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Mitterrand to Yemen Times:

"I am convinced of the major role your country will play in the peace, stability and prosperity of the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa."



President Mitterrand with Chief editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

On the occasion of the visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to Sanaa, Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf had the chance for an exclusive interview: Excerpts of interview:

Q: What are your readings of Yemen's political evolution?

A: First let me mention that France and Yemen enjoy deep and old relations. I am happy to be the first French head of state to visit your country, with the explicit aim of contributing to consolidate our cooperation.

Second, I take this occasion to express my gratitude to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his kind invitation.

Third, Yemen has embarked on an exemplary experience in a transformation of the political system. We follow closely and

with interest this process of democratization. I very strongly support and encourage Yemen in this course.

In three years, your country has made major strides in the path of democracy. We can't say this was achieved without mistakes, as it is an arduous task and the road is long. I have confidence in Yemen and its people. I am convinced of the major role your country will play in the peace, stability and prosperity of the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa.

Q: How would you assess the bilateral relations between Yemen and France?

A: Relations between Yemen and France are excellent and strong. France is already well represented in the Yemeni development process in such

fields as industry, agri-business, telecommunications, oil exploration, etc.

I would also like to point to the vibrant and flourishing cultural cooperation between the two countries. This includes two French cultural centers are working in Sanaa and Aden, French language is taught in the French Departments of Sanaa and Aden universities as well as in several high schools, and in November 1991, Dumas and Lang (Foreign Minister and Culture Minister, at the time) inaugurated the Rimbaud House in Aden. This is destined to be a symbol of Franco-Yemeni cultural cooperation.

Q: France is seen as closer to the Arabs than most European countries. How do you

envisage Franco-Arab relations in the future, especially in light of the peace accord between the PLO and Israel?

A: Let me first state that the peace between the Israelis and Palestinians was an act of great courage on both sides. This will not remain an isolated act, because the (proceeds of the) peace will be established and will cover the whole region of the Near East. The important things now is the political and economic corollaries of peace.

France has responded early and in a leading way in the Conference of Donors (held in Washington) as well as in the European community in putting together an aid package for the infant Palestinian entity.

In my opinion, this aid package are fundamental to make the peace stick. The Palestinians will assess their autonomy and peace arrangements on this.

Your country has played and continues to play a moderating role in this issue, and throughout the multi-lateral peace process.

Q: On this visit, what is your message to the Yemeni people?

A: I am happy to convey through you the friendship of the French people to the Yemeni people.

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In an Exclusive Interview with Yemen Times:

President Iliescu Says Yemen and Romania are Undergoing a Similar Transformation



During his short visit to Sanaa, Romanian President Ion Iliescu said in an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times that his country and Yemen are undergoing a similar transformation.

"The transformation of Romania has three major components. A political transformation from a one-party dictatorship to a multi-party democracy. An economic transformation from a centrally-planned economy to a free market-based economy. And finally the re-structuring of our foreign policy and relations."

In response to a question regarding the purpose of the visit, the Romanian President indicated he is interested in

stronger ties with Yemen. "My visit to Yemen aims to consolidate the cooperation between our two countries, and to exchange notes regarding our experiences in the transformation of our two countries," Iliescu said.

He indicated that there has always been political cooperation between Yemen and Romania. He also pointed out that there exists educational and economic cooperation. "Our visit is mainly aimed to strengthen our ties of friendship and cooperation and to find new ways to cooperate," he added.

There are some 300 Yemeni students doing university and graduate studies in Romania,

at the moment. At the economic level, some Romanian companies are doing business in Yemen in the implementation of development projects. Although trade is low, there is scope for further expansion.

"Romania has come a long way since its 1989 Revolution," Iliescu stated.

At the political level, there have been two parliamentary elections, and one local election. "There are today some 200 parties registered, of which 18 successfully fielded candidates in the last elections"

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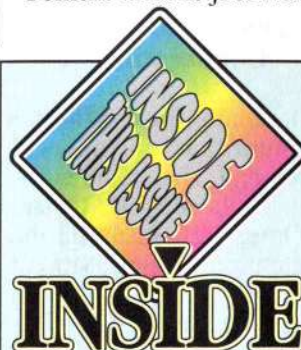
Kuwaiti and Saudi Newspapers Call for the Fragmentation of Yemen

Many journalists and writers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have made it their job to spread damaging rumors about Yemen and its continued difficulties. They point to the internal squabbles and conclude that Yemen is about to break up, and that they should speed up the process by financing dissent.

The papers consistently point to the internal disputes among our leaders, which no one denies. But are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait stable countries? They are plagued with basic contradictions. The difference is that in a society which enjoys freedom of the press, the problems come out to the open. In theirs, they are submerged.

There is another thing. Yemen's problems today exist because we decided to embark on change and catch up with the times. We are coming to grips with change - hence the problems. In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, change has yet to come, and when it does come, it is bound to rock them both.

If the newspapers were limited to facts, that would have been professionally acceptable, but they openly urge to conspire to break up Yemen. Al-Watan newspaper of Kuwait, for example, ran a story on 15th October urging Kuwait and other Gulf States to provide one billion dollars to finance plots to break up Yemen. That is just sick.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

LAST CHANCE: START ALL OVER, AGAIN !

Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salim Al-Beedh are two lucky men. Whereas politicians worldwide often perish by paying for their mistakes, these two got many new chances to try all over, time and again.

The systems they headed (the former YAR and PDRY) were more or less ruined prior to the re-unification of the country. The re-unification gave their political careers a new lease on life. Then the situation got out of hand again, during the transitional period.

The elections came to breathe new life into their careers. They got yet another chance. But again, their bickering and in-fighting - each trying to expand the sphere of his power - has pushed the country into a dark tunnel. Many people are increasingly nervous as the two men are seen unable to work with each other.

For one more time, there is a new opportunity today for these two men to start all over again. This time, they better believe it is their last chance. If they can't work it out, they are advised to prepare for their exit from politics.

I hope, for their own sake, if it were not for the sake of the country, they would be able to work together. Unfortunately, neither man or the party he heads has the capability of proper evaluation of the past and future vision. If they had, they would have seen that their third partner has maximized on their disputes. It is just possible that this third party is the real long-term problem.

In any case, the two men and their parties must learn to cooperate. I do hope they see light and mend fences. More importantly, I hope they start doing something for the people of this country. The country needs stability in order to achieve economic progress, without which political turmoil is inevitable.

The Publisher
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New Association to Safeguard the Unity

A group of elders and public figures met on 18/10/1993 to discuss the current situation given the tug of war between the president and vice president. Lawyer Masnoor Al-Humati presented a draft of the internal code for the establishment of the National Association to Safeguard Yemeni Unity and Democracy. A preparatory committee as well as an executive committee were formed for this purpose.

The association includes such prominent personalities as Yemen's first president Abdullah As-Sallal, Qadhi Abdul-Salam Sabrah, and many others.

More Community and Technical Colleges

Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education is presently preparing for the establishment of several community and technical colleges, starting next year. The minister, who is on a trip to France, is positively inclined to the French and Jordanian experiences in this regard. It will be noted that next year, there will be some 70,000 applicants to the universities which will only be able to absorb a third. The colleges are supposed to provide an additional outlet for the high school graduates.

Prime Minister Al-Attas Extends a Helping Hand

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas received a Sanaa University delegation last week. The University complained about the number of applicants it is forced to admit (for political reasons, lest they should create trouble for the regime). The Prime Minister asked the university to present a list of its needs, and he promised to oblige. We will have to wait and see!

Arabizing the Medical Colleges' Curriculum

During October 19-20, 1993, a seminar was held at the College of Medicine at Sanaa University to study the issue of Arabizing the curriculum, which is today in English. The World Health Organization's regional official for Manpower development has participated in the seminar, along with other officials, in order to show support for the project. Dr. Thabet Mohsin Nasher, one of the pioneers of medical treatment in this country, was elected Chairman of the Arabizing Committee which is charged with the task of studying the issues and proposing a specific action plan and a timetable. "We are going to benefit immensely from the Syrian experience in that Syria has long Arabized its medical colleges," he said. He also pointed out that the Arabization step was a step in the right direction.

Yemeni-Omani Cultural Cooperation

Mr. Jarallah Omer, Minister of Culture and Tourism, paid a three-day visit to the fraternal Sultanate of Oman. Mr. Omer participated in the inauguration of the Muscat Book Fair. He also gave a lecture on the "Transformation of Yemen." Finally, the two sides discussed cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Human Rights Seminar

Last Thursday, October 21st, a seminar dedicated to human rights was concluded in Sanaa. The participants came from eleven Arab countries and they spent four days focusing on various aspects of human rights.

One full day was devoted to the rights of women. The Yemeni case in terms of equal status and equal opportunity frequently came up. But the vigorous participation of Yemeni women took many by surprise. As one observer stated, "The foreign women, at first look at the wrapped up Yemeni women, would often take a patronizing attitude thinking these women needed much help. But as the interaction proceeds, from beneath the veil often come ideas and statements that even the 'liberated' Arab women have yet to digest."

Indonesia Re-Affirms Support for PLO

In a press release circulated by the Indonesian Embassy in Sanaa, it was indicated that Indonesian President Soeharto received on October 15th, within his capacity as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin. The Indonesian leader has given audience to the Israeli official in light of the peace accord between the PLO and Israel. The press release indicated that Indonesia encourages peaceful coexistence and cooperation. Finally, the communique reaffirmed the support of the Indonesian people and government to the PLO and to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

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Russia Dumps Nuclear Waste into Japan Sea:

A Russian navy tanker dumped waste directly into the Sea of Japan, 295 nautical miles west of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. The action, which took place last Sunday, 17th October, despite an international moratorium. The action was protested by the Japanese government and Greenpeace. The Russian navy tanker TNT27 dumped what was estimated at 900 tons of liquid nuclear waste, according to Greenpeace which launched an inflatable boat carrying five crew members wearing protective clothing when the dumping was going on. The Greenpeace boat approached within fifteen meters of the Russian vessel, and

reported that the liquid waste was being pumped through a pipe directly into the sea. It is ironic that the Russian Ecology Ministry gave the navy a permit to dump the waste despite a 1983 moratorium on radioactive waste dumping into the sea. The action also comes immediately following Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. According to one observer, "The fact that Yeltsin returned from Tokyo empty-handed, may have helped make the decision to dump nuclear waste at the door-step of Japan easier in Moscow." Russia has announced plans for a series of dumpings of nuclear waste. But under pressure from Tokyo, Moscow has decided to cancel further action in the near future.

Bridge of Love Falling Dow:

The "Bridge of Love" built by the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos for his wife Imelda is falling down, according to newspapers and media reports from Manila. The 2.2 kilometer concrete span in the central part of the country, had been weakened by cracks and holes, and repairs could not be made for lack of funds. Marcos ordered the bridge built in 1972 and wrote a love poem at its inauguration dedicating it to his wife. It was he who called it the "Bridge of Love." The bridge connects Mrs. Marcos's home province of Leyte to nearby Samar island.

Because of its deterioration, bus passengers are asked to disembark and walk the entire length of the bridge, while vehicles are barred from crossing it at speeds over 20 kph, and drivers cannot change gears, to minimize the vibrations. But the times have changed since the days of the Bridge of Love was built. Marcos died in exile (Hawaii) in 1989 after being ousted in a popular revolt. His widow was convicted by a Manila court last month of corruption and was sentenced to a minimum of 18 years in jail. She has appealed the sentence, and remains free on bail. Many Filipinos in Sanaa are sympathetic.

Canadians to Vote Tomorrow:

Recession-weary Canadian voters are expected to throw the ruling Conservatives out of office in a general election tomorrow, October 25th, with a protest vote for regional parties that threaten to split the nation apart. Polls show the opposition liberals coasting to victory, though they are still unsure of forming a strong majority government. Reports from Canada say that Liberal leader Jean Chretien, a veteran of 30 years in politics, has campaigned well and is within striking distance of winning a majority of the 295 seats. The polls give 40% of the votes to the Liberals, 22% to the Conservatives, 16% to the Reform Party (an anti-establishment movement based in western Canada) and 13% for the Bloc Quebecois, which has 52% support within Quebec. In French-speaking Quebec, Bloc Quebecois, whose ultimate goal is independence from Canada, is poised to sweep up most of the

seats and become the first separatist movement to hold such power in the federal parliament. According to some projections, Bloc Quebecois could win more seats than the Conservatives and become the official opposition party, a formula for a volatile parliament in Ottawa. Kim Campbell, 46, became Canada's first woman prime minister in June when she succeeded the unpopular Brian Mulroney as Conservative leader. If the polls are right, tomorrow, she will become Canada's shortest serving prime minister. The polls also show that Canadians are concerned primarily about creating jobs. That is why Prime Minister Campbell, whose platform is oriented to reducing the fiscal deficit, is in for trouble. Canada, with 1.6 million people out of work, has the highest level of unemployment among western nations. The Conservative governments did not address this issue.

Aristide's Return Plan at Dead End:

Most UN personnel, some 300 of them, in a mission to monitor human rights in Haiti were evacuated last week. In response, six US warships took up positions to enforce an international arms and oil embargo on Haiti. "It looks like a showdown is rapidly taking shape between the UN and Haitian army commander Lt-General Raoul Cedras, in which the the army man has gained the upper hand, at least for now. Haiti's freely elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup, was scheduled to return to power

on October 30th under terms of a UN-brokered agreement signed in July. As the date drew near, violence increased, including assassination of the justice minister and the turning away of a ship carrying US and Canadian troops. Cedras says that the amnesty agreed by Aristide is too narrow. UN envoy Dante Caputo, who is still in Port-au-Prince negotiating the arrangements for the return of Haiti to civilian rule. Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval, appointed by Aristide, insists on the removal of Cedras, but agreed that some of his proteges could remain in senior positions.

Deep and Positive PLO, Israel Talks:


PLO representatives and Israeli delegations are busy holding meetings at different levels and in various places. They are working on a detailed plan for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho by December 13th. According to American envoy Denis Ross, almost every phrase in the historic declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule that was signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington on September 13th needs further negotiation. The declaration sets a tight timetable: Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho to start by December 13th and be complete by April 13th, and a Palestinian council to be elected

by July 13th to run Gaza and the whole West Bank for the next five years. Already Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has indicated that he may not be able to meet the timetable given the "one million things that need to be sorted out." Even then, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has announced that the PLO offices in Tunis will be moved to Gaza and Jericho before the year is out. US mediators are busy shuttling through the Arab capitals of the region, notably Cairo, Amman and Damascus. They have also visited Israel frequently to cement the deal and make arrangements for the transfer of authority in Gaza and Jericho. "All sides are working with good intention," it was reported.

Bhutto Takes Over as Prime Minister:

Ms. Benazir Bhutto who was asked to form the next Pakistani government, is busy negotiating with members of her party and supporters. Bhutto, 40, and daughter of Pakistan's first popularly elected prime minister, recaptured the post she lost three years ago, and considered her return as a personal vendication. The Pakistan People's Party emerged as the largest party in the National Assembly elected ten days ago. Benazir herself has been locked in a tug of war with her arch-rival and ex-premier Nawaz Sharif. This

time, she has come on top. The PPP has secured 92 seats in the 217-seat parliament. In coalition with independents and small parties, Bhutto has secured over the 109 votes she needs for a majority. Simultaneously, Syed Yousef Raza Gilani of Ms. Bhutto's party, secured 106 votes against Nawaz Sharif's candidate, Gohar Ayy Khan, who got only 90 votes in the race for speaker of parliament. Observers say that Bhutto will most probably form a broad-based government that would give independents and small parties a visible slice in the federal government.




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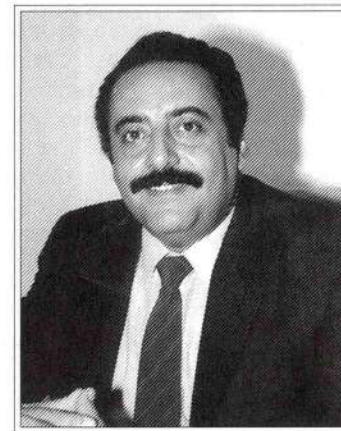
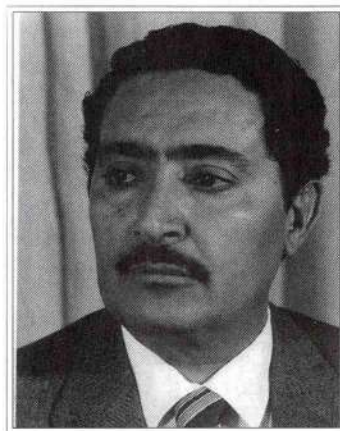
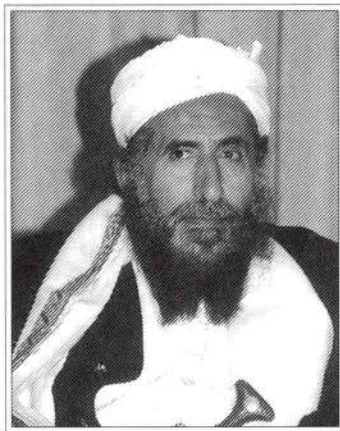
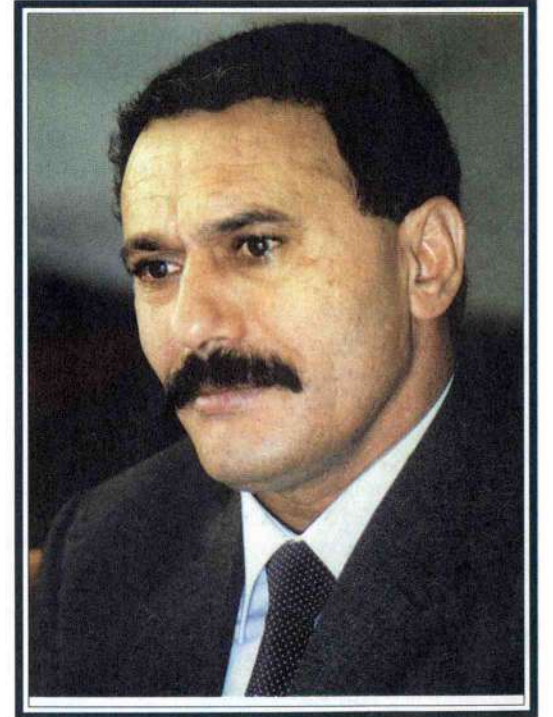
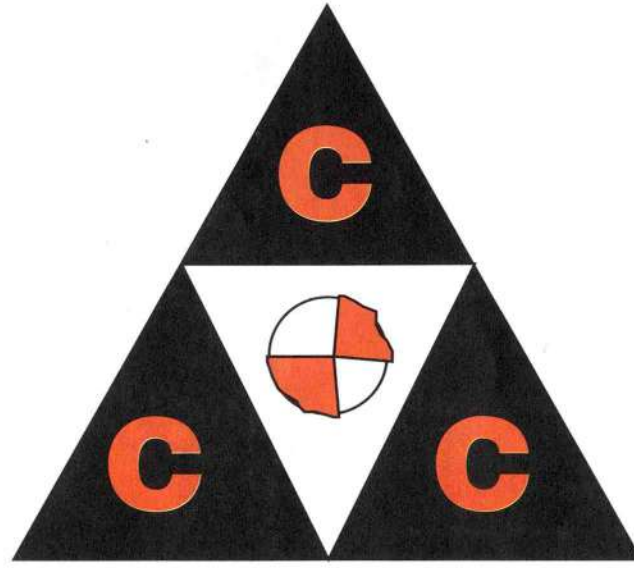
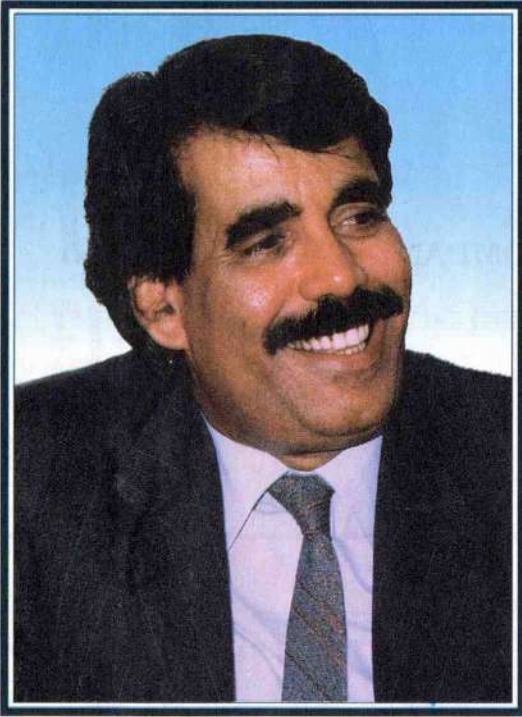


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Abdul-Malik Assosoah:

"We daily confront bizarre situations in our work."

