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INSIDE	Ali Saif Hassan on Election Campaigns. Page 3.	Yemen Comes to Grips with Intellectual Rights. Page 4.	YCIC Mounts an Export Offensive. Page 7.	Human Rights in Islam. Page 12.
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President Blocks Anti-Women Legislation: Thank You, Mr. President

President Ali Abdullah Saleh blocked last week amendments to the Personal Status Law, which were drafted by conservative elements of the out-going parliament. "The amendments would have taken away many of the already limited rights of women," stated a relieved Nabilah Al-Mufti, one of the key lawyers who have been



In the Service of Visitors on Elections "Al-Jasr will provide information, facilities to visitors on elections."

Over the last few weeks, four organizations were formed with the explicit objective of serving the 500 or so foreigners who will visit Yemen for the elections. Two voluntary local organizations - Al-JASR and MOST - which work on a voluntary basis, costing almost nothing. The third is foreign - JEAS - and has an allocation of 400,000 Dutch Guilders paid as part of Dutch assistance to Yemen. The fourth is an official organization.

1. AL-JASR
Some 35 of Yemen's key journalists launched the "Al-Jasr" - the Yemen-International Media Contact Point to Cover the Elections. Al-Jasr, literally meaning the bridge, is an information dissemination point for people who are visiting Yemen on the elections.

The journalists elected Mr. Hamood Munassar as General Coordinator, and Mr. Mohammed Sudam as Assistant General Coordinator. Its limited needs are financed by the journalists and a few local companies, notably Yemen Airways, Taj Sheba Hotel, and UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism.

Located next to the bookshop in the Taj Sheba Hotel lounge, Al-Jasr has opened its doors to visitors starting from today, Monday, April 14th.

2. MOST
A number of Sanaa University professors and lecturers got together to establish the Media and Observers' Support Team (MOST). Led by Professors Azza Ghanim, Wahiba Fare',

Continues on page 6

Training EMC Volunteers in Abyan, Sa'adah & Mukallah: EMC Reaches Out to Foreign Observers

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) is by far the leading local organization to train Yemeni observers who will participate in monitoring the elections. Last week, the EMC trained its volunteers in Sa'adah (318 volunteers), Abyan (284 volunteers), and Mukallah (153 volunteers). Next week, EMC training workshops will be held in Hodeidah, Aden and Dhamar.

According to Ms. Shada Mohammed Nasser, Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs - and a leading female activist - the total number of EMC volunteers is more than 7,200, covering 180 constituencies. "Our observers are well-trained and are ready to go to work," she explained. Political parties and foreign observers will find EMC observers who wear distinguished signs.


At another level, the EMC is completing the observer's manual which is a reminder kit, incorporating many forms needed by the observers. Finally, the EMC has already developed a special form to be filled by foreign observers visiting the voting stations. "The EMC will collect these forms and summarize them in overall statement giving what the foreign observers said," stated Ms. Shada.

YSP Gets Back Assets

On Tuesday, April 8th, the Ministry of Finance handed over to the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) three big buildings which had been occupied by the Ministry since the 1994 civil war. According to a joint statement signed by representatives of the YSP (signed by Mr. Saif Sayel, Member of the Political Bureau), the Ministry of Finance (signed by Abdul-

Wahab M. Al-Yamani, Deputy Minister), and the People's General Congress (signed by Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayib, Member of the Political Committee), the YSP acknowledged actual receipt of the assets. As part of the normalization of the YSP status, it also saw its financial assets released. In addition, it received YR 76 million in cash.

The YSP and the PGC had together concluded the reunification of Yemen in 1990 and had jointly ruled the country until the 1994 civil war. Since the war, the YSP - which has formally decided to boycott the current elections (some 81 YSP members are running as independents) - encountered many difficulties as it gropes in search of a new approach and vision.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen & the Gulf: The Need to Come Together

There is a lot of talk these days about Yemeni-Gulf relations. This comes in light of the Yemeni application to join the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC). That application was rejected.

Even then, there is now renewed interest in the subject, at least at the intellectual and media levels. Many articles and television discussions have dealt with the subject. Basically, the two divergent positions are:

1. The Gulf Does Not Need Yemen:

This position reflects a grudge regarding Yemen's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Saudi Arabia also discourages any rapprochement with Yemen, using the outstanding border conflict. Other excuses given are the divergence in the political system (Yemen is the only republic in the Peninsula), and the low level of per capita income in Yemen.

Whatever the excuses, there are certain Gulf people who do not want Yemen to join the AGCC.

For the record, one has to say that there is a large group of Gulf intellectuals, journalists, even government officials, and even some GCC countries (Qatar, Oman and the UAE) who do welcome Yemen in the AGCC. But they are not yet the majority. At least, they are not the decision-makers.

2. Yemen and the Gulf Need Each Other:

The position of Yemen has been that the Republic of Yemen and the AGCC countries need each other. Whether we like it or not, we are stuck with each other. In addition to that fact, the two sides can actually benefit from each other.

There is a lot of complementarity between Yemen and the Gulf, at the economic, political, security and many other levels. It is in this light that Yemen has approached the Gulf states and asked for an association. This association is not with the purpose of channelling foreign aid to Yemen, but business relations leading to mutual benefits is welcome.

Irrespective of the position of either side, there is danger in basing one's stand totally on past grievances. That is exactly what the some of the Gulf countries are doing. It is critical that both sides prepare for the future.

The 21st century is a few years away. This is the age of regional blocs. The way the AGCC countries are looking at things will not help. After seventeen years, the AGCC has yet to make visible strides towards meaningful cooperation. What is needed is a new vision, and a new approach. This should be the basis for future cooperation in the region.

Whether some people in the Gulf like it or not, whatever the past grudges, it is imperative that Yemen and the Gulf states come together. The bottom line is that they need each other.

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EMC Training Programs: Spanning from Sa'adah to Mukalla

On Sunday, April 13th, the Mukalla workshop for the volunteers of the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) was underway. On April 10th, 1997, the Sa'adah workshop was launched. On April 9th, the Abyan workshop was kicked off. Next week, immediately following the eid holidays, the EMC will organize the five last workshops - in Aden, Dhamar, Hodeidah, Ibb and Seiyun.

These training workshops are not only useful to train volunteers in specific skills in monitoring elections, but they also become a contact point with the general public. It is an occasion to educate the general public on elections and democracy," explained Ms. Shada Mohammed Nasser, the Assistant Secretary-General of the EMC.

According to sources in the Supreme Elections Committee, the EMC has become, by far, the largest private training organization of the country. In spite of very limited resources, and a decided effort at using Yemeni expertise, the EMC has proven itself a capable organization.

The EMC is now launching the final phase of its preparations for the target date - 27th of April "We are ready!" was the firm voice of Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the Secretary-General. "No matter what it takes, we shall do the job, and we shall do a good job," he added.

ADI Holds Poetry Competitions

For the purpose of raising public awareness regarding the parliamentary elections, the Arab Democratic Institute (ADI) has organized two poetry competitions. Poems recited at the competitions dealt with the issues of taking part in the elections, women's participation, choosing the right representative, ballot secrecy, urging people to vote, and many other useful advice.

Many poets from different governorates took part in the competitions. A judging committee of professors from the University of Sana'a chose the best 12 poets. These activities were recorded on TV into 7 episodes to be broadcast in the near future.

Russian Consul Summoned to Court

In a court hearing last week, the Russian consul in Sana'a was summoned to court for the third time in the case brought by Dr. Fareed Mohammed Saeed against the Russian Embassy. According to Mr. Sultan Al-Jaradi, Dr. Fareed's lawyer, the summons was issued by judge Jamal Al-Maghrabi at the West Sana'a court.

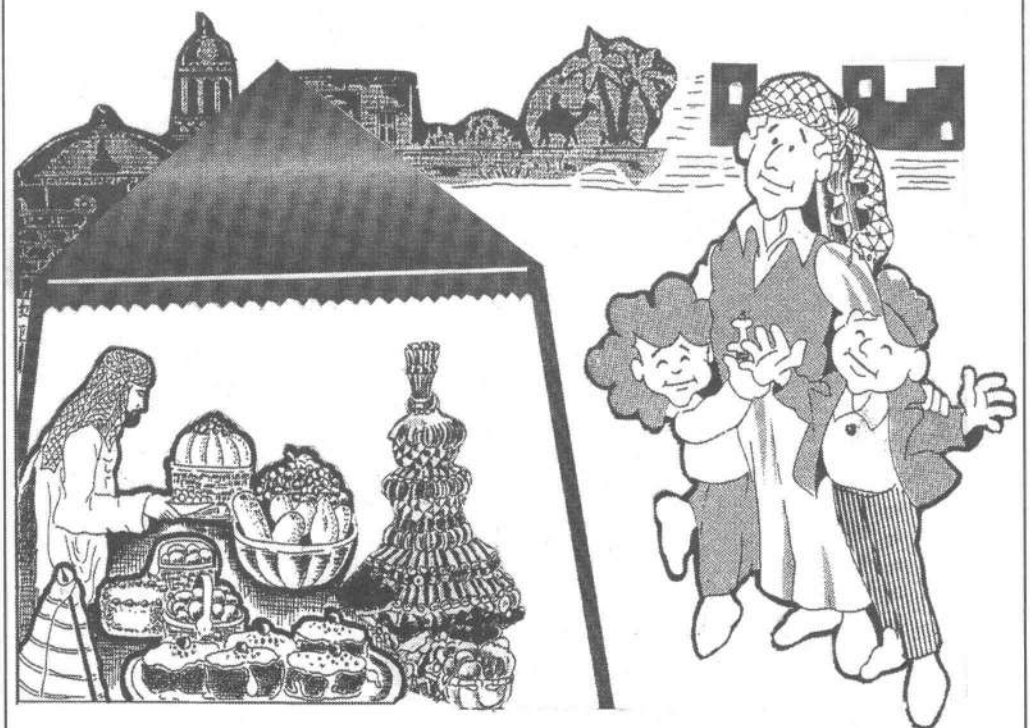
Dr. Fareed accuses the Russian Embassy of smuggling his Russian wife and daughter out of Yemen by providing them with false passports.

Sheraton Dollars for UNICEF

Sheraton Sanaa Hotel has launched a voluntary one dollar contribution to UNICEF for all guests upon check-out. The hotel said it will match those contributions which will go to enhance the welfare of children.



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Ali Saif Hassan:

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The Nasserite Unionist Party is the largest opposition party which is competing in the elections. It has fielded 88 candidates spanning the whole country. As often, the NUP is a risk-taker. One of its outstanding candidates is Ali Saif Hassan, who is standing in constituency 83 in Dhale', Lahej. An economist by training, a businessman by profession, a moderate by inclination, Ali would make an excellent member of parliament. Hard-working and with a keen commitment to the market system, and a visible attachment to liberal politics, he has been a moderating influence in his party.

Mr. Hassan, 48, has had a wide international exposure. With an M.A. in Business Administration from Michigan University, Ali has travelled to many countries of the world and has participated in many meetings.

M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to him and filed the following report.

Q: What made you nominate yourself as a candidate in the April elections?

A: The first reason is that I feel I can win. I think my chances are good.

Second, as a partisan, the party decided to nominate me as its candidate in constituency 83 in Dhale, Lahej governorate.

In addition, I have my own views and approaches regarding democracy, the role of parliament in public life, etc. I feel I can make a contribution in all those fields. All these together motivated me to participate with enthusiasm in the elections.

Q: How do you intend to finance your campaign?

A: The party is responsible for financing my electoral campaign. In general, the financial allocation to each candidate is very limited, especially when compared to the allocations of the coalition ruling parties. In addition, I hope my supporters and sympathizers will provide some volunteer work and contribution.

Finally, I have some personally resources which I plan to fall back on.

Q: What is your campaign program?

A: Basically, we have a program of the party. We have clear positions on a number of local, national, regional and international issues.

Those are made available to the voters through party dissemination.

Of course, as a native of this constituency, I know the people and I understand their priorities.

I plan to interact with those as best as I can. I have no illusions about what can be achieved. But within realistic levels, I hope to be able to do something for the people.

Q: What are the difficulties that might face you in your electoral campaign?

