

YEMEN TIMES

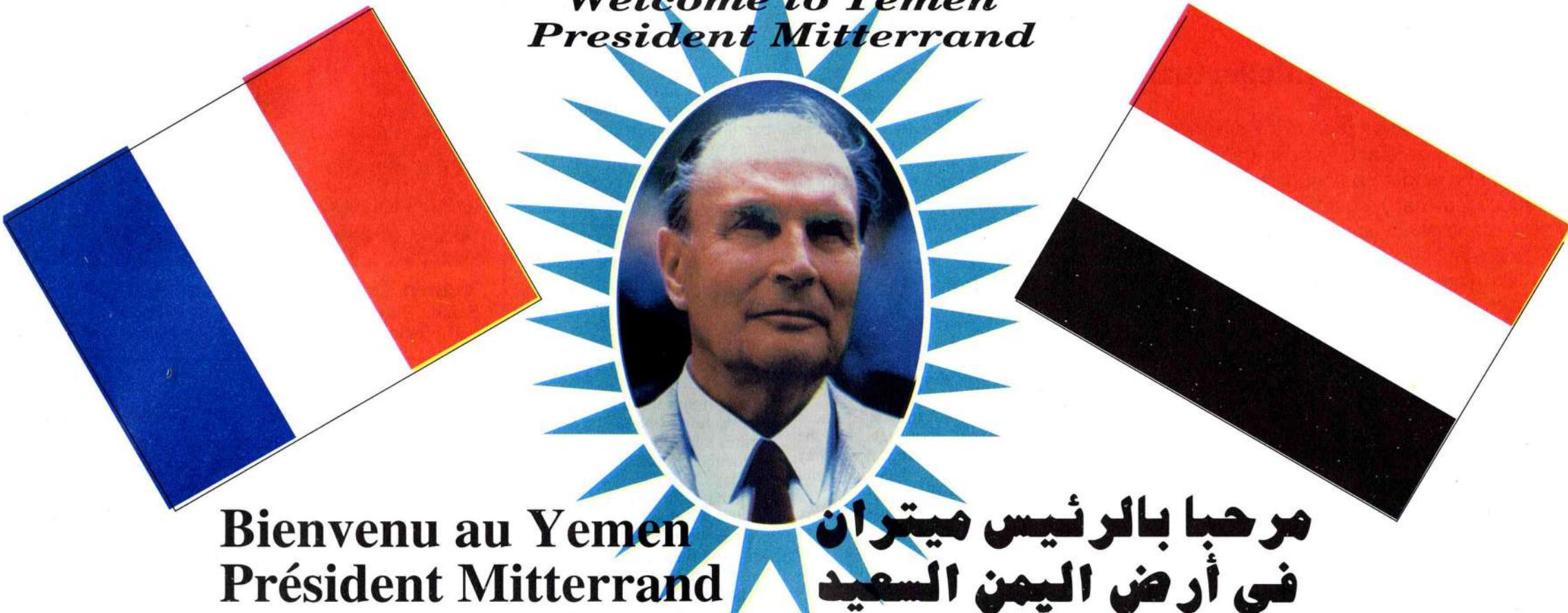


PRICE:
10 Riyals

Sunday October 17th through 23rd, 1993

Volume III, Issue # 41 •

Welcome to Yemen
President Mitterrand



Bienvenu au Yemen
Président Mitterrand

مرحباً بالرئيس ميتراون
في أرض اليمن السعيد

"New" Presidential Council "Elected" by Parliament

In its session of Monday, October 11th, the House of Representatives "elected" to the Presidential Council two members from the PGC (Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh and Mr. Abdulkaziz Abdulghani), two members from the YSP (Ali Salim Al-Beedh and Salim Saleh Mohammed) and one member from Islah (Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Aziz Al-Zindani). Except for the Islah member, who is a new addition who replaced PGC-member Abdul-Kareem Al-Arashi, all four other members of the Council are hold-overs from the old council. Moreover, the five are not expected to be able to work together smoothly as the YSP duo is asking, as a minimum, for a clear timetable to implement an 18-point reform package. Read details of the package on p. 5.

The main loser in the new arrangements is the PGC, as the representation in the Presidential Council does not reflect the parliamentary gains it made in the last election results. At the same time, the PGC has issued a 19-point reform demands, most of them oriented towards YSP past mistakes. More specifically, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh is now forced to deal with a new council which is far less docile and less amenable to his orientation than the old one. Meanwhile, several would-be candidates whose candidacies were not accepted because they did not complete candidature paperwork - of which they were not informed earlier - are filing their petitions and challenges. Many deputies have expressed their displeasure with the way the "elections" were carried out.

ISRAEL STOPS YEMENI JEWS FROM LEAVING

Many of the Jewish Yemenis who had gone to Israel find themselves in utter poverty and unable to eke out a living. As a result, many have decided to return. But these were surprised to find out that they are prisoners in Israel and cannot leave. The Israeli government has asked the courts, which have obliged, to issue a restraining order. Several families were returned from the airport.

Read details on page 7.

High Level Delegation Accompanies Mitterrand

There are four distinct groups or delegations accompanying French President Francois Mitterrand on his Yemen visit. There is an official delegation headed by Foreign Minister M. Alain Juppe and a number of senior officials and former ministers including Charasse and Tasca.. Second, there is a technical team which is going to be the backbone of the talks. Also included in this group are the people working to help Yemeni-French cooperation and friendship such as Patrick Labeaune, President of the Franco-Yemen Friendship Group in Parliament, and Bernard Barbier, President of the Franco-Yemeni Friendship Group in the Senate. A third team of senior French personalities is arriving in Sanaa. This list includes Yves Thoraval, Maxime Rodinson, Remy Leveau, Jean-Francois Carré, Nicolas Durieux, Hélène Wayssord, Father Etienne Renaud, Pascal Piriou, and above all, Dr. Claudie Fayen. Finally, there is the groups associated with the Elysée Palace and the government.

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Analysis of Evolution of Power Structure Shows Islamic Party Takes Over Yemen

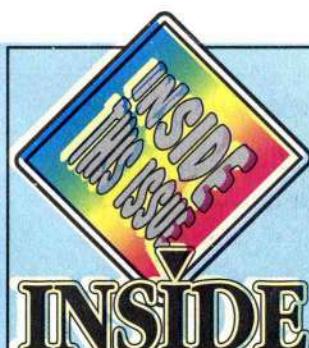
Unlike in Algeria where Islamic fundamentalists almost took control of the country in one jump, the scenario is being repeated in Yemen on a piecemeal basis. The process is in full motion. The sad part about religious parties or religion-based posturing is that they really are politically-motivated and do not reflect the real values and objectives of the religion itself, whatever that religion may be: Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, etc. In Yemen, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, commonly known as Islah, has already made major inroads into the country's power structure.

Islah cabinet members and their sympathizers make up today over a third of the government portfolios. This has allowed them to bring their people into the bureaucracy

as several ministers have reshuffled the administrative hierarchy, thus making room for new Islah gains. It has also allowed them to dictate certain policy matters. For example, they have successfully blocked the Yemeni government from blessing the peace agreement between the PLO and Israel, as Islah is against it. Islah also runs the House of Representatives, thus making it an indispensable player in the power politics of this country.

Now, an Islah member is one of five members of the Presidential Council. The number itself does not tell the whole story, as the Islah member really holds the deciding vote that tips the balance in the eternal tug of war between the PGC and YSP, each with two votes. The two leading parties -

PGC and YSP, blinded by their rivalry, are unable to see the major gains made by the Islah at many fronts. Even in the army, the Islah has been able to acquire many footholds. In addition, of course, to armed militias and tribal armies under direct Islah command. The PGC and YSP can be described, in varying degrees, as forces of modernization and outward-oriented. But the Islah is different. Yet, the competition of the two has forced them to court the Islah and give in to its demands. Where do we go from here? It is clear that the two formerly ruling parties - the PGC and YSP, have to make room for Islah. That room or space is growing every day. In two to three years, the Islah may completely replace either or both parties, unless they see light and cooperate.



The YSP's 18-point Demand, p. 5;
Agricultural Research and Extension Services, p. 7;
Kenyan Entrepreneurs Study Investment Options, p. 15;
The Greatest Injustice: The Deal for Women, p. 16;
Radio Technology Free Citizens from Rulers, p. 19.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Role of Intellectuals

Intellectuals and urban elites are supposed to lead society and spearhead the march towards modernization. That role, at least as much as many countries in the Third World are concerned, is either totally absent or badly deficient.

Take Yemen as a case in point.

Most of the intellectuals, were expected to serve as the conscience of the nation and its guiding light. To the contrary, they have become part and parcel of a regime that most citizens see as corrupt and useless. To add insult to injury, our educated class play a regime-legitimizing role, internally and abroad. They use their "expertise" and the prestige associated with their "education" to give the system at least passive consent.

In addition to this role, the opportunism that has so characterized the role of the intellectual class has become very damaging to the image of intellectuals.

Third, there is another problem with the educated class of Yemen - they are divided. The rivalry of the members of this group has made them work against each other, sometimes out of sheer jealousy of each other. As a result, their ability to influence, let alone guide, society has become minimal. Many uneducated senior politicians have always boasted they can turn one intellectual against another with tremendous ease. Once a top leader was quoted as having said he can "buy" the person with the highest degree in this country with a small gift.

Finally, to add insult to injury, many Yemeni intellectuals have recently joined the ultra-right and fundamentalist religious political party. Of course, some are convinced it is the right thing to do. But the majority have done so simply to join the band-wagon of "winning" or "rising" group, according to them, and thus to be able to share in the benefits thereof.

That is why society has little respect for intellectuals.

The Publisher
مُحرِّر

YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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الأفاق للطباعة والنشر. تلفون: ٦١٢٨٤٤ - فاكس: ٦١٢٨٤٥ - صن: ١٢٥٠٣
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Local News TIMES

November Seminars in Sanaa

During November, several seminars will be held in Sanaa. The three main ones include:

1. A seminar on *International Human Rights Law* will be held during the first week of November. The one-week event is being organized by the Yemeni Red Crescent Society.
2. Experiences in *Economic and Monetary Reform* seminar will take place during 15-17/11/1993. Ahmed Ismail Al-Bawab, Director General of Public Relations and Correspondent of the Union of Arab Banks in Yemen said that the seminar is organized by the Union of Arab Banks in collaboration with the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "We hope to benefit from the experiences of other countries in the region regarding how they tackled their financial and monetary difficulties."
3. The First Scientific Conference of the teaching staff members of the universities of Sanaa and Aden take place during the last week of November. It is organized by the Union of the teaching staff at Sanaa and Aden Universities.

More Trouble at Sanaa University

Sanaa University is faced with the grim prospect of either admitting students well beyond its capacity, or be subject to vandalism and open protest by bands of students who have applied to join the university. Some forty thousand students have applied, but less than half were admitted. The university has consistently asked the government for more resources to better prepare for these developments, but its pleas were not heeded. The teaching staff members, meanwhile, have accused a docile university administration of being too weak in its dealings with the government. As a result, a decision was taken by the Board of Trustees to refrain from teaching until the minimal requirements of the university are met. "This situation can easily get out of hand, as the young applicants have no where else to go. The government has decided to stop employment of any person unless they have a university certificate. That effectively throws the high school leaves on the streets: no university, no jobs," one observer stated.

The situation at Aden University is different where the administration is less politicized and more professional. Aden University has succeeded in controlling the level of annual student intake.

International Tennis Tournament at the Sheraton Hotel

Yemen's largest Tennis Tournament is about to start. Represented in the tournament are participants from Asia, North/South America, Europe, Middle East and the Far East. The Sheraton is organizing the tournament and registration for participation is going on at the moment at the Recreation Front Desk Office of the hotel (Telephone 237500, ext. 387). The matches, which extend from October 18th until November 29th, include teams of singles, doubles for men and women as well as mixed teams.

Bundestag Delegation Concludes Visit:

A Bundestag delegation headed by Mr. Hans Klein, Vice President, concluded an official visit to the Republic of Yemen.

In meetings with political leaders and parliament members, the German delegation reaffirmed Germany's continued support and assistance to Yemen. Mr. Klein expressly pointed out that Yemen is high on the German priorities in the disbursement of foreign assistance. He also indicated his country's appreciation for the transformation of Yemen towards democracy.

Sheikh Sinan Chairs a Committee of Elders

At the home of Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum, one of the father figures of Yemen, a group of Yemeni intellectuals and public figures met on Thursday afternoon (14/10/93) to discuss the current condition and tug of war between Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salim Al-Beedh, and what each man stands for.

At the end of an extensive debate, the group formed a committee of elders which will work to bring the personal ambitions of politicians under control and subordinate it to the national interest. Sheikh Sinan was chosen as the head of the committee.

Earlier, Sheikh Sinan had gathered around him all the Bakeel tribes, arch-rival of the Hashed tribes, and created an executive council for Bakeel. "The purpose is to see that all Yemen groups have a say in the way this country is managed and that Bakeel will re-assert its position in the political map," he said.

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ترقبوا فروعنا في الملا، عدن، تعز، إب

Change of UN/US Plans in Somalia:

The US Congress is haggling with the issue of Somalia as the situation returns to relative calm in Mogadishu. The Congress is interested in a fixed deadline date for the return of American troops which have been targeted by Aideed's "freedom fighters."

The US has sent in an additional 1,700. As it stands now, US troops in Somalia or stationed on nearby war-vessels, have exceeded 25,000. At the same time, there are some 30,000 UN soldiers in Somalia.

According to sources in New York and Washington, the new approach to the problem is to depersonalize the issue and seek to find a political settlement.

Meanwhile, leading Somali warlord, Mohammad Farah Aideed has strictly observed the cease-fire he had unilaterally declared one week ago. UN commanders have also lowered the profile of their so-called routine operations, although helicopters continue to hover over Mogadishu. According to journalists, the US and UN forces have embarked on data gathering and planning before they decide on their options. If Aideed thinks he is off the hook, he is wrong. "If we get the chance to snatch him, we will," explained Les Aspin, US Defence Secretary. Even then, the American official went through a lot of pain to emphasize the new approach to the problem.

Enormous Flood Damage in Philippines:

Thousands of Filipinos trekked back home last week as floodwaters receded after wreaking damage to crops and property estimated at US \$144 million. More than fifty persons have also died, mostly from drowning, in the week-long floods triggered by tropical storm Flo. Flo battered the main island, Luzon, and specially hit were twenty towns in Bulacan Province. Seventeen of the towns were fully submerged. Meanwhile, forecasters predicted more rain during this week. The Manila weather bureau said in a statement carried by the wires that a

tropical depression is gaining strength off Luzon's eastern coast and was moving northward with winds up to 55 kph. Although this second storm's path will not take the center of the island, meteorologists said its outer winds would lash the eastern provinces of Isabela, Aurora, and Cagayan. Even once the rains and storm pass, they leave behind more trouble. In central Luzon, three major river systems - the Angat, the Pampanga, and the Candaba - had flooded, driving tens of thousands from their homes. The storms had flooded about 47,000 homes in Bulacan, last week.

Gorby: Itching for a Political Comeback:

"If the situation is such that I have to put aside everything in order to deal with Russian affairs, to save the country, I will do it." That is what former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev said last week. As one observer noted, Gorby has not missed an opportunity to hit at Yeltsin.

Mr. Gorbachev was pointing to the near-dictatorial powers of Yeltsin who has declared a state of emergency, nullified parliament, the Supreme Court, and brought the media under his direct censorship. In addition, the president has carried out a full purge of opponents. Over 5,000 persons have been detained last week. A similar number has also been locked up for violating the curfew, presently in force in Moscow, and other offences.

Gorby indicated that come elections, people will free themselves of these shackles.

Meanwhile, Boris Yeltsin concluded an official visit to Tokyo. And unlike his initial warnings to the Japanese not to raise the issue of the four Kurile islands during the visit, he has ended up signing a document which will return two of the four islands to Japan. The former USSR had annexed those islands, which extend from Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.

In return, Japan has pledged to provide economic assistance to the ailing Russian economy. At another level, the death toll from two days of Moscow fighting during the Security and army forces attacked the Russian White House (Parliament Building) and three out of the deputies, was now put 142 dead and 359 wounded. The deputies of the people had refused a Yeltsin decision on September 21 and barricaded themselves in the building.

