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The Tradition of Marrying off Little Girls Continues in the Yemeni Socio-culture:

Tragedy of Child Mothers Haunts many Families !

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
Yemen Times.

The acceptable and average age for a girl to be married off, according to Arab tradition, can fall as low as ten years. With time, this average has steadily risen, although it continues to hover around a precarious 16-year level, here in Yemen.

We often hear of girls being married off at a tender age... sixteen, fourteen and even twelve. Before you would have finished reading this article, this would happen twice. Teen-age girls are swept away to their grooms, and in a short time, they become mothers. A mother at only fifteen or even less.

Hanan Ahmed Saleh Al-Aanisi from Al-Manar village just a short distance from Dhooran Aanis is 16 today, and was a mother first time at fourteen. Today she has two children and is again pregnant. How does this happen?

Hanan was married when she was only thirteen. It took her a long time to understand how to handle herself - as a wife, that is. She still doesn't, not fully.

She is illiterate, sick most of the time, and always pregnant. She is destined to be pregnant twenty to twenty five years of her life. Her mother, Hamdah, is there to help, until little Hanan is more able to handle the kids, her home, and the endless other obligations. Then the mother will move on to help her next newly married teen-age daughter. By then, Hanan will be about twenty years, and her eldest child would already be able to run errands and look after his/her brothers and sisters.

It is a horrifying! The husband, Ahmed Mohammed Al-Aanisi, not to be confused with the Minister of Communications with the same name, is a day-wage laborer. He works in a brick-making workshop. He, too, is illiterate, and tired, if not sick, most of the time.

The family now lives in a small place in Bir Obeid, Sanaa, near the Taiz Highway. They barely eke out a living.

As a joke, I tried to speak a little bit about democracy, pluralism and freedom of the press. The bewildered family patiently and gracefully listened as I spoke of rights and duties.

It was not hard to figure out I was out of place, out time, and simply out of it. For Hanan, Hamdah and Ahmed, these issues are totally irrelevant. I found that out when I solicited feedback. As Ahmed very succinctly put it at the end, "I don't know what it is you are talking about!" Of course, neither Hanan nor Hamdah even uttered a word. They, as most other Yemeni women, have taught not to speak and to simply listen. As women, their worth is much less than to



Hanan Al-Aanisi: A Child Mothering a Child

contribute to any meaningful discussion.

The issue of marriage at an early age is the source of a lot of misery and tragedies for boys and girls alike. But it is the girl who is trapped - often for life.

The problem of early marriage is one of the most serious socio-cultural problems of modernizing Yemen. The problem has not been

addressed directly or sufficiently by the state, NGOs, or even by the media.

A concerted effort is required to tackle this issue and to show the catastrophic results of marrying off little girls. Parents, especially must be made to see the tragic results.

Minister Abdelrahman Bafadel:

The Man with the Courage and Vision to Take on the Economic System
Some say, "He hasn't got it right!" Or Has He?



By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times

Dr. Abdelrahman A. Bafadel, a native of Hadhramaut, is truly an exceptional man.

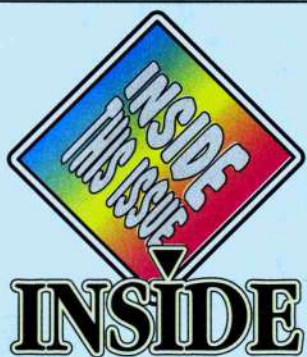
He comes to work at 7:30 a.m. sharp every morning. He has the courage to single-handedly take on the bureaucrats in his ministry - most of whom he sees as corrupt and inefficient; the "mafia" of traders and merchants - most of whom he sees as monopolistic and profit-hungry; and the unions - most of whom he sees as irresponsible and bent on blocking change. He has decided to tackle every one of those three groups.

If any one can do the job, Bafadel can. But by taking on those influential groups in one shot, did the minister bite more than he can chew?

Already there is considerable clamor against Bafadel, although there is also a rising level of support and appreciation.

"We have to liberalize the system. Otherwise, we cannot expect to achieve our development goals. We have to address the problems head-on once and for all. I hope all those who agree with I am trying to do will help me," he said. The man needs all the help he can get, for there is trouble ahead. He works in a sea of corruption, favoritism and lawlessness. His small steps are by-passed by the giant steps of his "foes."

Read full details on page 11



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* Structural Adjustment Program of Yemen p. 15

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The YSP Needs to Show Responsible Flexibility

The crisis between the PGC and YSP leaderships is gradually being brought under control. The PGC has agreed to discuss the points raised by the YSP and to work together on a time-frame for their implementation. Therefore, at least on paper, the YSP has achieved its demands.

Now, this development warrants a change of heart and a change of attitude on the part of the YSP leadership. I suggest the YSP leadership should show responsible flexibility. Specifically, I suggest the following:

a. The YSP should drop its instigations - open or implicit - of the people of the former PDRY against their northern brethren and against unity. They could create a permanent damage, which they themselves may not be able to rectify in the future.

b. The YSP should drop its "holier than thou" attitude towards the PGC. Granted many PGC people are corrupt, but is the YSP free of corrupt people? It most definitely is not!

c. The YSP should relinquish its exclusive grip over the former PDRY. By blocking the presence of any other political forces in the former PDRY, the YSP is returning to an authoritarian hold over the (PDRY) people. This is very contrary to the demands the YSP has placed.

d. Neither PGC nor YSP must flex their military muscle in order to force their way on the negotiations. Satellite pictures show extensive military movement in both YSP and PGC controlled areas. In addition, distribution of arms to potential battle-ground regions by both sides is a very stupid policy.

It is based on the above that I urge the YSP (and PGC) to concentrate on the talks and stop sending signals of "other" actions.

The YSP has many legitimate demands, regarding the fate and role of its members and leaders as well as regarding the way the country is being managed. It should focus on them. But if the YSP continues to threaten with partitioning the country unless it gets what it wants - some of it purely related to its senior members' personal power in the coming division of authority - then it must not expect the Yemeni people to rally around it. One can only lie for so long.

The YSP leadership has been successful in its approach, so far. But from here on, its obstinacy may backfire. It now can negotiate from a position of strength and therefore should show responsible flexibility in order to save the nation from turmoil and save the unity. I hope the YSP leadership will see light and will listen to the voice of reason.

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Seminar on Fiscal and Monetary Policy

The Center for Research and Yemeni Studies, Economic Department, sponsors a two-day seminar on Fiscal and Monetary Policies in Yemen.

According to Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Chairman of the Department, the seminar, which starts today, Sunday November 28th, looks into various kinds of deficits in the fiscal and monetary sectors, the foreign debt, and the IMF approved prescription to address the problem.

Participating in the seminar are the Central Bank of Yemen, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Development, House of Representatives (Economic Committee), Prime Minister's Office, Sanaa University's Economic Department, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Taiz Deputies Seek to Control the Crisis

The majority of the Taiz deputies have met many times over the last two weeks to discuss the developmental needs of Taiz governorate as well as the political crisis. According to Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood, Member of the Presidium of the House, the purpose of the meetings is twofold.

a) We would like to push forward the Taiz University and Taiz city water projects because both are badly needed.

b) We would like to mobilize all efforts to halt the deterioration in the political situation and bring the crisis under control.

The Taiz deputies, supplemented by numerous personalities from the governorate, agreed that the crisis is due to power struggle and has nothing to do with the people of Yemen. The Taiz people stressed the need to protect the unity and democratization of Yemen, in general, and the desire for self-preservation of the governorate if the situation deteriorates further.

The 100 or more Taiz people gathered for this purpose, represent most political parties, unions and organizations. The group saw President Saleh on Thursday afternoon, 26th of November.

Preparations are underway for a big meeting in Taiz on the 30th - coinciding with the day the unity agreement was signed. A communique to be issued from the gathering, is expected to emphasize the commitment of Taiz to unity of Yemen and its impartial stand in the crisis, and in its belief in dialogue to resolve all problems.

It will be noted that similar steps were taken by the people of Ibb and Al-Baidha. The three governorates, in addition to Marib, are front-line-states along the former border between the former YAR and PDRY, on the northern side. Along the southern side, Shabwah and Lahej are the front line states.

The British Council: Back in Aden

Within the British Week in Yemen - which includes such events as the inauguration of British Airways flights and the call of the Royal Yacht the Britannia at Aden harbor - the British Council inaugurated its Khormaksar branch in Aden. The Aden British Council opens for business after an absence of 39 years. English language classes start on December 4th.

YCB: The Progress Continues

The Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development has introduced this week two new services - Visa Credit Cards and Visa Travellers Checks. According to Mahdi Naqvi, General Manager of the Bank, the Visa Card has two classes: the Silver and the Gold cards. It is to be noted that the YCB already provides two services which are not provided by no other banks: - evening time banking and Islamic (interest-free) banking. The bank has made considerable progress in winning the trust and satisfaction of a rising volume of customers.

Seminar on Industrial Development

The Ministry of Industry is organizing a seminar on "Industrial Development and Potential for Investments" during 6-8/12/1993. A number of local and foreign investors and organizations are expected to attend.

British Donation to Sanaa and Aden Universities

The British Embassy in Sanaa has made a donation of 2000 pounds to the Economic Department, Faculty of Commerce and Economics at Sanaa University, and 3000 pounds to the Faculty of Economics at Aden University.

The embassy used the occasion of the visit of Mr. Mark Elliott, Deputy Undersecretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to Yemen to hand over the contribution. Both amounts will go to support university research.

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CIA Smuggled One Ton of Cocaine into the US:

The Central Intelligence Agency helped smuggle at least a ton of cocaine worth \$ 20 million into the United States in an effort to infiltrate Colombian drug cartels, a former head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration disclosed.

In a report broadcast by the CBS program 60 Minutes last week, former DEA head Judge Robert Bonner said the CIA operation, in conjunction with the Venezuelan National Guard, was illegal because his agency refused to approve it.

Others quoted in the report said the operation, which took place in 1990 was designed to lead the agency to drug king Pedro Escobar and to find out how the cartels used Venezuela as a trans-shipment point for cocaine smuggled into the United States.

They said the CIA co-operated with National Guard General Ramon Guillen Daila, who on the program denied any wrong doing and said he was being set up as a fall guy. He described how drugs could not be placed on board one plane because the box they were in was too big to get through the door.

One CIA spokesman said of the incident: "We found a problem, we investigated it and we fixed it." Another called it "A regrettable incident."

But the CIA disputed the 60 Minutes conclusion that the agency was involved in an illegal drug-smuggling operation.

A CIA statement said a joint CIA and DEA investigation turned up no evidence "of criminal wrongdoing involving illegal drug

shipments into the United States by anyone working for the CIA." But he conceded that one of the agency's officers was dismissed and others disciplined for "instances of poor judgement and mis-management."

Asked if the report was true, a CIA spokesman said, "If an impression has been left that there was collusion by CIA agents to co-ship massive quantities of cocaine with a rogue Venezuelan general with whom it was co-operating, that would be extremely unfortunate, untrue and misleading."

The CBS program said at least a ton of cocaine was smuggled into the United States using an informer close to Colombia's drug cartels and the Venezuelan National Guard. The Cartels paid the smugglers more than \$2,000 per pound, but 60 Minutes said it was not known where the money went.

The Washington Post, the New York Times, and the newsweekly, US News World Report, also reported allegations of CIA involvement in drug smuggling.

The Times, in its edition last week said much of the nearly pure cocaine wound up on the streets of the United States.

Bonner said on 60 Minutes that only the DEA can give permission to a US government agency to participate in drug smuggling as part of a wider criminal investigation and that the CIA broke the law.

He said the CIA had asked DEA for permission to smuggle drugs into the United States and added, "We said 'No, no way. We will not permit this. It should not go forward.' And then, apparently, it went forward anyway."

Palestinians Getting Ready for New Role:

Palestinian police units are undergoing rigorous re-training in Yemen, Jordan and Egypt. This is part of the new role which the PLO people will play following the peace agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington on September 13th.

The Israeli army has been pulling soldiers out of its military bases in Gaza and Jericho to make room for the coming Palestinian police units. Last week, Israel pulled out of the sprawling Seafont camp, the largest military base in Gaza. The camp also housed a border guard post and a jail holding 240 Palestinians. The camp is deserted open space today, although Israel continues to deploy a skeleton of army presence in Gaza. Under the agreement, the Israeli army has four months, thus deadline is 13th December - to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The PLO and Israeli negotiators continue to hackle over minute details of the process. AS this paper went to printing, there were two snags on the talks. Israel wants to keep troops to protect Jewish settlements. For example, how will the 4,000 Jews settled in Gaza be protected from a sea of 700,000 Palestinians? The PLO negotiators say their best protection is to pack and leave. The Israeli side is looking for ways to make this position acceptable to the settlers.

The other complication has to do with the size of Jericho. The Israeli side draws the city limits around the built-on area, whereas the Palestinians speak of greater Jericho. "Look people who live in the built-on area go out to farm their lands just a few hundred meters away. How can we have to administrations for this situation? Besides, sooner or later, more parts of the West Bank will have to be relinquished," stated a PLO negotiator.

Omani Heritage Village Planned:

Omani traditional craftsmen will live and work in the same place following a decision by the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture to set up an Omani Heritage Village in the governorate of Nizwa.

The craftsmen's village, to be build in Seih al Kadas, will house a handicrafts training center for young people. Silversmiths and manufacturers of wicker products and bronze utensils are among craftsmen likely to live in the village.

The village project is an implementation of the announcement of 1994 as the Year of Oman's Heritage by HM Sultan Qaboos in his National Day speech.

A few details of the village were given by Mal-Allah bin Ali bin Habib, the Ministry's Adviser.

Unesco Director-General Federico Mayor offered assistance to set up the village after the Minister of National Heritage and Culture Mr. Faisal bin Ali Aal Said told him about it during a meeting when he visited the Oman last week.

Mayor and Faisal also agreed on co-operation to update the Ministry's archives and to restore old manuscripts.

Habib indicated that the Ministry would shoulder responsibility for marketing the village products and he expected good employment opportunities for craftsmen.



