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# YEMEN TIMES



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## A Man's World Is Further Entrenched: Formation of Constitutional Institutions Completed

With the first official meeting of the Consultative Council (Upper House) scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, May 27th, the constitutional organizations responsible for running the affairs of the nation are now in place.

The Government, although not yet given the vote of confidence in parliament - something of a formality given the majority of the PGC - is already working in full motion. Appointment of Governors and general-managers of public corporations are coming soon.

The Council of Deputies (Parliament or Lower House) has already formed its committees (please refer to page 5 for list of names). It is also getting ready to send to the president a list of persons it nominates for the Supreme Elections Committee.

In the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani is set to be named Chairman, Mr. Mohsen Al-Aini, Vice Chairman, and Mr. Abdullah Al-Bar, Secretary-General. Seven committees are also under formation.

In all these organizations, however, the role of women has been limited. Women have not been able to make a visible showing. Only two women made it to the 301-person Parliament. There is no woman in the 29-man Cabinet. And there is no woman in the 59-man Upper House.

Informed sources told the Yemen Times that there is little chance in the expected top-level appointments for women. The Governors will all be men, if at least, in view of the nature of the responsibility. The same is true of the top post of the government corporations. None of the ambassadorial appointments, coming up shortly, are also expected to be filled by female diplomats. There aren't any.

But, there is some chance for women to be appointed to the second and third positions in various ministries and corporations. "We expect more vice/deputy ministers and vice/deputy general managers," the source said. Keep your fingers crossed, but don't hold your breath.

## Local Elections Scheduled for Early 1998

### Local Administration Law on Parliament Floor in One Month

According to Prime Minister Faraj Saeed Ghanim, the Republic of Yemen will hold its first local elections during early 1998. The relevant local administration law is now being revised and finalized.

"The Ministry of Local Administration has withdrawn the old law draft (proposal) from parliament. We are now working hard to re-present it for enactment. The law proposal should be on the parliament floor for debate within one month," Mr. Sadeq Amin Abu Ras, Minister of Local Administration, disclosed to the Yemen Times.

Speaking about those components being revised, the Minister indicated that socio-cultural implications need to be well studied 'before we embark on the security and

judicial aspects of the responsibilities of local elections'. "Inter-tribal rivalry and grudges make even an objective official unacceptable (by some members of the constituency) in certain issues," Minister Abu Ras added.

Thus, the priority of the law would be to relegate and decentralize financial and administrative responsibilities, as a step towards full local governance.

Prime Minister Faraj Ghanim insists that the 1998 budget will be re-structured so that local officials will have full control over their allocations.

With the local elections scheduled for 1998, and the presidential elections coming in 1999, this means that Yemen will have elections every year during 1997-1999.

## New Deputies Learning the Ropes:

### Parliament's First Squabble

I remember some time ago when a very top official told me, "I carried out my work in an environment of dictatorship and in a democracy. Trust me, dictatorship is easier."

He is right. Democracy is not the easiest system. Yemeni officials are learning the principles of democracy. And they have already come a long way.

Last week witnessed another milestone. With 170 of the people's deputies new to the

job, the House of Representatives hit a snag, in its very second meeting. One member of the People's General Congress (PGC), objected to the role of the party in influencing parliamentary decisions. The issue was related to the distribution of the 17 parliamentary committees.

He brought to the parliament floor discussions which had been held in PGC circles. He went to the extent of accusing

his party of interfering with parliament, thus creating the first squabble in the record of the new House.

The PGC immediately froze this deputy's membership and embarked on measures to inform parliamentarians on the relations between the two bodies.

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, the PGC Secretary-General, downplayed the incident. "We are all learning," he said.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Right Beginning in Fighting Corruption

Over the last three weeks, many things have happened that give hope to a proper start in our system. As a Yemeni, I feel proud about the rectification measures that have been introduced in various parts of the system.

Let me give examples:

#### 1. Old Officials Hand Back Goodies:

All the government officials, notably the ministers who have left office were told to hand back government vehicles, and other movable assets they had in their former capacity. This happens for the first time in the history of the Yemeni Government.

#### 2. New Officials Specify their Assets:

New Government and other officials who joined the system for the first are asked to give a list of their current assets. The idea is to watch how their assets grow over time. If there is an unwarranted growth, a question mark is raised.

#### 3. The Supervisory Role of Parliament:

The parliament has decided to set up an 18th committee. This will be made up of the chairman of all the other committees. The by-laws of the House will be changed so that, it is not the presidium which will follow the executive authority's implementation of House decisions. It is this new committee.

#### 4. Activating the Watchdogs:

The system has had a few watchdog organizations which have the duty of investigating any breaking of the law. These include the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA), the Public Prosecution Office, and many private and governmental organizations.

Yesterday, Sunday May 25th, COCA held a seminar on its new vigor and launch in this regard.

#### 5. Official Media Re-Oriented:

Minister of Information Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa' has sent out a circular advising government organizations and public-interest private groups to make use of the government television and radio stations. The idea is to re-orient the programs of these media organs in the service of the public interest.

#### 6. Enlisting Support of NGOs:

An additional player in shaping officialdom is the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the effort to reign in abuse and mis-use in government offices. In addition, the NGOs will also help curb abuse and mis-use in business circles through activating their consumer protection roles.

All those and other and many other measures which were taken over the last few days, and/or are being taken, have breathed new life and credibility into the official system. Even cynical critics like myself are willing to hold off the pressure and give the authorities the benefit of the doubt. There is evidence of something new, something that many of us have been waiting for.

Meanwhile, let us hope that all this is not just for temporary public consumption.

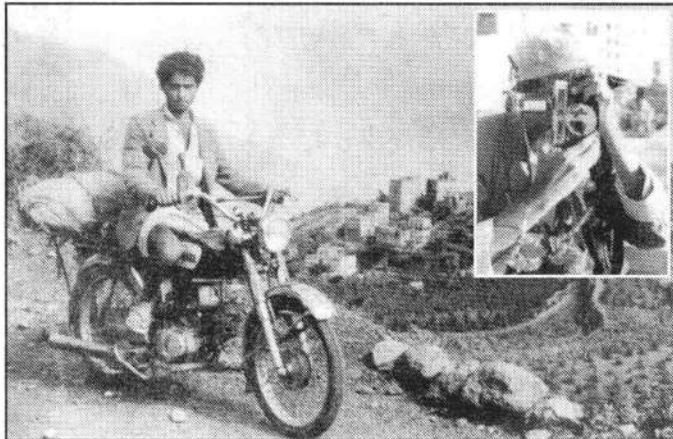
**The Publisher**

### Catching Yemeni Living in Pictures

On Saturday, May 24th, a picture exhibition" by Richard Boggs was launched at the British Council in Sanaa. The UK photographer brought together dozens of pictures which were taken from different parts of Yemen.

Under the them of "Among Yemenis", the pictures give an accurate glimpse of Yemeni life in various postures and styles. It is worth your visit.

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi.



### High-Level Visitors to Yemen

President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti paid a two-day visit to Yemen last week.

Also visiting Yemen last week was Mr. Abdul-Halim Khaddam, Vice President of Syria. The two officials discussed regional and bilateral issues.

The Djibouti official was interested in Yemen's efforts in shoring up the splintered Somali factions, while the Syrian official briefed the Yemenis on the stumbling peace process.

### Ali Al-Jifry Released

Ali Zainul-Abideen Al-Jifry, son of Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifry, opposition leader in exile, was released on the 19th, following a one-week detention.

Ali Al-Jifry, 30, is a respected clergyman and caller of Islam. He was arrested because his critical rhetoric inflamed the anti-government public.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh personally ordered the release of Mr. Al-Jifry.

### Yemeni Dar Al-Iftaa Established

A Republican decree was issued on May 24th, calling for the establishment of Dar Al-Iftaa, which is an official body to explain religious positions vis-a-vis different issues.

In the past, certain religious leaders and clergymen have offered their explanation (fatwa), which, unfortunately were used for political ends.

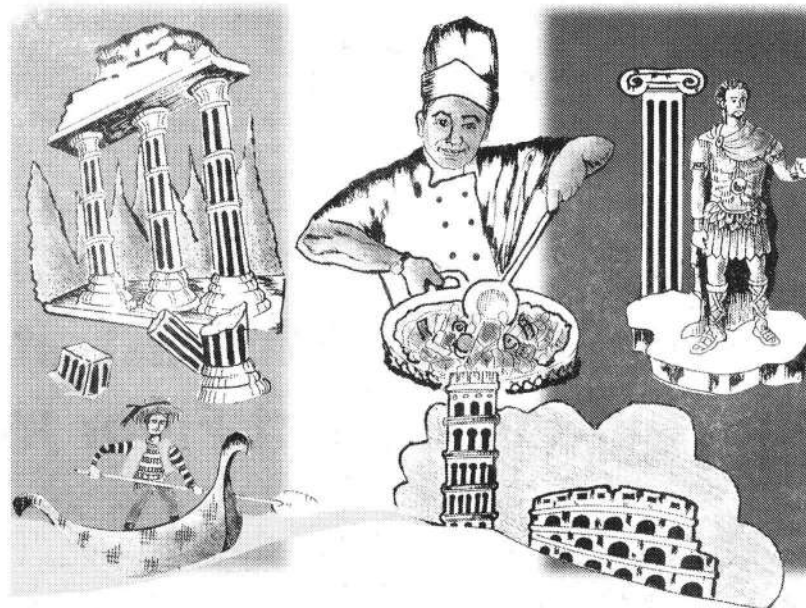
Observers view the establishment of this body under the government as a mechanism to control pro-Islah preachers and clergymen.

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**Prof. Emile Sahliyah:**

**“High birth rates in the Arab countries can cause grave grave dangers in the future.”**

Dr. Emile Sahliyah is probably one of the most published scholars in academia today. Born in Jerusalem in 1945, he got his B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science from the American University of Beirut. In 1979 he received his Ph.D. degree in international relations and comparative politics from Georgetown University. He worked in Bir Zeit University in Palestine for five years. He now occupies the post of professor of political science at the University of North Texas.

Dr. Sahliyah is also a board member in the Association for Israeli Studies; a Middle East consultant in the RAND Corporation; a member of the Middle East Studies Association and affiliated to many other groups and forums concerned with Middle Eastern and Arab-American affairs.

The author and co-author of many books and dozens of research articles, Dr. Sahliyah is considered an authority on Islamic movements in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is now in the process of writing two books: one about the dilemma facing democracy in the Arab World and the other about the challenges it is facing in the latter years of the 20th Century.

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Emile Sahliyah and filed the following report.

**Q: How do you see the future state of Palestine? Will it be democratic, or will it follow in the footsteps of its brother Arab states?**

**A:** Democracy in the Arab World is rather underdeveloped, and has unclear features. Arafat's direction up to now is more inclined to the authoritarian Arab model. Human rights violations are being committed by the Palestinian National Authority. The press in the autonomous region is gagged. Despite that, elections for the legislative council were held in January, 1996. About 54 of the 80 elected members support Arafat's line. There is, however, a strong and mature opposition.

Arafat is a product of the political life in the Arab World. It is easier for him to act in an authoritarian manner. The Palestinians, on the other hand, are quite mature politically. There are many well-organized political parties and movements, covering the whole political spectrum. There is also a highly developed press movement. Many journalists have good political awareness. A large proportion of the public are well educated. All these factors will help consolidate democracy, and rein in Arafat's authoritarian inclinations.

**Q: The Middle East peace process seems to be suffering a series of setbacks due to the extreme hardline adopted by Netanyahu. Do you see any other alternatives to the peace process?**

**A:** The peace process is irreversible. The biggest obstacle facing it now is the Israeli Likud government itself. The peace process has become part of the political life of the Palestinians, the Israelis, the Arabs, and even the rest of the world. It is normal that such a process should face many obstacles. But it has, to continue. There are no other alternatives.

**Q: The US seems to be pulling out from the Middle East peace process. Do you see any drastic changes in the way the US views the Arab-Israeli conflict?**

**A:** The US will not give up its role in the region. There are some reasons for not playing a more

active role. As the only super-power in the world, the US has many a part to perform. It is highly occupied with the concerns of Russia, China, Latin America, the war in Bosnia, its relations with Western Europe, etc. Add to all that the major problems in the Middle East, and you will have quite a complicated picture.

The President of the US has also many pressing internal concerns. After all, he was elected on the basis of his stance towards such internal affairs as the economy, combating crimes and drugs, education, the environment, the budget deficit, social security, etc. So the Arab-Israeli issues have to contend with many other, as important, matters. The US is very busy indeed.

