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Talking to Yemen's First
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Nearing Agreement on Elections between Ruling & Opposition Parties

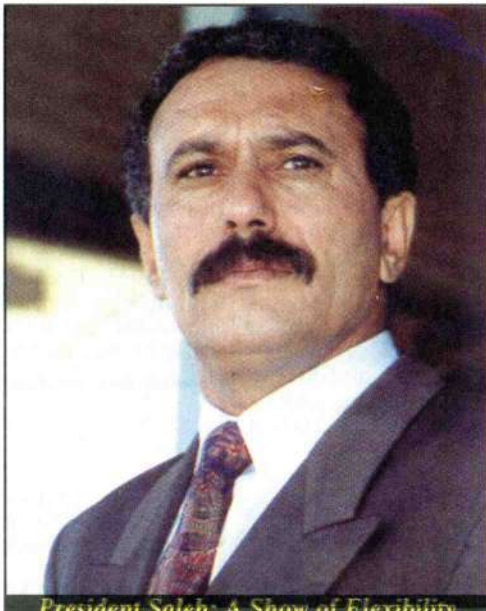
On Saturday, February 1st, the third round of talks were held between the People's General Congress (PGC), Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and members of the Supreme Coordination Council of Opposition Parties. There was one question on the agenda for discussion - What do the opposition parties want?

The opposition had demanded better levelling of the of the 'playground', securities and guarantees for fair play, and neutralization of the roles of the army, security, public funds, government media, and the bureaucracy in the elections. Answer from the PGC: Okay!

What else? The opposition then demanded a restructuring of the Supreme Elections Committee to include the opposition. Answer from the PGC: Done.

Details of the re-structuring are being worked. The new format of the SEC will be announced shortly.

What else? The opposition parties then demanded an adequate chance for winning a reasonable number of seats in the coming elections. The two sides are now discussing how to meet this demand.



President Saleh: A Show of Flexibility

In a conversation with Yemen Times, one leading opposition figure said, "We were taken by surprise by the flexibility of the President." When one is on top and in full control, one can afford to be flexible.

Le Meridian to Manage Sanaa's 3rd Five-Star Hotel:

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Headed by its Chairman, Mr. Alwan Shaibani, the Board of Directors of the Universal Group of Companies agreed last week on a number of sweeping decisions. These include agreement that the Sanaa Bir Al-Azab five-star hotel - to be inaugurated soon - to be managed by the Meridian, the inauguration of three new regional hotels, the establishment of two new

companies related to the service of travellers and tourists, and the upgrading of a number of existing services. "We pride ourselves in the exceptional professionalism and courtesy for which we have become so well-known. That explains why we are the undisputed leader in the business," said Omar M. Omar, the Group's General Manager.

Loss to Government Estimated at US\$ 100 Million

The Re-Tendering of Jannah Pipeline Construction

The bids for Phase II of the Jannah pipeline construction project were opened in October. All the partners in the consortium chose the CCC offer, which was more than 30% lower than the HTC or Hawk bids. But, certain senior officials at the Ministry of Oil were not happy with the results. So they blocked the processing of the contract.

The Ministry is now re-tendering the project, after having added some new work. For those companies that had bid on the initial project, they only need to re-offer for the additional portion. For companies that had not entered the first round of the bids, they have to bid on the whole thing," said a source at the Ministry.

This delay has caused considerable loss to the Yemeni Government (and its partners in the concession) as well as ill-feelings due to the impropriety on the part of the Ministry. The

pretext used by the Ministry is that it prefers a local contractor.

There is no legal base for that preference, and, in any case, the two other bidding companies, although locally registered, are actually fronts to foreign firms.

A leading partner in the consortium expressed his disgust at 'playing' with normal tendering and bidding procedures. "This is one area we cannot accept 'mismanagement'," he said.

The confusion has delayed the production of an additional 20,000 barrels per day from Jannah, leading to a total loss of US\$ 51 million in the first quarter alone. It will take another three months for the re-tendering and bidding to be consummated.

In other words, the loss to the Government is around US\$ 100 million because of this delay. Is anybody being held accountable for this? Of course not!

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Preparing for the Future!

The Republic of Yemen is a country that is enduring, at the moment, lots of hardships. It is groping to find political harmony, within itself, with its neighbors, and with the rest of the world. It is trying to achieve a socio-cultural transformation which is in keeping with its Arabo-Islamic heritage. And yet, it wants to take in as much of a dose from the advanced world as it can. It is working on an economic reform which will correct internal price distortions and imbalances. It is doing all that to prepare for the new century.

No wonder, then, there are so many unsettled issues. It is as if the nation is biting more than it can chew. While these changes represent hardships, they also represent strength. The reality is that Yemen is addressing the issues and facing them head-on. It is accepting the price of change. It is an investment in future harmony and progress.

By investing in the future, the Republic of Yemen has staked a claim in the 21st century. That it has done, by moving along with the world in many ways. Let me go back to the changes to explain my point.

1. Political Change:

Yemen has embarked on a democratization process. Its system today, professes to accept multi-party politics, press freedom, respect for human rights, tolerance of the minorities of special groups, a bigger role for Non-Governmental Organizations, etc. Of course, none of these are fully implemented, but at least, the nation is working on it. In terms of political structure, Yemen is moving to a system acceptable to the world of the 21st century.

2. Socio/Cultural Transformation:

Yemen is an Arab Islamic country, and the people of Yemen are mighty proud of that. Yet, that has not given rise to an attitude that belittles the socio-cultural contribution of others. That is why no extremist religious fundamentalism has been able to develop roots in the country. Thus, in terms of socio-culture, Yemenis feel at ease with others and display no xenophobia or paranoia.

3. Economic Reforms:

Yemen has been implementing a major reform program over the last three years. The thrust of the package is to liberate trade and investments, remove price distortions, integrate with the world economy, and promote those activities in which the nation has comparative advantage. As such, in terms of economic policy, the country is moving along on a market-system.

Those are some of the reasons why the international standing of Yemen will inevitably grow in stature. They are also the reasons for hope in the future.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

British Deputy Foreign Secretary Visits Yemen

Sir John Coles, and his wife Anne, have arrived in Yemen for a one-week visit which started on January 30th. The program includes a private component, which takes them to Hadhramaut as tourists. It also includes meetings with government officials, businessmen, and public figures. The couple will leave on February 6th.

Al-Hakimi's Art Work on Display

The paintings of Mr. Abdul-Latif Al-Hakimi, one of the top artists of the country, will be on display as from today, Monday, February 3rd. Hosting the event is the Halaqa, which has provided an important impetus for the art movement in the country. The exhibition is open for the public starting at 20:30 today at the Halaqa on Baghdad Street. Al-Hakimi, gold medalist in many competitions, has sold his beauties in dozens of world arts capitals.

EMC Takes Al-Soufi and Al-Ayyam to Court

The Elections Monitoring Committee and Dr. Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf have filed two law-suits against Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al Soufi and Al-Ayyam newspaper for printing erroneous and slanderous information with mal intent for the purpose of discreditation and character assassination.

The paper, in its issue of January 29th, has reported that Dr. Al Saqqaf has pocketed the contribution of the European Union and other sources to the EMC. The article also accused Dr. Saqqaf of having struck a deal with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the PGC according to which he received millions in return for compromising the EMC position on the elections.

Both Al-Soufi and Al-Ayyam have offered to print apologies and corrections, but both Al-Saqqaf and the EMC have rejected the offer and said the matter will be settled in court.

Ms. Salwa Ahmed Dammaj, the EMC's Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Affairs, said, "The EU has not released to-date a single ECU, dollar or Riyal to the EMC, though it has committed to support the organization. The allegations are weird. The truth is Dr. Saqqaf is actually providing money to the EMC rather than taking money from it. All members of the EMC know this."

Yemenia and Air Tanzania Agree on Closer Cooperation

The Chairman of Air-Tanzania, H.E. Ambassador Abbas K. Sykes concluded a successful visit to Yemen. During the 18-20/12/96 visit, Mr. Sykes met with senior government officials, including Mr. Hassan Sobhi, Chairman of Yemeni, Mr. Mohsen Al-Yusufi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, Mr. Mohammed Al-Haidary, Deputy Ministry of Transportation. Air Tanzania and Yemenia signed a memorandum of understanding covering various commercial agreements, joint promotions of Yemen and Tanzania, and technical and catering cooperation.

Joining Mr. Sykes in the talks were Mr. G. Mhenga, Sales Manager, Mr. U. Mtabo, Regional Manager - Yemen, and Mr. Omar M Omar, General Manager of Universal Travel & Tourism, the GSA of Air Tanzania in Yemen.

British Council and Yemen Ornithological Society Sponsor Joint Presentation on SOCOTRA

On Sunday evening, February 2nd, the British Council and the Yemen Ornithological Society jointly sponsored a presentation by Mr. Richard Porter, Middle East Director of Wildlife International. Mr. Porter gave a slide presentation of the habitat and birdlife on the island of Socotra, in light of a recent visit by an expedition of experts.

Mr. Porter indicated that there were numerous species that were endemic to the island. "Some of these plants and birds are threatened, and need protection," he said.

David Stanton, Chairman of YOS, used the occasion to display Socotra pictures he had taken during a visit to the island last month.

The British Council has been actively supporting a lot of activities aimed at community service and environmental protection.



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Latifa Noman:

“There is a wide range of responsibilities which women can shoulder.”

The majority of Yemeni women do a lot of household chores and work on the farm. Yet few have developed an income-generating career. The number is, however, growing. Most of the career women work as teachers, nurses, medical doctors, office clerks, and even lawyers and journalists. But, for a Yemeni woman to run a factory, that is a little bit too remote, even in Western cultures.

Yet, Miss Latifa Fouad Ahmed Noman is doing exactly that. As far as we know, she is Yemen's first female general manager of a factory.

Latifa, 26, graduated from a commercial high school, and then proceeded to study English and business management in the USA. She now runs her father's gas factory. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times has filed this interview with her.

Q: Tell us a little about how you started getting involved in this work.

A: I have been familiar with work at the factory since my childhood. I used to accompany my father to his work, and we used to discuss work matters and problems at home. At some stage, I started delivering orders and instructions from my father to the workers and technicians at the factory. Soon, my father discovered that he could delegate a few responsibilities to me. I started work, as work, at the factory in 1988. With time, I have taken full charge for the whole plant.

Q: How come the family depended on you rather than a male relative?

A: I believe I am lucky I was born into a more enlightened and liberal family. The Nomans are leading reformers and intellectuals of Yemen. That helped. Another reason is my family's

confidence and trust in me, my field of study, and my visible competence in work.

Finally, I do not have an older brother. My younger brother, who is still at secondary school, will be, because of his technical training, responsible for the more technical side of running the factory. The managerial and administrative affairs are solely my responsibility.

Q: Do you need to refer to your father on certain major decisions?

A: As a matter of principle, of course, I have to refer to the owner of the plant. But, I really do manage the work on my own quite comfortably and competently. I am able to run the factory on my own. I address the work requirements and attend to the workers' problems. I also deal quite well with the complicated paperwork of government bureaucracy.

Q: Can you tell us how you deal with clients and government officials?

A: Given the nature of our product, our client base is rather limited. So that limits our marketing and public relations needs. In terms of dealing with the government, the main and most important organization I deal with is the tax office. I allocate two months every year for dealing with this office.

Q: Tell us a little bit about the plant.

A: The factory, established in 1983, produces four types of gas: oxygen, acetylene, nitrogen and nitrous oxide. This last gas is used for producing surgical anesthetics, while acetylene and nitrogen are used by workshops, the Petroleum Company and Yemen Airlines.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the capitalization of the factory?

A: We started small, with a capital of USD 2 million. We have grown a lot since. Every now and then, we do need to expand or replace equipment. We have gone to the Industrial Bank of Yemen for such needs. However, they often do not come through. For example, when we decided to replace an old compressor with a new one, we went to the Industrial Bank for a loan. What they did come up with was not even sufficient to cover part of the machine's cost.

Q: You mentioned you spend two months every year to sort out issues concerning the Tax Office. Why does it take so long?

A: This is partly because people in the tax office do not implement the law. Let me give a concrete example.

When we decided to upgrade and modernize the plant in 1993, we approached the General Investment Authority in order to obtain a tax exemption, as the investment law stipulates. The documents for this exemption were all properly filled, signed and endorsed, and all routine paperwork was completed. We submitted the tax exemption order to the Tax Office in 1993. We are now in 1997 and still paying full taxes. The order to relieve us of some of the taxes was completely ignored by the relevant revenue authorities.

How can anybody invest if they cannot trust government officials to implement the law?

Q: What sort of problems do you face as a woman in dealing with other companies and businessmen?

A: I did not face any special problems in my work or in dealing with others. Actually, being a woman can be an advantage. Usually people give me precedence over others.

Q: Do you face any difficulties in dealing with workers at the factory?

A: My relationship with the



workers is not a boss-employee one. The workers have known me since my childhood. We share thoughts on any difficulty that may come up at work.

Q: What major problems are there in running the factory?

A: There are many problems and diverse, but none that I would call major. Frequent electric blackouts, for example, cause a lot of damage to the machines and equipment.

On an other level, a raw material which we used to import quite easily in the past, is now being impounded by Al-Hodeidah customs office. When we inquired about the reasons, we were told that ammonium nitrates, which we use for producing anesthetics, is used for making explosives also. Thus, it is considered a dangerous substance. We are asked to obtain

clearance from the Ministry of Interior which informed us that we have to pay more than double the original excise duty.

Then there is the output of our educational system. Even the graduates of vocational and technical institutes do not rise up to the minimum level. So, most factories and plants end up training their employees even on basics.

Q: As a woman, what is the one demand you would put to improve the lot of Yemeni women?

A: The status of Yemeni women in society can be improved by granting them more trust and confidence. A woman in Yemen is treated as a minor. There could be some jobs which are difficult for women to do at this time. But there are also a wide range of responsibilities which women can shoulder.

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Education in Yemen: Diagnosis & Prognosis

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DIAGNOSIS:

Any nation is said to be well-developed if the majority of its people are well-educated. A well-respected nation is the one which creates able and strong generations. The one which gives human development first priority as it is the key factor in progress. In other words, developing the minds, educationally, culturally and technically can be attained only through education.

Having said that, one needs to inquire whether the educational system in Yemen is doing well. A cursory glance will show the unfortunate state of affairs which shows the failure of our education in attaining its goals. That is due to the mismanagement and wrong policies adapted by the Ministry of Education, thus, contributing to the lamentable quality of life.

