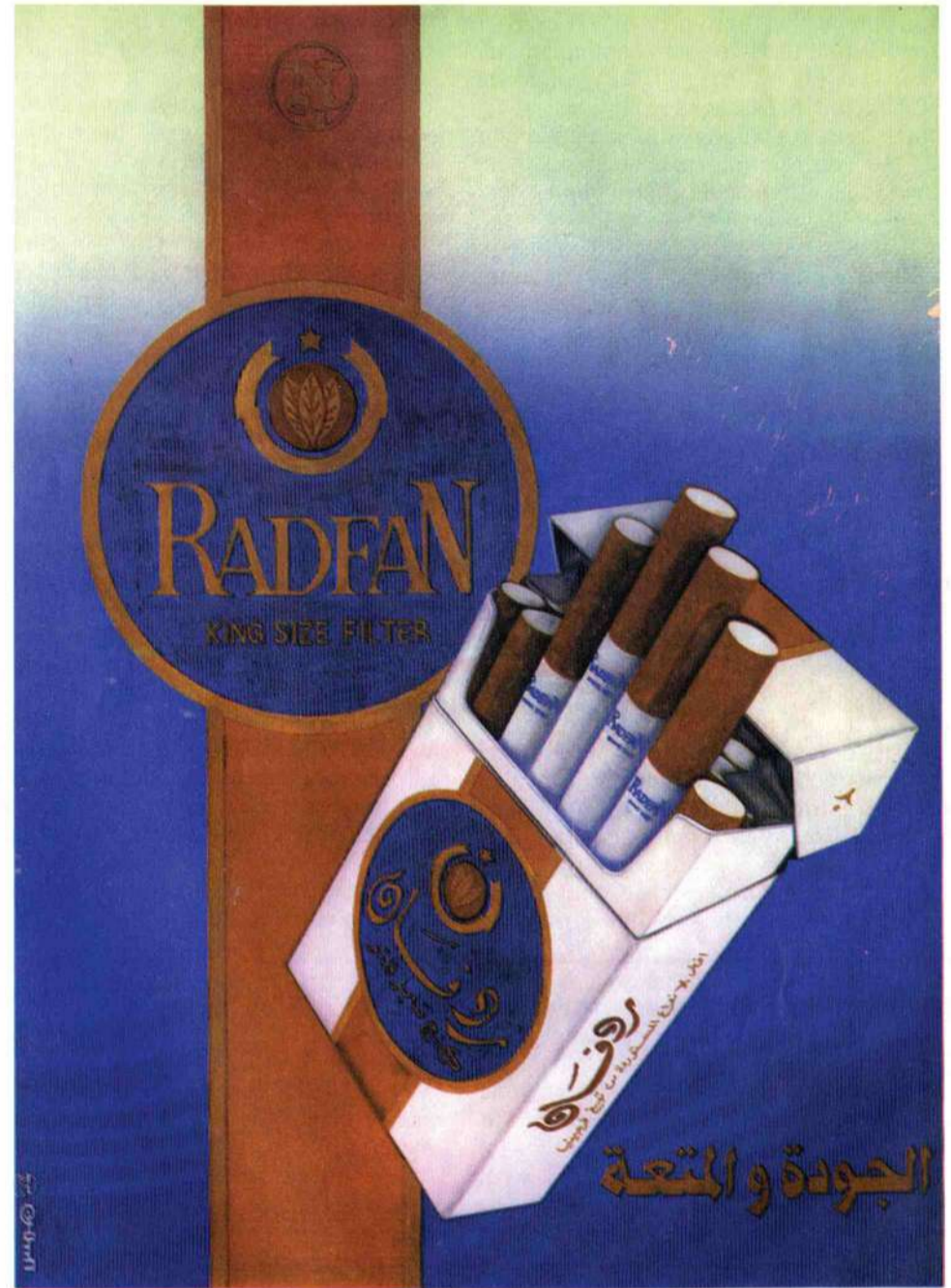
"Welcome back." "It was fun, heh?" Your friends and neighbors greet you with a lot of envy.

You put on a good face. Of course, you do not want people to say you have spent your savings just to get more heart-burn.

I hope that is all the discomfort you had on your vacation. There could be, of course, accidents. Hijacking of planes, loss of baggage, robbery and theft while in foreign lands, vehicle accidents, or even outright killing of tourists which has become a fashion in some places these days.

On my last visit to East Africa, I had fun. The discomfort was minimal. But I was not happy because of my high expectations.

My advice is to enjoy the preparations - they are the real fun. The good times are in the anticipation.



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Amnesty International Complains Against Yemen's Human Rights Violations !

A 19-page Amnesty International report accuses the Yemeni government of violating all kinds of human rights against former NDF (National Democratic Front) activists, who still languish in prisons.

The report, released on 26th August, gives details of individuals who had opposed the regime in the former Yemen Arab Republic, and who are still penalized for their political activities of the past.

In several cases, fake trials were carried out and the persons were convicted under various pretexts, according to the report.

This is the first serious critical report on the human rights situation in Yemen following unification on May 22nd, 1990. The system has consistently invited regional and international organizations to help it observe human and political rights. But the exposure of such widespread violations casts a long shadow of doubt on the degree of commitment of the Yemeni officials.

At the end of the report, Amnesty demands that the government of Yemen rectify the situation by releasing or re-trying the persons mentioned in the list, and to release many who are known to have been framed in court-rooms.

Yemen Times offers in the adjacent box the exact text of the introductory summary of the report, which gives a clear indication of the nature and thrust of the accusations.

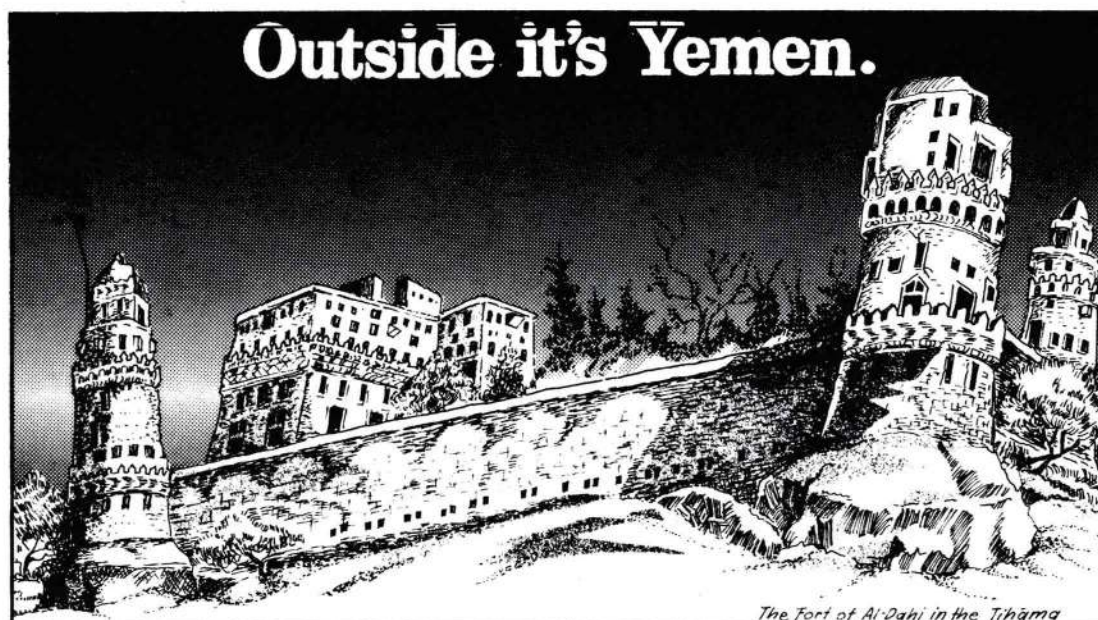
amnesty international: "Unlawful detention and unfair trials..."

At least 23, and possibly as many as 41, members of the former National Democratic Front, NDF, are currently detained in various prisons in the northern part of Yemen, formerly the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR). At least one is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the non-violent expression of his political beliefs. The others are being held despite having been tried and acquitted, or after trials which failed to meet international standards for fair and, in many cases, the requirements of the former YAR's Code of Criminal Procedure.

Many defendants were denied access to legal counsel, some were tried in absentia, even though they were in custody at the time of their trial, and some were convicted on the basis of "confessions" extracted under torture. Some of these prisoners were severely tortured while in custody in an apparent attempt to force them to confess to certain crimes, or in order to extract information about the NDF and its activities. At least 15 among them are currently believed to be under sentence of death.

In April and May 1992, 27 members of the former NDF, including 16 who had been sentenced to death, were released and their sentences quashed by Presidential Decree. Amnesty International welcomed those released, but continues to be concerned about the continued imprisonment of other members of the former NDF, some of whom may be held solely for their conscientiously held beliefs. Amnesty International urges the government of Yemen to:

- commute the death sentences passed on political prisoners named in this document and which are currently pending ratification by the Presidential Council;
- quash the death sentence imposed on Mansur Rajih and immediately and unconditionally release him as a prisoner of conscience;
- set up a judicial review into the cases of all political prisoners who were sentenced after unfair trials, with a view to bringing about fair retrial or release;
- establish an independent public commission of inquiry to conduct prompt and impartial investigations of all reports of torture and deaths in custody.



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The Manager,
Law and Contracts Department,
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd
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Aden - Yemen Republic.

Telephone No. 967-2-233881
Facsimile No.: 967-2-233625

حفار للعمليات في اليمن

من أجل دعم وتقييم إستكشافاتها وتطوير أنشطتها في قاطع المسيلة في الجمهورية اليمنية. سوف تقوم شركة كنيديان أوكسي بالدعوة لعطاءات توفير حفار بقدره حفر الى عمق ٣٦٠٠ متر (١٢٠٠٠ قدم).

سيكون العقد لفترة عام واحد إعتباراً من يناير ١٩٩٤م مع خيار التمديد لفترة عام آخر. يجب أن يكون الحفار سهل الإنتقال بين مواقع الحفر. وعلى المقاولين الذين لديهم خبرة في الشرق الأوسط (يفضل العاملون في اليمن) والذين يرغبون في تقديم عطاءاتهم الإتصال:

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ص. ب. رقم ٦٠٦٥
عدن - الجمهورية اليمنية