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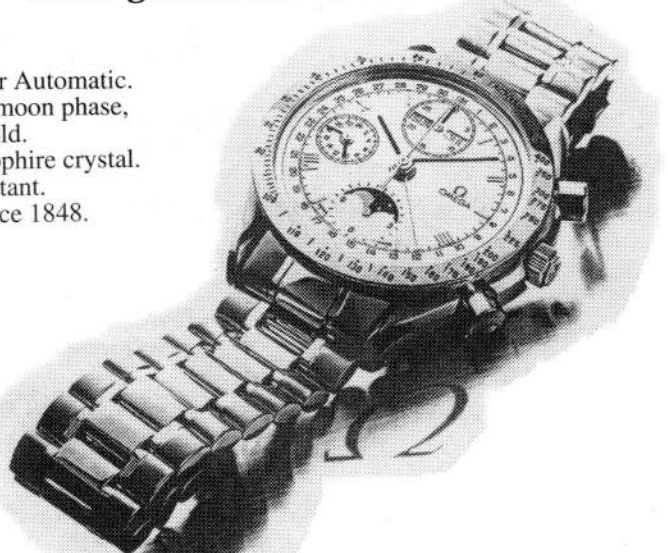
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THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A. The Yemeni Context - Case Study: Socotra

**Dr. Ali Awadh Salem,
Environment Specialist.**

The importance of Socotra - as the world's last refuge for so many plant and animal species - needs no emphasizing. It is home to very rare trees and animals which are not found in any other part of the world - like the dragon blood tree or the bottle tree, both shown below.

Thus, a fact-finding mission was arranged between our Environment Protection Council (EPA) and UNESCO/ROSTAS (Cairo). The team spent a week on the island.

The island of Socotra lies about 600 kms. south-east of Aden, to which it is administratively linked. It is 110 kms. long, with an average width of about 30kms. Socotra is the largest island of an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, which also includes the islets of Samnah and Darsa (called the Twins), and a further 60 kilometers to the east is Abdul-Kuri, the second largest island in size. A bit to the east are two rocky islets - Kal'l Fir'awn. The visit was limited to just Socotra. The objective was to create out of Socotra a biosphere reserve (sort of

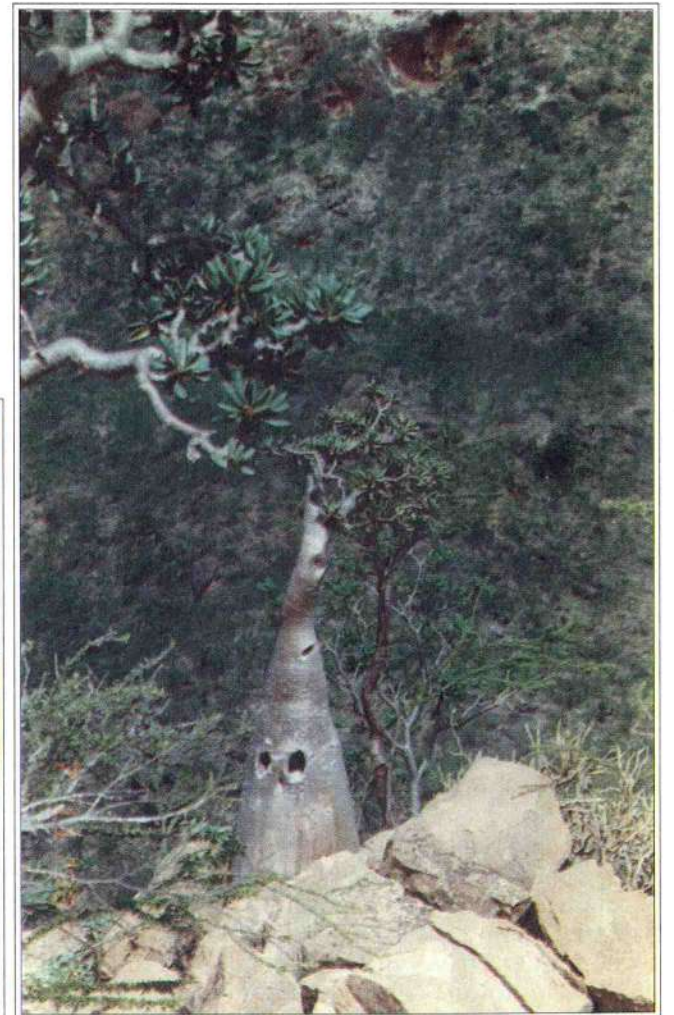
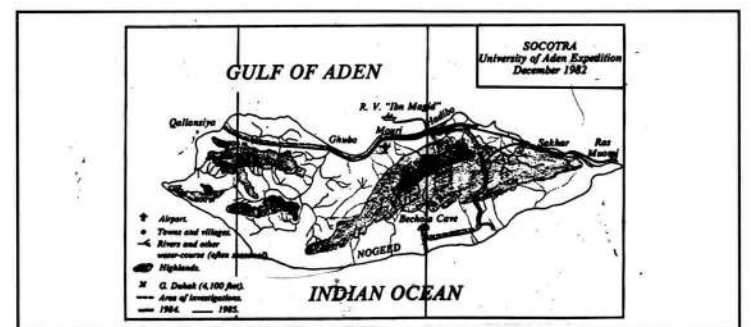
quarantine area) under Unesco's Man And Biosphere (MAB) program. The project outline is already being drafted to avoid any delay in implementation. The sites visited on the island include:

- Hadibou (the capital) and the surrounding region like the Souk, Hoolaaf, Dubaidah.
- Eastern Socotra including the Haggier Mountains where cave-dwellers still live in primitive ways.
- Western Socotra including Mouri, Ghuba, Qallansia, and Aihaffet.
- Deksaam Valley and the Makadriane Passage.
- The Coastal Areas.

The main conclusions from the visit are:

1. A bio-diversity project is badly needed to establish a natural conservation region.
2. The island immediately needs basic infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity, health, etc.
3. A Research center and laboratory must be set-up on the island to monitor and document various aspects of the bio-diversity.
4. Laws and regulations must be established and implemented to protect this natural reserve.
5. A sustainable development program.

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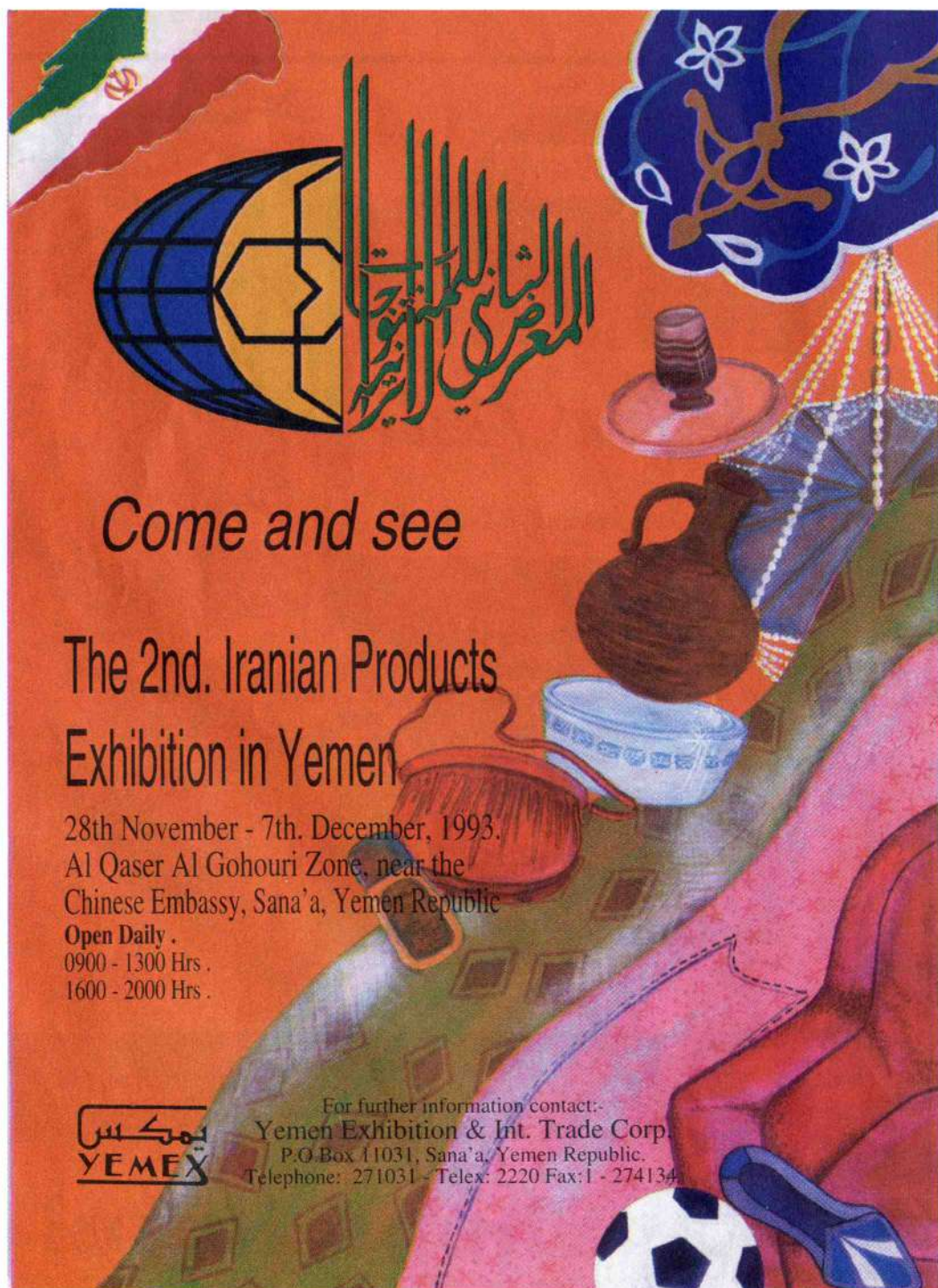
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B. The Global Context - Doing Research Together

Cont'd from previous page

The natural environment of the island can be divided into the highlands and hillsides, the valleys, and the coastal area. The highest point on the island is the peak of Jabal Haggier (1,419 meters above sea-level). This region is also among the oldest land surfaces of the world. The coastal area is narrow and covered with drifting sand. The most interesting parts of the island are the valleys which are home to the world's rarest living species. *Dracaena cuinabari* (Dragon Blood Tree) is one of the most interesting trees. It is shaped like an umbrella blown inside out. Another interesting tree is the Bottle Plant, shaped exactly like a bottle - another world rarity. The island of Socotra is one of the last refuges of nature - where human intervention has yet to make a significant mark. Yet, today, given the "modernization" process, it is at risk of being altered. This is the reason why international organizations and local authorities have joined hands to try to preserve the natural environment of Socotra. The island's fragile ecology could easily be disrupted if the on-slaughter of modernization is allowed to re-structure everything according to man's whims. We should not all this to happen.

In the past, people influenced the environment on a local and regional scale. Human civilization has consistently changed the landscape to the worst. By the end of the Roman era, most forests around the Mediterranean were destroyed by human activity. Yet, it is only with the Industrial Revolution that our species began to really alter the earth at a global level, and the rate of environmental degradation has grown at an accelerated pace since then. The intensity of human impact increases yearly as our population swells and per capita consumption continues to increase in the developing world. By the year 2000, global population will reach six billion, and almost eight billion by 2020. In recent years, a growing environmental consciousness has created a great demand for scientific predictions of the global environmental consequences of human activities. In response, the new science of global change ecology is emerging, and scientists are making projections of probable environmental consequences of human activities. Predictions of impending radical environmental disruption have gained preeminence in much of the public debate, while a significant minority of scientists project much less serious consequences. Indeed, the alarming pro-

jections coming from some scientists worldwide suggest that life on our planet may be altered significantly during the next century. For example, global increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases may contribute to a general global warming that could reduce grain production in the Great Plains, lower fresh water reserves, and increase the demand of electricity. In addition, the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica has increased markedly over the last decade, pesticides have rendered some drinking water unsafe, and the tropical rain forests are being cleared for agricultural purposes. Although the present rate of extinction is uncertain because the total number of species is not known, some scientists estimate that one out of every 1,000 species is lost each year. Such an extinction rate, could be as much as 1,000 times faster than the rate apart from human influence. These and other such predictions have a ring of truth to them, but in fact no one can be certain of the magnitude of the impending changes. So far, the methods of science have seldom been applied rigorously to whole earth ecology, because many of the processes of whole earth ecology occur over long time frames and expensive spatial dimensions. Computer projections are often used at

present to complement the relatively limited data sets available for addressing the issues of global environmental change. It is evident that traditional science cannot provide answers to a problem that encompasses every aspect of life on earth. Scientists from single disciplines working alone are not equipped to solve problems as complex as global change. How can answers be found? In this era of global change, science is challenged to adapt new perceptual modes. Analysis of microscopic components is clearly insufficient for understanding the dynamics of global change. New tools of macroscopic perception is required. Long-term ecological research is developing methods and institutions of macroscopic perception operating at longer time scales and on broader spatial scales. This approach to research is necessary to understand important processes that occur very slowly and rarely - for instance, the disturbances caused by natural disasters such as hurricanes, or complex processes such as climate change that operate at a variety of scales in time or space. Without the information collected from long-term ecological research, observations of the present are likely to be misinterpreted and lost in the "invisible present." Many studies have shown

that a conclusion reached after one or two years of observation is likely to be inaccurate or even opposite to that reached after five years of study. One question is how many years are appropriate; and one consideration is the life span of the species being studied. A scientist cannot be certain of the long-term effects of an organism unless the organism is studied for at least its entire life span. For some animals that may mean 20 years, for some trees, hundreds of years. Other factors to be considered include cyclic patterns in climate and time lags between cause and effect that are longer than a year. A natural and necessary complement to a lengthened time scale is a broadened spatial scale or research, to reveal "invisible places." Adjacent parts of the landscape influence each other. For example, a lake's water chemistry is influenced by the streams and land cover around the lake. Also, the water chemistry of lakes high in the landscape varies more from year to year than the chemistry of those low in the landscape. The inherently complex interdependencies of the whole earth ecosystem dictate an interdisciplinary approach for global change science. Scientists from as many disciplines a appropriate to the question being answered must be included in the

research. Geologists, zoologists, water chemists, and limnologists are only a few of the specialists who could be involved in a project. Eventually, complete global change studies should include social scientists as an integral part of the research team, because it is impossible to predict global change without assessing the effects of humans on the environment. The new perceptual modes of long-term ecological research also dictate that a somewhat modified form of the scientific method be used. Traditionally, a scientist formulated a hypothesis (if ... then) based on current observation and then this question in a controlled setting. Long-term ecological research uses the same method but on different scales of time and space. Observations are not for a moment in time but for decades or centuries. In addition, the experimental setting is often the real world, not a laboratory. The hypothesis about long-term environmental responses are formalized models constructed to predict the future based upon past experiences. These models are finally tested in the real world, often over many years. Coordinating the numerous scientists necessary for such lengthy periods requires formal organization. Without it, difficulties arise in keeping research on track.

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
Land & Water Conservation Project

"Invitation for Bids"

The Government of the Republic of Yemen, has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) (No. 2373-YEM) in various currencies towards the cost of the Land and water Conservation Project (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments for the procurement of Office Equipment.

