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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Economy Is a First Priority: Optimism Regarding New Government

On Friday, May 15th, a new government was announced. A couple of days earlier, the prime minister had been announced.

Yemenis entrust a lot of hope on the Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Saeed Bin Ghanim.

The 56 year old economist is well respected within Yemen and outside. He hails from Ghail Ba-Wazeer in Hadhramaut. Part of his early childhood was spent in the Sudan and other places.

With a Ph.D. in economics and a long experience in economic planning, Faraj is about as qualified as any Yemeni can be to tackle the thorny development issues at hand. His last posting was Yemen's ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

The new government has 28 persons helping the prime minister. While many of them are old hands, there is a visible dose of new blood of qualified technocrats. Here is a summary breakdown.



NAME  
Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani  
Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal  
Abdullah Ahmed Ghanim  
Mohammed Abdullah Al-Batani  
Eng. Ahmed Moh'd Al-Anisi  
Brigadier Hussain Moh'd Arab  
Abdul-Rahman Moh'd Othman  
Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa'  
Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah  
Ahmed Salim Al-Jabali  
Ahmed Mohammed Soufan  
Ismail Ahmed Al-Wazeer  
Alawi Saleh Al-Salami  
Brigadier Ahmed Musaid Hussain  
Brigadier Abdulmalik Al-Sayyani  
Sadiq Ameen Abu Ras  
Mohammed Ahmed Al-Junaid  
Moh'd Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh  
Ali Hameed Sharaf  
Abdul-Malik Mansoor  
Colonel Mohammed Dhaif-Allah  
Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyeb  
Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher  
Dr. Yahia Moh'd Al-Shu'aibi  
Abdullah Saleh Saba'ah  
Eng. Abdullah Hussain Al-Dafe'e  
Qadhi Ahmed Moh'd Al-Shami  
Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Bishari

MINISTRY... and Comments  
Deputy PM, Foreign Affairs; Same job as in last government  
Planning & Development; Same job as in last government  
Legal Affairs; Same job as in last government  
Labor and Social Affairs; Same job as in last government  
Communications; Same job as in last government  
Interior; Same job as in last government  
Supply and Trade; Same job as in last government  
Information; Same job as in last government  
Youth and Sports; Same job in last government  
Agriculture & Water Resources; Same as in last government  
Industry; Same job as in last government  
Justice; Went back to a job he had held in the past  
Finance; Went back to a job he had held in the past  
Fisheries; Old Minister, New Ministry  
Transportation; Old Minister, New Ministry  
Local Administration; Old Minister, New Ministry  
Civil Service & Administrative Reform; Old Minister, New Job  
Oil and Mineral Resources; Old Minister, New Ministry  
Electricity & Water; Old Minister, New Ministry  
Culture and Tourism; New Appointment  
Defence; New Appointment  
Labor and Vocational Training; New Appointment  
Health; New Appointment  
Education; New Appointment  
Immigrant Affairs; New Appointment  
Construction, Housing & Urban Planning; New Appointment  
Endowment and Religious Guidance; New Appointment  
State for Cabinet Affairs; New Appointment

## One More Crisis in Yemeni-Saudi Relations

Yemeni-Saudi relations are once more in a mess. The new difficulties are a direct result of the elections. Saudi Arabia sees that its proteges in the Yemeni power structure have lost some ground. In other words, the hands of President Ali Abdullah Saleh are strengthened by the election results, something they are not happy with.

This Saudi mood is reflected in some of the decisions that have been recently taken to harass Yemenis. Examples:

1. Many Yemenis in Saudi Arabia live without proper stay/work permits. Saudi Arabia has intensified the hunt for these poor souls. Every week now, on average 1,500 Yemenis are arrested and deported back to Yemen.

2. Many Yemeni farmers are used to trucking their products (livestock, vegetables, fruits, etc.) to the Saudi market. This has now been put on hold, leading to enormous losses to the vulnerable farmers.

3. The three-parcel border talks have gone nowhere in spite of nine rounds of talks spanning almost a year and a half.

a) There is a four-kilometer difference regarding the starting point on the Red Sea. This is significant in that it will involve rights regarding Red Sea islands.

b) Although there is agreement regarding the Tayif borderline running from the Red Sea to Jabal Thar, re-demarcation is still stalled.

c) The border along the Empty Quarter (Rub Al-Khali) is not even on the agenda. Whatever the issues, Yemenis are getting fed up with the way Saudi Arabia is treating them. The arrogance and high-handed nature are to say the least disturbing.

"It is in the interest of both sides to come closer and work together. But their (Saudi) attitude is not helpful," said a senior Yemeni official. Yemen, growing in self-confidence, is more able to stand up to Saudi bullying.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Faraj Saeed Ghanim The Little Train that Could?

The choice of Dr. Faraj Saeed Ghanim for the job of Prime Minister of the new government is hailed by many sides. Most Yemenis believe a good choice was made.

Let me explain why.

### What Is in a Name?

A lot. This guy's name is quite fitting. The word 'faraj' in Arabic means deliverance, solution, relief. The word 'saeed' means happy. The word 'ghanim' means victor, vanquer. Put the whole name together and you have quite a picture. The question is, "Will Faraj Saeed Ghanim live up to his name?"

### Experience Says It All!

Mr. Ghanim is credited for the economic opening that started under Ali Nasser Mohammed in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. He was in charge of the planning and development ministry. He continued with the same responsibility in the unified Yemen.

### Good Qualifications:

Dr. Ghanim did his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in economics. Therefore, he is fully aware of the theoretical dimensions in the development process. He is also able to weigh the pros and cons of state intervention and the market system.

### Decent Character:

One of things about the new prime minister is that he is a clean man. At this stage of the country's evolution, there is a lot of need for personal integrity.

### No Favors to Return:

Lucky for the prime minister, he is an 'outsider' to the power structure in Sanaa. Therefore, he has no favors to return, and therefore carries no burden.

### Acceptable Nationwide:

Coming from Hadhramaut, and one of the former leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Faraj has his southern sympathizers. So, in a sense, that part of Yemen should feel it is brought-in to decision-making levels. The independents and professionals of Yemen also feel comfortable with the man. He is one of them. The PGC people feel he is their man. That is why they brought him in to head their government.

When all is said and done, Dr. Faraj Saeed Bin Ghanim looks like a very good choice for the future ahead of us. But much will depend on how much clout he has.

In the past, much of the inability of the government to achieve its objectives was due to interference in its affairs by the president and his entourage. Now, there is talk that the government will be given a free hand to manage its affairs. If this is the case, then the chances of deliverance, happiness and victory are indeed very good.

A helpful development is the choice of the cabinet. Most of the people in the new government are qualified and they are able to handle their responsibilities.

**The Publisher**  
سعيد

## Distribution of Popular Votes in Elections

Governorates	PGC	Islah	Nasserite	Ba'ath	Other Parties	Independents	Total	Governorate Republic
Capital City	105,914	46,685	2,398	305	3180	34,585	204,284	7.23%
Aden	33,699	14,097	1,062	75	3041	30,901	94,645	3.35%
Taiz	166,393	162,056	31,356	11,391	8838	103,382	493,636	17.47%
Lahej	22,951	18,122	2,885	--	756	39,115	87,840	3.11%
Ibb	181,608	97,141	1,983	626	3049	132,621	427,322	15.12%
Abyan	33,939	9,118	2,390	669	775	15,846	66,041	2.34%
Al-Baidha	20,002	22,412	1,969	4,204	538	33,339	84,730	3.00%
Shabwah	8,833	13,684	--	--	14	33,986	58,889	2.08%
Hadhramaut	27,243	27,983	219	--	710	40,228	102,134	3.61%
Al-Maharah	5,239	1,998	--	--	--	3,288	10,789	0.38%
Hodeidah	161,161	45,457	5,133	--	1967	78,902	305,957	12.10%
Dhamar	81,141	40,255	1,006	68	1245	66,984	196,772	7.78%
Sanaa	128,753	51,709	1,888	2,785	1573	93,882	290,653	11.49%
Al-Mahweet	46,374	19,891	121	--	96	7,627	75,937	2.99%
Hajjah	107,084	43,891	2,955	101	2211	46,187	208,025	8.23%
Sa'adah	28,321	4,646	--	--	2224	30,105	67,921	2.69%
Al-Jawf	2,765	8,509	90	--	397	3,859	15,879	0.63%
Marib	13,538	9,224	--	--	1954	8,326	34,298	1.36%
<b>TOTAL: Votes</b>	<b>1,174,958</b>	<b>636,858</b>	<b>55,456</b>	<b>20,225</b>	<b>32,568</b>	<b>803,163</b>	<b>2,825,752</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.93%</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Source: Supreme Elections Committee. Note: Some of the totals do not add up.

### Parliament's New Presidium: No Surprises

On Sunday, May 18th, the new parliament held its first session. It quickly elected its presidium, made up of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, (Islah), Yahia Al-Rai (PGC-North), Ja'afar Ba-Saleh (PGC-South), and Abdul-Wahab Mahmoud (Ba'ath). Sheikh Al-Ahmar was named speaker. On Saturday, May 17th, the new government had been sworn-in.

### Abdulghani Heads Consultative Council

Former Prime Minister is tipped to chair the Consultative Council which is going to be formed very shortly. This council, which is similar to the upper house or senate in other systems, will complement the parliament in its functions.

### Al-Jifry's Son Arrested

Ali Zainal-Abideen bin Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifry was arrested in Tarim, Hadhramaut, last week. Ali, a clergyman and religious preacher, is not into politics, although his father is the leader of MOWJ, the main opposition party abroad. No charges, as yet.

### Art Exhibitions in Sanaa This Week

During the period May 19-22, 1997, Karen Tailard will show her art-work. The exhibition, under the auspices of the Halaqa, will be held on the top of "City End Market" on Hadda Road. During 20-27 May, 1997, Hakim Al-Akel will exhibit his plastic art work at the Hadda Gallery. Hakim, of course, is one of the prominent artists of Yemen.

### The Westminster to Visit Hodeidah

HMS the Westminster is scheduled to call on Hodeidah during 25-27 May, 1997. The crew of the Type 23 frigate will play friendly sports matches with teams of Hodeidah. German, UK, US and other naval ships call on Yemeni ports every now and then.

### New UK Ambassador to Sanaa

London has announced that it has nominated Mr. Victor Henderson to replace Mr. Douglas Scrafton as its ambassador in Sanaa. The replacement will take place over the next few months, as it is believed that Mr. Scrafton will stay on until President Ali Abdullah's visit to London is consummated in September. Douglas, a trouble-shooter, is credited, in great part, for turning around Yemeni-UK relations following the low-level they fell to in the aftermath of the 1994 war.

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*MP Abdul-Karim Al-Rifayi*

# "This parliament will work to deliver on the promises made."

One of the new developments in the new parliament is that it boasts many businessmen as members. At least 10% of the present parliament are prominent nation-wide businessmen, while another 10% can be described as entrepreneurs important at the local level. This phenomenon is believed to give the legislature more power and insight in guiding the country.

One of the new business MPs is Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Rifayi. He competed under the ticket of the People's General Congress. Mr. Rifayi, 47, represents Constituency No. 63 in Hugarriya, Taiz governorate.

But working for the general public is not new to him. He is also the chairman of the of local cooperatives through which he has engaged in numerous charity and development efforts.

Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times met Mr. Al-Rifayi and talked to him extensively about his new responsibilities and future plans. Excerpts:

**Q: What motivated you to run for parliament?**

**A:** Of course, there is a personal drive, to start with. But what really encouraged me was the fact that I was chosen by the PGC to compete in this constituency. They correctly felt that I had a good support base.

There is also the encouragement of the general public. My people told me that they would support me if I competed.

At a more general level, I felt that I could make a contribution. You know, the House of Deputies, given its legislative and supervisory role, is an important institution. It has to be filled with good, effective, and knowledgeable people.

In this light, I am happy to note that most PGC nominees are people with good qualifications and high moral standing. They are also tremendously well-informed about the hopes and problems of their constituents in particular, and society in general. They are also conscientious enough to be active in seeking the welfare of their people.

**Q: Was the fact that you are a businessman a factor? I mean is it an accident that so many prominent businessmen are now members?**

**A:** No, it is not an accident. You are aware that our country has a serious economic problem, and the government is now implementing an economic reform program.

So, the best way to interact and to help guide the process is by being

part of it. Joining parliament has been one of the ways in which the business community can be on top of things and positively interact with developments.