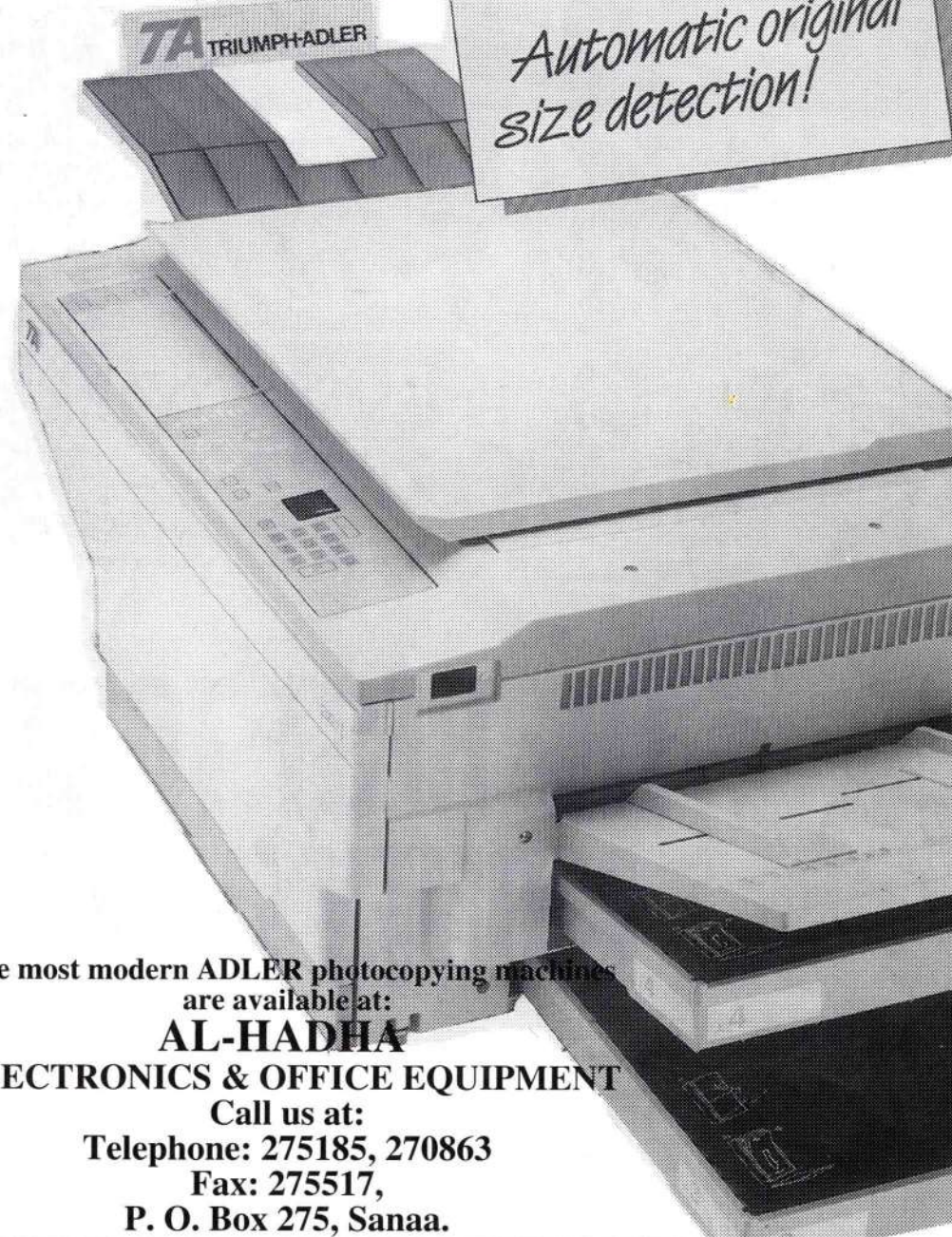
تلفون رقم: ٩٦٧-٢-٢٣٣٨٨١١
فاكس رقم: ٩٦٧-٢-٢٣٣٦٢٥

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President Promises to Solve the Case of Parliamentarian Al-Samiee!

The Chairman of the Presidential Council, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh confirmed that the case of parliamentarian Sultan Al-Samiee is on its way to being resolved and that practical steps have been taken in this regard. This confirmation came during a meeting of the president with members of the Yemeni Organization for the Defence of Rights and Liberties on 11th Sept, 1993. Al-Shoura sources indicated that the discussions with the President also touched on the international campaign in support of Yemen's most famous prisoner of conscience, Mansur Rajih. The Organization also raised the government's unwillingness/inability to bring the criminals who killed the martyr Hassan Al-Huareibi to justice.

The president asked the organization's cooperation regarding Rajih's case by coming to terms with the relatives of the person who Mr. Rajih is accused of killing. He expressed his readiness to support the efforts of the organization in this matter.

As for the case of the martyr Al-Hureibi, president Saleh pointed out that certain suspects have been arrested, and that they are being tried. It is worth mentioning that the Organization requested the president's assistance in gaining access to the country's prisons in order to evaluate conditions inside.

Al-Shoura, Sana'a,
12/9/1993

Frankly, Let's Learn How to Sort out our Differences!

The crisis in Yemen has led to paralysis influencing negatively the economy. The democratic steps and the April elections have given Yemen many friends, making them reconsider their attitude toward Yemen.

The political differences among our leaders is something natural, but it ought to revolve around the interests of the country, not lead to their destruction. The laymen feel distressed when they see the leaders of the unification in crises which threatens the unity of the homeland, its stability. Such differences lead to a waste of time and resources which ought to be exploited for the progress of the country. Such crises may enable the enemies of Yemen to exploit the opportunity and pierce into the weaknesses and overwhelm those noble gains we have made.

Under these circumstances, it is our duty to safeguard the unification whatever our personal loss might be, for the loss of the homeland cannot be recovered. I am sure that all the decent people will not accept such a loss to the homeland. My point, therefore, is why don't we learn how to resolve our differences and to control such differences and not let them become a source of continued crises. Let us choose the path of dialog in searching for solutions and let us refer our problems to the institutions concerned with them. The political leadership realizes

the necessity of preserving the unification and keeping it off limits to any political conflict or compromises. We know that the enemies of Yemen are trying to undo our unification and democracy. Thus their proteges among us are trying their best, spreading their poisons to shake the trust and confidence between the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the Peoples General Congress (PGC) by creating crises between the president and his deputy.

Therefore, it is the duty of all decent persons and political parties to stand against this conspiracy and to work on boosting the joint efforts to protect the homeland against any division. It is our duty to put Yemen above all considerations. Otherwise, Yemen will be the victim of irresponsible partisan practices.

By: Dr. Abu baker Al- Kirbi
Al-Mithaq, Sana'a
13/9/1993

Ali Salim Al-Beedh Is Beyond the Reach of the Venom of Stupid Journalists

Our reality and history have clearly shown that Ali Salim Al-Beedh, as a citizen and high political leader, has offered his country many sacrifices for the sake of the land and its prosperity. His is a very self-less approach, from the battles for the liberty of his country to the fulfillment of Yemen's aspiration for unity - along with his colleague Ali Abdullah Saleh. He has, without hesitation, agreed to step down from being the top

man in a divided Yemen, to being the second man in a unified Yemen. Such a sacrifice has extracted the admiration of enemies and friends alike.

Ali Salim Al-Beedh is a man of history who has struggled for his country. His struggles are documented in the battlefields, not in decisions taken to make him look good - once he is in power. That is why he has the respect of the countrymen - all of them. Such reality cannot be belittled except by sick people.

Ali Salim Al-Beedh cannot be touched by what some stupid journalists write in newspapers which have no real connection with the world of journalism. He does not, at the same time, need the defence of newspapers, many of which he can order to do so. He has decided to ignore such lowly efforts which are sanctioned by some people.

Ali Salim Al-Beedh, like his party, is bigger than all of that. He is beyond the reach of the venom of stupid and sick journalists in their campaign against him, without the constraining voice of those who should constrain them because they act in their name.

We say all of this knowing full well that the campaign to touch this great leader is the work of narrow-minded extremist people who are few in number. They are irresponsible, that is all.

Editorial,
Al-Jadeed, Abyan,
14/9/1993.

To Her Majesty:

The power of the word is evident. We know in many instances when statements lead to wars, and when news stories brought down regimes. We know of newspapers which are forced underground or journalists who are harassed. Journalists all over the world struggle to get as close to the truth as possible, and which has its bearing on the general public.

Unfortunately, the role of the media in Yemen remains weak and limited, and even when journalists hold interviews, their approach is traditional, often allowing the interviewee to go to great length about things the readers may not want to read. Sometimes, it is interesting to bring out the person aspects of the life of the interviewee such as family life, education, factors persons on influenced his life, hobbies, etc.

Such information could be used to enrich the interview when reporting a dialogue with an official. Why is our media, especially the government media, so rigid and shuns talking about the juicy stories reported on Yemen in the foreign press - about the differences among the coalition partners, about the give and take in constitutional amendments, etc.

The silence of the Yemeni press allows the foreign press to plant the seeds of dissent. Let me use examples - the execution of a Yemeni in Saudi Arabia accused for drug trafficking, the evacuation of Yemeni Jews to Israel,

Yemenis volunteering in the Federated Somali Islamic Forces, the World Bank decision to freeze a \$15 million loan to Yemen, Iraq's annoyance at Yemeni efforts to normalize relations with Kuwait, etc. - all stories prominently featured in the foreign press, but with little mention in Yemen.

Her Majesty the press in Yemen does not report stories of events which have not occurred, and even those which have occurred are cornered. Let me mentioned here the incident of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa, Chief-Editor of the Yemen Times, who was able to withstand the pressure of the prosecutor-general's office and which case the courts have rendered null and void. I hope such a position was not taken by the authorities to beautify the picture of a distorted democracy in Yemen.

How do we correct these bitter conditions? When will journalists get the necessary protection, and not to be dealt with in vengeance or wrath? Recently, a London-based information organization stated that Yemen was one of three countries with relative freedom of the press. Is our press evolved enough to deserve such a description?

When a free and aggressive press grows in Yemen, we can say our society will truly breathe free air. Freedom is even before bread. The scent of freedom must be smelled from our bread.

By Ali Mohammed Nayif,
Al-Wahdah, Sanaa,
15/9/1993.



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What articles are to be amended?

The legal debates over the constitution continue to rage. All sides seem to agree on the need for amendments, but there is considerable disagreement over the scope as well as the direction of change.

There are those who want minimal change. These are the YSP people and urban elites and intellectuals. They argue that too many changes belittle the constitution. "Besides, we have first to observe and apply the constitution. In addition, there are many other issues of higher priority to which the House of Representatives must attend," they argue. Then, there are those who want to make a package deal - make the change in wholesale, and "get this issue behind us" as they often say. These are mainly the PGC people.

The vast majority among the people, however, are oblivious to the constitutional battles fought these days. The majority, including many intellectuals, just do not care.

Even then, the Committee established by the House of Representatives continues to hold daily meetings in various places with the purpose of receiving feedback from various interest groups. It held meetings with university professors, lawyers, leading members of parties, political scientists and other public figures.

At the same time, the Judicial Forum sponsored and organized a three-day seminar on the constitutional amendments to which papers were presented by various specialists and scholars.

Dr. Ali Hood Ba-Obad of the College of Education at Sanaa University presented comments on the cultural/social aspects of constitution. His main thrust was the need for a chapter on education in the constitution. Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf gave a paper on the economic spirit embodied in the constitution. "No real change is required in the economic articles of the constitution. The real question is how to make the rulers observe the tenet of the constitution," he said.

Mutahar of the Ministry of Justice gave a third paper to the seminar in which he discussed the legal aspects. He insisted that the general prosecutor's office must remain under the jurisdiction of the judicial authority rather than to be transferred to the executive authority as the amendments propose.

"The key changes are related to the powers of the president. All the rest is camouflage," complained one of the attendants. Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar, Vice Chairman of the Judicial Forum, said, "Discussing the amendments and talking to as many people as possible enriches the process. We hope to come out with specific suggestions."

Medical Report on Onchocerciasis: The First Use of Ivermectin in Yemen:

By:
Dr. Yasin Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati,
 Director, NLCP, Taiz.

Background:

Onchocerciasis was first reported from Yemen by Fawdry (1957) who gave a clear description of the skin disease known to the local population as "Sowda." This is a localized hyperreactive form of onchocerciasis initially thought to be peculiar to southwest Arabia, but now known to occur sporadically in Africa.

In Sowda cases, a single limb, usually a leg, is affected. There is severe pruritis, usually moderate oedema, pachydermia and papular or postular eruption. Enlargement of the femoral lymph node is characteristic and there is usually a noticeable darkening of the skin color which gives rise to its local name sowda (=dark). Buttner et al (1982) gave a detailed account of the disease in Yemen. Until 1991, diethylcarbamazine had been used to treat individuals with Onchocerciasis symptoms, but on advice of a WHO consultant, it was decided to assess the effects of Ivermectin.