A: As all other candidates of the party, I already feel a sort of non-equality, especially when compared to the candidates of the ruling coalition partners. I also worry about the free hand they have in steering the electoral process. In a sense, they are rival and judges at the same time. That leads to the possibility of violations in favor of their candidates.

Q: If you win, what are your objectives?

A: I enter the elections with my party's electoral program. My first priorities is to promote the modernization process in society and push towards institution-building in the state apparatus. I also aim to enhance general public awareness and participation in public life. Rule of law must apply and with equality.

I shall exert all that is in my power to work for the welfare and prosperity of my constituency, in particular, and the country, in general.

One of my future ambitions is to turn the Dhale' region into a



governorate. I plan to promote the capital of Dhale' as the capital of the governorate according to the new administrative division.

As you know Dhale was in the heart of the crisis (1994 civil war) and this brought much harm to the people in the district.

Many have become victims of political conflicts and the government bodies have taken some unfair and unjust steps against some of them. It becomes my duty to address

these problems.

One of the main objectives of my campaign is to achieve social merger and cohesion. That I hope to do by containing the feelings of anger and distrust. We need to bring about change. We need to create incentives to make people participate in the process of transformation, with an eye to the future.

I also will endeavor to hasten the implementation of some of the projects in the district. These include health and educa-

tional services, as well as the construction of water dams. There are a lot of plans in my mind for the district.

Q: What are your chances of winning?

A: I am betting on winning. Otherwise I would not be wasting my time, energy and resources. This is my turf, and I know a lot of people. More importantly, they know me, and they know I can deliver.

This constituency has endured a long experience in political turmoil, and political activity. They are able to make a good choice.

Q: What is your feeling about these elections, and how do they compare it the 1993 elections?

A: Frankly speaking, I believe these elections will witness less friction among the candidates. There are many candidates, those representing the ruling parties, the opposition, and independents. The heat of the competition is less in this election. I also believe there is less public interest.

In addition, the irregularities which accompanied the registration phase, and the continuation of some of these violations still unsolved play an essential role in reduced public interaction.

I also believe that the absence of a party such as the YSP has negatively affected these elections.

Q: In the advanced world, elections aim at grass-root transformation and also in

correcting imbalances in the fair competition. In Yemen, a lot of people doubt the fairness of these elections.

What is your opinion? How do you see the general pre-election conditions?

A: As a leading member of my party, and as a person who participated in taking the decision to participate in the elections, I am aware of these pre-election conditions. Honestly speaking, our decision stems from a conscious drive of the party that the evolution of the Yemeni society towards democracy must continue unabated. Such awareness imposes on us steps to stabilize democratic values in our society. I see democracy as an accumulation process and it is consolidated through patience, better awareness and more efforts but the specialities of the society. Of course, we have to be sensitive to Yemen's sensibilities and traditions. Even then, we aim to promote the values of modernization in all joints of society.

I hope to benefit from the lessons of the past and to enter a new epoch. We want a political will and a patriotic commitment to take the country to safe shores.

Q: Any last comment?

A: Yemen Times is the mirror of Yemen to the outside world in addition to its tremendous internal impact. It has participated positively in promoting these elections. It should also play a more aggressive role in making sure the elections are as clean as possible.

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Yemen Comes to Grips with INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS

By: Anwar Al-Sayyidi,
Yemen Times.

As Yemen's economy is gradually integrated with the world, the country faces some new problems. One emerging issue has been intellectual rights - patents, trade marks, unlicensed use of computer softwares and programs, etc.

This article is the first of a two-part lecture delivered by Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi, a well-known lawyer, on the 3rd of March at the Yemeni Center for Yemeni Studies and Research.



Industrial Drawings and Prototypes:

Intellectual property rights include the rights of authors, discoverers, inventors, patents, industrial and trade marks, service symbols, and industrial drawings and prototypes.

The law of intellectual rights is a group of legislations, local and international, that organize and protect these rights.

Intellectual property is considered as the most sacred and honorable of properties. It is the essence of a particular person's creativity. These rights are absolute.

There are two types of intellectual property: literary, artistic and scientific property which invoke copy rights; and industrial property which invoke patents, industrial and trade marks, service symbols, drawings, and industrial prototypes.

According to the Bern Agreement, the term literary and artistic property covers every output in the fields of literature, science and art, whatever its method or form of expression. This includes books, booklets and other publications, lectures, speeches, sermons, theatrical plays, musicals, pantomimes, musical compositions [with or without words], films, drawings, sketches, paintings, architectural designs, sculpture, engravings, photographs, applied arts, explanatory pictures, geographical maps, and geographical, topographical and scientific designs and models.

The term industrial property covers patents, models, industrial drawings and trade marks, service symbols, trade names, exporter data, as well as prohibiting unlawful competition.

The third article of the Paris Agreement stipulates that "industrial property is taken in its widest meaning. It is not restricted to the literal meaning of trade and industry. It also applies to agricultural and excavatory industries as well as all natural and processed products such as wines, cereals, tobacco leaves, fruits, cattle, minerals, mineral water, beer, flowers, and flour."

The first international agreement which encompassed a unified and comprehensive concept for intellectual property rights is the agreement to establish the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), signed in Stockholm on July 14, 1967.

The WIPO agreement has defined intellectual property as literary, artistic and scientific output; the output of performance artists; phonographic records; TV and radio programs; scientific inventions; industrial drawings and prototypes; trade and service marks; commercial logos; and protection against unlawful competition. The agreement also defined intellectual property rights as the rights associated with these works, and all other rights that result from intellectual activity in industry, science, literature and art.

The WIPO agreement is the first one to point out the protection of discovery rights. This is due to

the fact that western industrialized countries did not protect discovery rights in the past. They concentrated on the rights of companies exploiting these discoveries to the detriment of their discoverers.

Legislations in the socialist countries were the first to guarantee protection for scientific discoveries. Many of these legislations were later adopted by developing countries such as the civil law issued in Aden in 1978.

In spite of the WIPO executive committee making a draft agreement for protecting discovery and discoverer rights, such an agreement does not yet exist.

After creating the WIPO agreement, the first international agreement to include objective rules to organize intellectual rights was signed in Morocco on April 15, 1994. It is known as the TRIPS agreement which is part of GATT.

With the establishment of the WTO, the rich countries of the north were able to globalize the capitalist system, and remove all obstacles facing their companies in other countries. The TRIPS agreement was able to subject intellectual property rights to commercial issues and to the interests of western companies. Starting to implement the TRIPS agreement falls into three categories, according to the level of development of the countries of the world:

- 1- Developed countries to start on January 1st, 1996.
- 2- Developing countries to start on January 1st, 2000.
- 3- Less developing countries to start in 2006.

Yemen is the only Arab country in Asia which is less developing. There are only four other less developing Arab countries in Africa - Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Mauritania.

According to article 1-2 of the TRIPS agreement, intellectual property rights cover copy rights and other associated rights, including computer programs, trade marks, geographical pointers, industrial designs, patents, sketch designs for integrated circuits, and classified information.

Here we can notice that the TRIPS agreement has failed to mention scientific discoveries and the rights associated with them.

The Law of Intellectual Rights in Yemen

Yemen has known the system of protecting intellectual property rights since the 1940s. A number of laws were issued in Aden related to intellectual rights: Law no. 32 of Copy Rights, the Law no. 43 of Industrial Drawings and Prototypes, Law no. 111 of Patents, and Law no. 151 of Trade Marks. These laws were later incorporated within the civil law after the independence of the southern part of Yemen and the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

in 1978.

The northern part of the country had only one law issued in 1976 which was solely concerned with trade marks and names.

During the mid 80s, the Union of Literati and Writers in Sana'a became quite concerned about the increase in incidence of plagiarism and violations of intellectual rights. The main worrying issues were:

1- The blatant plagiarizing of works of literature by well-known university professors and other officials at Sana'a University.

2- The usurping of pieces of Yemeni folkloric songs and music by artists from the Gulf region or even by some Yemeni artists.

3- Some people from the Gulf region resorted to publishing in Yemen after being banned in their own countries because of plagiarizing these works.

4- Some official organs encouraged and publicized several fraudulent claims of false discoveries and inventions.

5- Opening Yemeni markets for consumer products illegally carrying or imitating world-famous trade marks.

For all these reasons and many others, the Union of Literati and Writers in Sana'a formed a committee of lawyers and intel-

lectuals to put a draft law for protecting intellectual rights. The draft law was first proposed in December of 1989. It was first submitted to the Shoura council in the beginning of 1990, but was not adopted. After unification in 1990 and the parliamentary elections of 1993, the draft law was submitted again to the Council of Ministers, and was issued through a presidential decree after the war of 1994. It was recently ratified

by parliament.

The legal formulation of this law relied on similar laws in other Arab countries, particularly the civil law of the former Democratic Republic of Yemen. The law encompassed the basic concept of property rights as specified by the WIPO agreement.

The Yemeni Law of Intellectual Rights comprises 4 sections with 128 articles. The first section

covers the author's literary, artistic and scientific rights. The second and third sections deal with industrial property rights. General rules are included in the fourth section.

A more detailed review of the Yemeni Law of Intellectual Rights will be presented in the next issue of Yemen Times.

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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Ignorance: the No. 1 Enemy of Development

When the Quran descended upon the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and Blessing of Allah be bestowed upon him), the first word recited was the divine command: "Read!". It did not begin with believe, or pray, or worship or any of those common activities associated with religious practice. The Quran began with: Read... Read! And your Lord is the Most. Who taught by the pen. Taught mankind that, which he knew not!

Thus God, Al-Mighty, in his infinite wisdom, was clearly showing that ignorance and Islam just have no common grounds. It is the duty of a Muslim first of all to know, in order to incorporate faith with knowledge. Faith and religion that are not backed by knowledge become purely ceremonial and ritualistic, and may be regarded as incomplete and short of a purpose. On the other hand the acquisition of knowledge relies upon reading. Islam is incomplete without being tied to knowledge and Muslim societies - embedded in illiteracy, ignorance and submission to regime - is far from having satisfied their obligations to God.

Thus, it can be clearly seen that the vast majority of Muslims in the World, including those in the Republic of Yemen, do not seem to comprehend this essential and fundamental aspect of Islam. It goes without saying that grasp of knowledge and the latest developments in the sciences and the social fabric of nations is readily available to anyone or any nation that strives for attainment of the same. Muslim countries, which are bordering on the pathetic, cannot hope to ever come out of their dismal state of perpetual and widespread poverty, social misery and political immaturity. As Muslims, therefore, we must work diligently to eradicate the most common element that represents this ignorance in our societies: illiteracy and poor educational and cultural performance.

Many developing countries tend to regard the accumulation of assets (economists call it capital formation) as a sound approach to development. But this is really more along the lines of wasted resources, since these assets end up serving the interests of only a very limited percentage of the population, and may not really be assets leading to sustained growth and optimal exploitation of the country's potential and capacity. Thus, it is meaningless to gather assets, the operational manual of which cannot be read by the owner/s and local population. The result: what are normally regarded as productive assets turn out to be dead junk, and white elephants which require additional spending to simply operate them, let alone maintain them.

It goes without saying then, that the development of any society must rely on the development of its human resources. In reading some of the official reports, memos, letters, etc., that are issued by our various government entities, I was astonished at the rather casual carelessness that is evident in their preparation - in format and substance. On the latter, one is amazed that so much documentation can flow through a bureaucracy, but most of its text can be without any meaningful substance - in essence a waste of time, money and human energy that leads to no worthwhile results. Even legal documents have been found to be written in such a way as to avoid any really easy way for interpreting their social implication. Of course, the possibility of application of such legal instruments does not even exist. This handicap in the flow of documentation that floods the government and other institutions of the country

is not monopolized by the public sector and the government administrative units. The private sector also displays similar traits, but their effects are less widespread and their deficiencies are not to the level where they damage the interests of the owners significantly.

Part of the problem may simply be due to the failure to institute an appropriate system of checks and balances that assures the propriety of these documentation flows. This observer really believes that the deficiency is in implanting real culture among the children who pass through the educational system of the country. There is a tendency to believe that the most important thing in any activity is to just get it done with - to get it out of the way-fast. How such activity is performed is not an issue. Thus, when bureaucrats dish out their endless flow of paperwork, it can be seen that its authors were not the least bit concerned whether the material is understood, whether it can be acted upon, and certainly not whether it can be accounted for.

