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AMMAN: The Yemenis Are Coming

By: Yemen Times staff.

Any time now, a decision is about to be taken regarding how to wrap up the reconciliation deal that is almost concluded among the coalition partners - PGC, YSP and Islah. The YSP Political Bureau has endorsed the agreement document is its meetings in Aden over the last few days.

There are two sets of documents. The first is a document on the issues the partners have agreed upon, and for which an implementation time program is being worked out. The main components of this document are an expanded version of the seven-point deal reached earlier. (Please refer to Yemen Times issue No. 43 of October 31st.)

The other document is about the issues on which no common ground has been reached, and regarding which the dialogue committee, now enlarged to include representative from the opposition and the Federation of Patriotic Forces, continues talking. The sensible decision of starting the implementation of the points on which agreement

has been reached and to continue to talk about the other points was taken at the highest level in all three parties on Thursday (9th (December). All sides are working to move more points from the unfinished document to the finished one before the leaders of the coalition partnership travel to Amman to sign it.

King Hussain of Jordan is just as willing to come to Yemen, if the coalition leaders want to sign the document here, provided they agree where they want to do it. The problem has been that Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Vice President and Secretary-General of the YSP, has strong reservations about coming to Sanaa before full agreement is reached and special arrangements are made. Although Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President and Secretary-General of the PGC is willing to literally "go anywhere," including a trip to Aden, to conclude a deal, it is unlikely, he will do so. Hence, the choice of a foreign location. King Hussain invited both men and both agreed. A number of Arab countries friendly to Yemen will be sending representatives to the signing ceremony. Among those confirmed are the Sultanate of Oman, the PLO, Libya, Syria and the Arab League.

One of the main developments from the agreement is to reactivate the paralyzed government of Al-Attas. One serious consideration, still to be agreed upon, is a government that represents all political forces in the Yemeni scene.



"The dialogue committee will also travel along to witness the occasion," explained Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif, representative of the FPF and Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee of the Dialogue Committee.

There is a race against time, as all sides are working to conclude the deal before new year's eve. The target date, for now, is Saturday December 25th.

Over this last weekend, the completed document was taken by the negotiating teams to their parties for approval. The prime minister, Mr. Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, travelled to Aden to obtain the approval of the Political Bureau of the YSP. Dr. Abdul-kareem Al-Iryani has consulted the General Committee of the PGC, and Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Aanisi has referred to the Supreme Board of the Islah.

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Economic Adjustment: Please Be Serious!

Amin Nouisser,
Economic Editor, Yemen Times.

Yemenis call it "siyasat attarheel," meaning the policy of postponement. Although the economy is hurting badly, decision of any adjustment program or even some minor steps have been doggedly delayed. Even the IMF team which was supposed to visit here in mid-November decided to stay away until Yemen has a functioning government. The IMF's new target date for arrival is January 1994, but that too, could be pushed off indefinitely until Yemen sorts out its political problems which have paralyzed everything.

The dollar exchange rate is again rising. On the day this paper went to the press, the parallel market rate was above YR 58 per US dollar. The inflation rate is around 40%, and the unemployment rate is a troubling 27%. The low savings rate is primarily due to an undervalued capital rate which commands a negative savings rate, thanks to a sleeping Central Bank of Yemen.

The budgetary deficit this year is already approaching a staggering YR 35 billion, thanks to a highly politicized minister of finance. New government investment was at only YR 4 billion - the lowest in ten years, while private investment by locals was also at its lowest in a long time.

The requirements of the reform package are clear. The first requirement is to sack the governor of the central bank and the minister of finance and bring in specialists and make sure they are not beholden to the political leadership. Streamlining the bureaucracy to weed out the rotten parts is a second step. If we are serious about reforms, the situation can be salvaged.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Healing Touch of "Trust"

An increasing number of people are disturbed by the repeated crises between our politicians. The inability of Yemeni politicians to work together, thus exposing the nation, at best to paralysis and indecision, and at worst to civil war and violence. The main missing factor in the relations between the so-called unity partners or coalition partners is the element of *trust and goodwill*. They do not trust one another, and for good reason.

Now, there have been steady efforts to work out a national construction program based on the demands placed by various sides, but mainly the YSP. This is a good beginning, and it will help control the situation by stopping the complications. But, the people involved in the dialogue should build trust and confidence among the actors in Yemen's political scene. Trust is the one thing that will allow the different components of authority to interact positively and constructively. That is why the talks should be geared not only towards the mechanical implementation of the demands of this or that party, but towards the creation of an environment in which trust and goodwill prevail.

One important step towards creating this environment is to agree on a set of ideals and to measure the decisions and actions of all parties against them. This will allow a common yardstick for measurement, and it will thus give all sides the ability to reach similar conclusions. The problems of our politicians grew because of the shrinking role of ideals and high morals. No nation at all in the history of humanity was able to rise up and attain high achievements without strong moral and idealist underpinnings.

The press in particular, and the media in general, could be used to shame and thus control the behavior of our politicians and senior officials if an environment of high morals and attachment to idealism exist in society. A frustrated public that no longer believes in high ideals and morals accepts much wrong-doing from its officials. The absence of these values then makes the politicians distrust one another in their competition to amass more wealth and more power.

The on-going reconciliation dialogues and negotiations must make the building of trust based on high morals as one of its important goals. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to straighten scrupulous politicians, but it is something that has to be done to avoid in-fighting among them.

The Publisher
عبد الحكيم

Indonesian Foreign Minister in Sanaa

Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Al-Attas, is scheduled to arrive in Sanaa in mid-January, 1994. In response to an official invitation, Al-Attas will meet with Yemeni officials with the aim of coordinating political stand and in the hope of increasing economic cooperation.

Indian Activities

The Indian Embassy is again organizing a Charity Bazaar on Friday, January 14th. The main attractions in the bazaar, which recurs annually, are Indian food, music, garments, handicrafts and many games. The proceeds of the bazaar, which will take place between 12:00 - 16:00 hours, will go to charitable institutions.

At another level, a group of Indian amateur artists residing in Sanaa will be staging a Malayalam social drama titled SAMADHI at the hall of the Center for Research and Yemeni Studies. The play starts at 6:00 p.m. on December 16th.

Yemeni-American Cooperation

Richard Holmes, President of the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, concludes tomorrow, Monday, December 13th, a week-long visit to the Republic of Yemen. Although he termed the trip as "an acquaintance visit" he has managed to build solid relations with many Yemeni businessmen which in itself is "an investment for future relations."

Hans Blix Concludes Visit to Yemen

Mr. Hans Martin Blix, General Manager of the International Atomic Energy Agency, left Sanaa yesterday, Saturday, December 11th. During the visit, he met a number of senior officials in order to complete formalities for Yemen's membership to the agency and its adherence to its conditions. Mr. Blix also enlisted Yemen's support in making the region free from nuclear weapons.

Census Ready to Roll

All maps and zoning arrangements have been fully completed, according to Central Statistics Organization sources. The national census campaign planned for next month is ready to roll.

MAN OF THE YEAR INVITATION

The Yemen Times is happy to invite its readers to send their applications and proposals to the committee to choose the 1993 Man of Year.

The conditions are:
1. Success in life and profession.
2. Contribution to the general welfare of society.

Deadline to receive your proposals is 26 December, 1993.

Yemen Introduces Automated Mail Service

Two training sessions in the automated electronized mail service were inaugurated on December 9th. The 42 participants came from various parts of the country to learn how to handle the new machines.

YSP Accepts the Agreement Document

The Political Bureau of the Yemen Socialist Party issued a communique welcoming the document of agreed points, which was worked out by the Dialogue Committee. "Now we just have to agree of a timetable for the implementation of these points," a senior YSP official said. There was a sigh of relief all over the country with last week-end's developments.

Sawt Al-Ommal's Sanaa Office Attacked

A bunch of armed (qabili) men arrived in front of *Sawt Al-Ommal* newspaper's Sanaa office at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday December 11th. They immediately reached out for the kalashnikovs and fired shots at the windows and signboards of the newspaper. The tribesmen asked for the reporters of the newspapers, saying they really wanted to lay their hands on them. They created a stir for about half an hour before they left.

One hour later, policemen came and asked about what had happened. It will be noted that the *Sawt Al-Ommal's* Sanaa office is less than 300 meters from the Republican Palace. It will be further noted that *Sawt Al-Ommal* is highly critical of the state and the PGC.

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Development Assistance from Arab Bloc:

Although dramatically reduced from the 4.72% peak of the 1970s given the fall in oil revenues, Arab assistance to developing countries continues to outstrip the level of other donor in terms of percentage to GNP. The Arab countries are providing, at the moment, provides 0.84% of their combined GNP, above the UN recommended 0.7%, and well above the 0.38% extended by the OECD countries.

Total Arab aid over the last two decades amounted to \$ 140 billion. This aid was and continues to be channelled through two systems: multilateral regional organizations, and development funds, and national aid agencies and institutions.

Of the total aid package, over 71% (some \$ 100 billion) was dispensed through bilateral national programs. This makes Arab aid highly volatile and sensitive to political and other considerations. There are many cases where bilateral assistance was terminated or significantly boosted because of political considerations.

Of the total bilateral package, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's contributions represented US\$ 64 billion, Kuwait's \$ 18 billion, the UAE's \$ 10 billion, Iraq's \$ 2 billion, and Algeria's \$ 1.2 billion.

The balance of \$40 is dispensed through regional organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank (whose contribution was \$ 11.2 billion), the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (\$5.2 billion), the Opec Fund (\$3.9 billion), the Arab Monetary Fund (\$2.4 billion), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (\$ 1 billion), etc.

Over half (58.7%) of the total external aid was allocated to the poorer Arab countries, followed by 23.5% to the (South) Asian countries, 15.9% to black Africa, 1.2% to Latin America, and 0.44% to other nations (especially in Eastern Europe).

Most Arab assistance is either in grant form or concessional loans. The terms of the loans offer the low interest rates and long payment periods, in addition to a substantial grace period.

Russia Seeks to Revive Role as Major Supplier of Weapons to Mid-east:

Russia is upgrading its arms industry to revive its role as a major arms supplier to the Mid-east and other regions in 1994, a senior Russian official said a week ago.

"We no longer have any presence in some markets, but we hope to return to them," Mikhail Malei, defence adviser to President Boris Yeltsin, said. "As of 1994, we will revive our usual activity and I hope that we regain our position in the arms markets and even attain more. We are capable of exporting \$10-12 billion worth of new weapons per year, although our arms exports plunged to \$3.5 billion in 1992," he added.

Malei said the disintegration of the Soviet Union had pushed Russia's arms production and exports "to the bottom of the list of priorities." Yeltsin was now personally supervising arms exports and had ordered an eight-fold rise in the minimum wage for arms industry workers as an incentive to boost production, he added.

Malei said Russia would not sell outdated weapons as the Soviet Union had. It would offer only new weapons such as a new type of artillery shell, planes, missiles and visual equipment which it has started to display at weapons fairs.

"We can also saturate the market with spare parts for our weapons," he added.

Malei said Russia would produce arms and ammunition suitable for desert and tropical use and would continue making cruise missiles and Mig fighter planes.

"We will continue developing all light (weapons) that can be easily transported by sea, air or land, and all that is computerized and can provide communication amongst troops on the battlefield," he said.

At another level, Russia, launched a new drive to head off any expansion of Nato towards its own borders, and has offered new proposals for building a European security system that will not leave it isolated.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev outlined Moscow's views at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers with their counterparts from Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics, a senior Russian diplomat told reporters.

Russian is worried about Ukraine's refusal to give up long-range nuclear weapons on its soil, and is confused as to how it should deal with conflicts in the Caucasus and whether Nato will take in Eastern European nations keen to join the alliance.

"We would like to have a new system of European security, in which Russia must be included," said the Russian diplomat.

"Since the end of the Warsaw Pact, what we have now is just one strong pillar - Nato - and it seems the alliance is not very sure about its new functions."

Washington Ready to Double Aid Flight to Yugoslavia:

The US military, standing ready to double humanitarian flights into former Yugoslavia, has already brought in more than 30,000 metric tons of food and supplies in a mission lasting longer than the famed Cold War Berlin airlift.

US air crews began flying relief supplies into Sarajevo on July 3rd, 1992, about 17 months ago. By comparison, the 1948-49 airlift to supply Berlin lasted 15 months.

At present, US military aircraft make about six supply flights into Sarajevo daily. They also complete about six air drop flights nightly to areas inaccessible to land convoys. The number of flights can vary, given weather or other complications. Air Force C-130 cargo planes take off from Rhein-Main Air Base near Frankfurt, Germany, for Sarajevo and leave supplies there. They usually fly on to the port of Split to pick up additional supplies, return to

Sarajevo to drop them off and then fly back to Rhein-Main.

The run is a gruelling trip, because some of the flights can last 12 hours, Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen Delaski said of the flights and air drops at a briefing last week.

"It's a tough ride each time, and the folks who do it don't get a lot of credit," She added.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that the administration was ready to contribute an additional \$ 150 million in winter aid to Bosnia's battered civilians.

He said that could include doubling the number of relief flights. Ms. Delaski said, "We could start increasing them right away."

However, she said the initiative must have United Nations' approval. In addition, the international aid pipeline involved in "Operation Provide Promise" may need some adjusting to increase efficient delivery of relief supplies into the region. "Air drops also require a major logistics system on the ground to unload and store the material."

تصدير

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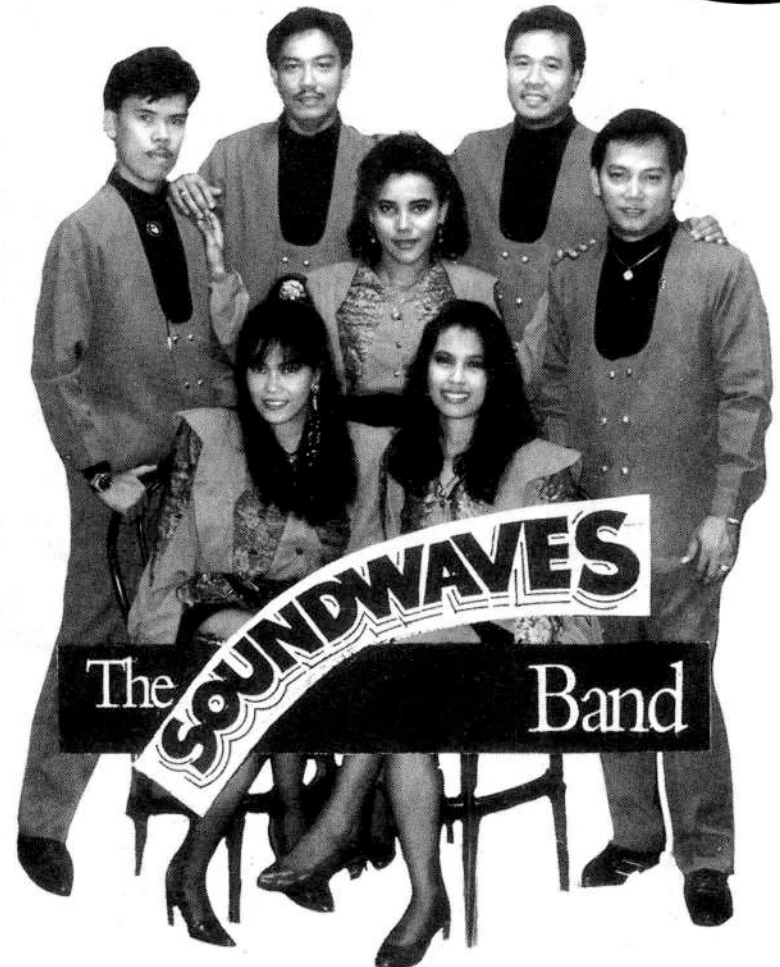
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EGYPTAIR

THE TAIZ MARSHLANDS

By: Derek Harvey,
Yemeni Ornithological Soc.

The last time I visited the ponds and wetlands of Taiz was with the company of fifty birdwatchers, 35 of whom were young Yemenis from the Mohammed Othman School. Here is a complex of oxidation ponds which treat the sewage effluent from Taiz by means of a series of large lakes which drain through filters one into the next. This is a very good way to treat sewage. Solids settle at the bottom and decompose, and the liquids, including waste water, are oxidized by sunlight. The effluent water from the final lake drains into a large water meadow which provides rich pasture for the cattle to graze there, and also a natural source of food for birds such as egrets and Ibis.

In two days, we identified 75 species of birds in the area of the ponds as well as a number of fascinating insects and animals, including colorful locusts and grasshoppers and a chameleon. The ponds attract a large variety of duck and wading birds, and we were able to record several that are rare in Yemen. This richness of the environment itself attracts a great variety of birds of prey which feed on the birds, reptiles and insects that abound there.

We identified no less than eleven different species of eagle and hawk, many of them birds that nest in Europe and Asia, and come south to Yemen in the winter where the warmth and abundance of food make life easier for them.

Our main objective was to look for the very rare Bald Ibis. This is a bird now so rare that there are probably only a few hundred left in the World. It has been seen in the winter, in very small numbers, at the Taiz marshes several times in the last few years. No one knows where they breed, nor even where they go from here for the summer, and



more study is needed before a plan can be evolved to protect them. We did not see them this time. Maybe they will come in December; maybe they are already becoming extinct in Arabia.

We don't know. But the Mohammed Ali Othman School bird club will keep looking this winter to record them if they appear.

There are a number of important things to note about our bird-watching efforts in the Taiz marshes. The first is that a large group of young Yemenis were keen enough to want to come out birding at their weekend. They wanted to make lists of what they saw, and they were keen to use all the available supply of binoculars and telescopes to get a close look at the birds that were there. There are now three schools that have formed bird clubs, and fund

has been started, with support from international groups, to help provide books and binoculars so that they can get out into the countryside and look at the wildlife around them. Bird-

watching is a very good hobby, and the marshes offer a handy outlet. Very little expense is incurred - once binoculars and a book are purchased and gets people into the open air. It teaches people to use their eyes and to see what they have never really seen before, and it teaches patience, how to be quiet, and how to record accurately what is seen. Young people are the adults of tomorrow and their interest and enthusiasm are the best guarantee of protection for Yemen's natural heritage.

