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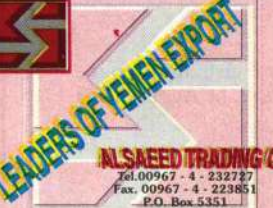
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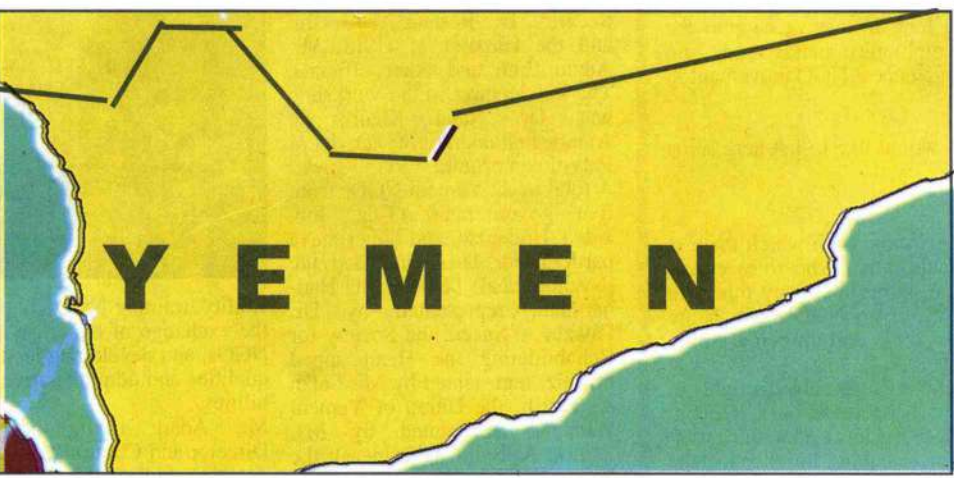
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Yemen and Saudi Arabia Iron Out Last Details: Border Agreement and 2 Annexes

Yes, it is happening. Yemen and Saudi Arabia are slowly getting around their differences in their positions regarding the borderline. The two countries are now working on the draft of the agreement. But Yemen insisted that the cooperation deals concluded should be included in the agreement. Saudi Arabia objected. It wants just a border agreement. Whatever deals on cooperation are cut must be left out. They are independent agreements. A compromise was reached last week. The cooperation deals are to be included as annexes, which are legally part of the border agreement. The first annex has to do with economic/labor cooperation, and the second with security cooperation.



More on page 5

"The visit highlights the excellent bilateral relations." Impressive Program for President Saleh's Visit to Germany

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

There is near-total consensus that the only female ambassador in Sanaa, Dr. Helga von Strachwitz, is also one of the best, if not the very best among the diplomatic corps. She has smooth and strong relations - and access - with government, political parties, academia, the media, and even the general public. The fact that she represents Germany has helped a great deal. After all, Yemenis do believe Germany is a good friend. President Ali Abdullah Saleh is getting ready to fly to Germany at the head of a delegation that includes senior officials, businessmen, and journalists. Dr. Strachwitz, assigned by her government to head of the accompanying German delegation, disclosed that the President has a full program waiting for him.



More on page 5

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With over 60,000 men under his command and some YR 16 billion in annual budgetary allocations at his disposal, Colonel Hussain Arab fails to provide security/safety for this nation. The daily violence that menaces Yemenis and tourists is due to this failure.

European governments already describe Yemen as 'unsafe' for travelling. The disastrous implications of this are clear. Why doesn't Mr. Arab go to the hot spots and discover why? For example, his home region has been kidnapping/assaulting tourists? Can't he find out why?

Yemen Times Buys a New Generation of Computers

Yemen Times has just bought a new generation of computers. The old machines will be relegated to the type-setting section of the paper. The newspaper is also getting new printers. In addition, the Yemen Times just purchased highly useful digital cameras.

From here on, no more purchases of films, developing of pictures, or photo scanning. The pictures will be downloaded from the cameras to the computers. The newspaper also installed new software packages which will enhance its capabilities.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Difficult Birth of a Proper NGO Movement in Yemen

All sides have given a positive nod to the Non-Governmental Organizations in Yemen. The government is willing and ready to help. The general public has a long history of support for NGOs. The international donor community stands ready and able to assist. So why is the birth of a decent NGO movement in Yemen so difficult?

The answer lies in many factors. I would like to list here some of them.

1. One-Person Rule:

Yemenis have been raised in an environment in which there is one male (in some new cases female) adult who rules everybody in the household. This culture permeates many things in our lives, including our institutions. Even NGOs, which are supposed to be collective volunteer work, end up being a one-person show.

This does not necessarily mean that one person always fights to dominate every body, although this happens to be a frequent ordeal. In some cases, there is clear evidence that the group looks for a leader to exalt; in essence making him/her to take 'full' charge. Thus, the NGOs fail to achieve much beyond the capabilities of one person, however endowed he/she may be.

2. Private Property:

In some cases, the NGOs have effectively become the private property of one person, at least in the way they have been managed. What Ahmed Al-Soufi has done with the Yemeni Institute to Develop Democracy is a case in point - that is, until he was dislodged in the recent changes. In some other cases, the NGOs themselves have been registered as the private property of one person. Examples include the Cultural/Media NGO of Dr. Raufa Hassan, and the Futures Study Center of Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, are examples. There are many other examples, and more are expected in the future. These organizations do not have general assemblies or any system in which the general public can check what the people running them are doing. Yet, these NGOs freely solicit funds and mobilize resources from local and international donors.

A private company is not an NGO. And privately-owned companies, irrespective of what they call themselves or how they are classified, should not be allowed to compete for funds meant for NGOs.

3. Accountability & Transparency:

Accountability and transparency are key issues in the workings of any decent organization - be that a company, a government body, or an NGO. Unfortunately, accountability and transparency are not applied, at least not in all cases, and not with the rigor warranted. The end result is embezzlement and fraud, which is fast becoming the hall-mark of new NGOs.

In response to these issues, a group of individuals have come together to work on the draft law governing and guiding the work on NGOs in Yemen. The National Task Force on NGO Draft Law is trying to put forth a new law draft that puts checks and balances against thieves and free-riders.

If Yemen's officialdom has been tainted with corruption, we should not allow that to encroach on the NGO sector.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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USIS Sponsors Seminars on NGO Management

Co-sponsored by USIS, the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRIT) and the Family Planning Association, two workshops on NGO management were held last week - one in Taiz during 19-21 August, and the second in Sanaa during 24-28 August.

The Taiz event was inaugurated by the Governor of Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Al-Hajri; the Director of Security, Dr. Rashad Al-Aleemi; and the Director of USIS, Mr. Adam Erel, and other officials. The key lecturer in the workshop was Dr. Najat Khalil, an American human rights activist of Palestinian origin.

A total of 22 Yemeni NGOs from five governorates (Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Hodeidah, and Lahej) have participated. These included the Psychological Society of Hadhramaut, represented by Dr. Fawzia A. Saeed; the Society for Rehabilitating the Handicapped of Taiz, represented by Mr. Salah A. Tarish; the Union of Yemeni Women, represented by Ms. Samira Al-Bahili (President); the Society for the Development of Women & Children, represented by Dr. Fatima Qahtan; the National Cultural Youth Center of Hodeida, represented by Mr. Abdulrahman M. Saad; the Child to Child Charity of Taiz, represented by Mr. Jawad Al-Maqtari; and many others.

The Sanaa workshop was kicked off by Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs.

The objectives of the workshops include getting acquainted with the methods of NGO management, project planning and implementing, funds mobilization, consolidating the concept of group and collective work and respon-



sibility, training NGO volunteers, the exchange of expertise among NGOs, and developing leadership qualities and administrative capabilities.

Mr. Adam Erel, the USIS Director and Cultural/Information Attache, indicated that most of the failure of Yemeni NGOs is due to problems in management. "That is why we thought capacity building, especially in management would help in strengthening the Yemeni NGO movement," he said.

Yemeni officials concede that NGOs will play an increasing role in public life. But the sector has to be structured. Towards that end, a National Task Force is working to develop a new law that would guide the NGO movement of Yemen. The key issues it is addressing is the role of government, and transparency and accountability of the NGO officials.



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Change Hits the Chamber of Commerce

Better late than never. At last, change is coming to the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FYCCI). Yemen Times learned that the FYCCI Chairman (as well as chairman of the Sanaa Chamber) Al-Haj Hussain Al-Watary, decided to step down. "I want to give young people a chance to lead the business community," he said.

Al-Watary, a leading Sanaa-based businessman, has been with the chambers for the last 30 years. The recent performance of the chamber has been inadequate. The coming change includes amending the law which governs the FYCCI. Elections for the new board will be carried out following the amendments. The amendments will ensure a strong chamber that will spearhead private sector involvement in the growth of the nation.

Soufi Refuses to Hand Over the YIDD

Although he was voted out, and although there is evidence for inappropriate conduct, financial and otherwise, Mr. Ahmed Al-Soufi, the former Secretary-General of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD), refuses to let go. The newly-elected team, headed by the well-respected Prof.-Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, have asked Mr. Al-Soufi to fade away peacefully.

To cover up for all his shortcomings, Al-Soufi is passing out rumors that the government is trying to get his hide. Yemen Times has documents showing that the general assembly and board of directors of the YIDD have both sacked him.

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Fawzia M. Taleb:

"The FPC hopes to equip Yemeni women to generate an independent source of income."

The international donor community has long been pressing for the enhancement of the status and role of women in Yemen's public life. This is clear from many projects. One such project, entitled, "Integrating Women in the Socio-Economic Process" is implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and funded by the UNFPA. It covers three urban centers: Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. Three rural centers in Mahweet, Lahej, and Haifan (Taiz) are also included. By the end of the project, 975 women at the six Family Production Centers (FPCs) will have become professionally competent to the point that 550 of them will be able to manage a small business or workshop. Also, 400 graduates from the FPCs will be able to start earning an income through sale of their products.

In the nine villages covered by the FPCs, 450 women will receive sufficient training and extension in several handicrafts, cattle and ruminant husbandry, vegetable gardening, forestry for fodder and fruit trees as well as field crops.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to Ms. Fawzia Mohammed Taleb, the national director of the project. Excerpts.

Q: What are the activities of the Family Production Centers (FPCs)?

A: In addition to literacy classes, the centers provide practical lessons in sewing, embroidery, weaving, machine knitting, secretarial and computing work, agro-processing, and small business management. All of the participants will be equipped with the necessary knowledge to be able to efficiently run their daily lives. Family planning and basic health services are also provided in coordination with the Yemeni Family Care Association (YFCA). And in rural areas, agricultural advice is provided in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.

There are mobile units that go into rural areas. Each unit has a car to transport the various instructors to their work, and later return them to base.

Q: What stage has the project reached?

A: We are now going into our second year in which we will start on small businesses. It will be in coordination with the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and the Industrial Bank for Small Units. Women will be directed to adopt small businesses in accordance with their environment, capabilities and the available resources. There will also be coordination with some banks to provide soft loans, whether in the early or later stages of the projects. While coordinating with SIDO, we will first organize training courses. Later on, with the help of experts in the field, we will identify the needs and find the banks with best offers or tenders.

Q: Have you received any loans yet?

A: No, we have not reached that stage. We are still in the training phase. The project has just finished its first year. It is supposed to take three years to be completed. With the beginning of this year, we have entered a more advanced stage of the project.

We will conduct a kind of survey of the needs, and specify the funding and small-business directions accordingly.

Q: Will you cover the whole country?

A: I am afraid not. Currently, there is only this experimental project. Other projects may be planned in the future, based on the outcome of this one. Then, it

will be possible to extend it to other regions in Yemen.

Q: Do women have to meet any particular conditions to qualify to participate in this project?

A: Our target women come from almost all social groups. There are educated as well as illiterate women. They all participate out of a real need to improve their conditions. Many of the participating women are in need of some sort of income to support their families. They are divorced, widowed, or whose husbands are working abroad.

Q: Where is the project more successful - in rural or urban areas?

A: I really feel that it is more successful in the countryside. The people are more cooperative there. The majority of rural people have a real desire to benefit as much as they can from our project. There are, however, larger numbers of participants in urban areas; probably due to the bigger urban populations.

Q: Do you think that the small scale economy can play a viable role in competition with larger projects? Will size make a difference in feasibility?

A: Small scale projects play a perfect role in rural areas. In towns and cities, on the other hand, many people would go for larger projects, leading to businesses such as factories and big firms. The reason for this disparity is that, for example, women in the countryside can work at home producing jams and pickles and other products from readily available agricultural produce.

This project is really a part of an international effort to promote the idea of small businesses in the developing world. The overall, worldwide results are as yet unclear.

Q: Do the female participants have any other need or requirements that are not covered by your project?

A: We are now at the end of the first phase of the project. All the participants have a sincere desire to really benefit from the experience. There are no other similar projects. So it is rather difficult to compare or judge our preliminary results. On the whole, there is a great response from the women, and a great desire to learn something new and beneficial.