The point to be made here is that government officials whose signatures appear on massive document flows never seem to worry that their signatures are going to appear on documents they themselves have not read, let alone understand. That is why there is a lot to be desired in terms of contents; in addition to mistakes in language, grammar and spelling. This also applies in many cases, outside the sphere of government documentation flow. Part of the problem - and a mighty big part of it - is obviously the lack of standards and systematic format in handling documentation. Almost every official is left to his whims to write as he/she likes, process as he/she wishes and even file or misfile as he/she chooses. This carelessness in the handling of documentation is a serious handicap to proper government and can even be considered as a major factor of inefficiency and irresponsibility.

But irresponsibility may not be necessarily intentional. The real problem, in all likelihood, goes back to the educational background of the majority of the people who sit behind those desks. While any student will tell you that the schools are stuffing them with knowledge, it goes without saying that our educational system is far from being able to produce the kind of output - of people who are able to think, innovate or even reflect a broad scope of knowledge that inspires creativity, a keenness to analyze information, and to instill on precision and efficiency. It is already visible that many of our children go through a public educational system, not in order to enhance their knowledge, but because they want a piece of paper that is issued at the end of the long tortuous journey through the system. It does not matter if the student is not up to par with a high school graduation certificate from countries with more developed educational systems. The student has got the certificate and that is all that matters. He/She can proudly rush home to the parents who will frame it on the wall, not knowing that the student they are proud of is not up to par. Most of those who have gone through the system have the notion that they are mostly going to be employed by the government and that their future livelihood is secure. The students are the least concerned, even with this sense of security, about what job they will get, or what it requires in terms of pre-qualifications. Even if they have an idea of what they would like to do, the student will find that his/her ambitions are far beyond what his/her preparation in school can enable him/her to do.

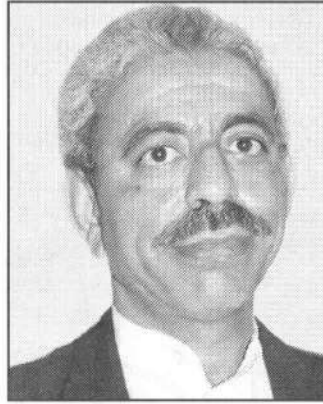
Elections Coordinator at the UNDP office in Sanaa, and the Arab Democratic Institute. According to the agreement, the Dutch Embassy will provide funds to cover the expenses of a Coordinator, two expatriate officers, two local officers, and locally recruited staff.

This body has the taken on responsibility for deployment of foreign visitors and observers all over the republic, and of preparing and disseminating brief factual statements. In addition, the JEAS, on the basis of reports by some of the international visitors, will draft a statement on the overall feelings of the international visitors.

4. Official Media Center

The International Media Center for Elections was formed by the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) for the explicit purpose of dissemination of official news on the elections. The center, which is located at the Officers' Club, is equipped with various machines that enable direct communication with the outside world.

The SEC will provide daily briefings on the progress of elections. The center is headed by Ms. Amatal Aleem Al-Sousowah, Deputy Minister of Information.



The reason for these shortfalls stems from the problems associated with the following four main factors of the educational system:

Personnel: In this regard, we are talking about the administration well as the teaching elements. On the administrative side, it is obvious that the pre-qualifications of the majority of those employed by the education ministry to raise our children are at best substandard. On the other hand, the corruption which the system is beset with leaves little opportunity for any innovative or serious minded personnel to come out with the proper professional inputs which could alleviate many of the shortcomings of the system. Obviously, the corrupt elements, because of their powerful influence in the system, will generally work against any constructive reforms. Since these constructive reforms should put the eradication of corruption as the number one reform effort, one can expect that anyone vying to have these reforms carried out will be put through a grinding mill that will in the end have grounded any hopes for reform, altogether.

Encouragement is needed for those who have proven themselves capable - good credentials and work experience.

This is in the form of good salaries which should meet, at least the essentials of a half way decent life for the families of the employee. In addition, these capable candidates should be given the enough authorities to enable them transform the knowledge they have accumulated, academically and professionally to sound administrative practices. Decentralization will go a long way to improving the performance of educational administration.

The second side, as far as personnel are concerned are the teachers. At present, the overall teaching situation in the public school system is inadequate, to say the least. At this stage of the country's development, the teachers of the country must be regarded as more important than the bureaucrats in government. Teachers must be paid well enough to assure they will have no other worry on their minds except to turn out effective and productive citizens. They

VACANCY NOTICE

PAD, UNHCR Implementing partner, is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions,

Position	Location	Person
• Social counselor	Sana'a	1
• Social counselor	Aden	1
• Program coordinator	Sana'a	1

For all social counselor positions, applicants should have university degree in social sciences such as sociology or social science related fields, at least five years professional experience and demonstrated interest in refugee matters. Fluency in English is required. Arabic and Somali languages are desirable.

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

The program coordinator performs a variety of information collecting, monitoring, technical and administrative services of moderate scope and difficulty support of program activities.

Applicants should have a university degree in economic / business or social science and relevant demonstrated professional experience. Five years of experience and fluency in English is require and Arabic is desirable.

Attractive salary and other benefits for qualified candidates.

Send your application ad CV by April 20, 1997 to:
PAD Sana'a P. O. Box 18012 Fax 01-241255
PAD Aden P. O. Box 6090 Khormaksar, Aden.

must be able to motivate students in their quest for knowledge.

School surroundings: It is clear that no educational system can ever be effective unless school conditions are appropriate and pleasant to provide the required study environment.

Parental Involvement: Parents must be seen as partners in the education of the children. They can give support to the children, and they can be instrumental in lobbying the various authorities. The basic method in this respect is the reinvigoration of parent-teacher associations as a requirement for all school administrators.

Funding: If any sector deserves the lion's share of the government's budget, it surely is the educational sector. This is especially true considering that ignorance is the number one obstacle to our further development.



FINANCIAL SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

We offer a challenging opportunity in line with our Yemenization Program in Sana'a. You will be offered a comprehensive orientation training program which will vary depending on your work background.

Job Duties

- Provide Financial Accounting Systems training to users
- Design management financial reports as per specifications
- Monitor requirements and needs for Systems Administration Department
- Trouble shooting
- Maintain the system, i.e. regulate size of files, regular backups
- Control and regulate systems security to users
- Communicate to software vendor regarding custom changes, system enhancements, major system problems, etc..
- Install new programs
- Maintain year end system process

Minimum Qualifications:

- University degree in Accounting or Business Administration
- Three years experience with Financial Accounting Systems
- Knowledge of IDEAS Financial Accounting Systems is preferable

ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE YEMENI NATIONALS.

If you are interested, and you have the aforementioned qualifications, please send your C.V. to the following address:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen,
P. O. Box No. 15137, - Sanaa.
Fax: (01) 269896/269897
Attn: Assistant Manager of Human Resources

Cont'd. from p. 1

Formation of NGOs...

Dr. Mohammed Al-Maqtari, Dr. Khaled Al-Akwa', Dr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Adoofi, and others. A circular distributed by MOST indicated the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the role of observers and media members and optimize their participation in the assessment of the elections;
2. To learn, first hand, from the experience of the distinguished observers and to assimilate their views, comments and remarks so that this formulates an effective feedback mechanism towards further democratic principles in future elections.
3. True to the ideals and high objectives, MOST commits to be impartial and unbiased in extending assistance to all.

3. JEAS

The JEAS (Joint Electoral Assistance Secretariat) is a product of an agreement between the Netherlands Embassy, on behalf of the European Union, the

YCIC Exports on the Rise

The Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce (YCIC) is steadily opening up new markets for its products. One of the prize markets today is the US market, to which Abu Walad brand biscuits are exported. "We are happy with the progress of exports," said Mr. Shukri Al-Furais, the General Manager. YCIC products are now exported to more than a dozen countries including Europe, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Australia, New Zealand, etc.

Shukri used the fact that such products are accepted globally as an indicator of the quality of the goods.

The YCIC, established in 1970, was the first industrial plant of the Hayel Saeed Group of companies and plants, which today have mushroomed to encompass many fields. It was also one of the early private investment in the country.

Some 1550 persons are employed in the YCIC today. There are



four plants within this company - the biscuit plant, the water plant, the confectionery plant, and the cake plant.

"We are now doing only 65-70% of capacity," said the General Manager.

Taking the Yemen Times and friends on a tour of the plant, Mr. Shukri Al-Furais was clearly on top of things. At every stage of the visit, he held cordial but quick talks with the employees, interacted with the machines and equipment, and explained various aspects of the assembly line.

The YCIC is regularly expanding and upgrading its plants and products. "We are looking to the next century," Shukri said.

"Higher Global Investments in Agriculture Needed."

FAO Structural Reforms Save US\$ 25 m. Annually

By: **Ismail Al-Ghabri,**
Yemen Times.

Mr. Michael Al-Hage, the FAO regional information adviser, said the organization is working on enhancing contact and coordination with the Yemeni government. Al-Hage, speaking in a press conference on March 6th at the end of his visit here, explained the benefits of the on-going decentralization in the FAO, which he said will save up to US\$ 25 million annually.

The FAO official, who held several meetings with senior Yemeni officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant offices, indicated that the organization is interested in beefing up its support for Yemen. He said that such an interest is in line with the FAO commitments to eliminate poverty, enhance food security, deal with natural disasters, and encourage government and private investments in agriculture.

"The seven commitments of the international Food Summit are the 'backbone of our international action plan to combat hunger'," he said. "These commitments aim to create a secure political, economic and social environment. Within such an environment,

Since the appointment of the FAO new director-general, Dr. Jacques Dhiouf, a comprehensive plan is being executed to redefine priorities, reorganize the internal structures, and concentrate on the issue of food security. "Two programs will be combined: a special food security program for countries with severe food shortages and low income, and an emergency system for protection against pests and epidemic plant and animal diseases," announced Mr. Al-Hage.

FAO officials are now in the process of executing the most important structural reform program since the establishment of the organization. The program's main objectives are to achieve decentralization, increase efficiency, tackling new issues, rationalizing procedures, and lower costs. A commission for sustainable development has already been established.

"About US\$ 25 million a year is now being saved through the abolition of 563 jobs at headquarters and 63 jobs at local offices, replacing international program officials with local ones at the local offices, lowering travel costs by US\$ 2.5 million annually, decreasing the number of meetings and their durations, and lowering the number of publications issued by the organization," he indicated. On the other hand, 170 new jobs have been created in regional, branch, and liaison offices. "The results of the reform program within the FAO," Mr. Al-Hage further indicated, "will not be completely visible before some time."

Fifteen developing countries are now benefiting from the special food security program. The FAO official stressed, however, that agricultural investments worldwide should rise from its current level of US\$135 billion to US\$ 166 billion a year.

The FAO representative in Yemen, Mr. Shahid Mahdi, who attended the press conference, pointed to the numerous FAO projects in Yemen, notably in introduced better-yield seeds, pest-control, and appropriate mechanization. "Much of this effort is now paying good dividends to the country," he said. Finally, Mr. Mahdi stressed the role that should be played by the media in order to raise public awareness of the importance of food security and future dangers.

ADEN HOTEL
MÖVENPICK



فندق عدن
موفنبيك

عيد سعيد
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April 16 till 20, 1997

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Single or double, Standard room	YR 8000	US\$ 95
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The above rates are inclusive of taxes and service charge and valid for minimum stay of two continuous nights and maximum of five nights of 16th through 20th April, 1997.

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- * Kids below 6 years (max. 2) can share parents' room free.
- * 50% of the above rates for children on extra room & buffet meals.

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ADEN HOTEL
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فندق عدن
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Movenpick Flash News

Movenpick presents beach excursions with its luxury powered Boats for all public every Friday and during the Holidays of Eid Al-Adha (Big Bairam) departing from (Jazirt Aloummal) only five Minutes from Hotel at 9.00 and 11.00AM, back at 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm (Booking are to be made in front Office at least 24 Hrs in advance)

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- A. Excursion only (go & back) with soft drinks on board YR 1300 p.p
- B. Excursion inclusive lunch box and Snorkeling gears YR 2600 p.p

Water Jets riding

While you are enjoying the beautiful beaches of Amen rent your own wave rider and explore the reefs of the Gulf of Aden.

