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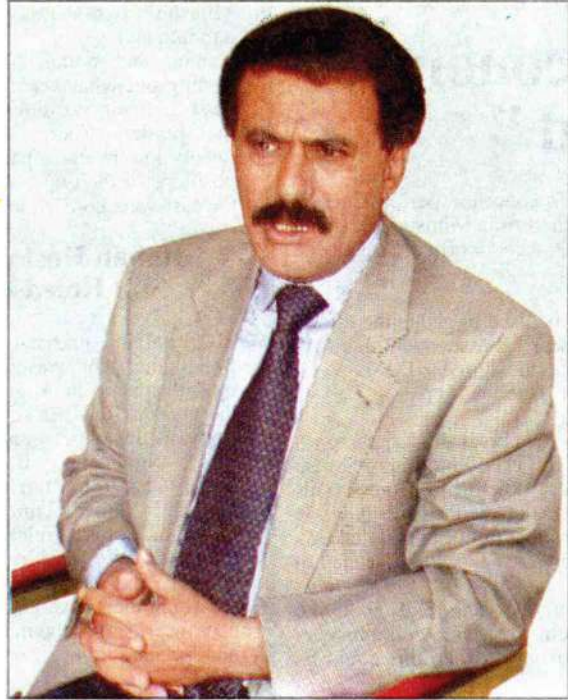
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Another Milestone in Yemeni-German Relations: President Saleh on a State Visit to Bonn

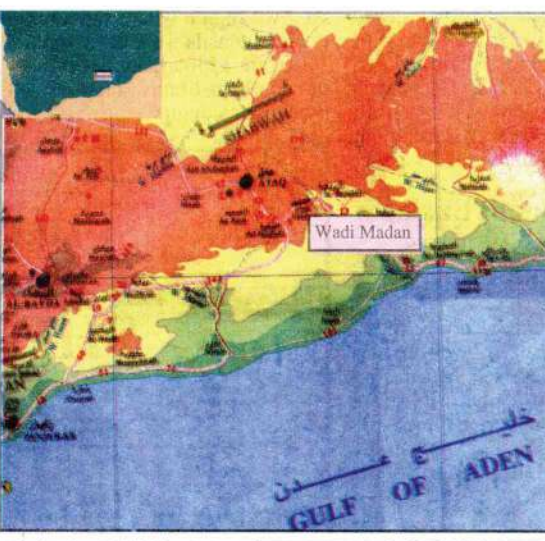
President Ali Abdullah Saleh will be in Bonn next month on a state visit to Germany. The program of the five-day visit, which starts on September 8th, includes meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Kinkel, and a number of other senior German officials. The President will also meet with German President Roman Herzog, and a number of businessmen and parliamentarians. Although this is not the first visit by President Saleh to Germany, it is his first state visit.

"Every year, we receive about three heads of state in Germany on state visits. This year, President Saleh is one of our distinguished guests," said Dr. Helga von Strachwitz, German ambassador in Yemen who is busy at work on the visit. The visit represents another milestone in the bilateral relations, which are already very good. Germany is one of the top aid partners of Yemen. Over the last quarter of a century, German development aid to Yemen exceeded DM 1.3 billion.



HAS YEMEN HIT THE JACKPOT?

They call it "King Solomon's Mines". It could be Yemen's visa to good fortune. Four international companies (UK, Swiss, Canadian and Indonesian) are prospecting for gold in Yemen. The UK/Canadian company working on Wadi Madan, which is the most advanced of the four sites, has just imported the container and drilling equipment to start production. "Before the end of the year, we will have sound information," said the representative of the company. Within one year, there will be more concrete assessments regarding all the sites. Industry analysts believe that the turn of the century, gold excavation should be in full swing in the Republic of Yemen.




Jordanian & Egyptian Premiers in Sanaa Yemen Coordinates Effort with Jordan and Egypt

Yemen and Jordan are set to intensify their coordination and cooperation efforts in the face of rising internal and regional challenges. Jordanian Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul-Salam Al-Majali, told the Yemen Times that he is flying in to Sanaa during the first half of September, at the head of a large delegation of ministers and other senior officials. The meetings will take place under the umbrella of the Yemeni-Jordanian Joint Committee, chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.


Yemen and Jordan have also signed half a dozen bilateral agreements which they now want to activate. Dr. Al-Majali will be the first head of government to be hosted by Dr. Faraj bin Ghanim since he became Prime Minister in May. Dr. Ghanim, who confirmed the news, also disclosed that Egypt's Prime Minister, Dr. Kamal Al-Ganzoori will arrive in Sanaa in the footsteps of the Jordanian Premier. "Yemen gives relations with those two countries a priority," he said.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

“It is the economy, stupid.”

One more time, there is a lot of talk about the performance of the Yemeni government. After all, the Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim has finished his first 100 days in office. So, how do we measure his performance?

There are many yardsticks that can be used to gauge the efforts of the Faraj Government. We will hear his assessment in a full-fledged interview with Yemen Times next week. But now, let me jump the gun and talk about is at issue.

There is no question the economic situation is the key factor in how people view this government. But economic improvement is a long-term process and it is not a quick-fix business. This means that this government will be under-credited for its work. Turning around economic conditions is a tall order that takes a long time. Therefore, some accurate yardstick will be needed to evaluate Dr. Faraj's team.

One of these yardsticks is how the private sector feels about the credibility and viability of the system. If private entrepreneurs and investors feel there is an improvement, then this could be used as a measurement.

Another yardstick has to do whether the government stays the course of reform steps, even in the face of rising public resentment. This is also a good measurement of the serious nature of the government vis-a-vis reforms.

A third yardstick is the effort to bring some sense into the government financial system. The fact that the Prime Minister has been able to reach an arrangement with the President whereby the big man will divert all requests for financial gifts by power centers to the Prime Minister is already an achievement. Whether the two men will stick to the arrangement is a sign of the success or failure of the government.

A fourth yardstick is actually administrative. Can Dr. Faraj control his ministers and other senior officials from travelling all around the world at government expense? Can he make his ministers and other officials spend more time at work? Can he introduce measure to delegate authority?

In the final analysis, the creation of jobs, controlling inflation, and the various services provided to the people are the key elements that shape the people's attitude.

But beyond the economics, however, important that is, there are additional factors that affect the people's perception and assessment of the government. These include:

1. The level of safety and security of the people and their property. This is a critical issue especially since the level of violence, assault, theft, etc. has been on the rise.
2. Public participation in public life is an important corollary to the democratization process. How much input the public can make into decision-making is a key element. If this process is monopolized by a small circle, then little would be achieved. In this issue, the contribution of opposition politicians women, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups is vital.
3. Social harmony is a third yardstick. The socio-cultural changes in the nation have brought shock and a lot of resentment. With the rising level of interaction with the rest of the world, more conservative groups feel the socio-cultural on-slaughter. The easing of this process is a sign of government success.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

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Yemen and Saudi Border Talks Continue

Colonel Hussain Arab, Minister of Interior, is back today from his second shuttle to Saudi Arabia in the last two weeks. He is reciprocating the Saudi Interior Minister's two shuttles to Sanaa a month ago. Yemen and Saudi Arabia are ironing out whatever differences exist in their positions vis-a-vis the border. There are some twenty kilometers separating the positions of the two countries in the east-west borderline.

Italian Hostage Still Holed In

The Italian tourist, Georgeo Bonanome, who was picked up by kidnappers on August 6th in the area of Rada, is still in captivity, as this paper went to print. Mrs. Simonetta Bartolomei, Italian Charge d'affair in Sanaa, told the Yemen Times she is expecting his release any moment. "We are in constant contact. The Yemeni authorities are doing their best, and we have no concerns over the man's well-being," she said.

Yemeni-Indian Contact at Upper House Levels

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council (CC), has sent a letter to his Indian counterpart. The letter is being hand-delivered by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Member of the CC, who is on a trip to New Delhi, at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. At another level, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has forwarded an invitation to Dr. Al-Saqqaf to visit China. The trip is scheduled for October, 1997. Dr. Saqqaf is expected to carry a letter from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Chinese leadership.

Yemeni-Saudi Business Group Sponsors "Fraternal Festival"

The Yemeni-Saudi OFOK International Group, a well-known business enterprise, has major investments in Yemen. Its businesses now cover fishing, oil exploration, shipping, construction, industrial, health agriculture and livestock investment projects.

It has last invested in a residential/office complex in Aden worth over YR 1 billion. Additional new projects are under consideration, according to the chairman of the group, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Wali. Starting on the 7th, the Group is hosting the "Fraternal Festival" which brings together Yemen and Saudi actors, playwrights, singers, poets, dancers, and other entertainers. The one-week festival starts in Sanaa and moves on to Aden.