A complete set of bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the following address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 100/- or 1200/- Yemeni Rials:

The Project Manager,
The Land and Water Conservation Project,
P. O. Box (2805)
Sana'a - Behind the old University,

Tlx: 2427 Mawr YE.
Tel: 213095 - 214613
Fax: (967-1) 209509
Republic of Yemen

All bids must be accompanied by a security of no less than 2% of the total bid value in freely convertible currency valid for 120 days from the closing date of the bids and must be delivered to the above office on or before 10.00 a. m. on 27/1/1994.

Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who choose to attend at 10.00 a. m. on 27/1/1994 at the Ministry of Agriculture and water Resources Building.

وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية
مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه

«إعلان مناقصة»

تعلن وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية/ ممثلة بمشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه - بأن حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية - قد حصلت على قرض من هيئة التنمية الدولية رقم (2373) IDA بعملة مختلفة وذلك لتمويل تكاليف مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه. ويرغب المشروع في طرح مناقصة عالمية لتوريد أثاث ومستلزمات مكتبية للمشروع.

فعلى الشركات المتخصصة في توريد تلك المستلزمات والوكلاء المعتمدين والراغبين الإشتراك في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلب كتابي الى العنوان التالي:

مدير عام المشروع.
مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه.
ص.ب. (2805)

صنعاء - خلف مبنى الجامعة القديمة (بجوار مسجد عمار بن ياسر)

تلكس: (2427)

تلفون: 214613/213095

فاكس: 209509 - 09671

الجمهورية اليمنية

وذلك للحصول على وثائق المناقصة نظير رسم وقدره 100 دولار أمريكي لا يرد أو مبلغ 200 ريال.

على المتقدمين تقديم عطاءاتهم بطرود مختومة بالشمع الأحمر، ومرفق تأمين إبتدائي بواقع 2% من قيمة العطاء بموجب ضمان بنكي أو شيك مقبول الدفع ساري المفعول لمدة 120 يوم من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات.

آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات يوم الخميس الموافق 1994/1/27 الساعة العاشرة صباحاً، وسيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في نفس اليوم الساعة العاشرة بديوان وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية وبحضور المناقصين أو مندوبيهم...

THE COMING CHANGE IN YEMEN!

What is going on in Yemen? Is it a political crisis or an abortion and if it is so, what is being aborted by this crisis? The YSP's (18) points put for discussion moved the crisis into a new phase.

A quick look at the 18 points will show that they express public general demands except one demand which does not concern the Yemeni people directly. This is related to the formation of the Presidential Council based on a 2-2-1 quota for the PGC, YSP and Islah, respectively. Yet, this point was the only one to be implemented. Regardless of the YSP's right to impose its will, the implementation of its demands confirms its ability to push forward whatever it wishes without procrastination or fear of complications.

Meanwhile, they treat peoples' concerns as unimportant. Decision makers in our country give no consideration to the people as an influential power in the system. What is going on now is but a starting point toward a greater change. But, there are two important things to be taken into consideration by the two actors in the crisis.

The first point is that it is useless for Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh to think that he can replace Mr. Ali Abdulla Saleh for there is a power balance which the YSP fully knows and adheres to. Such a balance makes it difficult or even impossible for one to cancel the other. There is also no possibility of transferring authority peacefully or even by military power. Thus, active participation is the only solution for the time being.

The second point is that it is useless for Mr. Ali Abdulla Saleh to bet on the possibility of continuing in power without introducing change. If he wants to continue to rule, he must adopt new ways. The YSP was the first to put reform points for discussion. Despite references stating that Ali Abdulla Saleh has accepted the YSP points, the YSP commits a grave fault if it asks him an implementation of the points which require a direct confrontation with influential forces. Such a demand will put the president in a critical situation. It is worth mentioning that some of these influential forces have backed the president to consolidate his authority. They can't be down-sized or marginalized overnight and without preparations.

There is also the issue of absence of trust between the president and the YSP leadership. It is clear that the crisis from the very beginning is due to the lack of trust rather than a political crisis. The leadership of the YSP ought to rid itself of this state of suspicion and exaggeration of events. As for the PGC, it ought to rid itself of the technique of procrastination and non-compliance to what it agrees to. For the time being, the solution is still in the hands Lt-General Ali Abdulla Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, his deputy, Brigadier General Haitham

Qassim Tahir, Minister of Defence, and Brigadier General Abdul Malik Ali Al-Seyani, Chief of the Armed Forces. These four individuals are capable of a positive solution through dialogue in order to rescue the unity and democracy of Yemen. One step would be to get rid of the bad party members from the two sides and the two Ali's know well that the armed forces will support them in their decision.

By:
Muneer Al-Mawari,
Al-Wahdah, Sanaa,
17/11/1993

THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL SEPARATION

After the 22 May, 1990, one of my friends who possesses fantastic abilities of analysis and understanding the future, commented, "Why not add an article (in the unity agreement) stating that "It is within the right to separate peacefully (if it doesn't work)." I thought such a saying at that time was crazy or even treason to unity. But events came to affirm that the transitional period was unable to construct a new state. Update, the unity was effectively achieved in only in its two symbols - the Flag and the National Anthem.

When you pass the check points on the previous borders, you feel that you are passing from one state to a different state. It goes without saying that the Yemeni people are one. Thousands of families have members on the other side. The parents are born in the south but the sons are in the north, and vice-versa. The psychological/social aspects of the south/north are obvious.

Upon the announcement of unification, a number of things have been put aside. Let's take the psychology of the two leaderships. The two ruling systems possessed different techniques, qualities, and ways of running their affairs. The transitional period did not enable the two ruling systems to co-exist, let alone merge. Those coming from the south raised the slogan of law and order, and institution building, but they failed to understand the structure of the northern regions. The southerners did not realize that the northern regions possessed a free spirit (that borders on chaos). This openness allowed corruption, bribery and other ills to exist. Those coming from the south should have taken into consideration that they were ruling not more than two millions whereas there are five times that number in the north.

As a result, some of the many little things between them grew to form a real impediment leading to crises. The merger of the armed forces which was ignored by the rulers of the two systems has become an impediment. The situation after three years has become clear - two armies with two loyalties. The non-merger of the two armies to-date caused a lot of harm to unification.

Even the outcome of the elections has become unimportant shaping the future. A number of factors helped empty the unity from its full and rich meanings. The situa-

tion has reached a precarious level which threatens a return to pre-22 May, 1990.

By:
Ibrahim Hussain Mohamed,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
17/11/1993

THE THREE RACKS

Imagine three racks as layers of shelves on which you put your things. We in Yemen have three standard shelves on which throw all our troubles. I want to borrow this concept to clarify a political point.

Whenever we commit a fault or feel a disability, we blame others pointing to mistakes, shortcomings, excesses, lapses claiming that there are forces behind all those ills, other than ourselves. This is precisely what happens repeatedly in our country. Whenever the state is unable to impose its authority; achieve prosperity; prevent the hike in prices; combat terrorism; etc. We have three ready-made excuses - the Imam, imperialism, foreign conspiracy.

For instance, we blame the Imam for all our corruption. We blame imperialism our backwardness. And we blame foreign enemies and conspirators for the hike in prices and our violence.

We may be on the verge of breakthrough - that is adding more racks. There is a fourth rack in the making. A local paper said that the State of Kuwait may be responsible for the assassination attempt on the lives of the sons of Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh. Keeping on accusing others for the faults which we ourselves commit means whenever find solutions to our problems.

By:
Abdul Hakim A. Al-Saqqaf,
Sawt Al-Yemen, Sanaa,
18/11/1993.

OUR STANDPOINT: A REVIEW AND NOT A RETREAT!

Calling for a general review of the current situation of the unity state does not mean a retreat from our pledges. The unification will remain one of the great dreams come true of the Yemeni people. Signing the unity accords was just the starting point towards a better future.

It has become clear that it is necessary to protect this zealous spirit of unification from frustration due to failures that accompanied the process of unification. It is normal to wonder and ask: "What happened? Who is responsible?"

Some try to throw the blame of the crisis on vague foreign forces. These attempts are but a kind of self-deception and an escape from the problem itself. The risk lies in misunderstanding the crisis. Instead of tackling the issue seriously, we keep on exchanging accusations and give passionate speeches. That is why negative moods turn everything into gloomy positions.

We see a historic achievement in the unification. Therefore, we can't remain silent while watching the unity state taking another fall. This does not mean that the crisis is due to the YSP's deliberations or it is an unreal event. The essence of the crisis as the YSP sees it is the imposition of the old (YAR) system on the new,

unified country, thus carrying over all its complications. It does not mean that the crisis has been planned for in advance. But, it is a fact that there are forces that only want to protect their interests. We don't want to mention certain unity projects which failed in our Arab World, because they were not well calculated. But for us, we have learned all these lessons when starting to sail on the unity vessel.

We believe that we still have got the time to consolidate the unity state by developing new approaches. This is the goal the YSP has called for with the purpose of correcting the progress of the unity state. We are sure that all partners in the coalition government share this opinion. Through dialogue, we can launch a new effort toward more understanding, on condition that we believe that these difficulties are not fabricated.

By:
Editorial,
Al-Thawri, Sanaa,
18/11/1993.

REPEATED CRISIS SPOILED THE NATIONAL ENDEAVORS!

Recently, the establishment of the Federation of Patriotic Forces (FPF) was announced as a new effort on the political scene. The goals of the FPF are briefed as follows:-

- 1- Stabilization of democracy, constitutional legitimacy and full respect for human rights.
- 2- Protection of the Yemeni unification and consolidation of national unity.
- 3- Working for development in the framework of social justice and equality under the banner of law and order.

The press communicate referred to the deteriorating political situation which pushed the country into jeopardy threatening the unification, democracy and sovereignty of the homeland. The communicate also referred to the causes behind what happened and what is going to happen focusing clearly on the corruption of the ruling system.

It is to be noted that the system focused on individual interests of influential forces. Accordingly, the system catered to the "needs" of those forces and used maneuvers, containment and deception at its means to acquire financial and other privileges. Naturally the citizen is the only victim - being crushed by problems while the rulers are busy cajoling in their maneuvers. The communicate also confirmed that a number of patriotic symbols took up their responsibility in view of what is going on in the homeland.

There is a determination to tackle these repetitive crises through dialogue with the ruling coalition government. In case the coalition government does not listen to the voice of reason, the FPF will revert to the people in order to mobilize national public opinion to pressure the rulers. Since 22 May, 1990 the political leaders/symbols of our country have won the admiration of the world. But the current situation of the repeated crises, partisan/personal conflicts spoiled all efforts as they deviated from what they have agreed upon. The outcome is political, economic paralysis, distrust, and a deteriorating crisis.

By:
The Political Editor
Al-Haq, Sanaa,
21/11/1993

THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The proposal of Dr. Yahia Al-Babili to initiate a special health program catering to the needs of Mother and Children was well received by the recent conference on population policies.

I think that this is an important and vital idea in that 70% of the population can be generally classified as children. In addition, mothers can be seen as an underclass given their hard conditions.

In our eager preparations for the future, what other group of people deserve our priority and first attention. That is why I think the idea is worth studying.

A survey of our schools would readily show that our children badly need immediate health care. We hear of many kinds of epidemics that target children. The costs to society, whether direct or indirect, are enormous and steadily rising. This is frustrating because what is required to prevent sicknesses among children is really small, in terms of resources.

In many countries, there is a clear priority for children. They are entitled to this by virtue of the desire for self-preservation. Yet, in Yemen, the need is even greater because of the overall nutrition, sanitation, hygienic and other conditions which affect the health of our children. It is important that we study this proposal.

By:
Mohammed Abdul-Majid Al-Areeqi,
Al-Thawrah, Sanaa,
25/11/1993.



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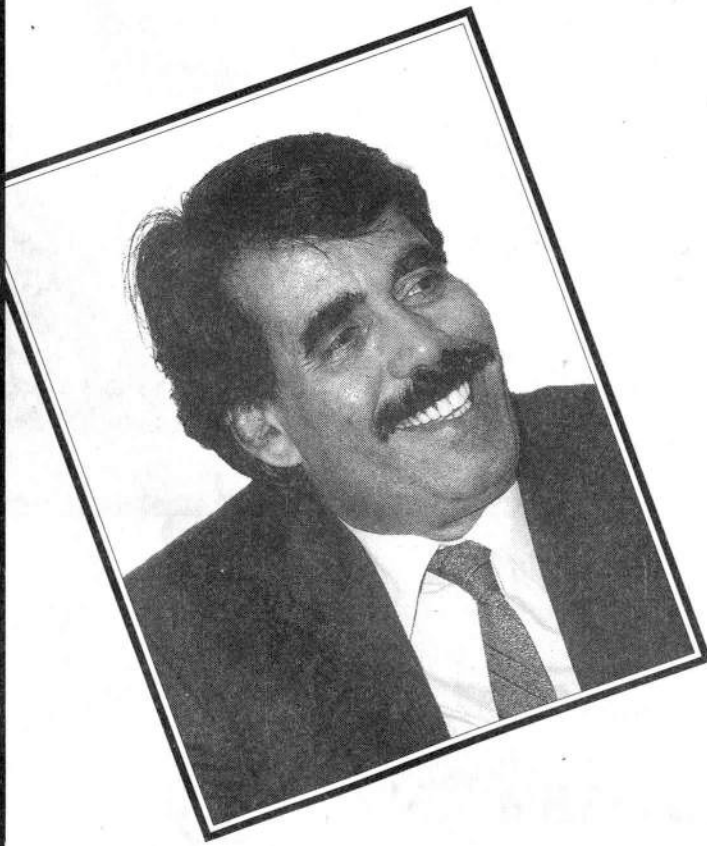
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YEMEN COMMERCIAL BANK

*presents its warm congratulations
to the people of Yemen
on the anniversary of
the signing of the Unity Agreement*



البنك التجاري اليمني

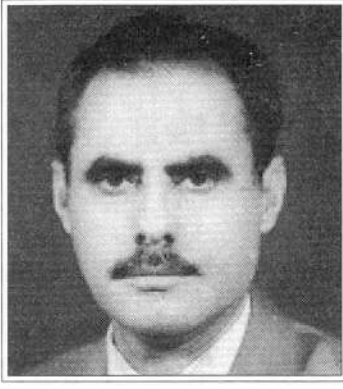
يتقدم بأزكى وأعطر تحياته وتهانيه لكافة أبناء الشعب
اليمني وحكومته وقيادته السياسية
بمناسبة ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة
وذكرى جلاء الإستعمار من جنوب الوطن

وكل عام والجميع بخير

*** Yahia Musleh Mahdi:**

Mr. Yahia Musleh Mahdi, Member of the House of Representatives, left Sanaa at the head of a parliamentary delegation to the US. Prior to his departure, he said that the purpose of the visit was to learn from the American system in order to strengthen "our experience."