- A. Half an hour ride US\$ 30 or YR 3600
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(Front office Ext. 1024)



The First in Yemen

Inauguration of Crescent Hotel, the First historical hotel in Yemen

for investor Ahmed Aldaylam

“we have a special suite named after Elizabeth II, the queen of Britain, who stayed in it for three nights in 1954”

Under the auspices of Mr. Taha Ghanem, the Governor of Aden, Mr. Ali Al-Emad, the Deputy of the General Authority of Tourism in Aden, and a large number of businessmen and tourism investors, Crescent Hotel, which is considered to be the first hotel in the history of Yemen, was officially inaugurated in Aden.

The hotel has been renovated in such a way that preserves the traditional aesthetic taste which is its landmark since it was built in 1948.



To shed light on this hotel, Yemen Times met Mr. Ahmed Aldaylam, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Crescent Company for Tourism Investment. The investor, Mr. Ahmed Aldaylam said, "Crescent Hotel is the first construction brick for the hotel industry in Yemen. Thus, it has a reputable history since it has hosted many important leaders and personalities such as, Elizabeth II, the Queen of Britain in 1954, HM Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed, Fidel Castro, and many other famous personalities. Today, this tourism project is inaugurated in Aden."

In his response to a question of the modifications or changes carried out, Mr. Aldaylam said, "We have made some improvements and modifications which do not affect the historic look of the hotel. We didn't change the shape from inside or outside, but there is some renovation and improvement which rise up to the needs of the modern age."

One of the most important suites of the hotel is the special suite carrying the name of Queen Elizabeth II. We have totally preserved the contents of this suite in commemoration of the historical event when Elizabeth II stayed there for



three nights, when she visited Aden in 1954. This suite includes classical furniture such as seats and other things, which the queen used during her stay in the hotel. We only have made simple modifications on the outside cover of some seats in such a way that does not affect the high taste which the furniture has."

"We were very careful about preserving the taste, keeping colors in harmony, replacing the crystal chandeliers which were hanging from the ceilings of the halls for many decades, and maintaining the ancient clock by specialist experts. At one of the restaurant's corners lies an antique musical instrument - the second of its kind in the world, which is considered as one of the rare antiques of the



new investment law encourages us to engage in other tourist projects either in Aden or in any other governorate. We have a project which will start soon in Sana'a. The project will be inaugurated by the end of this year, and it is in the tourism sector, too."

In reply to a question about new investments in the country, and their obstacles and difficulties, Mr. Aldaylam said that in spite of the difficulties faced by investors, especially those who came back to the homeland with the purpose of investing their money, their faith and persistence to overcome all obstacles and difficulties are motivating them highly. Of course, there must be some difficulties associated with any project. However, the interest of the state to assist investors has raised the number of investments in the country, especially after the declaration of Aden as a free zone.

"Under the auspices of the British Embassy, we have organized a visit for the members of the British yacht (Britannia)

which arrived at Aden port on the 7th of April 1997. The hotel gave them a tour and showed them the hotel, in general, and the Queen Elizabeth Suite, in particular. They admired the hotel and its care for the suite," he said. "Our deep interest in tourism and encouragement of the hotel work is visible. We have coordinated with the Hoteliers Institute for starting a training course in Crescent Hotel for six days. The course offers training to Yemeni workers by foreign experts."

About future plans of the hotel, Mr. Ahmed Aldaylam said, "We have devoted all our efforts in speeding up the process of preparing the special annex of the hotel. The location of the hotel overlooks many wonderful

hotel. We have furnished the rooms and suites of the guests with the most modern and comfortable pieces of furniture and recreational facilities."

In his reply about the size of investment in Crescent Hotel, Mr. Ahmed Aldaylam said, "I started my first investment in Aden by signing a contract with the General Authority of Tourism about renovating and re-operating the Crescent Hotel, located in Al-Tawahi, Aden. The total cost of this project is \$ 1,000,000 or roughly YR 100 million. There are two phases of this project:

The first phase, which is being carried out now, involves 24 rooms, 4 suites, the hotel's restaurant, the dance floor and the meeting hall. The second phase, which will start in the near future, includes an annex to the hotel, that has 45 rooms and offices for the management and employees.

Asked whether he has any plan for a new project in Aden, Mr. Aldaylam said, "The facilities which the government provides help in overcoming the difficulties which face Yemeni and foreign investors. In addition, the

scenes which can be seen from the roof of the hotel. Therefore, we are encouraged to make a cafeteria on the roof. The cafeteria will be built with transparent glass from all sides so as to allow the visitor of the hotel the opportunity of enjoying these wonderful scenes. The good reputation which the hotel enjoy nationally and internationally have made us take more care in its furnishing; classical and quaint objects are used in its decoration. We are very careful about making the hotel the best at offering services to the guests."

Regarding our prices, they are reasonable and affordable to all people. They are as follows:

	Resident	Yemeni
Single room	45 US\$	4500 YR
Double room	55 US\$	5500 YR
Tree bed room	65 US\$	6500 YR
(Suit)	85 US\$	9000 YR
(Royal suit)	100 US\$	9000 YR

There is a special discount for embassies, diplomatic missions, ministries, firms, companies and tourist agencies which is made according to a contract between the two sides.



افتتاح فندق كرسنت-التواهي، أول فندق في اليمن تاريخيا



The First in Yemen

للمستثمر أحمد الديلم

"احتفظنا بجناح خاص باسم الملكة (اليزابيث) الثانية ملكة بريطانيا التي أقامت فيه ثلاث ليالي عام ١٩٥٤م."

وايمان بعض المستثمرين الجادين قد دفعهم لتجاوز كل المصاعب والعقبات. ولا يخلو أي مشروع الا وتوجد فيه بعض العقبات.

وكذلك اهتمام الدولة بالمستثمرين وتسهيل وتذليل بعض المصاعب قد رفع عدد الاستثمارات في البلد وخاصة بعد اعلان عدن منطقة حرة.

وواصل الاستاذ أحمد الديلم حديثه قائلا:

"نظمنا زيارة للفندق - برعاية السفارة البريطانية - لأعضاء اليخت البريطاني (بريتانيا) الذي وصل إلى ميناء عدن في ٧ فبراير ١٩٩٧م حيث قام الفندق باستضافتهم وإطلاعهم على محتويات الفندق وبالأخص جناح الملكة (اليزابيث)، وقد نال إعجابهم بما شاهدوا من اهتمام الفندق بالجناح.

اهتمنا بالسياحة وتشجيع العمل الفندق في عدن، فقد قمنا بالتنسيق مع المعهد الفندقي لإقامة دورة تدريبية مجانية في فندق كرسنت لمدة ستة أيام لتعليم وتدريب الكوادر اليمنية وتأهيلها على يد خبرات أجنبية."

واعادة نجف الكريستال التي تدلت منذ عشرات السنين من أسقف الصالات الكبيرة لآيتجزأ مما احتواه الفندق منذ انشائه. مع إعادة صيانه الساعة العتيقة على أيدي خبرات عالية. وتجمت في زاوية المطعم آلة موسيقية تعتبر ثاني آلة موسيقية في العالم باعتبارها إحدى تحف الفندق النادرة. كما قمنا بتأثيث الغرف والأجنحة الخاصة بالنزلاء بأحدث قطع الأثاث الوثيرة ووسائل الترفيه على أحدث طراز.

وفي رده على حجم الاستثمار في فندق كرسنت قال الاستاذ أحمد الديلم:

"بدأت أول استثماراتي في عدن بإبرام عقد مع الهيئة العامة للسياحة في إعادة ترميم وتشغيل فندق كرسنت الواقع في مدينة التواهي وتكلفة هذا المشروع مليون دولار أي ما يعادل ١٠٠ مليون ريال يمني على مرحلتين؛



تحت رعاية الأخ/ طه أحمد غانم محافظ محافظة عدن والأخ/ علي العماد وكيل الهيئة العامة للسياحة في عدن وعدد كبير من رجال الأعمال والمهتمين بالاستثمارات السياحية بعدن. افتتح رسميا فندق كرسنت بعدن الذي يعتبر أول فندق في اليمن تاريخيا.

نراه اليوم وقد تم تجهيزه مع الاحتفاظ بالذوق الجمالي التقليدي الذي اتسم به الفندق منذ انشائه في عام ١٩٤٨م.

ولتسليط الضوء أكثر على عملية تجديد الفندق التقت صحيفة، يمن تايمز، بالاستاذ أحمد الديلم رئيس مجلس ادارة شركة الهلال للاستثمار السياحي المحدودة، حيث تحدث قائلا: "فندق كرسنت يعد البنية الأولى لبناء الفنادق في اليمن، وله تاريخ مشرف حيث أقام فيه كبار الضيوف من الزعماء مثلا، - أقامت فيه الملكة اليزابيث الثانية ملكة بريطانيا عام ١٩٥٤م. - أقام فيه السلطان قابوس بن سعيد - أقام فيه فيدل كاسترو، وعدد كبير من الشخصيات الشهيرة عبر تاريخه، واليوم يفتتح هذا المشروع السياحي في عدن الحبيبة."

وفي رده على التعديلات التي طرأت على الفندق قال الاستاذ أحمد الديلم: "أدخلنا عليه بعض التحسينات والتعديلات التي لا تؤثر على عراقة التاريخية، ولم نغير فيه شيء سواء من شكله الداخلي أو الخارجي، بل حصل نوع من التجديد والتحسين بما يواكب العصر الحديث.

وفي رده على ماهية المشاريع المستقبلية التي سوف يشهدها الفندق أجاب الاستاذ أحمد الديلم:

كرسنا كل جهدنا بالاسراع إلى تجهيز الملحق الخاص بالفندق، والمنظر الجمالي الذي يتخلله سقف الفندق من حيث موقع الفندق والمناظر الخلابة التي يمكن مشاهدتها من سقف الفندق ما يشجعنا أن نجعل منه كافتريا تكون جوانبها شفافة أو زجاجية ليتمتع زوار الفندق بمشاهدة هذه المناظر السياحية الرائعة. وكما يتمتع الفندق بسمعة طيبة في اليمن لطابعه اليمني والذي جعلنا تهتم به بتجهيزه بالأدوات الكلاسيكية، ونحن حريصين على أن يكون فندق كرسنت من أفضل الفنادق من حيث تقديم الخدمات للنزلاء.

من حيث أسعار الإقامة في الفندق، والتي هي بمتناول الجميع، فهي كما يلي:



- المرحلة الأولى والتي تم تجهيزها حاليا وهي (٢٤) غرفة، وأربعة أجنحة، والمطعم الخاص بالفندق، وصالة الملهي، وصالة الاجتماعات.

- المرحلة الثانية سوف يتم تجهيزها خلال الفترة القادمة وهي عبارة عن ملحق للفندق عبارة عن (٤٥) غرفة، ومكاتب للموظفين تشمل ادارة متكاملة."

وفي رده حول فكرة الاستثمار من جديد في عدن قال الاستاذ أحمد الديلم:

"أن الدولة وماقدمته من تسهيلات وماتقدم به من تذليل لكافة الصعوبات التي تصادف المستثمرين اليمنيين

والأجانب، وامتيازات القانون الجديد للمستثمر وهو ما يسهل ويشجع على التفكير في مشاريع أخرى سياحية سواء في عدن أو أي محافظة أخرى. ولدينا مشروع سوف يتم افتتاحه في نهاية العام الحالي، وهو مشروع سياحي أيضا."

وفي رده على رؤية بالاستثمارات التي تشهدها البلد وماهي العقبات والمصاعب قال الاستاذ أحمد الديلم: "على الرغم من معاناة المستثمرين الجادين الذين قدموا إلى وطنهم بفرض استثمار أموالهم وعانوا من صعوبات نتاجا لما كان يكتنف الواقع من عثرات إلا أن إصرار



ومن أهم مآثر الفندق الجناح الخاص باسم الملكة اليزابيث الثانية. قمنا بالحفاظ التام على محتويات هذا الجناح تخليدا لتاريخ ومكانة هذا الفندق الذي أقامت الملكة البريطانية فيه عند زيارتها لمدينة عدن عام ١٩٥٤م لمدة ثلاث ليالي.