One of the major sources of conflict in the urbanization process of Yemen is the land or real estate ownership issue as many contenders claim ownership of the same plot of land. Another aspect of this complication is the zoning of land use. Owners simply don't understand what it is the business of a government bureaucrat to tell them how to use their fixed assets. The country has also been undergoing a major transformation in its ability to map and survey the territory of the republic and provide adequate maps for road-construction, exploration for oil and other minerals, and for security and legal purposes.

To shed light on these issues, Yemen Times reporter Ismail Al-Ghabri interviewed Mr. Abdul-Malik Assosoah, Deputy Chief of the Survey and Real Estate Registration Authority.

Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you give us some background on the establishment and functions of the Survey and Real Estate Registration Authority (SRERA)?

A: As you well notice from the title of our organization that there are two distinct aspects to our functions - the aerial survey and mapping component, and the real estate ownership deeds verification and registration component.

We were first established as a real estate registration office in 1976. But when the survey authority was formed in 1981, we were merged with it to form something close to what exists today. This was further substantiated in 1990 (Law No. 79) and in 1993 (Law No. 32).

Broadly speaking, the law states our functions as follows:

1. To organize and regulate the process of transfer of ownership of real estate.
2. To issue a roster of legal ownership of all the plots in the urban centers.
3. To undertake aerial surveys of the country and especially the cities in order to ascertain dimensions and zones of land use.

Q: What is involved in the process of verifying and registering real estate ownership?

A: First the applicant fills up a form requesting that his/her/their deeds be accredited and registered.

The form is taken to the legal department where the deeds are analyzed to prove they are authentic and that the persons holding them are the legal guardians. We daily confront bizarre situation in working with deeds, because we come across documents that are not authentic or they are deficient.

Once this stage is successfully over, the applications is carried over to the technical department which has to co-



relate the plot with the maps. If the dimensions and descriptions fit properly, then the file goes to the last stage. Here the record department investigates if there are any claims by any other party to this land. Once those stages are completed, then a tax on the transfer of ownership is paid, and the paperwork is processed.

Q: If the process is so detailed, why is we have all these conflicts regarding land ownership?

A: Most of the conflict is among people who have never come to us, or who have actually avoided us. Often, claimants have forged documents, or they acquire,

knowingly or unknowingly ownership from illegal owners.

At other times, it is sheer greed, usually associated with a certain degree of influence.

Then there is the problem of unfair distribution of inheritance as the stronger (older) children cheat their weaker younger relatives.

In any case, this is one of the major headaches which is associated with our under-development.

Q: Do you have enough offices in all the cities to carry out this work?

A: We have eight branches in the following cities: Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Dhamar, Saadah, Marib and

Aden. We hope to open a branch in Mukallah early next year. We have some sub-offices in certain urban centers to carry out the bare minimum of the required work.

The problem is financial, as we do not have the necessary allocations to open branches.

Q: What is the volume of the work you do?

A: Of course, our job is directly indexed to the level of economic activity. But I can tell you that we have completed the verification and registration of 150,000 documents and deeds.

We have also done a lot of work at the mapping side of the job. For example, we have completed the mapping of 72 cities and towns, we have completed an up-dated aerial survey of the republic, and we have produced terrain and other maps. Two standard maps (sizes 1:50,000 and 1:100,000) are now available for the public.

Q: You mentioned the real estate ownership transfer tax. How much money did you collect last year?

A: First, let me say we collect only a fraction of what is due to the state. This is partly because many people do not come to us to register their ownership, and partly those who do come, agree to declare a lower purchase value so that they may pay a lower tax, which is a percentage of the value of the property.

In 1991, total tax revenue from real estate ownership transfer was YR. 85 million. Last year, it was YR. 125 million.

Let me mention here that in 1981, the revenue was less than a quarter of a million.

Q: You mentioned that you face bizarre situations in your work. What do you mean?

A: The obvious part is the kind of documents that are brought-in. By looking at the jealously-guarded family documents and deeds, I can tell you we have come a long way in organizing this sector. Sometimes, the owners would not let go of the document. They would hold on to it and just tell us to simply look at it.

Then you have cases of several people carrying deeds to the same plot. This has forced to appoint in each city district, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, a trusted clergyman to write the deeds. So all those interested in purchasing a piece of land or house in any district have to go to the specific person authorized to write up the deed.

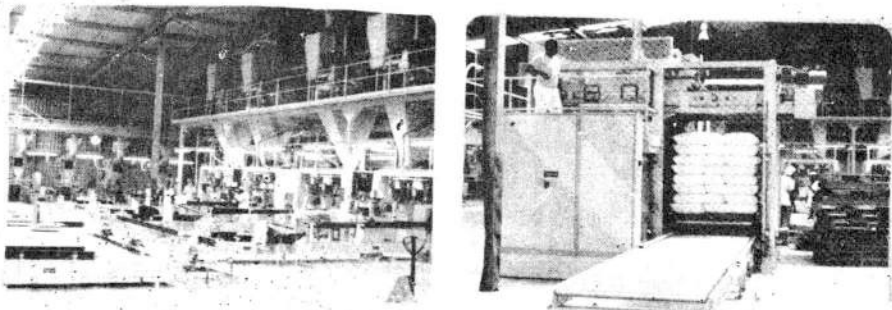
Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to urge the organizations whose responsibilities overlap with us to work closely with us in addressing the needs of this sector. If we succeed in our work, we would have helped in creating a better development atmosphere.



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الجديدة ت: ٣/٢٢٢٤٦٠ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦
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YEMEN MUST BE ABOVE ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS!

Our citizen are fed up of the continual differences, crises, exchange of accusations, promises and other ills. The in-fighting between the partners in power is something logically unbelievable and morally unacceptable. The people are beginning to realize that they are the victims to all the gambling and bargaining behind the scenes or in the press. There is lack of clarity and of long-term vision as to who is right and who is wrong. We are here not to accuse any of the partners. We just want to draw the attention of all and call on them to shoulder their responsibilities honestly. Otherwise, the possible outcome of this tug of war may be a catastrophe. The newly elected presidential council should work as one team and with the government to implement the unity accords. They are required to put the interests of the homeland above all considerations. It is time for the new presidential council to prove it is capable and qualified to steer the country toward stability and prosperity.

By Adam Abbas Elias,
Sawt Al-Yemen, Sanaa,
14/10/1993.

SHEIKH ZINDANI AND THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

The nomination of the Islam Party of Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani was logical to a great extent. The man is highly qualified and is capable of filling this important position. When reviewing the life of the Sheikh, we see that he was a man who was concerned about the whole nation. He was not captivated by partisan politics or narrow considerations all these years. He had his own vision of life since his early involvement with the national political movement. It does not mean he was not affiliated to any political party. But, he was able to control his political affiliation.

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform represents the Islamic movement in Yemen and Sheikh Zindani is regarded as a mentor and leading father figure. He is one of its first mass leaders and his name is known in every home.

In addition, he is a well-known leader in the Islamic world. He has carved out his own place especially in the world of Jihad.

Thus, the new role that he is going to play in his new position is a real challenge to the Islamic movement in Yemen. In brief, the challenge lies in the potential for a serious direct and indirect contribution to the peaceful transformation of Yemen. The whole process in now to be influenced by a zealous adherence and application of the Yemeni people to Islam and its tenets. More public awareness by the politicians and leaders, and more profound understanding of Islam as a doctrine/Sharia and its application without fear or hesitation is now a possibility. This development reflects the faith of Yemen and its wisdom. The challenge is of major proportions, will we be able to rise up to it?

By Ahmad Kaid Al-Aswadi
Al-Shoura, Sanaa,
17/10/1993.

FORMER PRESIDENT ALI NASSER MOHAMMED INTERVIEWED

Al-Mustaqbal newspaper interviewed Mr. Ali Nasser Mohammad, former president of the PDRY. Excerpts from the interview.

Q: Do you think the constitutional amendments are necessary at this time?

A: I acknowledge that the constitution was legislated in circumstances different from those which now exist. Therefore, some amendments may be necessary to deepen the democracy, pluralism and a peaceful transfer of authority. The amendments should be based on Yemen's interests. In my opinion, it is necessary to fill in all the loopholes in the current constitution.

Q: The political media in and out of Yemen have talked about your imminent return to the homeland. When do you plan to return?

A: There are no obstacles regarding my return, but I want to remain here to finalize arrangements for the creation of the Arab Center for Studies and Research, which will be inaugurated in the capital, Sanaa.

Q: Do you intend to publish your memoirs? Which stage have you reached?

A: I have finished writing my memoirs, which is in three volumes covering the stages of the Yemeni revolution, the experience of the state in the South, and the unification. I will choose the suitable time for its publication.

Q: What is your opinion about the election of the presidential council?

A: My congratulations to the elected council. The election is regarded a gain not only for the political leadership but to the Yemeni people for it rescued the country from a political crisis and a constitutional vacuum.

Q: What are the urgent tasks the presidential council should attend to, in your opinion?

A: In brief, the tasks are related to the consolidation of democracy, development, security, stability and national unity. To achieve those tasks, it is necessary to have a meaningful assessment of the transitional period to pin down the shortcomings which existed during the transitional period so as to work to correct them.

I had asked the leadership to deal with the issues of awareness of responsibility and that the top officials ought to address boldly those issues. All efforts must be directed to improving the standard of living of the people. The system must be able to transform its resolutions into plans and actions.

Q: In light of the inauguration of oil from Al-Masila fields last September, how do you evaluate the future development?

A: Undoubtedly, if revenues from oil are used soundly, they will boost Yemen's position in the region and the world. The returns from oil ought to be employed in the service of the economy and the people.

Q: The Free Zone in Aden looks stuck. How do you see this issue?

A: Any prosperity in Aden or elsewhere will have its positive effects on the whole country. It is our duty to give Aden a more cultural, social,

economic, political role so as to create a balanced development for all Yemen.

By: Abdul Khaliq Abdul Malik
Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa,
17/10/1993.

OUR STANDPOINT: PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL... BUT!

At least, the tension which held the specter of political confrontation began to retreat, last week. It is now within our ability to attend to the major tasks which we think are responsible for this repeated crisis in our country.

It is self-evident that the last crisis has disclosed a grave difference in the management of the system and it is not just a casual event or a temporary complication which will pass away easily. Some had realized that right from the beginning.

Unfortunately, the situation remains as it had always been thus giving room for all those developments of the crisis and uncalculated decisions to be repeated. The homeland has become bigger through its unification and the new state has brought some new challenges which require a new vision and wisdom to cope with our new responsibilities. It is not strange, therefore, to see that after three years of unification, old pressures, problems, and sources of tension persist.

Those who defend the ideals of Yemen continue to work for the goal of accelerating the unification process of the state's institutions and organizations, of laying down the foundations of a nation state by restoring respect for the state.

But the reality is completely different, for we witness the rise of the phenomenon of divisions, chaos and sectarianism. Why have we failed? The failure is due to the absence of a comprehensive vision in our new democratic life. We still possess all the potentials to initiate new ideas to our life. The new presidential council's elections has proceeded successfully, regardless, of the irresponsible conduct of some of the coalition representatives. We are still optimistic about reaching a satisfactory understanding about various aspects of the crisis depending on dialogue based on mutual exchange of opinion.

Launching the reform package should be a priority, as it would create a major change in our approach and way of thinking. We should have an open mind in tackling the issues of the homeland. We ought to subject all our differences to logical and open debate and dialogue in an environment of honesty and frankness. This will allow us to protect and safeguard the unity of the homeland and to achieve the security and stability so badly needed for our progress.

By: The Chief Editor,
Al-Thawri, Sanaa,
14/10/1993.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALI SALIM AL-BEEDH

The current political crisis has become a source of great worry and agony for all the people of Yemen who have forgotten temporarily all their other worries. Not that these other worries are small - they include the hike of prices, corruption, injustice and other ills in society.

But the spectre of a major catastrophe has overwhelmed all of us.

The only issue which people exchange these days focus on questions related to Al-Beedh - Has Al-Beedh returned to Sanaa? When is he going to return to Sanaa? Why didn't he swear the oath before the parliament? What was the real secret that made Al-Beedh angry? Are the causes of the difference general interests or just something personal? These questions and others are asked by the people with great worry and fear for the homeland.

People like to arrive at the truth so as to support him, even if by words. We want to expose the buried causes of the differences, which are subject to many interpretations, sometimes silly. Rumors spread here and there as forest fire, and nobody knows the truth. We are with you in the points you put up for discussion and the issues you raise in your speeches, though we may have differences in some of the details. We are with you in your general outlook. We are with you in calling for your civilizational project and combatting corruption and favoritism. We are with you in regaining respect for the state, and its position in the life of the people. We are with you against frivolity, plundering of state funds, manipulating the suffering of the people. We are with you in calling for an open trial of the law-breakers and those involved in assassinations.

Since you ask us to be frank and clear, then permit us to say that you should begin reform right from inside your party. If what you say is to be trusted and credible, then take steps and push ahead for reform and change in your own party. Translate your sayings and preachings into deeds. The reform of society requires patience and courage, but the fruits of

such patience and courage will prove that you are serious and that you are not searching for personal gain.

We are with those who work hard and endeavor in deeds, not just in words.

By Adil Al-A'asam,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
20/10/1993.

ISLAMIC CONCEPTS, SECTARIANISM AND DISREGARD FOR THE YEMENI NATIONAL INTERESTS!

Those who practise sectarianism actually violate Islamic beliefs. Yet, it is amazing that these groups are well-received and cared for by our senior officials.

We have to ask these people, therefore, Why have we unified? Why have we endeavored all these years to accomplish this great achievement in history?

Undoubtedly, our leaders have accomplished a great achievement and they ought to realize that unification is a heavy responsibility on all of us, and which we should shoulder properly.

If the country were to be divided again, the loss is a grave one to all. Our leaders ought to know that it is not possible, any more, for one single individual to rule the whole country according to his whims. It is also important to realize that ruling a country for a long time without a program and plan of action is impossible.

I would like to stress here that cheating and cunning as policy tools will not solve the economic and security problems of Yemen. To the contrary, they will complicate the issues further.

The interests of Yemen are better served through coordination and cooperation among all groups and parties in order to construct a modern state. What we require is a modern state of

institutions.

Our leaders should not listen to those who talk to them in a sectarian language and plant in them fears and tendencies of factionalism, sectarianism and regionalism. These people are against the leaders and they are enemies of Yemen.

In final analysis, sectarian thoughts and approach to our problems will lead to a calamity for all.

By: Ibraheem Bin Mohammed Al-Wazeer,
Al-Balagh, Sanaa,
19/10/1993.

THE OPPOSITION: CAN IT PLAY A MEANINGFUL ROLE?

The opposition in our country is today in a precarious position. After all these years of political evolution, the opposition is still without any real impact on the progress of the national transformation. Yet, it is within the reach of the opposition to have a more tangible role in the process of change in the country.

The crisis of the opposition is, no doubt, fabricated by the authorities in order to overwhelm the opposition. The position of the opposition carries little weight with the authorities. This inability to influence the course of action and the logic of the decision-making machinery is one of the most visible aspects of the weakness of the opposition.

But even worse, according to observers, the opposition is unable to offer solutions to any of the current problems. And finally, the opposition is unable to stand against the corruption and block or even expose the mismanagement which is condoned by the authorities.

By: Saeed Awlaqi,
Raay, Sanaa,



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ART TIME FOR KIDS: AN ESSENTIAL PART OF GROWING UP

Most children draw spontaneously on sand; they play with dough, sauce and mud; and paint and scribble on about any surface. Most children find it absorbing, showing rapt attention and deep concentration.

Drawing is important to them, be it scribbling or the most carefully rendered depictions of their families. But it is not what is produced that is important. The finished picture often holds little interest for its creator. It is not to make a picture that a child draws. A child draws to manipulate materials to play, to imagine and to open a door into a world where anything is possible.

These activities may begin before the child is even 15 months old.

First, there is the uncontrolled scribble as the child explores and manipulates the materials, intrigued by this new way of making things happen. Slowly, coordination and competence develop from this experience and the random scribbles resolve themselves into courses, circles and ellipses. Then as patterns evolve, perhaps at two or three years of age, the child begins to give titles to the drawings and marks: Mummy, Daddy, Me, bring the favorite subjects.

Almost all the young children's early experiences have to do with 'people's face, from mother's face at feeding time to brothers, sisters, aunts' and uncles' who gaze, prod and coo through all the waking moment.

Between the ages of three



and five, the infant, having found the oval and acquired the ability to reproduce it at will, moves into the next stage of development.

Does the oval remind the infant of these faces or is it perceived as the whole being? Whether it is for either of these or some other reason, the oval soon becomes the 'Big Head' symbol.

At first, it contains marks, dots, lines and sunbursts. Then these are resolved into legs, arms, hair and features in a fully-fledged 'person' symbol.

Now, the child can create a being, live its life and share its feelings and emotion. The 'Big Head' figure becomes a vehicle for playing out events in the child's life and for creating fantasies and to participate in them. Eventually, houses appear, at first

often confused with the face symbol. Human figures are now drawn in, and gardens, street, the home or classroom appear.

These figures continue to develop. Legs lengthen and acquire cross bar bodies. Arms move down from the hand and figures fill out with detail, in the typical cruciform shape. But by now at about seven years old, the pictures begin to lose their naivete.

The children have become more self-conscious and self-critical. Before their own work was their focus of attention but now they begin to compare it with that of others and they may begin to ask how to draw things. Throughout this time, progress through the stages is by no means uniform.

Children move at different rates depending on what kind

of experience they have had. For example, children introduced to paint find more to discover than those who use pencil.