**Q: What are the pillars for a really efficient parliament?**

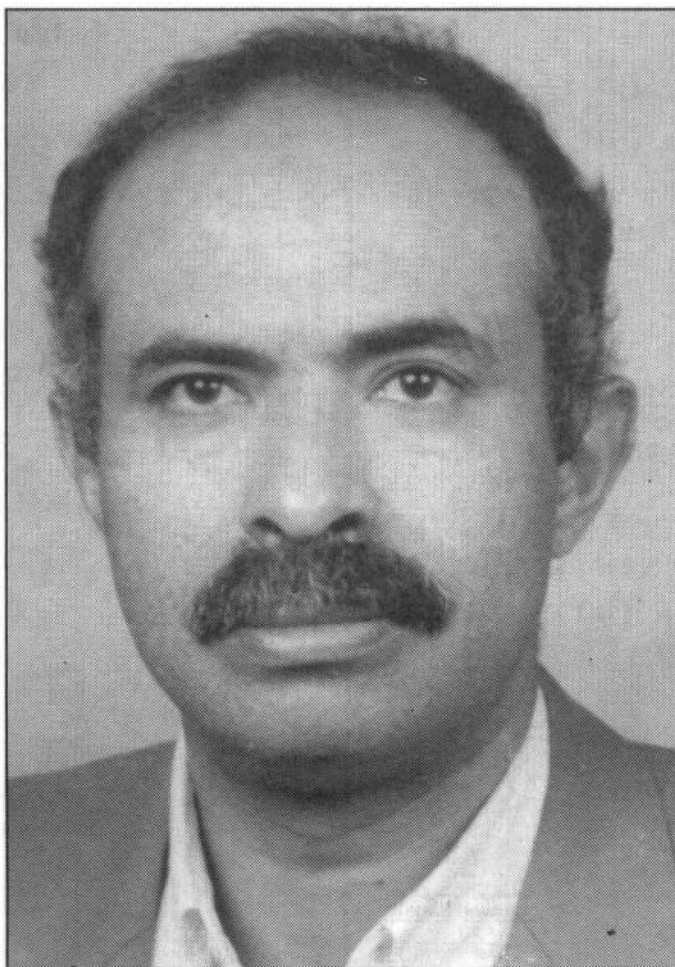
**A:** Any parliament that includes a diversity of political parties and organizations is bound to be an active and efficient forum. The differences in opinion will be enriching to the whole democratic experience. Diagnosing and curing socio-economic maladies will greatly benefit from the contribution of the different political parties and individuals.

If parliament is able to successfully perform its constitutional duties, then it can be considered efficient. Lively and fruitful debates are the quintessence of a healthy parliament. Serving the citizens must be the paramount objective of all MPs. The efficiency of parliament is interlinked with the presence of a strong government and an active opposition. This way, it can be constantly steered along the correct path.

Parliament is chosen by the people for the people. It must be a true reflection of the society it is supposed to represent.

On the other hand, efficiency cannot be measured simply by how much debate goes on inside the parliament. It should be measured by how closely the deputies are able to watch the executive branch of authority.

**Q: What major issues will you**



**advocate as an MP?**

**A:** Firstly, I do not want to give you the false impression that I have a program or an agenda. I am part of a group, the PGC bloc. So, I will be working with others. Second, please remember that all important issues are closely related to each other. They cannot be addressed separately. The

PGC has promised the people to implement a comprehensive program. It incorporates all the major issues we will be looking into.

Among these issues, economic conditions are first priority. This is a complex matter that has many components and dimensions. It ranges from employment to

investment to cost of living, etc. That is, all the factors that directly affect the people's daily life.

I think upholding law and order comes second. The PGC people, inside and outside parliament, are deeply committed to upholding the law and order, leading to more safety and stability.

Third, we have to prop up those sectors that can generate income rapidly and without much difficulty. I believe tourism is a case in point. In other words, we will push the rapid growth industries side by side with the sectors which are important on a long-term basis.

**Q: How will you coordinate between you work in parliament and your activities as a businessman?**

**A:** I am not the first Yemeni to wear many hats. There are many people like me. Your Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, for example, is successfully involved in teaching at the university, producing the Yemen Times every week, and get involved in many voluntary activities through various NGOs. I think it is possible to fulfill my obligations at both ends. There is a nice English proverb which says, "If you want a job done, give it to a busy man."

My work for the people will, of course, have now top priority. Serving the nation is a privilege that has moral, rather than material gains.

I hope to contribute to making the principles of democracy into a Yemeni way of life.

**Q: Your constituents have given you their trust. What shall they expect from you?**

**A:** Let me start by indicating that according to our constitution and elections law, an MP represents the whole country and the national interest rather than the needs of his/her constituency. Serving a specific group will come with local elections.

Even then, I hope that I will visit my constituency on a regular basis. I will try to get first-hand knowledge of what they need and what can be achieved. But this will be through largely personal efforts. As you know, I have been doing this even before the elections.

I can promise a more focussed effort in the future. We will have to wait and see.

Joining parliament is a new experiment. I do not know what to expect myself, although I have been learning fast. It is also a test. One will either succeed or fail -- no make-up chances. I hope to succeed.

**Q: Do you really believe in the future of democracy in Yemen?**

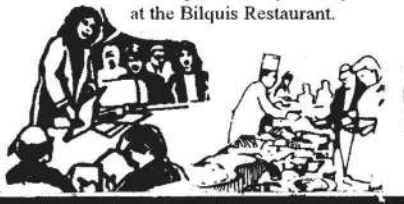
**A:** If I didn't, I would be competing in the elections.

International, impartial witnesses, from this country and from abroad, have attested to the tremendous success of the democratic process in this land. The American National Democratic Institute, and many other reputable local and international organizations, have regarded the Yemeni elections as an example to be followed by many other countries in this part of the world. The public democratic awareness has progressed alongside the democratic process itself. Other nations took far longer to move from the theoretical to the practical aspect of democracy.

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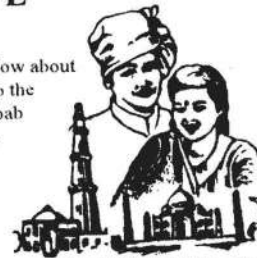


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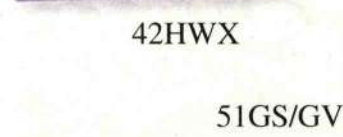
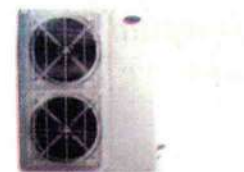
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# Elections Monitoring Committee Report: Elections were Successful, But...

## Introduction:

The April 1997 elections were administered by the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), which was formed in 1993 according to Law no. 41 of 1992. The SEC consisted of seven members, chosen by the President of the Republic from among a list of fifteen persons elected by parliament. Despite issuance of the new Elections Law no. 27 in 1996, the 1993 SEC continued to operate. It comprises the following persons:

- 1- Muhsin Al-Olfi (president)
- 2- Mohammed Abdullah Al-Arasi (vice-president)
- 3- Saeed Mohammed Al-Hakimi (member)
- 4- Abdulfattah Al-Basir (member)
- 5- Abdullah Saleh Saba'a (member)
- 6- Ameen Ali Ameen (member)
- 7- Dr. Khalid Gheelan (member)

As stipulated by the law, the SEC has a four-year term. A new committee has to be formed following each legislative elections. Thus one of the early tasks of every elected parliament is to nominate, through a two-third majority, new members for the SEC. A presidential decree is then issued in their appointment.

As stipulated by the law, a SEC candidate has to satisfy several criteria. He/She has to be completely impartial, has to stop all partisan activities, refrain from running in general elections, and avoid any form of electioneering. The SEC has complete financial and administrative independence.

The SEC's most important duties are as follows:

- 1- Dividing and specifying the constituencies in the Republic of Yemen.
- 2- Appointing and constituency-assigning the presidents and members of the supervisory committees and the main and sub-committees, that are entrusted with preparing the electoral rosters.
- 3- Preparing forms, rosters, permanent election cards, ballot boxes, and ballot papers.

The numbers of such committees during the last elections were as follows:

- 1- 18 supervisory committees: one per governorate.
- 2- 301 main committees: one per constituency.
- 3- 3761 sub committees: one per voting center.
- 4- 9,752 ballot-box committees.

Representatives from all political parties and organizations fielding candidates were included in these committees.

The parliamentary elections process can be divided into three main stages:

- The first stage (registration) which started on 1 July, 1996. Voters' names were checked against the 1993 rosters, and due amendments were made. Those who lost their right to vote because of death, change of domicile, travelling abroad, or any other legal reason, had their names removed. Names of new eligible voters -- Yemenis who reached the age of 18 on 1-1-1997 -- were added to the rosters.

- The second stage started on 1 March, 1997. It witnessed the training and constituency-assigning of the members of the various committees. The numbers of constituencies and voting centers were increased to meet the rise in voter numbers. Voters registered in the final rosters were issued with permanent elections cards. During the same stage, candidacy applications were received. Accordingly, candidates campaigned via the media, elections posters, etc. The deadline for candidacy withdrawals was set for 20th April, 1997.

- The third stage involved the acceptance by the SEC of the local and international observer commissions. The necessary preparations for the elections were also completed. Three local elections-monitoring groups were active in the last elections. These were the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) -- which had the largest number of pollwatchers -- the Arab Democratic Institute (ADI), and the People's Committee for Monitoring the Elections' Impartiality. These three organs were allowed to conduct their work without any real interference by the SEC or the government. The SEC also invited several countries and international organizations, concerned with human rights and democracy, to participate in observing the elections. Many observers and parliamentary figures were sent by different countries to witness the elections. These delegations were organized into 3 main groups. The first was the National Democratic Institute (NDI) group; the second was organized under the Joint Elections Assistance Secretariat (JEAS) mainly for the Europeans; and the third was the Arab groups under the umbrella of the Arab Human Rights Organization (AHRO). A local group - Media & Observers Support Team (MOST) was created to help. In addition, the Yemeni government facilitated the work of international media delegations and representatives. A local, non-governmental information committee -- Al-Jasr -- was formed to assist the media delegations.

## Participation of Political Parties

Twelve political parties and organizations took part in the parliamentary elections held on 27 April, 1997:

Party Name	Symbol	No. of Candidates
1. People's General Congress	Horse	257
2. Islah Party	Sun	241
3. Nasserite Unionist Party	Star & Crescent	88
4. Arab Baath Socialist Party	Palm Tree	34
5. Nasserite Democratic Party	Scales	33
6. Nasserite Reformist Party	Camel	16
7. Yemeni League Party	Jambia	16
8. National Democratic Front	Pigeon	57
9. Al-Haq Party	Book	26
10. Arab Baath Socialist Party	Eagle	57
11. Liberation Front Party	Hands Shaking	11
12. Social National Party	Hoepoe	14

Four political parties had boycotted the elections. They are the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party, the Federation of Popular Forces, and the League of the Sons of Yemen.

## Candidates and Voters

The total number of parliamentary candidates was 3,851. Of these, 850 candidates were nominated by parties, and the balance of 3,001 were independents. Of the total, 540 withdrew, leaving only 2,311 candidates to finish the race. There were 23 women candidates: two from the PGC, two from the Arab Baath Socialist Party, one from Al-Haq Party, one from the People's Nasserite Reformist Party, one from the Arab Baath Socialist Nationalist Party, one from the Social Nationalist Party, and 15 independents. Six women withdrew their candidacy before the end of the race. Every independent candidate had a special logo.

According to Yemeni law, every citizen, male or female -- 18 years and older -- has the right to vote. Thus, based on the census, the total number of eligible voters is 6,976,040 (42.32% of the population). Of those, 3,497,920 are male and 3,478,120 are female. The number of people who registered to vote, according to the SEC final rosters is 4,637,728. Of those, 3,333,178 were male and 1,304,550 were female. The number of people who actually cast their votes was 2,827,261, i.e. 60.97% of the number of registered voters or 40.53% of the population base eligible to vote. The highest turnout - calculated on the basis of registered vote lists - was in Ibb (70%), followed by Hajjah (68.2%), and Taiz (68%). The lowest turnout was in Al-Mahrah (44%), preceded by Lahaj (44.9%), and Hadhramaut (45%). In Sana'a and Aden cities, the turnout percentages were 55.3 and 53.5, respectively.

## Elections Results

The announcement of the final results of the elections was noticeably late. The SEC issued the results in dribs and drabs over a period of more than ten days. This is a violation of the law, which stipulates that the results have to be made public within a period of no more than three days after closing of the polls. That delay, however, was due to objective reasons, including the backwardness of the vote-counting procedures and the friction among the contenders.

The final results, as declared by the SEC, are:

People's General Congress	187
Islah Party	53
Nasserite Unionist Party	3
Arab Baath Socialist Party	2
Independents	54
<hr/>	
Total	299

Results from constituencies no. 204 in Dhamar and 283 in Hajjah were cancelled. Most independent candidates joined different political parties. The PGC absorbed 39 independent candidates, Islah got 10, the YSP 2. The independent bloc is now left with 3 members only. Mr. Abduljalil Thabit (PGC candidate) in Hodeida got the highest number of votes (more than 14,000). At the other end of the scale, an independent female candidate in Ibb got the lowest - 8 votes only.

