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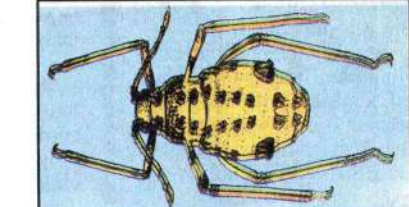
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Over 7.6 Million Trees Saved: A Successful Biological Enemy for the Peach Stem Aphid Introduced in Yemen

"This is a wonderful insect. It has devoured the brown peach stem aphid. My trees are now safe," said Naji, a farmer in the Bait Bows area, to the south of Sanaa city. The farmer indicated the Pauesia antennata, some sort of a fly, which is a biological and natural enemy of the aphid. The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization's office in Sanaa have found and bred the fly. They have distributed 40,000 Pauesia antennata to the farmers during July 1997. They



have done their job. During 1996, the aphid destroyed thousands of trees pushing many farmers bankrupt. "At first, we used chemical sprays to stop the aphid. We sprayed 4,023,981 trees during 1996. It worked, but for only a short time. Then we introduced chemicals, injecting them into the soil around the roots of the trees, giving them more resistance. Those efforts gave us the time we needed to find a biological enemy for the aphid," said Shahid Mahdi, FAO representative. **More on page 8**



Egyptian Premier in Sanaa on November 6th

YEMEN & EGYPT WARM UP TO EACH OTHER

Yemen and Egypt have decided to strengthen their bilateral relations and to coordinate their regional and international policies. In a visible link up between the two countries, several steps are being taken to bring the two fraternal Arab countries closer. On November 6th, Dr. Kamal Al-Janzoury, Prime Minister of Egypt, will pay an official visit to Sanaa, his first ever. He will lead a large delegation of officials and businessmen

who will engage in cooperation discussions with their Yemeni counterparts. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council, is scheduled to land in Cairo a month later the head of a large delegation. Egyptian Culture Minister, Dr. Farooq Hosni, has just concluded a visit to Yemen. The 2 sides plan to coordinate external policies to maximize their input in regional matters.

Yemen Times Attended the Meeting:

Businessmen Unable to Achieve Smooth Transition

Ismail Al-Ghabry, Yemen Times.

It was chaotic. People were shouting at each other. There was a lot of name-calling. It was the Thursday, October 2nd meeting of the Executive Board of the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The loud accusations and counter-accusations could


be heard from a distance. The Board was discussing ways and means to achieve a smooth transition in leadership. Haj Hussain Al-Watary, Chairman, at the job for ages, is now under intensive pressure to let go. Even official authorities would like to see the change happen, according to reliable Yemen Times sources. **More on page 6**

32,000 New Students Admitted at Universities

The number of new students admitted at Yemeni universities this year exceeds 32,000, according to statistics. Over 60% of these were taken in by Sanaa University, and over 75% are male students. Over 90% of the enrollments are in government universities.


This bewildering level of enrollment comes at a time when university graduates are unable to find jobs. "Basically, our attitude and cultural orientation have to change. People simply want high certificates," indicated a Ministry of Education source.

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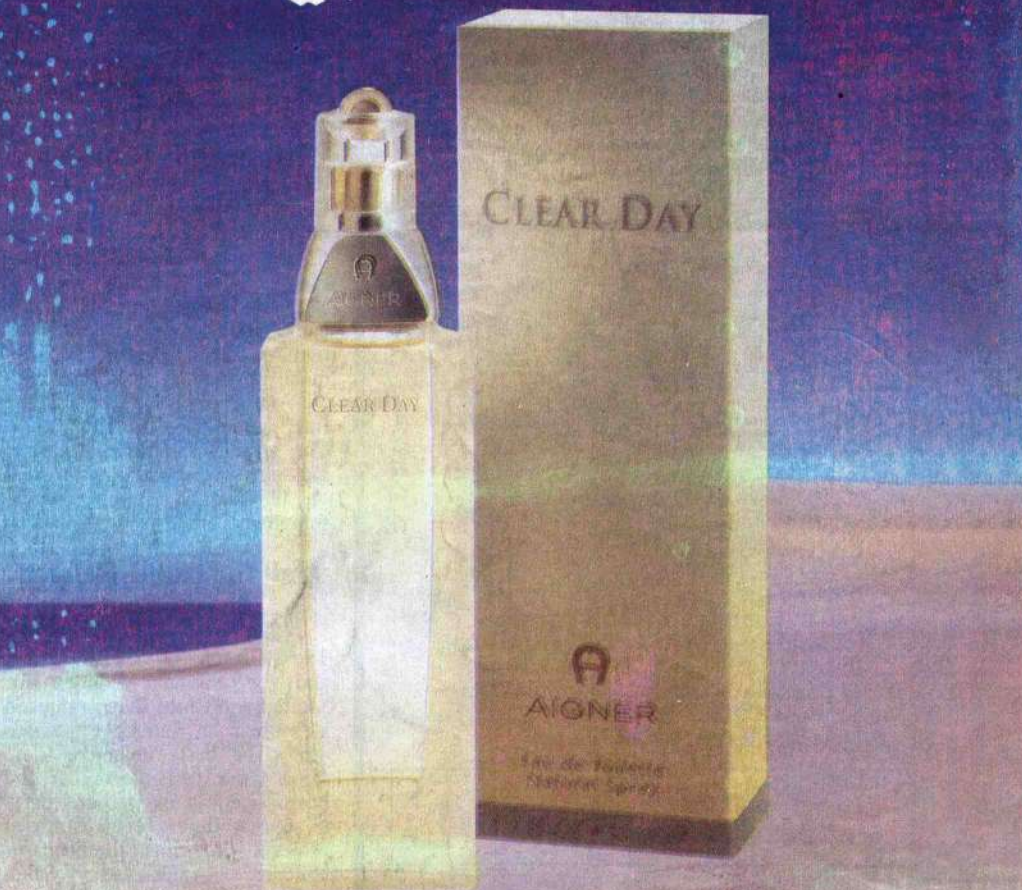
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OUR VIEWPOINT

For More Dignity of the State: The Need for Action NOW!

The parade marking the 35th anniversary of the 26th of September Revolution included an impressive show of military hardware. The state displayed its prowess. This is one way to impress people to revere the state. But it is only one way. There are many other ways that help establish the prestige, credibility and dignity of the state. One important way is to preserve a minimum level of integrity. Indeed, a system with integrity is one that commands the respect of others. The present system of the Republic of Yemen does not have the minimum level of integrity, and it is this fact that erodes its very legitimacy and prestige.