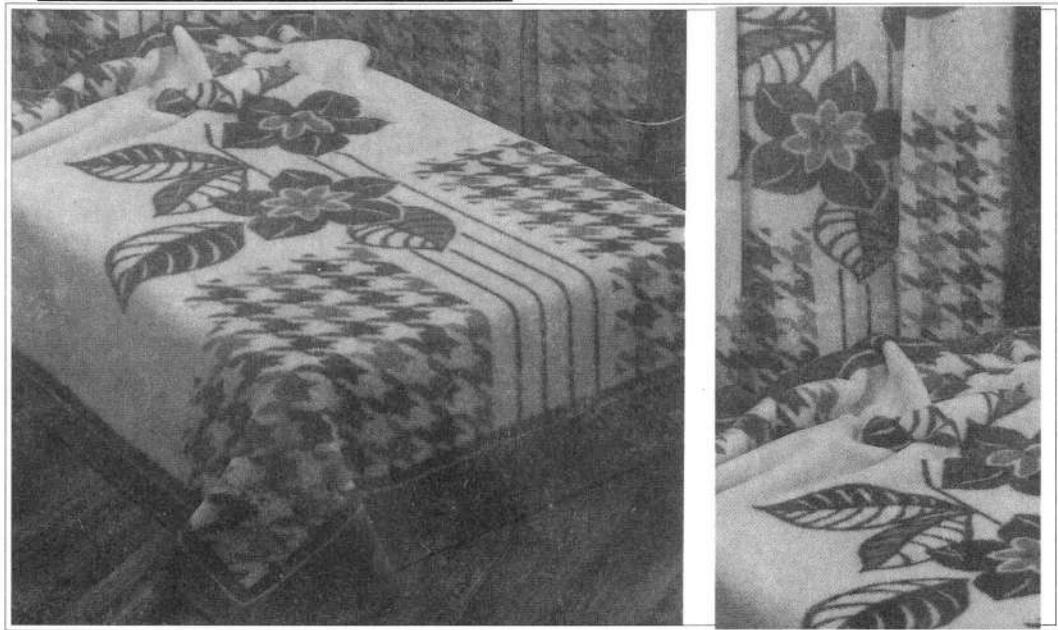
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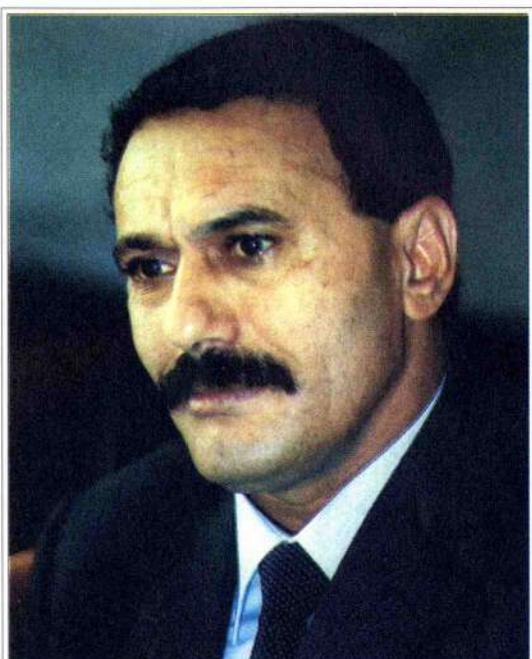
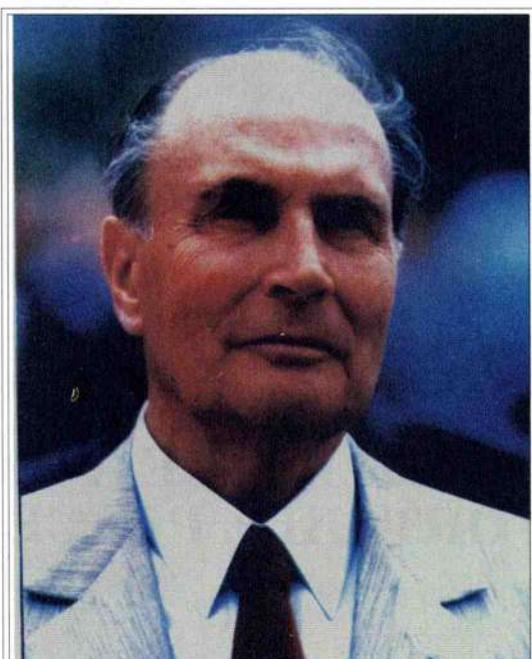


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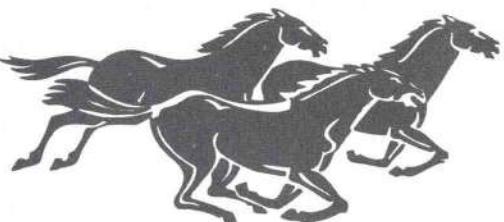
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The Famous 18-Point Demands of Ali Salim al-Beedh:

"I can't think of anyone who would disagree with them."

**By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times.**

Ali Salim Al-Beedh continues to insist on real reform to shake off the shackles of the past. He insists on wide-ranging reform and serious efforts to implement law and order in this country.

The crusade that he has started alone has now gathered momentum as more and groups join him in his demand. The 18-point demand, detailed below, have become the demands of the YSP. Now various political and intellectual groups as well as unions and syndicates have joined the bandwagon asking for the implementation of the demands. Every day brings new support to the cause of the 18-point demands. As one ambassador in Sanaa put it, "I can't think if anyone who would disagree with them (the demands)." Another foreigner, a researcher in Yemen, indicated even President Ali Abdullah Saleh should support the 18-point reform package, not as a sign of giving in to the Vice President, but in order to help this country get back on its feet."

Ali Salim Al-Beedh has refused to return to Sanaa until the system takes steps in meeting these demands.

Here are the 18 demands:

1. To arrest the terrorists and all persons implicated in the

violence, bombings and killings of citizens and government officials, and to bring them to open trial. Many of these are well known and they are under the protection of influential persons and groups.

2. To evacuate military camps from the cities, and especially the major cities, and to adopt a timetable for carrying out this task.

3. To introduce decentralization of financial and administrative procedures so that the governorates can go about their work without being burdened with endless clearances from Sanaa. At the same time, to specify a date for carrying out local elections.

4. The resignation of the top men in the state (president, vice president and speaker of parliament) from their party affiliations (while in their current posts) in order to be able fairly promote and protect all Yemenis irrespective of political affiliation.

5. To take the necessary measures to rectify the conditions of the justice and general prosecution office.

6. To appoint the Upper House (Majlis Al-Shoura) of equal numbers from all the governorates, and prepare for their elections in the future.

7. To correct the financial and economic malaise, espe-



cially the corruption, mismanagement and misuse of government funds. To enforce the retirement law.

8. To present and implement an annual budget, and to adhere to it strictly with any extra-budgetary items. To bring the Central Bank of Yemen under the control of the government only.

9. To work out a development plan based on a clear investment program to achieve a balanced socio-economic development.

10. To issue a new Yemeni currency immediately.

11. To approve of an executive plan to implement the decisions taken in order to

transform Aden into a free zone.

12. To respect the institutions of the state and to allow them to function according to their governing laws and administrative hierarchy and not to interfere in their affairs in any way.

13. To re-structure the administrative boundaries of the governorates and districts in a way that will remove any reminder of the division between the two former parts of the country, and in a way that will block the interference of the military in civilian affairs.

14. To re-structure the composition of the armed and security forces along national lines, and competition among the people to be one

the basis of qualifications and experience. To re-assign the tasks and duties of the political security office in line with the democratic rights of our citizens.

15. To approve the principle of constitutional amendments, and for which a national committee is to be formed to discuss and debate such amendments, and then to put the conclusions to a national referendum.

16. To elect a five-member presidential council on the basis of a two-PGC, two-YSP and one-Islah membership, and that the council should work as an institution and based on clear programs and plans.

17. To take the necessary steps to implement the unity agreement according to a predetermined schedule.

18. The state must adopt a general and comprehensive reconciliation under the guidance of the government to put an end to vengeance. All political parties and public figures must participate in this effort.

Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh and Salim Saleh Moham-med, though elected to the presidential council according to quota specified by the YSP in its 18-point demands, are in no hurry to come to Sanaa and get things back to normal. According to a telephone statement to the Yemen Times, the duo are waiting for the president to accept the reforms, and state his commitment to them explicitly, and come up with a timetable for their implementation.

Otherwise, the weather in Aden is actually improving as the winter months bring a nice cool breeze to the city. He also says that he is actually implementing the unity agreement which calls on the political apparatus, at least at the top level, to move to Aden during the winter months.

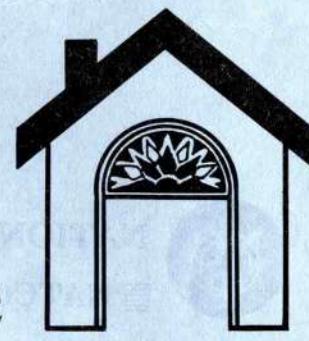
The situation in Sanaa remains tense, and time works in favor of the reformists and against those who preserve the status quo.

Ali Salim Al-Beedh is seen today as a leader.

The diplomatic community has given him thumbs up. He has tamed-in rebellious elements in the YSP and has recreated a sense of solidarity among party members. He has steadily consolidated his support base in Aden and the southern governorates. Most importantly, he has gained considerable appeal among the citizens of the north who see him as a man interested in their welfare.

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Fulfilling a Promise?

In Hadhramaut, during the inauguration of the export of the Masila oil on the 23rd of September, 1993, Lt-General Ali Abdulla Saleh stated, "The oil wealth is important, but our real wealth is human beings. I want to confirm that our oil revenues will not go to the pockets of officials (as in the past), but we will employ such resources to build the national economy."

The president's statement fits very well with our real needs and religious values. But it remains a statement.

When we review the condition of Yemeni citizens, the standard of living is well below the subsistence level for the majority. The country's wealth is spent unwisely a visible absence of social justice. Society in Yemen is split into two parts. The first group, a small minority, takes a big share of the pie. The majority of the population, meanwhile eke out a very humble living. This is due to the corruption, favoritism and inefficiencies of the system. Some members of society are accumulating wealth in leaps and bounds, without earning any of it. Others languish in utter poverty.

The lopsided wealth and income distribution has its effects on political and social rights. A highly stratified economic situation leads to the forfeiture of freedom and basic rights by the majority. Without economic justice, political freedom is a hollow concept.

Economic and social justice and freedom are intertwined. When justice prevails, political equality becomes real as people possess their own ability to decide and choose. In this sense, voters will not be "forced" to by-pass their rights for the sake of some temporary financial gain.

When the concept of economic justice and equal opportunities are prevalent, no one will sell his/her decision or try to compromise. What the president promised on that occasion ought to be taken seriously for public funds do not belong to any official, and no one has the right to dispense with them to achieve personal gains.

Yemen is not a poor country, for it possesses a lot of agricultural and mineral resources. The cause of poverty is this wasting of funds and uneven distribution of income, almost always, in unknown methods? When public funds are spent without the supervision of the representatives of the people, then poverty is a direct consequence. The promise of the president is an excellent step bearing in its folds an acknowledgement of past errors, and a promise to rectify it. If there is a strong will and determination to make a new beginning, then there is hope for our country to prosper.

**By : Mohammad Bin Ali Al-Wazeer ,
Al-Shoura , Sanaa,
10/10/1993 .**

The Future We Aspire!

Will the next phase in our political evolution bring us closer to the peoples aspirations and our national goals? Will it be a phase of proper decisions employing all the political, economic, social potentials toward progress and prosperity of Yemen? This is what we hope .

Are we going to deal with our problems with the same old techniques that have proven time and again their failure. That is what we don't want to see . Are we going to start a new phase with new plans in

creative combinations as tomorrow's dreams are brought to life with today's realities? Are the political parties willing and able to bring in the open all that is going on behind the scenes? Will they allow the people to directly monitor everything? It is time to punish the corrupt people and put an end to this corruption. What we want from the political parties is to leave their partisan approach and favoritism and start working for the sake of the nation. We want them to think of the homeland before thinking of their interests. Can they do it?

**By : Tarish Kahtan
Al-Masar, Sanaa,
6/10/1993 .**

The Opposition and Its Role

In democratic systems, there is a ruling authority and an opposition group. The transfer of authority from one side to the other proceeds in a democratic way. The political parties introduce their programs and seek to convince the people and thus take over power. Those who win the people's votes, form the government, the rest find themselves in the opposition. Therefore, the opposition must adopt new policies and programs so that they can the people's votes in the next round. In other words, the opposition must work harder than the ruling party. But what we see in our country is the opposite. The losers are demoralized from the first round. They become indifferent and paralyzed.

Thus, in the face of shortcomings from the ruling group, the people do not see an alternative as the opposition has withered away. The absence of the opposition gives those in power an opportunity to overwhelm everybody. In order to stabilize the political system based on democracy, it is the opposition's role to liberate itself from the helpless moods and feelings. It is also significant to investigate its internal situation and focus on the activities which will gain for it the confidence and support of the people. Above all, the opposition should be careful not to allow the power structure slip back towards dictatorship.

**By :
Abdullah Ali,
Al-Ummah, Sanaa,
7/10/1993 .**

Yemeni-Gulf Relations!

Our policy focuses on non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. Our policy is also based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of other countries. Yemen also believes in the Arab Cause (Palestinian Issue) and opposes any steps by outsiders to dictate policies to any society.

Yemen respects those principles and it regards them as a base for governing its relations with all the states of the world and particularly with its Gulf neighbors. No one can say that Yemen tries to dictate any policies or steps or to export its political beliefs or ideas to other countries.

Yemen has tried and still tries to bridge the gap in inter-Arab relations. The Gulf crisis has damaged Yemeni relations with the Gulf States. But Yemen's position was misconstrued. Yemen condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and this condemnation did not make Iraq angry without gaining any response from the other side. The Gulf rulers

simply did not like a Yemeni position that is not totally beholden to them.

One of the things that irritated the Gulf rulers most was Yemen's refusal to join the allied forces, and its condemnation of their presence on Arab soil. Thus, the crisis led to the returnees problem in Yemen. Owing to this, most of the Yemenis are not enthusiastic to bless any efforts leading to the resumption of relations with the Gulf States. Any relationship should be based on a policy respecting interests, documents, pacts, agreements and other of accords.

Our relations should not be governed by tactical considerations of temporary nature. We should work along long-term objectives.

**By : Anwar Al-Ansi,
Al-Rased, Sanaa,
11/10/1993 .**

Salwa Abdu Nashir from Sawt Al-Ommal in an interview with the engineer Ms. Iman Abdul Hadi Abdullah working in Road and Bridge Corporation, Aden Branch.

Excerpts from the interview . Q: Would you kindly introduce yourself to the public ? A: I work as an engineer in Aden. I graduated from the College of Engineering, Aden University, in 1989 . Q: What do you do now ? A: There reached our office a contract from Sanaa to repair/re-asphalt several Aden roads . Four of my colleagues and I were chosen to supervise the work.

Q: Any difficulties ? A: Of course, there are certain difficulties. First, I am a woman, and our society does not expect us to work.

Second, I work as an engineer on the roads. If career women are accepted, then they are expected to be confined to certain traditional jobs such as teaching, secretarial and office work, etc.

Third, I mix with foreigners and I spend long hours with the Chinese counterparts.

In spite of these difficulties, I continue doing my job well.

Q: Could you talk about your work ?

A: It is interesting and I consider myself privileged. I enjoy working in Aden, as the society are ease with itself. But, outside Aden, it is really a problem for most of our citizens do not understand or respect the right of women to work.

Q: Have you been offered any special considerations as a way of encouragement ?

A: No, and I am not asking for any. My encouragement lies in getting more experience from my field.

Let me mention that the ministry has allocated for all engineers a monthly allowance as an incentives, but money is not everything. What is important is acquiring knowledge, new technologies and getting good at what one does.

Q: What is your specific field of expertise ?

A: In brief, I monitor the quality, and check that the proper quantities such as cement and mixture are observed. I am a specifications supervisor.

Q: What do you think of your Chinese colleagues ?

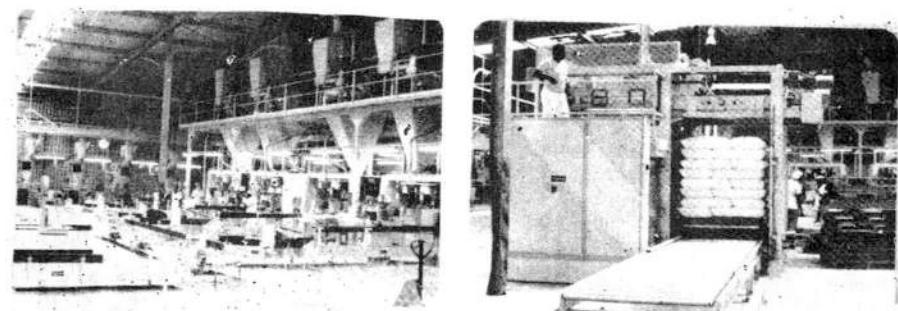
A: I have a lot of respect for the Chinese because they are capable of working long hours without stopping.

In addition, I feel I am learning a lot from my association with them. It is a correct professional relationship. I am proud of working with them.

**By : Salwa Abdu Nashir,
Sawt Al-Ommal, Aden,
7/10/1993 .**


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"Agricultural Research and Extension Services are key to sustained development in Yemen."

Many policy makers, researchers and ordinary citizens feel that the real potential for economic growth and prosperity lies in concentrating on agriculture. They also feel that the critical factor in real take-off in this sector will be the result of extension services and agricultural research in terms of seeds, fertilizers, irrigation and other improvements.

To shed more light on this aspect, Yemen Times Economic Editor, Ameen Nouisser spoke with Dr. Abdul-Wahid Othman Mukrid, Director General of the General Authority for Agricultural Research and Extension Services (GAARES). Dr. Mukrid, a native of Taiz, has a PhD from the West Indies in Agricultural Science. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Let us start with a general question. How serious is this country about research?

A: Of course the budgetary allocations are meager. I think it is 0.2% (of government expenditures) in Yemen, whereas in other countries it is much higher. In most advanced countries the average is 4%, and in some cases it goes as high as 8%. So, if you go by that indicator, you would conclude that the government is not committed to research at all.

The private sector is also oblivious to the research need of socio-economic development.

Even then, however, some research is taking place.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the history of research in agriculture?

A: In the field of agriculture, research can be traced back to almost forty years.

The first research station was established in 1955 (under British rule) in the Abyan and Tuban deltas in the former PDRY. The focus was on growing cotton.

There was some progress in this field. But the real jump in research came in the later 1960s when the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) extended financial and technical assistance. By 1980, many research stations (Al-Kowd, Seiyun, etc.) had been established in the former PDRY.

In the former YAR, the beginnings are more recent. In the late 1970s, the Surood Research Station was established in Taiz. Then came the Zabid station as part of the Tihama Development Project. The watershed in the former YAR's agricultural research came in 1984 when the Central Research Station for Agriculture was established in Taiz, which is in many ways, the fore-runner of the current institutions.

In November 1990, the GAARES (General Authority for Agricultural Research and Extension Services) was established.

Q: Could you tell us more about GAARES in terms of research stations, research staff, activities, etc.?

A: GAARES, headquartered in Dhamar, has eight research stations scattered all over the country working under its direction. These are located in Al-Kowd, Seiyun, Taiz, Surood, Dhamar, Al-Bown, Marib and Lahej.

We have a highly qualified staff as follows:

- 32 senior specialists,
- 91 researchers with M.A. degrees,
- 118 researchers with B.A. degrees,
- 209 assistants with secondary graduation certificates.