Q: What obstacles do you face



in your project?

A: Our major difficulty lies in the bureaucracy and the slowness of procedures. Implementation is always subject to the availability of funds, in both the governmental and international frameworks. The projects cannot be implemented in rapid succession. Every prospective project must pass by a series of bureaucrats.

Q: How many people are employed at the project?

A: I work at the office with an assistant and a secretary only. We are responsible for a large project spread over a wide area of the country. Lack of staff is also one of the hindrances we face. There are only three coordinators.

Q: How many instructors do

you have?

A: We have recently employed 25 instructors and other staff, in addition the original instructors in the FPCs who are seconded to work with us. There are currently highly qualified female experts working for our project. Despite the large popularity of sewing and tailoring, for example, it is rather difficult to find qualified instructors in this field.

Q: What sort of products do you aim to train women to do?

A: We try, as much as possible, to respond to market demands. We have started with courses for sewing women's clothes; then, there will be courses for children and men's garments. Hopefully, in the future, we could progress to making leather bags, baskets, etc. The important thing is to

provide women with a reliable source of income.

Q: Do you think that women trained on these simple handicrafts will have a reasonable income?

A: If no appreciable income is generated, the women can save a lot of money by sewing clothes for their family members or even their neighbors. Women can work at home if they are unable to go out for work for social or other reasons. Some women bring their young sons and daughters with them who would later help them with the homework.

Q: What has been the position of the men, say husbands, in this respect?

A: We are currently conducting a base-line study to ascertain the extent of such and other social issues related to the training of women in the various regions included in the project. I have no definitive answer, as yet.

Q: What other studies have you conducted so far?

A: A basic survey was conducted at the beginning before I joined the project. According to that survey, they chose the regions to be covered by the project. And now, we are doing the base-line study, which is concentrating on the concept of gender. This concept expresses the men-women relations and the extent to which men would accept their women folk going out to study or work. We also aim to find out what motivates women to seek training and employment.

Q: What sort of health services do you provide, and by whom?

A: Health services provided by the FPCs are mainly concerned with reproductive health and

family planning. Health lectures are directed towards males and female alike. Family planning awareness is not that high in rural areas in particular.

Due to ignorance, some people are not responsive to the issues of contraception and family planning. This is not only found in the countryside, but in many urban areas such as Sana'a, for instance. Many families have 8 children or more.

Q: Who finances the project?

A: The UNFPA finances our requirements of raw materials such as sewing requirements. This is a monthly average of \$10 per trainee.

Q: How does the local community in general react to your project?

A: The local communities are very cooperative. In Haifan, for example, the rent for the building we occupy is provided by local charities association. The response of the locals is overwhelming.

Q: What have you been able to achieve so far?

A: We have concluded a whole training course within 8 months. As for Haifan, they started last October and are now doing the third course. We sometimes find it difficult to get well-qualified instructors. I have put an advertisement in search of a good female sewing instructor to train the instructors we have.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I would like to use the opportunity provided by the Yemen Times to call on all governmental organs, NGOs, and international organizations to actively take part in supporting women's projects.

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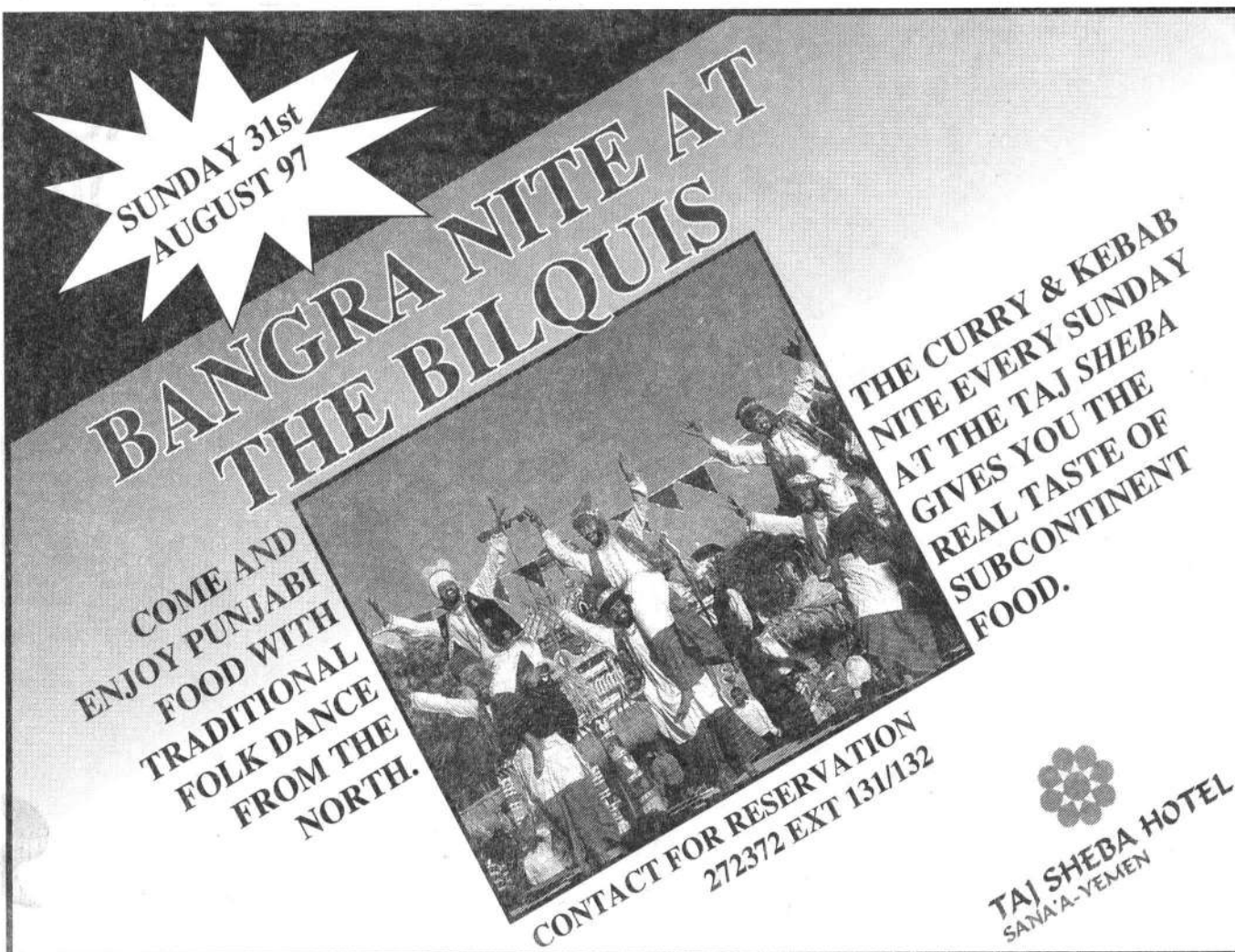
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New Concepts in International Relations

The unfolding regional and international events and interactions indicate that a new concept is directing and dictating all levels of international relations. It is the concept of universalism or globalism. It is a new way of viewing the changes in the world, its problems, and the means of communication and contact among different societies and cultures.

Globalism heralds a completely new way of thinking, formulating laws, and employing new methods of analysis. This means that economic, political and cultural activities and events, i.e. life in general, will have a universal dimension. Issues such as population, the environment, social development, travel, etc., are good examples of this new way of thinking.

In the Arab Strategic Report, for '91, '92, and '93, the distinguished Arab thinker Alsayid Yasin wrote that: "the universal order is based on three principles. The most important of these are the ever changing active factors of the universal society. These active factors take away some of the state's power at the one hand, and add some power at the other. This stresses the fact that the state no longer has the right to conduct all essential operations and functions that lead to new changes. An expanding role in the state's functions will be played by regional and international organizations as well as multi-national companies, religions, and the universal media." A general consensus exists in all strategic studies on the functions



that will strengthen the state. Such functions are in the fields of participating in advanced technology for the purpose of protecting the state's collapsing industries, and conducting the welfare functions.

The functions that are bound to take away some of the state's power are in the fields of creating a market economy, the move from the welfare state to the welfare society, and delegating some of the state's authority to international organizations, i.e., increasing the international elements in the state's make-up.

The past constituents of the state's authority such as the military power have been replaced by other constituents. These new constituents are based on science and technology, economic policies, administrative capabilities, social organization, and on an educa-

tion and culture that are capable of dealing with world changes. The new culture is moving towards abandoning the traditional geo-political concepts that revolve around the inevitability of the aggression of neighboring states. The geo-economic concept of establishing regional economic blocs is to be adopted instead.

All the studies and scenarios that outline the states and the world of the future are in essence non-governmental. Considering that Yemen's inferior political and economic situation has now stabilized, Yemeni NGOs must now play a more prominent role in the nation's life. This role can be manifested either through studies and research or through providing some successful solutions for the most pressing problems. Decision makers must be assisted in forming strong and clear basis that show the Yemeni people's determination to have their own philosophy. Such a philosophy will help the people to view, comprehend, and deal with the upcoming changes in order to be able to build and develop a new Yemen. This can only be achieved through creating constructive cooperation relations between the official and the NGO organs. NGO activity is a live expression of a developing civic society. Their existence and activity are an integral part of the democratic process.

By: Ali Al-Dailami,
3rd Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From Page 1:

German Ambassador...

Q: Why do think this trip important?

A: The trip of President Saleh to the Federal Republic of Germany, which will be a state visit, is very important because it highlights our relations. Even excellent relations, like ours, need a highlight now and then.

Q: What is the program of the visit?

A: The program of the visit is not normally made know before it takes place. I want to assure you it is a full one. The president will visit Bonn, Berlin, and one of the new lander (East). In addition to officials with the leaders of Germany, President Saleh will also meet with leading German businessmen and industrialists.

I am looking forward to it personally very much.

Q: I understand the trip has a business stress?

A: Yes. Our political understanding and cooperation is excellent. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same of business ties. More can be done. I would like German businesses to be more aggressive, given the opportunities here in Yemen. I think they really should do more business in this country. It is starting already, we feel that number of German businesses and companies are trying to find efficient agents in Yemen.

The rising value of the dollar helps as it makes DM-priced goods cheaper.

Immediately preceding the state visit, there will be a seminar in Hamburg with Yemeni and German businessmen and scholars. I understand that there will be 10 or 11 Yemeni scholars and something like 30 or 40 business companies which will also attend this seminar in Hamburg. The seminar addresses the economic changes and opportunities in Yemen.

Yemen has many possibilities. The country is really on the track of reform. It is a well-conceived program. It looks like things are already happening, at least as far as hard currency reserves or closing the budgetary gap are concerned.

Q: How do you see German aid fitting into this process?

A: Germany has been a development aid partner of Yemen since the revolutionary war ended. Starting in 1970, we are here with you.

In the beginning, we were building roads, the airport and other infrastructure. Then we moved to utilities like water and sewerage projects, urban planning, health, agriculture, etc. Now we have shifted. We are more into vocational training.

German aid to Yemen, valued at roughly DM 45 million every year, follows the development plans and needs of the country.

Q: You are also involved in cultural projects?

A: Yes, we have a large engagement here, especially in the field of archaeology. There is a branch of the German archaeological institute here which has done very good job in the world of knowledge on the ancient civilization and culture of southern Arabia. There are also pre-historic excavations and conservation of cities, etc. entirely financed by Germany.

We also have a number of scholarships which are part of the academic exchange services of the DAAD. There is quite a big scope for cooperation in scholarships and training in various fields. If



former scholars, once back in their country, are invited. So there are scholarships and a follow-up system for them.

We have also been helping through the UNESCO to restore the heritage of mankind in the old Sana'a city. We restored the mansouria which is now an attraction center for young artists who exhibit their work.

The most important project we have done here is the restoration of the ancient Islamic manuscripts. They were found under the roof of the Grand Mosque of Sanaa. They date back to the first hundred years of Islam (7th century).

Finally, we have introduced classes for teaching the German language. Two professional teachers offer classes of different levels at the British Council. Although this is no Goethe Institute, the scheme is working quite well.

Q: What is the status of the Yemen-German Friendship Association? Is it active?

A: I think it is doing quite well. Everything in life could still be better, of course. We are constantly getting people from Germany to give lectures, and the association is filled with members for the occasion. Whenever there are official visitors, they are involved.

In general, I think it is going fine.

Q: What is your assessment of the changes taking place in Yemen?

A: I have already commented on the economic reforms, which are doing very well.

In terms of political evolution, I feel privileged to follow the marvelous transitions. I came to Yemen at the end of 1994. Things were very bad, as it was in the aftermath of the civil war. But since then, Yemen has been climbing up the ladder, step after another. I have witnessed a great deal of improvement in Yemen's political and economic life.

The process of democratization took off very well especially with the last elections. I am fascinated with the way Yemenis openly express themselves and state their opinion.

Continued from page 1:

Yemeni-Saudi Border Agreement...

