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Member of the Presidential Council, Salim Saleh Mohammed:

“Imsakun be-maarooof, awe tasreehun be ihsan.”

“Once we are certain this unity system is not working properly, we should look for alternatives. We are now proposing a federal system according to which the country will be divided into regions or zones, say four, five or whatever number is agreed upon depending on population, socio-economic variables, and other factors. “I don’t understand why there is a furor regarding this proposal. Those who claim a unified and integrated country now exists, are, of course, either hypocritical, or they don’t know what they are talking about.”

“In the final analysis, if we don’t seem to be getting anywhere, it is as Qadhi Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani (former President of YAR) told me, ‘Imsakun be-maarooof awe tasreehun be ihsan’ (meaning ‘either a decent partnership or an amicable disengagement’).”

So stated Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party. In an interview jointly carried out by Ron Banuglo of WTN television and Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf of the Yemen Times in Aden, the YSP official lashed out at the mentality which rules over Sanaa. “Let me summarize such a mentality as one that dates back to pre-Imamic Yemen. They see themselves as the soldiers and rulers, and the majority of the population as sheep over whom they must rule. That is why the concept of ‘equal citizenship’ stirs so many of these people who have special privileges.”

In response to a question on how much has been agreed upon in the dialogue committees, Salim Saleh Mohammed said that nothing has been agreed. “We (the YSP) presented our 18 points, which are now accepted by the other side. We are now negotiating how to implement them.”

Mr. Mohammed indicated there were various intermediation efforts from Oman, Jordan, PLO and Eritrea. “We now have an American intermediation, as well. We welcome any efforts to help us overcome our difficulties,” he indicated.

These intermediations may have well internationalized the Yemeni crisis. What the PGC and YSP fail to realize is that the involvement of foreign powers, especially the powerful ones, will not just be as by-standers. Sooner or later, they will influence the decision-making process.



Recently, Salim Saleh Mohammed made a stir by suggesting that the unity of Yemen should be loosened up into a federal system. “I don’t know what they are clamoring about. These people don’t understand that a federal system means one country, one army, one flag, one central government responsible for issues of national and international concern. Beyond that, we should allow the local authorities to manage their affairs and decide on the needs of their regions like development projects, police force, local finance, election of local authorities and other issues. This is basic to democratic systems,” he pointed out. He likened the furor over and opposition to federalism among the “more traditional elements” in society to their identical response to the word constitution (Al-Dastour) in the 1948 Revolution, and again their response to the word republic (Al-Jumhuriyyah) following the 1962 Revolution. “Basically, the majority of the people do not know what these terms mean, and the privilege few who do know choose to mis-guide them,” he said.

“The Sanaa regime has mismanaged everything. Look, everyday, our people hear of oil discoveries, gas projects, and many other new sources of hard currency, yet our local currency keeps tumbling down in value. How can you explain this paradox and contradiction?” he asked.

Full details of interview on p. 14

Sanaa University's Brain Drain

An increasing number of highly qualified Yemenis have been frustrated badly enough to leave the country. There are many shocking stories at Sanaa University’s College of Medicine and how the bunch that has taken control of it is making the recruitment of new blood impossible. There is a systematic effort by to block the recruitment of better qualified new-comers.

Last year, Dr. Qais Ghanim, a first-class neurologist, finally threw in the towel and left the country. Dr. Azza Ghanim, his sister and herself a doctor at Sanaa University’s College of Education, said that Dr. Thabit Mohsin, the Department Chair, did everything possible to force her brother’s resignation and eventual departure from the country. He is today one happy man in Canada.

Earlier this year, the same Thabit Mohsin made it impossible for Dr. Ali Al-Rabooyi to join the College of Medicine. Rabooyi, an exceptional heart surgeon, has immigrated to Germany, where he is now happy and well fulfilled.

At the moment, Dr. Mohammed Bamashmoos, Yemen’s only heart-doctor with a PhD from Italy, has been told by Dr. Thabit Mohsin he can’t join the Medical College, in spite of the sympathy of the university administration. Dr. Thabit often creates whatever pretexts to refuse new comers. Dr. Bamashmoos is now considering returning to Florence, Italy, where he used to work before he came to Yemen.

Those are some of the stories which are well documented. Yemen has a problem in that the first breed of “graduates” who have occupied senior positions in the 1960s and 1970s, are unwilling to let a better-qualified new generation join them, let alone to take over. This has resulted in a brain drain which senior Yemeni officials watch. What can be done?

First, the press can expose the people who are trying to block the flow of new blood. Yemen Times is going to put together a campaign package to expose the old guard.

Second, the university administration has a duty to facilitate the steady in-flow of new blood with higher qualifications.

Third, the relevant government authorities should start a petition council with which new-comers can lodge their files. This serves as a check on any delay in the procedural aspects of new employment, especially of highly qualified people

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PLUS PERMANENT FEATURES

OUR VIEWPOINT

How Much Are Our Politicians Worth?

You can literally measure it by the day as our politicians continue to fall to ever lower levels. The people no longer have much respect for power-hungry politicians whose basic task in life has become to gather more and more money, in whatever way they can.

"The issue is no longer a matter of credibility or even legitimacy. They have neither. The issue is fast becoming one of minimal decency," explained a Sanaa University political scientist. He was definitely reflecting the general attitude of the public.

Another man said that Vice President Ali Salim Al-Beedh was seen in the past as the man responsible for achieving the unity of Yemen more than any other person, if at least for his altruism and acceptance to become the second man in the hierarchy of power in the new state. Today, he is seen as the man responsible for the potential destruction of that same unity more than any other person, if at least for his obstinate attitude in seeking a secure place in the power struggle and the restructuring that followed the 27th April elections.

We are not talking of just the top guys. The middle and lower ranks of our political apparatus are also people who command very little respect. That is because they have engaged in self-enrichment at the expense of the public. The society is developing an underclass which is increasingly impoverished and unable to meet its very basic needs. Yet, the politicians continue to live in an extravagant way which offends many of the ordinary citizens.

In terms of prestige and credibility, the politicians are worth very little. But in terms of financial worth, the politicians are indeed very rich. In a limited survey of the palaces and large villas in the capital city Sanaa, as well as in the other cities, especially in Aden and Taiz, it was found that the majority of these are owned by our politicians. They are leased to embassies and companies in foreign currency, and on which they pay no taxes.

Yemeni citizens consistently speak against the corruption and inefficiency of the politicians and against the way they live lavishly in a society which suffers from shortages in most basic needs.

So, what is the worth of our politicians? Very little!

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

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The Hayel Saeed Sponge Factory Is On Fire:

On Saturday December 18th, around 4:00 am, the warehouses of the Sponge Factory of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies caught fire. The fire raged for five hours before any attempts were made to bring it under control. Well, the fire fighting facilities were unable to do anything, until the whole place burnt down. Total loss is estimated at millions of Riyals, although no lives were lost.

French Aid to Yemen

On Wednesday, December 15th, a protocol was signed in Paris between the Yemeni and French governments.

According to this agreement, the Government of Paris will provide Yemen FF 70 million in the form of grant aid during 1994 to finance development projects. The major projects are the second phase of a fish packing factory, telephone central stations, strengthening television transmission, and the Aden airport.

Yemen's Traffic Week

Yesterday, Saturday, 18th December, the Yemen Fourth Traffic Week was underway. The Traffic Weeks are used to increase public awareness and to raise the level of responsibility of drivers. The campaign includes all the major cities in the country.

Human Rights Activities in Aden

The Organization for the Defence of Liberties and Rights is organizing a one-week campaign in Aden to increase public awareness of human rights and liberties. The program involves an exhibition, a child rights carnival, and many films on the subject. An Amnesty International team is on hand to participate in the events.

Aden Prohibits Jambiyas

In announcements served over the radio, television and the press, Aden city proclaimed to all visitors that it is forbidden to bring in arms, no matter what kind of permit they have. The announcement further stated that jambiyas (daggers) are not to be worn in Aden. "Please leave them (firearms and daggers) at the checkpoint," the announcement reads. The YSP is, of course, introducing a number of regulations in bringing some system to Aden.

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.

More Hijacking in Yemen

More hijacking incidents were reported throughout various parts of the northern part of the country, including the capital city, Sanaa.

Ron Andrews, Kamaran Factory manager, based in Hodeidah, was hijacked on Thursday, 16th December near Bajil on the Sanaa road. This was his second hijacking incident, having been exposed to one in July.

They have now taken two land cruisers, his briefcase, mobile phone and other personal effects. Apparently 3 cars were taken on Thursday within a 20 minute period.

Another incident occurred in Sanaa on the 15th. Paul Middleton was in the Old City driving his Rothmans-painted land cruiser and was chased for 15 minutes by some bandits with AK47 guns. The bandits were veiled and eventually gave up the chase. Paul is the Rothmans a sales manager based in Taiz.

Japanese Community Gets New President

The Japanese Community in Yemen held its annual meeting at Sheraton Sanaa Hotel on Friday evening, December 17th.

On the occasion, departing Japanese ambassador Kazuo Wanibuchi gave a speech about bilateral relations and developments in Japan.

Then outgoing president of the community, Mr. Suzuki, gave a briefing of the major activities of the community during 1993.

Finally, Mr. Fukuyama was elected president of the community for 1994. He thanked everybody for the vote of confidence and promised to continue to serve the members of the community.

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تعلن وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية، ممثلة بمشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه بان حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية قد حصلت على قرض من هيئة التنمية (IDA) وبعملة 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 والوكلاء المعتمدين والراغبين بالاشتراك في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلب كتابي الى العنوان التالي:

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

على المتقدمين تقديم عطاءاتهم بظروف محتومة بالشع الأحمر ومرفق ضمان إبتدائي 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 ٣٠/١/١٩٩٤ الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً وسيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في نفس اليوم الساعة (١٢ ظهراً) بديوان وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية وبحضور المناقصين أو مندوبيهم...

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**FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN INDIA
CROSSES \$4B MARK**

The foreign equity investment in India has crossed the four billion dollar mark during the last 30 months since Delhi introduced a liberalized industrial policy.

It is reported that clearances have been given to over 1,300 projects since the liberalization scheme was launched by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991.

Officials concede that foreign investment may not be as high as the flows to countries like China, but there has been a steady and sharp rise over the last few months.

A detailed analysis prepared by the prime minister's office shows that the United States tops the investment list with 43% of the total investment. Swiss firms come a distant second with 13.5%.

Japan and Britain account for only 8.5 and 6.4%. German investment accounts for only 3%.

Reports said about 37% of the approved schemes were in the core sectors such as oil refineries and power generation and distribution. About 20% is in areas like chemicals, metallurgical, electrical and electronic equipment sectors while 12% is in the area of food processing.

The analysis indicates that the bulk of the

proposals are from reputed multinationals like IBM, BMW, Ford Motors, General Motors, Suzuki, Goldstar, C.Itoh, GE, Philips and Peugeot.

Indian sources say that foreign investment flows were likely to increase further in the coming months as the recent elections to six state assemblies has put at rest doubts about the country's stability in the minds of the potential investors.

India proposes new measures to attract foreign investors. These include liberalizing the conditions for automatic approvals for foreign financial and technical collaborations. Legislative changes are also on the anvil to amend the companies act and the foreign exchange regulation act.

Bilateral investment treaties are being planned with countries like the US, Germany, South Korea and Britain to demonstrate Delhi's firm commitment and assurance to prospective investors.

Meanwhile, Goldstar of the US has announced plans to enter the Indian market for mobile telephones, saying it was more cost-effective than its competitors.

The US firms is the latest overseas entrant in the race for the launch of cellular telephones in major Indian cities and for the expansion of a rural telephone network.

**FACTIONAL RIVALRIES DOG
SOMALI TALKS**

Somali factions last week met separately their leaders to work on a an agenda for possible peace talks and expressed widely differing views as to why rival warlords could not meet.

The factions have been making attempts to end the conflict in their homeland that has cost more than 350,000 lives.

Members of the faction loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid met officially for the first time in nine months last week the representatives of 12 factions allied to Ali Mahdi.

The talks were aimed at bringing the two leaders together, but started moving along at a snail's pace before they reached a snag. "There is no way we can talk to Aidid" Said Eweiss Haji Yusuf, a spokesman for Ali Mahdi's alliance. "We can't believe him. But Abdullah Barre, also an Ali Mahdi loyalist and a member of the negotiating team, was more hopeful.

"The views are closer. The two leaders will meet at a later date, the agenda is almost ready," he said. Aidid's chief negotiator, Abdul Karim Hashy, also was upbeat about

chances for a future breakthrough. "We will meet Aidid now and discuss the fine points. The two leaders should meet soon," he said.

There are at least three major sticking points on the agenda. The difference are over the role of the United Nations in the political restructuring of Somalia, disarmament of Somalia's warring activists, and selection of a police force and representatives for regional councils. The councils are backed by the UN as a first step towards forming a national transitional government.

Aidid is vehemently opposed to any UN role in Somalia other than humanitarian. He also wants to dismantle the police force and some of the recently selected councils on grounds that they were not fairly chosen.

Ali Mahdi supports the United Nations in it nation-rebuilding efforts.

The political talks come on the heels of a three-day UN-sponsored humanitarian conference during which international donors made clear that the Somalis need to get their act together and work towards peace if they wanted aid to continue.

The factional rivalries have already caused up to 10,000 casualties in Somalia.

**CUBA REFORMS NEED ORDERLY
PACE, SAYS OFFICIAL**

A senior Cuban government official has said the island's economic reform process must happen at an orderly pace to protect the population from the effects of shock changes.

Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers and a member of the ruling Communist Party's Politburo, also said political reform was not planned while Cuba dealt with the more pressing problem of pulling its economy out of crisis.

Lage, speaking last week to a group of visiting European Parliament deputies, said authorities were aware that economic reforms undertaken so far were not sufficient. But Cuba sought to avoid a "desperate rush of decisions which could be counter-productive. "We have to keep on taking measures as we have ideas and where they are leading us," said Lage, who is viewed as the architect of Cuba's reforms. "We believe... that it is serious to rush ahead with measures as it is not to take them."

Lage said authorities were working on the next reforms, which would aim to reduce the burden of the state by seeking participation of private capital in some industries and giving more autonomy to state enterprises. He gave no details of which industries could be open to private capital. Foreign capital is already present in areas such as tourism, oil explora-

tion and citrus cultivation.

Lage also said Cuba planned in the next few months to clean up state finances and reduce the amount of excess pesos in circulation. Since a landmark speech by President Fidel Castro in July, the government has legalized the possession and use of hard currency such as dollars, revamped the state farm system by creating a more autonomous cooperative system and allowed private self employment in a range of trades and services.

But critics abroad have said the pace is too slow and too timid to save Cuba's oil-importing, sugar-exporting economy battered by the loss of its old trade and aid partner the Soviet Union. Imports have slumped and Cubans are suffering serious shortages ranging from field and power to food items and consumer goods. Lage said Cuba had a "complicated and difficult task" to preserve the social system and maintain a planned economy and predominant state-ownership while seeking new markets, capital and technology abroad.

He said Cuba had to concentrate on solving economic problems with economic remedies. "Our problems are economic, they are not political." Lage added Cuba's working on improving it. Cuba demanded to be allowed to perfect its own system and to defend the rights of its citizens within a one-party system, Lage said.

TWO BREAK-THROUGHS

Last week witnessed breakthroughs in two major issues that have troubled the world for a long time.

First, delegates representing 117 nations were able to sign the Uruguay Round in the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) before the 15th December deadline. This agreement is expected to further liberalize trade, lift protective measures, and encourage

the free flow of goods, services and manpower. At the end of seven years, the world community was able to strike a deal acceptable to all major nations.

Second, the prime ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland were able to hold talks and subsequently issue a joint statement which envisaged, if the Pro-estants of Northern Ireland so voted, the unification of Eire.



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HARVEST TIME

By: Derek Harvey,
Yemeni Ornithological
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November is the time when the sun shines, the days are long and mellow, and when the long hours of preparing the land and feeding the growing crops is over. Early mornings in the fields with donkey and plough; sowing the seed and watering the soil; watching the young grain emerge from the earth and grow into green shoots, and then into mature wheat and millet and sorghum, is complete. Even the last ritual, of guarding the ripening seedheads with catapults, against the birds who come to steal grain, is over, and the crop can be harvested, winnowed, and stored for the months ahead. The stalks can be fed to goats and cattle, and all the remaining husks and chaff can be ploughed back into the earth to enrich the soil for the next crop. The cycle of seedtime and harvest has been going on in Yemen for thousands of years. Not for nothing was Yemen known as the greenery of Arabia, and the terraces of the Highlands, laboriously fashioned in ancient times, have proved a brilliantly successful way to protect the



soil from erosion, and to conserve the goodness and richness of the earth. Rain from the mountains has been channeled on to the terraces, and crops have prospered. But the food chain is more

complicated than that. Grain crops attract voles and mice, and they, in turn, are controlled by foxes and by hawks and falcons, owls and eagles. Worms help to break up the soil and let the water get to the roots of the

young plants. Insects and butterflies help to pollinate the flowers of the crops so that they can mature in to the seeds that provide the grain. The insects and worms themselves provide food for the birds and animals, and the circle is complete.

In the natural world, all these separate parts of the food chain, which feed humans and animals as well, are in balance, and nature is able to adjust to bad years and good years so that the balance is maintained. But recent years, man has disturbed that balance, and in many ways has so interfered with, and altered, the way nature works, that the whole food chain is threatened, and in danger of breaking down. Man always wants more of everything: food, houses, space, roads and above all, money, and in his determination to get what he wants, he destroys. Trees are cut down, to make bigger fields which will grow more grain, and for timber to make houses and to burn for fuel. But bigger fields are less protected, and more exposed to winds and

to drain-off rain. So there is erosion of the soil, and in the end man grows less food, not more, because the crops grow less well. To try and improve the quality of the crops, man has invented new sprays to kill plant diseases, and new artificial fertilizers to make the crops grow bigger. But many of these artificial chemicals destroy other parts of the food chain as well. Birds' eggs become infertile, and the population of hawks and eagles goes down. Then the population of mice and voles increases and the cereal is eaten before it can be harvested. Many artificial fertilizers kill worms and other animals that live in the soil and keep it healthy, and when they die the birds that feed on them die too. Then there are not enough birds and butterflies to pollinate the flowers, and the grain yield goes down, instead of up.

There is, all over the world, an increasing realization that if man continues to rush in and alter the balance of nature, a time will come when nature doesn't work any more, and the world

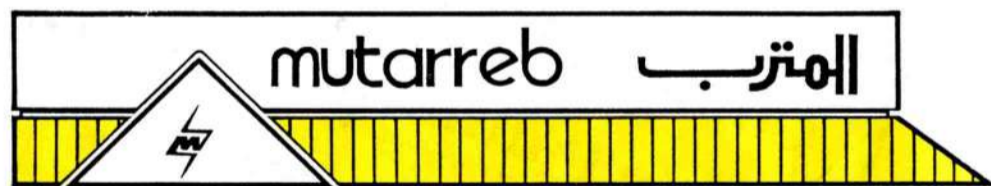
will destroy itself and its ability to feed anyone, animal and human alike. So people are asking how we can sustain the world, grow enough food for an ever increasing population, and protect beautiful places in order that people may enjoy the wonder of the natural world. It can be done and there is a vast store of knowledge now available all over the world, to teach how to do it. But only when ordinary people, who love their countryside, start to look, and talk and ask the right questions, can any real progress be made. That is, why it is so important that we all know what the dangers are, and insist that governments and international bodies get involved in conservation and in protecting the environment.