What is integrity?

The dictionary defines integrity as the quality of being of sound moral principle, upright, honest and sincere. In a system that is overwhelmed with corruption, carelessness, lack of accountability, etc., it is very hard to preserve integrity. Because it is the belief of many Yemenis and foreign observers that the system only reacts to pressure. It does not have a built-in integrity to be fair and correct.

Embodiment of the Problem?

Corruption is a worldwide plague. It exists because it is part of human nature to deviate. But the public guards against this deviant behavior. At least when exposed, a corrupt person is subjected to penalties. Here in Yemen, it doesn't happen. If the deviant person is influential, he/she gets away with it. In some cases, the deviant official is removed from his present post, but is quickly given another.

In other words, the fact that some official has fallen in the public eye because he has been caught red-handed does not mean that his career is over. You can list one example after another. This situation forces one to conclude that the system is cornered by the corrupt.

One of the major changes needed in the reform process is to establish some degree of accountability. To weed out the bad elements is an important step, not only for the system to regain credibility and prestige, but also to help speed up the development process. For example, foreign investments cannot be entertained unless there is a working system, based on law, order and integrity.

All over the world, the public does not think much of officialdom. The prestige of the state is as low as it can get. But here in Yemen, we have struck a new record. When officials speak, say on television, I have noticed many families either turn off the set, or leave the room to do something else. They are just fed up with all the lies.

Some of the prestige and credibility of the Yemeni state can be restored. For that to happen, however, some tangible steps need to be taken. These include bringing some of the notorious violators to trial. Another step would be to revitalizing the watch-dog roles of parliament, the attorney-general's office, the Central Audit and Control Organization, and the media. More transparency and accountability are needed and a visible attempt must be made to weed out the rotten public officials.

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Child Labor Seminar

Organized by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, in cooperation with the ILO, UNICEF, and WHO, a seminar starts in Sana'a today, October 6th. It will last till the 8th. Several governmental bodies, employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs, and international organizations are taking part in this seminar.

The youthful Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, Eng. Mohammed Al-Tayyeb has been quite active in various aspects of women labor as well as the negative phenomenon of child labor.

According to statistics released by the ministry, about 6.5% of the work force in Yemen is composed of children. Denied proper schooling, most of these children grow up to be illiterate. The seminar aims to address this dangerous phenomenon by reviewing experiences from other Arab and foreign countries, and adopting a suitable policy for the Yemeni society.

Interplast Medical Team Arrives in Yemen

A Dutch medical team from Interplast-Holland arrived here yesterday, Sunday, October 5th. "The team consists of 3 surgeons, one anesthetist, and one operation assistant," said Dr. Piet van den Akker, the person who had initiated the visit.

The surgeons will perform reconstructive operations in Al-Thawra, Sabeen and Kuwait hospitals in Sanaa; as well as in hospitals in Hodeidah, Taiz, and Aden. He added that "of 600 patients who had registered, some 300 with urgent and complicated cases will be treated."

The medical team will stay for two weeks only (until 19th October). Patients with congenital deformities, and skin disorders due to burns and/or accidents will undergo corrective operations. Priority will be given to cases of children. "The operations will be free of charge," announced Dr. van Akker. The trip is being financed through specially-reduced fares by KLM and financial support from the Netherlands Embassy.

While performing, the Dutch doctors will invite Yemeni doctors to watch and learn so that they can improve their skill in the service of patients.

Habitat II Seminar

Under the theme "Adequate Settlement for All", the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning, celebrates today, Monday, October 6th, a Habitat II gathering. The event, which sheds light on the condition of settlements in Yemen, coincides with the Arab Day for Housing and the International Habitat Day.

The Minister, Eng. Abdullah Hussain Al-Daffee, plans to call on all sides to support Yemeni settlements and dwellings.

Call for Child-Related Investments

The Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Council for Mother and Child Care organized a seminar on Saturday, October 4th. "The basic objective is to direct the attention of the business community to the lucrative possibilities in investing in projects which meet the needs of children," said Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister.

A paper presented at the seminar indicated that the country imports almost US\$ 2 billion worth of goods related to children. "It is a big market," the Deputy Minister added.

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Ali Mohammed Saeed:

“Our Group has undertaken a new investment of US\$ 45 million in a grain and flour silos in Aden.”

The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies is not just another business. It is an important player in the country's development process. This is clear from the major investment undertakings, its contribution to national welfare through support of local efforts, and it supports infrastructure construction.

This week, the Group has contracted a major local construction company to build the 9 kilometer stretch connecting Taiz city to the peak of Sabir Mountain. The total cost is around US\$ 12.5. The money basically comes from HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Defence Minister of Saudi Arabia, as a gesture of goodwill and friendship to the people of Yemen.

The Chairman of the Board for the Hayel Saeed Group is Haj Ali Mohammed Saeed, one of the influential men of this country.

From the very start of the September 26th Revolution, he was involved. In fact, he was a member of the first Revolutionary Command Council and a Minister in the first government. Today, he is a member of the Consultative Council, and continues to exert positive influence on politics and business.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to him about a number of issues. Excerpts.

Q: Yemen these days is celebrating the anniversary of the Revolution. Could you tell us a bit more about it?

A: It was a time of enthusiasm and patriotism. We were young and we all worked for the national interest against the Imam and the darkness he represented. I personally participated in a small way. I was responsible for financial and organizational mobilization. I played this role starting from around 1946-47 with Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Noman and other thinkers and leaders of the revolution in Aden. We fought in two fronts - one against the Imam and his oppression in the north, and the other against British colonial rule in the south.

Our followers escaped from side to the other, depending on intensity of oppression. The basic nucleus was in Aden, where we mobilized money and intellectual support for the Revolution.

We held continuous meetings, especially in Taiz, with army officers such as Ali Al-Badri, Ahmed Al-Washaly, Ahmed Al-Kibsi, Sa'ad Al-Ashwal, Ali Mohammed Al-Khawi, Mohammed Mofarrih, and many others who were involved in the 1962 revolution. In Sana'a, we had contacts with Abdullah Al-Sallal, Abdullah Jozailan, Hassan Al-Amri, Abdulsalam Sabra, and others. We used to meet at the house of Abdullah Al-Baqeen with Sheikh Mohammed Ali Othman, Mohammed Hassan, and Mohammed Abulwasi' Noman. In Hodeidah, we made contacts with Ahmed Al-Jayfi

and Sheikh Alaya. There were many fighters who made great sacrifices and died unknown.