Each stage can last longer and is richer as they explore color, line and flow. Some unfortunate children on the other hand, may have only a very limited opportunity to draw before they attend school. Such a paucity of experience may be reflected in the stage of drawing development. Only by looking at many of the child's pictures produced over a period of time, moods and varied interests is it possible to draw conclusions on his/her development.

Even when the stage of development is clearly identified, what does it tell us about the child? Is one who draws "Big Head" figures at an early age potentially more able than others? Or is it that such a child has had more opportunities to draw than others? All things being equal it does seem that the one who develops quickly and early tends to be more able. However great caution is recommended before making this a general rule.

Some of the artistic children who seem to be mute and withdrawn and would sit and stare at the world, apparently without comprehension and seemingly isolated within themselves, are not as helpless as we may believe. When they do draw, their incredible sketches form fully fledged ideas in perspective and depth, and they look alive with power and vigor.

Lack of drawing ability does not necessarily imply a lack of intelligence. Many highly intelligent adults seem not to have progressed much beyond the level of the artistic skill of the seven-year old.

Although any picture, whether by a child or an adult, must contain something of the creator's personality, reading emotions and feelings from pictures and drawings needs an experienced eye. If an infant paints only with blue for several weeks, it is really a blue phase or does the child simply like that particular shade of blue recently discovered? Even regression cannot be taken as a reliable indicator of emotional disturbance. Can we be sure that the child has not gone back to explore some untested property of the paint or crayon? However, with

children up to seven years of age, warm colors like yellow, orange or red are exceptions. The drawings of children in war devastated countries often show that devastation, but others do not. Like adults, children react in different ways to trauma. A lot is often made of repetition, omission and exaggeration as indicators, of disturbance. Is the father never drawn disproportionately larger in the family group? Are facial details always omitted? If the answers to these questions are 'yes,' then there may be a problem. Perhaps the father is the source of distress, the mother overdominant or the child's relationships with other children are strained.

Children's pictures are often described as happy because of the U-shape grin on the faces. We should take care not to read into the drawings what are essentially adult conventions. It is not uncommon for a child to obliterate or destroy his/her creations. We see it as an object worthy of at least some preservation, but in the child's eyes, it has served its purpose. He/She no longer has any interest in it and that may as well be the basis of moving to another activity. Interpreting evidence of emotional disturbance in a child's picture is for the expert. The teacher's of parents' role is to note the development of any abnormal behavior, check it is not illusory or transient and bring it to the attention of the psychologist who will advise on therapeutic steps necessary to rectify the

situation, if any are needed. It doesn't seem that art has something to offer as a therapeutic agent. Certainly, drawings of an event can help to relieve distraught feelings about the event in their art work and help them to come to terms with their emotions. Drawing allows children to express and communicate in other ways.

This is especially important for handicapped children who are mentally retarded with limited vocabulary, sufferers of Cerebral Palsy who cannot speak easily, and even the blind. With the blind, it is of course, necessary to choose a medium like modelling clay, which lets them feel their creation. Since art work provides a safe and acceptable way of expressing feelings, children with aggressive tendencies might also benefit from such an 'outlet.' Of course, care must be taken to make it clear that acceptance of this mode of expression does not imply it is acceptable elsewhere.

Taken together, we see that art, in its various forms is an important activity for all children. It develops manipulative skills, it is a means of communication and self expression. It is an activity to play and fantasize with, it can be creative and can satisfy aesthetic needs, and it can help give vent to difficult emotions. That is why schools and kindergartens have extensive art classes. And that is why parents are advised to give their young ones the chance to draw.

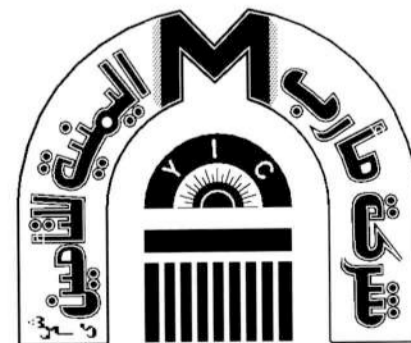
By: The Education Editor,
Yemen Times.

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Continued from Page 20

From Mediation to Taking Sides...

Therefore, the Presidential Council and Cabinet must adhere to:

a. Not to dispense of public funds outside the budget approved by the House of Representatives or outside of the budgetary rules.

b. The Minister of Finance may not block the payment of funds as requested by the line ministries and as allocated in the budget.

c. The Ministry of Finance is obliged to collect revenues as due to the government, and to take measures against those evading payment.

d. The Central Bank of Yemen must adhere to the tasks and functions prescribed to it under the law, and must obey the instructions of only the parties authorized to supervise its functioning. The Central Bank officials must be penalized for obeying instructions which break the law.

e. The government must abide by the decisions to enforce financial and administrative reform; to fight corruption and to make the people responsible for it accountable; to address the issue of confiscated and seized lands and return them to their rightful owners while at the same time finding appropriate and humane solutions to the tenants.

f. To activate the role of the Central Organization for Audit and Control, and to bring it under the direct jurisdiction of the legislative authority, and to make its reports available to the public.

4. Local Administration:

Local administration is one of the vital issues, and a basic condition for the consolidation of democracy, protection of unity, to achieve development, expand the participation base and to construct a modern state.

Therefore, acknowledging the right of local communities to supervise and take the practical measures in the administration of their affairs, especially those of a service and development nature, within the general policy and regulations of the state.

5. The Public Post:

Any honest effort to correct the conditions of the country must give first priority to a major revamping of the bureaucracy of the state, as follows:

a. To revise the administrative hierarchy of the state in a way that meets the needs of society and the objectives of the development process. Such a revision would start with the formation of a committee from the relevant ministries as well as universities to study and propose a new administrative hierarchy for the state. The proposal is then to be discussed with all the political forces in society as well as specialists before it is prepared for legal steps to issue and enact it.

b. To amend the civil service law and its regulating by-laws and to re-assign employees on the basis of qualifications, specialization, experience, ability and effectiveness.

c. To reach agreement with all political forces that the public post, starting from the post of deputy minister and including all the positions below it are all technical positions governed by specific criteria under the law of civil service and have nothing to do with politics or party affiliation.

d. The political leadership (Presidential Council and Council of Ministers) have to stop interfering in the job of the organizations which implement the civil service law, and to refrain from issuing instructions which contradict the civil service law and create com-

plications in the administration. e. To hasten in establishing administrative courts which will look into administrative violations.

6. The Judiciary:

The most important guarantee for democracy is a strong, independent and honest judicial system, which is also the only viable and possible mechanism to achieve justice, human rights and general liberties. No one would argue that the Yemeni judiciary in its current conditions is unable to perform these tasks, partly because of its low efficiency, and partly because of its subordination to the executive authority.

Therefore, the necessary legislature has to be enacted to guarantee independence of the judiciary and release it from its subordination to the executive branch of authority. The structure of the judicial system must be completed by establishing the constitutional department in the Supreme Court, as well as by changing the way in which the Council of the Supreme Court is formed, including the post of presidency of the Supreme Court Council (presently it is the head of state) which should be elected by the House of Representative from among independent judges.

7. The Army and Security:

The government, through the Ministry of Defence, has to embark on building and organizing the army and security forces along national lines, in a way that will terminate the heritage of the sectarian, tribal, regional and other implications. Such a reconstruction must plant the concepts of the role of the armed forces as guardians of constitutional legitimacy, and sovereignty and security of the nation.

All parties have to respect the neutrality of the armed and security forces, and to avoid bringing them into the political competition and rivalry among the parties.

The Presidential Council and Council of Minister shall observe and implement quickly the decision to evacuate the army camps from inside the cities, and to remove the checkpoints in inter-city highways and in populated areas and to re-locate them on routes of smuggling.

8. Public Safety:

The Ministry of Interior is the party directly responsible for public security and safety. Therefore, all parties and organizations are called upon to assist and support a safety and security plan to ensure the stability of the nation. The Ministry of Interior's forces are the sole forces delegated to provide the security cover inside the cities or outside, and no other special or private forces must be allowed.

9. Political Security Apparatus:

To revise the role of the political security apparatus, so as to make it congruent with the stipulations of the constitution and democratic drive.

The members of this force are to be raised and educated in a way that they realize their role in a democratic framework and human rights, and to emphasize their role in protecting the nation from outside dangers. New elements and qualified people are also to be introduced into the force.

10. The Administrative Divisions:

To activate the committee responsible for carrying out the study for administrative divisions so that it may complete its work as soon as possible.

11. The Constitution and Its Amendments:

The present proposals for constitutional amendments have touched on most articles of the current constitution, including proposed changes related to the system of government and its basic foundations. Therefore, such a level of amendments is not what was envisaged by article (129) of the constitution that authorized the Parliament to carry out amendments. The intention of the article was to overcome any minor shortcomings in the constitution which emerge during implementation. That is why the constitution allowed the shortest ways for effecting amendments. However, the amendments presently proposed are nothing less than a re-writing of the constitution, or even a new constitution. Therefore, we propose the formation of a national committee from all sides including the ruling coalition and all parties as well as specialists from Aden and Sanaa universities, the tribal leaders, lawyers, and public figures.

This committee will prepare a proposal which will then be discussed by all segments of society.

12. Al-Shura Council:

An elected Shura Council, in equal number among governorates, is a must to complete the institutional set-up of the country. Care must be doing to avoid overlap in responsibilities.

13. Official Media:

The official media has played a dangerous role, and has been instrumental if exacerbating differences and disputes. To make the official media serve a positive purpose, we propose a supervisory board which will ensure the official media serves the goals of society.

14. National Security:

To hasten in setting-up the Yemeni National Security Council which will study issues and ideas related to the welfare and protection of the national sovereignty, as well as the defence of the Arab nation.

15. Follow-up Committee:

Many of the resolutions and decisions are forgotten because there is no follow-up committee responsible for creating continued interest in their implementation. Therefore, we propose to create a national popular committee to follow-up the implementation of these resolutions, and to expose any person or party working against them.

All (government and non-governmental) organizations are asked to help this committee by providing information available to them and related to the committee's work.

16. The Democratic Choice:

All political forces have to adhere to the democratic path in our political interaction, and to avoid unnecessary statements or actions that jeopardize the unity of the country and its people. All should employ the tool of dialogue in their interaction, and to use only legal means in their differences. Any party using steps that will lead to the partitioning of the nation or breaking internal cohesion must be exposed.

The above document was signed by some two hundred leading public personalities, sheikhs, clergymen, university professors, union leaders, journalists and representatives of political parties.

Implementation of the above points is being discussed with the coalition partners.

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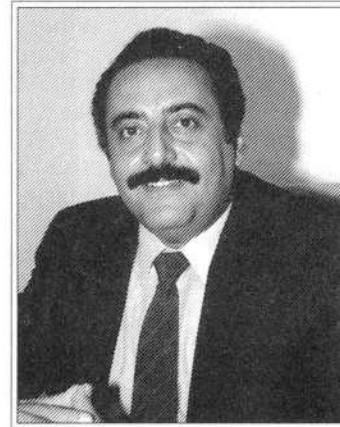
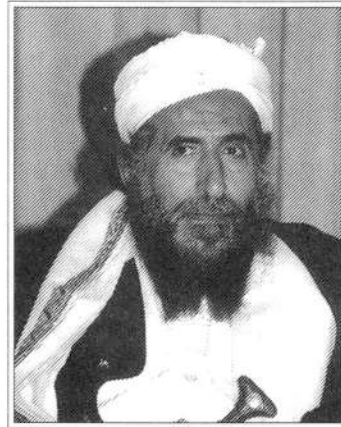
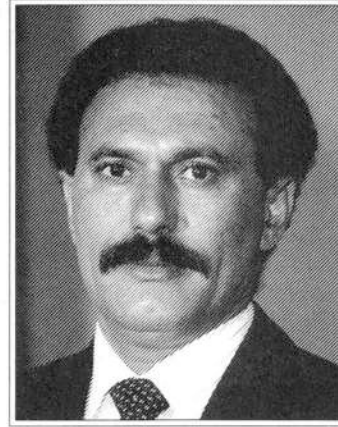
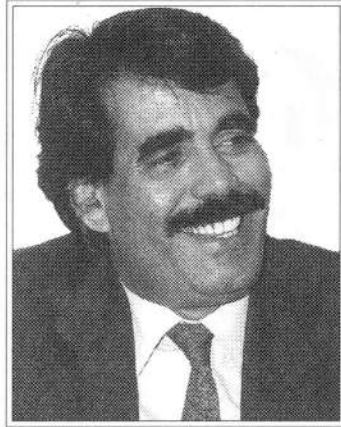
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congratulates the Yemeni people on the anniversary of the Revolution, and congratulates President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh, and the Members of the Presidential Council on the confidence of People.

May God guide you to better serve the nation.

Any Ideas for Women's Past-time?

By: Fatma Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

People from different parts of the world have diverse cultural backgrounds and thus different habits. Foreigners in our country, especially Westerners, are confronted with a completely different life style and culture. That is why, they have certain special needs, which society may not provide for.

For quite a while now, I have been keeping an open eye to observe how women from foreign lands cope with the living circumstances of Yemen. From the on-set, I have to point out that conditions are improving steadily for two reasons:

a) Our cities are becoming more cosmopolitan. This means that differences in people's lifestyles and looks are becoming more normal and acceptable.

b) The number of foreigners living among us is growing, which allows them to create their own little worlds here and there.

Having said that, let me come back to discuss how foreign women, especially those who come to Yemen as dependents, spend their time.

First, let me distinguish between those women who do find employment and spend most of their day-time at work, and those who don't. For the women who do work, there is no problem of filling in their spare time, which often is not long. The more pressing issue is what do housewives do? Their lot is the theme of my article.

Second, we have to differentiate between countries of origin. Women from Arab backgrounds, and generally from Afro-Asian backgrounds are more able to link-up and interact with the local population. The size of the foreign community to which a woman belongs is a key factor in how far she merges with the locals. If there is a large community from her country, then there is little urge to associate with the locals. This is true, for example, of the community from the sub-Continent.

One more time, back to how foreign women spend their time in Sanaa.

Primarily, there is the plethora of associations, mostly by nationality. Some of these are not oriented to



the needs of just women, but the women do play the largest role.

Second, there are the various charity and voluntary activities in which these women work. These range from working with the handicapped to refined architectural and other projects.

Third, there is this repetition of bazars and shows. The women take on the brunt of the work in preparing for and organizing bazars of all sorts.

Fourth, there are private and individual hobbies. Picnics and travelling within the country seems to be high on the list of hobbies.

Fifth, most well-to-do foreign communities have their own clubs or they are members of the major hotel clubs, e.g., Sheraton, Taj Sheba, etc.

Sixth, there are the endless parties and get togethers, using just about every pretext in the book, and sometimes pretexts not in the books. So you hear, this week-end the get together is at this family's, and next week, at another's.

Seventh, there are the piles of video cassettes and other TV-related past-times. Other in-door activities are also fully developed to keep them busy.

Eighth, many housewives insist on having maids. Now this is, of course, paradoxical as the woman may herself be underworked. But, as any of them will tell you, "I don't need a maid to simply help with the work. I want someone to talk to." Now you understand why they demand maids who can talk their language. Well, at least who can listen their language.

But the most important past-time for foreign women especially for those who are leaving alone in villas is really just sitting at home and getting bored. That's why groups such as International Women's Association was formed.

As early as 1980, a group of foreign women got together and formed the International Women's Association (IWA). Last week I was able to meet with a few women who are in the steering committee of this year's International Women Association. These are:

Barbara Dmitrienko (Canada)
Program Coordinator;
Mirella Cordone (Italy)
Hospitality Affairs;
Ingrid Ast (Germany)
Treasurer;
Vivian Vie' (France)
Charity Affairs;
Zahra Nehme' (Lebanon)
Activities;
Kiran Parmar (India)
Charity Affairs;
Nagwa Shawa (Palestine)
Charity Affairs;
Ingelise From (Denmark)
Secretary;
Catherine Marsh (Britain)
Advertising;
Claire Goethals (Belgium)
Treasurer;
Ceiyz Fairclough (Turkey)
Member;
Linda Drinkard (American)
Member;

Mrs. Nehme', a co-founder, described the early days of the association. "In 1980, things were different. As housewives in a foreign land which offered no social life outside the home, we felt the need to do something. That is how two other women who are long gone, and myself, developed the idea of the IWA," she said.

Mrs. Cordone pointed to the exceptional arrangements of the IWA. "You see many families come and go, so the flow of membership and the turn-over is high. Therefore, we do not have a fixed system of membership. It is a flexible arrangement which welcomes any newcomer easily," she said. The IWA members hold their meetings once a month. The women - about seventy to a hundred of them - meet over tea and coffee at the Taj-Sheba Hotel. Usually, there is a guest speaker giving lectures mostly about Yemeni culture. This is one way for the women to learn more about the host country. Mrs. Kiran Parmar explained how people could easily get wrong ideas of another culture "There is nothing wrong with any culture. Once you come to understand a culture well enough, you start appreciating it. "That is why negative attitudes come only from people who have not given themselves the chance to learn about the value of the cultures of others. And that is why our association is open for all women so that we maximize the interaction. Our wish is for more Yemeni women to join our association. However, the Yemeni society even today makes it difficult for women to come to meetings in hotels," Parmar explained. How are the activities of the IWA funded?

"First of all, we really do not have any major expenditures as we do not have any overheads, like rent or permanent staff," explained Ingrid Ast. Then, when we meet, every member who attends pays directly to the hotel for the coffee or whatever is being served, and we get the meeting room free of charge," she said. Nagwa Shawa added, "We do fund raising to help needy groups. We get small donations from companies and individuals. All our activities generate some revenue, like the fashion show, Jewelry exhibition, etc., that we have organized in the past, and we use this money to help the needy women and children of Yemen."

"Our association is non-religious, non-political and non-profit-oriented. It is made up of a group of women from over 30 nationalities who are living in Yemen. Our purpose is to encourage social fellowship, promote cultural exchange and raise money and goods to support charities that benefit women and children in Yemen," concluded Barbara Dmitrienko.

THE HARD FATE OF ISLAM

By Khalifa Nassor Khamis

Islam's way has been thorny since its inception. The first antagonists were the jahiliyeen, then came the crusaders and now it is the politicians.

The world politics is actually a struggle, between two groups, for the world's resources and the wealth it produces.. These groups are: The majority who are the "have-nots" and the minority or "haves."

Capitalism was born out of human-animal instinct which leads to selfishness and monopoly. A small group of people manages to control the economy, and then fights to dictate the politics in order to maintain the status quo. At the end, this group controls both the economic and the politics.

Communism with its slogans reversed the approach. It called for control of politics so as to ensure a fair economic deal. At the end, communism also allowed a small group of people to have control both over politics and economics. In neither system has religious belief been central. It was used by capitalism to generate hatred for communism. As a matter of fact, both reject God in their affairs.

The main issue still remains to take control over the world. Does Islam present an alternative to compete against the now seemingly victorious capitalism in this struggle? We have seen and heard things that indicate that the capitalist world's next on-slaught would be against Islam.

First, let us recall some facts about Islam and Christianity on this subject. Is it a Christian world which has evolved into strong capitalist citadel? Is this world still following the teachings of Issa Ibn Mariam (Jesus)?

For Jesus never hid his distaste for the money hungry upper class of his time. He showed his disgust for the accumulation of wealth - a basic requirement in capitalism. He warned, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the hole of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." He definitely was not a capitalist, at least not in the way we know it today. He lived with the poor, and aspired to be with them and detested worldly riches.