## Elections Monitoring Committee

The formation of the EMC goes back to mid 1996. Since its official establishment on 21 September, 1996, the EMC closely followed the preparations for the parliamentary elections. The opening of EMC branches, and the designation of their staff started in October, 1996, and continued till the end of that year. During February of 1997, the EMC held many meetings to explain the nature of its work for its coordinators in various governorates. In March and April of 1997, monitor-training workshops were

organized in several governorate centers such as Sana'a, Taiz, Abyan, Mukallah, Sa'ada, Dhamar, Radaa, Hodeida, etc. By elections day, 7,200 pollwatchers -- representing the EMC in 180 constituencies -- were fully trained and ready. They were provided with special EMC shoulder bands, elections IDs, and guidebooks containing monitoring forms. In its preliminary report, the EMC relied on these reports. On elections day (27 April, 1997), 6,043 male and female EMC pollwatchers were present in 173 constituencies. They documented the elections process in detail. The presence of the pollwatchers in the various governorates was as follows:

Region	Constituencies	Pollwatchers		Total
		Male	Female	
Capital City	18	470	280	750
Taiz	42	1192	285	1447
Sana'a	12	354	41	395
Mahweet	5	1234	8	142
Baidha	6	254	45	299
Hadhramaut	13	196	74	270
Hodeida	18	403	120	523
Marib	3	185	6	191
Sa'ada	4	160	-	160
Aden	11	164	71	235
Abyan	8	182	27	209
Lahaj	9	150	47	197
Ibb	16	609	11	820
Dhamar	8	318	57	375
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	173	4771	1272	6043

This large number of Yemeni pollwatchers working in various regions has made a valuable contribution to the success of the democratic process in general, and the elections in particular. They had their share of trouble. One of the EMC pollwatchers, Mr. Yasir Salim Saleh Al-Bani (card no. 26D, constituency # 73 C) was shot at during the skirmish that took place in the Lahaj constituency. He now has a fractured hand.

## Comments on the Elections

Essentially the elections were successful and represent a milestone in the development of political life in Yemen. The efforts to adhere to the law and the transparency that characterized most stages of the elections are to be commended. There are, however, some observations that must be made in order to help enrich and improve the democratic process, and rectify its shortcomings.

### 1- Unhelpful Voter Attitude:

During campaigning in general, and on voting day in particular, a number of irregularities and violations took place. These were largely due to wrong behavior by the citizens. Some were deliberately done to serve the interests of candidates. Others were due to the new nature of the democratic experience, low level of awareness, and the widespread illiteracy. The most serious violations were as follows:

- a- Continuation of elections campaigning to voting day and inside voting centers, contrary to the stipulations of the law.
- b- Some voters went into voting centers to cast their ballots fully armed.
- c- Refusal by some voters to dip their thumbs in the special ink after casting their votes.
- d- High ranking government officials went to vote accompanied by large numbers of body guards;
- e- Some voters disclosed the names of their chosen candidates while still at the voting center;
- f- Some voters sent others to vote in their place; and
- g- Some female voters went with their men folk to choose the appropriate candidate for them.

### 2- Inadequate Administration of the Elections:

The most important problem that marred the elections was related to the administration of it. Doubts were expressed regarding the legitimacy and impartiality of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC). This can be clearly seen through the following.

- a- Litigations were made to contest the SEC's legitimacy. Many called for the formation of a new committee in accordance with Law no. 27 of 1996.
- b- Court rulings were issued upon litigations to oblige the SEC to form main committees and sub-committees.
- c- Mistakes were discovered on ballot papers regarding the names and logos of candidates.
- d- A shortage of ballot papers occurred due to allowing some registered voters who did not collect their elections cards.
- e- It seems the SEC used two types of ink: one removable and the other more permanent.
- f- Using various excuses, some voting centers were opened later than the specified time.
- g- Some members of the elections administration committees informed their (big) parties about the progress, irregularities and results of elections before reporting to the SEC. Hence, the major parties were able to evaluate the situation before the others.
- h- Contradictory instructions were often sent to the elections committees and subcommittees.
- i- No arrangements were made for the handicapped to cast their votes.
- j- The declaration of the final results was delayed.

### 3- Violence and Incidents:

Fears of violence expressed before voting day never materialized. This may be due to the positive role played by the security teams and the awareness of people. Even then, violence leading to death did occur. Some of these happened in:

- a- constituency # 204, in Sanaban, Dhamar.
- b- constituency # 128, in Mukairas, Abyan.
- c- constituency # 73, in Mahalla, Lahaj.
- d- constituency # 300, in Abeeda, Marib.

e- constituency # 61, in Jabal Habashi, Taiz.  
f- constituency # 251, in Khowlan, Sanaa.

### 4- Armed/Security Forces Votes Tip the Balance in Favor of Some Candidates:

The current general elections law needs to be amended regarding the vote registration of members of the armed and security forces. The transfer of military camps from one place to another in the months preceding the elections influenced the results in certain constituencies.

### 5- Attempts to Frustrate Petitioning of Results:

The post-election situation clearly limits any contestation of the results. Neither the proper channels nor simple procedures were readily available for lodging contestations. Complainers also doubt the credibility/impartiality of those persons responsible for receiving the petitions. A general, de facto atmosphere prevails. However, many petitions were turned in to contest election results. Many more petitions could be turned during the first sitting of the parliament.

### 6- Decision to Boycott the Elections:

Four parties boycotted the elections. These are the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party, the Federation of Popular Forces, and the League of the Sons of Yemen. This decision affected the voter turnout, especially in the southern governorates, where turnout was lower than the national average. The boycott, however, was not wide enough to discredit the elections results.

The boycotting parties were able to exercise their rights in publicly, freely and directly advocate their cause.

It would have been useful had the parties and citizens boycotting the elections collected their voting cards. Boycotting is related to ballot-casting rather than completing the procedures related to the rights of citizens in preparing to vote.

### 7- Participation of Marginalized Groups:

Yemeni law guarantees for all Yemenis, who meet the relevant conditions, the right to vote and stand in elections. Despite that, women and certain marginalized groups were unable to exercise their rights fully.

The April 27, 1997 elections witnessed serious efforts to involve these previously marginalized groups. All parties agreed to push women to vote and stand. A total of 17 female members ran for parliament. Two PGC women representing constituencies in Aden have succeeded in winning.

For the first time in Yemen's history, a person from a disadvantaged Akhdam (servants) class had nominated himself as independent in constituency # 40 in Dimnat Khadir, Taiz. Although he did not win, the fact that his nomination was officially accepted and he ran is a proof of the positive development of Yemeni political life.

## Recommendations:

The EMC recommends the following:

- 1) The legal requirement that stipulates reviewing of the electoral rosters at the beginning of every year must be fully enforced. We recommend that the SEC publish the list on the first day of every year giving ample time for corrections.
- 2) When nominating members to the new SEC, strong personalities who are not easily swayed by the authority, political parties, or power centers need to be chosen. Female members must be included in the SEC.
- 3) The elections timetable must be reviewed so as to allow enough time for printing ballot papers, candidacy withdrawals, and electioneering.
- 4) Training of personnel administering the elections must be continued and intensified. Young people known to be clean, efficient, responsible, and highly must be recruited.
- 5) Electoral rosters must be computerized. A special, computer-readable ballot paper needs to be designed in order to allow a swift and accurate counting of votes.
- 6) A department devoted to working exclusively with local and international elections observers needs to be established within the SEC.
- 7) The SEC should embark on a continuous and comprehensive campaign to raise public awareness regarding the elections system and procedures.
- 8) Members of the armed and security forces should exercise their right to vote, without being manipulated to serve political ends. The EMC suggests to amend the elections law by:
  - a- Stipulating that the votes of the members of the armed/security forces are to be counted in their village of origin, or the place of domicile within the last four years.
  - b- Arrangements must be made for the security personnel guarding the elections committees, and the persons administering the elections must be allowed to cast their votes like any other citizens.
  - 9) Arrangements and facilities must be made for handicapped people to vote.
  - 10) To review the campaign process, especially as far as the use of official media is concerned. Citizens need to be able to distinguish among the candidates and to see what they stand for. Towards this end, we suggest:
    - to extend the period of electioneering.
    - to increase the time allocate for campaigning on television and radio stations.
    - to use the local radio stations.
    - to arrange debates and talks among candidates.

Issued in Sanaa on 12/05/1997

### Signed:

**Ms. Shada Mohammed Nasser**  
**Ms. Salwa Ahmed Qassem Dammaq**  
**Dr. Salahudeen Haddash**  
**Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**

## *The RSF Annual Report on the Arab Countries:*

# "On the whole, the state of press freedom in the Middle East deteriorated in 1996."

"The purpose of a newspaper is to inform citizens of the intentions and orders of the government." That was how an editorial in one Middle East daily defined the role of the press when journalism first made an appearance in the region in the 19th century - and little has changed since.

Journalists pass on the views and standpoints of the authorities and act as a bridge between government and people. Unlike other parts of the world, North Africa and the Middle East - excluding Israel - is a homogenous region where there is no democracy. From Tunis to Baghdad, from Damascus to Sanaa, the media are regarded in much the same way: their independence barely accepted, their freedom seldom tolerated.

North Africa and the Middle East is not the region where most journalists are killed (Algeria is a case apart and needs to be dealt with separately), nor the one where most are imprisoned. But let there be no mistake: the state of press freedom is healthier just about everywhere else in the world than in these countries. True, some improvements have been noted in Egypt and Kuwait, and a degree of diversity has reached Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan and Morocco. But elsewhere journalists who have dared to go beyond the limits laid down by those in power have at best been dismissed, made redundant or transferred to other jobs, or at worst thrown into jail, sometimes for long periods. On the whole, the state of press freedom in the region deteriorated in 1996.

A case in point is Iran where, after a hesitant liberalisation in 1994 and 1995, the conservatives' victory in the spring legislative elections resulted in a new, tougher, government line. After two newspapers were suspended during the election campaign and several journalists banned from working, the Iranian security services "kidnapped" journalist Faraj Sarkouhi and kept him in solitary confinement for several weeks. Apart from the political reasons behind the move, the message to the Iranian press was clear: any flicker of independence would be severely punished. Some journalists have gone into exile rather than run the risk of imprisonment.

Further west, whether in Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya or Saudi Arabia, the media are stuck in the role of government mouthpiece, with the task of communicating the "government line" to the people. Although there have been no reports of journalists jailed or arrested in Iraq, it is obvious that those who may have made allegations against President Saddam Hussein, the Revolutionary Command Council, the Baath party, the government or parliament are liable to heavy prison sentences if brought to trial. In Syria, eight journalists have been in jail for many years after unfair trials, in a country where you can be arrested, tried and sentenced for "opposing the aims of the revolution" or "attempting to shake the confidence of the masses in the aims of the revolution". The same is true of Sudan, where five journalists were arrested and accused of "taking part in an attempted coup d'etat" because they had kept the keys to the national television studios.

One said during their trial that they had been forced to "confess" under torture. Libya holds the shameful record of country where a journalist has been in prison for longest. Abdullah Ali Al-Sanussi Al-Darrat was arrested in 1973, and despite continual requests for information, it has not been possible to obtain any news of him.

In Saudi Arabia there is not a hint of press freedom. Journalists are forced to vaunt Islam and the kingdom's cultural heritage and to sing the praises of the royal family. The other Gulf monarchies may take a less strict view of religion than their powerful neighbour but there too, old habits die hard. In Qatar the government suspended a daily in 1996, even though censorship ended in October 1995. Kuwait, with its diversity of news sources, may at first look like an oasis in the desert, yet eight journalists are serving prison sentences for "collaborating" with Iraqi troops during the Gulf war, after trials that were parodies of justice.

In other countries, any apparent progress may be deceptive. For although violence against journalists decreased last year in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, press freedom is as fragile as ever. Yasser Arafat regained his grip on the media in the months that followed his arrival in Gaza, with a wave of imprisonments, suspensions and brutality. Since then the number of infringements of press freedom has decreased, mainly because the situation has returned to normal, but also because the peace process with Israel has ground to a halt and the continual blocking off of the autonomous and occupied territories by the Israeli army has had the effect of uniting Palestinians - including Palestinian journalists - behind their leader. These journalists, and especially those working for foreign media based in East Jerusalem, constantly have to cope with violence, provocation and harassment from Israeli soldiers who play their role of occupying force on full throttle. But September's clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and the army marked a turning point in the region: it was the first time that journalists on both sides were deliberately fired at by police and soldiers from both camps. Thirteen reporters were shot and injured, some seriously, in incidents that can hardly be described as mistakes, given the circumstances. This level of violence against journalists was unprecedented, even during the time of the Intifada.