We had some setbacks prior to the successful 1962 Revolution. Remember martyrs such as Al-Thulaya and Al-Luqayya and others who died in earlier unsuccessful attempts.

Q: Tell us more about the immediate days following the 1962 Revolution?

A: Well, as everybody knows, the Revolution was launched on Thursday, September 26th. We had no resources, except our own zeal and rightness of cause. Immediately, a Revolutionary Command Council was set up. This was the highest body of the Republic, and responsible to make the major decisions. I was a member of the Revolution Command Council. I was also a minister in the first government formed by the Republic.

I remained in those posts until 1966, when I resigned in order to resume the commercial activities of the Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies. But I did retain the title of economic advisor to the President.

Later on, I returned to government service, occupying the post of minister of health, and member of the Presidential Council. Still later, I felt I could do better in a job that has a business focus. So, I was named President of the Yemen Bank for Development and Reconstruction. I was also a member of the Shoura Council and the People's Council.

Those were the hard days.



Q: The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies is perceived as having made enormous contributions to the national well-being. Can you comment on that?

A: The Hayel Saeed Anam Group's contribution to the national economy is well-known. Our commitment to the national economy is visible through our investments in this country. Our industrial enterprise started in 1970 when conditions in Yemen were still turbulent in the aftermath of the revolution and subsequent in-fighting. Our faith in the future of the country was our major source of motivation. We started with 120 workers.

Today, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group employees about 10,000 workers and employees in various parts of the country. We pay over YR 3 billion in annual taxes and fees to the state.

The group also heavily invests in charity work. We finance local development efforts. We contribute to the building of schools, mosques, health centers, water projects, road construction, etc. I consider our contribution as a patriotic duty. People are only remembered by their services to their community.

Q: You spoke of continued investments in Yemen. What are the latest of these investments?

A: The latest project is the flour mills and silos in Aden for which the President of the Consultative Council has recently laid the foundation. This is the first and biggest project of its kind to be carried out by the private sector in Yemen. It costs around \$45 million. There are also plans for a marble factory and a luxury hotel in Taiz as well as other projects which are the pipeline, and which I cannot disclose at the moment.

Q: You are also involved in major development projects for the general welfare of the public. The Taiz-Sabar road project comes to mind. How far has this project come?

A: We have signed the construction contract. Work has started at the beginning of this month by the Saba Contracting Company. Equipment and machinery are already in place. We are waiting for the President or his representative to lay the foundation stone for this project. In the meantime, work is in progress.

you can see, there is a small deficit. But this is not a problem. The Prince trusted us with the money, and we are honor-bound to make good on his good will. We will see the project through, whatever it takes.

By the way, the Prince told me that we can always count on his support if we needed more funding. So, there is no meaning in speaking about a deficit.

I also want to state that the gesture of Prince Sultan has found an overwhelming response of appreciation and gratitude among the people of Taiz, in particular, and the people of Yemen, in general. I hope, he will come back one day to say the project he paid for completed.

Q: How long is the construction period?

A: The project's contract period is 20 months. Let us say, it will take two years to complete the whole thing.

Q: You are a member of the Consultative Council (CC). How do you evaluate the role of the CC, so far?

A: The CC is still at the beginning of the road. We will be addressing and studying many issues that concern our citizens. All efforts are channeled for the benefit of the people.

The issues which the CC has tackled so far are of paramount importance. For example, we have handled administration zoning of the districts and governorates, local government, the water crisis, blood feuds, etc.

Credit for founding this council goes to the President of the republic, who saw the need for a body that brings the elders of the nation together. The role played by the Chairman of the CC has also given it more stature.

I believe that the members are well chosen from different backgrounds and affiliations. Discussions held at the CC are quite deep and objective.

Q: How do you see Yemen in the next century?

A: I see Yemen's place in the world community with much optimism. It all boils down to working hard based on a vision and good thinking. Thus, we will guarantee a bright future for the country. There are many problems, of course, but they should not frustrate us. Much has been achieved already, in terms of advances in services, industry and agriculture. For those of us who remember the dark days before the Revolution, we do realize how far the nation has come.

Q: Any last comment?

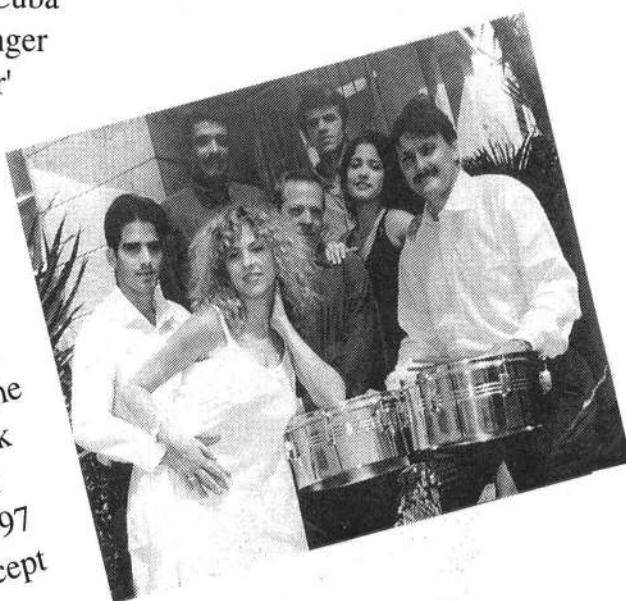
A: I want to use this occasion to congratulate the Yemeni people and our President on the anniversary of the Revolution. These are times for celebrating, but they are also an occasion to think about what we can do and where we are headed.

It is my sincere belief that it is our destiny to rise up among the peoples of the world and contribute positively to world harmony, peace and progress.

