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YEMEN TIMES

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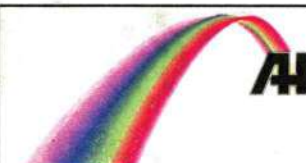
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Norway, then Scandinavia, then Europe... Snowballing of Pressure

It started as a Norwegian effort. Writers and literary groups of Norway have been putting pressure on their government to secure the release of Mansoor Rajih, a fellow poet. Mr. Rajih - accused of murder, tried and convicted accordingly - has been in Taiz Central Prison for the last fifteen years. He says he was framed, because he was an anti-Saleh activist in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Most of the world, including Amnesty International believe him. Norwegian (non-resident) ambassador Paul Moe and a number of representatives of the Norwegian literary circles have shuttled back and forth to make the Yemeni authorities see light. The last effort was only last week, when Mr. Moe even met with the people who represent the person for whose murder Mr. Rajih languishes in prison.

Promises were made by the Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, to resolve the matter. But now, the Norwegians feel they have been dodged. Thusa they have decided to push a snowballing pressure on the Yemeni Government. They are mobilizing the Scandinavian countries to join them in the fight. On July 13th, a Scandinavian delegation will arrive in Yemen to further push for the release of the Yemeni poet. The next step seems to be to involve the European Commission. That could lead to trouble for Yemen. "My country offers asylum for Mr. Rajih and his wife. We are willing to work out arrangements according to which this matter will not be used against the Yemeni Government," explained Ambassador Moe.

Yemen's Socio-Culture Tolerates Abuse of Wives

Case 1:
This is the story of Mrs. F. She is 18 years old. She has been married for one a half years. Her husband, 48 years, abuses her. He forces her to submit to anal sex. He hurts her. When she resists, he ends up beating her. She was hospitalized many times. Her body is full of the scars, wounds, scratches, and even cigarette burns. This is especially true of her thighs and back. She finally ran away. The husband lodged a report with the police. The wife was finally traced to her hiding, arranged by her mother. She was taken by police and deposited in prison. After three months of give and take, she was released. Mother and daughter then went to the various hospitals to get copies of her long record. The case is now with the courts. Poor F continues to suffer from this problem.

He customarily brings home men and forces his wife to have sex with them. When she refuses, he beats her, locks her up, etc. The visitors pay him. The wife developed many diseases, including psychological problems. A few months ago, she died. She had been locked up for three days. The whole neighborhood knows her story. Nothing happened to the husband.

Case 2:
This is the story of Mrs. S. She lives in Musaik in Sanaa. She and her husband have been married for over 10 years, and they have four kids. The husband is unemployed, and he chews and drinks.

Those are samples. A quick visit to hospitals, courts, police stations, etc. would reveal a socio-culture which tolerates or even accepts abuse of wives, in particular, and women, in general.

Read More on Page 10

YEMENIA: More Trouble Ahead

Yemen's national carrier, Yemenia, is in deep trouble as the pilots have gone on a "Go Slow Strike". The pilots are asking for a raise in their salaries, something they have been promised, but not delivered. Most of the domestic flights are never punctual. Now the international flights have gone haywire. Delays have been costing the airline a lot in heavy penalties and in room and board for passengers. The pilots have repeatedly asked for a cordial settlement of the matter. "We do not want to hurt the company. But the management's inability to honor its commitments and promises has left us no other recourse," said a leading pilot.

Many pilots have left the company to work abroad. Such a move immediately doubles and triples the income of pilots and their assistants. The airline has incurred a lot of expenses in training the pilots. Just recently, it trained some of its boeing pilots on airbus planes. At another level, many international companies which supply Yemenia with its needs of spare parts and maintenance services have stopped dealing with the company. A reliable source told Yemen Times that Yemenia makes promises which it doesn't keep. So, now it is a 'cash and carry' basis, sometimes leading to enormous costs especially if the plane is stuck on the ground.

OUR VIEWPOINT

The USA and Iraq: An Example of Excess in a Uni-Polar World

What the US is doing to Iraq cannot be explained simply by the atrocities of Saddam Hussain, whether to his own people or to his neighbors. What the US is doing to Iraq is a clear example of how a small country can be the target of a one-track victimization drive by the world's only super power.

On June 7th, the first six months of the oil-for-food deal under Resolution (986) of the UN Security Council came to an end. It was renewed.

Iraq tried hard to capitalize on the benefits under this resolution, but got very little. In the first quarter of the deal, Iraq exported 54 million barrels against 51 import contracts. In the second quarter ending on June 7th, it exported 66 million barrels against 18 contracts. In total, the UN's 661 Committee received the proceeds from the sale of 120 million barrels of oil.

Some 40% of the proceeds was supposed to go to finance the food, medical and other basic need imports of Iraq. The rest of the money goes to other purposes, notably compensation for Kuwait, and to finance the UN expenses in helping dismantle Iraq's military capabilities.

By the end of the deal's time period, little was received by Iraq. The US in particular, was able to block most of the import contracts. It blocked contracts for medical imports from Italy, life-saving medication from France and other health-related supplies. The US also blocked contracts for food imports like rice from Vietnam, cooking oil from Jordan, beans from Turkey, grains from Australia, etc.

In short, less than 19% of the total contracts submitted by Iraq were processed. The rest was blocked.

The US did not even care to explain why it blocked those contracts, although article 4 of 661 calls for explanations.

On June 3rd, UN Secretary General Kofi Anan's request for an extension of the oil-for-food deal for another six months was discussed and approved. It is interesting that the Secretary-General expressed extreme dismay at the delays in processing contracts for food, medical supplies, spare parts, etc. He especially criticized the US tactics in blocking the import contracts, for political reasons.

The regime in Iraq is not the source of my sympathy. But the fate of the people of Iraq and their suffering should warrant a more humane consideration.

In playing with the lives and well-being of the people of Iraq, and by holding them hostage to push its political objectives, the present American administration's policy is just as heartless as the Iraqi regime actions.

Resolution 986 was supposed to be a humanitarian response to the needs of the people of Iraq. It is clear that the implementation of this resolution has become a political tool.

For a needy population suffering from sickness and malnutrition, time is a critical factor. And the US plays with time. The US administration hopes the prolongation of the bad conditions will lead to the fall of the regime in Baghdad.

Unfortunately, it is the people of Iraq who fall. And with them, we witness the fall of American ideals and humanity.

The Publisher

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Yemen Times Contact Address:
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Facsimile: + 967 (1) 268-276
Advertisements/Classifieds: 264-253
Post Office Box: 2579,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Phone/Fax: + 967 (2) 342-843

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EC Food Assistance to Yemen Pours in

By: Yusuf Sharif,
Yemen Times

Over the last few days, over 9,000 tons of wheat was being unloaded at Hodeidah harbor. That was part of a European food assistance to Yemen.

Rainer Freund, representative of the European Commission Technical Advisory Office in Sana'a, accompanied by Mr. Mohannad, Hadi, Assistant Project Officer of the World Food Program, as well as representatives from the Ministries of Education, and Health were at hand to receive the delivery.

The consignment was part of a 5 Million US \$ food aid allocation to Yemen, financed by the European Commission and comprising of wheat flour, milk powder, vegetable oil and pulses.

The food aid will be used in two incentive schemes operated by the WFP in Yemen in close cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Health. One group of Beneficiaries are expecting and nursing mothers in remote rural areas, who are to be incited by food rations tailored to their needs, to make the often long and arduous walks to the next health care facility and undergo regular health checks. Yemen has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world, caused in part by lack of access to health services delivery. The program of assisted mother and child health care is expected to improve on this concerning record.

Yemen Fulbright Fund Gets First Contribution

Yemen Times learned that Nabors Drilling has come on the record as the first contributor to the Yemen Fulbright Fund. "We now have money in the bank," said a delighted Adam Erel, USIS Director, referring to the US\$ 5,000 donation by Nabors. More contributions are expected. A group of former Fulbrighters, driven by the desire to increase the number of scholarships, have set up the new body. The by-laws guiding the fund's work are almost ready.

At the moment, the US government finances the needs of three to four students every year.

Businesswomen's Group Formed

On Wednesday June 4th, the first meeting of the Businesswomen's Group was held. Ms. Lawahidh Mubarak of the UK embassy indicated that the purpose was to encourage female entrepreneurs to make it in a man's world. Although it is meant primarily for local entrepreneurs, international businesswomen are not excluded.

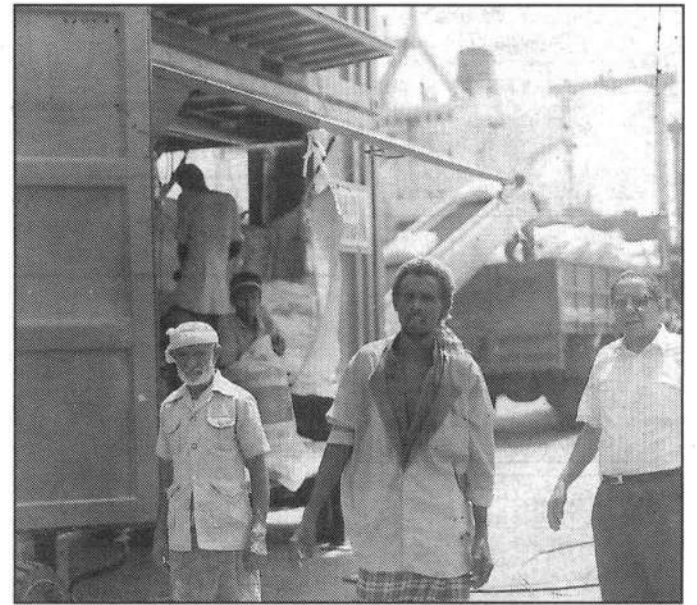
YIDD's Corrective Measures

The founders' meeting of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD) which was supposed to have been held on Thursday, June 5th, was postponed till the 15th.

In a press release, a committee formed by the founders expressed regret at the tactics of Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi which "are not helpful". The committee decided to heavily revise the changes in the charter of the YIDD which Mr. Al-Soufi wanted to push through. The changes would have made the Secretary-General a master who cannot be challenged.

The second groups of beneficiaries are girls living in remote areas. Their families would normally not be able or willing to afford their enrollment in primary education. Food incentives are designed to promote female enrollment in primary education thereby contributing to a reduction in the alarmingly high rate of illiteracy in rural women.

In addition to the above program and in support of Yemen's economic reform program the Government of Yemen and the European Commission are currently finalizing preparations for an 11 million ECU food security program for 1997. 8 MECU will go towards food security relevant



projects inscribed in the early warnings systems, agricultural statistics and market information systems. 1 MECU is set aside for program implementation and monitoring support.



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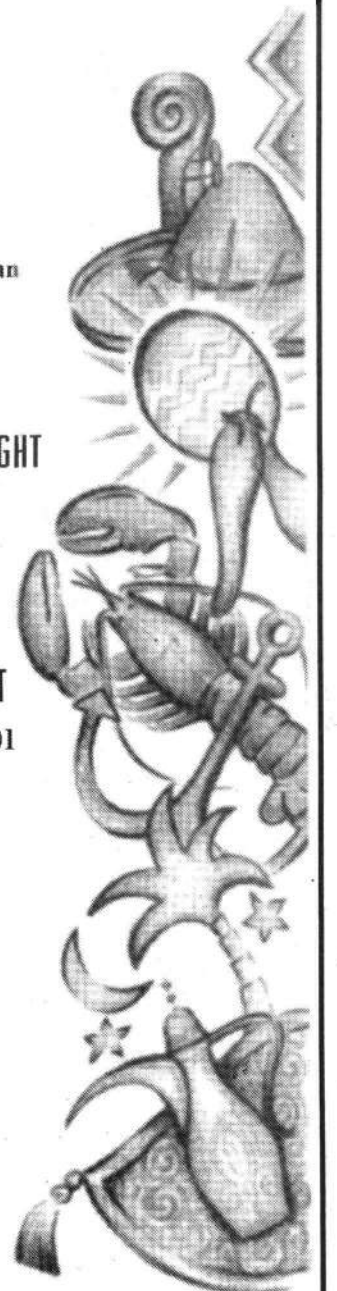
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Jamila Abeid:

"The fight to empower women in society should not be fought by women alone."