The borderline separating the two countries is still not in its final shape, although it is getting there. But some portions of it have been defined, as follows:

1. The starting point on the Red Sea is at Ras Al-Mu'waj, at around 16.4 degrees north, 3 kilometers west from Al-Muwassam village. Yemen insisted on and got this starting point, gaining the 4-5 kilometers initially contested by Saudi Arabia. This gives Yemen ownership of the small islands across the sea.

2. The border then proceeds eastwards till it reaches halfway to Haradh, and then rises sharply in a northern direction until it hits 17.6 degrees north and 42.3 degrees east, and runs eastwards until it reaches Jabal Thar, extending roughly 10 kilometers south of the Saudi cities of Dhahran Al-Yaman and Najran. This is basically the borderline stipulated by the 1934 Tayef Agreement.

3. The starting point at the farthest eastern point is at the intersection of 52 degrees east and 19 degrees north. This is the meeting point of Yemen, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

4. From that intersection, the borderline takes a south-westerly direction, roughly hitting the inter-

section of 49 degrees east and 18 degrees north, and continues in the same direction until about the intersection of 47.3 degrees east and 17 degrees north, swinging right to the south of Al-Wadee'ah.

5. From a point some 12 kilometers south of the Saudi city of Wade'ah, the borderline proceeds, first in a northern and then in a western direction, running parallel to, and separated by about 10 kilometers from, the Saudi highway connecting Al-Wadee'ah, Sharoorah and Najran, until it hits Jabal Thar, running halfway between Al-Buga' (in Yemen) and Al-Khadra (in Saudi Arabia).

The above borderline also reflects the military positions commanded by the two countries given the posts they control. The two countries have roughly 100,000 men facing each other in the desert.

The two countries stand to gain a lot by concluding a balanced agreement that offers each side something of value. It will also enable them to attend to their development needs by freeing resources and men to other uses.

Over and above all else, with the agreement, each side will win a reliable and good neighbor.

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi.

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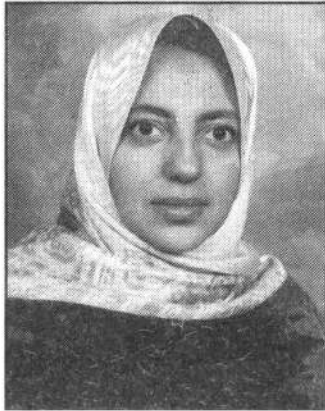
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"For women, it is war everyday!"

POLITICS & WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN YEMEN



By: Sawsan Al-Rifayi*

schools of thoughts of the Zaidi and Shafei sects, and between the religious-oriented and modernists in the community. In the final outcome, the law of 1979 made little effort - formal or practical - to alter, let alone advance, the social, economic and other status of women.

In the former southern state (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen), a very different situation evolved. With the adoption of scientific socialism by the then-ruling party in Aden, a progressive family law was enacted in 1974, and bettered in 1978. The law recognized women as equal partners to men in society (Article 36). Other articles granted them many rights such as the right to employment, social security, education, etc. The law almost approached outlawing polygamy.

Following unity, the country embarked on an effort to unify the laws of the land. Thus, the Family Laws of the two former states were merged. This was achieved through a compromise - making the law of the former YAR a bit more progressive, and reigning back a few aspects of the law of the formed PDRY. A unified code was enacted in 1992 following many political and legal debates related to women.

The new decree on Personal Status, adopted by a presidential

decree in March, 1992, was finally established. It reflected the changing mood and the power balance between the political powers centers within the unified state. In the final analysis, the law that was enacted represented modified points mid-way between the former laws of the two parts of the country.

Then came the transitional period (1900-1994), the civil war of 1994, and the 1997 general elections, all of which altered the power balance, and hence had visible implications on the attitude of the state towards women.

The fate of the various family laws (read, women's rights) during this period, and the ups and downs they incurred, serves to show how women and their rights had become pawns in the hands of the politicians. The mood and attitude of the ruling group dictated those rights.

Irrespective of the posturing and rhetoric in the competition among the different political parties, none of the politicians seemed to have the interests of women and their progress at heart. They only appealed to them and used them, whenever they needed them.

In general, our society lived through a continuous conflict and and soul-searching process on

this matter.

It is clear that women are affected by the shifts in power that occur in the country's political fortunes. Not only that, but women were also the first and hardest-hit victims of the foreign policy blunders, internal power-struggles and tension, the civil war, the economic reforms, etc. This is visible on a daily basis in our lives.

Today, heated debates and sometimes violent struggles persist regarding what rights are 'deserved' by women. The compromise law of 1992, soon became a source of renewed conflict and disagreement. The winners of the 1994 civil war wanted to adjust the laws of the land more in light with the vision they hold, rather than accept implementation of the compromises dictated by the power balance following unity. Thus, this law, as well as others - including the constitution, became subject to revisions. But this process was not fully consummated. The 1997 election results brought new realities, meaning a new power structure.

Again the new power balance, and the changed mood, one more time, necessitated changes in the laws and in the attitudes towards women.

But, there are some basic gains and currents which cannot be reversed, thanks in part to a world that is putting a premium on women's rights, and in part to the rising Yemeni intelligentsia which believes in the male-female partnership. Thus, for example, although women were being cheated by some political parties in the elections, the world was pleasantly touched by the substantial participation of women in the elections. Almost 30% of the voters were women, 21 women filed their candidature, and two women made it to parliament.

Of course, women are still badly under-represented. The government continues to be an all-male club. The parliament embraces two female members only. And female presence in senior government positions is a rarity - the country has one female deputy minister, two assistant deputy ministers, and a few general managers.

Yet, there are expectations of serious steps in the way of full recognition of women's rights. But the task ahead is daunting. Women in Yemen and some other developing countries are still throning the list of increasing

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Before the re-unification of Yemen in 1990, the two Yemeni states had distinct, indeed contrasting, sets of family laws and constitutional positions vis-avis women - their rights and roles in society. In the former northern state (Yemen Arab Republic), there was no national family law until 1979. Matters pertaining to women were settled in a variety and changing ways, in accordance with interpretations of Islamic Law (Sharia). This followed a pattern found throughout the history of Islamic societies, in the absence of strong modern central and local legal practices. The end result is a poor deal for women.

The Family Law that was enacted in 1979 followed a long debate in which various drafts were amended. The arguments were based on differences between the

illiteracy, divorce and death rates.

Yemeni women are living the reality of a society that suffers tribal vengeance, heavy consumption of qat, illiteracy and deteriorating services such as health, education, etc. A better future cannot be attained by promises and speeches alone. Women still suffer from mental and physical abuse and they are in desperate need for decisions that can make their lives easier.

Women's rights completely depends on the political nature of the party in power. Although never interested, women are always involved in politics. Directly or in indirectly, they form a substantial portion of the voter base. The only way politicians will attend to our demands is if women use this power rightly.

All political parties (in their elections programs) declared support for increasing women's participation in political, economic, social and cultural life. They promised the emancipation of women from traditional bonds and controls.

They promised to enhance the effective participation of women in society by providing opportunities to study and work, by promoting women's associations, especially in the fields of mother and child care, by training women to acquire new skills. The end result of all this is supposed to empower women, meaning to enable them generate an independent source of income.

Where are women rights today? Where can we expect them to be in the future?

I believe that women are engaged in a daily civil war. They are forced into continuous battles simply to protect their rights and to command some respect.

All Yemeni women to be free, and to be constructive partners in the nation's development.

Will the politicians allow it?

* Ms. Sawsan Al-Rifayi is a senior student at the Medical College, Sanaa University. She is from Ibb.

Vacancy UNCDF Program Assistant

Duties & Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the UNCDF Program Officer, the incumbent is responsible for the following duties:

- Collect, registers and maintains information on project activities by reviewing reports and through first-hand sources;
- Contribute in the preparation of status and progress reports by providing information, prepares tables and drafts selected of it, prepares background materials for use in discussion and briefing sections;
- Arrange for the recording and administrative processing of government requests for assistance;
- Participates in the identification and formulation of development cooperation projects and participates in the preparation of the draft documents;
- Monitors UNCDF program activities by receiving a variety of records, including control plans, progress reports, project inputs, budgets and final expenditures;
- Maintains processes and analysis information on subject matters relevant to the organization and on external assistance provided to the country by main sectors;
- Carries out specific administrative operation/control tasks for the program activities, when needed. This may include field visits to project sites;
- Provides support to the Gender in Development Task Force Team;
- Performs other duties as required.

Qualification requirements

Knowledge & Skills:

First University Degree in Social Sciences. Proven Knowledge on project management, construction industry and environmental issues. Previous knowledge of UN organization desirable. Computer skills (Word, Excel and drawing program) required.

Experience:

Five years responsible for development work, of which at least one year was closely related to support of the international donor support programs in Yemen.

Language:

Good Knowledge of Arabic and English.

Work relationship:

Regular contacts inside and outside the organization and at times outside the duty station involving the exchange of a wide range of information.

Application of guidelines

Program and Project Manual and all other guidelines involving program activities.

All Applications to be submitted to Deputy Resident Representative before 10 September 1997.

SECRETARY WANTED

One of the leading Yemeni companies announces its need for a female secretary, according to the following conditions:

1. Complete fluency in English - spoken and written. Preference for graduates of English Language Department.
2. Complete knowledge of computer use, with preference to those with executive experience.
3. Personal initiative and the ability to handle situations.
4. Applicants will undergo a qualification exam.
5. Remuneration and other details will be determined by qualifications.

For an appointment, call: 610201, 610200

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that "Henkel Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien", a company organized under the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, domiciled at: D-40191 Dusseldorf, Germany, is the sole and exclusive proprietor of the following invention:

"Verbesserte Mehrkomponentengemische fur den Erdreichaufschluß"

for which application for Patent was lodged in the German Patent office on October 30, 1996 under serial No. 196 43 840.3

Copies of the specification and drawings, if any, of the aforesaid invention maybe obtained upon application to the above-mentioned owners.

It is hereby declared that the afore-named Henkel Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien, claim for themselves, their successors and assigns, the full, sole and exclusive right, power and authority by themselves, their agents, or their licensees, to make, use, Exercise and vend in the Republic of Yemen, the aforesaid invention and that they will take all legal steps against any person or persons infringing such rights.

More Vigil in Consumer Protection:

"SOME LOCAL PRODUCTS ARE BETTER QUALITY THAN IMPORTED ONES"

The Yemeni Corporation for Standardization, Measurements and Quality Control held an open meeting for the Manufacturers and Importers during 16-17 August 1997. The Minister of Industry, Ahmed Muhammad Sofan, kicked off the meeting. Abdullah Amin Numan, Director General of the Corporation, then guided the discussions. Yemen Times attended the talks, following which, M. Bin Sallam interviewed some of the participants.



deterioration in quality and may even be harmful.

Q: What kind of chemical substance for preservation or otherwise do you use in your products?

A: We have a certificate from the Corporation of Specifications and Measurements stating that no preservatives are added to our products. Your newspaper may want to verify right now. I will take you to any of our storage houses and take random samples.

Q: Do you export some of your products abroad?

A: Yes, to many neighboring countries.

SECOND INTERVIEW:

Q: Could you please present yourself?

A: My name is Ali Saleh Aqlan. I



FIRST INTERVIEW:

Q: Can you introduce yourself?

A: I am Mohammed Alwan Al-Dhahab, Director of Production at Thabet Brothers Group.

Q: What was this meeting about?

A: The Yemeni Corporation for Standardization, Measurements and Quality Control which is part of the Ministry of Industry, called to this meeting. The topic of discussion was the quality of locally manufactured goods. On the one hand, the idea is to protect consumers, and on the other to ensure the ability of Yemeni products to compete with imported goods.

Q: There is much gossip about the low quality of local products, in particular, processed foodstuff. What are your comments?

A: Most of national products, in specific terms ours, i.e., Yamani brand, are of high quality that match international specifications.

Regarding the lack of confidence of the citizens in local products, this is not justified. Yemeni products are subjected to rigorous supervision regarding cleanliness, hygiene and other considerations. The local authorities, and the media can verify this by visits and taking random samples for testing. We also conduct testing of raw materials before usage, and once the product is ready to hit the market.

However, due to inadequate storage capacity, it is possible that some businessman buy big quantities and store them in an incorrect manner and for long periods of time. This can lead to

Mr. Abdullah Amin Noman Leads the Discussions



am the manager of department responsible for quality control at the Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap - one of the Hayel Saeed Group of companies.

Q: Are you happy with the recommendations of the meeting?

A: This is the first meeting which brought together the government, manufacturers, some consumers, and Yemen Times to represent the media. So, it is good that we talk about this important issue together.

The recommendations were very good. I think we need to wait for the follow-up meeting next month so that more facts are laid down for everybody. Then we can speak the same language.

Q: Why do you think citizens prefer imported ghee?

A: I do not know if what you say is correct, other-wise we would not be selling such large quantities of locally-produced ghee. Even then, the Yemeni citizen is a victim of excessive advertising by the foreign companies. We should probably do more on this count.