In addition to a large number of support staff such as administrators, drivers, etc.

Our main objective is to increase productivity. This vertical development orientation seeks to increase yield per hectare or per plot. Thus we are researching better seeds, better irrigation techniques, better resistance to pests, etc.

Therefore, many of the stations are engaged in developing new strains and seed varieties. We are also helping the farmers acquire new technologies that help in this regard.

Let me point out that at a certain phase in the past, we did pursue a horizontal expansion program through land reclamation and bringing fallow land under cultivation. But the costs for such efforts are high, the return is low, and the scope for continued expansion are limited.



Q: How do you coordinate your work with the scattered research stations?

A: We have a highly decentralized system. The stations have their own budgetary allocations, administrative staff and plans. We assist in coordination, transfer of information among stations, sponsoring periodic meetings among the researchers of the stations, and provide overall support and guidance.

I personally visit the stations on a pre-planned regular basis to be on top of how the work is proceeding. You will note that each of the stations caters to a different region with peculiar soil and climatic conditions. So their emphasis is well varied, but there is some significant overlap. Thus we pursue decentralization with a strong coordination effort.

Finally, let me mention that there is a Supreme Committee for Agricultural Research Coordination which is headed by the Minister of Agriculture.

Q: Is there any cooperation with the Colleges of Agriculture at the Universities of Sanaa and Aden?

A: Unfortunately, we have minimal

contact with them. I think more joint effort is needed in order to pool the resources and achieve something meaningful at faster pace. My feelings are that once the two universities proceed towards higher studies, which involves more research and practical work, then the scope for cooperation will be more. I use this opportunity to invite them to more cooperation.

Q: What about cooperation with regional/international organizations and foreign countries interested in this kind of work?

A: We have extensive relations with many regional and international organizations such as the ICARDA, ICSAD, ISNAR, etc.

Naturally, we are cooperating mainly with organizations working on semi-arid climatic regions. We have strong cooperation with certain countries as well, such as Egypt, Syria, Sudan, India, etc.

We also have on-going cooperation with Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia in terms of better water management techniques.

Among the countries that assist in agriculture, the Federal Republic of Germany stands out. It continues to support this sector generously. Other countries are also helping.

The UNDP is a major sponsor of many of our projects, especially the ones related to seed development. Through Canada's IDRC and in collaboration with the ICARDA, we have a major project to be launched in 1994. This project will bring us together with the academic institutions.

Q: What are the problems you face in your work?

A: The financial difficulties immediately stand out. The Government's contribution to our efforts is almost limited to paying the payrolls, as over 85% of government allocations are for salary payment. I think this situation reflects the lop-sided priorities of our policy-makers. They bend to the more pressing issues today, and forget about the pending crisis of the future, even the near future.

Then there are difficulties related

to issues beyond the research phase of our work. For example, if we help farmers increase their product, there must be other parties that will help him in storage systems, marketing facilities, etc. This is very critical for sustained growth. In addition, the pricing mechanism needs to be sorted out. The price of agricultural products jumps in violent cycles from very high to very low, which is damaging to farmers.

Finally, we are asked to play the role of agents of change in the techniques employed by farmers. Our success depends on how much benefit the farmers can see in our work. To achieve this, a certain prestige and priority must be given to this sector by the government itself.

One more thing, the media has to play a role in helping enlighten the farmers and policy-makers in the benefits of these research efforts.

Finally, academia has to come down with practical steps beyond the theoretical aspects in helping find solutions to the problems of farming in Yemen.

Q: How would you evaluate the future of agricultural research in Yemen?

A: We are future-oriented, and we feel that we can make a meaningful contribution to the development process.

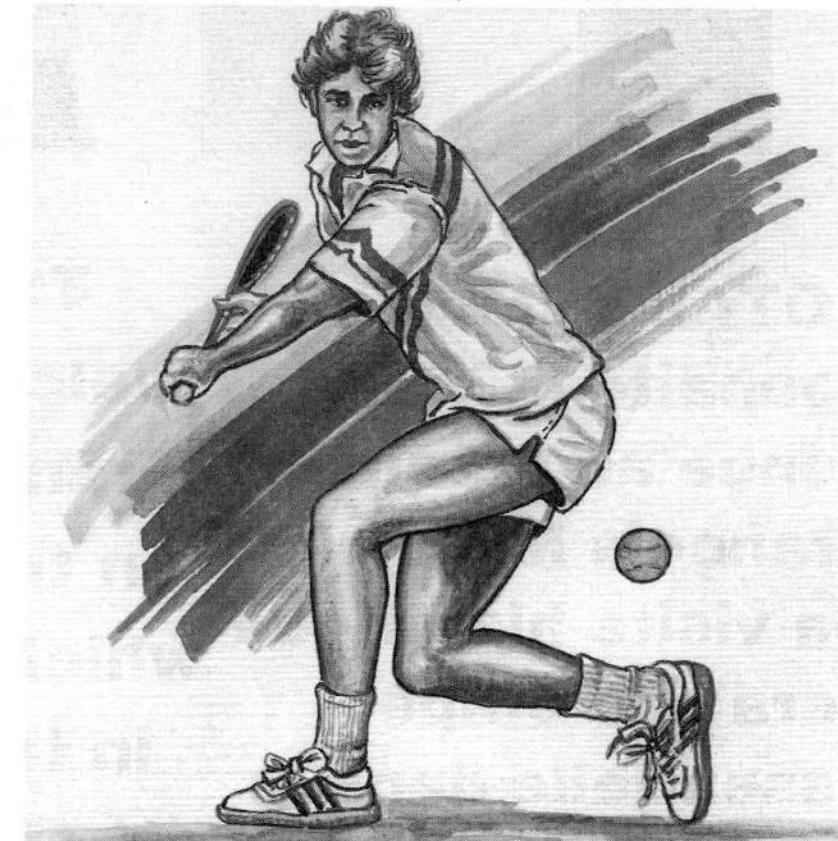
In our own plans, we are pushing three things:

1. To increase the autonomy of the stations and sub-stations so that they make carry their work without delay due to paperwork.
2. To enhance the qualification and abilities of our researchers through more local and international trainings and up-grading.
3. To diversify and strengthen our contact channels with the farmers in order to gain respect and credibility.

In my opinion, agricultural research and extension services are key for sustained development in Yemen. And this option presents Yemen its highest potential for sustained growth. I hope the government understands this.

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Israel has long strived to make Yemen the next Arab "Judenrein." Many Zionist preachers have come to Yemen to entice the Jewish Yemenis to leave for Israel, via Europe or USA. Many US and UK deputies as well as senior personalities have been mobilized to urge Yemeni officials to "let my people go." Even today as this paper is going to print, Sami Grafi, Damti, and Salim Zebiba are in Yemen to urge more Jewish Yemenis to leave. But, the Jewish Yemenis know what is going to happen to them in Israel, where it is not paradise.

"Yediot Achronot" published stories on the ordeals of the Yemeni Jews in Israel. That includes a court restraining order which has been served this week to block the departure of Jews. Will Americans and Europeans now speak up for the freedom of travel of these persons?

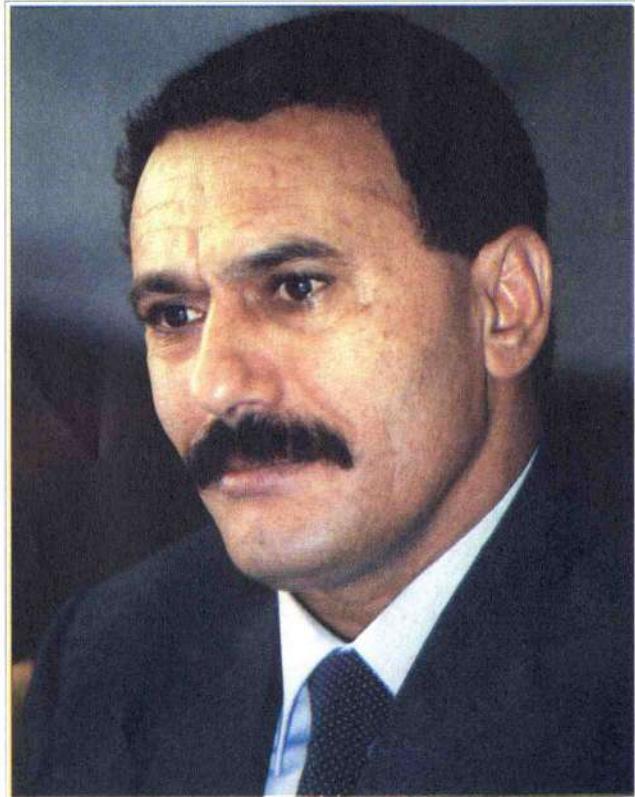
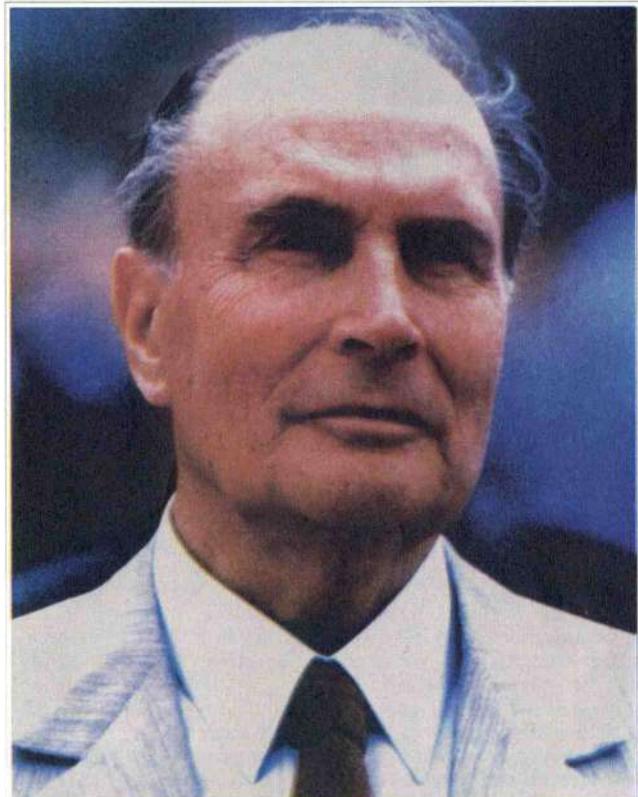


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Sa visite historique
sera une étape
essentielle dans la
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les deux pays.

TOTAL YEMEN
welcomes President
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 البلدين الصديقين

TOTAL YEMEN

DIPLOMATIE

ENTRETIEN: Marcel Laugel, ambassadeur de France à Sanaa

"La France est consciente du rôle du Yémen dans la stabilité de la région"

Marcel Laugel a été nommé ambassadeur de France à Sanaa le 15 août 1992.

Auparavant, il était ambassadeur de France au Koweït de 1986 à 1988, puis au Soudan, de 1989 à 1992.

Yemen Times: Quelle est votre appréciation des relations entre le Yémen et la France dans les domaines de la coopération économique et commerciale, de l'investissement et des aides françaises ?

Marcel Laugel: La France est un partenaire de première importance pour le Yémen. Les échanges économiques s'articulent autour de certaines activités principales.

L'agro-alimentaire est l'un des secteurs prioritaires de l'aide française. Une dotation alimentaire est allouée annuellement. Une ligne de crédits garantis pour l'achat de produits agro-alimentaires est ouverte chaque année pour la campagne céréalière.

La France est particulièrement bien implantée dans le secteur des télécom-

munications. Alcatel exécute un contrat portant sur l'installation de 24 000 lignes téléphoniques. Dans le secteur pétrolier, Elf et Total sont tous deux présents. La France est aussi présente dans la construction

"La France est un partenaire de première importance pour le Yémen"

aéronautique: un Airbus A 310-300 a été remis officiellement à Al-Yemda le 23 juin à Aden. Des travaux de balisage de l'aéroport d'Aden vont être confiés à une société française. La France participe à la rénovation de la conserverie de thon de Mukalla.

YT: Et en ce qui concerne la coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique ?

M.Laugel: Dans ce domaine, la France ne reste pas inactive. Sous l'impulsion du Bureau de Coopération Linguistique et Educationnelle (BCLE), une licence de français est préparée dans un bâtiment qui lui est réservé, à l'université de Sanaa ainsi qu'à la faculté d'Aden. Dans le secteur scolaire, une expérience d'introduction du

français est poursuivie dans trois établissements de Sanaa et d'Aden depuis février 1991. Deux Centres culturels français, à Sanaa et Aden sont en fonction depuis octobre 1990. Grâce à une station de réception offerte par la France à la télévision d'Aden, les émissions de CFI sont programmées chaque semaine sur cette chaîne et captables sur l'ensemble du territoire. Des cours de français télévisés sont diffusés sur cette même chaîne deux fois par semaine.

Enfin, les activités du Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, la rénovation de la Maison Rimbaud à Aden, la future création des Archives nationales visent à accroître le rayonnement culturel de la France au Yémen.

YT: Quelle est, à votre avis, la signification de la visite du Président de la République française au Yémen et ses éventuelles conséquences au Yémen ?

M.Laugel: La visite au Yémen du Président de la République française, la première dans l'histoire des relations bilatérales, vise à contribuer à renforcer les relations entre les deux pays dans tous les domaines, économique, culturel et politique. Nul doute qu'une telle visite entraînera un intérêt supplémentaire des Français pour le

Yémen et des Yéménites pour la France.

YT: Parmi les Européens, vous êtes l'un des meilleurs connaisseurs de la mentalité arabe.

"Le Yéménite est un homme affable qui a le goût de l'hospitalité."

Comment percevez-vous la personnalité yéménite ?

M. Laugel: Le Yéménite est un homme affable, qui a le goût de l'hospitalité. Il est d'abord facile. Ses relations avec l'étranger sont sans complexes. Mais c'est aussi un homme secret, subtil, qui réfléchit beaucoup avant de prendre une décision. Il a le sens de l'amitié et de la fidélité.

YT: Le Yémen a entamé un processus démocratique. Comment évaluez-vous les premiers acquis et comment se présente l'avenir ?

M. Laugel: En trois ans, le Yémen a réalisé un parcours difficile et sans faute: unité, élections législatives réussies, formation d'un gouvernement de coalition.

Les Yéménites ont fait preuve de maturité politique. Le chemin à parcourir pour poursuivre ce processus démocratique est encore long. Les amendements constitutionnels vont être difficile à appliquer. Le Yémen doit s'attaquer à ces nouveaux problèmes avec calme, modération. Nul doute que sa sagesse proverbiale, reconnue déjà par le prophète Mohammed, viendra à bout de tous ces obstacles.

YT: En tant qu'ambassadeur, quelles sont les difficultés rencontrées dans l'exercice de vos fonctions ?

M. Laugel: Je serais tenté de répondre, aucune. Mes rapports avec l'administration et les différents ministères sont excellents. Quand je demande à voir quelqu'un d'important, je suis reçu très vite avec chaleur. Mes démarches, mêmes les plus délicates, sont faites dans une atmosphère de courtoisie, d'amitié, de compréhension. Je dois rendre hommage au service du protocole des Affaires étrangères qui, sous la conduite de l'ambassadeur Gazem Abdel Khalek Al-Aghbari, est d'une efficacité remarquable.

Au plan personnel, je dirais sans forfanterie, que j'ai, au plan des libertés, l'impression d'être en France. Je me sens parfaitement à

l'aise. La vie quotidienne pour le diplomate français à Sanaa est facile. Ses rapports avec le peuple yéménite sont sans problèmes, il se sent libre

"Le processus démocratique entamé par Yémen est suivi avec un intérêt croissant en France"

de ses actions comme de ses propos. Il peut se promener dans la campagne, où il reçoit toujours bon accueil.

YT: A votre avis, quelle est la place du Yémen dans la politique régionale de la France ?

M. Laugel: Je crois, en toute sincérité, que la France est de plus en plus consciente que le Yémen représente, pour la stabilité de la région, un atout majeur tant pour ce qui est de la péninsule arabique que de la Corne d'Afrique. Le processus démocratique qu'il a entamé est suivi avec un intérêt croissant par les responsables politiques français. Bref, le Yémen aux yeux des Français, acquiert une stature de partenaire à part entière aux potentialités prometteuses.

SOCIETE

Regards sur la France

Population, superficie, industrie, agriculture, la France se dévoile grâce aux chiffres de l'Institut national de la statistique (INSEE).

Territoire

Avec une superficie de 547 000 km², la France se classe au 45ème rang mondial. L'ex-URSS est le pays le plus étendu, suivi du Canada, de la Chine et des Etats-Unis.

Population

Selon les dernières données de l'INSEE (Institut national de la statistique), la population de la France métropolitaine au 1er janvier 1993 est estimée à 57,5 millions d'habitants. Elle augmente peu, puisque au recensement de 1982 elle était de 54,3 millions. La population française vieillit et en 2005 plus d'un Français sur quatre aura plus de 65 ans. Mais à l'exception de l'Irlande, les populations des pays de la Communauté européenne vieillissent. La France se maintient parmi les pays d'Europe où l'on observe la fécondité la moins faible. En 1992, l'espérance de vie à la naissance est estimée à 81,3 années pour les femmes et 73,1 années pour les

hommes.

Les Français vivent dans leur majorité dans les villes et ils sont 9,4 millions à habiter dans la région parisienne.

Concernant l'activité des Français, ils sont de moins en moins nombreux à cultiver la terre. En presque trente ans, le nombre d'agriculteurs exploitants a été divisé par trois. Il est passé de 3,1 millions en 1962 à moins d'un million au recensement de 1990. Les ouvriers demeurent le groupe social le plus important parmi les actifs, mais leur nombre est en régression. Ce sont principalement les professions les moins qualifiées qui diminuent le plus. Le nombre des cadres et des professions intermédiaires ne cesse d'augmenter.