Ms. Jamila Abeid Awadh is the Director of Danmila Trading and Services, based in Sanaa. She represents a new breed of Yemeni women -- educated, assertive, competitive and quite confident. Her UK Diploma in Business Management and Administration has equipped her with the academic tools for launching her business career.

The well-travelled Jamila hails from Hadhramaut.

She represents several Danish dairy companies in Yemen. She also handles the commercial activities in Sana'a, for the Royal Danish Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Jamila, 28, is one of the few Yemeni women who have just set up the (Yemeni) Businesswomen's Group. At the moment an informal forum, this is possibly the beginning of an organized grouping for Yemen's female entrepreneurs.

Adel Moqbil of Yemen Times talked to Ms. Awadh, and filed this interview.



Q: How did you start in business? Was it hard?

A: I started my own business in 1995. The process was entirely based on my personal efforts. But there was support from the Danish Embassy in Riyadh, from my family, and some friends.

My previous experience - I had worked for the Royal Danish Trade Office / Vice Consulate in Sana'a for 8 years - was of tremendous help. This gave me a lot of opportunities and introductions to Danish business organizations. I had enough capital. I had every thing I needed to start.

I faced some difficulty in the beginning, which is usually difficult for many people. It doesn't matter where you are located in the world. If vision, perseverance and courage are combined, business becomes a success.

Q: Did you ever, at any point, contemplate giving up?

A: I never felt that. And I don't think I will give up. I give my business first priority. In the beginning, things were a bit difficult. One has to have patience.

Q: Did your difficulties arise because you are a business woman in a world dominated by men?

A: It depends on who you deal with. That is true in some cases, but I also find a lot of businessmen supportive and cooperative. One aspect of my difficulties have to do with government paperwork. But this is true of all businesses, not just me. Official or rather bureaucratic obstacles are due to the fact that every big or small paper needs a signature. This is not a secret. Everybody knows that bureaucracy in Yemen consumes a lot of time. Time means money. It actually limits a lot of activities that one can do. I hope that this will improve in the future.

Q: You presumably have a very busy life. How do you coordinate between your business and social or family commitments?

A: My family gives me a lot of support and encouragement. I can travel and run my business easily. My family did not object to my starting the business. My father

used to be a businessman. So I think it runs in the family.

Q: What companies and products do you deal with at the present time?

A: I deal with powder milk, dairy equipment, spare parts, and all sorts of dairy ingredients. I deal with Yemeni, Danish and Dutch companies. Based on a recent visit to the UK, I hope to establish business connections with British companies in the future. I am eager to diversify by dealing with new companies and products. I believe there are ample opportunities out there.

Q: You mentioned the female group delegation that visited the UK recently. What was the purpose of that trip? Who did you meet in London?

A: The purpose of the visit was to encourage women in business to link up with the UK. I established good contacts which I hope will lead to opportunities. The five-woman trip was arranged by Ms. Lawahidh Mubarak at the UK embassy in Sanaa. We met with members of the House of Commons, Chamber of Commerce, Department of Trade and Industry, and many British businessmen and women. We were also invited to various

business associations and receptions.

Q: What can be done to improve the role and place of women in Yemeni society?

A: I think women in Yemen are becoming more educated. They are getting involved in politics. They are running for parliament. They are starting to manage their own businesses. Generally, Yemeni women now participate in more public activities than was possible a few years ago. This is a positive sign.

I do think that the future will see more women in public life. Towards that end, a few women, again with assistance from Ms. Lawahidh at the UK embassy, have set up the (Yemeni) Businesswomen's Group. This forum will serve as a catalyst for more female entrepreneurs.

Q: What can be done to help poor and uneducated women?

A: Women's conditions can be improved in many ways -- by better programs on the local TV, more work opportunities, supportive laws, etc. But first and foremost, we need to give our girls access to education. As things stand today, Yemeni girls have less than 50% the chance that boys have to go to school. If you remember that only 60% of the boys have access to education, you will realize that a high percent of Yemeni women will grow to become illiterate adults. Women are the partners of men. That is the picture that should be promoted in our country.

Q: But shaping the attitude of men towards women is a long-term process?

A: Yes, and it is something that is tough. But it can be done with time. This could be slow and painful. But it can be done. Many Yemeni men still have the

mentality of the past. They think that a woman should stay at home. Some of them don't want to admit that a woman can do something on her own, can be equal to men, can run a business, be educated, go into politics, etc. These men believe in old traditions and costumes.

There are, however, many educated Yemeni men, who are broad minded. They support very much the changes we seek. In fact, some men have already done a lot for the promoting the cause of women.

This is normal because the fight to empower women in society is not and should not be fought by women alone.

Q: Do you have any political ambitions yourself?

A: I am not very much into politics. I am more in the commercial world. I do, however, to follow political events, nationally and internationally. It affects business in many ways. So it is important to be kept informed on events taking place in different parts of the world.

Q: Are you involved in any social or public activities besides your business?

A: I attend the International Women's Association meetings, from time to time. We organize fund-raising events and charity and orphanage visits. We provide them with funds, clothes, food, or whatever they need.

Q: Would you like to add any last comment?

A: I would like to thank our president General Ali Abdullah Saleh for his continuous support and encouragement for women in Yemen. I believe he is one of the men I talked about earlier. He has done a lot to promote women in public life.

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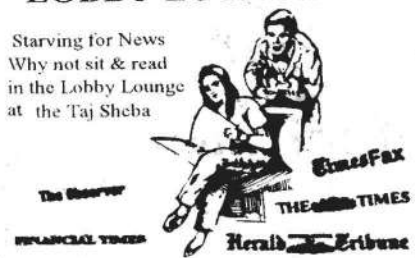
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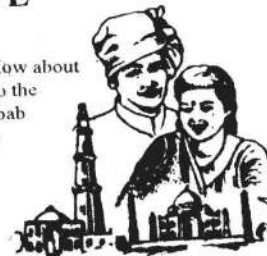


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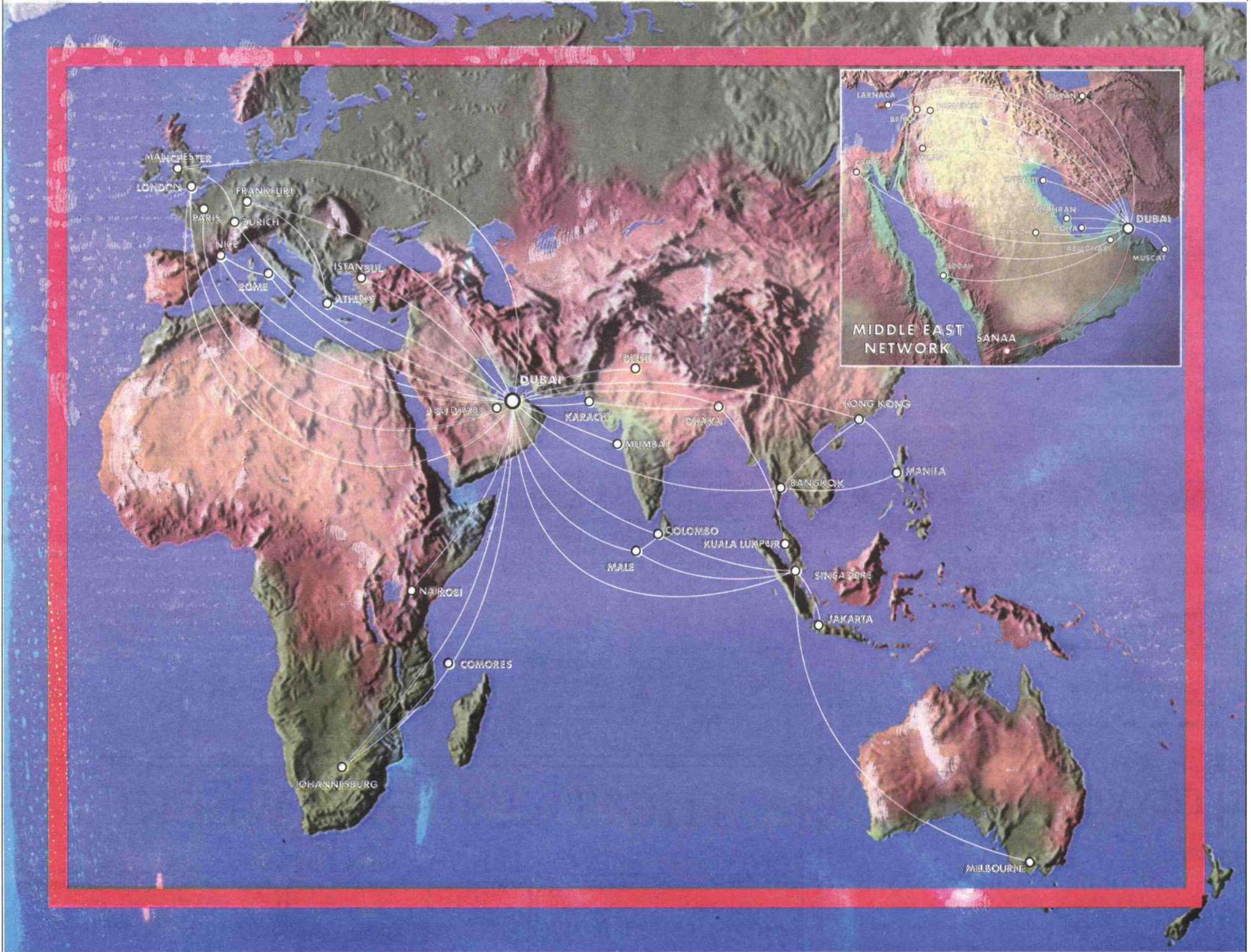


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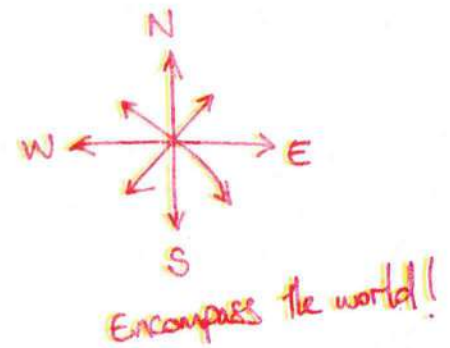
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Drafting a More Appropriate NGO Law for Yemen

The Republic of Yemen's transformation to democracy has visibly attracted the attention of the international community. It has also inspired strong efforts by friendly governments and international organizations to provide assistance and support for the efforts that lead to the institutionalization of democratic practice in the country.

Until now, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of Yemen have generally pursued their activities under outdated legal and administrative frameworks that are not in keeping with the democratic platform the government and the people of Yemen have opted for. Obviously this has created difficulties for the existing NGOs and made it difficult for new ones to get established. This also has presented a problem for the government authorities involved in their coordination efforts with NGOs.

To cope with this issue, the Ministry of Social Affairs proposed a new NGO Law to the government last year. However, the government rightly returned the draft indicating that the NGOs themselves should have a say in the law. The Ministry invited various NGO leaders to two workshops which discussed various aspects of the law proposal.

However, for a year now, little progress has been made to get an appropriate draft law presented to the government. In view of this delay, the World Bank has invited experienced expertise to help accelerate the progress towards the drafting and enactment of the new NGO Law. Dr. Leon Irish, President of the International Center for Non-Profit Law, visited Yemen twice for this purpose. He plans a third visit shortly. Hassan Al-Haifi of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Irish and filed the following conversation.

Q: What are you here for?

A: ICNL has been asked by the World Bank to assist in the process of creating a new NGO Law for Yemen.

Q: Why do we need a new law for NGOs in Yemen?