In Jordan, the excesses of the August "bread riots", when about a dozen journalists were arrested, may not have cancelled out the progress made over the past few years, but the work of the media is still strictly controlled by the authoritarian paternalism of the king, forcing them to practise self-censorship. The same is true of Yemen, one of the few Arab countries where true diversity has been allowed to flourish in the press, especially because of reunification and despite the war between north and south in 1994. But the continuing threats to the opposition or "independent" press indicates that the progress made may be cancelled at any time. In Lebanon, new broadcasting laws gave the authorities the chance to divide up the cake among themselves, granting licences to the various ruling clans and gagging the opposition, which had previously owned some of the country's most popular radio and television stations.

In North Africa, the media situation continued to get worse. Tunisia has two journalists from the fundamentalist opposition in prison, given heavy sentences after a sham trial. The government also expels foreign correspondents or forces them to leave the country. In sum, the Tunisian authorities have turned the media into a propaganda machine aimed at strengthening their own power. The editor of a government daily was sacked because he was not sufficiently assiduous in reporting the policies of President Ben Ali. Moroccan journalists have an easier time, but they still come up against the same taboos: they cannot report on issues concerning the monarchy or the disputed Western Sahara, although it is true that very few Moroccans oppose official policy on the former Spanish colony. But although there are few flagrant infringements of press freedom in Morocco, self-censorship holds sway in newspaper offices and there is constant pressure on local and foreign journalists. In Mauritania, the liberalisation of 1991 was quickly forgotten and the country beat all records where censorship was concerned: the interior ministry suspended a publication about every three weeks in 1996 - a total of 17. In a country where the leading newspapers count their readers in hundreds, such harassment has the effect of financially strangling the independent press.

And then there is Algeria where journalists, like the rest of the population, have been the target of terrible violence in the past four years: 57 reporters, photographers and newspaper editors have been killed since May 1993 in attacks blamed on armed Moslem fundamentalist groups that have always regarded the press as an ally of the government. These extremists have threatened to "punish with the sword those who fight with their pens". Moreover, as the murder of a journalist always gets plenty of publicity, it is a cost-effective way for the groups to make the point that they can strike wherever and whenever they want. To date no investigation of these killings has reached a firm conclusion, no trial has been held and the police have never arrested a suspect. The only ray of hope in these grim statistics is that the number of murders fell sharply compared to previous years. Eight journalists were killed in 1996, against 22 the year before.

But Algerian journalists have also had to cope with a crackdown by the government, which now exerts complete control of news in a way that recalls the darkest days of single-party rule and a press that was to all intents and purposes government-controlled.

Nonetheless, press freedom has moved forward in some countries. Perhaps the most noteworthy case is that of Egyptian journalists, who have carried on an exemplary struggle against the freedom-stifling law the government wanted to impose on them. After a year of protests, the authorities were forced to give in to the demands of the profession who managed to secure a return to the previous law on sentencing for press offences, an improvement in their status and "guarantees" on the free flow of information. This victory was particularly important because six journalists had been sentenced to prison terms under the new legislation. The Egyptian press is, however, still obliged to practise self-censorship on many issues, especially allegations against the head of state and his family. And although censorship of the national press has been abolished, it remains in force for foreign publications.

### Yemen:

The government hovered between benevolent paternalism and sometimes violent authoritarianism in 1996. One journalist was arrested and another assaulted; the independent and opposition press had to endure continual threats and the flow of news met many obstacles. Yet Yemen remains one of the few Arab countries with a truly varied press.

Yemen's constitution guarantees press freedom "within the limits laid down by the law". The many newspapers published in Aden and Sanaa reveal a diversity that is rare in the Middle East as a whole, and non-existent elsewhere on the Arab peninsula. Nonetheless, the press in the south is often a target of the authorities in the north. Journalists have to take care not to openly provoke the government, which has no hesitation in using violence against them or having them arrested if they overstep the mark. As a result, self-censorship is the rule for many reporters, at least when they are covering the president's activities.

Newspapers are still having to cope with financial problems due to a small readership. The state media - radio, television and printing works - are under the direct control of the information ministry, which monitors the content of newscasts and other programmes. It is impossible to criticise the head of state or his policies, to discuss the fighting between north and south Yemen in 1994 or to mention the country's strained relations with neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

### Journalists Arrested:

Abdul Rahman Khoubara, a correspondent for Kuwaiti radio and a journalist with the independent weekly Al-Ayyam, was arrested by Aden police on 28 September 1996. He was released the following afternoon after being questioned about his sources and contacts. Khoubara had covered demonstrations protesting against continual power cuts and water supply problems in Mukalla, in the south-east of the country. The police claimed he had exaggerated the scale of the demonstrations.

### Journalists Attacked:

Arafat Mudabish, a journalist with the opposition weekly Al-Thawri, was assaulted by guards at the parliament building on 11 July. After being badly beaten, he was thrown out of the building, forced into a car and driven off. He was released on 18 July, but his family has had no news of him since.

### Journalists Threatened and Harassed:

On 7 July President Ali Abdallah Saleh hit out at the Yemen Times, an English-language weekly, and its editor, Dr Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, accusing him of being "an agent of the West" and "a traitor to the nation". The president hinted that violence might be used against him and told him he would be well advised to leave the country.

The biweekly Al-Ayyam published an editorial by its editor in the 18 August edition, expressing concern about the continual threats against the paper: insulting phone calls, threats of physical violence from government officials, and so on. The editor said the state would be to blame if his newspaper were attacked.

Salem Al-Helali, a cartoonist with the weekly Al-Tajammu, the opposition Tajammu party's newspaper, was banned from publishing his cartoons by the political police from August onwards because they were critical of the government. On 24 August security service officials prevented an exhibition of his work from being held in Aden.

### Obstacles to Domestic Free Flow of Information:

In early January the Yemeni government took further steps to restrict press freedom and to prevent journalists doing their work. They were told they could no longer go abroad without permission from the cabinet - severely limiting journalists' movements because such permission took two months to come through. They were also forbidden to make contact with diplomats and international organisations without the approval of the foreign ministry.

The decisions were made public as Yemen was hosting a conference organised by UNESCO about independence and diversity of the press in the Arab world.

The weekly Al-Tajammu failed to appear on 6 May after the state-owned "14 October" printing works refused to handle it. This followed the publication of a report on an opposition party in exile, the Mawj, and an editorial headlined "The Hanish mess" - a reference to the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea over the Hanish Islands that had been going on since December 1995.

"They asked us to change our front page and replace the editorial", Tajammu party secretary Omar Al-Jawi said.

On 17 June the "14 October" printing works again refused to handle Al-Tajammu. As it is the only printing works in Aden, the newspaper did not appear again until 25 July. Managers refused to give a reason for the decision, which appeared to be the result of the weekly's criticism of the government.

Al-Shoura, newspaper of the opposition party Itihad al-Qiwa al-Sha'abiyah, won its court case against the information ministry in late June. The paper had been suspended on 18 July 1995 after soldiers attacked its premises in Sanaa. The ministry also ordered the building to be sealed, despite a court order that the paper should be allowed to resume publication.

On 3 and 10 December the information ministry delayed publication of the weekly Al-Wahdawi, the Nasserist Unionist Party newspaper. Copies were prevented from leaving the printing works for 24 hours. No explanation was given.



## SANA'A BRITISH SCHOOL

Announces a vacancy for a full-time

### PRIMARY TEACHER

The person appointed will be a metropolitan qualified Primary Teacher. A native speaker of English is highly desired. Knowledge of British National Curriculum and methodology would be a major advantage

Please contact the school for further details.

Phone: 203950

Fax: 206134

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading international company is looking for a candidate for the following job:

**Position:** Commercial Rep.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- (1) University degree - Mechanical Engineering or Business Administration.
- (2) 2 years experience as a commercial sales rep.
- (3) Good command of Arabic and English languages

**Benefits:**

Very attractive salary and benefits!

Please send your CV's to

**General Manager**

**P. O. Box 3516**

**Sana'a - Republic of Yemen**

**No later than May 30th 1997**

**N. B.**

- All applications will be treated on a very high level of confidentiality.
- Please write on the envelope "Application for a Commercial Rep. position"

## مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات القلبية

لفخامة الرئيس الفريق علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبي

بمناسبة حلول الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية

وكذلك بمناسبة التشكيل الوزاري الجديد



**ASCA**



## Hayel Saeed Group of Companies

presents

its heartfelt congratulations to

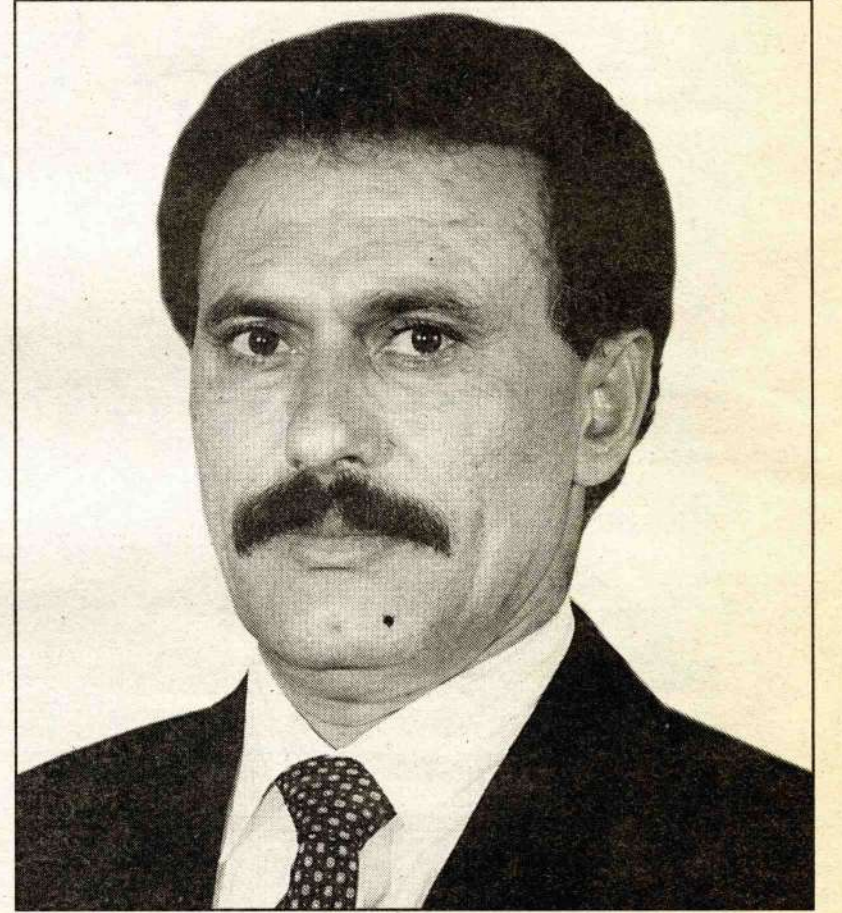
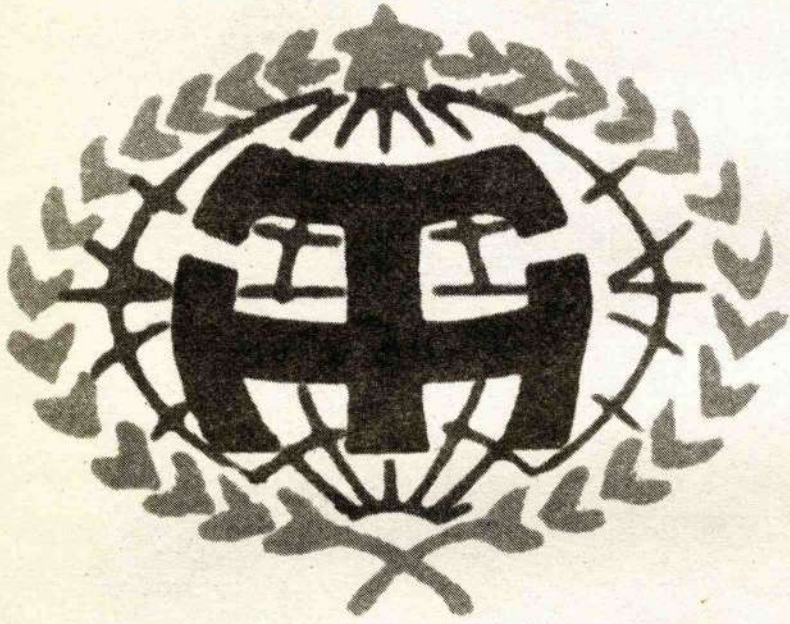
President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Yemeni people

on the 7th anniversary of Unification Day

and on the formation of the new government.