Sometimes, similar brand names, or similarity in the color and type of packaging also mislead the public. In any case, I think this is an issue that warrants a more intensive discussion.

Q: As for the imported products, Does it have any effect on your local products?

A: In our market, you see products which entered the country illegally. Most of them are smuggled in. Despite this, a substantial customer base prefers our products.

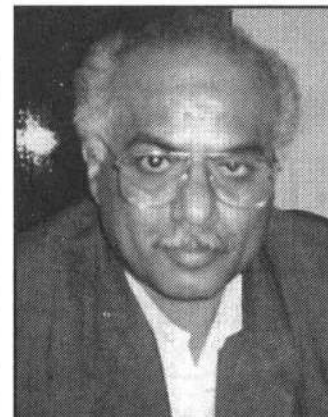
Q: Do you export your products?

A: Yes, we export to some countries and the ones that go abroad are of the same good quality that we sell to our citizens. We are ready for any kind of laboratory analysis and testing.

THIRD INTERVIEW:

Q: Could you please present yourself?

A: I am Faisal Abdo Ahmed, Manager of Nana Factory.



Q: Is there a crisis of trust between the citizen and local products? If so, how can we address it?

A: Yes, there are persistent attacks against locally-manufactured goods. This is due

to information passed around by ignorance or by people who smuggle in competing products. The media has a big role to play in addressing this matter.

Q: Do your products rise to the quality and standard of the imported goods?

A: This is the job of the Yemeni Corporation for Standardization, Measurements and Quality Control to inspect the quality of our products. I can assure you most of the local products are superior to some of the imported goods.

Let me tell you that Tetra Pak, a Swedish company, took samples of various canned and paper-packed juices and milks for testing in London. They found them of excellent quality.

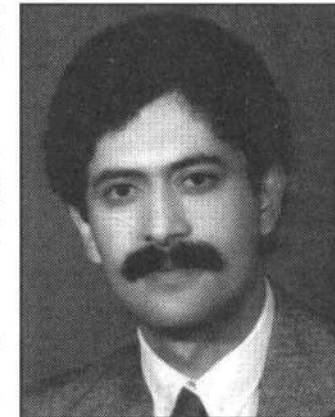
Q: How do you explain the main cases of bad (spoiled/rotten) products in our market?

A: This is basically due to mishandling, bad or extended storage. In our warm cities like Hodeidah, Aden, etc., these products quickly go bad unless refrigerated. Also, the products could be kept for long, beyond their expiry date, due to ignorance or greed, or whatever.

FOURTH INTERVIEW:

Q: Could you please present yourself?

A: I am Mansour Al-Asbahi, Director of Nutrition Standards at the Yemeni Corporation for Standardization, Measurements and Quality Control.



Q: How developed is the government ability to monitor and determine the quality of products?

A: Standardization in general, is defined as putting measurements and specifications to products. One of our functions is to provide better understanding between the sellers (producers) and the buyers (consumers). It is a new effort that is not yet accepted by all sides.

Q: What do you see as your main objective?

A: Our main objective is to make sure the products consumed by the public are of reasonable quality. Therefore, it is important to standardize specifications. Since the end of the 1980s, we have been calling for more independence so as to do our work. It has yet to happen.

Q: How much aware is the

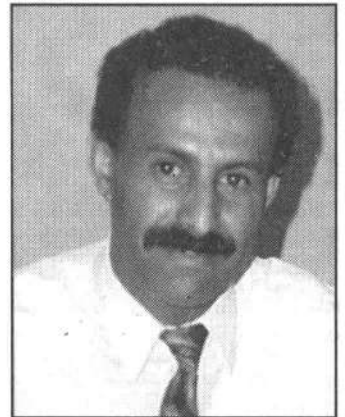
Yemeni consumer of the importance of quality control?

A: I can say that Yemenis are aware of this, especially as we receive complaints all the time. They also display their awareness through the choice of products they purchase.

FIFTH INTERVIEW:

Q: Could you please present yourself?

A: I am Jamal Mohammed Al-Qubati, Technical Director of the Corporation.



Q: It looks you are fighting an uphill battle. How much do local producers and importers heed your demands?

A: It is not a matter of heeding our demand. Our whole culture is not oriented towards perfection. But we will keep working at it.

SIXTH INTERVIEW:

Q: Could you please present yourself?

A: I am Abdullah Amin Noman, Director-General of the Corporation.

Q: You called for this meeting. Are you happy with the results?

A: Yes. I think we have struck an important nerve. All sides agree on the importance of working more on the issues.

Q: What were the recommendations issued?

A: We issued an eight-point recommendation, as follows:

- 1- To start a periodical or magazine concerned with specifications, standardization, measurements & quality control.
- 2- To activate the role of the joint technical committees working to establish norms and standards for quality control.
- 3- To activate the role of the government committee to help local industries in the sphere of standardization and quality control.
- 4- To specify Yemeni standards to be the starting point and base for all importers and manufacturers to abide by.
- 5- To establish a body responsible for inspecting the quality of imported products and ensuring they meet approved standard and measurement requirements.
- 6- To apply a system of quality control for all local industrial corporations.
- 7- To mobilize the media in this field.
- 8- To hold a follow-up seminar in mid-September, 1997.

VACANCY RE-ADVERTISEMENT

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) requires the following positions for its office in Sana'a. The positions are open to all qualified and interested Yemeni nationals, qualified women are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates are requested to apply with a detailed curriculum vitae to:

The UNFPA Representative
P. O. Box 551, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Application should be received no later than 16 September, 1997.

Only those candidates strictly meeting the requirements should apply; and acknowledgement will be sent only to short-listed candidates. Those who applied before need not re-apply again. no personal inquiries or phone calls please.

A) National Program Officer:

This is a demanding position with overall UNFPA program responsibilities that include preparation of background papers, formulation and revision of project documents and budgets, project appraisal, monitoring, evaluation and close liaison with government/NGOs/UN/donor agencies. Analysis and interpretation of socio-economic and demographic data and frequent oral and written presentations and project reviews/reports are major aspects of the job.

The successful candidate will possess:

1. at least a post-graduate (Masters) degree in social sciences, preferably in Public health or in Health sciences with population subjects, public/business administration, demography/statistics or economics;
2. a minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible professional experience in the field of Public health, population/development;
3. excellent written and oral skills in English and Arabic.
4. A good knowledge of government/NGOs/UN systems and computer literacy will be preferred.

B) Secretary (Bilingual):

The position demands a wide ranging secretarial support such as typing, arranging appointments, handling protocols and filing, translation of documents, acting as interpreter and undertaking information searches.

Required qualifications are:

1. minimum of secondary education (12 years);
2. proven typing/shorthand ability;
3. through knowledge of computers/word processing and modern office procedures;
4. minimum of 5 years of secretarial experience, preferably with UN/International organizations;
5. good knowledge of both the English and Arabic languages.



CALVALLEY PETROLEUM (INTERNATIONAL) INC. VALLEY

CALVALLEY PETROLEUM (INTERNATIONAL) INC. is one of an increasing number of companies that are hugely attracted by the encouraging prospects of discovering big petroleum and gas reserves in Yemen. The Yemeni government, on its part, is largely facilitating the work of these companies.

CalValley is a publicly traded, international, oil and gas exploration and development company based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The company is engaged in full cycle exploration, production, and marketing of crude oil and natural gas. It is also largely involved in the strategic acquisition of crude oil and natural gas assets, both in Canada and internationally. The Senior management of Calvalley consists of Mr. Edmund Shimoon, the President and CEO; Mr. William Jackson, the Executive Vice President; Mr. Hector Tourigny, the Treasurer; Mr. Chris Martin the C.A. and Chief Financial Officer; and Mr. Martin Zimmerman, the Corporate secretary and General Counsel.

A subsidiary company, Calvalley Petroleum (International) Inc., has been formed to manage Calvalley's interests in Yemen.

Calvalley has recently won the concession to drill for oil in Block 9 (Malik), in the Shabwa/Hadhramaut region of the Republic of Yemen. Eng. William

Jackson, Calvalley's Executive Vice President, has been assigned the overall responsibility for the Yemen project. Yemen is the first Middle Eastern country in which Calvalley explores for oil.

"Negotiations with the Yemeni Government started last year, and the Product Sharing Agreement (PSA) was signed on 23rd February, 1997," said Eng. Robert Rihana, the Manager of the project in Yemen, adding that "we had very open and constructive dialogue with various government institutions."

The oil rights of Block 9 were previously held by British Gas, LL&E, and Crescent Petroleum. "Calvalley has acquired, and is currently processing, all the seismic and well-test data available on the Block," stated Eng. Rihana.

Mr. Rihana, a mechanical engineer who graduated from Hamburg, Germany, declared that "field exploration is expected to commence early in 1998 to acquire new seismic data and drill exploration wells."

A team of experienced professional geo-scientists and highly qualified engineers has been assembled by Calvalley to manage the project in both Canada and Yemen. "Additional contracts and permanent staff, both expatriate and Yemeni, will be added to the



Eng. Robert Rihana,
Manager of the Project in Yemen

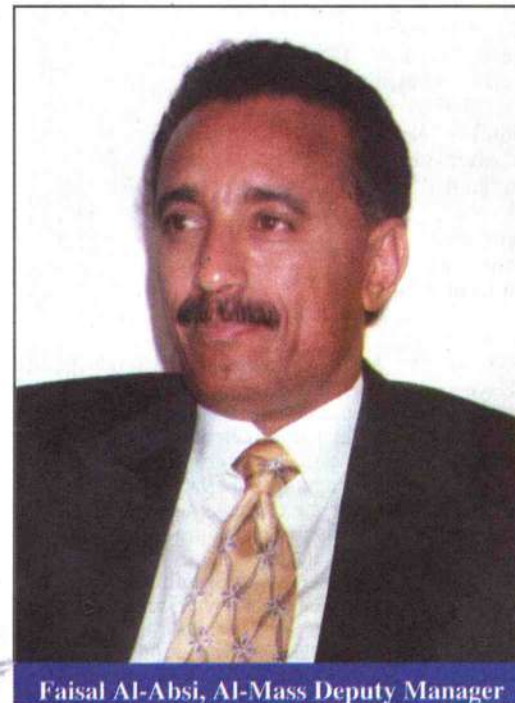
team as the work progresses," Eng. Rihana confidently announced.

Calvalley and an associated company are currently evaluating additional business opportunities in the republic of Yemen, and "hopes to establish a long-term relationship with the government and people of Yemen."

Calvalley is grateful for the kind help and cooperation of the Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajih; the Deputy Minister, Dr. Rashid Ba Raba'a; the Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration & Production Board (PEPB), Mr. Hamid Mohammed Amer; and the Deputy Chairman of the PEPB, Eng. Nabil Al-Qawsi.

Eng. Rihana proudly said, "Calvalley is pleased to announce Al-Mass Petroleum Company as its agent in Yemen."

Oil Sector Welcomes New Comer: CALVALLEY PETROLEUM (INTERNATIONAL) INC.



Faisal Al-Absi, Al-Mass Deputy Manager

AL-MASS PETROLEUM COMPANY

A group of Yemeni and Arab businessmen has formed a company which is an agent of Calvalley as well as several other petroleum companies in the Middle East and Africa. The company's founders are:

- 1- Faisal Al-Absi (Yemeni);
- 2- Obeid Ba-Qais (Yemeni);
- 3- Mohammed Al-Ghobeishi (Saudi); and
- 4- Mustafa Naim (Lebanese/Palestinian).

According to Mr. Faisal Al-Absi, the Deputy Manager of Al-Mass, the company's objectives are as follows:

- 1- Investing in the sectors of petroleum, gas, petrochemicals and electricity generation;
- 2- Providing services to companies working in Yemen in the sectors of petroleum, gas, and electricity;
- 3- Implementing, contributing to, or financing projects related to the production and marketing of petroleum and gas and their by-products as well as electricity; and
- 4- Importing, marketing, possessing, managing and operating modern and highly efficient equipment and machinery in the fields of petroleum, gas and electricity.

"The company's field of investment is not limited to the field of petroleum; there is a big possibility of working in other sectors," said Mr. Al-Absi.