The leading factors in this failure are a defective curricula, large numbers of students per class, old-fashioned methods of teaching, lack of facilities and teaching aids, absence of creative thinking, absence of any effective link between parents and schools, defective system of testing and evaluating, in-effective and fruitless teacher training programs, and the teachers' hard financial circumstances due to low pay. All those factors led to the deterioration of our educational system in such away that our schools and colleges are producing semi-illiterate people. Most students simply drift to schools, without being prepared, they are not well-directed and have no sense of purpose.

PROGNOSIS:

TECHNICAL EDUCATION: HOPES & EXPECTATIONS

I had always wished for the day when technical education is given first priority in our country manpower development program.

One day, a republican decree was issued to set up the General Authority of Vocational and Technical Training (GAVTT). I thought a new era of development is going to dawn. It is only through technical and vocational education that we can help bring a real development into action. Through technical education, I am sure, we can bring real progress and a drive that is closely associated with nation-building. We can equip our youngsters with the technical know-how and expertise.

I have always looked at the examples of the Far East, south-east Asia and Europe. They have achieved great development in applied sciences and technology due to the right direction they have taken, thus, becoming highly prestigious and economically strong countries. Even, rich countries in the Arab Gulf region have remarkably recruited their resources and commenced on technical institutes offering all facilities required.

It is high time that we thought about technical education and used our common sense in promoting it. Many government and private institutions are heavily dependent on foreign manpower to whom too much money is paid.

Why? Simply because either we lack well-trained Yemeni technicians or we do not trust their performance. We are in bad need of skilled craftsmen and technicians in all fields. We do not need those idle graduates who can serve as nothing but bureaucrats. We need to re-train them in employable skills. Hence, I call upon educational system to stop producing bureaucrats, and start producing technicians.

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

Responsibility for re-orienting our policy on education falls on all parties.

- The government represented by such organizations as the GAVTT should play a positive role in establishing the facilities required in this regard.

- The private sector should also play its role providing support to technical, industrial and vocational institutions.

- Families should re-direct their kids towards vocational training, as required by the market.

- Society should place a premium on vocational training at the expense of traditional certificate-awarding academic programs. Pay-scales, public attitude, and social relations need to be modified to help bring about this change.

This way, I believe, our hopes and expectations for growth and development could be attained.

By: Gamil Abdullah Al-Guwairy, Taiz.

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Book Review:

Yemen: The Tortuous Quest for Unity, 1990-94:

Yemeni Politics, Israeli Orientalism, and a British Connection!

Joseph Kostiner: *Yemen: The Tortuous Quest for Unity, 1990-94*. (Chatham House Paper, The Royal Institute for International Affairs), Dec. 1996.

By: Renaud Detalle*

Understanding Yemeni politics is a tough task and it requires a long time. Mr. Joseph Kostiner, an Israeli citizen seems to have devoted most of his time for many years to do exactly that. In addition to a book on the early history of Saudi Arabia, he has already authored two books on South Yemen. "The Struggle for South Yemen" (Croom Helm, 1984) deals with the struggle for independence, while the second has an explicit title: South Yemen's Revolutionary Strategy, 1970-1985, From Insurgency to Bloc Politics (Tel Aviv University, 1990).

Both books are in direct competition with Fred Halliday's own Arabia without Sultans and Revolution and Foreign Policy - The case of South Yemen 1967-1987. The major difference between the two authors' approach has very much to do with their nationality. Fred Halliday has visited Yemen many times and, although it has been a while he did not visit, he still follows Yemeni affairs and certainly meets Yemenis in London to discuss with them the latest developments. That is not the case with Mr. Kostiner who has no access to Yemen for reasons beyond his own will. And despite his claim to have researched for his book in London, he does not seem to have met any single Yemeni while preparing his book. It is certain that some Yemenis, opponents in particular, who travel to London, would have been delighted to talk to him and to provide him with accurate information be it off - or on - the record, Yemen's ambassador in London is a respectable historian with a good knowledge of Yemeni politics. Did Mr. Kostiner ever try to meet him?

Left with works from his fellow foreign students of Yemeni affairs, archives of a locally produced daily press review (Yemen's News Service, 1992-1994), Arab and international press reports and American government press and radio monitoring bulletins, the author exposed himself to innumerable factual errors that derive from relying exclusively on secondary sources.

And that makes reading of his book such an annoying experience. There are whole pages that do not contain at least one correct fact. Worse, there are several errors that are either contradicted by another error a few pages further on, or by a correct mention of the same fact. Misspelling of names add to a reader's irritation. The publisher would have had a good idea of the quality of the research if he had asked some one knowledgeable about Yemen to proof-read the book. Omissions of important facts are also embarrassingly frequent. Following is a sample of Kostiner's inaccuracies.

Ali Salem is described as the president of the PDRY before unity, yet his only position - albeit the most influential one - was secretary general of the politburo of the YSP. Mr. Haider Abu Bakar Al-Attas was in fact the president of the Presidium of the PDRY (pp. 2 & 19).

Sunni or Shafi inhabitants of Yemen are regularly described as mainly urban-dwellers with the assumption that they are more sophisticated than the supposedly backward "tribal and religious" (mostly Zaidi-Shi'i) populations". (p. 14). The governorates of Al-Jawf, Marib and Shabwa are inhabited by solid Shafi'i and as bloody tribal as can be. The Tihama, Hugarayah and Lahej or Abyan are also Shafi'i and the rural population is dominant, though less tribal in its behavior.

Contrary to Mr. Kostiner's view, the constitution of a united Yemen was drafted in 1981 (p. 15) before being approved by both parliaments in 1990 and by a popular referendum in 1991. The post of Vice President was a last minute addition, but a lasting burden.

The allegation that the president initially offered the basis of a federal system (p. 20) is not substantiated and seems incredible if one considers later events including the YSP's more and more loud demands for decentralization, federation, and confederalism just before secession.

Despite repeated mention of their opinion about Yemeni politics after unity, exiled politicians such as Abdelqawi Makkawi, Shaykhan Al-Hibshi or Abdullah Al-Asnaj are has-beens of Yemeni politics. Their frequent interviews in Sharq Al-Awsat and Mr. Kostiner's familiarity with their names, because of his previous work on the South, led him to overestimate their present influence. Their return in the short-lived government of the Democratic Republic of Yemen was only a desperate attempt at creating a broad but outdated Southerners' coalition which made it difficult for their regime to claim it wanted to rule and reform all Yemen.

The description of political parties in Yemen after unity (pp. 24-25) is faulty to the point of ridiculous.

Major actors are entirely ignored. It gives the wrong impression of quoting a true expert, Dr. Sheila Carapico, thereby attributing to her, errors which are Kostiner's. In short, Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri's party is the League of the Sons of Yemen and Mr. Shaykhan Al-Hibshi remained in exile with the prehistoric South Arabian League. Makkawi and Asnaj's exiled Yemen National Grouping can only be of interest to an Israeli scholar, Mr. Ibrahim Ali Al-Wazeer never joined them and there is no mention of his own party. The followers of Mr. Ali Nasser Mohammad were not simply "incorporated in a militia of the South Yemeni Army Brigade" after his pardon in 1992. Mr. Omar Al-Jawi is not the leader of an unknown Democratic Front for Reform and it seems unfair to put him together with Nasserites and Bathists, etc.

An extraordinary amount of space is devoted to the marginal exploits of Tareq Al-Fadhli and his 3000 Afghan Arabs described as having terrorized the South with support from Zindani and Al-Ahmar and to have played a decisive role in securing victory for the forces of constitutional legitimacy. The scientific institutes are indiscriminately described as having become training centers for Mujahideen Afghan veterans (p. 29).

Many may object to the kind of education and the doctrine taught in these institutes, but a scholar is not required to reproduce the socialist propaganda that was itself part of the aggressive and slandering press debates of Yemen before the 1994 war.

A map (p. 73) shows the main areas of fighting. It gives the wrong impression that the former North-South border from Bab Al-Mandab to Ramlat Al-Saba'atain was a long front-line, which, it was not. Places of major clashes mentioned in the text do not appear on the map, Haradh and Al-Anad are examples. Drawing heavily on an extensive account of the war published by David Warburton, he repeats the latter's errors. There is no mention of the many officers bought over by the victorious side.

Discussion of the economy rests heavily on notoriously weak statistics and gives the impression that at times the IMF or World Bank dictated decisions. This is untrue before 1995 and is disputable afterwards.

Singling out mistakes could go on and on. Factual errors, however numerous and important, can be forgiven if they do not weaken the conclusion. And one has to charitably remember that the author is prevented from visiting Yemen. But one wonders what made him often prefer the wrong (press) information when he could rely on better sources?

It is clear that the author has read a good deal of recently published material on Yemen, but he seems to have misread most of it or pushed it aside to make room for hostile or mistaken views from his press-clippings.

In terms of methodology, Mr. Kostiner does not follow any model and there is nothing wrong about that. But he does tend to interpret Yemeni politics as a game, a deadly game; very often between clear-cut groups: Hashid, Bakil, the "3000 Afghan Arabs", Sunni-Shafi'i's, "the only civilized tribe of Arabia" of Adeni people, "followers of Ali Nasser Mohammed", etc. These numerous groups are presented to fit the old stereotypes of the "oriental mosaic" and the nicely ordered social segments of anthropological fame. The reason this is incorrect is simply because the system is much more fluid and, as anywhere else, because these groups with unidimensional labels are collections of individuals who usually switch from one identity to the other according to their immediate interests.

Addressing the issue of nation-building since 1983, Mr. Kostiner makes several references to Benedict Anderson's book *Imagined Communities*. He does not consider it necessary to explain how and why it applies to Yemen. Nothing is said about initiatives of Yemeni citizens to organize themselves in groups and NGOs. The interests and role of the business community or regional feelings (Hadhramaut, Taiz and Sa'ada) are similarly ignored. The opposition is reduced to a simple junior ally of the YSP. The National Conference of Political Parties (September 1992) and its later role in the Dialogue Committee are barely mentioned. Peaceful mobilization by urbanites, but also by hard-core tribesmen of Marib and elsewhere, against the looming war in 1994 are left aside. All this rich experience of Yemen's united politics is mostly ignored. The author has predetermined the confrontational course of events making the subsequent war look like the genetically certain outcome of unity.

According to him, as the inter-elite rivalry worsened in the years following unity, there emerged two opposed and loose "communities" centered around the two former Yemeni states. As he puts it "the revitalization of Yemen's Northern and Southern political communities had in effect been going on during the entire existence of the Republic of Yemen, although it did not necessarily result in the formation of strongly cohesive com-

munities. The groups which composed each community shared common political interests, a predilection for the institutions of their former states and similar values, but levels of integration, organization and cooperation varied" (emphasis is mine). Does Mr. Kostiner seriously believe that even the handful of people who proclaimed the DRY were all nostalgic of the PDRY, that Mr. Al-Jifri's objective was to help the YSP rebuild its police state?

The author overstates the Yemeni state and goes as far as writing that the Yemeni societies, before unity "(belonged) to two different states" (p. 1). The idea that societies, which are collections of individuals sharing certain features, can possibly "belong" to a state is difficult to accept in principle. It becomes a joke if one knows how little many Yemenis care about the state they have to live with. The YAR had a weak state and it cannot be considered as a rallying point for President Saleh's followers. His patronage and clientelistic ruling system can be one explanation combined with his underestimated popularity in various segments of society. In Mr. Kostiner's unsubtle framework, most Northerners sided around the President and his tribal and religious allies whereas the Vice-president headed a coalition of all Southerners. This makes the eventual war of 1994 the inescapable conclusion of an evolution started shortly after unity, and puts the blame for the bloodshed solely on those who came out victorious.

Why does one hear often that after unity a majority of YSP members were Northerners? Why, then, did so many Southerners refuse to fight for the short-lived Democratic Republic of Yemen? Why were there so many inhabitants of Taiz, Ibb or al-Beidha but also Marib and Sa'ada who saw, and still see, the document signed in Amman as a genuine blueprint for a better Yemen? Are all these people Saudi agents?

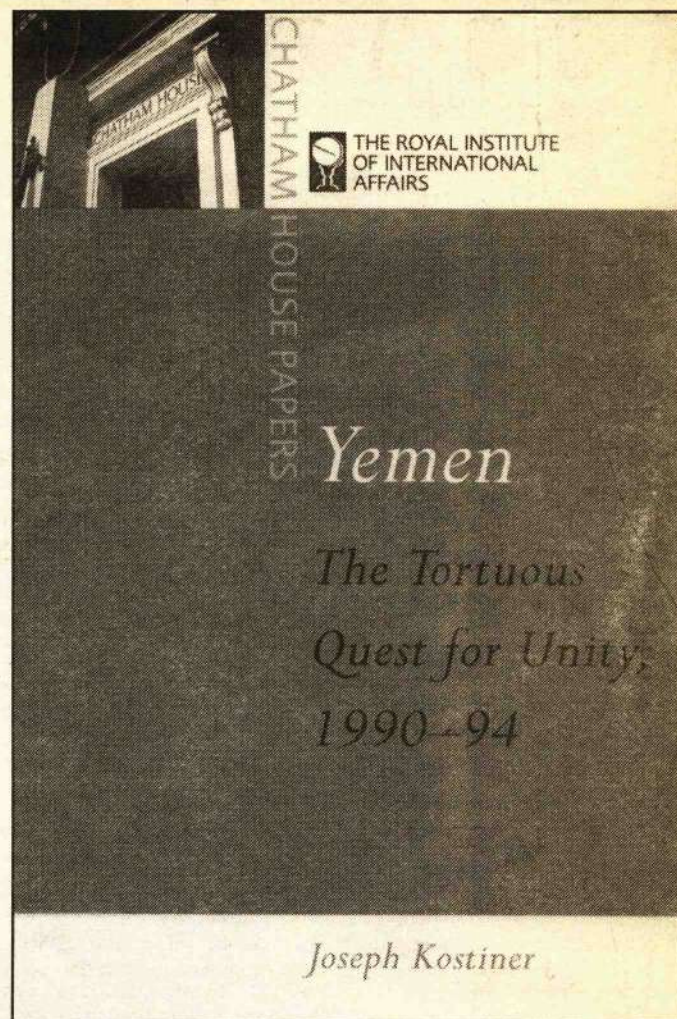
Mr. Kostiner's final chapter, "The limitations of foreign interventions" reflects a very Israeli obsession with the American role in the region and makes numerous comparisons with the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. But the most stunning thing about this chapter is that its author managed to make only cursory mention of the British position and no mention at all of France's role. Nothing about its military attaché participating, together with his American colleague, in a military committee that was running from one clash-point to the other in a failed attempt to avoid war. And nothing about French diplomats' contribution in delaying and watering down the two resolutions that the UN Security Council passed during that period. Let Mr. Kostiner tell us why the American ambassador who served at that time left Sana'a without a medal, unlike his French colleague.