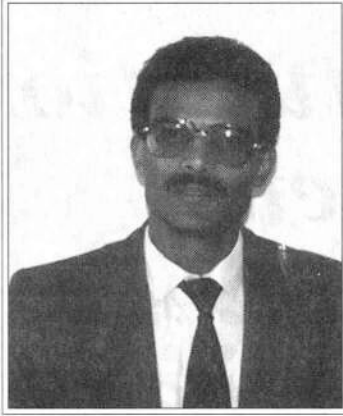
He also indicated that talks on assistance to Yemen's democratic institutions will be part of the program. It is worth mentioning that the delegation includes ten representatives.



*** Ahmed Al-Soufi:**

Yemen Times learnt that the famous journalist and writer, Ahmed Al-Soufi, returns to Sanaa next week. Mr. Al-Soufi, who is also a member of the journalist corps of the prime minister's office, has been on a worldwide tour that has lasted for two months. He spent most of the time in the USA.

It is understood that Mr. Al-Soufi is presently compiling notes on his trip which he will use to write long essays and articles.



*** Abdullah Al-Baradoni:**

"The problems that we encounter today are the result of how the unification of the country was achieved," said Mr. Baradoni, the respected poet and thinker of Yemen. Mr. Baradoni indicated that the unity agreement is closer to a private deal between two men, or at best between a group of men.

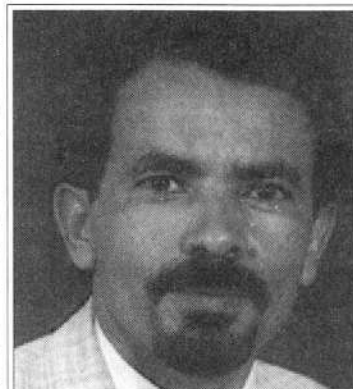
"The people of Yemen were not even informed, let alone consulted about the deal," he added. "We have to force our politicians to come out to the open and tell us what they are doing, for it concerns us," he concluded.



*** Sultan Hizam:**

Mr. Sultan Hizam, Member of the House of Representatives and leading member of the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Al-Sha'abi An-Nasseri, is the only senior member who is absent from the Eighth Congress of the party. He is out of the country on an official visit abroad.

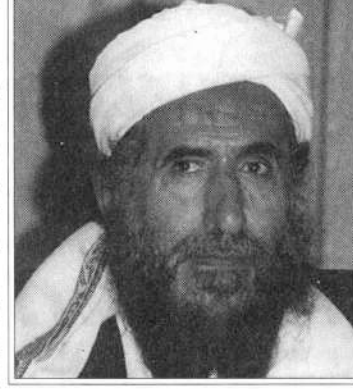
"I have always looked forward to this congress, but it is unfortunate that I am destined to miss it," he told the Yemen Times.



*** Sheikh Abdull-Majeed Al-Zindani:**

Sheikh Abd-Majeed Al-Zindani, Member of the Presidential Council and leader of the Islamic Brotherhood flank at the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) is said to be in seclusion these days.

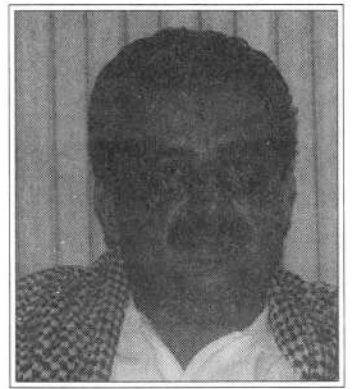
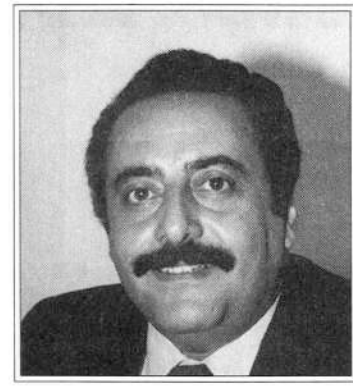
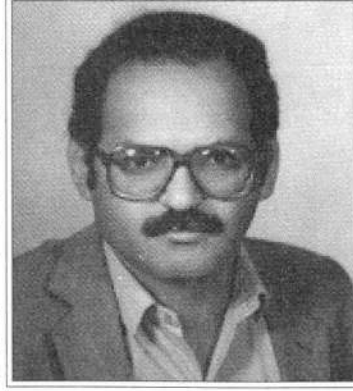
Rumors has it he is at odds with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and Head of the Islah Party, regarding the way Al-Ahmar has handled the crisis. It said Zindani is upset with the Islah position which is partial to the PGC.



*** Abdul-Karim Al-Razihi:**

Journalist and playwright Abdul-Karim Al-Razihi is busy these days putting together a team of editors to help him produce a new weekly, *The Cow*. The Ministry of Information has objected to the name, but Al-Razihi is not perturbed.

Abdul-Karim's most recent work is a book, entitled *The Larynx of the People*, in which he explains the voicelessness of the people. He is now finalizing another book, the *On-Slaughter*. Abdul-Karim is a satirical political commentator.

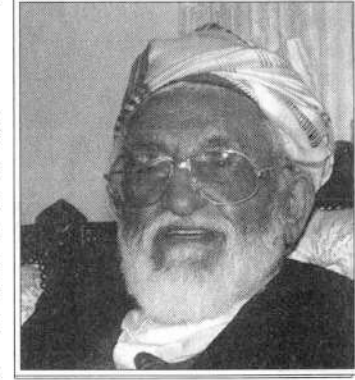


*** Salim Saleh Mohammed & Mohammed Said Abdullah**
Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP, and Mr. Mohammed Said Abdullah, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning and Member of the YSP Politbureau, have just returned to Yemen following a lengthy medical trip abroad. They are convalescing in Aden, at the moment.

*** Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum:**

Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum, Chairman of the Federation of Patriotic Forces and a leader of the Bakeel tribes, has played an important role in reducing the level of tension between the president and vice president, and by extension, between the PGC and YSP.

Sheikh Sinan has nudged the president to accept the reform package proposed by the YSP in order to avoid a showdown and so as to save the unity and the country.



*** Haj Hussain Al-Watary:**

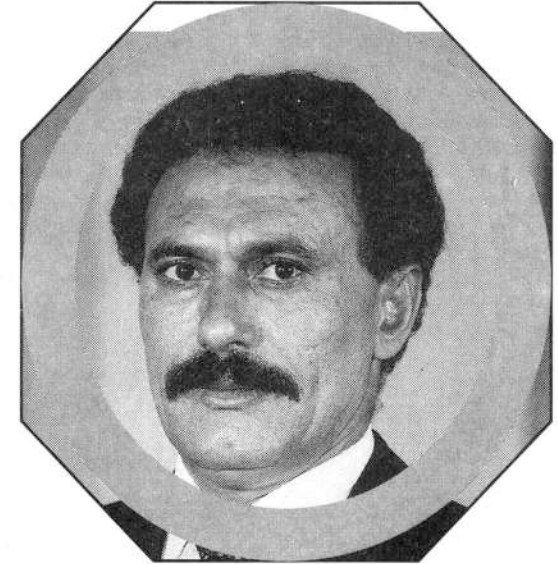
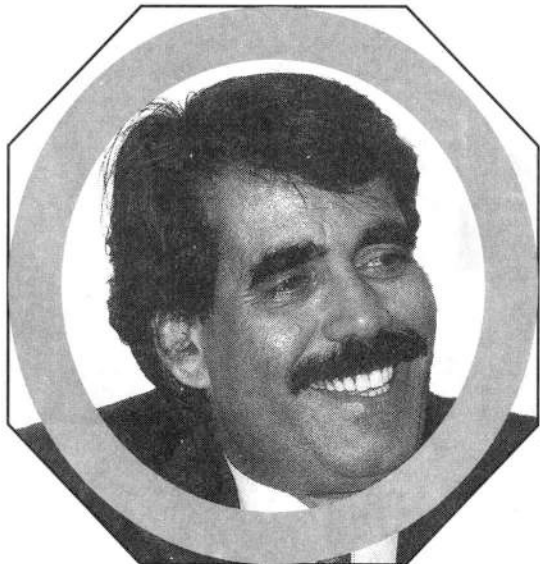
Al-Haj Hussain Al-Watary, Chairman of the Federation of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), has added one more achievement to his record. He has recently masterminded the purchase of permanent premises for the FCCI.

"We have just moved to our new premises and we are extremely happy with it," he indicated



تتقدم توتال (اليمن)

بأرق التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني وقيادته السياسية وحكومته
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وكل عام وأنتم بخير

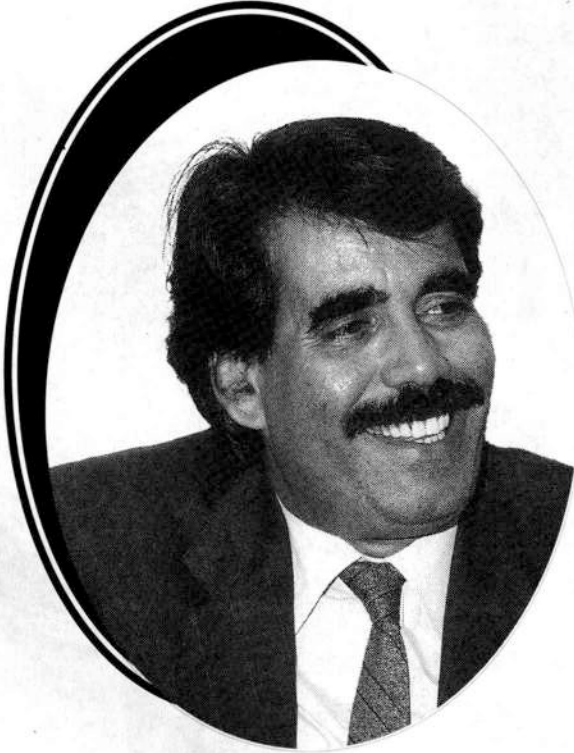


TOTAL (YEMEN)

wishes the Yemeni people all the best
on the anniversary of the signing
of the Unification Agreement.

The HAYEL SAEED ANAM

**presents its heart-felt congratulations
to the Yemeni people on the 30th of November -
the anniversary of the signing of the unity agreement.**



مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تتقدم بأزكى وأعطر تحياتها وتهانيتها لكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني وحكومته وقيادته السياسية
بمناسبة ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة،
وذكرى الجلاء من جنوب الوطن

وكل عام والجميع بخير


 Letters to the Editor


 Letters to the Editor


 Letters to the Editor

**"We feel
we belong here!"**

I am a Yemeni lady who has lived in the Gulf States since I left Yemen twenty years ago. I would like to express my feelings as a Yemeni immigrant about the situation in Yemen.

As a widow, I left Yemen as many Yemenis did, with hopes of improving upon our lives, especially the lives of my children, who are now all grown-up and doing well.

All these years, I have lived with the hope that the situation in Yemen will improve and that we will one day return to our beloved homeland, to bring up my grandchildren here. With the Unification, our hopes were raised very considerably. Now that my sons and I were thinking of returning to Yemen and opening a business, we are really saddened by the way events are unfolding. We spend a good part of our time reading the newspapers and listening to the radio, instead of processing the papers for the business. The bureaucracy in government offices would have sufficed to put off any one, but we persisted.

However, now everybody is worried about the situation and nobody seems to know what is happening. Foreign investors are, of course, having a change of heart. We too, have repeated second thoughts. Because, for us, it is not only a matter of losing money, it is a matter of losing out altogether on our long-cherished dream.

What is wrong with us Yemenis?

People have sacrificed so much and suffered so much in the long struggle against foreign occupation and the Imamate. Yet thirty years later, we are in the same position.

Have our children and their children no right to a peaceful and secure life?

All the lessons of the past have been lost on us, it seems. Our generation was part of this long struggle, and we remember only too well all the sufferings. Yemen has so much potential... Its human resource, its agriculture, its oil and gas deposits, and its unique physical characteristics that could turn the country into one of the most attractive tourist spots in the world. When we should turn our attention to developing this land, we are wasting so much precious time that will never come back. Today it is the age of economics which determines people's lives. But only when there is security in the country will business thrive.

People who live inside Yemen used to look down upon the immigrants - "mughtaribeen" as if we were disloyal to the country. But the truth is that we outside have suffered and struggled to make a living for ourselves and the country had depended on transfers from the mughtaribeen. We want to invest our money in our homeland. We don't want to live forever in the diaspora - as a people without a home or nation, not belonging anywhere.

What are people in our situation to do? We feel like a ship which cannot anchor.

By: Khadija Al-Harhara,
Sana'a.

Have Hope and Be Happy

**A simple man's rule to Happiness,
Is to keep your heart free from hate.
Keep your mind free from worry,
live simple, expect little, give much.
Pray to fill your life with love and sing often
Scatter sunshine, and think of friends.
Do unto others as you would be done.
Remember to find time to enjoy,
with your loved ones and family.
These are the true and tried links,
in the golden chain of happiness.**

Quoted by: Jamal A.Z.,
Sanaa.

Comment on Article

After reading Yemen Times articles "Agonies of a New Birth" and "The Whole Country Is Waiting" both in issue #45 of 14/11/93, I felt like crying.

My God what are **THE 2 ALI's** waiting for? For whom, or for what, or till when are the two waiting before they will find a solution for Yemen's major problems? Who will kill whom first? Each one of them hoping to survive and take over power.

As managers of a "private enterprise" and not fulfilling their tasks and duties (for which they were employed and have long been paid!)

THE 2 ALI's face only one option: **DO YOUR JOB OR LEAVE!** Why is it not possible for "leaders" of a country to work things out, where so much is at stake? We know, through the Yemen Times, that the political fabric has been so cleverly woven and interwoven by both parties, and that there are no possible or thinkable "holes" left open for either one to fall through. That means **THE 2 ALI's** have proven their ability for organization - at least when it works to their own advantage and to the benefit of their entourage. So why not show the same ability when it comes to serving Yemen?

More than three years after reunification, the situation in Yemen has so deteriorated that only one solution seems to be possible - **Remove THE 2 ALI's** as soon as possible, since the two men are obviously unable - and what makes it worse - also utterly unwilling to cooperate for the benefit of their homeland. Yemen need not become the battlefield for irresponsible persons, and especially those profiting from chaos and lawlessness. There still is the question: Why have the two armies still not been integrated and brought under one command. Shall one of the oldest civilizations and the remarkable achievement of the recent past be destroyed by the irresponsible, stubborn and childish behavior of two men? Who is paying dearly and suffering from mismanagement, corruption and other shortcomings? Certainly not **THE 2 ALI's**, but the 11 (sic) million innocent Yemenis, who have voted for democracy and trusted all the promises of their political "leaders."