# الحاج علي محمد الحباري وأولاده للتجارة العامة والتوكيلات

يتقدمون بخالص التهاني والتبريكات  
لفخامة الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية  
والي الشعب اليمني الأبوي  
بمناسبة حلول الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية ٢٢ مايو،  
وبمناسبة تشكيل الحكومة الجديدة.



## Al-Haj Ali Mohamed Al-Habbari & Sons General Merchant & Commission Agent

Present their heart congratulations to  
President Ali Abdullah Saleh,  
and the Yemeni people  
on the anniversary of Unification Day, 22 May, and  
on the occasion of forming the new government.

# 22 MAY



# Boxer Shows Its Stuff to Yemenis!

A number of Yemeni civilian and military officials, along with American Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. David Newton, the USIS Director, Mr. Adam Erel, and others, visited the USS Boxer. They watched exercises performed by fighter airplanes, and navy gunboats. Commanded by Capt. J. Kevin Moran, the *Boxer* had docked in Hodeidah, on Wednesday 14 May.

The *Boxer* (LHD 4) is a multipurpose, amphibious assault ship. It is specifically designed to Harrier short take off and vertical landing, jet aircraft and air cushion landing craft. At the same time, the ship is equally adaptable to the full range of Navy and Marine Corps helicopters and conventional landing and assault craft.

The embarkation, transport, deployment, command and the full support of a marine expeditionary force are some of the tasks that can be carried out by this ship.

The ship was built utilizing more than 21,000 tons of steel, 400 tons of aluminum, 600 miles of electrical and electronic cable, 80 miles of piping and tubing of various types and sizes, and 10 miles of ventilation ducting. In preparation for the launch,

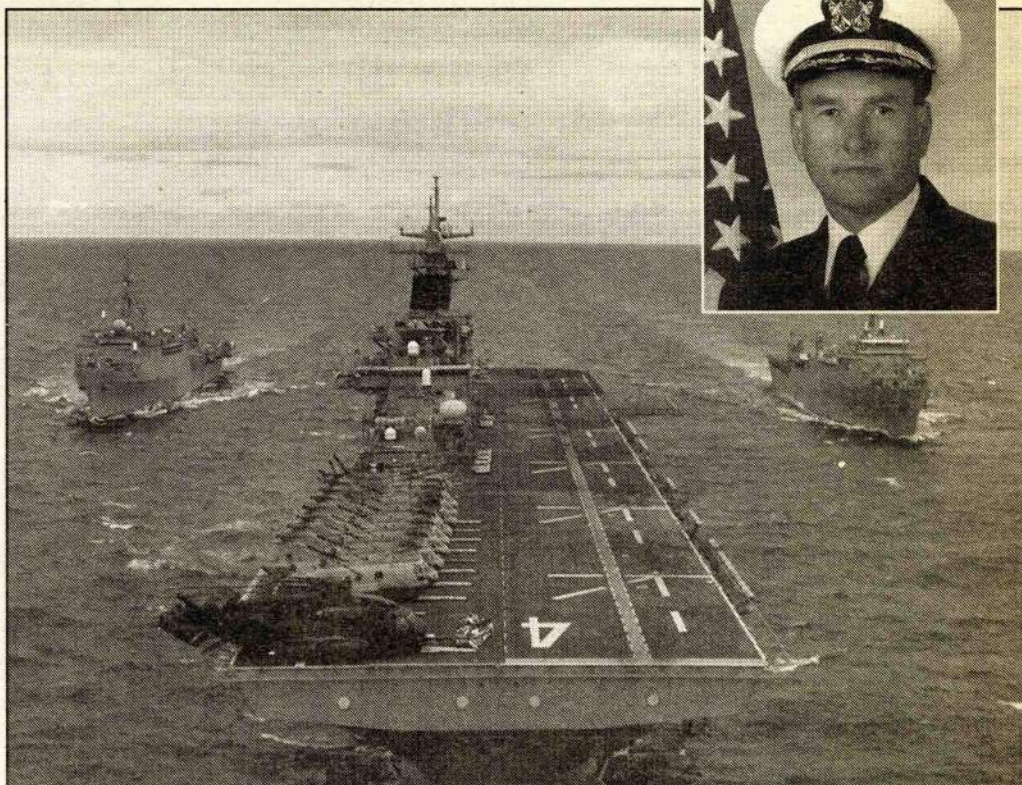
more than 16,200 gallons of paint were applied to the ship's exterior hull.

The *Boxer* is 819 feet long at the flight deck, and 844 feet (almost three football fields) long overall. It has 2.2 acres of usable flight deck area. On board the ship, there are medical and dental facilities capable of providing intensive medical assistance to 600 patients.

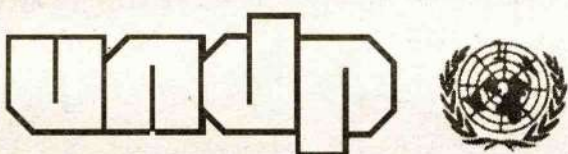
The *Boxer's* combat system includes air-and-surface-search and fire control radars and computer systems, and electronic warfare systems; and a unique, computer-controlled internal/external communications system.

With two steam propulsion plants generating a horse power of 70,000, the 40,500 ton ship is capable of reaching speeds in excess of 20 knots. The energy of the two boilers, converted to electrical power, could supply the 200,000 inhabitants of Hodeidah with their need of electricity, and without blackout.

The Yemenis who went on board came back with bewilderment. One of them summarized it simply by saying, "It is simply awesome."



## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT



United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts for its offices in Sana'a:

### Announcement for Vacant Jobs within UNDP-funded Program

#### Background

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the Government of Yemen in the implementation of the Sustainable Environmental Program (YEM/92/100) which aims at sustainable use of land, habitat and biodiversity resources of Yemen. Within this context, the Program would like to recruit the following Program Personnel which are open to **Yemeni Nationals only**:

#### 1. NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER

The whole Program will be managed by especially established Program Management Unit (PMU) under the general supervision of the Environment Protection Council (EPC). The PMU will be headed by a *Program Manager* whose tasks and duties are the following:

- Manage the Program Management Unit applying administrative methods
- Coordinate, provide regular backstopping, establish and run reporting systems for all Sub-programs. Also coordinate Program activities with other national and international agencies involved in the implementation of the Program.
- Prepare and update regular work-plans and job descriptions, Terms of Reference for international and national staff and consultants, and assist in their identification.
- Assist implementing agencies in arranging training programs and in procurement of equipment as indicated in the Program Support Document.
- Act as a liaison with national and international agencies involved in activities similar to or complementing those of the program and carry out any other duties concomitant with the position of Program Manager

#### Qualifications

The *Program Manager* shall have proven experience in the management of large and multi-disciplinary environmental programs. He/she must have a minimum degree of MSc. in a relevant subject and at least 15 years of relevant experience. Fluency in Spoken and written Arabic and English is essential.

Interested applicants should submit their CVs and other documents **NO LATER THAN 20 May 1997** to the Personnel Section of the UNDP Office, P. O. Box 551, Al-Sitteen Road (60-meter Road), Sana'a. Acknowledgment will be given only to applicants who strictly conform to the above requirement.

#### 2. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANTS (7)

The Program seeks to recruit seven well qualified Administrative Assistants to work with different units of the Program established in several governorates including Sana'a, Shabwa, Hadhramaut, Hodeidah, Taiz and Socotra Island.

#### Tasks

- Daily financial management of the project, particularly monitoring the bank account and petty cash of the project. Preparation of monthly budget status reports.
- Provide update of work progress by selected contractors to the Program and facilitate local payment arrangements.
- Facilitate timely equipment procurement and delivery.
- Ensure timely customs clearance for project equipment and timely transport to Socotra.
- Secure travel permits and security clearances in a timely manner for project staff and visiting experts, particularly those engaged in field surveys.
- Make travel arrangements (both local and international) for all project staff.
- Provide administrative assistance to the sub-programs in implementing activities to be carried out in remote areas.

#### Qualifications

- Professional qualifications in Business Administration, with training in financial management. Proven experience in financial management, preferably of donor-funded projects; familiarity with the financial rules and regulations of UNDP a distinct advantage.
- Computer literate; particularly with respect to word processing and spreadsheets.
- Fluent in English and Arabic (spoken and written).

Interested applicants should submit their CVs and other documents **NO LATER THAN 30 May 1997** to:

The Personnel Section of the UNDP Office,  
P. O. Box 551, Al Sitteen Ring Road (60-meter Road), Sana'a,  
indicating the preferred duty station.  
Acknowledgment will be given only to applicants who strictly meet the above requirement.

#### 3. NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER (Socotra Project)

#### Background

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago aims at the conservation of the globally significant biodiversity of the Socotra Archipelago, through the integration of conservation measures with sustainable use and development efforts. The project is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) while the Environment Protection Council is the national implementing agency. Coordination of project activities and logistics support from the mainland will be provided by the Program Management Unit (PMU) of the UNDP Sustainable Environmental Management Program for Yemen. Actual implementation of all project activities falls within the responsibility of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to be established in Socotra.

The National Liaison Officer will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Facilitate communications and information flow between the PIU and the national and international agencies involved in the implementation of the project.
- Assist the PIU in the overall planning, management and logistic support of the Socotra Island project activities in Sana'a.
- Facilitate the PIU's public relations with mainland institutions and potential donors.
- Coordinate activities between this GEF project and UNDP Poverty Sub-program for Socotra through regular meetings with the Poverty sub-program team, joint planning of activities and sharing of reports and documentation.
- Advise selected contractors on their legal obligations to ensure timely delivery of services.
- Dissemination of project reports and documentation produced by the PIU to arouse awareness of the project.
- In addition, the National Office will participate in the establishment and update of the Socotra biodiversity and social databases (and subsequently GIS), and facilitate the transfer of technical skills in database and GIS management to junior counterparts.

#### Qualifications

- BA in Business Administration with background in Social or Environmental Sciences, with training in computer science and application, preferably database management. Must be fluent in English and Arabic.

#### Duty Station:

Sana'a with occasional travel to Socotra Island.

### Hakim Al-Akel - The Artist and the Man:

"Nature has endowed him with rare diligence, the sense of color, rythm and space."

Born and raised in Taiz, Hakim Al-Akel is one of the best artists Yemen has ever known. He started his career as a student of the famous Yemeni artist Hashim Ali. Al-Akel, 37, received an MA in 1994 from Surikov Institute of Arts in Moscow.



artistically depicts the town as a human being that moves, grows, suffers, cheers up, and loves!

Hakim's paintings with their active color and hypertrophic accent of forms -- being a result of fruitful expressionistic influence -- differ greatly from the directly understood realism. The artist had faced conflicting cultural and psychological problems during his stay in Moscow. The first part was a drastic change of environment, nature, and the way of life. Hakim found himself in a great



temporariness, which is reflected in such works as "Still Life."

E. Maximov, assistant professor and Head of the Chair of Drawing of Surikov Institute of Arts, Moscow, described Hakim's keen devotion to his homeland. "As an artist, he has inseparable links with the art of his motherland, its mode of life, culture and history. National motifs, views of towns and people inhabiting them are always present in his numerous paintings which are imbued with true love of his proud and ancient motherland -- Yemen."

By: Ali Al-Malhani, Paris.



dilemma -- East and West, spiritualism and materialism, cool rationality and hot picturesque contrasts. All these circumstances emphasized in him the interest for the traditional art of the Arab world with its heritage and con-

### Najat Khelil:

"Arab Americans are making themselves felt in the American political scene."

Dr. Najat Khelil is an American citizen of Palestinian origin. She went to study in the US in 1962. Coming from Nablus in the West Bank, she could not return to her homeland following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. She became stateless.

With a Ph.D. in nuclear physics, Dr. Khelil has a strong scientific background. But, the responsibility she felt for her people and their cause, gradually shifted her to politics and socio-cultural issues.

Today, she is heavily involved in a number of civic and public relations organizations, promoting the interests of women, Islam and Palestinians. In addition, she works hard for a better Arab-American understanding.

Hosted by the Yemeni-American Friendship Association (YAFA), Najat - who is visiting Yemen at the invitation of the USIS - lectured on the Arab-American community in the US and its role in bilateral relations.

The following is a summary of that lecture prepared by Adel Moqbil.

The Arab community in America is estimated at 3 million. Their average income is higher than the national average.

The community can be divided into two sections. First, there are those who immigrated to the US during the 1890-1915 period. They were mainly Christians from Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. Their escape was from Ottoman oppression. Their assimilation within the American society is quite good. However, coming from mainly peasant societies, they remained on the margins of the US society. They did not even register themselves for voting in the US elections. They did create, however, a remarkable Arab cultural movement in exile. It was represented by great poets like Gibran, Abu Madhi, Abu Reesha, etc.