There is one original point that Mr. Kostiner has to make about Yemeni unity. His real contribution is on the psychological dimension of unity. He rightly underlines the fact that unity was made in a rush by a handful of politicians, with no experience of democracy and pluralism but long experience in the use of violence. As he puts it, "unity talks did not deter either government's ambition to gain advantages over the other. Unity would not stop their rivalry, but it would channel it into a more subtle, less violent course" (p. 16).

Yemen could have learned from the experience of countries like South Africa or democratizing Latin American regimes, which engaged in a process of national soul-searching and broad amnesty - have politicians and their henchmen publicly repent on past practices of oppression, torture, political killings by talking publicly about them. Self-criticism is a well established feature of socialist political culture and this time there would have been no shooting squad waiting. But Mr. Kostiner never asks if the rulers', Northerners and Southerners, distinct political experience could have allowed this humanistic and popular implementation of a genuinely democratic unity.

The point remains, Yemen still lacks a truly unionist, and one should add, democratic, culture and holding elections or allowing a pluralist press are necessary but insufficient condition as long as many servants of the state, and therefore of the citizens, see things the other way round.

Apart from his original view about reconciliation, which have been put in a short article sparing us errors and the reproduction of stereotypes about Yemen, *The Tortuous Quest for Unity* will mostly be of interest to newly-arrived foreign developers,



democratizers and diplomats. For Yemenis, it is of interest to know how, one of Israel's experts on Yemeni affairs (Norman Cigar is another one), judges their unity. But from a scholarly point of view, the book cannot be considered "an authoritative contribution to the public debate," as its publisher claims, because it is neither authoritative nor original.

Factual errors, however numerous and important, can always be forgiven if they do not weaken the conclusion, and one has to charitably remember that Mr. Kostiner is prevented from visiting Yemen. But one wonders what made him often prefer the wrong (press) information when he could rely on better sources.

At this stage a pitiful reviewer would stop writing. Not so in this case. This book is not simply unusual because it was written by an Israeli about an Arab country (the Israelis have an active English-language orientalist school that produces journals, a yearbook and many books every year). This book was commissioned by the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Although one reads that "the Institute is independent of Government" one is left puzzled at why the British establishment's foreign affairs think-tank decided to publish a book on Yemeni unity until the war. And since no one knows about Yemen in the UK (!), it was necessary to go all the way to Tel Aviv and ask a researcher at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies to do the job.

But why would an Institute that epitomizes the British establishment publish a book that comes as an embarrassing and untimely reminder of a period British diplomats surely want to forget, given their position on the crisis and war. The British embassy in Sanaa admittedly went through difficult times during those years. Today, high-level UK trade and political delegations follow each other in Yemen, as London works to regain trust and a foothold in Yemen.

The preservation of unity, *per ferro et igni* (with iron and fire), as Chancellor Bismark once said about a previous German unity, must have come as a disappointment in some London circles. This could explain the choice of an Israeli author, who - possibly unaware of his function - would give the latest Chatham House version, and, yet, could always be charged for all evils in case of a full reconciliation with Sanaa.

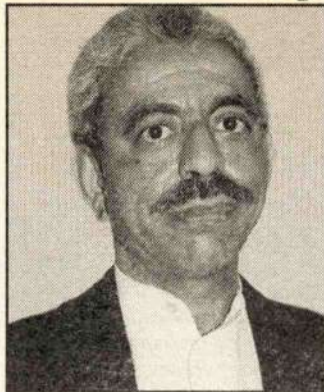
The book was finally published in December 1996, more than two years after the 1994 war with which it ends. The insignia of the Kings and Queens of the United Kingdom is *honi soit qui mal y pense* (a curse on who sees evil there). Has this reviewer remained too long among Arabs and started to see a conspiracy everywhere?

* Renaud Detalle is a French researcher who spent the last six years in Yemen working on his Ph.D. thesis. He is an eye-witness to the unification, the subsequent political crisis, the 1994 civil war, and the since on-going healing process. He has engaged almost every Yemeni public figure. He speaks fluent Arabic with a distinct Yemeni dialect, a fact which gave him access to rural and tribal populations, even in the remote hinterlands of the country, where he has extensively travelled. Detalle is one of the few Western Yemenologists.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Bracelets, Sewing Machines & Big Business



"Saleh, the days are going so fast, it is already the end of Ramadhan and you have not done anything about the holiday shopping," said Khadija to her husband as he was trying to work out the family finances in the little notebook he keeps on his desk. "The way I calculate it, it is going to require YR 100,000 to get all the kids dressed and your candy plates full for the eid holiday. Can you tell me just where are we going to get this kind of money?" asked the worried husband who always believed that the first rule of life is to live on a balanced budget.

"Mind you, I am not complaining, but the kids are waiting for their new holiday clothes. On the other hand, if we delay our holiday shopping, the prices are going to be higher," elucidated Khadija, underlining the pressure that is about to hit the family.

"You know, Khadija, I always try to maintain a style of living based on the means at our disposal, but these days it is becoming an impossible task." The predicament that Saleh was about to face was beginning to surface.

"Luckily, for us, we built our house when our income had a real purchasing power. Otherwise, we would also be facing the problem of rent," the wife sighed while she was pointing to the fortune that had befallen the family, sometime back.

"My dear wife, you are talking about a time that now seems more like a fantasy, a dream too good to be true. In those days, only some ten years ago, I did not even need a calculator to work out the

family finances. It was just one salary, one butcher, one grocer. When payday came I paid the grocer, the butcher, the utilities, the installment on the housing loan and we still had enough left over for some amenities. Moreover we still benefited from high bonuses we received as incentives. We really had no worries and no pressure. We even traveled overseas with some of the savings we were able to accumulate. Please, do not remind me of how it was. It never occurred to most people that it could all be over, so soon, by our own miscalculations, by our own misdoings. Please do not remind me of how it is now. The salary should not even be mentioned as a source of income to meet the cost of living. Do you realize that no part of the salary ever makes it home nowadays. By the time I get home, I would have spent the salary paying up the electricity and water bills and just part of the grocer's bill. If it had not been for the taxi I drive after work hours, which we were lucky enough to acquire, we would not be able to even buy the bread we eat. But now, even this extra income from the taxi is barely enough to keep the car in operation - petrol, oil, spare parts and bribes for the traffic police.

"So, I have looked for a third source of income and landed a second part-time job as an accountant with a small trading outfit. But it was not long before the monster of inflation gobbled that added income up too. How

many jobs does a man have to have to support his family? How many hours can a man work just to keep his kids from starving, when there are only 24 hours in a day? That is why you came into the picture as a new income source by sewing on your machine. Your fine dressmaking talent helped for a while. But still inflation remains a major threat." Saleh was almost talking to himself. He knew he was not really telling his wife anything new. After all, she herself, had sensed her husbands endless struggles to try and make ends meet and volunteered her sewing talents to help.

She brought up more bad news. "I need to sell my gold bracelets, the one you gave me sometime ago in those days of fantasy, in order to repair the sewing machine which broke down suddenly. We need to replace the broken bearing on its motor. Come to think of it, can you imagine, the bearing is more expensive than the entire machine when you bought it for me?"

Her husband was showing his true heart again. "Oh no, Khadijah, not the bracelets. I never forget the glow on your face when I handed you the bracelets. No, Khadija, I know how much the bracelet meant to both of us." Saleh was not oblivious to the symbolic value of the bracelets, given the affection they had for each other, which they symbolized.

Khadija was expressing her concerns with some illustrations.

"Saleh, I know how difficult it is for you to meet our needs, despite all the hard work you put in three jobs. My friend Mona came by the other day and asked me to join her to see the Spanish Trade Exhibition and do some shopping. She was glittering with all kinds of jewelry and I could see that her pocketbook was stuffed with bundles of YR 100 notes, when she took out a tissue to blow her oversized nose. I cannot see how she can be so unaware of the disparity between our standards of living. She still believes that the middle class is still where it was 15 years ago. She does not know that the middle class has been shoved down the socio-economic ladder. I just cannot believe that you and her husband work in the same public authority, and hold the same rank. Anyway, I told her that we were overstocked from the purchases we made in the Iranian Commercial Exhibition, the Chinese Consumer Goods Show, the Saudi Products Display and the Austrian Cheese Fair." Saleh could not help but chuckle at his wife's satirical response to big-nosed affluent Mona. Then he gave some explanations to his wife. "Mona's husband is a classic example of the bureaucrat ruling establishment endears. He can be bought for peanuts. He is part of the large network of corruption that plagues most government entities. He also knows the right political songs to sing, as need arises. They have made him head of a branch of one of the parties in power. From that, he gets a steady flow of money overflowing party coffers which are themselves regularly fed from the government budget. Of course, you are not going to hear complaints that this is misappropriations of public funds, or that the party leadership has taken action against misuse of party funds. Public scrutiny of public funds has faded into the darkness of a moonless night."

The husband's explanations did not sink in. The wife wanted more. "But how can the disparity between you and him be so wide, and why is it that he does not have to work in 5 different jobs? What has he really done for the country that he should deserve such generosity from the government treasury. Your grade level is higher than his, but look at the difference in our lifestyles!" Khadija is detecting an injustice somewhere, but cannot really pinpoint it.

Saleh had the answer ready. "For people like this husband of Mona, the standards are altogether different. Doing something for the country just does not fit in to his standards. It all started when he was appointed in the Procurement Department. He was able to convince his party friends to help him get moved to a more rewarding position, for which they will not be sorry for doing. Some say, jokingly, that he sold his car and reinvested the proceeds of the sale in a more profitable enterprise. He paid the right people to make the move. After that, cars started rolling to his yard and the contractors were competing to build his sumptuous villas. He was really rolling in lots of money.

"He arranges purchase contracts whereby he would pocket half of the amount, which often is three times the market value. It does not matter that the stores are full of the items in question or that they are not budgeted, or that the validity of the goods in question has expired. As long as he knows how to take care of the others in the operation, he is immune from investigation from any authority. "Do not worry about his grade level either. That was taken care of soon after he moved to the new job. In fact, he has

declined new promotions, because he says he can best serve the country in his present position. Would you believe it they even gave him a heroism medal for his role in the last war. He was honored for making sure that the stores were all full of inventory before the war started! Nobody even bothered to ask what he kept the stores full of? The truth of the matter is he kept the pockets full of everybody in the corruption mob or squad. One would hope that the tax authorities might be shaken by the lifestyle he leads. Instead the tax authority honored him for paying a meager amount for the 1% of the rent he paid on his house, voluntarily. Nobody in the ever bothered to ask: 'Where the hell did you get all this?'

His wife, Khadija, had some more news about Mona's husband. "Mona says that he is going to get his party's nomination to parliament."

The husband was not surprised. "You see, what did I tell you? This is exactly how it should be in our present system! The worse your record is, the better you are treated. He was a failure in school, and there is no doubt in anybody's mind that he is a crook. But now they will insult the voters by throwing in a mobster as a candidate and they will make sure he gets elected!"

Khadija was ready to explain how the other side looks at it. "Mona considers her husband the most ideal husband. Successful in his career; quick rise to fortune; heavy political muscle; an esteemed member of the social scene and a good provider for his family. She never stops talking about him. What puzzles me is why she is always asking me: What do you do with all your money? It never seems to show. I am not sure if she thinks we are alive, or dead!"

Saleh helped to clarify Mona's disturbed psyche. "These people live in a world of make-believe. Our world - our lives - are a product of the evil they have been driven by for all these years. They have cleaned the state treasury dry. These people have a total misconception of government and political life: it is a business, their business. You may not believe it.

but Mona comes to you all the time because she really wants to escape the facade she got thrown into so quickly once they became bona fide members of the establishment.

"Though she may not admit it, she really knows that our humble, yet clean, life is far closer to the life she wants. She knows that there is a vacuum in their lives despite all the material splendor; there is an absence of real down to earth feeling - an absence of love! She knows that deep inside, our world has more meaning. In their world, she does not find it. A continuous atmosphere of emptiness overwhelms her. She comes here to find relief from it." "Why does she not try to talk to her husband to straighten him out?" asked Khadija. "You cannot be fair by asking Mona to share the blame for her evil husband. She is helpless because her husband would not hesitate to throw her down a dry well, if she so much as make a whisper about her his business. To seal her mouth, he showers her with money to go shopping. If she asks for a thousand Riyals, he will give her ten thousand. For these people, everything is dealt with by money."

Khadija wanted to change the subject. "Never mind Mona and her husband, I have a nice surprise for you. Our boys have just returned from the market with their new holiday clothing. They even came back with some change left from the money I gave them. You should have seen the exuberance on their face! They said, 'We are sure that father will not let us doing this holiday. He never has in the past. That caused the forehead of Saleh to turn into a stormy sea of wrinkles. "Where, might I ask, did you get the money?" Saleh began interrogating his wife.

"The gold bracelets have transferred the exuberance we felt when it was first purchased to the present joy for our kids in the holiday. Khadija, beat her husband to reducing the financial pressure of the family for the holiday.

"Khadija, you are astounding, and I love you," said Saleh as he softly tapped her shoulders. "Happy holidays to all!"

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SOLVING A PUZZLE IN THE 1997 OIL REVENUE NUMBERS

By: Ahmed Saleh Al-Fageeh, Hodeidah

I was trying to understand our government's budget of 1997 as presented in two selectively abridged schedules in Yemen Times of January 6th 1997, and in Al-Thawry of 19th December, 1996.

During my attempt to figure out the mysterious numbers, which show a growth of 900% in revenues between the years 1993-1997, and a 45.5% growth in expenditures, I suddenly saw light. By comparing the growing budget numbers to the Yemeni people's deteriorating living conditions, I saw the depth and prevalence of the relativity principle in our budget.

GROWING NUMBERS:

The schedules show a growth in oil tax revenues which are supposed to be represent domestic oil sales, from YR 28.5 billion in 1996 to YR 124.9 billion in 1997. Also, they show a retreat in capital revenues of oil sales from YR 34.8 billion in 1996 to YR 28.8 billion in 1997.

The latter figures are supposed to be oil sales revenue to international buyers.

I compared the numbers in both newspapers and found them matching. Furthermore, the Al Thawry's article showed an increase of YR 96 billion due to the rise in domestic oil prices, while foreign sales will be 5 billion. After carefully examining the figures and the possible back ground justifications, I felt that I was able to solve the puzzle. The solution which I am going to share with the Yemen Times readers, emanated from a funny puzzle.

THE PUZZLE?

Assuming that the matching numbers in both newspapers came from the same source - which I believe is the approved 1997 budget numbers. Parliament apparently discussed, approved and issued into law, these same numbers. And if so, they would have overlooked a ridiculous error and approved it.