ويحتوي جناح الملكة على الأثاث الكلاسيكي الذي استخدمته الملكة من مقاعد وأدوات أخرى أثناء إقامتها بالفندق مع تعديلات بسيطة في الغطاء الخارجي لبعض المقاعد بحيث لا تخدش الذوق الجمالي لهذه الأدوات.

وحرصنا الشديد على الاحتفاظ بالذوق من ناحية تناسق الألوان وانسجامها،



فندق كرسنت، تلفون: ٢٠٣٤٧١/٢/٣، فاكس: ٢٠٤٥٩٧، ص. ب. ١٣٦٤، الجمهورية اليمنية، عدن، التواهي

Islam and Justice:

Debating the Future of Human Rights in the Middle East & North Africa

Background: The continuing conflicts between entrenched authoritarian governments and political movements inspired by Islam have had a devastating impact on respect for human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Competition and contention between opposing political ideologies is unavoidable. However, this report focuses on the common object of people of differing, and sometimes opposing, political and religious views to find practical ways to overcome entrenched patterns of injustice and human rights violations in the region. The role of international human rights law as the instrument of reform is the particular focus of this book.

The discussions presented in *Islam and Justice* took place during a conference held on May 7-9, 1996 in England. The meeting brought together a diverse group of activists and professionals who share a professed concern for human rights promotion and protection in the Middle East and North Africa region. For some, the Middle East is a part of their broader global activities in the field of human rights protection and promotion. For others, the region, or selected countries within it, is the sole focus of their human rights activism. Some promote human rights from voluntary or enforced exile, while others are involved with human rights groups operating in the countries of the region.

A controversial aspect of the meeting was the involvement of individuals associated with Islamist political movements among the participants. It was the organizers' intention to demonstrate that those who base their political actions on religious concepts can, and indeed must, play a part in the debate about the implementation of international human rights standards in the Middle East. Human rights are not, nor could they be, the sole preserve of secularists, or of any one religion. If international human rights standards are to live up to the universality to which they lay claim, and on which much of their legitimacy is grounded, their relevance must be demonstrated in practice in all places.

The debate presented here demonstrates emphat-

ically the pertinence of basic standards contained in international human rights law to protagonists of differing views in the controversy engendered by the emergence of political Islam as a major factor in contemporary Middle Eastern politics. This report aims to contribute to the debate about the place of human rights as a framework for the behavior of all parties, and to promote the implementation of international human rights standards as the best available safeguard of the rights and freedoms of people living in the region.

The participants were conscious of the many problems confronting them, but aware of the urgent need for all those who call for human rights in the region to operate within the framework of a common understanding of basic human rights concepts. They gathered to seek consensus on the minimum standards necessary for a fair trial, and to explore strategies for the better application of this fundamental safeguard in the countries of the region. Underlying the discussion, which proved to be rich and wide-ranging, was a shared aspiration that the implementation of mutually agreed upon human rights standards would form a basis on which progress could be made towards social peace and political development.

As is clear from the discussion, the right to fair trial is a safeguard by which many other basic freedoms are upheld and protected. This safeguard comprises many elements both within the narrow limits of the procedures of a criminal trial, and the broader socio-political context in which justice is administered.

Chapter One draws on examples from Morocco, Sudan and Iran, the chapter highlights particular problems which emerge in the context of Islamized legal systems with regard to the uniform application of the law. Some participants raise the objection that under Islamic law there is insufficient certainty about which actions may constitute an offense under the law.

Chapter Two chapter presents discussion of obsta-

cles to the provision of fair trial safeguards in four countries: Sudan, Iran, Egypt and Morocco. The way in which the human rights records of the self-proclaimed Islamic republics of Iran and Sudan are described by different participants is a bone of contention in the chapter and throughout the meeting. Broadly speaking, for one side in this debate these states have intrinsic flaws in their constitutions, basic laws and systems of governance that militate against respect for human rights and the rule of law. For the other side, while acknowledging that both systems have their faults, there is an insistence that positive aspects of each country's record should be acknowledged, and from some a suggestion that the Iranian and Sudanese experiences are useful experiments from which something can be learned.

Away from contentious debate about specific country situations in which several participants have deep personal involvement, questions are raised about whether it is possible to distinguish supposedly Islamic rule in Sudan and Iran from other forms of authoritarian and despotic rule to be found in the region.

There is also a debate about whether the underlying causes of human rights violations are cultural or political. Several participants express the view that attributing human rights violations to culture is dangerous because it can quickly become an excuse or even a justification for the persistence of abuse. Nevertheless, the point is raised that cultural attitudes differ widely, even within the same country, on such matters as the role of women or freedom of speech. The question then is how to bring about change in deep-seated cultural attitudes that may be at variance with international standards.

Chapter Three opens with a spirited challenge to "the myth that the West invented human rights". Various nuances and qualifications are presented to this thesis in the discussion that follows, including a strong reaffirmation that while the West may have played the leading role in the legal codification of international standards, the ethical basis for human rights is abundantly present in Muslim and Middle Eastern cultures. However, there is an insistence that in the concept of rights which hare due to every human being by virtue of that persons humanity there is an important departure from Islamic traditions of rights existing as a product of membership in a particular category of religion or gender, how to bridge that divide, in the view of that participant, is a fundamental question in seeking to harmonize Islamic views on human rights with international human rights instruments. While acknowledging that "we have the resources in those cultural traditions," he argues strongly that simple atavism will not bring about respect for human rights in Muslim societies.

Chapter Four returns to a more empirically focused debate about the problems that have confronted the regional human rights movement in its efforts to implement human rights protections. The challenges of politicization and of elitism are addressed, and the extent to which the movement may be said to have failed because of the stark reality of non-implementation of human rights protections throughout much of the region. The discussion compares the experience of the Moroccan and Palestinian human rights movements may be said to have developed links to the community. The discussion concludes with the observation that much remains to be done to make the local human rights movement credible to the people of the region as an instrument through which to remedy violations of their rights.

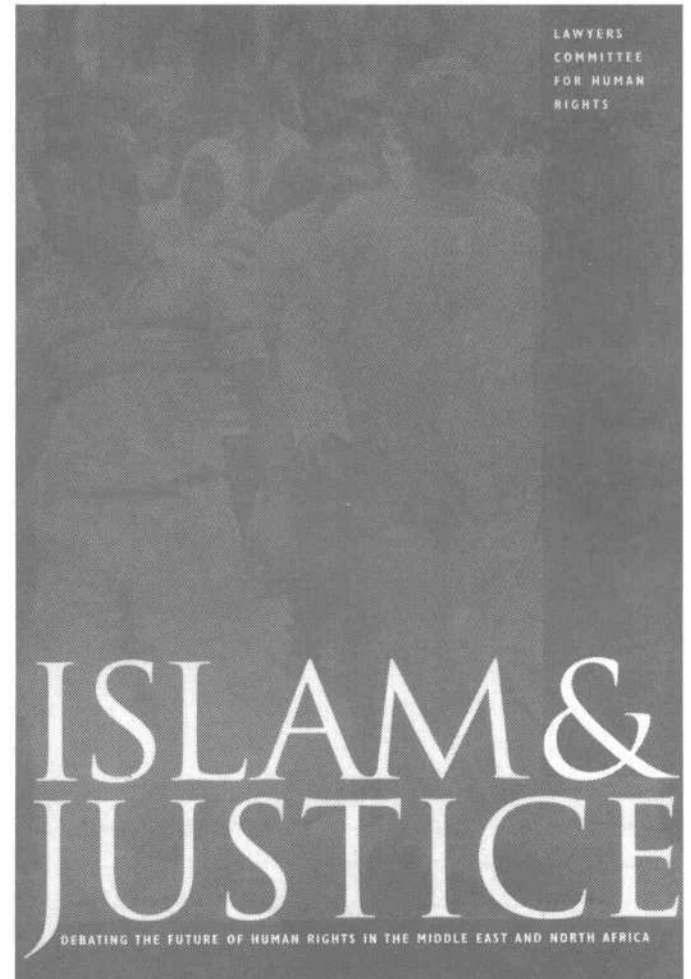
Chapter Five begins with a strongly worded exchange between two participants in which both parties object to the way in which they are referred to in the discourse of the other group. One party accuses the other of "rampant Machiavellianism," while the other responds with charges of double standards, selectivity and misrepresentation. In a way this chapter presents a microcosm of the underlying purpose of the meeting because it demonstrates deep mutual distrust between distinct

groups which in theory share much common ground in their criticisms of the lack of respect for human rights by the governments of the region. These disagreements are not petty, when a participant objects to being accused of being "against Islam," we must concede that such an accusation may lead in some quarters to a belief, and a willingness to act on the belief, that it is permissible to shed his blood with impunity. Similarly an assumption that by definition all Islamists must be by their nature disingenuous is clearly not conducive to dialogue.

The importance of this chapter, and of the meeting as a whole, is not that it has resolved these deeply entrenched disagreements. But, it is a practical demonstration that it is possible to move beyond these differences to discuss vital issues of importance of Middle Eastern societies as a whole. The chapter contains several thoughtful interventions about the nature of the dialogue between Islamists and others, recognizing the need for each to recognize the other and for there to be a mutual assimilation of values. The tendency of politics in the region to be a "discourse that negates the other" is lamented, and the need for the acceptance of a set of minimum standards, or even a code of conduct, regulating political and ideological competition is put forward.

Chapter Six has at its core a dialogue between two participants about how boring to bring about change in Islamic law. One participant calls for a "paradigm shift," abandoning the codified principle of textual exegesis (usul al-fiqh) in order to bring about change, while another, citing examples from her own experience, asserts that it is possible - and far preferable - to bring about change working within existing frameworks. Echoing the concerns of Chapter Five, a participant remarks that the concern of human rights activists must be whether both of these advocates of reform, working on the basis of divergent premises, will be able to continue their work with security.

Taken as a whole, the report makes a contribution to a process by which areas of communality in understanding of human rights standards between Islamists and others concerned with the promotion of international human rights standards in the region, can be explored, and where they exist, emphasized. We believe that such a process can demonstrate the invalidity of efforts to dilute the protective efficacy of international norms by reference to cultural relativism, or by expedient abuse of the language of human rights standards. Talking about human rights with people from Middle Eastern societies outside of the small community of committed human rights activists is vital to the task of international human rights enforcement in the region. Many interventions by participants serve to emphasize the importance of such task in the months and years ahead to the future of Middle Eastern law, politics and society.



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VACANCY

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Job Title: LAN SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

Location: United States Information Service

Opening Date: April 7, 97.

Closing Date: April 21, 97.

To apply: Interested Applicants should contact the Embassy Personnel Section, American Embassy, Dhara Himyar Street, Sana'a. Telephone 238-842, ext. 183. A completed Embassy Application form (OF 174) should be submitted no later than April 21, 1997.

Basic Functions of Position:

The LAN System Administrator is responsible for installation and maintenance of the local area network hardware and software, installation and maintenance of personal computer applications on both the file server and local hard disks, training and support of the user community, planning for and procurement of local area network hardware and software, interface with local vendors, oversight of system security, and diagnostic and trouble-shooting of LAN hardware and software, and the cable plant.

Desired Qualification:

- a. Education: A University degree is desirable in liberal arts, business or computer sciences. Technical training in management and use of ADP system, in particular personal computer hardware, application software, and telecommunications is a must. Work experience can be substituted for formal training.
- b. Experience: Four years of experience in the automation field at least six months of which must be in a LAN environment with significant telecommunications systems.
- c. Language Proficiency: FSI Level IV fluent in English and Arabic reading and writing.

Sharjah Sets Up City For Children

The ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, announced the establishment of a special scientific and educational city for children. The city, presently under construction, aims to encourage scientific ways of thinking among children, will train them to take their own decisions, and to have independent personalities. Dr. Sultan said, "I thought about the things which children could possibly want to see in that city. So I decided to furnish the city with all their needs." The city will be equipped with a television station in which children of all groups could produce programs of their choice. They can also express their views and opinions. They can innovate their own games and toys. The city's role will be complementary to the child's schooling as the students will get an opportunity to apply the knowledge they receive in classrooms. Children of all nationalities will be allowed to avail of the facilities. Dr. Sultan added, "We in Sharjah have started reexamining ways of dealing with children because children are not clay that we should seek to mould as we like. Moreover children today have their own concepts and ideas. Children in the West had a privileged position in society whereas in our societies they are marginalized."