Is there anyone who feels ashamed? Is there anyone valiant enough to undertake lawful but quick action.

I VERY MUCH HOPE SO!

By: Ursula Schwendener,
Switzerland.

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Dr. Abdelrahman Bafadel:

"I believe in the free market system, and I will fight anything standing in its way."

The Minister of Supply and Trade, Dr. Abdelrahman Abdelgadir Bafadel, is at the center of a major controversy in our country. An engineer by training, Bafadel has a PhD from France. He has just come back to Yemen following five years of work in Saudi Arabia. Earlier, Bafadel had worked at Sanaa International Airport, and later as Vice General Manager of the Civil Aviation Authority. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times went to interview the Minister. Excerpts of the interview follow:

Q: To which party do you belong?
A: I have appointed on the quota of the People's Congregation for Reform, commonly called the Islah.

Q: There is a lot of talk about your ministry and the changes you have brought in. What exactly is happening?

A: Yes, I know there has been considerable talk about change. Let me tell my view point. First, there is a lot of corruption here. If you want one million dollars in cash this minute, I can arrange it. But there is a price. I want to terminate this facility. Second, I don't believe any one person should remain in charge of the same department for many years in a row. What we see here is that if you want anything in the trade department, then you go and see the general manager, Mr. So and So. If you want something in the Company Registration department, then you

go and see the general manager, Mr. So and So. If you want something in whatever department, you go to see Mr. So and So. In other words, the Ministry was transformed into half a dozen so and so's who manage their department as if they were their property. According to the country's rules, I cannot kick out these guys, but I sure can move them around. I can also bring in new blood to break their tightly-knit circles. And that is what I did. Is that wrong?

Q: But, they say you brought-in your tightly-knit circles?

A: That is not true. I don't work according to political, tribal, or whatever affiliation. From the very first day, I brought all four hundred employees of this ministry, and I told them, I watch over you, and you watch over me. Now that is a fair deal - four hundred watch over one person, and one person watches over 400. I told them, "If you find me break any law, rise up against me. But if I catch you break any law, then God help you." That is it.

Q: What about the problems with merchants and traders?

A: I would like to tell you that there has been a monopoly, and in some cases, an oligopoly operating here. I believe in free competition, they don't. All I did was work to break their monopolies and oligopolies. The merchants want me to foot the bill, at least in part, and have no say in how they handle their business.



I believe in the free market system, and I will fight anything standing in its way. That is what I have been doing and to which they object.

Q: What kind of say do you want to have in the affairs of merchants?

A: Well, I am interested in curbing the rate of inflation. So, we agreed with the poultry merchants, the egg merchants, the grain and flour merchants to agree on certain price levels. They agree, but they don't implement.

I have also cancelled all special orders and other privileges. Some "merchants" got upset and they are fighting back.

Q: Do you see a contradiction here. I mean, you say you are for a free market, then you start fixing prices?

A: The level of profit-making is very high, and often there are holes in the system. Take as an example, a product may sell for a certain price in this area, and it may sell for a different price in another area in the same city.

Q: But this has nothing to do with pricing. Improve on the distribution system and increase outlets?

A: You are right. That is our biggest headache in helping curb the level of price-rise. We are working on this.

Q: You are said to be an anti-union person. Is that true?

A: I think unionists live in the past. They feel they stand to lose in a free market system. I think the workers and laborers will benefit a lot from the new business that will come in if the

system is improved. Look at the Aden Free Zone, for example. This will never come off the ground as long as people such as (Abdul-Qader) Bajammal (Chairman of the Free Zones Authority) and (Saleh) Al-Siyali (Governor of Aden) are in charge of it.

We need candid and resourceful people, who are also future-oriented.

Q: But given the unemployment situation, how do you think the unionists should behave?

A: I propose to offer the unionists of, say, the harbor, a two-year guaranteed pay. During this period, they have to find for themselves other jobs to do. This includes the possibility of continuing with their current work if they can adjust.

Q: You said Bajammal and Al-Siyali cannot do the job of the Aden Free Zone. What do you propose?

A: I propose a ministerial committee that will be charged with this job. I would like to insist that the Aden Free Zone is a big project. It concerns that whole nation, not just Aden. That is why it should be handled at a high level and with much vigor.

Q: Have you recently given orders to the Mafraq Cement Plant (Taiz) to allocate part of the output to be sold through the nearby Military Camp - say, as remuneration for their "protection"?

A: I have not changed anything in this regard. We still continue to work along the old system.

Q: There are three basic goods that you subsidize. What is the volume of the subsidy, and how do you plan to work with it?

A: We subsidize wheat, flour and rice. I wish we could add milk to the list, given the great symbolic and actual significance of it in our lives.

Last year, the total value of the subsidy for the three commodities was \$314 million. During the first half of this year, the subsidy was \$180 million.

There are many reasons why we should gradually phase out the subsidies.

First, we could support Yemeni farmers by purchasing their products. If we subsidize imported

goods, then local producers cannot compete. So what I plan to do is help local farmers by buying the products (wheat) at a profitable price (to them).

We expect to purchase this year, according to the Agriculture Minister's numbers, some 250 million tons. This is already a good 25% of our total wheat imports. In due time, we could replace imports.

Second, we are over-priced in our wheat and other purchases. We are also overcharged in transportation costs. Both are partly arranged by the merchants who benefit from price differentials.

In any case, we have put forth a project that will gradually remove the subsidies over a three-year period.

We have removed all ceilings on the importation of commodities. We have also drastically reduced the paperwork required for importing goods.

Q: How about privatization?

A: I think most public sector companies are dead wood. The criterion is simple. If a government corporation can compete in the market on an equal footing with private companies, and without monopolistic privileges, then it is fine with me. Otherwise, it has to go. We have eight public corporation (three carried over the former YAR and five from the former PDRY) which are associated with this ministry. We are looking for ways to dispose of them, unless they can get back in shape.

Q: What is main problem in your opinion?

A: I think the problem starts when you sell a product below its real value. This leads to corruption, inefficiency, black market, and many other headaches. So the vital thing to look for is whether you are selling a product at its real value or not.

Q: Any last message?

A: First let me say that I am a regular reader of the Yemen Times. I can tell the level of influence it wields because we talk often about its articles.

Second, I think we can do a lot in Yemen, provided we depoliticize our decisions, as much as we can. Our resources and potential is much greater than the present conditions. I hope we can work together to attain higher levels.

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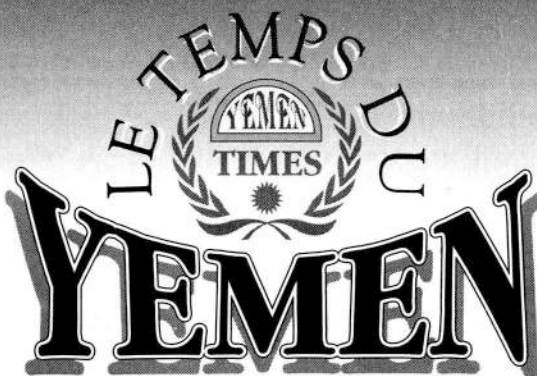
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The French Pages

CRISE POLITIQUE

Le Président et le vice-Président choisissent le dialogue

Après trois mois de crise politique, le CPG, parti du Président Ali Abdallah Saleh, et le PSY, dont le vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid est le chef de file, ont accepté de se réunir autour d'une même table. Un dialogue "élargi" à l'Islah, autre parti de la coalition au pouvoir, mais aussi à l'opposition, aux syndicats et à des personnalités indépendantes.

Les dirigeants yéménites ont choisi le dialogue. Après trois mois de crise, ils ont décidé de se réunir autour d'une même table. Le CPG, le parti du Président Ali Abdallah Saleh a accepté un dialogue "élargi" à l'opposition, aux syndicats et à des personnalités indépendantes. Ce dialogue devait commencer hier.

Accrochage à Radfan

Les incidents survenus récemment n'ont pas entamé cette volonté politique. Ainsi, l'at-tentat manqué qui visait le fils aîné d'Ali Salem Al-Bid dimanche 14 novembre à Aden n'a pas été exploité par les sudistes. De même, l'incident qui a eu lieu à Radfan, dans l'ex-Yémen du Sud, sur la route entre Taëz et Aden, jeudi 18 novembre, n'a pas dégénéré. L'accrochage entre des soldats d'une caserne du nord et les habitants de la région aurait tout de même fait cinq morts. Sanaa a préféré étouffer l'affaire.

Lundi dernier, les trois partis de la coalition au pouvoir (CPG, PSY et Islah) se sont réunis. C'est à la suite de cette réunion, où l'opposition était représentée, que le CPG a accepté à la demande du PSY d'élargir le dialogue à des personnalités indépendantes. Le Président Saleh au début de la réunion avait affirmé qu'il serait "d'accord sur toutes les décisions de la réunion", qui s'est poursuivie sans lui. Parmi ces personnalités, figure Ali Nasser Mohammed, ancien président de l'ex-Yémen du Sud, renversé en janvier 1986 et basé actuellement à Damas. Il avait déclaré il y a plus d'une semaine avoir reçu séparément dans la capitale syrienne le chef de la diplomatie yéménite, Mohammed Basindwa (nordiste) et Salem Saleh Mohammed (sudiste), membre du Conseil présidentiel. Autre personnalité de premier plan invitée, le maréchal Abdallah Al-Sallal, premier président de l'ex-Yémen du Nord.

D'autre part, le président de la

commission militaire chargée par le parlement de mettre fin aux mouvements de troupes dans le pays, le colonel Ali Mohammed Salah, a affirmé la semaine dernière que "toutes les unités ont regagné leurs casernes et tous les points de contrôle militaire créés récemment ont été levés". L'élargissement du "dialogue national" et le retour des militaires à leurs cantonnements étaient deux des conditions posées par le PSY à l'ouverture des négociations. Et les socialistes apparaissent de plus en plus comme les grands vainqueurs de l'épreuve de force entamée le 19 août dernier par Ali Al-Bid, qui refuse de regagner Sanaa tant qu'un programme de réformes n'est pas mis en chantier. Les moyens de pression dont ils disposent se sont révélés suffisants pour faire plier le Président Saleh. Ali Salem Al-Bid aurait entre autre convaincu la compagnie pétrolière canadienne Canoxi de ne plus transférer à Sanaa l'argent qu'elle doit au Yémen.

J.B.

Revue de presse

par Mohsen Al-Jaradi

Dans *Al-Mithak* (CPG) du 22 novembre, on apprend que l'hebdomadaire a contacté le frère du Président Saleh, Mohamed Abdallah Saleh, chef de la sécurité centrale, actuellement en Allemagne. La rumeur de sa mort avait couru jusqu'à Sanaa. Après avoir été opéré, il est en bonne forme, affirme *Al-Mithak*.

Quant à *Sawt al-Ommal* (Opposition - lié aux syndicats) du 18 novembre, il s'insurge contre les mesures prises par la Banque centrale. Celle-ci a demandé aux banques d'Aden de ne pas accorder de crédits. Cette entrave à l'investissement touche surtout le sud, selon *Sawt al-Ommal*, car au nord il n'y a pas de grands projets.

Sawt al-Ommal remarque également que le dernier numéro d'*Al-Hadath* (indépendant) n'est pas paru. Le journal de Sultan Al-Sami aurait refusé de se plier aux injonctions du gouvernement.

Sawt al-Yemen (opposition) affirme dans son numéro du 18 novembre que Cheikh Al-Ahmar, président du Parlement, a rejeté les 18 points du programme du PSY lors d'une rencontre avec le chef de file de la Fédération des Forces patriotiques, Cheikh Sinan Abou Louhoum. *Sawt al-Yemen* estime que l'Islah n'est pas neutre dans la crise.

Dans le 26 *Septembre* (journal de l'armée - proche du CPG) du 18 novembre, on apprend qu'un économiste yéménite aurait dit que des hommes d'affaires yéménites vivant à l'étranger sont prêts à investir 10 milliards de dollars au Yémen si la crise politique trouve une solution.

Le 26 *Septembre* rapporte également les propos de l'ambassadeur d'Irak qui a démenti la présence de 18 pilotes irakiens au Yémen, des pilotes qui ont la particularité de savoir voler de nuit.

Un journal koweïtien appelle au dialogue: Le quotidien koweïtien *As-Siyassah* (indépendant) a appelé mardi dernier les dirigeants yéménites à résoudre par le dialogue la crise politique. Le journal leur a proposé de "s'asseoir à la même table et de résoudre les problèmes des Yéménites s'ils sont effectivement soucieux de la poursuite de l'unité".

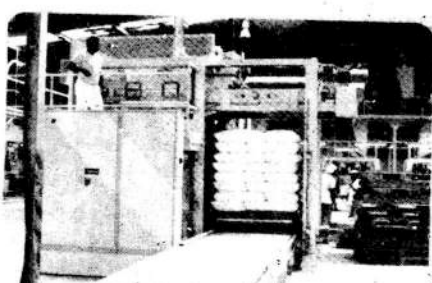
Presse "encadrée"

Le comité de crise commun au Parlement et au conseil des ministres a formé la semaine dernière une équipe technique chargée d'"encadrer" la presse. Le comité de crise a en effet estimé que "certains" journaux partisans avaient une influence négative et que des informations sans fondement avaient été publiées par une certaine presse étrangère. Ces mesures ne sont pas de bon augure pour la liberté de la presse au Yémen.



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الحديدة ت : ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تلكس : ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل : ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب : ٤٠١٥
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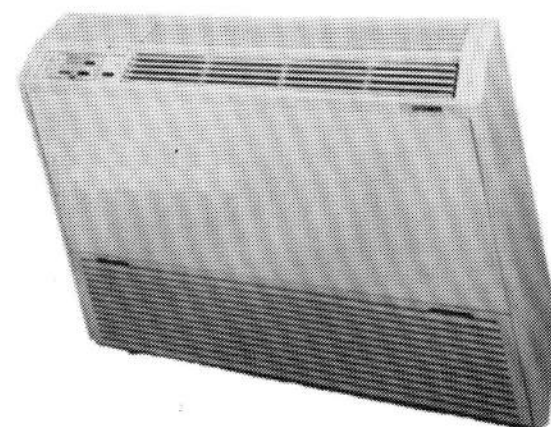


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SOCIÉTÉ

Communauté palestinienne les adieux au Yémen

L'Armée de Libération de la Palestine (ALP) compte environ un millier d'hommes au Yémen, une partie va bientôt quitter le pays pour former le corps de la future police palestinienne. Regard sur la communauté palestinienne installée au Yémen.