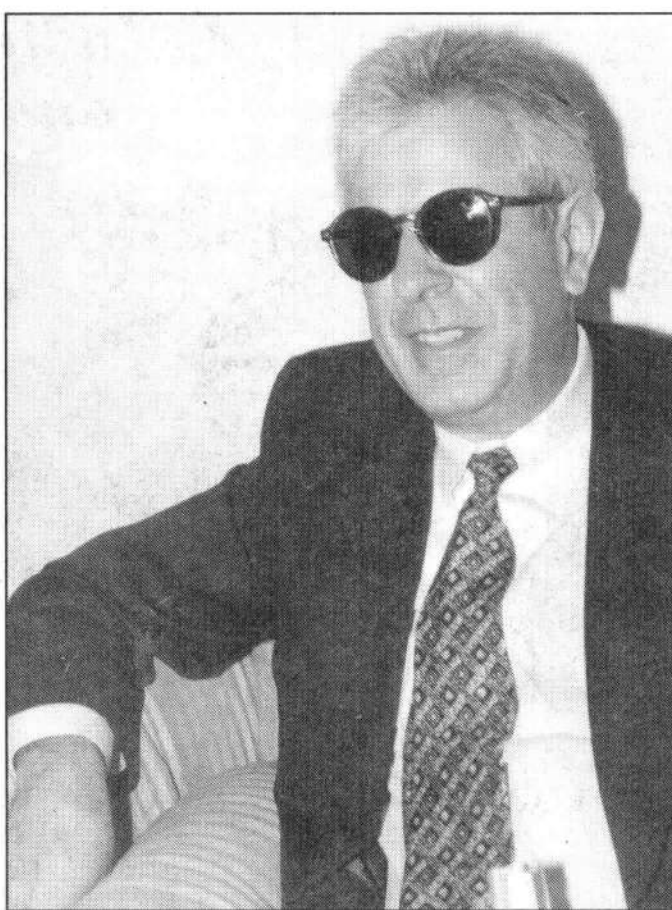
The other important factor is the process of decision making in the US. Unlike many Third World countries where decisions are directly made by the rulers, the process of decision making in the US is multi-faceted. The President, Congress, the Senate, and various pressure groups and lobbies interact with each other. There are lobbies in the Congress which are specifically pro-Likud.

There is also a trend among some of the President's advisors to leave the Arabs and Israelis to solve their problems without US intervention. They cite the Oslo agreement as a good example of the Palestinians and Israelis working together to resolve their disputes, without external assistance.

On another level, Congressmen and Senators are mainly concerned with serving the local interests of their constituents. Foreign affairs feature low on their agendas. So it is somewhat difficult to induce them to support the Arab cause.

**Q: How do you view the role played by the Arabs in America in general and the Palestinians in particular, regarding crucial Arab issues?**

**A:** Unlike the Jewish community and despite its relatively large size, the Arab community in the US is rather inactive and inefficient. The American law allows the establishment of pressure groups. But the Arab community



is still divided. Arab groups are mainly concerned with problems of their original countries only. They do not try to unite themselves behind a common cause. Arab organizations in the US suffer badly from lack of funds. Donations provided by the Arab community are usually insufficient.

**Q: The West in general and America in particular view the Islamic movements with some hostility. Is this justified?**

**A:** Of course not. The problem lies in stereotyping. If an act of terrorism is perpetrated by a

certain so-called Islamist group, people in the West tend to erroneously associate all Arabs and Muslims with terrorism. The West is not against the Arabs or Muslims as people, but they just tend to generalize and put people in specific distorted stereotypes.

Before starting my current visit to Yemen and Saudi Arabia, many of my American friends and acquaintances advised me not to go for fear of getting kidnapped. I had to explain to them that I will be quite safe among my family and brothers.

**Q: What sort of challenges now**

**face the Arab World within the so-called new world order?**

**A:** There many challenges to contend with. First, there is the out of control population boom. The 3-4% birth rates in some Arab countries are the highest in the world. This can cause grave economic problems. Within the next few years, about 60% of the population in the Arab World will be under 20 years old. This will put great pressures on the already stretched resources. Unemployment will increase rapidly. This problem is further compounded by the deterioration in the agricultural and industrial sectors, due to chronic neglect.

The reliance on the oil income during the past 20 years has led to the relegation of these important sectors. The problem has reached the point where, in some Arab countries, agriculture and industry are worse off than they were in the 50s and 60s.

Economic depression has set in many Arab countries. Poorer countries such as Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, and the Palestinians have found the opportunities for employment decreasing sharply, especially after the Gulf war.

Another major problem facing Arab countries is lack of capital to fund key development and investment projects.

One of the most crucial challenges facing the Arabs today is food security. After being almost self-sufficient during the 50s and 60s, the Arab World now ranks very high among food importers in the world.

The rest of the world is now moving towards economic integration, and forming large political entities such as the EU, NAFTA (US, Canada and Mexico) and many other organization in the Far East. The Arab World, on the other hand, is very much fragmented. Inter-Arab trade accounts for only 5% of overall Arab commercial dealings. There must be a strong Arab economic integration. This will give them a stronger stance and

more say in world affairs.

Deeply entrenched bureaucracy is also a major stumbling block. The state apparatuses in almost all Arab countries have expanded out of proportions. Hundreds of thousands of government employees now represent a huge burden on their states' resources. Many of them are not competent, either. So downsizing is a priority.

Armament in Arab countries is absorbing great proportions of their resources. It is depriving essential development projects from the necessary funds. About 30-40% of the budget in many Arab countries goes on armament. Health, education, social security, and the economy in general suffer.

The other great challenge that faces the Arabs now is democratization. Yemen's recent democratic experiment is a source of pride for all Arabs. But many other Arab countries are still suffering under the yoke of tyranny and dictatorship.

**Q: How do you see the development in the political life in Yemen?**

**A:** Yemen has taken very good and positive steps. This doesn't mean, however, that democracy in Yemen has reached the top. There is still call for more improvements. Elections have no meaning, if they are not translated into solid foundations. Parliament must have larger authority. The relationship between the legislative and executive authorities will have to be more clearly defined and understood. Elections are only the first step in a long and arduous journey. All Yemenis must insist on granting parliament more powers. This is the great challenge facing the people in Yemen now.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** I am very happy to be in Yemen. I am also glad that I am introduced to the Yemeni people through Yemen Times. I read this paper every week through the Internet. It makes us very proud.

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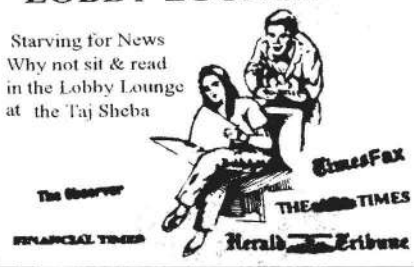
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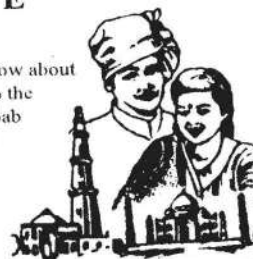


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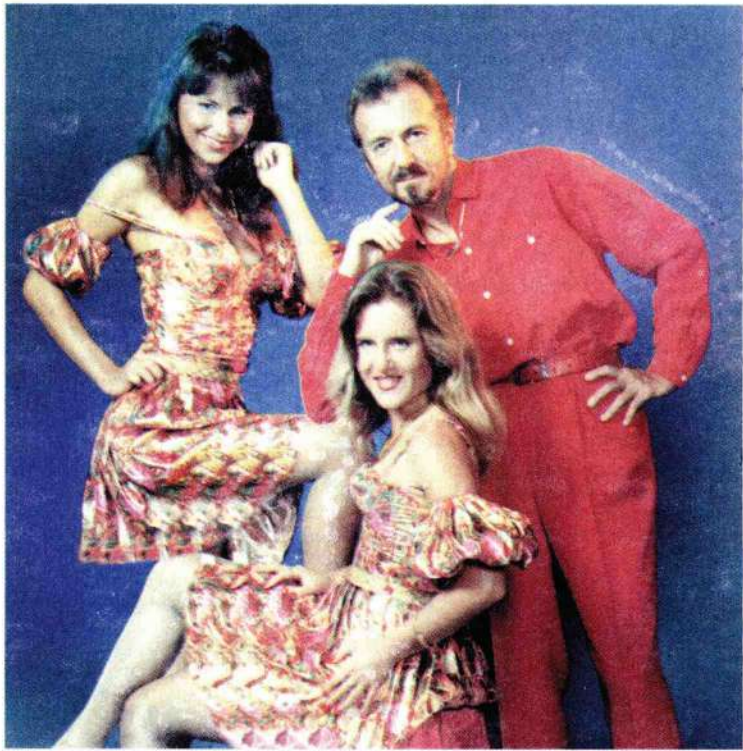
**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE YEMENI ELECTION: A LEAP FORWARD**

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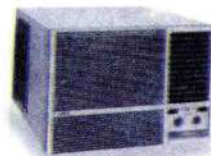
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Protecting Yemeni NGOs Before They Go Stray:

# EMC Publishes Its Accounts

**BACKGROUND:**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are mushrooming all over the world, as governments and officialdom are asked to play a less and less role in societies. Here in Yemen as elsewhere, many NGOs have been established, with a varying degree of success.

As the Government of Yemen tries to cope with this growing sector, a new law governing its activities is being evolved. Two seminars have been held to help come up with a draft for the new law. The World Bank has hired a consultant, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law to help in guiding the effort. Dr. Leon Irish of the ICNL visited Yemen laws week and discussed the issues with relevant government and NGO officials. Dr. Irish raised a number of questions, the answers to which will shape the law proposal.

**THE RISKS:**

Most Yemenis accept that many government officials, at least in the past, have been less than clean. That is why government bureaucracy is untrusted and even despised. One of the main targets of the new government is to win back some trust and credibility among the general public by fighting corruption.

Unfortunately, the NGO movement is fast being tainted by a few individuals who are out to make money by using NGOs and lofty ideals as their tactic to make in-roads into the donor community. In some cases, they have succeeded. This situation will seriously undermine the NGO

role and contribution to society. Already, people are speaking of NGOs which have become private property or domain. Let me use the YIDD as an example. Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, was elected as Secretary-General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD). He quickly usurped everything and converted the YIDD into a one-man show. For an institution which is supposed to promote democratic values, Mr. Al-Soufi and the YIDD are not good models. Not only that, but he is now trying to convert the YIDD into a private company owned by him.

**GOVERNMENT & DONORS:**

The Government of Yemen and the international donor community plays a major role in curbing the deterioration in the image of Yemeni NGOs. The government officials can do two things to help the NGOs:

- a) They should refrain from politicizing the movement. At this stage, politicians are using their money and power to undermine NGOs that resist their influence and control, and they prop individuals and groups that are willing to kiss up to them. This is true regarding unions, syndicates, associations, societies, and other NGOs.
- b) The officials should create the ground-rules for NGO activities and enforce them. The in-fighting within government authorities regarding licensing and supervision of NGOs have allowed some law-breakers to shift from one agency to another. Today, licensing is done by six different authorities although the new law

will make the Ministry of Social Affairs bear sole responsibility.

The donors also bear part of the responsibility for this situation. I will use two issues.

1. Most donors abhor field inspections, and this is true even for embassy staff located in Sanaa. That is why there is a near-total reliance on reports. So, if an NGO can hire a team of good report-writers and every now and then talk well to the donors, they have it made. In this way, the NGO will get money from many sources. All that one needs is reports to sit in the file of some bureaucrat in Brussels, The Hague, Washington, London, or wherever.
2. Most donors provide a 100% funding. So, if some Western-educated individual/s can make nice proposals, the money will flow in.

I think it would be a good idea to ask any project to secure at least 25% in local funding to warrant foreign money. Providing 100% foreign funding is an invitation for corruption and favoritism.

**TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY:**

Transparency and accountability

**EMC Expenditures on Training and Monitoring: 1/1-30/4/1997**

Branch	Expenditures in 1000 Riyals
Sanaa Gov.	2,344.0
Sanaa City	2,693.3
Ibb Gov.	1,975.0
Taiz Gov.	2,638.0
Al-Baidha	564.0
Abyan	878.0
Marib	892.0
Hadhramaut	1,068.0
Al-Mahweet	301.0
Sa'adah	865.0
Hodeidah	620.0
Dhamar	400.0
Lahej	406.0
Aden	448.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,922.3</b>

are key factors in making NGOs (or any other organization) live by the rules. All NGOs should be required by law to publish their final accounts detailing the sources of funds, and how they were spent.

Let us take an example. The Arab Democratic Institute was able to raise funds generously. Over the last six months alone, it is estimated it got some \$800,000. The money came from the European Union, Germany, the UK, the US and other sources. While the ADI's good fund-raising abilities should be commended, there must a certain degree of accountability and transparency, not to speak of cost-effective spending. This is not so in this case.