Patients and Methods:

In December 1991, 200 tablets of Ivermectin were obtained through Dr. Philippe Gaxotte of the Merck Sharpe & Dohme Ivermectin Donation Program. These were distributed in the Wadi Al-Ghail, which Buttner et al had shown to be endemic with Onchocerciasis. Each patient was examined and diagnosed as having the



disease after confirmation of the following diagnostic clinical criteria:

1. Severe intolerable itching which occur day and night,
2. Blackish coloration of one limb or part of the trunk.
3. Skin shows papules, crusts and scratching marks.
4. Enlarged regional lymph nodes mostly femoral. The natives call this enlarged lymph node "Al-Umm,"

ination after one month of treatment, we noticed improvement of the appearance of the skin, i.e. clearance of the papules, pastules, crusts and disappearance of the itching marks. Also the blackish hyperpigmentation faded away and the color of the affected skin became clearer than before the treatment. The affected regional lymph nodes (Al-Umm) became smaller in size and softer in consistency. In one case, the size of the left inguinal lymph node decreased from 7 x 3.5 cms. to 3 x 1.5 cms. within one month. No patient mentioned any expulsion of intestinal worms.

Exactly on the third visit, most of the patients complained the recurrence of their symptoms. On clinical examination, most of the signs of the reactivation of the disease appeared again -

Within one month of treatment with Ivermectin, the signs and symptoms of the disease, including lymph node swelling and dark pigmentation, were greatly alleviated.

However, to maintain these results, it has proved necessary to repeat the treatment at least every three months. This may be connected to immunological factors that might play a role in susceptibility to re-infection - an issue presently under study in collaboration with Professor R. Lenoble, Faculty of Medicine, Tours, France.

The preliminary finds of the study show there were no side-effects, though most patients exhibited mild Mazotti reactions.

It is therefore possible to conclude that Ivermectin is an excellent drug for the control of Onchocerciasis in



which means the mother believing that it is the adult worm.

5. Rarely is Onchocercosmata found on bony areas.

The survey and medical care was started with a first visit on January 12th, 1992, when 24 patients received treatment. Four follow-up visits were made at one-month intervals to examine the patients under treatment and to include additional patients who needed treatment. By the last visit (May 12th, 1992), there were 42 patients (2 female, 40 male) with an average age of 38 years ranging from 7 to 80 years. It is our belief that there are far more female patients, but due to socio-cultural values and traditions, they live with their problems without allowing their bodies to be "exposed" to foreigners.

We did not try to find microfilariae in the skin as it is time-consuming and rare in our patients. The treatment was mainly with modified doses of 6 mg. tablets and the dosage was maintained according to body weight.

Results:

Most of the patients complained of severe oedema of the affected part, exaggeration of the pre-existing itching, fever, headache and body-ache for one or two days after taking the medicine (Positive Mazotti Reaction).

After this, all the patients mentioned complete relief from their subjective symptom - itching. On exam-

both on the skin and lymph nodes. As a result of this, we repeated the dose for these patients on the third visit, and every three months thereafter, and some patients continued to need the medicine for one year after our first visit.

Conclusion:

Onchocerciasis is essentially a skin disease, with classic Sowda symptoms occurring when very few microfilariae can be found in skin snips.

Yemen. However, repeat doses may be necessary at various intervals to control transmission of the disease. In my opinion, a national survey and control campaign is desirable, as this is an effective mechanism to reduce transmission levels. Such a survey will definitely lead to uncovering of other regions which are endemic with the disease. Treatment is easy and very inexpensive, it is thus worthwhile to offer this service to our people.



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A competitive examination for the recruitment of Arabic proof-readers will be held on 12 and 13 January 1994 in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Cairo and other locations according to the number and location of qualified candidates convoked for the examination. The purpose of this examination is to establish a roster from which present and future vacancies for Arabic proof-readers will be filled.

Applicants must:

- a) have Arabic as their main language;
- b) have a perfect command of Arabic and an excellent knowledge of either English or French;
- c) have a thorough knowledge of standard of proof-reader's marks and be familiar with with type specifications and typographic mark-up obtained through at least three years of professional experience as Arabic proof-reader at an established publishing house or established newspaper or magazine;
- d) hold a degree or an equivalent qualification from a university or institution equivalent status at which Arabic is the principal language of instruction.

Starting N.Y. gross base salary \$44,351 per annum plus post adjustment (\$12,374 net per annum at present but subject to change). Further information and application forms may be obtained by writing to:

United Nations Development Program,
 P. O. Box 551,
 Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

The deadline for receiving in New York completed personal history forms from candidates is 29 October, 1993.

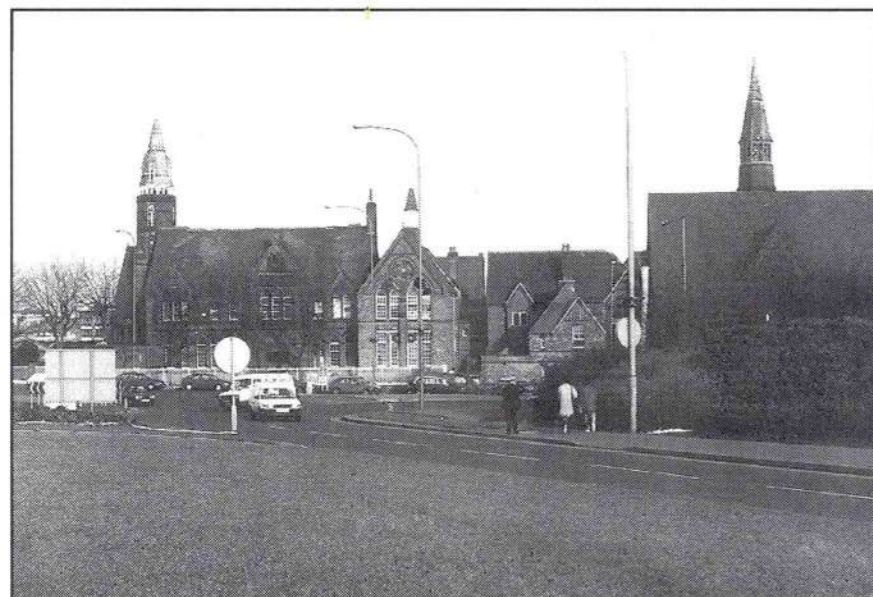
YEMEN & THE UNITED KINGDOM

Deeper Understanding & Growing Cooperation

The Yemeni-British Nationals: A Bridge for Better Understanding

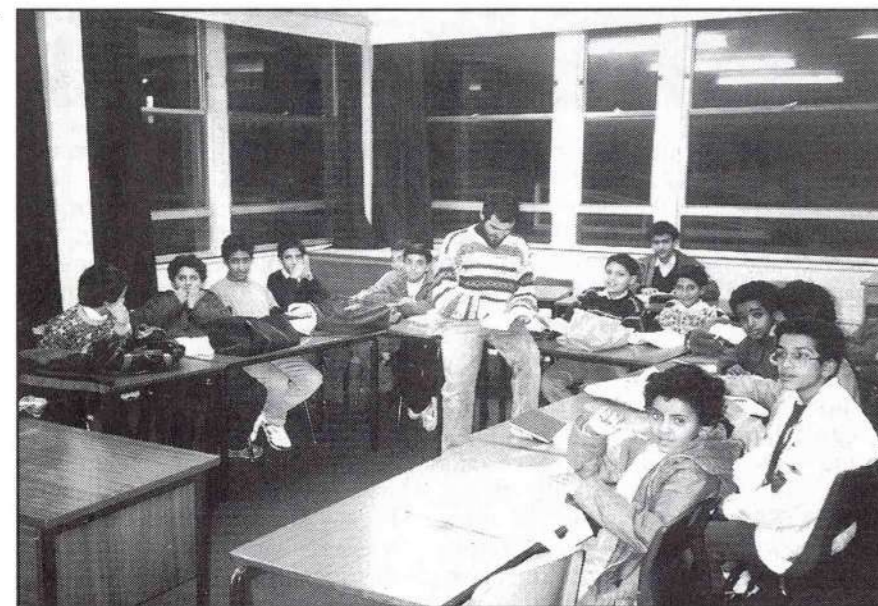
Nobody knows their exact number. Some say, there are only 25,000 of them, others claim there are 60,000. Irrespective of their numbers, British nationals of Yemeni extract are the longest established Muslim community in the United Kingdom. There are various strongholds of the Yemeni community, but Birmingham is said to be the largest with some 10,000. Other centers of concentration include Cardiff, Sheffield, South Shields, and of course, London.

As is the case with hundreds of thousands of Muslims in UK (as well as Hindus, Jews and other non-Christian groups), they enjoy complete freedom of religious worship and



fields, but it looks like an uphill battle and we are losing," said one of the members of the Council of Elders at the Muath Trust.

Another stated that the older folks are saving as much as they can to send their children to Yemen as often as possible so that they pick some of the local culture. "This policy is working as we are better able to communicate with the younger children who have been to Yemen more than we can with the others," he explained.



education. Something Grand Mufti Zabarah was able to see for himself during his UK visit last year.

Yemenis, in general, keep a low profile and out of trouble. According to police sources, they enjoy the lowest rate of crime incidence, and they are hardly involved in any political activities. "I wonder if they even vote," exclaimed an official in Birmingham.

A quick visit to Birmingham so shows vividly what he means. Except for the



Arabic in after-school classes to the children of the Yemeni community."

He stated that the Council of Immigrants Affairs (formerly Ministry of Immigrants Affairs) has yet to do anything for them. Mr. Saleh Al-Yafeyi, a leading member of the community, expressed hope that British citizens of Yemeni origin can play a role in the bilateral relations. "We feel there is a role for us," he said.

Establishment of the British-Yemeni Society

"On the 21st of September, the members are going to elect the committee and officers of the British-Yemeni Society and to adopt the Constitution," stated Michael Whittall, member of Interim Committee which is charged with managing the affairs of the Society until the September elections. The interim committee is headed by W. D. Heber Percy and includes in its membership, in addition to Mr. Whittall, Idrees Al-Shammam, Julian Lush and Venetia Porter.

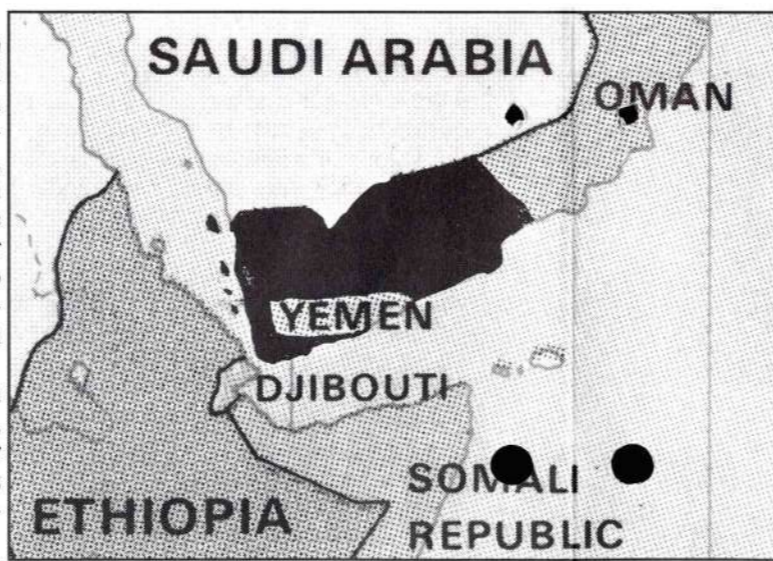
The formation of the Society was announced in February 1993, and is accredited as a voluntary organisation with the British authorities. Its purpose is to "promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries and to advance public education and knowledge in Britain about the Republic of Yemen, its history, geography, economy and culture."