So, as we watch the farmers winnow their crops on the old Sana'a arfited, and on the terraces of the highlands, let us remember that they are using methods which have proven to be efficient for centuries, and let us all make sure that we don't let man's greed spoil it all for ever.

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AL-BEEDH AND HOW HIGHLY PRESIDENT SALEH THINKS OF HIM

I can confirm that the YSP as a strong force in Yemen was behind two major achievements in our modern life; i.e., the achievement of the independence of the southern part of Yemen and the establishment of a modern state based on respect for the law thus leading to a secure and stable system even during the tense moments which the country witnessed in the past. Any one who tries to ignore these facts is not reasonable in his/her analysis. Like other ruling parties in the world, the YSP was exposed during its ruling period to many problems as was also true with the northern part of the homeland.

We may find excuses for those who have began to show their enmity towards the YSP. The same is true with the PGC which also gained enemies due to differences with other forces. No one can deny that the two large political parties which were ruling Yemen before unification had no lapses and excesses, the shortcomings because of their totalitarian political structure which was the same in both parts of Yemen.

Today, some folks try to talk about the shortcomings of only the YSP which no one can deny. But to pile up accusations against the YSP while implying it was sweet and honey on the northern side is rubbish.

Since its formation, the YSP expressed its loyal adherence to the homeland. No one can negate the historic role of the YSP with a stroke of the pen and no one has the right to pass judgement on others. The two Ali's contribution to the unification process is a reality and can't be denied by anyone.

I remember the words of the president during his tour with Al-Beedh in Taiz. The president said, "If any one takes credit for the unity of Yemen, it must be Ali Salim Al-Beedh."

I would like here to remind many who might forget the role for the two men in the unification, which did not come from a vacuum. Since the two men made unity, they are capable of safeguarding it. Thus, they and the other political parties ought to overcome the crisis. It is essential to affirm that the crisis is not a conflict between two schools within the YSP and then transferred to the nation. The crisis is a real one and can't be resolved by emotions and rhetorical speeches.

Yes, national sentiments and enthusiasm were strong with the unification, but I believe such enthusiasm will not be enough to build a state of law and order.

By: Sadiq Nashir,
Al-Thawri, Sanaa,
9/12/1993

THE WHOLE SOCIETY IS CORRUPT?

Some new generalizations began to appear in our society concluding that the whole society is corrupt.

Even the government found itself unable to choose the right and decent person to fill its position. Such an allegation is a dangerous tune and it will lead the country to a real calamity. It seems that some people like to raise the slogan of corruption demoralize our people. To talk about corruption in general has a bad impact on the whole society.

When opportunists spread such thoughts, they don't aim to correct the faults. They actually aim to add more agonies to our society. The outcomes are:-

1- When we say that all people are corrupt, a philosophy of helplessness prevails, while, in reality, the rumor monger is the corrupt person.

2- When we say that all people are corrupt, we cause a lot of frustration among our youth and the whole population.

3- When we say that all people are corrupt, we pave the way for the parasites to live on the aspirations of the people.

4- When we say that all people are corrupt, we could be providing a convenient excuse for foreign forces to play a role in our internal affairs. Such a philosophy coincides with the advanced countries' new ambitions so as to benefit from the state of division, fragmentation, shortcomings and corruption.

5- When we say that all people are corrupt, we are doing injustice to all the good patriots of this country.

6- When we say that all people are corrupt, we are eating away on the patience and steadfastness of our people.

The truth is that not all citizens are corrupt. Yes, there is corruption in some parts of the state, but to generalize is a grave fault which demeans our morals. There are certain individuals who are responsible for corruption in various financial and administrative levels. Indifference, irresponsibility, negligence are some of the outstanding features of this corruption. What is important is how to raise the morals of our people and wipe out such a sickness from our society.

Qassim Abdulla Al-Nuah
Al-Wahdah, Sanaa
8/12/1993

POLITICS, DEMOCRACY AND FEDERATION IN YEMEN

Most people in Yemen feel that the situation of critical instability is due to the long history of successive coups, assassinations and tribal disturbances. All those agonies are the result of despotism and unsatiable ambitions.

On the human right's level, the past thirty years witnessed sad violations which have filled the records of Amnesty International. That sad reality is true whether in the south or in the north. Law and order, institutions and systems, independence of the judicial authority, equality, decency, objective steering of civil service are all terms used repeatedly but no politician is ready to

apply them. Many ignore them intentionally. The judicial system is both weak and corrupt, and it can't be called a justice institution.

Democracy as a concept was distorted and the rulers are using it as a vehicle to serve their aims. The citizens are not equal before the law for a lot of reasons. There is class discrimination and it is ever growing.

In addition, corruption, misuse of authority, mismanagement, overburdened bureaucracy and many other ills are all part of the reality of today's Yemen.

As a result, the public finds no honesty or decency in the political leadership. There is no one in the world who would refuse democracy if it were practiced with justice. In fact, in Yemen, we see that our people are inclined towards democracy more than in any other Arab country.

The solution for all the issues we face lies in a federal system based on local rule. Autonomy must be granted to the regions to manage their local affairs. It is necessary to have such a local administration.

By Sheikh Tarik,
Al-Ayyam, Aden,
8/12/1993

UNIFICATION AND SEPARATION!

The Yemeni unification will remain a noble goal for all the citizens of the homeland since it is our destiny. We won't accept any other alternative whatever the reasons might be. The Yemeni people will not allow any fragmentation of the homeland.

This point is what the president confirmed on in his speech on 30th of November. The political differences could have caused a military showdown at some stage of its evolution. This crisis is not an ordinary one.

Some think of it as the result of past despotism and shortcomings. Others think the crisis is a natural outcome of the way the unification was carried out in such haste. What was done in the unification agreement was just to add some amendments to the constitution for their own purposes.

There is nothing wrong in making some compromises for the sake of the unity of the nation. Despite affirmations from senior YSP officials that there is no retreat from unification and the refusal of any kind of separation, some proposals brought forward these days are very unsettling. But Al-Beedh sees that the setback which the party candidates faced during the elections in the Taiz/Ibb region has lost the party the opportunity of gaining a majority in parliament. Such a situation led Mr. Al-Beedh to propose local rule. He guessed that the Islah and PGC will refuse, and consequently he will find justification to return to the pre-22 May 1990 situation.

The YSP, so as not to lose its supporters in the northern regions, used its political cunning and intelligence to

achieve separation through the guise of federation. The YSP - in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union - found itself without any financial sources. Therefore, it accepted full unification or merger. Since then, the YSP has regained its position and standing in the northern media.

Whatever is said about how the crisis developed, there are certain internal and external forces which found in the crisis an opportunity to split Yemeni national unity and to achieve their dreams of weakening the country's interests.

It seemed that the core demand of the YSP is represented in the 18 points. The truth is that those demands are of all the political forces except the point on local rule. The PGC was clear in its approach based on the November 7th statement. The difference between the behavior of the two parties is that the YSP has a long experience in political cunning and maneuvering and the capability of using those demands for its own goals.

What is the difference between the draft of the YSP's local rule and the draft of the PGC/Islah? Local rule is the goal of all parties as indicated in the constitutional amendments leading to administrative and financial decentralization.

Local administration is a term which means reforming the administration and distributing the tasks on the basis of decentralization. But local rule is a political term which gives the region a complete political, social,

economic, administrative independence.

Those who oppose local rule believe that such a system was designed for states which suffer from ethnic, lingual, religious, etc. diversity. But, we in Yemen haven't got such differences taking into account that local rule is a step toward federation and this might lead to splitting the country into small entities and mini-states. To get out of the crisis, some think the solution lies in the meeting of both the president and vice president to hammer out their differences. Yet the opposition and the coalition partners have their own demands. So all these should be discussed in parliament. On the other hand, a number of political analysts see that a general national conference will help resolve the crisis.

By Hameed Ghalib Farhan
Al-Mithaq, Sanaa,
13/12/1993.

FEDERATION AND THE CURRENT CRISIS

The new proposal which Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammad, the YSP assistant secretary general, alluded to lately as a solution to the crisis is federation. Some think that this new federation proposal is merely a time bomb.

As a matter of fact, the federation idea is not something new to the PGC. There was a study of its relevance before the crisis, though not with the intention of using it.

Political observers see that the YSP still possesses a lot of proposals which could be used as the right time comes. It is self-evident that the YSP

has turned from its position of defence during the transitional period to the position of attack.

The urgent question is whether the PGC can return to the position of attack instead of keeping a hesitant state of defence. Federation means overcoming corruption, plundering general funds, and at the same time preserving the unification. Despite the PGC's efforts to get out of the siege, it is unable to strongly break the lines around it.

Observers see that the federation proposal has received a wide welcome from the Western world, America in particular, and including the World Bank. This means that the timing was programmed before hand.

The westerners think that federation will stop a civil war from starting in Yemen. All the international aid organizations found that no amount of aid was enough to guarantee development in Yemen since the state is living chaos.

It is worth mentioning that the foreign attitudes did not come from a vacuum as seen by many. To the contrary, they are the result of wide-ranging diplomatic activities by the YSP abroad.

The game of federation during this phase has forced the PGC and its supporters and the public media to crystallize the concept of federation which was unknown to Yemeni society.

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Supplement on Japan's National Day

A. Fruitful Yemeni-Japanese Cooperation:

HE Mr. Kazuo Wanibuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Yemen, is finishing up his mission here and will be leaving soon. In many ways, Mr. Wanibuchi, 62, is a Yemenologist. About his experience, he says, "I am deeply attached to the land and people of Yemen, because I have served in Yemen twice." He had served for three years in Sana'a as Charge d'Affaires during 1981 to 1984, and as ambassador over the last 2 and a half years. His first visit to Yemen dates back to January, 1962. At the time, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs dispatched a market survey team to the Arabian Peninsula. Kazuo was a member of the team and visited Kuwait, Bahrain, Doha, Dubai, Sharjah, Aden, Taiz, Mogadishu and Jeddah. Young Kazuo, only 30 at the time, was part of that team. Thus, Mr. Wanibuchi's knowledge of Yemen covers a period extending over three decades.



On the occasion of the National Day of Japan, 23rd December, as well as the completion of his mission in Yemen, the Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Kazuo Wanibuchi. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: What are your feelings as you prepare to leave Yemen at the end of your tenure?
A: I am very glad to say that I have seen Yemeni-Japanese relations develop during my time here. I wish it will be further consolidated on broader basis in future. During the period of my tenure, I have received the cooperation and support of Yemenis both in the governmental circles and private sectors. I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of them. I shall always keep in memory good days which I have spent in Yemen and I shall never forget the marvelous natural scenery as well as the hospitality of Yemeni people. Finally, I highly appreciate that Yemeni people have achieved the unification and embarked on the democratization, therefore, I sincerely hope that current difficulties will be settled peacefully through dialogue with a cooperative spirit among all the concerned parties.

Q: How do you see Yemeni-Japanese relations evolving?

A: Yemen and Japan enjoy a very close level of cooperation and friendship. The bilateral relations continue to grow in various fields, especially in the field of economic and technical cooperation. Japan's grant aid to Yemen during the fiscal year 1992 (April 1992 - March 1993) amounted to 2.8 billion Yen.

During the recent visit of Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, Minister of Planning and Development, to Japan, Agreement on Technical Cooperation was signed between the Government of Japan and the Government of Republic Yemen on November 9, 1993. It is expected that the conclusion of this agreement will further develop technical cooperation between the two countries. Technical cooperation programs carried out by the Japanese experts and provision of equipment and material and dispatch of volunteers from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) etc. The word "volunteer" is often thought of as associated with "amateurism." But JOCV volunteers are quite far from "amateurs." They are, in fact, junior experts in their respective fields of service. JOCV volunteers started coming to Yemen in 1991. Now, there are 19 volunteers are at work in Yemen. Japan is a major trade partner of Yemen. Japan's export to Yemen ranks 4th, and its imports from Yemen ranks 2nd in 1992. Japan's export to Yemen was \$165.3 million while its imports from Yemen amounted to \$131.5 million dollars. The major commodities exported from Japan to Yemen are steel, automobiles, electrical apparatus, etc. and the commodities exported from Yemen to Japan are crude oil, coffee and squid. In the field of energy, several Japanese companies participate in the oil explorations works and I wish them success. In order to expand and strengthen the bilateral relations, much more could be done. For example, cultural exchange and exchanges of visits at various levels are important for the promotion of mutual understanding.

Q: Japan witnessed major developments in 1993. Could you share with us your readings of these events?

A: The general elections which took place last July put an end to the consecutive 38 years of the Liberal Democratic Party's domination, and the beginning of August saw the election of

the new Prime Minister Mr. Morihiro Hosokawa, founder of the Japan New Party, and the birth of a coalition government of all the parties but LDP and Japan communist Party. It seems that one of factors lying behind this dramatic political change is the people's demand for something new. The people are fed up with a series of political corruption and scandals.

Hosokawa, who proclaimed his administration the "political reform government," has passed the political reform related bills as a starting point of comprehensive reforms. The second longest recession of the postwar era which followed the burst of so-called "bubble" economy is also a serious challenge to the government, which is a 1993 phenomenon. Mr. Hosokawa announced in September a package of emergency economy stimulus measures and its positive effects are expected. With these and other difficulties facing Mr. Hosokawa's administration, however, public approval for the government is still rating high percentage, showing the people's expectation for the new government. The marriage of H.I.H. crown Prince Naruhito to Miss Masako Owada was another great event of this year.

Q: Japan is today a world power. What do you see Japan's responsibility in the 21st century?

A: Almost half a century after the defeat in World War II, Japan has become the second largest economic power in the world, and its reconstruction and development under the basic policies of a market economy and free trade were possible only because of the assistance and cooperation of friendly countries. Recalling this, it becomes quite clear what Japan must do in the international community. Japan must put its economic power and technological prowess to work and contribute its personnel and wisdom in a variety of fields to build a new order for global peace in a spirit of international cooperation.

One of the most important measures of Japan to contribute to the global peace and stability is ODA (official Development Assistance) which consists of bilateral cooperation (grant aid and loans) with developing countries and multilateral cooperation through international organizations. The basic philosophy of Japan's ODA is expressed in the ODA Charter of 1992 as being support for the self-help efforts of developing countries seeking economic growth, based on the philosophy of humanitarian considerations, recognition of the interdependence of the international community and environmental conservation. The Charter also describes, as one of the principles for aid, that full attention should be paid to trends in recipient countries' military expenditures and to efforts to promote democratization and the introduction of a market-oriented economy. Thus the ODA will be serving to build the new world order.

Japan's international contribution is not confined to financial aid alone; technical cooperation which includes acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts and volunteers forms a significant part of Japan's ODA. As for the personnel participation in the United Nations' peace keeping activities. Japan, while maintaining its basic policy under the Constitution of not becoming a military power that poses a threat to others, has so far taken part in some activities such as sending mine-sweepers team to the Gulf and dispatch of personnel to UNTAC and ONUMOZ.

The environmental conservation is one of the most important issues of the 21st century. Japan, being very conscious of the need to protect the global environment, has made strenuous efforts to realize one of the least polluting and most energy-efficient economies in the world, and this experience is sure to help developing countries which are struggling with environmental problems.

The end of the Cold War has enhanced the weight of international economic relations, and economic disputes among countries can easily become a major factor in international confrontations. Under such circumstances, Japan attaches great importance to maintaining and strengthening the free trade system and has taken an active part in the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT.

Q: Japan is signatory to APEC. How do you see this new bloc evolving?

A: The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is important in promoting the economic prosperity of the region. Launched in 1989, APEC

JAPANESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION EXTENDED TO YEMEN in 100 m. Yen

Year	Loan Aid	Grant Aid	Technical Cooperation	TOTAL
1976	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00
1977	38.00	10.72	0.00	48.72
1978	0.00	5.85	0.00	5.85
1979	82.00	0.00	0.00	82.00
1980	0.00	5.21	1.27	6.48
1981	0.00	8.03	2.23	10.26
1982	82.00	12.55	1.64	96.19
1983	0.00	21.25	1.43	22.68
1984	0.00	18.15	4.27	22.42
1985	0.00	27.17	2.28	29.45
1986	0.00	9.25	2.53	11.78
1987	115.30	16.15	3.06	134.51
1988	220.70	18.46	4.46	243.62
1989	69.69	15.20	4.40	89.29
1990	0.00	21.43	4.12	25.55
1991	0.00	30.58	7.13	37.71
1992	0.00	27.87	0.00	27.87

Small Scale Grant Assistance in US Dollars

Year	Amounts
1989	92,794.00
1990	79,956.00
1991	110,292.00
1992	128,992.00
1993	88,140.00

Source: Embassy of Japan, Sanaa.

aims at an open regional cooperation to contribute to the development not only of this regions but also of the world economy as a whole. Recognizing the importance of APEC's role in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan has been an active participant since its inception. Japan's assessed share in the APEC fund is 18 percent, which is the highest among the participating countries and areas along with the United States. Japan intends to make further contributions to APEC so that this region can fully make use of its economic potential in accordance with the basic principle of cooperation open to the world.

Q: Japan raised the issue of the Northern Territories with Russia several times. What is new on this topic?

A: It is true that 47 years after the war, Russia and Japan have not yet concluded a peace treaty because of the issues of the Northern Territories has not been resolved. Russia inherited the problem from the Soviet Union and the relations between Russia and Japan remain in unnatural conditions. In order to normalize relations between the two countries, there is need for an early conclusion of a peace treaty by settling the Northern Territories issue.

In October this year, president Yeltsin paid an official visit to Japan for the first time since he took office as president of the Russian Federation. During the two days meetings with Prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa, President Yeltsin acknowledged the existence of the territorial issue between Japan and Russia and expressed his deter-

mination to solve it on the basis of law and justice. Thus, the visit of President Yeltsin was a significant step towards a better understanding between the two sides on this issue.

Q: How do you assess Japanese relations with China?

A: Japan-China relationship is one of the major pillars of Japan's foreign policy. The maintenance and development of favorable and stable relations with China are not only important for the two countries, but also for peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region as well as the world. China's relations with Japan and Western countries retrogressed with the June 4th, 1989 incidents. As expressed at the subsequent G-7 Summits, it is not in the interests of the international community as a whole to isolate China, amid the structural changes taking place in the international arena. Based on this recognition, Japan has emphasized to promote political dialogue with China. In August 1991, then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu visited China, for the first time as a leader of an industrialized democracy after the June incidents. Afterwards, exchanges of visits at high level took place and the highlight of these exchanges is the historic visit to China done by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan in October 1992.

The success of Their Imperial Majesties' visit further promoted the traditionally friendly and good relations between the two peoples, and formed the basis for the further enhancement of these good relations toward the future.



Supplement on Japan's National Day

B. JAPAN: The World's Most Generous Aid Donor:

In 1992, Japan's official development assistance (ODA) reached US \$ 11.33 billion. By the end of 1992, Japan had almost achieved its Fourth Medium-Term Target - total ODA disbursement of \$50 billion during the five year period from 1988 to 1992). In addition, on June 25, 1993, as its new Fifth Medium-Term Target, the government came out with a plan to work toward a disbursement of \$ 70-75 billion in ODA in the five year period starting in 1993. Given its current position as a globally prominent donor nation, Japan in its new Medium-Term Target, must expand even this ambitious ODA program.