A: The existing law (Law No. 11 for 1963) was written soon after the Revolution and it was based on rather old laws that date back to the Ottoman Empire. It is also based on the Egyptian NGO Law which is one of the least favorable NGO Laws in the world. Thus the law needs a lot of modernization and improvement. In fact, the existing law only allows for one kind of NGO and contains many inflexible provisions.

Q: What is the timetable and scope of your project?

A: We are working on a two-year project. This is done closely with the various relevant parties in government and in the NGO movement.

The proposal in our hands was widely criticized as it involves excessive control of the NGOs by the government. A Joint Committee was formed to address this matter.

Though this committee has been in existence for a year now, little progress has been achieved in drafting a new proposed law for NGOs. Because ICNL specializes in laws for NGOs, we have been invited to Yemen to help in this important task.

Q: Can you give us an idea on how ICNL is set up and the nature of its activities?

A: We are an international non-profit organization with an International Board of Directors: 3 Directors from Africa, 3 from Asia, 3 from Latin America, 5 from Western Europe, 4 from Central and Eastern Europe and 3 from the former Soviet Union countries. ICNL has studied the laws of over 100 countries and we have a unique library and data

base. Just recently we have published, through the World Bank, a WB Handbook on NGO Laws, of which a limited number of copies have been distributed in Yemen. NGO Laws is the only scope of work we engage in and we do it everywhere in the world.

There is no other organization that does what ICNL does. We help in drafting better NGO laws. We train lawyers, judges and NGO leaders in the laws that affect NGOs and provide a wide range of technical assistance in this field.

Q: What is the relationship between NGOs and democracy?

A: NGOs are absolutely essential to the long-term success of democracy. Democracy must be viewed not just as going to the polls every four years to vote for candidates. Democracy involves the citizens' understanding of which issues affect their lives, the understanding of the bigger issues that affect the growth of the economy and their cultural and social development.

To understand all these issues, there has to be ways that they can learn and enhance their awareness on all the issues that concern their lives, ways that they can participate in the development of opinions and views on these issues. In other words, there has to be civil society - a society of informed citizens, who take responsibility for issues they care about - perhaps it is women's rights, the environment, etc.

NGOs that are allowed to operate freely and circulate the results of their activities to the public - their research findings, their investigations of human rights, etc. - this all enriches and stimulates public dialogue and allows voters going to the polls to be more aware of the situations that will have a bearing on their decisions at the polls.

Q: How do NGOs help the government?

A: NGOs can often do things much more efficiently and effectively than the government, because NGOs come from the people, are closer to the people and are generally composed of very dedicated people who often work without pay. NGOs are small, flexible unlike the big bureaucracies that governments sometimes are.

The government will eventually find that NGOs can be very good partners in implementing social services, in helping alleviate the misery of the poor and the needy, etc. NGOs are not opposed to the government, nor do they replace it. In fact, they are often their best partners. On the other hand, NGOs are essential for the social and economic development of countries, in addition to their role in the enhancement of democracy, which is what makes the World Bank interested in assisting the growth and development of NGOs.

Q: Can you elaborate on that?

A: Well, the WB feels that it should understand the needs and desires of the people that are directly affected by development. It is not enough just to deal with government bureaucrats. In order to get the people's viewpoints, the WB can approach NGOs and talk to them. But in order for this dialogue with the people to be effective, NGOs must be strong and independent - they cannot be the mouthpiece of the government. They must be able to speak for the people. This is what brings us to the deed for a good

NGO law that allows NGOs to be strong and independent of the government while being at the same time transparent and accountable for what they do.

Q: How do you assess the fact that there are now 1250 NGOs (as of 31/12/96) in Yemen since the introduction of democracy seven years ago?

A: It is a very good start, but there is a long way to go. If you compare that result with Hungary, which had freedom at the same time that Yemen introduced democracy, which is smaller in terms of area and population, there are now 47,000 registered NGOs, of course bearing in mind that there is a big cultural difference and Hungary's long tradition of democracy and civil society. The fact, however, that there are already this number of NGOs in Yemen is a very good sign that democracy is really taking root in Yemen.

Q: How would you think that the tribal society and the NGOs can find common grounds or relate with a new NGO law?

A: I can easily see how tribes may find it to their tribal advantage to set up NGOs, especially if the law provides tax breaks for NGOs, which are normally provided to NGOs in a modern society.

Q: Why was it that the once effective cooperative movement of the country ceased to be so?

A: Yes, these cooperatives were very strong and effective until the government took control of them. Now, it seems that the govern-



ment understands that it must assure the independence of NGOs, as can be seen by the fact that it returned the proposed law by MOSA to the NGOs themselves to include their inputs in it and from the discussions with the government officials.

country, thus stimulating wide-spread interest. On the other hand, the second phase of the WB program on NGOs entails Capacity Building activities which include educating and assisting people to form NGOs in the country.

Q: How do we spread awareness throughout the country on the merits of NGOs?

A: The workshops proposed for the discussion of the draft NGO Law that the Joint Committee will draw up with our assistance will be held all throughout the

Q: Any last comments?

A: I am thrilled to be working in Yemen and I have great hopes that Yemeni NGOs can become a powerful force for the development of civil society in Yemen in a strong economic and social context.



تهنئة
بقلوب مليئة بالمحبة والسرور نهنئ الاخ
عادل عبدالمجيد القدسي بمناسبة اطفاء ابنته

ندى

اول شعبة من عمرها المديد.
المهندون: مهي عادل عبدالمجيد، محمد عبده فارغ،
كمال منصور الزهيري، يقين خالد الحويبي هشام صالح الدلالي،
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The United States Information Service announces for a vacant position within its organization, for an administrative assistant reports to the USIS Executive Officer (EO) and the Public Affairs Officer (PAO).

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2. Administrative duties include management of property inventor, and shipping.

Responsibilities:

- Manages and reconciles Direct Support Allocation Account, all utilities, telephone, representation, medical reimbursement and vehicle accounts.
- In consultation with Embassy, reconciles accounts and obligations with B&F officer; prepares status of obligation and liquidation reports. In consultation with headquarters prepares all financial reports, including quarterly and annual financial reports and plans and requests for mandatory budget increases.
- Prepares all purchase ordered, service contract, grants, travel authorizations, and cash advance requests. Maintains cuff records of all funds which affect post's Government Operations Expense (GOE).
- Serves as sub-cashier and reconciles petty cash account.
- Handles procurement of office and residential property and supplies, including machinery, computer equipment, furniture, vehicles, paper and printed materials.
- Responsible for all shipping and receiving, including placing, tracking.

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Minimum requirement is completion of high school. Some collegiate study of technical training in business administration, financial management, or a field related to administrative management is highly desirable.

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From three to five years of progressively responsible experience in two or more phases of administrative management.

If you have these qualifications please contact the Embassy's personnel section Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a, P. O. Box 223 for obtaining application form to be filled & attached to it the C. V. and any other experience certificates no later than June 21, 1997.

A new sound at the Golden Peacock

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at

SHERATON SANA'A



asked to register by 10am and from this emerged a clear picture of the various events and the number of competitors.

There were swimming competitions for both children and adults category together with a race with the styrofoam. The funny event of the afternoon was a special event for adults when they had to cross a metal bar across the pool. How could one forget the diving in the pool which was a test to check individuals who had the stamina to stay in the water in order to collect the Sheraton Treasures from the floor of the pool.

PING PONG Dingdong one could hear the sound of the table tennis ball being hit back and forth trying to escape from the players who never let it stop.

BULLSEYE at the Dartboard kept on winking to all the professionals who kept on hitting and almost murdered the poor BULLSEYE. The board was battered and bruised in the end.

Who can challenge "Friday is a Lazy Day in Sana'a". Long hours of work for 6 days a week with the same old routine makes one absolutely like a machine. However, the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel took up the Challenge and came up with a new equation in the world of Commerce. One Friday was hectic and crazy at Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. With the view of getting the community together in one place and to have a day filled with fun and laughter, Mansour Al Azzi, Recreation Manager of the Thula Recreation Center came up with this brilliant idea to have "Happy Friday". The dream and the vision was 9 months old and became a reality on Friday the 30th of May 1997 where one could hear the chatter of Ladies by the Pool decks, interspersed with the splash of water from the heated pool and the shouts of the men fighting out their talents with the ball being thumped from one court to the other in a game of volleyball.

Amazingly Mansour's idea brought exactly 102 people together. One could see the air was charged with excitement and a sense of competition for the various prizes which were at stake. Participants were

For every game there were prizes given to the winners who were proven to be the best among the rest. How could this be possible without the support of Arab Bank, CCC, Al Bashiri for General

*it's all happening
at Sheraton!*



Trading, Pepsi and 7-Up and of course, the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel.

The enthusiasm of all concerned was great and at the end of the day everyone was so happy with the outcome that people are goading Mansour to have a repeat performance. The plan as of now is to organize Happy Friday once every three months. The games and competitions would differ with each get together so that monotony is avoided. Look out for details on the next events, which 'Insha Allah' should be held in August/September of this year.

Upcoming on the 12 and 13 June GUEST WHAT ... ?

SHERATON TENNIS TOURNAMENT is the name of the game which will keep you busy. So mark your diaries and call Mansour.

Once again, Hip Hip Hurray to Arab Bank, CCC, Al Bashiri for General Trading, Pepsi and 7-Up and of course, the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel.

Italian National Day & Food Festival



June 2nd, 1997 - Celebration of the Italian National Day at the delightful residence of Ambassador Napoleone.

A Stormy day for Stormy Italy!

His Excellency Napoleone meets his numerous and special guests at the door and the evening begins with some worries caused by the rain. But the Sheraton ship sails forth - the incredible tricolour crew does a tremendous job in moving and shifting the plentiful and gorgeous

Italian delicacies: A variety of Antipasti, delicious Lasagna, home made at the Embassy, Piccata, Chicken a'la Cacciatora and of course Spaghetti, Penne, Tagliatelle, special desserts and beverages, and more and more!

In the end the weather is clement and guests can enjoy both the house with its beautiful paintings and the garden. Italian food always creates a unique atmosphere and this is indeed a wonderful party ... and the party goes on! The celebration continues at Sheraton with the Italian food festival 1997, initially planned from the 3rd to the 5th of June, now extended

to Friday 6th, due to the sensational success of the event. The Nour Al Negoum Supper Club is Geared for the occasion and there is a true Italian flavour of little Italy in the air. Artists are the salt of life, someone said and we have two in this scenario. Sheraton's special chef, Pietro 'il Fiero, who brought the real Italian taste to Sana'a with his Uccelli Scappati, and Mr. Napoleone, the best Ambassador lovely Italy could possibly have. Thank you both for a memorable week.

COMUNQUE VADA, SARÁ UN SUCCESSO!

"OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU"



Space sponsored by YATA



A Strategy for Damming the Country

By: Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,
Yemen Times.

A conference was held in Sana'a between 25-28 May regarding water shortage, dams, pollution of water resources, mechanism for choosing sites for building dams, and many other issues. The papers presented at the conference focused on the following issues:

- The importance of building dams.
- Evaluation of the irrigation system.
- A study to protect the terraces and slopes from erosion and disrepair.
- Dams and cisterns.
- Contamination of water.
- The role of dams and water barriers in agricultural development.
- Experiments from other countries in the region.

The participants presented papers in light of their experience and technical expertise. From the Yemeni side, Mr. Noori Jamal Mohammad presented a study entitled, "A Strategy for Building Dams in the Republic of Yemen" in which he highlighted the importance of dams in water-scarce Yemen. The conference aims at focussing on dams and water harnessing for agricultural purposes. At the same time it intends to attract the attention of specialists and experts to the quality of the water. The conference also gave importance to the underground water reservoirs, which are being rapidly depleted. The depletion also leads to salination and contamination.