Such activities bolster the warming up of political relations between the two countries.

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New Yemeni Party in the Formation

A new party, called Local Government Party, is presently under formation. As the very name of the party indicates, the overriding objective of this grouping is "the establishment of a sound workable local government system in the country". An Aden-based group of intellectuals is promoting the idea and party. The promoters do announce that they do not see themselves as "opposition in the general sense". Nor do they see themselves "in conflict with any party - ruling or otherwise".

Commit Suicide Rather Go Begging

She would rather commit suicide than go begging in the streets. That is exactly what she did, when her father forced her to "go out there and collect money as much as you can". The 15-year old girl was taken to the emergency ward of a hospital in Sanaa where she died. The grinding poverty has driven many families to many tragedies, including the one that happened in Sanaa last month.

New Archaeologic Find in Yemen

The German Archaeologic Team discovered a new ancient site in Saber town, in Lahej governorate, some 60 kilometers north of Aden. Before that, additional sites were uncovered in Shihre. The most spectacular find, however, was the one north-east of Ibb city in Al-Awd region where statues and golden utensils were discovered. There are 17 international archaeological expeditions digging all around the country.

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Ministry of Labor Introduces New Measures: SAFETY ON THE JOB

Occupational hazards are quite plenty in a world that is being steadily mechanized. The problem becomes even more acute in an environment which is not really subject to any rules. The situation in Yemen is such that safety on the job, especially in industries is becoming a real concern.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training is now beginning to come to grips with this issue. This is especially true since Engineer Mohammed Al-Tayyib took over as minister.

Yemen Times tries to investigate this problem and what is being done about it. Dr. Salah Haddah, Managing Editor, spoke to Dr. Nizar Ghanem is a professor of occupational medicine at Sana'a University, and adviser to the Department of Occupational Health and Safety at the Ministry of Health. He also spoke to the General Director of the Occupational Health and Safety at the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, Mr. Mohammed M. A. Salah.

The two interviews follow:
1st. Interview:

Dr. Nizar Ghanem:

Q: How do you assess the general conditions of occupational health and safety in Yemen?

A: Conditions for occupational safety are good, to a certain extent. Occupational health criteria, however, are almost non-existent. Inspectors from the Ministry of Labor conduct regular field visits to inspect the adherence to occupational safety rules and regulations. According to the relevant law and in the case of lack of safety measures, an inspector has the right to impose large fines on an industrial place. So employees take great care to observe the safety rules. This does not involve any medical examination.

On the other hand, there is no legislation to regulate the administering of occupational health. This aspect of the work conditions is lacking in many industrial establishments. Only a small percentage of employees, such as those working for the Hayel Saeed Group in Taiz, receive adequate health care.

Q: Why are occupational health and safety measures lacking in so many establishments?

A: The non-enforcement of the existing labor legislation is to blame. The field of occupational health and safety is unique in that it combines various aspects from medicine, engineering, and law. Lack of proper ventilation is also a general problem in factories. There is a constant need to modernize the ventilation facilities. The Sana'a Textile Factory is a good example. Industrial dust and tiny cotton fibers are not dispelled from the factory environment.

The differences in climate form one area to another in Yemen must be taken into consideration when installing ventilation systems. For example, there is a lot of dust suspended in the air in Sana'a. Added to the lack of oxygen due to the high altitude, the problem of ventilation takes further dimensions. Aden, on the other hand, suffers from the problem of heat and humidity.

Q: What about workers' safety from poisonous gases and radiation?

A: X-ray workers must be protected, and the amount of radiation they are exposed to be measured periodically. These workers must be given special protective clothing and a two-month compulsory vacation every year. The X-ray machines themselves have to be housed in lead-lined rooms in order to protect other employees and the people living in the vicinity. Harmful industrial chemical products and fumes must be dealt

with more cautiously in Yemen. A disaster could have taken place during the fire at the pesticides factory in Taiz in the early '90s. If it were not for the rapid extinguishing of the fire, poisonous gases and fumes produced by the burning chemicals would have spread over large areas of the country. It could have been similar to the Bhopal incident in India a few years ago. There is now in Yemen the National Society for the Protection from Biological and Chemical Dangers. It is currently doing a very good start in this field.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about the hazards of industrial equipment?

A: This is an issue that is directly related to awareness and proper training. The hazards in this area usually result because of lack of training. Workers should be fully trained on the machinery they regularly use. From field research, most of the equipment-related accidents occur during the first six months of a worker's tenure. When a worker gets acclimatized with the machinery he or she uses, accidents become less frequent. Carrying out the necessary maintenance is also very crucial in this respect.

Q: Are there any hygienic measures taken in industrial and other work places?

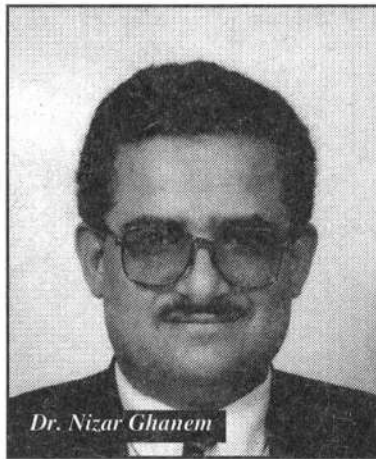
A: Water closets present a particular area that is in need of special attention. To prevent the spread of skin diseases, there should be more cleaning with antiseptics, and soap must be provided. A certain number of water closets must be installed, taking into account the number of workers employed in the place.

Q: What safeguards have to be taken to prevent fires at the work place?

A: Fires are usually caused by negligence. In some places, fire extinguishers were found either to be empty or out of order. This is in fact more dangerous than if the extinguisher is not there altogether. Its presence can give a wrong impression that it is ready for using. Inspection done in this respect by the Ministry of Labor is not always very thorough.

Q: Have you done any field studies on occupational sicknesses in Yemen?

A: Yes, I conducted, with my students at the Faculty of Medicine in Sana'a University, three different field studies at the textile factory. The first research was to measure the capacity of the workers' lungs. We found that there are many chronic respiratory illnesses that manifest themselves after several years of work such as cotton-caused illnesses and asthma. Such illnesses



Dr. Nizar Ghanem

result from the exposure to industrial dust or tiny cotton fibers, for instance. Workers in such fields are usually not provided with the proper masks. Upon asking one worker for the reason of not wearing a mask, he replied that he feels "ashamed of looking like veiled women!" Overalls and other types of protective clothing are also not provided. Deafness also results from not using the necessary ear plugs when operating noisy machinery. In our second research we found that many workers suffer from a gradual loss of hearing. Consequently, depression may occur.

Work-related accidents take place almost daily at the textile factory. Not all of these, however lead to serious injuries. Amputations are rare.

Q: Is there any coordination between the different concerned ministries regarding occupational safety?

A: No. The Ministry of Planning, for example, has conducted an industrial survey covering the whole republic. Despite the expected social, public health and environmental benefits from such a survey, it was done without any

coordination with the Ministry of Health.

Q: As far as the workers' health and safety are concerned, what are the most dangerous industries in Yemen?

A: The textile industry is quite hazardous in terms of inhaling harmful fibers. Construction workers are usually exposed to harmful dusts (silica & asbestos) as well as the danger of falling debris. Lack of proper safety measures on board fishing boats caused many drowning accidents. Even farmers are not spared the risk. The wrong usage of chemical pesticides can cause numerous health problems.

Q: Are Yemeni workers in general aware of the work health and safety rules? Do they follow the provided instructions?

A: No. There is a general lack of awareness and negligence on part of the workers. As a simple example, many workers smoke in places where it is forbidden. It is the task of the Ministry of Labor and the trade unions to play a role in raising the worker's awareness of the essential health and safety rules.

2nd Interview:
Mr. Mohammed M.A. Salah, General Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Department at the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training.

Q: How often do you inspect industrial and other work places?

A: Inspection is done once a year for non-hazardous factories, and twice a year for hazardous ones. Inspection visits are conducted

without prior notice. All areas in the republic are inspected, save non-industrialized areas such as Al-Jawf Governorate.

Q: What sort of difficulties do you face in your work?

A: First, we do not have the proper measuring instruments needed to find the extent of air and water pollution and noise levels within industrial plants. The second problem is the laxity of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry towards employers. Respect for the labor law and abiding by the rules of occupational health and safety must be imposed on all employers.