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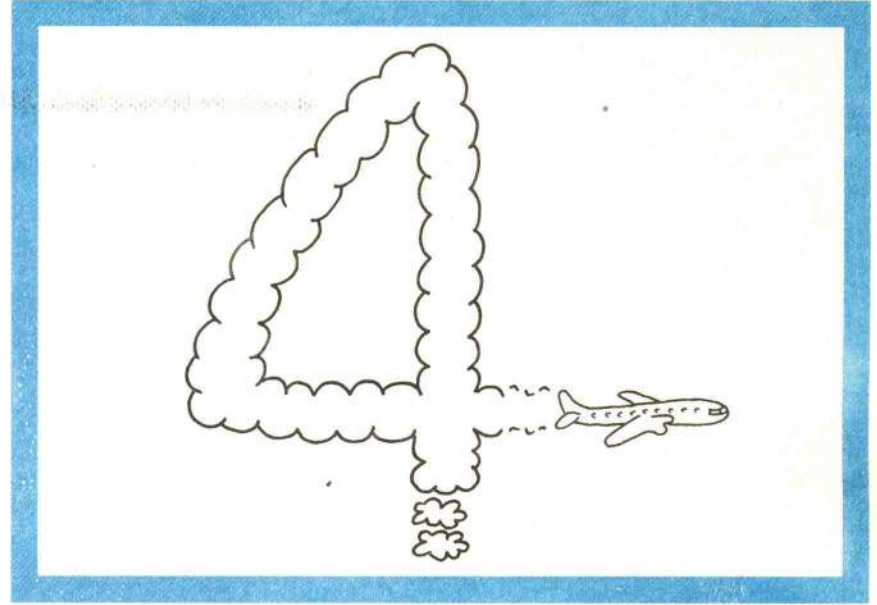


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Legal Aspects of Environmental Protection

Mr. Abdullah Al-Muhayya is a lawyer at the Supreme Court. He has recently written a book entitled the "Yemeni Environmental Protection Law." Al-Muhayya, 47, graduated from the Law College in Baghdad in 1974. He is currently the legal advisor for the Environment Protection Council in Yemen.



Q: What has motivated you to write this book about environment legislation in Yemen?

A: I wanted to make a contribution towards raising public awareness of environmental issues. Yemen suffers from various forms of pollution which makes it crucially important to protect and preserve our environment for the common good of all society. It is one of the human rights that people should live in a clean and healthy environment.

Q: How long did it take to author this book? And what references did you rely on?

A: I spent six months researching and writing my book. I tried to make good use of a large number of UN publications on this matter.

Q: What are the major environmental problems in Yemen?

A: Environmental problems emanate from two major factors: uncontrolled population growth and rapid industrialization. These problems are manifested in the form of bad sewerage disposal, water scarcity, lack of hygiene, desertification, epidemics, etc.

Q: Are there any loopholes or shortcomings in Yemeni environmental legislations?

A: There are many points to be dealt with. For example, there is a ministry for urban planning, but there is no housing law in Yemen. On the other hand, the environmental protection law stipulates the issuance of regulations concerning environmental issues related to the housing and urban planning.

Q: What are the problems of enacting the law in Yemen?

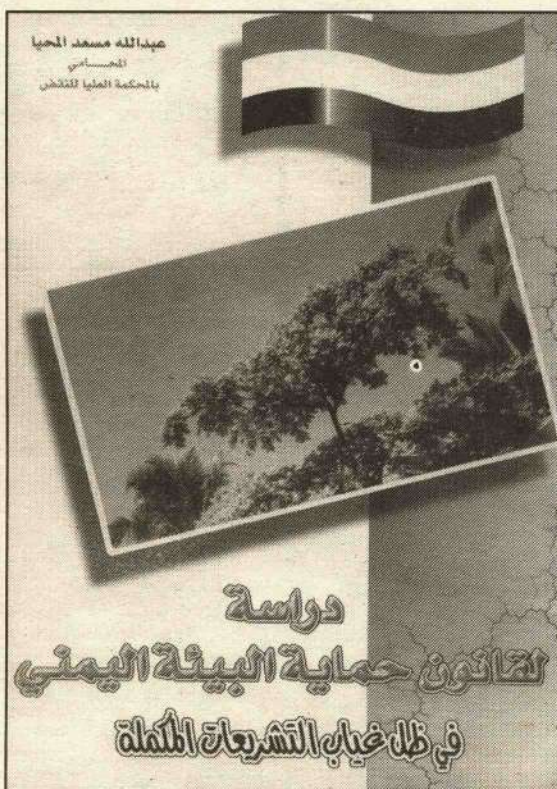
A: As long as there is not much public awareness, people will not respect the law. To prove my point, there are no legal cases brought by individuals or groups for polluting the envi-

ronment whether by public or private organisations.

Yemeni Environmental Protection Law (222 pp. published by the author) consists of two main parts: Environmental Protection Law and Complementary Legislations. The first part consists of four chapters. The first chapter deals with the general principles and provisions of environmental protection. Protecting the environment from pollution is dealt with in the second chapter. This is followed by topics on the issues of violations, compensations, and punishments. The fourth chapter presents views, suggestions and recommendations.

The first chapter of the second part deals with the marine environmental law. Environmental protection from the view point of the criminal law is discussed in the second chapter. The third chapter deals with environmental legislations in the regulations of various ministries. International environmental conventions complementing the Yemeni law are presented in detail in the fourth chapter.

Managing Editor,
Yemen Times



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The Water Crisis of Yemen: Sizing the Problem, Offering Solutions



By:
Jamal Mohammed Abdo

supply in the Middle East region, itself already an arid area, is 1250 cubic meters per person. This is almost tenfold the volume for Yemen. Let us take the comparison to the world level. The average replenishable water supply in the world is 7500 cubic meters per person. In other words, 58 fold the average for Yemen.

There is an additional problem. The crisis is getting worse. At this moment, there are over 45,000 wells pumping water from the underground reservoirs, which have taken centuries to build. Moreover, there are 200 drilling wells busy at work making more holes. Given that the underground reservoirs hold some 21 billion cubic meters, the last drop of water will be pumped out within a maximum of forty years, at the current rate of depletion. What happens then, is anybody's guess.

The deficit between what is extracted and what is replenished in 1990 was 700 million cubic meters. By the year 2010, it will exceed 1,200 million cubic meters.

2. Problem Manifestations:
There are many ways in which the problem manifests itself. Let us put them in 3 categories:

a) Depletion of Underground Reservoirs:

i- The problem is clearly seen in the falling level of the underground water reservoirs.

ii- The rising cost of water supply is a clear indicator of the deteriorating imbalance between supply and demand.

iii- The salination and pollution of underground water. This is because sea water or sewer water creeps into the drinking water basins.

b) Unavailability of Water:

When there is a water problem, either populations have to be moved closer to sources of water supply, or water has to be moved to population settlements. Both are costly, and for Yemen, beyond reach.