But it is not just a question of amount. Japan, in its ODA Charter set down in June of last year, is working toward the implementation of aid in accordance with clear philosophies and principles geared to address the needs of developing countries. This involves ascertaining what type of development is desirable for which countries on a medium and long-term basis.

To achieve that goal, Japan is making its ODA Charter's principles and program open to the public hoping to achieve a broad understanding of, and support for, these activities.

Need for Aid Expansion

1. The securing of world peace and stability, the furtherance of global economic prosperity, the promotion of universal values such as freedom, human rights, and democracy, and resolving global issues such as environmental problems are all among the objectives which are being pursued by the entire international community.

After World War II, world peace and stability were generally upheld, the market economy was functioning internationally, and the free trade system was maintained. Japan was able to build its current prosperity as a result of these international conditions. Moreover, Japan has now reached the point where its activities exert a significant influence on the international community. It is thus a natural obligation for Japan to make an active contribution to this international community in various fields commensurate with its present status. Not only do these contributions increase the trust which Japan receives from the international community, they also enhance Japan's status in the international arena.

Japan's contribution to the economic expansion of developing countries, coupled with diplomatic efforts in other fields, have served to increase trust in its basic diplomatic stance and support for its diplomatic activities. This is illustrated by the support developing countries have given to Japan in their voting activ-

ities in the United Nations and other international organizations, and by the endorsement Asian nations have given to Japan's initiatives towards solving international problems. It is further believed that the world community will support Japan's accession to the Security Council as a permanent member.

Japan has been playing a leading part in ODA with significant influence which Japan has come to hold. At the Tokyo Economic Summit in July of this year, for example, Japan raised the issue of developing countries as a major topic and played a leading role in confirming the importance of providing support for developing countries with due consideration to the proposals of non-aligned countries. On the ASEAN visit in January of this year, then-Prime Minister Miyazawa's proposal to organize a comprehensive Development Forum on Indochina was welcomed by the concerned parties of the region.

Then in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held on Japan's initiative and with the participation of the African countries, major donor countries and international organizations in October this year, the "Tokyo Declaration on African Development," which could be called a guideline for future African development, was adopted.

Meanwhile, standing on its basic position that arms control and arms reduction should be promoted, Japan is playing a leading role by, for example, creating the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms in January 1992, and orga-



nizing a symposium on the relationship between aid and military expenditure trends at United Nations University in November 1992.

In April 1993, a press release on DAC aid review of Japan as a major donor emphasized the increasing responsibility (of Japan) which implied active participation in policy dialogues both in consultative Groups / Round Tables." And at the second meeting of the Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI) in June 1993, Japan played a major role in consolidating international support for Indonesia, making a keynote of the evaluation on the economic management of the Indonesian Government, and taking the initiative in pledging an important aid package.

2. While some countries in Asia are experiencing rapid economic growth, many developing countries in Southwest Asia, Africa, and elsewhere are experiencing financial difficulties including economic depressions, development capital deficiencies,

current account deficits, and accumulated external debts, and are gasping for breath under the burden of poverty, poor nutrition, and sickness. The need for aid is as large as ever.

In addition to these financial demands, in the wake of the collapse of the East-West cold war structure, a new need has arisen to respond to the financial difficulties of the former Soviet Union (after its shift from donor to recipient country). The issues are further exacerbated by the pains of transition from planned to market-oriented economies. Meanwhile, the need has also arisen to respond financially and technologically to global issues such as the environmental problem, overpopulation, AIDS, drugs, and refugees.

Following the end of the cold war, it is newly confirmed that the securing of human rights and freedoms is increasingly becoming a basic principle in the political evolution of developing countries. There is also an increasing recognition in

developing countries that since available funds from industrialized countries are limited, their economic management must restrain military expenditures and enhance public investment in economic and social infrastructural development and improving public welfare in those countries. Given these circumstances, most industrialized and developing countries have reached a common recognition of the importance of working toward "good governance." This is nothing less than the arrival of an opportunity to implement aid more efficiently and truly make the best use of it for the people of developing countries.

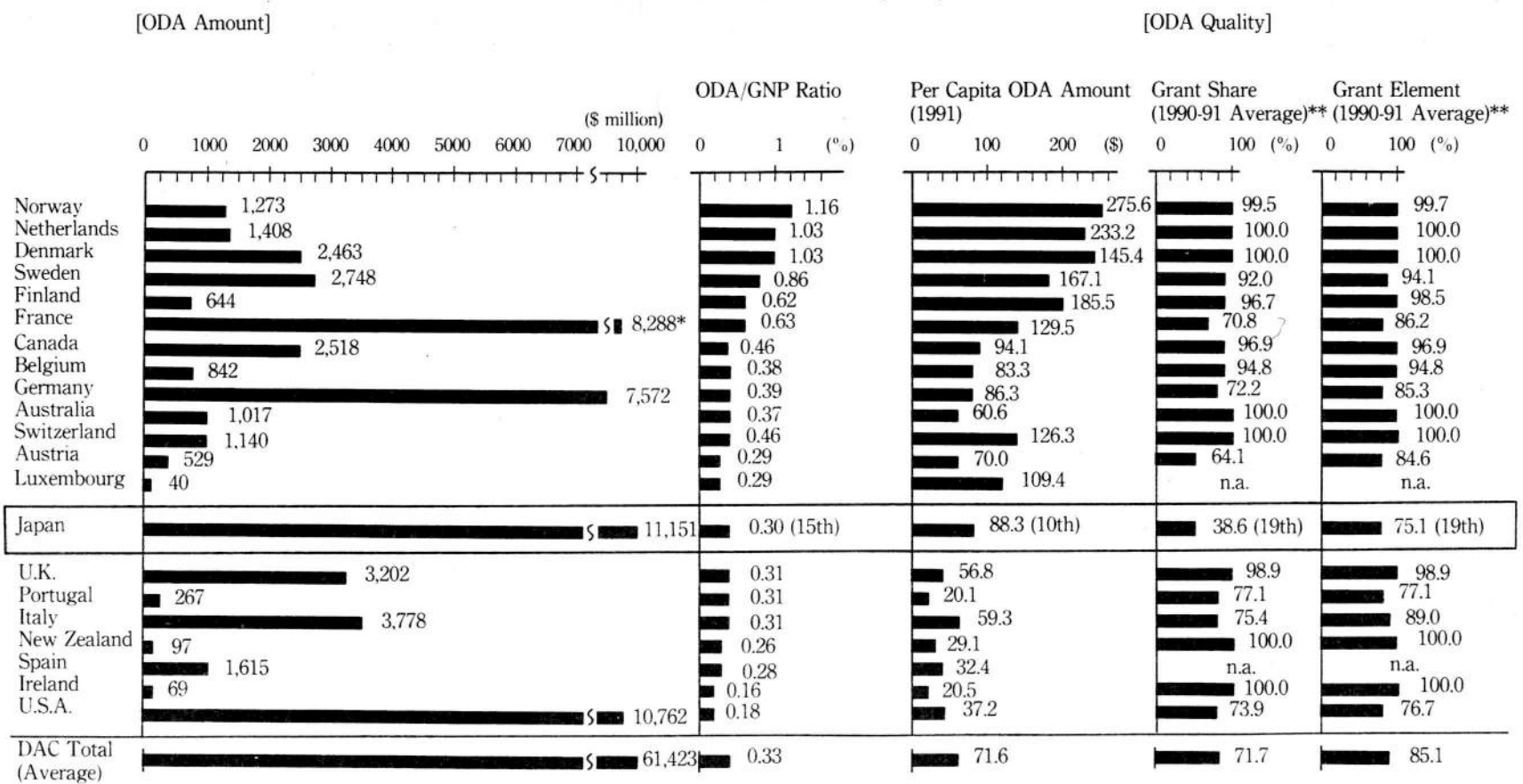
Now is the time to secure funds to assist developing countries. It is naturally important to respond to new financial needs, including those for the support of Russia and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, in order to prevent a decrease in the total amount of assistance provided to those developing countries which continue to be burdened with acute

economic difficulties, Japan has, at many aid-related meetings among industrialized countries, called for continued and sustained aid programs based on "good governance."

"We will continue to strengthen our support for their (developing countries') self-help efforts based on the principles of good governance" - which was so strongly emphasized in the ODA Annual Report for 1993 - is certainly a manifestation of this new approach and viewpoint.

On June 25, 1993, just before the Tokyo Economic Summit, Japan decided its Fifth Medium-Term ODA Target. This target sets out to reach \$ 70-75 billion during the five year period starting with 1993, which represents a 40-50% increase in total ODA allocations compared with the previous five year period. This initiative is based on Japan's recognition of its rising duty and obligation to helping make the world we live in more peaceful and happier.

ODA from DAC Countries (1992)



* including TOM, excluding DOM.

** DAC total excludes U.S. military debt forgiveness and includes export credit debt forgiveness (Japan, Germany, and Austria).

*** Luxembourg became a member of the DAC in 1992.

* Luxembourg is counted starting in 1992.

** excluding debt relief.

(Source: DAC Press Release)

Supplement on Japan's National Day

C. JAPAN: An Old Culture Thrives in Modern Times

The Royal Family:

Japan's current Emperor Akihito is 125th in a line of emperors tracing lineage to the same family. Therefore, the current family is the oldest unbroken family in the world. Emperor Akihito ascended to the throne in 1989.

The Imperial Family is highly revered and respected by the people of Japan.



Flower Arranging

Japanese flower arranging (Ikebana) dates from about the 15th century. Flowers are arranged according to strict rules to represent heaven, earth, and people. There are many styles of Ikebana. Some of them are very simple and others are very complicated, and even extravagant. But each arrangement has a special meaning, and it is like a statement or an expression.

Clothes

In everyday life, people in Japan wear the same type of clothes as people in most other countries.

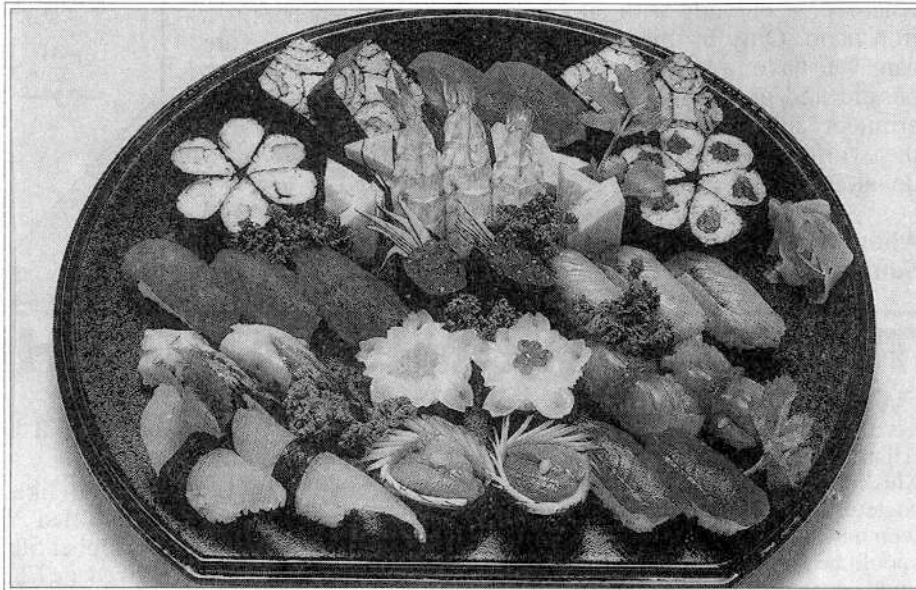
At home, and on special occasions, however, many people like to wear the traditional kimono. It is worn wrapped around the body and tied with a wide sash (obi). Young girls' kimono are brightly colored, older women's are more subdued, and men's are quite dark. At the New Year or around graduation time you can see many women young and old in gaily patterned kimono. For weddings and other very formal occasions, married women and men wear black kimono bearing their family crest.



Men also wear wide-legged trousers and a loose jacket over their kimono. A good silk kimono is very expensive. People take good care of their kimono and hand them down from mother to daughter and from father to son. It is difficult to put on the kimono and tie the obi correctly. Many people, especially the women, take lessons in the proper way to wear a kimono.

Food and Drink

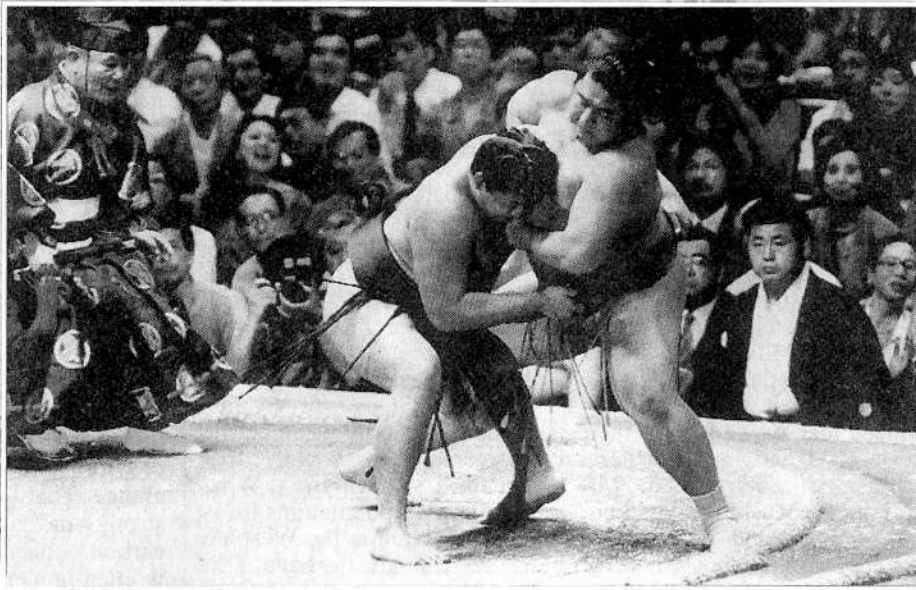
In traditional Japanese cooking, fresh ingredients are prepared with great care. A typical meal might include rice, vegetables, a soup made from soy bean paste (miso), pickles, and fish or meat. Soy sauce (shoyu) is a common seasoning. Dried seaweed (nori) is often eaten with rice. The thin, crisp, green strips are delicious. Seaweed is also a very healthy food because it contains a lot of iodine.



Slices of raw fish (sashimi) served with green horseradish is a famous dish in Japan. Sometimes slices of raw fish are put on top of carefully shaped mounds of vinegar rice (sushi). Although this kind of cooking sounds simple, it takes many years of study to become a good professional chef.

Traditional Sports

Many people still practice traditional Japanese martial arts like judo, karate, and kendo. They feel that these give training in a kind of discipline and concentration that is different from team sports. These sports are thus becoming popular worldwide.



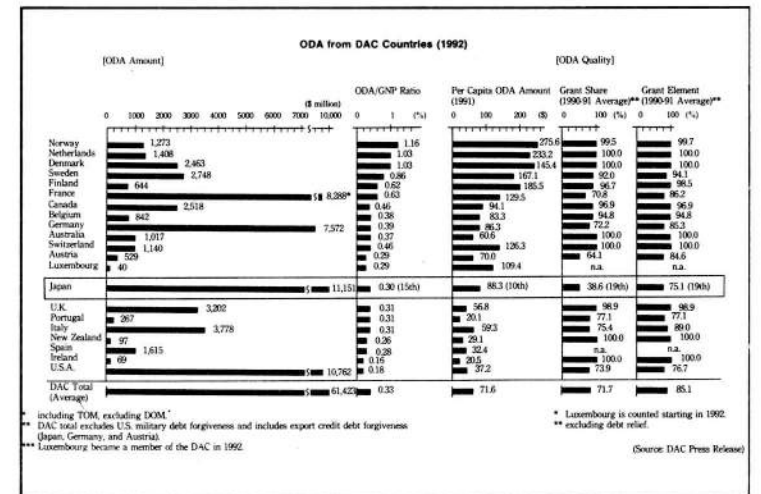
Sumo wrestling is another popular traditional sport. Two very large, fat men try to bring each other down or push each other out of a small circular ring. The bouts are short and start with rituals that include throwing salt into the ring. This is a sign of purification. Sumo wrestlers are big stars and train for many years.

The TB Control Program: A Model of Yemeni-Japanese Cooperation

Because tuberculosis (TB) remains a big health problem in Yemen. The annual risk infection rate is 0.86%, which means that about 1% of the population gets infected with TB, though not all of them develop diseases. The National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) is working hard to fight this problem. The following table indicates the rising trend in the number of detected cases of TB.

Year	Pulmonary		Extrapulmonary	Total
	Smear +	Smear -		
1988	1065	1457	779	3301
1989	1487	2275	965	4727
1990	1544	2111	802	4457
1991	2159	3194	1290	6643
1992	2896	5098	1905	9899

In 1983, the Japanese government - through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has started extending assistance to the NTP in three different forms: bringing-in experts, financing training, supply of equipment and material. Since that year, total donated equipment and other costs are nearly 400 million yens.

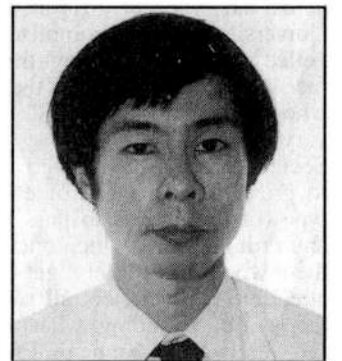


The Government of Japan has also financed the construction of three TB centers - one in each of Sanaa, Hodeidah and Taiz. It is now completing arrangements to finance two more - one each in Aden and Mukallah. "JICA works mainly through technical cooperation. We provide drugs, equipment and other essentials for treatment. But considering the fact that JICA will not remain doing that for ever, it is essential that the Yemeni side should assume more responsibility for these needs," said Dr. Takashi Yoshiyama, team leader of the JICA experts associated with the TB project. Another JICA expert, Midori Nakayama, Microbiologist, stated that women could play a more visible role in the TB control efforts. "In spite of the many difficulties which are facing the NTP program, remarkable progress and success has been achieved because of the assistance of JICA," summarized Dr. Abdullah Moharram, Director of Communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Public Health.

The Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association

As a result of the growing level of cooperation between Yemen and Japan, a number of Yemeni businessmen, intellectuals, journalists, and university professors got together in 1991 and established the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association (YJFA).

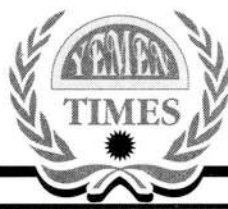
"The purpose of the association is to increase understanding between the peoples of the two nations, and to increase the potential for cooperation," explained Al-Haj Mohammed Mubarak Adhban, chairman of YJFA. To achieve those goals, the association holds many seminars, lectures, shows films, arranges exhibitions, and trips on both sides. "The association has not been as active as we would have liked it to be," added Mr. Adhban, but he sounded optimistic about future plans and efforts.