Mr. Whittall, has a personal attachment to Yemen, having lived here for several years, hopes the Society will be instrumental in expanding Yemeni-British cooperation. "We have already some 60 individual members and 14 corporate members. By election time, we hope the number will increase," he said.

The Society has been active so far in serving as a forum for contact between the two sides. The three events already in the pipeline as part of the activities are:

1. Ms. Shelagh Weir, anthropologist and Director of Museum of Mankind, will talk about her recent fieldwork in Jabal Razih. The talk, scheduled for 6:15 pm on Monday October 11th, will take place at the Lecture Theater of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1.
2. Mr. Anthony Milroy, the Director of Arid Lands Initiative, will show his film followed by a talk on terrace agriculture in Yemen. The program is scheduled for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, 16th November, 1993 at Theater, Shell Center (Tower Block), Waterloo, London S1 7NA.
3. A Yemeni cultural week in the UK during which a Yemeni folklore group and music/dance bands will visit the United Kingdom. Details for this trip are being coordinated with the relevant officials in London and Sanaa.

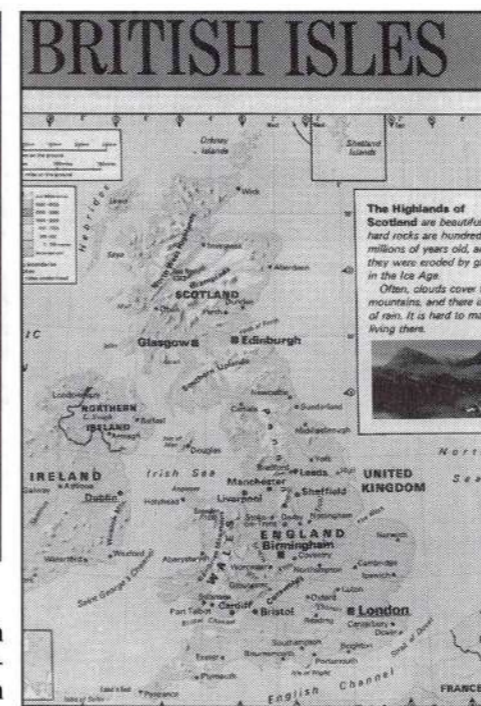
British Week in Yemen November 23-29, 1993



Many British events are coming into focus in Yemen for the week starting on November 23rd. On that date, British Airways will start flying into Yemen. On that first flight, BA is planning to bring some tour operators, businessmen and prominent persons interested in Yemen.

Also on that date, the Royal yacht, the Britannia, will call on Aden harbor. The British embassy is hoping to entertain distinguished guests on board the yacht on that evening.

The honorable Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, is expected to lead an important delegation on an official visit to Yemen. Key business leaders, including the



General Manager of British Gas are also planning a visit around that time.

Yemen Times also learned that the Yemeni-British Friendship Association is considering to sponsor and organize a major event around that time.

"We are hopeful that the sequence of events will lead to better understanding and stronger cooperation between the two sides," said Gordon Kirby, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UK embassy in Sanaa. Georgina Simpson, Commercial Officer at the UK embassy also expressed hope that the occasion will lead to more business ties. Officials at the embassy are extremely gratified with the improved relations. Indeed Yemen is a popular posting for UK diplomats many of whom have extended their normal 3 year term to 4 or even 5 years.

Many British academicians and parliamentarians are also working on improving Yemeni-British cooperation. Aden-born Keith Vaz, member of the House of Commons and Vice-Chairman of the Yemen Parliamentary Group, was very supportive of the idea of a UK Week in Yemen. "I am hoping to come to Yemen for this occasion," he told the Yemen Times.

Other individuals who expressed interest in participating in the UK Week in Yemen include Dr. Jorgen Neilson, Director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Selly Oak College, Birmingham, and John Shipman, Dr. Robert Wilson and Julian Walker - all researchers associated with the Foreign Office.

The UK Week in Yemen promises to be an important mark in bilateral relations.

Aid, Trade & Business: MAKING A COMEBACK!

British aid to Yemen has contributed to Yemen's development since the institution of economic planning with the Three-Year Development Program 1973-76 and the First Five-Year Development Plan 1976-81. According to British embassy sources, the over-riding aim of the British aid program has always been the promotion of sustainable economic growth and social development, and to help the least privileged to participate in it.

The annual average for British aid to Yemen has been about \$10 million over the last five years. Most of the effort concentrated on natural resources, mainly through support for the National Veterinary Services Development Program, English language training under the guidance of the British Council, and technical assistance to the power sector through the Public Electricity Corporation. Again according to British embassy sources, this support looks set to continue for the foreseeable future demonstrating a continuing commitment on the part of Britain to Yemen's development despite constraints placed upon the whole British overseas aid program by economic difficulties in the UK. Britain is also, of course, a significant contributor to the multi-national agencies (UN bodies, EC, etc.) from which Yemen benefits.

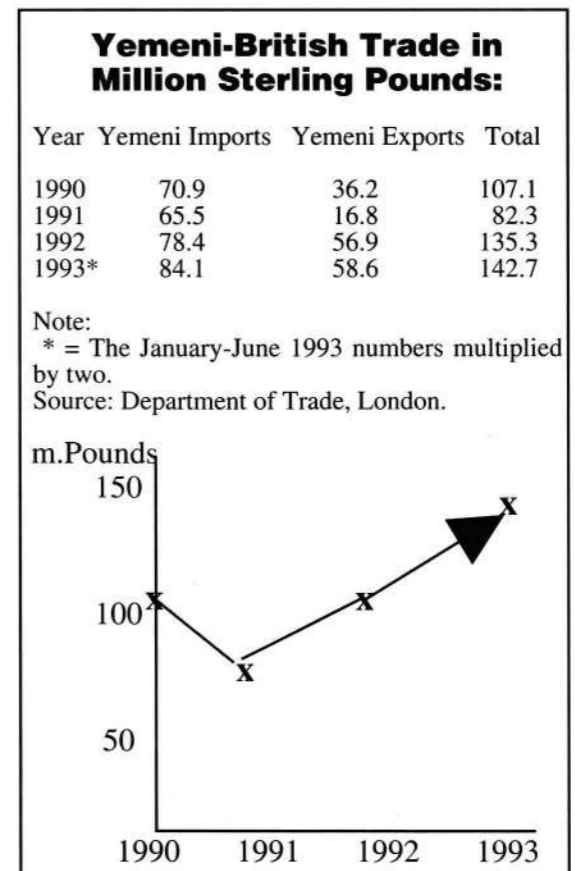
The United Kingdom is also an active player in the field of investments in Yemen. One of the earliest foreign investors in Yemen was the UK's Cable and Wireless in the telecommunications sector. Another large investor is Rothmans. More recently, 5 British oil companies - British Petroleum, Shell, British Gas, Lasmo and Clyde - are undertaking extensive oil exploration work in Yemen. The British construction company, Costains has this year established a joint venture with a Yemeni partner. Potential British investors visit Yemen regularly.

In the field of commerce, Yemeni-British trade links are old and growing. (Please refer to table). Major British exports to Yemen include: pharmaceuticals, chemicals, heavy machinery, building materials, etc. Yemen has intensified its exports of fruits and food products as well as confectionery.

To further boost trade between the two countries, the second British trade mission within a year will visit the Republic of Yemen during 15-22 October, 1993. Al-Yemda and British Airways are finalizing arrangements to open direct flights between Yemen and the UK this autumn. Such a step is bound to help increase trade, investments, tourism, and cultural/social links and cooperation.

Mutual respect, historic and cultural links all play a part in the field of commerce. That is why it is not just the number of British visitors to Yemen that has been rising, but also the number of Yemenis visiting the UK. The British embassy in Sanaa has issued over 2,600 visas so far this year.

It is important to note that in Yemeni-British business relations, while aid and trade are expanding, it is the joint ventures and investments that have been making more headway. Investments are a more important tool for a permanent and lasting partnership between the two countries.



Yemen Features Highly with the Foreign Office

It looks like 1991 is a very long time ago, when Yemen fell out of favor with London. But by September, 1993, Yemen is well rehabilitated and features very highly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. "We are happy with the democratic progress of your country," stated a senior source at the Middle East Department in the Foreign Office.

Yemen Times learned that Mr. Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, Foreign Minister, is expected to call on Mr. Douglas Hogg, UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on his way back from New York following his UN address. Mr. Hogg is then scheduled to visit Yemen later this year. "We are also preparing an invitation for Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas to visit London in the first half of 1994. We have yet to contact the Yemeni government and to finalize arrangements," the source explained.

The Yemen Times contacted Prime Minister Al-Attas on his intentions to visit and he said, "I will be happy to visit London to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation, once I receive an invitation," Al-Attas said. Miss Gaile Sidnell, the newly-appointed desk officer for Yemen at the Foreign Office, in an upbeat mood said, "I myself hope to be able to travel to Yemen before the year is out."

LONDON NON-STOP YEMEN SCHEDULE
(EFFECTIVE FROM 23 NOVEMBER 1993.)

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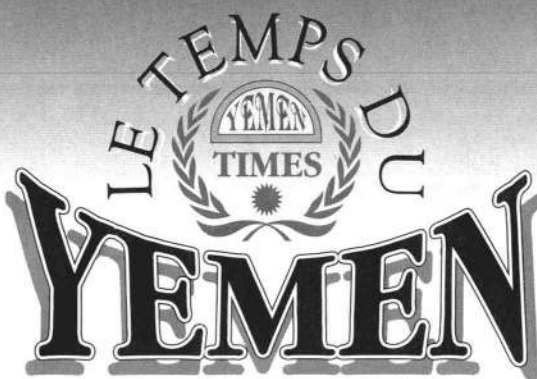
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The French Pages

YEMEN/FRANCE

Les sénateurs français reçus par le vice-Président Al-Bid

La délégation sénatoriale française en visite au Yémen du 11 au 17 septembre, a pu rencontrer jeudi dernier le vice-Président Al-Bid à Aden, après un périple de trois jours dans l'ancien Yémen du sud

Après trois jours à Sanaa consacrés à des rencontres avec plusieurs personnalités yéménites de premier plan, la délégation sénatoriale française composée de neuf membres est partie à la découverte du Yémen: de Mareb et le mythe

de la reine de Saba en passant par le Hadramaout, cette vallée fertile entourée par le désert. A Mukalla, les sénateurs ont visité la conserverie de pêche, actuellement modernisée dans le cadre d'un projet de coopération entre la France et le Yémen.

gation, Jean-Jacques Robert, lors de la rencontre à Mukalla avec le gouverneur du Hadramaout, Saleh Obeid Al-Khawlani.

"Nous sommes heureux d'être les premiers invités parlementaires du nouveau Parlement yéménite. Nous avons assisté à une séance au Parlement et à un vote dans la tribune du public. Nous avons vraiment le sentiment d'être au Sénat. Nous avons lancé une invitation au Président du Parlement yéménite à venir en France et un projet de formation de cadres du Parlement yéménite en France devrait bientôt être réalisé", a déclaré Jean-Jacques

Robert à ses interlocuteurs yéménites.

"Nous faisons cette visite au Yémen à la suite de la réussite de votre unification après des élections qui ont été un exemple international. Nous sommes sensibles, en tant que sénateurs français, à un gouvernement qui représente différentes formations. Nous les fils des droits de l'Homme, votre réussite ne pouvait nous laisser indifférents", tel est le message laissé par le président de la délégation sénatoriale.