Already some urban centers are unable to get minimally adequate water supply. Taiz city residents, for example, receive water supply once a month. The situation in Sanaa and Sa'adah is reaching crisis conditions.

c) General Inadequacy of Water Supply:

In the Republic of Yemen, less than 60% receive potable water supplies. In the countryside, water supply is a more serious problem. The pervasive use of pesticides and the improper sewer drainage system have negatively affected the quality of underground water basins.

3. The Causes!

There are many reasons why this problem has grown out of control. Some of the causes include:

a) Technologies:

- One of the main causes of this crisis is the introduction of modern technologies in extracting underground water. This has resulted in an enormous level of well drilling.

- At the same time, the water-effective use is low. Farmers still use old ways of irrigation. Some experts believe up to 60% of the irrigation water is lost.

b) Higher Demand:

- The 3.6% annual population growth has put a serious burden on water demand. This is especially true because water consumption patterns have changed to the worse.

- Another reason for higher demand is the change in farm products. Yemeni farmers have shifted to cash-crops, which although yielding higher returns to the farmers, also require more irrigation. Qat growing is a case in point.

- Of course, the growth in land under cultivation, an average of 6.5% per annum, also leads to higher demand.

c) Economic Factors:

There are also economic reasons for the crisis. These include:
- Water is badly underpriced. The government sector, NWSA, charges between YR 7-40 per cubic meter. The rate the private sector charges is several times that level.

- Diesel used in pumping of water is also subsidized. This has allowed farmers to be less careful with their pumping.

- The government offers easy and soft credit is made available to farmers who drill water wells. This has encouraged drilling.

4. What Needs to Be Done!

There are many steps that need to be taken. I will categorize them into immediate steps, and long-term ones, as follows:

a) Immediate Steps:

- More detailed studies are needed regarding the consumption patterns and possible alternative supply sources.

- NWSA will have to be brought to shape in terms of pricing and other decisions.

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- The required legislation will have to be passed and enforced.
- Stopping any more well drilling unless it is for highly-exceptional cases.
- Halting the importation of drilling equipment.
- Correcting price distortions whether for water or inputs in drilling, pumping, etc.

b) Long-Term Steps:

In the longer term, it is important to do the following:
- Raise awareness among consumers regarding the finite nature of the underground water supply.
- Help farmers shift to more efficient use of irrigation.
- Find ways to introduce water recycling.

5. Is the Decision Making Mechanism There

In general, the objective is to preserve water for the generations to come. The point is that there is a gap between our resources and our needs. Let us ask a daring question, "Are we able to solve this problem? Does the political will exist to prohibit the deterioration in the water situation? Can we correct it?"

Does the system have the decision-making mechanism to solve this problem? What has the National Water Resources Authority (NWSA) done after one year of existence?

The basic point is that there will always be water, but the question is at what cost. How will a poor population pay?

Carrying water to the urban centers requires implementing costly projects.

We in NWRA are concerned with the fact that water is misused at this stage. However, even now people complain that the water supply is inadequate.

Most of the water pumped out (up to 90%) is used for irrigation. This has to change. Our comparative advantage, and given the costly nature of water, we should limit its use to drinking and for household uses. Secondly, the crops being grown now, are not necessarily the result of one of the most effective uses of water. This has to change.

Much water is lost in the transport process, whether it is due to evaporation from open irrigation channels of farmers, or leakage from water supply pipe networks. Users have to be instructed and advised on how to use water properly.

What we need is more awareness in this sphere. The government should take a decision to elevate the water issue to the highest priority of its strategy. We should achieve a water balance and use it only in relation to the level of replenishment.

Our task is to bring sense to the water situation. This cannot be done by government decision alone. A visible level of political will is necessary but the public should be made aware of the consequences, and the citizens must become partners in resolving this matter.

Much depends on how much success is achieved in this endeavor.

Jamal Mohammed Abdo is the Chairman of NWRA.

1. Facts & Numbers:

The quantity of annually replenished and renewable water supply in Yemen is around 2.1-2.5 billion cubic meters. This renders an average of 130 cubic meters per person. To get a feel for the low nature of this number, one has to remember that the annual average replenishable water



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Cont'd from page 1:

Businessmen ...

The fight in the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry is not over prestige alone. The Federation receives millions in its percentage cut from all imports into the country. It is one of the first points of contact for any foreign company that wishes to do business in Yemen. Thus opening opportunities for agency arrangements and other forms of representation. That is why there is a fight.

At another level, the fight is really between the old guards and the new generation of businessmen. The young people believe that Al-Watary and his like have done their bit. It is now time to move on and take on new blood.

The authorities are willing to offer a medal and other honors to Al-Watary and his team if they leave smoothly. If they don't, they will simply be shoved aside.



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Yemen Welcomes British Consultants' Delegation

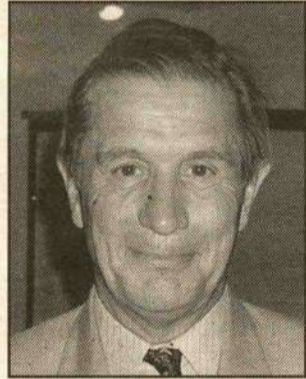
A British trade mission has been visiting Yemen for seven days (28 September to 5 October) to look into a whole new range of business possibilities and investment opportunities opening up in Yemen.

Led by the Duke of Gloucester, the mission consisted of several business consultants and representatives of various UK companies. The two main participants in this mission are the Middle Association (MEA) and the British Consultants Bureau (BCB). In addition to Sana'a, the delegation visited Taiz, Aden, and Seion in Hadhramaut. In Aden, the Duke of Gloucester had quite a busy schedule, which included a visit to the Tawahi Church and the British servicemen cemeteries in Mualla and Little Aden. He also opened the new British Council branch in Aden.

The Duke of Gloucester, the first cousin of Queen Elizabeth, became the President of the BCB in 1978. On this trade mission, he said: "From the consultants' point of view this is a very interesting time to visit Yemen. It is obvious that the economy is going to expand, which raises the need for better infrastructure. This is exactly the kind of projects that the BCB members are interested in. Yemen is indeed a country which is going to take its rightful place in the next century. "Regarding privatization, this is an expertise that we developed over the two decades. We have been able to provide our expertise to help people privatize, particularly in the former communist countries. "Several of the mission members said they were very pleased to find an agent here. A consultant now does not come as the great foreigner who has all the answers, but strikes up a partnership with the local counterpart. "Many of us are interested in reviving the port of



Aden which is going to be a very important port in the future. It can become similar to the Singapore port which, I think, is the busiest port in the world. Both are natural harbors." Mr. Colin Adams, a retired RAF officer, is the executive director of BCB which has some 300 member.