Many factors contribute to the growing level of appreciation on both sides. Japan is one of the largest aid partners of Yemen, and the two countries have no sad memories of each other. Therefore, according to YJFA sources, the level of cultural, economic, commercial, and educational exchange between the two countries is poised to make a sharp turn upwards. "This is especially true given Yemen's newly found oil and mineral wealth which will create new opportunities," Adhban said.

A typical school week at a Junior High School (1st year : age 12/13)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:15-8:30	Faculty Meeting					
8:30-8:40	Homeroom					
8:45-9:35	Mathematics	Japanese	Physical Education	Social Studies	English	Music
9:45-10:35	Japanese	English	Science	Japanese	Art	Mathematics
10:45-11:35	Social Studies	Calligraphy	Japanese	Physical Education	Art	Physical Education
11:35-12:35	Lunch Time					
12:35-1:25	Music	Science	Mathematics	English	Choice of Home Economics/Woodshop/Farming	
1:35-2:25	Science	Social Studies	Moral Studies	Home Room Discussion		
2:25-2:45	Cleaning Time					
2:45-3:00	Homeroom					
3:00-	After school many students participate in club activities ranging from baseball to tea ceremony					



Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

MIDWIFERY AT AL-THAWRA HOSPITAL

Al-Thawra Hospital is believed to offer the safest and best services in the midwifery category. However, the midwives who are available there, especially the Russians, are hot tempered, which is the worst thing in a doctor.

I am personally a victim of these doctors and their nurses. It was my first baby and I was scared out of my wits to go through the delivery. But I thought the midwives would guide me - as is supposed to be - through it.

They would tell me what to do, how how to do it, and would give me lots of encouragement. I was truly surprised at how ugly the whole proceeding was.

The doctors expected me to know exactly what to do, even though I had already informed them that it was my first time. Amidst their shouting at me, abuses, rude remarks and even laughter at the panic I was in, I was able to have a safe delivery, thanks to God.

A young lady by my side was in even a worse state of panic than I was and instead of getting encouragement from the doctors, she was getting SLAPS!!

So I keep asking myself, do midwives treat their patients this way in order to succeed in their work?

We patients who have gone through the ordeal, would certainly say NO. The doctors and nurses should be more humane towards their fellow human beings.

M. M. Al-Tamimi,
Sana'a.

HIGH TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE RESPECT OF THE LAW

In my capacity as an entrepreneur, I have been striving hard for last three years to attract American investors to Yemen. Last week I received many calls from my American contacts inquiring with concern about the unfortunate kidnapping of the American Diplomat. In the Western media, the kidnapping was somehow related to Salman Rushdie's case and his recent meeting with US President Clinton.

As the saying goes, "Bad news travels fast," CNN has capitalized on the news from Yemen. Every half an hour they broadcast the news stating that the kidnapping, as declared by the Yemeni sources, was carried out by a tribal Sheik who was unable to resolve a personal dispute with the Government Authorities. He reverted to this method to force the government into submission and accept his demands. CNN asserted, however, they were not sure of the real motives. The whole story left behind negative impressions of Yemen and holds back our efforts an enticing American investors.

Whatever the case, incidents involving foreigners, particularly, Euro-Americans, have increased to a large extent and have been the cause of concern to every citizen and businessman in the Republic of Yemen. I am sure the Government is also concerned, but it is not really doing anything to stop this lawlessness and savage behavior.

This prompts me to ask, "How did the government deal with the last case of kidnapping? Did the culprits get the government into submission to what they wanted?"

Of course we do not have any clue as to how the government dealt with the kidnappers, except that the kidnapped person was released without any harm and the issue was satisfactorily resolved!!!!

The repetition of such incidents makes me believe that the cases are probably resolved by giving in to the kidnappers' and hijackers' wishes. Otherwise, what would entice the tribesmen to repeat their hostage-taking and kidnapping? Our beloved country has a lot of potential to attract investors from many corners of the world, but do we have the government that will ensure stability and security and uphold the law.

Investors hear of political assassinations, car thefts, bribery and other numerous unlawful acts which are increasingly becoming an acceptable daily routine in our society.

It is time for the government to enforce respect of the laws and regulations and deal with corruption, wherever it prevails with an iron hand. Only in this way can we have a real democratic and an orderly government and keep up with the world in achieving our development.

Abdul Ghani Abdul Rehim,
Sana'a.

WHAT COMES AFTER FRUSTRATION?

"This is not a fictitious story. It is an example of many tragic happenings taking place frequently."

He was full of optimism and ambition. He seemed to be the happiest man in the world. That was just before he had graduated from the university. He worked very hard and always obtained excellent grades. He was praised by his teachers and classmates. He concentrated on his studies leaving all his personal problems and difficulties, on the assumption that he will get back to them once he finishes his education.

His aim in life was to contribute in building his homeland and bring relief to his people. As a result of his hard work and seriousness, he was honored as the best student and everybody predicted he will have a fruitful future.

After four years of hard university education, he has become a qualified teacher. He immediately moved on to start "serving his nation." What a poor man. He didn't realize that he had to pass through a horrifying routine full of obstacles. He never expected that his hopes would be defeated by the very education administration office which he thought would be his strongest support base.

Though schools suffer from shortages of teachers, a flood of graduates are unable to fill in the gap because of something called bureaucratic routine created by some inefficient and lazy bureaucrats.

He stood in lines, and reached up to windows trying to get stupid sig-

natures from an endless line of "officials." He was treated very badly as if he was begging. His papers were ignored and sometimes lost.

He saw some lucky ones who did not need to wait because they were supported by the intervention of "friends" and relatives. Their papers were warmly received and immediately signed. It was really a great disappointment. While inferior graduates were already working and collecting salaries, he was still struggling to get his paper work finished.

Moreover, an ego-centric clerk who seemed to be completely sunk in the sea of vanity went angrily towards the window and closed it in a savage way after scolding everybody.

The window's glass was shattered and our friend was injured in his right hand.

The wound was very serious and affected his right hand which has become of no use. Now he is a handicapped person, all his dreams and optimism suddenly brought to an end. Now he has become a society hater and he can rise up against the system.

We have to do our best to tackle these dangerous issues. This is if we want to avoid catastrophic results that may obstruct our progress. The government should stand strictly against these irresponsible people who keep playing with the known rules in order to satiate their endless profit and hunger.

Abdullah Saleh Hussian Taiz.

تهنئة

بتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للمهندس
إبراهيم عبد الملك الكبسي
وذلك بمناسبة إرتزاقه طفلة أسماها

(شهد) فالف مبروك

المهنيون:

د/ عبد العزيز السقاف وأسرة «يمن تايمز»
المهندس/ عبد الله فارس وأسرة «ديوان» في اليمن
عارف الخولاني، فيصل أبو لحوم وأسرة «أسس».

TWO REBUTTALS ON WOMEN AND THE VEIL

A. From a MAN Who Knows What Is Good for Women and All of Us!

I would like to comment on the letter by Mr. Amin Al-Husseini, in the Yemen Times of Dec 5, '93 and the editor's comments.

First, I would like to say to Mr. Amin, "Jazak Allah" (may Allah reward you) for his awareness of the social conditions prevailing in Yemen and the outside world. Since the University is co-ed, he as a university student, is directly in touch with the opposite sex. Thus, he is able to discuss the topic of "WOMEN AND THE VEIL." After all, he comes across all types of girls at the University: those completely veiled, those who show their face and hand, and finally those who reveal their "assets" in varying degrees.

Second, I don't have to go far to prove that if a girl of each type (of dress) was to pass by any ordinary guy, which one of them would most likely get his attention. Advertisers all over the world, including what we see daily on Yemen T.V., testify to the sad and unfortunate manner in which they use the "most revealing women" to sell their product.

From the letter it is clear that the writer is for the veil while the editor stands for what he calls "personal choice". Well, Mr. editor as Muslims, we are to make our personal subordinate to the "Choice of the Al-Mighty Allah" who has created you and me. Therefore, God has already provided for us a unique and eternal set of codes which - if followed - will give us peace and tranquility in

this world as well as the next. Allah has clearly stated in many verses of the Holy Quran that women must at least cover their hair and their figure (by wearing a loose overcoat as interpreted by the Ulama) in front of strange men, meaning the men who can marry her.

So Mr. Editor, please be careful in making things "personal" because you are dealing with a BELIEVING MUSLIM NATION. And why should we not believe and follow what Allah has laid down for us? Society is protected because Muslims like me and Mr. Amin are convinced of the fact that a woman without a veil, especially those who reveal their assets, are responsible for corrupting the entire society.

I have lived in the U.S. for 4 years and during that period, I realized the importance of the hijab (veil). With all the personal freedom that the people there enjoy, their statistics indicate that a woman gets raped, not every hour, but every minute. Why? Because in the U.S. women compete to reveal the most by using their so called power of "personal choice" which according to us Muslims is "freedom of lust and worldly desires." But why do US women reveal? Naturally to attract the opposite sex and to get a date or a one-night stand, since marriage is far from their list of objectives. The editor feels that those women who don't want to be veiled should not be pressured to do so. Again, is this the way

Allah and His Prophet want us Muslims, living in Islamic society, to behave? Muslim women who do not want to veil should be forced to. Egypt is a good example of the resurgence of the veil among women. I have personally not been there to witness it but have seen on films showing it. The West is surprised that outside Cairo University there stands a statue built during the British occupation, of an Egyptian woman discarding her veil. But inside the campus, female students are going against the trend, veiling their body completely.

Leading Muslim Scholars discuss religion, especially the veil, and most women are convinced that the veil is for their own good and in the general welfare of society. So, Mr. Editor, we Muslims should not sit around and watch our sisters, who do not want the veil, we should through wisdom to show them the right way as prescribed by Allah.

"Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: they are the ones to attain felicity" (From the Quran: 3:104). There are many verses in which Allah exhorts us Muslims to advise one another to follow His path, provided it is done with wisdom and conviction because conviction breaks all taboos and superstitions. Every one knows that with the advent of Islam in any country, the veil followed it and it

became a part of the social life of Muslims. As far as the editor's comment that it is more of an urban phenomenon, he is partially right, since urbanization has also increased the interaction between the sexes. And here the faith of the people plays an important role. So the women in our cities prefer to veil themselves more, and may Allah reward them, as it leads to the general piety of the Ummah.

Marriage has nothing to do with the veil, but women are definitely better off when veiled, especially since they would avoid nasty verbal remarks or worse, possible physical attacks.

Mr. Editor, if as you say one should marry only when he/she is matured, then shouldn't that also apply to having sex. What Mr. Amin's solution aims for is that, if children in the West are mature enough to have sex, then they are mature enough to get married too. And which is better for the society - a whole bunch of illegitimate children, almost 1.5 million abortions (carried out in U.S yearly) and the problem of AIDS due to free sex - or responsible youth raising a family and having sex with their marital partners only.

By: Nassr F. Adam Ali,
Sana'a.

Editor's Answer:

Whether we are born male or female is really a genetic accident. Nothing more, nothing less. Think about it.

B: From a Woman Who Chose Not to Give Her Name!

I would like to refer to the letter titled Yemen Times of December 5th.

I lived in England for a total of 13 years, and now that I am back, I have realized that people here have not advanced in their thinking.

I am grateful for having two backgrounds as this enables me to judge from both angles, instead of having a biased opinion. Reading that letter had me interested, but disappointed in that this sort of attitude still goes on, in these final years of the 20th century.

I believe strongly in allowing women to have their own minds and judgement, and in providing them with a free choice. That way they become strong individuals, not just carbon copies. I am sure most women in Yemen have not set their goals on being just housewives, it is a goal set for them by men. Given the choice, I am sure the majority of women out there want to become successful at a self-chosen career.

The thing is that the veil is not the symbol of anything. Wearing a veil does not make a woman more responsible, let alone more attractive. Neither does a veil make a woman more chaste. It is up to the individual woman and the way she portrays herself that counts. Be it by wearing a veil or not.

One more point.

Having lived in England, I know for a fact that respectable girls do not get pregnant at 14. Those who do are a small minority. Our view of this happening in the West is a merely stereotyping. I would reckon a similar or even larger proportion of such things happen in our societies. But we are less open about them.

The point is that I don't think a veil can prevent a girl from getting pregnant. Again, it is up to the individual's way of thinking and self-respect.

Allowing girls to get married at 16 is absurd, because they are neither mentally nor physically ready for it. That is why it is against the law there (in the West). Education comes first in their lives, and it is the solid reason for them (Westerners) being ahead in life, technology, medicine, etc.

Our men should stop concentrating on women and what they wear, and should start concentrating on women and who they are!

I would like to end my letter by saying, "Thank you" to the Chief Editor of the Yemen Times for his comments on the letter. I am glad someone out there knows the value of free choice.

By: A Yemen Times Reader,
Sanaa.

Engineer Ahmed Al-Aini:

"Citizens are better customers than the government."

Electric supply is the lifeline of our modern civilization. It seems we depend more and more of this energy form in our daily chores and functions. In the recent months, electric supply in Yemen has been unstable, and blackouts have been a recurrent phenomenon.

The discuss issues related to electric supply, Yemeni Times stringer Ismail Al-Ghabri went to speak to Mr. Ahmed Hassan Al-Aini, General Manager of the Public Electricity Corporation (PEC).

Mr. Al-Aini, an engineer by training, has been with the PEC since 1981. He has served under various capacities and in different regions of the country.

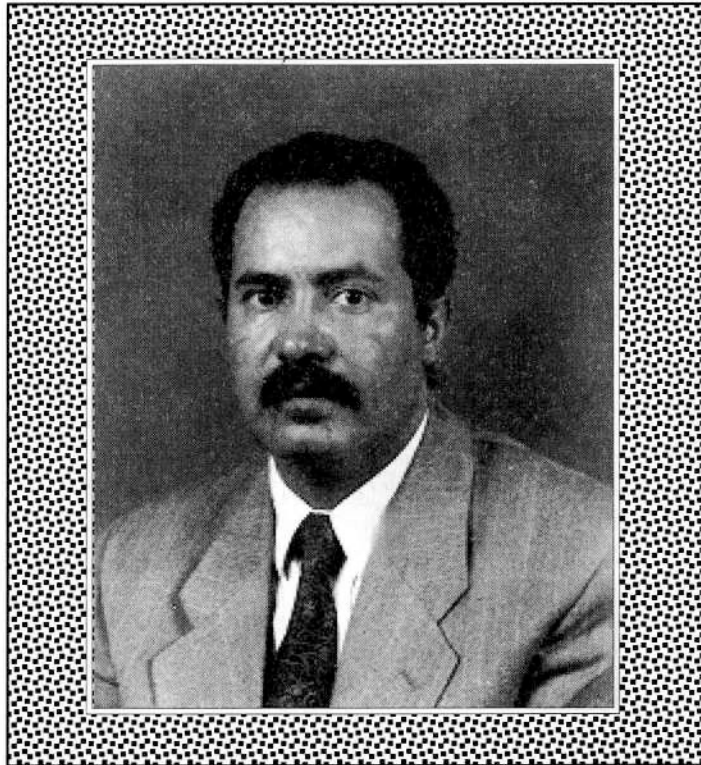
Here are excerpts of the interview:

Q: What seems to be the problem with electric supply?

A: As you know, following unity, electric demand has soared. In addition, we are asked to cover as many parts of the country and fill up the gaps in the network.

So as demand outstripped supply, organized and pre-determined blackouts became a necessary tool to bring equilibrium to the market.

Our production and carriage network are already strained



and they are at their maximum level..

Besides, we have been overwhelmed with the task of linking up the electric systems of the former YAR to that of the former PDRY. We are doing this through the Taiz-Aden link.

Q: It is clear the country needs investments in this field. Could you tell us if you are embarking on investments that will meet the demand, or is it going to be worse?

A: Yes, the country needs substantial investments in this field, and quite soon. I

have to say that we have been getting the full backing of the government.

Our 1994 investments - jointly financed by the Arab Fund, the World Bank, and the Yemeni government - is YR. 4,275,806,000 which is channeled through four projects already approved and contracted out. These are the Taiz-Aden Link Project; the Completion of Phase C of the Fourth Energy Project; Improvements in the governorates of Al-Baidha, Sanaa, Dhamar, Hajjah, Saadah, Ibb and Taiz; and individual projects in the southern and eastern projects, as well as other parts of the country.

Yemeni Electric Consumption By User in Giga Kilowatt Hours

Year	Home-Use	Commercial	Industrial	Agricultural	Others	TOTAL
1982/83	226.8	115.7	50.0	44.8	5.0	442.3
1983/84	268.3	143.5	58.6	48.8	6.0	525.2
1984/85	298.6	163.0	65.8	58.2	6.4	592.0
1985/86	350.6	214.0	73.9	61.7	6.9	707.1
1986/87	368.9	216.0	85.0	63.5	6.9	740.3
1987/88	414.0	250.0	90.4	64.5	6.7	825.6
1988/89	468.6	284.9	127.3	69.3	7.9	958.0
1989/90	496.5	320.5	182.9	71.0	8.6	1080.5
1990/91	564.8	364.3	237.3	79.4	9.6	1255.4
1991/92	662.2	406.6	207.1	85.8	10.3	1372.0
1992/93	720.6	601.3	203.4	91.3	12.5	1629.1

Source: Public Electricity Corporation.

Notes:

- Numbers prior to unification of Yemen are for YAR and PDRY combined.
- Others column is mainly Street Lighting.

In the medium term, we are, of course, looking at gas to feed our electric-generating stations.

Q: You mentioned earlier that you have an organized and systematized black-out pattern. There are people with sensitive machines, and there are institutions like hospitals, TV and radio stations, etc. How do you regulate all of this?

A: First, we are sorry but this is the problem of all of us. Second, we do give some of these institutions our program of black-outing (e.g., when and for how long). In some cases we also inform them half an hour of the black-out.

We also try to be considerate in terms of the time of the programmed black-out depending on the type of function of the institutions. Many companies and offices have a back-up system. For now maybe this is the solution.

We are, as you may now, implementing an emergency gas turbine power plant to overcome the shortage in the Sanaa electric supply. Hopefully, this station will be operational by the end of 1994.

Q: There have been many fires sparked by electric shorts in homes and offices. Do you think you can do something about this?

A: Yes, we are aware of this problem, and we have strengthened our fire-fighting abilities. But the only way to fight such problems is to improve the internal network of electric lines. If there is a short, the fuse should blow up and thus stop any additional damage. But the internal wiring is bad, and small problem sparks a fire.

The dramatic jumps in voltage also creates some problems leading to these kind of complications.

Q: We heard your company complains of arrears. Could you tell our readers how serious this problem is?

A: Yes, we have a major arrears problem because many government authorities refuse to pay their bills.

Let me give you some facts: 1. The government offices and institutions in Sanaa owe the PEC, upto first of October, over YR 840 million in arrears. In many cases, electric supply was interrupted, and often it was

restored only after at least partial payment was made. Still, the amounts are enormous.

2. All government offices and institutions in Aden have not paid anything since May 1990. We have raised the matter with Governor Saleh Al-Siyali, and he has taken decisive action which has already yielded results.

We are willing to sit down with any organization that has large outstanding bills and to negotiate a schedule for payment. All in all, citizens are far better customers than the government.

Q: We hear training is high on your agenda. Could you give details?

A: Yes, we have many training programs. We have the institute at Dhahban which has year-round programs of all kinds and levels.