"La démocratie est le seul choix possible"

A Aden, les sénateurs français ont visité la Maison Rimbaud et inauguré le bâtiment destiné aux programmes français à la télévision d'Aden et financé par la France. Ils ont rencontré le gouverneur d'Aden. "Nous avons pu constater la qualité des relations que votre gouvernement et notre pays peuvent avoir", a souligné Jean-Jacques Robert.

Les sénateurs ont conclu leur visite à Aden par une entrevue avec le vice-Président Al-Bid. Celui-ci a rappelé que le Yémen était à un tournant de son histoire. "Le choix que nous avons fait est le meilleur. L'expérience yéménite est nouvelle, nous avons tout à apprendre des autres. Nous ne pouvons résoudre le problème du développement que par la voie démocratique, qui a ses



Le président de la délégation sénatoriale française, le sénateur Jean-Jacques Robert a inauguré lundi 13 septembre au Centre culturel français de Sanaa l'exposition sur "L'Art des Boutres Yéménites en Mer Rouge". Cette exposition retrace, sous forme de photos accompagnées d'explications, les différentes étapes de la construction d'un boutre. Les amateurs pourront se rendre au Centre culturel français jusqu'au 25 septembre.

exigences. Nous avons retenu l'expérience française et le système français, qui a réussi à harmoniser les deux systèmes, le présidentiel et le parlementaire", a expliqué Ali Salem Al-Bid aux sénateurs français. "Nous sommes pour l'unification, mais l'inter-prétation reste ouverte. La situa-

tion économique renforce les dissensions et les extrêmes se nourrissent de ce genre de situation. Nous voulons éviter les souffrances qu'engendrent les extrêmes. Nous les dirigeants sommes responsables et nous restons optimistes", a-t-il ajouté.

J.B.

Les membres de la délégation

- Jean-Jacques Robert, sénateur de l'Essonne, 1er vice-Président du groupe d'amitié France/Yémen.
- Danielle Bidart-Reydet, sénateur de Seine-Saint-Denis.
- Jean-Paul Chambriard, sénateur de Haute-Loire.
- Marcel Lucotte, sénateur de Saône-et-Loire.
- Charles Descours, sénateur de l'Isère.
- Pierre Louvot, sénateur de Haute-Saône.
- Georges Mouly, sénateur de Corrèze.
- Louis Perrein, sénateur du Val d'Oise.
- Jean Pourchet, sénateur du Doubs.

"Réussite de votre réunification"

"Nous avons pu constater sur la route venant de l'aéroport l'activité qui règne dans votre région. Nous avons été impressionnés par les constructions et les projets mis en place", a déclaré le président de la délé-

Qu'est ce que le Sénat?

Le Sénat en France est une assemblée élue qui forme, avec l'Assemblée nationale, le Parlement. Son siège est à Paris au palais du Luxembourg. Le Sénat est composé de sénateurs élus pour neuf ans au suffrage indirect, c'est-à-dire par des représentants des collectivités locales (députés, conseillers généraux et conseillers municipaux par exemple). Le Sénat a un rôle comparable à celui de l'Assemblée nationale. Les deux assemblées (ou chambres), quoique indépendantes, travaillent ensemble ou successivement aux projets de lois. En cas de désaccord entre les deux chambres, le Sénat doit finalement s'incliner devant l'avis de l'Assemblée nationale.



SOCIÉTÉ

Femmes volontaires

L'Association des volontaires yéménites, créée le 15 juin, veut aider les femmes les plus pauvres.

Aider les femmes les plus pauvres, tel est l'objectif de la toute nouvelle "Association des volontaires yéménites". "Nous étions un groupe d'amies à vouloir faire quelque chose pour les femmes qui n'ont pas autant de chance que nous", explique la présidente de l'association, Aïcha Al-Saqqaf. Le 15 juin dernier, l'association ouvrait ses portes. Aujourd'hui, elle compte 250 membres, qui ont plein de projets en tête.

Cours d'anglais et d'arabe

Certains ont commencé à voir le jour. L'association propose ainsi gratuitement trois fois par semaine des cours d'arabe, d'anglais et des cours de travaux manuels. Les leçons sont assurées par des bénévoles. En ce qui concerne l'anglais, ce sont des professeurs d'université. L'Association des volontaires yéménites va mettre en place courant octobre d'autres cours: du secrétariat, et par la suite des cours d'informatique.

"Notre slogan est: que la personne qui a les moyens aide celle qui n'en a pas", explique

Aïcha. Elle voudrait créer des groupes qui s'occupent des paralysés et des orphelins, aider les plus pauvres à acheter des médicaments et apporter un soutien aux femmes qui sont en prison.

L'un des objectifs principaux de l'association est d'améliorer la condition des femmes, les pousser à utiliser leurs droits. Autre objectif: encourager la diffusion des règles d'hygiène et de santé.

"L'argent de l'association vient des dons personnels des membres. Nous avons également commencé à démarcher les entreprises locales et étrangères", précise la présidente de l'association. Pour adhérer, la cotisation est de 100 ryaals par mois, soit 1200 ryaals par an.

"Une de nos dernières idées est de parrainer un enfant. On subvient aux besoins de cet enfant, de la naissance jusqu'à la fin de ses études, tout en le maintenant dans sa famille", explique Aïcha Al-Saqqaf. Maintenant que l'association a été mise sur les rails, une inauguration est prévue pour bientôt, le 10 octobre prochain.

Amat AL-SALAM AL-CHAMY

En Bref

Nouveau chef d'état-major des forces armées au Yémen: Le colonel Abdel Malek Al-Sayyani a été nommé chef d'état-major des forces armées yéménites par le président Ali Abdallah Saleh, en remplacement du général Abdallah Hussein Al-Béchiri, qui avait présenté sa démission en juillet dernier. Le colonel Al-Sayyani, 48 ans, est originaire de l'ancien Yémen du Nord. Il avait occupé plusieurs fonctions dans la police et dans l'armée. Son prédécesseur avait démissionné pour protester contre la politique du ministre de la Défense Haitham Tahar Kassem, à qui il reprochait de ne pas avoir "achevé l'intégration" des forces armées du Yémen du Nord et du Yémen du Sud unifiés en mai 1990.

Près d'un milliard d'adultes analphabètes dans le monde: Il y a dans le monde environ 948 millions d'adultes analphabètes, dont deux tiers de femmes, indique un récent rapport de l'UNESCO, qui prévoit une légère diminution de ce chiffre d'ici l'an 2000. Le rapport estime que cette amélioration devrait être due essentiellement aux progrès réalisés en Asie de l'Est, en Amérique Latine et dans les Caraïbes.

Quinze jours pour la paix

De l'annonce de l'accord à la reconnaissance mutuelle.

Août

- 29: Israël annonce un accord avec l'OLP sur les grandes lignes d'un régime d'autonomie commençant par la bande de Gaza et la ville de Jéricho. Cet accord a été mis au point le 19 août à Oslo (Norvège), au terme de quatorze entrevues secrètes entre des responsables israéliens et palestiniens depuis janvier en Norvège. Cette annonce provoque irritation et étonnement dans les pays arabes engagés dans le processus de paix avec Israël (Syrie, Jordanie, Liban), qui regrettent de ne pas avoir été informés des négociations.

- 30: Yitzhak Rabin, le Premier ministre israélien annonce devant la Knesset (parlement), que le conseil palestinien chargé de gérer l'autonomie sera installé à Jéricho. Le gouvernement israélien approuve, lors d'un conseil des ministres extraordinaire, l'accord conclu avec l'OLP qui doit être ratifié par les négociateurs à Washington.

- 31: Alors que s'ouvre la 11ème session des pourparlers de paix israélo-arabes à Washington, des délégations d'Israël et de l'OLP discutent, à Oslo, des détails du processus de reconnaissance mutuelle.

Septembre

- 1er: Shimon Peres indique qu'il n'y a pas de lien entre la signature de l'accord israélo-palestinien et une reconnaissance mutuelle.

- 3: Lors d'une visite en France, Shimon Peres reçoit le soutien du président François Mitterrand. Dans la soirée, Mahmoud Abbas (Abou Mazen), membre du Comité central du Fatah (principale composante de l'OLP) annonce que la centrale palestinienne de signera pas l'accord sur l'autonomie avant la reconnaissance mutuelle entre Israël et l'OLP et une approbation arabe.

- 4: Au terme de deux jours d'après discussions sur le projet d'accord, Yasser Arafat obtient le soutien du Comité central du Fatah (principale composante de l'OLP). Le roi Hussein de Jordanie se rallie à l'accord israélo-palestinien.

- 5: Visite de Yasser Arafat à Damas afin d'obtenir le soutien des dirigeants syriens. Le président Hafez Al-Assad laisse carte blanche au chef de l'OLP, estimant qu'il revient aux Palestiniens et à leurs institutions de prendre une décision sur l'accord d'autonomie. Les chefs de la diplomatie du Conseil de coopération du Golfe (CCG) réunis à Riyad, apportent leur appui à l'accord.

- 6: Le Premier ministre libanais affirme que son pays ne sera pas un obstacle à l'application de l'accord conclu entre Israël et l'OLP.

- 7: Visite à Oman de Yasser Arafat. C'est la première fois dans un pays du CCG depuis la guerre du Golfe.

- nuit du 8 au 9: Les membres du CEOLP, réunis à Tunis pour entériner l'accord israélo-palestinien, se séparent sans avoir enregistré de progrès.

- 9: dans l'après-midi, Israël puis l'OLP annoncent leur accord sur une reconnaissance mutuelle. En fin de soirée, Yasser Arafat signe le texte portant reconnaissance de l'Etat d'Israël par l'OLP, à l'issue d'un vote favorable du CEOLP (8 des 43 membres présents).

- 10: Yitzhak Rabin paraphe le document, en présence du ministre norvégien des Affaires étrangères et reconnaît l'OLP comme "le représentant du peuple palestinien".

Arafat et Rabin à Washington la paix des braves

PROCHE-ORIENT

Le chef de l'OLP et le Premier ministre israélien ont assisté lundi dernier à la signature d'un accord sur l'autonomie palestinienne dans la bande de Gaza et à Jéricho. Quarante-cinq ans après la création de l'Etat d'Israël, la paix au Proche-Orient ne semble plus un rêve irréalisable.

L'image est entrée dans l'histoire: la poignée de main à Washington lundi 13 septembre entre les deux ennemis jurés, Yasser Arafat, le chef de l'OLP, et Yitzhak Rabin, le Premier ministre israélien. Symbole de la paix au Proche-Orient, cette image a été retransmise en direct dans une centaine de pays. Quelque 2500 témoins ont eu le privilège d'être invités à la Maison Blanche.

Il y a quatorze ans...

Les signataires de l'accord sur l'autonomie palestinienne dans la bande de Gaza et à Jéricho ont été le ministre des Affaires étrangères israélien, Shimon Peres, et pour l'OLP, Mahmoud Abbas (alias Abou Mazen). Les Américains aiment les symboles. L'accord a été signé sur la table qui avait vu quatorze ans plus tôt la signature du traité de paix israélo-égyptien le 27 mars 1979, aboutissement des accords de Camp David en 1978.

Selon le quotidien israélien Haaretz, Shimon Peres a donné ordre à l'armée d'achever son retrait de la bande de Gaza et de la région de Jéricho le 7 avril 1994, l'élection du Conseil d'autonomie devant avoir lieu le 7 juillet de la même année.