It is worth noting that water harnessing is not new to Yemen. The country's ancient and

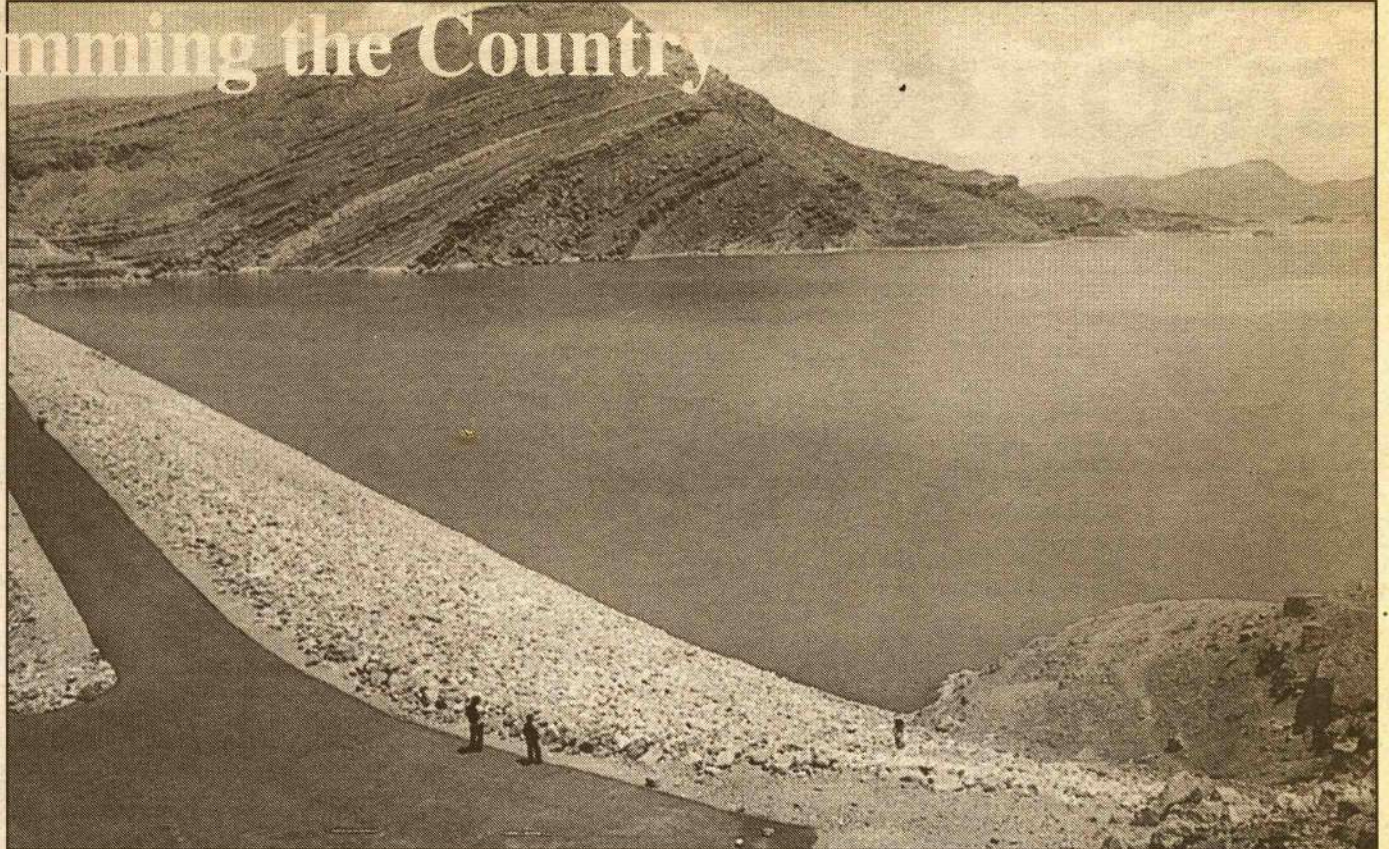
medieval civilizations depended on optimal use of the water supply, mainly through building dams and cisterns - both for irrigation and household consumption.

So far, however, modern Yemen has yet to come up with a strategy for harnessing rain water and for controlling the depletion of underground water reservoirs. That is why the proceedings and recommendations of the conference are of great importance.

Yemen has a widely varied climate and land topography, ranging from desert areas where rainfall does not exceed 100 mm to the mountain areas where rainfall reaches 2000 mm. Thus, water flow is closely associated with the rains' characteristics. Due to the rainfall variations in time, place, and climate, water storage has acquired maximum importance.

That is why the construction of small dams and cisterns is probably more appropriate for the country than the large ones. Large dams may be useful for irrigating large agricultural lands. But small plots of land in mountainous regions with little or no underground water can only be served with medium or small dams. Hilly dams can store the lost rain water. This can lead to better harnessing of rain water, and to re-charging the underground reservoirs.

Studies conducted by the World Bank during the period 1990-95 have indicated that the quantities of sweet water used in Yemen is estimated to be 130% of the annual renewable quantities. Yemen will face a real water crisis if the necessary measures are not immediately taken. The



building of dams is a step in that direction.

Some 50 medium to small dams have been built over the last ten years. According to specialists, the country needs to build around 500 dams to optimally harness the rain water. The mountainous terrain is helpful.

One major headache that blocks the building dams is the small land ownership pattern. Usually, the farmers who are asked to give up their land to be submersed are different from the ones downstream who will benefit from the construction of the dam. This has caused enormous delays in the execution of many projects. A new benefit sharing structure needs to be developed.

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The DHL Yemen operation is supported by the most advanced technical facilities, and a large work force.

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As a Field Sales Representative you will be responsible to the Country Manager for developing and servicing an existing client base. Specifically, you will be selling a wide range of transportation services, managing the administration and debtor collection for a large account base.

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Your most important attribute will be your bias for action.

Qualification criteria - to be suitable for this position you will:

- Be a Yemeni national Aged 28 or above
- Possess a Degree level education and/or 5 years sales experience in a service related industry.
- Be fluent in Arabic & English
- Be computer literate, possessing a knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Have outstanding Administration and Numeracy skills.
- Be in possession of a valid driving license.

Applications

Initial contact should be made by forwarding a current CV to:
The Country Manager, DHL Worldwide Express.

Fax Sana: 268858
Tel Sana: 268551

A Reminder on the International Day of Anti-Smoking

SMOKING Kills !

• There is no longer doubt that tobacco use worldwide has reached the proportion of a **global epidemic** approaching its peak among men in most developed countries and spreading now to men in developing countries, and women in all countries.

* Today, according to World Health Organization estimates, there are approximately **1.1 billion smokers in the world**, representing about one-third of the global population aged 15 years and over. Of these, **800 million are in developing countries**.

* There has been a shift in the distribution of tobacco consumption in the last two decades. Declining consumption in developed countries has been counterbalanced by increasing consumption in developing countries.

* Available data suggest that, globally, approximately **47% of men and 12% of women smoke**. In developing countries, 48% of men and 7% of women smoke, while in developed countries, 42% of men smoke as do 24% of women.

* Although life expectancy for both sexes is predicted to be on the rise, in many countries, the gap between them is growing significantly due to the larger number of men who smoke and die of tobacco-related disease.

• In **certain regions**, the health consequences of tobacco use are particularly devastating.

* In the Middle East in 1990, around 14% of all deaths were due to tobacco use. This figure is predicted to increase so that in 2020, more than 22% of all deaths in the region will be due to tobacco.

* In this region, smoking is likely to be a major factor underlying the 56% projected increase in male deaths from chronic disease between 1990 and 2020. In fact, the Middle East is projected in 2020 to have the highest adult male risk of death, even higher than that in sub-Saharan Africa.

* In absolute figures, the biggest and sharpest increases in disease burden are expected in India and China where the use of tobacco has grown most

steeply. In China alone, where there are about 300 million smokers, and cigarette consumption is estimated at around 1900 cigarettes per adult per year, around 50 million Chinese, who are now under 20 years of age, will eventually be killed by tobacco.

• **Health consequences** of the tobacco epidemic in both developed and developing countries are devastating. **By 2020, it is expected to kill more people than any single disease.**

* Since the middle of the twentieth century, tobacco products have killed more than **60 million people in developed countries alone**.

* Currently, tobacco is responsible for **the million deaths worldwide -- or about 6% of all deaths -- per year**.

* Based on current trends, that figure is expected to grow to **ten million deaths per year by the 2020s or early 2030s**. It is estimated that **half a billion people now alive will be killed by tobacco products**.

* By 2020, tobacco use will cause 17.7% of all deaths in developed countries and 10.9% of all deaths in developing countries.

* The rise in tobacco mortality mirrors almost exactly the rise in smoking prevalence, three to four decades later.

* Tobacco is a known or probable cause of about 25 diseases, and the sheer scale of its impact on global disease burden is still not fully appreciated. For example, it is well known that tobacco is the most important cause of lung cancer. Less known is the fact that it kills even more people through many other diseases, including cancers at other sites, heart disease, stroke, emphysema and other chronic lung diseases.

* On average, lifetime smokers have a 50% chance of dying from tobacco. And half of these will die in middle age, before age seventy, losing 22 years of normal life expectancy. In 1990, smoking was responsible for **35% of all male deaths occurring**

in middle age (age 35-69) in developed countries.

• **Tobacco dependence** has been classified as a behavioral disorder in the WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

* Tobacco dependence is caused by nicotine, which is contained in all tobacco products in substantial quantities and which has been internationally recognized as a **drug of addiction**.

* Tobacco dependence is a real public health problem which warrants serious attention if the epidemic of tobacco-related mortality and morbidity is to be reduced.

* The revenues of the tobacco industry directly depend on the number of people addicted to smoking.

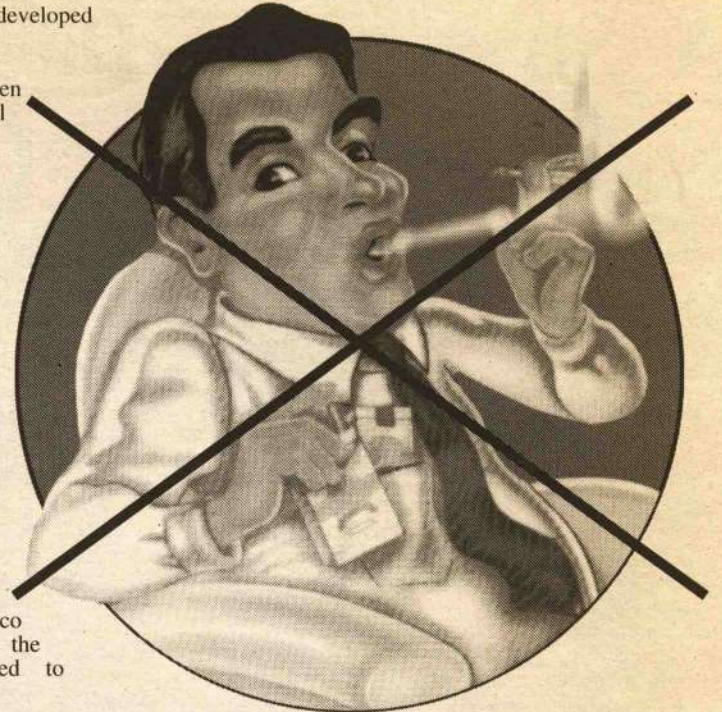
• **Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)** contains essentially all of the same carcinogens and toxic agents that are inhaled by the smoker. ETS is harmful to non-smokers because it causes lung cancer and other diseases and aggravates allergies and asthma.

• **Maternal smoking** is associated with a higher risk of miscarriage, lower birth-weight of babies, and inhibited child development. Parental smoking is also a factor in sudden infant death syndrome and is associated with higher rates of respiratory illnesses, including bronchitis, colds, and pneumonia in children.

• **Smoking cessation** has substantial health benefits and dramatically reduces the risk of most smoking-related diseases.

* One year after quitting, the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) decreases by 50%, and within 15 years, the relative risk of dying from CHD for an ex-smoker approaches that of a long-time non-smoker.

* The relative risk of developing lung cancer, chronic obstructive lung diseases, and stroke also



decreases, but more slowly.