He said: "Our visit here has a lot of significance, not just for British consultants, but also for the British people. This is the 1st time a member of the Royal family has come here officially since 1952 when the Queen visited Aden. We are delighted from the British people's point of view that we are increasing the contact between the British and the Yemeni people. "Our people have tremendous experience. Some of the firms have been trading for over 160 years. The majority of them have done major projects in many parts of the world. "The World Bank people are full of admiration for the way your inflation has been pushed down from very high levels to something that a country in

Europe would be proud to have. It is something which should be a source of great pride to you. The whole situation is beginning to be one where one can see major developments coming along in this country.

"You as a people have got a tremendous potential to take a place in the world. To do that, you need good infrastructure. I think it is a time of great re-awakening here in Yemen, and in which our consultants feel they can play a big part."

"You are starting to get the right conditions for looking at some form of gradual privatization. You have to have something available so that a private company would find it a good investment where it can build up a good fund, as well as giving a service. "We had to put money into British Rail, for

example, before it was privatized. It was costing us something like 50 million pounds a week in subsidy. Now when these companies are private, they are paying the government 60 million pounds in taxes every week."

"If you are going to create the right atmosphere for privatization you need to get communication between the public and private sectors, such that the public sector creates the right atmosphere for the private sector that wishes to become involved."

"You have to be a little bit cautious, because you cannot start talking about potential privatization without there being some government policy because you can create a feeling of fear in people concerning their jobs."

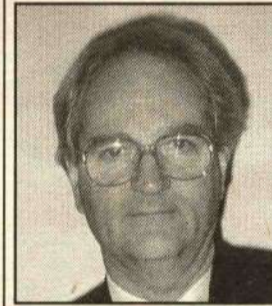
By: Bin Sallam, and Ismail Al-Ghabiry.



By: Bin Sallam, and Ismail Al-Ghabiry.

British Council's New Branch in Aden.

Mr. Piers Pendred is the Assistant Director-General of the British Council in London. His work is concerned with English language teaching throughout the world. He said: "The Aden branch will not only be a center for the teaching of the English language, but also an information center on studying in Britain. "We believe, by cooperating in cultural and scientific fields, that people will understand each other better. It encourages an exchange of ideas between peoples, and gives rise to understanding which can lead to trade and friendly cooperation. So we work with local institutions and communities to ascertain which kind of cooperation is more appropriate in those environments. "We are giving some advice to the Ministry of Education on curricula and tests through the Chief Inspector of Primary Education in Britain. "The British aid program is now under the department of international development in Britain which the British Council and the Foreign Office have worked closely with."



the foreign community see *Yemen Times* as a fair and independent newspaper. They find it a very useful source of information. "Now the official English book for schools in Yemen is a British, Crescent series book which has been produced by the Oxford University Press. The British Council has been involved in giving advice in using this book at state schools in Yemen. "I know that the Ambassador is keen to give some support to the development of the new faculty of languages at Sana'a University".

Mr. Abdullah Al-Dhuraibi, the Projects and Exchanges Manager, said:

"Under the British Partnership Scheme (BPS), which supports projects up to a value of \$65,000, support was provided for the University of Hadhramaut in the form of full equipment for its electronics engineering laboratory. Support was also provided for the new Center for British, American and Translation Studies at the University of Aden. The Yemen Ornithological Society has also received support to enable it to conduct an education campaign in schools throughout Yemen. The newly opened College of Languages at Sana'a University received an audio-visual laboratory. "The British Council provides fellowships for about 50 Yemenis to study in Britain per year. Some fellows study for masters degrees, while others follow short courses, varying from 3 months to a year. "Last but not least, the British Council would like to thank the British Ambassador to Sana'a, Mr. Douglas Scrafton for his continuous help and support."

Epilogue: The Queen Victoria statue which once graced the Tawahi park in Aden, was removed to a museum after the independence of southern Yemen in 1967 and has now been placed in the new British Council gardens in Aden.

by Dr. Salah Haddash,

by Dr. Salah Haddash,

Austrians Survey Business Opportunities in Yemen

The rapid economic development in Yemen have attracted the interest of many international business communities. Within the same week, two high-level trade missions have visited the country. Headed by H.E. Mr. Peter Klein, the Ambassador of Austria to Oman, the Austrian trade mission spent 3 days in Yemen. Included are 16 companies from the manufacturing industry, trade companies and representatives of leading banks. Meetings with various Yemeni business and trade establishments were held to further develop the commercial links between the two countries. "We are here to get feeling of the new positive developments in the Yemeni economy and ascertain possible business opportunities," said Mr. Klein.



Mr. Fritz Langer is the Director of the Middle East Desk at the Austrian Foreign Trade Department at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce.



Q: Could you tell us about the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: We are not new comers. Austria had traditionally long-standing trade relations with Yemen. In the first half of the 80s, we had much higher export figures than we do have today.

For the 1st half of 97 we exported to Yemen about 28m Austrian shillings (less than \$2.5m) which is far below the potential. The last trade mission to Yemen was in 92. Since then many developments happened. According to World Bank and IMF reports we receive from our commercial office in Riyadh, Yemen is again an emerging market. So we have come to see the latest developments and to have direct contacts with the business community

here as well as with the authorities. We held a seminar on the economic laws in Yemen.

Q: What does Yemen import from Austria?
A: You have the traditional export order to the near Middle East such as timber, paper, small industrial plants, etc. We do hope there will be a shift towards machinery, know-how, and technology. We have within the delegation some companies working in the field of steam plants and waste treatment.

Q: What activities have you held during your visit?

A: On the 1st day, there were many talks and meetings. We visited the offices of several companies, ministries, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry where we met the chairman, and the General Investment Authority. We got first hand information about the latest development, the changes and improvements. We are very confident that in the near future there'll be a reactivation of our bilateral business and trade relations. We do hope that the Austrian companies will have good partners.

Q: How receptive was the Yemeni officials and business community?

A: There is a great interest from your government as well as the business community. It'll highly depend on the readiness of the local businessmen to start investments on their own. Austrian companies and businesses will be ready to join. We are interested in cooperating, but we did not come to Yemen expecting to find investment offers. We are looking for business opportunities.

Q: Are you acquainted with the Yemeni investment law?

A: These laws are certainly a very important step in the right direction. However, it would not be very realistic to believe that just by issuing laws you'll immediately get the response of the foreign investors. It'll depend on the Yemeni businessmen. If they believe in the future of their own country and if they are ready to invest, then they'll have success and there'll be improvement of the economic situation. It'll increase the stability of the country and encourage foreign investors to come.