That is the issue which I suggest that Yemen Times investigate. I feel it would be interesting to

find the reality behind the error of numbers. Wouldn't it?

THE SOLUTION:

The first puzzle is concerned with the domestic price of gas. Every car driver in Yemen knows that the domestic oil prices have been seen a substantial rise in the beginning of 1996. The price did not rise since.

That rise must have been already reflected in the 1996 budget as the tax oil revenues grow from YR 7 billion in 1995 to YR 28 billion in 1996. So it can't grow again by another 430% in 1997 while it is being received in Yemeni Rials and is not affected by the exchange rate. Unless, of course, the domestic gas price will rise by that steep rate (430%), which is suicidal. On the other hand the capital oil sales revenues shouldn't fall. On the contrary, they should increase because of the following considerations.

1- The budgetary exchange rate for the Yemeni Riyal against the dollar has been increased to match the market price and that should almost triple the revenues when represented in Riyals.

2- The quantity of oil to be exported should increase due to the newly made available oil, such as from Jannah oil fields.

3- The oil price itself had increased during the last few months. Although it may not increase any further, but the benchmark used in the budget (US\$ 19.9 per barrel) is expected to hold steady.

I conclude that the two figures have been switched with each other.

A Supplemental Income in Yemen?

Bribery - The Silent killer!

It is a disaster. It is horrible. It has become so prevalent that it has become a culture. I am talking about taking bribes.

It is a habit. Bribery is a killer disease. It will destroy Yemen and the people of Yemen. It has already afflicted our social fabric, the integrity of people, and the personality of Yemenis. Today, you can hear people saying, "Everybody has a price. You can literally buy anybody."

Once a person gets this habit, then the disease spreads to others, just like a cold. Yet only weak personalities will live with this disease. The reasons behind this situation are many.

1. We are now in a culture that is increasingly materialistic. People believe that money is everything. It is true that without money nothing much works, but it is not everything, and it alone does not bring happiness.

2. The deteriorating economic conditions and the hardships have also created the environment for people to accept (or demand) bribery. Many people in fact justify it on this basis.

3. A third reason has to do with the socio-cultural fabric. Although bribery is still regarded as wrong, it is less and less frowned upon. One can easily see that it is being increasingly accepted under such terms as "Haggal-gat", "amoolah", "mugabil-khidmah", etc.

4. The fact that senior people in society and in government engage in it has also allowed the disease to spread in all directions. You can hear little guys in government point to their superiors who engage in bribery. "Why not me?" is a logic that is often repeated.

If people are going to continue engaging in bribery, then nothing will work right in Yemen. Nothing will stay on the right path. Things will just go from bad to worse. At the end, the issues will be so blurred that people may not know right from wrong.

First of all, let us think about our religion. Islam's position on bribery is very clear. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "La'in Allahu al-rashi wal murtashi wal ra'yish bainahuma." Translated, it states, "The curse of God shall fall on bribe-giver, bribe-taker and the facilitator between them."

So, there is a strong condemnation of bribery in Islam. Therefore, one way to fight bribery, we have to strengthen people's religious convictions and beliefs.

Another way to fight bribery is to present its truly ugly face. It is unethical and immoral. This means that society has to strengthen its moral codes. Bribery has nothing to do with poverty. This is clear from many facts, as follows:

- First, most of the people who engage in bribes are the rich and well-to-do. In government circles, it is the big shots.

- Second, even the not-so-well-to-do people who take bribes do not take the money to feed their needy families. They use the money to indulge in qat or other habits.

The costs of allowing bribery to prevail in our society are many.

1. Bad reputations will increase. The person who gives/takes bribes will have very bad names. The whole country will also be infamous for being a place where you need to bribe to live or get anything done. So it is not just a bad reputation for some individuals, but also for the country itself.

2. Another problem with bribery is that it penalizes trustworthy and decent people. It is a situation in which "The bad chases away the good." People who engage in bribe quickly form defensive circles and blocs. These circles bad-mouth the decent people and try to discredit them. As a result, honest and trustworthy people have started leaving Yemen to look for jobs in other lands.

3. Bribery becomes the refuge of inefficient people because they find in the circle it forms protection. As a result, efficient and capable people have started leaving Yemen to look for jobs in other lands.

I conclude by saying that many foreign firms have started engaging in bribes. Some of them are forced into it, others are used to it.

The government's on-going reform program can perhaps address this matter. You too think about it!

By: Ms. Huda Abdullah Al-Shaba, Sanaa.



نداء إلى أهل الخير

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As the Rainy (Humid) Season Approaches, Advice for Asthmatic Patients

These days, the cold winter is gradually making way for a more pleasant weather. We are expecting more rains and humidity, and many asthmatic patients may face recurrence of acute attacks, leading to mental agony and physical suffering. Patients may complain of dyspnea, cough, and expectoration of tenacious mucoid sputum, and usually wheezing.

A: Recognize Asthma

Asthma is due to hyperactive airways that constrict and secrete excessive mucus in response to a variety of stimuli (allergens, infections, noxious fumes, cold air, and other irritants). The airway obstruction is due to a combination of bronchoconstriction, mucosal edema, and inspissated mucus and is usually reversible. Airway hyperresponsiveness and bronchospasm are actually "symptoms" of the airway inflammation due to specific types of inflammatory cells. Atopic, so called "extrinsic", asthma is thought to result from sensitization of the bronchial mucosa by tissue-specific antibodies. Exposure to the certain allergens by inhalation results in an antigen-antibody reaction that releases vasoactive bronchoconstrictive chemical mediators, causing the characteristic tissue changes. Non-atopic, or "intrinsic", asthma accounts for approximately 50% of asthmatics in which the bronchial reaction occurs in response to non-immunologic stimuli like

infection, irritating inhalants, cold air, exercise and emotional distress.

Certain chemicals such as isocyanates and metal dusts cause asthma by direct irritation; protein denaturation, and hyper sensitization which usually occurs in susceptible individuals after repeated exposure to very low concentrations of isocyanates and sulfites can also be the cause.

B: Doctors' Advice

1- Most patients with asthma adjust well to the necessity of continued medical treatment throughout life. Inadequate control or persistent aggravation by unmodified environmental conditions may lead to the development of incapacitating or even life-threatening complications. The need for early and intensive treatment of airway inflammation with reduction of hyper responsiveness and prevention of bronchospasm is stressed. Asthma control is defined as the normalization of lifestyle with absent or minimal symptoms, and little or no use of inhaled β_2 -agonist.

2- The crux of asthma therapy is to prevent or reverse airway inflammation. Environmental control and inhaled corticosteroids are both part of the treatment.

3- Regardless of β_2 -agonists or corticosteroid inhaler, proper use of the nebulizer is important. Patients should direct the nebulize spray into the back of the pharynx during inhalation

with the mouth open.

4- Inhaled β_2 -agonists should be used exclusively for symptom relief; patients should use them only as needed, preferably one puff at a time instead of two. The maximum recommended dose is twice weekly. If patients use inhaled β_2 -agonists every day, additional or alternate therapy must be used.

5- Chronic asthmatics on high-dose inhaled corticosteroids should use more dose (puffs) per day of inhaled corticosteroids than inhaled β_2 -agonists. An aerosolized corticosteroid is effective in many asthmatic patients who require corticosteroids. It is virtually unabsorbable and thus has no systemic side effects. Its action occurs in the bronchial mucosa. It is best introduced after wheezing has been controlled by a systemic corticosteroid, which can then be reduced or eliminated as the nebulized drug takes effect.

6- Patients suspected of over-using inhaled β_2 -agonists should be counselled on ways to reduce their intake. The first is to gain control with anti-inflammation. A concerted effort to reduce the inhaled β_2 -agonist dose should be the second step. Inhaled β_2 -agonists should not be used out of habit. Patients need to make sure that symptoms really require treatment before using their inhalers. For those patients who are not certain or who fail to achieve the desired reduction, a target peak expiratory flow rate (home-measured) above which symptom relievers are not to be

used can be a useful guide. For example, the target rate might be pegged at a level of 70-75% of the patient's best.

7- Fresh air and adequate humidity and temperature should be maintained in patient's living room. The best room temperature is at 18-20 degree centigrade and humidity at 60%, to protect airway mucosa and prevent upper respiratory tract infection.

8- Avoid contracting a variety of stimuli such as allergens, respiratory infection, fumes, cold air, and certain chemicals (isocyanates and metal dusts) if possible; keep a stabilizing emotion.

9- Adrenergic blocking agents such as propranolol cause intense bronchial constriction in patients with asthma, apparently due to parasympathetic nerve stimulation. Aspirin and other non-steroid anti-inflammatory agents may cause severe asthma in some patients. The medicines mentioned above should be prohibited.

10- Episodic attack of asthma often occurs in the evening, particularly from midnight to dawn, so patients should recognize asthmatic omens and prepare some drugs beside the bed. Of course, they should go to see a doctor if patients' symptoms are severe and have no improvement after taking home medicines.

by:

Dr. Liu Xiang & Wang Ancai,
Specialists with the Chinese Medical Team,
Al-Qatn Hospital,
Hadhramaut.

VACANCY NOTICE

PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT, UNHCR Implementing Partner, is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions:-

SOCIAL COUNSELOR

Applicants Yemeni nationality should have a university degree preferably in social science or related field, at least 2 years of professional experience and a demonstrated interest in refugee matters. Fluency in English, Arabic and Somali is requirement.

The position involves regular counseling for refugees on basic social and legal counseling both in Aden and the camp, as well as liaison with UNHCR and other authorities in refugee related matters.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The position combines a dual responsibility of managing Aden sub-office and coordinating the health needs of refugees at the camp.

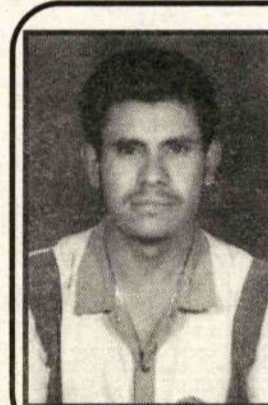
Applicants should be qualified both in health and management, have at least 5 years of professional experience and a demonstrated interest in refugee matters.

Fluency in English is essential, Arabic and Somali would be an asset. The applicant must be a teambuilder and facilitator, motivated and flexible.

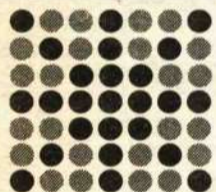
The position involves heading the sub-office in Aden, supervise pharmaceutical stock, overseeing health aspects in the camp and liaison with UNHCR, other authorities and agencies in refugee matters.

Delivery your letter of the application and C. V. by February 15, 1997 to the following:-

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for which US Patent No 4,255,431 was granted and dated 10 March 1981;

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including the sodium salt which is used for the preparation of i. v. formulations

for which US Patent No 4,738,974 was granted and dated 19 April, 1988

2. Relating to:

A SPECIAL ORAL FORMULATION OF OMEPRAZOLE

For which US Patent No 4,786,505 was granted and dated 22 November 1988

3. Relating to:

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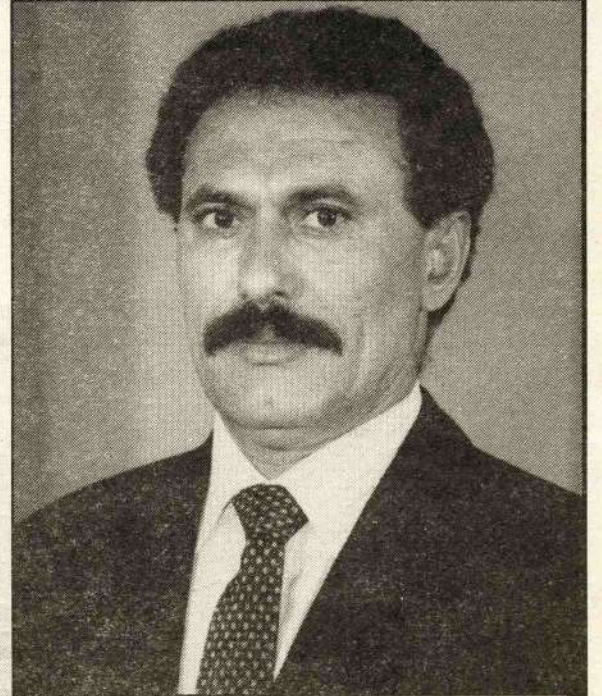
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Benazir Bhutto Puts Up Gallant Fight in Today's Pakistani Elections

Pakistan's Bhutto family, dogged by controversy and tragedy, faces an uphill task as it struggles to regain its political fortunes lost three months ago.

"This is the toughest time the Bhuttos have ever faced. This is like a storm for them," said a local political analyst.

Deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto and her mother Nusrat are standing for the National Assembly in their home province of Sindh in the elections scheduled for today, Monday, February 3rd, in which Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is a major contender.

In the 1990 elections that followed her first dismissal as premier, the PPP was not re-elected. "The odds against Benazir's party are heavier now." Her party witnessed a split emerged after November 5th last year when President Leghari sacked her government for alleged corruption and misrule.

Splinter groups have been formed by dissidents in the largest Punjab province and in Sindh, Benazir's traditional power base. She is virtually at war with Leghari and his caretaker setup, while her arch foe, former Premier Nawaz Sharif and his Pakistan Muslim League appear to have no problems with the man calling the shots.

In Sindh, Benazir faces a strong challenge from her sister-in-law Ghinwa, the widow of her estranged brother Murtaza, who was killed in a police shoot-out in Karachi last September.

Lebanese-born Ghinwa is campaigning on an emotional platform designed to translate wide sympathy for Murtaza and his two orphaned children into votes," observer said. Any support Ghinwa can muster will erode Benazir's vote-bank in Sindh.

Murtaza, who returned home in 1993 ending 16 years of self-exile after Benazir became prime minister, remained at loggerheads with his sister, assailing her government and challenging her leadership of the PPP which had been founded by their father in 1968.

Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is in jail on charges of involvement in the killing of Murtaza and many officials from her government have been booked on corruption charges in what she calls a witch-hunt by the caretakers.

But, true to her reputation as a political fighter, Benazir has plunged into a feverish election campaign, hoping to turn the tables on Leghari whom she often dubs in her campaign "the murderer of democracy."

Leghari and his caretakers "will not be able to break our deep-rooted links with the masses", the 44-year old PPP leader repeatedly declared. Large crowds turning up at her campaign rallies for the elections, have obviously given a boost to her fight back. Her supporters say they have confidence in her.

"She is brave and courageous. She has fought against military dictatorship. She can meet the challenge," a PPP activist, Amina Awan, said.

Murtaza's killing was not the first tragedy to hit the leading political family. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the architect of the family's political rise, was overthrown in a military coup in 1977 and hanged two years later.

In 1985, Shah Nawaz, Benazir's other brother, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his apartment in Cannes, France.