Secondly, it demonstrated to a lot of people what a rich variety of wildlife is present, even close to a big city, and how birds and animals use available conditions to provide the food and shelter they need. There are a lot of such places in Yemen, unspoiled by humans and rich in wildlife and plants. These places should be recognized and protected as sanctuaries for wildlife before urban expansion and uncontrolled agricultural drainage destroy them. The Taiz marshlands are a good example of an area where all live in harmony. The ponds provide nutrient-rich water for the meadows which support herds of cattle and camels. The surroundings are irrigated and grow sequences of crops, and everyone, including the birds that use the area as a winter refuge, benefits. When nature is in balance like this, the future is sage, and our children will continue to enjoy the sight of thousands of bird in beautiful surroundings. So how about declaring the Taiz marshes and lakes a national wildlife refuge?



CHILDHOOD WHICH IS NEVER LIVED

The following is a very tragic story, which is not invented by a writer with a fantastic imagination or a dramatist. It is written by an observer who saw and heard its events unfold in reality.

I was once invited to a wedding party, and the first thing drew my attention was the band which consisted of three women and one boy of twelve years old. The boy was so cute, wearing a nice suit and holding a drum in his tiny hands. He was singing love songs and I don't think he realized the meaning of one word of the songs. He didn't look at the beautiful women while they were dancing. The reason is clear: he was too young to be interested.

The whole situation was very interesting to me, and I couldn't wait to take a closer look at the band. Oh! my God! I was shocked with what I saw. The little boy was chewing qat!

When the band stopped for a break I went and talked to one of the female members of the band. I asked, "Why is the boy chewing qat?" She answered readily, "Because we don't want him to fall asleep." "But he is too young to do that, and why is he in your band, anyway?" was my other question. The woman looked at me as if I came from another planet. But still she answered very shortly "to earn money."

I couldn't stop myself I had to ask more questions; why does he need to earn the money and where are his parents? Then I learned the full sad story of the boy.

His father died and his mother got married to another man who didn't accept responsibility for the woman's four children from her

previous husband. The children decided to go and live with their grandfather who could not provide for them. Hence their need to work at an early age.

Most of the load turned on the boy, as he is the eldest. He took responsibility for his three young sisters, as well as for the old folks.

"Does he go to school?" I asked still curious to know more about the boy. The woman said "Yes, and he always gets high grades." Then I told the woman that, after four or five years, the boy will not be allowed to enter women's parties as he will be an adult. She replied, "Yes, after that God will take care of the family."

All the time while I was talking to the woman, the boy was listening to us half-heartedly as if it has nothing to do with him. Finally, he smiled and asked me in a very sarcastic tone. "Are you a journalist or what?" I said I was just a curious person. I would really like to see how and what he and his sisters' life will be in ten years. Only God knows what kind of life is awaiting them.

This child reminded me of the children who are hired to walk and chant religious verses during funerals procession. They are paid five rials a person.

Such children are not living their childhood, but they're existing. Their spontaneous smiles and their innocent faces vanish and fade away quickly. To put them back is very difficult. Ours is really a wild and inconsiderate world.

May God have mercy on us all. AMEN!

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The Concept of Human Rights in Islam

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Indonesian National,
Sanaa.

As a Muslim, I believe God is the absolute and sole master of the universe and all forms of life on it. Within this understanding, man was created to take charge of this world as heir to God. Moreover, as man was created in God's, he (she) shares in the dignity of God, because God "fashioned him and breathed into him of His spirit..." (Quran 32:9) It follows that, united in God and through Him, all human beings are the same and equal at birth. No distinction can be or should be made in terms of color, sex, accidental place of birth, race, nationality, etc. Distinction does come and people take varying places in society on

the basis of their input. The Quran says: "O Mankind! We have created you male and female, and have made you into many nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Lo! The noblest among you, in the Sight of Alla, is the best in conduct." (Quran 49:13). We thus conclude that the human rights of all individuals are the same and equal, and what differentiates between people is their own action. Islam dictates that human rights should not be restricted by the geographic limits of the state. Human beings are responsible to make right any wrong done to another human being. That is the Prophet has said, "If you see any wrong, make it right. If you cannot do so, at least say and explain it should be righted. If you

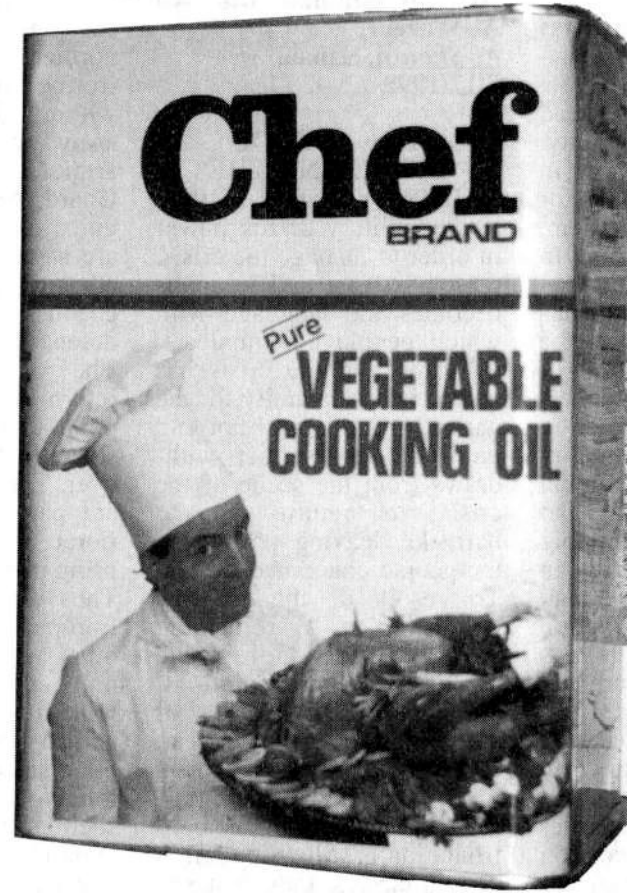
cannot right it yourself, or even speak about it, at least do so in your heart." The Quran carries many verses to the same effect. One of them reads: "Oh ye who believe. Be steadfast witnesses for All in equity, and let not hatred of any people drive you not to deal justly. Deal justly for that is better. Observe your duty to Allah. Lo! Allah is informed of what you do." (Quran 5:8). Oppression is one of the worst kinds of crimes according to Islamic legislation. Rulers are supposed to govern by what God has ordained as the Quran says, "Whoso judgeth not by that which Allah hath revealed, such are disbelievers." (Quran 5:44). The concept here is that human rights are inalienable in that they are God-given. Therefore, no human being can withdraw the rights of another. They cannot be amended, let alone withdrawn by even by the legislative bodies. The Quran says: "Lo! We reveal unto thee the Criptures of Truth that thou mayest judge between mankind by that which Allah showeth three." (Quran 4:105) It is unfortunate, therefore, that most human rights violations are committed today in Muslim countries.

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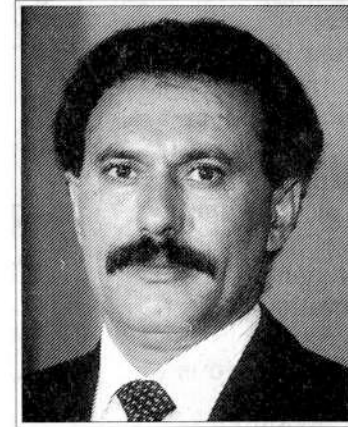
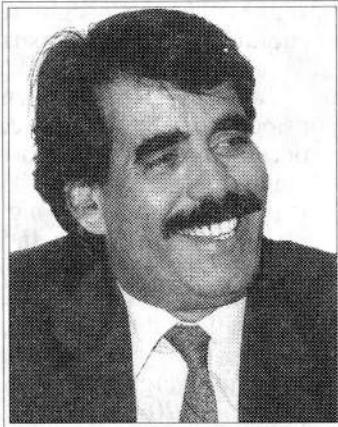
بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة والعشرين للإستقلال الوطني والذكرى الرابعة لتوقيع إتفاقية الوحدة

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THE PILLRS OF SECURITY

The security situation in the country is deteriorating continuously. It seems that there is no bottom to the pit in which we are falling. The situation resembles those early days of the making of America - the days of the cowboys.

In those days, hegemony was for the quick shooting fast-deciding gangster. It is a fact that such a situation will lead to more irresponsibility, indifference, negligence in all the other things/issues for there will mean no system, no law and no stability. In short, we can say that there is no state, for a state means protection, respect for the law, and implementation of development all levels without discrimination.

The deterioration in stability has many aspects including the continued spreading and storing of arms in the big cities and particularly in Sanaa. This intensive and extensive arms distribution has no need/cause for it adds to the feeling of insecure and unsafe.

It is self-evident that the level of security in any society represents the degree of credibility of the ruler without which the foundation of the system is indeed very shaky. The situation has transformed the capital Sanaa into an arms depot with an eye to turning it into a field of battle. Thus the capital has become unsafe. There are also some prominent figures who surrounded themselves with a big contingency of armed bodyguards chosen from among their tribesmen, thus also turning their homes, offices, etc. into fortifications and military camps. In addition,

the kidnapping of foreigners and taking them as hostages for whatever reason has become an easy mechanism to pressure the state. The solution lies in controlling arms in the cities. We should disarm everybody without hesitation, otherwise, there is no existence for the state.

By: **Mohammad Bin Ali Al-Wazeer, Al-Shoura, Sanaa, 5/12/1993**

THE RISK OF INVOLVING THE MILITARY IN THE CRISIS

If the military seizes power in order to manage the crisis, reason retreats and weapons becomes the language with which people communicate. It seems that the crisis has turned into a calamity for the nation, and this will not end until the last soldier withdraws from the scene of the crisis to return to the barracks, leaving politics to the people concerned with it. To resort to the military option is something unwanted for the people don't accept partial solutions. They are after full victory or a surrender to a defeat. Therefore, pushing soldiers into crisis is a great risk.

It seems that a military confrontation is still an option in certain circles, though it has been put on freeze, at the moment, but it has not been totally discarded. It is to be noted that the world following the Second World War began to contain militarization, and politicians didn't let the military interfere in politics. It seems that the political crisis in Yemen is beginning to get out of the hands of the politicians and into the hands of the military.

Hereby, we don't want to

prefer one side on the other - both have their roles to play in society. But any employment of armed forces to settle the crisis or even as a sign of political pressure is a catastrophe.

We know that the army in the southern governorates (former PDRY) is under the control of the YSP, but the case is different in the northern governorates (former YAR). Here, even within the regular/formal army, we notice three sub-armies: the Republican Guard, the Central Security units, the other units and all are steered from beyond the constitutional or legitimate channels of the ministry of defence.

The refusal of the units to return to their camps is a point to be thoroughly considered. The world concern over Yemen does not allow any part of the crisis to deteriorate too much or resort to using power as a solution.

Thus we see the American, European, the Japanese and other statements focus on unity and democracy. No one will support any adventure and in case it happens, it is but a suicide and no one will tolerate it, let alone forgiving such an action. The employment of the army in purposes outside its duties is one of the causes of the crisis.

Editorial, **Al-Mustaqbal, Sanaa, 5/12/1993**

AN EXTENSIVE LOCAL RULE IS THE SOLUTION

Everybody talks about the political crisis and a lot of people wrote about it. The parliament (and government) don't like the press to talk about the problem so as not to escalate it even further, as they think.

The media presents the crisis as a difference between two men: the president and vice president. There is also a belief that both men are capable of taking decisions and steps to end the crisis. A superficial approach puts it this way. Both men are responsible and they can find a solution.

Such a presentation has made millions waiting to applaud and hail the end of the crisis. The two partners who made the unity on 22 May, 1990, did not focus on disorder and corruption and all other ills. Both didn't expect such a deterioration in the security situation. Since the date of unity, a lot of bad things happened which in the absence of law and order. In short, we can say there was no state called the Republic of Yemen.

The ones ruling Yemen during the transitional period were not the two partners in reality - and they still not. The real rulers are a formation of different groups, parties, tribes, military and some chosen individuals of the upper classes. Therefore, no one has the power or courage to touch the interests of the real rulers of Yemen.

The two Ali's are not responsible for what is happening these days, for it is an embodiment of the struggle among the hidden rulers of Yemen. The rise in price levels, the devaluation of the local currency, the absence of justice, lack of development, the utter negligence, the plundering of public funds, the shortcomings at the bureaucratic and planning levels, etc., are all symptoms of the malaise. All these lead to many ills like general poverty, insecurity and instability.

The solution lies in dealing with the above groups effectively and without fear. It is fundamental to specify the faults and those standing behind them. We ask for an extensive local rule whatever you call it - federation or otherwise.

We ask for the construction of an independent judicial authority. There should be amendments regarding our educational programs. We should say no to weapons and military camps in our cities. We should adhere to the constitution and respect human rights.

Democracy starts from the regions not from parliament or the center. One thing is sure, the people don't want to go back to the ruling regimes of the past - whether in the south or in the north.

By: **Badir Salmeen Basuneid, Al-Ayyam, Aden, 1/12/1993**

WHAT CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY MEANS

Constitutional legitimacy in the advanced countries is contrary to the revolutionary legitimacy so much used in systems without legitimacy. There is a great difference between the two: In the first one, the system acquires legitimacy from the public by means of free, decent and open elections and it is based on the peaceful transfer of authority as the ballots dictate. In the second one, the system acquires legitimacy through usurping power in bloody or bloodless coups, and the public has to acquiesce.

Any ruler or leader who

assumes power through coups cannot be made a democrat and the regime does not respect human rights. Why? Because the political party supporting that regime is but a rubber-stamp, a decoration to the sole and despotic leader.

On this basis, real democracy can't be achieved because it is not imposed by the masses and their political organizations. The enactment of a constitution is not sufficient to protect democracy or pluralism. Thus, it is necessary to have institutions in addition to the constitution to protect the rights. We think our political parties should have the right to give their views to those who make mistakes and to assess those who work for the nation. But, the political crisis stopped all the democratic post-elections activities, as everything has reached a deadlock. Democracy here is a 'democracy' imposed by the rulers. The unity of Yemen is something eternal and we are not going to retreat from it. It is significant for all to be committed to unification and democracy.

Editorial **Al-Thawra, Sanaa, 7/12/1993.**

THE DISAGREEMENT IS REGARDING OUR UNITY AND NOT AGAINST IT!

The on-going conflict in intense, but neither side is ready or has the ability to retreat. It seems that events in Yemen are vague and often misunderstood and thus there is need to return to the basic elements. The basic difference between the PGC and YSP has to do with understanding the unification. The PGC understands the situation based on the following:

- There was an agreement on the achievement of unification with a transitional period which lasted for three years during which both sides agreed on dividing authority. That has ended with the elections.

- There were also parliamentary elections held according to the agreement of the two sides. The outcome of the ballots does not give the YSP the right of re-partition the country.

- The other point is that the southern governorates represents only 20% of the population.

-The PGC considers that the unification process has been accomplished, and that any new deals or partnerships should be congruent with the post-elections realities.

On the other hand, the YSP's point of view is based on the following:

- It is necessary to weigh things soundly for the 20% which the southern population form is not a mere figure. Our people have the honor to make this unity in equal partnership regardless of the numbers.

- The southern governorates make up a different proportion of the country's land-mass and the economic potential, than the population percentages.

- Unity is not a consignment to deliver to new owners. It is a joint engagement. Unity is a participatory effort aimed at achieving a balance between the two parts of the country.

In brief this the core of the conflict in Yemen and both

sides have expressed no intention to separate or to create a federation or confederation.

By **Bilal Al-Hassan, Al-Haq, Sanaa, 5/12/1993.**

TO UNDERSTAND THE CRISIS OF THE RULERS OF YEMEN

We can say that unification has caused a change in the political system of Yemen as well as the daily political conduct of our citizens at all levels. The two past regimes were in the hands of one party, tribe, region, family and one party could and did cancel everybody else within its former territory. This was true whether in the north or in the south.

The new reality is that the rulers felt that with the new changes, especially political pluralism, the new forces might push them out of the game if the rules of the new game are well observed. The old guard kumped into unification because they saw in it a solution to their old problems. Even then, they should respect unification as it is one of the greatest dreams-come-true of our people.

The transitional period did not give the citizen any thing to make him/her happy. The three past years should have convinced the rulers and their followers that a change has occurred in the world bringing new concepts, views and approaches. They should understand that the past is no more relevant and that separation, despotism, and plundering of state and society's wealth has no place in this new world. It is time to stop put an end to this crisis and to work to rescue the citizen from his/her agonies and pains.

Abdul Raheem Muhsin, Attagammu, Aden, 6/12/1993.

PROBLEMS IN SHORT

1. With the prevalence of such diseases as bilharziasis, malaria, cholera and others, we have become used to the sight of all kinds of ugly little ponds leaked out of drainage and sewer system in our cities and the neighboring villages. The problem is that solutions are not yet in sight, and with time, our communities will be plagued by permanent diseases.

2. Many returnees (former Yemeni immigrants in the Gulf countries) have decided to go back to till their lands which had remain fallow for a long time. That was good as they would have been unemployed in the cities, any way. But the problem is that many of the local sheikhs and influential people wanted to blackmail these returnees and have even blocked their access to the their own land. As a result the whole reclamation process has stopped. How can we help resolve this?

3. Many travellers are now either taking cloth with them for tailoring abroad, or simply buying ready-made garments whenever they travel out of the country. Our Yemeni tailors have only perfected the art of raising prices thus driving business outside the country. Will they listen to the market when it talks to them?

Back-page Editorial, **Al-Jumhuriyah, Taiz, 9/12/1993.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of the Republic of Yemen, has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) - Credit No. 2373 - YEM, in various currencies towards the cost of 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 procurments of VEHICLES.

2. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested Bidder on the submission of a written application to the following address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$100 or YR 1200:

The Project Manager,
The Land & Water Conservation Project,
P. O. Box (2805) - Sanaa,
(Behind the Old University Camps),
Telex: 2427 MAWR YE,
Telephone: 214613 / 213095,
Fax: 209509,
Republic of Yemen.

3. 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 address on or before 12:00 am on SUNDAY 30-01-1994.

4. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who choose to attend at 12:00 p.m. on JANUARY 30, 1994 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

إعلان مناقصة

تعلن وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية، ممثلة بمشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه بأن حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية قد حصلت على

قرض من هيئة التنمية (IDA) وبعملات مختلفة، وذلك لتمويل تكاليف مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه...

ويرغب المشروع في طرح مناقصة عالمية لتوريد سيارات ودراجات نارية فعلى الشركات المتخصصة في توريد تلك المستلزمات والبوكلاء المعتمدين والرغبين الإشتراك في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلب كتابي الى العنوان التالي:

مدير مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه.
صندوق بريد رقم (٢٨٠٥)
صنعاء - خلف مبنى الجامعة القديمة.
(بجوار مسجد عمار بن ياسر).