The second major wave of Arab immigrants took place in the 60s and 70s, especially after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. These were more educated than the early immigrants. They started to make changes. But many of them were also conservative Muslims who strongly clung to their values and traditions. So there were some differences between the two groups of immigrants. Their merging started in response to the hostile political situation in the US, due to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The new immigrants were more informed as to the actual political situation in the Arab World. While the first-generation immigrants had greater knowledge of the American political system, and how to handle the US media. Joint leaderships started to appear.

During the early 1970s, many Arab societies and organizations were formed. These include the National Society for Arab Expatriates, the Arab-American Institute, anti-discrimination groups, and many societies for university graduates. The Arab-American Institute started to urge the Arabs to actively participate in the American political system. People started to join the Democrats or the Republicans as well as participating in the elections as voters and candidates.

Later on, the Islamic-American Council and the Islamic-American Relations Council were



formed, in addition to many professional syndicates and organizations. This leap, however, had its full share of obstacles. There was a hostile campaign being waged against the Arabs by the Israeli lobby in the US. It was a direct reflection of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such obstacles helped to unify the views of the Arab Americans. The Arab community made good use of its knowledge of American society, the political system, and the freedom of expression to further its goals and improve its standing within society. Arab organizations played a major part in raising American public awareness regarding Arab and Islamic issues. The sole concentration on the US foreign policy was abandoned in favor of a more balanced approach between daily-life issues and foreign policy concerns. A two-fold action plan was adopted by the Arab Americans. There were internal concerns relating to mobilizing the Arab community to enter into the political system, and establish an influence to be reckoned with. Other matters of a more social nature such as education, health, taxes, immigration laws, and civil liberties were also addressed by the Arab community. Participating in local elections is very much promoted. The second part of the action plan is concerned with US foreign policy towards the Arab countries.

Many Americans of Arab descent now occupy prominent positions in government, whether by appointment or election. The current Health Secretary, Ms. Donna Shelala is a good example. There are also five congressmen, one senator, and two state governors of Arab origin, not to mention the thousands of professionals who participate daily in the enrichment of American life. Despite all that, we still suffer from discrimination.

At the beginning of the 80s, the Council of the Heads of Arab American Societies was formed. To join the council, a society must be national, has at least 15 branches, has an important national program, and has a majority of Arab Americans. The council meets once a month to discuss and coordinate work on joint issues of concern. High ranking American officials are usually approached in the name of this council so as to add more weight to the issues being addressed.

A major matter of concern for us now is to increase the participation of Arab Americans in government. We are now, for example, demanding that the American delegation to the Middle East peace process should include at least one Arab American figure. This would give more value to the Arab American community. We are also trying to limit the negative influence of the Israeli lobby which hampers the work of the Arab organizations. When the President's wife, for

instance, invited Muslim children to the White House to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr, a huge uproar was created by the American media. The President and his wife were accused of siding with terrorism! The distorted stereotypical image of the Arabs as portrayed by the American media is also one of our major points of concern. Films and TV programs are scanned for any offensive references to the Arabs. The anti-discrimination committee tries to get such items withdrawn or altered. We also work to establish stronger links with other minorities who have similar concerns such as the Oriental, Asian and Hispanic communities. A proposed immigration law that would have been too harsh was a major issue of concern to these communities. One other point we call for is the recognition at schools of the Islamic religious occasions such as eid. If not to be considered as public holidays, Muslim students should be allowed to absent themselves from school during Islamic occasions. This already happens in some regions with large Muslim communities. We are also working to get these occasions announced at schools as well as the media in general.

The Arabs in America faced their share of problems as other minorities and more. Their problems were compounded by the Arab-Israeli conflict and the American policy towards it. Ever since the peace talks started, there has been an improvement in the situation. More Arabs, who were afraid of even admitting their origins, are now joining Arab organizations and societies. Some of the old activists, however, have been disappointed with the way the peace process is going. They started to withdraw for the organizations in which they played major roles.

The Yemeni community in the US is, unfortunately, rather isolated from the rest of the Arabs. They have not been reactive on the political level. Most of them are car-factory workers in Detroit who need to be approached in a different way. We hope that a counterpart of the Yemeni-American Friendship Society be established in the US by Yemenis as well as American friends of Yemen. It will help in encouraging Yemenis there to come out more actively.

Many social problems plaguing the Yemeni community in America could be solved by cooperating with their Arab brethren there. The courts and the media sometimes deal unfavorably with issues concerning Arabs in the US.

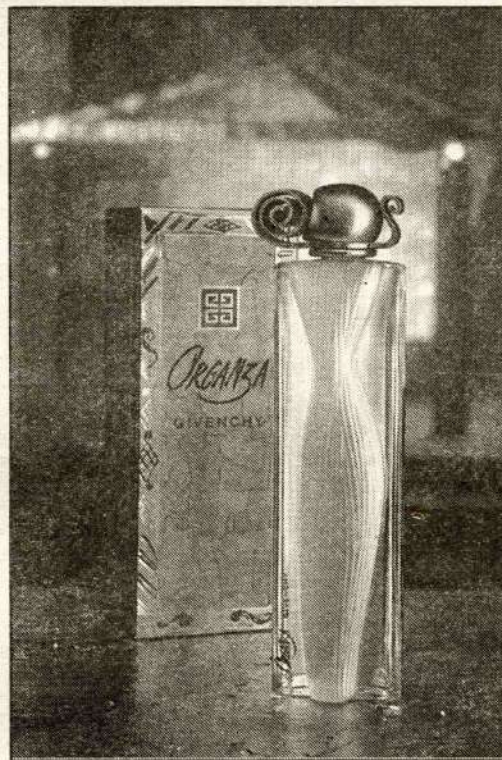
Many Yemeni and indeed other Arab families have closed themselves in, and made their time stand still. This happened due to the fear of losing their identity and traditions. Many similar families who stayed in their original countries have developed more naturally with the passage of time. These immigrants can open up, and remain faithful to their roots at the same time.



## HASCO's Gift to Yemen: ORGANZA

ORGANZA - perfume and eau de parfum - from GIVENCHY, is now in Yemen. HASCO, one of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, launched ORGANZA to perfume connoisseurs in this country last week. The product has been on the international market for only five months. "According to the *World Marketing Journal*, ORGANZA's sales figures have surpassed all expectations," indicated Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Shaibani, Perfume Division Manager at HASCO.

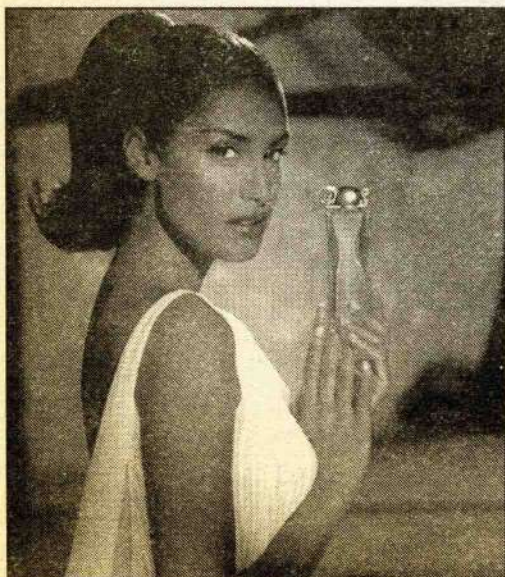
ORGANZA is extremely feminine. It is an exotic blend of sap, honeysuckle, rosewood, gardenia, peony, tuberose, ylang-ylang, mace, nutmeg, cedar, vanilla, and other mysterious and magical ingredients. Its fragrance is a marriage of the conventional and the exuberant. It evokes a sense of celebration, joyfulness and pleasure. It comes in a bottle reminiscent of the finesse of our times. It brings back vivid images of the charms of ancient Greece and Egypt.



ORGANZA gained quite a fame in Yemen, well before its release to the public. "HASCO has appointed several retailers, spread all over the country. Competitively priced, the product is within the reach of many people," added Mr. Al-Shaibani.

The company has now launched, also for the first time in Yemen, GIVENCHY make-up. This is available in the HASCO perfumery outlets. "To meet the needs of our clients, we also have a 'beauty advisor and specialist' in our showroom to offer consultation to our customers," disclosed Mr. Shaibani.

The HASCO launch was attended by many officials such as the mayor of Sanaa, and their publicity agents, Al-Marassi.



### Investment Fraud in UAE

Hundreds of nationals and residents in the United Arab Emirates lost roughly 36 million dollars as a result of what seems to be an investment fraud by a supposedly Hong Kong-Based company. UAE Police started investigating the case following complaints by a number of citizens. Preliminary data revealed that police, acting on a directive from the Economic Department, had previously closed a branch of the foreign company for violating the trade licensing regulations.

Investors - both UAE nationals and expatriates - have now lodged official complaints against the company, which had four branches in the UAE, accusing it of swindling their money. The volume of the investment might reach up to US\$36 million. The parent company, which was supposed to be operating in Hong Kong, is registered there as an offshore company and has no activity in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Therefore, the company is not factual which means it may have a license but it is not involved in any activities.

All investment vouchers were issued inside the UAE when they should have been issued by the mother company in Hong Kong. Moreover, dealing was supposed to be through confirmed bank drafts, but in the case of this company, they were consummated either in cash or through ordinary cheques. The people in charge of the company were three Indians.

In the beginning, the duped investors received receipts and reports that showed modest profits. Later, investors were informed they lost most of their investments.

### India and Pakistan Engage in Dialogue at Summit Level

India is ready to resolve all outstanding disputes with Pakistan through dialogue said the new Prime Minister, Mr. Inder Gujral. "But the sovereignty of India and the national interests of India are non-negotiable," he said following talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, last week. The Indian leader also pushed for improvements in trade relations.

The Pakistani leader insisted that the main issue puts the two countries at loggerheads is Kashmir, where more than 20,000 people have died since 1989 in a separatist campaign. "Other issues will fall in place if this matter is resolved," he said.

The two leaders started off with a strong sense of togetherness and friendship. India's Gujral does not only speak Urdu, the official language of Pakistan, but also writes poetry in that language.

### Sanctions Stay As Long As Saddam

The United States sees no practical alternative to maintaining sanctions against Saddam Hussein as long as he remains in power, a US official insisted last week. Former US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau said US policy makers believe the Iraqi army would soon be back on the borders of Kuwait should the sanctions be removed or the United States reduce its own military posture in the Gulf.

"With the current Iraqi government ruthlessly and resiliently entrenched in power in Baghdad and with mistrust and lack of cohesion among various elements of the opposition, the United States sees no practical alternative to maintaining the box around Baghdad as tightly as possible," Pelletreau said recently.

Iraq has not given up its ambition to be a dominant power in the oil-rich Gulf region and the UN oil-for-food deal with Baghdad does not signal the beginning of the end of sanctions. "The agreement, which allows Baghdad to sell \$2 billion over a six month period and import food and medical supplies to its suffering people, has made the international coalition stronger," he added.

### Muslims Condemn Taliban Threat to Buddha Statues

Muslim nations criticized Afghanistan's Taliban rulers who are threatening to destroy two ancient Buddha statues. The statues, located in Afghanistan's Bamiyan Valley, belong to the 4th century AD and are considered the tallest of Buddha in the standing position. The demolition of the statues - one is over 35 meters high - was described as a treacherous act.

Taliban says statues are against Islamic teachings. In Sri Lanka, the foreign minister received diplomats of more than a dozen Islamic countries to convey his country's concerns. Of Sri Lanka's 18 million people, 74% are Buddhists.

"Being a multi-ethnic and a multi-religious society, we preach religious tolerance and we advocate moderate Islamic objectives," said Shamsudeen Abdullah, the Malaysian High Commissioner in Colombo. "This type of action which endangers the harmony and friendly co-existence among the various religious followers is against our point of view," said Iranian ambassador in Colombo, Mr. Ali Reza Alamoti.

Buddism originated in the north India-Nepalese region about 500 BC, but has largely disappeared from its land of origin. It was spread throughout Asia by monks.

### Egypt to Control 30,000 Mosques

Dr. Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqqouq, Egyptian Minister of Endowments, said the plan of his ministry was to put all mosques in the country under its direct supervision.

There are about 30,000 mosques in Egypt built by the government and an equal number of mosques built by the citizens. "We will bring all of them under government supervision by the year 2,000," the minister said.

The mosques have been fertile ground to breed and foment extremist Islamic thoughts in Egypt.

The minister disclosed plans to establish an international communications network and will also participate on the Internet in order to provide correct information about Islam and Muslims.

Egypt will continue to send scholars, preachers, imams and Quran reciters to various countries in the world on their request, specially during the holy month of Ramadhan. He said that starting next year, the ministry will increase the scholarships it is extending to the Chechen students in order to study at the Azhar University.

According to Dr. Zaqqouq, his ministry has completed translating the meanings of the Holy Quran into French and German languages and is currently working on a Russian translation which will be completed by the end of this year.