However, Muhammad was a capitalist. He was a merchant and businessman, working for profit - the driving force of capitalism. But Islam also has a strong undercurrent of socialism. It demand social equity and community sharing. Yemen and the Islamic communities today are nearer to socialism than they are to capitalism. This is understandable as Islam favors the principles of capitalism in generating wealth, but enforces the principles of socialism in distributing it.

In my opinion, this is the proper path for the future world. For although capitalism seems to have won over communism now, it is incomprehensible that the majority of have-nots will accept to be sitting ducks while the rich plunder the world. It is just theoretical that any one can get rich in capitalist societies, continue to accumulate, thus unleashing a vicious cycle of poverty that haunts the majority of human beings.

Indeed Islam has a more just and logical compromise in the world relations. As to whether this is the basis for the strong dislike it has generated from the capitalist West, is not that obvious. But acts of terrorism by Muslim extremists have provided the West with a perfect pretext to move against Islam as a political force.

But why terrorism? For all religions uphold "love" in their teachings, as "love" is an authentication of God's existence. Yet all religions are guilty of hypocrisy and we find ourselves in a vicious and ugly cycle of ungodliness. The Western phobia of Islam has resulted into injustices against Islam. These injustices have made some Muslims dislike the "Christian" West culminating in acts of terrorism by Muslim fanatics. In turn these breed more Western Islamic-phobia. And so on.

We must break this cycle in order to live in harmony with each other and to accomplish universal acceptance of each other. Islam is capable to stop the acts of terrorism not only because they are inhumane, un-Islamic, and morally wrong, but more so because they are concentrated in countries with decisive Muslim majorities. The picture that emerges is one of Islam cannibalizing itself while Christianity is filling a theological vacuum resulting from the collapse of communism. By and large, these acts vis-a-vis Islam, are doing more harm than good.

Whereas we speculate that terrorism is a reaction to past injustices committed against Muslims, political motives cannot be ruled out within Islamic groups. To a few fundamentalists, it is out of pure conviction that the Political High Command should merge with the Islamic High Command for the good of Islam. But to many of them, it is the misuse of Islamic concepts as a stepping stone to achieving their political ambitions.

Both groups should remember that Islam is a faith of God encompassing all conducts of life not only politics. It is a blasphemy, therefore, to reduce it to the level of man organized political parties. They should remain content with the fact that it is impossible to separate Islam from those political parties whose majority members are Muslims. Their degree of faith is not for another human being to judge but Allah. Insistence on marrying Religion and state, especially by the use of force, not only retards our progress through material and human destruction, but also ridicules our religion worldwide.

If their mission is Islam, as the case should be, then within Islamic communities they should preach to convince people to be clean at heart and not out of fear of punishment. They should be carriers of the message to non-Muslims and they should do so by the acts of politeness, kindness and PEACE, for that is ISLAM.

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Consolidation of Yemeni-French Cooperation

It was a quick visit. President Francois Mitterrand and his some 300 companions left Sanaa on the evening of the of October, at the end of a 27-hour visit to the country. The French President and his host, President Ali Abdullah Saleh held two private tete-a-tete meetings, a press conference and a major public engagement over a dinner reception hosted by President Saleh.



"The two reviewed many issues, and they agreed on some, and disagreed on others," according to President Saleh. President Mitterrand had lots of praise for the political transformation of Yemen. "We support you in your democratization path, which, although it may not be the easiest route, it is nonetheless the safest and most viable in the long run," he pointed out. In response to a Yemen Times question regarding the possibility of international arbitration, spearheaded by France, in the border dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Mitterrand said that such an option is open to the two countries if they so choose. "President Saleh and I discussed the alternatives open to the two countries. Arbitration is a long process, but it is a sure one. France is not, at this stage, involved in any mediation, however," he added.

France has a direct stake in the Yemeni-Saudi border issue as one of its two national oil companies, ELF Aquitaine, had to terminate its operations in Sir Hazar, where it has been doing exploration work. The other company, TOTAL, was also harassed by "bandits" while it was doing its exploration. Both companies reported positive results on a preliminary basis. The Saudi authorities have been putting pressure on the oil companies to pack up and leave. "Yemen continues to offer to reach a negotiated settlement on this matter, based on the legal and historic rights of both sides," President Saleh repeated. He went through great pains to show the flexible and understanding Yemeni position as contrasted with the visible Saudi intransigence. As far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, the French side expressed appreciation for the moderating

influence Yemen has played, although the country has yet to come out and declare its support for the peace deal. Regarding the internal squabbles of Yemeni leaders, the French President only hinted at it in the open. He said that he urged the smooth continuation of the transformation process, and the consent of all parties - a clear reference to the YSP and Ali Salim Al-Beedh. The French agreed to reinstate the former aid level of France to Yemen, reduced earlier this year due to budgetary constraints in Paris. France, it is known, provides Yemen with an average of \$12 million per year. The French side is also considering dropping some of its loan to Yemen. Earlier, France had relieved Yemen of FF. 150 million in loans and interests. In addition, French investments in Yemen are to be encouraged, according to the officials accompanying the President.

French Yemenologists speak to Yemen Times

Accompanying French President Francois Mitterrand was a large delegation of intellectuals and people who could be termed as specialists or Yemenologists. Yemen Times talked to three of them.

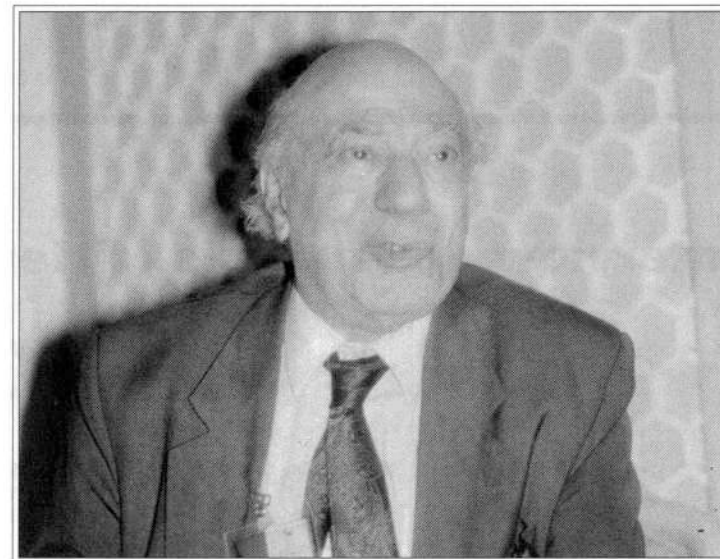
Dr. Claudie Fayien is the Vice President of the France-Yemen Association. Her first encounter with Yemen was in 1950, and she started living in Sanaa in 1952. "The difference over the last forty years cannot be imagined. When I first came to Yemen, it was a primitive country fully isolated from the rest of the world," she said.

She was enlisted to work as a physician. The health condition of the people was really bad, and I did what I could, given the circumstances," she indicated.

Waving her Yemeni passport to everyone, Dr. Fayien, 82, is extremely proud of her second citizenship. "I feel proud of my association with Yemen, and I have a lot of admiration for the Yemeni people," she said.

Asked about any anecdotes during her career in Sanaa, she recounted two stories.

"One time, the wife of a senior clergyman was sick. As usual, I came to treat her



Professor Maxime Rodinson

The second person is Dr. Maxime Rodinson, Director of Studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. A reknowned orientalist, and four-time visitor of Yemen, he has done extensive work on the ancient Yemeni languages. "I continue to supervise the work of young researchers. I am sure that we are constantly breaking new ground, and at the same time documenting the languages of Maeen, Hadhramaut, Sabaa, Himyar, Qataban, and others," he said.

"But that is the case in many other parts of the world," Professor Rodinson stated.

At the same time, he pointed to the enormous financial cost of preserving such languages, which even rich countries cannot afford.

The third person is Father Etienne Renaud, Director of the Institut des Belles Lettres Arabes in Tunisia.

Father Etienne spent eight years in Yemen as a specialist seconded to the Electricity Authority, as well as a medical doctor offering his services. With almost perfect Arabic, he has grown to love the country and its culture. No wonder he co-authored with Dr. Claudie Fayien a book on the poetry of the Revolution.

"I would like to stress the fact that Yemen, in its development process, is preserving its identity. It is taking from the modern world its needs without necessarily discarding its own heritage. This is especially visible in the architecture, even in the modern houses. The old blends nicely with the new," he said.

The number of French specialists on Yemen grows constantly. It is worth exploring the possibility of establishing links with these people as they are influential in guiding public opinion, and decision-making in various fields.

This phenomenon is true in France as well as in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy, and to a lesser extent in the other countries. "It will be a great service to Yemen if Yemeni intellectuals link up with them. Yemeni government support may be needed," Etienne concluded.



Dr. Claudie Fayien

and gave her the necessary medication. But the Qadhi (clergyman) insisted that I stay with his wife. I told him I have many other patients, and that I would come back to check-up on his wife. He refused. He threatened to reduce my salary by half if I left his wife. I told him he can do whatever he wished. Later when the problem was reported to the Imam, he told me I did the right thing to look after the people, and was angry with the Qadhi."

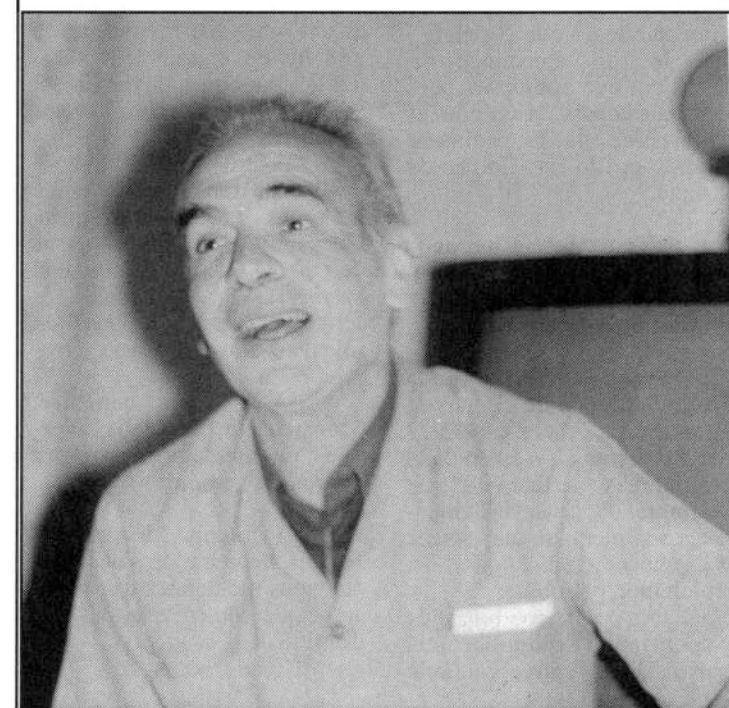
The second story has to do with a much later time.

"In 1969, some friends were doing studies in the Khamer area. We went to see Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar and get his blessing and help, if needed. I remember the Sheikh refused to shake my hand, and totally ignored my presence because I am a woman. This time (last week), he held me by the hand, cordially talked to me, and even exchanged jokes with me. I think this shows the progress that has been achieved regarding the status of women in this country."

Claudie Fayien is the author of the famous book, "I Was a Doctor in Yemen," which is used as reference for conditions in mid-century Yemen..

He pointed out that his students have discovered this year a new dialect in Socotra. "This (dialect) was not recorded or even known before," he added. Asked about the fate of the dying languages and dialects, Professor Rodinson sadly lamented the fact that in one or two more generations, the dialects and languages presently spoken in Dhofar, Al-Mahara and Socotra, will most probably be gone.

Father Etienne Renaud



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VISITE DU CHEF DE L'ETAT FRANCAIS

Interview de François Mitterrand, Président de la République française

"Je suis convaincu du rôle majeur que votre pays peut jouer pour la paix"

Le chef d'Etat français a accordé au Yemen Times une interview, publiée également dans les pages anglaises. L'évolution politique du Yémen, les relations bilatérales et les relations entre la France et les pays arabes, tels sont les thèmes abordés par le Président français au cours de cette interview.

Yemen Times: Quelle est votre appréciation de l'évolution politique du Yémen sur la voie de la démocratie ? Quels sont vos sentiments à l'égard de notre pays à la veille de votre visite officielle ?

François Mitterrand: Les relations d'amitié et de coopération entre la France et le Yémen sont anciennes. Je souhaite que ma visite, la première d'un chef d'Etat français dans votre pays, contribue à consolider les liens déjà nombreux qui nous unissent et je tiens à remercier le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh de son invitation.

"Le Yémen vit une expérience démocratique exemplaire"

Le Yémen vit une expérience démocratique exemplaire. Par la volonté de son peuple, ce pays très ancien a fait le choix de la modernité. Je ne peux que me réjouir de cette évolution et encourager les dirigeants yéménites à mener à terme ce grand dessein.

Nous suivons avec intérêt le processus démocratique que vous avez engagé. Votre pays acquiert, grâce à lui, la stature d'un grand pays. Le propre de la démocratie est d'être perfectible et de ne pas se laisser réduire à un seul critère. En trois ans, le Yémen a réalisé un parcours que je qualifierai de "sans faute", vous avez fait preuve d'une grande maturité, le chemin à parcourir est long, vous le savez, mais j'ai confiance en votre pays et en votre peuple.

La France place un grand espoir dans l'évolution des relations entre le Yémen et les autres pays arabes de la région où elle n'a que des amis.

Je suis convaincu du rôle majeur que votre pays peut jouer pour la paix, la stabilité et la prospérité de la péninsule arabique et de la Corne de l'Afrique.

YT: Comment percevez-vous les relations bilatérales et le programme des aides au Yémen ?

François Mitterrand: Je les qualifierais de bonnes et confiantes. La France est d'ores et déjà présente au Yémen dans de nombreux secteurs-clés de l'économie. Je pense à l'industrie agro-alimentaire, au secteur des télécommunications, à l'exploitation pétrolière.

Je n'oublie pas non plus la coopération culturelle très vivante. Deux centres culturels

français sont ouverts à Sanaa et à Aden depuis 1990, la langue française est enseignée à l'université de Sanaa et d'Aden ainsi que dans plusieurs de vos écoles. Enfin, en novembre 1991, MM. Dumas et Lang inauguraient la Maison Rimbaud à Aden. Ce centre de poésie franco-yéménite est devenu le symbole de nos relations culturelles puisqu'y seront organisés des colloques, des forums, véritable trait d'union entre nos cultures.

YT: Les relations entre la France et les pays arabes sont à la fois profondes et particulières. C'est ainsi que la France est perçue comme le défenseur des positions arabes en Europe et dans le monde. Comment percevez-vous leur avenir, notamment à la lumière de l'accord de paix israélo-palestinien ?

François Mitterrand: L'accord conclu entre les Israéliens et les Palestiniens est un acte de grand courage que nous devons saluer comme tel. C'est un acte fondateur de paix car on ne va pas en rester là ! Si les Israéliens et les Palestiniens parviennent à établir une vraie paix, elle sera contagieuse et vous verrez tout le Proche-Orient et une large partie du Moyen-Orient suivre cette voie nouvelle et tout changera dans cette région du monde. Ce qui importe maintenant c'est d'accompagner politiquement et économiquement cet accord.

La France, vous le savez, a déposé une aide d'urgence au profit des Territoires et a obtenu que la Communauté européenne, par le biais de la Conférence des donateurs, participe pleinement à la coordination de l'aide.

Cette aide est, à mes yeux, fondamentale. Les Palestiniens doivent asseoir leur autonomie sur des bases solides car c'est au moins autant de leur capacité à prendre en charge leur autonomie que du gouvernement israélien que dépendra l'avenir de leurs territoires.

Votre pays, qui a apporté un appui continu tant à la cause palestinienne qu'au volet multilatéral du processus de paix et à l'accord intervenu entre l'OLP et Israël sur Jéricho et Gaza, a lui aussi un rôle déterminant à jouer.

YT: Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, avez-vous un message à adresser au peuple yéménite ?

François Mitterrand: Je suis heureux de l'occasion que vous me donnez d'adresser au peuple yéménite le message d'amitié de la France.



François Mitterrand lors de sa rencontre avec les membres de la Communauté française.

Rencontre avec la Communauté française

Le Président français a rencontré la Communauté française vivant au Yémen à la fin de sa visite dans le pays. Il était 18h quand François Mitterrand est arrivé à la résidence de l'ambassadeur, Marcel Laugel. "J'ai l'habitude de rencontrer les Français quand je me rends en visite à l'étranger", a déclaré le Président aux membres de la Communauté assemblés autour de lui pour l'écouter. François Mitterrand a remarqué qu'il n'y avait pas de problème particulier pour les Français vivant au Yémen. Il a notamment eu une pensée pour ceux qui travaillent sur les champs pétroliers, dont "l'isolement n'est pas facile à supporter tous les jours". Mais "les Français rencontrés hier m'ont semblé fort attachés à ce pays".

Le Yémen est un "pays très peuplé qui connaît beaucoup de difficultés et doit compter sur l'aide des pays industrialisés, et c'est le cas de la France", a poursuivi le Prés-

ident. Il a souhaité que l'amitié entre les deux pays se traduise dans les faits. "J'espère que vous formez un petit groupe suffisamment cohérent", pas comme en France. "Quand il s'agit de l'intérêt du pays, on se retrouve plus aisément".

"Je vous souhaite bon courage. Ceux qui ont la chance de voyager à travers le Yémen doivent avoir des joies assez rares. Tout ceux qui m'accompagnent auront dans un coin de leur cœur ce pays". Après le discours du Président, les notes de la Marseillaise ont retenti. François Mitterrand a ensuite serré quelques mains, puis est reparti en direction du Palais républicain. Accompagné par le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh, il a rejoint l'aéroport. Le Concorde a décollé à 19h20 en direction du Caire, où François Mitterrand devait dîner avec son homologue égyptien Hosni Mubarak.

Sommet de la francophonie

Le Président français a participé au 5ème sommet des chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement des pays francophones à l'île Maurice du samedi 16 au lundi 18 octobre. Quarante-sept pays étaient représentés à ce sommet marqué par la question du GATT.

Les francophones ont décidé de faire bloc. Réunis de samedi 16 à lundi 18 octobre à Port-Louis, à l'île Maurice, pour le cinquième sommet de la francophonie, ils ont affirmé haut et fort la francophonie qui les unit. Ils ont accueilli deux nouveaux membres, le Cambodge et la Roumanie.

Appel vibrant du Président français

Répondant à un appel vibrant lancé dès l'ouverture du sommet par le président François Mitterrand, les 47 participants ont adopté dimanche dernier à l'unanimité une résolution sur l'exception culturelle au GATT destinée à faire échec à la mainmise américaine dans ce secteur. Cette résolution demande notamment que les activités culturelles soient exclues du champ d'application du GATT. "Ce que les régimes totalitaires n'ont finalement pas réussi à faire, les lois de l'argent, alliées aux forces des techniques, vont-elles y parvenir ?", a lancé M. Mitterrand.