تلكس: ٤٢٧ MAWR
تلفون: ٢١٣٠٩٥/٢١٦٦١٣
فاكس: ٢٠٩٥٠٩
الجمهورية اليمنية

وذلك للحصول على وثائق المناقصة نظير رسم وقدره (١٠٠) مائة دولار أمريكي لا يرد أو مبلغ (١٢٠٠) ريال يمني.

على المتقدمين تقديم عطاءاتهم بظروف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر ومرفق ضمان ابتدائي بواقع ٢٪ من قيمة العطاء بموجب ضمان بنكي أو شيك مقبول الدفع ساري المفعول لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات...

آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات يوم ٣٠/١/١٩٩٤م الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً. وسيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في نفس اليوم والساعة (١٢ظهراً) بديوان وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية وبحضور المناقصين أو مندوبيهم...

والله ولي التوفيق...

JOURNALISM: Essential Questions!

Famous Quote:

"The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them, inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors..."
Thomas Jefferson

Controversy over errors and untruths in the media is not of recent coinage, as Jefferson's barbs suggest. From the historical beginnings of their profession, journalists, being human, have been dogged by the twin banes of miscommunication and personal prejudice. Miscommunication crops up when the news-person, quizzing people for information, attitudes, or analysis, inadvertently records their responses incompletely or incorrectly. From the outset, getting quotes from news sources exactly right in print has been a near-impossible task (except for the rare reporter possessed of total recall). The challenge has remained formidable from the era of the quill pen right up through the age of magnetic tape, when reporters often do not have enough time to check their imperfect notes against statements they may have recorded on Audio or video tape. And even when videotaped comments are put directly on the air (or "on the pages"), they suffer violence from time to time. Due to the fast-paced nature of the media and the dependency

on pithy sound bites which are often saved on failing cassette recorders, a news subject's comments can simply be misrepresented. Then there is the additional problem of editing. Because of considerations of space, language or simply paper policy, the story may become skewed through the snipping away of their context in the editing process. The twisting can be compounded if news-people misunderstand the news subject's views and a correspondent presents a misleading "explanation" to supplement the leanly edited story. Personal prejudice has also been journalists' constant companion through the centuries. They have had to wrestle with the fact that the information they were called on to process into finished articles was usually filtered willy-nilly through the distorting lens of their own personalities. Sometimes, such prejudice has actually been encouraged and vaunted in the interest of adding flair to news reports, or simply driven by making a political point. This is clear at times of political competition (e.g., elections) when the especially newspapers, are divided into various camps. Today many newspapers and radio and TV outlets take pride in being openly partisan, playing to a loyal readership that consumes their news and other stories with zest. However, partisan journalism is steadily coming under fire, as the search for truth and its objective pres-

entation have become the goal of modern journalism. Journalists and the public have come to embrace rigorous objectivity and fairness as the most noble ideals of the profession. Based on the standards set up in the last century by Horace Greeley's New York Tribune, Joseph Pulitzer's St. Louis Post-dispatch and the New York Time, reporters and editors all over the developed world have come to feel an obligation to present the public with an undistorted reflection of reality and with all sides in a debate. But in recent years, there seems to have been an unnerving number of incidents of outright fabrication of news stories, especially on television. The written press is more restrained because of the lasting nature of its product and because a newspaper can easily be produced at any time. The issue of fabrication and charges of bias deserve serious scrutiny, for they bear on the level of press freedom and on the quality of political freedom. Moreover, although a distorted story could be just a blip on the radar screen of a newspaper's integrity, it could scar it for a long time, and it could also augur an alarming scenario, indeed.

The Threat to Press Freedom and Democracy Is from Politicians
What has the experience of Yemen been when the media

was controlled exclusively by the former YAR and former PDRY? How badly underdeveloped was this sector, and how insensitive had it been to the public wishes, because it was so beholden to the ruling officials? What if a gradual restructuring in the core values of journalism were to take roots in our infant Republic of Yemen so that the social and political impact of a story - not its factuality - became the accepted yardstick by which to judge the story's quality? The recent letter to the editors in chief of the newspapers jointly signed by the Speaker of Parliament and the Prime Minister urged all to refrain from even objective reporting on the crisis so as not to complicate the political situation. Were the journalists responsible for the crisis, or was it the power-hungry politicians? What if, operating under a thin guise of patriotism and national welfare, the system placed curbs on freedom of the press? All these developments represent in varying degrees a return to the old days. Press freedom is an advantage to any society, and any system that worries about press freedom has its problems which it wishes to hide. If the present trend persists, the result, it is not difficult to see, would be an erosion in the freedom of the press and in the beginning vibrancy of our nascent democracy. If the state is to control what is to be reported and what is not, under whatever pretext, press freedom would suffer because a media culture would arise that would be pervaded or even gripped by an exclusivist political correctness that would subtly yet persistently force out reporters and editors who happened to be of a liberal and independent mind. Democracy would suffer because opinions and facts

crucial to informed political and social decisions would be largely withheld from the public. Moreover, fraud after media-concocted fraud, some subtle and some blatant, would be thrust upon an ever more mistrustful and cynical citizenry, increasing conflict between groups in society and between the public and the government. All in all, violence would be done to an infant free press which could be easily overpowered, but which nonetheless represents a crucial foundation stone of Yemen's democratization process. A free and easily accessible flow of truthful information and ideas has always been a key to a healthy society, let alone a good and working democracy. Look at examples of great societies that flourished because freedom of expression. From ancient Greece, when information gleaned from the ekklesia, or citizens' assembly, was passed far and wide by word of mouth, to the great Islamic civilization in which the full truth was openly and widely circulated as a matter of principle, to America's pre-Revolutionary period, when the writings of Thomas Paine served as a sort of "national" newspaper of firebrand opinion, to the print and electronic media of today's world. But neither Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, nor Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas - who have signed that ominous letter threatening newspapers to "take appropriate measures against newspapers that did not exercise self-restraint 'voluntarily' in reporting on the crisis" know these facts.

interests' it is not a bad thing." Though some do see troubling trends here and there in the way the state manages 'freedom of the press,' they would ascribe their cause to something other than a gradual return to past ways. But in the press conference held at the prime minister's office and managed by Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, representing the PGC, and broadly the coalition government, and Dr. Abdul-Quddoos Al-Midhwahi, representing the Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Asha'abi Annasseri, but generally the opposition, the pitch was troubling. A clever Iryani praised the power of the press and appealed for better understanding. I sincerely wish the meeting ended there. But Al-Midhwahi bungled up everything when he started talking about the need for unifying the Yemeni press and its approach to the issues. Although Dr. Al-Midhwahi was talking off the top of his head, he gave away too much as to how Yemeni officials think. The opposition, gratified by the fact that the authorities let it speak on its behalf, has suddenly changed positions, and now calls for curbs on the press.

Conclusion:

When politicians run into trouble, they often look for scapegoats - the media has often served the purpose. For all their faults, journalists are far better creatures than the politicians. After all, the same "anti-newspaper" Thomas Jefferson who penned those peppery lines with which I started this article, also wrote: "Where it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

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2. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on the submission of a written application to the following address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$100 or YR 1200:

The Project Manager,
The Land & Water Conservation Project,
P. O. Box (2805) - Sanaa,
(Behind the Old University Campus),
Telex: 2427 MAWR YE,
Telephone: 214613 / 213095,
Fax: 209509,
Republic of Yemen.

3. 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 address on or before 12:00 am on 14-02-1994.

4. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who choose to attend at 12:00 p.m. on 14-02-1994 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

إعلان مناقصة

تعلن وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية، ممثلة بمشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه بأن حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية قد حصلت على قرض من هيئة التنمية (I.D.A.) وبعملات مختلفة، وذلك لتمويل تكاليف مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه... ويرغب المشروع في طرح مناقصة عالمية لتوريد الآليات والمعدات فعلى الشركات المتخصصة في توريد تلك المستلزمات والكلاء المعتمدين والرغبين الإشتراك في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلب كتابي الى العنوان التالي:
مدير مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه صندوق بريد رقم (٢٨٠٥) صنعاء - خلف مبنى الجامعة القديمة. (بجوار مسجد عمار بن ياسر).
تلكس: ٤٢٧ MAWR
تلفون: ٢١٣٠٩٥/٢١٤٦١٣
فاكس: ٢٠٩٥٠٩
الجمهورية اليمنية

وذلك للحصول على وثائق المناقصة نظير رسم وقدره (١٠٠) مائة دولار أمريكي لا يرد أو مبلغ (١٢٠٠) ريال يمني.. على المتقدمين تقديم عطاءاتهم بظروف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر ومرفق ضمان ابتدائي بواقع ٢٪ من قيمة العطاء بموجب ضمان بنكي أو شيك مقبول الدفع ساري المفعول لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات...
آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات يوم الأحد ١٤/٢/١٩٩٤م الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً. وسيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في نفس اليوم والساعة (٢ ظهراً) بديوان وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية وبحضور المناقصين أو مندوبيهم...
والله ولي التوفيق...

تعارفي ومواساة ينهي الأهل والأصدقاء والزملاء وفاة

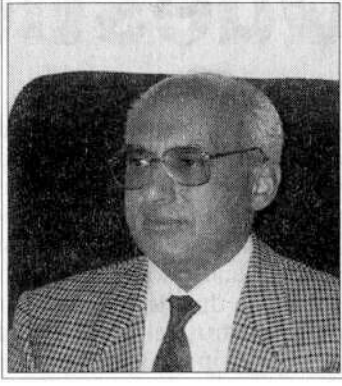
المهندس إسماعيل سعيد ناصر

مدير عام الإدارة العامة للرقابة والمتابعة
بوزارة الإنشاءات والتعمير
(مدير مكتب المؤسسة بصنعاء)

سائلين المولى جللت قدرته أن يتفهمه بواسع رحمته
ويدخله فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
عنهم:
مجلس إدارة وقيادة وكوادر وعمال
المؤسسة العامة للبناء والتشييد

***Alwan Al-Shaibani:**

Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, leading tourism personality and successful businessman, has been elected this week as chairman of the Bani Shaibah Welfare Society. Mr. Shaibani has indicated that the society will embark on three surveys at once. The first survey is of the Bani Shaibah region, Taiz to determine the area and the people's needs in terms of development projects and assistance. The second survey is of the manpower potential of the Bani Shaibah people to enlist their technical know-how in developing the region. And finally, a third survey covers the Bani Shaibah rich folks to urge them make contributions.

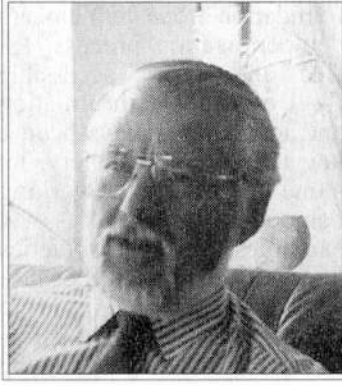


*** Georgina Simpson:**

Ms. Georgina Simpson, Commercial officer at the British Embassy in Sanaa, leaves us on December 19th "after two very enjoyable years" in Yemen.

"I am have chosen one of five positions open to me. I will now be posted in London in the European Community Department with particular responsibility for relations with the US and Japan.

Her successor, Mr. Rupert Joy, arrives here on January 4th, 1994.



*** Dr. Barry Mapstone:**

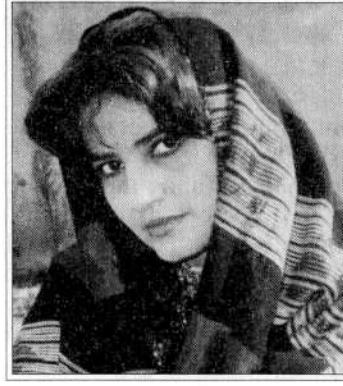
Dr. Barry Mapstone, General Manager of BP Exploration Operating Company, Ltd., said he was keeping his fingers regarding the outcome of the drilling of exploratory oil wells in the companies's concession blocs, Nos. 7 and 8. "We have started drilling two weeks ago, and we will proceed with five wells back to back in the two blocs," he indicated.



*** Samia Al-Ahmadi:**

Ms. Samia Al-Ahmadi, famous writer and public personality, has left Sanaa this week on her way to Tripoli, Libya. She indicated that she was going to participate in the inter-Arab dialogue that is scheduled to proceed this week.

In addition to Ms. Al-Ahmadi, a delegation of senior politicians and other personalities has left for the same purpose.



*** Abdullah Noman:**

Mr. Abdullah Noman, director-general of the bureau of Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, left Sanaa for Rabat to participate in the Fifth Round of Talks of the Executive Council of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development (AOID) which will take place during 14-16/12/1993.

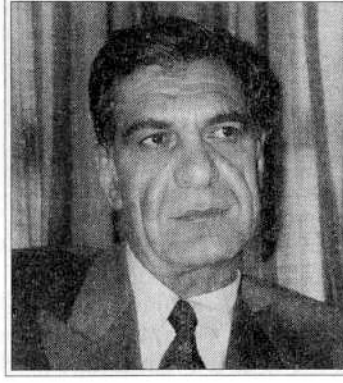
Mr. Noman carries with him a fat file of requests to the AOID which will help the industrial sector of Yemen.



*** Dr. Awni Al-Aani :**

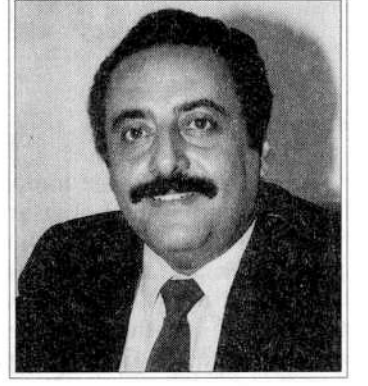
Mr. Awni Al-Aani, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Yemen, briefed journalists on the upcoming regional meeting of Arab planning/development ministers in recipient countries and the UNDP Resident Representatives in those countries during 14-16/12/1993.

"This meeting is held once every two years, and the purpose is to assess the way UNDP-financed projects proceed, and how they can be made more cost-effective," Mr. Al-Aani said. "Also new areas of importance, such as the environment will be brought into the main-stream development plans," he added.



*** Salim Saleh Mohammed:**

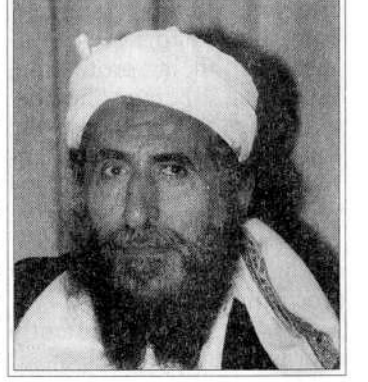
Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP, came out strongly in favor of the need for open and frank dialogue among the various political forces in the Yemeni scene. "We just have to go beyond the niceties and good words and let our approach be based on candor and straight talk," he told visitors from Sanaa. Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed had created a furor in Sanaa earlier when he suggested that a federal or even confederal system would be a viable option for Yemen's crisis.



*** Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani:**

Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Al-Zindani, Member of the Presidential Council and the spiritual leader of the Islah Party, is busy these days re-grouping his followers (the religious-oriented blocs) in society in order to "guide" the community. One of his new projects is a "girls" only (actually women only) college in Sanaa.

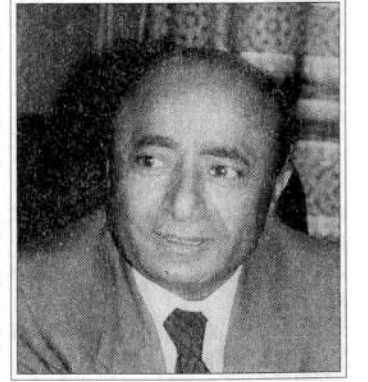
At another level, Sheikh Zindani has received an Afghani delegation to whom he stressed the need for reconciliation among the various Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan and that he could use his good offices towards that end.



*** Dr. Hassan Makki:**

Dr. Hassan Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister, has kept himself busy over the last month inaugurating various seminars, workshops and exhibitions.

"We appreciate these efforts much more than the traditional bureaucratic functions of these people," explained a handicapped person who attended the inauguration of a handicapped exhibition.



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وكل عام والجميع بخير

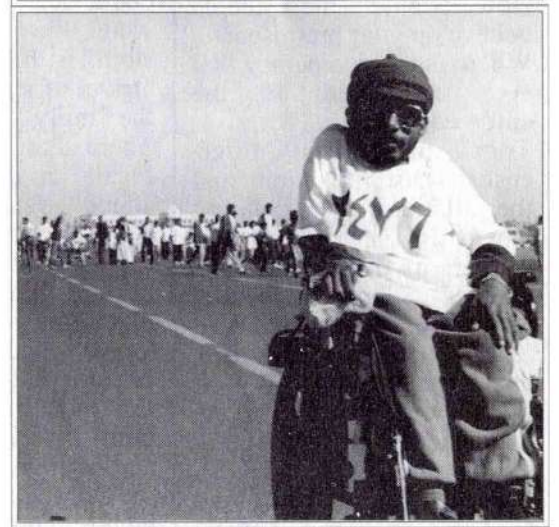
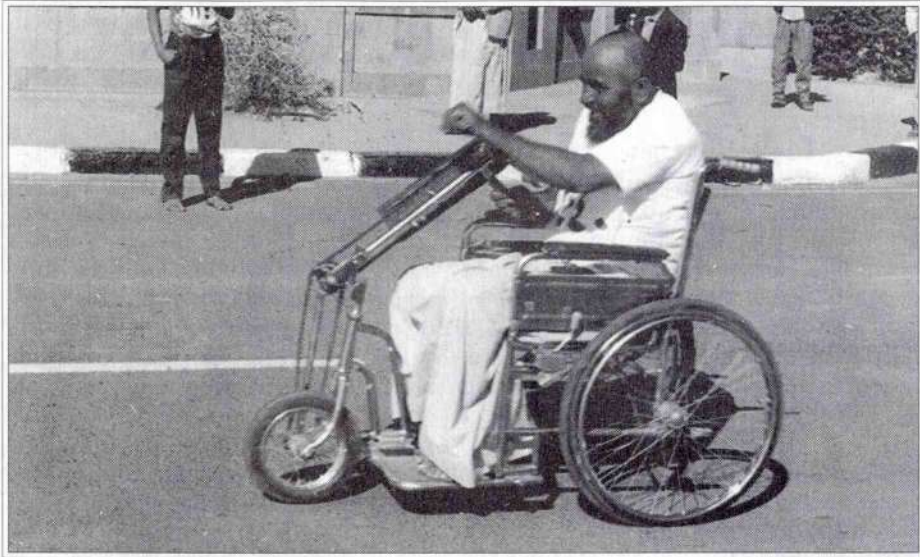
**ON THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF
THE UNIFICATION AGREEMENT**

**The American Is Out:
The German Is In!**

**IS HAPPY TO PRESENT ITS FELICITATIONS
TO
THE YEMENI PEOPLE AND THE POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP
AND MANY HAPPY RETURNS.**

ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE HANDICAPPED - DECEMBER 9th

A SPORTS FESTIVAL IN SANA'A



RESULTS OF THE SPORTS FESTIVAL:

Winners of 10-kilometer Adults Race:

1. Khaled Ahmed Al-Ofash, Najm Club, Sanaa
2. Ali Ahmed Al-Azzami, Shaab Club,
3. Mohammed Dhaifallah Al-Khowlani, Wahdah Club,
4. Mohammed Nasser Al-Hadaa, Najm Club, Dhamar,
5. Faisal Abdul-Qawi AlAsri, Ahli Club, Sanaa,
6. Fouad Mohammed Obad, Najm Club, Dhamar.
7. Mubarak Hussain Al-Humaidi, Al-Wahdah,
8. Khaled Yahia Al-Sultan, Al-Rajm Club, Mahweet,
9. Hassan Al-Faqeeh, Sanaa Club,
10. Abdullah Yahia Al-Ulaih, Al-Kail Club, Raidah.