At another level, Al-Azhar University has decided to expedite the establishment of an Arabic education center for non-Arabic speaking students, the rector Dr. Ahmad Omar Hashim announced.

### Malaysia Tops Expat Quality Poll

Malaysia has displaced Thailand as the Asian country offering the best quality of life for expatriates, according to a poll which put China at the bottom. But it is the opportunity to do business and not the quality of living that draws Westerners to the region. Expatriates were also quizzed on factors such as the quality of health care, kindergartens and schools, night life, cultural compatibility and personal security. The poll ranked the countries on a scale of zero to 10, with zero representing the best situation possible and 10 the worst.

Malaysia and Singapore were first and second with overall scores of 3.92 and 3.97 respectively. They were followed by the Philippines (4.18), Hong Kong and India (4.21) each, Thailand (4.53), Japan (4.62), Taiwan (4.84), Indonesia (5.00) and South Korea (5.89).

But from the expatriate's perspective, "There is nothing like home." The survey found expatriates giving better rankings to Australia (2.05) and the United States (2.72) than to any place in Asia.

### Israel and Turkey Team up in War Against Syria ... and Iraq

Israel has provided its new partner Turkey with secrets of Russian-built MIG-29 fighter aircraft, the most advanced war planes owned by Syria. "Israel which recently examined three MIG-29s it had received from a friendly Western country, also gave technical details as part of cooperation between the two countries against Syria," the liberal Istanbul's daily Hurriyat said. Turkey will utilize the information on the MIGs to improve the electronic warfare systems mounted on its F-16 and F-4 fighters, boosting the capability of its aircraft in a possible confrontation with Syrian planes, Hurriyat said.

Military cooperation between Israel and Turkey is being stepped up as a result of the visit of the Turkish defence minister, Turhan Tayan, to Israel recently. Turkey and Israel signed two key pacts on military and defence industry cooperation despite protests by Arab States and Iran.

Israel and Turkey are also teaming up to control the 'Iraqi' threat. Turkey is now engaged in attacks, deep inside northern Iraq, against Kurdish posts.

Turkey and Israel have very little in common. They have different religious, linguistic, cultural and historic backgrounds, and yet, they are able to cooperate together. Syria and Iraq, which share the same language, religion, culture, historic background and fate, are unable to even talk to each other, thanks to the genius of their leaders.

### Lebanon to Regain Old Role/Glamor

Pope John Paul II concluded a 32-hour visit to Lebanon last week, his first ever to the Middle East. The Pope was received with extreme enthusiasm by all sects and religions inside Lebanon.

In a clear reference to Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, and a possible insinuation of Syria's role in the country, the Pope called for the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty. He also called on the country to resume its regional role. John Paul described Lebanon as a model for co-existence.

At another level, a US delegation just concluded an assessment of the security situation in Lebanon. Eric James Boswell, director of office of foreign missions and ambassadors, headed the delegation which met with a number of senior Lebanese officials. They discussed the security situation in Lebanon, including measures adopted by Lebanese authorities for the safety of the US embassy and Beirut International Airport.

Boswell came out with a positive feeling which Beirut hopes could help bring an end to the US travel ban on the tiny Arab country.

# AMONG YEMENIS



**A British Council exhibition  
Photographs by Richard Boggs**

25 May - 12 June 1997  
British Council library  
Open during library opening hours

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**AL-RADA Company has the pleasure to invite you to participate in the Electronics & Computer Exhibition 1997 which will be held in Great Yemen Hall for Int. Exhibition for the period 15-21, June 1997**

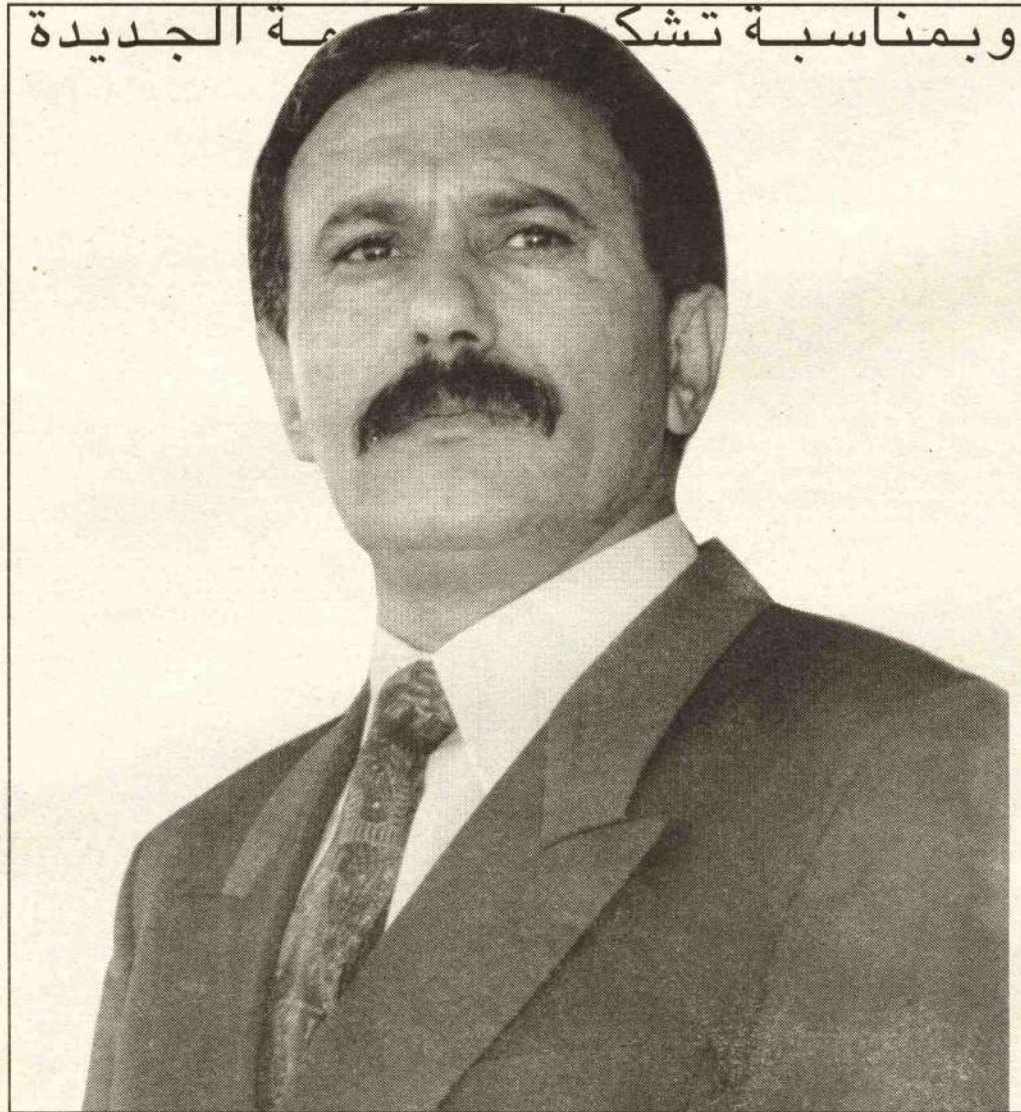
## شركة شاهر للتجارة

تتقدم بخالص التهاني القلبية والتبريكات الحارة  
للقيادة السياسية بزعامة ابن اليمن البار الفريق

### علي عبدالله صالح

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Send Heartfelt felicitation to General Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the people of Yemen on the anniversary of 22 May, Unification Day and on the occasion of formation the new government.

AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly), 11-5-97  
(Federation of Popular Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Federation Secretary-General Addresses Congressional Committee on Human Rights in US
- 2) Supreme Court Reviews 43 Contestations of Election Results.
- 3) Workers Strike in Abyan Protesting Against Corruption
- 4) Kuwaiti Ship Sinks near Mocha

**Article Summary:**

**Tribal Skirmishes**

An informed source at the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the motives behind the assassination of the Minister of Transportation's eldest son are purely tribal. Mohammed Ahmed Musa'id Hussein, 30, was shot dead, while driving with two of his body guards opposite the Libyan Embassy on Hadda Street, on Thursday, 8th May. A major investigation was later conducted by the police in search of the assassins. In the aftermath of the incident, tribal skirmishes took place in Shabwa between the Minister's tribe (Al-Marazeek) and Al-Awalik because of old vendettas.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 14-5-97  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Rabita (league) Party in Hadhramaut Condemns Arresting the Son of the "MOWJ" Opposition Leader
- 2) Several Southern Governorates Suffer from Water Shortages
- 3) Cache of Explosives Seized in Mukallah

**Article Summary:**

**National Football Team Bribed**

It is alleged that bribes were paid by certain Indonesians to some players in the Yemeni national football team. The aim was to end the World Cup qualifier match between Yemen and Indonesia to the latter's advantage.

Upon seeing that the bribed players played very well, the Indonesians wanted their money back, it was reported. They even threatened to booby-trap the Yemeni team's bus. According to rumors, the money was later returned. Some sources believe that the substitution of some players in the Yemen-Cambodia match later on confirms the allegations.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 15-5-97

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Islah's Shura Council Calls for Overcoming Negative Effects of Elections' Irregularities
- 2) Islah Martyrs, Killed in Constituency # 287 in Hajjah, are Buried
- 3) Authorities Pay US\$ 70,000 Fine Due to Delay of Unloading One Ship in Aden Port
- 4) Fish Cannery in Abyan Made Income of YR. 166,480,000 Last Year

**Article Summary:**  
**To Participate, or Not by Zaid Al-Shami**

Islah's decision not to participate in the government was received with much satisfaction by its rank and file. The fierce battle waged against Islah candidates and supporters during the elections was quite unexpected. All the state's civilian and military organs were turned against Islah, the smaller parities and the independents. Islah feels that the sacrifices it made in the past are now met with ungratefulness. Islah will serve the country better by being in the opposition. It will aim to uncover the sources of corruption and evil. Islah accepts the elections results. It participated in the elections in order to preserve the small margin of democracy allowed by the authorities.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 15-5-97  
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Dr. Bin Ghanim Appointed Prime Minister
- 2) Two Children Died and Three Men Injured in Tribal Conflict in Shabwa
- 3) Opposition Parties Reject Election Results
- 4) 25% of Registered Civilian Voters Only, Voted in Aden

**Article Summary:**

**The Last Lesson by Abdullah M. Mohammed**

It is very possible that the parties (Islah included) that lost the elections are now regretting their decision to participate. They now claim that they

took part in the elections to protect democracy and preserve the supreme national interests. Most of them were hoping to attract the YSP supporters. The votes they gained are far from being representative of their actual popular bases.

The political decision is now solely in the hands of the "comfortable" majority. So it seems that those participants who have inadvertently taken part in a well-planned and well-rehearsed scenario fell in a trap. The opposition parties will have to overcome their differences, learn from the mistakes of the past, and unite in a solid front.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 15-5-97  
(Yemeni Armed Forces)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Former Officials and Ministers will be Asked to Return Official Cars and Settle Financial Trusts
- 2) Big Celebrations Planned for 7th Anniversary of Unification
- 3) Negotiations Conducted with 4 International Oil Companies
- 4) Yemeni-German Agreement to Settle DM. 8.3 Million Debts

**Article Summary:**

**Impressions of the Yemeni Elections by Dr. Hamida Na'na'a**

I came to Yemen to witness the birth of democracy. This experience is very unique in the Arab World, where the word democracy itself is a taboo. Due to the historical social structure of Yemen, in contrast to many other Third World countries, it is quite difficult for any ruler to turn into a dictator. This has saved Yemen from many a fatal catastrophe.

The elections' outcome confirms the people's celebrated wisdom. They voted overwhelmingly for moderation. The other parties' acceptance of the results is further proof of that wisdom. The small number of female candidates, however, is regrettable. There can be no development nor progress without the joint and equal participation of men and women.

AL-JAMAHEER: Sana'a (Weekly) 15-5-97  
(Arab Baath Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Baath Secretary-General Gets Congratulatory Messages for Winning Elections
- 2) Opposition will Shed Light on New Government Deficiencies
- 3) Academic Figures to Study PGC Elections Program
- 4) New Opposition Alliances to Appear Soon

**Article Summary:**

**Saudi Arabia Deports Yemenis in Cages**

According to eyewitness accounts, the Saudi authorities have rounded up illegal Yemeni immigrants. They were placed in iron cages, ill-treated, and paraded in public. This was done in several Saudi cities. Such treatment is usually reserved for hardened criminals. Acts like these are in flagrant violation of the principles of brotherhood, Islam and humanity. It also makes a mockery of all agreements between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.



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## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf** announces that, due to the inability of the guest of honor to come to Yemen, the dinner reception scheduled for 21/5/97, at Taj Sheba Hotel is regrettably cancelled. All invited persons may kindly take note.