* Ten of fourteen years after smoking cessation, the risk of mortality from cancer decreases to nearly that of those who have never smoked.

* **Quitting smoking benefits health no matter at what age one quits.**

Here in Yemen, the problem is further complicated by the qat-chewing habit. In qat sessions, which take place inside closed rooms, packed with smokers in an environment of minimal ventilation, the air is usually filled with smoke. As a result, even if a person does not actively smoke, he or she is heavily affected.

The concept of non-smoking zones and areas in certain offices and public places has yet to be acceptable. People routinely disregard any non-smoking signs.

In general, it is safe to say that at least half of the Yemeni male adults smoke, while a very small fraction of the females smoke.

Even then, mounting an anti-smoking campaign is an urgent necessity.



YEMEN PETROLEUM COMPANY

presents

its felicitations and warm wishes
to

**President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the Yemeni people
on the 7th anniversary
of Yemen's Unification Day -
the 22nd of May**

**and on the establishment of
the constitutional institutions -
Parliament, Government and
Consultative Council.**

Many Happy Returns.

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تتقدم

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الفريق علي عبدالله صالح،

والشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى السابعة

للوحد اليمنية - ٢٢ مايو،

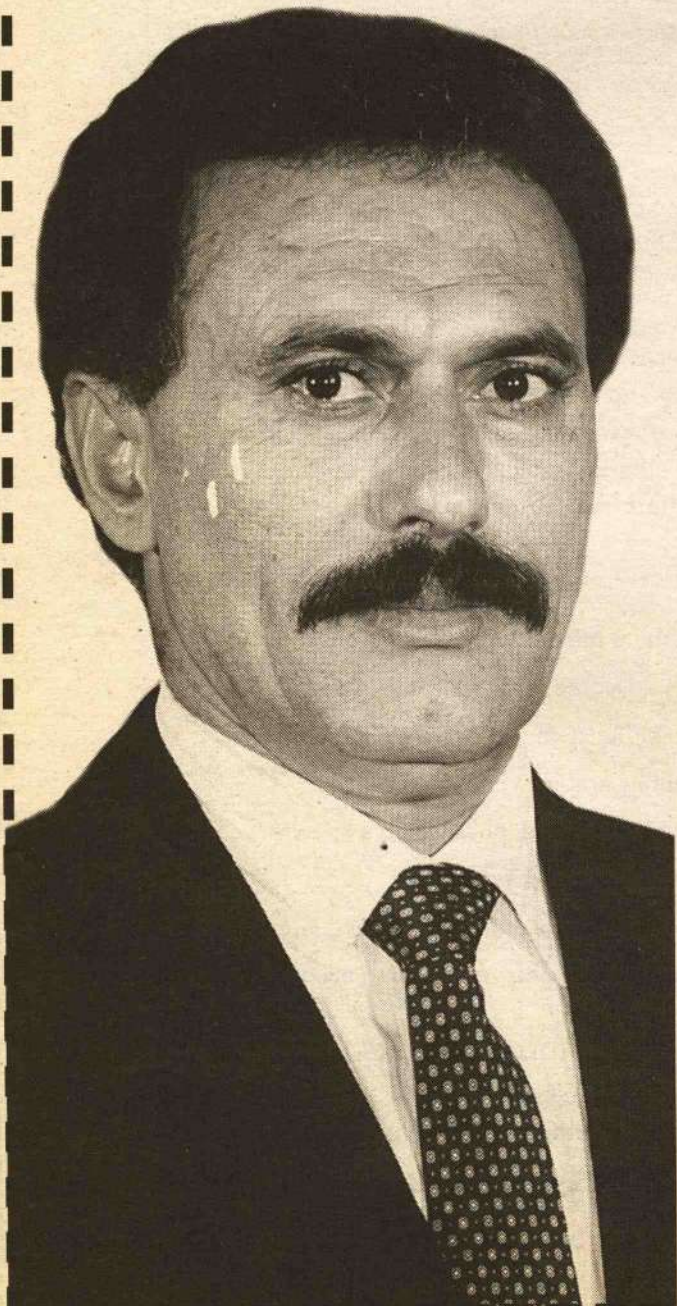
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Term 5

22nd June - 6th August (7 weeks).
Sunday - Wednesday 1 hour daily - morning or afternoon
(28 hours total) : \$150 (course books and materials included)
Age range 6-15 .

Registration Times

Sunday	15/6/97	10:00am - 1:00pm	& 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Monday	16/6/97	10:00am - 1:00pm	& 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Tuesday	17/6/97	10:00am - 1:00pm	& 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Wednesday	18/6/97	10:00am - 1:00pm	& 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday	19/6/97	10:00am - 1:00pm	



For more information visit the British Council at no. 7 Sabain Street or simply call 244121 / 2 .

PRESS RELEASE

Learning from mistakes in agricultural projects

IDAS:

A project enabling farmers to solve their own problems

From Monday to Wednesday (9-11 June), the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources is holding a workshop at the Faculty of Agriculture, Sana'a University, about one of its large development projects, IDAS (Innovation Development in the Agriculture Sector). This project, a cooperation between the Governments of Yemen and Germany, has been working mainly in Abyan, Lahej, Taiz and Ibb Regions since 1993. It was started because farmers are unable to solve many of their production problems - and indeed their problems of day to day existence. Available innovations and services are neither sustainable nor in line with available natural resources.

Based on this recognition, IDAS tries to enable farmers in the project area to increasingly solve their own problems in the field of sustainable agriculture and productivity, using their own solutions - supported by external institutions when required.

IDAS supports groups of farmers first by helping them to analyze their problems and their potentials. The groups become increasingly aware about their situation and their innovative and problem solving capacities are stimulated. If they have the will to improve their situation, IDAS can support their initiatives by assisting them to implement their own micro-projects. This will lead the groups towards material progress, but more important, it will strengthen their spirit of partnership, their self-esteem, their management capacities - all of which will probably lead them tackle other problems too.

In their cooperation with IDAS the groups learn to utilize their experiences and mistakes for learning processes. In development work, usually a mistake is only a mistake if it is repeated. Otherwise it is a chance to improve. Therefore, IDAS encourages regular self-evaluations by the groups.

Sustainability in IDAS

The planned workshop is also held to utilize experiences and mistakes, but within IDAS' own organization. If IDAS develops a learning culture - using mistakes not to blame but to learn from them - it may be able to conquer the biggest threat to any development project (and even to development aid in general), the lack of sustainability.

Unsustainable projects are a graveyard of the invaluable and largely irreplaceable investment of time, efforts, and hopes of all those involved. They are in no way conducive to development - economic, human, social. If projects fail, the donor agencies, the decision makers in recipient countries, the experts and the consultants might get away by just losing face, but the tragedy would be that local project staff together with the 'poor' members of the target group, the intended beneficiaries, would most likely end up losing their "tattered" shirt as well. The degree of sustainability of a (donor-supported) investment project can be significantly improved, if all involved sides are genuinely committed to it and utilize any mistake made constructively to learn from it. Incorporation of formal aspects in project documents, excellent appraisal of a project from all angles, participation by target-groups as stake-holders, job-satisfaction for the project personnel, flexibility and good governance on the part of governments and donor agencies - all these factors go a long way to improve the sustainability of the project investments.

Of late, the question of sustainability has assumed new dimensions, because of the 'money crunch' in which even the donor nations find themselves. Major evaluations in the last two decades have shown that a large number of agricultural projects do not bring the expected results, and even these results could not be sustained after projects were fully handed over to partners. The consequences have been simply disastrous for all concerned.

Lack of sustainability has many appearances: Project staff has to remain in office as their salaries are paid but not the operating expenses; the target recognizes that cooperation with the project has become useless; transport equipment and other mobile items are used for other purposes or become defunct; immobile investment deteriorate because they are not maintained; the better qualified staff finds new employment; etc. Some of the negative effects of unsustainability of projects are:

- Opportunities to improve the performance and sustainability of agricultural production had to develop new ways of alleviating the looming food crises are lost.
- since the project funds are wasted, the credits taken to execute the project may commit the next generation to repayments, for which it has neither been equipped nor is responsible.
- In projects depending on self-help and participation, the participants take the breakdown of their micro-project to be their own failure. Each failure undermines their belief in their own capabilities to improve their lot. Such failed projects can be a long-term obstacle to peoples' own development.
- If sustainability cannot be reached, the committed project personnel become demotivated, frustrated, and even skeptical of giving their best to such undertakings of doubtful/unsustainable outcome. Their job satisfaction is destroyed.
- Donor governments show a tendency to switch their priorities to other countries, and recipient countries to other sectors or other sources of support.
- Where government projects are not sustainable, donors, project personnel, the developing country's government and administration lose credibility with the project target group, the people.
- The donor government is in danger of losing votes if project failures become widely known. Public opinion in the donor countries is becoming increasingly critical of sacrificing money for projects with doubtful effects. In the long term, lack of sustainability threatens external support to poor countries' development efforts.

All these negative make it necessary for managers to continually pay attention to their project's sustainability. One way is to install an institutional memory in the project and the planned workshop is to achieve just that for IDAS.

The workshop to secure IDAS' institutional memory

Development is a long-term process and development projects need to take this into account. It has been estimated that IDAS will have to run at least ten years. But its staff must be expected to leave earlier. The four experts seconded by the German side are leaving the project this year after spending four years in Yemen.

During more than ten years also many of the Yemeni staff must be expected to change their job. All who leave will take their valuable experiences irretrievably with them, unless ways can be found to secure it for the project. Accordingly, the workshop will analyze the experiences made with the participatory methods, with the support of women activities, with monitoring and evaluation, and with policy formulation and implementation. The results will then be recorded in a way which will make them easily accessible for future staff. The workshop will be attended by more than 50 persons who worked in IDAS in staff positions or as consultants, or who are distinguished and experienced in the field of agricultural research and development.

شمس

مسحوق الغسيل



وبس

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Yemen Company for
Ghee & Soap - Taiz

On Men, Women and Gender Relations

Giving Men Something to Think About !

By: Haajar Mitchell *

A British woman in her late 50's was living in Sana'a Qadeema and daily walked to and from her house to work. She was modestly dressed, but with her face revealed. One day, a man came up to her and grabbed her rear end in full view of several other men. Frightened and angry, the woman turned and began to shout at the man as he laughed. She slapped him in his face. But then, he pulled out his jambiah and put it at her throat. She stopped shouting and he had stopped laughing. Meanwhile, the men around simply looked onward.

Why did this happen? Is it because she is a woman? Is it because she is a foreigner? Is it because she is not a Muslim?

This story was told to me second hand. So I cannot vouch for its credibility, but I have my own experiences which tell me it is not far fetched. Ironically, the day I completed this article, the following event happened to me, and I went back to the computer, to add my incident to the article, and the memory of my visit to Yemen.

Walking down Hadda, the street was packed with people. As my friends and I waited for the traffic to clear so we could cross the street a young man passed me, but not without "cooping a feel" of my rear end. Of course, I quickly turned and memorized his unique shawl. Through the crowd I followed him, unnoticed. Suddenly, he turned and our eyes met -- "Did you touch me?" I asked in English. For certain he did understand me, but when he began to run, his guilt was obvious, and I chased him. I am not sure how I caught up to him but perhaps the adrenaline runs quicker with anger than fear. When I reached him -- you can bet I cracked him in his heat several times and fortunately the onlookers cursed *him* not me.

What has always been my concern was not what I would do to someone if he violated me, but rather what would be done to me after I dealt with him. I have listened to many stories like these two examples. The victims generally do not know how to respond to these episodes, primarily because situations like these have not happened to them before. I am learning that a common way of dealing with this type of behavior from men is for women to stay in the house. We foreigners have been informed by Yemenis this is not unique to our status as immigrants. These types of things happen to all women in Sana'a.