Pour l'OLP, la réception offi-

cielle à la Maison Blanche de Yasser Arafat est une véritable consécration. Cette visite est un tournant dans les relations conflictuelles de la plus grande puissance mondiale et de la plus célèbre des organisations de revendication nationale. C'est en effet la première fois qu'un président des Etats-Unis reçoit à la Maison Blanche un responsable de l'exécutif de l'OLP. Il faut remonter à 1977 pour retrouver un contact direct, mais sans commune mesure: le Président Jimmy Carter avait alors serré la main du représentant de l'organisation à l'ONU.

Yasser Arafat opère une renaissance éclatante après une période de quasi-déconfiture. Il s'est retrouvé complètement isolé après avoir soutenu le président irakien Saddam Hussein pendant la guerre du Golfe et accepté que celui-ci lie son évacuation du Koweït au retrait israélien des Territoires occupés. Privé des subsides des pays arabes, il a été tenu à l'écart du processus de paix entamé à Madrid par les Etats-Unis.

Pour reconnaître Israël, le chef de l'OLP a dû passer outre l'hostilité d'une grande partie des formations palestiniennes.

Lors de la réunion du Comité exécutif (instance dirigeante) de l'OLP, quatre des treize membres présents ont voté contre la reconnaissance d'Israël et l'accord israélo-palestinien. Fait significatif: parmi les opposants figure le chef du département politique Farouk Kaddoumi, vieux compagnon de route d'Arafat et cofondateur du Fatah. Yasser Arafat a également reçu des menaces de mort de deux dirigeants radicaux palestiniens pro-syriens basés à Damas, Abou Moussa et Ahmad Jibril.

Révolution psychologique

Côté israélien, la reconnaissance de l'OLP est une véritable révolution psychologique. Pendant des décennies, Israël a nié l'existence même d'un peuple palestinien. L'ancien Premier ministre travailliste israélien Golda Meir affirmait en 1970: "un peuple palestinien? Connais pas". "Nous sommes le seul peuple ayant vécu sur la terre d'Israël sans interruption depuis quatre mille ans", déclarait-il y a à peine trois ans le Premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir. Faire la paix avec un pays arabe est nettement moins traumatisant. L'OLP incarnait le diable, puisque la "libération de la Palestine" impliquait la destruction de l'Etat d'Israël. (avecAFP)

Le Yémen intermédiaire entre les Palestiniens

Le Yémen a accepté de jouer les bons offices entre les Palestiniens divisés sur l'accord entre l'OLP et Israël. Le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh devrait ainsi parrainer une rencontre inter-palestinienne proposée par le mouvement islamiste palestinien Hamas. Mais le Yémen a posé une condition, "qu'elle soit acceptée par toutes les parties palestiniennes".

La proposition de Hamas a été formulée lors d'un entretien entre le président Saleh et une délégation du Hamas, en visite à Sanaa et conduite par Moussa Abou Marzouk, président du bureau politique du mouvement intégriste.

Que le Yémen serve d'intermédiaire entre les Palestiniens s'explique aisément. Proche de l'OLP, Sanaa abrite le quartier général militaire de la centrale palestinienne ainsi que d'importants contingents des combattants de l'Armée de libération de la Palestine, dont une partie devrait constituer le corps de la future police palestinienne. Par ailleurs, Yasser Arafat avait ses habitudes dans la capitale yéménite.

Quarante-cinq ans de conflits

Depuis 1948, Israéliens et Palestiniens n'ont cessé de se battre pour la même terre. Rappel de ces années de sang et de haine.

Quand le mandat britannique en Palestine prend fin en mai 1948, l'Etat d'Israël est aussitôt proclamé par Ben Gourion, le 14 mai. Les Etats arabes entrent alors en guerre. Interrompue en juillet, celle-ci reprend jusqu'aux armistices des premiers mois de 1949. La défaite arabe a permis l'agrandissement d'Israël. Environ 700 000 Palestiniens s'enfuient, temporairement pensent-ils.

La deuxième guerre israélo-arabe a lieu en 1956. Par un accord secret, la France, la Grande-Bretagne et Israël s'entendent pour attaquer l'Egypte, qui vient de nationaliser le canal de Suez. Les forces israéliennes envahissent le Sinaï, alors qu'une force franco-anglaise intervient à partir de Chypre. Une intervention diplomatique des Etats-Unis et de l'Union Soviétique fait renoncer les assaillants.

Les hostilités reprennent en 1967. Après l'interdiction du golfe d'Aqaba aux navires israéliens par l'Egypte, Israël déclenche de 5 juin une guerre éclair menée par Yitzhak Rabin, l'actuel Premier ministre. Le 10 juin, le cessez-le-feu est déclaré, la guerre aura duré "six jours". Israël occupe Gaza, le Sinaï, la Cisjordanie, Jérusalem-Est et les hauteurs du Golan.

En 1973, ce sont les Arabes qui attaquent. La guerre du Kippour commence le 6

octobre. Ils occupent temporairement le Golan. Leur victoire partielle est une victoire psychologique. Ils ont brisé le mythe de l'invincibilité de l'armée israélienne. Le 17 octobre les pays arabes cessent leurs livraisons de pétrole aux pays amis d'Israël. C'est le début de la première crise pétrolière.

Six ans plus tard, en 1979, l'Egypte et Israël concluent une paix séparée. Ce sont les accords de Camp David signés par l'Egyptien Anouar Al-Sadate, l'Israélien Menahem Begin et l'Américain Jimmy Carter. L'Egypte rétablit sa souveraineté sur le Sinaï mais est mis en quarantaine par les autres pays arabes.

1987, l'Intifada

En 1982, Israël lance au Liban l'"opération paix en Galilée". Le 11 juin, la totalité de la moitié sud du pays est envahie. Sous la protection d'une force multinationale, les fedayin palestiniens sont évacués de Beyrouth en août vers la Tunisie, la Syrie, le Soudan et le Yémen. Israël se retire presque totalement du Liban en 1985.

Un sursaut palestinien a lieu à l'intérieur même des Territoires occupés. L'Intifada, la guerre des pierres commence en décembre 1987 et surprend tout le monde, Israël mais aussi l'OLP, la Syrie et la Jordanie.

C'est en 1991 que le dialogue s'engage à la conférence de Madrid entre Israël et les pays arabes engagés dans le conflit. L'accord historique signé lundi est le premier résultat de deux ans de négociations.

Palestiniens pour/contre

Organisations membres de l'OLP: 4 sont pour l'accord, 4 contre. Notamment:

- **Fatah** (Yasser Arafat). POUR.
- **FPLP** (Front populaire de libération de la Palestine de George Habache). CONTRE.
- **FDLP** (Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine de Nayef Hawatmeh). CONTRE.
- **UDP** (Union démocratique palestinienne - faction dissidente du FDLP, dirigée par le porte-parole de l'OLP Yasser Abed Rabbo). POUR.

Organisations qui ont gelé leur participation à l'OLP depuis 1984: toutes sont CONTRE:

- **FPLP** Commandement général (d'Ahmad Jibril, basé à Damas) a menacé d'assassiner Arafat s'il signait.
- **Sa'ika** (formation pro-syrienne de Issam Qadi).

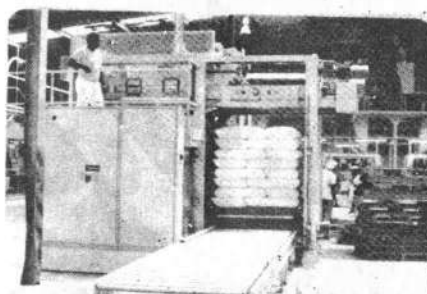
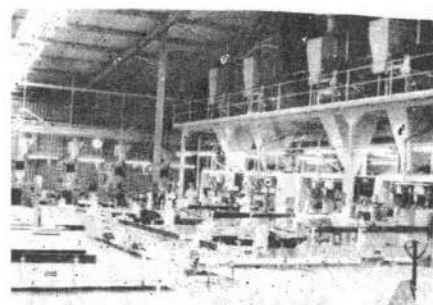
Organisations non membres de l'OLP: toutes sont CONTRE.

- Mouvement de résistance islamique (**Hamas**).
- **Jihad islamique**.
- **Fatah-Intifada** (Abou Moussa), a appelé au meurtre d'Arafat.
- **Fatah-Conseil révolutionnaire** (Abou Nidal).



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*** Abdullah Abdo Saeed:**
Abdullah Abdo Saeed, a leading member of the Hayel Saeed Anam Family group, is hosting in Taiz a major celebration on Friday September 22nd. The occasion is the marriage of his son Wayerl.

*** Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani:**
Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Minister of Planning and Development, is headed this week for Washington. Dr. Al-Iryani is going to participate in the annual World Bank/IMF meetings held in the last week of September.

*** Abdulaziz Mohammed Taha Nagi:**
Haj Abdulaziz Mohammed Taha Nagi, one of the leading businessmen in Taiz, is planning to invest in a first-class restaurant to be established in Sanaa. The necessary preparations have already been completed.

*** Mohammed Al-Yadoomi:**
Mohammed Al-Yadoomi, Assistant Secretary-General of the Islah Party and Chief Editor of Al-Sahwa newspaper, insisted in a statement to 26th September newspaper that Abdul-Salam Karman, Minister of Legal Affairs, is a member of the Islah party. The minister had earlier in a statement to Al-Wahdah newspaper, personally stated that he was not. Al-Yadoomi insists that the minister simply did express himself well.

*** Ali Salim Al-Beedh:**
Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, repeatedly defended his vision for a new Yemen. In speeches he gave in Aden, Abyan and elsewhere, Mr. Al-Beedh said that many people, including senior officials and statesmen, are obsessed with their small and lowly ambitions of pecuniary nature. They don't understand when I speak about the need for a plan based on a vision of the Yemen of the future.

Mr. Al-Beedh who has come under attack from PGC newspapers for trying to bring new vision and life into the political structure, asked that Yemeni officials rise up to the moment and create history one more time.

*** Farooq Al-Hakeemi:**
Mr. Farooq Al-Hakeemi, Vice Minister of Culture, left Sanaa on a two-week visit to Geneva. He will participate in a conference dealing with the laws governing patents and copyrights.

*** Abubakar Al-Qirby and Mohammed Abdullah Al-Batani:**
Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education, and Mohammed Abdullah Al-Batani, Minister of Social Affairs, returned to Sanaa from Khartoum on Wednesday September 15th.

The two ministers had headed Yemen's delegation to the Yemeni-Sudanese ministerial cooperation talks.

*** Mujahed Al-Quhali:**
Mujahed Al-Quhali, Member of Parliament and the Secretary-General of the Nasserite Corrective Popular Party, indicated that there was no need for more documents and amendments. "Have we adhered to the pile of laws and documents that are already with us and that have been passed through the legislature and other legal bodies.

*** Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba Fadhle:**
Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ba-Fadhle, Minister of Supply and Trade, indicated that the IMF has proposed a gradual phasing out of subsidies. "We are now discussing a three-year process to remove all subsidies," he said. He also added that he supports the privatization of sickly public sector corporations.

*** Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haimi:**
Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haimi, Vice Minister of Supply and Trade, plans to visit Poland during late September or early October, according to sources at the ministry. Al-Haimi will lead a large delegation with the purpose of boosting Yemeni-Polish trade and cooperation.