C'était en 1982, les *fedayin* palestiniens quittaient Beyrouth, évacués par des bateaux occidentaux sous le feu de l'armée israélienne. En 1983, l'exil avait repris, ils quittaient cette fois-ci Tripoli au nord du Liban sous la pression syrienne. Ils s'étaient alors éparpillés dans plusieurs pays arabes, dont les deux Yémen.

Aujourd'hui, ils sont environ un millier d'hommes de l'ALP (Armée de libération de la Palestine) installés dans le pays avec leurs familles. En tout 6000 personnes. Les militaires palestiniens sont répartis dans deux camps. L'un est situé à une quarantaine de kilomètres au sud de Sanaa sur la route de Taëz. Le deuxième au nord d'Aden, à une vingtaine de kilomètres sur la route de Lahej. Les trois forces, terre, air, mer, sont représentées et l'ALP a aussi un bureau de renseignement militaire.

Départ dans deux ou trois semaines

Beaucoup de ces militaires vont bientôt partir, "dans deux ou trois semaines", estime Saadi Salama, de l'ambassade de Palestine à Sanaa. Direction la Jordanie et l'Égypte. C'est là que les contingents de la future police palestinienne commencent à être formés (*lire encadré*) et l'OLP a prévu de reconvertir des contingents de l'ALP pour former le noyau de cette police. L'accord entre Israël et l'OLP sur l'autonomie palestinienne, signé le 13 septembre dernier à

Washington, prévoit qu'une "forte" police palestinienne sera déployée après le retrait israélien de la bande de Gaza et de la région de Jéricho en Cisjordanie, qui doit commencer le 13 décembre prochain. L'OLP estime qu'elle aura besoin de 30 000 hommes pour contrôler les territoires évacués par l'armée israélienne.

"Nous ne fermons pas les camps"

"Nous ne fermerons pas les camps au Yémen tant que le problème ne sera pas définitivement réglé", précise Saadi Salama. Les militaires qui ont de la famille en Égypte et en Jordanie partiront avec femmes et enfants, les autres les laisseront au Yémen.

La communauté palestinienne dans le pays est forte de 10 000 membres. Mis à part les militaires, il y a aussi 1200 étudiants. Ceux qui viennent des Territoires occupés bénéficient d'une scolarité gratuite. On compte également environ 1500 enseignants, et parmi eux certains viennent du Koweït après avoir été expulsés. Enfin, il y a les hommes d'affaires, ingénieurs, qui sont environ 800. La plupart des Palestiniens vivant au Yémen n'ont pas de passeport mais un "document de voyage" délivré par l'Égypte, la Syrie, l'Irak ou le Liban. Seuls les Palestiniens de Jordanie ont un passeport. Parmi les entreprises palestiniennes implantées au Yémen, la plus importante d'entre elles est CCC (Conso-

lidated Contractors Company), même si à l'ambassade de Palestine on estime que cette entreprise n'a pas "d'identité palestinienne" et on préfère citer la Société des martyrs palestiniens.

Les relations entre le Yémen et les Palestiniens sont étroites. "Des volontaires yéménites, plusieurs milliers, ont participé à notre lutte de libération, notamment à la fin des années 1970, début des années 1980", tient à rappeler l'ambassadeur de Pales-

te, Yahya Rabah. Ces temps-ci Sanaa devait jouer les intermédiaires entre l'OLP et le mouvement intégriste Hamas, mais la rencontre a été reportée sine die. "La participation de l'Islah à la coalition gouvernementale au Yémen pourrait être un exemple pour le Hamas. L'Islah le conseille d'ailleurs dans ce sens et c'est une bonne chose", déclare l'ambassadeur. Les opposants palestiniens à l'accord de paix ont pour la plupart un bureau à Sanaa. On

trouve notamment un représentant du FPLP (Front populaire de libération de la Palestine) de George Habache, du FDLP (Front Démocratique de libération de la Palestine) de Nayef Hawatmeh et du FPLP Commandement général d'Ahmad Jibril, qui a menacé d'assassiner Arafat. "Nous avons l'habitude de l'opposition, leur présence ne nous gêne pas", précise l'ambassadeur.

J.B.

En Bref

Emission de la première carte d'identité "unifiée": Les autorités yéménites ont émis pour la première fois mardi dernier des cartes d'identité "unifiées", trois ans et demi après l'unification des deux Yémen en mai 1990. Yahya Al Moutawakil, ministre de l'Intérieur, a estimé que c'était "un pas positif sur la voie de l'unité".

British Airways de retour au Yémen: Un appareil DC-10 de la compagnie aérienne britannique British Airways a effectué mardi dernier un vol Londres-Aden, pour la première fois depuis l'indépendance de l'ex-Yémen du Sud en 1967. Mark Elliot, un haut responsable du Foreign Office était à bord de l'appareil.

Assassinat d'un officier de police au Yémen: Un officier de la police yéménite a été assassiné lundi dernier en plein Sanaa par des inconnus armés à bord d'un véhicule. Le commandant Ahmed Ahmad Al-Chami, directeur général du centre de police de Hazm, dans le Jawf, se rendait au ministère de l'Administration locale, en compagnie d'un autre commandant qui, lui, n'a pas été touché. Les agresseurs ont ensuite pris la fuite.

Cours du pétrole: Les cours du pétrole avaient repassé la barre des 16 dollars au début de la semaine dernière sur le marché londonien, en raison de la hausse de la demande liée à la vague de froid en Europe. Le marché reste cependant déprimé. Les analystes sont effect sceptiques sur la capacité de l'OPEP à mettre un terme à la surproduction mondiale. Les cours qui se sont dépréciés de près de 20 % en un an, étaient tombés le 11 novembre au plus bas niveau depuis juillet 1990, soit 15,20 dollars.

Premières promotions de policiers

Une première promotion de 22 policiers palestiniens, formés en Égypte à la protection rapprochée des personnalités palestiniennes, a achevé la semaine dernière un stage de neuf semaines dans un camp d'entraînement de la police égyptienne au Caire. La formation de ces gardes du corps, tous originaires de la bande de Gaza occupée, a été divisée en deux étapes: la première consacrée à un entraînement aux armes et la deuxième à la protection des personnalités, des documents, des moyens de communications et des bâtiments sensibles. Choisis par la direction de l'OLP, ces 22 policiers constituent le premier groupe des 600 Palestiniens qui doivent être formés en Égypte d'ici le 1er janvier. Dans cette

première promotion, 18 sont passés par les prisons israéliennes.

En Jordanie, on s'affaire également pour former la future police palestinienne.

Cours sur les droits de l'Homme

Deux groupes de cinquante officiers ont déjà suivi des cours en anglais sur le respect des droits de l'Homme. Un expert britannique du Comité International de la Croix-Rouge (CICR) leur explique comment agir pour appréhender un suspect sans porter atteinte à sa dignité. Derrière le professeur apparaissent, sur un écran lumineux, les principes fondamentaux du respect de la dignité humaine en cas d'arrestation: "il faut qu'il y ait néces-

sité, que les conditions juridiques soient établies et il faut s'assurer que les mesures de police sont légales". Une fois le cours donné, le professeur se prête à une séance de questions-réponses avec les officiers. "Un policier peut-il interpellé n'importe qui, à n'importe quel moment, pour lui demander son identité et où il se rend", demande un policier. "Bien que cela soit autorisé, il faut utiliser ce droit de manière restrictive. Par exemple, agir uniquement aux alentours du lieu où s'est produit un incident", répond le professeur. Les délégués de la Croix-Rouge dans les Territoires occupés maintiendront le contact avec ces officiers qui pourront ainsi bénéficier de leurs conseils.

(avec AFP)

HISTOIRE RELIGIEUSE

Symbolique du Mont Saber

par Jean Moncelon*

Début avril, Jean Moncelon avait découvert un site des Sept Dormants dans le djebel Saber, au-dessus de Taëz (Yemen Times daté du 7 avril).

Les Sept Dormants, c'est une légende d'origine chrétienne née à Ephèse en Turquie et qui a été reprise ensuite par l'Islam. Elle raconte l'histoire de sept jeunes hommes, qui fuyant la persécution d'un prince romain, se sont réfugiés dans une caverne. Ce dernier ayant appris leur fuite et retrouvé leur cachette, ordonna de les emmurer vivants. Or des siècles plus tard, à la faveur d'un tremblement de terre, les Sept se réveillèrent d'un sommeil mystérieux dans lequel la Providence les avaient maintenus. Découverts par la population d'Ephèse, où l'un d'eux était descendu, le miracle fut dûment constaté, et les Sept moururent sur le seuil de leur caverne où ils furent ensevelis aussitôt.

Jean Moncelon explique ci-dessous comment cette légende s'inscrit dans la géographie spirituelle décrite par Sohrawardî, auteur du XII^{ème} siècle né en Perse et mort à Alep en Syrie.

Certains lieux n'existent pas seulement sur les cartes de géographie, ils participent aussi, parfois, d'une géographie spirituelle qui a sa place dans "l'entre-deux", au confluent du Ciel et de la Terre. Ainsi, au Yémen, le Mont Saber qui domine la ville de Taëz, le mont Sephar de la Genèse, "la montagne de l'Orient" (X, 7), auquel la légende des Sept Dormants, les Ahl al-Kahf du Coran (sourate XVIII), est si intimement liée.

Géographie symbolique

Or, cette géographie a sa propre symbolique - à ne pas confondre avec la symbolique profane qui nourrit l'imaginaire du voyageur - et c'est à elle que recourent les penseurs visionnaires pour rendre compte de leur expérience mystique.

S'agissant du Yémen, en tant

que monde de l'Ange, "Orient" au sens métaphysique du mot, Sohrawardî (1155-1191) a longuement exploité cette symbolique dans son "Récit de l'exil occidental", où il est question de la patrie spirituelle dont les exilés éprouvent la nostalgie tant qu'ils demeurent dans "la cité dont les habitants sont injustes" (IV, 75), laquelle se situe en "Occident".

"Je sortis des grottes et des cavernes, écrit Sohrawardî, et j'en finis avec les vestibules: je me dirigeai droit vers la Source de la Vie. Voici que j'aperçus le Grand Rocher à la cime d'un mont semblable à la Sublime Montagne". Il est possible aujourd'hui de "localiser" ce mont que l'histoire des Ahl al-Kahf, telle qu'elle est rapportée par la tradition à Taëz, permet d'identifier comme étant le Mont Saber.

Voici, en effet, comment, en termes de symbolique

mystique, cette légende s'inscrit dans la géographie spirituelle décrite par Sohrawardî.

Les Sept jeunes fuyant la persécution symbolisent l'exilé tentant d'échapper à la "cité inique", le gnostique s'émancipant de sa prison terrestre. Or, il est remarquable qu'avant d'atteindre leur refuge - la Caverne - les Sept, selon la version recueillie à Taëz, parviennent au lieu-dit Bab al-Kahf, qui est le "seuil du Mystère", la porte qui ouvre sur le monde supra-sensible. Par Bab al-Kahf - que l'on peut visiter, au pied du djebel Saber, - les Sept quittent donc la géographie physique. Et, dès lors, leur ascension au sein de la montagne figure la quête de l'exilé jusqu'au lieu de son retour, sa marche vers le "Sinai mystique".

Le "Sinai mystique"

De fait, lorsque les Sept atteignent la Caverne où ils seront bientôt plongés dans le sommeil (XVIII, 18), ils se retrouvent à l'air libre, sous le ciel nocturne, et assistent au lever de cette Etoile du Yémen - Sohayl - dont Sohrawardî écrit que "la Balance resta en équilibre lorsqu'elle se leva d'au-delà certains nuages ténus". Ils abordent dans le même temps, toujours d'après la version de Taëz, la source d'al-Kawthar, un des fleuves du Paradis. On reconnaît sans difficulté cette Source de Vie dont le gardien



Bab al-Kahf au pied du djebel Saber.

est Khadir, le guide de Moïse (XVIII, 65-62), qui est identifié par la plupart des commentateurs de la légende au chien-Kitmir - qui veille sur le sommeil des Sept jeunes gens.

Au lieu-dit Ahl al-Kahf, dans le djebel Saber, s'élève de nos jours sur la Caverne où ils ont été ensevelis, un sanctuaire dédié aux Sept Dormants. C'est le "Sinai mystique", la "Sublime

Montagne" du "Récit de l'exil occidental" - au-delà duquel se dresse le mont de la Fiancée (le djebel Ar'uz) qui est l'oratoire de l'Ange ou, en termes sohrawardiens, le "Rocher d'Émeraude". Là encore, la version de Taëz parle d'un mystérieux trésor dont on peut penser, sans risque d'erreur, qu'il est symbolique, et qu'il représente le but de l'itinéraire mystique, de cette Geste dont les Sept demeurent les héros.