Winners of 6-kilometer Youth Race:

1. Saleh Jabr Al-Azab, Melah Youth Club,
2. Mohammed Hassan Abdo, Al-Howrash School Club,
3. Wayel Abdulla Abdulaziz, Zaid Al-Mowshiki Club,
4. Badr Abdullah Al-harazi, Al-Yarmouk Club,
5. Bilal Ahmed Al-Ghazali, Al-Howrash Club,
6. Mohammed Hassan Saleh Aamer, Al-Howrash,
7. Muhannad Mohammed Hassan Saif, Al-Mowshiki,
8. Aaref Naji Muslih Aazib, Al-Howrash,
9. Omer Ahmed Noman, Al-Howrash,
10. Ali Naji Al-Najjar, Al-Howrash.

Winners of 30-kilometer Bicycle Race:

1. Mused Ahmed Mused, Al-Majd Club,
2. Aadel Abdul-Khaliq Al-Raad, Al-Majd,
3. Adnan Abdullah Ahmed, Al-Howrash,
4. Yasser Alwan Al-Baadani, Al-Ahli, Sanaa
5. Hamood Ali Al-Sayyani, Al-Majd.

THE RACES FOR THE HANDICAPPED:

Winners of 4-kms Wheelchair Race:

1. Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ammari,
2. Mohammed Salim Al-Azzani,
3. Abdo Mohammed Yusuf.

Winners of 4-km Ordinary Wheelchair Race

1. Mohammed Al-Shara'abi,
2. Ahmed Bin Ali Hamzah,
3. Abdullah Ali Al-Wusabi.

Winners of 4-km Automatic Wheelchair Race

1. Mohammed Al-Shara'abi,
2. Ahmed Bin Ali Hamzah,
3. Abdullah Ali Al-Wusabi.

Winners of 4-km Locally-Made Wheelchairs Race:

1. Khaled Abdullah Al-Yamani,
2. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Haimi,
3. Aaref Ameen Ahmed.

Above Knee Artificial Limbs Race:

1. Mohammed Ali Saleh Zaal,
2. Aqeel Bin Ali.

Below Knee Artificial Limbs Race:

1. Jamal Yahia Al-Joobi,
2. Hamdan Mohammed Ali Nasr,
3. Khaled Mohammed Al-Haimi.

Race for People with Artificial Arms:

1. Ahmed Mohammed Muslih Ghanim,
2. Ameen Abdullah Sufian,
3. Dhaifallah Naji Abdulla.

Race for People with Crutches:

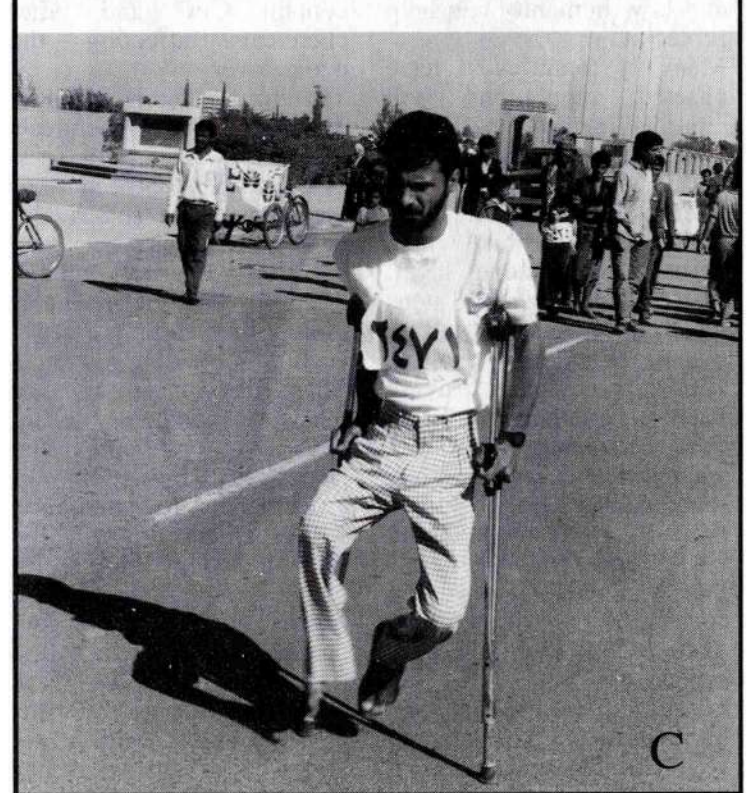
1. Mohammed Ali Mahdi,
2. Saeed Qassim Al-Hajri,
3. Aziz Mohammed Hussain.

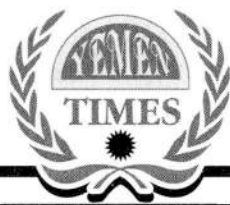
Race for People with General Disabilities:

1. Mahfoodh Mohammed Al-Muallimi,
2. Mohammed Ali Yahia Al-Raimi,
3. Ibrahim Mohammed Ali Majda'a.



DOWN, UP, AND RUNNING AGAIN





Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

NO, MR. PRESIDENT AND NO, MR. VICE PRESIDENT

I sometimes wonder that you have the face to announce every now and then that your real aim is to apply democracy and fight against corruption, while all the corrupted leaders surrounding you.

How would the people believe on your promises? Where is the democracy that you committed to be enforced?

Tribalism creates differences! Discrimination and the inflation the country. Downturn in the economy caused a disaster to the people. Where is justice? Obviously your supported leaders violating the rules and the regulation and none of you even try to prevent that unacceptable practices.

Corruption spread out all over the country due to your silence as no even a single action have been taken against any one. Please, we had enough of your unbearable promises and we can not tolerate anymore unless you change your policy to the benefit of the people unless otherwise will hold you the full responsibility if the country embroiled to a turmoil due to your non-challenge.

We still looking forward that might come one day to recall and reconsider to the critical situations that your people suffer. Please forget about your differences and give some concern to your people.

**Yahya Noman
Sana'a.**

Thinking of Having a Baby?

There is no greater opportunity to share than when a married couple decide to add to their family and have a child.

There is also no greater family responsibility than of becoming a parent. Whether planning the first or fifth child, one should know and weigh the joys and responsibilities that accompany the arrival of a new member in the family.

There is a great deal of confusion in the world today about family planning. Because of ignorance and superstition, and even erroneous religious beliefs, many individuals do not know whether or how to plan for children.

For thousands of years, as human societies developed and increasingly populated the surface of earth, families could literally have as many children as they desired. In fact, large families were actually desirable, since human labor was essential to development. Besides, high death rates forced parents to produce more children with the hope that some would survive the death warrant that was the order of the day because of the absence of medical services.

By the middle of the 1800s, world population finally reached 1,000,000,000. But in the next 130 years it skyrocketed to 5,000,000,000. With the population explosion have come increased poverty, hunger, unemployment, crime and war.



Population alone has not caused this, but sheer numbers of people have been partly responsible for the condition of the world we live in today. It certainly seems like a good time to take a long, hard look at the value of family planning.

A young couple may decide to wait three, four or more years before having their first child to be better prepared for the child. They then may decide to have two or three or four or whatever number they feel is best. But a couple should plan to have only those children that they can properly take care of. Children should not be just numbers in a group, they must be wanted, loved and planned for. That is the way it ought to be. Parents should devoted to each other, and caring for their children..

There are many factors to consider in family planning. Some of the great concerns today are overpopulation, overcrowded cities, food shortages, housing problems and so on.

**Mubarak Mansoor Timimi,
Sana'a.**

RULING THE COUNTRY BY CREATING CRISES

The ages of wonders has gone away with all our ambitions and expectations. What we expected the unity will do for us is like a mirage. Now, we are brought face to face with the era of crises. I really wonder whether these frequent crises are fabricated or whether they are genuine.

This crises make the public forget all its problems and complaints: the corruption which is nourished by governmental officials, the rising prices fed by greedy merchants, and the falling riyal value battered by speculators. Most of these groups focus on achieving personal goals which are often illegal and contrary to the public interest.

Sadly enough, our politicians make the best use of the crises. They overwhelm the citizenry with one problem after another. No sooner do people move out of one problem than they find themselves confronted by a new one. Timing of the troubles is so carefully planned that one has to believe they are planned.

In other words, when the officials feel that they are in a bad situation, they create a new crisis and overwhelm the public with new difficulties. Then the rulers shower the masses with many promises persuading them that it is normal to have problems because our country is considered to be newly born. They keep telling us we have achieved something spectacular and that the problems are a price we have to pay for the great achievement.

Still, the past crises were not like the present one. This time, the pressure is to high and heavy which leads the country to major trouble. The events which have taken place since the re-unification of Yemen served only those disloyal bureaucrats who exploited the situation.

Pocketing the country's money and using it for their personal ends, the officials and army officers have become the richest in Yemen. Patriotism became like a candy given to children so as to stop crying.

Yet, newly elected government gave the public great hope to get rid of the past shortcomings and create an environment of security and stability.

In spite of all these events, the bureaucrats are still using the same tools and approaches that keep the people in the dark, and even belittling the situation the country has been going through.

Even the use of new terms is used to persuade people that everything will change towards the better. We, however, have the superficial meaning of these terms not the real ones. These terms include democracy and reformation.

Democracy - how great and wonderful to have this word applied to Yemen. It is the measurement by which we can taste the sweetness of life.

It is the power which enables us to confront corruption in our society. It is the right to stand up to the rulers and prevent them from continuing on their malpractices. It is the yardstick to bring in accountability to the system. Democracy is like the right that somebody once told me, "It is to express your indignation against the one who slaps you and to do something about about stopping him." Similarly, our government keeps on dealing with the people in a very strange way. Social justice became like an unattainable goal. Citizens have no choice but to accept a lower standard of living.

Reform - that too is a great word which means that government should remove all its shortcomings and vices and change to the better. It can be linked to democracy, because by democracy will point out corruption in the society and then reform will take care of the rest.

But what is happening? The octopus of corruption still grips the government's institutions tightly. Many of these institutions have officials major goal is to remain in their posts and responsible for their organizations.

Take the ministries of education and health as examples. Although we abundantly talked about reform which would be fulfilled, education has lived in a forgotten sea. It is the most important aspect of our transformation and growth. It has no aim, students study for nothing, some of them graduate without any ability to do anything, because the level is very low.

Education has become a symbol of mismanagement and financial corruption. It is like a haunted house.

The Ministry of Health is another example of where reform is badly in need. All people have been complaining about the abuse in treatment in hospitals throughout the country.. Doctors and nurses merely respect and take care of only those who will pay them money. They refuse to help the people, in any meaningful way. Some say that hospitals became like cemeteries - a place for those who want to die. When one goes to any hospital, he/she will find death waiting for him/her. The medical profession has sublime goals, but we do not see any in our society. "The angels of mercy" turned into devils wearing white garments. Instead of putting out the pain, they have become the source of much of it.

When I talk about these two institutions, it is not meant that the other ministries are uncorrupted. Corruption as I said has stricken all of the country. Even social relations are influenced by this malaise which destroyed everything beautiful and nice in our culture and social values and morals.

To conclude, the solution to these terrible ills and conditions facing all Yemenis is that the government officials should recall be subjected to a rigorous accountability. They should know that all citizens are watching them and they will exercise their rights to stop them. Lies, malpractice and robbery must be stopped.

**Moneer H. S. Al-Areeqi,
Sana'a University.**

THE OZONE LAYER AND MAN-MADE CONTAMINATIONS

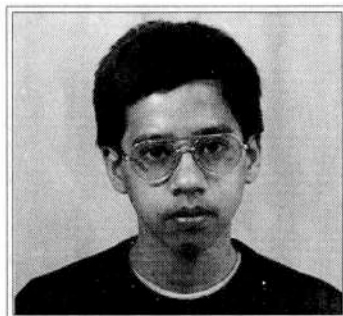
**By: Huzeifa H. Nabijee,
Pakistani High School,
Sana'a.**

The world is mobilizing efforts and bringing together specialists to work hard to protect the ozone layer in order that we can live on a future life in a healthy atmosphere. That means that there is so much money spent on scientific laboratories and computers and many more instruments in order to understand what is happening to the ozone layer and how humanity can help protect it.

Many countries have enacted regulations and controls against pollution. This helped close down factories and plants which release into the air CFC (chloro fluoro carbon) which destroys the ozone layer. These are all very good steps which must be supported by all nations and individuals.

Humanity is also destroying itself at another level. Do you realize that there are wars almost everywhere and that millions of people around the world are turned into refugees? Do you know that thousands of people die because wars while hundred of thousands of children are orphaned?

The world has become such an evil place that if there were no misunderstanding and hatred there would be no



wars. Actually, the two issues are related. Because of the war, there are factories that manufacture weapons which may also contain CFC and other chemicals affecting the ozone layer.

Therefore factories manufacturing these chemicals must be stopped. But none of them will stop because of the competition and rivalry among nations to gain superiority in power and destruction. The end-result is more killing and more world wars.

These days if factories of the world continue to manufacture atomic bombs and chemicals, there will be war, and the world's population will decrease dramatically. Thus, their logic may be for whom are we protecting the ozone layer? Thus, innocent people will continue to die for nothing. Imagine how bright and beautiful this planet would be with a safe ozone layer and no deaths by man-made weapons.

ADVERSITY PROVES TRUE FRIENDS

We must expose the Arab states which have been watching the disasters that have befallen Somalia for nearly four years now without doing anything about it. They continue to watch the catastrophe that struck Mogadisho especially the bombardments which destroy everyday infants and mothers. Some of the Arab forces have taken part in the devastation. It is the Western forces which safeguard the UN aid supplies to the victims of starvation, and which are mediating in the conflict among the gangs in Mogadisho. Nevertheless, a man trained in bombing and destroying is never practical in political mediation.

But what makes millions of people bite their lips for to avenge themselves is not a joke. The Somali people are fully aware of the enemies' aims as they are aware of the proceedings of their helping friends.

A dramatic socio-economic and political change in the Horn of Africa comes in anticipation of the possibilities in the future. We can not avenge ourselves against those who hurt us, nor can we reward our friends for their help, for now. But one day, justice will be done unto all.

**Hassan Ahmed Donkal,
Aden.**

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وكالة اتحاد الساعات السويسرية
SWISS WATCHES UNION AGENCY

Shiekh Mohammed Bin Naji Al-Ghadir:

"The tribes can play a positive role in state building."

The role the tribes play in the structure of the state is clear and visible to all. That role is even greater when these among the largest in the nation, fully armed and their location is close to the capital city. We are, of course, talking about Khowlan.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Naji Al-Ghadir, 31, the paramount shiekh of Khowlan, is, as a result, gaining in influence. He has become one of the arbiters of power in Sanaa.

Moreover, he was recently elected as the Secretary-General of the Sabaa Conference which brings many Yemeni tribes together in one forum.

Yemen Times economic editor Amin Nouisser interviewed Sheikh Al-Ghadir and filed the following report.

Q: Why was the Sabaa Conference established?

A: About one year ago, a number of tribes converged on Khowlan and asked it to lead the establishment of a tribal congregation in order to play a positive role in the evolution of the country. Our social fabric states these tribes have an important role to play in the power structure of the country.

These tribes, unfortunately, were divided and fragmented



and therefore unable to obtain their fair share of development projects and unable to participate fully in directing the country.

The Sabaa Conference has come into existence to create a forum for these tribes. This will also reduce the risk of the involvement of these in any military or para-military activities because they are armed. The forum serves as a guiding light for their positive interaction with the state and its organizations.

Q: What kind of shortcomings do you see in the state?

A: Let me stress the absence of any meaningful development projects. Health centers, schools, roads, electric and water services, and many other facilities are missing. This was the main purpose for bringing these large tribes of Bakeel and Madhaj into the Conference - so that they may get their fair share of development projects. This to me is the most critical shortcoming of the state.

Q: There is talk these days about decentralization and local government. What is your position on this matter?

A: I would like to indicate that the centralization of the decision-making has proven to be an obstacle to development. Therefore, no one would disagree with the need to decentralize. But this matter needs proper studying and it has to be put in full perspective.

We have to have a deep and comprehensive dialogue among all forces without exception regarding this and other issues.

Q: What is the relationship between the tribe and the state?

A: I have heard many people say that the tribe represents a 'state' inside a state. The way the state manages its affairs is wrong in more than one way.

One of the dangerous aspects of our interaction is that they are based on rumors and hearsay. Our decisions are based on what we hear without ascertaining the facts. Part of the problem in the relations between the tribes and the state is this phenomenon of rumors on both sides.

Q: Certain tribes have been involved in car hijacking and kidnapping. One of the famous cases involves your Khowlan tribe (Jahm clan) and the kidnapping of the American diplomat, Mr. Haynes Mahoney. What are your comments?