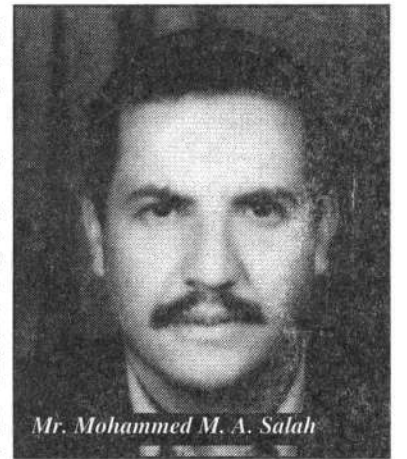
Q: What are the measures taken by your ministry against those who break the safety and health regulations?

A: According to the labor law, violators are fined an amount between YR.1000 and YR.20,000. A 3-month's warning is usually given to the plant's management to rectify the situation. Otherwise, the fine is imposed. Plans for new factories will now have to be approved of by our department before their implementations. We assess the safety and health requirements such as ventilation, emergency exists, fire regulations, etc.

The following table shows the

health and safety statistics in the Republic of Yemen from 1992 to 1996.

Year	Inspections	Warnings	Accidents	Deaths
1992	184	50	158	3
1993	170	43	621	5
1994	189	95	242	3
1995	160	80	195	Nil
1996	146	12	213	6
Total	849	280	1271	14



Mr. Mohammed M. A. Salah

occupational health and safety statistics in the Republic of Yemen from 1992 to 1996.

Q: What are the most serious flaws in the Yemeni industrial work places?

A: The most serious problem in Yemen is the presence of industrial installations and workshops in the midst of residential areas, especially in Sana'a. In the old days, the Sana'a industrial complex used to be out of town. With the rapid construction and expansion of the city, the complex is now surrounded by houses. This has caused the spread of many illnesses among people living in the vicinity. The synthetic sponge factory, for instance, disposes of a lot of waste as well as malodors. This is actually a real environmental catastrophe.

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Flicks in Sana'a

Adel J. Moqbil,
Yemen Times

Young men and teenagers start to congregate before six o'clock. Some are chewing qat, others chatting, and several looking vacantly into space. It is an event exclusively for men. After the sunset call for prayer, the door opens. The young men become more alert. A disheveled guy comes out holding a big billboard. They walk hurriedly towards the moving billboard. The billboard is now left leaning against a lamppost. The small crowd are craning their heads to look. Beautiful, scantily dressed women in seductive postures have their naked flesh blotted with black ink. The tickets are now selling like hot cakes, even for 60 riyals a head. Some have bought their tickets, and stood in the queue even before seeing what is on this evening. After a while, the queue lengthens.

Little boys with trays go round selling roasted watermelon and pumpkin seeds. Patrons are searched upon entering. Janbais are strictly forbidden, and must be handed at a nearby shop for safe keeping.

Sana'a boasts only four cinema auditoriums, or to be more precise, four rundown flea pits. This is a pity, considering that the city is on its way to better times, and a lot of construction work and development are taking place. Theater plays are almost non-existent. It is readily noticeable that culture is not given its proper place in society. Video and satellite TV have a lot to do with keeping people at home. However, this is not an excuse for not enticing people with more superior cultural attractions.

Films shown are Arabic, Indian, or American; the latter sometimes dubbed in French with Arabic subtitles. Double bills are the order of the day to make it more worthwhile for the patrons.

The cinemas at the Complex on Hadda street present exceptionally risqué films, even by more liberal standards. Not all is shown, though. "Awar!!" (one eyed) shout the crowd wildly, when a particularly explicit scene is suddenly cut short of its natural or expected dénouement. Those below 16 years of age are supposedly not allowed in. But this is not strictly observed. Sexploitation films from the



early '70s are usually shown. The official censors seem to turn a blind eye. Or maybe the films are passed behind their backs.

Problems or fights rarely occur - the crowd are relatively well behaved. In some cinemas, smoking is prohibited - the usher goes around shining his little torch on those who light a cigarette.

The cinemas' interiors are not particularly clean: seats are broken, the floor littered with roasted seed husks and stained with qat spittle. Ventilation is very bad. On crowded days - Thursdays and Fridays - it becomes like a Turkish bath. Extra seats are added which makes the auditorium overcrowded, leading to frightening potential fire hazards.

It is definitely not the sort of entertainment to take your family to. There is a lot of potential in this field, though. Investors, please take notice. Many families would love to go to the movies. The European Film Festival last June was well received by the Sana'anis. There were few families in attendance. The crowds especially enjoyed the French film because it was the only one shown with Arabic subtitles. The Iranian films shown a couple of weeks later were also quite popular. They were all clean entertainment for the whole family. So it does not have to be sex and violence. There is a great for family recreation as well.

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Japan Extends a Helping Hand NATIONAL RADIATION THERAPY CENTER



A ceremony was held on Tuesday 5th August at the Ministry of Public Health to deliver various medical equipment and supplies procured under the Japan's Debt Relief Grant Aids in the fiscal years 1992, 1995, and 1996. These equipment and supplies are installed and used in five different hospitals: Al-Jumhuri and Al-Thawra hospitals in Taiz, Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a, Al-Thawra and Al-Oulfi hospitals in Hodeida, and the Ibn Sina and Mukalla hospitals in Hadhramaut. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Abdullah Abdulwali Nasher, the Japanese Charge d'Affairs, Mr. M. Ishida, and First Secretary Mr. Yamamoto, many doctors, officials and representatives of the media. In addition to the agreed

equipment, three ambulances were delivered as donations by Sumitomo in May, 1996. And 3 units of transportation vehicles in August 5th, 1997. "We are willing to provide the Ministry of Public Health with a lot of essential medical equipment, provided that we get some feedback as to

their benefits and usage," said Mr. Ishida. He added that "medical supplies and equipment, due to their humanitarian nature, get the Japanese government's top priority in foreign aid." On his part, H. E. Mr. Nasher expressed the Yemeni government and people's gratitude for

the valuable help and assistance provided by the government and people of Japan. "The radiation therapy facilities will save many patients the trouble and huge expenses they incur while seeking medical treatment abroad," announced the Minister of Health.

from the International Atomic Energy Agency have recommended to make a complete center adding more 13 rooms to be constructed including 2 rooms for Cobalt-60 and other equipment. Int. Atomic Agency will finance the training of engineers, technicians, and physicists to operate the sophisticated radiotherapy equipment.

Under the same program, the government of Japan has extended to the government of Yemen, since the fiscal year 1979 until 1996, 25 Debt Relief Grant Aids which amount to J. Yen 7,691,000,000. Dr. Nasher expressed his great hopes for further cooperation with Japan in the field of medicine and public health to be continued in the future under the Japanese Grant Aid project.



Within the framework of Japan's Debt Relief Grant Aids, Sumitomo Corporation of Japan has provided several cancer diagnostic and treatment equipment such as the CT Scanner and radiation therapy equipment. The "National Radiation Therapy Center" in Al-Gumhuri Hospital in Sana'a is to be built by the "Charity Association for the treatment of Cancer Patients" under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. Abdullah Fahem. Experts

Legal Insight:

REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES IN YEMEN

Sheikh Tariq Abdullah*

A foreign company wishing to operate in Yemen may do so in many forms. We can broadly put them into two categories.

A) REGISTERING WITH THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TRADE:

A foreign entity can legally exist in Yemen by registering with the Ministry of Supply and Trade, either as branch office or as a limited liability company. To complete the formalities, such registration will require compliance with the requirements set out in the Branch of Foreign Companies Act or the Companies Act. Details follow:

(i) Registering as a Branch of a Foreign Company:

After fulfilling the necessary registration formalities, a branch office of a foreign company, will be allowed to have offices, bank accounts, and in general have full presence in the country without there being a requirement to have a Yemeni partner or sponsor. There is, however, a downside to the above set-up in that the foreign branch is forbidden from carrying out any form of trade activities, leaving the branch office with nothing to do other than perform market research and forecasts as well as business developments. Any trading will

have to be done through a local agent. The branch is entitled to enter into contracts with third parties, such as sale agreements. However once the agreement is fulfilled the local agent will not be allowed to be side-stepped, he will be entitled to his full commission as per agency agreement, even if his involvement was minimal or none at all.

(ii) Registering a Limited Liability Company:

To register a Limited Liability Company through the Ministry of Supply & Trade, the foreign entity is required to have a Yemeni partner holding at least 51% of the shares in the company. The majority of Directors in the Board of Directors are also to be Yemenis. In many instances, this relationship does not satisfy the requirements of the foreign partner, who requires to be in control of the affairs of the company by having majority shares in the company. To fulfill the requirements of the foreign partner, side agreements are sometimes entered into in the form of a Pledge and Loan Agreement (according to which the Yemeni partner pledge his shares to a foreign partner) and by taking a full power of attorney from the Yemeni partner in favor of the foreign partner allowing him control over some of his shares. This gives the foreign partner majority control. This occurs because:

(i) the local partner does not have sufficient capital to contribute or wishes to benefit without contributing fully and;

(ii) because it is only in this way that a foreign trading and service company can carry out normal business activities in Yemen and a local partner can benefit by putting east effort.