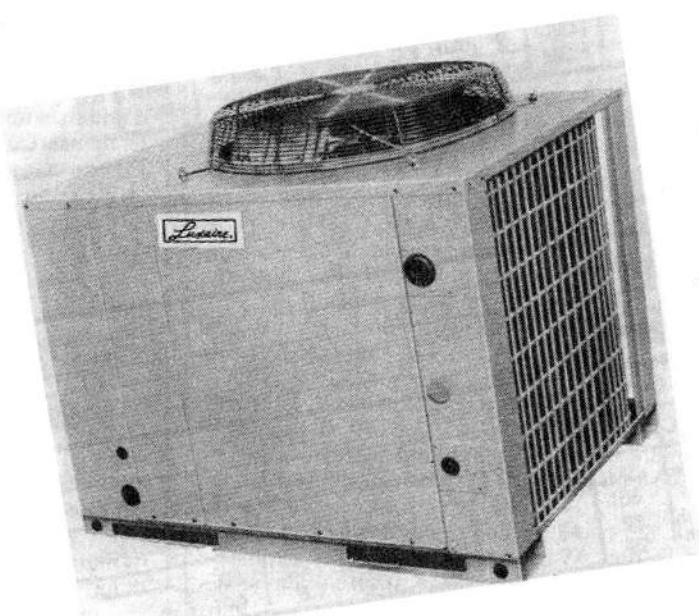
There is also the "on the job training" which is done in many stations.

Finally, we send our people for specialized training. I think the only way the PEC can provide an adequate service is to its rising number of customers is by constant and intensive training.

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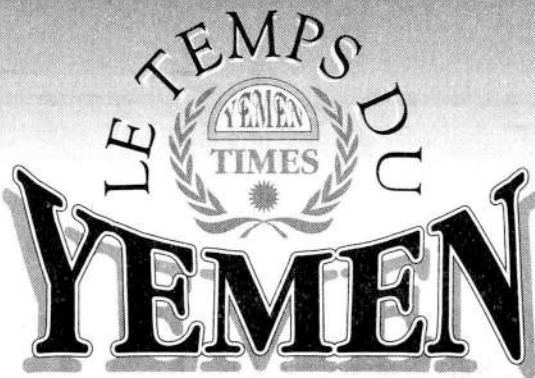
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SALEH/AL-BID

Le Yémen s'enlise dans la crise politique

Les partisans du Président Saleh ne semblent pas prêts à faire des concessions. Ils retardent sans cesse un dialogue qui devait finalement démarrer hier. Cet enlèvement menace l'unité du pays.

Les communiqués se suivent et se ressemblent et un règlement rapide de la crise politique que traverse le Yémen s'éloigne de plus en plus. Le dialogue entre les trois partis au pouvoir (CPG du Président Saleh, PSY du vice-Président Al-Bid, et Islah du président du Parlement Cheikh Al-Ahmar) et les partis d'opposition ne cesse d'être reporté malgré les déclarations de bonnes intentions de chaque côté.

Le "dialogue national" devait finalement reprendre hier. Les partis s'étaient semble-t-il enfin entendus sur le nombre de participants: cinq membres pour chacun des partis au pouvoir, trois pour l'Union des Forces nationales d'opposition, un pour le parti Baas, et enfin deux personnalités indépendantes représentant les "combattants de la révolution yéménite".

Jusqu'à-là, le CPG, qui avait émis des réserves sur la liste des participants, a visiblement traîné des pieds. Pourtant, rejetant implicitement sur le PSY la responsabilité du report

du dialogue, le parti du Président a affirmé être "soucieux de hâter le règlement des questions litigieuses et de mettre au point un mécanisme et un calendrier d'application en vue de surmonter la crise qui menace la stabilité et l'unité du Yémen". L'opposition quant à elle a stigmatisé l'enlèvement des négociations. Dans un communiqué publié la semaine dernière, l'Alliance nationale d'opposition a dénoncé les "tergiversations" et le "manque de crédibilité" des membres de la coalition gouvernementale dans leurs tentatives de régler la crise.

Forces centrifuges

Tel un revenant, l'ancien président de l'ex-Yémen du Sud, Ali Nasser Mohammed, a annoncé avoir lancé une médiation. Il a proposé un plan de règlement obéissant à trois principes: la "sauvegarde de l'unité", le "bannissement du recours à la force" et "l'attachement au choix démocratique".

En attendant, l'unité du pays est de plus en plus menacée par

les forces centrifuges. Jeudi 9 décembre, plus de 600 personnalités de l'Hadramaout tenaient une réunion destinée à assurer le développement de leur région à l'abri de la crise politique. L'Hadramaout, qui compte 700 000 habitants, connaît actuellement un développement très rapide grâce à pétrole, 60 % des réserves pétrolières prouvées du pays se trouvant dans cette région. Les participants, personnalités politiques, hommes d'affaires et responsables de tribus, se sont retrouvés à Mukalla et ont discuté d'un développement autonome de la région pour parer à une éventuelle dégradation de la situation économique. Les dirigeants de l'Hadramaout ont donc pris au mot Salem Saleh, membre du Conseil présidentiel, qui a proposé un système fédéral pour le Yémen. L'Arabie Saoudite ne verrait pas d'un mauvais oeil un Etat autonome de l'Hadramaout qui échapperait au contrôle d'Aden et de Sanaa et serait son allié, Ryad convoitant une ouverture sur la Mer d'Arabie.

Aden, quant à elle, a décidé

de prendre son destin en main et de ne plus dépendre de Sanaa. Depuis que le gouverneur de l'ancienne capitale du sud, M. Al-Sayli, a décidé il y a trois mois de faire collecter les impôts et les taxes par la Banque centrale d'Aden et non plus par celle de Sanaa, la ville semble redémarrer grâce à plusieurs chantiers.

La situation économique du pays n'est pas faite pour arranger les choses. La population supporte les effets de l'inflation grâce à la stabilité des prix des produits de base subventionnés par le gouvernement. Mais ces jours-ci le rial a repris sa lente dégringolade par rapport au dollar. Après avoir dépassé 1 dollar pour 62 rials mercredi, les boutiques de changeurs ont été fermées. Depuis le mois d'août la monnaie yéménite a perdu près de 35 % de sa valeur par rapport à la monnaie américaine. Cette nouvelle chute brutale après celle d'octobre laisse présager une hausse des prix. Reste à savoir jusqu'à quand la population la supportera sans broncher.

J.B.

Attaque armée contre Sawt Al-Ommal

Des inconnus ont mitraillé samedi 11 décembre le siège à Sanaa de l'hebdomadaire *Sawt Al-Ommal*, organe de l'Union des syndicats au Yémen et proche du parti socialiste. L'attaque contre les locaux, situés en face du Palais des hôtes dans le centre de la capitale, est survenue après la publication par le journal des détails d'"un projet d'assassinat" du vice-Président Ali Salem Al-Bid. Des "hauts responsables" à Sanaa auraient offert une prime d'environ 80 millions de rials (soit 1,5 millions de dollars) pour commettre l'attentat. Dans le dernier numéro de *Sawt Al-Ommal*, qui avait disparu des kiosques à Sanaa, le journal publie des noms d'officiers de l'armée yéménite impliqués, selon lui, dans le projet d'assassinat.

SOMALIE

Des risques d'un retour à la guerre civile

La Somalie est gravement menacée d'un retour à la guerre civile, après l'échec des pourparlers "de la dernière chance" entre les camps rivaux somaliens. Ces réunions ultimes avaient été lancées à Addis Abeba par le président éthiopien Meles Zenawi. Malgré de très fortes pressions de la communauté internationale pour qu'ils s'engagent dans un règlement politique, les camps rivaux du général Mohamed Farah Aidid et du "président par intérim" Ali Mahdi ne sont pas parvenus en dix jours à un rapprochement de leurs positions. A Mogadiscio, cet échec a été durement ressenti par de nombreux habitants et par le personnel des Nations Unies.

L'ONUSOM dans l'impasse

"Nous comptons sur ce processus politique, mais c'est encore une fois l'inconnu", a déclaré un responsable de l'ONUSOM II, l'Opération des Nations Unies en Somalie, qui est comme paralysée et dans une impasse totale depuis qu'elle a abandonné, après la mort de 18 soldats américains le 3 octobre, la vaine et sanglante traque du général Aidid. Beaucoup en Somalie redoutent que le départ des soldats américains ne marque la reprise de la guerre civile et l'échec des pourparlers d'Addis Abeba n'a fait que renforcer cette crainte. Les deux camps rivaux somaliens se sont rejetés la responsabilité de l'échec et le général Aidid a également mis en cause l'ONUSOM, l'accusant d'avoir délibérément contre-carré les efforts du président éthiopien.

En Bref

Le président djiboutien a grâcié Ali Aref Bourhan: L'ancien président du conseil de gouvernement de l'ex-territoire français des Afars et des Issas, Ali Aref Bourhan, et ses 13 co-détenus ont été libérés mercredi dernier à Djibouti. Ils ont fait l'objet d'une mesure de grâce décrétée le même jour par le président Hassan Gouled Aptidon, qui leur assure une remise totale des peines. Ils avaient été condamnés en juillet 1992 de 5 à 10 ans de prison pour complot et tentative de coup d'Etat.

RECTIFICATIF: Dans le numéro du Yemen Times daté du 5 décembre, l'auteur de l'article "Islam et Démocratie", n'est pas Nabil Banabila, comme nous l'avons écrit, mais Najib Banabila.

Saddam Hussein grâce un détenu français: Le président irakien Saddam Hussein a ordonné mardi dernier la libération du Français Jean-Luc Barrière détenu depuis six mois en Irak. Ce dernier, âgé de 25 ans, travaillait comme technicien pour la société France-Electronique au Koweït. Il avait été arrêté le 18 juin dernier et condamné à huit ans de prison pour "entrée illégale" en Irak par la frontière avec le Koweït.

GATT

L'accord historique de libre-échange est scellé

Enfin, ce ne sera pas la guerre entre les Etats-Unis et l'Europe. Les deux super-puissances ont réussi à régler leurs litiges commerciaux. Principale pomme de discorde, l'audiovisuel a été finalement exclu de l'Uruguay Round comme le demandait la France au nom de "l'exception culturelle". L'acte final a donc pu être signé mercredi dernier.

Il était 18h35 GMT mercredi dernier, quand, conformément à l'usage, le directeur général du GATT Peter Sutherland a abattu son maillet pour signifier que le consensus était obtenu. Après sept années de discussions, les 117 pays participants ont conclu la plus ambitieuse libéralisation du commerce mondial de l'Histoire. L'Uruguay Round s'est terminé avec près de 11 heures d'avance sur l'horaire limite prévu pour sa conclusion, qui était le 15 décembre à minuit heure de Washington (5h GMT). "L'Uruguay Round signifiera plus de commerce, plus d'investissements, plus d'emplois et des revenus accrus pour tous", a lancé Peter Sutherland. En proie à la récession et au chômage persistant, les gouvernements du monde entier se raccrochent de plus en plus à l'Uruguay Round pour relancer la croissance. "C'est le meilleur cadeau de Noël que l'on puisse faire à ceux qui craignent la division du monde en blocs commerciaux, aux économies en récession et aux chômeurs", a estimé le ministre australien du Commerce extérieur Peter Cook.

Les délégués des deux super-puissances commerciales mondiales, les Etats-Unis et l'Europe, se sont félicités de cet accord. En revanche, de

nombreux pays n'ont pas caché que tous leurs espoirs n'avaient pas été réalisés. Le Canadien Roy MacLaren a déploré à demi-mots le réaménagement de l'accord de Blair House décidé par les Etats-Unis et l'Union Européenne. Les pays en développement ont dressé un bilan mitigé de l'accord.

Les tarifs douaniers baissent de 40 %

L'Acte final adopté mercredi comprend 550 pages de principes généraux et des milliers de pages d'annexes comprenant les propositions de réduction de tarifs douaniers de chaque pays et d'ouverture de leur marché des services. Ces propositions seront encore susceptibles de modifications. Mais elles pourront seulement être améliorées et non pas réduites. En moyenne l'Uruguay Round prévoit une baisse des tarifs douaniers d'environ 40 %. Pour la première fois, le secteur agricole, le textile et les services sont inclus dans la libéralisation du commerce mondial.

Les délégués des pays participants ont dû travailler nuit et jour depuis une semaine pour boucler dans les temps la négociation. La veille, les Etats-Unis et l'Union Européenne avaient enterré la hache de guerre afin

d'ouvrir la voie à un accord général.

Deux secteurs ont finalement échappé à la libéralisation du commerce mondial: les transports maritimes et l'audiovisuel. Principale pomme de discorde entre les deux super-puissances, l'audiovisuel a été exclu de l'Uruguay Round comme le demandait la France au nom de "l'exception culturelle". Préférant parvenir à un accord partiel plutôt que de poursuivre encore des négociations au-delà du 15 décembre, les Etats-Unis et l'Europe ont donc choisi de "se mettre d'accord sur le fait qu'il y avait encore des désaccords" a expliqué le négociateur américain Mickey Kantor, en évoquant l'audiovisuel. Pour Leon Brittan, le négociateur européen, l'exclusion de l'audiovisuel du cadre de l'Uruguay Round va permettre à l'Europe de conduire "totale-ment librement" sa politique dans ce secteur.

Les Etats-Unis ont donné satisfaction à l'ensemble de leurs partenaires en acceptant la création pour succéder au GATT d'une véritable organisation multilatérale du commerce, qui pourra voir le jour une fois que l'accord Uruguay entrera en vigueur dans le courant de l'année 1995. Son nom: l'Organisation mondiale du Commerce. (AFP)

Sept années de négociations

Les négociations de l'Uruguay Round dans le cadre du GATT pour libéraliser le commerce mondial ont commencé il y a sept ans.

- **20 septembre 1986:** la conférence ministérielle du GATT, réunie à Punta del Este (Uruguay), lance un nouveau cycle de négociations commerciales multilatérales, qui devait être achevé fin 1990. Ces négociations incluent pour la première fois des secteurs comme les services et la propriété intellectuelle.

- **9 décembre 1988:** échec de la conférence de Montréal. Les Etats-Unis et la CEE n'arrivent pas à résoudre leurs divergences sur la question de l'agriculture.

- **7 décembre 1990:** la "conférence finale" de l'Uruguay Round à Bruxelles se solde par un échec.

- **4 novembre 1992:** échec des négociations agricoles sur les oléagineux à Chicago. Washington annonce des sanctions économiques contre la CEE, en particulier une surtaxe sur les alcools et les vins.

- **20 novembre 1992:** accord de "Blair House" à Washington entre les Etats-Unis et la Commission européenne, qui prévoit notamment une

limitation des surfaces d'oléagineux en Europe et la diminution des exportations agricoles subventionnées.

- **8 juin 1993:** les 12 ministres des Affaires étrangères de la CEE entrent formellement à Luxembourg l'accord sur les oléagineux conclu en novembre 1992.

- **7 juillet 1993:** les Etats-Unis, la CEE, le Japon et le Canada concluent à Tokyo un pré-accord sur la réduction des droits de douane.

- **20 septembre:** accord des Douze sur une réouverture des discussions avec Washington sur le volet agricole du GATT afin d'obtenir des éclaircissements.

- **6 décembre:** réunis à Bruxelles les négociateurs américains et européens se mettent d'accord sur des assouplissements à la mise en oeuvre de l'accord agricole de Blair House.

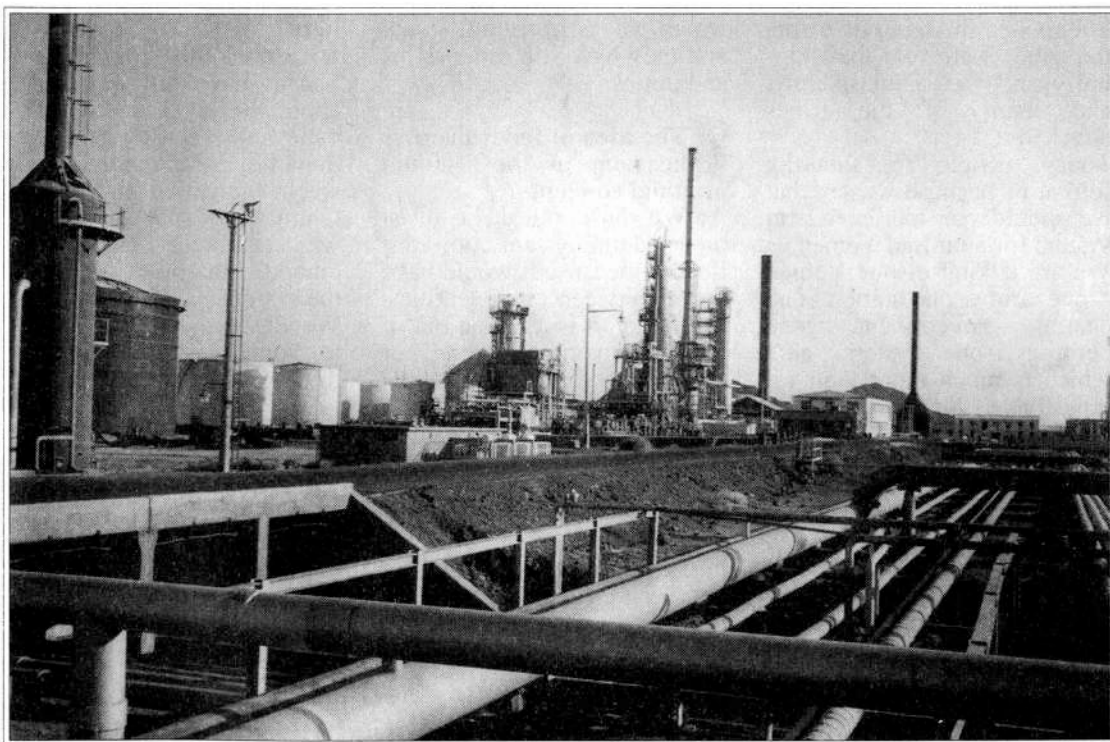
- **14 décembre:** L'Europe et les Etats-Unis annoncent avoir obtenu un accord sur leurs litiges commerciaux. Ce compromis contient un point de désaccord majeur, l'audiovisuel, mis à l'écart des négociations du GATT.

- **15 décembre:** L'acte final de l'Uruguay Round est adopté par 117 pays.

ECONOMIE

La raffinerie d'Aden attend les investisseurs

Inaugurée en 1954 par les Anglais, la raffinerie d'Aden a entretemps beaucoup vieilli. Depuis 1986, elle a entamé de moderniser certains secteurs, mais elle se tourne désormais vers l'étranger pour financer son développement. Beaucoup sont intéressés et notamment un consortium français qui a obtenu de réaliser une étude de faisabilité.



La raffinerie vieillie continue à fonctionner mais à 50 % de ses capacités.

De l'autre côté du golfe d'Aden, on aperçoit son port pétrolier qui s'avance vers la mer. Symbole d'un passé économique glorieux avec lequel l'ancienne capitale du sud aimerait renouer, la raffinerie de Little Aden reste encore l'une des fiertés de la ville. Construite par les Anglais de British Petroleum dans les années 1950 puis nationalisée au moment de l'indépendance, elle a beaucoup vieilli.