"On ne peut pas imposer - quelle que soit sa puissance - sa façon de penser ou de s'exprimer au reste du monde", a ajouté le chef d'Etat

français, qui a entendu "avec un peu de peine" certaines déclarations à ce sujet du président américain Bill Clinton. "Nos cultures ne sont pas à négocier", a déclaré M. Mitterrand dont l'appel a été suivi par un véritable plaidoyer du secrétaire général des Nations Unies, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, en faveur de la défense de la francophonie et du "plurilinguisme". C'est la première fois qu'un secrétaire général de l'ONU participe à un sommet de la francophonie. M. Boutros-Ghali a par ailleurs prononcé la défense du français dans les instances internationales, qui a fait l'objet d'une résolution.

François Mitterrand a souligné qu'"il ne serait pas possible d'aboutir à un accord mondial qui comporterait des clauses léonines, non écrites mais réelles, à savoir que tel ou tel pays garderait le droit de s'abstraire de ses obligations et considérerait ses lois nationales comme supérieures aux lois internationales. Or c'est le cas. A tout moment, le traité sera révoqué par l'initiative d'un seul (...) cela est inacceptable."

Ce dossier de l'exception culturelle a été au long du sommet l'exemple le plus net de la volonté de transformer la

francophonie en une entité concrète et déterminée à faire entendre sa voix sur la scène internationale, en particulier face au monde anglo-saxon. "La francophonie a pris un virage essentiel au sommet de Maurice", a déclaré le Premier ministre mauricien Sir Anerood Jugnauth. De "base de rencontres un peu familiale", elle est devenue une entité "beaucoup plus structurée, qui débat de problèmes essentiels à l'échelle de la politique internationale". Le sommet a notamment adopté une résolution renforçant le pouvoir de décision et de coordination du Conseil permanent de la francophonie, l'organe de tout le dispositif francophone.

Soutien à l'Afrique

D'autre part, le Président Mitterrand a assuré l'Afrique du soutien continu de la France et salué les progrès de la démocratie enregistrés ces dernières années. Mais a-t-il dit, sans "projets de développement économique" et sans "enracinement" de la démocratie, ces progrès sont fragiles et peuvent être très facilement remis en cause. Le prochain sommet francophone se déroulera en 1995 au Bénin.

Texte de la résolution sur l'exception culturelle au GATT

- Désireux d'encourager la vitalité de l'expression artistique des cultures nationales et régionales présentes dans chacun de leurs Etats,
- Reconnaissant le rôle de l'Etat, des gouvernements et des collectivités publiques et territoriales dans la promotion, la protection et le rayonnement des industries culturelles nationales et régionales à l'intérieur de leurs pays respectifs mais aussi au niveau international,
- Soucieux de permettre aux créations de l'espace francophone de circuler entre leurs Etats respectifs, comme porteurs des expressions communes et des identités diversifiées,
- Se référant à la clause d'exception culturelle telle qu'elle est reconnue au sein de l'accord de libre-échange nord américain (ALENA, NAFTA),
- Convient d'adopter ensemble, au sein du GATT, la même exception culturelle pour toutes les industries culturelles, cette disposition constituant un moyen efficace pour maintenir une forte production culturelle francophone.

VISITE DU CHEF DE L'ETAT FRANCAIS

Soutien de la France à l'évolution démocratique du Yémen

Au cours de sa visite d'un peu plus de 24 heures au Yémen, le chef d'Etat français s'est entretenu à trois reprises avec son homologue Ali Abdallah Saleh. Les deux hommes ont exprimé leur identité de vue sur la plupart des questions internationales abordées, et notamment sur le processus de paix au Proche-Orient.

"Les Français sont fiers d'être une des plus vieilles nations d'Europe, comment ne pourrions nous ne pas être fascinés par le Yémen, ce pays où le monde arabe a pris naissance. Vous êtes en quelque sorte l'un des pays des origines", a déclaré le Président François Mitterrand dans son allocution au cours du dîner officiel offert par son homologue yéménite Ali Abdallah Saleh, le soir de son arrivée, lundi 18 octobre.

Hommage à la démocratie

Le Concorde présidentiel s'était posé en fin d'après-midi à Sanaa. La visite du Président Mitterrand, la première d'un chef d'Etat français au Yémen, a duré un peu plus de 24 heures. François Mitterrand entendait en particulier rendre un hommage appuyé à l'évolution démocratique en cours au Yémen, qui est le seul pays de la péninsule arabique, avec le Koweït, à disposer d'une représentation parlementaire. Le chef d'Etat français estime en effet que la démocratie constitue l'une des clés essentielles du développement des pays les plus déshérités. M. Mitterrand était notamment accompagné d'Alain Juppé, ministre des Affaires étrangères français.

Venant de l'île Maurice, il a été accueilli à sa descente d'avion par le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh. Debouts côte à côte sous un dais en bois de

cèdre, les deux chefs d'Etat ont écouté les hymnes nationaux. Tout au long de la route menant à la capitale et qui était pavée aux couleurs des deux pays et décorée de portraits des deux Présidents, des groupes s'étaient formés pour saluer les arrivants par des cris et des sifflets.

Les deux chefs d'Etat ont eu une séance d'entretiens lundi soir, au cours de laquelle le Président français a estimé "qu'une procédure d'arbitrage international serait une bonne solution" pour aider au règlement du litige frontalier entre le Yémen et l'Arabie Saoudite. La réunion saoudo-yéménite, qui devait avoir lieu le 9 octobre à Ryad se tiendra le 25 octobre dans la capitale saoudienne. En se rendant au sommet de la Sommet de la francophonie à l'île Maurice, François Mitterrand avait fait escale à Djeddah en Arabie Saoudite, où il s'était entretenu avec le roi Fahd.

Au cours des premiers entretiens avec son homologue yéménite, le Président français a d'autre part salué le "rôle modérateur" joué par le Yémen dans le processus de paix au Proche-Orient. La visite du Président français au Yémen s'inscrit dans une série d'entretiens avec les dirigeants du monde arabe. Jeudi dernier, il devait recevoir à Paris le chef de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat.

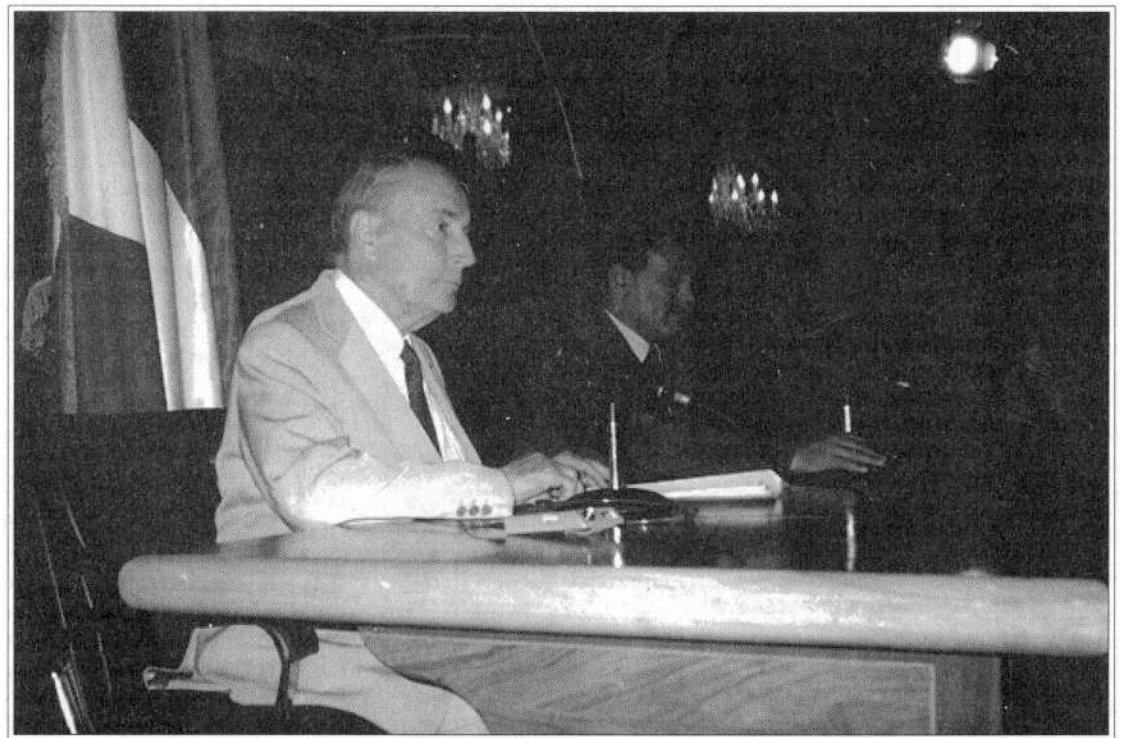
Mardi 19 octobre au matin, M. Mitterrand a visité pendant deux heures la vieille

ville de Sanaa et son souk. A travers les ruelles étroites, le Président s'est attardé devant quelques échoppes, avant de gravir les quatre étages d'un ancien caravansérail d'où il a pu admirer le panorama de la ville.

Après une deuxième séance d'entretiens, les deux chefs d'Etat ont donné une conférence de presse conjointe. "La démarche démocratique du Yémen est un événement très important et nécessaire. Si la France peut faire comprendre aux pays de la région et à tous les autres que c'est le bon choix, elle le fera", a indiqué François Mitterrand.

Maintien de l'aide française

Le Yémen continuera à bénéficier de l'aide de la France, dont le montant a été maintenu à 70 millions de francs, a précisé le Président français. Le montant de la dette yéménite vis-à-vis de la France est de 300 millions de francs, dont 80 millions de dette publique. "Si on peut faire plus, on le fera", a précisé le Président français, qui a indiqué que la France faisait face à une grave crise économique et qu'elle devait veiller à son budget. Le Yémen a pourtant un besoin urgent d'aide extérieure. Actuellement, il tente de renouer avec ses anciens pourvoyeurs de fonds, dont l'Arabie Saoudite, qui octroyait à elle seule à Sanaa une aide budgétaire de l'ordre de 400 millions de dollars par an



Les deux Présidents au cours de la conférence conjointe mardi dernier.

jusqu'en 1990.

Le Président français a aussi été interrogé sur la situation en Somalie. "Le système (mis en place par les Nations Unies) a mal fonctionné à Mogadiscio, mais les 9/10ème du territoire somalien sont calmes (...). Des actions militaires ont pris l'allure d'un conflit entre les Nations Unies et une fraction des forces somaliennes", a-t-il dit. Le Président français n'a pas écarté l'éventualité d'un maintien de troupes françaises en Somalie, à la

seule condition qu'elles soient utilisées à des fins humanitaires. "S'il s'agit d'un travail purement humanitaire, nous sommes toujours disponibles, mais s'il s'agit d'une intervention armée, nous demanderons à revoir la question". François Mitterrand a estimé que le retrait des troupes françaises pourrait se faire avant mars.

Concernant l'Irak, François Mitterrand a déclaré: "Que le président irakien Saddam Hussein applique les résolutions des Nations Unies,

qu'il n'y ait pas de génocide des Kurdes et de répression contre les chiïtes du sud, qu'il se soumette à la loi internationale et on n'en parlera plus. Il est très difficile de demander à Saddam Hussein d'établir une démocratie, je ne pense pas que ce soit dans son tempérament".

Après un déjeuner privé à la résidence de l'ambassadeur de France, François Mitterrand est parti en hélicoptère vers le village de Thulla en passant par Bani Matar et Wadi Dhar.

Sur fond de crise politique

Le Président français est arrivé en pleine crise politique entre le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid. Trois ans après l'unification, l'animosité entre les anciens dirigeants du nord et du sud s'est aggravée.

La visite de François Mitterrand intervient alors que le Yémen fait face à une crise politique marquée par un désaccord profond entre le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Ali Al-Bid. Ce dernier est toujours retranché à Aden, depuis le 19 août. Il reproche au Président et à son entourage d'imposer leur mainmise sur les organes de fonctionnement du pays et de faire montre d'une grande incapacité dans l'introduction de profondes réformes, réclamées par le FMI, pour sortir le Yémen de son sous-développement. Les sudistes estiment que l'unification n'a pas profité économiquement à la partie méridionale du pays, frappée par un chômage chronique et une hausse vertigineuse des prix des produits de base. "Je ne suis plus capable d'assumer mes responsabilités dans les circonstances actuelles, qui m'ont empêché de faire quoi que ce soit depuis le premier jour de l'unité", avait déclaré Ali Salem Al-Bid.

En élisant il y a deux semaines un nouveau Conseil présidentiel, le parlement yéménite a voulu mettre un terme à la période d'incertitude institutionnelle provoquée par la mise en chantier d'un projet de révision de la Constitution portant, principalement, sur l'élection au suffrage universel du chef de l'Etat. Le CPG (Congrès populaire général) du Président Saleh et le PSY (Parti socialiste yéménite) d'Al-Bid n'ont en effet jamais réussi à s'entendre sur les amendements à apporter à la Constitution.

La composition du

nouveau Conseil présidentiel satisfait à l'une des exigences du PSY qui voulait que cette instance dirigeante soit composée de deux de ses dirigeants, de deux dirigeants du CPG et d'un seul de l'Islah. Un islamiste a fait son entrée pour la première fois au Conseil présidentiel. Cheikh Zendani remplace un membre du CPG, Abdel Karim Al-Arachi. Les trois autres membres du Conseil présidentiel reconduits sont le secrétaire général-adjoint du CPG, Abdel Aziz Abdel Ghani, le secrétaire général du PSY, Ali Salem Al-Bid, et son adjoint Salem Saleh Mohammed. Absent lors de la cérémonie de prestation de serment du nouveau Conseil présidentiel le 16 octobre, Ali Al-Bid a déclaré que sa position restera inchangée tant que son programme de réformes n'aura pas été pris en considération par le Président Saleh.

Un programme en 18 points

Résumé en 18 points et de nouveau diffusé fin septembre, ce programme prévoit une décentralisation des centres de direction, administratifs et financiers, ainsi qu'une plus grande autonomie des provinces dans la prise des décisions. Il prône une série de mesures visant à assainir l'économie et les finances de l'Etat, la lutte contre la corruption des dignitaires yéménites, une meilleure répartition des responsabilités au niveau des rouages sécuritaires et l'évacuation des villes,

principalement Sanaa, des arsenaux militaires. Ali Al-Bid entend également lutter contre l'influence grandissante des islamistes dans la gestion du pays.

Ali Al-Bid n'a pas caché sa crainte de subir le même sort que Ibrahim Hamdi, un ancien président du Yémen du nord et partisan farouche de l'unité, tué le 11 octobre 1977 dans des circonstances obscures. Lors des cérémonies du 14 octobre, la fête nationale du sud, plusieurs drapeaux, frappés de l'étoile rouge, ont refait leur apparition pour la première fois depuis mai 1990, et des voitures du PSY ont sillonné les artères des villes du sud en diffusant à l'aide de hauts parleurs d'anciennes chansons révolutionnaires sudistes.

Pour dénouer la crise, Ali Saleh a proposé à Ali Al-Bid de conserver son poste de vice-Président, ce qui est contraire à la Constitution qui ne prévoit pas un tel poste. "Notre frère Ali Salem Al-Bid va rentrer à Sanaa, où il exercera ses fonctions dans les plus brefs délais", a déclaré Ali Abdallah Saleh au cours de la conférence de presse conjointe avec le Président français, mardi dernier. "Il n'y a pas de crise politique au Yémen, mais des divergences dans les points de vue", a-t-il ajouté, affirmant qu'un "complot", préparé de l'étranger, était à l'origine de la tension. "Quand les divergences commencent à être avouées, c'est plutôt bon signe, c'est que la démocratie est là", a déclaré le Président Mitterrand lors de sa visite.

Cheikh Zendani

Cheikh Abdel Majid Zendani est un militant de longue date du courant yéménite des Frères musulmans, proche de l'Arabie Saoudite. Agé d'une cinquantaine d'années, il était un ennemi déclaré des "athées" de l'ancien Yémen du sud socialiste. Il est réputé pour son prosélytisme, qu'il a entamé avant la révolution de septembre 1962 au Yémen du Nord, après avoir renoncé à des études pharmaceutiques à la faculté de Tanta en Egypte. Avant la Révolution, il s'est engagé aux côtés du Cheikh Al-Ahmar, chef de file de l'Islah, dans la lutte contre l'ancien régime. Cheikh Zendani a représenté ensuite pendant plusieurs années le Yémen à la Ligue du Monde musulman, un organisme pro-saoudien d'aide humanitaire aux minorités musulmanes dans le monde, basé en Arabie Saoudite. Avant l'unification des deux Yémen en mai 1990, Cheikh Zendani a mené la lutte contre le projet constitutionnel du nouvel Etat, car ce projet fait référence à la Charia uniquement comme "source principale" et non "exclusive" de législation. Cheikh Zendani avait alors appelé à boycotter le référendum populaire sur ce projet et déclaré la guerre sainte contre les "athées du parti socialiste du Yémen du sud". Ces derniers l'ont souvent accusé d'avoir commandité les attentats ayant visé des personnalités socialistes avant les élections législatives.

Souvenirs du Yémen

Parmi les invités qui accompagnaient le Président français, certains connaissent bien le pays. Rencontre avec trois amoureux du Yémen: Claudie Fayein, Etienne Renaud et Maxime Rodinson.

Claudie Fayein est médecin et vice-présidente de l'Association France-Yémen. Elle a été la première femme médecin à venir travailler au Yémen au début des années 1950: "J'avais toujours pensé venir dans un pays qui manquait de médecins. Avant de partir, j'avais pu apprendre l'arabe pendant un an et demi et passer un diplôme de médecine tropicale et d'ethnographie. En tout, j'ai fait 26 voyages au Yémen et la dernière fois que je suis venue, c'était en 1989. Je m'intéresse beaucoup au sort des femmes. Quand nous étions venues en 1969 avec le professeur Chelhod, nous avons voulu étudier une province qui n'avait jamais été vraiment visitée par les Occidentaux, la province de Khamir, celle de la tribu des Hashed, qui était la plus fermée de toute. Au cours de l'entretien avec le Cheikh Al-Ahmar, il ne s'était occupé que du professeur Chelhod, il ne m'avait pas regardée. J'étais une femme, une chose qui n'était pas convenable. Hier à l'aéroport, on me l'a présenté, il a été très gentil, il m'a donné un siège à côté de lui. Il n'y a plus d'ostracisme à l'égard des femmes dans la vie publique. C'est tout de même un grand changement."

Le Père Etienne Renaud, prêtre, est directeur de l'Institut des Belles Lettres Arabes à Tunis. Il a passé huit ans au Yémen, de 1972 à 1980. Il était notamment chargé de

la formation à la Compagnie nationale d'électricité au Nord-Yémen: "Une de mes satisfactions pendant mon séjour il y a vingt ans, c'est d'avoir établi une méthode pour apprendre le dialecte de Sanaa que j'ai ensuite apprise aux volontaires qui venaient au Yémen. J'ai essayé d'être la plate-forme d'accueil des chercheurs intéressés par le pays. J'ai toujours cru aux capacités de ce pays. Mais la clé de tout est l'éducation. Je vis actuellement en Tunisie, un pays qui a beaucoup mis sur l'éducation ouverte à tous et qui maintenant commence à en tirer les dividendes. Je suis optimiste pour l'avenir du Yémen. En ce qui concerne le patrimoine architectural, je suis venu avec une certaine inquiétude, mais le Yémen a su trouver un style pour ses nouveaux bâtiments publics, ses mosquées..."