Sohrawardî né en Perse mort à Alep

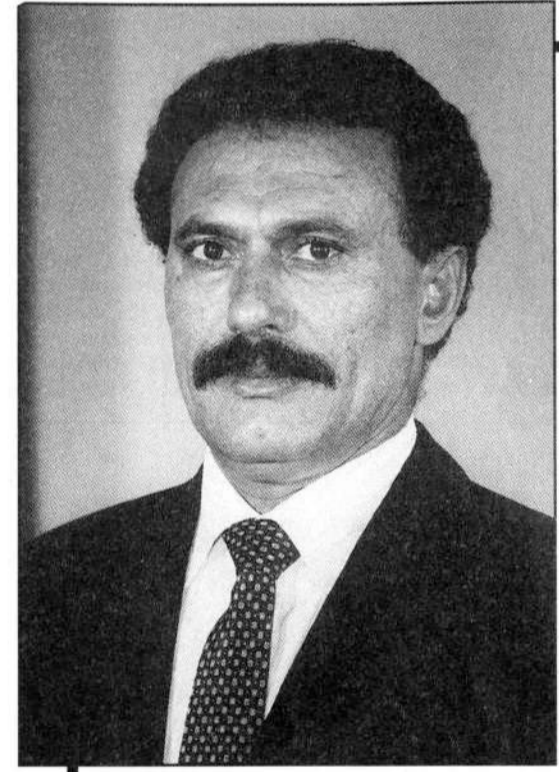
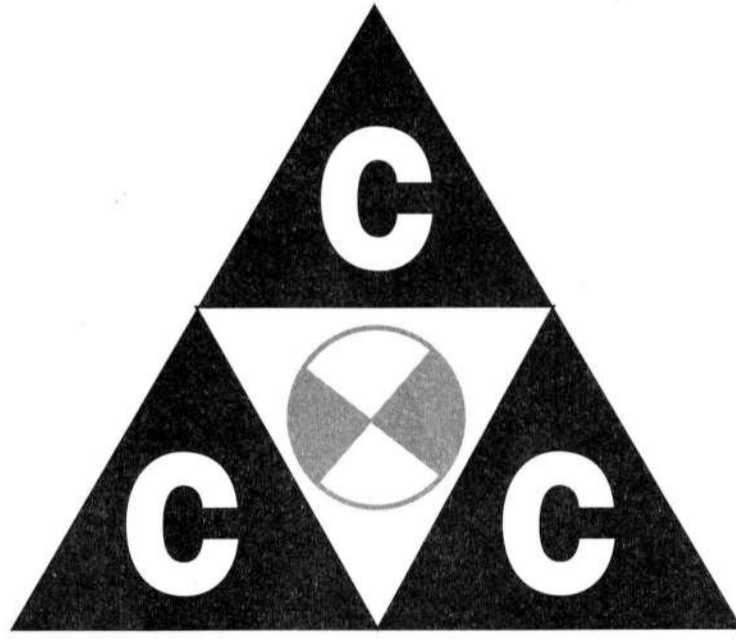
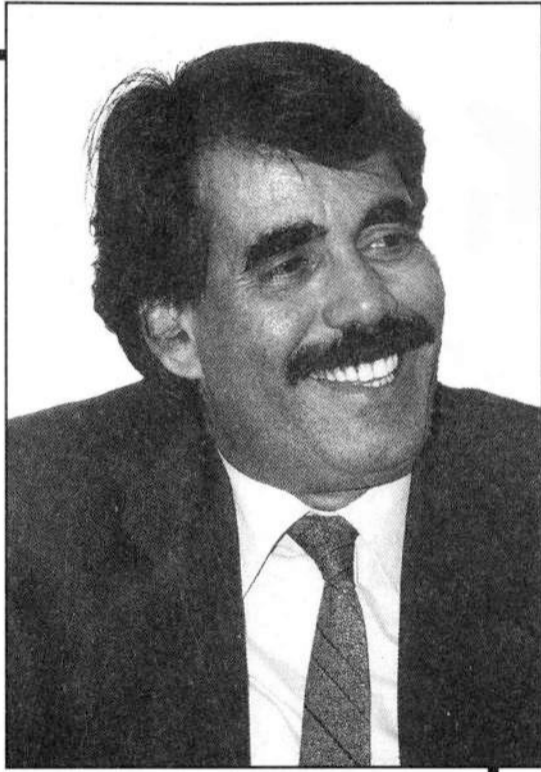
Au terme de cette démonstration, on admettra que le "Récit de l'exil occidental" présente indéniablement une "transposition" des données physiques du djebel Saber et que l'histoire des Ahl al-Kahf, telle qu'elle est conservée à Taëz, revêt exactement la signification "ésotérique" de ce Récit.

Il resterait toutefois à apprendre comment Sohrawardî, né en Perse et mort à Alep, a recueilli à la fois la description du djebel Saber et la légende des Sept qui s'y attache - sauf à considérer, puisqu'il s'agit de géographie spirituelle, que la perception visionnaire relève du Mystère divin (cf. A.K. Emmerick).

* Jean Moncelon est directeur du département de français à l'Université de Sanaa.

شركة إتحاد المقاولين العرب

تتقدم بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني ولرئيس
وأعضاء مجلس الرئاسة والحكومة ومجلس النواب
بمناسبة ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة
ومزيدا من النجاحات والإستمرار في بناء الوطن اليمني الأم



CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY S.A.L.

*extends its best wishes to Yemen
on the anniversary of the signing
of the unification agreement*

A Question of Decisiveness and Political Will?

The Structural Adjustment Package

We all know about the structural adjustment package prepared by the Yemeni side - the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Yemen. The package includes all the standard actions and policies required for a full overhaul of the economic system. Then there is the amended IMF package which is more structured and time-based.

The foreigners know they can't trust Yemen's sense of time. There are many components in the program, as follows:

1. Price Corrections to Discontinue Distortions and Mis-allocation of Resources: This entails removal of subsidies - in a gradual five-year phase. It also entails raising user charges to their correct levels. Expect increases in

the price of energy (both of gasoline and electricity), and other services. This also includes correcting the price of capital and time (e.g., interest rates).

2. Fiscal Adjustment: A major aspect of the package calls a definite reduction in the budgetary deficit. It urges the government to rationalize its expenditures and improve its

revenue collection. There is a detailed review of the tax system as well as the patterns of expenditures.

3. Monetary Policy: The Central Bank has a grave responsibility in curbing the growth in the money supply, in holding down credit ceilings, and in general in correcting distortions in the banking sector.

4. Manpower Development: The adjustment program calls for strong and major steps in building a credible humanpower. The education and health investments are to be strengthened.

5. Bureaucratic Changes: Streamlining the bureaucracy is one of the most important objectives of the adjustment program. Less paperwork is a must for Yemen's growth.

6. Less Consumption: The program calls for a lower government consumption. At this moment, consumption represents more than 85% of total government consumption. The Supreme Council for Investments, Oil and Economic Affairs is expected to meet this week to discuss the details of the package and to approve its implementation timetable.

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Our Production, Engineering, Advertising, Sales and Finance & Accounting departments have excellent career opportunities for young Yemeni graduates with strong academic records. You will probably be around 22 to 28 years of age, hold a bachelor's or master's degree in Engineering, Business Administration, Finance or a related discipline. You are known to be dynamic and innovative and have demonstrated good initiative, leadership and interpersonal skill. You should have a good command of the English language.

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When you join the company, you will embark on basic training aimed at providing you with the information and skills needed to begin your role as a manager. You will be expected to assume responsibility for important work and to contribute to your department's results very early in your career. You will be trained and supervised by very skilled managers who will consider your development as one of their main objectives. Our principle of "training on the Job" and "Promotion from within based on Personal Ability and Contribution" will enable you to assume broader responsibilities as fast as you demonstrate your abilities to contribute to results.
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Please write in clear English stating your name, age, mailing address and a telephone number where we can reach you. Give details of your university degree, academic standing and the name of the university you graduated from. Also give brief details of any work or training experiences to date and any other information you consider relevant. Send your application to:

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 or P.O. Box 55144, Taiz.

تهانينا

تتقدم أسرة صحيفة «يمن تايمز» إلى الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح
 بالتهاني والتبريكات بنجاح العملية الجراحية التي أجراها
 ((العقيد محمد عبدالله صالح))
 وبعقبال عودته سالماً إلى أرض الوطن إن شاء الله

CONGRATULATIONS

The Yemen Times presents its congratulations to
 President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the success of the operation on his brother
 Colonel Mohammed Abdullah Saleh.
 We pray for his safe return home.

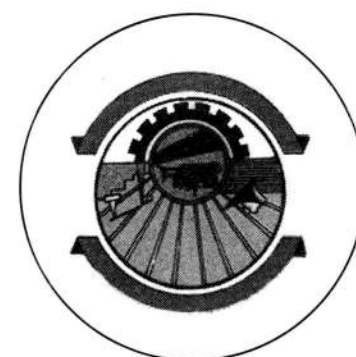
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Watch Out!

The Car Mafia Are Coming

He was panting. He sounded terrified. "Yemen Times. I would like to report a car hijacking. They just took away my car, under gun-point."

He got the shock of his life. Yes, the Electricity people, for whom he works, have promised to try to handle the problem. The Swedish guy was one of the most recent victims of car hijacking.

The most recent kidnapping, of course, is Mr. Haynes Mahoney, the Cultural/Information Officer at the US Embassy. He was kidnapped from Khartoum Street in Sanaa on the evening of Thursday, 25th November. He was still captive as this paper went to print.

Car hijacking in Yemen has become a recurrent problem, thus tying down most of the foreigners to their work-site or living place. But it is not just the foreigners who are victimized, Yemenis actually suffer more.

Why does it happen?

It happens for one of three reasons.

A. A tribe or a group may have a grudge against the government, for whatever reason. They feel the government is unwilling to listen to them. By harassing intercity traffic, they force the government to listen.

B. A tribe or a group may feel it is not getting a fair share of the bounties of the state. The government may have not fulfilled its

The Hijacking Record for 1/1--31/10/1993 Period

Item	Foreign Victims	Local Victims
Hijacked Vehicles	136	310
Attempts at Hijacking	44	170
Cases of Kidnapping	8	63
Persons Kidnapped	31	102
Car Thefts	51	130
People Killed during Hijacking -		6

promises to provide projects. So, they get even. They take away symbols of government property.

C. A tribe or a group may be "paid" to create havoc and lawlessness. They create a scare and a sense of insecurity with the hope of scaring away foreigners.

How does it happen?

The way it happens varies depending on where it happens. Generally on the inter-city highway, a car or two would follow the victim and order him/her to slow down and pull aside. Then the order comes. "Get out of the car and leave the keys and anything there is in the car."

It is wise to obey those orders. It is also wise to pull aside if you feel you are being followed. There is no reason to be a dead hero, for those people really mean business.

Observers believe there is a negative co-relation between the credibility and strength of the government and the incidence of hijacking and lawlessness. For example, just prior to the elections, the government felt helpless as the rivalry among the rulers intensified. That was a signal for the tribal lawlessness to make its presence felt. Then order was restored, for a while.

Then as relations between the members of the ruling coalition deteriorated, the hijacking and lawlessness hit a high profile again. The political dimension, including the complications of foreign involvement, add to the burdens of a solution.

The solution for hijacking is really political. And it will have to provide for the local power-balance as well as the regional and tribal sensitivities of modern Yemen.

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Candidates having experience as assistant branch manager or senior loan officer of medium to large size branch may also apply. They will be selected as trainee branch managers and undergo a training period of at least 6 months at the bank's head office.

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Degree in Accounting/Finance with minimum of 5 years working experience in a reputable commercial bank as credit officer with a demonstrated ability in credit extensions, loan documentation, business development and inter-personal skills.

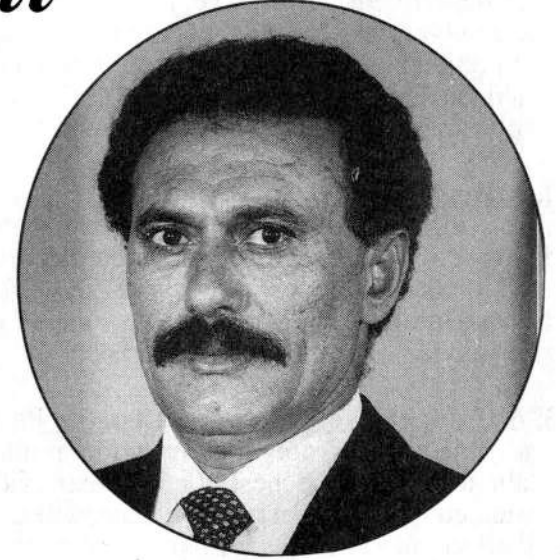
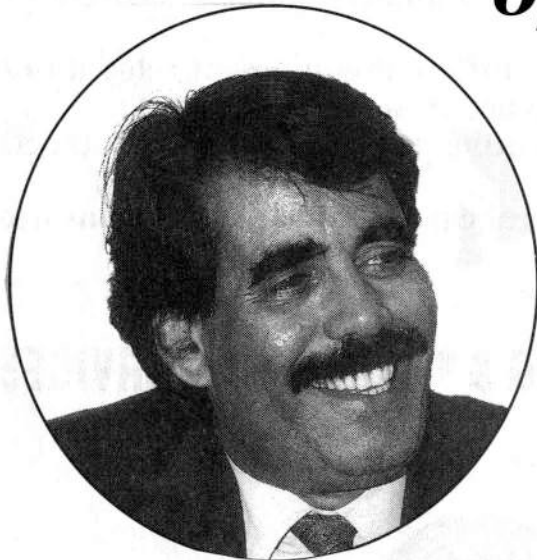
Good communication skills (English and Arabic), composure and the ability to meet demanding work loads will be key attributes for the job.

Please send CV with copies of certificates within 14 days to:

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تتقدم

بريتش غاز

بمناسبة ذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية الوحدة وعيد الجلاء
بأطيب تحياتها إلى الشعب اليمني وقيادته السياسية وحكومته.

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

BA Is Back!

It graciously landed at Aden International Airport. There was a large crowd at hand to cheer the BA bird, a DC10. There was another crowd at Sanaa International Airport to see the plane off in a direct non-stop flight to Gatwick.

Thus, on the 23rd of November, British Airways resumed direct flights between Gatwick and Yemen, after a break of more than a quarter of a century. It was indeed a joyous moment for the airline as well as for Yemen. British Airways, voted the world's best in the latest poll of frequent flyers by *Business Travel* magazine, has started a two-frequency service a week linking both Aden and Sanaa with London, thus offering the fastest flight time between Yemen and Britain. The flight takes just eight and a half hours.

London, as the world's leading international airline hub, also offers a smooth onward connection to almost fifty major cities across Europe and the United States.

On board the first flight was Middle East Area Manager, Alan Burnett. "We are delighted to be back providing services in Yemen," he said. "There are growing business ties between the UK and Yemen, and a large Yemeni community living in Britain. We look forward to playing a role in the development of Yemen's economy and the establishment of stronger communication with Europe and America," he added. The BA official also indicated that the airline has already initiated great cooperation with the Yemeni authorities, especially the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, as well as with local and international carriers. British Airways Manager in Yemen is David Cooper, a man on whose smile and efficient service customers can rely. "We have established our Sanaa and Aden offices, and we are now serving our customers," he said. Visibly

upbeat, Mr. Cooper expects rising business volume. "We promise to serve our customers to their satisfaction," in full confidence.

To cap it all, British Airlines agent in Yemen in UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, a top class travel agency with dynamic leadership. "We have high hopes to achieve excellent results in the very first year," explained Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, Chairman of Universal. Similarly enthusiastic is Omar Abdullah, the Universal General Manager.

British Airlines already flies to ten destinations in the Middle East. As the inheritor of a 60-year legacy of scheduled air services to the Middle East, BA definitely knows the place and feels at home in the market. It operates, in addition to Yemen, to Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

Mr. Mark Elliott, Deputy Undersecretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who is currently on an official visit to Yemen, was excited about the growth and consolidation of Yemeni-British relations. The return of British Airways to Yemen is another milestone in the bilateral relations. "It is also bound to open new opportunities for cooperation leading to mutual benefit," he said.

UK ambassador in Sanaa also had a lot of praise for the event. "It helps increase understanding and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries," he said.

Finally, Mr. Mohsin Al-Yusufi, Chairman of Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, grinned at a Yemen Times question regarding his feelings on the occasion. "We warmly welcome British Airways



international and local travellers. On arrival at London Gatwick, passengers can be met and assisted by BA Middle East Visitors Service, which is a unique service to the airline. Many potential customers are already planning on trying out the BA services. "I frequently travel to London. I might as well go with BA

and save time. Of course I am also hoping to avoid the headaches of delays and stop-overs," said a prominent businessman. Even travellers who are going to other destinations plan to take the BA flight. "Connections from London are smoothest and shortest," an oil executive working in Sanaa explained.