The notion of the Pledge and Loan Agreement and the power of attorney will only work if the relationship between the parties is based on implicit trust, and the parties have a clear understanding of the pros and cons of the agreements before they are entered into. If a foreign partner is not absolutely confident of his local partner, then the arrangement of Pledge and Loan Agreement may become a trap from which the foreign partner may have great difficulty to get out. Under the new economic reform policies, the condition of minimum 51% share for a Yemeni partner in a trading company is to be lifted, very shortly.

(B) REGISTERING UNDER THE GENERAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY:

Under the investment umbrella, a foreign entity may also operate under either a limited liability company or as a branch office. The main requirement for registering either a limited liability company or a branch of a foreign

company is to apply for an Investment License and obtain approval for an investment project the license for which is easily granted. Once the investment license is granted, the company will be able to register the company forthwith.

(i) Registering a Limited Liability Company:

The main advantage of registering a Limited Liability Company through the General Investment Authority is that the company may be fully owned by the foreign entity, with no requirements for a Yemeni partner.

The company also qualifies for a number of benefits, including tax exemptions, which may vary according to the investment project to be undertaken. The company will not, however, be allowed to perform any other activities not set out in the Investment License. But Investment License for new projects is easily obtained.

(ii) Registering a Branch of a Foreign Company:

After obtaining an Investment License, a company may operate under its branch office and perform all the activities stated in its license. The branch office may manufacture and trade in the country in the same way as a Limited Liability Company, as long as it does not fall outside the objectives set out in its Invest-

ment License.
CONCLUSION:

In general, the Investment Law provides a fresh new change for registering companies as compared with registering companies through the Ministry of Supply and Trade.

Following the government's new policies of encouraging investments, the General Investment Authority has simplified formalities in registering companies by grouping all the paper-work under one roof. In the past, this kind of paper work required a lot of leg-work and visits to a number of ministries. The new

procedures allow the investor to complete all the paper-work at the same place. This even includes renewing the Trade License, extending the visa, etc. What is also encouraging is the continuous effort to revise and further simplify and update the Investment Law and its procedures with the aim of producing a law which will be practical to apply rather than just look good on paper.

* Sheikh Tariq Abdullah is one of the leading lawyers of Yemen. His offices in Aden and Sanaa handle many cases for local and international firms.

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This is an *OPINION* page.
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BETTER HEALTH CARE REQUIRES EFFECTIVE DRUGS

By: Abdel-Rahman H. AL Harazi,
M. D.



The pharmaceutical industries in different parts of the world, but especially in developing countries are unfortunately rushing towards to make profit, even if at the expense of quality. Developing countries, as usual, have more than their share of this decadence, leading to a high level of risk to the general public. The power structure and authority in the systems of Third World countries are so centralized that accountability and transparency are not possible, irrespective of the level of the damage. Thus, the systems lack the regular mechanisms for controlling and monitoring the efficacy and safety features of new drugs. Even if the initial pharmacological, pharmaceutical and toxicological research was done according to acceptable international standards, as a

scheduled with satisfactory results and the marketing plan was approved, the situation quickly degenerates due to the absence of close scrutiny. Furthermore, pre-clinical research is often done on animals and the extrapolation of toxicity data from animals to human beings is not completely reliable. While in most advanced countries, there is a minimum requirement of a time lag to ensure that medicine tried on animals is safe for humans, the companies hurriedly introduce the same to the developing countries. Modern medicine relies heavily on the availability of safe, effective, well-tolerated and not costly drugs. But those criteria have been side-stepped as most countries begun their own production of multi-line medical industries. Over and above government-sponsored investments, the private sector has also greatly invested. The result is a plethora of a wide variety of drugs, much of which is now available over the counter, thus affected quality. Even if the drug is quality level, its use without the supervision of a physician lowers tremendously its effectiveness. As the development process, of which we often complain, has presented a lot of challenges, complications simply occur because we do not have the stra-

tegic plans that work for the long-term results, rather than to satisfy immediate needs. Over the last decade, our markets were wide-open to every kind of drug beyond our needs because there was no clear vision or strategy. We did not know why those fancifully colored pills came to Yemen. Pharmaceutical industries and drug marketing companies all over the world found out that Yemen was an open market in which hefty profit were made. They were assisted by an inefficient and corrupt government bureaucracy which was happy to oblige. The crucial issue is to understand what we need what to discard. Unfortunately, neither the government nor the private sector has a clue regarding our needs, or the quantities required of the various drugs. The reason for this situation is that our economists, medical doctors, and other relevant professionals are too idle to test and refine their out-look through ongoing research and knowledge. Also they are too oblivious to the needs of the public. The logical end result is a bad service and an acceptable level of risk in local medical treatment. The people are not stupid when they seek medical services abroad. They know the local service is no good.

Then what is to be done? The first point has already been raised. We need more accurate information about our needs. This means classifying the illnesses, their prevalence, and what kind of medicine we need. The second point is to survey the world supply of these products. Where to get them, what is the cost, what are the other conditions, etc.? The third point is to coordinate the incredible inflow of drugs, much of which is smuggled. These products must meet a certain minimum criteria for safety. The importance of realizing the benefits in balancing our long-term interests as compared to the pressing immediate needs must share our policies and transformation. This is the responsibility of government officials and the professionals in the field. Let me summarize the problem in a few words. Our markets are full with all types of drugs from every country around the globe. These are labeled with different trade names, although many belong to the same generic input. Up to this point, the problem is simple. The physician and pharmacist are bewildered

about which drug to prescribe? This obstacle, although troublesome, is easy to cope with, given time. But, the major problem of the plethora of drugs is quality. What is the effectiveness of the drug? Some of the labels are fake. Some of the brand names are fake. Sometimes, an out of date drug is re-labeled. For example, the drugs which are manufactured in Switzerland or Germany possess both high efficacy and potency in comparison to the same drugs manufactured in Syria or Thailand, etc. That is why, most of our better qualified and conscientious doctors write a note on the top of prescription sheets in Arabic (original drug, please.). In other words, (no substitutes).

Unfortunately, according to Yemen's dictionary "please" as a word does not mean compulsory. The pharmacist, who usually imports the cheaper substitutes, favors to dispose of them, even if at the expense of more pain and loss to a sick person. Most of the pharmacists are not trustworthy, and some of them are outright rogues. The reason is that there is no inspection or monitoring from the government, hospitals, unions, professional organizations, or consumer groups. If you visit pharmacists, do not be surprised if some of them are barely literate. This problem is the topic of concern and discussion at many levels all the time. As the society hurts, some important questions repeatedly come up.

- Who gave the license to the people who are involved in this field?
- Who is responsible for the flooding of our markets with these drugs?
- Who is in charge of this business?
- To whom does a consumer complain?
Definitely, our decision-makers are responsible in one way or another. The medical profession is also partly to blame. And money-hungry merchants are also part of the problem. Finally, the absence of consumer protection public services is also responsible for letting the situation persist. Now, that is about the burden that exists, but what are the possible solutions. I have some ideas about to resolve this problem. But to achieve any meaningful results, many sides have to work

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together, as follows:

- 1- The ministry of Health should keep in mind that we are dealing here with medicine and should accept it the situation as its problem. Therefore, it has to survey the sector, weed out the people who should not be in there, and vigilantly monitor the activities thereafter.
- 2- The medical doctors should require the patients to come back to them after buying the drugs. This way, they can instruct them to return any drugs that are not of good quality. If this situation continues, the bad drugs will be put out of business.
- 3- The syndicate of physicians and pharmacists should work to stop the people who give the pro-

fession a bad name. For example, there are some physicians who represent certain drug companies or products. Thus they are inclined to prescribe these more often than not. Such doctors should be reprimanded. May be a law should be enacted to bloc this conflict of interest. 4- The media can play a role in raising public awareness. This is truly a matter of life and death. May be ultimately, a consumer protection group can be formed to help correct the mistakes. If we all work together, we can introduce change and chart our society in the right course. The main thing, however, is to interact positively.

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Summer Program at the British Council: Good Business, & Helping the Kids

By: Yusuf Shareef,
Yemen Times.