Maxime Rodinson est directeur d'études à l'Ecole pratique des Hautes études à Paris. C'est un spécialiste du monde arabo musulman: "Je connais surtout le Yémen à travers les livres. Nous nous dépêchons de collecter de la matière pour préserver la connaissance des langues sud-arabiques qui continuent à subsister dans certaines régions du Yémen. Mes élèves qui sont allés à Socotra ont découvert un nouveau dialecte, dans la montagne à l'est de l'île."

WANG Bounces Back

The 20th of September marked a watershed for Wang, a company that was on the verge of collapse.

According to Mr. Abdulmalik Zabarah, GM of Yemen Computer Company - Wang agent in Yemen, the company has successfully emerged from Chapter 11 protection, due to a new infusion of capital from partners, as well as the support of customers.

"In August, Wang secured a \$60 million equity commitment, and has established an additional \$30 million post-emergence financing facility. Locally, the YCC is working overtime to recapture the Wang market, by especially stressing the new Wang. "The company welcomes the challenges that lie ahead, and we aim to satisfy our customer base fully," Zabarah pointed out.



A Wang Training Session in Sanaa, last week.

Career Opportunities

The Mohamed Saif Thabet Group is in the process of forming a joint venture with a major multinational company.

The joint venture is inviting applications from candidates with strong potential interested in long-term Careers in Marketing, Sales Finance and Accounting and Engineering/Production, Administration and Secretariat.

The candidates we would be interested in should be:

- College graduates, either with a Bachelor's or Master's degrees from a university in Yemen or abroad.
- Those with strong curricular achievements and have demonstrated leadership qualities.
- Those who can communicate effectively in English and Arabic, both orally and in writing.
- Preferably with 1-2 years of experience working with an international company, either in Yemen or abroad.

The joint venture will offer an attractive salary and benefit package to successful candidates, including the opportunity to train under a highly successful multinational.

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae, together with a recent photograph to:

**Recruiting Manager,
M.S. Thabet Group,
P. O. Box 32,
Sanaa - Yemen.**

Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

Resolving the Problem of Confiscated Agricultural Land!

**By:
Abdul-Hafez Al-Hakimi,
Agricultural Expert.**

One of the important aspects of the unification agreement was to find and execute realistic solutions to the issue of returning agricultural and urban land and buildings confiscated under the former PDRY. The idea was to find a reasonable approach on a case by case study of the problem.

For this purpose, a Supreme Committee was formed, and which was authorized to form sub-committees in the various governorates and districts. The committee was also given sufficient authority to address all the issues that confront it in its corrective measures.

In hindsight, we can now rest assured that the authority was a necessary step to create a new atmosphere conducive to new relations in a new Yemen. We also realize that it was necessary for the sake of social and economic evolution and development.

But beyond the regulations and stipulations on paper, very little real achievement can be seen on the practical side. On the ground, much still needs to be done.

Let me concentrate on the implications for these efforts for agriculture, which is my field as an agricultural economist.

I was selected to serve in a mission, under Project YEM/92/056 to study water management in the Abyan Delta. The main field visit took place during a seven-day stay in June 1993.

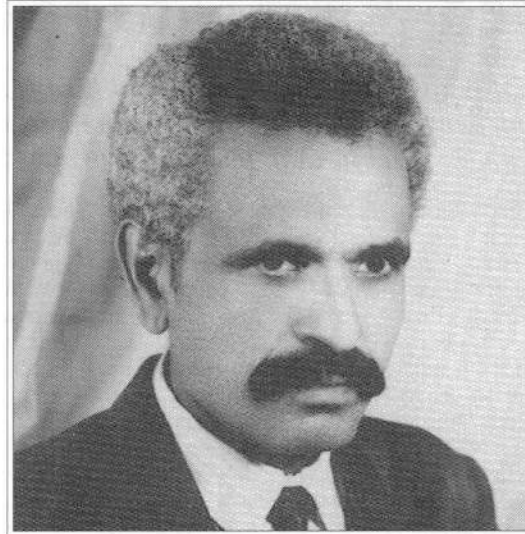
Discussions with the farmers and local officials revealed many painful facts about the transfer of agricultural land ownership - ostensibly from tenants to legal owners. What this has done, at the end, was create a large class of landless farmers. Some land was set aside for compensation, but this is not cultivable. Some of the absent landlords have decided to retain the workers on the land a temporary wage labor basis or tenants under new arrangements. Others have simply kicked off the workers and left the land fallow. In many cases, fruit trees have died.

End result: the already low yield (productivity) fell. This is a worrying phenomenon. I am not against the return of the land, but I am against finding a solution to one group at the expense of another. And this time, the rich became richer, and the poor became poorer.

Agriculture is the main source of income in rural Yemen, and it is also the main source of employment. Once you take, you risk creating widespread poverty and trigger a massive rural-to-urban migration.

Many farmers who have tilled the Abyan delta for over twenty years, suddenly found themselves kicked off the land. They have been working the land, making the necessary investments in terms of resources, time and effort, through-out the past twenty years.

Government officials and various documents consistently state that the objectives of the development



process are primarily to raise the standard of living of the general masses - the majority of the people. That means raising the level of income of rural Yemenis, of which the Abyan Delta people are part. I would like to propose a study that will help us better address this matter and find out the following:

1. Who was the legal owner of the land prior to the agrarian reforms of the former PDRY?
2. What kind of documents can the owner produce?
3. What crop was the land producing at the time?
4. What kind of irrigation system and water rights had existed at the time?
5. Present land condition and type of crop cultivated.
6. Present profession or occupation of legal owner, the profession of heirs and family other members, and address of residence.

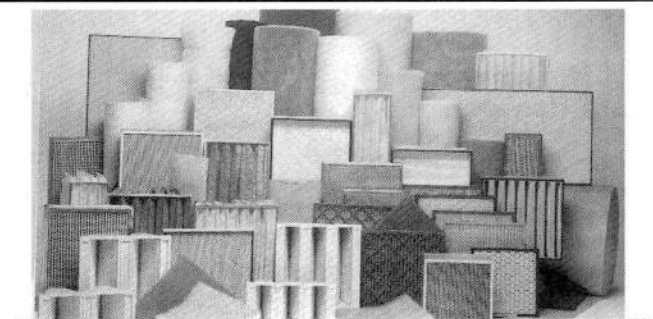
7. Principal and secondary sources of income of the tenants and farmers?

8. When was the transfer of access to the land made, and what are the major changes and investments since?

9. Plans of the legal owner once the property is restored?

In light of the results uncovered in the study, appropriate recommendations in finding practical solutions.

It is not just a matter of legal rights, it is a matter of fairness, and above all, ending development and productivity-oriented scenarios for the general welfare. Besides, we are not going to resolve one problem to get embroiled in another. The situation of the tenants could create many social, economic, and even political complications for a very fragile political system.



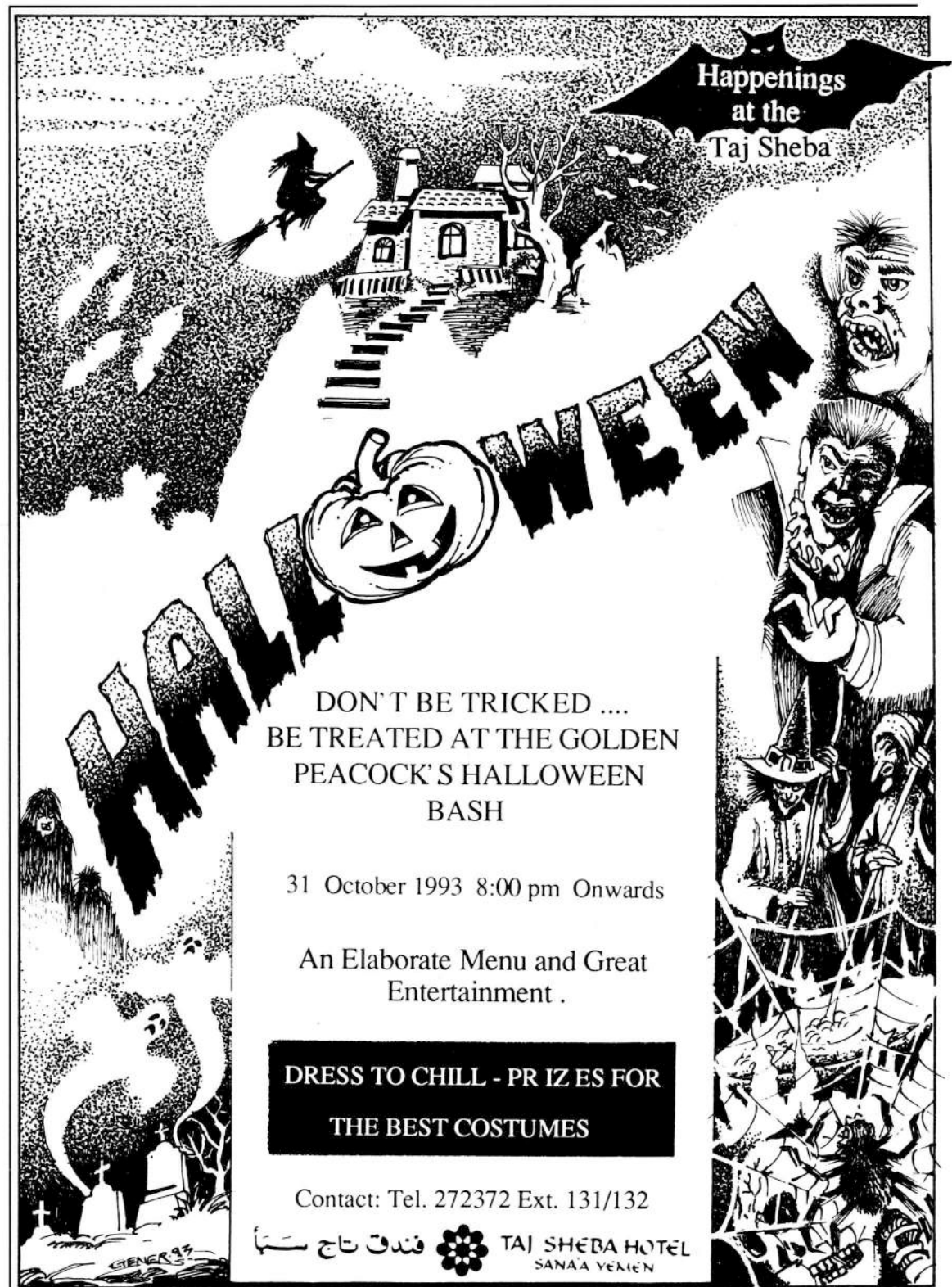
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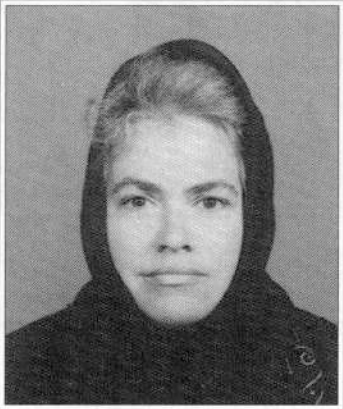
فندق تاج سبأ  **TAJ SHEBA HOTEL**
SANA'A YEMEN

British Airways Makes Its Presence Felt

In exactly one month from today, a British Airways DC10 will be in Yemen to mark the beginning of a service between Yemen and London. To prepare for that BA and its local agent, UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism are working overtime.

The airline has appointed David Cooper as its area manager. Mr. Cooper has already visited Yemen before, and this week, he has set up shop on Zubeiri street, the UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism office facing the main office of the International Bank of Yemen.

David and his wife, Gladys, come to Yemen from Iran, their last post. He is acknowledged in the airline business as an old hand, with over 30 years of experience. Moreover, he has been BA's point man in



starting new sectors and flight routes. He was responsible for opening services between the UK and Italy, and more recently between the UK and Iran, and now between the UK and Yemen. On his arrival here, Mr. Cooper told the Yemen Times, "My wife and I are delighted to be given the opportunity to come to

Yemen to start and develop British Airways services here. We look forward to an enjoyable stay in Yemen." He also added that the BA flight will assist in the development of business and tourism relations between the two countries. At another level, British Airways sponsored last week a seminar on ticketing and reservation, which was attended by representatives from most of the travel agents in Yemen.

The airline also used the occasion to make a presentation of its methods and business relations.

Mr. Omar General Manager of UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism said that his company will do its utmost to make this sector a success. He also indicated that in cooperation and coordination with other airlines and tour operators, UNIVERSAL will work hard to market Yemen as a good tourist destination for British travellers.

Continued from Page 1:

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ILIESCU

"The fourteen minority groups, representing 10% of the population, are also represented," he added.

Although much has been achieved at the political front, the economic situation continues to create problems. "There are several factors which affect the economic situation. First, the holdover from the old days is still haunting our economic performance. For example, the individual initiative required for a free market system is still lacking. The mental framework is that for people to await somebody to tell them what to do.

Second, you will appreciate that most of our economic and trade partners are in disarray, given their own transformation. The Comecon no more exists, and some of our neighbors, with whom we had strong economic ties, like Yugoslavia, suffer from major disorder," the Romanian president said.

Finally, he advised the Yemeni people to put up with the difficulties of the transformation process which he described as inevitable.



تهاني

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات
 للأخ العزيز خالد عبد الولي عبده حيدر الأديمي
 بمناسبة إرتزاقه المولودة الجديدة

« لبني »

فألف مبروك وجعلها الله قررة أعين أبويها

عنهم:
 محمد عبدالله علي السقاف، النقيب/عبدالرحمن احمد الأديمي، طه محمد عوض الأديمي
 الدكتور/عبدالعزيز السقاف، عبدالعزيز عبدالله سعيد الأديمي، خالد عبدالله علي السقاف

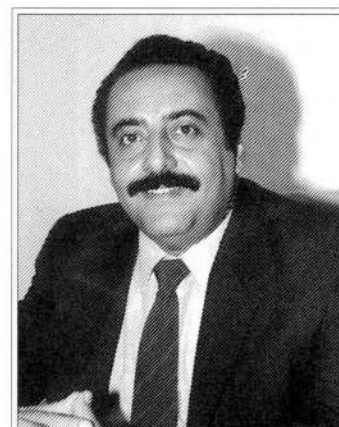
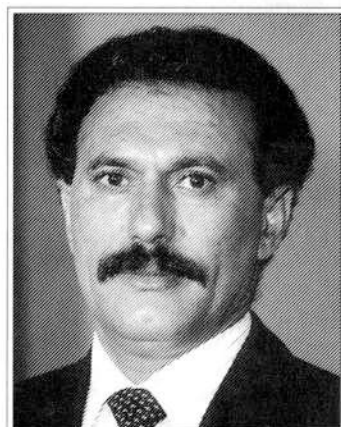
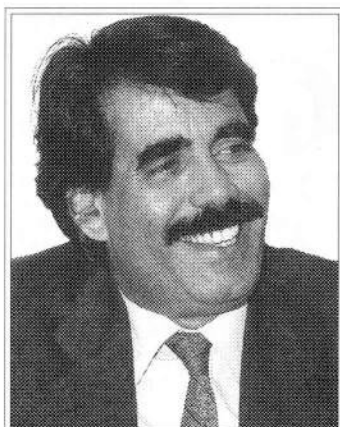
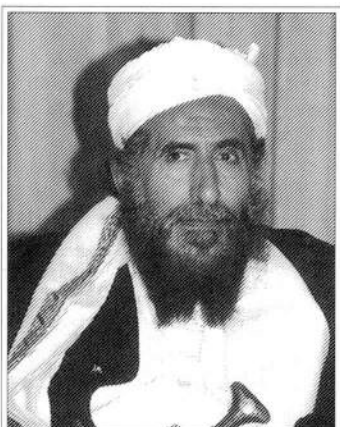
LOCAL CULTURAL BRIEFS:

* Ethiopian singer, Mahmood Ahmed, and his ROHA Band arrived in Sanaa yesterday, October 23rd to give performance over the week. He first sings at Hadda Hotel on the 25th and at Sheraton Hotel on the 26th. The trip sponsored by TANGO Music Center.

* Tomorrow, October 25th, Hashim Ali, famous Yemeni painter and artist, inaugurates a painting/drawing exhibition at Sanaa University.

الآفاق للطباعة والنشر

تتقدم إلى الفريق علي عبد الله صالح رئيس مجلس الرئاسة
 والأستاذ/ علي سالم البيض نائب رئيس مجلس الرئاسة
 وبقية أعضاء مجلس الرئاسة
 بأصدق التهاني والتبريكات بمناسبة إنتخابهم لفترة رئاسية جديدة
 وفي سبيل رقي الوطن وسؤده



ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL HORIZONS PRINTING & PUBLISHING

PRESENT THEIR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO
 LT-GENERAL ALI ABDULLAH SALEH, CHAIRMAN,
 MR. ALI SALIM AL-BEEDH, VICE CHAIRMAN,
 THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, AND THE YEMEN PEOPLE.
 WE ASSURE YOU OF OUR FULL COOPERATION.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN YEMEN

By:
Dr. Sheila Carapico,
American Researcher,
Sanaa.

Several press trials currently underway in Sana'a courts will either broaden or narrow the parameters of press freedom in Yemen. According to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate, about twenty cases are pending, most of them brought by the Ministry of Information and the special Press Prosecutors' Office founded earlier this year. Among papers under indictment are al-Tasheeh, al-Jamaheer, and Sawt al-Ommal.

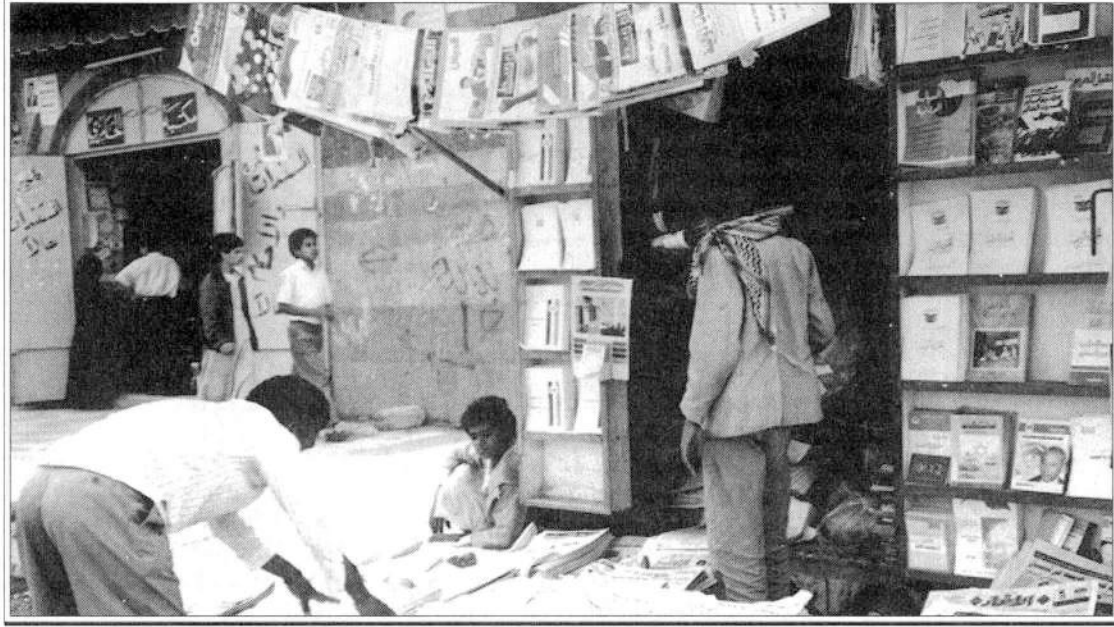
The relative press freedom currently enjoyed in Yemen is of recent vintage. Prior to unification in May, 1990, publication was virtually limited to material issued by the governments of the former Yemen Arab Republic or the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, although the two Journalists' Syndicates and especially the unified Writers' Guild did try to test the limits of censorship. Journals overly critical of either regime were liable to be shut down, and some reporters and editors were jailed or exiled.