Depuis quelque temps, plusieurs groupes étrangers ont les yeux de Chimène pour cette compagnie qui reste une valeur sûre. Parmi eux des Français. Aux termes d'un accord signé le 17 octobre avec le ministère du Pétrole et des Ressources minérales, à la veille de la visite de François Mitterrand au Yémen, le consortium Francefi, Foster Wheeler France et Cegelec a ainsi obtenu l'exclusivité pour une période de

quatre mois en vue d'étudier et de remettre une offre technique et financière pour la phase 1 de la modernisation de la raffinerie d'Aden. L'étude française, financée par le consortium lui-même (400 000 dollars), fait suite à une étude réalisée dans les années 1980 par BP et une autre faite par les Japonais.

La raffinerie une grande famille

Le coût de la première phase de modernisation est évalué à environ 120 millions de dollars. Datant des années 1950, la raffinerie d'Aden ne peut actuellement produire qu'à 50-60 % de sa capacité théorique, qui est de 170 000 barils par jour, en raison de son vieillissement et de l'obsolescence des technologies employées. La phase 1 de la modernisation viserait à faire fonctionner la raffinerie au maximum de ses capacités.

Quant à la phase 2, qui n'est pas à l'ordre du jour, elle aurait pour objectif d'accroître les capacités de la raffinerie à 250 000 barils par jour.

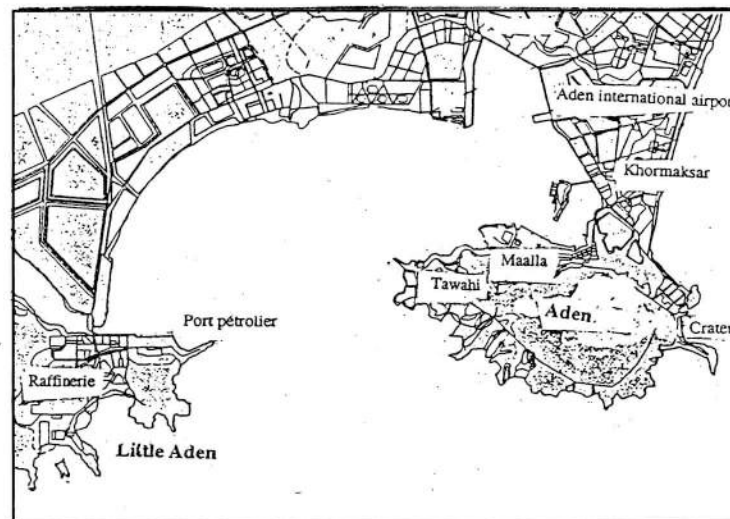
A Little Aden, on vit et on meurt pour la raffinerie. "C'est une grande famille", reconnaît le directeur de la compagnie Mohammed Hussein Al-Haj. Lui-même est à la tête de l'entreprise depuis 1986, après avoir grimpé les échelons de la hiérarchie. Ingénieur en pétrochimie de formation, cela fait 18 ans qu'il y travaille. De père en fils, on vient se faire embaucher ici. "Les employés estiment que c'est du devoir de la raffinerie d'employer leurs enfants pour perpétuer leur nom dans l'entreprise quand ils seront partis à la retraite", précise-t-il. Farook Al-Sayed Hassan est un exemple. Responsable des relations publiques à la raffinerie, son père y était responsable de la sécurité

du temps des Anglais. Farook vit tout près de son lieu de travail, et de son bureau il peut presque voir son appartement. Plus de la moitié des 2600 personnes actuellement employées dans l'entreprise vivent dans des maisons ou des immeubles qui bordent la raffinerie et appartiennent à celle-ci.

Des débouchés accrus

"Les employés sont fiers de travailler ici. Ils bénéficient d'avantages qu'ils n'ont pas ailleurs. Nous avons notre propre centre santé, nos services médicaux, notre propre échelle de salaire, nos services de loisirs (une salle de fêtes sert aux mariages)", explique Moham-med Hussein Al-Haj, satisfait de constater que la raffinerie d'Aden est la seule de la péninsule arabique à être dirigée par des gens du pays. Il y a même un terrain de golf qui date du temps des Anglais, mais ce sont essentiellement des étrangers qui y jouent. Coincé entre la pipeline qui relie la raffinerie au port pétrolier et une colline, le terrain est fait de sable. Pour le gazon, il faudra attendre.

Pour assurer la relève, la raffinerie a son propre centre de formation. Pendant quatre ans, les apprentis machinistes, apprentis électriciens sont



La raffinerie est située à Little Aden, en face de l'ancienne capitale du Sud.

formés. "Il est difficile de trouver le personnel adéquat", précise le directeur.

Depuis l'unification des deux Yémen, les débouchés de la raffinerie se sont accrus. Elle produit pour l'exportation mais aussi de plus en plus pour le marché local. Le pétrole brut de Mareb arrivé par pipeline à Hoddeidah est ensuite transporté par bateaux jusqu'à Aden. Le brut vient également du terminal de Bir Ali débouché du pétrole de Shabwa et dans l'avenir, Aden espère raffiner du brut venu du champ de Massila. Le pétrole raffiné repart ensuite par la voie maritime vers Hoddeidah, Mokha et Mukalla mais aussi par la route. Avant l'unification, le marché local ne représentait qu'environ 400 000 tonnes par an. Aujourd'hui, la production a été multipliée par cinq atteignant 2,2 millions de tonnes.

"Notre production dans chaque secteur augmente de 10 % chaque année depuis l'unification", explique le directeur. La raffinerie d'Aden propose des prix équivalents aux raffineries concurrentes. Si la main d'oeuvre est moins chère qu'ailleurs, la consommation de

fuel pour faire tourner l'entreprise est élevée.

La direction de la raffinerie a commencé depuis 1986 à retaper certains secteurs de l'entreprise par autofinancement. "Nous ne pouvions pas attendre qu'elle tombe en morceaux", explique Mohammed Hassan Al-Haj. Le port pétrolier a ainsi été modernisé en 1989 pour permettre à de plus gros bateaux d'accoster. Actuellement, seize nouveaux réservoirs sont construits.

Aujourd'hui, la raffinerie cherche des financements extérieurs. En juillet, elle a signé un accord pour un prêt de 50 millions de dollars avec la compagnie malaisienne Petronas pour financer l'achat et l'installation d'une nouvelle centrale électrique. Pour le remboursement du prêt la compagnie malaisienne recevra 30 000 à 40 000 barils par jour de brut raffiné. C'est peut-être le début d'un avenir à nouveau prestigieux.

J.B.

Royale cylindrée

La voiture est cachée par une housse couverte de poussière. Dans le hangar de la section des transports de la raffinerie d'Aden, personne ne semble y prêter grand intérêt. D'ailleurs, à quoi peut bien servir une Austin "Princess" des années 1950 quand il existe des voitures bien plus performantes aujourd'hui. Mais cette limousine noire a eu l'honneur de transporter un royal derrière. La reine Elizabeth II d'Angleterre l'a en effet empruntée quand elle était venue en visite en 1954 à Aden, à l'époque colonie anglaise. La voiture qui appartient à la raffinerie a servi jusqu'en 1984. Depuis elle attend que des amateurs la réparent. Les portières un peu rouillées et les sièges défoncés ont besoin d'un petit coup de jeune, sans parler de la mécanique. La "Princess" n'est pas seule dans le garage. A ses côtés, une Jaguar blanche des années 1960, dans laquelle roulait le dernier directeur anglais de la raffinerie, attend elle aussi un dépoussiérage. L'actuel directeur affirme qu'il veut réparer la "Princess". Reste alors à la reine d'Angleterre à revenir dans l'ancienne colonie britannique.

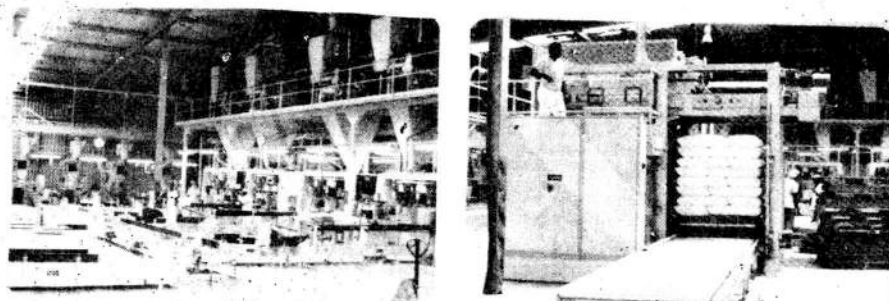


L'Austin "Princess" empruntée par la reine d'Angleterre.

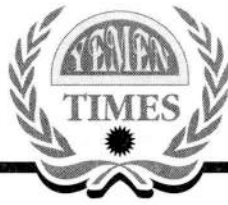


THE MOHAMED ABDO RABO GROUP A GIANT CORPORATION GROWS FURTHER

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الحديدة ت: ٣٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليفون: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليفون: ٢٢٣٦٩ سبحان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٢٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٩ - ٤٤٦٥ تليفون: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠



Salim Saleh Mohammed:

"We shall not forsake unity."

Full text of the interview with Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Q: Representatives of the coalition government as well as opposition and other forces have been negotiating about a deal to resolve the political crisis. How far have you come, and when do you expect to finish?

A: Yes, there are on-going negotiations, but I cannot say when we will finish. The opposition has put forth a challenge to strike a deal before the end of the year.

Q: What has been agreed upon, so far?

A: Nothing has been agreed upon. We (the YSP) presented an 18-point demand, as well as other points presented by other parties. These are all subject to negotiations. Most of these do not require constitutional amendments, or anything really big. They just need a firm and strong political will.

For example, bringing the killers and terrorists to trial, to reform and strengthen the security situation, removing the armed forces from the cities (including the Central Security Forces which really are part of the army and not a security force), introducing local government in the governorates, improving the standard of living, etc.

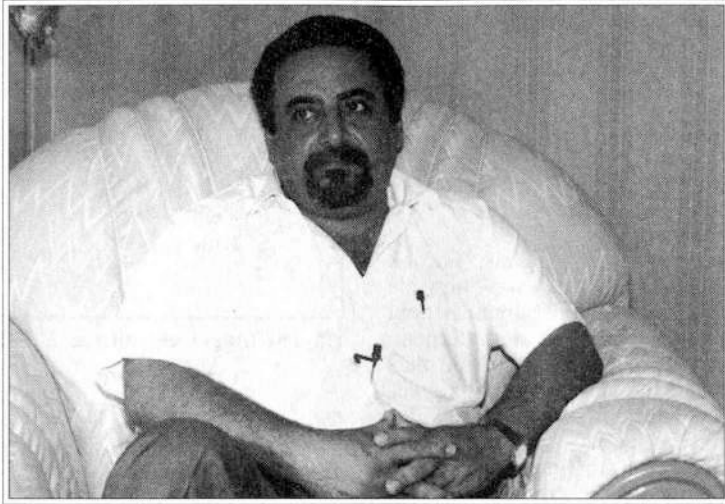
So what we need is more serious tackling of the issues presented.

Q: Do you feel the approach is candid and sincere?

A: From my experience, I think we need all sides to be more candid and serious. This requires that the decision-makers are present in the dialogues. For example, the YSP named five of its top people from the Political Bureau, who are decision-makers to the dialogue table. These include Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, President of the YSP Secretariat, Mr. Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Saeed Abdullah, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, Mr. Jarallah Omar, Minister of Culture and Tourism, and Mr. Fadhle Mohsin, Minister of Fisheries.

The other parties are not sending decision-makers. We urge them to show more seriousness and send people with real authority.

Q: If it is decision-makers you want, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has offered



to meet Mr. Ali Salim Al-Beedh and others to reach an agreement. So why have you not taken him on that offer?

A: We have not taken that offer because we feel they are not serious.

Besides, it is not just a matter of meeting and signing a document which will never be implemented. We don't want the emotions to get involved in this.

We Arabs are emotional. We have deep problems, then we meet, we hug, kiss kiss, and everything is over. No this is not the way we think it should go, at least not this time.

italize on our crisis.

Q: Are you really interested in the preservation of Yemeni unity, or does your fate - as individuals and YSP party - command an over-riding consideration?

A: First, let me stress that we participated in the unification process voluntarily. Unity is a strategic objective of our party.

All the people of Yemen have been enthusiastic about unity. Everybody thought unity will come to help solve our problems.

But we are disenchanted by the way the regime in Sanaa handled

The methods and attitude of the Sanaa rulers are out of date. They even pre-date Imamic Yemen. They belong to the times of the Ottoman Turks.

Q: What do you mean not this time?

A: Because we have had similar situations in the past. This is the third time we have this kind of crisis.

The first time, we made up fast, and the PGC and YSP signed a 13-point confidence building document. The second time, the president and vice president signed another document in Hodeidah. The contents of neither document were implemented.

Q: We know there are several intermediation efforts. Now, Americans are involved. How did this development come about?

A: Yes, we have many intermediation efforts. The Omanis are involved, the Palestinians, the Jordanians and the Eritreans. As you correctly noted, now the Americans are helping.

We welcome any efforts to help us overcome this crisis. We present our viewpoint in an objective way to all.

Q: What has the Saudi position been?

A: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have shown a well-

studied balance in its position vis-avis the crisis.

It is not involved in any intermediation.

The Saudis have their own calculations regarding Yemen. And given the fall-out from the Gulf Crisis, they may even want to cap-

2. Many people either don't understand or intentionally confuse things. Remember the word *dastour* (means constitution). When the 1948 proclaimed its interest in creating a constitutional state, the tribes were told this was a heretic movement and it was attacked.

Then when the republic came, the tribes were told that *jumhuriyyah* was a blasphemy, and many of the tribes attacked it.

Today, people are shouting foul at us because we say that we should consider a federal system for a unified Yemen.

We are talking of one Yemen - one army, one nation, one central government, one currency, one system, etc., which is much more than we now have. So what is the problem?

We have to insist that we do not need an overbearing Sanaa which dictates all aspects of our lives. We need a system that will allow the central authorities in Sanaa to carry out their work, and to all the regions function according to local aspirations. This is what federalism is all about. Let me repeat. The YSP is committed to Yemeni unity, but one that fulfills the aspirations of the Yemeni people.

Q: Wouldn't local administration and even local government be enough?

A: I do not insist on the name. But we have to make sure all citizens are equal. There are no more equal citizens as the case is in today's Yemen.

Some people, especially those with privilege, have yet to see light.

We refuse the concept based on the right of certain tribes (read Zaidis) to rule because they are from that region or tribe. We refuse the concept of certain regions to remain forever to be ruled.

This attitude does not fit with modern thought and our aspiration for a modern state, in which all citizens are equal and they have the same rights and duties.

Q: The idea of federalism, is it the same as the regional or zonal concepts?

A: We did not want to insist on a federal system upon unification because it would have been between two entities. But today, it is a nation out of which several regions or zones (say, for or five) can be carved out. Remember, it is done within one country.

Q: Why are you in Aden? When do you go back to Sanaa?

A: I will go to Sanaa soon. (off the record, Mr. Salim Saleh Mohammed indicated that his name was on a hit list.)

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: I think that the rulers of Sanaa have to be serious about the rights of others. I believe the security considerations are paramount. Just last week, the office of Sawt Al-Ommal newspaper in Sanaa was attacked. This is an embodiment of credibility of the system.

We deserve to look forward to something better. and I think we can achieve it.

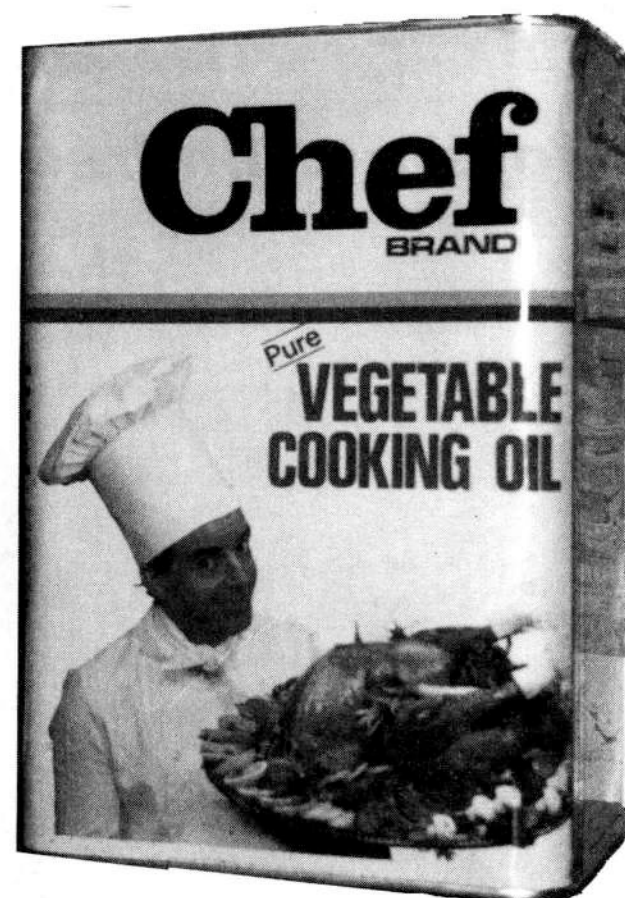
VACANCY

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.

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SPRAYS WIPE OUT MORE THAN JUST PESTS

Makers of pesticide insist their products are safe if used properly. However, evidence is growing that this may not be so. And for many developing countries, "proper" use is the exception, not the rule.

Pesticides are designed to kill. Their targets are many - insects (insecticides), plants (herbicides), moulds (fungicides), birds (avicides) rats (rodenticides), etc. Chemicals used vary from traditional poisons like arsenic to sophisticated hormones that make plants grow to death, anti-coagulants which make rodents bleed to death and organophosphorous compounds which paralyze the nervous system.

Their safety for humans and other non-target animals is established by laboratory tests on rats, chickens and other species.

The effects on people who suffer long-term or excessive exposure can still be lethal. Laboratory tests do not take into account the "cocktail" effect, typical in agriculture where several chemicals may be used in the same time. And most of these are disseminated in solvents which may also be toxic.

It is estimated that about

80,000 people die each year from pesticides, two million are poisoned most in the developing world.

Those figures are hardly surprising, as few poor farmers in the developing countries can afford the necessary protective clothing. Often they do not understand the complicated instructions for use and safe storage.

The figures refer to cases of acute poisoning. If long-term effects of chronic exposure are also taken into account, the numbers are probably far higher.

Evidence is growing that some pesticides may cause cancer and that others may permanently damage the nervous system.

Many pesticides can be classified into broad grouping with similar chemical properties.

Insecticides for instance, fall into four main groups - organochlorines (OCs), organophosphorous compounds (OPs) pyrethroids and carbamates.

The biggest groups of weed-killers are the chlorophenoxyacetates and bipyridilium compounds.

There are three types of rat poison - blood anti-coagulants, fluoroacetates

and various fumigants.

OC insecticides have been used since the 1950s.

They were banned in most Western countries since the 1980s after being found to persist in animal tissue. They were also linked to an increased risk of cancer. They are still used in many developing countries, however. The most well-known being DDT.

Last year 350 people were poisoned and 31 died in the Sudan from eating bread made with flour treated with endosulfan manufactured by Hoechst several years before. The flour was intended as bait for birds.

The persistence of OCs in body tissue is causing most concern.