On August 6th, 1997, the British Council celebrated the end of its first experiment in summer programs for kids. The success was overwhelming. Dr. Mageed Ghanem, Deputy Minister of Education for Training, was on hand to congratulate

the participating children. The program, entitled 'Young Learner Summer Intensive Courses' was started last year. "Last year we had 55 children. This year the number almost doubled to 106," disclosed Mr. John Cleaver, Acting Director of the British Council. The program has two parts - the first part is

English language courses, and the second part is general entertainment. As the motto goes, "Learning is fun!" The language program has two levels - one for complete beginners, where great emphasis is placed on the alphabet and handwriting. The second level is for those who already have some command over the



language. At this level, English is taught as a second language. Three highly qualified teachers were in charge of the classes. Mr. Cleaver further disclosed that a significant part of the income from the program will be

spent on buying the latest materials and equipment. Many of the parent expressed satisfaction at what the children learned. They were delighted that there was such an outlet for the kids in the summer.

As far as the children are concerned, they too were quite happy. They did not think of the program as a school or learning process. They were just overwhelmed with the fun part of it. This is another milestone for the British Council.



نهائينا الحارة

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- 2 To enclose primary insurance of (2%) form tender value as per attached model for tender documents, or payable cheque from confirmed local bank in favour of Taxation Authority valid for (90) days from date of opening envelopes.
- 3 The tender, as per relevant documents, to be submitted inside a red-wax sealed envelope and addressed to
Mr. Director of Taxation Authority, PO Box (11336), Sana'a,
on deadline for tenders is Thursday, 10:00 am, corresp. to 9/9/1997 on the presence of authorized delegates for companies.
- 4 The envelopes shall be opened at Tuesday, 11:00 am, corresp. to 9/9/1997 on the presence of authorized delegates for companies.
- 5 To enclose with the tender an authorized and approved attorney from concerned sides in Yemen from companies in favour of agents or official authorization from concerned sides in native places in favour of their agents.
- 6 To enclose a copy of valid tax card of local agents.
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المطارات، المعامل، المختبرات، مزارع الدواجن، الجامعات، المدارس، دور الحضانه، صوالن الحلاقة، مغاسل
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MALAYSIA CLOSER TO HIGH-TECH POWER HOUSE

Malaysia edged closer to its dream of becoming a South-East Asian high-tech powerhouse when it opened bids for 15 multi media projects pitting it against more advanced rival Singapore. Prime minister Mahathir Mohammad invited both foreign and local companies to tender for pilot projects, estimated to be worth US\$640 million each.

The projects would boost the country's critical transition from an industrial economy to a knowledge-based one. The Multimedia Super Corridor, MSC, a 750-square kilometer Zone outside Kuala Lumpur for computer and multimedia-related industries, is the brainchild of the premier, who wants to propel the country into the information age after steering it to the threshold of industrialization.

The area is integrated with a US\$3.6 billion second international airport for Kuala Lumpur to be opened in 1998 and a US\$8 billion new government centre. Othman Yeop Abdullah, Chairman of the Multimedia Development Corporation set up to oversee the MSC, said a total of 29 companies had been granted MSC pioneer status, including Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company and the US hardware manufacture Sun Microsystems, giving them access to special incentives.

The MSC has placed Malaysia on a collision path with neighboring Singapore, which is carrying out similar efforts as both chase after the same multinational firms, investment capital, and limited pool of knowledge workers. But the MSC would be bigger than the total land area of the State of Singapore, whose 640 square kilometer territory is now being wired into an integrated computer system linking housing estates, government agencies and private companies.

Malaysia stands out among the ASEAN countries as the one most poised to make the transformation into the information technology world. Rival Singapore is too small to be a viable competitor.

Malaysia, which has an estimated two million foreign workers, is also woefully short of engineers and other technology savvy workers. But, Mahathir who has a proven track record of transforming dreams into reality in his 16-year leadership, was quick to cast aside all doubts, saying, "We can build, we can speed up all the infrastructure very, very quickly. We are a small nation by many yardsticks, but we have big ideas."

The per capita income of the country's 21 million people in 1996 was over US\$ 5,000 and the figure is estimated to rise by 10% this year, according to official data.

DONORS URGE MOI TO PURSUE DIALOGUE

Kenya's donors have urged president Daniel Arap Moi to pursue dialogue with the opposition to avoid further political violence. Diplomats in a letter last week, praised president Moi for his approach towards meeting opposition and having dialogue with them about various issues.

It seems that they have stepped pressure on president Moi, aged 73 and in power since 1978, to stop the move to crush rallies in support of constitutional reforms. The letter was written on behalf of 22 embassies and High commissioners in the Donor Democratic Development Group.

The group formed to coordinate the diplomatic approach to the last elections in 1992, includes the European Union, United States, Japan and the Czech Republic. "Dialogue is not easy. Nevertheless, we believe that open dialogue is the only way to achieve durable progress," said the letter.

The directive on political meetings was an initiative to break the increasingly dangerous dynamic of provocations and reaction that has recently tainted Kenya's politics and resulted in the violent deaths of innocent citizens which so shocked the international community.

INDIAN INFLATION RATE DIPS

India's July average inflation rate, annualized over the whole year, dipped below 5% for the first time in the current fiscal year. The rate fell to 4.7%, according to provisional figures. Inflation rate stood at 5.8% during the same period last year.

But experts warned that a hefty wage package offered lately to India's millions of government workers could reverse the trend and put inflation in double digits. Promises to stem inflation could be drastically hit by the US\$5.5 billion wage hike, negotiated for this year. As an example, New Delhi's 2.2 million senior workers are offered a 100% wage hike, in addition to promises of huge loans which, economists say, would lead to an all-round price rise.

Prices of cereals and jute dipped, but tea, wheat, fruits, vegetables, eggs, poultry, and dairy products became costlier during the month of July. Experts also warned the government's plans to increase oil prices would fuel inflation. Prices of petroleum products, including petrol and diesel, were jacked up by 25% nine months ago. But the government reversed itself and slashed the hike for diesel to 10% amid protests.

YILMAZ'S BID TO BAN ISLAMIC SCHOOLS RUNS IN TROUBLE

The coalition government of Turkish prime minister Mesud Yilmaz's which is pushing a controversial bill under which hundreds of state-run secondary schools with Islamic education would be closed down, is facing stiff opposition. "The government is hoping to implement the education bill, which was approved by the cabinet," Education Minister Hikmet Ulugbay said.

But, the education bill, which is strongly supported by the military top brass, must be approved by parliament before taking effect. Intense argument is going on in the National Assembly in the first few rounds devoted to this matter. Yilmaz himself has lost about twenty members parliamentarians of his party, as they refuse to vote for the bill.

Tansu Ciller's True Path party is also voting against the bill. "Nobody has the right to mould the people into the shape and vision in their mind. In a free country, people should be able to choose what kind of education they want. The government has no business dictating this," she said.

But, it is Turkey's pro-Islamic opposition headed by former premier Nejmeddin Erbakan who called the bill "an example of pro-secular fascism" which is leading the opposition to the bill. Erbakan called on Yilmaz's government to hold a referendum on the bill, saying, "Let the people decide on whether they want to learn their religion in schools or not."

The closure of secondary schools with religious education has been a major source of dispute between Turkey's powerful pro-secular generals and the Islamist-led government of Erbakan, who resigned in late June under strong pressure by the army. Erbakan and the the generals had been at odds over creeping Islamization during his 12-month term as prime minister. Erbakan's move to reject an army-backed plan to crack down on religious extremism had escalated tensions. Intellectuals are worried about two possible developments: anti-establishment violence and terror and and/or fears of a military coup.

Yilmaz's three-party coalition government which replaced Erbakan's cabinet won a parliament confidence vote on July 12. Education is the serious policy challenge facing Yilmaz since he took office. These schools were set up decades ago to train Muslim clerics but they have expanded enormously under Erbakan. Around 500,000 Turkish children attend some 560 Imam Hatips.

The present bill plans to halve to three years the period that a pupil spends at a religious school in a bill that is under discussion at the moment.

THE AGCC STATES: TALK, AND MORE TALK ON CURRENCY COORDINATION

The Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) states had planned to create a single currency called the Gulf Dinar for their planned common market, which was also to include a customs union. But they then abandoned the project and went for unification of their exchange rates. But this plan also failed to materialize as the plan has been under negotiation for years. This issue has been discussed in several meetings of finance ministry and central bank officials in the AGCC.

The member-states agreed to continue investigating the optimal arrangements for exchange rates and to postpone discussion of the common currency peg. Bankers said the currency project was held up by reservations by some members on proposals to unlink their currencies from the US dollar. With exception of Kuwait, whose dinar is tied to a basket of currencies, the national currencies of the other AGCC states are effectively linked to the dollar. There is a trend to boost coordination in monetary policies and an agreement to expand using the national currencies in member states.