To live up to this transparency and accountability rule, the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC), which is now folding up - given the completion of its mission, hereby publishes a summary its accounts. The documents are available for perusal by any relevant individual or group.

**EMC ACCOUNTS:**

1. There were two sources of funding for EMC activities. Foreign sources are represented by two contributions - the EU, which donated ECU 102,200 (the last installment of which has yet to be received), and the Danish Government which donated US\$ 11,400 (which has yet to be received).

Local sources of funding have totalled YR 9 million (some of which has yet to be received). These sources have asked to remain anonymous. This is partly due to their worry not to come under political pressure, and partly to avoid a run for funding on them.

The Yemen Times has served as a bridge and/or residual financier for the project.

2. The EMC expenditures can be grouped into five main categories. These are Operating Costs of the Branches, Training of Volunteers, Legal Advice to Voters and Candidates, Monitoring Day Expenses, and Public Awareness Programs.

For the period from the establishment of the EMC on 21/9/1996 up to the end of the year, the expenditures, which totalled YR 1.5 million were mainly to establish and launch the organization and its branch offices. Messrs Taha Al-Mutawakil, Public Accountant, did a cursive review of the documents, and issued a statement on this matter.

The main expenditure blocs during 1/1-30/4/1997, as shown in the following above, were related mainly to training, and monitoring activities.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

## Position Available

The Embassy of United States of America has a position for **Political Specialist:**

1. The position assigned to the Political Section within the Embassy, which produces analytical reports of broad scope and complexity and provides information and data obtained from high level sources.

**2. Major Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Prepare analytical reports in English on major Yemeni political and social developments.
- Develop and maintain contacts among Yemeni government officials, political party officials, leaders and non-governmental organizations, and other significant personalities throughout Yemen.
- Advise Embassy officers on Yemeni political history and current development.
- Create and maintain biographic files on prominent personalities.
- Prepare press summaries as required, on important issues.
- Interpret and translate as necessary.
- Schedule meetings for Embassy officers with prominent persons.

**3. Desired Qualifications:**

- Should have a college degree.
- Native Arabic speaker, fluent in speaking, reading and writing English.
- Possess good knowledge of current Yemeni political conditions.
- Although the political specialist will work closely with Embassy Political Officers, the candidates should be able to work independently when necessary and should use his or her initiative to suggest projects.
- Must be able to type in Arabic and English. Computer and word processing experience is preferable.

**4. How to apply:**

Interested applicant should contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a. P. O. Box 22347.

**No later than Saturday, June 6, 1997,**

## VACANCY

An Embassy has a post for a young female employee to perform the following duties:

- Make a research on Yemen according to some specific topics.
- Collecting these information from books and articles available in public libraries and other books resources.
- A good ability to translate from Arabic into English

This post does not require a specified working hours, the chosen employee shall come to the Embassy only to collect the required topics and to deliver the research, in case of having no computer or type writer could use the Embassy's equipment.

A good salary is offered.

Please send your C. V. to the following address:

P. O. Box 2501  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen



**Malta Trade Delegation Stay at The Taj Sheba**

The Malta Trade delegation held its exhibition in the Abu Nawas hall of the Taj Sheba hotel. They said they were very satisfied with the hotel arrangements.

The response from the business community has been very good and the delegation plans to visit here again shortly. Some deals have already been tied up, and some prospects look good for future development.



## VACANCY CUSTOMS SUPERVISOR

We offer challenging opportunities in logistics in line with our Yemenization program at the Marine Terminal

**Authority:**

Directs and supervises all company customs related activities on all imports and exports for the country of Yemen

**Responsibilities**

- Responsible for all customs documentation requirements to ensure all government and internal record requirements are planned for and maintained.
- Provide systems expertise for the efficient and secure archiving of all documentation packages.
- Provide leadership and direction to members of the Company Customs Department.
- Provides informed opinion to all company staff on import/export and other customs related issues.
- Liaison with other Company Departments on their customs information requirements.
- Coordinates with all Company Vendors and Contractors to ensure all relevant policies and regulations concerning import/export for the country of Yemen are adhered to.
- Develops policy and procedural recommendations concerning the operations of the Company customs function.
- Coordinates the retention of customs brokerage and clearing services as required.
- Provides training to all staff as required on customs related materials.

**Supervision:**

Supervises five Customs Department staff members.

**Minimum Qualification:**

**Education:** University degree or equivalent

**Experience:** Minimum 10 years in customs and/or import field in the country of Yemen with at least five years at the supervisory level.

**Knowledge:** Specific and highly developed expertise concerning the customs of Yemen.

**Other:** Ability to work with a multi-cultural workforce. Writes and speaks fluently in English and Arabic. High level of computer literacy.

**All candidates must be Yemeni National**

If you have these qualifications, please send your C. V. to the following address:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen,

P. O. Box No. 15137

Fax: (01) 269897

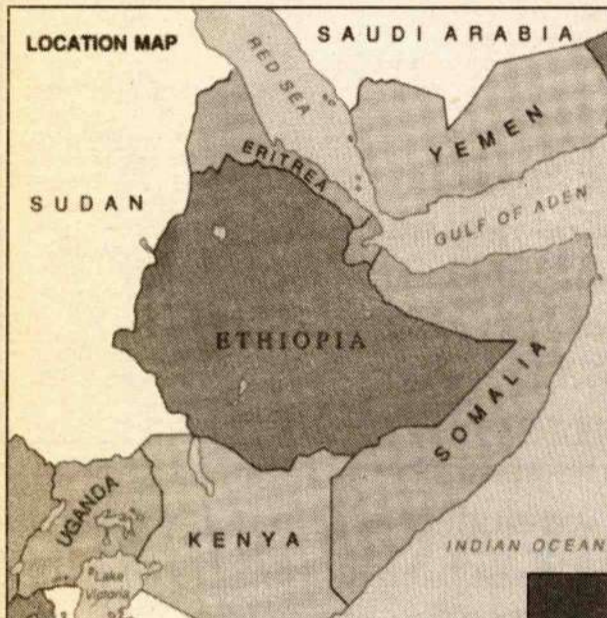
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Attention: Assistant Manager of Human Resources

**SPECIAL, SPECIAL, SPECIAL**

# ETHIOPIA

## Six Years of Democratic Governance



The past six years have also witnessed the consolidation and the entrenchment of democratic rule in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has put behind it for good the period of dictatorship, whether monarchy or militaristic. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is growing in strength as a democratic policy in which, through extensive devolution of power, its various nations, nationalities and peoples enjoy full democratic rights and the right to administer their affairs.

Gone are the days when through excessive centralization the rights of the various peoples of Ethiopia were trampled upon. Gone are the days when cruel attempts were made to impose uniformity on the various peoples of Ethiopia, thus denying them the right to preserve their identity and dignity.

achieved means that Ethiopians are entering a period of their history when they can once again walk with their heads held high. Moreover, the atmosphere of peace and stability prevailing in the country has created a favourable situation of the expansion of investment opportunities. To encourage investors to engage in more fruitful economic endeavours, the government has laid down effective strategies to create stable economic conditions. It has also adopted a free-market economic system and favourable investment policies. In this regard, practical steps have been taken by way of controlling inflation, implementing privatization programs and reviewing the country's investment code. In



A face from Ethiopia

conjunction with this measure, the government is encouraging foreign investors by providing them with new investment opportunities.

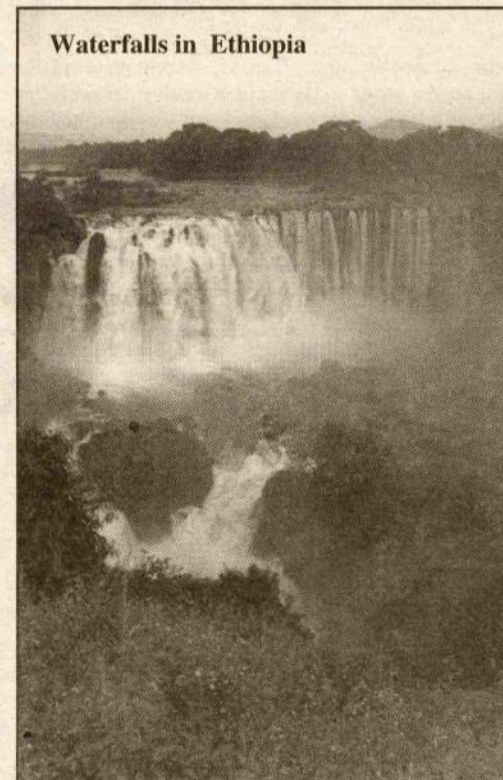
In the field of foreign relations as well major gains have been made by the country over the past six years. Relations of cooperation have been expanded between Ethiopia and countries of its sub-region as well as with other African countries. With regard to its relations with its neighbors, Ethiopia has shown the necessary resolve to promote cooperation in all areas through the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). In this context, the contribution that Ethiopia has made for peace in Somalia is notable and the latest peace initiative which has witnessed the establishment of the National Salvation Council of the Somali faction leaders at Sodere and with which Ethiopia and the IGAD countries are closely associated is hoped would lead Somalia to peace and national reconciliation. Ethiopia has also continued to be active within the OAU.

Outside of Africa, the new Ethiopia has established very strong relations of friendship and co-operation with all countries of the world and high-level officials of the Government, led by the President and the Prime Minister, have paid official visits to a number of countries, including Italy, India and China. In particular, the agreements conclude with Italy to the effect that the Aksum Obelisk be returned to Ethiopia are signs of steadily improving relations. The plunder of the obelisk more than half a century ago dealt a severe blow to the dignity and pride of Ethiopia. Nevertheless, its return symbolizes the rebirth of the country.

With regard to Ethio-Yemen relationship, very strong bonds of brotherhood have existed between our two peoples and there has been centuries old contacts between our two countries.

High-level officials of the Ethiopian Government have paid the necessary visits to Yemen Republic to reaffirm Ethiopia's readiness to the further strengthening of the already existing brotherly relations between our two countries and to explore ways and means of expanding our cooperation in different areas for the mutual benefit.

The desire of Ethiopian Government to work for peace and sta-



Waterfalls in Ethiopia

bility has also been expressed by Ethiopia's mediation effort to seek a peaceful and political solution to the dispute in the region.

Hence, Ethiopia occupies a special place particularly for its significant role in the process of bringing peace and stability in the region.

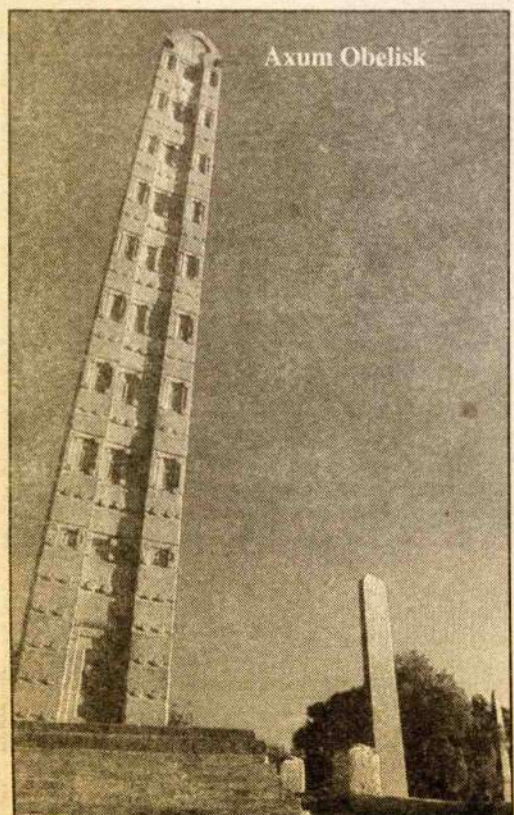
There is no doubt that Ethiopia has changed, and changed for the better, and it is with this spirit that we celebrate the sixth anniversary of Ethiopia's transition from dictatorial rule to democratic governance in a salubrious atmosphere of national peace and stability.

May 28, 1997 marks the Sixth Anniversary of Ethiopia's transition from dictatorial rule to democratic governance. It has now been six years since the peoples of Ethiopia scored a historic victory over military dictatorship and began to take steps to ensure the political and economic revitalization of the country. In this regard, May 28, 1991 is always cherished by all peace-loving and democratic Ethiopians as a historic day that ushered in the dawn of a new era when all nations, nationalities and peoples would live free and equal.