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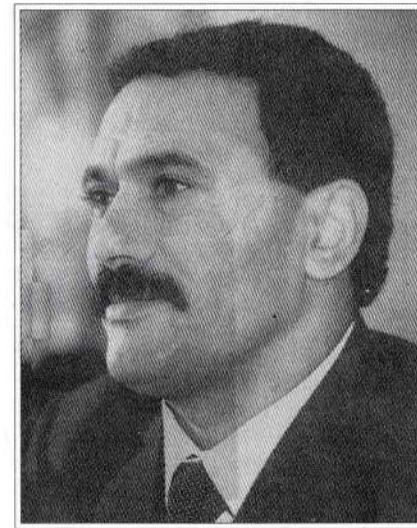
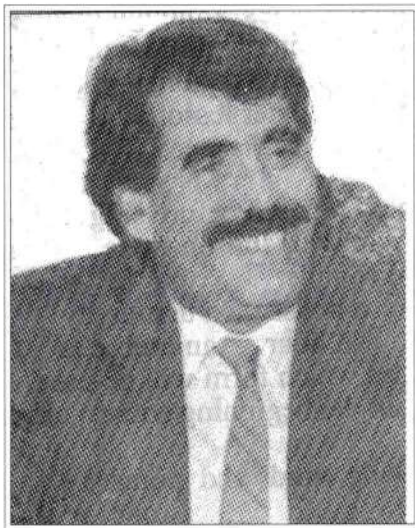
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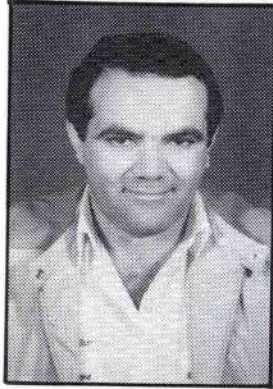
شركة اليافعي للتجارة والمقاولات

أعطر تهانيتها وأطيب تبريكاتها إلى الشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته بمناسبة الذكرى (الحادية والثلاثين) لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر الخالدة

THE PEACE SHOCK

The "Gaza-Jericho First" Deal

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times.



A few weeks, the Culture Page of the Yemen Times reviewed Fromkin's book entitled "A Peace to End All Peace," in which the changes anticipated in our region were highlighted based on a re-reading of the history of the Middle East. Events have outsmarted the author, at least in terms of the pace of change that has taken place over the last few days.

I am not referring to the political dimensions of this shock, but to the cultural and intellectual psyche of generations of Arabs and Israelis, and even non-Arab Muslims - all of whom have been raised to believe the other side is an irreconcilable or historic enemy.

Poems, novels, plays, etc. were used to drill the idea of the enemy nearby in our minds through a storming religious and nationalistic education.

How difficult this peace must be!

Now, it is all over, or so it seems. There are no more guerrilla in their kaki uniforms and famous kufias or headgear, no more songs of the "We shall Return" theme, a certain kind of romance and dream is fading away, and is being replaced by another form of romance and dream - that of peace.

There are now joint committees arguing long into the night, and deals are struck over endless documents and secret papers.

The shock is enormous. It is like a hurricane. All of a sudden, the enemy became friend; and the aspirations have become hallucinations. To the Arabs, the shock is far greater. "They were right, and we were wrong - as we have been all these years!"

The Palestinian struggle was a symbol of change and a stimulus for Third World freedom. It was a struggle for justice and an outcry against oppression. Yet, and overnight, it has all come to naught.

The older folks, those who have witnessed the birth of the PLO and FATAH, those who have lived through the climax of Nasser's appeal, and those who have undergone a rebirth following the humiliation of 1967 - now they have to leave the scene for the new generation. They have to fold up years of agony embodied in the thou-

sands of songs and anthems, in the tears and sweat of long hours of training and fighting against the "historic" enemy. They have to erase the slogans. Their time is up!

A new breed is taking over. The psychological chaos that this peace has brought upon us is enormous. The very names of Java, Haifa, Jerusalem, and others conjure in our minds endless images. They have become an integral part of our intellectual and psychological structures. Yet, we have to deal with the peace.

It is just right for people to set aside their differences and agree over how to live and co-exist. The Palestinians are the ones who should decide about their future. That is their prerogative. But what I am talking about is the death of a dream, the end of a line of reasoning and conclusion of an approach in our region. How will we our folks, and the Israeli folks react to these developments?

We don't know what history will say about this peace plan and about our recent wars. But it will definitely mention the double plight of a generation - first plight when they were driven from their homeland and were forced to fight for it, and the second plight, when they were suddenly confronted with a peace that destroyed their dreams.



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The Establishment of Aman Insurance Company

Yemen's seventh insurance company was established last week. The new company - called Aman Insurance Company (meaning Security Insurance Company) - has been able to attract highly qualified people in the business, notably, Mr. Aqeel Al-Saqqaf, who comes in as Managing Director and General Manager. Mr. Al-Saqqaf was, until recently, the General Manager of Yemen Mareb Insurance Company, which he has helped build into a leading company.

The major share-holders of the new company include prominent business families of Yemen such as:

1. Yemen-Kuwait Bank,
2. Mohammed Al-Sunaidar,
3. Amin al-Aswadi,
4. Abdullah Al-Goss,
5. Abdul-Galeel Radman,
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Aqeel Al-Saqqaf, who is busy setting up the Sanaa and Hodeidah offices, to begin with, said that he has already contacted many former clients as well as re-

insurance companies. "The response has been gratifying and we expect to attract a good slice of the insurance market," he said. He also pointed out that the business of the shareholders alone would be enough to keep the company going. The company's authorized and paid-up capital is YR. 25 million.

Already, many professional employees have joined the company. "We expect to offer first quality services at competitive prices," Mr. Al-Saqqaf said.

Promoting Family Care in Yemen

By: Mervat Duweikat,
Yemen Times.

An important seminar was held at the Taj Sheba Hotel on September 13th. The theme was family planning and the program was organized by the World Health Organization in collaboration with 14 international organizations, NGOs, and government entities.

"There is a lot of work that needs to be done in this field," said Yahia Al-Babily, General Manager of the Yemeni Family Care Association (YFCA). The cost is almost always negligible if we treat matters at an early stage, or if we take precautionary measures. But the cost rolls over many times if we wait, and it is too late," he indicated.



The seminar discussed many precautionary measures such as information on planning pregnancies and spacing of births, immunization programs, and other efforts in family care.

The YFCA has three branches - one each in Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeidah. A fourth one will be inaugurated soon in Aden. "They provide information and advice as well as medical

services to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children," Al-Babily said.

Many of the international organizations were more than prepared to give as much support as possible. "We are willing to provide financial and technical support," stated the UNICEF representative.

One of the representative of the NGOs insisted that the public must be brought in to help provide any form of support for these efforts. "We are able and willing to mobilize the public to raise funds and enlist volunteers in our efforts," she said.

A representative of the Ministry of Health also expressed support and said that the media can be used to spread the word on family planning and proper care for children.

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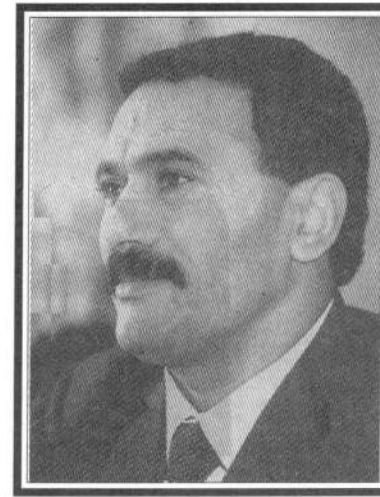
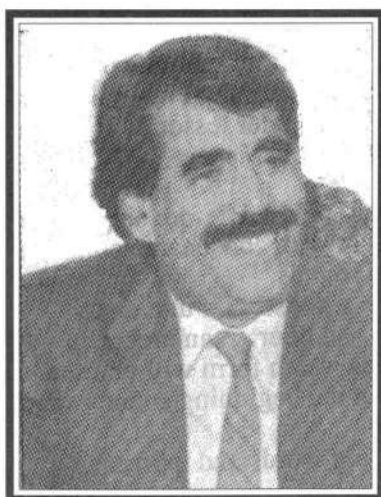
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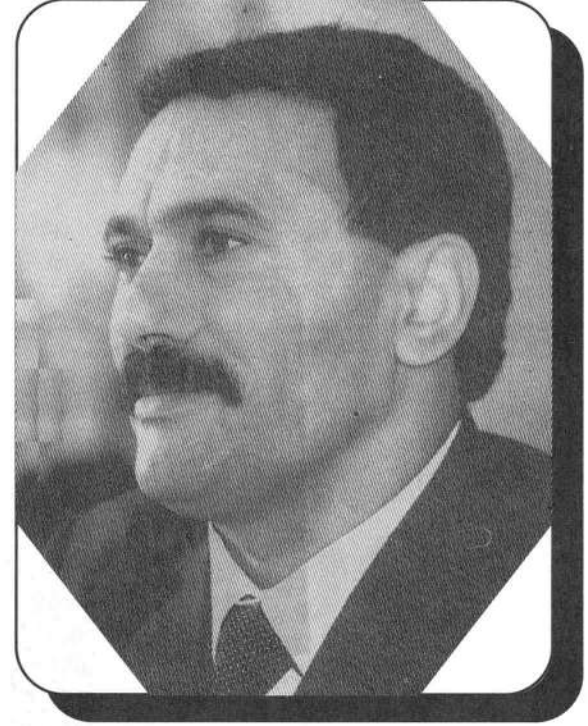
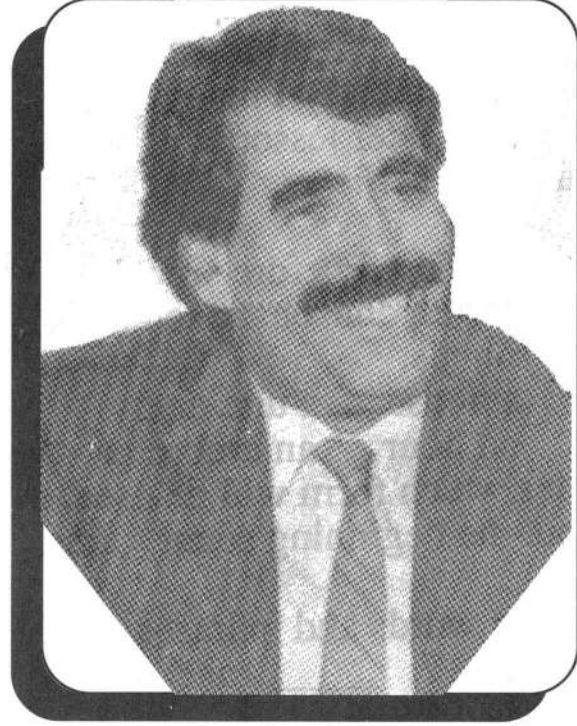
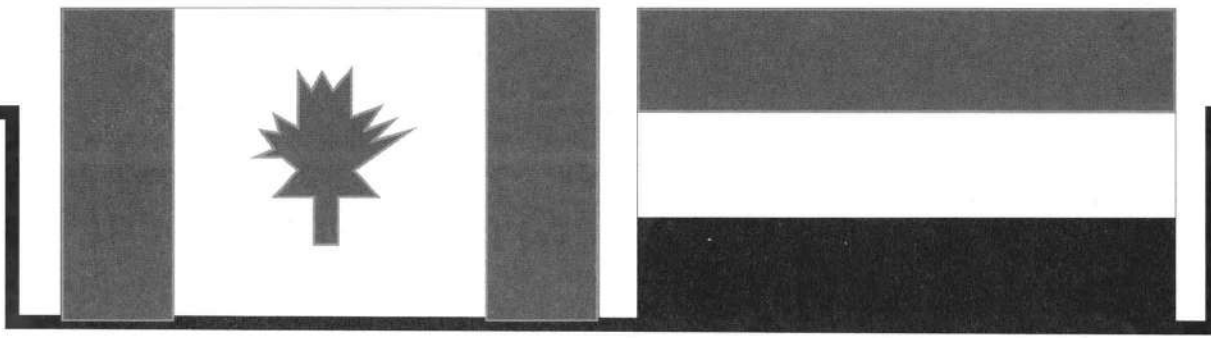