Economie générale

En 1992, la reprise attendue s'est enrayer au second semestre. La consommation des ménages reste le principal mais insuffisant soutien de la croissance. Les investissements

reculent, seules les dépenses publiques d'équipement restent soutenues. Mais avec le temps, des déséquilibres s'installent. Faute de perspectives meilleures, les entreprises contiennent leurs dépenses.

Le chômage s'accroît fortement et les revenus salariaux décèlèrent. Toutefois le solde extérieur est largement excédentaire et la décélération des prix se poursuit.

Industrie

Parmi les cinquante premiers groupes industriels mondiaux en terme de chiffres d'affaires, six sont français: Elf-Aquitaine, EDF, Renault, Peugeot, Alcatel-Alsthom et Total. Le premier, Elf-Aquitaine, se place au 25ème rang mondial et au 10ème rang européen. La France est en 1991 le troisième exportateur mondial en biens intermédiaires, derrière l'Allemagne et les Etats-Unis. Elle occupe le cinquième rang des pays exportateurs de biens d'équipement pro-

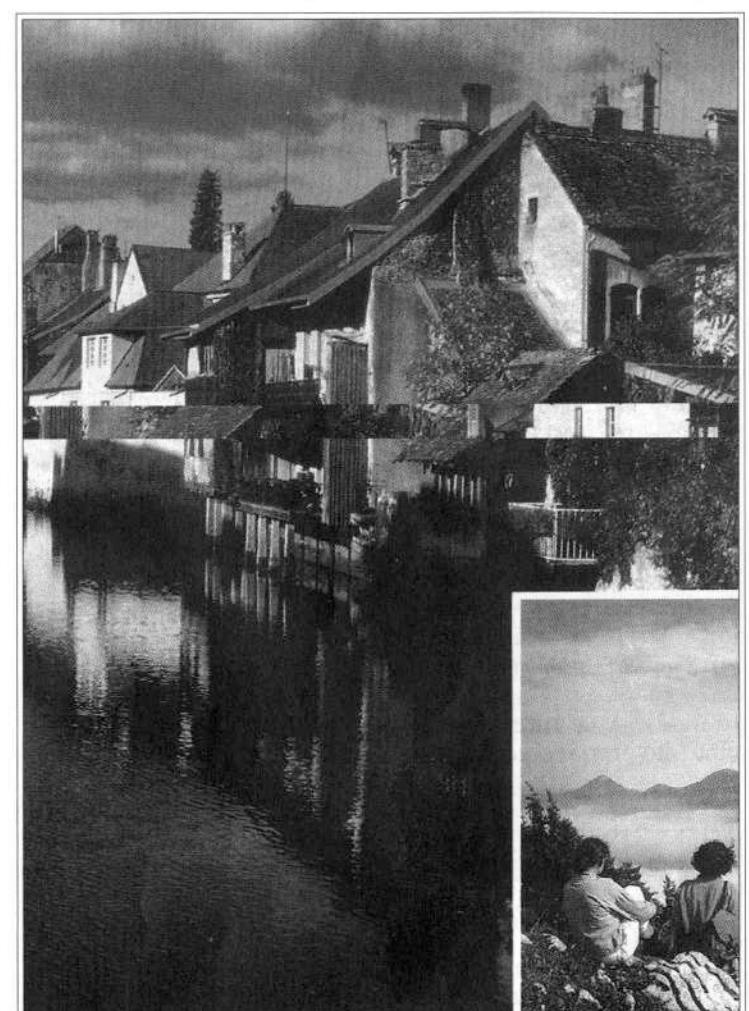
fessionnel derrière les Etats-Unis, le Japon, l'Allemagne et le Royaume-Uni. Pour les biens de consommation, la France occupe le quatrième rang des pays exportateurs et le troisième pour la seule parachimie.

Agriculture

La France possède la plus grande surface agricole utilisée de la Communauté européenne, devant l'Espagne et l'Italie. La France demeure le premier producteur de la CEE en céréales, en vin, sucre, en viande bovine ainsi qu'en aviculture. Dans le domaine de la pêche, la France est le premier importateur et le quatrième exportateur de la CEE. Les principales espèces importées sont le saumon et les crevettes. Les principales espèces exportées sont le thon et le merlu.

Tertiaire

En 1991, deux banques françaises figurent parmi les dix premières au classement mondial: ce sont le Crédit Agricole (9ème) et



La Franche-Comté, à l'est de la France.

le Crédit Lyonnais (10ème), derrière huit banques japonaises.

Echanges extérieurs
L'Allemagne et l'Italie sont les premiers clients et fournisseurs de la

France. Le solde avec l'Italie reste à l'équilibre en 1992, par contre il est défavorable avec l'Allemagne. Le Japon reste un client modeste mais il est un fournisseur plutôt important.

YEMEN/FRANCE

La coopération culturelle scientifique et technique

La coopération franco-yéménite, déjà ancienne, remonte au moins à trois décennies. Dès les temps de l'Imam, des médecins français s'étaient en effet établis à Taëz, où ils menèrent trente années durant une œuvre admirable au service de la population.

Simultanément, ou presque, la France consentait un effort important dans le domaine de la recherche archéologique, et de la formation des chercheurs yéménites, assenant les bases d'une coopération équilibrée.

Avec la réunification, l'occasion se présentait de procéder à une restructuration et à une rationalisation des actions de coopération franco-yéménite qui, entretemps, s'était diversifiée de manière aussi généreuse que disparate.

Ainsi dans une étroite concertation franco-yéménite, à l'occasion de la première commission mixte avec la République unifiée, les grands axes de la coopération nouvelle furent définis autour de trois grands pôles: l'enseignement et la diffusion du français, épine dorsale de cette coopération, la coopération universitaire et la coopération technique. Avec un maître mot, servant de lien entre toutes les opérations, celui de formation.

a) Enseignement et diffusion du français.

Dans un environnement d'influence traditionnellement anglophone, il convenait de faire porter prioritairement l'effort dans ce domaine, une meilleure diffusion de la langue française restant la condition essentielle d'un développement efficace de ces actions de coopération.

Dans un souci d'efficacité, l'effort principal s'est porté dans les domaines universitaires et scolaires, après l'achèvement d'expériences qui étaient parvenues à leur terme par une relève locale, ou pour répondre à une nécessité de cohérence et de complémentarité au sein du dispositif mis en place.

Sous l'impulsion du Bureau de Coopération Linguistique et Educative (BCLÉ), les points d'appui sont à présent la Faculté de Lettres de l'Université de Sanaa, où une licence de français est préparée dans un bâtiment qui lui est réservé, et la Faculté d'Education d'Aden, où un DULF est mis en place, avant la création l'an prochain d'une licence avec une spécialisation à la traduction.

Dans le secteur scolaire, une expérience d'introduction du français est conduite dans trois établissements pilotes de Sanaa et Aden depuis février 1991. Un projet d'accord institutionnalisant cette introduction est en cours d'élaboration. Le retour d'enseignants formés en France permettra, progressivement, d'amplifier cette opération, et de l'étendre à l'ensemble du territoire.

Deux Centres Culturels Français, à Sanaa et Aden, sont en fonction depuis octobre 1990. Depuis lors, ils ont développé leur action d'enseignement du français pour les adultes, tant *in situ* qu'hors les murs. Ils réalisent par ailleurs d'importants programmes de diffusion culturelle et d'action artistique.

Grâce à une station de réception et un bâtiment spécial offerts par la France à la télévision d'Aden, des émissions de Canal France International sont adaptées et programmées chaque semaine sur cette chaîne, et captables dans tout le Yémen. Les équipements que la France continue à fournir et les actions de formation développées permettent prochainement d'augmenter la diffusion des programmes français. Par ailleurs, des cours de français télévisés sont diffusés deux fois par semaine sur cette même chaîne.

D'autre part, dans le domaine du journalisme, plusieurs étudiants de l'Université de Sanaa suivent une formation dispensée par un expert français.

Par ailleurs, à la demande de la Présidence de la République et du Ministère des Affaires étrangères, une formation à la traduction et à l'interprétation en français à l'intention de fonctionnaires yéménites a été mise en place. L'effort porte sur des actions d'abord locales par les services du BCLE, puis en France, pour les candidats sélectionnés.

L'Ecole française de Sanaa, enfin, complète ce dispositif en participant au rayonnement de la langue française, pour les nombreux enfants de familles francophones auxquels elle dispense son enseignement.

b) Coopération universitaire

1) Médecine

Onze médecins yéménites achèvent en ce moment leur spécialisation en France. La relève, à présent en bonne voie d'être assurée par ces derniers à l'hôpital républicain de Taëz, permet de redéployer la coopération médicale avec les instances universitaires yéménites, sur la base d'accords inter-universitaires actuellement à l'étude, et d'examiner le projet de création d'un Institut de Cardiologie à vocation universitaire à Taëz avec l'ensemble des parties concernées.

2) Faculté d'ingénierie d'Aden

Une coopération aussi ancienne que fructueuse avec cette faculté a permis que la majeure partie de ses dirigeants soient d'anciens boursiers français. Après avoir équipé un laboratoire d'électronique, la coopération s'applique à l'enseignement de l'informatique.

En liaison avec l'Université de Rouen, signataire d'un accord avec la Faculté d'Ingénierie d'Aden, est prévu pour 1994 l'installation d'un laboratoire de recherche en informatique industrielle, qui sera le premier centre de recherches du Yémen.

3) Faculté d'ingénierie de Sanaa-Rouen



Le bâtiment du département de français à l'Université de Sanaa.

En réponse au voeu formulé en Commission mixte par les représentants yéménites, la France a ouvert un projet de coopération avec cette faculté, sur la base d'un accord avec l'Université de Rouen signé le 8 mars dernier. Les actions portent essentiellement sur des actions de formation, en France et localement, par un expert en poste.

c) Coopération technique

1) Agriculture: réhabilitation du café yéménite

Le Bureau Agricole Franco-Yéménite, structure mixte rattachée au ministère de l'Agriculture, intervient dans ce domaine depuis sa création, en août 1988. Suite aux nombreuses prospec-

tions de terrain et aux mauvaises conditions hydrauliques, le BAFY fait désormais porter ses efforts sur la gestion de l'eau, en particulier en faveur du café d'altitude.

Des négociations avec la faculté d'agronomie de Sanaa ont par ailleurs conduit à une fructueuse coopération avec le BAFY. Outre une participation technique à ses travaux, la faculté propose la candidature de futurs boursiers et la mise en place de leurs futures structures de recherche et de recyclage. Elle fournit également des stagiaires qui participent aux opérations de terrain du BAFY.

2) Aviation Civile

L'interruption du financement et de l'encadrement par les Saoudiens du

projet de coopération culturelle et scientifique" valable pour une durée de cinq ans et renouvelable par tacite reconduction a été signé avec le Centre yéménite d'études et de recherches, l'équivalent yéménite du CNRS. A l'instigation du C.F.E.Y. et de l'Organisation générale des Antiquités, des Bibliothèques et des Manuscrits, un nouvel accord de coopération archéologique, réglementant les activités des missions françaises pour les cinq prochaines années, a par ailleurs été signé en août 1993 par l'Ambassadeur de France et le Vice-ministre de la Culture. Dans le but d'encourager de nouvelles recherches sur le Yémen, le C.F.E.Y. offre chaque année plusieurs bourses qui permettent à de jeunes chercheurs d'avoir accès au terrain et à lancer de nouveaux programmes de recherche interdisciplinaires. Il pratique aussi une politique de diffusion des connaissances qui passe par l'organisation de conférences et par la publication d'ouvrages et d'un bulletin annuel d'information, *Chroniques yéménites*.

Publications

- Christian Robin et Muhammad

contrôle de la navigation aérienne et de la maintenance des aéroports avait amené les autorités yéménites à faire appel à la France pour intervenir dans ce domaine.

Depuis septembre dernier, un expert français est chargé de réorganiser la maintenance des aéroports du Yémen, de former sur place et de sélectionner stagiaires et boursiers qui se perfectionneront en France.

3) Coopération dans le secteur de l'administration

Cette nouvelle action, qui se développe au niveau central et au niveau local, comprend un volet formation et un volet conseil en organisation.

- Le ministère de l'Administration locale est chargé de mettre en oeuvre la décentralisation de la nouvelle République unifiée. Pour cela, il souhaite s'appuyer sur des professionnels compétents pour constituer son état-major, ainsi que sur une structure ayant fait ses preuves.

Le programme élaboré comprendra la formation linguistique puis technique des hauts fonctionnaires du ministère de l'Administration locale, et l'échange de missions d'information dont les conclusions devraient déboucher sur des propositions de structures pour la mise en oeuvre de la décentralisation.

- Par ailleurs, à l'échelon central, souhaitant réorganiser son secrétariat général, le gouvernement yéménite entend mettre à profit l'expérience française dans le domaine de l'organisation du travail gouvernemental. Une mission d'information a récemment conduit le S.G.G yéménite à Paris, tandis que la venue de hauts fonctionnaires français sera organisée en 1994.

d) Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, Maison Rimbaud, Archives Nationales

Outre le Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites, qui a amorcé depuis un an un spectaculaire redressement et développe une politique très active de recherches et de publication (voir encadré), dans les domaines de l'archéologie anté-islamique et islamique, des sciences sociales et humaines, deux projets sont de nature à renforcer la qualité des relations culturelles franco-yéménites, la Maison Rimbaud à Aden et les Archives nationales du Yémen.

Regroupant en effet dans un même lieu, au cœur de l'Aden populaire, l'ensemble des activités culturelles françaises - le Centre Culturel Français et le Centre franco-yéménite de poésie - la Maison Rimbaud sera un lieu privilégié d'échange et de dialogue entre les cultures, placé sous le signe lumineux du grand poète français.

Qu'enfin les autorités yéménites, à leur plus haut niveau, aient décidé de confier à la Direction des Archives de France, dans le cadre d'un projet géré par les Nations Unies, la maîtrise d'ouvrage pour la création des Archives nationales du Yémen constitue une opération prestigieuse. Outre la conception et le suivi architectural du bâtiment, la France organisera et assurera les opérations de formation en collaboration étroite avec la Tunisie, ainsi que les missions de consultants.

En 1993, si la coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique entre la France et le Yémen paraît désormais fermement engagée, son renforcement repose sur celui de la francophonie au Yémen, de la même manière que celui de l'enseignement de la langue arabe en France, conditions essentielles du développement d'échanges harmonieux entre les deux peuples.

Le Centre français d'Etudes Yéménites

Le Centre français d'études yéménites est un institut de recherche dépendant du ministère des Affaires étrangères, sous-direction des sciences sociales et humaines. Crée en 1982, il avait alors pour vocation première l'accueil des missions archéologiques et des chercheurs en sciences sociales qui travaillaient sur le territoire de l'ancienne République arabe du Yémen. En 1991, la nomination d'un Conseil scientifique et la décision de créer deux postes d'allocataires de recherche, en sus du poste de directeur, lui permirent d'acquérir le statut de véritable centre de recherche.

Coopération

Depuis lors, outre le personnel de service, un bibliothécaire, un chercheur yéménite et une agent comptable sont venus étoffer ses rangs. Le C.F.E.Y. doit à la fois développer la recherche française au Yémen, dans les domaines de l'archéologie et des sciences sociales, et mettre en place une véritable politique de coopération scientifique avec ses partenaires yéménites. En mai 1992, "un

Bafaqih (éditeurs), *Sayhadica, recherches sur les inscriptions de l'Arabie pré-islamique offertes par ses collègues au professeur A.F.L. Beeston, CFEY-Geuthner-CYER, 1987.*

- *Ru'yat al-Yaman bayna Habsush wa Halévy* (en arabe), édition du texte de Habsush, établie par Samia Naïm-Sanbar et traduction en arabe du texte de Halévy par Mounir Arbach, révisée par Ali Muhammad Zayd, CYER-CFEY, 1992.

- François Bron, *Inscriptions sudarabiques*, Mémorial M.A. Ghul, CFEY-Geuthner, 1992.

- Jamal al-Din al-Shahari, *Description de Sanaa* (en arabe), manuscrit yéménite du XVIIIème siècle édité par Abdallah al-Hibshi, CFEY, 1993.

Publication dans le n°45 (1993) de *Dirasat Yamaniyya* (revue du Centre yéménite d'études et de recherches), des actes du colloque franco-yéménite "La place de la vieille ville dans le développement urbain à Sanaa" organisé par le Service culturel de l'Ambassade de France et l'Organisation Générale pour la Sauvegarde des Villes Historiques en 1990 à Sanaa.

En automne 1993, devrait paraître un numéro de la

Revue d'étude du Monde musulman et méditerranéen (REMM, Aix-en-Provence) consacrée à l'Unité du Yémen et auquel tous les chercheurs du CFEY ont participé.

- Gilbert Grandguillaume et Franck Mermier (éditeurs), *Sanaa hors les murs, études sur l'expansion urbaine*, CFEY-URBAMA (Université de Tours).

- Jean Moncelon, *Les sanctuaires yéménites des sept Dormants (Ahl al-Kahf)*, CFEY.

- Marie-Louise Inizan, Mohammed Jazim, Franck Mermier, *L'artisanat de la corneille au Yémen*, avec traduction en arabe, CFEY.

- Horst Kopp et Eugen Wirth, *Contribution à la géographie de Sanaa*, traduit de l'allemand par Blandine et François Blukacz, CFEY-IRENAM.

- Guillemette et Paul Bonnefant, *L'art du bois à Sanaa* (en arabe), CFEY.

- Michel Garcia et Madiha Rashad, *L'art rupestre au Yémen*, avec traduction en arabe, CFEY-Chabaud.

- Solange Ory et Bernard Maury, *Ors, arabesques et entrelacs au Yémen (la mosquée Abbas à al-Asnaf)*, ADPF-CFEY-IRENAM.