Exams Proceed Despite Scandal of Leaked Papers

Bangladeshi authorities pressed on with nationwide final school examinations despite reported leaks of test papers in several subjects. Dodging the issue, an education ministry official said, "We have not yet received any concrete evidence about the reported leak of questions. So examinations are held as per schedule." Some 750,000 pupils began sitting the month-long exams for secondary school certificates lately. The spokesman's comments came amid newspaper reports that exam papers in several subjects sent out early to district examination officials had been leaked. The authorities ordered an investigation into the scandal and extra security measures.

Saudi Care of Haj Pilgrims Lauded

The climax of the Haj pilgrimage is on 16th April, when over two million pilgrims will be in Mecca for the Haj. The Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Endowments has prepared guidelines on Haj which include:
- Pilgrims were banned from carrying any pictures, books or political pamphlets whatever they are and are banned from taking part in any political gatherings, rallies or chanting slogans. Violations would be subject to Saudi laws including deportation.
- Pilgrims were also urged to abide by measures regulating their movements especially to congested areas.
Saudi Arabia has introduced a quota system which aims to ease congestion. "The kingdom is anxious to avoid a repetition of previous tragedies including stampedes and fires, and has spent nearly \$19 billion on expansion plans to relieve overcrowding," an official government source stated.

Ban on Lavish Marriages

In Islamabad a ban on lavish marriage feasts quietly went into effect across Pakistan as part of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's austerity program. The prime minister ordered a two-year ban along with a probe into assets of government officials who arranged extravagant wedding ceremonies in the past year. A draft law prohibiting sumptuous wedding feasts, fireworks and illuminations and laying down fines of up to 300,000 Rs for violations was ready, reports say. It will be enforced soon after being passed by the National Assembly as the government does not want to enact it through a presidential ordinance.

Emirates Single Biggest Contributor to Bosnia

The United Arab Emirates over the years since the establishment of Bosnia Herzegovina in 1991 has given more aid than any other country, including USA according to a senior Bosnian diplomat. Right from the outset, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, made his own people aware of the situation of genocide that was going on in Bosnia. The Emirates contributed much needed humanitarian aid through such organizations as the Red Crescent, and has invested heavily in certain reconstruction projects to help rebuild the country's shattered infrastructure. In this post-Dayton Agreement period, the UAE has stepped up its aid, providing money and resources in programs aimed to train and equip the Bosnian army. There are some 125 injured people with their families receiving medical treatment in the UAE. A Bosnian diplomat in the Emirates, Mr. Salko Canic, said, "We have been promised much help, but only few countries like the Emirates have delivered to date."

Lee's Place in History Comes Under Scrutiny

Two years before stepping down as prime minister, Lee Kuan said he would rise from his grave if he felt Singapore was in danger of hitting the rocks. "Those who believe that when I have left the government as prime minister, that I have gone into permanent retirement, really should have their heads examined," he said in a speech to the nation in 1988. "Even from my sick bed, even if you are going to lower me into the grave, and I felt something is going wrong, I'll get up." Now seven years after Lee assumed the role of elder statesman as senior minister, some analysts are wondering whether his continued presence in domestic and foreign affairs is an asset or a liability. In March last year, after a second heart attack treatment, the 73 year old Lee admitted it was time to slow down, to move on a slower pace, accepting the limitations of age. Now, regional analysts say Lee's outspokenness could rile neighbors, not least Malaysia, which he enraged with a remark in March that its Southern state of Gohor was notorious for shootings, muggings and car-jackings. Lee apologized twice for the remark which Singapore prime minister Goh Chok Tong said was "offside". Kuala Lumpur accepted the apology but said it would take time for the wound to heal. "I think Lee should have gone out in a blaze of glory in 1990 when he handed over the torch, but he didn't," a Singapore lawyer said of Lee.

Ramos Urges Rebels to Be Patient

Philippine President Fidel Ramos urged some 7,400 disgruntled members of the former main rebel group to wait for economic development in the troubled Southern region of Mindano. A leader from the Moro National Front, MNLF, which signed a peace pact with Manila last year, said the former rebels had warned that they would join the still active Moro Islamic Liberation Front, if they do not receive economic help from Manila soon. Ramos assured the former guerrillas that their lives would eventually improve as Mindanao's economy expands after growth was stunted by more than 20 years of insurgency. The former rebels complained that they were still jobless despite promises of economic improvement after the peace deal between the government and the MNLF was finalised.

Arab Countries to Reinforce Cooperation

The Arab ambassadors to the European Council called on Arab countries to reinforce cooperation and begin the process of putting their house in order. Mr. Al-Agroobi, United Arab Emirates ambassador to the EU and Belgium, pointed out that Arab unity is very important and cooperation should be reinforced as the US and Europe are competing. The Arab world is important for the Europeans due to geographic proximity.

Iraq Challenges the UN Flight Ban

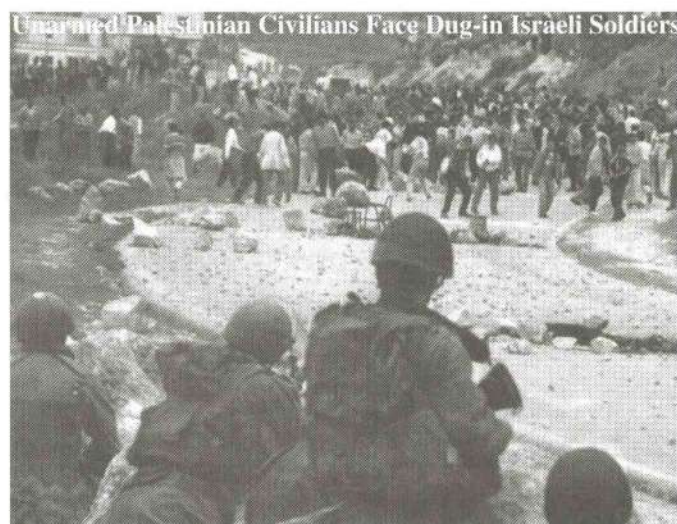
Iraq, on Wednesday, April 8th, broke the UN ban on flights by flying into Jeddah. The Iraqi civilian plane was carrying passengers to Mecca to perform the Haj pilgrimage. Saudi and Jordanian authorities over whose airspace the plane flew could do nothing about it. As the plane landed at Jeddah airport, it was guided to an isolated part of the airport, and the pilgrims were let out to continue with their ritual. The United States stands alone in its condemnation of the challenge as many countries are increasingly frustrated with the arm-twisting tactics against Iraq. Even Western allies of the USA would rather not a fuss of the Iraqi decision to fly haj pilgrims, contrary to the US desire. At another level, Iraq condemned a visit by two senior US officials to Northern Iraq, saying their presence there was illegal and a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. A foreign ministry spokesman said, "The government of the Republic of Iraq again reaffirms its denunciation and disapproval of such irresponsible American practices carried out within the series of aggressive actions of interference in Iraq's domestic affairs." David Welch, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs, and Robert Deutsch, Head of the State Department's Iran and Iraq office, were meeting leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The two parties battled for two months last year in Northern Iraq which has effectively been under Western protection since 1991, after the KDP sought aid from Iraqi forces to help it capture the city of Arbil from its rival. The USA brokered a ceasefire in October, and the two groups have been conducting sporadic peace talks in Ankara since. Iraq claims the US works to prevent the Kurds from coming to terms with Baghdad.

Netanyahu Pushes the Region to Confrontation

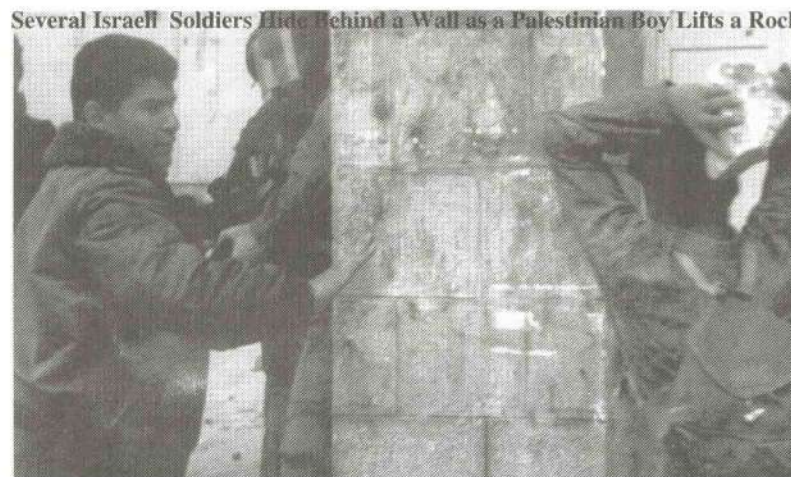
Is the US an Impartial Arbiter?

Commenting on the courageous stand of unarmed rock-throwing Palestinian youth facing a mechanized Israeli army - armed to the teeth, one intellectual said, "If Hollywood had any sense of impartiality and honesty, it would have produced lots of movies of the courage of these young lads." The underlying implication of this statement is that the Americans are not really impartial in the Arab-Israeli conflict. One more evidence of this came out last week. US President Clinton - unable to dissuade Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from his extremist policies - put blame on the Palestinians. He was talking about "zero tolerance" regarding terrorism. And who is the terrorist?

Israeli armed settlers kill Palestinian civilians at whim. They are not called terrorists. The Israeli government kills Palestinians, demolishes their houses, confiscates their land, etc. Yet, it is not called terrorist. But when the Palestinians fight back, they are terrorists. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has gone against the very grain of peace. If he continues to build settlements on Palestinian land, what will the two sides meet to discuss. His policy has left Arab-Israeli relations in a deep crisis. In fact, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said exactly that. "Much of the fault is on Prime Minister Netanyahu's zig-zag policies," he said.



Netanyahu cared little about international political concerns last month when he sent bulldozers to break ground for a Jewish housing project in occupied East Jerusalem. The building of a new settlement on Jebel Abu Ghneim (Harhoma) unleashed Palestinian anger and disgust. The Palestinians, in particular, and the Arabs, in general, are no longer concerned with how the American administration or media will label them.



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UNICEF and ITT Sheraton: Checkout For Children



The future of the world will depend of the children of today. This is an inescapable fact. The other fact is that most of the children of the world are living in poverty, deprivation and poor chances for getting the proper education they must have in order for the hold promise for the future. The plight of the world's unfortunate children is being catered to by many an international philanthropic society. But the task is more challenging than that which could be assumed by these international charities.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and has proven to be one of the most active as well as effective of the United Nations agencies. Because of the humanitarian aspect of UNICEF's responsibilities, the UN agency has been granted the extended authorities as to how it interacts with the world.

In recognition of the significance of UNICEF's work. ITT Sheraton management saw the necessity of doing more than just offering UNICEF greeting cards in the lobby. Because UNICEF is empowered to solicit contributions from the public, the most logical thing to do was find a method by which Sheraton can be of assistance in helping UNICEF, get the funds it needs-as much of it as possible.

In 1996, Mr. Robert Scott ITT Sheraton Legal Council and Vice President initiated the "Checkout For Children Campaign". The campaign entails a simple fund-raising scheme for UNICEF by which Sheraton hotels add US \$ 1.00 tot the hotel bills of their guests for each stay at any of Sheraton's

hotels. The customer is confronted with the options: agree to the US \$ 1.00 donation, add as much to it as the guest's heart will dictate, or not to donate at all. Sana'a Sheraton Hotel and the UNICEF's Sana'a held a conference on the 10th of April to announce the launching of the campaign in Sana'a. The first guest to kick off the campaign in Sana'a was Dr. Santi, who attended the news conference expressing his pleasure at having participated in such a modest way to protect a child from the dangers of the six most common causes of child misery and death, through the immunizations supplied by UNICEF. It is hard to believe that US \$ 1.00 could still go a long way these days,

but for the child who is a beneficiary of these vital vaccines that Dollar is the difference

between getting minimal child health care and the possible loss of hope and life. Mr. Abdulla Melhem, General Manager of Sheraton Sana'a Hotel opened the news conference with a brief background on Sheraton's new social service. Mr. Melhem pointed out the campaign was introduced into the Middle East - North African Division earlier this year. 68 Sheraton hotels in 19 European countries and 52 in the countries of the Asia Pacific.