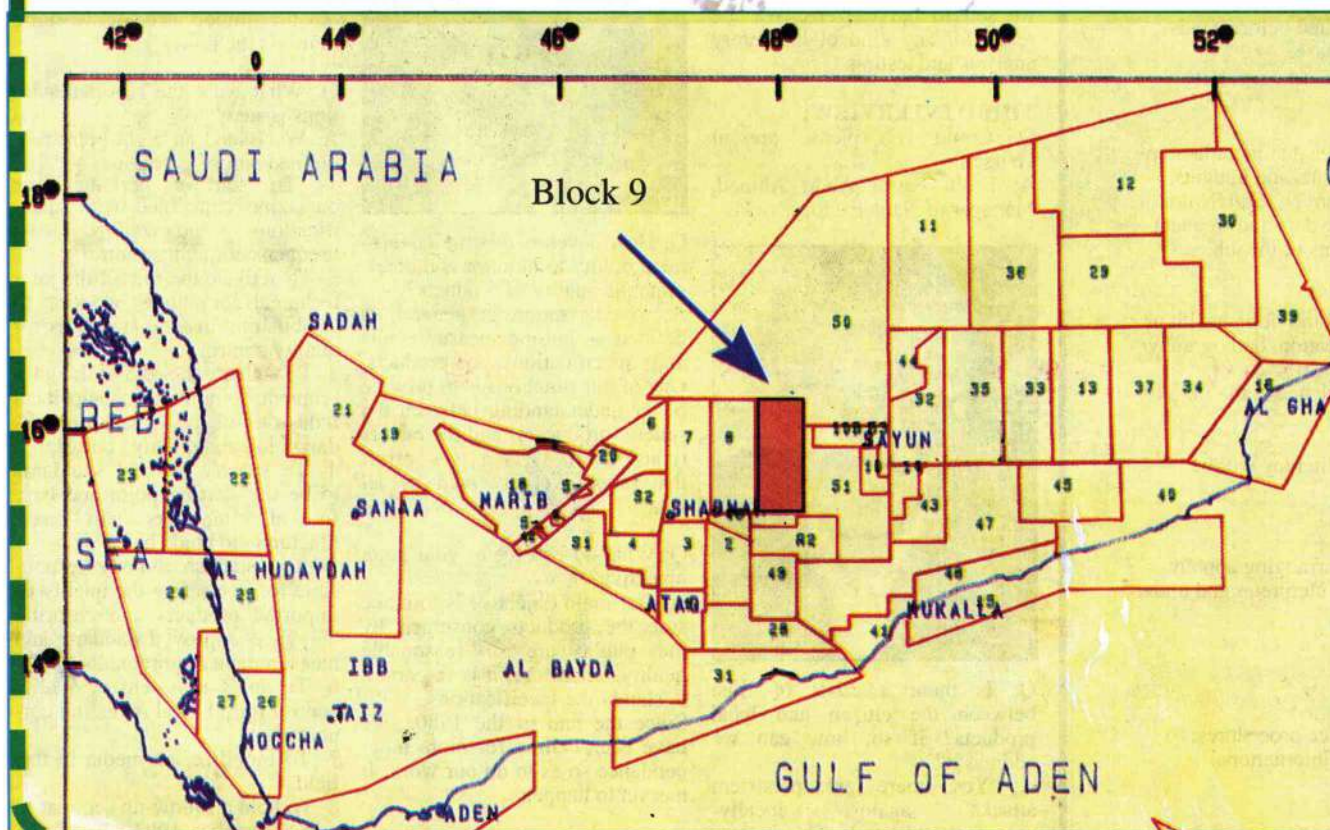
"The company board is in the process of submitting a proposal, to the Ministry of Petroleum, for establishing an oil refinery in one of the southern or eastern governorates. We are quite confident of the officials' full cooperation in this gigantic project. A big American company has already been approached regarding the construction of the proposed refinery. Other British and American companies have submitted applications to be part of this project."

The new company welcomes all possible joint investment projects with the Yemeni government or under its guarantees. The company is quite ready to finance any projects. They already have several applications from international financier companies wishing to fund projects in Yemen.

"For the sake of encouraging investments in Yemen, the work of investors will have to be better facilitated by curbing the complicated bureaucracy," Mr. Al-Absi called on the government.

However, commending the already great official cooperation, Mr. Al-Absi thanked the Minister of Petroleum, his deputy, and all the officials at the Ministry and the Petroleum Exploration organ "for their great help and assistance to Calvalley and Al-Mass."

Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times.



sponsored page

MOBIL: New Range of Excellent Services & Products



On the occasion of the launch of a whole new range of its high-quality products, Mobil's General Manager in Yemen, Dr. Mohammed Makki, spoke to Yemen Times.
Excerpts:

Q: When were Mobil products introduced into Yemen?

A: Mobil has a long presence in Yemen. It was one of the very first companies to get into the Yemeni market. Its existence is related to the presence of Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia. The trade of lubricant oils in Saudi Arabia was completely controlled by Yemenis. Mobil's existence in Saudi Arabia more than 40 years ago was reflected on Yemen through the movement of Yemenis between the two countries.

Q: Could you give us an idea of Mobil's share in the Yemeni market?

A: Mobil products are very well known by Yemeni consumers. Mobil had the lion's share of quite a considerable part of the Yemeni market. However, several changes have taken place in the Yemeni markets. New competitors have been very active. Mobil used to hold more than 80% of the lubricants' market in the country. Out of every 10 consumers in Yemen, 8 are well acquainted with Mobil products. It is quite normal that a proportional share of the market is held by Mobil.

It is only natural that other competitors should try to chip in. After all, it is a free market. Mobil's current market position is not the normal one. We are not satisfied with it. We hope to enlarge Mobil's share of the local market so that the company may reclaim its normal share, as fitting its internationally recognized status and success.

Q: What are the particular standards you follow in manufacturing your products?

A: We follow uniquely high standards. We are completely responsible. We will try to enter all possible niches in Yemeni market - car, factories, etc. We are currently trying to improve and expand our outlets such as the petrol stations. A long-term plan has been put into action in this respect. This is only the beginning. We are very hopeful that we'll soon be able to enlarge Mobil's share of the market.

Q: What is your relations with the factory?

A: The factory at Taiz is a partnership among Mobil, Shell and national shareholders. The products are subject to the rigorous and strict Mobil standards and criteria. They are top-quality products. I regard this factory as a source of pride for all Yemenis. It is one of the best factories in the Middle East. Top quality and high productivity are the whole marks of this factory.

Q: How is your marketing done?

A: Let me start by stating that our main marketing tool is really customer satisfaction, given the product quality. As for marketing, we have a special system of

68 agents and distributors, covering most regions of the Republic. These agents are closely linked to the mother company. We try, at all times, to create a beneficial market atmosphere to facilitate the distribution of Mobil products. Expanding the areas of distribution is a top priority for us now. We used to deal with 2 or 3 products in the past, now we have 7.

Q: What has led to this diversity in products?

A: There is a great demand in the market for wide range of lubricants. The ever-increasing development in cars and machinery has dictated the necessity for a multitude of products. There are also rapid developments in oil and lubricant manufacturing to meet the widening markets demands.

Q: What exactly is the role of your team of marketeers?

A: The main task of these marketeers is to create agreeable relations among distributors, the company, and the consumers. They also work on consolidating our presence in the markets, and inform us of up-dated market changes. We have representatives in Sana'a, Aden, Hodeida, and many other parts of the Republic. We are now concentrating on expanding in the southern governorates, such as Mukalla.

Q: What about your staff?

A: Most of our staff are Yemeni. It is our aim to train and qualify promising young Yemeni engineers and technicians.



Mobil

Fareed Al-Dhaheeri:

"Give me a theater, and I'll give you a cultured nation."

Fareed Al-Dhahiri is Yemen's theater director. Before going to Russia to study the theater, Fareed worked with the Youth Theater group in Taiz. He directed several plays during his studies in Russia such as Hamlet and the Death Song by the Egyptian writer Tawfik Al-Hakim as well as a classical French play and a play by Maxim Gorky.

He won the Best Director Prize at the first, second, and third theater festivals in Yemen in 1990, '93, and '95, respectively. He took part in the theater festival in Iraq, also winning a prize for best direction. He was bound to participate, along with his troupe in theater festivals in Egypt and Syria, but could not due to lack of funds. Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil met Fareed Al-Dhahiri to talk about the trials and tribulations of Yemeni theater. Excerpts:

Q: Are there many theaters in Yemen?

A: The audience exists, but the actual theaters are not available. Two major theaters in Sana'a and Aden were converted by the Ministry of Culture, no less, into warehouses! Actors and theater technicians in Aden protested loudly. They even staged a sit-in and a hunger strike, but to no avail. The electricity was cut off, and the actors were forced out by the excessive heat inside the theater. I made a statement in the press criticizing the closure of the Sana'a theater. I was referred to an investigation committee at the Ministry of Culture. The minister said later that it was a joke, and promised to talk to the Ministry of Information.

Q: How can the nation get more theater stages?

A: There must be continuity. Theater activities must not be seasonal. Money should be spent on building theaters, instead of useless propaganda plays that are presented on national occasions. Egypt has built an opera house with the help of the Japanese. We should follow their example. Asking other countries for help is not begging, so long as it is done for the general national interest. The currently existing cinemas could be refurbished and made fit for occasional theater plays. The Ministry of Culture can approach the cinema owners in this regard.

They can be given some benefits such as tax exemptions or other incentives.

Q: Where and when was theater introduced into Yemen?

A: It started in Aden in the late 1930s and early 1940s in Aden. There were a few Indian theatrical groups which presented plays in English. There were also some Arab actors. In Sana'a, theater started at the orphanage. Many well-known national figures used to act in the theater.

Q: Has the theater developed since then?

A: In the South, during the Socialist rule, and in the North, during the three years of Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, there was some encouragement. Since then, things have gone downhill. Acting is one of the disappointments in this country. Artists are very frustrated. They are concerned about the future of their careers. Participating in international events has become almost impossible.

Q: What support can the government and the intellectual elite provide for theater activities in Yemen?

A: Unfortunately, it seems that the authorities want the theater stage for propaganda purposes only. Some of the literati and intellectuals in general are the most uncooperative. We invited Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqalih (rector of Sana'a University and well-known poet) several times to attend one of our plays. His response was that we should go and act in one of his qat-chewing sessions. He wants the stage to go to him.

This cursed plant, qat, is a real menace for the Yemeni theater. People cannot leave their qat chews until late in the evening. In Hodeida, where I worked before coming to Sana'a, we used to present our plays at 10 o'clock at night.

Q: That means the audience is also reluctant. How can you attract the public?

A: We should start with plays that appeal to the majority, i.e., Shakespeare and Moliere must be left till later on. Lighthearted plays with music, songs and comedy are very appealing for many people. We used to present such plays in Hodeida. We even performed on the beach and in

From a play, sort of a Yemeni version of Robinson Crusoe, staged in 1997.



public parks. Some of the people were actually quite hostile, though. They accused us of encouraging the mixing of the sexes.

At one time, the crowd threw stones at my house, and I had to get protection from the police. The then governor of Hodeida, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Ali Othman was very supportive. He is now the Minister of Trade. The attacks in Hodeida made many young actors leave the group.

Q: What are you currently working on?

A: We are concluding preparations to participate in the Ninth International Festival for Experimental Theater, to be held in Egypt next month. The money for the tickets and accommodation are still not available.

Q: You work for the government since your budget comes from it?

A: Yes, we are not independent. When we plan to work on a particular theatrical project, we apply to the Arts Directorate at the Ministry of Culture. Bureaucracy is then set into its slow grinding motion. When we ask for 200,000 riyals, say, we end up with only 50,000. Many bureaucrats have to be paid off. Acting is not seen as a priority. Because of that and many other obstacles, Yemeni artists have become very disillusioned.

I think the first step is for the theater business to be independent. This may be privatization of the arts. But this remains a dream, for now.

Q: What other problems do you face?

A: There is a visible lack of actresses. Upon unification, many female artists came over from the south. Due to social and other restrictions, they have been effectively kept out. Many female actors are no longer active. As far as qualified cadres are concerned, Yemen is better than most

of the Gulf countries in this regard. We trained many young people on the techniques of theater. They became quite adept to the extent of winning local and regional prizes. Theater technicians, however, are not very many. The few that we had, went to work in other countries.

Of course, the pennies that the actors and actresses are paid is one of the major hurdles. But, if the business is privatized, remuneration should no longer be a problem.

Q: We heard of special plans by the Ministry of Culture to encourage and support the theater and other arts. What has become of these plans?

A: In this respect, the Ministry of Culture is the best. But it is the best on paper only! There is very little action. Artists are neglected in this country. On average, one creative person leaves the country to another almost every day. If

present conditions persist, the whole industry will vanish. I myself will go to doing other things such as opening a restaurant or café. My current salary as a manager of a theatrical group in YR.10,000 a month.

Q: You have talked about privatization. Why don't you just do it. What is holding you to the government machinery?

A: We contacted many local and international firms and businesses working in Yemen, asking for their sponsorship. We only got empty promises. We need some sponsor to carry us part of the way. The only help we got for our last production was from Yemen Times. The newspaper printed the tickets, free of charge, for our show earlier this year. That was the only support from the private sector.

Q: How much money do you roughly need for a single theat-

rical production?

A: We need in the region of YR. 300,000. Not very much, is it? Even this amount we cannot get to launch a single work.

Q: In which governorates is the theater most active?

A: Before unification and a short while after that, the theatrical movement was very active in Aden. Now it has become stagnant, like the rest of the country.