تتقدم

الشركة الوطنية للمرطبات

كندا دراى - صنعاء

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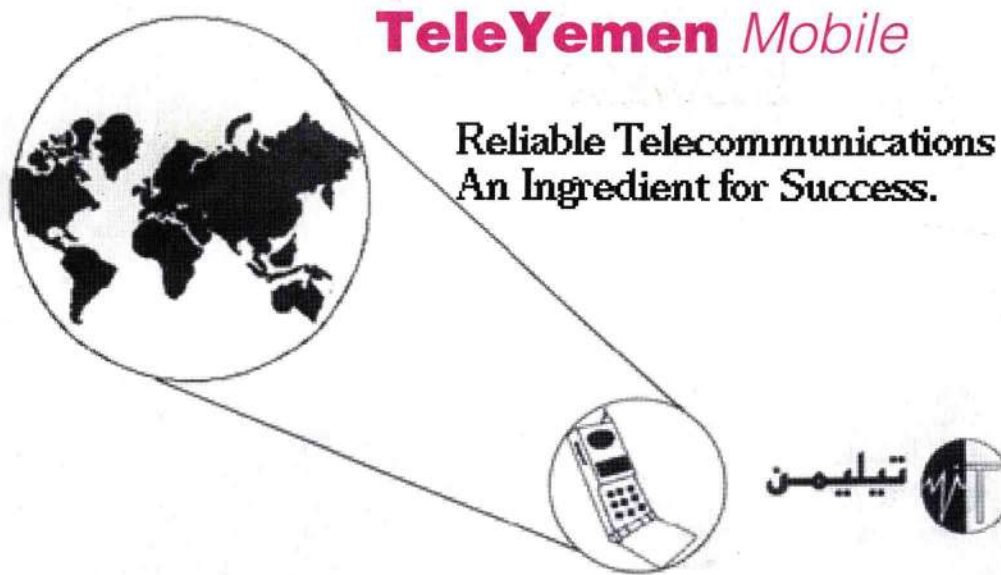
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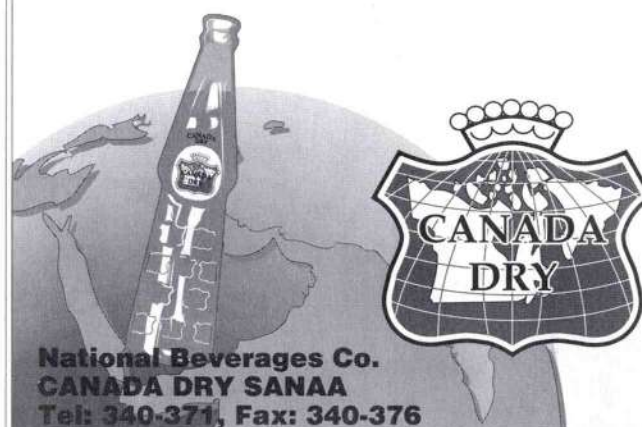
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His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of the Sultanate of Oman

To mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Yemeni-Omani border agreement, H. M. Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed, will arrive in Sanaa on October 2nd. The Sultan will head a large and senior delegation of about eighty five persons including ten ministers.

"This visit will be a watershed in our bilateral relations," stated Omani Ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Awadh Bin Mahfoodh Ba Katheer.

The Yemeni side is similarly upbeat. "The Omani ruler has always had a soft spot for Yemen, and he has shown his understanding and support many times. This visit will open tremendous opportunities for cooperation," stated a senior government official.



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Top Level Squabble

Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, and Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Council and Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, are at odds, again. The two men have found it difficult to work together, as each is used to having it his way in pre-democracy Yemen. The changes the two men are asked to make in terms of their attitudes and approach must be appreciated. They are trying hard to learn to work by the rules of democracy and dialogue. President Saleh has tried very hard to marginalize the Vice President, and he is told by his aides that that is in the best interests of Yemen. The Vice President wants to continue to have a clear say in how things evolve, and wants to preserve the right to veto things he does not agree with. He is also told by his aides that such a position is in the best interests of Yemen.

Both men invoke patriotic calls to support their position and to extract public sympathy.

In my opinion, it is not a black and white situation, as neither man is really evil. Neither man offers the optimal solution which would allow us to side completely with him.

It is a situation of a different approach between two men who feel they have a mission to fulfill. It is true destiny has bestowed on them a historic role to play. The two Ali's rule over a Yemen which is larger in size than any other ruler over the last 800 years. They may not know this, but it is a fact. Their continued bickering and squabbles many end up ruining such a great achievement.

The people of Yemen are tired and they expect their leaders to attend to their more pressing needs. Economic hardships have taken their toll. The Unemployment rate stands at a towering 36%, the inflation rate is sky-rocketing at above 50%. The services,

specially health and education are dismal, the security condition, although much improved, is still lacking. It is for this reason that the Economist continues to list Yemen as an E (high) risk country.

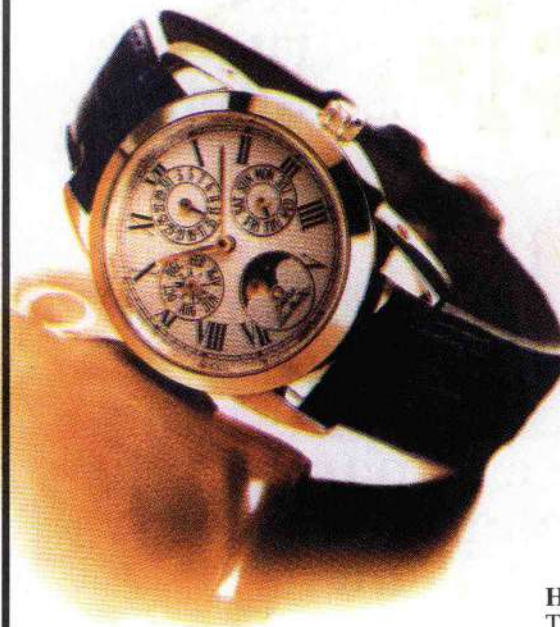
In my opinion, the country needs the attention and efforts of both Ali's and all the good men of this country. If the two men put their efforts together, they could make a dent in the sad situation of the people, instead of neutralizing each other's efforts.

In the final analysis, the leadership of this country needs to rise up to its responsibilities and perform the tasks which lie ahead. I believe the two men are stuck with each other, whether they like it or not. I urge them to accept this fact and learn to interact with other more positively, if at least for the sake of this country which, I am sure, they both love dearly.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Professor of Economics,
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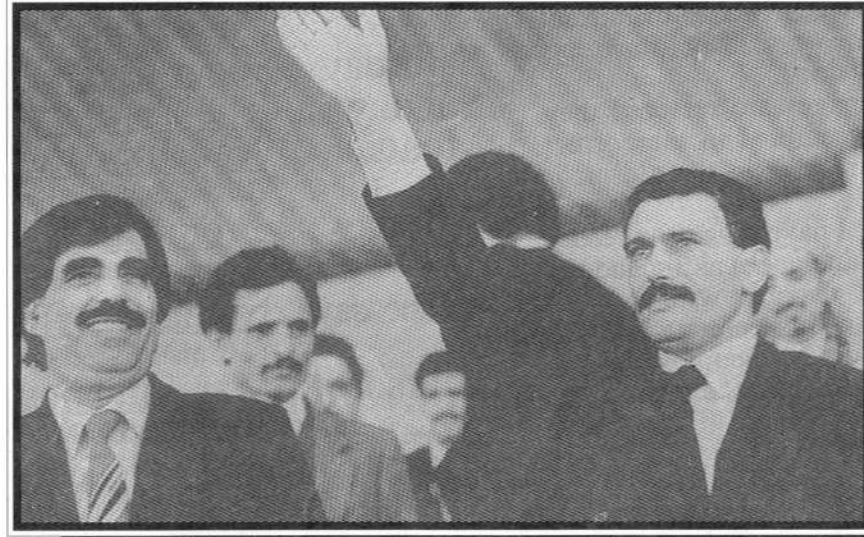
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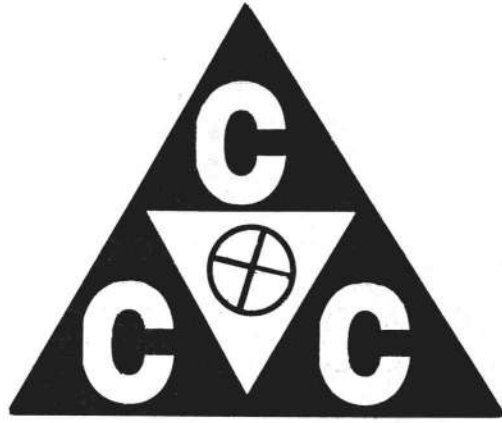
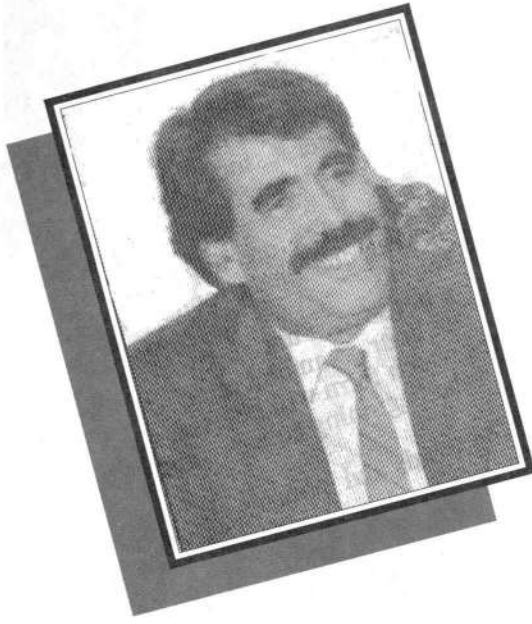
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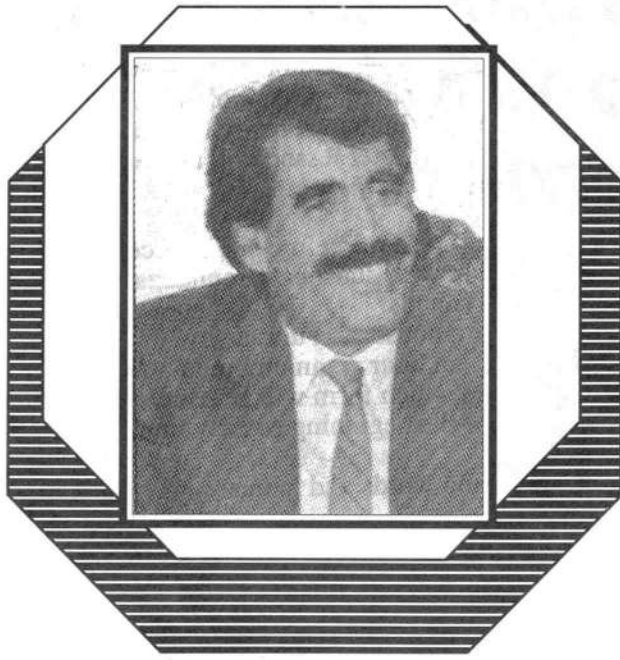
تشارك الشعب اليمني أفراحه بمناسبة الذكرى (الحادية والثلاثين)
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الذكرى (٣١) لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر الخالدة

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