A: First, let me stress that I do not agree with the methods hijacking of cars or kidnapping of people. Second, let me say that the hijackers and kidnapers do these things because they feel they have no other recourse to get the attention and positive interaction of the state.

I repeat that we do not have a just state which plans and executes its decisions on an equitable basis. The feeling is that you get what you want out of the state only by pressuring it. This feeling is justified by the record of decisions and actions.

Having said that, let me assure you that we are working hard to circumvent such hijackings and kidnappings before they happen,

and to work to resolve them once they happen. For example, we were instrumental in the release of Mr. Mahoney.

Let me conclude that such behavior is the exception and not the rule. Tribal values are actually against such actions, but many individuals and small groups feel helpless when faced with the irresponsible attitude of the government. I sincerely hope that the state will work to minimize the causes and reasons behind such actions in the future.

Q: You said you were instrumental in the release of Mr. Mahoney. Were you asked by the government to intervene, and what did you pay the kidnapers?

A: Yes, I was instrumental in achieving the release of the hostage. I did not go there in person, but I sent my representative to negotiate the release. So did many other persons, including the Yemen Times whose presence among the tribes really sent shock waves and urgently forced the release decision.

No, I was not asked by the government to intervene or to mediate. I did it on my own. It was a personal initiative on my part.

We have not paid the kidnapers any money. But we are working to have some of their demands met, especially the development projects which the region badly needs.

Q: How do you see the current crisis?

A: The current crisis is the result of a long accumulation of mistakes and misconceptions. Even the unification of Yemen, although a major accomplishment and which should be protected, is based on wrong calculations and efforts at self-preservation by the politicians in charge.

The only way out is through deep and candid dialogue by all the political forces without exception. By leaving out certain groups and individuals, the dialogue risks being partial or even fragile. I think this crisis, even if resolved now, will recur again and again unless the underlying reasons.

Q: Which are what?

A: Basically, the politicians live in their ambitions and plans without coming down to the realities of each other and the people. I think they have to be realistic in their attitudes to one another and to what the people want.

Those in power must also understand that they cannot manage things on their own without consulting and involving others.

Besides, politicians say that "politics is the art of the possible" and that means they do not put their demands at one time. They piecemeal it. In other words, they could agree on something today, and it is not final, because each side has

additional demands which have not been put on the negotiation table as they may feel they are not possible to achieve at this stage. Some time in the future, when they feel those demands have a higher chance of being met, they create a situation which enables them to put their demands.

Thus, we have a serialization of the crises, each time the solution is partial and temporary. That is why I say we need to be deep and candid about the inter-relations of the political forces.

Q: The Sabaa Conference is tribal based. So is the Bakeel Council, so is the Hashed Group, and so is partially the Federation of Patriotic Forces. What are the relations among those forces?

A: Of course, as tribal based, all are working to strengthen the role and influence of tribes in the state machinery. In other words, they have parallel channels, although each is driving on a different track.

As yet, there is no meaningful coordination, as yet, but this may exist once there is more need, or when the leaderships of these groups see it worthwhile.

There is a certain degree of overlap between these groups in terms of following. Many of the Bakeel Council tribes, for example, are also in the Sabaa Conference.

Let me say though there may be differences. These are the degree of deprivation each side feels, and the level of participation in the state machinery. Major components of the Hashed Group, for example, effectively controls the state, especially the Sanaa system and thus it has a different set of grievances and demands than we do.

Q: How do you view Yemeni political pluralism and democracy?

A: In principle, I have no problem with political pluralism or democracy. They are good principles useful to any country if properly applied. But, when these concepts become tools for certain individuals to attain power or remain in power, without true and full commitment to them, then they are not acceptable.

Pluralism and democracy in Yemen are used to build power blocks which compete to serve the interests of a few individuals, and not the nation as a whole.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to tell the politicians to come down to earth and be realistic - whether about their demands or about their decisions.

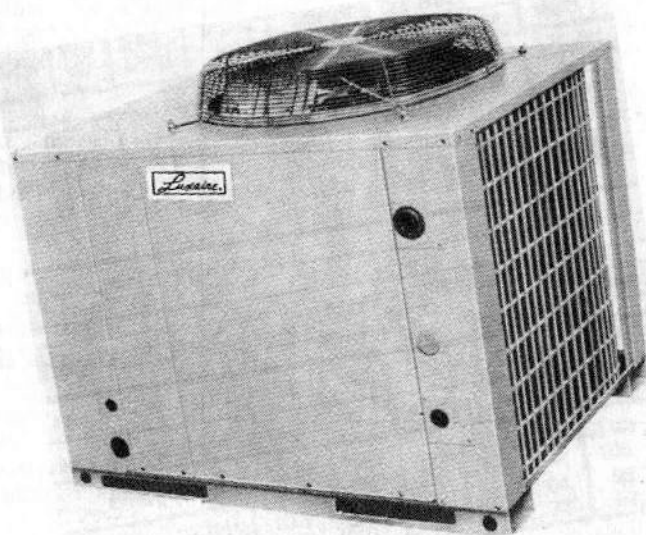
I would also like to tell our people to exercise all their rights and to pressure the politicians so that these may behave in an upright manner that will the stability and progress of our society. The tribes can play a positive role in state-building.

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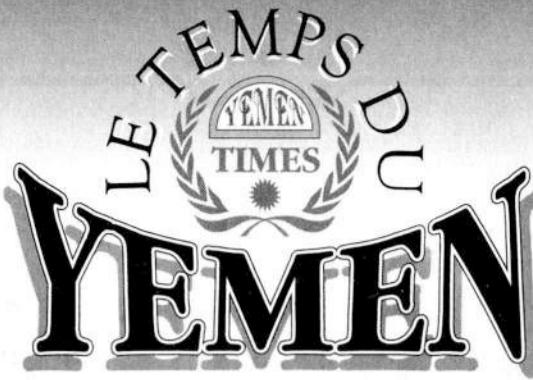


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CRISE

Le sud et le nord du pays se séparent peu à peu

Ali Salem Al-Bid ne veut pas bouger d'Aden où il est retranché depuis le 19 août, et Ali Abdallah Saleh ne veut pas lâcher le pouvoir. En attendant, le pays se divise à nouveau en deux, même si personne ne le proclame ouvertement.

"En réalité, il y a une redivision non proclamée" du pays, a estimé le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Mohamed Basindwa (CPG) dans une déclaration publiée lundi dernier par le quotidien Al-Khaleej des Emirats arabes unis. "Il ne reste plus pour certaines parties qu'à proclamer la division", a-t-il ajouté. Il a par ailleurs estimé que "Washington craint une situation d'instabilité au Yémen qui aura des répercussions négatives sur l'ensemble de la péninsule arabique qui renferme les plus grosses réserves pétrolières au monde".

Saleh accepte le plan du PSY

En attendant, le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid continuent à faire des propositions tout en sachant qu'elles ont peu de chance d'être acceptées par la partie adverse. Ali Salem Al-Bid, a ainsi proposé

de se retirer du pouvoir en même temps que le Président Ali Abdallah Saleh, pour mettre un terme à la crise politique dans le pays: "Nous devons nous retirer pour ne pas arriver à une impasse et détruire la nation. C'est là ma dernière proposition et je la fais sérieusement". Le président Saleh, quant à lui, avait annoncé dimanche dernier qu'il acceptait le plan de réformes en 18 points présenté par le PSY. Il s'est déclaré prêt à rencontrer Ali Al-Bid à Aden, à condition que ce dernier "prête serment devant le Parlement" à Sanaa, en tant que vice-Président.

La réaction d'Ali Al-Bid à cette déclaration a été prudente: "la crédibilité réside dans la mise en pratique d'un programme détaillé et applicable immédiatement. Voilà ce qui peut nous rassurer, car nos habitudes et nos expériences passées prouvent que la parole

est une chose et la pratique en est une autre".

De chaque côté, on souffle le chaud et le froid. Le secrétaire général-adjoint du parti socialiste, Salem Saleh, également membre du Conseil présidentiel, a déclaré il y a quelques jours qu'un plan visant à assassiner à Sanaa des membres du bureau politique de cette formation existait. Il a précisé que le ministre de la Défense Haitham Kassem Tahar figure parmi les personnalités visées par ce plan dont il n'a pas révélé les auteurs.

Le Jihad islamique accusé

Il a toutefois accusé "la branche armée" du mouvement du Jihad islamique d'avoir commis les attentats perpétrés ces trois dernières années "notamment contre des dirigeants du PSY", ajoutant que ces éléments bénéficient de "la protection" du parti islamiste

Islah. Il a même précisé que le Jihad islamique "est basé dans le nord du pays, où il possède des camps militaires groupant des ressortissants de pays arabes, notamment des Egyptiens, des Algériens, des Soudanais et des Libyens". "Leur principal camp se trouve à Saada", a-t-il ajouté.

Les principaux partis politiques au Yémen, dont les trois membres de la coalition au pouvoir (CPG du Président Saleh, PSY du vice-Président Al-Bid et Islah du Cheikh Al-Ahmar, président du Parlement) ont entamé samedi 4 décembre un dialogue destiné à régler la crise. Au terme de leur première réunion, deux commissions ont été créées chargées de suivre l'évolution de la situation militaire après les mouvements de troupes enregistrés ces dernières semaines, et de mettre fin aux campagnes de presse entre nordistes et sudistes. Selon le

CPG, le PSY cherche "une escalade de la crise politique actuelle", notamment en tentant "à travers ses médias de rallier des personnalités indépendantes" à ses "thèses sécessionnistes".

Des émissaires de l'étranger

Le dialogue prévu fin novembre avait été reporté sine die en raison d'une polémique entre le CPG et le PSY sur l'opportunité ou non de transformer le Yémen en fédération. Le démarrage du dialogue a coïncidé avec une médiation jordanienne destinée, selon des sources jordaniennes, à réunir à Amman, le Président Saleh et le vice-Président Al-Bid. Un émissaire est également venu de Libye. Dans un message au Président, le chef d'Etat libyen, le colonel Khadafi a affirmé son soutien "aux efforts déployés pour mettre fin à la crise politique au Yémen".

(avec AFP)

En Bref

Procès de membres du Jihad islamique au Yémen: Sept membres du Jihad islamique, accusés d'avoir créé une organisation terroriste visant à renverser le régime et d'avoir introduit des armes au Yémen, ont comparu dimanche dernier devant la Cour criminelle de Lahej. Les sept islamistes, qui avaient été arrêtés le 24 décembre 1992, ont clamé leur innocence lors de l'audience. La Cour a fixé au 21 décembre la prochaine audience. Ce procès est le premier du genre depuis l'unification.

France-GATT: La France a accepté le compromis agricole négocié lundi dernier à Bruxelles entre la Communauté européenne et les Etats-Unis. La France a cependant demandé des mesures compensatoires internes à la Communauté, y compris financières.

Décès du président ivoirien: Le chef de l'Etat ivoirien Félix Houphouët-Boigny, 88 ans, est décédé mardi dernier à Yamoussoukro en Côte-d'Ivoire des suites d'une longue maladie. Celui qu'on appelait "Le Vieux" avait été opéré en juin dernier à Paris d'un cancer de la prostate. Selon la Constitution, le président de l'Assemblée nationale, Henri Konan Bédié, lui succédera automatiquement, jusqu'à la fin du mandat en cours, en septembre 1995.

CENTRE FRANCAIS D'ETUDES YEMENITES

Sur les traces des royaumes sud-arabiques

Dans une conférence qui s'est tenue samedi 4 décembre au CFEY, trois chercheurs français ont développé les résultats de leurs travaux. Il s'agit de mieux comprendre l'épanouissement des royaumes sud-arabiques au Yémen il y a quelques milliers d'années.

Comment les royaumes sud-arabiques ont-ils pu se développer au Yémen dans des régions aujourd'hui désertiques ? C'est à cette question que trois chercheurs français ont tenté de répondre au cours d'une conférence qu'ils ont donné au CFEY (Centre Français d'Etudes Yéménites) samedi 4 décembre à Sanaa. Depuis plusieurs années, ils parcourent notamment le wadi Bayham et le wadi Markha pour trouver une réponse (voir carte).

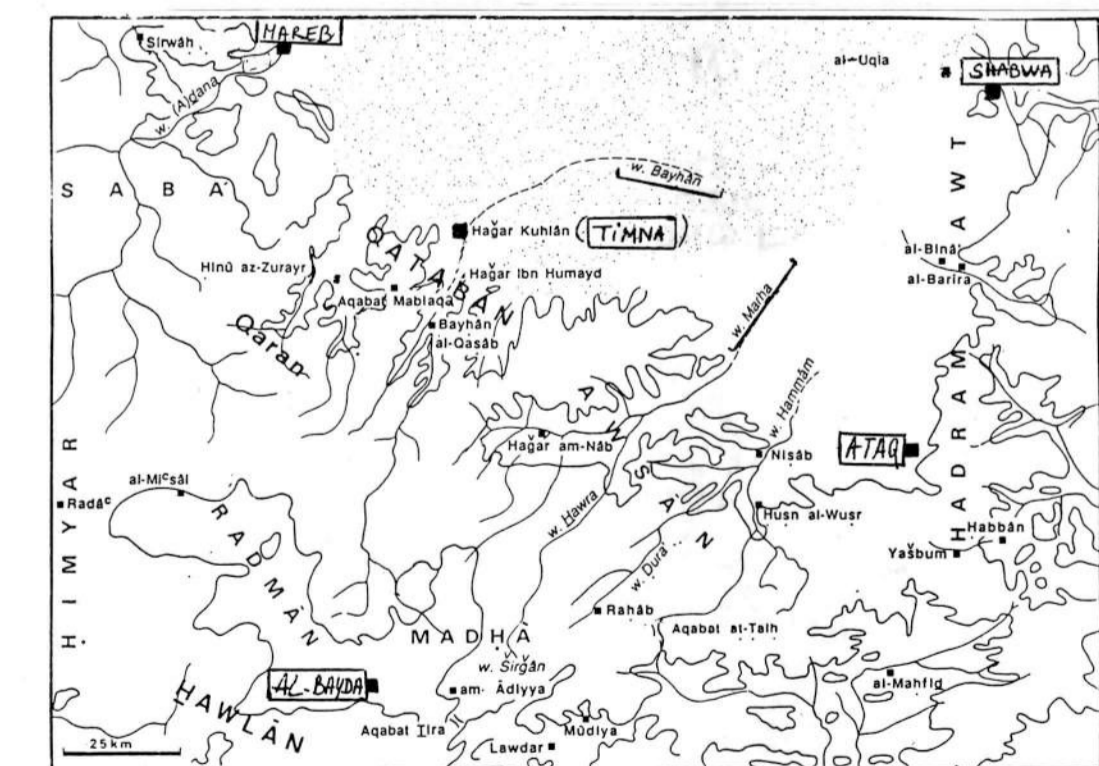
Un climat proche de l'hyper-aridité

Brigitte Coque, géomorphologue, professeur à l'université de Paris VII, qui a commencé ses prospections au Yémen en 1989, a cherché à savoir s'il y avait eu des fluctuations climatiques qui auraient permis le développement de ces royaumes. Les contraintes climatiques sont en effet très fortes dans ces régions à l'est du Yémen. Le climat aride est à la limite de l'hyper-aridité, 64 mm de précipitations par an en moyenne. La végétation clairsemée se limite au fond des vallées et les versants sont dénudés. D'autre part, le relief très compartimenté isole les vallées les unes des autres.

C'est dans ces vallées, situées à une altitude d'environ 1000 mètres, qu'ont prospéré les royaumes sud-arabiques, en bordure d'un grand massif dunaire. L'étude des grains de sable, très façonnés par le vent, montre que ce massif dunaire était présent à l'époque sud-arabique. L'ensablement actuel n'est donc pas de sa responsabilité.

Malgré les contraintes climatiques, le relief offrait des conditions favorables aux populations des royaumes sud-arabiques. Les vallées amples permettaient la mise en culture, et dans cet espace très aride l'eau se déverse des montagnes sous forme de crues. Toute l'ingéniosité des hommes a été de les contrôler.

A la recherche de témoignages de fluctuations climatiques, Brigitte Coque, s'est intéressée aux affleurements rocheux de couleur noire. Contrairement aux apparences, ce n'est pas du basalte. En fait, une mince pellicule recouvre une roche claire. En étudiant ce "vernis désertique" en laboratoire, Brigitte s'est aperçue qu'il est dû à la présence de fer et de manganèse. Ces particules auraient été apportées par le vent et fixées à une période où l'aridité était moins accentuée que maintenant. L'hypothèse est



La région où les recherches ont été menées.

que cette période plus humide se serait terminée vers 6000 ans av.JC, donc avant la période sud-arabique. Les royaumes de cette période se sont donc développés dans des conditions climatiques semblables à celles d'aujourd'hui.

Pierre Gentelle, géographe et directeur de recherche au CNRS (Centre national pour la recherche scientifique) s'est attaché depuis plusieurs années à étudier les systèmes d'irrigation antique au Yémen. Il y a quelques milliers d'années, l'eau qui descendait de la

montagne passait par le wadi Hadramaout et se jetait dans la mer.

De ce réseau hydrique, il reste aujourd'hui de petits ouvrages hydrauliques. Ces vestiges archéologiques disparaissent peu à peu à cause de la reconquête actuelle des espaces agricoles. Dans certains wadis désertés, on peut voir cependant des murs de pierres qui sont des bordures de canaux et également des ouvrages de répartition d'eau. Ces derniers ne sont pas vraiment des barrages, ils étaient destinés à freiner l'eau

pour permettre sa dérivation dans les canaux. Des systèmes que l'on retrouve un peu partout à l'identique dans la région.

"On devrait pouvoir prouver que la mise en valeur du Yémen intérieur a commencé vers le troisième millénaire", estime Pierre Gentelle. En survolant des wadis désertés, on peut remarquer des traces de champs qui montrent que les gens de l'Antiquité avaient su mettre en valeur l'espace qui était à leur disposition. Les hommes se sont ingénies à canaliser les crues. Tout était calculé, le flot était

divisé de manière à atténuer progressivement sa force. Un calcul savant qui prenait en compte la largeur du canal et le nombre de champs à irriguer.

Jean-François Breton, directeur de la mission archéologique française au Yémen, a rappelé quant à lui les sites que les missions françaises avaient repérés. Il a expliqué les difficultés à les découvrir, certains ayant été noyés sous les alluvions, d'autres occupés par des villages plus récents. "Au début du deuxième millénaire, on est sûr que les gens savaient utiliser l'irrigation, mais on n'a pas trouvé beaucoup de sites de cette époque. On ne sait pas ce qui s'est passé entre le 13e siècle avant JC et le 8e avant JC", explique Jean-François Breton.