ENTRETIEN: Mohamed Saïd Al-Attar, vice-Premier Ministre et ministre de l'Industrie

"C'est maintenant que le Yémen a besoin d'amis"

Né en 1927 à Djibouti, Mohamed Saïd Al-Attar est parti en France en 1947. En 1964, il décroche un doctorat d'économie (thèse sur l'économie du Yémen) de la Sorbonne. Opposé au régime des Imams et sympathisant des mouvements nationalistes arabes, il est nommé secrétaire d'Etat au ministère de l'Economie après la Révolution du 26 septembre 1962 au Yémen du Nord. Fondateur de la banque yéménite pour la reconstruction et le développement, il devient ministre de l'Economie en 1965. Représentant du Yémen aux Nations Unies en 1968, puis ambassadeur à Paris et à Londres, il retrouve un poste ministériel en 1985, comme vice-Premier ministre et ministre du Plan. A la réunification en 1990, il devient ministre de l'Industrie.

Yemen Times: Vous êtes un interlocuteur privilégié dans les relations entre la France et le Yémen. En quoi consiste votre rôle en la matière ?

Mohammed Saïd Al-Attar: On fait appel à moi pour résoudre des problèmes délicats entre les deux pays. J'ai en effet beaucoup de relations en France. En 1990, lors de la visite d'Ali Abdallah Saleh en France, j'étais le seul en présence des deux Présidents. En 1991, j'ai été chargé de négocier avec M. Roland Dumas, à l'époque ministre des Affaires étrangères français, le protocole financier. J'ai obtenu une rallonge, le montant passant de 40 à 73 millions de francs pour cette année-là. Lors de ma visite récente en France, j'ai rencontré M. Gérard Longuet, ministre de l'Industrie, des Postes et des Télécommunications et du

Commerce extérieur. Nous avons convenu de rediscuter le montant de l'accord de protocole financier.

Ces protocoles financiers sont destinés à aider au développement des échanges entre la France et le Yémen. Ils sont favorables aux compagnies françaises. En effet l'achat de matériel français est l'une des conditions de ces protocoles financiers. Les dons ne représentent que 30 % de ces projets. Alcatel est un bon exemple de compagnie française qui a bénéficié de ce système. Nous pensons que les entreprises françaises peuvent venir travailler au Yémen. Depuis que j'ai créé l'Autorité pour l'Investissement, nous avons autorisé 304 projets dont le montant s'élève à 34 milliards de ryals.

YT: A votre avis quelle est la place de la

France dans la politique internationale du Yémen ?

M. Al-Attar: Notre but est le développement des relations entre la France et le Yémen. La France peut jouer un grand rôle aussi bien dans le domaine économique que politique. Nos vues sur la politique internationale sont convergentes, notamment sur le Moyen-Orient, la question palestinienne et notre position sur la guerre du Golfe. Nous avons reçu plusieurs ministres français pendant cette crise, en expliquant notre position.

La France, un lien avec l'Occident

La France a compris notre juste politique dans cette guerre malheureuse du Golfe. Nous étions très clair. Nous étions contre l'annexion, mais en même temps nous croyions que nous devions résoudre cette question entre pays arabes. Le Yémen était également contre une présence étrangère dans la péninsule arabique.

Des pays arabes ont voulu voir dans cette politique une prise de position contre certains pays arabes et nous en avons subi les conséquences économiques désastreuses: retour de 800 000 émigrés yéménites,

fardeau supplémentaire pour le pays... Mais les choses s'améliorent avec les pays voisins. Le dialogue commence à se renouer.

Si la France peut jouer un rôle important pour le Yémen, c'est vis-à-vis de ses partenaires occidentaux. En Europe, on parle beaucoup de démocratie, de multipartisme, de liberté de la presse dans le Tiers Monde. Le Yémen est l'un des rares pays du Tiers Monde, ou tout du moins de la région, qui a réalisé ces objectifs démocratiques. Les élections législatives d'avril dernier se sont déroulées de manière libre et démocratique. Il faut que la France fasse comprendre cela à ses partenaires occidentaux. Nous ne voulons pas exporter notre modèle. Il ne s'agit pas d'imposer cette politique aux autres. C'est le message que nous voulons adresser au monde.

YT: Pensez-vous que le Yémen et la France peuvent jouer ensemble un rôle dans le processus de paix au Proche-Orient ?

M. Al-Attar: Nous pensons que c'est au peuple palestinien de décider de son sort, avec ses dirigeants. L'essentiel, c'est l'autodétermination de ce peuple et le retour des émigrants. Nos vues concordent plus ou

moins avec les vues du gouvernement français sur ce sujet.

YT: A votre avis, quelle est l'importance de la visite du Président français au Yémen ?

M. Al-Attar: Je crois que la visite de M. Mitterrand sera une grande étape dans l'amélioration de nos relations bilatérales, aussi bien dans le domaine économique que culturel. Nous espérons aujourd'hui que nos relations économiques vont s'établir sur des bases plus solides.

Le Yémen une vieille civilisation

Le Yémen a besoin d'aide actuellement. Quand on est pauvre, on a besoin d'amis. Quand on est riche, tout le monde veut être votre ami. C'est maintenant que le Yémen a besoin d'amis, et non pas quand notre économie se sera développée grâce au pétrole et au gaz. Nous voulons relever le niveau économique et culturel de notre population.

Du chemin a été parcouru depuis 1962. Avant la Révolution, le Yémen vivait au Moyen-Age. On l'oublie souvent en Europe. Beaucoup de Français ne savent pas que les premiers voyageurs au Yémen étaient

des gens d'origine française ou ont écrit leurs ouvrages en français. Je vous rappelle que la monnaie utilisée jusqu'en 1962 au Yémen était le thaler Marie-Thérèse, qu'on appelait le thaler français. En effet, cette monnaie avait été introduite par des négociants en café venus de France à l'époque de la splendeur de Mokha. Le Yémen reste méconnu pour beaucoup de Français. Il faut développer le tourisme. Le Yémen est une vieille civilisation comme la France. Il y a des caractéristiques communes entre les deux pays, ce qui explique une meilleure compréhension entre les deux nations.

YT: Vous connaissez bien la France et les Français. Quel est votre regard de Yéménite sur ce pays ?

M. Al-Attar: La France a toujours été un pays des droits de l'Homme, qui a de la sympathie pour le tiers, et notamment pour le Tiers Monde, surtout depuis que le problème du colonialisme est résolu. La France est un pays d'accueil pour les immigrants et elle continuera à jouer ce rôle dans le monde.

L'Institut du Monde Arabe

Au cœur de Paris, ce bâtiment de verre et d'acier ouvert il y a six ans se veut le lien entre la culture française et la culture arabe.

Au cœur du Paris historique, l'Institut du Monde Arabe, ouvert au public depuis le 8 décembre 1987, occupe un prestigieux bâtiment de verre et d'acier, réalisation d'une équipe d'architectes animée par Jean Nouvel. Son objectif est de faire connaître et rayonner la culture arabe. Il est devenu aujourd'hui un véritable "pont culturel" entre le monde arabe et la France.

Fondation de droit français, l'IMA n'a pas de statut juridique international. Le partenariat franco-arabe est le premier principe qui inspire ses actions.

L'Institut du Monde Arabe s'est fixé à sa création trois objectifs:

- développer et approfondir en France l'étude, la connaissance et la compréhension du monde arabe, de sa langue, de sa civilisation et de son effort de développement.
- favoriser les échanges culturels, la communication et la coopération entre la France et le monde arabe, en particulier dans le domaine des sciences et des techniques.
- participer ainsi à l'essor des rapports entre la France

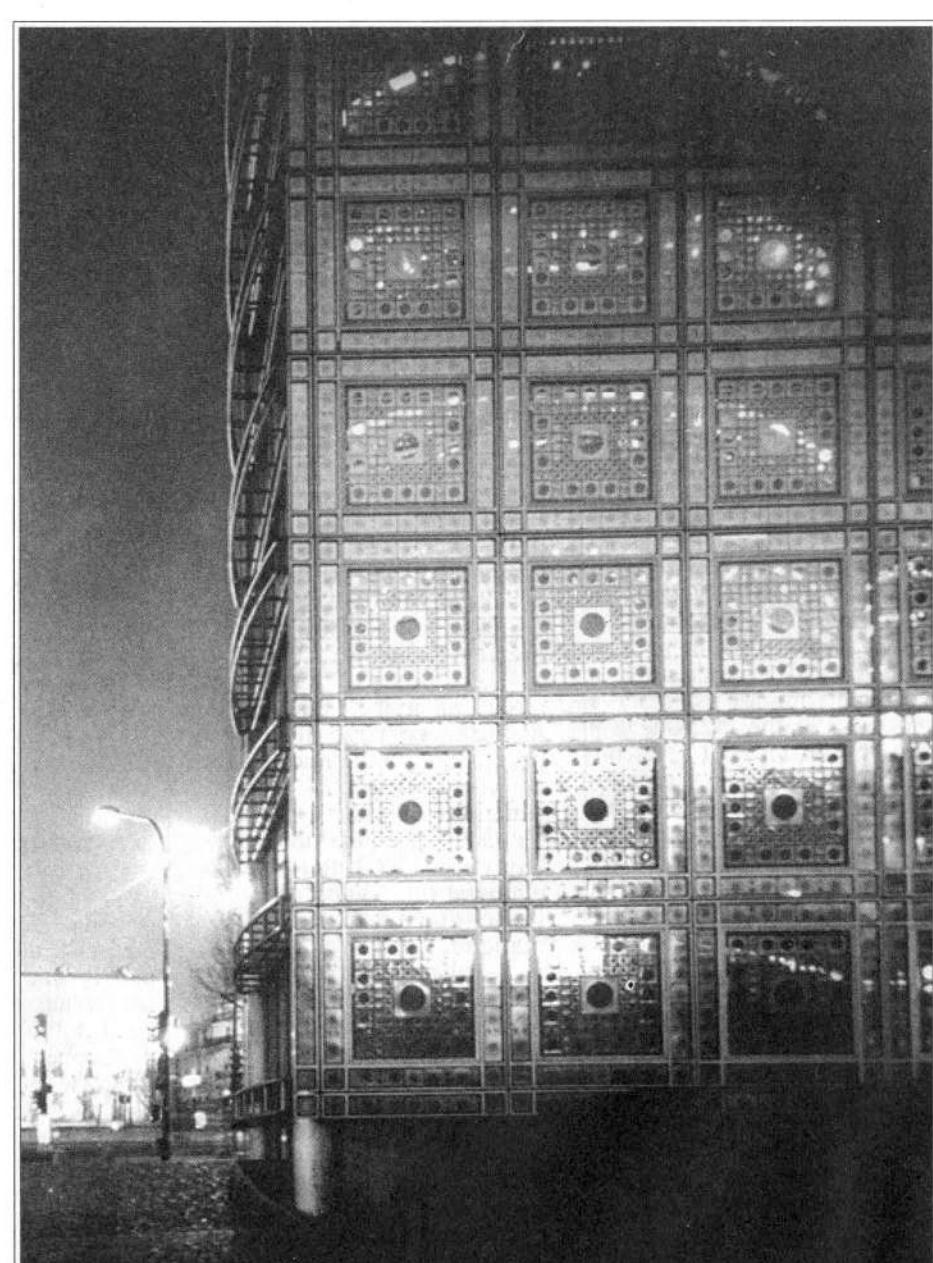
Le Yémen à l'honneur

L'IMA s'intéresse également à l'édition à travers la collection "Lettres arabes" aux éditions J.-C. Lattès, et apporte son soutien à la publication de nombreux ouvrages littéraires ou scientifiques. Enfin, pour s'ouvrir à une audience plus large, l'Institut organise des expositions itinérantes afin

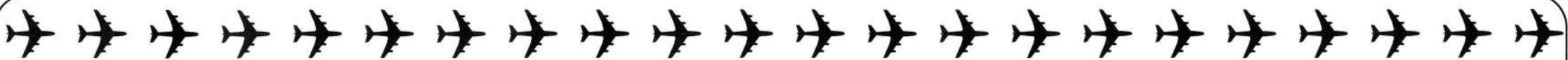
de répondre aux nombreuses sollicitations provenant du milieu associatif, des organismes culturels et scolaires.

Parmi les différentes activités proposées par l'IMA, il y a notamment la bibliothèque, riche de plus de 45 000 ouvrages et de 900 titres de périodiques. Les services offerts aux lecteurs consistent en un système d'information automatisé, un accès direct au fonds. L'IMA veille à l'équilibre nécessaire entre les publications en langue arabe et les publications en langues européennes (notamment le français et l'anglais).

Le musée de l'Institut présente à la fois sa propre collection et de nombreux objets en dépôt par les musées nationaux. Le Yémen a notamment été à l'honneur à la fin de l'an dernier. Pendant trois mois, l'exposition "Yémen, architecture millénaire", a accueilli plusieurs milliers de visiteurs. Outre les 63 œuvres photographiques réalisées par huit professionnels, ce sont des maquettes inédites, créées par José-Marie Bel, qui ont donné sa véritable originalité à cette exposition.



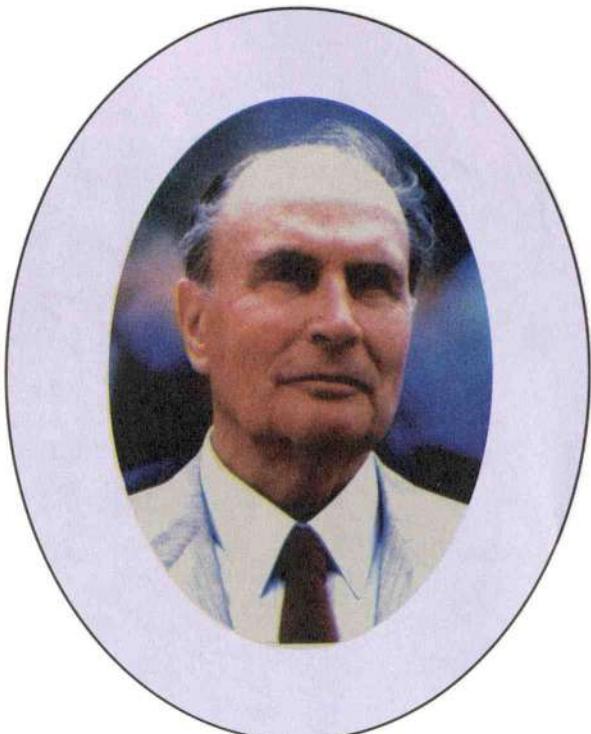
Le bâtiment de l'Institut est l'œuvre de l'architecte Jean Nouvel



The Hayel Saeed Anam Group

Agents of Air France in Yemen

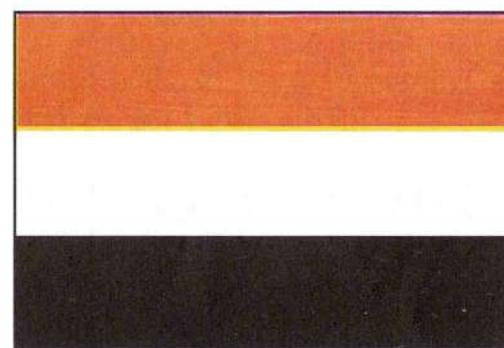
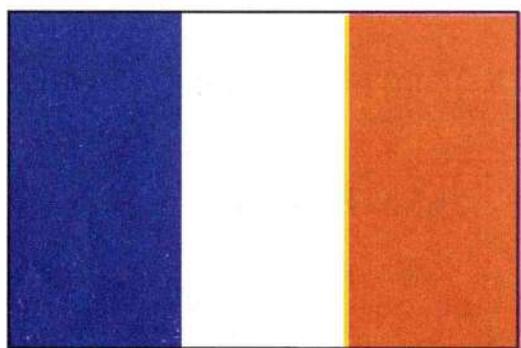
We Welcome the French President Francois Mitterrand
and the accompanying delegation on this historic visit



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نرحب بضيف اليمن الكبير فخامة الرئيس الفرنسي
فرانسوا ميتلاند والوفد المرافق



Le Groupe Hayel Saeed Anam

Agent d'Air France au Yémen

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue au Président François Mitterrand
et la délégation qui l'accompagne dans sa visite historique:



YEMEN/FRANCE

Les relations économiques bilatérales

Les relations économiques entre la France et le Yémen sont diversifiées.

La France est un partenaire de première importance pour le Yémen, avec 7 % des parts de marché, 671 millions de francs de vente et 353 millions d'importations en 1992.

La balance commerciale bilatérale est à l'heure actuelle excédentaire en faveur de la France. Les échanges économiques s'articulent autour de certaines activités traditionnelles.

a) Le secteur agro-alimentaire

Selon les années, les exportations françaises dans ce domaine font entre 45 et 60 % du total. Les sociétés françaises (Géfar...) sont bien implantées et les perspectives de développement nombreuses (construction de silos, boulangeries industrielles). L'agro-alimentaire est aussi l'un des secteurs prioritaires de l'aide française. Une dotation alimentaire est allouée annuellement (2555 tonnes de farine en 1990, 2900 en 1991, 4000 tonnes en 1992). Les fonds de contrepartie constitués par la vente de cette aide sont destinés à des actions de développement ciblées (réhabilitation de la culture du café, du palmier dattier, exposition sur le café, équipements hospitaliers et scolaires). Une ligne de crédits pour l'achat de produits agro-alimentaires a été ouverte chaque année pour la campagne céréalière (la dernière en date en 1992 pour 10 millions de dollars).

b) Secteur des télécommunications

La France est particulièrement bien implantée dans ce secteur clé: la société Alcatel, présente depuis plusieurs années (1977) au Yémen participe au développement du réseau de commutation et de transmission. Un comité mixte se réunit régulièrement (le dernier a eu lieu en décembre 1992).

Depuis que les deux pays coopèrent en matière financière, le secteur des télécommunications s'est adjugé les deux tiers des secteurs des contributions financières de l'aide française au Yémen.

c) Le secteur pétrolier

Le Yémen est un fournisseur marginal de pétrole pour notre pays (0,2 millions de tonnes en 1982, 0,3 millions de tonnes en 1990, 0,4 millions de tonnes pour les six premiers mois de 1991). Elf et Total



Les relations économiques bilatérales concernent aussi bien l'aéronautique, que le pétrole ou les télécommunications.

sont tous deux présents (Elf sur la concession de Sir Hazar et Total sur celles de Jannah et de Shabwa-Est).