Mr. Abubacry Tall, UNICEF's Charge d'Affaires expressed UNICEF's appreciation to Sana'a Sheraton for joining the successful campaign which has raised US \$ 730,000 in Europe alone in 1996. In answer to reporters' questions, Mr. Melhem confirmed the attention that Sana'a Sheraton must give to important social campaigns aimed to bring back benefits to the country.

Yemen has been one of many countries in which UNICEF is actively involved in to reduce the deficiency in primary child health care. UNICEF carries out 6 programs in Yemen that encompass activities in Maternal and Child Care, Immunization, Control of Diarrhea, Iodine Salt Supplement, Rehabilitation of Primary Health Units, and an Education Program to increase girl enrollment in schools.

To the question on other entities being involved in the program Mr. Tall confirmed that only ITT-Sheraton is carrying out this program here in Yemen and worldwide.

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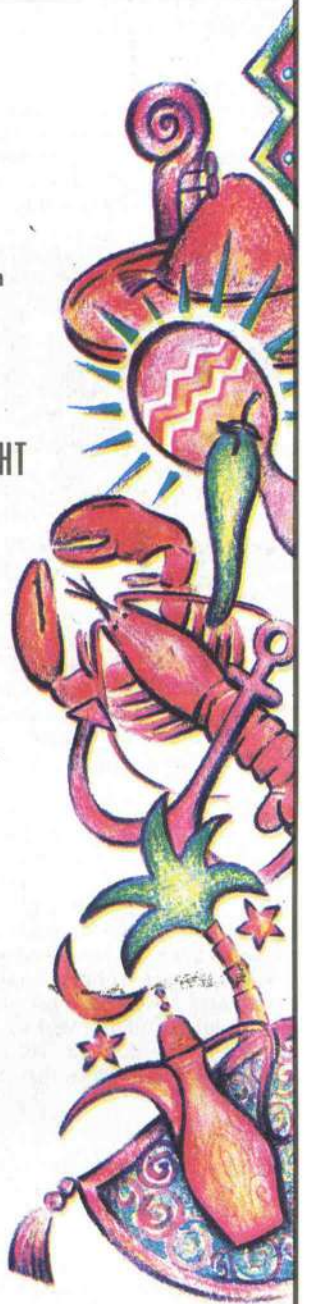
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present their congratulations and
felicitations to General
Ali Abdullah Saleh,
President of the Republic,
the Government and People of Yemen
on the occasion of the
Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak.

Many Happy return

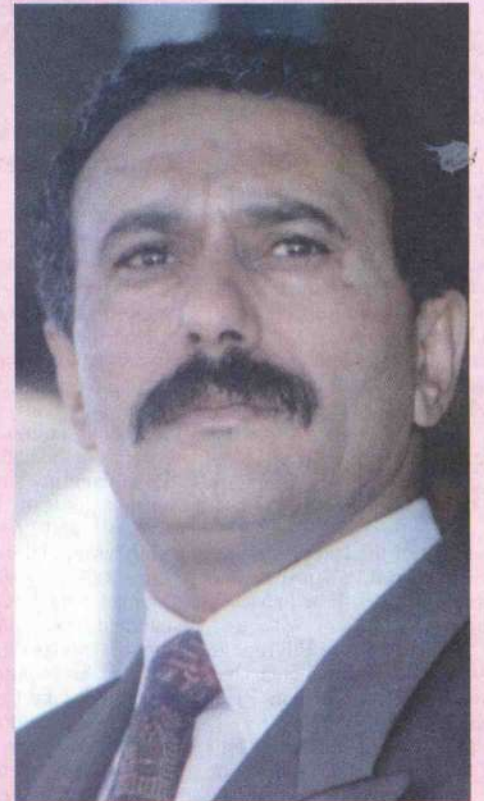
الادارة العليا، والمهندسون، والعمال في

شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

واكسون ويوكونغ

يتقدمون بالتتهاني العطرة والتبريكات الحارة
للفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية
والحكومة والشعب اليمني بمناسبة عيد الأضحى
المبارك.

وكل عام والجميع بخير



HAPPY EID

عيد سعيد



ممثلة برئيس مجلس الإدارة، وجميع الموظفين والعمال

تستخدم

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية

بأطيب التهاني وأجمل التبريكات إلى نخبة الرئيس الفريق

علي عبدالله صالح

والحكومة الرشيدة والشعب الأبي، بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك

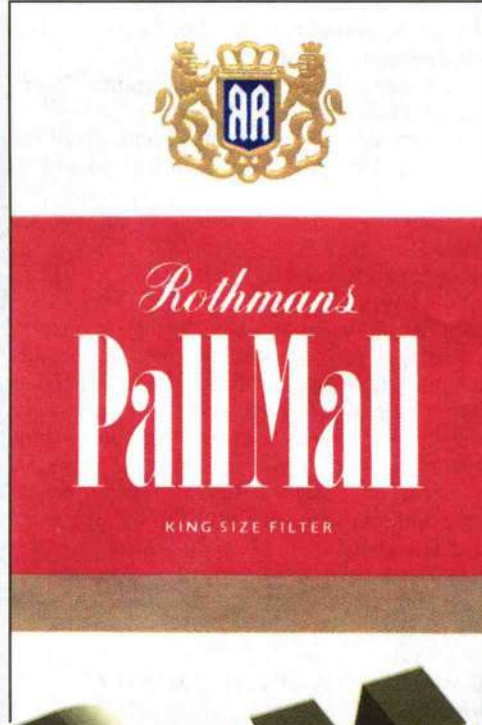
أعاده الله على الجميع بالخير والبركات، وكل عام وأنتم بخير

The Chairman, Employees and Worker of
The National and Cigarettes and Matches Industry

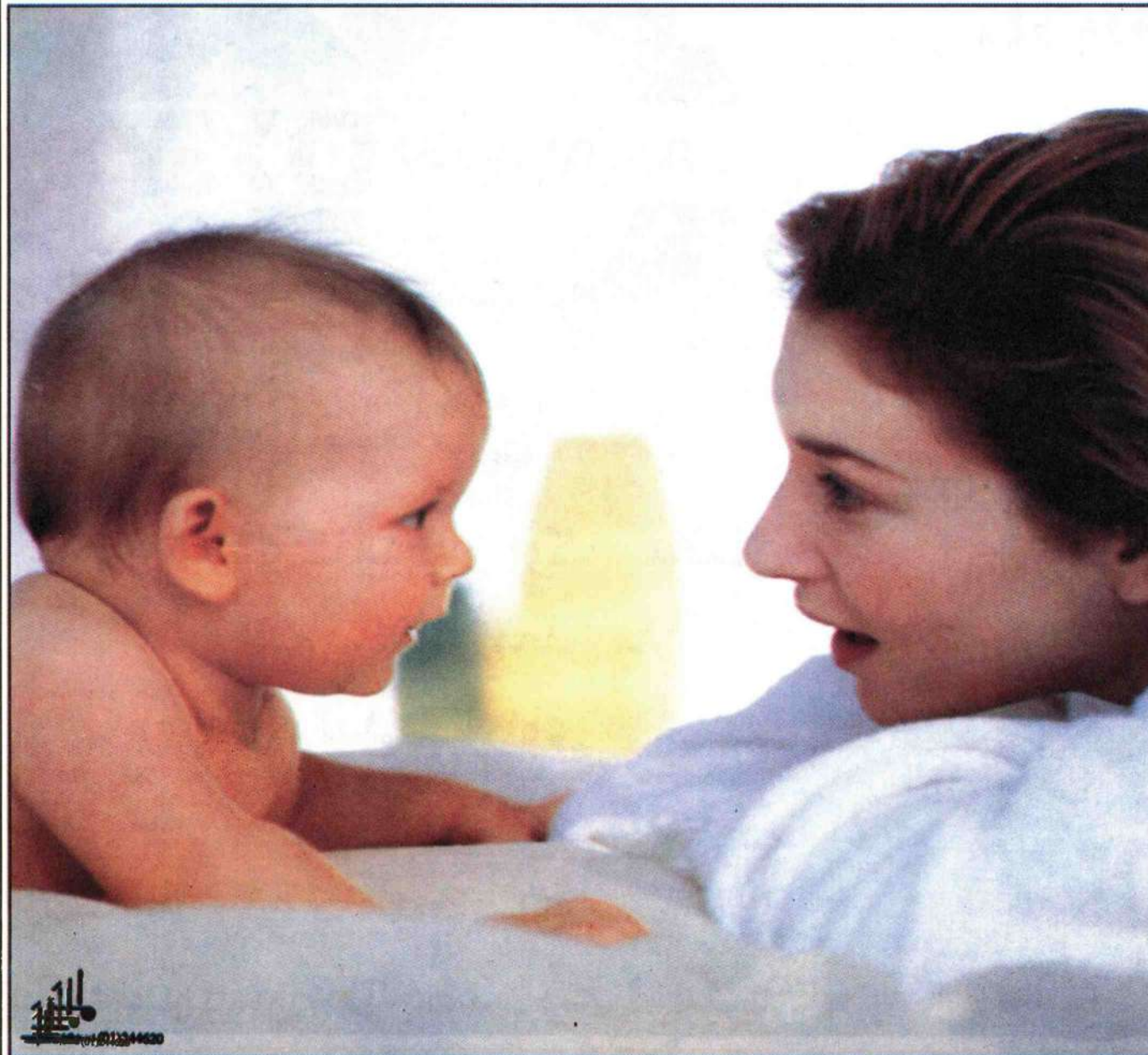
Send their felicitation, on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak,
to the president

Ali Abdullah Saleh,
the government and people.

Many Happy Return



HAPPY EID



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AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 7-4-97
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) British Reports: Tanks and Armored Vehicles in Aden to Force People to Vote.
- 2) Rising Tension Between Islah and PGC in Mahra Governorate.
- 3) Opposition Coordination Council Holds a Meeting in Lahaj to Prepare for Implementing Elections Boycott.

Article Summary:

Will A State of Emergency be Declared in Hadhramaut?

A moratorium on public meetings and gatherings was imposed by the authorities in Mukalla, Hadhramaut on the Opposition Coordination Council. The ban does not include meetings at the various opposition parties' headquarters. In the Hajar directorate, on the other hand, the security forces have arrested a number of Socialist Party members for allegedly inciting the people to boycott the elections.

Security personnel of Hadhrami origin were ordered to register for the elections. They were threatened with dismissal if they did not comply. These developments indicate the authority's intentions to push the country into a dark tunnel by insisting on forging the citizens' will.

AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 6-4-97.
(Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Power Centers Disagree on Arrangements for Post-Elections Government.
- 2) Socialist Party Secretary-General Calls on Party Members to Respect Boycott Decision.
- 3) Elections Monitoring Committee Receives Claims of Violations During Nomination and Publicity Stages.

Article Summary:

American Businessman Imprisoned

Mohammed Al-Osheishi is an American businessman of Yemeni origin who has been in prison for more than a year, accused of murder. He has entreated the authorities and the American embassy to intervene for his release. He came to Yemen two years ago, looking for investment opportunities. The Rada'a primary court had postponed his case hearing for 12 times because the



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

murdered man's brother has not made a litigation. Al-Osheishi's lawyer has pointed out that his client is still in prison despite all evidence and investigations indicating his innocence. The continuation of his imprisonment flagrantly contradicts Article 322 of the law of criminal procedures. The lawyer has called for a quick and fair trial.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly during elections) 8-4-97

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Grassroots of Ruling Coalition Partners Abort Constituency-Sharing Agreement.
- 2) Salary Payment is Subject to Holding Elections Card.
- 3) Nasserite Candidates Conduct Field Visits.
- 4) 13 Students Arrested in Amman Accused of Planning to Burn Israeli Embassy.