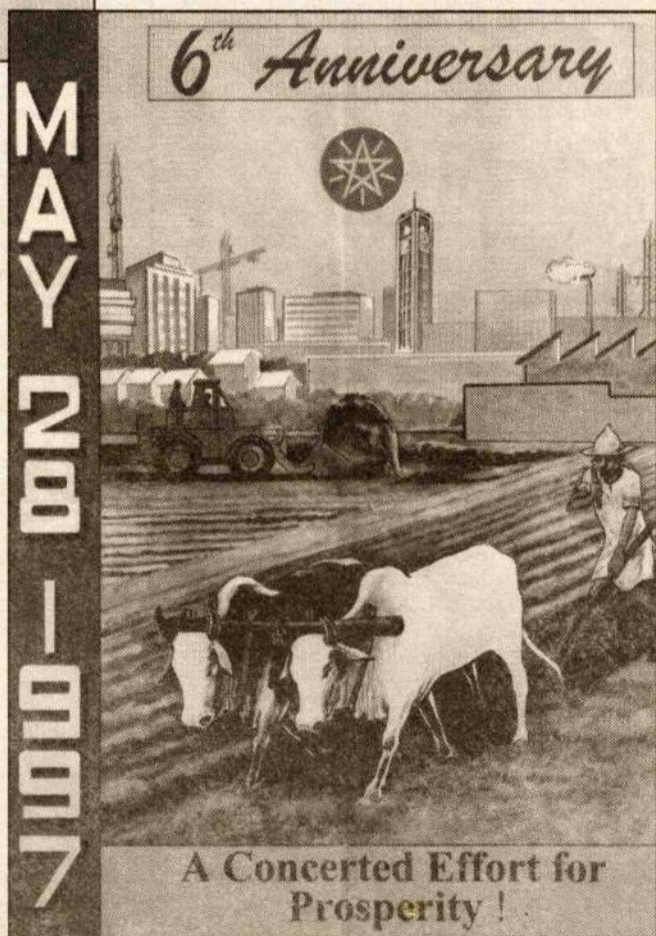
Looking back at the past six years from the vantage point of today, it becomes absolutely and unambiguously clear that what has been achieved by Ethiopia in both the political and economic spheres over these brief years of transition and consolidation has been genuinely monumental.

The fact that durable peace and stability has been established in the country can no longer be contested. Ethiopia is today, as no one can fail to appreciate, more peaceful and more stable than it has ever been in the last three decades or more.

Not only has Ethiopia become peaceful, but it has also become a strong pillar of peace in the Horn of Africa sub-region and even beyond. This is all the more notable because only six years ago many were expressing doubts about the very survival of Ethiopia as a country.



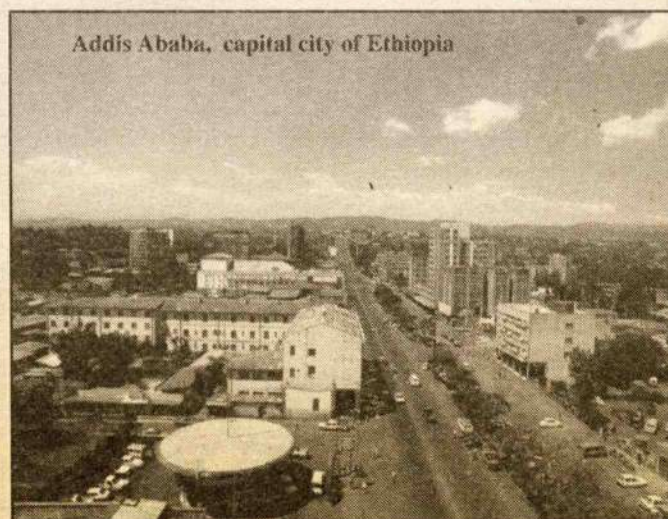
Axum Obelisk



Six years after the overthrow of dictatorship, the unity of the peoples of Ethiopia - unity in diversity - has become much more stronger than it has ever been. Unity forged in this manner which is based on the will of the Ethiopian people will no doubt be reliable, durable and dependable. This also explains the major success that the country has achieved in the area of peace and stability.

The past six years also witnessed major victories scored by the people of Ethiopia in the economic area. Thus, to all intents and purposes, Ethiopia is now about to take off economically. The average growth in GDP over the last 4 to 5 years was more than 7 percent and the figure for 1996 was over 10 percent. The achievements scored in the agricultural sector have been particularly remarkable.

No one, even the most optimistic, would have predicted five years ago that in just four or five years time Ethiopia would achieve food self-sufficiency. But that has been attained with agricultural production increasing by 50 percent to the extent that the country has not only achieved food self-sufficiency but is also preparing to export its surplus. As the restoration of the dignity of the Ethiopian people depends on Ethiopia's ability to feed its own people, the fact that this is now being



Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia

## Agip Spuds First Deep Well

The Italian oil company Agip spudded its first deep well at Bin Haydar 1, Garden Block 3, in Shabwah on 21st May, 1997. The occasion was attended by Mr. Vitaliano Napoleone, the Italian Ambassador, Mr. Ali Sheikh Omar, the Governor of Shabwah, Mr. Stefano Santi, Resident Manager of Agip Yemen BV, and a number of other people.

"This is the first real exploration well we are drilling. It is going to go 2700 meters deep to reach the basement in order to determine the potential," Mr. Santi told the Yemen Times.

Ambassador Napoleone was excited with the prospect of stronger Yemeni-Italian ties. He saw the project as an investment dimension to the trade-dominated bilateral relations.

Governor Omar assured the company of full support. In spite of which, small problems keep creeping up here and there. The company subcontracted for the drilling is Bulgargeomin Ltd (BGM). This company has a lot of experience in drilling exploratory/production oil and gas wells; in carrying out seismic and hydrogeological surveys; geological prospecting of fuels, ores and non-metallurgical materials; construction of pipelines; laboratory studies and interpretation of data; mapping and many other related services.

BGM has executed projects in many countries in the Arab region such as Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, and others. Its projects also span the world ranging from Nicaragua and Cuba in Central America and the Caribbean, and deep into Africa from Angola, to Congo, Mozambique and Zaire.

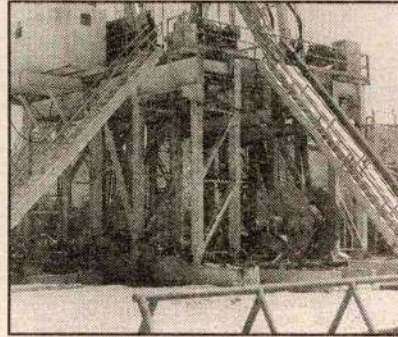
Mr. M. Manolov, Drilling BGM Manager, indicated that the 45



local staff represent 55% of the total BGM staff in Yemen. Half of them are technical staff.

Mr. Santi said that the drilling will take 55 days, if there are no interruptions. "We should then know the potential and will decide on future action."

By: Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times.



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (EXTENSION FOR BIDS)

### Health Sector Development Project

The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a credit from IDA towards the Cost of Health Sector Development Project Cr2 151 and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payment under the contract for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT.

- Bid No.1 Radio Graphic X-Ray Equipment
- Bid No.2 Medical Imaging Equipment
- Bid No.3 Hospital Lab Equipment
- Bid No.4 Operating Theatre Equipment
- Bid No.5 Blood Bank, Morgue and Dental Equipment
- Bid No.6 Electrical Generators

- The Project Management Office, on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health, (hereinafter described as "the Purchaser"), hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the above mentioned goods and related services.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Health Sector Development Project at the Ministry of Public Health.
- A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the Purchaser at the Ministry of health on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US 50 Dollar for each bid.
- The provisions in the Instruction to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank standard bidding document procurement of Goods, January 1995.
- Bids must be delivered to the above mentioned office on or before 12.00 O'clock noon on the June 12, 1997, and must be accompanied by a security of 2% (two percent).
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representative who choose to attend at the time and date specified above at the PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE in the Ministry of Public Health.

## BULGARGEOMIN LTD

presents to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

and the people of Yemen  
its warmest felicitations

on the 7th Anniversary of  
Unification Day (May 22nd),

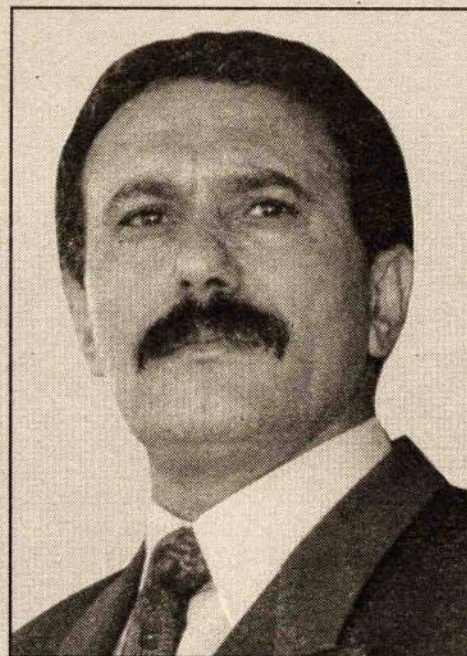
and

on the establishment of  
the Constitutional Organizations:  
Parliament, Government and the  
Upper House

**BULGARGEOMIN:**

Yemen's Partners

in Tapping Its Resources



## شركة بلغار جيومن

تتقدم إلى

فخامة الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الشعب اليمني

بأطيب التهاني وأحر الأمنيات

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة لعيد الوحدة

الثاني والعشرين من مايو

وكذلك بمناسبة إستكمال إنشاء المؤسسات

الدستورية : مجلس النواب ، الحكومة ،

والمجلس الإستشاري

شركة بلغار جيومن :

شركاء اليمن في إستخراج موارده الطبيعية

الأستاذ علوان سعيد الشيباني - رئيس مجلس الإدارة  
والإدارة العليا، والموظفون ومدراء الفروع والعمال في

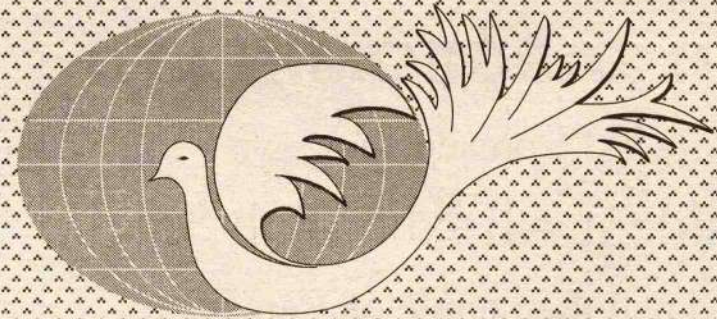
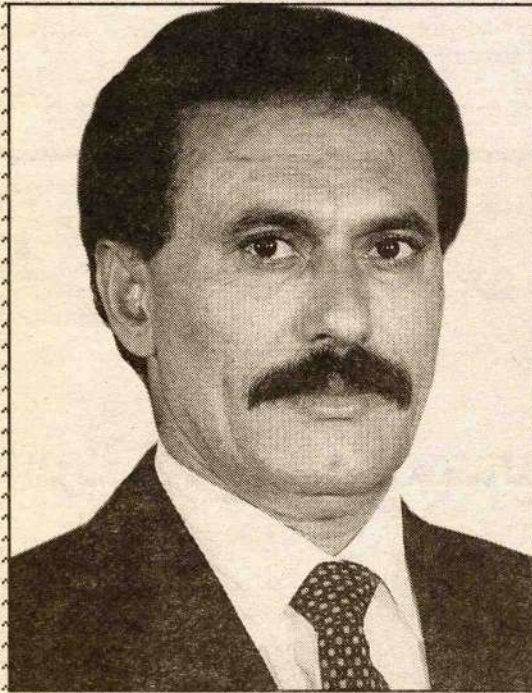
## مجموعة شركات العالمية

يزفون

أطيب التهاني وأجمل الأمنيات  
لشعبنا اليمني الأبي، ولقائد مسرتنا المظفرة فخامة الرئيس

## علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة ذكرى إعادة تحقيق الوحدة (٢٢ مايو) العطرة  
وبمناسبة استكمال إنشاء المؤسسات الدستورية  
مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الاستشاري



Mr. Alwan Saeed Shaibani, Chairman of the Board,  
the Top Management, Branch Managers, Employees and Workers of the

## UNIVERSAL Group of Companies

present their felicitations and best wishes

to

## President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and the People of Yemen

the 7th anniversary of the 22nd May, Yemen's Unification Day,  
on the establishment of the Constitutional Organizations -  
the Parliament, Government and Consultative Council