Fin septembre, le point sur les activités de la compagnie Total s'établit ainsi:

- La capacité du champ de East-Shabwa, actuellement en cours de recherche, est évaluée à 40 000 barils/jour, celle du champ de Jannah à 30 000 barils/jour.

Les sociétés fran-

çaises sont également présentes dans d'autres secteurs:

construction aéronautique: un Airbus A310-300 a été remis officiellement à Al-Yemda le 23 juin à Aden. Il s'agit d'un leasing monté par Airbus, un deuxième appareil en option pourrait lui être remis à la mi-94. Deux ou trois options portant sur des A320 ont été retenues par Yemenia.

aéroports et navigation aérienne: la rénovation et la maintenance des équipements de navigation aérienne: d'une part, les travaux de balisage de l'aéroport d'Aden ont été confiés à SEEE, d'autre part, les études de ce même site ont été confiés à Sofreavia. D'autres projets sont en cours de réalisation: pêcheries et conserveries de Mukalla (protocole financier), connexion du nord et

du sud pour la transmission du signal de télévision.

Le dernier protocole inter-gouvernemental a été signé le 28 octobre 1992: d'un montant de 70 millions de francs, il a contribué au financement de la conserverie de Mukalla; au développement des télécommunications et des études et fournitures d'équipements pour l'aéroport d'Aden.

Associations d'amitié

L'Association d'amitié Yémen-France, créée à Sanaa à la fin de l'an dernier et l'Association France-Yémen, fondée à Paris en 1969, travaillent toutes les deux au resserrement des liens entre les deux pays.

Association d'amitié Yémen-France

A la fin de l'an dernier, quelques Yéménites, dont des hommes d'affaires, ont décidé de créer une association d'amitié Yémen-France. "Nous voulons développer les relations entre le Yémen et la France, aussi bien dans le domaine culturel, que médical, scientifique, touristique et archéologique", explique Mohammed Al-Raadi, président de la toute jeune association. "Nous voulons faire connaître certaines réalités françaises auprès de l'opinion yéménite et inversement faire découvrir le Yémen aux Français", ajoute-t-il.

Lui-même prépare un document où il met en parallèle les proverbes yéménites et français qui se ressemblent. Pour se faire connaître, les membres de l'association ont rendu visite

aux partis politiques et aux journaux. Cette association est à but non lucratif et ne prête allégeance à aucun parti politique.

Elle compte environ une cinquantaine de membres et le bureau est élu pour deux ans. Pour y entrer, les personnes intéressées doivent payer un droit d'entrée de 100 ryals. La cotisation annuelle est ensuite de 120 ryals pour les étudiants et de 240 ryals pour les autres.

Réunion chaque mardi

L'association est également ouverte aux Français qui peuvent y adhérer. Elle reçoit le soutien financier de certains hommes d'affaires yéménites, notamment de Mohammed Abdou Anaam

Association France-Yémen

Fondée dès 1969-1970, l'Association France-Yémen s'est axée d'abord sur le seul "Nord Yémen", le "Sud" n'ayant pas alors désiré y être associé. Composée de chercheurs, archéologues et spécialistes divers, elle eut comme premier soin de sensibiliser l'opinion et le gouvernement du général De Gaulle sur l'injustice à ne pas reconnaître la jeune république yéménite en butte à d'énormes difficultés, après huit ans de guerre civile entre partisans de l'héritier de l'Imam renversé et ceux favorables à de profonds changements dans le pays.

En 1970, la république yéménite est enfin reconnue par la France. Durant les années suivantes, l'Association France-Yémen joue un rôle avant tout culturel, accueillant des étudiants yéménites et con-

seillant les Français se rendant dans un pays totalement inconnu d'eux.

Tombée dans une certaine léthargie, France-Yémen a repris des activités accrues en 1987, avec les deux Yémen cette fois. Son rôle est dorénavant de faciliter non seulement les relations culturelles, mais également économiques, politiques et touristiques entre les deux pays.

Colloque au Sénat

L'association participe en France à des manifestations autour de sorties de livres, d'expositions, d'événements liés au Yémen. Elle est l'intermédiaire avec des journalistes ou des créateurs s'intéressant au Yémen. Elle a organisé deux rencontres publiques (films, discussions) à

l'Assemblée nationale et prépare un colloque en novembre prochain sur "Le Yémen et la mer Rouge" au Sénat.

France-Yémen se montre également vigilante auprès des autorités françaises pour des questions ayant trait aux relations entre les deux pays.

L'association compte actuellement environ 150 membres. La cotisation est de 100 francs par an. Le président d'honneur est Joseph Chelhod, le président Michel Cointat, ancien ministre et ancien député. Claudie Fayein, célèbre pour son livre publié en 1955 "Une Française médecin au Yémen", et Luc Baldit, ancien ambassadeur de France à Sanaa sont vice-présidents. Enfin, Yves Thoraval est secrétaire-général et trésorier de l'association.

Investors from Kenya of Yemeni origin seek for opportunities of investment in Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen is working very hard to encourage immigrant Yemenis to come back and invest their money in their original home. Yemen Times seized the opportunity of the visit last week of leading members of the Yemeni community in Kenya to talk to potential investors of this type.

Mr. Ali Ben Talib, Editorial Secretary of *Al-Watan Magazine*, about to be launched, carried out this interview for the Yemen Times.

Excerpts of Abdullah Saeed Al-Zubaidi, chairman, and Faisal Hassan An-Nahdi, Secretary General of the Yemeni Community's Association in Kenya, follow:

Q: Could you kindly introduce yourself?

A: My name is Abdullah Saeed Al-Zubaidi, a Kenyan national of Yemeni origin. I have been in Kenya for the last 45 years. Thus I was educated and brought up there. I have a business there.

Q: What kind of business are you in?

A: I trade in two major commodities - coffee and tea. We buy coffee at local auctions where farmers put up their yearly yields. This we either export to Europe, or we roast, grind and pack it and then sell it locally or to some of the neighboring countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, Aden. That means we have large warehouses and factories for this purpose. Our headquarter is in Mombasa.

As for tea, we don't process it. We only export it to Jeddah, and elsewhere in the Gulf.

We have our own offices in Dubai, Oman, Bahrain and

Aden. But nowadays we have competition from direct imports from Ceylon, for they offer better quality tea.

We hope one day to export to Yemen. There is a proposal to swap Yemeni oil for Kenyan tea or coffee or any other product. We are now looking into this possibility.

Q: Is that the purpose of your visit?

A: We are originally from Hadhramaut. So we come on regular trips to the homeland. Whenever we visit the South, we pay a visit to the North and we have visited Sana'a for six times. After the crisis in Somalia, we developed close relations with the officials here. They have been advising us what to do and they also welcome us to the region for investment purposes.

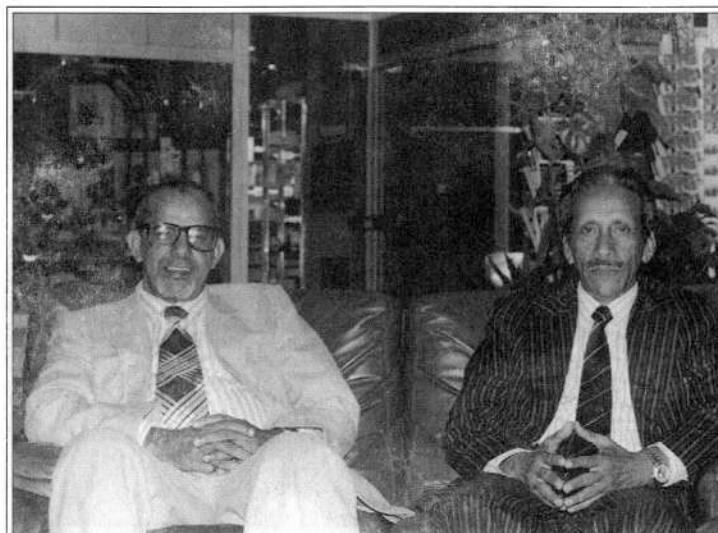
Q: Is there anything else you talked about with the officials here?

A: In fact, there is. We expressed our objection to the removal of the Yemeni embassy from Nairobi. We realize the government is trying to save on its foreign exchange expenditures, or any expenditure for that matter. But we think that an ambassador-level representation in Kenya is very important.

In Kenya, we are not allowed to have a double nationalities. We want an ambassador to represent Yemen there. Yes, there is a consulate but the consulate alone is not enough to meet all our requirements.

Q: What do you think of the relations between Yemen and East African countries at the moment?

A: Relations with Kenya are very good. Kenya respects Yemen as a neighbor. You



know Kenya is only one and a half hour's flight time from Yemen.

The relations go deep to many hundreds or even thousands of years.

I suppose relations with other countries of East Africa may be just as strong.

Q: Is your visit here of an official nature?

A: No, we are here on private business. But, through arrangement of the Chamber of Commerce in Mombasa, we visited all the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia, included.

This is a private and business trip for us. We seek to find new markets for Kenyan products and at the same time see what Yemeni goods can be sold in Kenya. The discovery of oil in Yemen makes it a lucrative market for us, and we will keep trying to expand the bilateral trade relations.

Q: Do you have plans to invest in Yemen?

A: Yes, we are looking into opportunities in Aden and Hadhramaut. We talked about

the Aden Free Zone possibilities. But there is nothing concrete yet.

Q: What is hindering any progress on deciding on your investments?

A: What any businessman really needs is security and a clear administrative structure. We need to see some action. I myself don't want to be the first man to start a business in new territory. I always say, let the others start and then I will follow.

Q:

Is that a matter of policy or you afraid to start first in Yemen?

A: You know that question is a little bit embarrassing. We are waiting for more confidence in the system. The oil is already helping in this direction. Some stability will also go a long way in this regard.

Q: Let us talk to Mr. Faisal Hassan bin Shirman. Could you tell us about yourself?

A: I was born in Mombasa, I was schooled there up to the eight level. I am of a Yemeni

origin. My family came from Hadhramaut to Kenya some 150 years ago.

After my schooling, I became a police officer and rose to high ranks. When I retired, I went into business, which is now prospering.

I would like to mention one of my social interests, which is sports. I am probably the only person of Yemeni origin who has made it to the Olympic games. I had the honor of leading an athletic team to the Olympics in 1972. I am well known for my sport activities.

I have also been involved with the Yemeni community affairs since 1970 as an honorary secretary. We helped the Yemenis who fled from Somalia. We worked very closely with the former ministry of immigrant affairs. I would like to register my personal appreciation for the support and understanding of the Kenyan government in this matter. One of the things the government of Kenya did was waive the US 20\$ airport departure tax on the Yemeni immigrants.

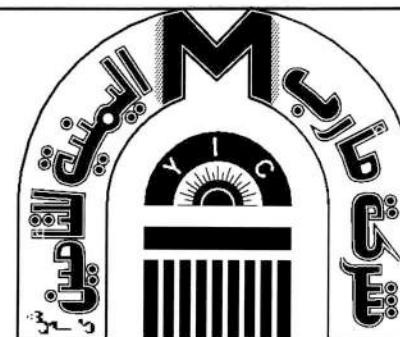
Q: Can you give us your estimates of the number of the Yemeni community in Kenya, how they live, and whether they have ties to Yemen?

A: I think there are over 70,000 Kenyans of Yemeni origin. The majority are for the Southern governorates. But this in itself is not a good indicator.

There are many who have no Yemeni passports or even ties to Yemen, any more. I like to emphasize to our leaders in Yemen that they should not think of only those who carry Yemeni passports. That's a very short sighted approach. They have to consider the emotional attachment.

Q: Do you have investment plans in Yemen?

A: Let me just say that we are interested in starting any projects that will help both Kenya and Yemen. As you may know, we have major businesses in Kenya, and we would like to link up with Yemen. It depends on the opportunities available over here, and how they fit with our businesses.



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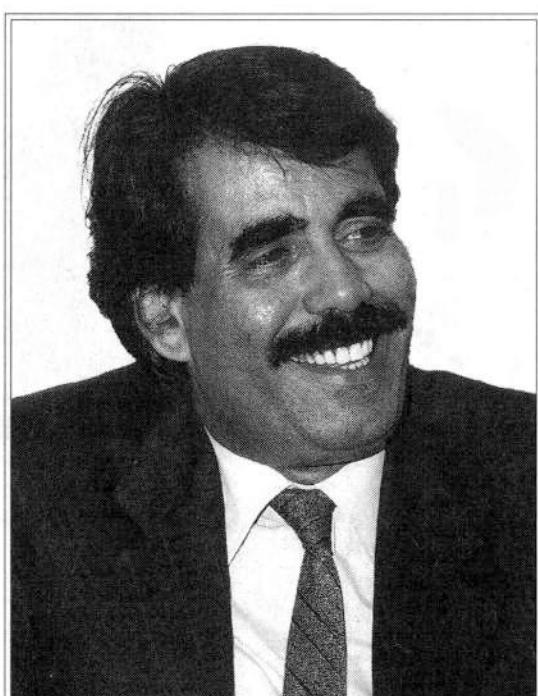
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الشعب اليمني وقيادته السياسية وحكومته الرشيدة الأفراح

بالذكرى الثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر الخالدة، وكل عام وأنتم بخير



The Greatest Injustice: The Deal for Women

B Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

This article is abridged and adopted from a UNICEF report.

Gross National Product and National Income statistics consistently undervalue the contribution of women to both domestic and economic life. It is enough to note that unless an activity produces a cash in/outflow, it is not counted. As such, all the household chore done by housewives is not accounted for in the national output numbers. One of the consequences is that both the needs and the potential of women are usually neglected in the allocation of resources, investments, technology, training, and credit.

The evidence of recent years shows that this imbalance between the many kinds of contribution women make, and the many kinds of discrimination they suffer, represents not only one of the world's greatest injustices, but also one of its greatest inefficiencies.

It is now almost twenty years since the World Conference of the International Women's Year called on the United Nations to begin collecting and analyzing the statistics that would help to monitor progress for the majority of the world's population - its women. In particular, the Conference asked for closer monitoring of women's health and education, of changes in child-bearing patterns and family life, of progress for women in

politics and decision making, and of women's contribution to economic life both inside and outside the home.

The statistical monitoring of progress for women is critical to the cause of equality for women and to the cause of development. Without statistics, one of the greatest injustices and greatest inefficiencies of the modern world runs the risk of being minimized by dependence on anecdotal and partial evidence.

First of all, closer study and better statistics have more fully revealed the disproportionate contribution of women to both family and economic life. Many studies, for example, have shown that women work longer hours than men in almost all societies. In Africa and Asia, studies suggest that women work an average of 13 hours a week more than men. In Latin America, the difference is almost six hours, in Japan about two hours, in Western Europe about five to six hours. In Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union the difference creeps up to about seven hours.

You could see who really does the work by visiting any of Yemen's villages. While the male members of the family are sleeping, chewing qat, or simply leisureing, the women toil on the farm and at home.

It is a widely known fact that women are responsible for fetching most of the poor world's water, collecting most of its fuel, cooking its meals, cleaning its compounds, washing clothes, shopping for its needs, looking after its old and its ill, and bearing and caring



for its children. Only more recently has it become widely known that women are also responsible for growing the great majority of the poor world's food and for storing and marketing most of its crops.

Even in the cities. Watch a Yemeni family walk by. The husband walks in front while the wife hurries to catch up as she carries their little baby. On top of all such responsibilities, there has also been a steep rise in the number of women who contribute to, or are responsible for, cash income through employment outside the home. Career women are finding out the hard way that their new responsibilities at work have not reduced their work at home.

There is still a long way to go before the contribution of women in fully recognized in the statistics that play such an important part in the making of policy and the allocation of investments and resources. Much of the work done by women in both industrialized and developing countries is still not considered economically

productive and still not taken into account in the compilation of national economic statistics. But it is abundantly clear that the multiple burdens of womanhood are too much and that they are increasing, in most countries, as economic obligation is added to domestic responsibility.

Closer monitoring has also shown in return for this disproportionate contribution women generally receive much less than men in the way of incomes, services, credit, investments, protection, and human rights. Where women do paid work outside the home, their wages are on average between 30% and 40% less than those of men, and there is no sign of this gap narrowing. In many countries, twice as many boys as girls become literate. In some countries twice as many boys as girls are brought to health centres for treatment. Employment rights, social security rights, legal rights and even civil and political liberties are all likely to depend upon being born male or female.

Over the last decade, in particular closer attention to the many kinds of contribution women make, and the many kinds of discrimination they suffer, has shown that this imbalance represents not only one of the world's greatest injustices but also one of its greatest inefficiencies.

Discrimination against women in technology, training and credit, for example, withholds the keys of increased productivity from that half of the population. Very often it denies the opportunity for increased productivity to those who need it most and can use it best.

Similarly, the neglect of women in the provision of social services is one of the main causes of poverty's perpetuation.

Discrimination against girls in education, for example, leads to an array of lost opportunities for human and economic progress. Over many years and in many countries, the education of women has been shown to be associated with the confidence to adopt new ways, the propensity to make greater use of social services, the ability to earn higher incomes, the improvement of child care and nutrition, the reduction of child deaths, the acceptance of family planning, the reduction of average family size, and the literacy of the succeeding generation. Empowering women with at least basic education and literacy is therefore one of the most important steps towards women gaining more control over their own lives, more equality in

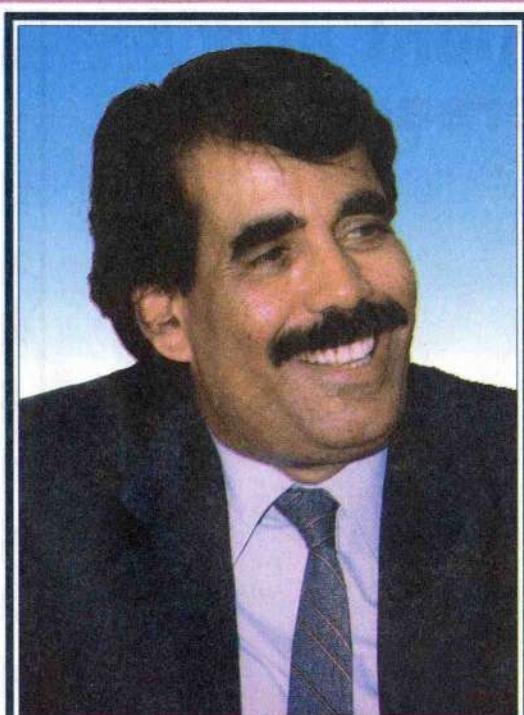
decision taking in the family and community, and more opportunity to develop their own potential.