Article Summary:

All Orders Do Not Evacuate a Villa

A police force was sent in October, 1994, to evict a squatter and his family from villa 28, Saba'a St., Aden. They returned without enforcing the order, alleging that they only found the squatter's family. The squatter is a PSO employee who took over the villa when the forces of legitimacy entered Aden towards the end of the civil war of '94. He kicked out the villa's rightful owner, claiming that it was originally taken from him when he fled Aden with former president Ali Nasser Mohammed after the events of '86. A memorandum by the Ministry of Housing proves the contrary. Despite orders from the Ministry of Interior and Aden's chief of security, the squatter cannot be evicted. This indicates a collusion with some very influential people in Aden.

AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly during elections) 7-4-97

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Islah's Supreme Commission Endorses Elections Program.
- 2) Minister of Education Demands More Security Protection for Schools.
- 3) Ministry of Religious Endowments Calls for Distancing Mosques from Political Machinations.

Article Summary:

Islah's Clean Record in Yemen

by Ali Al-Wasi'i

During the 60 years of Islah's history in Yemen, not a single incident was recorded that might condemn one of its members as a terrorist. The spiteful international Judaism tries to portray the Islamic movement as a malevolent force. Upon participating in government, the Islamic movement in Yemen has shown great benevolence and love. This is attested to by all foreign observers, including the Jewish influenced Americans. The Islamic movement in Yemen is peace loving, but quite strict and assertive when the need arises.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 9-4-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Upon Meeting a Somali Delegation, the President Stresses Yemen's Concern for Peace in Somalia.
- 2) More than 80 International Observers will Arrive in Sana'a to Monitor Elections.
- 3) Secretary-General of Arab Baath Socialist Party: "Present political map does not reflect the true historical existence of the political parties."

Article Summary:

A Drop of Ink, by Faysal Al-Soufi

The people of Yemen have a great respect and unlimited gratefulness for the people of Kuwait. The first Arab demonstrations condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait took place in Sana'a and other Yemeni cities on August 3, 1990. But the Kuwaiti writers and journalists who are maliciously attacking and insulting Yemen now, do not seem to remember that. Yemen was strongly opposed to the presence of foreign troops in the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen's anger toward foreign intervention was misinterpreted by some Kuwaitis as a betrayal of Kuwait. Kuwait's hostility toward Yemen is based on falsehood. Yemen most certainly did not take part in the invasion, nor did it condone it. It was a tragedy of gigantic proportions. Six years on, the Kuwaitis should have overcome their ordeal to be able to forgive and forget.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 13-4-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) EU Supports Elections and Calls for Respect of Human Rights.
- 2) PSO in Mukallah Detain 8 Buses with Drivers for Carrying YSP Women in Demonstration Calling for Boycotting Elections.
- 3) "Voice of Hadhramaut" Opposition Newspaper is Brought Before Court.
- 4) US\$ 3000 Microscope Stolen from Tuberculosis Unit at Razi Hospital, Abyan.

Article Summary:

Ba-Surra Awaits SEC Fatwa

Mr. Muhsin Ali Ba-Surra is still waiting, along with another candidate, for the Supreme Elections Committee to agree to changing his candidacy from Islahi to independent. He is standing for constituency 147 in Mukallah. This change comes as part of the agreement between Islah and the PGC to re-allocate constituencies. According to the deal, Islah agreed to withdraw its candidates from two constituencies in Mukallah, in order for the PGC to let in its nominees in their place.

According to Mr. Ba-Surra, the Islah-PGC agreement in Mukallah has failed because the PGC has not honoured its part of the deal. The PGC has also resorted to using public funds for electioneering purposes. It has distributed dried milk, sugar, and other goods to needy constituents in order to secure their votes.

Announcement

It is the pleasure of
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Dr. Waleed Jazrawi
is appointed in the position of
President & General Manager
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Petroleum Yemen,
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اعلان

يسر شركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال
بتروليم يمن أن تعلن بأن
د. وليد جزراوي

قد عين بوظيفة الرئيس والمدير
العام لشركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال
بتروليم يمن - الجمهورية اليمنية.

Spotlight

Brothers... Why?

Sports competitions are regarded as a means for strengthening the sense of brotherhood and sisterhood, and developing the spirit of tolerance and love among the youths of the world. This is what the emblem adopted by the national and international Olympic organizations signifies - consisting of five interlocked circles denoting the five continents of the world.

Sports carry the peace and love motto for the whole world. On this basis, the Olympic games were revived and different international sports associations were established. International sports events include large numbers of sportsmen and women who try to present a good image of their respective countries.

Host countries always show great hospitality and offer many facilities for the guest teams. Thus, the participating players leave with good impressions and great memories.

BUT what happened to our national football team when it arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, contradicts what we know about the Indonesian nation's good nature and hospitality.

After a 12-hour flight from the UAE, our national team was received at Jakarta's airport by the Yemeni ambassador, Mr. Abdulwahid Fari', and the president of



the Yemeni Football Association, Mr. Ali Al-Ahwal only. There was no one from the Indonesian Football Association at the airport! The Yemeni team was quite astonished for that.

The worse was yet to come. Some frustratingly and annoyingly malicious

tactics were directed toward our team as a psychological way of winning the match, without any consideration for sports ethics or fair play. On these dirty tricks is booking a hotel of ill repute to accommodate the Yemeni team. The Yemeni football association had to intervene and book another more respectable hotel. To further help the Yemeni team, Mr. Al-Ashwal asked the officials at the Indonesian Football Association to permit the Yemeni team to use the training facilities at the main stadium. They rejected the request out of hand without providing any justifications.

"I have expected such behavior. Their intentions were obvious right at the beginning," said Mr. Al-Ashwal. He added that their "insistence on holding the match between Yemen and Indonesia in a city 80 km away from the capital despite the availability of the main stadium goes to prove that."

Mr. Al-Ashwal went on to say that "we did not expect to be treated in such a way as not

receiving us at the airport as its customary in such events. The attitude with which we were met will give us no alternative but to treat them similarly when they come to Yemen for the qualifier matches. But we shall not give up our customs of our great nation which is known for its hospitality even in times of hardships. We shall not let the behavior of the Indonesian young officials affect the relationship between Yemen and Indonesia, nor the high spirits of our players."

This talk has come from a wise man who summarized in few words the nature of the Yemeni nation, its rendering of good for evil, and the natural moral standards which makes it warmly welcomes its guests.

As the well-known proverb goes, "a tree is known by its fruits." Mr. Al-Ashwal disagrees with that because as he stated, "I am sure that the attitude we encountered does not represent the true Indonesian nation and its known morals."

This group of misguided individuals have been blinded by their jingoistic support for their football team. They have forgotten the basic purposes behind such sport competitions, and that they must be good representatives of their country. What use does winning a mere football match have to discarding ethics?

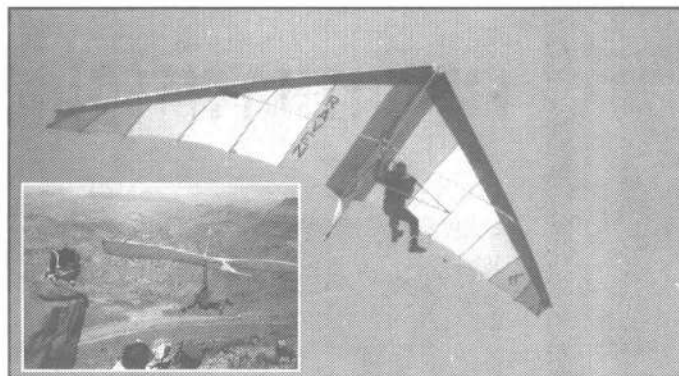
Jamal, Sport Editor

On the Occasion of the Yemeni Parliamentary Elections
Two French Stars Fly Over the Mountains of Yemen

The skies over Taiz and Ibb have witnessed some wonderful air-gliding displays by two French champions during the past two days. The visit by these two French glider pilots comes as a participation in Yemen's ongoing democratic process.

In Taiz, the French and European champion glider pilot, Vincent Sprungli, hovered at a height of 1,500 m over the peaks of the Saber mountain. In spite of the dense clouds, he was able to present a wonderful show by hovering in the dreamy sky at Taiz, and landing self-assuredly in Al-Shuhada stadium. Upon landing in the stadium, he was received by Dr. Abdulwahab Rawih, the Minister of Youth and Sport; Mr. Ahmed Al-Hujary, the governor of Taiz; Dr. Rashad Al-Aleemi, the head of security at the governorate and many other sports officials in Taiz.

All the audience was impressed by sharing the Yemeni happy feelings about the coming parliamentary elections. This event stresses the depth of the relationship between Yemen and France. Dr. Raweh thanked the Yemeni glider pilot for his efforts in organizing the show.



In Green Ibb, the stars of gliding, captain Vincent and captain Fanzo, continued their displays. They presented beautiful glider scenes over an audience of more than 45000 spectators, headed by the governor of Hodeida and some sports officials. The peak of the Baadan mountain was the launching point for the two French champions who hovered in the sky for more than an hour. They also made similar display in Al-Mahweet, Sana'a, and Hodeidah.

The participation of our French friends in these activities is an expression of their satisfaction with the democratic process in Yemen.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf Accoladed

Two first-year students from the Faculty of Trade and Commerce, Sana'a University visited Yemen Times last Saturday April 12, carrying two beautiful bouquets of flowers. As a show of their appreciation and admiration for the newspaper, Nadia Abdullah

Al-Khameesi and Maha Naji Saleh presented the flowers to Yemen Times' chief editor, Dr. Abdul Azeez Al-Saqqaf.

They also congratulated Dr. Al-Saqqaf for his outspoken debate with a Kuwaiti journalist on the Qatari TV. The debate was distinguished by frankness and clarity.

"What Dr. Al-Saqqaf said in the debate is an embodiment of the Yemeni people's hopes and ambitions for a better Yemen," the two girls proudly declared.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf's contribution to the debate was full of logic and reason. He wisely emphasized that Yemen looks forward to living peacefully with its neighbors. What Yemen aims at now is more cooperation and a stronger sense of fraternity with the Gulf states.

Yemen Times has also received many congratulatory cards and telegrams from a number of intellectuals, professionals, and ordinary folk. All are in support of the logical stance taken by Dr. Al-Saqqaf in his debate with the Kuwaiti journalist.

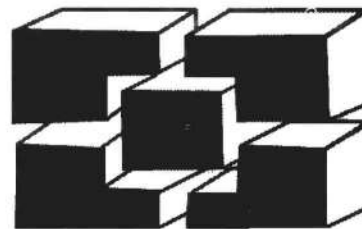


Big Opening Day

Al-Qimma and Pizza Hut International gladly announce the opening of their first restaurant in Sana'a on Thursday 24 April, 1997. Mr. Hussein Al-Maswari, the governor of Sana'a, will a guest of honour at the opening ceremony which will be held in Al-Sabeen Park.

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Why Yemen Should Join the AGCC !

Last week, I gave the traditional reasons why it is in the interest of both Yemen and the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) countries. In this article, I highlight new reasons, as to why Yemen should join the AGCC.

1. Global Security:

The concept of the safety and security of nations has undergone dramatic change in the recent past. This is partly because of the enormous advances in technology, leading to the creation of the "World Village". Thus, the issue of security and safety is now handled within a regional or even world context. No one country can shield itself off from the rest of the world, or can afford to ignore its neighbor.

It is in this light that the AGCC states need to accommodate Yemen, whether they like or not.

2. Regional Alliances:

The AGCC countries were disturbed why Yemen had sided with Iraq in the last Gulf conflict. They forget that, by refusing it entry to their club, the AGCC states forced Yemen to find another forum. This ultimately led to the Arab Cooperation Council which brought together Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen.

It is normal that countries have to belong to a grouping. Even large countries need this. Therefore,

if Yemen is not invited to "belong" to the AGCC, it will look for other alliances.

3. Economic Sense:

The AGCC countries import a few million expatriate workers. What these workers send home is money that is taken out of the Gulf cycle. If a large number of these were Yemenis, the Yemeni market will enjoy a larger purchasing power, which Gulf products can tap. This will allow the cycle to repeat itself, thus reaping benefits for all sides.

4. Political Evolution:

The AGCC states should consider some political change in their own systems. The 21st century is one of modern political systems based on people's participation in public life. Yemen has already made an effort towards this end.

Thus, instead of being afraid of Yemen's experiment in democratization, the AGCC states should study it and try to see how they can learn from it.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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