It does not seem to matter where I walk in this city, there are constantly comments such as, "Beautiful", "WoW", "Sobhan Allah", "123-456 -- Don't forget", or the universal whistle. And the confidence in these men, especially on Shara' Hadda, is truly tremendous. Some stop their cars and practically insist that I get in. On occasion, I have been bold and answered these men's comments. They really did not know what to do. Most of them pretended it was not them who spoke to me. Silly boys in their 20's and 30's and 40's.

I traveled to Sana'a from Dearborn, Michigan, USA. The city of Dearborn is considered to have

the largest concentrated Arab population outside the Middle East, with approximately 250,000 Arabs mainly from Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, and Yemen. Dearborn is basically a small Arab city with what appears to have most of its businesses owned and ran by Arabs. There are restaurants, garages, dry cleaners, clothing stores, video rental shops, photo centers, grocery stores, over twelve mosques, some of the most famous Lebanese and Palestinian bakeries and patisseries, and even local Arabic newspapers in the area.

There is an Arab center (ACCESS -- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) which offers a variety of services such as medical health, mental health, employment, housing, translation, citizenship courses, English courses. ACCESS even sponsors cultural events (such as bringing musicians Hassan Kakmoun, Walid Toufiq, and Marcel Khalife), poetry readings, and traditional, folk, and fine art exhibitions.

An Arab may live his/her entire life in Dearborn and never have the need for English if he/she chooses. I have lived and worked among this community for ten years and never in my life have I experienced such behavior towards females as I have experienced in Sana'a.

I do not know if people have harassed me because I am foreign, but I do know, as a Muslim, I am always in *hijab* and *muhtashama* clothing. Rarely do I wear the ever-popular black balto because quite frankly it is too hot to wear two sets of clothing. I will firmly state that in America I have Never heard disrespectful comments directed to me while wearing the hijab. Yes there are comments in the streets from men towards women, and perhaps the most persistent people are those from the African American and Arab American communities. But when a woman is in hijab, the only words I have ever heard directed to me were "Assalaamo Allaykom" -- and I always felt the phrase was used, as a term of respect to greet a fellow Muslim.

There is a belief among Arabs that American women are "easy" and another that Americans, on a whole, do not respect women. There is a similar belief by Americans towards Arabs -- that Arab men do not respect women. It must be clarified that the term "respect" is viewed quite differently by Americans and Arabs.

Perhaps the most important issue to an Arab regarding a woman is her virginity, and quite clearly everything else revolves around her behavior. The honor of the entire family rests in the woman's chastity. Things such as studying, working outside of the home, or traveling away from her family are all factors in a family's reputation.

In America, virginity is not the issue as much as promiscuity. From an early age, males and females interact in play and studies. This continues throughout childhood and thus builds a better (but not complete) understanding and appreciation of the opposite sex. I will dare to say this does not encourage sexual relations, but that an unstable family life does. When a child reaches puberty he and she begins to experience sexual desires. If not guided in an appropriate way -- say to channel this energy into another direction, such as sports or hobbies for example, it is quite likely this child will begin to experiment sexually.



In most households in America, there is not a "shame" or "dirtiness" about sex. Sex is considered natural and quite necessary in a healthy relationship. A major difference between Yemeni and American cultures is the age at which females marry. In Yemen, I am beginning to see that it is not uncommon for a female to marry at the age of 18, 19 and 20 years. The fact that American males and females interact socially does not conclude they will interact sexually. Perhaps that is why it is so difficult for Arab men to accept that talking to a Western woman does not mean that she is ready to "give it up" to him. For her, it is completely natural to speak and joke with a man, perhaps even on topics such as sex, without entertaining the idea of intimacy or feeling the least bit shy.

I have questions for those of you with "'ain tawilah", "long eye". Has anyone Ever gotten into your car from this type of invitation? Did you ever stop to think that any woman that easy to "get" has been "gotten" before and she is not worth "getting"? And do you not know that by behaving this way you are not only disrespecting the women, You Are Disrespecting Yourself?

To you men who wear your pants on your head -- a respectable woman is Not one who hides in the house and is completely dependent on men. A respectful woman is a woman who knows how to deal with men, who can talk with men in a respectable way, and who knows how to set the line and appropriately handle anyone who tries to cross that line. For example, let us say there are two different married women -- one beautiful and the other not so beautiful. Neither of them has an affair. Are they equal in virtue?

Perhaps, but the unattractive woman hadn't the same chance to be unfaithful as the beautiful woman. The beautiful woman had the opportunity and chose to remain faithful to her husband. It doesn't mean that the unattractive woman would choose the wrong path if given the opportunity, but it does mean that for the beautiful woman while it is yet to be seen for the unattractive woman. It means, according to British musician, Billy Bragg, "Virtue never tested is no virtue at all".

A respectable woman is Not a woman who has never had the opportunity to have affairs, but rather one who has had the opportunity and chose the best path. She is strong. She is virtuous. She is a Real woman. And a Real man? He is not threatened by a woman's strength, but empowered by it. He knows her strength does not take away from his, but adds to it. A weak man needs a weaker woman. When I look to the successful men in Yemen, I usually find their wives are educated and have more freedom than other Yemeni women. Their children are well-mannered, clean, and doing well in their studies. The education and freedom of these women does not encourage wild or delinquent behavior. To the contrary, it does just the opposite.

Raising a woman's self-esteem and teaching her (as well as young men) right from wrong, and the consequences of both is more beneficial in the long run, promoting peace of mind. If a father merely spends his spare moments worrying about his daughter's virginity or reputation and later gives his worries and his daughter (hand in hand) to her new husband, the cycle continues. But what serenity if a father and mother trust their daughter and encourage her so when she goes out into the world they feel comfort and confidence in the choices she will make. And if she chooses to marry, her husband may concentrate on other things, such as work or studies, rather than on what his wife is doing when she leaves the house to visit her friend or shop for vegetables. The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said something to the effect of, "Educating a woman, educates a nation" -- for she raises the children. She gives to her children all that she is. If she is weak, poor in thought, dallu'a, or if she is strong, educated, and focused, she will give these qualities to her children. Think about it!

* Haajar, a white American with no lineage to the Middle East, was converted to Islam in the USA. She spent a few weeks in Yemen 'learning'. It was the decision of Yemen Times to delay printing this article until she left.



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June 9th, 1997

Accounting Professionals Warned of Future Challenges

The president of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) warned accounting professionals that they risked becoming irrelevant as globalization transformed national economies. "The worst possible scenario we may face into the 21st century is a global economy, which is not well served by our profession because we have been unable to implement timely solutions to global problems and to adapt our professional practices to a globalized business environment," Herrera addressed the Middle East's first conference on global Accounting Standards in Dubai.

In the future, national borders would mean less to business and capital and the accounting profession would be expected to actively facilitate the globalization process, he added. Harmonization of accounting standards had to be accountants' first priority. Immediate action must be taken in order to do away once and for all with the differences which separate us.

The solution, he said, was the adoption of international accounting standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Committee. The International Organization of Securities Commission has agreed that it will endorse a core set of IAS-guidelines which is now due to happen in 1998.

With this step, we have accomplished our global of harmonization in the international capital markets of the world. We firmly believe that this will be a reality before the turn of the century. More than 100 accounting executives from throughout the Arab World attended the conference in Dubai.

Lebanese Economy in Recession

The Lebanese economy was in a recession in the first quarter of 1997, triggered by a slowdown in the construction, investment and financial sectors, an official at Audi Bank said. "Growth showed a clear slowdown and is about 2%," said Freddie Baz, the director of the bank's analysis unit.

Baz said the average growth rate in the last four years was 6.5% while consumption increased by 26% each year, investments by 13% and exports by 25%. A report by the private bank said private and public investments went down by 14% in nominal value in the first three months of this year. Construction slowed, with a 31% decrease in construction permits and a 7% drop in cement sales in comparison with figures from the first quarter of 1996.

"These numbers show a persistent recession which has been prevailing since 1995 in this sector which has attracted 50% of the total private investments since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war," the report said.

There are still US\$8 billion in unsold apartments on the market in Lebanon, it said. The report noted that the recession in the construction and real-estate sectors was behind the slowdown in private investment which decreased by 18% in the first quarter of 1997, against figures from last year. Bank credits to the government represented 49% of all such credits at the end of March while the government's share in the economy dropped from 22% in the same period. Imports decreased by 8.8% to US\$1.68 billion in the first quarter.

Khatami Calls for Greater Democracy in Iran

Iran's president-elect Mohammad Khatami called for greater democracy after his stunning election victory. In a clear balancing act, the Iranian leader also stressed the need to bolster Islamic values and resist threats from abroad.

"We should all think of a better future in a society ruled by law with a strong sense of spirituality and free of any lawlessness and rouge tenderness," Khatami said in a message broadcast by state radio and television. He also urged different forces, views, thoughts and skills to participate to make a greater, versatile and proud Iran. He said, "We need to preserve the dignity, rights and civil liberties of all citizens and to realize social justice while developing the country."

Iran's foreign policy is not yet to change suddenly. But Khatami called for reducing tensions in the international arena. The new leader was also ready to help the Palestinians to create an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Khatami whose campaign support included centrist elements close to outgoing president Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani and reformist technocrats, is expected to follow Iran's current Five-Year Economic Plan (1995-2000) while emphasizing increased investment in the ailing domestic industry.

Khatami is seen by many local businessmen as the best hope of partly breaking the near-monopolistic power of the Bazaaris-merchants who have historically preferred to make profits out of trading and money-changing rather than investing in long-term industry.

In general, the youth and women supported Khatami's change-oriented program. The newly elected leader also called for legal changes to encourage non-oil exports, to attract economic program to the 1995-2000 plan and showed he was at least aware of the problems.

Algerian Elections Carried Out SUCCESSFULLY

Algeria, long haunted by bloodshed following the annulment of the 1993 elections in which Islamic politicians had been poised to win, carried out elections last week. The process went on peacefully, albeit under heavy security surveillance.

According to official reports from Algiers, 66.3% of the eligible voters have turned up to cast their ballots.

The results showed that of the total 380 seats in parliament, no single party was able to get a majority. The leading party was the National Democratic Gathering, with 155 seats. Other parties with strong showing were 69 seats for the Gathering for Peace (Hamas), 64 seats for the National Liberation Front, 34 seats for the Renaissance Party, 19 seats for the Socialist Forces Front, and 19 seats for the Gathering for Culture and Democracy. Several other small parties also got representation in parliament, in addition to 11 seats for the independents.

International and regional observers who monitored the elections gave the Algerian elections high marks in terms of efficiency and fairness.

Qatar Eases Visa Rules for GCC Expats

Qatar has relaxed visa rules allowing the residents of members of the Gulf Cooperation Council states to visit Qatar without having a prior entry permit, officials said. The rule approved by the cabinet at the recommendation of the Advisory Council, also allows expatriate workers earning 3,000 Riyals (824\$) or more a month to sponsor their families, subject to a prior sanction by the department of immigration.

"The move is aimed at revitalizing the economic activity in the market and promote tourism," said a senior government official. Residents of GCC states can obtain two week visit visa on arrival at the Doha International Airport. "All that they have to state is the name and address of a relative or friend in Qatar who will sponsor them, and the UAE he said. Qatar has just begun promoting its tourism industry by developing sea-front hotels and resorts, leisure complex and palm tree islands.

Turkey Plans for Elections this Autumn

The two coalition partners in prime Minister Negmeddin Erbakan's Islamist-led government have reached an accord, in principle, to pave the way for early general elections, analysts said. The move comes as the ruling parties continue to lose seats in parliament through defections, and pressure mounts on Erbakan from the powerful pro-secular military, to curb rising Islamic tendencies in the country. "An early election in October or November will be acceptable for us," said deputy leader of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party, junior partner in Erbakan's coalition.

At the monthly meeting of the army-dominated National Security Council, top military commanders were expected to question Erbakan over the government's progress in fighting fundamentalism. The Council urged the government in February and April to implement an army backed package of measures to curb rising Islamic radicalism. On July the first, Ciller is to assume the post of prime minister and under her premiership the elections are to be held.