Water and sanitation is another obvious example. In many regions, women and girls spend several hours a day collecting water. They also lose days and weeks to coping with the illnesses which are the result of that water not being safe. The cost of bringing clean, piped water to a community can be as little as \$2.00 per person per year. The benefits include very significant savings in the time, and productivity of women and in the health and well-being of the community in general.

Finally, lack of investment in family planning services, combined with male dominance of decision making about family size, means that an extraordinary opportunity is being lost to improve the lives of millions of women and at the same time to improve the prospects for sustainable economic development.

It is now clear that hundreds of millions of women in the developing world want the right to determine how many children they will have and when.

An estimated 1,500 women are dying every day of the year from the complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Perhaps 300 women a day are dying as a result of illegal abortions. Millions more sustain injuries and disabilities which are often secret, embarrassing, painful, and lifelong. Even though the facts are becoming known, the suffering and fear remains unimaginable. And its continuance is unconscionable.

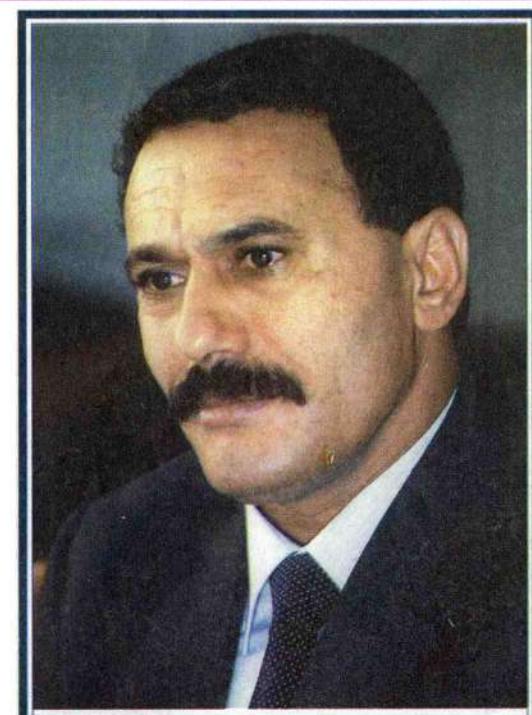


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The First Black American Female Nobel Laureate:

Dr. Toni Morrison Makes History!

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

As surprising as ever, the Nobel Prize for Literature went again to the unexpected winner - Dr. Toni Morrison. The 62-year old black lady is from Ohio, USA, and teaches literature at Princeton University. She is the tenth American, the eighth woman, and the first-ever black American woman to hit the jackpot.

Friends call her a woman with a mission, students complain against their hard-working and over-demanding professor, neighbors point to her highly organized life. One of her colleagues summed up the world's 1993 Nobel Laureate for Literature as "One hell of a woman." With her very first novel, "The Bluest Eye" (1970), Morrison has established her personalized style of writing based on poetic prose: "simple and yet deep and transcendental" was the way it was described.

Toni comes from a poor family. Her father was a steel worker, and her mother a church chorus singer. Raised among four brothers in the economic hardships of the 1930s, she says she doesn't remember much about that period. "All I remember is my obsession and burning desire to 'leave'."

She was married and divorced and by 1964, she moved to New York.

She started her studies of literature with William Faulkner and Virginia Wolff. Her six novels (and many smaller plays) were produced at about three-to-four intervals. First came *The Bluest Eye* (1970), then came *"Sula"* (1973), then *"Song of Solomon"* (1977), then *"Tar Baby"* (1981), *"Beloved"* in 1987 and *"Jazz"* in 1992.

In *"The Bluest Eye,"* she dives into the deepest depths of Black American society and its vivid tales of misery, agony and violence - all of which she translates into a bloody yearning for freedom and social dignity. In *"Sula"* she returns to social life by telling the friendship of two Ohio women in the first quarter of this century. *"Song of Solomon"* is a Roots-like search for family origin as a Black successful entrepreneur is obsessed with finding his ancestral line all the way back to the times of slavery. In *"Tar Baby,"* the theme of alienation is dominant. A black couple find themselves estranged in a 'white world.' The masterpiece *"Beloved"* took longer to produce, but the waiting was worth it. The book won the reputed Pulitzer prize. It is the story of how a black woman kills her daughter instead of letting her white master "enjoy" her. The last major work is *"Jazz,"* which won wide acclaim.

Many of her plays also won fame. These include: *"Playing in the Dark,"*



"Racing Justice and Gendering Power," and *"Dreaming Amette."*

The Swedish Academy in granting Morrison the prize, pointed to her "supreme capability in literary expression, ability to get deep into the language and perfect utilization thereof, and the unique poetic approach in her style."

Many of her works have been translated into other languages. Unfortunately, only one, *"Beloved"* was translated into Arabic. Hopefully after the Nobel Award, more will be translated for the Arab public to enjoy the products of this great lady.

There were over 150 names of the list of contenders for this year's literary prize, including - two Arabs - Palestine's Mahmoud Darwish and Syrian Adonis.

Finally, the awarding committee's own limitations prevent a fair play in the game. For example, none of the persons on the awarding committee speaks Chinese, for example. That may explain why no Chinese has ever won the award.

But even in English, many outstanding names have never won the prize. These include James Joyce, Virginia Wolff, George Orwell, Isra Pound, Aldous Huxley and Wallas Stevens. But the list is much longer in other languages. The names include Tolstoy, Chekhov, Zola, Brost, Lorca, Kafka, Nadhum Hikmat, Bricht, Moravia, etc.

The problem is that the awarding committee depends on translated material in evaluating works done in non-European languages. In the process much of the soul and refinement is lost. But this is something that the committee is not doing on purpose, and it is something with which it battles eternally for the sake of fairness and the credibility of the prize itself.

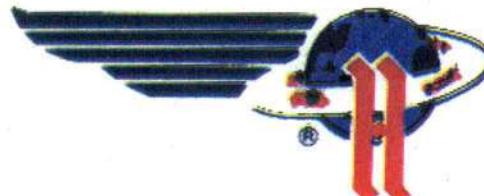
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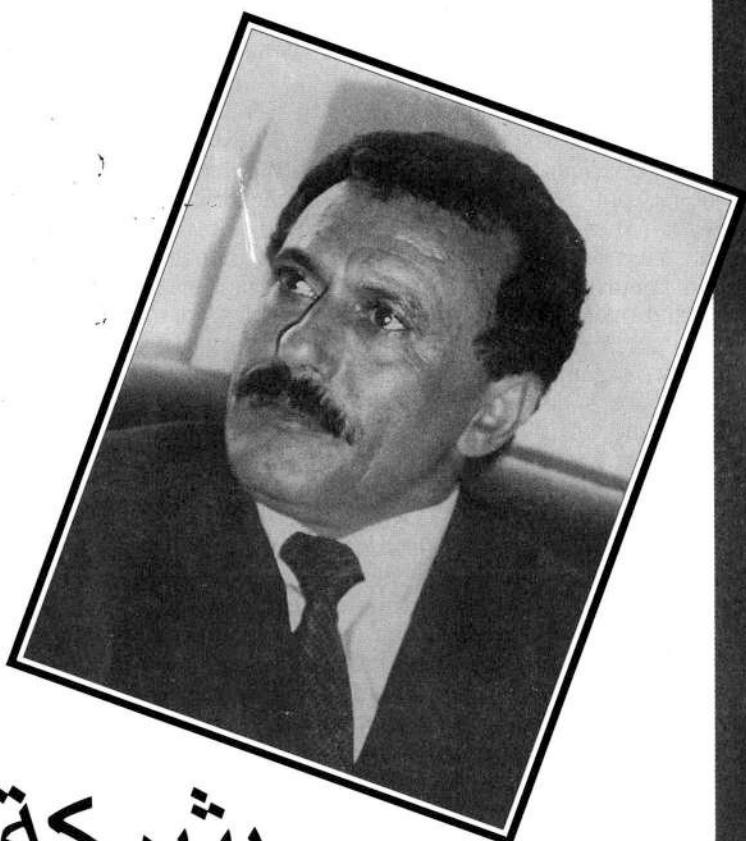
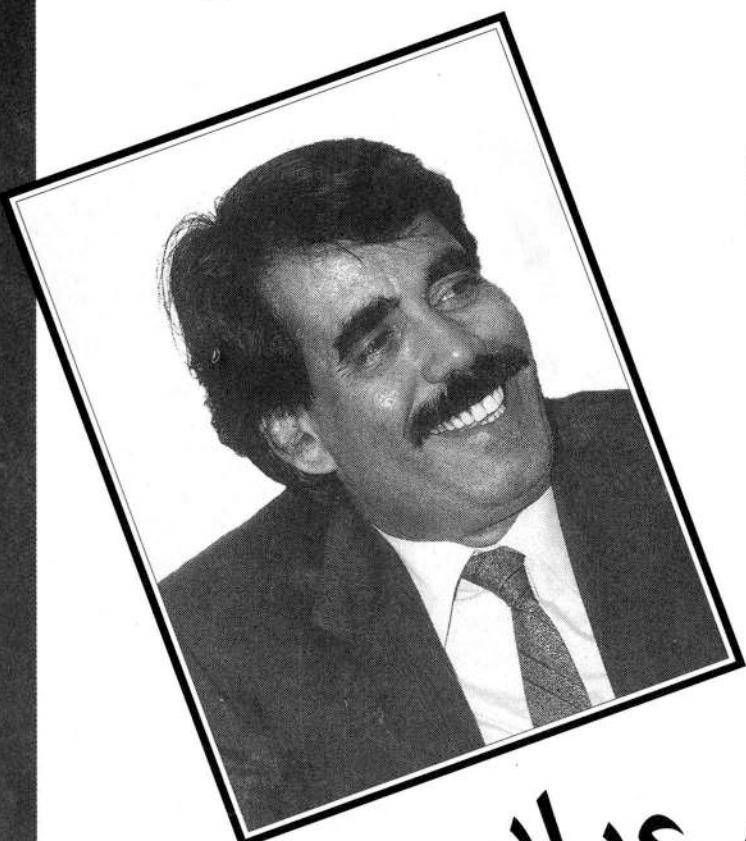
شركات هالiburتون

تقديم بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته
بمناسبة ذكرى ثورة ١٤ أكتوبر الخالدة



Nimir Petroleum Company Ayad Limited

presents its best wishes to the Yemeni people, leadership and government on the anniversary of the October 14th Revolution



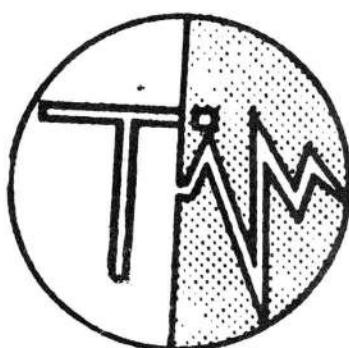
تتقدم

شركة نمر بتروليوم عياد

بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته
بمناسبة ذكرى ثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة

TeleYemen

congratulates the Yemeni people, leadership and government on the 30th Anniversary of the October Revolution



تتقدم شركة
تداليمن

بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته وحكومته
بمناسبة الذكرى الثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر الخالدة


EMBASSIES & Consulates

IMPORTANT Numbers	
Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumhury Hospital	202192/3
Athawra Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Banks:	
Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank: Sana'a	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
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TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & ReInsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance: Sana'a	206112/14
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General: Sana'a:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co.	01-272890-2
Aman Insurance Co.	01-209452

AIR LINES

Air France	272895/6
Air India	272544
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways	272247
Cathay Pacific	271803
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
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KLM	78093/76968/270879
Korean Airlines	272548
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
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Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	74930
Sabena	205865
Sudan Airways	272503-5
Swiss Air	272547
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel	275028-30

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DHL	248017-249878
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Skypack	77310
American Express	272435/6

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Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	221158
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Marib (063)	
Biquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459
Mukalla (0952)	
Hadhramaut	2060

Sawt Al-Ummal in USA

Sawt Al-Ummal newspaper has become Yemen's first Arabic-language newspaper which is being circulated in the USA. Americans of Yemeni and other Arab origin can now read the paper weekly in view of arrangements to fly it weekly on a regular basis. For more information, please call our Sanaa Office at 71592.



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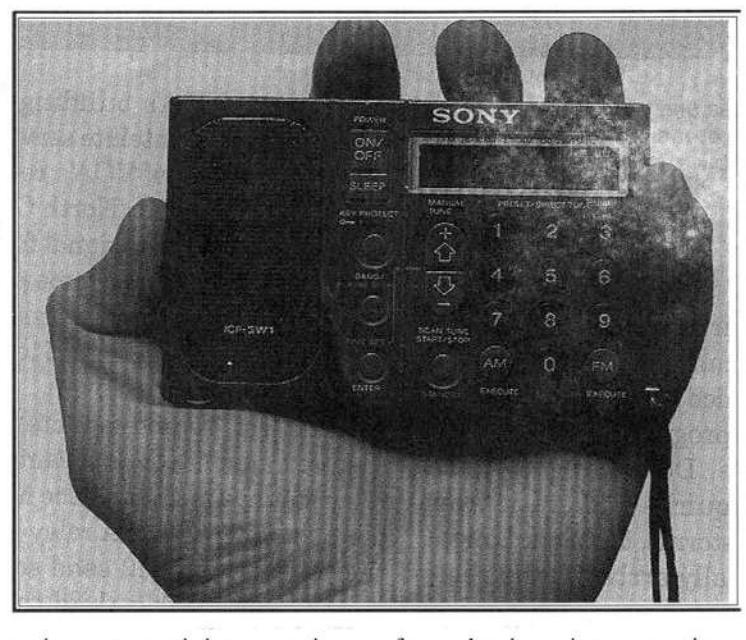
For more information, please contact: Sanaa: Phone: 270907; Fax: 216593; 270333; Hodeidah: Phone: 217259; Tlx: 2235 Aden: Phone: 252094

Shortwave Radio Technology Frees Citizens from Dictators: Listening to the World

One of the major advances in technology that have freed citizens from the abuse of their rulers is shortwave radio technology. You can see villagers sitting around a radio in the remote mountains of Yemen, or nomads carrying a radio on their caravans across the desert. People are now free to get different viewpoints concerning any event in the world. Indeed the science and technology of shortwave radio conspire to frustrate governments and their censors, and the frustration is likely to increase.

Shortwave radio broadcasting relies on a distribution system governed by the laws of physics but entirely unaffected by the laws of man, especially not politicians. Once a radio program is transmitted, it is extremely difficult to prevent anyone from hearing it.

Shortwave signals used in international broadcasting originate from extremely powerful transmitters that may be located anywhere in the world - far removed from the listener's rulers. The major international broadcasters - the Voice of America (VOA), the British Broadcasting Station (BBC), Radio Moscow, Deutsche Welle, Monte Carlo, Radio Japan, etc. - use transmitters of 250 or even 500 kilowatts. Moreover, elaborate directional antennas beam most of this



major transmitting stations outside their own national boundaries - in effect bringing the transmitter closer to the listener. These distant transmitters are called "relay stations."

In the past, broadcasters used shortwave transmissions from their home country to send programming to the relay stations, which would then re-transmit the programs to the target audience. With the introduction of satellite communications, the relay stations, especially those with digital technology, have become immune to noise and other deficiencies.

The traditional tool of a government that wishes to prevent its citizens from listening to foreign shortwave broadcasting has been jamming. The method is simple - the jammer uses powerful transmitters to broadcast either its own political material or simply obnoxious noise on the same frequency used by the international broadcaster, thereby preventing the targeted population, often very nearby, from hearing. This, however, is an expensive exercise, and a futile one. Jamming stations, like any shortwave station, generate both ground-wave and sky-wave signals. Their ground-wave signals generate noise only for receivers within a few kilometers of the jamming transmitter. That is why most jamming devices are located near population centers, especially capital cities and army camps. Yemen's jamming station, for example, is located in Shoub area, in the northeastern sector of the capital city. In rural areas, quite far away from the jamming transmitter, jamming is less effective. The sky-wave signals of the jamming station may be troublesome if they are refracted down from the ionosphere and interfere with the sought-after foreign station. But this is far from certain.

Counter-jamming strategies have made full use of technologic advances to avoid jammers. Frequency-agile transmitters may be shifted slightly from the frequency of the jammer, moving the programs out of the noise blanket for a time until the jammers catch on.

Several relay stations may bombard the target audience with signals over several paths on different frequencies.

Any one who thinks of shortwave receivers as bulky black boxes to be operated only by diligent tinkerers has simply not been in a radio store recently.

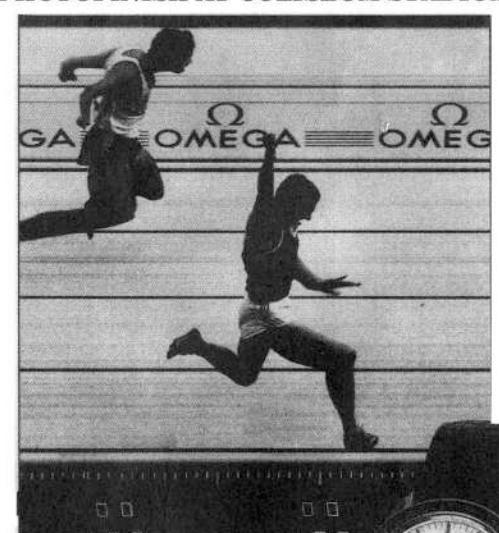
Many modern receivers are about the size of a large paperback book, and some are small enough to fit into a shirt pocket.