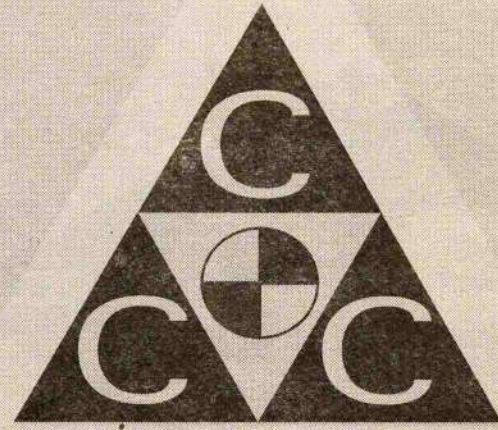
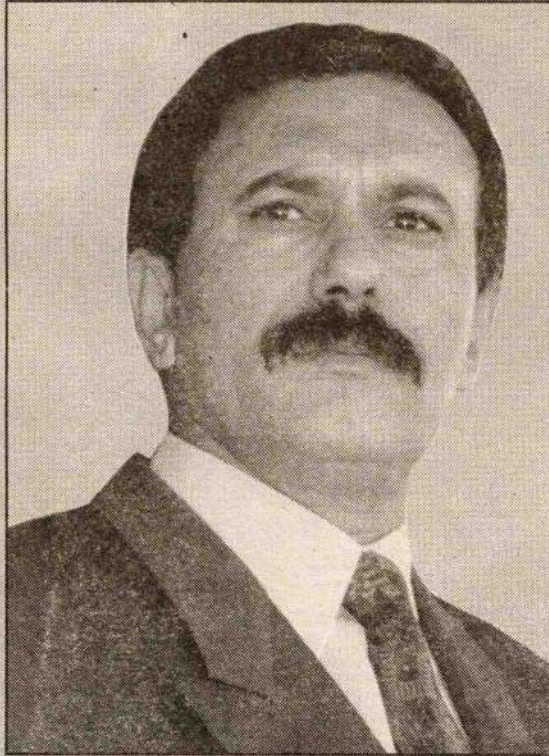


شركة  
**إتحد المقاولين العالمية (سي سي سي)**

تتقدم  
 بأعمق التهاني وأرق الأمانى  
 لليمن شعباً وحكومة وقيادة وعلى رأس الجميع فخامة الفريق

**علي عبدالله صالح**

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية - ٢٢ مايو  
 وبمناسبة إستكمال بناء المؤسسات الدستورية  
 مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الإستشاري



**CCC**

**Consolidated Contractors (Int'l) Company**

presents its warm greetings and best wishes

to

**President Ali Abdullah Saleh**

and the People of Yemen

the 7th anniversary of the 22nd May, Yemen's Unification Day,  
 on the establishment of the Constitutional Organizations -  
 the Parliament, Government and Consultative Council.

ممثلة بكبير المهندسين - المدير العام لي تشوان هواي  
وجميع المهندسين والموظفين والعمال

## مجموعة الشركات الصينية للطرق والجسور

تتقدم

بالتنهاني القلبية الحارة لفخامة الفريق

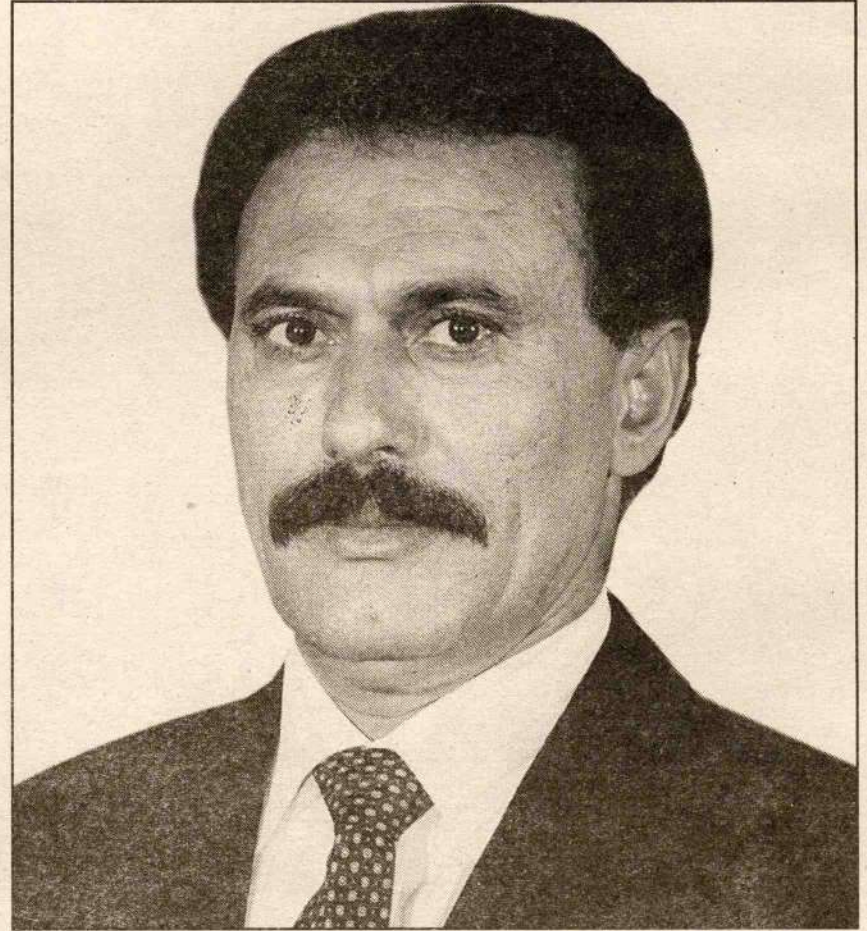
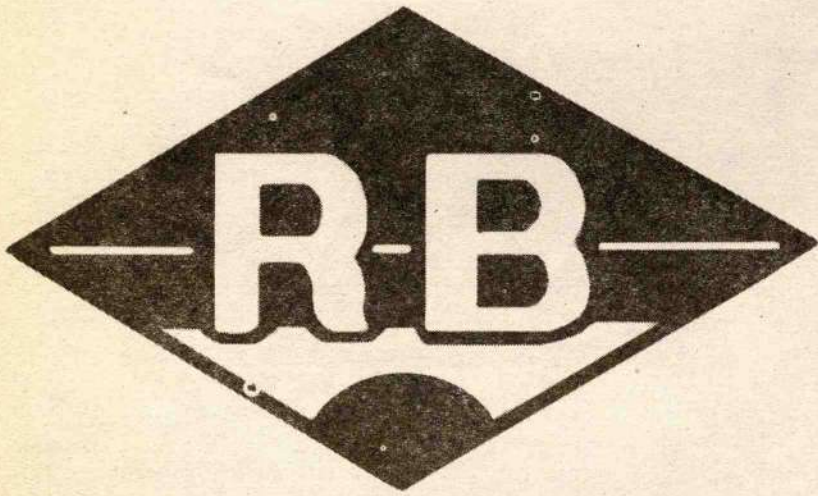
### علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى الشعب اليمني الصديق

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية (٢٢ مايو)

وبمناسبة تشكيل المؤسسات الدستورية :

مجلس النواب ، والحكومة ، والمجلس الإستشاري .



### CHINA ROAD & BRIDGE (GROUP) CORPORATION

represented by Mr. Li Quan Huai - Senior Engineer & General Manager

and all the engineers, employees and workers

present their felicitations and congratulations

to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the People of Yemen

on the 7th Anniversary of the Unity Day - 22nd May,

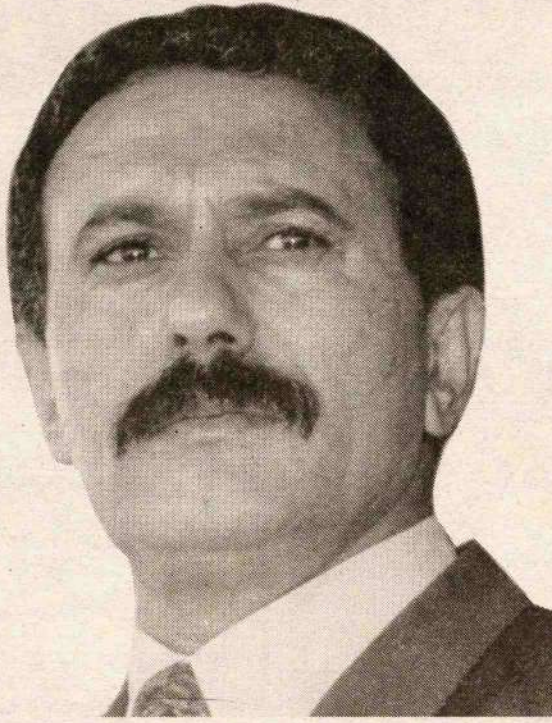
and on the formation of the Constitutional Organizations:

House of Deputies, Government and Consultative Council.

رئيس مجلس الإدارة الأستاذ عبدالله عبدالواسع البركاني  
والإدارة العليا ومدراء الفروع والموظفون والعمال في  
**بنك التسليف التعاوني الزراعي**

يتقدمون  
بأعمق التهاني وأرق الأمانى  
لليمن شعباً وحكومة وقيادة وعلى رأس الجميع فخامة الفريق  
**علي عبدالله صالح**

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة للوحدة اليمنية - ٢٢ مايو  
وبمناسبة إستكمال بناء المؤسسات الدستورية  
مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الإستشاري



The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Abdullah A. Al-Barakani, the Top Management,  
the Branch Managers, the Employees, and Workers of

## **Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank**

presents their warm greetings and best wishes  
to

### **President Ali Abdullah Saleh**

and the People of Yemen

the 7th anniversary of the 22nd May, Yemen's Unification Day,  
on the establishment of the Constitutional Organizations -  
the Parliament, Government and Consultative Council.

# YHOC:

## Time to Work, and Time for Fun

Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) has an established tradition of caring for its employees - both local and expatriate. This is clear from the many training workshops - here and abroad - it arranges for Yemeni employees. It is also clear from the strong Yemenization drive, which has now become an integral component of the company's policy.

But, there is an additional dimension to the YHOC care for its employees. The company arranges an annual picnic to which all the local and international staff, and their families, are invited.

Friday, May 23rd, 1997, witnessed one such event. It was the fourth year that the company arranges a collective outing for its people.

In total, some 300 YHOC and their families spent the day in the Al-Thawrah Park in Sanaa. Some families brought with them their food, which they shared with others, but many depended on the caterers.

The kids had most of the fun. Running around in the open space, playing on the swings, and enjoying the various games. The adults gathered in groups to discuss politics or even business, "because they are unable to forget their serious responsibilities and simply relax," as one wife noted. The women sat in circles on mats and cover spreads they brought with them.

"It was a chance to strengthen the togetherness of the company. It gives the feeling we are one large family," said Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Shami, of the Department of Public Relations of the company, and one of the organizers.

Some outsiders were invited, notably those who deal with the company, including the local media.

There is an additional dimension to the outing. The money collected from the event goes for charity. Every year, YHOC donates money to many good causes. The money often times comes from the company directly. But sometimes it comes from the employees, as was the case last Friday.

By: Yusuf Sherif,  
Yemen Times.



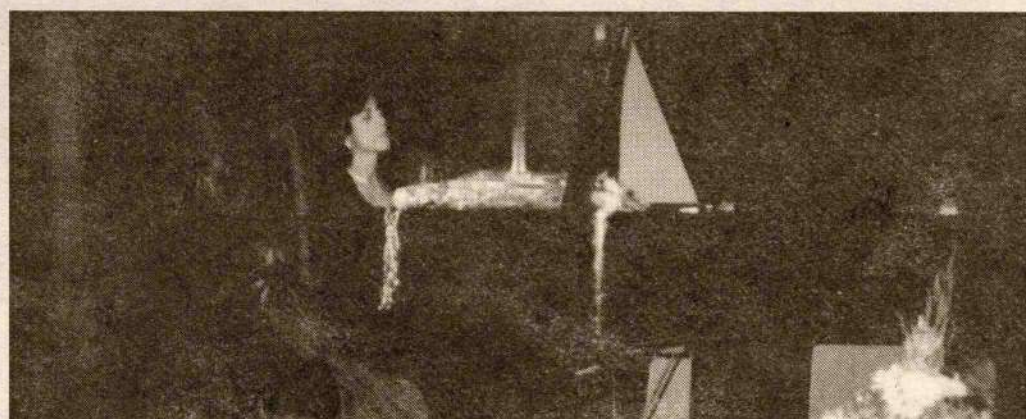
## ROYAL JORDANIAN Honors Outstanding Agents

Royal Jordanian (ALIA) and its GSA in Yemen, UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism, held in Sanaa last week a ceremony to honor the outstanding travel agents for the year 1996. There were many agents with excellent performance. "Sales were just hitting the roof," it was shown. But the airline was pushing even more. "We are expecting more this year," said Mr. Abdul-Jalil Al-Abbadi, Area Manager. The airline also announced on the occasion, its code-sharing drive with Trans-World Airlines (TWA). This means that passengers will now have the same flight number as they travel on board ALIA and TWA.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.