The strong BA introduction into the Yemeni market already disturbed the competition and for good reason. The BA137 services depart Gatwick at 11:30 on Tuesdays and Saturdays; while BA136 services depart Aden at 22:55 on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and Sanaa at 01:25 on Wednesdays and Sundays.



The airline also flies to 160 destinations in over 70 countries worldwide. It is the world's leading international passenger airline, carrying 28 million people - five times more than the nearest competitor - on the international network in 1992.


Alan Burnett underlined the importance of providing services tailored to the specific requirements of passengers travelling to and from the Middle East. "Quality is the key element of success in the aviation industry," he said. "We listen to our passengers and respond to their requests."

and we pledge our support and cooperation. We hope it all success," he said.

To mark the occasion, BA threw a sumptuous dinner party in which many speakers stressed the importance of the occasion. "It is clear BA wants to start its service with a big bang," commented one guest.

BA airways flights BA137 (inbound = to Yemen) and BA 136 (outbound = from Yemen) services feature Arabic-speaking cabin crew and a variety of menus. There is also a wide range of inflight entertainment offering a choice for both





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Abdul-Karim Al-Razihi:

"I am a long ranger."

Abdul Karim Al Razihi is a well known Yemeni writer. His sarcastic columns are a favorite reading material. His newspaper series - "The On-Saught" and "A Tribesman Looking for a Party to Join" are but examples of how sarcasm and satire combined with real politik can form a far-reaching and effective literature. Al-Razihi is, the Art Buchwald of Yemen. His work provokes anger and laughter, sorrow and joy - all at the same time. He makes us look silly. Yemen Times Cultural Editor Saad Salah Khalis talked to him and filed the following interview:



Q: You often repeat you are jinxed. What does that mean?

A: I really believe I have a lot of bad luck. Bad luck and I are stuck with each other as permanent companions.

Take for example the day I was born. My mother's white cow passed away. "My mother reminded me of this so many times that it has me worried. But you should understand that it was a big loss. The day I was circumcised, a day of festivity in any family, my grandma died.

On my first day as a shepherd on the mountain side, a plane passed by so low that it scared the hell out of my herd of sheep and goats. I lose quite a few of them.

Then there is the day I first rode a donkey, I fell off and broke my leg. My first time shopping at the village weekly market I was attacked and hit and a sack of vegetables was stolen. I was blamed for it.

When I first migrated to the big city - Aden - a big fire broke out in the quarter upon my arrival.

The first time I went to the movies, the film ended with the death of the hero. I went home sobbing.

The first time I fell in love, I went to sing for and court my beloved, I encountered a bucket load of dirt and filth over my head.

I received the news of my mother's death hours after passing my high school exams.

My first salary was stolen. The building of the newspaper that published my first poem caught on fire the next day after it ran my poem.

The first poem I recorded on tape for the TV station was postponed because there was a technical malfunction. I have addressed on air in the TV caused the stoppage of the most important literary program at the time.

It is an endless chain of unlucky events to be a mere coincidence. I remember when I was a child, my parents would always say that I was born on an evil hour, the hour in which the devil was passing by. So my family made sure I was carrying on me all the time charms, spells, amulets and verses from the Quran.

My late mother, may God bless her soul, was so worried about me that she consulted lots of "traditional doctors" asking them to

provide her son with protection against demons and evil spirits. They always confirmed her fears - and by extension, now - mine.

Q: Which political party do you belong to?

A: Since my early childhood, I was a loner. I have a free spirit which refuses to be confined by rules and regulations and do's and don't's. So, a man like me can never become a party member or be framed into an ideological structure. In my opinion, the writer must stay ever loyal to that seed of search, to the drive of knowledge within him/herself. Ideologies and party platforms are both cages to which people are often locked. We must work to make that seed grow and maintain the freedom.

Creativity and ideology may never meet as is the case for party affiliation and freedom. To write freely you have to stay free from the dictates and constraints of the party. I have no doubt that the party, any party, castrates writers, poets and all creators just as the state does. The party is a power, and every power is a chain around the neck of creativity and free spirits.

So why choose to chain myself when I can choose freedom. This does not mean I have no political ideas and position. I do. But my ideas are not a replication of any party's stand.

There are, unfortunately, many talented Yemeni writers and poets whose of their party affiliation.

Q: Given your style and approach, where do you put yourself in the literary map of Yemen?

A: When I write, I don't intend to side with this or that group. When I write, I do it spontaneously. I write about things as I see and feel them not as I read about them. I am a bookworm, but my psyche was never based on books. It was rather based on my daily contact with people around me and life that keeps going on.

Regarding my place on the literary map of Yemen, I guess it is the reader who has the right to decide. It is the readers' opinion which really counts. But I can tell you one thing - I have a large base of readership which transcends political parties and regions of the country.

Q: What we are witnessing now in Yemen, what is it? Is it real freedom?

A: Freedom is word that doesn't exist in the Arabic dictionary as the Egyptian writer Youssif Idris once noted. "The level of freedom available in the Arab world doesn't suffice one Arab citizen." What we see here is anarchy not freedom, and anarchy is the worst calamity of all. There is nothing more dangerous that can strike any society. In the shadows of anarchy, every thing becomes vague and undefined - equal as nothing. I think this is what is going on in Yemen.

Q: How do you earn your living?

A: In Yemen, the writer never earns his/her living from writing. Otherwise he/she earns fear, hatred and enemies. For example, you start to write, then you get your work published and suddenly, you hear calls to whip you, to lock you, to bring you down. You have blasphemed. You have gone beyond the red line, you have written about taboo subjects. Instead of the 500 rials remuneration you get for having written an article or a poem published by a newspaper, instead you find out that there are people who are demanding your head - your execution. You are looking for 500 rials and they want your head off.

The writer in Yemen never earns anything either morally or materially - all he/she earns is threats and insults. Even if he/she does get something, it is never compensates for the insults he/she gets, let alone threats and accusations.

For example, my serial in *Al-Shura* newspaper was the reason for me receiving many letters of threat, and over 50 insulting phone calls. Party people accuse me of being partial, or anti-tribal, etc. accuse me of ridiculing tribes.

Writing in Yemen is a suicidal job, not of course for those who choose to oblige the centers of power.

Let me say, however, that I am employed by the Center arch and Yemeni Studies.

Q: What do you read what makes you tick?

A: I read freely and never

confine myself to certain books. My reading is neither systematic nor organized, just like my life.

I don't now what makes me tick. I suppose it is contextual.

Q: What do you think of unification of Yemen?

A: No unification is really achieved until now except for the televised ceremony. They celebrated, hoisted the flag, divided the chairs and the central bank money, but they never achieved unification. Unification is something much larger than those ceremonies. Whatever has been achieved is itself being threatened. Unless we protect our nation by deep measures, effective reforms and total merger of armies and security bodies., we cannot hope this thing will last.

Q: Bread or freedom - where is the priority?

A: Life cannot go on without either of them. Because he who gives you bread and takes away your freedom is confiscating your right to life. Bread and Freedom are two cornerstones of contemporary human life and giving a priority to one over the other is nonsense. In The Arab world, we still miss both bread and freedom.

We are cursed by leaders who confiscate our rights to both - bread and freedom. In Yemen for instance, we have "democracy," but in reality, foes of democracy are the ones who reap the fruits as they get richer and more powerful. In such backward societies such as ours, where illiteracy forms 80% of the population and poverty threatens the majority, democracy cannot be but a tool in the hands of the forces of the past.

This doesn't mean that I am against democracy or I am supporting those who claim that democracy is not suitable for our society. Or that it is not the right time for its application. What I want to affirm is that democracy is far more of service to the dictators of the former regimes because it has given them the legitimacy they sought to consolidate their positions.

Now our rulers are acting under the umbrella of freedom and democracy committing corruption

freely, openly and fearlessly. The rich are getting richer and more powerful than they were three years ago. They are even more democratic and stronger believers in political plurism and human rights.

Q: Abdul Karim Al Razihi the poet, theaterist, novelist and journalist. What are your major works?

A: I write poems, novels, plays and articles and columns for the press. I have published two collections of poems and a collection of short stories. Other works are under printing at the moment. But I'm not satisfied yet with what I have written, and I consider everything that I have already done as being proof of the long journey ahead.

Q: What are your private and public dreams?

A: I have no more dreams, not anymore. No small ones, nor big ones. No private ones, nor public ones. The reality of oppression has taken away all my dreams. Once upon a time, I had a beautiful dream. As a child I dreamed of being a famous football player.

Q: How did you choose sarcastic literature as a way of expression?

A: Sarcasm is the way of expression suitable for the times we live in. Sarcastic writing is the most capable of revealing the paradox of our current situation, its ailments, deceit of standing relations and ridicule of this stage. For Sarcasm emerges out of the despair and makes our deep pains funny. It helps deepen our awareness of the dramatic situation that - plop - turns into a comedy. What I am saying is that when you are most joking you could be dead serious. Sarcasm is serious business. I didn't choose this type of writing to make people laugh or to make them have a good time, it is rather my way of expressing myself and the world around me.

As a person I have suffered a lot and went through too much pain. I had bitter experience to unbearable extents. Sarcasm was my tool in overcoming pain and fear, and my philosophy in confronting difficulties and resisting sorrow, despair and collapse. The future will decide what is literary and what is journalistic, as our lives run longer over time. It is the readers and time which decides the fate of literature - not the critics or writers - with my due respect for them all.

Q: What about your electoral experience?

A: I got into the battle of elections and went out filled with wounds and stabs, polluted with accusations and curses. All that because I entered as an independent candidate, with no support of any tribe or authority or a party, or even a group to encourage me. What really hurt me was not my failure, but the position of YSP people who I was always accused as being one of

them. They were the cruelest group on me, they have thrown accusations over my head, took out their bayonets and daggers and put them into my chest. The accused me of conspiring to scatter their votes, in spite of my being the first candidate in my area.. they accused me that PGC had financed my campaign and that president Ali Abdullah Saleh has called me personally to attend to presidential palace and gave me one million riyal in order to sand for YSP in area 9! They claimed that this was guaranteed for him until Al Razihi came and made the damage... etc They forgot all other areas and competitors and Al Razihi became their party's number one enemy.

What really struck me and got mad most of all are my intellectual friends, relatives and village mates who were party members. They were afraid of my success more than of the failure of their candidate. They were acting against me for that simple reason more than for the success of their party candidate.

Come to think of it, I thank God that I have failed. Otherwise they would have stepped up their attacks. But away from all those pains, I would say that it was a great experience for me as I came out with clear conclusions about how the political system works and the facade of democracy.

Q: Qat, which you call the Green Imam of Yemen. Any comments?

A: Qat, as I said more than once, is the opium of our people. It is the green Imam who rules over our republic. It is the key for everything and it is central to all our social occasions. It is the unexplainable that explains everything.

Q: What is the role of the intellectuals in building Yemeni Society?

A: Yemeni intellectuals accept to serve as humble followers for the state or the party, thus turning themselves into subordinate beings.

Q: Some people say you of fabricate the dialogue among your characters?

A: They are right...

Q: What relationship do you aspire between the writer and the state?

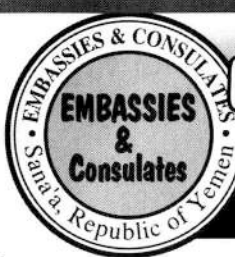
A: Now it is a business relationship. The state pays, and the writer obliges in his writings. I hope for a different relationship.

Q: Do you have a hope the country will get out of the crisis?

A: I really don't think so, but I keep my fingers crossed for the sake of the nation.

Q: What are the peculiarities of the Yemen personality?

A: It is a past-oriented character mainly of no future. The society has to look forward if we are to catch up with the 21st century. It is a must.



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OPPOSITION PARTY DOESN'T MEAN ENEMY

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf:
Sanaa University.

Our specialists and scholars, especially the political scientists have not done their job well enough. I have been trying hard to find out how much they have written or how often they have lectured on the rules of this new game called democracy. That partly explains why some of the values and principles of the system have not been fully understood, even by the educated urban middle class

and elites. One confused concept has to do with the meaning of "opposition" in a democratic system. As far as I know, opposition in a democracy really means 'partner' rather than enemy. Of course, it refers to the group sitting outside the system waiting for those inside to make enough mistakes, capitalize on them, and hopefully replace them. But that does not make them enemies in the sense we Arabs, or more generally, the

way Semites understand the word. Take the Yemeni context. Opposition is take, ironically by both sides, to mean enemy. I told a PGC senior official that opposition really does not mean enemy, it means a sort of partner. His answer was telling. "So what would you call the YSP. Come to think of it that again is enemy." In other words, instead of two levels of partnership, our friend has concluded he has two levels of enemies.

There you have it folks. You can realize the amount of work that needs to be done if I tell you that the person I talked to is an "educated" politician.

It is a learning process, but we have to get the basic facts right if we genuinely want to democratize. Of course, it is a totally different matter if some of our politicians are just using democratization as a means to remain in power, as (US Undersecretary of State) Edward Djerejian recently said.

Our scholars need to help educate the public and politicians about these concepts and principles. This way, we play the game right, and understand the concepts better. I think this is a key role our political scientists and scholars can play instead of trying hard to become politicians themselves.



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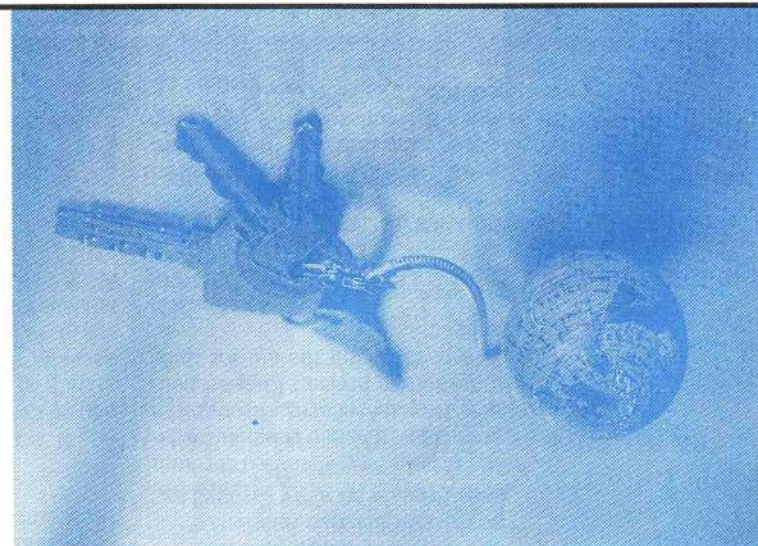
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