We were quite active in Hodeida, competing with Aden. We used to present two plays a year - one for children and the other for grown-ups. We also used to organize acting courses. Continuation, however, has now become almost impossible. There are some stage playing and acting in Sanaa, Taiz and elsewhere.

Q: Any last comment?

A: "Give me a theater, and I will give you a cultured nation."



VACANCY

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Do minor troubleshooting (tripped breakers, blown fuses or overloads).
Take meter readings and determine pumping rates for engineering departments.
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To infuse new ideas at the Golden Peacock, Vinod has compiled an extensive yet delectable menu for connoisseurs of fine food on 31st August '97. The mood will be romantic and the ambiance truly enchanting.

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Sudanese Students Abroad Refuse to Go Back Home

More than 300 post graduate students who were sent abroad, mostly in Western countries, have refused to return home. This represents a loss of more than 80% of the prospective staff at the university of Khartoum, to which the majority of the scholars belong. It also represents a loss of billions of Sudanese pounds in tax-payers money, the university vice chancellor, Hashim Mohammad Alhadi said. He did not say why these graduates stay away, but one reason could be low salaries. A university professor in Sudan earns around US\$100 a month. Another reason is politics, as most intellectuals, especially the ones educated in the West, do not see eye to eye with the regime in Khartoum. It is not known if any of them had asked for political asylum. Human rights groups often complain that the government of General Omar Al-Basheer has harassed, arrested and tortured opponents of its campaign to impose Islamic rule.

The Sudanese who go abroad for obtaining PhDs or MA degrees are required to sign a contract to return and work for at least 10 years in Sudan. Those who fail to do so must refund the amount that the government would have spent on them. The amount could be more than US\$ 100,000 (about 200 million Sudanese pounds in the black market) for a PhD scholar in Britain.

Oman Considers More Eurobonds to Finance Economic Reforms

Oman is considering more Euro-bonds to finance its economic reforms. Finance ministry under-secretary Darwish Al-Balushi said Oman raised US\$ 250 million in a single Eurobond flotation at a fixed interest rate which will mature in the year 2001. "What is important is that we entered the international bond market to be there. So it is not a matter of only one issue," he added. He did not mention when new bonds would be issued or the targeted sum, which is needed to fund privatization and other reforms.

Oman is the first Gulf Arab state to resort to Euro-bonds although it borrows frequently from the domestic market. Its total foreign debt is estimated at between US\$2.5 billion and US\$3 billion. The main goal of Oman's entry to the international bond market was that it wanted to present itself and its economic experiment and achievements to the world as "we are switching from an economy based on oil to a diversified economy, where the private sector has the main role and more foreign capital is attracted".

UNDP Projects Will Help Improve Prospects of Peace in Somalia

Observers believe that UNDP development projects will improve prospects for peace in Somalia. A stronger foundation for stability in Somalia will be built through projects receiving support from UNDP. One project focuses on demobilization of soldiers, demining operations and a landmine awareness program. Threats to the villagers in the north and northwest of Somalia will also be reduced by training and support of about 250 police officers. Over the next three to five years, the project will help improve security through better law enforcement in a number of areas. Banditry, attacks by roving militias and other forms of violence have uprooted thousands of people in rural areas and undermined development efforts. Meanwhile, UNDP and UNESCO have joined forces to launch a civic education through peace and good governance project, which will use mass media to promote a culture of peace and stability throughout the country. All these actions and procedures will help approaching peace in Somalia.

Egyptian Religious Activists Seek Reconciliation

A leader of Egypt's main armed opposition group Jamaa Islamiyya called for reconciliation with the government. "We want to extend a hand to the government in order to find a solution to the problem of extremism," said Salah Hashem in an interview with the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram. He called on armed Jamaa and other militant groups such as Jihad in southern Egypt to throw down their arms and end their up attacks.

Hashem, head of the Jamaa in the province of Sohag, is the only member of the Majlis Al Shura, the group's highest decision-making body. His statement came after six founding members of the group serving prison terms in Egypt, issued a statement on July 5th asking for a stop to the political violence, which was supported by the spiritual guide Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. Leaders of the Jamaa abroad said the appeal against violence was a plot against the Islamist movement and they continue their armed struggle.

Egypt's religion-based armed violence has tapered off over the last three years as government forces gained the upper hand in the struggle. The height of Islamic fundamentalism was in the early 1980s. The victim to such violence was the tourism industry which suffered enormously during the 1980s and early 1990s. The late Egyptian leader, Anwar Sadat was himself a victim of the violence.

Young Iraqis Get Military Training

Thousands of Iraqi boys, as young as 10, have completed a 21-day intensive military training course in a program called Saddam's Youth to prepare them for emergencies, an Iraqi magazine wrote.

The boys were given training in the use of sub machine-guns, pistols and hand grenades at 14 camps around the country. The boys also received free meals, quite an incentive in today's Iraq. In addition to the military component, the summer program included training courses in religion, science and sports. The daily schedule starts at 6 am and lasts until 1 pm. The boys rest until 6 pm, before they start another training round until 8 pm. It is said that about 8,000 boys received training in one camp in the southern part of Baghdad. Graduates were given certificates and those who made the highest grades received gifts.

The program is an intelligent way to absorb the energy of the young lads during the summer. But it also represents a higher level of militarization of the Iraqi society.

Israel: Continued Harassment of Syria and Lebanon

Prime minister Netanyahu informed Syrian leader Hafez Assad that he is prepared to yield parts of the Golan Heights in exchange for security guarantees, an Israeli newspaper reported last week. The Yediot Aharonot said Netanyahu transmitted a message to Damascus three weeks ago proposing a resumption of peace talks based on the principle that an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be proportional to the level of protection Israel would get from possible attacks.

"The extent of territorial concessions on the Golan Heights will be determined by the extent of the security arrangements," the paper quoted the Israeli message as saying. But the Israeli leaders continue to insist that the Golan Heights will not be totally surrendered to Syria, and that whatever portion is given up will be partially controlled by Israel in various security arrangements.

At another level, Israel decided to menace the southern part of Lebanon by constant shelling and bombardment, leading to enormous casualties in lives and property. "It is mostly the civilians who are victimized," eye witnesses reported. The physical damage is mostly to infrastructure such as electricity, roads, bridges, etc.

The Lebanese Hezbollah has retaliated with Katyusha rockets plunging into settlements in northern Israel. Infuriated by the response, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed not to let the Lebanese have any peace.

Qatar Formulates Laws to Allow Offshore Banks to Operate

Qatar said it was formulating laws to allow offshore banks to operate on its soil. "The facility will be initially offered to Qatari local banks and investment firms to enable them to open offshore operations," said Abdullah Bin Khalid Al Attiya, governor of Qatar Central Bank. But offshore units will not be allowed to accept deposits from Qatari nationals or expatriate residents in Qatar. However, the Central Bank may allow certain units to accept deposits in special circumstances. The offshore banks will be exempt from taxes.

In Qatar, foreign banks are required to pay a tax at a graduated scale from 10% upward if their profits exceed 500,000 Riyals (US\$ 137,362), but local banks are exempted from it. This move is part of an overall strategy to reform the financial market and expand investment banking in the state, said Sheikh Abdullah Bin Saud Al-Thani, deputy governor of the Central Bank. It is intended to upgrade the banking system and diversify the market to open more avenue of profit-making for banks.

Bhutto Warns Against Fresh Form of Colonialism

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Butto called for closer cooperation among Asian countries to meet the looming threat of economic colonization. "After the cold war, a trade war has started. We Asians are divided, we are confused and we don't even know what the new world order is about," she said. If we want to prosper, we have to bargain. Asia has to bargain with the non-Asians on an equal footing." She said the future would not be for Asia if its countries permit a fresh form of economic colonization to dawn.

"But only strong leaders and strong economies from Asia with global stature could bargain on equal terms," she said.

The Turkish Cypriot Side Blamed for Failure of Talks

Greece blamed Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash for the failure of the talks on the divided island of Cyprus, accusing him of wanting to dictate policy to the European Union. "Denktash is trying to dictate his position against Cyprus joining the European Union," said a Greek official, who accused the Turkish Cypriot of blackmail. The Greek official forgets, however, that it was Greek designs on the island that precipitated the present crisis and misery.

نحن نوفر لك فرصة شراء أرض مسورة مضمونة ونوفر لك التصميمات وفرص البناء على مراحل

تعلن شركة الشروق للإستثمار والتنمية العقارية - عدن

للإخوة الأوائل من الحاجزين لدى الشركة في:

(حي الشروق السكني - عدن - المنصوره)

(المدينة الخضراء - دار سعد - شرق شارع تغز)

للحضور الى مقر الشركة لإستلام عقود البيع وكذا قطع الأرض محددة على الطبيعة ابتداءً من 97/8/20م. وسوف تقوم الشركة بأعمال التسوير لمن يرغب حسب التصميمات المعدة من قبل الشركة ..

بشركى سارة

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شارع الزبيرى



A Summer Day in the Life of Yemeni Female Students

Athena Hamoud Al-Absy*

Every summer holiday, a big problem faces students in Yemen. Female students in particular are the most disadvantaged. There are 732,198 (1995-96 record) female students in all levels of education all over the Republic. Come the summer vacation, most of these students find almost nothing to do. As girls, they are forced to remain enclosed inside the house, and engage in the daily household chores.

This is a limited case-study conducted to find out, to some extent, how Yemeni female students spend their summer holidays and free time. Four females of different backgrounds and levels of education were chosen. Their names have been changed for protection.

1. Aneesa:

Ms. Aneesa, 15, is a student at a preparatory school. She wears the brown overcoat that young women wear, but not the veil. That is because she comes from a relatively more open family.

In the summer, Aneesa wakes up at about 11 am, and helps with the household chores until 2 pm. For an hour afterwards, she practices her drawing, playing music, and writing poetry. At around 3 pm, and for one hour, Aneesa does her afternoon prayers and recites the Holy Quran.

Later on in the afternoon and as a way of recreation, Aneesa sometimes goes out window-shopping with her girl-friends. When she does buy things, the shopping bill ranges from a measly 40 Riyals, to a solid 2000 riyals.

Upon her return, she resumes her household duties - preparing the evening meal and doing other chores until 9 pm. Aneesa then watches satellite TV until after 1 am when she gets to read a book, magazine, or even next year's school curriculum books. She goes to sleep at around 2 am.

Aneesa's favorite hobbies include writing poetry, drawing, playing music, listening to Arabic songs on the recorder, and reading. She also watches films on video and satellite TV for about 4 hours

every day. In spite of all of that, she often feels bored because there is no place for girls to go to. She seldom meets with her friends at their houses. When they meet they talk mainly about social, personal and the latest gossip. Instead of chewing qat or smoking, Aneesa and her friends consume cakes, fruit juices, and roasted watermelon seeds.

"The only recreational activity open to a female in Yemen is to go out walking in the streets with her friends. Even then, the girls are subjected to all sorts of harassment by young boys and older men alike, not to mention the constant nagging by beggars," she said. The harassment takes the form of whistling, expressions, hand touching or shoulder brushing as they pass by.

Aneesa never goes to a cinema, restaurant, and rarely to a public park. That would invite more harassment.

Bedour:

Bedour, 20, is a secondary-school graduate.

She wakes up at 10 am, and immerses herself in the household chores until 2 pm. After that, she does some simple leisure activities such as listening to Arabic songs, reading, doing crossword puzzles, and of course performing the prayers at their set times. At about 5.30 pm, Bedour participates in preparing the supper until 6.30 pm when she reads a religious book until the sunset prayers. Bedour listens to the radio until 8 pm when she goes to sit at the majlis to watch Sana'a TV (In their home, they do not have satellite receivers) until the end of broadcast.

Bedour wears the full traditional veil. Her family is fiercely religious, and will not tolerate any behavior that is questionable.

Bedour sometimes watches religious films on video. She watches around 4 hours of TV programs daily. Meeting with her friends is quite rare. Bedour does not smoke or chew qat; instead, she and the rest of the female members of her family consume cakes or biscuits and fruit juices.

Bedour is basically at home waiting for a suitor with whom she will form a family.

Camelia:

Camelia at 18, is already a university student.

She wakes up at around 10.30 am, and goes on to do the household work. She spends the rest of her free time watching TV, reading, or visiting her relatives. She also tries to teach herself English by using simple learning books available at the market. "I wish more recreational facilities be allocated for women in Yemen," she said. "The most a woman can do is to sew or engage in other handicraft."

For Camelia, going out alone means asking for trouble, the least of which is getting harassed in the streets by men. During the whole summer vacation, she has only gone out of the home twice, and even that with friends to the local park. Going to a cinema is out of the question. Not having a satellite TV receiver, Camelia watches the Sana'a television broadcasts for an average of 4 hours daily. She rarely meets her friends, but talks to them on the 'telephone from time to time.

Camelia does not smoke or chew qat; cakes and fruit juices do nicely, thank you. She, however, does not do the household chores on her return to university when the family allows her to devote her full time to studying.

Camelia is dressed in conservative traditional style.