Netanyahu Unveils Plans for Holding West Bank Territories

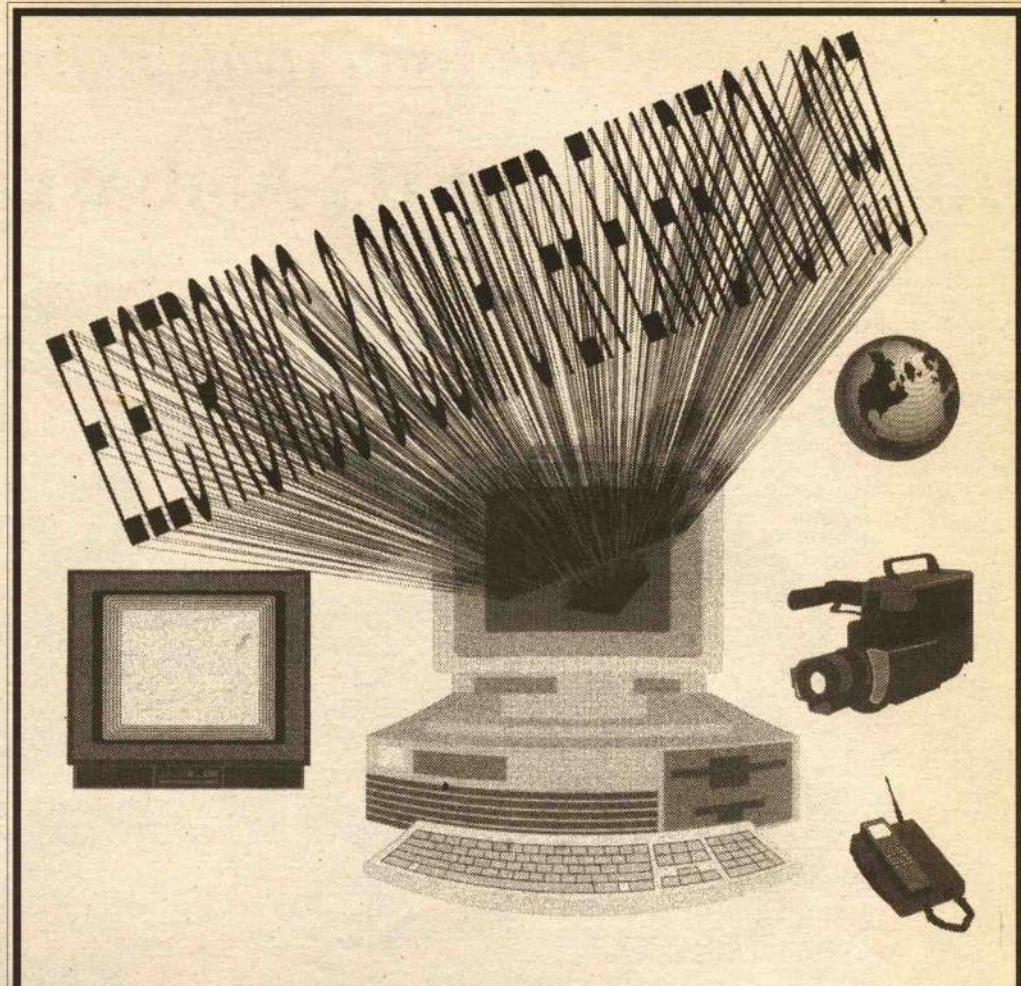
Israeli Prime Minister, in a move that further complicated the peace process, disclosed plans that indicate his vision of a final settlement with the Palestinians. Such vision calls for Israel to retain 60% of the West Bank territories and all of Jerusalem. This new bomb has stunned Israel 'peace' partners and left them exposed more than ever before.

The Palestinians, scrambling to scream foul, have once again appealed to the world community to make Mr. Netanyahu live by the peace accords. Other Arab countries, including Egypt and Jordan have also expressed extreme concern over the rising level of tension in view of the continued Israeli actions which erode the credibility of peace.

One of the key Palestinian conditions for the resumption of peace talks is a total freeze of the construction of new Israeli settlements or expansion of old ones. "If we are negotiating for them on ways to hand back the land, there is no meaning in continuing to build new settlements," explained Mr. Saeb Oraiqat, Palestinian Minister of Local Governance.

William Cohen Visits the Gulf

US Secretary of Defence, Mr. William Cohen, is scheduled to visit the Gulf countries next week. The American official will discuss security/armament needs of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. He will also inspect US troops stationed in those countries.



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Ras Issa Private Refinery Project in Progress:

Al-Hashedi and US Ambassador Sign Award Agreement

It is 12:00 o'clock noon on Sunday, June 8th. The US ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. David Newton, took his place. Mr. Hussain Al-Hashedi, project sponsor, took his place.

The two men shook hands, and then signed the award agreement according to which the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will provide US\$ 300,000 to finance part

of the preparation costs of a new refinery project at Ras Issa, near the Yemen Hunt Oil Company's terminal.

In the beginning of the occasion, Mr. Faysal Y. Sharif, Project Manager, explained different aspects of the project.

"On the economic side, this is a visibly viable project with a rate of return of some 23%. This is as far as investors go. But there are many benefits for the country and for the local population," he said. "The project also brings to Yemen state of the art technology that is efficient and environment-friendly," he indicated.

Mr. Sharif, who is the driving force behind the project, indicated that there were many financing possibilities that Yemen could tap.

"Our success in raising funds for this project shows its viability on the one hand, and the options open to Yemen, on the other," he stressed.

The availability of the OPIC cover and EXIM guarantees for credit/investments associated with the



picture is more interesting on the Yemeni side. "Many companies have already expressed interest in joining the company as share-holders. We shall conduct serious discussions with various parties over the next few days. Partners will be firming up over the next few weeks," Hussain concluded.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior government officials from the Ministries of Industry, and Oil and Mineral Resources. A senior group of US embassy staff also attended.

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Soufan, Minister of Industry and Chairman of the General Investment Authority, was among those who attended the occasion. "I am delighted with this development, which I am sure will open a new era in the bilateral cooperation between Yemen and the USA," he said.

The Minister also expressed delight that this project was the first major investment since he took charge of the General Investment Authority. "I would like to assure the investors that we will provide all support and assistance to them," he said.

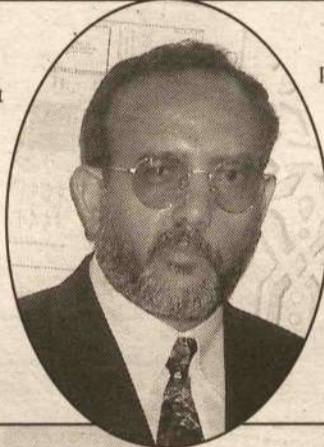
Mr. Soufan then thanked the American government for its support.

"I want to use this occasion to tell all potential investors, especially in the USA, to be assured that we will do our utmost to support them," the minister concluded.



project are important for its launch. Mr. Askar Ali Hussain, Project Director, added, "This project is one of the first major partnerships and joint ventures between American and Yemeni investors in Yemen in a long time."

Mr. Askar also disclosed that the



project is structured along a 70-30 debt/equity ratio. "We have made major strides to raise both the credit and equity financing for the project," he said.

Some of the US companies interested in the project include Raytheon and Caltex. But the



US Government Promotes Private Sector Investment Initiatives in Yemen

The US Trade & Development Agency (USTDA) is actively participating in financing project feasibility studies for private sector investment undertakings in Yemen.

On Sunday, June 8, 1997, an agreement was signed between USTDA represented by the US Ambassador in Yemen, Mr. David G. Newton and Mr. Hussein Al Hashedi of Al Hashedi Trading & Contracting Company to finance the feasibility study for Ras Issa refinery project. The USTDA funding is a US \$300,000 grant funding to partially cover the cost of the project's final feasibility study.

The project represents the commitment of the US government to foster US private investment in Yemen and private sector-led development.

The Ras Issa refinery project is considered a major step forward resulting from the on-going economic reform and restructuring program being implemented by the Yemeni government towards free market system, and to foster private sector direct participation in investments within the productive industries for long-term sustained economic growth of the country. This project is considered of major importance because this is the first time in Yemen that the private sector has been permitted to enter the downstream part of the oil industry.

The estimated cost of the refinery is around US \$800 million.

The planned refinery will be built with state-of-the-art technology and will blend crude oil feedstocks with a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day. The project engineering will conform to the new international environmental requirements and products specification. Water and air emission will be controlled to meet or exceed accepted industry standards. The technology will be in full compliance with such environmental specification over the entire operating life of the refinery.

The configuration of the refinery will produce various petroleum products to meet the domestic and export market requirements, including gasoline, kerosene and jet fuel, diesel fuel, fuel oil, LPG and asphalt. The refinery is being planned with capability to meet changing demand and environmental requirements for hydrocarbon fuel into the 21st century. The target markets will mainly focus on the Yemeni domestic market and export market to the East African region and the Red Sea Coastal region.

The project is planned to be legally structured as a share holding company with equity participation by domestic and American investors. Negotiations are underway with various US firms to participate in the project engineering and construc-

tion, refinery operation, supply of technology and know-how and participation in the equity.

Keen interest has been shown by US EXIM Bank, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) to provide direct financing as well as underwriting commercial bank financing. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank has also indicated interest to participate in the financing. Currently, discussions are on-going with the US legal firm of Bracewell and Patterson to represent the project and Merrill Lynch to be financial advisors and private financiers for the project.

The underlying contribution by the project to the Yemeni economy is many folds: from employment to the economic multiplier effect on the neighboring region of the refinery site location. It is expected to highly improve the income of the people in the region. Also, the refinery will alleviate pressure from the increasing domestic demand for refined products, especially under the prevailing and existing refining capabilities of vintage technology and limited capacity. Furthermore, its success will establish confidence among international financial institutions to finance private sector projects in Yemen.

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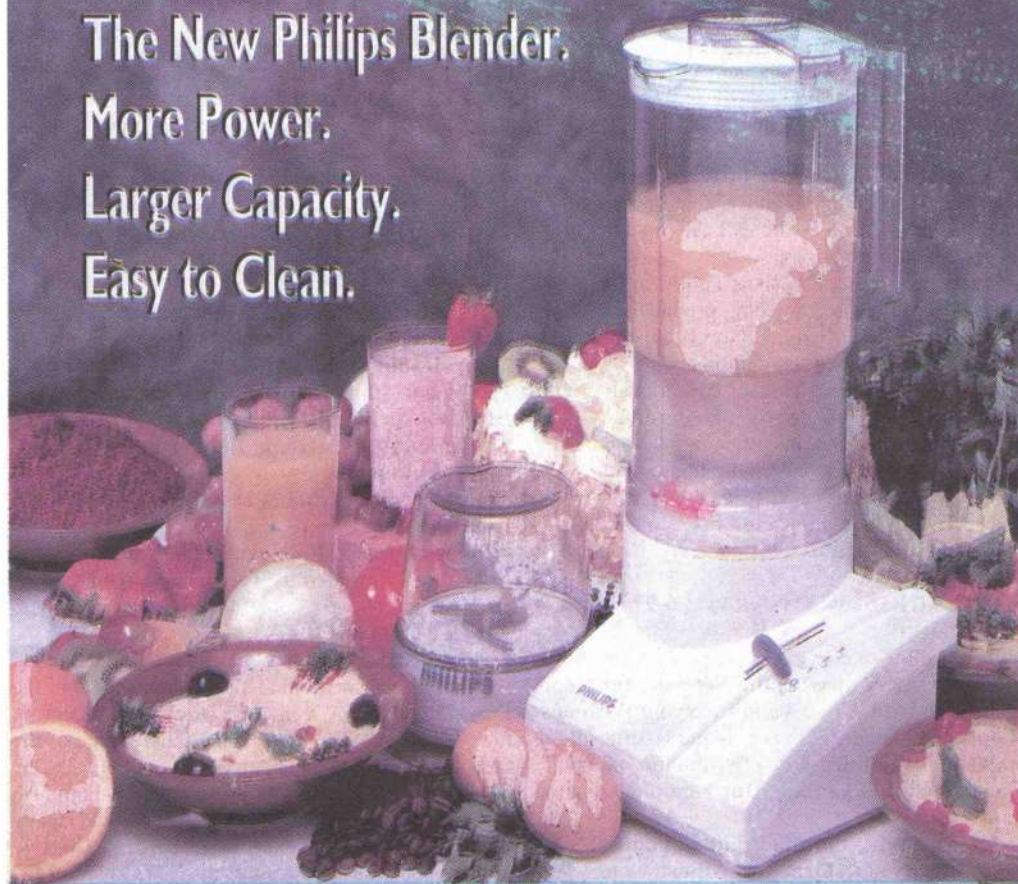
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40 QHF



51 GSC/GVC



42 KNL



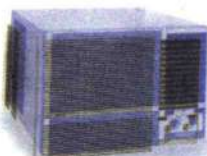
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AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-6-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Presidential Decree to Organize Prime Ministerial Office
- 2) Vice President Inaugurates Saleef Sea Port
- 3) Latest Statements by YSP Leadership Express Desperation

Article Summary:

Dangers of the Religious Institutes
by Basheer Al-Hazmi

The religious institutes were first established in the mid 70s to teach religion and Arabic in addition to other subjects. These institutes have deviated from their original mandate.