In countries still using these compounds, high concentrations of DDT have been found in the milk of nursing mothers.

A survey in India in 1986 found DDT levels in breast milk 12 times the level considered acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO).

A study in Nicaragua found levels 70 times the WHO maximum.

In countries where OCs are banned, they are being

replaced by OP which are less persistent.

OPs were first discovered in the 1930s. They were used as the basis for the development of nerve gases. The effects of acute OP poisoning are similar to the effects of nerve gas - vomiting, cramps, cold sweats, diarrhoea, exhaustion and confusion.

OPs work by switching on the nervous system permanently. They enter the body by inhalation or through the skin.

Even more serious may be long-term effects.

Many farmers in Britain believe they have suffered permanent nervous system damage through the cumulative effect of exposure to OPs. Until 1989, they were forced by law to dip their sheep in OPs twice a year to combat sheep scab.

Many say their health and lives have been ruined as a result. Long-term effects appear to include fatigue, depression and muscle pains.

A study of Nicaraguan agricultural workers, published last year in the British medical journal *The Lancet* also suggested that OPs exposure may have long term effects.

Tested two years after a poisoning incident, they showed symptom of central nervous system damage, including loss of dexterity, slow reactions, poor visual memory, loss of attention, difficulties with problem-solving and unsteadiness.

Animal studies suggest that some OPs may also cause cancer.

During the Vietnam War, herbicides was used in huge quantities by United States troops to defoliate the country. Vietnamese and US servicemen still have symptoms of acute poisoning because of exposure to the so-called Agent Orange.

The main concern with those herbicides is dioxin, their toxic by-product, known to cause cancer and birth deformities in animals.

It has also been linked to high cancer rates among agricultural workers in Sweden and forestry workers in the US.

While herbicides are banned in many Western countries, they are still widely used in developing world.

Some evidence links other popular herbicides to later development of Parkinson's disease, which affects nerve signals from the brain.

Another major problem with pesticides is residues in food and water. Most Western countries have set maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides in food. MRLs are based on what is considered a "safe" acceptable daily intake (ADI).

To ensure some international consistency, governments discuss MRLs at the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues established by the UN's Codex Alimentarius Commission. National MRLs are based on internationally agreed ADIs.

Perhaps the main reason for setting MRL's is to minimize the cancer risk. The US National Academy of Sciences conducted a major review of residues in 1987 and suggested fungicides are the major risk to consumers.

Pesticide residues can also cause acute poisoning. In 1985, more than 1,000 people fell ill with fly-like symptoms after eating watermelons illegally sprayed with carbamates. They went on to develop all the symptoms associated with carbamate and OP poisoning.

It is worth noting that chemical producing companies are most profitable in the world today.

Resolutions of the Third UNDP Inter-Country Program for Arab States

On Wednesday evening, December 15th, the two-day Inter-governmental Meeting on the Third UNDP Inter-Country Program (1994-1996) for Arab States was concluded. The participants, delegates from sixteen Arab countries and 25 international organizations, have just exchanged notes on their programs for the next three years, and how to link them up for better efficiency.

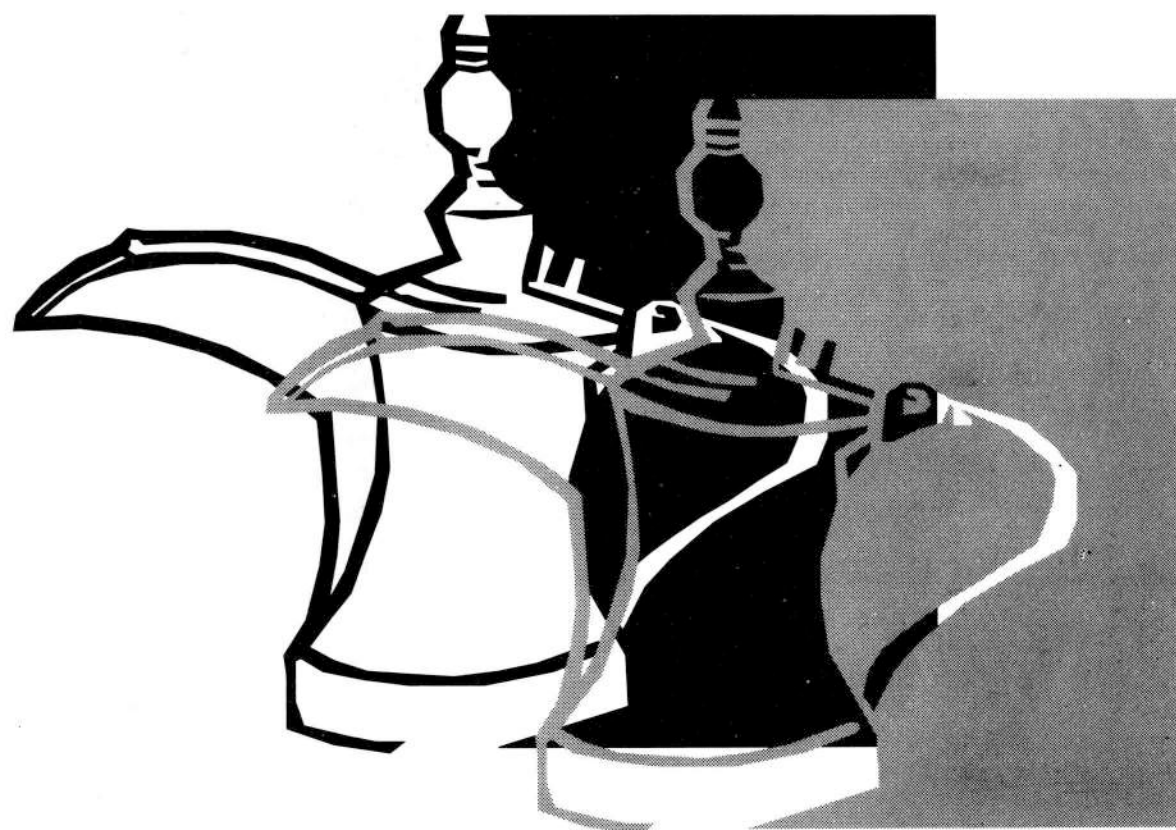
The resolutions stressed the following points:

1. To benefit to the maximum from the local expertise in the implementation of the Third UNDP Program projects.
2. To coordinate the national and regional projects so as to achieve optimal allocation of resources, and to assist in evolving a regional development strategy.
3. To support the strengthening and consolidation of the trade network information systems among the Arab countries and connecting them to the UNCTAD system.
4. To support and assist in the Arabization of the information and standardization systems to facilitate an expanded trade flow.
5. To support rural electrification projects in order to attain a high level of manpower development.
6. To urge the regional and international organizations and funds to finance research efforts, especially in the field of renewable energy sources.
7. To stress the possibilities of joint electric projects among Arab states, especially for consumption by border regions.
8. To urge the Arab countries to urgently name an acceptable Arab personality to head the regional office, to replace the outgoing Dr. Ali Ahmed Attiqa, and to provide all financial, logistical, and moral support to the office.
9. To advise the Arab governments to draw up long-term strategies for their development efforts, and to create the mechanisms for regional coordination.
10. To urge member states to design national development strategies based on the market system in order to achieve optimal allocations of resources, and in collaborations with the specialized international organizations.

The resolution also expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and exceptional preparations undertaken by the Yemeni authorities for the meetings and the delegates. Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Minister of Planning and Development, who chaired the final session, stated the full appreciation of the Yemeni government and people for choosing Sanaa as the meeting place for the Inter-governmental meeting, and assured of complete support for the efforts of the UNDP and the resolutions.

At another level, Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council, received on Saturday, December 18th, Dr. Attiqa, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab Countries, and exchanged views with him regarding the national and regional developments. At the end of the meeting, the President awarded Dr. Attiqa a Yemeni Istihqaq Medal for his services to the Arab region, in general, and to the Republic of Yemen, in particular.

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YEMEN CANCER SOCIETY

Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hadhrani, President of the Yemen Cancer Society (YCS) explains the efforts of the YCS.

The Yemen Cancer Society was recently established with the purpose of the prevention policy through public education in order to reduce the risk factors which lead to cancer. The Society also aims to educate the people as to detect cancer at an early stage.

Cancer prevention becomes a very important policy in the developed countries, although it is still unthinkable in the developing countries. For example, United States spends about eleven billion dollars per year on cancer prevention.

The other compelling reasons behind the establishment of the YCS which Dr. Al-Hadhrani outlined are:

1. Cancer is a rising problem in Yemen. It is estimated that one in eight to ten individuals might develop cancer in their lifetime.

2. Cancer treatment either palliative or curative is very expensive and beyond the economic resources of ordinary Yemenis.

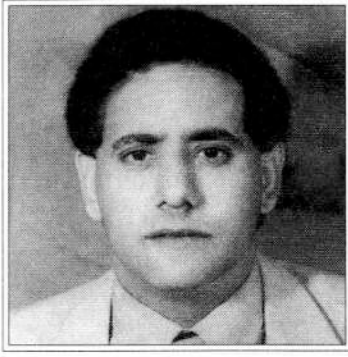
3. The vast majority of Yemeni cancer patients are poor and have no health insurance. This makes the cancer patient and his/her family live in a miserable life until he/she dies.

Although the Society was established only a few months ago, it has already made impressive achievements such as:

a) Opening of a center on Khartoum street, though still with very limited facilities.

b) Giving public education about cancer on television, running articles in newspapers, and offering lectures to the general public. An important theme in these efforts has been "Breast self examination for women for an early detection of breast cancer."

c) A free service to cancer patients which is made available on the afternoons (3-5 pm) on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays every week. Highly qualified consultants provide diagnosis, opinion and treatment to cancer patients.



So far the Society is going very well, although it faces a lot of difficulties. Most serious among these is the financial constraint. The only source of funding up to date, has been personal contribution and donations by members and relatives of patients. "We hope to attract some contribution from foreign donors as well as from the Yemeni government," he stated.

Contributions may be directly transferred to the YCS account number 13285, with the International Bank of Yemen, Sanaa.

"We are planning to start contact with similar international societies such as the American Cancer Society, the French Cancer Society and others in order to benefit from their experiences," said Dr. Al-Hadhrani.

"Cancer is one of the most serious diseases that Yemen is facing today. It is the third highest cause of death following accidents and heart attack," explained the YCS president.

"Finally, I want to explain that, this society is different from many other societies in Yemen. We take the scientific approach in our policies, we serve every person who comes to us - Yemeni or foreign, young old, rich or poor, male or female. The only criterion is that they need our help.

Our over-riding concern is to bring down the cancer afflictions and the pain it causes. It is very important to reduce the burden of cancer in Yemen for the individual victim, for his/her family, and for society," said Dr. Al-Hadhrani.

"And it can be done if we join hands. Voluntary effort is probably most effective in this noble endeavor," he concluded.

AS LATE AS EVER... Arabs Are Getting Ready for Post Gaza-Jericho:

By: Saad Salah Khalis
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times.

Many weeks have passed since that historic handshake in the gardens of the White House. Oddly enough, and as if nothing has happened, we Arabs came back to our same old ways, our age-old ostrich technique of hiding our heads in the sand while major turning points of history pass us by. We continue to act as spectators on issues that touch our very existence.

"We" here refers to all of us - the general Arab public, but especially to writers, journalists, thinkers, etc., or what is generally referred to as the "intelligentsia". Now as the shock has passed, our psyche is acting as if there was no shock at all, or was there any?

We are going through one of our severest tests of our modern history; that is, the test of direct cultural and civilizational intercourse with our old and bitter enemies, who might in a few months be just another neighboring country - not necessarily friendly, but surely existing and thriving, whether we like it or not.

In the beginning, I want someone to tell me what those people (on both sides - Palestinian and Israeli fundamentalists) are fighting for on the streets of Gaza and the West Bank, as Israeli withdrawal is only a matter of time. No one can change that, and there are hardly any extra benefits to be gained by continued violence.

May be it is just our time honored slogan culture that is acting itself out. We learned through bitter experience that all those "turning points" are planned, cooked and fed to the world back there in the fancy offices. That is the way it is on the Gaza-Jericho deal, whether the poor "patriots" on both sides admit it or not, whether they continue to fight on the streets or shout at each other. They cannot undo what has been done.

In a few weeks, even with all the stumblings and hesitations, Israeli-Arab peace effort shall step forward to be a reality, a fact both

parties have to deal with despite their combined heritage of hatred and holy wars. And while the media is discussing the possibilities of internal wars among the Palestinians themselves and the political crisis that may arise, they are all smartly avoiding to discuss the other possibility, which is more likely in my opinion; that is, the possibility of peace. The question which all avoid is how to deal with peace.

Our generation was raised to hate the Israelis and that no peace is ever possible except in the case of destruction of Israel, and which we were taught was inevitable. We were taught that their society is ever disintegrating and their mixed-up culture can't stand the pressure of confrontation since it is void of any common values, etc.

We absorbed all military and political defeats, under the pressure of oppression of our rulers, thrown into poverty, illiteracy and backwardness thanks to the divine leadership of our dictators, and we sat waiting for the glorious conquest while the world was undergoing the greatest scientific revolution in its entire history.

It took us forty years to learn that it was our national entity which is disintegrating, and that our culture is the weaker in this equation. We chose ideology to confront technology. Even this ideology was a mixture of national - Marxist-religious and other foggy dreams patched together to create a helpless, useless and out-of-time generation, that was nurtured on lies and legends.

Talking about the Israelis is not the main problem. We should expect many other shocks shortly. But the bitter reality is that they (the Israelis) are getting ready for the possibility of peace while we are still bickering over a lot of nonsense.

Why? Because they have been thinking about it for a long time, and we have rushed into it over the last few weeks. They wrote books about how to build bridges of trust between Arabs and Israelis as far back as the seventies, while none of us even dared to take the possibility seriously.

Our economic theorists were there first to jump into the front line, crying about the proposed "Middle East Market" and the inevitable Israeli control thereof and the eventual collapse of Arab economy. Those honorable gentlemen failed to tell us that if there was ever a time when our societies were productive, or when there was something called the Arab economy except in the dreams of the frustrated nationalists and in the files of the Arab League.

We were always consuming societies - buying foreign products and culture.

Other theorists are now crying and warning of the coming cultural invasion, forgetting that they were teaching us for decades that there is no Israeli culture, and that ours is superior. Now they are afraid of that "inferior" culture's invasion. The enigma of Arab thought is not its position towards its Israeli counter-part as much as its attitude towards

modern times and its very existence. Nobody can disagree that there'll be an economic, cultural and civilizational adjustment to be made. The competition shall not be limited to Israelis alone, it will rather be a struggle against all that is retarded, backward and helpless in our culture. The danger doesn't really lie in what Arafat and Rabin have agreed upon, it really lies in our lack of awareness of the meaning of time, history and our civilizational credibility. The epoch of slogans and speeches is over, as that epoch is only valid for those cultures that glorify the ruler. Now it is the epoch of the mind and scientific thought which must set itself free of long years, rather ages, of hibernation.

I have no doubt of Arab culture's ability to withstand Israeli or any other competing cultures in the challenge of peace, provided that the right forms of thought and goals are adopted.

It is an awkward situation really as the past is strangling our future in front of our own eyes. As we seek to diminish the strangulation of yesteryears, there are yet those who come to side with the past against the future. And if that were not enough, there are those opportunists who switch sides as the moment dictates.

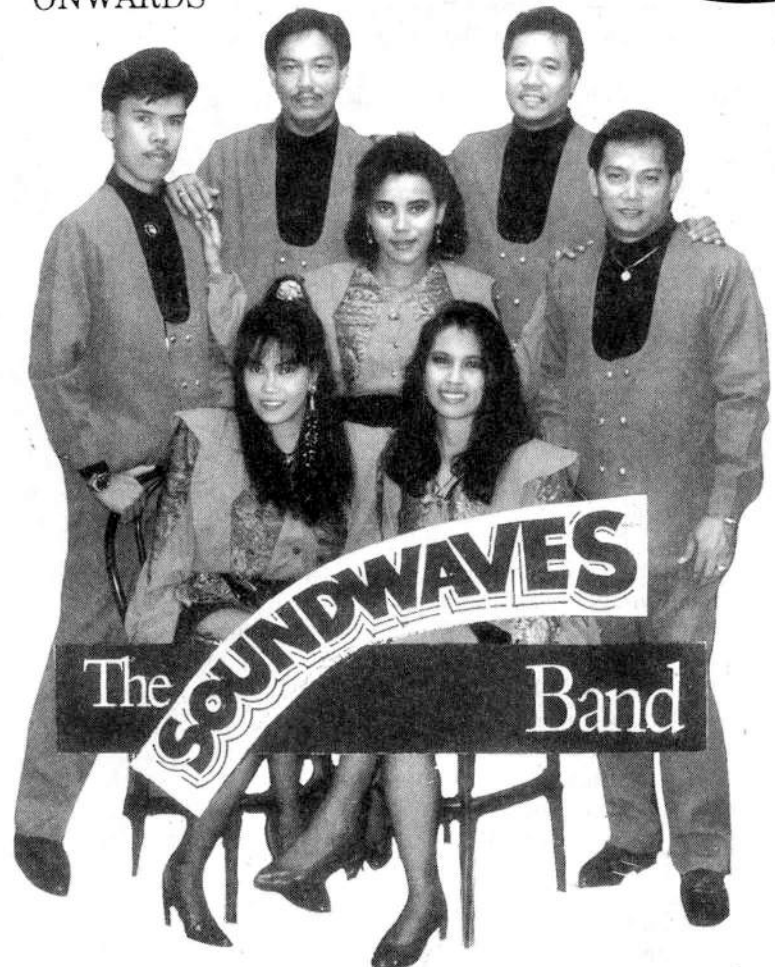
I guess the answer is we can make it. Yes, although there will not be any Saladdin with his sword to bring back the lost dignity nor shall there be holy conquests. Maybe this time, there will be a peaceful evolution!

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*** Kazuo Wanibuchi:**

H.E. Mr. Kazuo Wanibuchi, ambassador of Japan, leaves Sanaa in about two weeks at the end of his term of service in Yemen. Mr. Wanibuchi was accredited to Yemen as ambassador on 03.09.1991, although he had served in Yemen before. (Please read more details on page 7).

The new Japanese ambassador is Mr. Susumu Akiyama, who comes to Sanaa from Tokyo. Prior to his current position at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Mr. Akiyama was Consul-General in Milano, Italy.



*** Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas:**

Prime Minister Haidar Abubakar Al-Attas, was almost hijacked by the official force on Friday, December 17th. The Prime Minister was coming back from Aden where he had presented the outcome of the meetings of the Dialogue Committee and obtained the approval of the YSP Politbureau to proceed further.

He arrived at the Yislah Pass check point where he and his motorcade were harassed, and then tailed. By the time he reached the outskirts of Sanaa there was a heated chase with an attempt to block his passage and potentially hold him up. This is not a joke.



*** Abdulrahman Bafadel:**

Dr. Abdulrahman Bafadel, Minister of Supply and Trade, issued a call to university professors and specialists in economics and business to join hands with him in reforming the affairs of his ministry and sector.

"I am willing to employ as many as there is as consultants to help us increase our options for decision-making," he said.