DEJA-VU: SEIGE OF KABUL!

The on-going bombardment and devastation of Kabul is forcing yet another major tragedy on the city and its people. Calling for a Taliban militia pull out from the capital, the United Islamic Front for Salvation of Afghanistan called on the Taliban Islamic militia to demilitarize Kabul so that issues like a ceasefire and exchange of prisoners could be negotiated. So far the hardline Taliban refused, referring to the opposition as enemies of Islam.

The opposition forces whose troops have advanced to within rocket range of Kabul city, have also kept up attacks with jet aircraft against the Taliban who have occupied the Afghan capital for exactly ten months. Led by former military chief Ahmad Shah Masood and the Uzbek warrior Malik Pahlawan, the anti-Taliban coalition has made stunning gains in recent weeks.

The fluctuation in the fortunes of war has taken another swing. It is now the turn of the northern forces to push the Taliban back, as they close in on Kabul. If the anti-Taliban alliance captures the capital, the situation will be back to the pre-September 96 position. If they fail to do so, still more blood will be spilled and the country will be pushed further down the road to disaster. The two scenarios refer to more bloodshed and destruction.

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INDONESIA

Sponsored Page

52 Independent years of Development & Advancement

The Republic of Indonesia is the giant of south-east Asia. It consists of over 17,508 islands and is the largest archipelago in the world. The main islands are Sumatra, Java, part of Borneo (known as Kalimantan), Sulawesi (Celebes) and Irian Jaya (West New Guinea). It was a Dutch colony from the 17th century until 1945, and was occupied by Japan from 1942 to 1945.

General Suharto became president in 1967.

Indonesia produces oil and natural gas and is a member of OPEC. It is also a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Indonesia is a founder member of the Non-Aligned Movement. It is the world's second largest producer of natural rubber. The country's official language is Bahasa Indonesia. Its population is over 200 million.

Independence

Indonesia proclaimed its independence on 17th August, 1945. It was recognized as an independent country by most of the Muslim world, including Yemen. The Dutch colonial power and the rest of the West did not recognize Indonesia's independence until 1949. To be exact, the colonialists were still intent to restore their power over their former colony which was already formally independent. In the early years (1945-50), the system of government and institutional life as provided for by the 1945 Provisional Constitution could not be implemented. This period saw the appointment of members of the Provisional Supreme Advisory Council. The first president of the Republic of Indonesia was Ir. Sukarno.

The New Government Order was instituted at the hands of President Suharto. He curbed the anarchic practices of the Communist party, and aborted the bloody coup d'état staged by the Indonesian Communist party on 30th September, 1965.

Government

According to the 1945 Constitution, there are six organs of the state:

- 1- The People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat).
- 2- The Presidency.
- 3- The House of Representatives Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat).
- 4- The Supreme Advisory Council (Dewan Pertimbangan Agung).
- 5- The State Audit Board (Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan).
- 6- The Supreme Court (Mahkamah Agung).

Pancasila Democracy

Pancasila has become the dominant identity of the overall aspect of the nation's political and democratic life. The period from 1945 to 1965 constituted an era in history which Pancasila Democracy, being the system of Indonesia's social, national, and state's life pattern as stipulated by the 1945 Constitution was still in a process of development. It is a system of the order of the life of a state and that of the society, which is based on the sovereignty of the people. Pancasila, the philosophy of the state, is not a philosophy created by an individual. Values which constitute the essence of Pancasila do not refer to certain groups of society since their reference is found in the whole of the Indonesian people.

Every bit of development of the nation, be it either in the ideological, political, social, economic, cultural, or defense and security fields shows one thing- that they are all achieved by way of deliberation and consensus.

The five principles of Pancasila Democracy are:

- 1- Belief in the One and Only God;
- 2- A Just and Civilized Humanity;
- 3- The Unity of Indonesia;
- 4- Democracy Guided by the Inner Wisdom in the Unanimity Arising Out of Deliberations Among Representatives; and
- 5- Social Justice for the Whole of the People of Indonesia.

General Elections

President Suharto once explained that "the cardinal essence of



Soeharto, President of The Republic of Indonesia



Try Sutrisno, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia

any democracy is the effective participation of the people in determining the guidelines of the state policy (and) in sharing the responsibility of materializing all the decisions themselves."

The first nation-wide general elections were held in 1955. Other elections followed in 1971, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 1997. During the last six elections, the number of registered voters exceeded 50% of the total population. The percentage of the number of people who actually voted as compared to the number of registered voters, also visibly increased. It was 75% in 1955, 93% in 1977, 91.5% in 1982, 91.3 in 1987, 91% in 1992, and 92.1% in 1997. These facts may be taken as indication of the increasing political awareness of the people regarding the importance of general elections, as well as their increasing participation.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Since the Bandung conference of 1955, Indonesia has been very active in the Non-aligned Movement. Under the chairmanship of Indonesia, from 1992 to 1995, NAM had been able to achieve many goals. It looked for new methods and ways for strengthening South-South cooperation, or cooperation among the developing countries in the current international atmosphere. In the three years of Indonesia's tenure, NAM had established cooperation among its members in several areas, including food production, family planning and debt management.

During the period, meetings such as the Asia-Africa forum were held. Scholarships were awarded to African and Asian students to study in Indonesia and learn from its experience. Moreover, the forthcoming inauguration and operation of NAM's center for South-South Technical Cooperation in Indonesia is expected to enhance to a considerable degree the movement's ability to formulate concrete programs on cooperation among developing countries.

Agriculture, Trade and Industry

In accordance with the fifth five-year plan Repelita V (1989-94), agricultural development is aimed to boost production and to expand diversification of agricultural produce to meet domestic need for food and industry, to support regional development, and to intensify transmigration activities. In order to

stabilize self-sufficiency in food, rice production is boosted to continuously increase mainly by implementing a rice policy which supports the farmers' efforts to harvest more rice from their fields. Development of the plantation in Repelita V is very meaningful in efforts to boost industrial growth and exports of plantation products

such as rubber, palm oil, coffee, tea, tobacco, sugar, cotton, etc. Enhancement of small-holders' products is organized through activities of regenerating and rehabilitating the development of cooperatives and the formation of development service units. In the second year of Repelita V, the production volume of heavy equipment and constructional industries such as stone breaker machines, asphalt and forklift sprayer machines showed a conspicuous increase, to be exact by 139%, 180%, 193.6% respectively compared to those of the previous years. Similar trends were visible in the electronics, chemical, shipping, aviation, steel, automobile, and other industries. In addition to oil and natural gas, Indonesia produces commercial quantities of coal, tin, nickel, copper, gold, silver, bauxite, iron sand, and granite stone.

Relations with Yemen

Yemen was one of the first countries of the Arab League members to recognize the independence of Indonesia. On its part, Indonesia has good diplomatic links with Yemen in the pre and post-unification days. "Yemenis have brought Islam into Indonesia. We are forever indebted to them for that," said Mr. Ibnu As Djamil Siregar, the Indonesian Ambassador in Yemen. "Indonesia today is the country with the largest Muslim population in the world," added the Ambassador.

The volume of balance of trade is currently in Indonesia's favor. Mr. Siregar explained that "Yemen's last year's exports to Indonesia amounted to \$18 million, while the latter exported \$40 million worth of goods to Yemen." Trade exchange is done either directly or indirectly via a third country such as Singapore, the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia.

Two Indonesian oil companies, Golden Spike and Bakerie Investindo, are currently prospecting in Yemen. "As yet they have not been very successful," stated Mr. Siregar, adding "that the oil business is like taking a gamble."

On culture and education, the Ambassador referred to the almost 200 Indonesian students studying at a religious school in Tarim, Hadhramaut and in Sana'a. "This school is renowned for its high educational standards and moderation in matters of religious doctrines," the Ambassador said with satisfaction.