Since the emergence of Islah as a political force, the institutes have become breeding ground for recruitment and its partisan activity. Non-Islahi employees and students are forced into quitting.

Now a division in the Yemeni educational system has been created to absorb these institutes. The President has insisted that the unification of the educational system is one of the highest priorities. This task is now entrusted to the new Minister of Education, who is known for his dedication and competence.

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-6-97

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Stresses the Necessity for Combating Vendetta Killings and Carrying Weapons
- 2) Vice President, "There is no truth about implementing a third dose of economic reform."
- 3) Yemen and Oman Sign International Border Maps
- 4) Minister of Education Puts Financial and Administrative Reform in Ministry as Top Priority

Article Summary:

Electricity Bills Cause Outcry

Commotion and anarchy prevailed in the electricity office in Safia on Sunday 1st June. It was 10 PM and the employees had still not arrived at work. People were complaining angrily and bitterly. One particular citizen had his monthly bill rising from YR.131 in January, to YR.897 in February, and



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

YR.1627 in March. His electricity meter, however indicated a 3-month consumption equivalent to YR.2650. It is alleged that accountants at the electricity offices, due to apathy and negligence, resort to crude estimations of the bills. Some people have complained that this has been going on for some time now.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 3-6-97
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Yemeni Administrative Divisions Law Sparks Dispute with Saudi Arabia
- 2) Limited Authority and Big Privileges for Consultative Council
- 3) New Medical Team Sent to Investigate Insulin Baby Deaths
- 4) Israeli Support for Royalists in Yemen During Revolution Revealed by Terrorist Sharon

Article Summary:

Five Industrial Groups Monopolize Bank Loans

A World Bank memorandum has indicated that the financial sector in Yemen is weak, and does not fully follow the rules and regulations. Some of the largest commercial banks in Yemen will not be able to honor their commitments, the memorandum also stated. Loans given out by these banks and many others are proving to be a huge burden. The five largest industrial groups have the lion's share of the loans. The financial commitments of these groups amount to more than double the capital of all commercial banks. The memorandum recommended strict criteria for appointing bank managers and board members. Punishments and accountability must also be laid down clearly.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 5-6-97

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) YSP Central Committee Secretary Calls for Forming Shadow Government
- 2) Head of Committee Defending Group of 16 (former YSP members) Quits Case
- 3) Public Sector Property in Lahaj is Illegally Seized by Influential Figures
- 4) Fears Expressed by Media People from Government's Intentions to Amend Journalism Law

Article Summary:

Consequences of Flogging Journalism

by Ali Al-Sarari

The sentence of 80 lashes, huge fines, and six-month suspension of Al-Shoura newspaper was quite unexpected. Both the defendants and plaintiffs in this slander case were shocked and disgusted. This sentence has created a feeling of impending disaster. The young judge responsible for the ruling

will have to hopefully realize that he has ruined the trust between the judiciary and the press, which took 7 years to build. The government has lost a lot in terms of its international reputation. Condemnations and protests have been flooding in from everywhere since the announcement of the sentence.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 4-6-97

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Aden Radio Broadcast Stops Because of Stolen Cable
- 2) International Journalists Protection Committee Entreats President to Rescind Sentence of Al-Shura Journalists
- 3) Three Somali Refugees Killed in Shoot-out in Jaheen Refugee Camp in Abyan
- 4) Judicial Inspection Team Investigates Bribery Allegations in Aden

Article Summary:

For a Unified Housing Law

by Najeeb A. Hassan

The dilemma of the laws governing housing in the southern and eastern parts of the country still exists. People have been demanding back their property which was nationalized by the former regime. Several MPs have demanded the abolition of the housing nationalization laws. The existence of these laws will greatly harm the prospects of Aden as an intended free zone. The constitution of the unified state has explicitly stressed on the protection of private property. It is also a widely regarded concept of Islam. A new unified housing and property law will have to be introduced and enacted in all parts of the country.

AL-HAQ: Sana'a (Weekly) 1-6-97

(Haq Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) YR. 300,000 Banquet in Ibb for Minister of Transport

- 2) Leading Member of Socialist Party Nominated Governor of Abyan
- 3) Petroleum Ministry's Hosing Compound in Shabwa Sold to Private Investor
- 4) Sewers Explode in Al-Tahreer St., Taiz

Article Summary:

Where are the Fruits of Investment
by Fouad Q. Ali

Five long years of futile propaganda on investment in Yemen have passed. Despite much talk about the Aden Free Zone, no big capital has been invested to establish the necessary infrastructure in that city. The people entrusted with the Free Zone are the actual obstacles that stand in its way. National and foreign investors have been scared away by the stifling bureaucracy and financial irregularities. The law stands powerless in protecting public property. Qualified and competent people must be given the job of managing the country's investment potential. The future of the whole country hangs in the balance.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 5-6-97

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Sheikhs Al-Ahmer and Al-Zindani Meet with Islah General Secretariat
- 2) Adjudicating Judge in Zindani vs. Shoura Slander Case is Terrorized
- 3) Professors at Sana'a and Aden Universities Threaten to Strike Demanding their Rights

Article Summary:

Quiet Questions to Stormy Accusations

The recent court ruling in Al-Shoura newspaper slander case can be quietly discussed in accordance with the rules of Islam. The storm of protests could either be due to the punishment being taken from the Islamic Sharia, or because an error of judgment was committed by the judge. If it is the former, then this is a dangerous precedent--protesting the rulings of Islam. If the judge has committed a mistake, then there are higher courts to appeal to.

The accused journalist has confessed that his article, "Sheikh Zani (adulterer)," is directed to Sheikh Al-Zindani, the prominent Islah leader. Resorting to the courts of law, as did Sheikh Al-Zindani, is no crime. Appealing against a court ruling is not to be done by bad-mouthing and terrorizing the judge concerned.

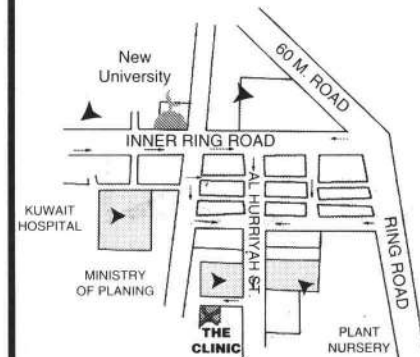
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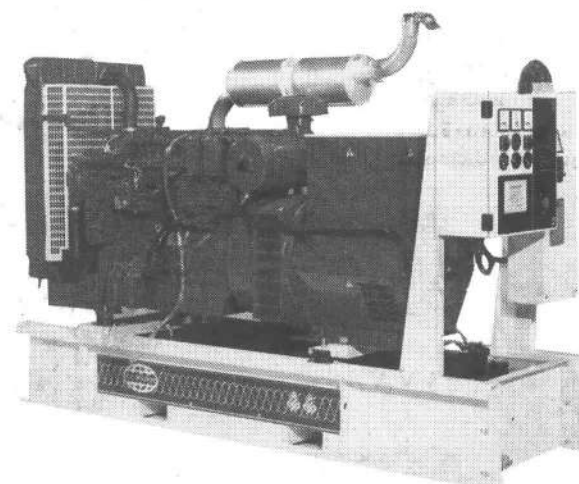
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Yemen Times Raises YR 1.5 million for the National Soccer Team Playing in the World Football Matches

It was a momentous occasion. The Yemen Times, observing the dismal financial condition of the players on the National Soccer Team, was able to raise almost YR 2 million. The money will be handed over directly to the players in a reception arranged at the Taj Sheba Hotel on Tuesday evening.

Main Contributors

Hayel Saeed Group of Companies	YR 250,000
Al-Ahmar Group of Companies	YR 250,000
UNIVERSAL Group of Companies	YR 250,000
Abdullah Ali Al-Sunaidar	YR 200,000
Mohammed Abdellah Al-Qadhi	YR 100,000
Yemen Times	YR 100,000

More donations are expected soon



An exceedingly crucial match between the Yemeni National Football Team and the Indonesian team will take place on Friday 13th June. The outcome of this match will be quite decisive in qualifying our team from the Fourth Asian Group. Despite the lack of facilities and support, the Yemeni team has achieved very remarkable results. The other teams it played against were highly trained, and had huge resources and facilities. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times' chief editor, has taken the initiative of spearheading a campaign to collect donations for the benefit of the National

Team's impoverished players. This will provide a welcome incentive for the players to excel in their upcoming match with Indonesia. Several businessmen, companies and trade establishments have already responded to Dr. Al-Saqqaf's call. (Please refer to box.) Up to now, donations have exceeded YR. 1 million. The Yemeni business community has become more aware of the of our National Team's lack of resources. This is a patriotic duty, first and foremost. Sports competitions have become a mirror reflecting the extent of a certain country's political,

economic, cultural and social progress. It is expected that each player will receive YR. 100,000 in the money distribution event. This is an open patriotic call upon all business people and figures of benevolence in society to come to the support of our National Football Team. Our players and Yemeni youths in general have been honorably fighting an uphill struggle. They have achieved great results against all odds. At another level, it was learned that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has a surprise gift for the Yemeni team. But that is next week's story.

Rain Washes the Inaugural Cricket Match of Emirates Cup 97

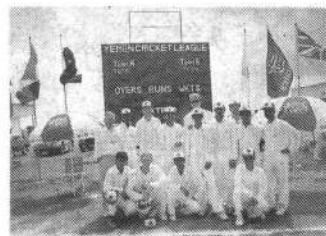


Sana'a - 6th June 97 - Inaugural match between L&JCC and YCC of the cricket tournament was abandoned due to rain and postponed till end of all first round matches.

To start the tournament an opening ceremony was done with cutting of a cake by Mr. Adnan Kazim, Area

Manager Emirates - Yemen. This function was attended by ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Deputy Head of Mission of United Kingdom. Sheikh Tariq Abdullah - Chairman of YCA bowled the first ball of the tournament to Mr. Kazim to mark the occasion.

On winning the toss Mr. Kushdil decided to bat but only 3.2 overs could be bowled with 10 runs on the score board rain stopped the match. Later both the umpires decided to abandon the match due to poor ground conditions. Both captains were quite disappointed as they looked forward to this match. The team of Mr. Waseem and Mr. Vyas responsible for the fantastic arrangements for the ground and the opening ceremony saw



the entire efforts wasted on the first day but still committed to carry on the job for the rest of the tournament.

Reported by - Ajay Tandon

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NOTICE

Yemen Times announces that its fax number has changed. The new number is (268-276)

Please take note.

Thank you!

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