Sites abandonnés au début de notre ère

Il a cependant noté une continuité de l'occupation humaine, mais il a constaté une rupture dans l'architecture: on passe de maisons circulaires à des maisons rectangulaires. De même, les céramiques sont différentes. Enfin, tous ces sites ont été abandonnés au début de notre ère pour des raisons politiques. Le royaume de l'Hadramaout a en effet conquis l'ensemble de la région et l'ancienne Timna a été abandonnée. Après, il n'y a plus eu aucune trace de réoccupation de cette région.

J.B.

INSTITUT GEOGRAPHIQUE NATIONAL

Un réseau géodésique pour le nord du Yémen

Les Français de l'IGN (Institut géographique national) viennent de remettre au Survey Authority le résultat de deux ans de travail dans le nord du Yémen. Le réseau géodésique construit grâce aux techniques les plus récentes de positionnement par satellites est essentiel pour assurer l'aménagement du territoire.

C'est le résultat de deux ans de travail que les Français de l'IGN (Institut Géographique National) ont remis dimanche dernier au Survey Authority à Sanaa. Gérard Cosquer, chargé de la réalisation du projet, est arrivé de Paris avec 500 kg de documents. Le projet consistait à établir un réseau géodésique et de nivellement, un travail de base essentiel pour l'aménagement du territoire yéménite. Pour tracer des routes, construire des barrages, faire le plan des villes, un réseau cohérent et précis de points de repère est très utile. Il fait gagner du temps et de l'argent. Un canevas géodésique et de nivellement permet en effet de définir des distances, des surfaces, des différences de dénivelées ou d'altitudes, des volumes.

Un projet qui a coûté 27 millions de F

L'IGN vient de terminer ce travail pour le nord du Yémen. Le projet ne concerne qu'une moitié du pays, car il a été mis au point avant l'unification. Réalisé sur financement du protocole 1990 entre la France et le Yémen, il s'est fait en coopération avec le Survey Authority. Les contacts entre les deux instituts datent de plus de dix ans. Le projet aura coûté en tout 27 millions de F, dont la fourniture de quatre récepteurs satellite et l'informatique qui l'accompagne.

Les travaux sur le terrain n'ont commencé que fin 1991 à cause de la guerre du Golfe. Ils ont duré douze mois et l'équipe de l'IGN a compté

jusqu'à 16 personnes en même temps. Tout n'a pas toujours été facile, et Gérard Cosquer se souvient de l'enlèvement de l'un des techniciens de l'IGN pendant douze jours en janvier 1992 par une tribu dans le secteur du Bani Dabyan. La deuxième partie du travail, la phase de traitement, s'est faite en France pendant également une année.

L'IGN connaissait déjà la région. Les Français avaient travaillé en 1979 dans le Rub Al Khali, ce désert qui "sépare" l'Arabie Saoudite du Yémen.

A travers les provinces du nord du pays, l'IGN a construit 236 points géodésiques, un tous les 20 à 30 km. En France, c'est sous Napoléon que le réseau géodésique a commencé à être établi. Il y a aujourd'hui environ 80 000 points géodésiques dans l'Hexagone, ce qui équivaut à un point tous les 3 km. Un réseau constitué après discussion avec les utilisateurs.

Scellés au sommet d'une borne, les repères géodésiques sont entourés de repères auxiliaires. Pour des raisons de conservation, il existe aussi un repère souterrain. C'est grâce aux techniques les plus récentes de positionnement par satellites, le GPS (Global Positioning System) que ces repères ont pu être déterminés.

Le GPS s'appuie sur une constellation de 25 satellites créée par les Américains. Ce système complété par des observations dans le système français Doris (embarqué dans le satellite Spot) a permis d'exprimer les coordonnées du réseau géodésique yéménite

dans un système mondial. Grâce aux satellites, l'IGN a pu définir un point de référence sans que les mesures soient perturbées par les effets de la gravité terrestre (on s'affranchit ainsi de la verticale physique). Les coordonnées de ce point de référence, installé à l'université de Sanaa, ont été définies à la mi-1992, pour des raisons de mouvements de l'écorce terrestre. Elles sont connues en absolu avec une précision d'environ 7 cm et c'est à partir de ce point de référence que les autres points du réseau yéménite ont été calculés.

Des repères d'altitude

Un canevas de nivellement a également été constitué par l'IGN. Cela consiste en des repères d'altitude. Près de 1900 ont été scellés dans des ponts, des maisons..., dans les provinces du nord du Yémen. La notion d'altitude, communément comprise comme une notion géométrique, est en fait une notion physique liée à l'accélération de la pesanteur et donc demande des mesures complémentaires qui sont les mesures de gravité.

L'ensemble des documents réalisés par l'IGN ont été remis dimanche dernier au président du Survey Authority, Dr. Mohammed Abdul Malik Al-Ulufi, en présence, du côté yéménite, du Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahman, vice-président, du Dr. Abdallah Obeid Fadhli, responsable technique et Ahmed Amer Hassan Hamyary, chef du projet, et côté français de l'ambassadeur de France, Marcel Laugel, de



Une borne géodésique sur la route entre Sanaa et Mareb. Il y en a 236 comme celle-là dans le nord du Yémen.

Gilbert Krebs, conseiller commercial, d'Alain Couzy, directeur d'IGN France International et d'Alain Jaloux chef du projet pour son aspect commercial.

Les documents remis comprennent des documents originaux d'observation, que les Yéménites conserveront à titre d'archives, des dossiers de calcul, des listings et des disquettes informatiques, enfin des documents finaux destinés à être diffusés auprès des utilisateurs. Cela comprend des listes de coordonnées de tous les points, des cahiers d'altitude,

des fiches signalétiques. Le projet comprenait également un transfert de technologie. Christophe Reffay a ainsi été envoyé pour former des Yéménites à l'utilisation du GPS.

"Les compagnies pétrolières en particulier attendent avec impatience les résultats de ce travail", précise Ahmed Amer, chef du projet du côté yéménite. "La délimitation des concessions pétrolières pose des problèmes, chaque compagnie ayant utilisé ses propres références. Certaines concessions se chevauchent, ce

qui entraîne des disputes entre les compagnies. D'où l'intérêt d'un réseau homogène", ajoute-t-il.

Le pétrole se trouvant pour l'essentiel au sud, l'extension du canevas géodésique et de nivellement dans cette partie du Yémen se révèle nécessaire. Ce projet est en bonne voie. Si ce nouveau contrat d'un coût de 25 millions de F est signé, les travaux commenceront au début de l'année prochaine et permettront de constituer un réseau véritablement national.

Jérôme BERNARD

PROCHE-ORIENT

Un calendrier de paix difficile à tenir

L'échéance du 13 décembre pour le début du retrait israélien de Gaza et Jéricho devrait être reportée. Les discussions entre l'OLP et Israël achoppent sur certains points. La paix au Proche-Orient a encore beaucoup d'obstacles à franchir.

Dirigeants palestiniens et israéliens en sont persuadés: ils ont atteint un point de non retour, un sentiment renforcé par l'absence d'alternative proposée par leurs opposants. Mais beaucoup d'obstacles restent à franchir pour instaurer une paix solide.

Ainsi, le début du retrait israélien de Gaza et Jéricho prévu le 13 décembre devrait être reporté. Deux problèmes majeurs demeurent jusqu'à présent: la superficie octroyée aux colonies juives dans les futurs territoires autonomes. Les Israéliens réclament qu'elle représente 10 % de la bande de Gaza, tandis que les Palestiniens la fixent à un maximum de 5 %. Une grande disproportion marque aussi les chiffres concernant les limites de Jéricho, fixées à 25 km² selon les Israéliens et à 340 km² selon les Palestiniens.

Shimon Perès, ministre israélien des Affaires étrangères, a déclaré, "nous faisons tout pour nous en tenir au calendrier prévu, mais ce qui compte

après tout, ce n'est pas tant le début de l'application de l'accord que sa conclusion et le tout sera une affaire de quatre mois, même si le début prend un peu de retard. Selon la déclaration de principes signée le 13 septembre, la fin du retrait est prévue le 13 avril 1994.

De nombreux adversaires

Palestiniens et Israéliens doivent encore apporter la preuve de la solidité de leur accord sur le terrain, où chaque jour apporte son nouveau lot de violences. Dans leurs maisons, nettes de pierre serrées sur les collines arides de la Cisjordanie occupée, l'heure est à la résistance pour les colons juifs, désabandonnés dans leur mission qu'ils croyaient bénie pour l'éternité. Sous les palmiers de Jéricho, les cadres de l'OLP, formés d'abord à la lutte armée, vont devoir apprendre la lourde tâche de gérer une société civile, meurtrie par vingt-six

années d'occupation et six ans de soulèvement durement réprimé. Dans les sables de Gaza, les islamistes attendent le moment de faire lever l'orage sur l'autonomie qu'ils assimilent à une trahison.

L'autonomie elle-même reste à définir dans ses modalités. La longueur et l'âpreté des négociations pour le retrait israélien de Gaza et Jéricho, qui n'est que le début du processus, montre la complexité de la tâche. Israël et l'OLP devront notamment s'attacher à mettre au point les modalités des élections au Conseil d'autonomie, prévues en juillet prochain au plus tard, ainsi que ses pouvoirs et ses compétences.

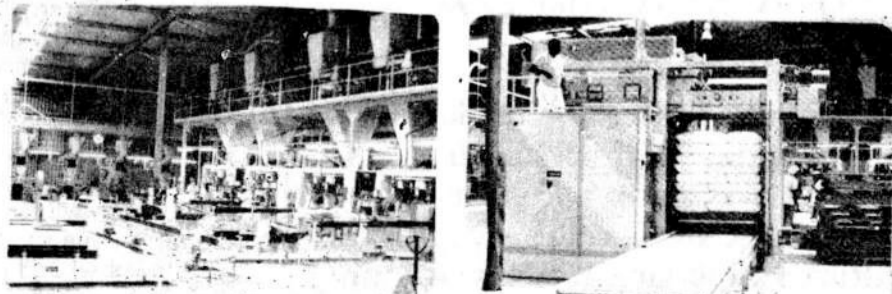
L'implication des Etats-Unis apporte un atout essentiel aux protagonistes de la paix. Washington pousse la Syrie et Israël à signer un accord, sans lequel toute entente reste fragile entre l'Etat hébreu et l'OLP, difficile à atteindre avec la Jordanie et quasi-impossible avec le Liban.

(avec AFP)



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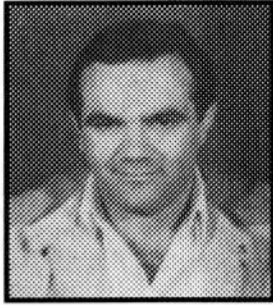
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QAT: A Problem for Yemen

By: Saad Salah Khalis,
Yemen Times.

On Wednesday, December 8 Althawra daily published an article by Dr. Abdulrahman Yehya Al Haddad on how to achieve development and on the important role of manpower and technical knowledge. He lamented the unemployment rate and society's inability to exploit the one and only real resource of Yemen - its people.

The article was objective and interesting, yet one major factor was overlooked, as it is always the case whenever the development issue in Yemen is discussed, and as if most Yemeni



large number of people, most of them smokers. There is no ventilation as all the doors and windows are shut. In two or so hours, the chewers start day dreaming. Some may argue that this is an old tradition of Yemen just like the arms and



writers try to by-pass that disturbing fact - the existence of *qat*. No development can be achieved in Yemen as long as this plant called *qat* takes up 90% of the spare time of the Yemeni people.

How can anybody expect higher productivity from people whose life stops from 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon until 9:00 a.m. the next morning? How can planning take place when the people of the morning are not themselves in the afternoon and evening. Any observer can easily note the mood of drivers in the streets around 1:00 in the afternoon, who become mad in order to reach the *qat* market places. And that is only one part of it. The second tragedy starts when chewing. You can see all faces are as exhausted as if they came out of a battle field, they utter non-understandable words because they talk with their mouth full. They lock themselves in rooms filled with

janbiyas. But even if that were so, harmful traditions must be thrown away. *Qat* in Yemen is not merely a drug or a plant of addiction, it is a way of life, and it consumes the persons addicted to it.

To find money for *qat*, which by the way is an extremely costly addiction, people justify many wrong-doing including bribery commonly known as 'Haq Al-*qat*.' An ordinary bundle would cost several hundred Riyals, and some special quality *qat* could go for a few thousand. Of course, at the inexpensive end, there is *qat* for less than a hundred riyals.

Abdul Karim Al Razih, the satiric writer of Yemen, once said that "*qat* is the green imam of Yemen." The Yemeni individual does not think of travelling or touring, having hobbies, or simply enjoying him/herself as the plant fills up all leisure time and gaps.

What we are saying is that talking about any kind of development without full consideration of the *qat* issue

is useless. So if a productive society is to be established, *qat* will be the first problem to deal with.

What is really surprising at all levels is that there is no real effort to get rid of this destructive element in Yemeni society, except for some individual attempts here and there. Moreover, even the addicts curse the thing and swear to fight it, well until noon.

The people and government are satisfied with cursing *qat* and its affects. From personal observation, it is easy to see that no body is doing anything about it. To the contrary, the problem is growing. People now chew *qat* in the mornings, and in the evenings. Ramadhan is now coming, and *qat* is going to be the a center-piece around which flocks of people will night-long chew sessions. The economic burden of *qat* is readily visible. But there is also the psychological and moral effects.

A Yemen Times field survey of police stations in Sanaa showed that most misunderstandings and conflicts arise either in the early or late afternoon. Meaning that it is either just before the *qat* chew, or immediately thereafter. Many family fights occur because of *qat* - either directly on evenings as a grouchy husbands gets irritated over nothing, or indirectly because of the cost of *qat* and its effects on the family budget.

Imagine ten year old children chewing *qat*, or teenage girls or whoever and contemplate how early the damage is done. Imagine again students who feel they are unable to study unless they chew. And finally imagine senior government officials making decisions under the influence of *qat*.

Yet, the authorities continue to neglect problem. The community is also oblivious to the issue. Parents, educators and media persons have yet to address the problem. It is true that an anti-*qat* society was formed two years ago, but this is neither effective nor even functional. A concerted national effort is required if the damage is to be averted or even minimized.

I can't claim to have answers to Yemen's *qat* problem. Some people have suggested certain laws which limit the marketing spots as well as not to allow *qat* chewers in certain public places. But Yemeni laws are not observed and there is no way to enforce them. One thing is certain, however. It is the need for alerting the public and increasing awareness on the problem and its effects.

On the threshold of 21st century, peoples of the world must seek better standards of living and welfare, more cultural and scientific achievements and so on. What is Yemen going to do if it is overwhelmed with *qat*. *Qat* supporters put forth many arguments which are neither accurate nor realistic. In my opinion, *qat* is a problem and the authorities should treat it as such, for the sake of Yemen.

Yemen's Silver Jewelry: Timeless Designs in a Perfected Art

There's a renaissance afoot in Yemen's jewelry industry, a movement combining the magic of an ancient tradition with the spirit of tomorrow.

It's a new look that says Queen Sheba, vintage 21st century.

"Whenever I turn, I'm surrounded by all these great civilizations: Sheba, Himyar, Qataban, Hadhramaut, and of course, Islamic Yemen," said a leading silversmith in Souq Al-Milh in Sanaa, one of many new breed artisans who are playing a major role in rejuvenating the dying industry.

"I create something new everyday. All I have to do is look around."

A jeweler for almost 30 years, he and his colleagues are spending a long time to continue the tradition of hand-made jewelry - long a monopoly of Jewish Yemenis.

"At first, our role was simply to collect the jewelry from those who want to sell, polish it and make any necessary repairs, and then sell them to the tourists and visitors. In the beginning, that was enough as Yemeni moved from silver to gold for their ornaments. Gold has become the metal of choice for commoners seeking the look and feel of kings and queens. The vivid images of Queen Sheba - decorated with gold - have driven our women from silver to gold," he said.

The high cost of labor in the 1970s and 1980s also made it impossible to enter into the production of jewelry profitably. But in the 1990s, as labor costs dropped dramatically because of the return of so many immigrants and the high unemployment rate, it has become possible to employ and train workers in the profession. An additional push also came with the drying-up of the flow of silver jewelry from Yemeni women.

They use the colorful and rich jewelry tradition of women in the countryside and deserts has helped come up with new styles and designs. Designs developed by goldsmiths are also being used to enrich an already stunningly rich tradition.

It takes days, sometimes weeks and even months to craft the beads for a full set or a collection - some with a Sabaeen or even Judaic twist, others with the sweep of Islamic calligraphy. Endless days to polish and shape the amber, amethyst, topaz onyx, turquoise or pearls to complete the piece.

There are no copies, no two-of-a-kind. They're bold creations meant to be worn with casual clothes, business suits, finery.

The Yemeni love affair with jewelry began even before the Sabaeans, when craftsmen using the simplest of tools created pieces that elicit awe even today.

The rulers of the ancient Yemeni civilizations and the wealthy families adorned their women with necklaces, diadems, rings, belts and wide collars strung with semi precious stones. The tradition persists even today, but gold has become the metal of attraction.

Souk Al-Milh in Sanaa is the point of largest concentration of silverwear, but there are collections in Souk Al-Shanini in Taiz, in Aden in Mukallah, etc.

The Sheba look jewelry quickly became fashionable with visitors. It helped revive a jewelry tradition that has survived more than 2,000 years of changing civilizations and religions and evolving fashion tastes.

But the boom cannot last without full support and encouragement from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Unless capital and training is made available, the industry risks going back to oblivion and becoming as distant a memory as the Queen of Sheba, a victim of neglect and lack of appreciation for the value and worth of this tradition and industry.



For centuries, fine silver jewelry was crafted by Jewish Yemenis. But with the departure of most of Yemen's Jews, starting with the Majic Carpet operation, and persisting until today, the business fell to oblivion. The resurgence that is forcing a come-back needs all the support it can get from the government, the private sector and even from the foreign donors.

For the thousands of foreigners (tourists) this offers an additional bonus - to go home with something close to that which adorned the Queen of Sheba. Anybody wanting to buy good Yemeni silver jewelry need not face bad choices any more.