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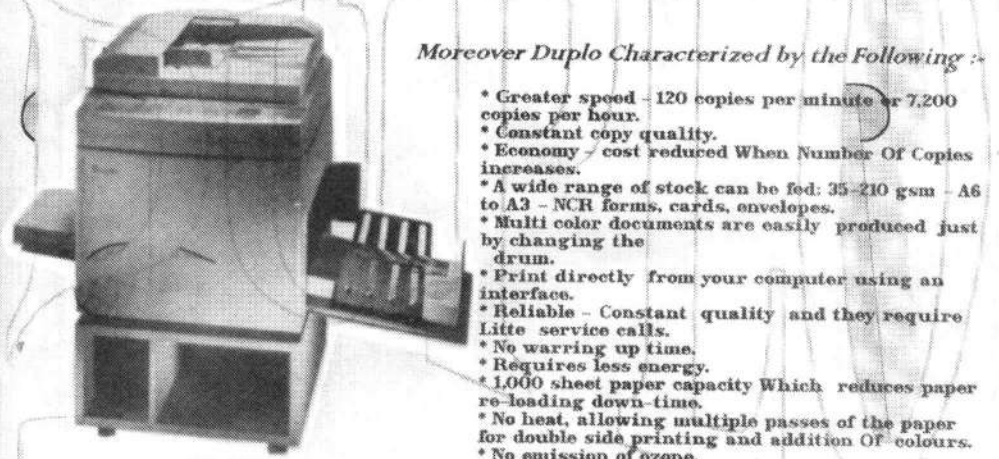
For additional information on Pre-USA, you may attend a free Group Session at AMIDEAST. The schedule for the sessions is the following:

May 19, (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.  
May 21, (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.  
May 25, (Sunday), at 3:00 p.m.  
May 27, (Tuesday) at 12:00 p.m.  
June 1, (Sunday), at 10:00 a.m.

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## Goals Carnival Seven Goals Open the Gate of Ambition

Four minutes into the match, Omar Abdul-Hafeedh kicked the ball into the Cambodian goal. That was the beginning of seven goals the Yemenis will put in the Cambodian net.

The Yemeni National Football team surpassed itself. It scored seven clear goals and played wonderfully. The Cambodians were a washout. The Yemeni team kept attacking through the match.

There was a carnival of goals at Al-Thawra Stadium last Friday. The fourth minute of the match was not yet over, when master footballer, Omar Abdul-Hafeedh, made the first hit. And the flood gates were opened.

The goals came fast and thick. With every goal scored, the spectators jumped and shouted.

At the 13th minute, Omar struck again. Like a hurricane, starting from mid-field, he shot through the Cambodian defenses. He mightily kicked the ball to the goal keeper's left. Goal number two.

The spectators roared, asking for more.

Three minutes later, the Cambodians counter attacked. The goal keeper, Aref Abd Rabbo deflected a direct hit. But that was it.

The Yemenis were on the offensive again. And for the third time, Omar scored. With a powerful left kick. The first half of the match ended, 3-0.

At the start of the second half, the Yemeni team was even more confident, and in higher spirits. Their maneuvers and ball-passing techniques were highly coordinated.

Moneef Shayif scored the fourth goal at the fourth minute of the second half of the match.

Seven minutes later, with an artistic head shot, Jayyab Ba Shafii made a fifth score. The spectators were overcome with joy and elation.

With a clever hat trick the mid-field player, Abdul-Rahman Saeed, scored the sixth goal at the 21st minute of the second half. The spectators started

chanting and hooraying.

The Cambodian team's subsequent attacks were quite unfruitful. They lacked proper coordination.

At the 27th minute, the Yemeni team's Iraqi coach, Hazim Jassam, substituted Hussein Jabbar with Ahmed Al-Bareed. This improved their general performance quite considerably. The coordinated attacks and skillful passing of the ball continued unabated.

Player number six of Cambodia committed a foul at the 38th minute. So the Yemeni team was awarded a penalty. Executed by Omar, the penalty kick resulted in the seventh and final goal of the game.

This magnificent triumph signals better things to come. The match with Indonesia on 13th June is now awaited with great anticipation.

This overwhelming victory is a sort of reconciliation with the Yemeni football fans, after the teams defeat in its match with Uzbekisatn on Friday 9 May. Now with this result achieved, the Yemeni team has become a strong opponent for other teams of the fifth Asian group.

This victory gave back the Yemeni football fans faith in the national team's ability to achieve great results. Many surprises are still in store. This goes to show that ambition and strong will power can do wonders.

Is this excellent performance going to be repeated? Let's wait for the match with Indonesia and see.

### Al Jawfi Member in the IFBB



The Yemeni international body-building referee, Najeeb Al-Jawfi, has become a member of the IFBB (the International Federation of Body Building). His nomination for the membership of the IFBB was a result of the efforts which Najeeb has made in the development of the body-building game in Yemen as well as his distinguished way of refereeing in international matches. Najeeb indicated that this honor will encourage him to make more efforts in improving the situation of body building in Yemen.

## Spotlight

### What Are Shadow Games?



"Shadow Games" is a term used to describe all sports games except football. This is due to the fact that football enjoys 90% of the attention and care given by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, then comes volleyball and basketball. Other games, however, were called shadow games because they do not receive any

such attention, and their status is always low either locally or internationally. For this reason these games have not achieved advanced results in all the competitions in which they were involved.

This is not to say that the players of such games are potentially incapable of attaining high results. If there is enough attention and support -- by improving the sportsman's situation, and providing excellent coaches and training facilities -- these youth would do miracles.

With the new democratic changes in the country, we hope that the sports officials in the Ministry of Youth and Sports will change their view about these games, and give them more attention in order to make them present more advanced level in their Arabic and international competitions.

The relevant authorities can do the following:

1- Increasing the financial share of the respective sports associations so that they can organize many competitions through which the outstanding players are discovered.

2- Improving the standard of living of these games' champions by providing job opportunities for them in order to expect better achievements.

3- Providing training equipment and facilities.

4- Qualifying the sports coaches through annual training courses to keep up with developments in the world of sports.

5- Forming special committees to monitor the process of the sports activities and the progress of the sports associations.

These are the priorities of taking care of these games. In our present position, I think we can do these things by the help of the YSF (Youth Support Fund). Can the Ministry of Youth and Sports in its new position move these games from the dark (shade or shadow) into the light?

Sport Editor



First goal for the Yemeni team

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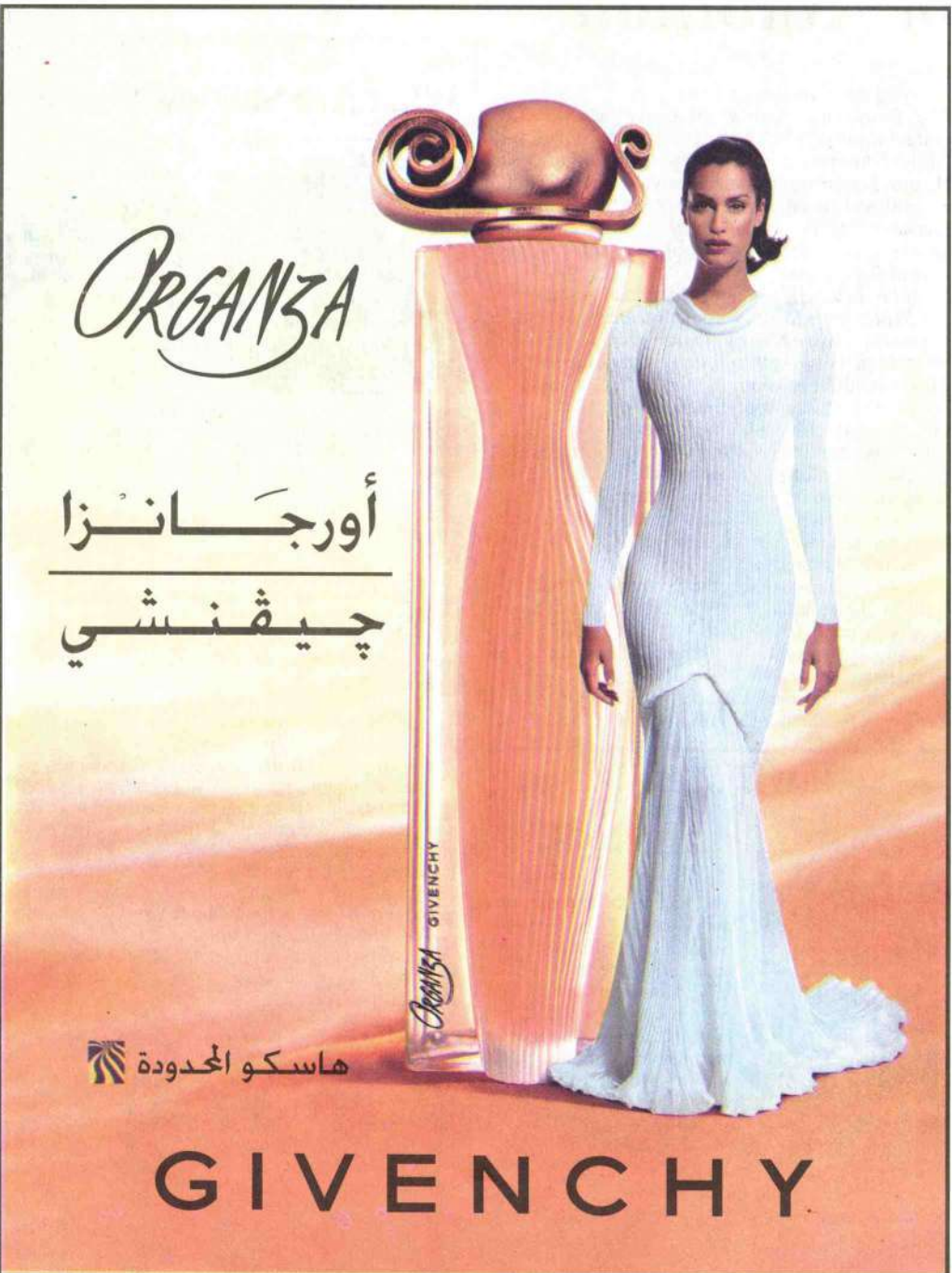


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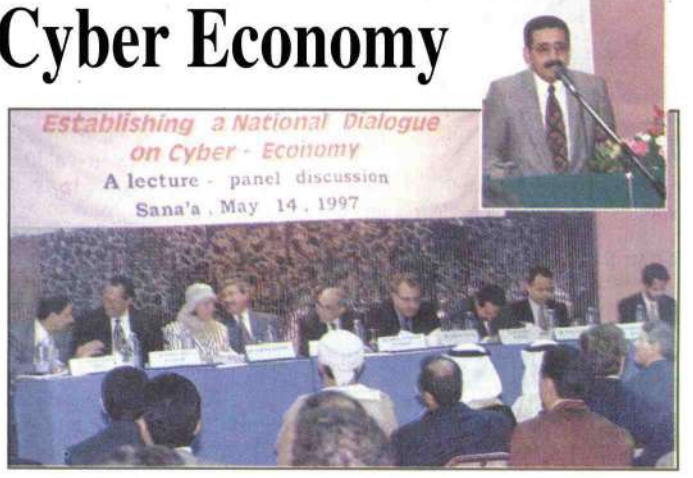
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## Evening on Cyber Economy

On Wednesday May 7th, the Presidential Office for Science and Technology, in collaboration with the UNDP, organized an "Evening on Cyber Economy". Dr. Moustafa Bahran, Presidential Advisor on Science and Technology, - and the person who organized the effort - most relevant academicians have been invited for the get-together. The program was part of an overall Arab Work Force for the Cyber Economy. According to Onder Yucer, UNDP Resident Representative, this was part of a regional effort to impress on Arab decision and opinion-makers the need to integrate with the world economy, dubbed "Cyber Economy".

The term cyber economy comes as an improvement on global economy, which simply referred to size and geographic expansion. The new term stresses the use of information and communication technology in business.

Numerous speakers were invited to highlight various aspects of the new engagement. Dr. Abul-Karim Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, served as moderator. Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi elaborated the "Future of Communication Technology in Yemen", Dr. Dawood Othman gave the "Pros and Cos of Cyber Economy", Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf discussed "World Economic Integration and the Role of the WTO", Dr. Raufa Hassan talked about the "Suffering of Women in a Man's World", Dr. Abdul-Karim A'mer highlighted "Industrialization in a Cyber



Economy", while Dr. Mutahhar Al-Saeedi briefed on "R & D and Cyber Economics", and finally, Mr. Yahia Al-Sharqi presented his talk on the "Future of Information Technology". By the end of June, the partners in this effort will have been defined to prepare for a December conference.

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