Dalal:

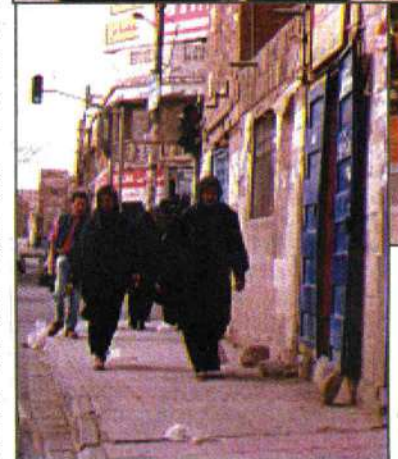
Dalal is 29 years old, has a BA in Arabic literature, and works as a social supervisor at a secondary school in Sanaa. The summer months mean more free time for her.

More or less her own boss, Dalal wears modern clothings, although not exactly western-style.

Dalal wakes up at 1 pm, and - depending on her mood - does some of the daily chores around the house. She then contacts some of her friends and arranges a meeting at the house of one of them. They meet to chat and exchange the latest gossip from around 3.30 to 8.30 pm. They sometimes go to a restaurant to have dinner afterwards. Dalal watches satellite TV programs from 11 pm to around 3 am. She goes to sleep at about 4 am.

Going out for her also involves attending wedding ceremonies, shopping, meeting friends, etc.

Like many other girls and women in general, she often complains of harassment when walking in the street. "Men often whistle, utter bad language, or even touch you," said Dalal indignantly. As a professional woman, Dalal has a larger ability to buy her own things. Her shopping bill amounts to



around YR,10,000.

During her long and many meeting with friends, Dalal chews qat and smokes cigarettes or hubble bubble, without the knowledge of her family. She discusses various social issues with her friends such as social, personal or even women's rights topics.

Before chewing qat, Dalal and her friends eat cakes or biscuits and drink the rather expensive canned fruit/soft drinks. They often buy the cake, not bake it at home.

Last but not least, she does not do the house work every day. She feels that she must realize herself as a professional female, not as a kitchen maid.

In conclusion, the day for most female young women in Yemen is turned the other way around during the summer vacation. They mostly sleep till late in the day, and stay awake till the early hours of the morning.

To look at it more positively, staying at home can enable females to polish off their house management skills such as cooking, which makes them more qualified for marriage. Yes, marriage, though that is yet another problem. Most educated Yemeni women cannot found spouses. Yemeni men are afraid of educated women since they are not as subservient as the uneducated ones.

Reading and watching TV, especially satellite TV, can widen their cultural horizons and knowledge. It can also refine their taste and attitude regarding fashion and house decoration as well as their general etiquette.

Compared to teenage boys and men who waste their time wandering about, women have a better chance of improving their general knowledge and skills. The most important aspect is that women should learn to use the information they acquire to improve their lives.

* Athena, a Sudanese national, is a university graduate in Sociology. She is doing a summer internship at Yemen Times.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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This position is open to Yemeni national only!

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Interested candidates are requested
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Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received no later than 4, September 1997.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Believe It or Not!

His name is Abdo Nasher. He was the principal of one of the larger schools in Sanaa, Abdul-Mughni on Haddah Road.

Earlier this month, the Minister of Education replaced him as principal with a new person. The new principal is not exactly too qualified for the job, either. But he comes well-recommended by the People's General Congress, for 'services' rendered, and the PSO is happy with him.

Mr. Nasher objected, but could do nothing to alter the decision. So he went home, taking with him all the school's archives,

including all kinds of records and student files. He left behind an announcement:

"Any one who wants his file should come to my home at the airport road, at Al-Juraf area.
Bring money with you."

The new principal kept the certificates under lock. As the students came asking for their year-end certificates, he asked them to first go get their file.

The students, and some of their parents, made the trek to Al-Juraf. They paid the former prin-

icipal between YR 200 to 500, and retrieved the files. Most paid an equal amount for transportation.

The new principal then himself demanded some payment for handing over the certificates.

Well, it is a 'good' start for the new minister of education, Dr. Yahia Al-Shu'aibi. He is already surrounded by people who want to show him the ropes, unless he wants a fight in his hands every hour of the day.

Can we ask the minister investigate this matter. Is it true the new principal was appointed based on a political recommendation? Is it true the former principal took home the student files? Is it true the new principal is getting rich immediately?

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AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 20-8-97.
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Indian Police Apprehends 36 Yemeni Students Without Any Justifications
- 2) Opposition Parties Condemn PSO Breaking Into Home of Journalist Omar Zain Al-Saqqaf
- 3) Huge Explosion Destroys Warehouses at Chinese Road Company HQ in Loader, Abyan
- 4) Police Arrest Suspects in Misappropriation of YR. 4 Million & Equipment from Public Sector Company in Aden
- 5) British Council to be Opened Soon in Aden

Article Summary:

Sit-In Succeeds

A leading figure in the League of the Sons of Yemen was released from the infamous Al-Bakrin PSO prison in Mukalla early in the morning of Tuesday 19th August. The six remaining League leaders intend to go on a hunger strike for being remanded in jail for more than 20 days with being formally charged.

A public sit-in was staged by the League in front of the general prosecutor's office in Mukalla on Monday 18th August. Two more sit-ins are also planned to take place in front of the PSO and the Governors H.Q. in Mukalla. The people are strongly protesting against the continuous campaign of arrests waged by the PSO against members of the opposition.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-8-97.
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Upon Receiving Opposition Delegation, the President Issues Directives to Release Uncharged Detainees
- 2) Another Explosion on Monday 18th August in Aden - One Suspect Arrested
- 3) Government Intends to Raise Fuel & Basic Commodities' Prices by Beginning of Next Month as 2nd Phase of 3rd Dose
- 4) Prominent Sheikh & his Bodyguards Involved in Shoot-Out within Court of Appeal Building

Article Summary:

University Crisis

The problem has come to the surface upon the announcement, last week, of the names of students to be admitted to the Medicine and Pharmacy colleges at Sana'a University. Out of 1,500 con-



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

tenders, 300 were admitted according to far from scientific criteria, it was alleged. The secondary school average mark and the results of the special, American-style admittance exam are not the only standards observed. People from disadvantaged regions have 5% added to their final average. This privilege is also extended to the offspring of university professors, war martyrs, and security and defense high-ranking employees. It is only natural in this case that tribal sheikhs, MPs and other influential people would want a special treatment for their offspring as well. A crisis is about to erupt within the university's administration between those in favor of increasing the numbers of admitted students and those against.

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-8-97.

[Islamic Action Movement (being formed)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Recent Aden Explosions could Lead to Officially Disbanding Socialist Party
- 2) Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Al-Ahmer Rules Out Yemen's Participation in Qatar Economic Conference
- 3) Teachers Demonstrate in Front of Ministry of Education in Protest Over Delay of their Salaries

Article Summary:

Free Zone

During the period from October, 1996 to March, 1997, a total of 30 applications have been submitted by local, Arab and foreign businessmen to invest in the Aden Free Zone. The total number of such applications has reached 487. The overall capital expected to be devoted to projects in the Free Zone is around YR.19,33 billion and more than \$1 billion. It is hoped that about 19,955 new jobs will be created, most of which will be occupied by Yemeni labor.

AL-JAMAHIR: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-8-97.

(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Ba'ath Party Participates in North Korean Independence Anniversary Celebrations
- 2) Serious Malaria Epidemic on Socotra Island Leads to Several Deaths
- 3) Ministry of Interior to Implement Special Plan to Guarantee Foreign Tourists' Safety & Security

Article Summary: Gold Smuggling

Sources in the customs authorities have indicated that hundreds of kilograms of gold are smuggled every week through Sana'a Airport. On each of the four weekly flights to New Delhi, at least 30 or 40 passengers are involved in gold smuggling. The sources also indicated that each smuggler carries at least 5kg of gold. One particular person was caught carrying 11kg of gold worth \$95,000. Most of the smugglers are Yemeni nationals. Some Somali women are also involved. The average quantity of gold smuggled every week out of the country is estimated at around 800kg.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-8-97.

(Yemeni Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President: "Negotiations with Saudi Arabia are proceeding positively towards a just resolution."
- 2- Council of Ministers Ratifies Consolidated

Structural Reform Program

- 3- \$80 Million Soft Loan to be Provided by World Bank to Facilitate Financial Reform
- 4- \$4.5 Billion Invested in Natural Gas Project
- 5- 9 Water Wells Re-commissioned in Sana'a to Produce 11,000 Cubic Meters a Day

Article Summary:

Kidnapping the Homeland - editorial

The series of kidnapping foreign tourists in Yemen cannot be dissociated from an overall conspiracy targeting the security and stability of the whole country. The perpetrators are a group of renegades who take their orders and ill-gotten money from their masters abroad. Their evil objectives go beyond just tarnishing Yemen's international image. Yemen's good relations with many friendly countries are at a stake here. Such acts as abducting innocent tourists are widely abhorred by the peaceful Yemeni people. Kidnapping Yemen's guests is like holding the whole homeland to ransom.

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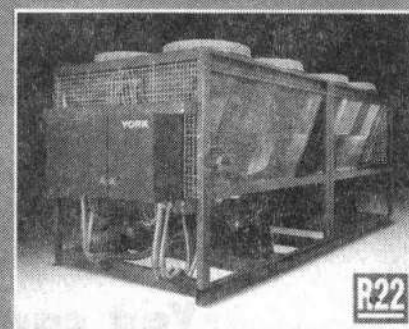
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NEWS CLIPS:

Yemen to Participate in Tehran Sport Conference:

Yemen's Olympic Committee (YOC) received an invitation from the Secretariat General of Union of West Asian Games to participate in the Sports Scientific Conference that will be held in Tehran, Iran, during 17-19, November, 1997. The Olympic Committee has notified all qualified sportsmen and commentators who have research work they want to present to the conference to contact. Deadline is end of September 1997. The Committee will cover all expenses of the participants, including, a round-trip ticket, and room and board allowances.

Football Matches:

Following is a round-up of last week's football games:

In Sanaa:

- Al-Ahli team of Hodaida won against Al-Ahli of Sanaa: 3-2. The game was played on August 18th.
- The Wahdah football team lost its 2nd match with the Saudi Al-Ahli of Jeddah on 20th August 1997. The results were 1-3 goals.
- The Ta'awun of Ba'dan lost to the Yarmouk of Sanaa. As'ad Al-Qusami of Yarmouk scored the only goal of the match.
- The Saqr and Rasheed teams ended in a tie; one goal for each team.

In Aden:

Ashraf Mahfoodh from Tilal, Khaled Afara from Al-Wahdah of Aden and Aref Abdurabbob of Shu'la who are players in Yemen's National Team, have been contracted to play for the Lebanese Tadhamon Club for one year. The Yemeni players will, according to their contract, receive a monthly salary in the amount of US\$ 600 plus accommodation in Lebanon. Each also got an agreement bonus of US\$ 7000 paid upon signing the contract.

This is the second time that Yemeni professional footballers play for other Arab country. The late Ali Mohsen Muraisi, a famous famous footballer during the fifties and sixties, had played for the Egyptian Zamalek team.

- Almeena football team of Aden, classified

in the 4th Competition Group, defeated the Salam of Sadah by 3 goals against none.

In Taiz:

- Al-Hilal Team of Hodaida played against Shabab Al-Mahweet. The game ended with 8 goals scored by Al-Hilal and 2 for Shabab.
- A match which brought Fahman and Talai'ah teams ended with 2 goals for each of them.
- Al-Saqr football team was promoted to the first class league after defeating Al-Ahli by 2 goals against nil.
- Al-Saqr, also, played against Al-Rasheed team and won the match by scoring 4 goals against nil.
- Finally, AlSaqr played against Al-Wahdah of Turbah ending the match with a two-nil victory.

In Hadhramaut:

- Al-Jeel Youth Team defeated the Police Club team. Player Salman Ahmed scored the match's only goal.
- The Nasr of Hajjah played a football match with Shabab of Amran and ended by three goals scored by Nasr Hajjah against two goals by Shabab Amran.

Al-Hodaida :

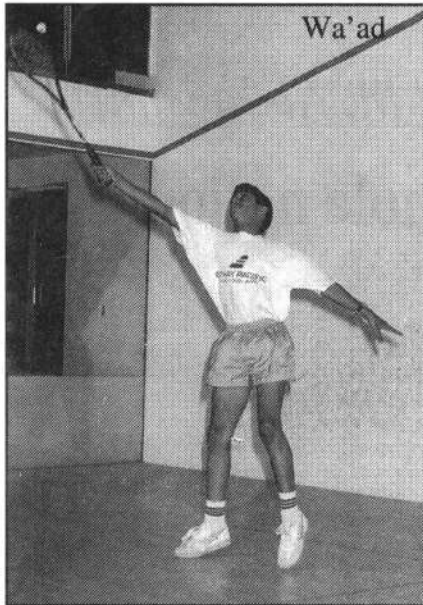
- 25 persons representing Al-Ahli of Hodaida (19 players & 6 administrators) left for Jeddah last week. After games on the 28th and 31st August, and September, 2nd the team will fly to the United Arab Emirates to play two games on the 6th and 9th of September 1997.