The Trio that Makes it Tick: from left: Omar, Alwan & Abbadi



### AN EVENING FOR A CAUSE

An evening of entertainment for a cause, is not done very often in Sana'a. But on 20th May, one such evening was held at the Al Kawkaban Ballroom of the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. Lanny Barjonet, the brain behind the event and a very active person in the elite circles of Sana'a, brought together about 180 people with a charitable bent of mind. It was an evening of a wonderful piano recital. With the assistance of Lufthansa, she arranged for Valentine Diaz-Frenot to fly in. Her performance included pieces from Scarletti, Beethoven, Chopin and many more of international repute. No one could have asked for a better rendition in one evening. The event left the audience asking for more. The proceeds from the sales of tickets were for charitable organizations in Yemen. The spectacular evening was co-sponsored by Lufthansa, Mam International and the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. Yemen Times hails the effort, the enjoyment, and the worthy cause behind it all.

## Aden Free Zone

present its best wishes and congratulation to

### President Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of Yemen

and to the newly- formed government, parliament  
and the Yemeni People

on the 7th anniversary of unification day (22 May).

Many Happy Returns

## الهيئة العامة للمناطق الحرة - عدن

تتقدم

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى قائد المسيرة

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبة ٢٢ مايو يوم اعلان الوحدة المباركة،

وبمناسبة تشكيل الحكومة الجديدة

برئاسة الدكتور فرج سعيد بن غانم

وبمناسبة تشكيل المجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني



### Egypt Pushes Kurdish Factions to Reconcile

Egypt is pressing rival Kurdish factions to reconcile their differences to prevent a possible disintegration of Iraq, according to a top Kurdish leader and Egyptian officials. Egypt's involvement in the volatile area is almost certain to anger Iraq and raise suspicions in Turkey and Iran, which have been fighting their own Kurdish insurgents. "Our brothers in Egypt want to help us closing the Kurdish ranks," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK. "We welcome that, and believe it is a sincere and genuine effort." Egypt reportedly is backing US efforts to arrange a meeting between leaders of the PUK and its main rival, the Kurdish Democratic Party, KDP, to discuss ways of ending their conflict. Cairo is offering to host the meeting, which has so far been handled by Turkey.

However, Ankara's drive inside Iraq to annihilate the KKK, an irredentist Kurdish movement in Turkey has itself alarmed the Kurds of Iraq and Iran.

The two Iraqi Kurdish factions have generally observed a US-brokered cease-fire concluded last October, but the United States wants them to resolve their differences to head off possible armed conflict in the future. A US-sponsored meeting between the leaders is expected later this month in Ankara, the Turkish capital.

Egypt's Foreign minister, Amr Moussa received Talabani in Cairo and said Egypt would maintain contacts with Iraqi Kurdish groups to express its support for Iraq's Unity. Many Arab nations as well as Egypt fear that renewed conflict between Kurdish factions could lead to the eventual dismantling of Iraq. Talabani reassured Egyptian officials that his group was fighting for autonomy within Iraq and not independence.

### UAE: Teaching Policemen to Be Community-Friendly

The Sharjah Police Academy is teaching cadets to be community-involved and community friendly to increase the public's favorable perceptions of the force. Police personnel should always be fair and unbiased when dealing with the public, for they represent the dignity of the entire police force, said Dr. Abdullah Masharrakh, director of the academy. Masharrakh said that policemen attract attention in any society, because they are responsible for maintaining peace and security. They should be respected rather than be feared.

### TUNISIA FOCUS: Human Resource Development

Three issues were the center-point of the report of the Employment and Human Resource Commission of Tunisia. They are Employment, Professional training, and education.

In terms of employment, the 6% annual growth rate to be achieved during the Ninth Plan will help create 320,000 jobs. This is achieved by encouraging private initiative, and promoting small enterprises.

The report also indicated that by the year 2001, the restructuring of Tunisian enterprises will make it necessary to provide more professional training opportunities. The number of graduates from training centers then will reach 48,500, compared to 9,500 in 1996.

But it is in education that most of the investment will go. An action plan to improve the quality of education has already been launched. It seeks to update and revise text-books, make them easier to read; generalize the use of computers in schools; reduce the rate of school drop-outs; etc.

In the Higher Education sector, efforts focus on reforming curricula, diversifying fields of study, developing research, and boosting private education.

The Tunisian government spends more than a third of its budget on human resource development.

### Jordan Comes to Grips with the Issue of Free Press

The Jordanian capital, Amman, witnessed a confrontation last week between journalists and the police force. The journalists were complaining against a new press law, which puts new limitations on press freedom. The government sent out the police force to reign in the journalists who were protesting in front of the prime minister's office. This protest is illegal because it was not authorized by the Interior Ministry," said a government spokesman. In Jordan, protests and demonstrations need an advance clearance.

The Journalists Syndicate, which mounted the demonstration, stated the new press law was not legal as it comes in conflicts with the constitution. Many professional syndicates, especially the Lawyers' Syndicate came out in support of the journalists.

Jordan enjoys a rather liberal political atmosphere. The country has a multi-party political system in which different political colors compete for influence in the country.

### MALAYSIA: Globalization Must Not Favor the Rich

Malaysia's prime minister Mahathir Mohammad urged developing countries to unite against a world order run by the rich while the poor remain voiceless. He called the wealthy Group of Seven (G7) industrialised states a "snooty" club, and criticised the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB).

He said that in a global economy, national borders would be erased and competition would be fierce, but it must not favor the rich and powerful nations. "I appreciate the genuine concern and cooperation of many developed countries about developing the poor countries. But I must warn them that there will always be things they will do which will not benefit us," he said. He cited what he called "corruption" of poorer countries with aid, forcing them to adopt positions favored by donors.

"The industrialised world should help developing nations manage their economies, but poorer countries should be heard before decisions are taken on issues affecting them," he said. We have been totally ignored. The G7-members are snooty. They will not talk with people outside their club except Russia. In modern day liberal democracy, only the rich can have a say; the poor shall remain voiceless. Are we in a position to face this challenge of globalisation? Obviously not. But no one is going to wait for us to get ready, so we must face it. He then urged the countries of Southern Africa to establish contact and cooperate with the ASEAN nations.

### Arab League Asks Turkey to Withdraw from Iraq

The Arab League denounced Turkish army's incursion into Northern Iraq and demanded that its troops be immediately withdrawn. "The use of force inside the territory of an Arab country to treat internal tensions (in Turkey) could have serious consequences for security in the entire region," the League said in a statement. "We denounce this act, which constitutes interference in Iraq's internal affairs and demand that Turkish troops immediately withdraw from Iraqi territory," it added.

Despite the League's warning, Turkish troops, tanks and air power continued to pound rebel Kurdish positions over 200 kilometers deep inside northern Iraq. The incursion - involving at least 10,000 soldiers - was carried out under a "news blackout" with journalist barred from the region.

UN guards in Zakho in northern Iraq, reported the invasion to UN headquarters. No comments so far.

### SUDAN: A New Opposition Offensive

Sudanese rebels based in neighboring Eritrea are about to embark on the second phase of armed attack, as Khartoum is offering a political solution to the long-running civil war. "We are soon going to unleash the second phase of our offensive," said Yasser Arman, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

According to Arman, Sudanese opposition forces in the south and north, brought together in the National Democratic Alliance, have made headway or consolidated their positions, since beginning their offensive in January from the Eritrean and Ethiopian borders in east and southern Sudan. In the northeast, where a new front has been established on the Red Sea, the opposition - whose aim is to cut off the Port-Sudan-Kassala route, the terrestrial supply link to Khartoum - claims to be 35 kilometers from Kasala. Southern Sudan's main city Juba is surrounded and aid can no longer penetrate by land routes.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese government has successfully negotiated diplomatic solutions with Sudanese southerners, according to which the South will get the right to rule itself in a loose federation within a unified Sudan. The Government is also preparing for a military showdown expected to heat up this summer.

### PAKISTAN: Smuggling Trims Pakistan's Income

Pakistan suffers revenue losses of around US\$ 100 million annually through the smuggling of television sets and air-conditioners into the country. A market survey has shown the inflow of smuggled items severely hits domestic manufacturers.

Electronic dealers prefer to buy smuggled items which are often cheaper. In a bid to stem the trend, local manufacturers recently decided not to do business with dealers selling smuggled goods, but the move failed.

The Pakistan Electronic Manufacturers Association said that half a million television units of various brands are annually smuggled into the country, against an estimated total demand of 0.8 million. The influx of smuggled goods is attributed to the misuse of green channel system at the airports and to clandestine transfers across the border from neighboring Afghanistan. Local manufacturers urged the government to take more effective administrative measures to curb smuggling and save the domestic industry from collapse.

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## The Full Report on the Workshops on: Gender & Economic Reform

Gender and Economic Reform through Yemeni Women's Eyes is the title of two forums, which were held in Aden and Sana'a on 23th and 25th March, respectively. Funded by the British Council and the Dutch Embassy, the meetings attracted a multitude of local and foreign experts and people interested in women's issues.

Following below is the report based on those workshops.

There has been a staggering economic downturn in Yemen since the unification of 1994. The reasons for this are:

- \* the merging of two administrations without applying efficiency standards (for political and social reasons)

- \* the return of almost one million migrants after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

- \* a dramatic drop in the level of foreign donor support for Yemen.

These circumstances led to an unsustainable budget deficit reaching 18% of GDP in 1994. Inflation rose to over a 100% in 1995, foreign exchange reserves were down to a meager coverage of only six weeks of imports, and the riyal devaluated rapidly.

At the end of 1995, an agreement was reached with the IMF and the World Bank on a framework for economic reform. At the beginning of 1996, the first measures of the reform program were taken. Energy prices increased by 70%, subsidies on wheat decreased, import procedures were deregulated, government revenues increased and expenditures were cut.

The results are quite remarkable. Inflation now stands at 10%, the budget deficit is less than 2% of GDP, foreign reserves are more than one billion dollars, and the riyal has become a stable convertible currency.

Economic reform measures that were applied included market liberalization, privatization of state companies, increases in exports, increased taxation to increase government income, and increase in capital stock through international credits and investments.

### ECONOMIC REFORM AND GENDER: AN OVERVIEW

The economic reform program has worked, but it has affected people's lives. Efficiency (no waste of time and resources) and equity (equal and full participation of everyone in the economy) are interrelated.

For example, the civil service opening up posts at higher level for well qualified women, who could replace less qualified men, makes the administration both more efficient and more equitable. It is more efficient since it does not waste women's educational resources (as currently happens), and it is more equitable because it gives equal treatment to men and women in the labor force.

Gender is defined as the cultural and hierarchically ordered differences between men and women. Gender equity means giving equal opportunities for men and women. Gender efficiency means not wasting resources of men and women. Gender is therefore a fundamental part of efficiency and equity.

Like many other developing countries, Yemen is an agricultural country. There are great gender differences in men's and women's economic roles because of differing responsibilities, resources and constraints. According to the UNDP Human Development Report for 1995, women earn 10% of the total national income, while men earn 90%. Approximately 25% of

women are literate, while 50% of men are literate. Men work mainly in the market, while women work in the unpaid care economy. Men have more access than women to a wage income, credit, land, property rights and education. Women also face more constraints than men in terms of lower wages, job segregation, time pressure because of their obligation to getting permission of their husbands or fathers for credit, wage labor, property or even mobility.

The paid economy is male intensive, while the care economy is female intensive. The first conclusion which can be drawn, therefore, is that the economic structure is characterized by inequity vis-a-vis women, and there are unequal opportunities for women as compared to men. The unpaid "care" economy and the paid market economy are also interrelated, since the paid economy provides the care economy with goods for consumption (like food), and investment (like school books or medicine). The care economy in turn, provides the paid economy with labor: it "produces" well-educated and socially adapted workers for the labor markets over a period of 15-20 years, through investing and caring for children.

Because of the gender differentiation in responsibilities, resources, and constraints, economic reforms have different impacts on men and women at the micro level. Also because of different gender roles, the macro economic effects of economic reform measures, like devaluation, privatization, and retrenchment may have other effects on GDP, exports, production, and human capital formation, than was originally intended or expected. For example, keeping girls from school because of higher school fees or need for their help in the household, decreases human capital formation in the next generation; it may keep fertility levels high and slow the per capita GDP growth. Abolition of subsidies on wheat, makes consumer prices higher and since it is women who are responsible for domestic food supplies, this affects them directly, especially urban women. If at the same time, men continue to spend the same amount of the household budget on personal expenses, for example cigarettes, and alcohol (as was found in Latin America), or qat (as in Yemen), women face great difficulties in their responsibility for household food security.

Experience of economic reform elsewhere shows the effects of government budget cuts can be to shift the costs of health care, nutrition, and education from the state to the unpaid care economy at the cost of women.