Since the introduction of political pluralism, over a hundred new periodicals, mostly weekly party or private newspapers, have

flooded the market. They represent a wide range of Yemeni viewpoints, although some non-Yemeni Arabic publications are banned.

Law Number 25 of 1990, signed by Chairman of the Presidential Council 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, guarantees citizens' rights to "freedom of knowledge, thought, the press, expression, communication and access to information," states that "the press shall be independent and shall have full freedom to practice its vocation," and gives licensed journalists "the right to obtain information, news, data and statistics from their sources and to publish or not publish them" and to "preserve the confidentiality of his/her sources."

However, the law also prohibits "printing, publishing, circulating or broadcasting" anything which "prejudices the Islamic faith" or "belittles religions or humanitarian creeds;" secret documents or information which might jeopardize national interests; "anything which might cause tribal, sectarian, racial, regional or ancestral discrimination;" anything which might spread ideas contrary to the principles of the Yemeni revolution or national unity; secret deliberations of "supreme bodies" of the state, or details of on-going trials;



materials leading to chaos or violence; indecent or libelous advertisements. It is also specifically forbidden "to criticize the person of the head of state, or to attribute to him declarations or pictures" except those made during public speeches, although "these provisions do not necessarily apply to constructive criticism."

The law thus leaves a great deal to the discretion of prosecutors and courts: whether the rights of the press over-ride stipulated limitations, or what "might" cause discrimination or disorder, and whether criticism of the head of state is "constructive."

The law does not restrict coverage of issues such as

constitutional amendments, partisan disputes, or even prison conditions and political prisoners. The recent Amnesty International report, alleging that as many as 41 jailed members of the former National Democratic Front are prisoners of conscience, and highlighting the case of "political prisoner" Mansur Rajih, has been widely cited and debated, with al-Shoura and Sawt al-Ommal calling for investigation and justice and 26 September publishing an interview with the Minister of Justice saying Rajih and the others were convicted of criminal offenses.

The current cases will frame the parameters for what is permissible. In the West Sana'a Court case of al-

Tasheeh, the official organ of the Tasheeh al-Nasiri party, charges stem from an article published in February, 1993, summarizing a story in a Lebanese magazine, al-Shira'a, about President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Beedh, in which the President is quoted saying that he would do anything to remain in power. The Press Prosecution maintains that Al-Tasheeh has violated the articles in press law requiring that journalists use "trustworthy" sources, as laid out in the Implementation Guidelines of the Press Law. The lawyers for the defense, Fadl Hassan al-Hussayni, the al-Tasheeh attorney; 'Abd al-Malik Sanabani of the Lawyers'

Syndicate, and Nadia al-Khulaifi, another volunteer from the legal community, will maintain that the newspaper only reported what was in al-Shira'a, that the Press Law Implementation Guidelines were not available in February, and that the lawful and appropriate response is a denial of the statement.

The al-Jamaheer case stems from a September 13, 1993 article critical of the High Judicial Institute, written by a former student. Although the paper, the official organ of the Yemeni Baath Party, published in its October 11th issue rebuttals on behalf of the institute, the press prosecution maintains that journalistic responsibilities have been violated.

There are numerous other cases. Sawt al-Ommal, an Aden-based paper with the largest circulation in the country, has four separate indictments against it.

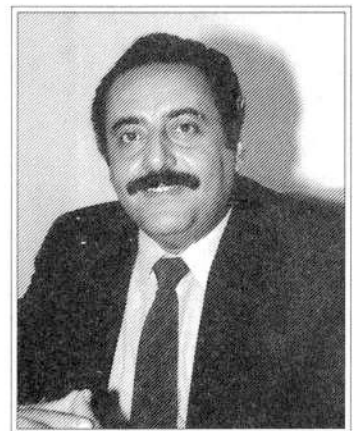
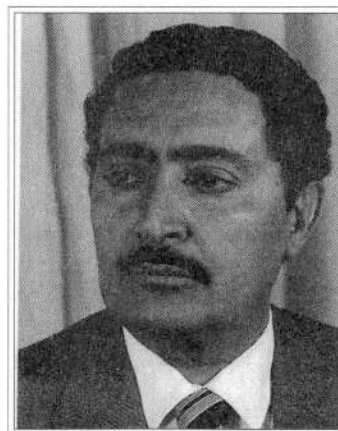
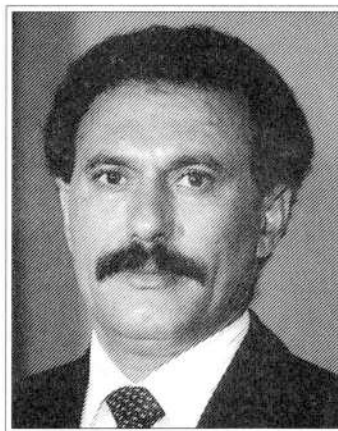
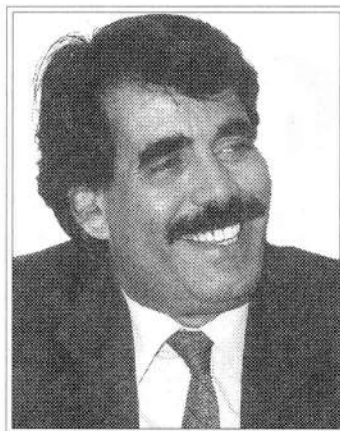
Although the details of each case are unique and judgments will reflect the quality of the evidence and the defense, journalists and their attorneys are aware that the collective results of these cases will set a precedent for the future of the Yemeni press. As in other countries, the right to publish will be established not simply through legislation, but by judicial interpretation of the law.

بمناسبة إنتخاب مجلس الرئاسة وإنجاز المتطلبات الدستورية

تتقدم

مجموعة شركات عذبان

بأعطر التهاني وأحر التبريكات لكافة أبناء الشعب
ومعاً نحو مزيد من العطاء والإنجاز



ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

ADHBAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

PRESENTS

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS AND FELICITATIONS
TO THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Successful Yemeni Participation in World BirdWatch '93

The results of Yemen's contribution to World Bird-Watch '93 exceeded our expectations. We were able to visit Huda School and the International School in Sanaa, both of which now wish to form bird clubs that will be affiliated to the Yemen Ornithological Society. A school group in Hodeidah joined our 2-day wader watch there, while the Mohammed Ali Othman School, Taiz, which already has a bird club, organized its own events. The main project was the two-day watch in Hodeidah. 42 persons joined in this event, including four Yemenis and a Sudanese. A list of 135 bird species seen, was compiled in two days. The events generated enthusiasm to an extent that additional and more serious field work is being planned.

Two senior Yemenis have invited me to join in discussions on planning conservation and environmental protection projects to propose to the Government. This reflects the heightened awareness of the urgent need to protect Yemen's very rich flora and fauna. The World BirdWatch week has, all over the world, generated an enormous amount of interest and enthusiasm,

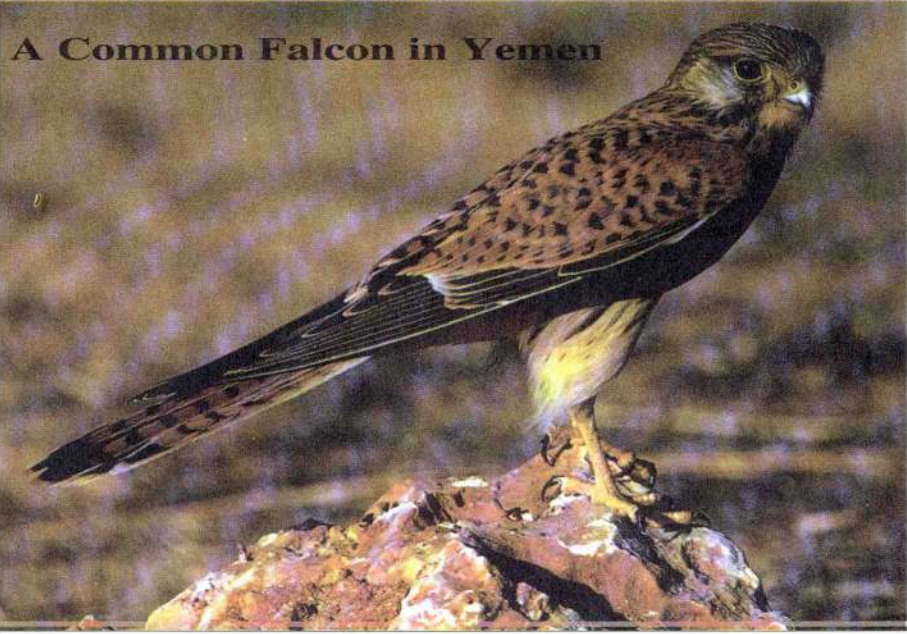
and a great many new projects are planned as a result. The two objectives of the events were achieved, and they were:

1. To raise public awareness of, and interest in, the richness and diversity of our wildlife heritage. In Yemen, we have been able to start what, it is hoped, will be an ongoing educational process in the schools, by forming bird clubs, supporting them

arranged meetings to explore the way forward, and they are both composed largely of Yemenis, both in Government and outside it.

If a way can be found to create one, influential and central organization to be the focus for wildlife preservation in Yemen, then there is a large body of international organizations willing and keen to provide advice and financial help.

A Common Falcon in Yemen



with books, videos, lectures and field visits. These are already a part of the Yemen Ornithological Society's program. Our adult membership, which was six people at the start of the year, is now 70, including 8 Yemenis, in addition to a large number of schoolchildren.

2. To initiate discussions about conservation and protection of wildlife. As a result of World BirdWatch, two separate groups have

As a part of this process, it occurs to me that the Yemen Times is very widely read all over Yemen. Would it be possible, or a good idea, to do a short weekly column on wildlife topics in the paper? This could focus on seasonal items of interest: special wildlife interest, things to look for and rarities that turn up. I'd be willing to help.

Dr. Derek Harvey,
Yemen Ornithological Society

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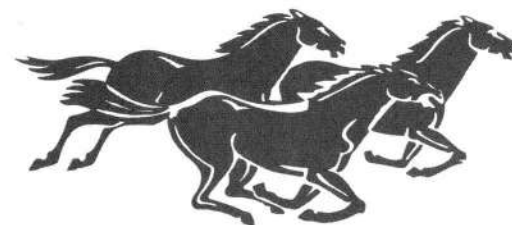
| FLT NBR | DAYS | FROM | TO | DEP | ARR |
|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|------|-------|
| BA 137 | TUE/SAT | LONDON (GATWICK) | ADEN | 1130 | 2155 |
| BA 136 | TUE/SAT | ADEN | LONDON (GATWICK) | 2255 | 0625* |
| BA 137 | TUE/SAT | LONDON (GATWICK) | SANA'A | 1130 | 2359 |
| BA 136 | WED/SUN | SANA'A | LONDON (GATWICK) | 0125 | 0625 |

* NEXT DAY

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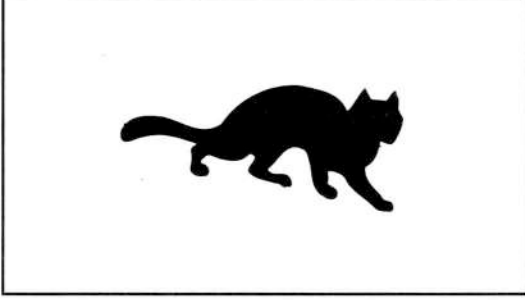
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How Halloween Started

A look at the history of Halloween, which actually blends celebrations of three cultures, reveals why black cats rule this holiday.

After 500 B.C., the Celts in what is now Great Britain, Ireland and Northern France celebrated the beginning of their New Year on November 1st. The Celts thought winter was the season of death, ruled by Samhain, lord of the dead and prince of darkness. Samhain was supposed to call all dead people together on October 31st and assign forms to their spirits. The most wicked became black cats. Druids, the Celtic priests, built a fire on an altar, danced and threw animals into the fire. To keep animals away, the people lit fires at home and paraded in animal-skin costumes.

Early Romans worshipped many gods and goddesses, among them Pomona, goddess of fruits and gardens. The Romans honored Pomona on November 1st, when they laid out apples and nuts for her. Another Roman festival, Feralia, held in late October, honored the dead. When Rome conquered north of France and Britain, the customs of Samhain, Feralia and Pomona Day



began to blend, creating one big holiday. After Christianity spread throughout Europe, the Roman Catholic Church made November 1st a holiday to honor all the saints. The occasion was called All Saints' Day, Halloween, or Allhallows. Later, November 2nd became All Souls' Day and honored all dead people. Relatives set out food for the departed family members and they dressed up as saints, angels, or devils. People celebrated the Christian holidays on 1st and 2nd November, but they also continued Samhain, Feralia and Pomona customs on October 31st. All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, became known as a night of magic, superstition, and gathering of spirits. Later, the name became Hallowe'en, and still later, Halloween. Halloween was a great night for witches. Witches' sabbaths, large and wild gatherings of witchcraft practitioners, were believed to take place in Germany,

Sweden, France and Britain. Witches were supposed to fly on their brooms to these meetings, accompanied by their black cats, which were believed to be either mascots or other witches in disguise.

The colors of Halloween came to be orange or gold and black. Orange symbolizes the harvest (fruits and grain); black, the mystery (black magic and black cats).

Most present-day Halloween customs come from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France. Originally, the holiday was most important in Ireland and Scotland. The festival became popular in the United States during the 1800s, when large groups of Irish and Scottish immigrants arrived.

Today, Halloween is not emphasized in Ireland and Scotland, but the United States celebrates the holiday in a big way. Wherever Americans went, they have taken this custom with them. Even here in Yemen, where the local culture is strong and flourishes, Halloween has made a toehold.

Adopted from an article by:
L.K.W., *The World and I*,
November 1993, Vol. 8,
page 259

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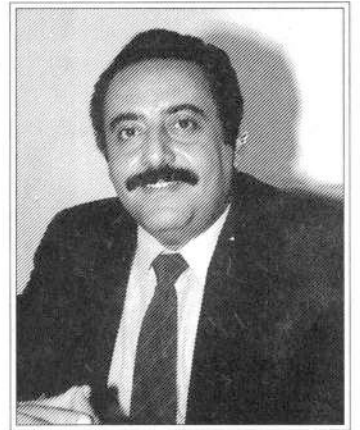
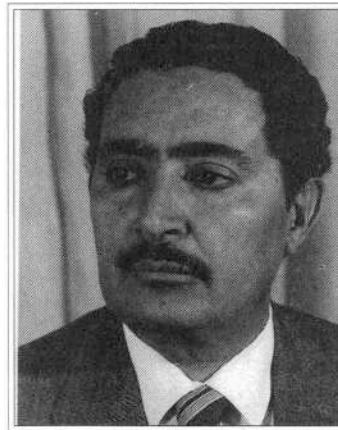
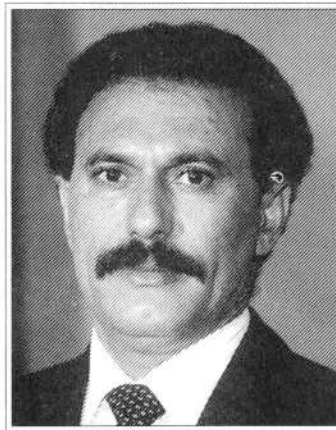
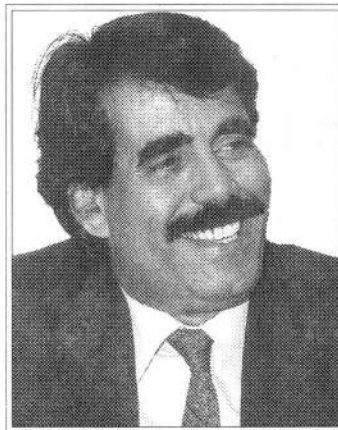
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بمناسبة إنتخاب مجلس الرئاسة

تتقدم مجموعة شركات شمسان (الوالد عبدالسلام شمسان وأولاده)

بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات

للفريق علي عبدالله صالح رئيس مجلس الرئاسة وللأستاذ علي سالم البيض نائب رئيس مجلس الرئاسة وللأخوة أعضاء مجلس الرئاسة ولكافة أبناء الوطن سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يأخذ بأياديهم للوفاء بمسؤولياتهم



**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL
THE SHAMSAN GROUP OF COMPANIES (ABDUL-SALAM SHAMSON & SONS)
PRESENT THEIR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO
LT-GENERAL ALI ABDULLAH SALEH, CHAIRMAN,
MR. ALI SALIM AL-BEEDH, VICE CHAIRMAN,
THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, AND THE YEMEN PEOPLE
PRAYING TO GOD TO ENABLE THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL
TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM ITS TASKS**

Happy Birthday, UN

IMPORTANT Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Emergency Police | 199 |
| Accident (Traffic) | 194 |
| Fire Brigade | 191 |
| Water Problems | 171 |
| Electricity Problems | 177 |
| Telephone Enquiries | 118 |
| Aljumphury Hospital | 202192/3 |
| Athawra Hospital | 246970/9 |
| Kuwait Hospital | 203282/4 |
| Red Crescent | 203131/3 |
| Banks: | |
| Yemeni Banks: | |
| Central Bank | 274371/3 |
| Commercial Bank: Sanaa | 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 |
| Tourism | 271970/2 |
| Inter-City Bus Co. | 262111/3 |
| TV Station | 250001/03 |
| Radio Station | 200060/61 |
| Insurance Companies: | |
| Y.I. & ReInsurance/Aden | 273311 |
| Marib Insurance: Sanaa | 206112/14 |
| Aden: | 255668 |
| Taiz: | 222162/3/4 |
| Hodeidah: | 217370/1 |
| Yemen General: Sanaa: | 265191 |
| Aden: | 243909 |
| Taiz: | 221561 |
| Hodeidah: | 239184 |
| United Insurance Co. | 01-272890-2 |
| Aman Insurance Co. | 01-209452 |