Yemen Faces Uzbekistan Today

In response to the request of the Coach Salem Abdul-Rahman, Yemen's National Football Team is scheduled to play against Uzbekistan today, Monday, August 24th. The game is part of the Asian Elimination Games for the World Football Cup.

Dr. Salem to Train Yemeni Judo Team

Dr. Shayef A. Salem, the Coach of Judo, is delegated by the Union of Judo to train aspiring young athletes in Yemen. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Salem, while studying in Pakistan, has trained several Pakistani teams, including the National Team, and the First Pakistani Female Team. In addition he had trained the Kenyan National Judo Team. Dr. Shayef is approved by the Union to preside over the committee of Judo Referees.



Another Yemeni Athlete Gets International Recognition:

Wa'ad Badr Hamoud Al-Hashimi, a Yemeni athlete of fifteen years and who lives with his parents in the United Arab Emirates, has just won the Classic Plate Prize in Squash. At the end of 36 games, Waad came out on top. The final four matches of the games, DUNLOP-MILO Malaysian Junior Open 97, were played in Malaysia during 14-17 August. The Yemeni athlete who is sponsored by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, got second place in the international squash games for juniors played last week in Hong Kong.

A Master's Degree for Yemeni Karate Coach

The well-known Yemeni coach of Karate games - Mukhtar Hamid Saif acquired a master's degree as a karate coach, which makes him an expert in the game. The degree was awarded by the Karate Union of the Arab Republic of Egypt, based on a nomination by the Arab Union of Karate. Mr. Saif had presented a research pertaining to the situation of karate game in Yemen, its methods and problems, at present. Mukhtar is considered one of the founders of karate games in Yemen. He exerts great efforts to upgrade and improve the standard of this game. Mukhtar is a coach and a referee, as well, for this game.

Sports in Yemen: Trials & Tribulations

Sarah Tajuldin*

Yemen suffers from a sport "illiteracy." This conclusion is a direct result of a quick observation of how many people engage in sports, of whatever kind. The majority of the Yemenis do not practice any kind of physical activity for various reasons. There is no suitable sports infrastructure. For example, how many athletic centers, clubs and playgrounds exist even in the capital city. What kind of facilities are there? Qat is also to blame for taking up most of the people's free time. Most young people, and increasingly the children, spend most of their afternoons chewing. A good part of society sees sports as a luxury or at best a hobby. They are oblivious to the fact that sport is a form of gaining personal health and fitness. That is why most individuals lack the motivation. Sports also require a commitment, given the endurance and long-term nature of the engagement. Having said all that, however, Yemenis quickly seize an opportunity when it presents itself. That is why we have some examples of individuals who have excelled. In addition, newly introduced sports are speedily taken up by the youths. I have visited a recently opened store selling sports equipment. "We opened for business based on the results of a market survey," said the manager, adding that "the response is overwhelming." People from different social backgrounds, males and females, and of varying ages visit the store daily. The store consists of several sections: sports equipment, sportswear, training shoes, marine and sea equipment, toys, etc. "In general, about 70% of the visitors make a purchase in their first visit, 30% buy on their second round, and 10% do not come back," he stated. "Yemenis constitute about 60% of the clientele." Another sports store on Zubairi Street indicated that male athletes are mainly interested in sports equipment such as muscle-building and exercise machines and billiard tables more than sportswear. Women, on the other hand, are more into weight-shedding and fitness instruments and outfits such as the belly-tucking belt, the muscle toner and, to a far lesser extent, bathing costumes. "The women's enthusiasm for these outfits is quite remarkable," announced the store keeper. "They have become more aware and more eager to keep in touch with the recent additions and developments in the world of sports and physical fitness." Although many stores have sprung up in Yemeni cities selling many modern, up-to-date facilities that are currently being advertised on satellite channels, the majority of the population does not have the financial means to buy such equipment. The general public usually trains in public clubs, thus effectively excluding the female athletes who find it awkward, if invited at all, to train in public places. Thus, the government and private sector will have to establish more modern sports clubs, and equip them with good facilities so that sports would become more popular in this country, besides football. In addition, there must be special consideration for the type of sports that women prefer, and specific times and dates must be set aside for female athletes to come and train.

* Sarah Tajuldin is doing a summer internship at Yemen Times. She is a Sudanese student at Sanaa University.

YHOC Gets a New General Manager

The incumbent General Manager of Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC), Mr. Kenneth W. Harbin is leaving his Yemen post to become Vice President at the Company head office in Dallas, USA. Mr. Bill Lewis is taking over. Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met both gentlemen, and filed these interviews. Excerpts:

Q: How long have you been in Yemen?
A: Almost 3 years. I have been working in Yemen, and making several good trips since 1991. I have been a resident for the last two and a half years.

Q: You are getting ready to leave?
A: Yes, I plan to leave on Wednesday 27th August. But I'll still be working on the Yemen Hunt activities. I'll probably be making a number of trips back to Yemen from time to time.

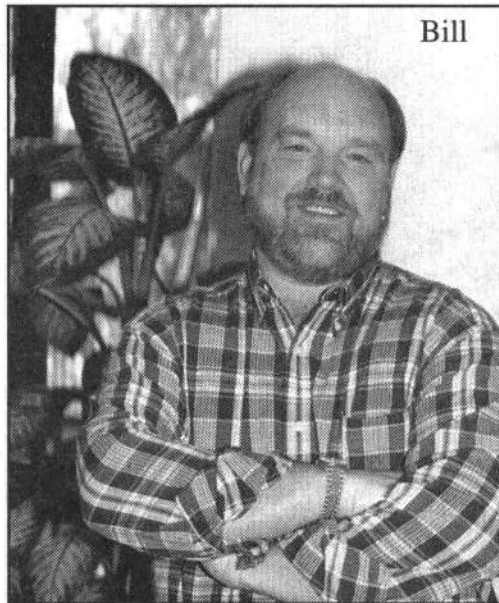
Q: How was your experience here in Yemen?
A: This was my first overseas assignment. It has been a great cultural experience for me. I have been able to travel to some other countries in the Middle East and Africa. My wife and I gained tremendously from that. We find that people here are very friendly. You can't help but like the people. We traveled to some of the villages around different parts of the country. My wife and I will leave behind many Yemeni friends in the Ministry, the government and some expatriate friends too.

Q: How do you evaluate your work achievements?
A: In the time I have been here, we put a lot of

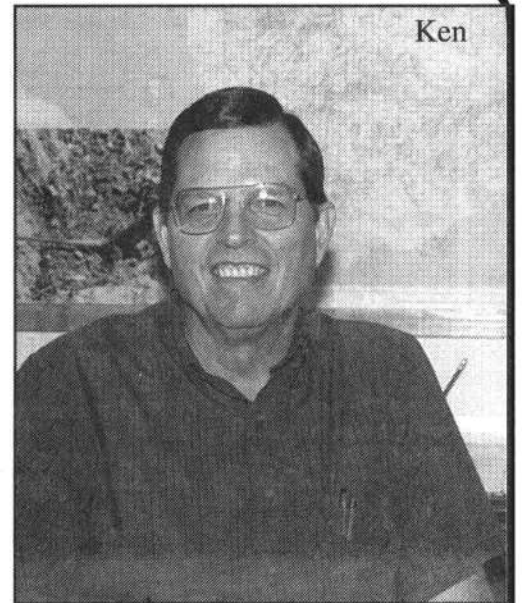
key Yemeni personnel into management positions. When I came, I think we had one Yemeni manager, now we have nine. We have upgraded our training program for the Yemenis. I guess that is one of the achievements I am proud. We have also been able to maintain our oil producing rate at a pretty high level, which is very difficult to do. I've had a lot of interaction with many ministries within the government. I also have good links with a number of embassies, and other friends.

Q: How do you see the future of Yemen in general, and oil in Yemen?
A: I am impressed by the diligence of the Yemeni people. However, you can't but notice Yemen has a lot of needs. Yemen also has a tremendous potential. I am glad to see that the Liquefied Gas Project (LNG) seems to be going well. That is a project that Total is heading-up, but we will still have an interest. The gas for that project will be coming from the land properties that we operate. It will be piped to the Balhaf gas liquefaction plant. Liquefied gas will then be transported and sold to the rest of the world. I see the free port in Aden as an other big potential help for the economy. Yemen has a bright future ahead of it.

The new YHOC General-Manager, Mr. Bill Lewis, has a degree in Petroleum Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Eng. Lewis, 43, has been working on the Yemeni project in various capacities, on and off, since 1984. He is now here to direct charge.



Bill



Ken

Q: How do you see your come back to Yemen?
A: I have lived here before. My Middle East experience has been in Yemen, so it Yemen is not really a new country for me. It is my second home. I have many friends here - both Yemeni and expatriates. I am quite comfortable working here. I look forward to working with the people at the Ministry and at the field. I worked with many Yemeni managers training programs. It gives me real satisfaction to have seen them advance so well. I think my adjustment will be quite easy.

Q: What are your new plans?
A: First and foremost, I'd like to make sure that we continue to produce oil as economically as possible. I'll work with Yemeni employees to help them further their experience. I also aim to

continue the policies that George Slauster and Ken Harbin set before me. They have set a good course. We'll just try to keep going.

Q: How do you see your residency in Yemen?
A: I am extremely optimistic. I think my term in Yemen will be good for myself and for the project. I think we have got a good staff. And we have quality reservoirs to work with. I am always optimistic.

Q: Any last comment?
A: I am really pleased to get the opportunity to come back to Yemen. I think it is going to be a real challenging job. I'll give my best effort. I am following someone who has done an excellent job. I hope too will do as well as he has. I am going to work hard on that.

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Mohammad M. Al-Jawahiri:

"It is as if the whole nation is dying."

"As if whole Britain is dying..."
 — A British woman on the death of Sir Winston Churchill

On July 26th, 1997, one long guilded page of Arab literary history was folded away. Mohammad Mahdi Al-Jawahiri had demised, the sad news over the phone came crying. For many Arabs, Al-Jawahiri was the greatest, and may be the last, of the classical Arab poets of modern times. For Iraqis in particular, he is the materialization of their 20th century history.

For over 94 years, Al-Jawahiri was an eye witness who lived daily events of Iraqi and Arab life. He monitored, contemplated and wrote the best of classics registering the happening of this century. Being the son of the city of Najaf, where poetry is like air and water, the young boy started his century old message in a religious environment. His strict up-bringing never succeeded to turn this young heart from revolting against all kinds of restriction. And what other than poetry can be the tool of revolting in such conservative society.

No major event of the 20th century had escaped Al-Jawahiri's pen. No king or ruler can claim being neglected. Having his first poetry collection published in 1920- the year of the establishment of the Iraqi modern state - Al-Jawahiri had his poetry crying in young love

feelings as well as for the great Iraqi revolution against the British occupation.

The great visionary went on writing, siding with the poor and the oppressed. A large part of his poetry was devoted to the social cause, the misery of women and peasants, laborers struggle, and of course colonialism. World events were also present in his art work, global wars and major turnovers of history were subject of many his poems. He had experienced public office, teaching and journalism as well as imprisonment and exile. The latter proved to be his eternal destiny. Cairo, Damascus, Beirut and Prague were his main exiles. To all, he has written, and from all he wrote to his beloved homeland. revolution is a basic part of the poet's character, Al-Jawahiri used to say. The poet's rebellious soul always transform into eternal art. He never believed in the poetry that sings for revolutions, he rather believed in poetry that makes them happen. Revolution in his opinion is endless and limitless, and should be going on until the end of time. He was also a firm believer of freedom, saying that no literature can form and evolve without breaking off the chains that keep it from flying high into the horizons of creativity, being chains of official and social censorship, or chains of old literary forms and customs.

Firmly devoted to classical forms of poetry, Al-Jawahiri

kept his poetic leadership throughout the century, despite the existence of great Arab poets all around. He did not reject the modern poetry, in contrary, he believed in it as the tool of change, but he thought that he has not yet matured enough to effect such change. having the new forms coming into Arab literature, he never gave way thereto, and kept on his style to be crowned as the leading Arab poet of modern times.

Al-Jawahiri's poetry is the best ever history book on Iraq. The reader can, in addition to plair recording of history, feel and touch the essence of the Iraqi soul with all its characteristics of sadness and agony, combined with dreamy romanticism. Love was always there as well, so was the woman. Despite the fact that love poems were fewer in size and number in comparison to those of social and political issues, his love poems are landmarks to remember.

How can you write about the master who taught generations of writers how to read, taste and write true literature? What words can do justice to one of the greatest artists of words? The only feeling I can truly express in words, when I received the sad news, is that the whole homeland is dying.

By: Saad Salah Khalis, Iraqi intellectual living in Sanaa.

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