The second conclusion that can be drawn is that economic reforms do not necessarily reduce gender inequality, and are often characterized by gender inefficiencies. There is a waste of time and energy in that women's labor is over-utilized which may cause undernutrition, health problems and child neglect. Girls' labor is used intensively which limits their opportunities for human capital formation, and women unpaid care work is unrecognized.

The third conclusion to be drawn is that because economic structures are inequitable and reforms are often inefficient, then the reforms become ineffective:

- \* They transfer costs from the paid to the unpaid economy

- \* They result in inefficient resource allocation for production.

- \* They increase "time poverty" for women.

- \* There is a decrease in food security.

- \* There is decreased human capital formation in women and children.

The objective then should be to make development more effective, and more gender aware, thus increasing effectiveness.

### SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF GENDERED ECONOMIC REFORM

Only 17% of Yemeni women are counted in Labor Force Statistics as "economically active." However, it is obvious that they make a major contribution to the survival and well-being of their families. About 71% of them are noted as working as unpaid family laborers, particularly in agriculture and food processing, where their contribution is central to the economic subsistence of households, but where they may not be seen as working, but as "helping" their families as part of their duties and obligations as wives and daughters. The extent to which these activities are, or are not accounted for as part of the GNP is likely to be very variable (i.e. produce sold will be recorded, the work of female laborers may not).

Other crucial household tasks do not enter the statistical catchment area at all. Provision of domestic energy such as fetching wood and water, provision of shelter and house repairs, cooking, cleaning and sewing, providing health and home remedies, caring for children and the elderly, are areas of knowledge and skill that are disregarded. Often, these activities provide the crucial pre-condition for any other work to take place. They are not included in economic models, but are the foundation for all other aspects of daily life.

In Yemen, where reliance on fuelwood, (which according to the World Bank provided 80-90% of household energy requirements at present), coupled with acute water shortage are significant factors, and the way these tasks are carried out makes a critical difference to household viability. If the economic sphere is defined solely in terms of marketable goods and services, an inaccurate picture of the "economy" as a whole will result.

Any attempt to address poverty and support vulnerable groups must pay attention to these activities and recognize that the "private" domain is also an economic space. The gender neutrality of reform measures masks these issues and creates an implicit gender bias which may not only be ultimately prejudicial to women themselves, but also to family survival as a whole.

There are three key terms that must be the starting point for a gender-aware approach to economic reform. They are:

- \* Disaggregation, i.e., making sure that the different activities of men and women are noticed, accounted for, and valued.

- \* Livelihoods, i.e., taking the total range of household subsistence activities, including caring as well as work for wage, into account.

- \* Sustainability, i.e., making sure that the wider impact of any changes instituted will enhance, not undermine, household economic and social viability, and, in the longer term, will include the well-being of children, particularly girls and future generations.

The assumption that the household is a homogeneous unit has hampered the ability to understand the way that change takes place and power is distributed in social life. The assumption that getting increased income to a male wage earner will necessarily

result in improved household well-being has been shown by a number of research studies to be erroneous.

Household resources are distributed differently between men and women, according to specific cultural practices. The access of each to ownership of goods, land and other property, through inheritance or purchase, the ability to make decisions about financial and productive strategies, the arrangement of household budgets, etc., is different. The view that all will share equally, and that increased male income will invariably "trickle down" to all household members (often assumed in macro-economic policy) needs to be assessed in each context. It might be the case in certain contexts, but it must be evaluated, not taken for granted. The patterns of belief that are central to household organization include:

- \* The conjugal contract (what is required of male and female behavior on marriage in each different culture).

- \* Gender ideology (what are men and women able to do, prevented from doing, expected to do, etc.).

- \* Gender interactions (how do the activities of men and women interweave in the household in terms of time and space, rights and duties, etc.).

- \* Budgets and the allocation of resources (Who has control? Who makes decisions? Is income pooled and distributed? Do men and women have responsibility for certain kinds of expenditure such as food, school fees, etc.).

- \* What are the "entitlements" of men and women to certain kinds of expenditure (on children, for weddings, for kin, for personal use, for new productive ventures, etc.).

- \* How are these worked out in practice? Are there dominant conventions or areas where bargaining and negotiation goes on? This leads to a model of the household, not as a simple unit, but as matrix of interests, some of which will be shared by men and women together, some of which may be different, and some of which may be actually conflictual.

Household livelihood and resource models must also take into account the sequence of events in time and space. How are the hours in the day, in the context of a local environment, filled by activities which enable the household to maintain the well-being of members? Change, remove or add an element and the whole complex web may be strengthened, weakened or may collapse. There is a complex network of linkages and feedback mechanisms in operation in any context which link women, men and environments in subtle relationships.

Economic policies (removal of food subsidies, increased transport costs, the need to purchase items that were home produced before the introduction of new technologies that require greater labor input, etc.) may have impacts that are unforeseen unless these feedback mechanisms are understood. These impacts may be benign, but it is necessary to test this in each situation.

The Structural Adjustment plan proposed for Yemen by the World Bank specifically mentions the importance of bottled gas. This will clearly reduce women's pressured time, and it would also be of tremendous value in stemming the escalation of environmental degradation. Some families will have enough spare income to change from fuelwood to gas without problems.

On the surface, therefore, it appears to be a highly positive

measure. The report does not, however, provide any attempt to deal with the issue of how gas is to be obtained by poor families, or what the implications are for household resources.

There is a range of different negative consequences for women and for their families, which resulted from the interaction of policies with specific local conditions. Key features of these include:

- 1- The withdrawal of subsidies which mean that women bear the brunt of stretching available income, or take on extra responsibilities to earn income.

- 2- Increased transport costs which may mean that women walk or suffer from greatly reduced mobility in general.

- 3- Privatization policies which increase competition, often push women out of existing jobs as the first to be fired, concentrating even more women into informal sector, and resulting in what some researchers have called a "privatization crisis." The concentration on macro-enterprise as an aspect of many policy measures could be beneficial for women, but will not be unless coupled with the commitment of funds for credit programs and capacitation which might enable women to take advantage of these programs. In the context of Yemen, it is likely to be of very limited benefit without a number of further enabling measures, which should be included for any worthwhile support for vulnerable groups to be realized.

The World Bank is committed to resolving gender issues. Some new initiatives in this direction include:

- \* An emphasis on mainstreaming gender issues in Country Agreement, sector reports, and all operations

- \* Emphasis on greater learning from outside World Bank sources

- \* Regular bi-annual World Bank reports to NGOs on the progress achieved in incorporating gender issues in the WB work program.

Gender issues in Yemen are particularly important given that the demographic and social indicators are so low for women. There is an unyielding quality to the problems in Yemen, for reasons such as the lack of gender disaggregated data, the lack of policy clarity, the lack of institutionalization of gender issues, and the low level of donor cooperation and coordination in this domain.

The World Bank is recommending that education and health expenditure be increased during the coming period because they have important implications for availability of basic services for women, children and the poor generally.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

#### Girls' Education:

- \* That the Education Law which has been approved by parliament, regarding compulsory and free education, be implemented.

- \* Establishment of a female vocational training fund for post-basic and elementary education, with special attention to skills needed in urban and rural areas.

- \* Application of incentives and regulations for both male and female teachers in rural and remote areas of Yemen, to encourage girls' education.

- \* The budget for the Ministry of Education should be adjusted upwards to allow for population growth and the increased demand for education, especially for girls.

- \* Educational services should be distributed equally between males and females.

- \* Educational services should be distributed equally between rural and urban areas, and incentives should be given to teachers in remote areas.

#### Legal Issues & Family Rights:

- \* That a law be issued to organize and regulate the work of NGOs based on international and

national agreements & practices.

- \* That national legislation be introduced to conform with international agreements guaranteeing rights and privileges for women, notably women's political rights.

- \* That guarantees for social service consumers be provided in the case of privatized services due to World Bank policies. Those planning reforms should guarantee consumers' rights.

- \* That the Family Law be reconsidered and modified to conform with the Republic of Yemen Constitution.

- \* That the Labor Law be reformed, to take account of the new roles that women play in the economy, without affecting women's roles inside the family.

- \* Research and legal studies relating to women should be published to raise awareness among men and women to assist in finding mechanisms to reach legislative authorities.

#### Income & Employment

- \* That increased support and encouragement be given to handicrafts production and marketing.

- \* Provision of equal work opportunities for men and women, especially during the implementation of the new economic reforms.

- \* That there be better coordination among organizations working in the same field in order to gain optimal benefit, and good use of the Social Fund for Development set up by the World Bank.

- \* Income-generating projects for women should be funded and implemented through the World Bank Social Fund for Development, and loans should be provided for women to start investment projects.

- \* Programs to raise awareness among decision makers regarding women's invisible, unvalued, and unpaid work must be undertaken.

- \* Unemployed workers who lost jobs as a result of privatization policies, should be rehired through cooperatives and NGOs.

#### Women's Health:

- \* A greater proportion of government health resources should be spent on mother-and-child health programs.

- \* A district health approach should be encouraged, through training of local primary health care teams and greater community participation in managing and funding health services. Such services should include NGOs and voluntary organizations in implementation.

- \* Incentives should be provided for health workers and teachers working in rural and remote areas of Yemen.

- \* There should be an increase in government health resources to be spent on mother-and-child health programs.

- \* Cost recovery measures should be applied to health services, while at the same time considering poor families and improving the quality of health services.

#### Civil Service Reform:

- \* Encourage and implement the decentralization of power, and higher community management.

- \* Implement a legislative and structural adjustment policy to establish an independent authority able to carry out effective administrative reforms.

- \* Upgrade the social and educational standards in Yemen in order to be able to absorb and benefit from the structural adjustment program.

- \* Raise awareness of men and women about the important role that women can play in society, considering the prominent role that women have played in Arab and Islamic history.

- \* Link economic development programs to upgrade women's skills and to enable them to participate more effectively in economic and social development.

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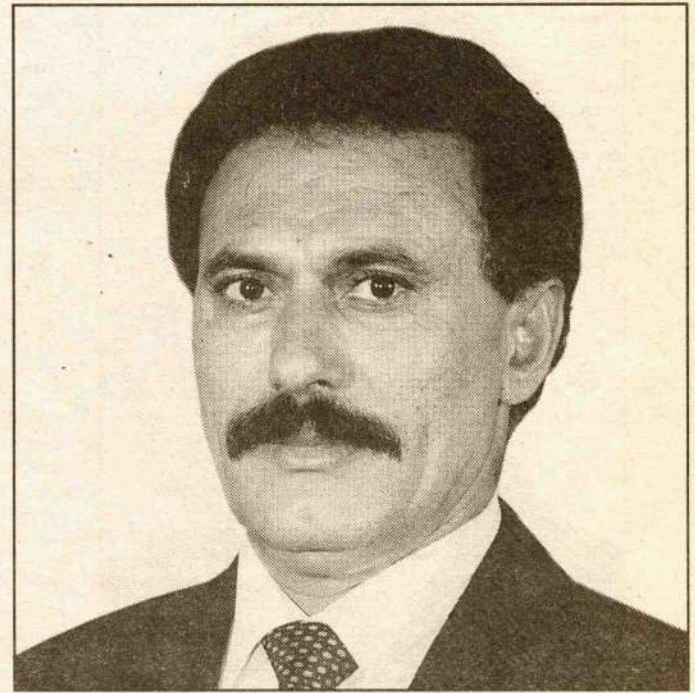
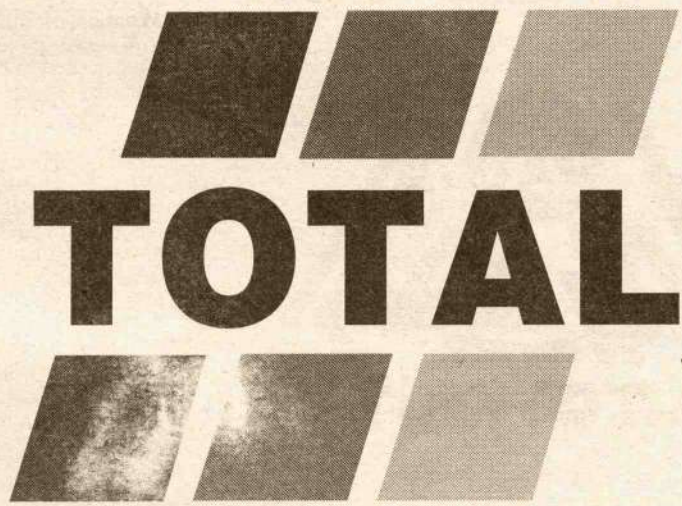
## شركة توتال اليمن

يتقدمون

بأسمى آيات التهاني وأطيب التبريكات  
للشعب اليمني الأبى، ولقائد اليمن ورمزه فخامة الرئيس

## علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة العيد السابع لذكرى إعادة تحقيق الوحدة (٢٢ مايو)  
وبمناسبة إكمال إنشاء المؤسسات الدستورية  
مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الإستشاري  
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to

## President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and the People of Yemen

the 7th anniversary of the 22nd May, Yemen's Unification Day,  
on the establishment of the Constitutional Organizations -  
the Parliament, Government and Consultative Council,  
Many Happy Returns to All

# مؤسسة التويتي الوطنية

للهندسة والمقاولات العامة

يتقدمون

بأطيب التهاني وأجمل الأمنيات

لشعبنا اليمني الأبي، ولإبن اليمن البار فخامة الرئيس

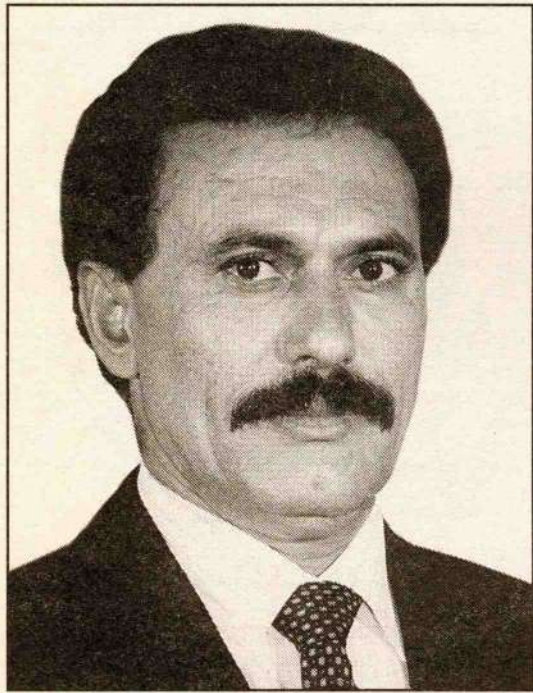
## علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة ذكرى إعادة تحقيق الوحدة (٢٢ مايو) العطرة

وبمناسبة إنشاء المؤسسات الدستورية

مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الإستشاري

مؤسسة التويتي: ركيزة هامة من ركائز التنمية اليمنية الحديثة



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يتقدمون

بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات  
للشعب اليمني الأبى ، ولابن اليمن البار فخامة الرئيس

## علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة العيد السابع لذكرى إعادة تحقيق الوحدة (٢٢ مايو)  
وبمناسبة إنشاء المؤسسات الدستورية  
مجلس النواب والحكومة الجديدة والمجلس الإستشاري  
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the 7th anniversary of the 22nd May, Yemen's Unification Day,  
on the establishment of the Constitutional Organizations -  
the Parliament, Government and Consultative Council,  
and on the New Hejira Year

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 21-5-97 (Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Land Usurping in Lahaj Continues
- 2) Hadhramaut Clergy Thank President for Releasing Son of "Mowj" Opposition Leader
- 3) Pilots' and Aviation Engineers' Syndicates Suspend Measures to Demand Higher Wages
- 4) UN Provide \$5 Million to Protect Environment in Socotra

**Article Summary:**

**Horrific Traffic Accident**

In the worst traffic accident in Abyan, a bus carrying 40 passengers collided with a heavy lorry - 10 km from the Sheikh Salim area. Nine passengers died immediately, and 15 were injured. Some of the seriously injured are still being looked after at Al-Razi Hospital, Abyan. Due to the lack of adequate medical facilities and the absence of the ambulance driver; more deaths occurred and some injuries became worse.

Most of the dead and injured were sitting on the driver's side.

After regaining conscious, the bus driver stated that he saw "the lorry coming from the opposite direction, swerving from left to right."

**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 20-5-97**

**(Nasserite Unionist party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Supreme Court Rejects 32 Out of 36 Elections Contestations
- 2) Parliament Speaker, Sheikh Al-Ahmer: "Discussing normalization with Israel is premature."
- 3) Despite Appointing its Secretary-General as Minister, Al-Haq Party Condemns Opposition Figures Joining Government
- 4) Nasserite and Baath Parties Condemn Turkish Incursion in Northern Iraq

**Article Summary:**

**School Curriculums Politically Amended**

Before the resignation of the last government, the Islahi minister of education had ordered the printing of new school books, with amendments to suit Islah's doctrines. Words and phrases such as "armed struggle" were replaced with "jihad," and "Arab Nation" with "Islamic Nation."

The former minister wanted to put the new government in a state of fait accompli. But the higher authorities have intervened, stopped the printing,



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

and ordered a complete reviewing of the curricula. The PGC aims to abolish the Islah-run, so-called scholastic institutes, and unify the, hitherto, divided education system.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-5-97**

**[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Sheikh Al-Ahmer Re-elected Speaker of Parliament
- 2) 1/4 Million Students Participate in Final-Year Secondary Schools Examinations
- 3) Yemen's Two Main Electricity Grids Connected on Unification Anniversary

**Article Summary:**

**Islah and Authority**

Islah had reached power through democratic and peaceful means. Force and violence are not among the Islah's choices. Through the same democratic means, Islah has left the ruling authority, and joined the opposition. Despite all the violations that accompanied the elections process, Islah has accepted its outcome.

Authority for Islah is a means toward a lofty end. By joining the government after the elections of 1993, Islah aimed to serve the supreme national interests, and combat corruption. Despite all the restrictions and lack of authorization, Islah worked hard during its tenure in government to serve the nation as best as it could.

**AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-5-97**

**(Yemeni Socialist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Several MPs Contest Legitimacy of Parliamentary Speaker Election
- 2) YSP Celebrates Unification Anniversary
- 3) YSP Secretary-General, Moqbil, in London for Medical Treatment
- 4) Lawyers Syndicate's Secretary-General

**Escapes Assassination Attempt**

**Article Summary:**

**Public Anger in Hadhramaut**

Several political and people's organizations in Hadhramaut have expressed deep anger and resentment for the death of the soldier Awadh Mubarak. Along with two other soldiers, Awadh, 30, was beaten unconscious, after asking for permission to skip training due to illness. He died on his way to hospital.

According to some sources, the police tried to cover up the incident. They claimed that death occurred because of high blood pressure. But medical reports at Ibn Seena Hospital stated that Awadh suffered from extreme shock, compounded by severe diarrhea.

Another young man was killed earlier in the week in Al-Thawra military camp. He was beaten by police with metal skewers.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-5-97**

**(Yemeni Armed Forces)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President: "There is no real democracy without a strong and constructive opposition."
- 2) Ministry of Interior Aims to Ban Carrying Weapons Inside Towns
- 3) New Prime Minister: "Local authority law is the government's top priority."
- 4) New Electricity-Generating Units Now Operating in Mukalla

**Article Summary:**

**Priorities of this Stage**

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has accurately specified the top priorities of this stage in the life of the people of Yemen. The government will confidently proceed with the economic, financial and administrative reforms; combatting corruption; the protection of public funds and property; empowering the monitoring and auditing organs; and enhancing

the cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. The new era requires hard work for consolidating the establishments of modern democracy. The principles of free-market economy and the necessary infrastructure to support it, are also high on the new government's agenda.

**AL-JAMAHEER: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-5-97**

**(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ba'ath Secretary-General and Member of Parliament Presidium: "Monitoring the government's program will be intensified."
- 2) The President Advises Ministers to Make Clean Start
- 3) Independent Mosque Imams to be Appointed
- 4) Government Employees in Aden have not Received Annual Bonuses Yet

**Article Summary:**

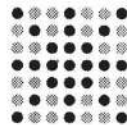
**Elections Files Opened**

Several violations and irregularities are cited by candidates and voters alike. Some ballot papers were discredited for no good reasons. In constituency #85 in Taiz, for instance, many ballot papers were found carrying the same marks with the same type of pen, which belonged to the head of the elections committee! Some ballot boxes were found to have been opened and re-sealed. Elections committee members were forced to sign the re-applied sealing wax.

Other irregularities included the transfer of troops among constituencies to buttress the chances of some favored candidates. Some voters found their names transferred to other constituencies without their knowledge. Certain candidates were enabled to get their relatives' names re-registered in their constituencies. Many voters were allowed to use their personal IDs, instead of the official voting cards, when casting their votes.

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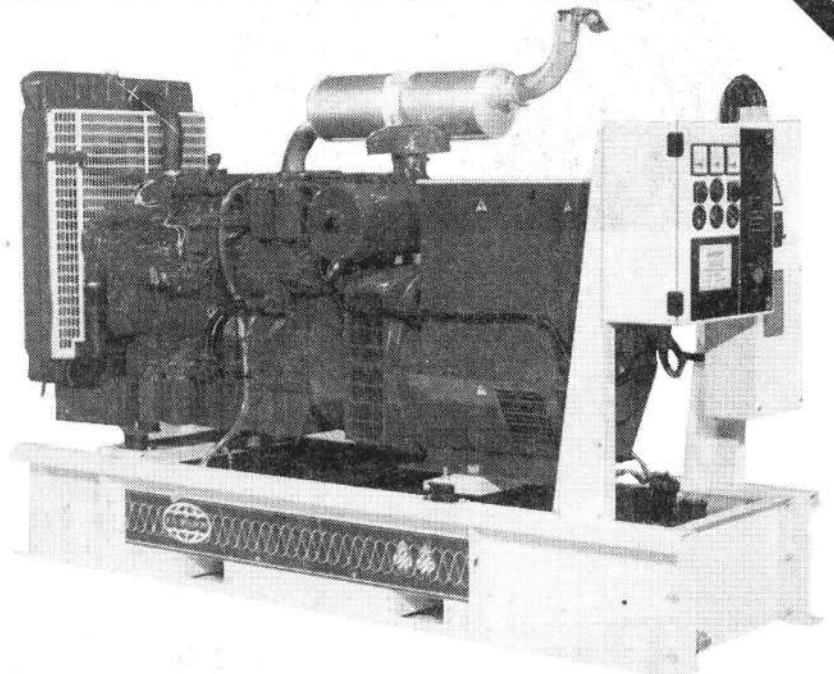
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Wednesday	04/6/97	9:00am - 1:00pm	& 3:00pm - 6.00pm
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Later this month, I will be leaving Yemen for China. I have finished my work as an eye specialist of the Chinese Medical Team (CMT) at Aden General hospital. My heart is filled with love for Yemen. I have lived here for more than two years and made many friends.

I need not discuss how warm and kind-hearted Yemenis are.

Over the last three months, I have been spending much time at the Yemen Times where my book, Atlas of Yemeni Eyes Diseases was produced. This book, which is a collection of the prevalent eye problems, and their remedies, is an expression of my full love for this country.

I am very grateful to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for funding the book's publication. I am deeply honored by the medal I was awarded by the President in recognition of my effort.

China and Yemen are old societies - each with several thousand years of history. That is one reason why it is easy for them to understand each other.

Yemeni-Chinese relations first started during the early decades of the 16 century AD, when the Portuguese, the Dutch and Ottomans were vying for control of the trade routes leading to Europe.

China and Yemen were actually competitors in the European warm beverage market - China supplying tea, and Yemen coffee. In addition, Yemen also served as a trading center, passing Chinese wares on to European customers. It is well known that Chinese wares were being traded in the harbor of Aden during the Rasulid period.

From those early beginnings Yemeni-Chinese trade began to flourish and continues until the present day.

China and Yemen have maintained warm, friendly and cooperative relations. Imam Ahmad Bin Hameed Al-Deen, was in fact one of the first Arab leaders to extend diplomatic recognition to China in 1956. Since then, the two countries have come a long way evolving a special understanding and a high level of cooperation.

Once back in China, I will make sure to acknowledge the work of the Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief and publisher, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who has contributed to Yemeni-Chinese friendship and understanding. Without his help and support, this book would not have been produced.

But, my admiration for Prof. Al-Saqqaf is not just related for having helped me with my book. While I prepared my book for publication in the Yemen Times, I watched him working hard every day from 6 o'clock in the morning till very late in the evening, including Fridays. He impressed me greatly with his diligence and hard work.

His responsibilities extend beyond the newspaper to Sanaa University, to the Elections monitoring Committee, and to half a dozen grass-roots organizations to which he offers his time and expertise. In addition, he keeps a busy social life.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is an excellent and faithful son of Yemen, very loving and dedicated towards his nation. But his approach in the newspaper is actually not simply to advocate the country's position and sell that to the world. More importantly, he is using the newspaper to shape his society towards making Yemen, as he says, "a good world citizen".

A newspaper is like history. It mirrors life. A newspaper publisher should truly reflect life as it is. But Yemen Times and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf are trying to mould Yemen.



I love Yemen. My heart will ache as I remember the beautiful places and faces. The memory shall never leave me.

I hope one day, I shall come to this nation, which definitely has a chance to revive an old commanding place in the world.



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