Cairo to Host Arab Conference on Population and Development

The Arab Federation for Chambers of Commerce will organize its annual conference during February 22-24 in Cairo. The conference will be entitled "Population and Arab Development" and will be attended by more than 800 Arab businessmen representing 22 countries.

The Chairman of the Federation Mahmoud el-Arabi said that four specialized committees are assigned to organize the conferences agenda which includes Arab agriculture and water resources, industry, customs' dealings among Arabs and the social effects of economic reforms.

Mr. Abdul Satar Ashra, Secretary General of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, said that the conference will lead to the Cairo Economic Declaration which stresses the need to curb population growth rates if Arab societies are to achieve meaningful development. "The impact of high population growth rates is already seen by Arab policy makers as a threat to their future well-being. That is going to be a key component of our discussions," he added.

He also said that private industrialists and businessmen will discuss how and what they can contribute in the relationship between population growth and socio-economic development.

Most Arab countries, but notably the thinly populated oil rich countries, actively promote a policy of high population growth. In countries like Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Libya, the government provides incentives to have large populations. At the same, family planning facilities are not available and abortion is punishable by law.

Even in poorer societies like the Sudan and Mauritania, family planning is at best left to the individual families. For cultural and religious reasons, governments do not adopt measures to reign in high population growth rates.

It is only in some exceptional cases that family planning has had its mark. One such case is Tunisia, where the government actively advises the population on why and how to limit the number of babies to have.

Even in countries where the high population growth has been impeding real economic growth, like in Egypt and Yemen, the government have shied away from open advocacy of family control.

Numerous regional and international aid and UN organizations are going to participate in the Cairo conference. Many international Non-Governmental Organizations are participating. All Arab countries are also sending representatives.

The purpose of the conference is to show links between population growth and socio-economic development. In as much as a country succeeds in reigning in population growth, it has a better chance to achieve high economic growth rates. That is the point to be driven home in all the papers to be presented.

At the same time, issues of water scarcity, environmental degradation, urban sprawl, and social issues will also be discussed.

New Ebola Cases Continue to Plague Central Africa

One and a half years after its first outbreak in Zaire, the killer virus ebola continues to claim victims in various parts of Africa. Dozens have died of the dreaded bug in Gabon, however reluctant the authorities of the west African country may be to admit it.

African governments do their best to hush up cases of ebola, aid workers complain. "Governments fear that tourists will no longer come, that trade will collapse and that the opposition will blame them for not containing the plague," said a representative of the aid agency MSF (Doctors Without Borders). When the ebola virus killed its first known victims of this year in Gabon, the government kept quiet for days until the national Red Cross publicly accused Health Minister Serge Mba Bekale of keeping the population ignorant about the danger.

At least two people had died of ebola in Libreville by mid-January, Bekale finally admitted. Eighty more people were under observation and five suspected ebola cases had to be isolated, according to the Minister.

The virus is believed to have been carried to the capital from the region of Booue in the central Gabonese rainforest where a family had apparently been infected.

The Health Minister's admission confirmed that half a year after the beginning of the last important epidemic, the killer bug is again sowing death in Gabon.

In the summer of last year, 43 people died of the disease popularly known as "red diarrhoea" in Gabon, according to the World Health Organization. In the preceding April, the ebola virus had taken 21 lives.

Ebola first became widely known in the summer of 1995, when an epidemic in Kikwit in Zaire killed 244 people, raising alarm even in faraway Europe.

Few people knew, however, that the disease was rampant also in nearby Gabon where it was covered up the authorities and presented as yellow fever.

The virus, which kills its victims in a few days in 85% of the cases, literally eats its way through the body. Internal organs turn into pulp and blood gushes out of the body.

The ebola virus is transmitted via blood, urine and other bodily fluids. In the unsatisfactory hygienic conditions of many African hospitals, ebola can spread as easily as the flu in Europe.

After the first apparent ebola cases were discovered in Libreville, the authorities did not allow for the incubation period which can last up to 20 days, but hurriedly announced the Gabonese capital to be 'free of ebola'.

The official reassurances did not convince France which warned people against traveling to Gabon. Those arriving on the direct flights from Libreville at Paris' Charles-de-Gaulle airport are required to leave contact addresses so that they can be reached quickly in case an ebola carrier is found to have traveled on their flight.

In spite of the fears of the spread of ebola, an antidote is not in sight. No significant scientific progress has been made since the last international ebola conference in the Zairian capital Kinshasa about a year ago.

Scientists do not even agree on the way the virus was first transmitted to human. Some see monkeys as the main culprits. Others, Professor Muyembe, believe that the virus can also be caught from plants.



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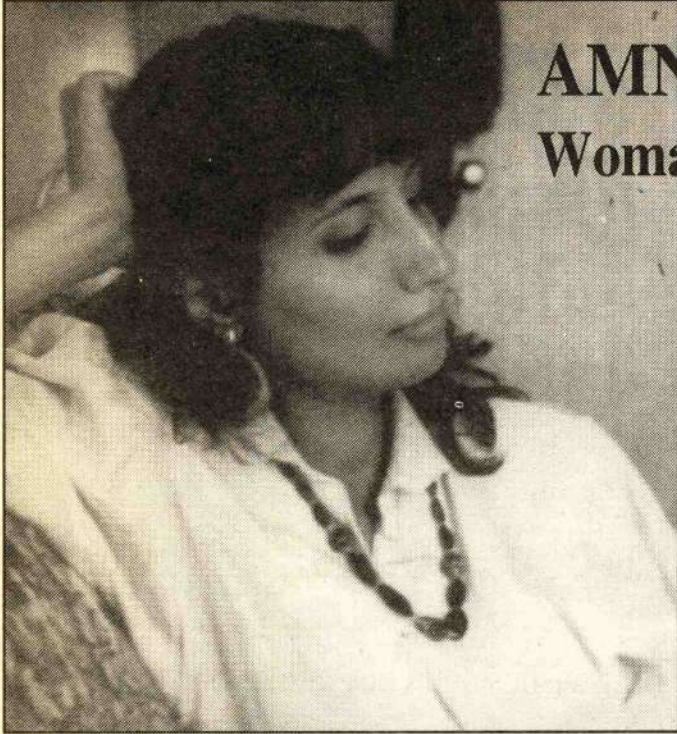
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Happy Eid



AMNAH AL-NUSSEIRI: Woman from Radaa' Leads the Way for Yemeni Female Artists

A: What is the situation of arts in the country and how is it evolving?

A: The current status of applied arts in Yemen is characterized by very intensive and ambitious activities. Art exhibitions have become, in recent years, exceptionally frequent. In addition, many seminars and cultural activities are being organized as side events for exhibitions. This means that arts activities have reflected favorably on the cultural scene.

The arts movement still suffers from some failures and shortcomings. Its relatively young age does not allow it to crystallize fully and give it a distinct character that can distinguish Yemeni arts from others. This why we notice that many local art experiences are strongly reflect modern European schools. The Yemeni identity in applied arts has not yet to make its full mark. Hopefully, the next few years, with more experience, we will witness the shaping of a unique Yemeni arts character.

However, the current level of applied arts is quite comparable to that in many Arab countries. Many Yemeni artists possess distinguished methods and styles.

Q: Are you influenced by any particular school or style?

A: I have learned from and been influenced by many artists and styles. Many Yemeni colleagues, friends and teachers abroad and many great artists of the past and present have affected my style to some extent.

I must emphasize that, though I have not quite developed a unique style for my self, I am not directly copying or even greatly

influenced by any single artist. Of course, I try to benefit from the experiences of others, but without moving blindly in their footsteps.

Nowadays, although different schools and styles remain, the border lines between them have become blurred. It is now quite difficult to pinpoint a distinct surrealistic, abstract or cubist styles, for instance. Many artists mix these currents and styles.

Q: As a female artist, do you face any unique difficulties in your work?

A: There are difficulties that face all artists - men and women. Beyond the shared hardships, however, there are additional problems which burden female artists in Yemen.

Take me for example. As a mother, housewife, university lecturer, artist and writer, I have to divide my time successfully in order to do all those things. Thus, performing my various house chores leaves little time for my creative activities, let alone my career. A male artist on the other hand, has less duties and obligations. He can allocate more time and efforts for the creative part of his life.

The burden on career women and females in public life is definitely more than that on men.

Q: How far have Yemeni women come in taking their place as artists?

A: There are few Yemeni female artists. The stage is not yet ready for them. We are working to encourage talented women to accept the extra hardship it takes to carve out a place in this field. Sooner or later, it will happen.



Q: What is the most important painting you have drawn?

A: I cannot specify a particular one as being the most important of my work. This is because I usually become unconvinced by, and lose interest in, a piece of my work some time after its completion. I do not believe I have reached the stage in which I can say this piece is an embodiment of my inner soul.

Maybe as I evolve as an artist, I will some day do something I can look at with full satisfaction.

Q: You are also an arts critic. How do you view the art movement in Arab countries?

A: Some Arab countries have witnessed the emergence of the arts movement early - a century ago. These are Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon. The arts there are quite developed. North African states have also left their mark.

In spite of all that, Arab art has not yet taken the position it deserves in the cultural movement. Its role in the public eye is limited and obscure.

Amnah Al-Nusseiri is an artist, painter and art critic. She has a B.A. in Philosophy from Sana'a University, and an M.A. in the Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics from the Academy of Arts in Moscow in 1994.

She is a specialist in aesthetics at the Philosophy Department, Sana'a University. Married to another, artist Hakeem Al-Aqil, she has one child.

Her paintings have been displayed in numerous exhibitions in capitals worldwide.

Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times talked to her about her art. Excerpts:

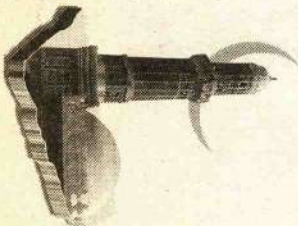
Q: Can you give us a brief history of the arts movement in modern Yemen?

A: The blooming of artistic work in Yemen is relatively recent. Actually art in modern Yemen is not more than 20 years old. It is

still growing and developing.

My own interest is in the applied arts (sometimes called plastic art). The beginnings of this art in the southern part of Yemen go back to the 60s when the Aden Society for Applied Arts was formed. In the early days, most of the society members were foreigners resident in Aden with few Yemeni artists.

The Artists' Association was formed in Aden after independence. Many Yemeni artists who graduated from abroad joined. The first real start of Yemen's arts movement, however, was the opening of an exhibition by the Yemeni pioneer artist Hashim Ali, again in Aden. Artist Abdul Jabbar Noman followed as another aspiring and inspiring Yemeni painter. Later on in the 70s and 80s, a growing number of young artists appeared on the scene. Professional artists have finally found a place in modern Yemen.



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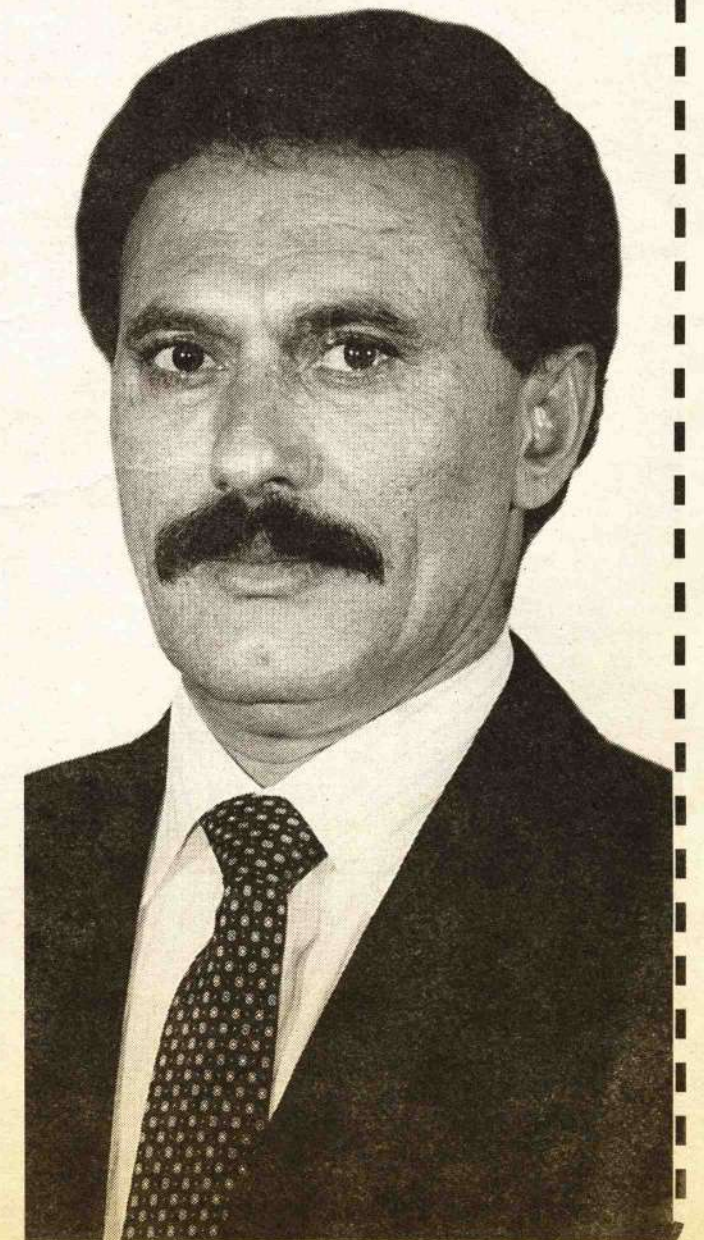
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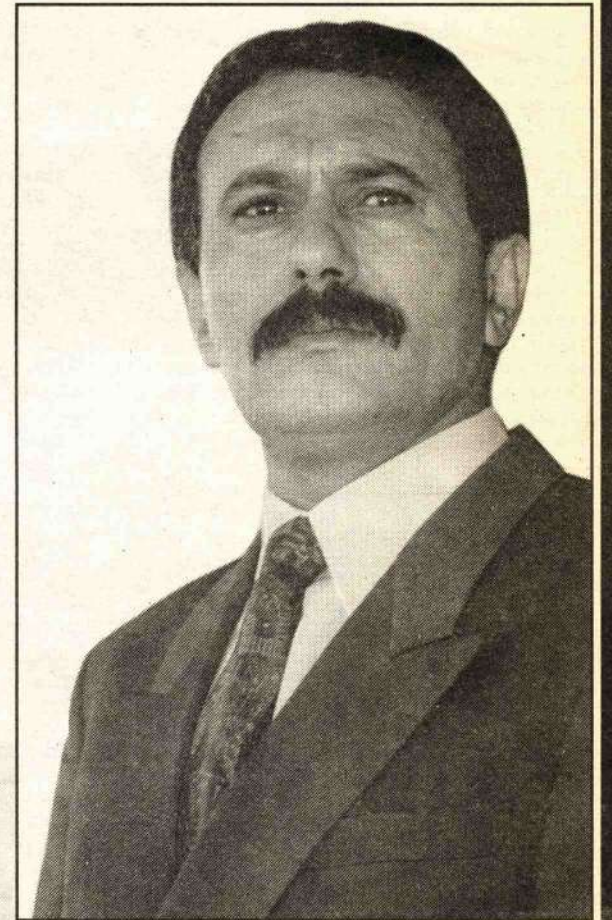
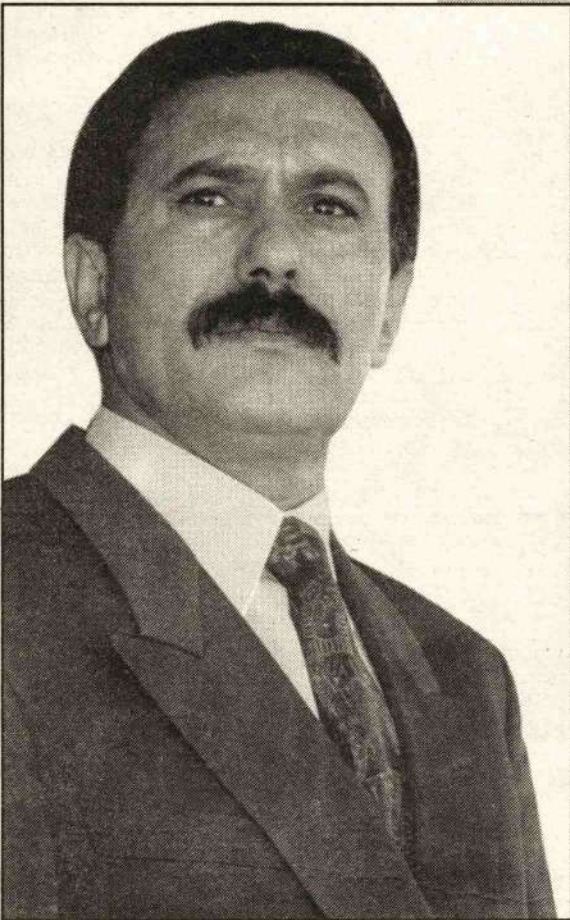