Dubbed by foreigners as ethnic designs, the silverwear being offered by the Yemeni artisans are a well-perfected piece of art. Hunched for days in a row to produce just one piece, the artisans ask for peanuts in return. The best piece would cost a few dollars, and a full set or collection would cost only around a hundred US dollars. Remember to bargain intensely.

The pioneering work being accomplished for traditional jewelry is to Yemeni traditional artwork what Navajo handwork is to the American Indian. It represents a revival and a preservation of part of the culture and history of the nation.

At first glance, the elaborate and detailed artwork may taste and seem a little alien or even out-of-touch to the daily realities of the practical foreigners. But with jewelry like those that once draped the queens of Yemen, how can any visitor resist taking a sample. They embody the stunning beauty of Yemen's ancient times, the striking smiles of wonderful women, and the rushing greenery of distant civilizations.

The choices are unbelievable. There are the full sets that include a head rap, necklace, earrings, rings, collars, bands for the hands, arms and ankles. If you just want a piece or two, go for the slender silver bracelets which are filled with verses from the Quran engraved in beautiful Arabic script. You will never see the verses as they are locked-in for ever, but they may just help!

Today, no visitor to Yemen goes home with at least a peep at Old Sanaa's Souk Al-Milh. In part it is to see the beautiful and splendour of a unique architecture, and in part it is to take home part of Yemen's history in the form of traditional silverwear.

By: Fatmah S. Rawah,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

VACANCY

The American Embassy in Sanaa is looking for a qualified person to fill the Agricultural Assistant vacant position. Applicant must have college degree in Agriculture Economics, Business Administration, or closely related field.

Interested persons should contact the Embassy Personnel Office no later than December 21, 1993.

“Yemen Needs Restructuring Fast”

Mr. Attila Karaosmanoglu, Managing Director of the World Bank, concluded a three-day visit to Yemen last week. During his visit, he granted an exclusive interview to the Yemen Times, in which he pointed out a number of issues pertaining to the development process of Yemen.

“There is at least \$370 million in available funds which the Republic of Yemen can immediately draw on. Your country suffers from a limited absorptive capacity, primarily because of administrative bottlenecks,” he said, pointing out - by way of comparison - that much smaller economies have been able to absorb more funds.

Under normal circumstances, Yemen should absorb roughly \$70-75 million from the World Bank commitments. But this is not happening. In 1992, Yemen drew only \$40 million, and in 1993, the number is expected to be lower this year (1993) according to observers.

“We are willing to consider a much higher allocation, if the country is better able to manage the economy,” he indicated.

The World Bank official, who had been with the first team to visit Yemen in November 1969, and since then, he has followed the evolution of Yemeni development, as country economist, then as chief economist, country director, and even today, as Managing Director, he is in charge of Yemen as well as the rest of the Middle East and North Africa, among other regions.

“Yemen needs restructuring fast. The adjustment program we are asking for is thought through and worked out by the Yemeni side.

The first aspect of an adjustment program is to make sure it leads to the wanted results.

The second aspect of an adjustment program is measure the costs involved, and put together a financing package to match them.

The third aspect is to monitor the degree of change in the basic factors which were taken into account when the adjustment was thought out.

Within Yemen, the World Bank is ready to finance the costs of adjustment in Yemen. But the country must control the fiscal deficit in the economy.

Mr. Karaosmanoglu then pointed to the dramatic change that has taken place in Yemen, since he first knew it. The improvements at all levels have been dramatic. “I appreciate the impatience of Yemenis who say much more could be done. I in turn appreciate this impatience which is the driving force for change. This dynamism must be mobilized and put to good use for the development of the country.”

Speaking about the pains of unification, Attila indicated that he was well versed with the Yemenis’ ability at creating national unity. “When I first arrived in Yemen, the country (what was known as YAR) was undergoing a unification process. You see, North Yemen was not one country in the 1960s. But Yemenis were able to achieve national unity. Now, thirty years later, you are doing the same thing - at an expanded level. I am sure Yemenis will come through, in spite of the difficulties,” he said.

The World Bank official stated that the details of an adjustment program are being worked out and will be finished by mid-January.

INVEST IN PEOPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Democracy demands that governance be people-based; that is, it should put the aspirations, hopes and desires of the people first. In short, the empowerment of the people.

But how does one put the people first? Perhaps this is the reason why the European Council resolution of June 29, 1991, expanded the meaning of democracy to include respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the existence of institutions which are effective, accountable and enjoy legitimacy.

Is that all? Hardly. The New York-based United Nations Development Program’s (UNDP) recent report comes in handy. Its fourth annual report titled *Human Development Report* gives invaluable information for policy-makers and planners, especially in those countries which are democratizing.

The report is fittingly anchored on people and their participation in development precisely because it is the people who are the motor-force of any development. However, if they are to participate in development, they have to be equipped for that role.

That is why the UNDP report describes human development as development of the people, for the people and by the people. Development of the people means investing in human capabilities such as education, health, or skills in order that they may work creatively and be productive.

Development for the people means ensuring that the economic growth they generate is distributed widely and fairly.

And development by the people means giving everyone a chance to participate in the development of their communities. That is what makes human development a process of continuous widening the range of people’s choices.

Many countries in the developing world are cash-strapped (like ours) and would, of course, raise the question, “Where will the

money come from to enable us, for example, to invest in education, health and skills, much as we are craving for them?” One observation from the report would answer that question.

It says that if developing countries froze their military spending at the 1990 level during the next decade, this would release nearly \$ 100 billion for their essential human development priorities, including universal literacy, primary health care and safe drinking water by the year 2000!

Another observation is in order. UNDP says that in a number of Third World countries, 75% of the resources in technical co-operation are spent on personnel - mostly expatriate - as opposed to equipment and operating expenses, and that relatively little use is made of national experts.

The report adds that in one Third World country, donors employed 80 foreign doctors and medical personnel in 1990 at a time when 100 of the countries qualified doctors were unemployed. One feels obliged to ask, why were these doctors trained in the first place?

Is that an index of development? The *Human Development Report* of 1990 introduced a new yardstick for measuring human progress: the *Human Development Index* (HDI) which combines indicators of real purchasing power, education and health and offers a more comprehensive idea of development that does consider the Gross National Product (GNP) element alone.

The message to the developing world is this: “Invest massively in people, their education, health and skills and increase their creativity and productivity.”

By:
Ahmad Salim Bamihir
Sana'a.

SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY APPARENT IN QUITE LEBANON

Driving in Beirut has always been a nightmare. During the war years it was shells and bullets that terrorized the drivers. But now traffic jams caused by construction sites in the capital are making mobility in Beirut streets impossible. However, this time the frustration is being met by a smile and an unusual level of tolerance.

Signs of economic recovery have started to upstage the damage and destruction that marked Beirut during the 17-year Lebanese civil war.

With the end of the war in 1991 followed by resolution of the foreign hostages saga, Lebanon started attracting investments and skilled professionals seeking profits in a depression-stricken world.

Stability over the past two years has allowed the government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, himself a billionaire, to launch a massive international campaign to rebuild the battered capital.

A multi-billion dollar project which could turn the damaged business centre of Beirut into a modern and cosmopolitan commercial district has already presented itself as a historic investment opportunity for local and international capitals. European and Japanese businessmen, once prime targets for hostage-takers, are now crowding the city restaurants dinnning over lucrative business deals.

Television advertisements announcing the beginning of subscription in the shares of the downtown area project. The hundred-dollar share has become an elegant gift for the birth of a new relative or a nice wedding anniversary present. “Being part of the national rebuilding campaign combines

two aspirations that usually do not go together,” said Rashid Fayed, spokesman of Solidere, the firm leading the reconstruction campaign.

“It makes one fulfil an important national duty and provides a guaranteed profitable venture,” he said. He was speaking from an elegant office at the third floor of a renovated 19th-century building in the devastated heart of Beirut.

“We are looking for \$650 million in cash investments to start the project. At this rate of subscription we assume we can start by May next year,” Fayed said.

The opportunity which is also open to Arab and foreign investors stipulates the total rebuilding of a 1.65 million square metre area according to a plan that combines modern designs with indigenous Lebanese architecture.

Backers say the significance of the project does not stop at the magnitude of the project and its capital investment, it extends to the economic

growth and commercial implications that comes with it.

Employment will soar, per capita income will rise and the gross national product will skyrocket due to the reactivation of the various sectors of economy, especially those directly related to the construction industry.

Basil Fuleihan, a United Nations development program economist, said that the project would reduce the budget deficit due to the increasing governmental revenues through the taxes evied on higher business earning and customs duties.

He added that the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound will also improve with the inflow of cash capital that will be changed into the national currency.

Finally the project will encourage international and regional companies to reopen offices in Lebanon, thus creating more job opportunities and investment prospects for local and foreign capital.

تهانينا الحاره

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات
للأخ محمد يوسف الحديدي

بمناسبة ارتزاقه الطفله ((هناديل)) جعلها الله قرة أعين والديها

من إخوانك :

يحي يوسف الحديدي وأسرته يمن تايمز

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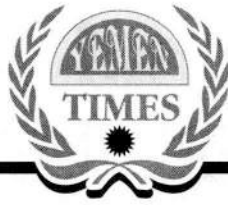
MUSIC FOR ALL

Come and register with the Fine Arts School.

Music courses at all levels, all instruments for adults and children will start on January 4th, 1994.

Hurry! Space is limited!

Call: **The Fine Arts School,**
Telephone: 203-387 (between 3-8 p.m.)
Or come in person to:
No. 31, Al-Zubeiri Street,
Behind the Ministry of Oil



DHL Leads the Yemeni Courier Service

DHL Yemen celebrated last week the award for "Best Performance" among all the DHL offices in the region. "We did it for the third consecutive year in a row," boasted Omar Mohammed Omar, General Manager of UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism and the agents for DHL in Yemen. On hand to mark the occasion was Ken Allen, the Regional Manager of DHL Worldwide Express, himself an old hand on Yemen.

"DHL is expanding its services in various markets in the world. We have offices in 220 countries in the world and all these are connected to a central computer tracking system which follows every consignment wherever it goes in the world," said Mr. Allen, obviously happy with the Yemeni market growth.

Mr. Alwan Al-Shabani, Chairman of Universal Travel and Tourism pointed to the aggressive marketing style of DHL. "We already represent over 70% of the courier market of the country, and we are working both to expand the market size and our market share," he pointed out.

The company already handles some 7000 consignments a month, of which some 80% is in-coming. "We commit to deliver any arriving consignment before 10:00 a.m.," stated Hussain Al-Sayyadi, DHL's Country Manager.

DHL is pushing forward at three levels.

The first level is related to



technologic advances and the use of sophisticated gadgets to expedite delivery of the consignment as reliably as possible. This has led DHL to introduce many small devices that help improve the service.

Among these is the hand-held micro-wand computer used upon delivery which works through a laser beam which automatically sucks in the bar code on the airway bill and records time of delivery and recipient. Once back at the office, the information on the wand is downloaded to a PC which then automatically passes on the information to the regional office (Bahrain), and from there to the point of origin of the parcel.

The second new innovation is a free package to the major

customers called Easy-ship system. This allows the customers to preprint their airway bills, produce proforma invoice, organize monthly invoicing, and even sort out the mailroom.

The second is related to manpower development. On the job training and courses are abroad are a regular part of the manpower training. All the 32 DHL Yemen employees are Yemenis, and they have undergone rigorous training. "We have sent them to Bahrain, Jordan, and even to Europe for training. We have also brought in trainers here," explained Hussain.

The level of training has allowed DHL to maintain a highly professional, yet personalized service to the clients.

fold, and there is at least a 5%, and sometimes a 20%, monthly growth rate in the business," Mr. Shaibani pointed out.

The drive and commitment is clear from the attitude of DHL's country manager, Mr. Al-Sayyadi.

Even with all the good news, more could have been done had it not been for the political uncertainty and other complications. "DHL Yemen is a local company. We don't get involved in any kind of politics. We are very sensitive to the environment in the country. Stability is very important for our kind of business," said Mr. Allen.

"For the last three months, the business has been affected by the political dif-

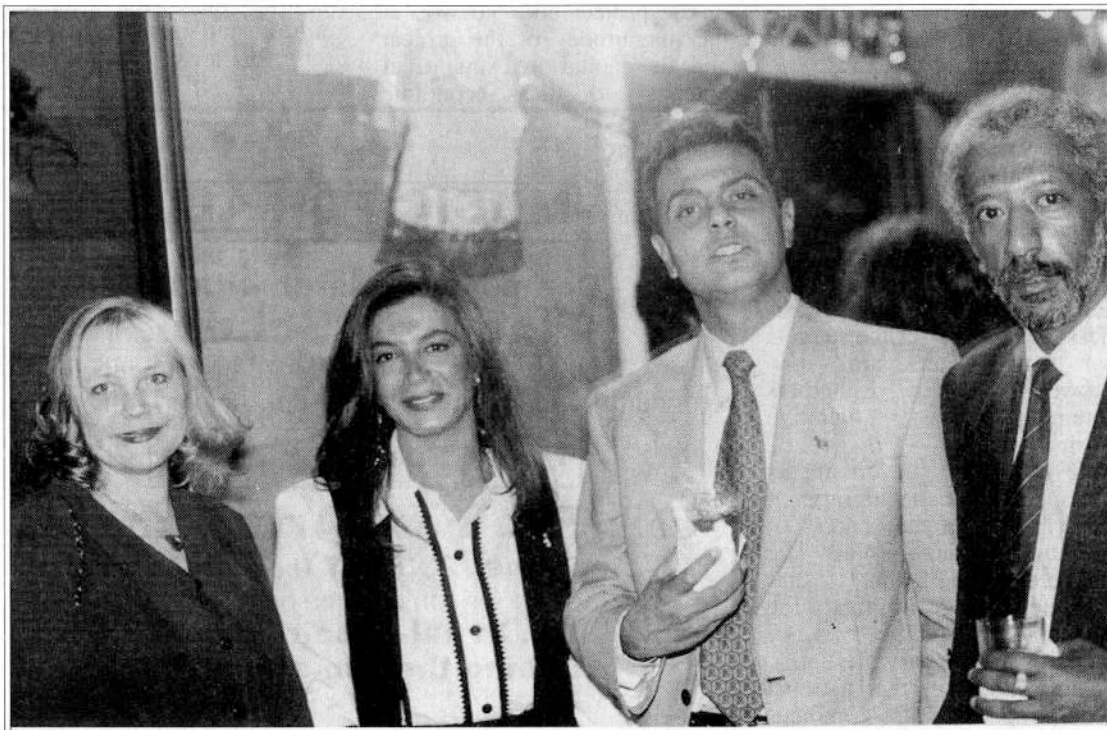
important, but it does not and should not command overriding priority.

Third, actually most couriers are not making a lot of money.

"Our main message to our customers is that you can leave a job with us and consider it done. There is no way we will let our customers down," stated Al-Sayyadi.

"Really, we stop at no point. We start at six in the morning and keep going until the business is done," the DHL Yemen Manager explained.

"We also do pick up of parcels. We guarantee to be at the door to pick the consignment within half an hour of the time agreed upon with



Finally, DHL is able to move bulky consignment. As Japan Airlines and Lufthansa have purchased shares in DHL, they have provided facilities to move even very large consignments. "We can literally move anything, anywhere," stressed Ken Allen. "We are not just moving documents and small parcels. We can ship a package any size."

"DHL Yemen's Aden office is doing well, and business there is picking up rapidly. We have also started a daily service to Mukalla. Every day except Fridays, because there are no flights on Fridays," explained Mr. Alwan Shaibani. "We are also planning another office in Sanaa, and possibly a separate head office."

"Over the last three years, our business has grown ten-

fold. There has been growth, but it is lower than expected," explained Mr. Shaibani. "Our work is increasing monthly. The difference is that sometimes we expect a 30% increase, but instead we end up with a 5% increase. We may be expecting too much, but that is a different story."

Is DHL more expensive than the other couriers? The answer is a definite "Yes."

But wait a minute. First, you get what you pay for. Some companies can offer lower rates, but then they cut corners and the quality of the service falls dramatically.

Second, when you need something carried over urgently and reliably, the cost element is definitely not the deciding factor. It is

our customers. No excuses," a self-confident Sayyadi stressed.

DHL really provides an exceptional service. The large international network allows the company to link up with all corners of the world.

When was the last time DHL lost a consignment? There was a long moment of thinking. Answer. "I don't really remember."

If that very rare occurring does happen, the sender is alerted immediately to take the necessary measure to minimize the damage that could be done. Meanwhile, a track and search electronic operator is unleashed to find the lost package.

It is truly a highly efficient company providing an exceptional quality service.



GULF AIR Birds Return to Yemeni Skies

H.E. Salim bin Ali bin Nasser Assiyabi,
President and Chief Executive of Gulf Air



Last week witnessed the return of the Gulf Air birds to the Yemeni skies. It was a beautiful sight to see the A320 aircraft land. On board was Regional Vice President Marketing, Mr. Mohammed Al-Shafie, and at hand were many senior officials and airline people to welcome the plane.

"With more than 250 intra-Gulf flights a week, Gulf Air is the obvious choice for onward connections. The daytime flights are also an added advantage," he said. The services operate every Tuesday and Saturday as follows:

Departure from Sanaa	16:00
Arrival at Abu Dhabi	20:00
Departure Abu Dhabi	12:30
Arrival in Sanaa	14:50

George Yigzaw, Area Manager (Yemen, Ethiopia, Djibouti) for Gulf Air was upbeat about the return of the service. "We are sure to provide

our customers top quality service and dependability," he indicated.

Mr. Nagib Saleh Al-Ashtal of Falcon Travel Services Ltd, the exclusive agent of Gulf Air, used the opportunity to express his thanks and appreciation for the cooperation and understanding of the Yemeni officials.

"We always get positive reaction from the Civil Aviation Authority, and from the national carriers - Yemenia and Alyemda," he said.

Located at 94 Haddah Road, Gulf Air's office in Sanaa welcomes all with a broad smile and excellent services.



Getting Ready for the Future

There are two major developments on the cards for Gulf Air in 1994.

First, on May 4th, Gulf Air will receive the first of six A340s. Gulf Air has an additional six A340s on option with Airbus Industrie of Toulouse, France. Then in July, Gulf Air plans to fly to New York, breaking into the American market for the first time.

Meanwhile, the entire inflight experience is undergoing a comprehensive upgrade, from cutlery to the cuisine, from entertainment to menu cards.

The introduction of frequent flyers and executive clubs is targeted for the first half of 1994, involving a comprehensive benefits program aimed at encouraging passenger loyalty.