EMBASSIES & Consulates

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| SANAA : | |
| 1. Embassies: | |
| Afghanistan | 217691 |
| Algeria | 209688/89 |
| Bulgaria | 217244 |
| China | 275337/340 |
| Cuba | 217304/5 |
| Czech Republic | 247946 |
| Djibouti | 245792/265469 |
| Egypt | 275948/9 |
| Eritrea | 209422 |
| Ethiopia | 208833 |
| France | 275995/7 |
| Germany | 216756/757, 266873/4 |
| Hungary | 216250, 216679 |
| India | 241980/1/2 |
| Indonesia | 217388 |
| Iran | 206945/948 |
| Iraq | 216682/790 |
| Italy | 265616/73409/78846 |
| Japan | 207356/208753 |
| Jordan | 216701/736 |
| Korea (Dem) | 232340 |
| Korea (Rep) | 245959/60 |
| Kuwait | 216317/319 |
| Lebanon | 203959/733 |
| Libya | 208815/6 |
| Mauritania | 216770 |
| Morocco | 247964 |
| Netherlands | 215626/7/8 |
| Oman | 208933/4 |
| Pakistan | 248813/14 |
| Palestine | 215404/5 |
| Poland | 248362 |
| Qatar | 217488/296 |
| Romania | 215579 |
| Russia (FR) | 78272/78275 |
| Saudi Arabia | 240429/30 |
| Somalia | 208864 |
| Sudan | 265231/2 |
| Syria | 247750/52 |
| Tunisia | 240458/9 |
| Turkey | 241395 |

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| U.A.E | 248777/78 |
| U.K. | 215630/33 |
| U.S.A. | 238842/52 |
| Vietnam | 215985 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 2. Honorary Consulates: | |
| Austria | 266725 |
| Belgium | 205925/865 |
| Canada | 208814 |
| Danish Trade Office | 243433 |
| Denmark (Taiz) | 04-215171/2 |
| Finland | 207018/20/21 |
| Greece | 272218 |
| Spain | 209360 |
| Sweden | 207595/470 |
| Switzerland | 203534 |
| 3. International Organizations: | |
| FAO | 207331/607 |
| UNDP | 215505 |
| UNHCR | 204963 |
| UNICEF | 231256/7/8 |
| WHO | 252213/204 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| ADEN Consulates : | |
| China | 233115 |
| Ethiopia (Commercial) | 231335 |
| France | 223129/090 |
| Germany | 232162/233607 |
| India | 233131 |
| Iran | 231893/361 |
| Italy | 232586/88 |
| Japan | 232219/233282 |
| Libya | 233611 |
| Oman | 233433/460 |
| Palestine | 232340/232717 |
| Russian (FR) | 232792/232625 |
| Saudi Arabia | 232760/32526 |
| Slovak | 233630/232101 |
| Somalia | 241421/101 |
| U.K. | 232711/12/13. |
| FAO Branch | 233722/232146 |

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 |
| Iraqi Airlines | 240091/240909 |
| KLM | 78093/76968/270879 |
| Korean Airlines | 272548 |
| Kuwait Airlines | 272503/4 |
| Lufthansa | 272583 |
| Pakistan Int'l | 240909/091 |
| Royal Jordanian | 275314/028 |
| Russian Airlines | 74930 |
| Sabena | 205865 |
| Sudan Airways | 272503-5 |
| Swiss Air | 272547 |
| Syrian Airways | 272543 |
| Universal Travel | 275028-30 |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Yemenia Branches: | |
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| Haddah | 204538/550 |
| Shauob | 250833 |
| Zubeiry | 260834/5 |
| Head Office | 232381-9 |
| Reservations | 250800/1 |
| Airport | 250868/831 |

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Aramex / Sana'a | 243.925 |
| Aramex / Aden | 255.683 |
| Aramex / Taiz | 213.489 |
| Aramex / Hodeidah | 218.168 |
| DHL | 248017-249878 |
| Life Express | 205696 |
| Skypack | 77310 |
| American Express | 272435/6 |

HOTELS

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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 |

A. The Beginnings:

Forty eight years ago today, October 24th, representatives of sixty nations created the United Nations Organization in order to replace the defunct League of Nations. The eradication of war, promotion of human rights, respect for justice and international law and promotion of social progress and friendly relations among nations, were its main goals. Today the UN membership has increased to reach 184 countries.

The charter was drafted on the basis of proposals worked out by representatives of China, France, the former Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States when they met at Dumbarton Oaks Estate in Washington, during August-October, 1944. These states have become the five permanent members of the Security Council and have since enjoyed great power status, often referred to as the 'veto' power. On 24th October, the following year, the charter was ratified by the big five and a majority of other signatories. This day is now celebrated each year throughout the world to commemorate the founding of the United Nations.

B. Structure of the UN:

The UN is made up of six principal organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.

Many people often see or visualize the role of the UN in a political context, thus overlooking the other vast non-political responsibilities undertaken by it. Even though established essentially as an instrument aimed at helping establish security and prevent wars in the aftermath of a devastating global war, WW2, the role of the UN has expanded considerably over the years and

issues of social, economic, and humanitarian nature have taken the largest space on the UN agenda. In fact 29% of the UN 1992-93 regular budget of \$2.4 billion is devoted to matters such as international and regional cooperation for development and for humanitarian affairs. Moreover, this is only the allocation in the regular budget. The UN's developmental role is also carried out through many other organizations, each of which has its own budget and resources. A high percentage of the budgets of these organizations is dispersed to finance social, economic, and humanitarian projects in the developing world. The core organizations in the UN system are the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Fund for Population activities (UNFPA), World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and many others.

In addition, the UN system is also composed of some 17 specialized agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Labor Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and others. Although autonomous in the way they run their programs, these organizations report annually to the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

C. UNDP: UN's Development Force

One of the largest UN organizations is the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This is by far the world's largest multilateral source of grant funding for development cooperation.

The UNDP came into being in 1965 after the merger of two UN organizations - the UN's Expanded Program of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund. UNDP maintains a network of offices in more than 120 countries, drawing on the expertise of many of the UN's specialized and technical agencies. It currently serves some 160 developing countries and territories with 6000 projects valued at approximately \$7 billion. About half of the costs of these projects are provided by the developing countries themselves in cash or in kind through what is known as Cost Sharing (CS).

However, the rest of this organization's resources comes from voluntary contribution from nearly every nation on earth. In 1992, governments pledged some \$1.3 billion for UNDP and its associated funds. Human development is at the center of all UNDP activities which tend to emphasize the permanent enhancement of self-reliance and promote sustainable human development. There are six priority areas in the UNDP orienta-

tion, as follows:

1. Poverty Alleviation and Grass-root Development,
2. Environment Protection and Natural Resources,
3. Management Development,
4. Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,
5. Transfer and Adaptation of Technology,
6. Women in Development.

D. The UN's Role as a Police Force:

The UN has increasingly taken on a role as police force with the aim of maintaining stability, reducing the dangers of wars, and above all, protecting human life and dignity. This role is not a new one, although, it has taken a higher profile over the last few years. Over the last decade, thirteen peace operations were undertaken by the UN, as compared with a similar number of operations over the preceding forty years.

The emergence of the UN as an international police force, however, has not eclipsed its equally important role of promoter of global social and economic change and development.

E. UN Bureaucracy and Financial Constraints:

The UN is sometimes criticized for its huge bureaucracy, and deplore the 'waste' in its management. But these people overlook the fact that global organizations, particularly those with big and various international roles such as the UN, need bureaucracies commensurate with their tasks and responsibilities.

The UN today suffers from a serious financial difficulty because many countries continue to default on their commitments, either to the regular UN budget or to the peacekeeping operations costs. Today, total arrears due to the UN amount to about \$2 billion. As a result, the UN had to appeal to sympathetic nations for voluntary contributions to fill the gap.

F. UNDP in Yemen:

With offices in Sanaa and Aden, the UNDP executes development projects estimated at an annual cost of \$8 million. The UNDP, in collaboration with other UN specialized agencies, and through the Ministry of Planning and Development, finances many projects. These are mainly in planning, management, human and natural resource development.

One of the important projects under present execution in Yemen is a \$2.8 million environmental protection plan. The Global Environment Facility-financed project aims at controlling pollution and protecting marine life along the country's 450-kms Red Sea coastline.

All UN efforts in Yemen are coordinated by the UNDP office which is headed by a resident representative. The current UN Resident Representative in Yemen is Dr. Awni Al-Ani.

By:
Dr. Nabil Ahmed Sultan,
UN Office, Aden.

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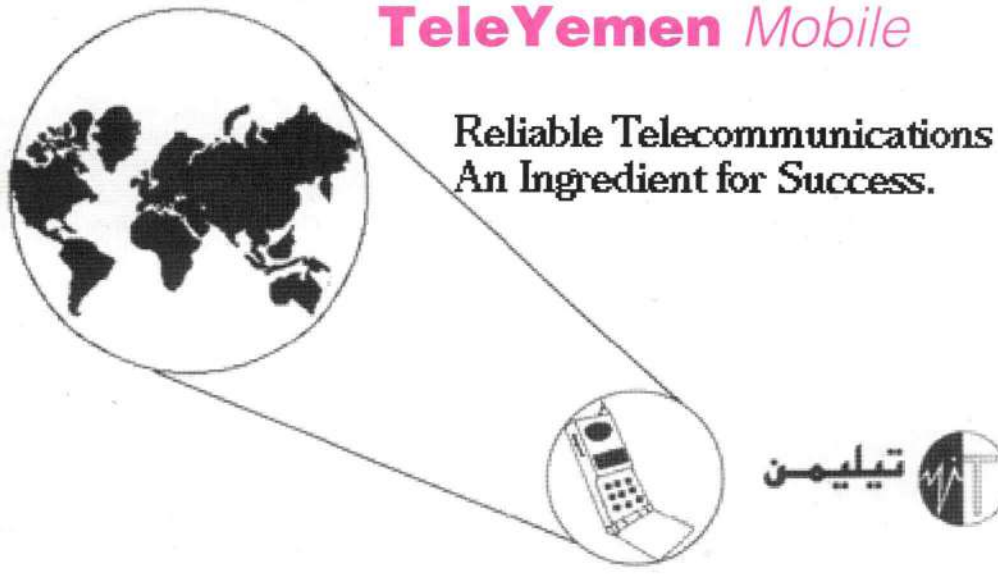
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From Neutrality to Taking A Stand:
Mediators Support the YSP Position in the PGC-YSP Tug of War

The parties that have been playing the role of mediators have changed their ways. These are mainly the opposition bloc [made up of a broad-based collection of people, especially the Five-Party Coalition (Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen, Atta-gammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yemeni, Ittihad Al-Qiwa Asha'biyyah, Hizbul Haq, and Attanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annaseri), the Bakeel Tribal Group headed by Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum, the Taiz Conference, the public personalities, and independents in parliament]. Following several meetings, they have come out with a sixteen point manifesto called "Preliminary Foundations for the Stability of the System."

By and large, the mediators now see things the way the YSP sees them, which puts them squarely against the president's camp.

"We are not intermediaries between the PGC and YSP. We will determine who is right and who is wrong based on their positions on the national interest, and we will side with the right party against the wrong party," explained Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jafri, Chairman of Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen and one of the key architects of the opposition bloc.

"We are not interested in a confrontation. We would like to enter into dialogue with the tripartite coalition and explain to them our worries about the fate of the country," explained Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum, who leads the formation of the bloc. He expressed extreme anxiety about the fate of the unity of Yemen. "There are many sides who would like to see this country fall apart," he added.

In a meeting held on Monday, October 18th, the

Opposition Bloc elected a twenty-person team to present its sixteen points to the coalition partners ruling the country. The twenty represent the parties, tribes, public figures, political personalities, and unions. It has been meeting the Committee of Nine (Three from each of the coalition partners: PGC, YSP and Islah) which has itself been negotiating various deals among the ruling group.

The Sixteen points are:

1. House of Representative: The House of Representatives has to exercise its full functions, especially those concerned with the strict supervision of the executive branch of authority and its full adherence to the rules and regulations, which will allow the bureaucratic hierarchy to function properly, and protects citizens from oppression.
2. Government:


A (new) government has to be formed to undertake all the tasks outlined in the constitution, and no party has the right to block such efforts, whatever the reasons. The tri-partite coalition has to cease interfering in the work of the government by giving priority to individual or party interests which contradict the program approved by the House of Representatives, and to stop creating conflicts within the Council of Ministers and to allow the Council to exercise its full constitutional an executive authorities.

3. Public Funds: Since unification, all executive authorities have behaved in a way contrary to the constitution and the laws in many fields, but especially in using public funds as they were personal resources (which could be used to further personal interests).

Continues on page 8

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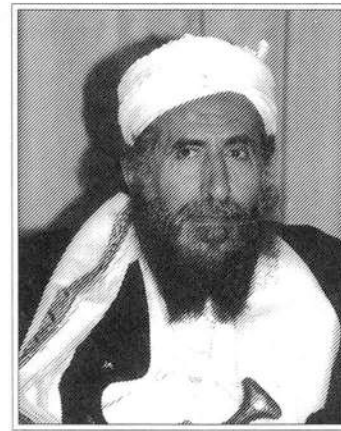
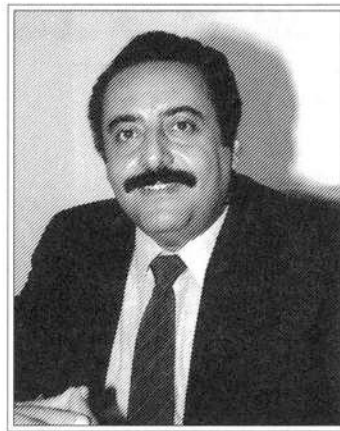
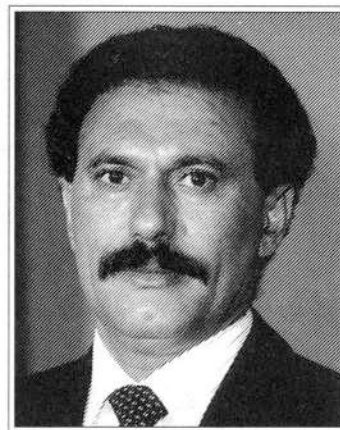
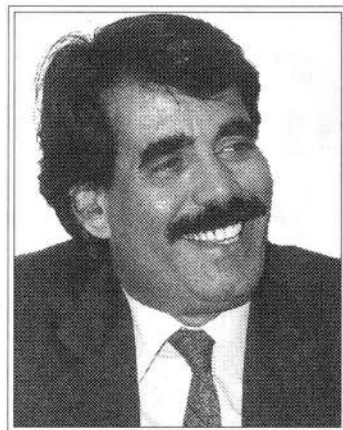



| Type Name | Size (cms.) |
|------------------------|------------------|
| MORA GOLD | 220 x 240 |
| MORA STAR | 220 x 240 |
| MORA AL-ANDALUS | 220 x 240 |
| MORAPEL 2 | 220 x 240 |
| MORAPEL LUXE | 220 x 240 |
| MORAPEL LUXE | 160 x 220 |
| KARINA | 200 x 240 |
| KARINA | 160 x 220 |
| COPRILETO STAR | 230 x 260 |
| MORA GOLD BABY | 110 x 140 |
| MORA GOLD BABY | 80 x 110 |

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وتتمنى للجميع السؤدد والنجاح والصلاح لما فيه خير بلادنا



The Hayel Saeed Anam Group

congratulates President Ali Abdullah Saleh,
Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh,
and the Presidential Council Members
on the trust and confidence of the people.
We wish all success and achievement.

مجموعة شركات شاهر

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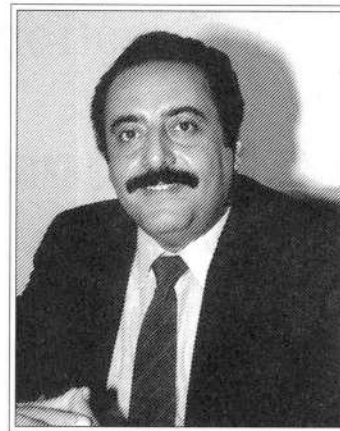
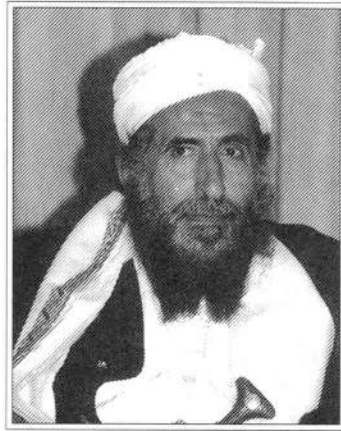
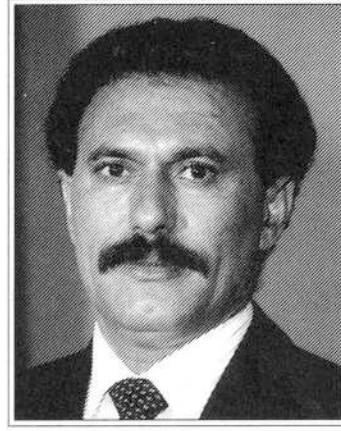
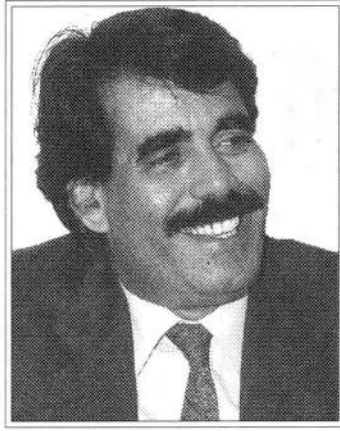
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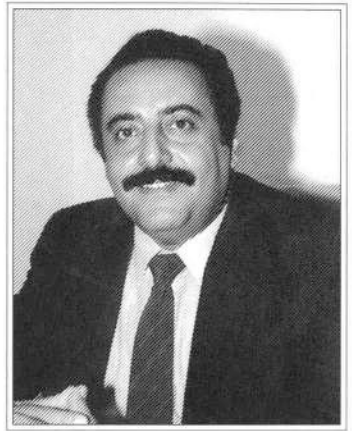
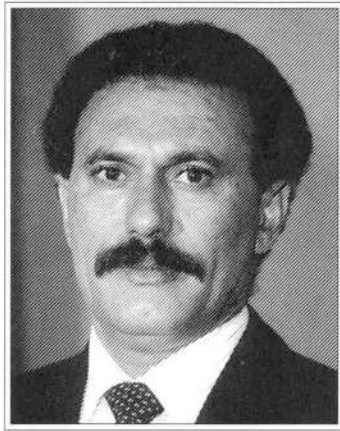
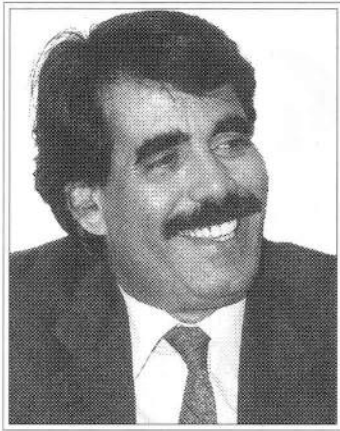
to the Yemeni people and to the political leadership
its hearty congratulations and felicitations
on the election of the presidential council and
the fulfillment of a constitutional requirement.
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على ثقة الشعب الغاليه
وفق الله الجميع لما فيه خير هذه الأمه



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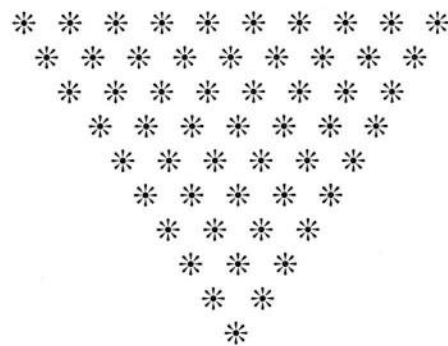
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