تهنئ

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والحكومة الرشيدة ، وكافة أفراد الشعب اليمني

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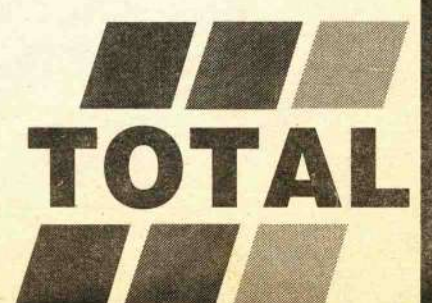
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to General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic,
the Government and People of Yemen
on Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak

And Many Happy Returns



American Expedition Rediscovered Route of Frankincense Trade

By: John Noble Wilford*

Exploring the remote back country of Yemen, over hills and through wadis, a party of archaeologists last month came upon ruins and monuments from the time when frankincense and myrrh were among the world's most coveted commodities. Here were lithic memories of a happily prosperous epoch in the land known to the Romans as Arabia Felix.

In the 10th century B.C., the biblical Queen of Sheba is supposed to have ruled in golden splendor over this land on the southern rim of the Arabian Peninsula. For several hundred years before and after the birth of Christ, it was a major emporium of the ancient world. Spices and textiles arrived by ship from India, silk from China and gold and ostrich feathers from Ethiopia. These goods were then packed off by camel caravan to Egypt and Persia, to Palmyra in Syria and, often as not, on to Rome.

Nothing in the shipments was more prized than the two locally grown gum-resin products, frankincense and myrrh. Myrrh was an ingredient of cosmetics and perfumes, a social kindness in cultures unaccustomed to daily bathing, and was applied medicinally in poultices and ointments. Egyptians used frankincense in embalming, and the pharaohs believed that burning it allowed them to commune with the gods. Nearly everywhere it was part of religious ceremonies and cremations. At the funeral of Nero's wife, Pliny the Elder wrote, an entire year's harvest of frankincense was burned.

The central role of Arabia Felix (roughly Happy Arabia) in the ancient incense trade had long been known in outline from historical accounts. But until now, archeologists have had few opportunities to investigate the incense-growing regions of this ancient land, which included present-day Yemen and part of Oman.

Five years ago, a team of American and British explorers found in southern Oman the ruins of two frankincense trading centers that had appeared on the maps of Claudius Ptolemy, the Alexandrian geographer of the second century A.D. One of them is possibly the legendary lost city of Ubar. The team's more recent excavations uncovered a previously unknown pattern of sites associated with frankincense over a period from 5000 B.C. through the Roman Empire.

A new expedition by some of the same explorers, organized by George R. Hedges, a Los Angeles lawyer with a background in archeology, returned last week from an extensive reconnaissance in trucks across the border into the Mahara region of Yemen. Covering some 2,000 miles in three weeks, the team found the ruins of two limestone fortresses, which are similar in design and construction to those in the incense region of Oman. They also came upon distinctive stone monuments, called triliths, that appeared to mark caravan routes.

"No archeologists had ever been in this area," said Dr. Juris Zarins of Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, who specializes in Arabian archaeology.

At several settlements, Dr. Zarins collected shards of pottery in a style corresponding to that found at frankincense sites in Oman. Mixed with the local pottery were pieces of red-painted ceramics from ancient Persia. This, he said, was further evidence that "a vast amount of the trade in incense in Roman times was rally under the thumb of the Persians."

The Persian influence suggests a possible link between southern Arabia and the Magi who brought gifts of frankincense and myrrh, as well as gold, to the Christ child. Some biblical scholars think the Three Wise Men came from Persia. Or perhaps they were from Arabia Felix itself. In any event, their gifts probably originated there, and the fact that frankincense and myrrh were accorded a place with gold in the biblical account is no doubt a measure of the value of the substances to ancient people.

Others familiar with the history and archaeology of the ancient frankincense trade said the new findings appeared to contain no surprises. But for the expedition to be allowed in eastern Yemen, they said, augured well for more intensive explorations in the future. Mr. Hedges is planning another expedition there in December to begin methodical excavations.

"What is perhaps most remarkable," Mr. Hedges said in an interview, "is that in this day and age, a region that held great significance and fascination for ancient people in as far-flung places as Rome,

Greece and Persia is only now revealing itself, and only with great effort."

In addition to Mr. Hedges and Dr. Zarins, the principal members of the team were Dr. Ronald G. Blom, a geologist and specialist in space remote-sensing technology at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California; Dr. Geradina Santini, an archaeologist with the Oriental Institute of the University of Naples, and Nora Martinez, a botanist at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. The expedition was conducted under the auspices of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, a consortium of American universities based in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. One of the financial backers was the J.M. Kaplan Fund of New York.

The Mahara region of eastern Yemen had until recently been off-limits for Westerners. First, it had been controlled by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen until 1987. Then civil war, now over, made it unsafe for anyone, much less foreign archaeologists.

As in the earlier explorations in the adjacent Dhofar region of Oman, the expedition ranged from the coast of the Gulf of Aden over rugged hills and across sparsely populated arid lands to the fringes of the Rub al-Khali, the forbidding Empty Quarter that stretches over much of the Arabian interior. The team relied on maps by Ptolemy and photographs from Landsat spacecraft.

"We used Landsat pictures to identify sites we wanted to look at and also just to navigate from place to place," Dr. Blom said. "The regular maps of that part of the world are not the best."

"When we started off in the morning, we had no idea how far we would be able to get by nightfall, where we would be camping, whether there would be water . . . It was a rough trip," through terrain much like the Grand Canyon area of Arizona, Blom said.

Many of the sites they found were known to locals, but not to the outside world. A police colonel in Sayhut, where they first ventured into uncharted territory, told them about an "old fort" up a wadi outside town. That led to the first impressive find. The fort, Ghaydah al Kabir, was "a spitting image" of the fortress at Ubar, Zarins said, and pottery fragments there were identical to those found earlier. The team spent only a few hours there "because the identification was so immediate," Hedges said.

On a hill four miles out of town, they saw what they are calling the Fortress of Ghaydah al Kabir. It took only a cursory examination for Dr. Zarins to recognize that the site was almost identical to the trading centers found five years earlier at Shisur and Ain Humran, in southern Oman where Ptolemy said the "people of Ubar" lived. Within thick stone walls stood a central building, like a castle, and at the base of the hill were the traces of an ancient settlement and agricultural fields.

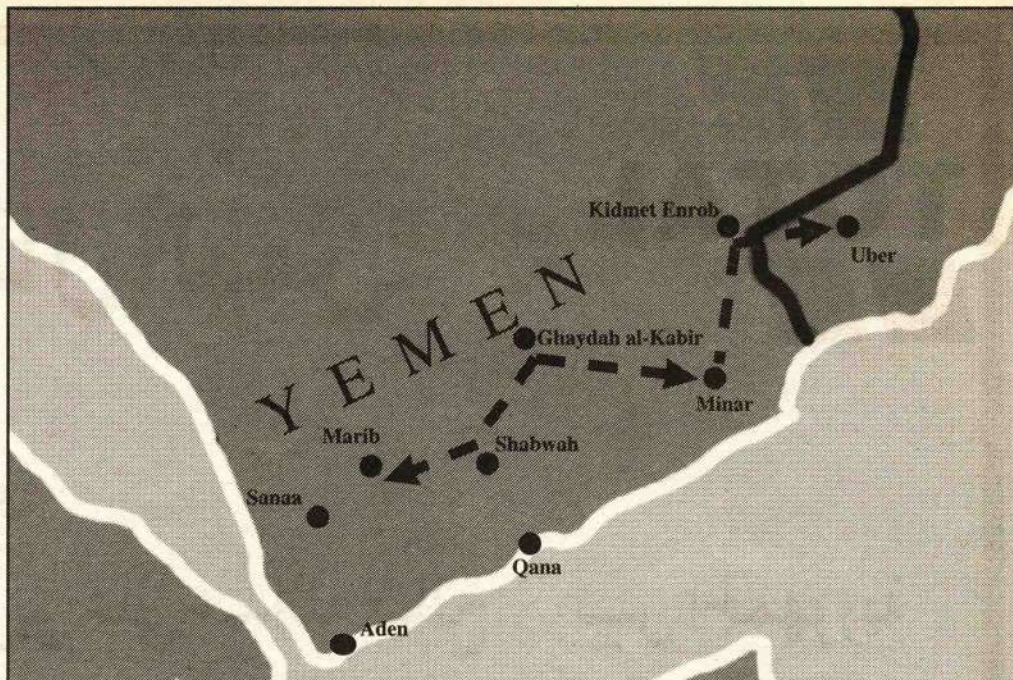
"Here, 400 to 500 kilometers [240 to 300 miles] from Ubar were the identical people," he said. "It immediately proved our thesis" that there was a land route and that the Ubarites controlled a large section of eastern Yemen.

Pliny the Elder, in the first century A.D., reported that the frankincense region could be found by traveling a route from Shabwah, an ancient city in Arabia Felix that still exists, that was marked at stages by eight small fortresses or rest stations. The sites in Oman are presumably the last fortresses in the route, and now the archeologists think they have found two of the intermediate fortresses.

They came upon the second fort on a plateau overlooking the Minar wadi, a valley with a dry stream bed. The Fortress of Minar, their name for the ruins, resembled in all important respects the other known sites. An pottery there dated the fort to the heyday of the frankincense trade, 200 B.C. to about A.D. 300.

Between the forts and elsewhere in the region, the archeologists discovered more than 30 triliths. These lines of standing stones, three to a group and about three to five feet high, had previously been recognized as identifiable features of the trade routes. Studying the pattern of triliths on their course, Mr. Hedges said, the expedition confirmed that these are indeed route markers and that they probably convey distances, locations of water sources and directions.

At this time, the expedition was traveling deep into what the Ptolemy map labels Myrrifera Regio, roughly translated as Myrrh country. "And so it is," Mr. Hedges said. "Along the track we saw large groves of myrrh trees some over 10 feet high."



Myrrh is a clear resin secreted by Commiphora myrrha, trees with thick trunks and spiny branches with little green leaves. The resin, usually tapped twice a year, soon hardens to become a reddish or yellowish brown gum. On the way to his crucifixion, according to the Gospel of St. Mark, Jesus declined the offer of a drink of wine mixed with myrrh something that might have had a mild narcotic effect.

The expedition found few signs of frankincense in the region today; its principal source was probably not far away in the Qara Mountains, along the coast of Oman, where the monsoons of the Indian Ocean provide more moisture. Frankincense is the aromatic resin from bushy trees of the genus Boswellia, named for James Boswell, the biographer of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

At a Bedouin village, where they camped in the courtyard of a mosque, the archeologists were told of a mysterious ancient site nearby. What they saw was a field of megaliths, 19 stones about 6 feet tall, arranged in a circle with a circumference of about 250 feet. Beyond the ring lay ruins of small structures and a site where Late Stone Age people appeared to have made flint tools, and weapons.

Here were traces of a time long before Arabia Felix was a thriving, hub of ancient trade. But archae-

ologists are at a loss to explain the purpose of the megaliths, any more than they can be sure of the meaning, of Stonehenge in England. "When archaeologists can find no sign that people live or died at a place," Dr. Zarins said, "they are usually reduced to saying that it must have, some ceremonial purpose."

The decline of the civilization of Arabia Felix started in the fourth century A.D. For one thing, the Romans had found out that most of the luxury goods, aside from incense, were actually coming from the east, as they and others learned to sail the monsoon winds, they could bypass, these Arabian middlemen.

Dr. Gus W. Beck, a former curator of Old World archeology at the Smithsonian Institution, writing in 1969, said the collapse of the frankincense market was the most important reason for the decline. When Constantine proclaimed Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire in 323, simple burials replaced cremation and the elimination of funeral pyres cut heavily into the demand for frankincense.

*Article was printed in the New York Times, January 28, 1997.

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Italian Couple, Cycling World, Drive Through Yemen This Week

Luciano and Verena Lepre are cycling the world. This week, the Italian couple are driving through Yemen on their way to Oman.

"We started the trip from a place near Geneva on 4th September, 1996. Our plan is to go around the world, going through countries which will us visas, Luciano said. They have cycled through Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Jordan. They had to by-pass Saudi Arabia.