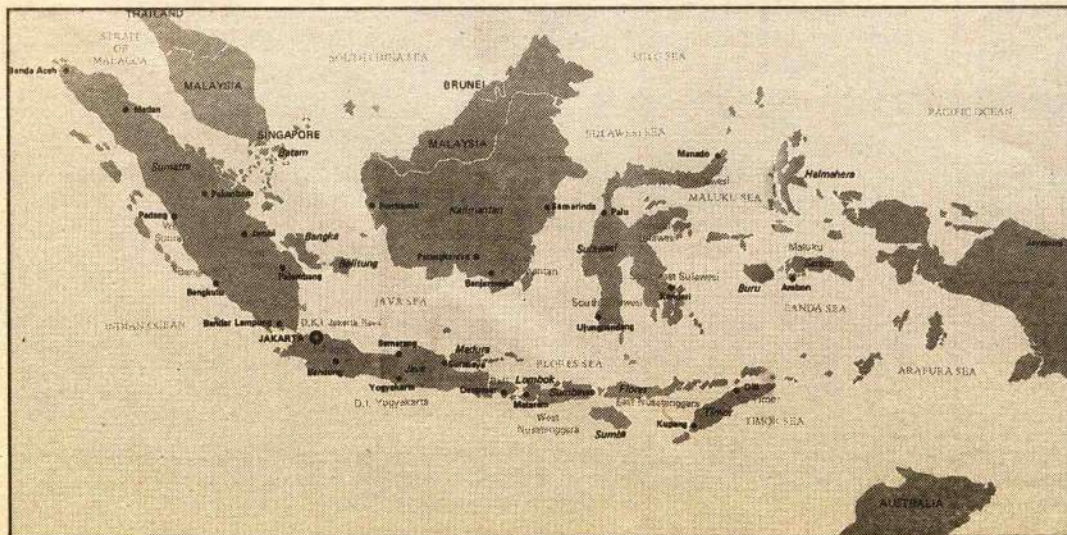
An agreement on economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation was signed by the governments of the two countries in January, 1994. According to the agreement, the scope of cooperation is to be extended to the areas of industry, energy, natural resources, human resource development, agriculture, transportation, communication, and construction.

A team of Indonesian media and tourism representatives visited Yemen about three months ago to promote the country for tourism. "They wrote articles and made a T.V. program on Yemen in Indonesia," disclosed Mr. Siregar.

The ambassador expressed his belief that Yemen is currently on the right track leading to economic reform and prosperity, with conditions that Yemen could create a favorable atmosphere to attract foreign investors and maintain national stability in politics and security. He said, "It is difficult, but you have to do it. You have to go the hard way. You cannot jump."



Ibnu As: Indonesia's Ambassador



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AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 6-8-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Families of Arrested Suspects in Aden Explosions Beseech President to Release Them
- 2) 19 Yemeni Women Arrested in India for Smuggling 33 kg of Gold
- 3) 10 New Cases of TB During Last Two Months in Al-Mahara
- 4) 12 Out of 13 Passengers Die in Traffic Accident Near Abyan

Article Summary:

Yemenis Live in a Democracy

The British Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Douglas Sraffon has confirmed that 11 British MPs have put the issue of human rights in Yemen for discussion in parliament. In his letter to Al-Ayyam newspaper, the Ambassador explained that the case was not discussed because the British parliament is in recess until next October. He further stressed that the suggested issue for discussion neither represents the view of parliament nor the British government. Living in a democracy, the Yemeni people will appreciate that everybody has the right to freely express their views, clarified the Ambassador.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 7-8-97.
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) More Arrests & Political Persecution Among Opposition and Independent Political Activists
- 2) YSP Politburo: Arrests Reflect Authority's Failure in General
- 3) 17 Eritreans & Ethiopians Drown While Trying to Illegally Enter Yemen
- 4) Eritrean Authorities Release Large Numbers of Abducted Yemeni Fishermen

Article Summary:

The Most Rotten Yemeni Dossier

Despite the authority's continuous denial, the Amnesty International annual report for 1997 has confirmed that there are several political prisoners in Yemen. The recent widespread arrests among the opposition figures have come to stress the stances of the international human rights organizations. The fate of many military and civilian figures is still unknown since the civil war of 1994. The British House of Commons has also expressed its concern for the continuous violation of human rights in Yemen. It is as if the ruling authority is avenging itself on the Yemeni people.

AL-UROUBA: Sana'a (Weekly) 6-8-97.
(Nasserite Democratic Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) New Appointments of Governors & Deputy Ministers Suspended
- 2) Confiscated Properties Returned to Former Lahaj Sultans
- 3) Man Kills His Brother Over Land Dispute
- 4) 7 Highwaymen Arrested on Taiz-Sharaab Road
- 5) Final Draft of Local Administration Law to be Released Soon

Article Summary:

Chemical Waste

According to informed sources, 45 barrels containing chemical waste were found in Jabal Al-Nar area on the road to Mocha. A committee was formed by the governorate of Taiz to investigate. A



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

specimen weighing 500 g was taken for analysis in Aden. Bringing industrial waste into Yemen has become quite recurrent during the last few years. A quantity of chemical waste was found buried in Hodeida a few years ago. The concerned authorities claimed then that it was expired pesticides.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 7-8-97.
[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Taiz-Sabr Mountain Road Project to Start in September
- 2) Parliament Endorses Two New Oil Agreements
- 3) Plot of Land Disputed by Aviation Authority and Housing Bureau in Baidha
- 4) Dredger Leaves Caltex Port, Aden Unexpectedly After Only Two Days of Work
- 5) Second Summer Center for Aden University Female Students Opened

Article Summary:

Adenis Protest

A number of people in Aden have sent a letter to Al-Sahwa, protesting against the increase in alcohol sales in Aden. Adenis have adhered to their religious beliefs and morals throughout the dark old days. The people have accused the authorities of inaction towards alcohol vendors in Aden. The letter went even further to accuse some officials of protecting these vendors. The protesters have also cited the publicity given to the new belly dancer Nancy as further proof of the deterioration in public morals and the authorities' collusion.

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 6-8-97.
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Endorses Educational Agreement Between Yemen & Qatar
- 2) Consultative Council Delegation Visits Royal Jordanian Society for Science
- 3) Lawyer Calls for Forming Local Administration Party in Yemen
- 4) National Democratic Front Dismisses Some of its Members

Article Summary:

The Accused Confess

In a statement made by the Minister of Interior to Al-Wahda, he announced that the five people accused of involvement in the latest explosions in Aden have confessed to the crimes. The accused are members of some Yemeni political parties. They are now referred to the general prosecutor to receive their just punishment. The minister indicated that some secessionist figures are behind the recent sabotage acts. He stressed that all arrests made were based on proper legal procedures and according to well-founded suspicions.

AL-HURRIYA: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-8-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:



عيد ميلاد سعيد

تهانينا للطفل الحبيب
نزار فريد الظاهري
بمناسبة عيد ميلاده الخامس
الموافق ١٠ أغسطس.
المهنيون:
الجددة كاتيا، العم عسكر،
علي ومسعد ويكر وعسكر
الظاهري، وتامر وفارس
وحمادة ويوسف الشريف.
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

ألف مبروك

أجمل التهاني وأطيب الأمنيات للأخ
محمد سالم سليمان المصباحي
بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي

المهنيون:

الوالد سالم سليمان المصباحي، عبود وإبراهيم
وأحمد وجلال قائد، وهاني العمراني،
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

Main Headlines:

- 1) Yemen May Resort to International Arbitration to Resolve Border Dispute with Saudi Arabia
- 2) 52 Suspects Arrested in Connection with Aden Explosion
- 3) Property Designated as Religious Endowments to be Better Managed by Ministry Concerned
- 4) One Died & Two Injured in Land Dispute in Taiz

Article Summary:

Oil Production

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources announced a 5% rise in oil production during the first quarter of 1997. The daily production has now risen from 369,000 to 390,000 bpd. This increase has come from Al-Maseela field in Hadhramaut, which is run by Canadian Oxy. The company announced the discovery of new oil reserves in the Maseela bloc recently.

1) Arab Bank Employees Threaten to Strike in Protest Over Low Pay

2) Council of Ministers to Discuss '98 Budget During Next Sessions

3) Vice Case Causes Crisis in Hodeida Governorate

4) Feverish Struggle Between Heirs of Former Sultanates of Yafi' and Fadhli Over Lands in Abyan

Article Summary:

a- Highway Robbery:

A band of brigands has intercepted two new cars on the Abyan-Shabwa road late at night last week. The driver of one of the cars was shot; while the other managed to escape. One of brigands held on to the escaping car, fell off and died.

b- Refugees to be Repatriated:

The UNHCR is taking the necessary measures to repatriate some of the refugees currently living in Yemen. A committee formed by the UNHCR is preparing the needed name lists. According to preliminary reports, there are around 80,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea staying in the country.