Gulf Air's plans for the balance of this century are ambitious. Before the end of the decade, the company hopes to carry ten million travellers and over a quarter of a million tons of cargo.

Mr. Hamad Al-Medfa,
Executive Vice President - Marketing



Mohammed Al-Shafie,
Regional Vice President - Marketing



Traditional Arabic coffee and a smile
welcomes passengers to Gulf Air's First Class



A De Havilland Dove, one of the first aircrafts to operate for the Gulf Aviation Company (that became Gulf Air)



Gulf Air's Boeing 767-300 ERs which form today the backbone of the long-haul fleet.



A Modest Beginning

Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has its origins in an air-taxi service started by British ex-RAF pilot Fredrick Bosworth in 1949. Bosworth began by flying joy-trips around the islands of Bahrain using a seven-seater Anson Mark 1.

Soon, these sight-seeing flights evolved into a small-scale commuter service between Manama (Bahrain), Doha (Qatar), Sharjah (UAE) and Dhahran (Saudi Arabia). Seeing the rising demand for an organized airline transport company, several prominent businessmen joined Bosworth to establish Gulf Aviation Company on March 24, 1950. On Bosworth's death in 1951, the British Overseas Aircraft Corporation (BOAC) became a major shareholder, thus injecting new capital and providing pilots and technicians.

As the years passed, more and larger planes were added. The oil boom that started in 1973, was directly and visibly reflected on the airline. It was also in 1973 when the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE purchased the shares of BOAC, now British Airways. This step was incorporated in the Founding Treaty of January 1st, 1974, according to which Gulf Aviation Company became Gulf Air, the national carrier of those four states.

As a result, a local and regional airline suddenly became an international carrier, as Gulf Air started flying to far away destinations. At the moment, the company's \$2.2 billion fleet carry passengers and cargo worldwide. With hubs in Manama and Abu Dhabi, Gulf Air transports over four million passengers and over 100,000 tons of cargo every year.

It has come, indeed, a long way from the days of Fredrick Bosworth.



THE PRICE OF CRUDE FALLS THROUGH A BOTTOMLESS PIT

No oil price floor is in sight, though rumors of an early resumption of Iraqi oil exports see as baseless, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

"Again, in the absence of any strong and effective reaction from Opec on the production front, the market appears to be testing ever lower price levels, with no discernible floor in sight, as the supply situation still seems to be comfortable," it said. This, it is said, was despite weather-related losses of Russian Black Sea exports and to a lesser extent of exports from North Sea terminals.

"This supply despite problems has tended to re-enforce market belief that Opec production - even if it remains within reasonable distance of the official ceiling of 24.52 million bpd - is still too high," MEES said. "In the absence of strong and effective Opec action, there is no reason why prices should not go lower still. It would seem that the market is testing ever lower levels in its search for a floor which has not yet materialized."

Nonetheless, it dismissed as lacking real substance a report last week predicting an Iraqi-UN compromise which could pave the way for Iraqi exports by the beginning of the second quarter of 1994.

"MEES soundings indicate that so far nothing has basically changed in the situation regarding Iraqi oil exports," it said. "Its headline said ideas of an early resumption

"look baseless."

It is said the Iraq leadership was concentrating fully on obtaining a complete removal of oil sanctions along the route prescribed by UN security council resolutions 687 and 715, which require compliance on arms issues for oil sanctions to be lifted.

MEES said Iraq has no interest in pursuing restricted oil sales under resolutions 706 and 712 despite Iraqi rejection of certain key provisions.

It said the United States has refused to countenance any revision of the provisions of 706 and 712 despite Iraqi rejections of certain key aspects thereof.

It said Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, categorically denied to MEED Iraq had any intention of reactivating 706 and said its rejection of the resolution remained absolute.

Hamdoun was earlier quoted as telling a November 30 New York oil analysts meeting that 706 "could be activated any time" though some conditions would have to be modified. He speculated Iraq might be more willing to accept the limited oil sale if it looked like it might take nine to twelve months to get sanctions lifted.

MEES also said that though the top UN arms inspector, Rolf Ekeus, has proposed at least six months from the beginning of next year as a test period on implementing the long-term monitoring under 715, Washington

wants at least a year.

It quoted a senior U.S. state department official as saying Iraq must still account for some of its weapons, and also that the intrusive monitoring regime may not be acceptable to Iraq.

"We will have to see that it functions for a sustained period of time which I think would take at least a year," he said. He dismissed as "utter nonsense" any prospect of a deal under a less restrictive version of 706, and 712.

MEES said low oil prices are hurting Opec members more than before since their economies are much more fragile.

"In short, the pain threshold of low prices is higher this time around," MEES commented, explaining that the exporters have less flexibility to deal with the lower revenues that before.

The sharp fall in prices since Opec decided in November not to cut output "has dashed any hopes that oil producing nations could end 1993 with their revenue projections intact," it said. The likelihood of prices staying weak in early 1994 is "forcing countries to revise their spending plans for the next year."

The latest price fall is so far less severe than in 1988 and 1990 but there are reasons why it is more serious than it seems.

There was no reason prices might not decline further, in the absence of strong and effective Opec action.

- The 1988 and 1990 price

declines occurred in the spring or summer months but recovered with the onset of winter. Prices are currently weak in winter, when the market is usually strong.

- The absolute price level, after adjusting for inflation, is low. The expected 1993 average price of \$ 16.50 for the Opec basket of crudes is less than 1988's average \$ 14.24 per barrel.

MEES said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait no longer appeared able to afford to dip into reserves whenever a budget gap appeared as the reserves have fallen significantly.

"For some countries, such as those in the Gulf, the result of weak prices will be an acceleration of nascent economic reform programs which aim to reduce government spending and expand

the role of the private sector," it said. "For others, such as Algeria and Iran, low prices can only increase political and social fragility as living standards fall."

Even a harsh winter could not reverse the market trend which has for years been a consumer's market. The oil producers have simply got to tighten their belts even more.

Developing a National Housing Policy

Trainees and experts from various ministries, government authorities and organizations are scheduled to finish today, Sunday, December 12th, a two-day workshop on the National Housing Policy for the Republic of Yemen.

Sponsoring and participating agencies from outside are ESCWA, UNCHS - both UN organizations - as well as the IHS from the Netherlands.

Engineer Mohammed A. Al-Ashwal, Deputy Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, told the Yemen Times that the trainees in the workshop were divided into three groups - the financing group, the rural growth group, and the urbanization trend group - each with a different task. "We are trying to study a first draft of a policy document, and we hope to receive substantial feedback which will help us evolve a comprehensive urbanization policy."

Also coordinating the work-

shop was Mr. Cor Dijkgraaf, Director of the IHS, which has been involved in the development of the draft study.

It will be noted that urbanization in Yemen has been growing at a phenomenal rate. In some cases, such as Mukallah, the growth rate exceeded 16% in 1993. In Sanaa, the urbanization rate was over 10%.

There are two factors feeding this urbanization process.

First is the high population growth rate. The average annual growth rate is over 3.1%, which is very high by world standards, and much higher than the rate the Yemeni economy can support.

Second, there is a tremendous rural-to-urban population flow. The steady internal flow from the countryside to the cities has overwhelmed Yemen's urban centers.

The direct result of this rapid urbanization is a heavy and unmatched burden on the

government budget's needs for investments in urban infrastructure like utilities, roads, and social facilities and services. The government is unable to put up the investments needed by the sprawling urbanization.

Mr. Al-Ashwal warned that the five main cities of Yemen - Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah and Ibb - which today represent 15% of the total population, will represent more than 40% by 2010, if the current urbanization trends persist.

"That is why the workshop is so important in guiding the efforts of planning for our cities," he said.

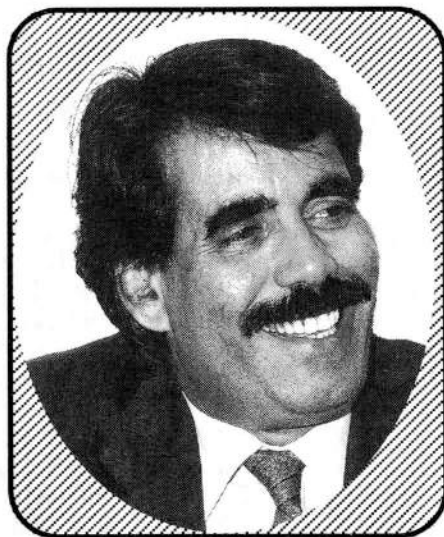
The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Hassan Makki, First Deputy Prime Minister, and was attended by many senior officials including Engineer Jamal Mohammed Abdo, Vice Minister of Transportation, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Tayyib, Vice Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

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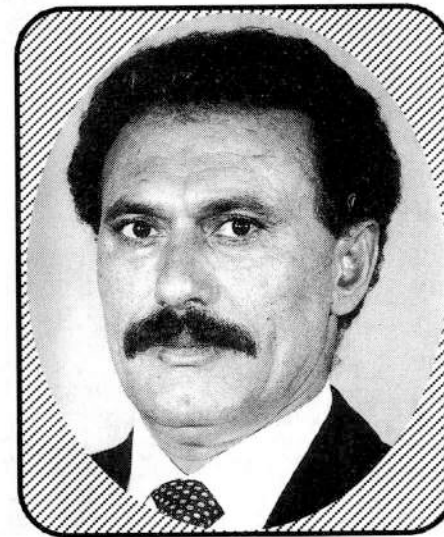
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Sanaa University' Medical College: Much More Work Needs to Be Done!

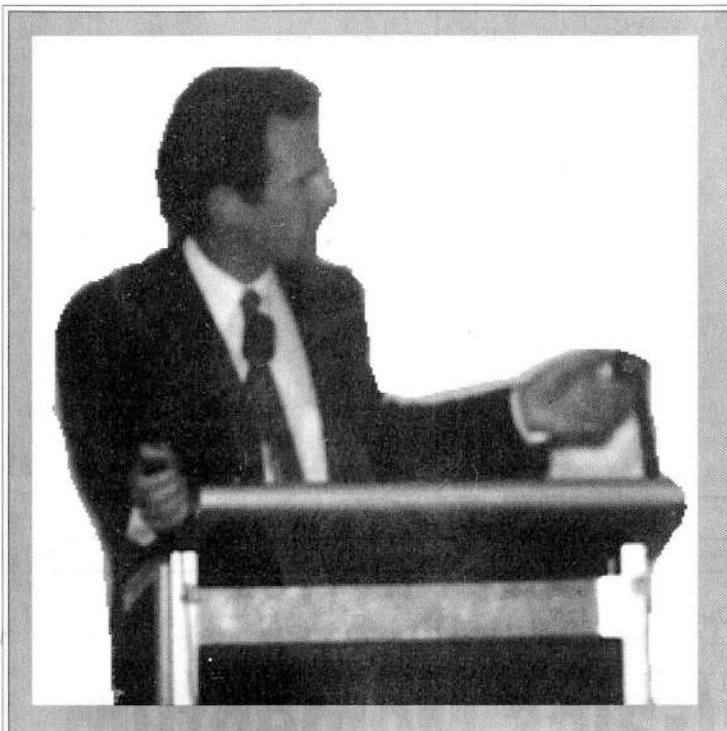
Dr. Iain Murray-Lyon is a physician with Charing Cross Hospital in London and visiting consultant with the Medical College at Sanaa University. His association with Yemen dates back to 1977 when he first visited. This week, he is on his seventh visit, and this time he is here for the final M.B. exams at the college.

"The standard of the students is very variable. The good students are very good indeed, by international standards. I can say some 75% of the graduates are adequate. But, of course, and which is normal all over the world, there is a small tail of not-up-to-standard people," he said describing the graduating students at Sanaa University's medical college.

Be that as it may, when I asked him if would go and see these doctors as a patient, he inadvertently replied, "I will pick and choose."

The main problem that comes across from Iain's assessment of the medical college is that there is a strong pressure regarding the number of students it admits every year.

Another main issue is the minimal level level of research carried out by the college. The doctors are busy in their private practice (clinics) for a big chunk of the day, in addition to their duties at the college and hospitals. "In the United Kingdom, for example, a university appointee can only earn up to 10% of his/her income through private



practice. But then again, the university there does pay to allow a decent standard of living," he pointed out. Whatever the case, the overwhelming efforts in private practice leaves very little time or energy to do any research. As a matter of fact, the college has no medical journal, which shows that there is little research and academic work to require a journal.

"A Yemeni medical journal, which I was told a year ago was going to the printer, will do a lot of good for Yemen. It would also bring the diverse schools of medical thought to one forum which will allow them to interact," he said. But the point is that there is very little research going on to start with.

There are a few shiny examples and outstanding exceptions, of course. But they are very few and this is most collaborative with foreign colleagues. The overall situation is that the medical college is oriented towards clinical work as most of the doctors are qualified along these lines. That may be the reason why the college resists the coming of new blood, especially if they are better qualified.

Speaking about the the absence of research, Murray-Lyon said, "I think that is a pity because it is part of the training for young people and for improving standards is to do some research. I am afraid the majority (of the teaching staff at the medical college) are not doing any research."

He added that it was easy to do good and useful research in Yemen where there is an abundance of original material, and where there is a lot of virgin territory to work on. "Such work would also be useful to the Ministry of Health, because it provides tips as to where health investments should go and how to address the medical issues," he added.

Actually the question is not just the availability of time, but it is the very ability of these people to do research. The issue of the qualification of the doctors who teach at the college is indeed a disturbing one. In most countries of the world, the majority of those who teach at the medical college would not be allowed to do so, because they do not have the appropriate qualifications. They can get away with the current situation because of the absence of academic standards and because they gang up together to intimidate and scare off any corrective measures.

At the same time, many of them are rushing to upgrade their standards through efforts to "get" higher qualifications. The most obvious case is an association with Khartoum University, which is expected to hand out certificates in the near future.

"It is not for nothing that quite regularly Sudanese professors (especially from Khartoum University) are flown in on consultancy basis to do this or that job for the medical college. There are quite a few fringe benefits to these invitations," stated a close observer.

Speaking about the Arab-

ization effort of the curriculum, Dr. Murray-Lyon expressed disappointment at this development. Look, the best medical colleges in the region - at Kuwait and Jordan Universities just to name two - teach in English. All over the world advances, research and studies are published in English. With the absence of any meaningful translation effort, I think the Arabization program, notwithstanding the political consideration, is a recipe for staying backward. You cannot be up todate if you don't use English in this field. There is an inevitable time lag, which even the best translation arrangements can only shorten.

"I think this may be a political decision. Another part may be a legacy of the education in the Eastern Bloc countries, where training was not done in English. So those who are not comfortable using English find excuses to shift to another language."

It is ironic that the medical college at Sanaa University would want to leave English as a medium, when many Eastern Bloc countries are moving towards English.

A further issue has to do with the possibilities of higher education in this field. There is no plan in this regard in spite of the country's need for specialists in all fields. But most of the current staff would not be useful in this regard, any way.

The philosophy of patient-doctor relations, of the very medical profession has undergone a major transformation recently. "Most patients in the West today go to libraries to look up what their diagnosis is and they come to their doctors with many questions." In other words, doctors have now to spend a long time with their patients explaining various aspects of the ailment and how it could be overcome. "The emphasis is far more on shared care between the doctors and their patients. In the past, doctors' attitude to patients was 'You leave to me and I will take care of it'."

This compares markedly with the few minutes that doctors spend with their patients in Yemen, as well as in many other developing countries. In part, it may have to do with the low rates doctors in Yemen are able to charge, and in part it has to do with the greed of the doctors who want to earn a fortune overnight. This has led to low level of credibility of Yemeni doctors and their loss of prestige. As one patient outside a clinic told me one time, "That doctor is just a money collecting machine. He doesn't care about his patients." Again, here, there are shiny exceptions, and who are beyond reproach.

Dr. Iain Murray-Lyon has done a lot of research on Yemen. At the invitation of the Yemeni-British Friendship Association, he gave a presentation on Saturday, December 11th on the results of his main studies on Yemen. Next week, Yemen Times will run a report on those studies.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri, Yemen Times.

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In Search of a Place on the Political Map of Yemen

A Pan-Taiz Gathering Gains Momentum

Al-Izzy Asselwi,
Yemen Times.

The people of Taiz are preparing to hold a pan-Taiz gathering that will bring 1200 prominent Taiz people together on 18+19/12/1993. The driving force behind this meeting is their feeling that they play - at the national level - the role of junior partner in all political parties: the PGC, YSP or Islah. That reality, they think, is due to the absence of a forum that unites the people of Taiz, in spite of the fact that they are successful as individuals.

"We feel so helpless in influencing the direction of events either in Sanaa or in

Aden, although our govern-
orate is trapped in-between
them, and hence we will
probably be the ones to
suffer most because of any
stupid decision taken in
either city," explained a
leading member of the
Preparatory Committee.
"We are pushing for the
preservation of the unity,
democracy, and the pluralist
political system in Yemen.
If, however, anything should
go wrong, we are working
to minimize the damage to
Taiz and the nation," explained
Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood,
- a leading Baath member -
Chairman of the Preparatory
Committee and Member of
the Presidium of the House
of Representatives.

"We want to tell both the
PGC and YSP that they
cannot count on our
obedience and support in
case they go for a violent
resolution of the crisis. We
insist on dialogue, and if
they decide otherwise, we
want to have nothing to do
with the ensuing events,"
stated Sheikh Sultan Al-
Barakani, Rapporteur to the
Gathering and a prominent
PGC parliament member.
"For a long time, the govern-
orate has been neglected.
The 50 Taiz deputies (43
from Taiz and 7 Taiz people
who won in non-Taiz constitu-
encies) want to form a body
that will push for imple-
mentation of projects in Taiz
according to the government

plans, especially the long-
promised Taiz university and
the city water project,"
indicated Mansoor Ahmed
Saif, a YSP-leaning member
of parliament and the man
who originally proposed the
idea of the gathering.

"The purpose behind this
gathering is to help the
people of Taiz make their
loyalty to any political party
or group secondary to their
loyalty to their home-state,"
explained Prof. Abdulaziz
Al-Saqqaf, the Head of the
Secretariat of the Gathering
and an independent public
personality. "We want to feel
as equal citizens and that
government decisions are
taken on the basis of merit,
not on the basis of political
or tribal affiliation as it is
now," he added.

The absence of this ideal
situation is now forcing the
people of Taiz to come
together and create their own
pressure group or bloc. If
they can pull it, it will be a
giant bloc from the very start
as it includes highly
qualified and successful
individuals.

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