"We aim to visit as many Arab countries as possible after hearing much about the famous Arab hospitality," said Verena. At the same time, the couple is choosing routes to avoid the tourist-beaten tracks. The usual archaeological sites, museums, historical buildings do not attract them as much as the real spirit and life of the people.

Luciano and Verena are on their own. Self-motivated and self-supported, they aspire to learn more about the world, and to leave something of themselves and their European background wherever they go. They are not sponsored by any companies or organization. To make this lifelong ambition come true, they had to save money for six years, and leave their jobs for the duration of the trip, which has no time limit. They think it could be a two-year engagement.

What happens if they run out of money. Answer: They will resort to looking for odd local jobs. Luciano is a photographer and Verena is a nurse.

For daily sustenance, the couple buys just the amount of food they need. They cook simple meals on a small cooker they have in their bike-pack. To sleep, they have a small tent. They stay in hotels



only in big cities where it is impossible to sleep in tent.

"This is a discovery trip. We get to see the real family life of every country we pass through," explained Luciano. "Sometimes we get invited to the homes of families."

They have not faced any problems in the countries they have passed through, so far. They find the Arab people very generous and hospitable.

Up to now, they have covered 6000 km out of the 50,000 they intend to travel.

Yemen represents quite a challenge for them because of its mountainous terrain. It is also one of last exciting places to be opened for international travelers. "We are impressed by the unique culture of your country."

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الكهرباء والمياه
المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي
مشروع مجاري عدن

INVITATION FOR CONTRACTORS' BIDS

اعلان عن تأهيل مقاولين

يسر المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي في الجمهورية اليمنية، صنعاء، أن تدعوا الشركات المختصة / شركات الإئتلاف ، على أن لا تقل خبرتها في هذا المجال عن خمس سنوات ، وقامت بتنفيذ مشاريع مشابهة في أي من دول الشرق الأوسط لتقديم بيانات التأهيل لمشروع مجاري عدن.

ويتوقع الحصول على وثائق العطاءات المتضمنة شروط المناقصة، والشروط العامة الخاصة بالعقد، كشوفات وجداول الكميات في يوليو ١٩٩٧م.

موقع العمل : مدينة عدن، الجمهورية اليمنية، ويتضمن مدن التواهي، المعلا، خورمكسر، كريتر ومدينة الشعب.

يتضمن العقد إعادة تأهيل وتشييد أنظمة تجميع المجاري الرئيسية ومحطات معالجة المجاري. يشمل مجال العمل المتوقع القيام بما يلي:

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- توريد وتركيب ٤ محطات ضخ رئيسية، شاملة التجهيزات الكهربائية والميكانيكية
- توريد وتركيب خط أنابيب فولاذية (DCI) بطول ٢٢ كم وبأقطار من ت (١٠٠ - ١٠٠٠) ملم.
- توريد وتركيب محطة معالجة مياه المجاري كاملة، وبسعة حوالي ٧٥٠٠٠ متر/ يوم، محتوية على المرشحات، قناة قياس التدفق، أحواض معالجة بدون تهوية، بنصف تهوية، وتهوية كاملة، مبنى التشغيل، طرقات، التسوير والإضاءة.
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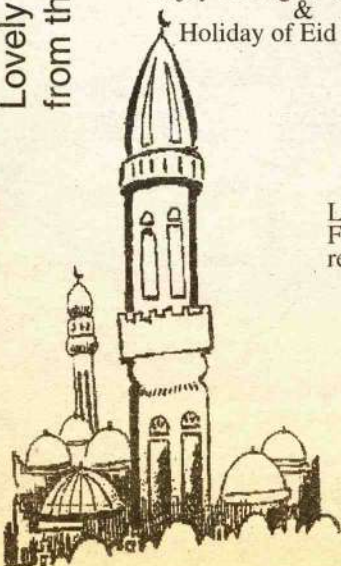
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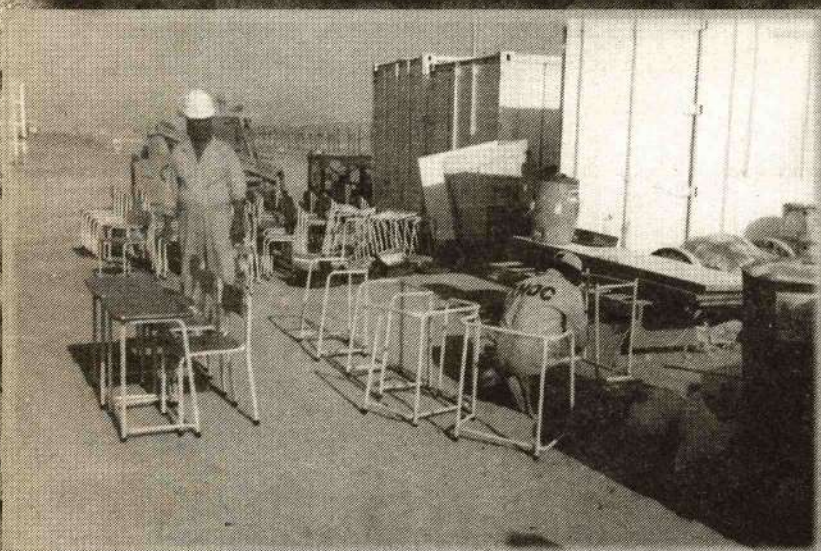
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Contributes to Assist the Schools at Ras Isa Villages



Although Yemen Hunt's concession is in the Marib Governorate, the export pipeline stretches from Safer, Marib, until it reaches the Red Sea, to the FSO "Safer" which is located 8 kilometers from Ras Isa shores. Along this huge stretch of the Export Pipeline lie stations that are either Pump Stations or Pressure Reduction Stations, passing through regions of different cultures and mentalities.

Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) an operator for Yemen Exploration and Production Company (YEPC - Exxon and Yukong), does its best to help the citizens that are living beside the stations. For example, it provides them with water, electricity, employment, medical assistance, and repairs their land along the Export Pipeline. This is done in order to build an excellent relationship with the people, and to make them feel that the facility is a national benefit, and that it should be protected because it belongs to them. This assistance is provided when needed and within limitation.

At Ras Isa, on the shores of the Red Sea, lies Pressure Reduction Station No. 2 (PRS-2). There are three villages surrounding the station: Al-Zuhafi, Al-Dhubra, and Al-Wali. Recently, YHOC conducted a field study on the situation and conditions of local schools in these three villages. This was done in coordination with MOMR, Security, MOE, and Sheikhs in order to find out what it can do to assist in improving the educational environment.

At the end of last year, all the essential requirements were at PRS-2 for a special event. Early in the morning, it was agreed that the gathering will be at the station. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Health, Interior, Security, the Governor's Office, PGC at Ras Isa, and Sheikhs, officials and community elders from the area were at hand for the event.

A YHOC convoy moved from the station to the biggest village, Al-Zuhafi, and presented them with 60 school desks and chairs, 3 blackboards, and 4 cupboards for the schools. The students and teachers were overjoyed with YHOC's contribution.

The YHOC convoy then moved to the clinics and presented them with two complete sets of beds and a cupboard for keeping medicines.

Afterwards, the Ras Isa football team, which includes members from the three villages, was presented with two sets of football uniforms (36 uniforms), 4 first-class balls, and 2 sets of football goal nets.

The two other villages were also given what is needed for their schools. At the end of this joyful event, the representatives, sheikhs, and community elders of the three villages thanked Yemen Hunt Oil Company, operator for YEPC, for its essential and important contribution.

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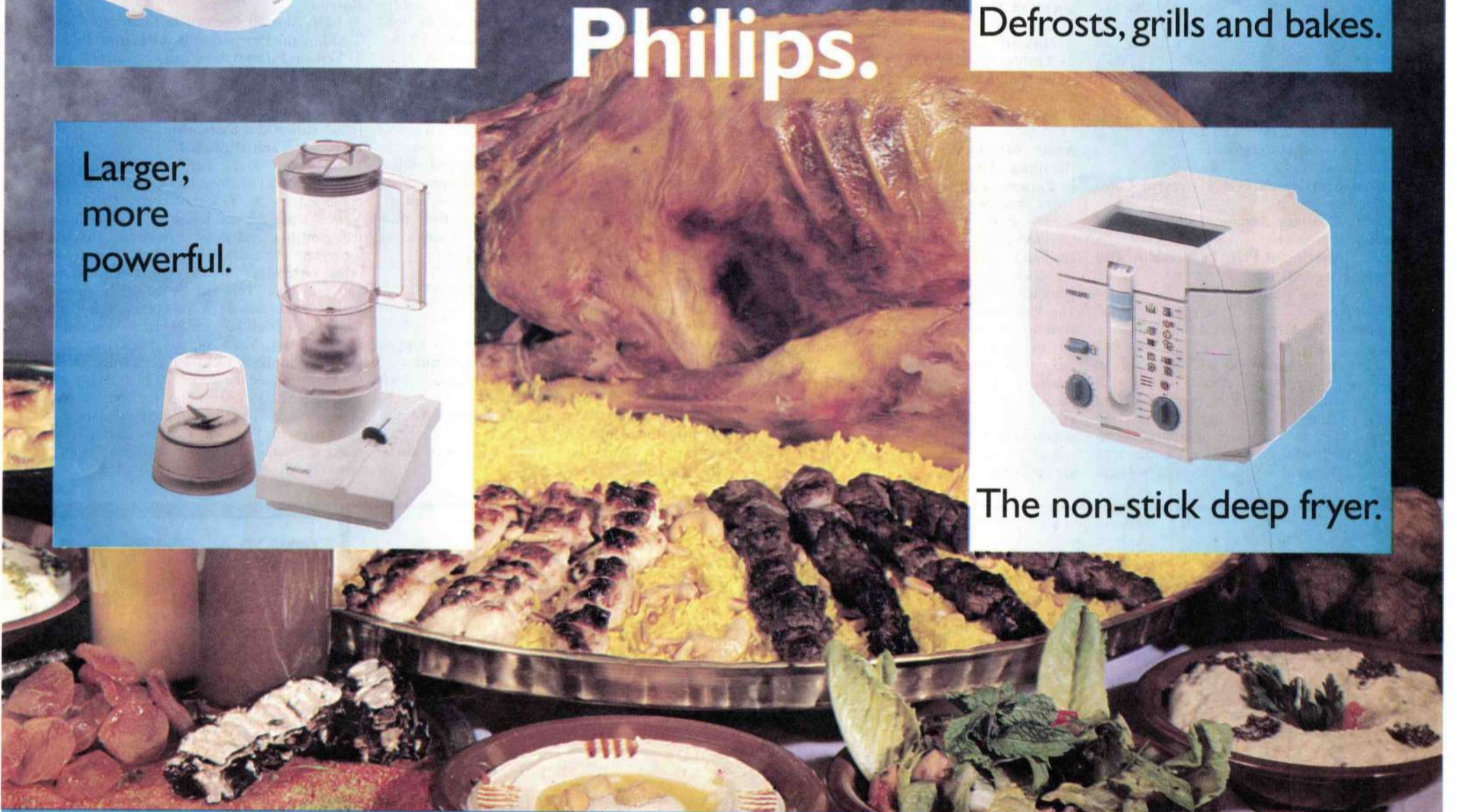
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AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 27-1-97
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Islah Leader Denies Deal for Sharing Constituencies and Next Government with PGC
- 2) Opposition in Hadhramaut: Participating, in the Elections will Plunge the Country into a Series of Catastrophes.
- 3) Eritrean President Stresses Commitment to Arbitration Committee Decisions.

Article Summary:

[Saudi Arabia is Free] - Editorial.

People received the news of the explosion at an American military base in Saudi Arabia with mixed emotions. They were happy because people their are starting to wake up to the dangers surrounding them. And they were sad for the killed military personnel whose government is trying to forcibly rule the world over the dead bodies of its citizens. The Americans are trying to control and "milk" the region. They used to lease military bases in that kingdom and pay the rent. Now they are being paid in billions for "protecting" the region.

The American media are now, upon a CIA way of thinking, trying to implicate some Saudi officials in the incident. If the Americans start conducting the investigations themselves as they are demanding, it will mean the abolition of Saudi sovereignty. We in Yemen, who have incurred the punishment of Saudi rulers, have a duty in exposing this state of affairs as the billions of dollars being sucked by the Americans and their infringement of Saudi authority can have adverse effects on the whole Arabian Peninsula.

AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a (Weekly) 27-1-97

(The People's General Congress)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Heads PGC's General Committee Meeting.
- 2) Dialogues Continue Among Ruling Coalition Parties and Opposition.
- 3) Extended Meeting of PGC Leaderships with Education Sector Officials.

Article Summary:

[The Opposition's Affront and Arbitrariness] - Editorial.

Political effrontery seems to be the common attitude of some opposition parties in dealing with democratic realities. Parties in the opposition seem to think that they have to oppose everything whether good or bad. The series of arbitrary communiqués issued by the Opposition Coordination Council strongly point to a high level of political



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

bankruptcy. The latest such communiqué' which condemned the Islah-PGC dialogue and called for mass mobilization against it, is a blatant call for anarchy and unrest.

There are no legal or constitutional restraints on creating close relations among likely minded political powers. On the contrary, such dialogues and agreements can help enhance the democratic process. The PGC-Islah agreement has called on all opposition parties to participate in the political dialogue, and to have equal opportunities in free and fair elections. It is a positive act that will save the country from conflicts and catastrophes.

AL-WAHDAAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-1-97

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) PGC Deputy Secretary-General: "Any political agreement between coalition parties does not mean pre-arranging next government".
- 2) Islah Official: "Constituencies are not a political inheritance."
- 3) Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed: "The political parties can resist anti-unity drives."
- 4) British Businessmen to Visit Yemen.

Article Summary:

[Realities of Arabic Language in Our Schools] - by Farouk Al-Jifri.

There is a clear fault in teaching Arabic in our schools. In the old days, primary school graduates used to be able to read and write without errors in spelling or grammar. Nowadays, even graduates of the Arabic department at the university make gross grammatical errors.

The fault does not lie with these individuals but with the education system itself. Classes are generally overcrowded, pupils resort to learning by heart without understanding nor comprehending. And the teachers themselves have become below par because they were taught under the same faulty system. Language represents a fundamental requirement for success in life. Greater attention has to be directed toward educating the younger generations of Yemen.

ATTAREEQ: Aden (Fortnightly) 28-1-97

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Opposition in Hadhramaut Calls on International Organizations Not to Send Elections' Monitors.
- 2) Prominent Lawyer; Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf: "If the opposition decides to boycott the elections, it has to prepare a program to solve all of society's problems."
- 3) Heavy Rains in Aden Cut off Electricity and Telephone Lines.
- 4) Yemen Socialist Party Politburo Members Visit Party Branches to Ascertain Stances Toward Elections.