AL-UMMA: Sana'a
(Weekly) 7-8-97.
(Al-Haq Party)

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(Under management of Sanaa International School)

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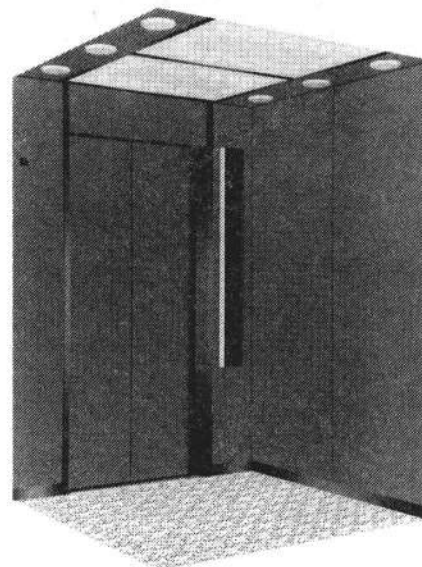
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تغمده الله بواسع رحمته وألهمكم الصبر والسلوان.
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون

فاطمة العزاني، أحمد نوح، علي أحمد الحسيني،
عبدالله ناصر علي القشطري، علي عبده،
أنور الصيادي، وكافة موظفي يمن هنت

VACANCY POST

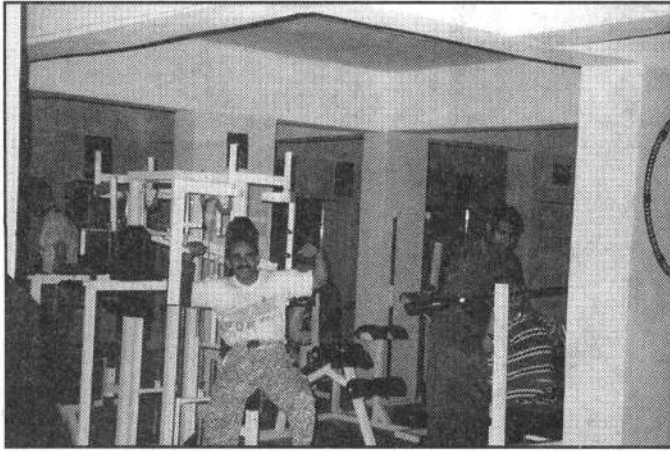
The MCH/FP Project supported by the UNFPA announces the vacancy of an accountant for the project. Applicants should have long experience in accounting preferably with a university degree. Knowledge of computer usage for accounting is essential. Applicants are advised to apply to the administrations of the project with copies of their qualifications and experience of later than 30 August 1997.

August 11th, 1997

Yahya Al-Rubae Has Made It.. The Dream Turned Into Reality

Yahya Al-Rubae is a young athlete with a nice attitude and a lot of ambition. He never deserted the game he loved. He became a coach for the game of body building. In the beginning he faced many obstacles that hindered the start of his selected course in Yemen. But the time came when he found that he could shape many heroes. Lack of training facilities and limited space continued to be major difficulties.

Yahya has trained in numerous sports clubs, but didn't find sufficient support. His never ending-dream was to establish his own sports hall, and equip it with good training facilities. He borrowed money from friends and sold some of his personal property. His wife stood by him. She sold her jewellery so that her husband's dream would turn into reality. After a long time, he won the battle. Yemen Times met with the young athlete. Here is his success story.



supporting and improving the sport games, especially the sport clubs in Yemen. Establishing this center will hopefully assist Yemeni athletes.

Q: How did you get the idea of establishing the hall?

A: The idea started in 1992, when I personally began to meet great numbers of youths interested in body building. The place where they were training was so small and un-healthy. The equipment was insufficient for the great numbers of trainees. From there, my the plans began for the clubs to send their athletes for training.

The main objective was to gather ample training facilities and qualified trainers. But I experienced big shortage of funds. Years passed and I am still trying to add extra space to Al-Zuhra Sports Club and convert into a proper training hall

Q: Are there any special commitments between the center and sport clubs?

A: Yes, we have sent out invitations for training free of charge as a contribution from the center for

Q: How was the money for establishing the center provided?

A: There is a motto which says : " Once an objective gets clear, determination is strengthened". So, this was the start. My love for the game has motivated me and was a great incentive. Because I am not rich I was obliged to borrow half a million riyals and sell some of my personal belongings. My wife offered her jewels after she knew of my interests to establish the center. Thus, I was able to render the sport capabilities, I have gained through long years of training, for the benefit of Yemeni youths.

Q: Has the center nominated any athletes for any local or international competitions?

A: There are many body builders in the Republic receiving their exercises in this center, including the national team of body builders who will represent the Republic in the next Arab championship that will be held in the United Arab Emirates during September, 1997. The center supports all

distinguished body builders from sport clubs in the Republic and extends opportunities for training and develop their physical fitness. The equipment of the center are under their disposal and use.

Q: What other games are practised in the center, in addition to body building ?

A: We started the training in the center with body-building and karate for all ages. Special attention was given to youths and juniors. We introduced taekwando and shortly afterwards. We will add massage by qualified people in this field. Many Yemenis, Arabs and foreigners are enrolling. Generally, our main objective is to promote physical fitness among the people. We use training equipments which I made myself or were done under my direct supervision exactly as per world specifications.

Q: Do you wish to add anything?

A: I wish to emphasize that support of sport youths and developing the status of the athletic games cannot be achieved without the aid of the government represented by the Ministry of Sports and Youths. Good quality training equipment must be provided. Suitable and healthy training centers must be established.

Concerning private sport centers, they should contribute in accepting large numbers of youths and advising them toward physical trainings rather than chewing qat, smoking cigarettes or wasting their times for nothing.

A NEW MOVE TO HONOR SPORT CHAMPIONS WITH CHAMPIONS' PRIZE

On Monday 11th August, 1997, the Champions who presented exceptional performance and achieved good results during the Arab Sport Games held in Beirut, Lebanon will be honored at the Ministry of Youth and Sport.



The Yemeni Olympic Committee will honor Abdullah Al-Azzani who secured a Silver medal in wrestling and will offer him US\$ 1,000, in addition to a sum of YR.100,000 that will be given to him by the Youths & Sport Fund. It is also decided that Champion Waddah Alwan, who presented a distinguished level during his Taekwando competition and was too near to acquire the Bronze medal, should be honored in spite of the misjudgement that occurred in his competition against the Jordanian Abu Taaleb by the international referee named Zabbal. Anyhow .. these prizes were approved by the Ministry and the Olympic Committee as tradition for any Champion who may achieve an advanced level during any Arab or International Competition.

EMIRATES CRICKET CUP 1997 ICC CLAIMS EASY WIN OVER YCC

India Cricket Club (ICC) claimed an easy win over Yemen Cricket Club (YCC) on Friday, 8th August 1997 in one of the Emirates Cup League Matches.

YCC after winning the toss, decided to bat but lost their opener Taufiq at the score of six. Kishor and Sidhu were able to stay at the wicket and took the score to 34 when Kishor was bowled by Raju. Kishor scored 14 runs which included a six. Galal Moola was the next to come. Sidhu was next to go after scoring 15 runs. Salim made his best efforts to support Galal Moola by taking singles. Galal Moola scored chanceless 53 runs which included 7 fours. Anthony took a superb catch off the bowling of

Srini to dismiss him. Samar and Raju were successful in claiming two wickets each. In spite of the efforts made by YCC Captain Khushdil, the YCC could score only 129 runs for the fall of 8 wickets in 25 overs with an average of 5.16 runs per over.

ICC opened the innings with Narender (ICC Captain) and Samar but lost two early wickets of Samar and Raju. Samar was first to go when Kishor took a difficult catch behind the stumps. Both the wickets were taken by Sargaraz. Anthony was the next to come and the runs started coming out of his bat. Narender was the next to go caught by Somi bowled Galal. He scored a brilliant 27 which included 2 fours. Kudrat was next to

come but was clean bowled by Galal. Dr. Ezaz joined Anthony, and both took the score to 133 runs in 17.2 overs. Anthony remained not out with his individual score of 68 which included six fours and a huge six. Dr. Ezaz remained not out at 14. Anthony was declared Man of the Match.

The final scores were - YCC 129 for 8 in 25 overs and ICC 133 for 4 in 17.2 overs. ICC registered a very well deserved victory over YCC by six wickets and has assured his entry in the Semi Finals of the Emirates Cup 1997. The Umpires were Arif Butt from PTC and Tahir Alam from ACC.

By Vinay Nagpal, Manager ICC.

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wide) is the main learning and acting area. Sometimes, the group goes to other places, but mainly to perform. One of the main performances was with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. "It was successful." What are the main difficulties? "The main problem is really lack of patience, on the part of parents and children. As you know, it takes a long time to master the skill and endurance involved," Salma disclosed. That is why there is a high rate of withdrawal in the middle of the program. There are also financial difficulties. The Ministry had made many promises, but were not fully kept. "I have a lot of hope in the new minister. He is an active man, and I am sure he will include ballet in the many activities of his ministry," she said.



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