Some are more sophisticated than others, but all are reliable.

They work perfectly well with their short, telescoping metal antennas. Tuning is easy, and increasingly digital. The listener enters the desired frequency from a calculator-like keyboard.

Shortwave radios are becoming a basic consumer good all over the world, and each is a threat to any government that wishes to control the flow of information to its citizens. Today, almost anybody has access to news/information beyond the version of his/her government. Long live the shortwaves.

**The Science Staff,
Yemen Times.**

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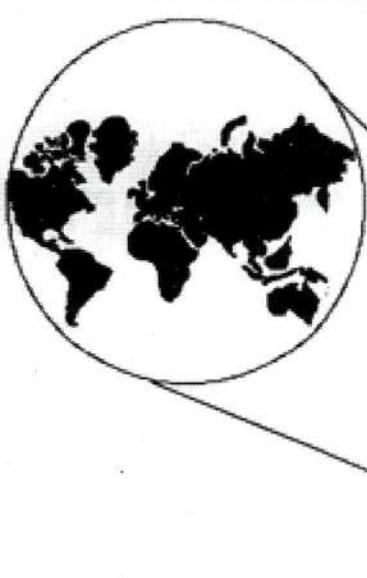
26 September Street, Taiz, Republic of Yemen

BRANCH OFFICE

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P. O. Box 17022
Al-Qasre Street,
Sanaa,



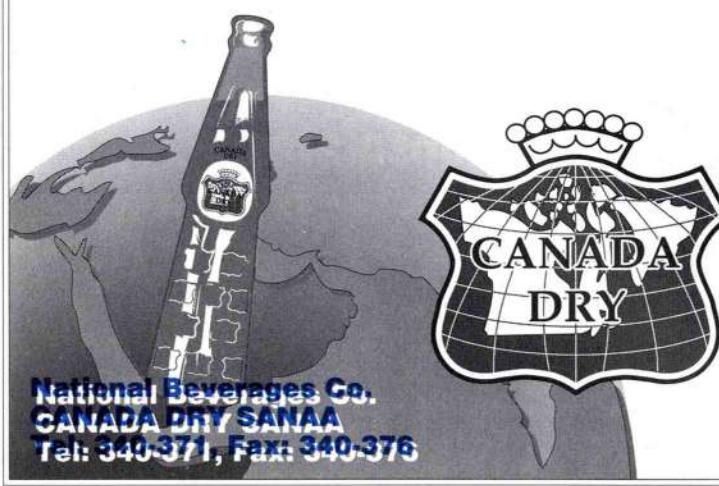
October 17th, 1993

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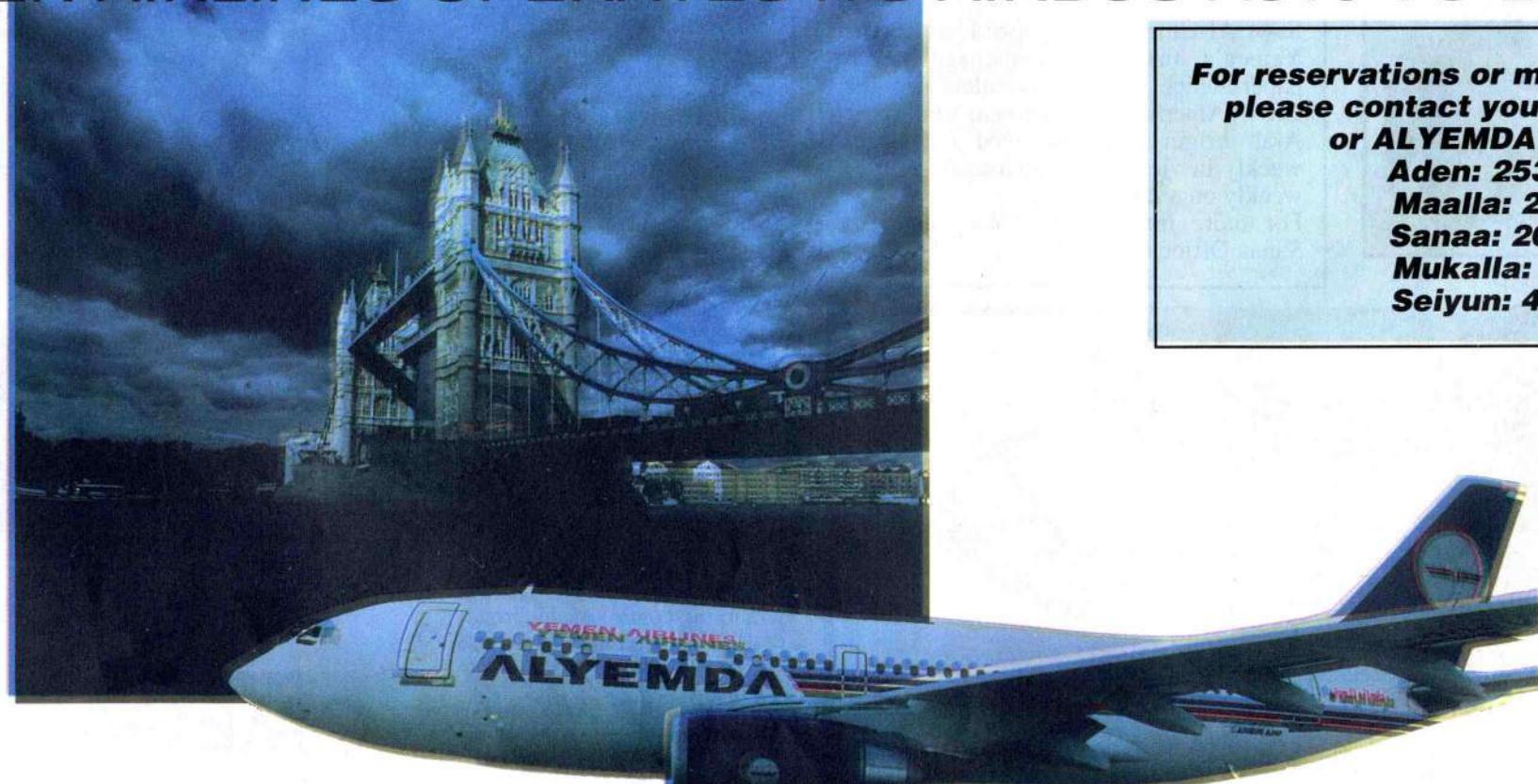
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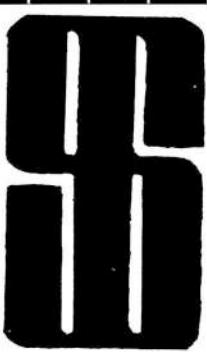
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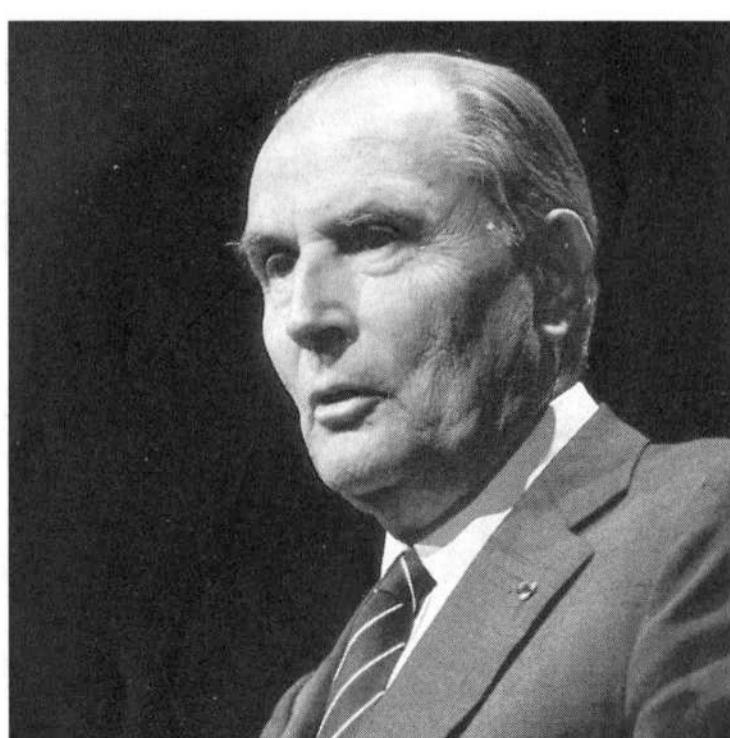
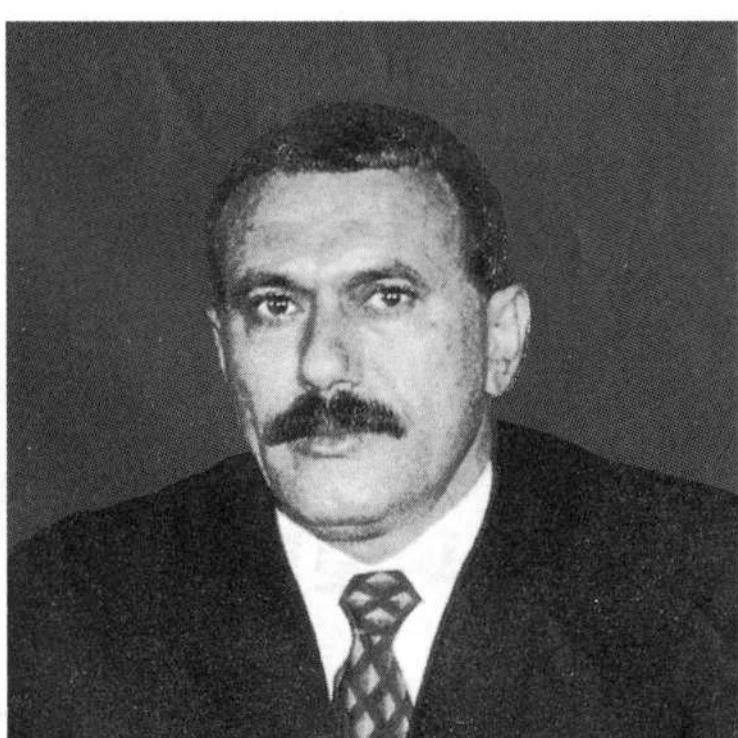
ALCATEL

**N°1 Mondial
des Systèmes de Communication**

**الأولى في العالم
لأنظمة الاتصال**

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ميتران رئيس الجمهورية
الفرنسية و تقدم تهانيها
للشعب اليمني و للرئيس
علي عبد الله صالح .

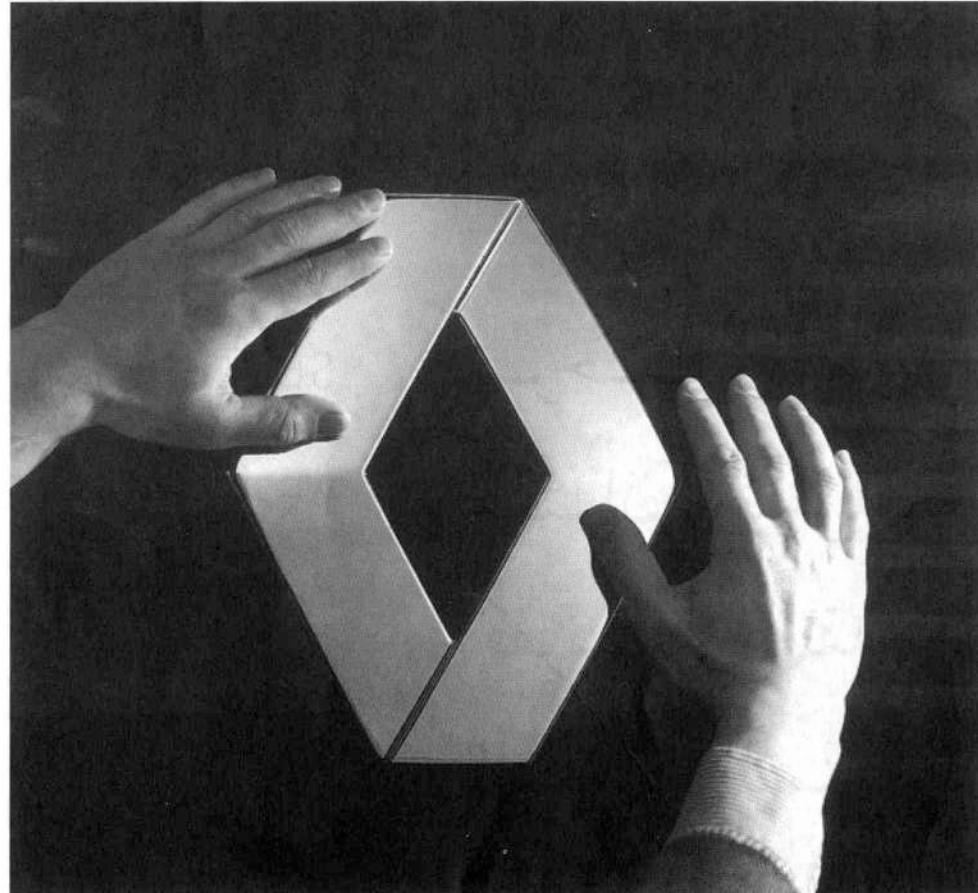
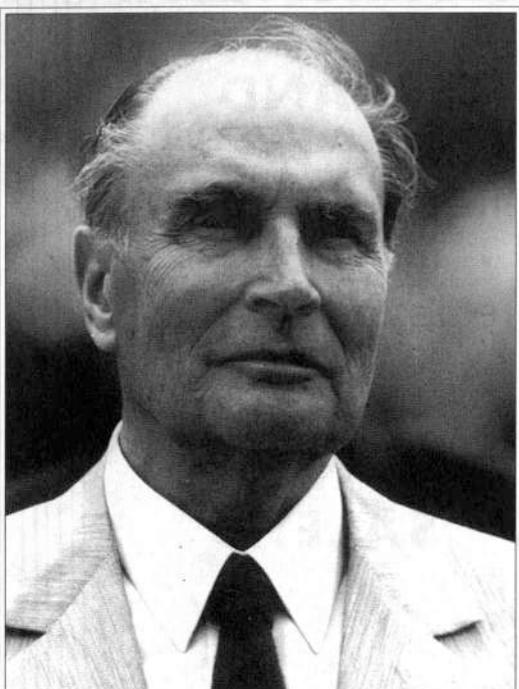
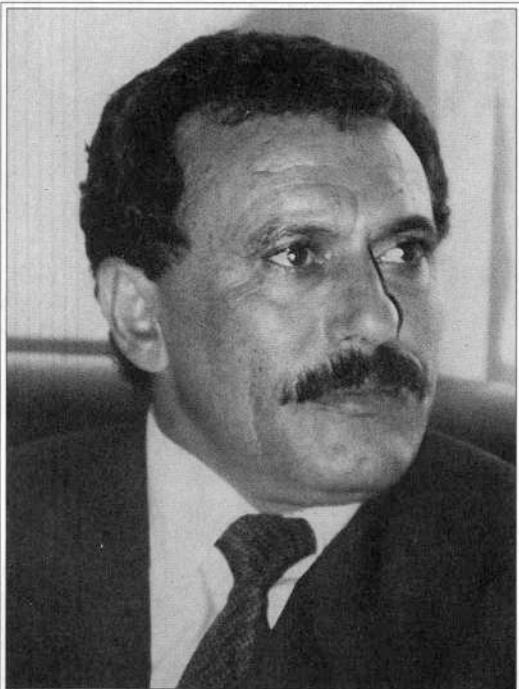
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M. François MITTERAND
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Ali Abdullah SALEH.



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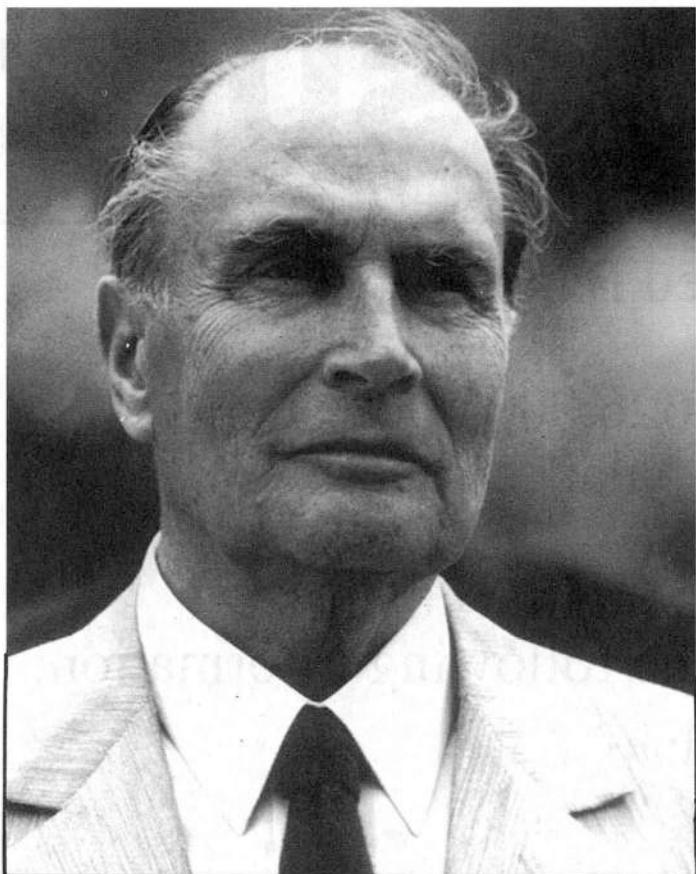
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وكلاع سيارات رينو
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بالترحيب بضيف اليمن الكبير الرئيس الفرنسي
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الفاكس: ٩٦٧-١-٢٧٤١٤١
تلекс : (٢٢٧١)**