Article Summary:

[Corruption Remains the Victor] by Abdulhakim Mahmoud.

The authorities declared, through extensive media campaigns during 1995, their intentions to fight corruption. The campaigns went on and off for some time without much real progress. It seems that this call for combating corruption is not more than an electioneering propaganda. Corruption has become unbeatable.

It has turned into a life necessity like air and water. The country is not suffering from an economic crisis, but from a crisis of conscience and ethics. The corrupt may partly solve the economic crisis by eradicating some of the channels of corruption, and keeping other channels open for their own ends. Thus, corruption will always remain victorious.

AL-WAHDAAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-1-97

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Opposition Coordination Council: The Opposition will not Participate in Rigged Elections.
- 2) Opposition Condemns Deal Between Two Ruling Coalition Parties.
- 3) The Coalition Agreement Explicitly Admits Registration Violations.
- 4) Hebron Deal Abolished the Name of Ibrahimic Shrine.

Article Summary:

[Queues] - by Ali Al-Saqqaf

The ubiquitous queues of beggars in front of shops frighten me. I really fear that one day I'll become one of them. I tried to convince myself that those ever increasing beggars are agents of foreign powers trying to deliberately spoil and harm the gigantic economic achievements of the government. These accomplishments were attested to by reputable international organizations. I almost believed myself if it were not for a real story told by a colleague of mine. While riding in a dabbab (micro bus), my colleague saw a man carrying expensive female clothes. After initiating a conversation with the man, my colleague found out that the clothes belonged to that man's wife. He was going to sell them to provide the basic needs of his family. This story put me back in the vicious circle of fear from destitution. I hoped that the Prime Minister was riding in the dabbab as well to refute the man's claim who does not realize that the growth rate in our country is over 7%!

AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 30-1-97

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Intensified Meetings to Discuss Coordination Agreement with Opposition Parties.
- 2) Extended Meeting for Heads of Islah Social Bureaus.
- 3) Islah Shurah Council in Shabwah Calls for Tackling the Phenomenon of Revenge Taking.
- 4) Yemeni Literati condemn Conspiracy Against Sudan.

Article Summary:

[Moderation and Extremism] by Nasser Taha Mustafa.

There is no doubt that extremism is born in abnormal circumstances. It is a disease that must be combated by all rational people. Conditions in Yemen since the revolution are not conducive to the growth of religious extremism. The Islamic movement in Yemen has been totally involved with other movements in addressing national concerns and problems. This led to the Islahi movement being a moderate one. It has opened its horizons to the authorities of the state and all the Yemeni religious scholars. Much of this moderation can be attributed to the wisdom and rationality on part of the President and the leaders of Islah. Many a malicious attempt to disrupt this harmonious state of affairs was stopped in its tracks by rational stances adopted by the President. Conserving moderation is the duty of all citizens. The destruction of moderation is the destruction of the whole country.

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present their heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to the Yemeni people and political leadership headed by General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, the Government and People of Yemen on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak.

Many Happy Returns to all.

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Happy Eid

Chinese Coach Succeeds in Promoting Table Tennis



A table tennis tournament for youngsters was held at the Olympic Center in Sana'a on Tuesday 28 January. Named after the late Yemeni table tennis champion, Ahmed Al-Imad, the tournament, was a chance to see a new crop of athletes come of age. Many young players showed good skills which could hail a bright future for this game in

Yemen. The tournament was organized and financed by the Olympic Center.

Sadly, table tennis suffered from visible deterioration and poor participation in Arabic championships since 1994. The national table tennis team used to achieve great success during the late 70s and 80s up to 1993.

On the occasion of this championship, Yemen times has met the renowned Chinese coach, Mr. He Jian Min who trains the Yemeni national team among his successful pupils many well known Yemeni table tennis champs. Mr. Min's efforts in training the Yemeni team come as part of the strong and historical ties between Yemen and China.

Q: When did you start training the national team, and how was its level then?

A: I started my work in Sana'a in 1977 upon a official request by the former Supreme Council of

Youths and Sports. Despite the very modest resources available at that time, the interest and desire among young people to learn this game were enormous. Many of the young men I coached in the early days have become champions well know o the Arabic level such as Ahmed al-Imad, Ahmed Zayid, Muttahar Zubarah, and many others. These excellent players were exemplary in their commitment to training and improving their performances. That is why they accomplished a lot in Arab and international championships.

Q: What are the major time periods that saw particularly high levels activities in this gam? And who were the champions?

A: The period from 1982 up to the outbreak of the civil war in 1994 witnessed great progress and successes by the Yemeni players. This was true for the single and double male and female matches.

Fro example, Ahmed Al-Zayid occupied second position in the Arab Championship held in Cairo in 1982. In the 1985 Arab Championship in Morocco he achieved first position, and won a gold medal. Ahmed Al-Imad was also able to get first position ad a gold medal in Morocco in 1993 in addition to winning many other championships held between '89 and '93 in Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

Q: Were there any successful female participation abroad? Is the training of female players going on?

A: Ms. Leena and Ms. Luaa have occupied quite advanced positions in many Arab champion-

ships. They came second in the Arab Championship held in Jordan in 1992. They also won 4 silver medals in the single and double matches.

In 1993, the Yemeni national team was able to get the first position, and win a gold medal in the Arab Clubs Championship. These two female champs had to stop playing after they got married. We are now in the process of assembling a female national team whose players will be trained at the Olympic Center. The team will include young girls of around ten years old who will be trained by my wife. Actually, we have already started this process.

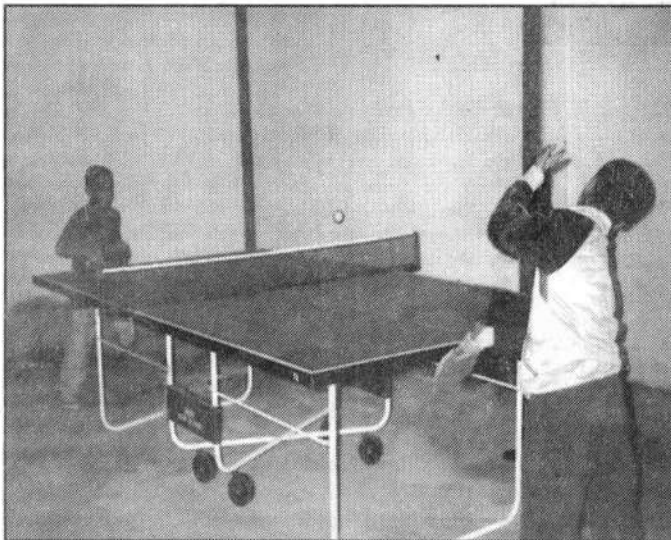
Q: Are the resources available

now sufficient for conducting proper training and exercise?

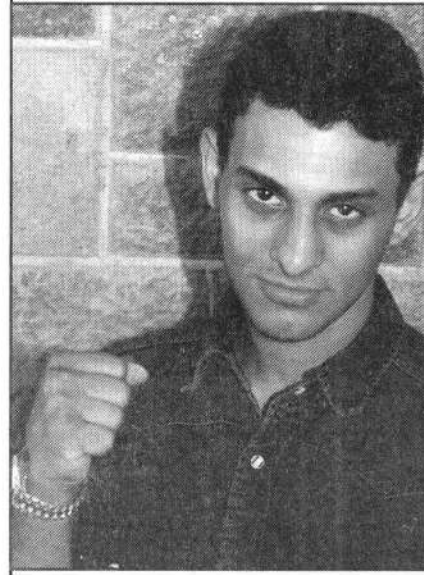
A: Some sports clubs have suitable tables for training, but they do not fully conform with the regulations of the International Table Tennis Association. According to the regulations, all tables must be blue in color which is not the case in Yemen. The Minister for Youths and Sports, Mr. Abdulwahab Rawih, has promised us enough support for 1997 that will contribute to reinvigorating this sport.

Q: What is required for the Yemeni players to regain their past status as worthy contenders?

A: There is a great need for more training camps and local championships which can help immensely in improving the players' performances. Such activities will, of course, require good funding. I hope that the Ministry of Youths and Sports and the Olympic Committee will honor their promises for this year by financing various sports activities and championships. We have started our program of activities with this championship which includes a number of the best players in Sana'a. I'd like to point out that Yemeni youths can, upon finding the right care and attention and proper equipment, achieve a lot in all fields of human endeavor.



Naseem: Decisive Match to the Peak



The international boxing champion Naseem Hamid is set to meet his American challenger Johnson on 8 February in the USA. The publicity campaign announcing this crucial match is already in full swing through satellite TV stations. British born Naseem has become a symbol of determination and challenge for all Yemeni youths.

In this upcoming match, Naseem the "Prince" will, for the first time, meet an equally powerful opponent who holds the International Boxing Federation (IBF) world title. Naseem, himself a World Boxing Organization (WBO) champion, will prove a more than powerful for the American. The match will be a strong contest to gain the title of the world boxing featherweight champion.

There is already much talk, speculation and heated debates as to the likely outcome of this eagerly awaited match. Naseem now represents a Yemeni legend born and prospered in Britain. Despite his small stature, Naseem has captured the world's imagination by his great performance and skill which reminds many people with the famous Mahammed Ali Clay.

Will Naseem be able to win this match like many previous ones? Will this match be more difficult than the one in which Naseem snatched the WBO title from Steve Robinson in Britain in 1995? Many such questions and more impose themselves on all Yemenis. We sincerely hope that the Prince will be able to defeat his challenger, and make a new addition to his many prestigious awards. Shall we say congratulations... or..?



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Milestone in Yemeni-UK Business:

Impressive Showing at Aden Symposium

On board the Royal Yacht *The Britannia* and treated to royalty, 41 Yemeni business tycoons will meet 27 representatives of international UK companies. The place: Aden Harbor on board *The Britannia* The Time: 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8th. The occasion: A symposium entitled: "Invest in Yemen, Your Partners for Trade" in which Yemeni and British businessmen will rub shoulders

and discuss cooperation possibilities. The symposium was the result of long and sustained efforts on both the Yemeni and British sides. "You can say that it comes as the normal culmination point to the visits by the UK Foreign and Trade Secretaries to Yemen in October 1996. It also reflects the efforts of the Yemeni Foreign and Trade Ministries," said David Pearce, Deputy Head of Mission at the UK Embassy in Sanaa and one of the persons actively involved in the preparations. The list of UK companies represented in the gathering is impressive. It includes Air BP, Babcock King-Wilkinson, Biwater,

British Aerospace Defence, British Airways, Constant & DESO, DTI, General Electric Corporation, Halcrow, Kvaerner John Brown, Middle East Association, National Power, Norquip, Rolls-Royce, Possford Duorver, Speedwing, Tarmac, TLI Broadcast Systems, and others. Abdul-Wahab Thabit, a leading businessman and one of the founders of the Yemeni-British Friendship Association, expressed optimism about the future of Yemeni-UK relations. He said, "We are looking forward to a closer and mutually beneficial relationship with the UK. We have much catching up to do."



Commander of the Yacht:
Hosting the Businessmen



Yemeni Participants in Symposium on board the Royal Yacht: *The Britannia*

A. PRIVATE BUSINESS:

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2. Abdul-Jalil Radman, A/Jalil Radman Company
3. Abdul-Kareem Mosleh, A/Kareem Mosleh Co
4. Abdul-Kareem Shaibani, Shaibani Co.
5. Abdul-Kareem Shaker, Shaker Company
6. Abdul-Raheem Murad, A/Raheem Murad Co
7. Abdul-Wahab Thabit, Thabit Brothers Group
8. Abdu Rabo M. Abdu Rabo, Red Sea Flour Mills
9. Adel Ahmed Mutahhar, Agricultural Dev. Co.
10. Ahmed Al-Aswadi, Ali Saad Al-Morshidi Co.
11. Ahmed Al-Sabahi, Qassim Al-Mansoob Company
12. Ahmed A. Sabtan, Al-Baseel Group
13. Ahmed Al-Shaibani, Al-Shaibani Group
14. Ahmed Al-Watary, Al-Watary Group
15. Ahmed Haidar Fahim, Fahim Group
16. Ahmed M. Barman, Ahmed Barman Company
17. Ali Ali Ismail, Al-Bazil Group
18. Ali Yaslem Bin Shaiba, Zubayen Company
19. A.M.S. Al-Salahi, Ali Saleh Al-Wali Company
20. A. Al-Hadda, Al-Hadda Company
21. Hassan Abdo Jaied, Haied & Massood Co
22. Hussain Al-Soffari, Hussain El-Soffari Co
23. Hussain Shumaila, Hussain Shumaila Co
24. Jamal Balakim, Balakim Company
25. Jamil Al-Ghanami, Al-Ghanami Industrial Co
26. Mohammed Adhban, Adhban Group
27. Mohammed Al-Kaf, Yemenvest
28. Mohammed Al-Sunaidar, Al-Sunaidar Group
29. Mohammed A. Jaber, Salem Shammakh Co
30. Mohammed A. O., Saber Company
31. Mohammed O. Bamashmos, M. Bamashmos Co
32. Mohammed Said Morshed, Arwa Company
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3. Ahmed Al-Aini, Public Electric Corporation
4. Ahmed Al-Bishary, Pension & Retirement Fund
5. Dirhem Noman, Aden Free Zone Authority
6. Laila Shihab, Lawyers Guild
7. Mohammed Al-Saidi, Water/Sanitation Corpn.
8. Rasheed Ba-Rabba, Ministry of Oil
9. Representatives of Aden, Sanaa & Taiz Chambers
10. Representatives of Aden Governorate
11. Representatives of Ministry of Trade & Supply

C. MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Al-Thawrah Newspaper
2. Saba News Agency
3. Yemen Television - Channel 2
4. Yemen Times

Following a High-Level Syrian Visit to Sanaa:

Yemen Expresses Support for Syria

At the end of a one-day official visit to Sanaa (31/1/1997) by Mr. Abdul-Haleem Khaddam, Syrian Vice President, Farooq Al-Shire', Foreign Minister, and the accompanying delegation, the Republic of Yemen announced its full support for Syria in its quest for a peace that will achieve the full return of the Golan Heights. In a statement following the visit, Yemen indicated that Israel has to comply with all UN resolutions calling for the return of all Arab land occupied in 1967 and since. The Yemeni authorities also stated that they support the Middle East peace process based on the

Madrid/Oslo formula of peace in return for land. The meetings of the Syrian delegation went smoothly. "There was agreement on all the points raised during the talks." A source at the Presidential Office stressed the need for Israel to respect its commitments made in the peace process, and to once and for all, forsake the dream of Greater Israel, which is expansionist in nature. "It has to accept to live in its pre-1967 borders, and be part of the region." The Syrian official has been touring the Gulf states mobilizing support for his country.



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