*** Ali Mohammed Saeed:**

Ali Mohammed Saeed, prominent businessman and Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, stressed that preserving the unity of the country takes more courage, wisdom and vision than having achieved it. "The fragmentation of the country will have major political, military, economic and social repercussions which are enormous," the businessman stated.



*** Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman:**

Dr. Yasseen Saeed Noman, Chairman of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Socialist Party, laid the full blame on the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) parties for the slow pace of progress of the dialogue. "Basically, by naming junior negotiators, the two parties make the negotiation process long as these people have to refer back on every small detail since they have no authorization to make decisions," he indicated.

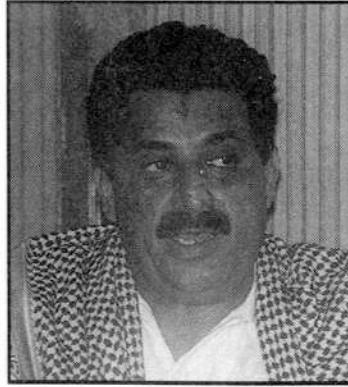


*** Mohammed Saeed**

Abdullah:

Mr. Mohammed Saeed Abdullah, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning and Member of the YSP Politbureau, disclosed to Yemen Times that the fencing off of the land allocated for building Taiz University, starts today, Sunday, December 19th.

This step comes to coincide with the Expanded Gathering of the Taiz People which has given the university issue top priority in the agenda of its construction of the university full speed," he pointed out.



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وألم أهله الصبر والسلوان
وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون .

الأسيفون:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف
عقيل عبدالله السقاف
عبدالولي عبدالعزیز السقاف
الشيخ عبدالسلام شمسان
العقيد عبدالرحمن البروي

تهانينا العطرة

يتقدم آل السقاف بأعطر التهاني والتبريكات للشاب
الدكتور غازي احمد السقاف

الذي عاد إلى الوطن يحمل شهادة الدكتوراه
في الإقتصاد الزراعي من جامعة أوكلاهوما الأمريكية
عنهم:

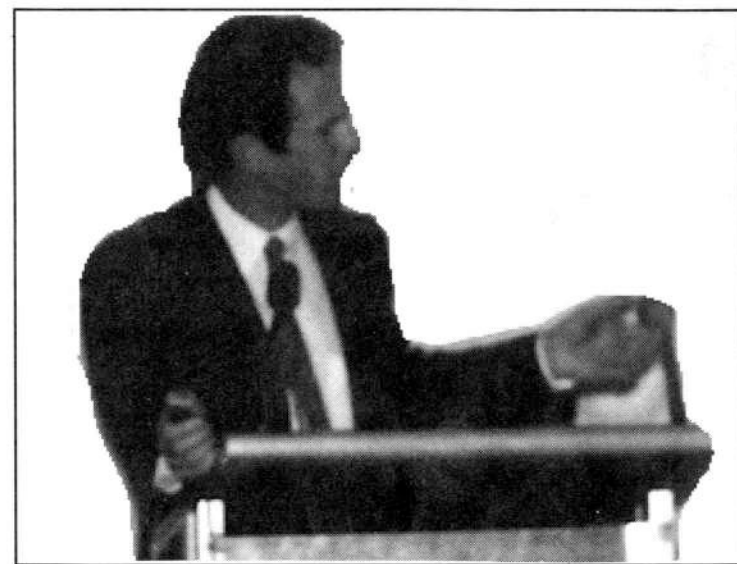
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طلال عبدالله السقاف
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خالد عبدالهادي السقاف
زكي احمد السقاف

DR. IAIN MURRAY-LYON'S RESEARCH ON HEPATITIS AND QAT IN YEMEN

Dr. Iain Murray-Lyon, a physician with Charing Cross Hospital in London, has been involved in studies on Yemen for quite a few years now. There are two main areas which he and his Yemeni colleagues have studied.

"The final results show show a high rate of prevalence of hepatitis cases among Yemenis. This is strange as alcohol intake is rather limited," explained Dr. Murray-Lyon. Even then, he could not explain the reason for a high rate of liver problems. There are a lot of organic diseases which can't be diagnosed early. Hepatitis is a serious disease which causes deaths in Yemen and people here die of heart failure because of it. Thus we are looking seriously at the causes of such diseases in this country. The World health organization has decided that it will support preventive efforts in countries in which the rate of incidence is above 8%, and in Yemen the rate can go as high as 20% in certain regions, and on average it is around 15%. For example, liver-related diseases which are very common in the West should be unknown to Yemen given that they are due to the consumption of alcohol.

The hepatitis virus B which passes from the mother to the child is well-spread



among young children. A sample population survey carried out in various show that 20% are carrying hepatitis B virus and so they are infectious and this number is equivalent to the numbers in the Far East. Many of the people carrying this disease feel well, although they are sick, and many of them die during next two years. The diagnosis shows that the liver is scarred, damaged, and becomes smaller. The liver function is diminished besides other complications of fluid developing in stomach and the intestines. So, it is a major disease. The sad part is that it can be prevented. There should be an immunization program. I think the Ministry of Health is well aware of the problem. I have to stress that

the preventive aspect is important because the treatment for victims has a success of around 35% and it is very expensive. Our message is that chronic liver disease is preventable through vaccination/immunization. The second study is about qat and its health effects. This is of interest because qat chewing, which has its effect on the mind through chemicals which have a lot of effect on the brain, is a prevalent habit among the adult Yemeni population. Qat has also a lot of other health effects, especially on the appetite. Finally, the psychological effects are there, although there are no studies that accurately measure them. "All in all, qat is a health problem."

INVITATION FOR BIDS

إعلان مناقصه

Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
Land and Water Conservation Project

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية
مشروع الحفاظ على الأراضي والمياه

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, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments for the procurement of EQUIPMENTS.

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 the 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 on or before 12:00 a.m. on SUNDAY 14-02-1994.

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

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

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صندوق بريد رقم (2805)
صنعاء - خلف مبنى الجامعة القديمة.
(بجوار مسجد عمار بن ياسر).

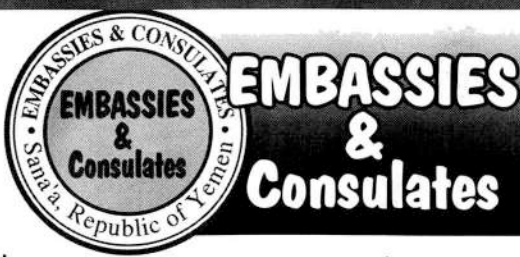
تلكس: 2427 MAWR
تلفون 213095/214613
فاكس: 209509
الجمهورية اليمنية

وذلك للحصول على وثائق المناقصة تظير رسم وقدره (100) مائة دولار أمريكي لا يرد أو مبلغ (1200) ريال يمني.

على المتقدمين تقديم عطاءاتهم بظروف مختومة بالشمارح الأحمر ومرفق ضمان إبتدائي بواقع 2% من قيمة العطاء بموجب ضمان بنكي أو شيك مقبول الدفع ساري المفعول لمدة (120) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات...

آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات يوم 14/2/1994م الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً وسيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في نفس اليوم الساعة (12 ظهراً) بديوان وزارة الزراعة والموارد المائية وبحضور المناقصين أو مندوبيهم...

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Central Bank	274371/3
Commercial Bank: Sanaa	213662-6
Hodeidah	217040-3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
YBRD	271623/4
Branches of Foreign Banks:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
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Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Insurance Companies:	
Y.I. & Reinsurance/Aden	273311
Marib Insurance: Sanaa	206112/14
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General: Sanaa:	265191
Aden:	243909
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Insurance Co.	01-272890-2
Aman Insurance Co.	01-209452

SANAA :	
1. Embassies:	
Afghanistan	217691
Algeria	209688/89
Bulgaria	217244
China	275337/340
Cuba	217304/5
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	245792/265469
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	275995/7
Germany	216756/757, 266873/4
Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	206945/948
Iraq	216682/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	216701/736
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Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
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Pakistan	248813/14
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Qatar	217488/296
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Russia (FR)	78272/78275
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
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Sudan	265231/2
Syria	247750/52
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	241395
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2. Honorary Consultates:	
Austria	266725
Belgium	205925/865
Canada	208814
Danish Trade Office	243433
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
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3. International Organizations:	
FAO	207331/607
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China	233115
Ethiopia (Commercial)	231335
France	223129/090
Germany	232162/233607
India	233131
Iran	231893/361
Italy	232586/88
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Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	232760/32526
Slovak	233630/232101
Somalia	241421/101
U.K.	232711/12/13.
FAO Branch	233722/232146

AIR LINES

Air France	272895/6	Universal Travel	275028-30
Air India	272544	Bazara Travel/Tourism	78093/270879
Alitalia	273655	Yemenia Branches:	
Alyemda (HO, Aden)	231339	Abdul-Mughni	274803/4
Alyemda (Sana'a)	203637	Haddah	204538/550
Austrian Airlines	272432	Shauob	250833
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British Airways (Aden)	243475	Head Office	232381-9
Cathay Pacific	271803	Reservations	250800/1
Egypt Air	275061	Airport	250868/831
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Iraqi Airlines	240091/240909	Aramex / Aden	255.683
KLM	272546-9	Aramex / Taiz	213.489
Korean Airlines	272548	Aramex / Hodeidah	218.168
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4	DHL	248017-249878
Lufthansa	272583	Life Express	205696
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091	Skypack	77310
Royal Jordanian	275314/028	American Express	272435/6
Russian Airlines	74930		
Sabena	205865		
Sudan Airways	272503-5		
Swiss Air	272547		
Syrian Airways	272543		

HOTELS

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

DECLINE AND FALL OF THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

October 1991: Princess Michael is shown to have copied sections of previously published work for her book, *Crowned In A Far Country*. The publishers, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, say there was a problem with her not talking. May 1990: remarkable similarities emerge between the Duchess of York's *Budgie The Helicopter and Hector* The Helicopter, written by Arthur W Baldwin in 1964. "It is 100% coincidence," say her publishers.

March 1991: Jack Higgins releases the "definitive version" of the *Eagle Has Landed*. Just as the film industry has discovered that a director's cut means you can release a popular film again, Higgins decided to reinstate those sections edited out first time.

September 1991: Harper Collins is fined \$10,000 for "misleading" the public. Two thrillers released as Alistair Maclean's *Death Train* and *Night Watch* were, in fact, written by his near namesake, Alastair MacNeil, whose name appeared in the small print.

February 1991: seven years and five books after her death, Virginia Andrews, the family horror author, is trademarked in an alleged attempt to escape allegations of misrepresentation. A money back guarantee is also offered. The legality of all this is still to be tested.

March 1991: Ken Follet issues writs against Mandarin, alleging that it is passing off books by his cousin, James, as his by printing the surname in large type and the first name much smaller.

March 1993: Dale Peck's *Marting* and John makes history when Chatto launch up the title to *F-Martin*. The controversy triggers a trans-Atlantic feud between Chatto and the American publishers Farrar Straus & Girous. Both claim to have used the author's choice of title. Peck sided with the Americans.

In lonely garrets and dimly-lit cafes with French-sounding names, you can hear the unmistakable sound of gnashing teeth and shredding paper. Would-be writers and struggling novelists are coming to terms with the news that the supermodel Naomi Campbell has accepted a six-figure deal for her first novel.

For a rumored \$100,000 barely a week's work on catwalk, the 23-year-old will put her name to a shopping and super modelling saga with an obligatory one-word title and lots and lots of pages.

"Swan will undoubtedly be the commercial fiction sensation of 1994," trumpets the Heinemann Press release. "At once romance, thriller and sharp-edged contemporary novel it will be told with the undeniable force of experience-unequivocally fiction." Stifle those giggles, this is serious. The cult of the

celebrity that has turned soap stars into pop singers and weather girls into after-dinner speakers is now invading the world publishing industry and blurring the distinctions between fame, notoriety and talent to the point of irrelevance.

Consider this: Ivana Trump, the socialite divorcee, is about to release her second novel. Martin Navratilova, the tennis star, has just received an estimated \$750,000 from Random House to write three mystery novels, Joan Collins is on her third, Kate O'mara her second, and Britt Ekland-yes, it does seem to be a predominantly female phenomenon is conquering her manuscript around London and New York.

More and more, in America and Britain, there is a growing sense that the publishing industry has come to resemble Hollywood, where star power, rather than literary ability, determines what gets produced.

It is only the latest chapter in a decline-and-fall saga of sagging standards. With cynical marketing ploys and ruthless tactics, the once conservative and honest image of publishers has been seriously tarnished in recent years.

Last month, *The Sunday Times* revealed how the book-buying public is being misled by celebrity puffs on the covers of hardbacks. Rather than being excerpts from published reviews, these are often just shameless pugs from famous friends, who may not even have actually read the book.

Another dubious, though rich, seam has been struck six feet underground, as publishers have discovered that being dead is no obstacle to continuing literary glory. Virginia Andrews (*Flowers In The Attic*) died in 1986 and Alistair Maclean (*The Guns of Navarone*) a year later, yet both have released new titles at the rate of one a year since then.

Some of these are based on leftover "story idea" and others are "in the style of", though such references are normally kept to the small print, if included at all.

If you look closely at the jacket of Andrews's latest offering *Dawn* (Harper-Collins), you will see "TM" (trademark) printed in tiny block letters after her name. Rather than risk breaching trading standards, the dear departed author has been trademarked as if she were a brand of bathroom cleaner.

Perhaps the most telling example of how far publishing standards have slipped was in March, when Chatto released Dale Peck's sensitive first novel about Aids. In America it was entitled *F-Martin*. The rise of the celebrity novel is a symptom of the same malaise. The greatest dis-service to consumers is that they can never quite be sure whose book they're reading.

Take Ivana Trump. *For Love Alone* - her "wonderful, wonderful book, I like very much" - was ghost-written by Camille Marchetta, a former scriptwriter for the soap operas *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

A previous collaborator, Liz Nickles, dropped out because "it was obvious that English was not Ivana's first language."

Not that it matters. *For Love Alone* spent six weeks on the New York Times best-seller list last year - suspended there by hype and hot air. Trump's second novel, *Free To Love*, is out this month.

"It's terrifying," says the agent, Mark Lucas, of Peters, Fraser & Dunlop, "particularly when you consider that novels with real energy and accomplishment by unknown writers can't even get into print."

"It is a thing of insecurity among publishers. It is the same mentality that leads Hollywood to prefer to pay Tom Cruise \$15 m to star in a film in the hope that his name will safeguard their investment."

Lucas recounts an experiment they conducted to test the trend. "I was discussing ideas with publishers, and suggested that I might be able to get an actress, touted as the thinking man's crumpet, to write something. Not one of them asked whether she could write, or what the book would be about. They simply chorused, 'Yes, count us in.'" Bill Adler, an American literary agent with a re-publishing has already become like the film industry.

"There are only a third as many publishers as when I started out in the 1950s, and they all want a big hit. They'll pay a premium to get Martina Navratilova, just like the moves will pay up for Tom Cruise."

"You're guaranteed sale because of the name, just as some people will see a Schwarzenegger movie no matter what the reviews are like."

Not all celebrity novelists, however, rely on ghost-writer. Joan Collins says she writes in longhand at her home in France and America. Kate O'Mara, 54, is soon to release *Good Time Girl*, and insists she wrote it all by herself.

Ed Victor, a literary agent, has his own theory: "It's not the Holly-woodization of publishing, it is the Taiwanization. But there's wonderful kind of truth to the marketplace - it rejects agreed."

"A celebrity novel will succeed only if the celebrity novel will succeed only if the celebrity signing is "a sensitive first novel about growing up to be the Queen of England, By Elizabeth R." Unequivocally fiction, of course.

Adapted by:
The Education Editor,
Yemen Times.

تعازينا الحارة

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء والمحبون
بأحر التعازي والمواساة للصديق الفاضل

((الأستاذ جلاله عمر القهالي))

بوفاة والدته أسكنها الله فسيح جناته
وألهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان، وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف ، د/محمد المیتمی ، د/عبدالله الذیقانی
أمین نویسر ، اسماعیل النعمان ، عبد الله فارس
وجميع موظفي وعمال وزارة الثقافة والسياحة
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An Erosion of Prestige and Credibility:

The Rise and Fall of Parliament

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Sanaa University.

The House of Representatives commonly called parliament, has seen a dramatic erosion in its credibility. Many Yemenis now refer to its sessions, aired on television on the afternoons, as comical and senseless. This parliament is far less impressive than the previous one in many ways.

Many individuals ask why it is the current parliament is so sheepish and docile. Three main reasons explain this situation, as follows:

1. Who brought you to parliament?

Most of the people in parliament are there thanks to the party bosses. It is the party bosses who paid for the campaign, bought off support, and by and large arranged for the success of the chosen candidates. The joke about free and fair elections notwithstanding, therefore, most of the deputies know the realities. Therefore, they feel under obligation to literally obey the orders of the party bosses who are responsible for their very being in parliament.

2. Showering deputies with "gifts"?

The party bosses, who have access to state funds, have been using them to shower



their 'friends and potential friends' with "gifts." As a result, these friends find it in themselves to return the courtesy by obeying the party bosses. The gifts include fat financial pay-offs (sometimes in hard currency), cars, chunks of land, jobs for relatives and friends, etc.

3. A presidium beholden to the party bosses.

The presidium of the House of Representatives is working according to the mood of the ruling politicians rather than according to the stand of the deputies. Thus, anything that would embarrass the party bosses is dodged, and whatever the party bosses want passes through the House.

Those three factors have greatly reduced the prestige and credibility of the House

of Representatives to the extent that many deputies have decided it is not worth going to parliament any more. Even worse, the very legitimacy of the House is at risk as it is seen unable to do anything.

At the level of political decisions, the House has shown itself unable to do anything. All the committees and fact-finding groups it had set-up were simply ignored. Its decrees and appeals were neglected. The ruling politicians have concluded they can simply ignore the so-called representative of the people.

At the level of the public, the deputies have also lost much of their prestige. The guy on the street knows that these so-called representatives are, at best, people with good intentions. At worst, they could be hypocritical selfish

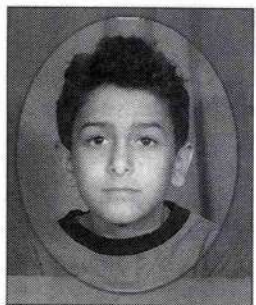
opportunists who are destroying one of the major would-be achievements of this nation.

Where do we go from here?

It is unfortunate that the country is stuck with a bunch of people who have no soul or high ideals. The damage was done when the big parties used all legal and illegal means to make sure only ghosts, not real men, would reach parliament.

But even these ghosts would have gradually shaped up if they were not subjected to the carrot and stick of the party bosses. The same game they are playing with the media, although some newspapers have, so far, successfully resisted.

Meanwhile, it is important to build voluntary lobby and pressure groups in order to help guide the attitudes as well as positions of the deputies. The deputies are the only real chance Yemen has in evolving a democracy.



يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء والزلاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للطفل «معاذ خالد عبدالكريم» بمناسبة إطفائه الشمعة التاسعة، وعقبال مائة عام إن شاء الله.

المهنؤون

مناف، مهاب، مروه خالد عبدالكريم ومعتز فضل عبدالكريم وكذلك وضاح ووائل ووليد عبدالعزيز وصلاح الإرياني وأكرم ياسين وماهر محسن ونهى شكيب

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