By The Managing Editor

Mr. Brendan McSharry, the director of the British council in Yemen said;

"There are many scholars here who had studied in Britain and are contributing to the cultural and professional life in Yemen. It is very good to see them come together under the umbrella of the Yemeni-British Friendship Association. "It is a great privilege to be able to work in this country because we believe, in its small way, the British Council is part of establishing the future of deep and important relations between Yemen and our country. "During my two and a half years in Yemen, most of



By The Managing Editor

Embassy of India Sana'a CONDOLENCE MEETING

A condolence meeting to honour the memory and to pay homage to Mother Teresa will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, 9th October 1997 in the auditorium of the Embassy of India at 12, Djibouti Street, Sana'a.

All are invited to attend the condolence meeting. Please inform Mr. L. P. Gupta of the Embassy (Tele. No. 243 440) in case you wish to attend the meeting.

New Horizons in Rehabilitation of The Disabled

Ismail Al-Ghabiri & Adel Moqbel
Yemen Times

The National Training Course on Community-Based Rehabilitation and Income Generation for the Disabled was held in Sana'a during 20-28 September. Organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the course was attended by more than 100 representatives from various national and international NGOs concerned with the issues of disability.

Lectures, and case studies were presented by specialists from Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Oman, Palestine, and international volunteers from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Rada Barnen organization branch in Yemen. The course also included field visits to the community-based rehabilitation projects at Thula and Hababa in the Governorate of Sana'a.

Background

Coinciding with the UN Decade for the Disabled, the Yemeni government started to provide better care facilities for the disabled since the late 80s. With the UNDP and ILO assistance, two centers were established in Sana'a and Aden to provide



disabled people with vocational training, rehabilitation, and placement services to help integrate them into the socio-economic life of the community. The number of disabled people in Yemen is cur-

rently estimated at about 1,700,000, which is about 10% of the population. This is quite high. The majority of these cases are found mainly in the countryside. Further burden is put on the families of these disabled people by the backward way society in general views disability.

Unemployment among disabled people is 3 or 4 times higher than the national average.

The Project

An agreement was signed in 1995 by the Yemeni government, the UNDP and the ILO to further develop this important sector. The current two-year project was started at the beginning of 1996. It has estimated international and local budgets of \$988,300 and YR 3,447,156, respectively. Three major objectives are specified for this project:

- 1- Improving the operational capacity of the Sana'a and Aden centers, which includes the development of the manpower, facilities, and training and operational methods for the beneficiaries.
- 2- Providing a conceptual and practical frame work for the strategy of community-based rehabilitation as an international process suitable for Yemen.
- 3- Developing the governmental policies and legislation regarding rehabilitating the disabled.

In the Field

Of the 153 cases of disability documented by a field survey conducted by a local committee in Thula, 25 were caused by accidents, 85 are congenital due to intermarriages, and 43 cases caused by curable diseases. According to this and other much more extensive information, the rehabilitation center was set up. It offers vocational training in tailoring, handicrafts, silverwork, wood, marble and stucco carving, typing, carpet weaving, and gardening. The ILO, Al-Halali Institute and the Productive Family Society provided the center with the necessary facilities and equipment.

The Hababa rehabilitation center started its activities on the 2nd of August this year. It is now providing tailoring courses and classes for the eradication of illiteracy for disabled male and female children. It is hoped that this center will expand its activities in the near future to provide services for the 149 disabled persons in the area. Of those, and to various degrees, 61 are immobile, 23 are deaf and dumb, 43 have congenital disability or mental retardation, and 22 are blind.

Obstacles

Studies and surveys conducted locally face many hindrances:

- 1- Some families feel ashamed and don't want others to know they have disabled offspring, whether they are boys or girls, children or adults.
- 2- Some families are unable to realize that a disabled person has the ability to work and be productive according to his or her physical and mental abilities.
- 3- Families of disabled people lack the cultural and scientific knowledge and awareness regarding the conditions of their offspring.
- 4- The public in general are not fully aware of issues of disability.
- 5- Not much interest is shown by the official media.
- 6- Lack of facilities and capabilities hinders field work.

Recommendations

At the conclusion of the seminar, the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Saleh Ahmed Ali indicated that, "there are many laws and legislation for the benefit of disabled people, but they are not fully implemented."

The participants in this training course came up with the following recommendations:

General Recommendations:

* The ministry of Social Affairs should, in cooperation with the Central Statistics Organization, conduct field surveys to accurately document and classify cases of disability so that plans to tackle this problem would be based on more scientific criteria.

* Tackling disability issues must be the responsibility of the government, and be included in the more comprehensive national planning schemes.

* The National Supreme Committee for Rehabilitating Disabled People should play a bigger role in this field.

* Cooperation must be established with the media to raise public awareness of the necessity to tackle the problems of disability.

On Social Rehabilitation

* The ministries of Social Affairs and Education should cooperate in adopting the subject of social rehabilitation in school curricula. Universities should conduct studies and research in the field care and rehabilitation of:

* A strategy should be adopted to train technical staff and organize more training courses.

* Vocational rehabilitation and training centers and projects must be full supported by all relevant government organs.

On Employment & Income Generation

*The ministries of Labor, Civil Service, and the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry should coordinate their efforts to employ more disabled people in public and private sector jobs according to their abilities and qualification without any discrimination.

* Small income-generating projects for the disabled should be encouraged through providing facilities and soft loans.

* The marketing of products manufactured by the disabled should be facilitated by organizing fairs and exhibitions and helping with tax exemptions.

On Legislation

*The government should facilitate the swift issuance of a law to care for and rehabilitate the disabled.

* A union should be established among all relevant societies to help coordinate efforts and services directed to assist the disabled.

Cont'd from page 1:

Biological Enemy of the Aphid...

The biological predator of the aphid was first discovered by the IIBC of London. This was the *Pauesia antennata*, which was found in Pakistan. Some 300 specimen of this insect arrived in Yemen on 21/1/1997. The interaction between this insect and the aphid was checked and rechecked in the laboratory of the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with experts from the FAO. Then a limited field application was carried out. By the middle of 1997, it was established that the *pauesia antennata* was the sought-after natural defender against the aphid.

Today, there are two questions of concern:

- 1) Are there side-effects to the introduction of the *Pauesia Antennata* into the Yemeni habitat?
- 2) Once this insect devours the aphid, what will it eat?

The FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture are fully aware of these questions and possibly others. At the same time, training courses for extension service are being held.

First in Mukalla, Fifth in Yemen: RADO Opens New Showroom

The first RADO showroom in Hadhramaut was opened in Mukalla on Sunday September 28th. The opening ceremony was attended by the Governor of Hadhramaut, Mr. Saleh Obad Al-Khowlani; the President of the Rado Swiss Watches Company, Mr. Roland Streule and accompanying delegations; the Rado agent in Yemen, Mr. Awadh Saad Alaya; and a number of businessmen, representatives of the media and the general public.

"I am very glad for the opening of the Rado showroom in Mukalla," said the Governor of Hadhramaut after performing the tape-cutting ceremony. Expressing his admiration for the new showroom Mr. Al-Khowlani added, "many new investors are certainly encouraged to do business in the area." According to the Governor, projects are being frequently inaugurated in Hadhramaut.

Thanking the Governor and the present people, Mr. Streule said, "my dream has come true with the opening of this new



Roland Streule, Saleh Obad Al-Khowlani, & Awadh Alay

showroom for the city of Mukalla.

In extolling the virtues of the Rado watches, Mr. Streule said: "In every Rado there is a little immortality and a breath of eternal youth, given by the special materials from which Rado watches are made: indestructably hard metal, scratch-proof sapphire crystal, spaceflight-proven high-tech ceramics and scintillating high-tech diamond. Rado makes extreme demands of the materials it uses. Hardness alone is not enough. Durability, beauty, brilliance and skin friendliness are equally essential. Rado fascinates with its unparalleled wearer comfort. It molds itself warmly and comfortably to the wrist like silk. Furthermore, unknown materials and technologies are tested and further developed, with Rado's typical design concept always at the forefront. After knowing all of this, it is no more astonishing to know that Rado is no. 4 among the most famous brands of watches that can hold their own for decades. Rado is the watch for the future."



Rado showroom in Mukalla."

A banquet was held in the honor of the guests who included the Commander of the Eastern region, Col. Mohammed Ahmed Ismail, and the President of the Hadhramaut Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Abdulkhaleq Ba-Matraf.

Mr. Alaya had expressed his gratitude for the Governor and the honorable guests. He also highly commended the good relations between his establishment and the Rado Swiss Watches Company. On his part, Mr. Streule praised the role played by Mr. Al-Alaya in "developing the sales and after-sale services of the Rado watches." He also expressed his admira-



VACANCY

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وظيفة شاغرة

الشركة اليمنية للاستثمار والتنمية الدولية المحدودة (يمنفست)

تعلن عن فتح باب التقدم للأشخاص المؤهلين في الوظيفة التالية:

المحاسبة

وعلى كل من سيرشح نفسه في التقدم لهذه الوظيفة أن يكون ذو علم بقواعد وأسس علم المحاسبة وأن تتوفر لديه الامتيازات التالية:

- * شهادة محاسبة بدرجة بكالوريوس في مجال المحاسبة
- * أن يجيد اللغة العربية والانجليزية نطقاً وكتابة
- * يفضل من لديهم الخبرة في هذا المجال
- * أن يكون المتقدم يمني الجنسية

وعلى من تتوفر لديه هذه الامتيازات، الرجاء احضار السيرة الذاتية للمتقدم موضحاً فيه عنوانه ورقم هاتفه، مصحوبة بصورتين شخصية وصورة من البطاقة الشخصية. علماً بأن أقصى موعد لاستلام الملفات سيوافق ٢٥ من أكتوبر الجاري.

العنوان: شركة يمنفست، خور مكسر، شارع هوشي منه، فيلا رقم (٢٨)،
مبنى السفارة البريطانية سابقاً
صندوق بريد: ٤١٦٥، كريتر
هاتف: ٢٣٤٧٨٩

مجموعة شركات اخوان ثابت

تهنئ الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية،
وتهنئ الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم،
كما تهنئ الشعب اليمني البطل،
بمناسبة الذكرى الرابعة والثلاثين
لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة
وكل عام وأنتم بخير



Thabet Brothers Group of Companies

present their felicitations to

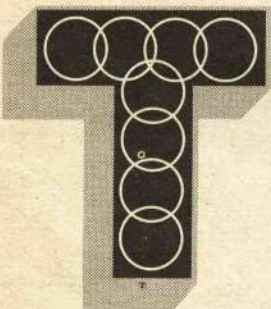
President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

the government headed by Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, and

Yemeni People on the anniversary of

14 October Revolution

Many Happy Returns



مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تتقدم بأجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
للقيادة السياسية المظفرة بزعامة

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم،

وإلى الشعب اليمني بمناسبة حلول الذكرى

الرابعة والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة.

كل عام وأنتم بخير



ASGA



Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies

presents

its best wishes & heartfelt congratulations

to the Political Leadership of Yemen headed by

General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic,

the government of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, and the Yemeni People

on the 34th anniversary of the 14th of October Revolution.

Many Happy Return.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

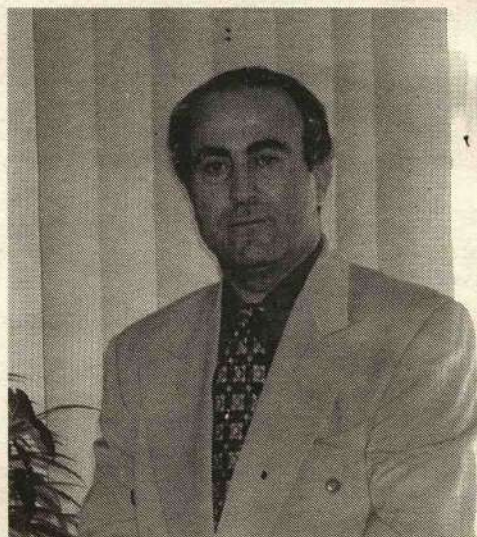


CalValley

Celebrates the Signing of the PSA, Start of Operations in Yemen

Calvalley Petroleum (Interntional) opened its offices in Sana'a and started its activities under the production sharing agreement (PSA) signed for Block 9 (Malik) in Shabwa/Hadhramaut. The PSA was signed in February 23rd of this year, and was approved by a Presidential decree on April 3rd. The Yemeni investment represents Calvalley's first connection with the Middle East. Calvalley's agents in Yemen are a combined group of Saudi and Yemeni businessmen who, according to Mr. William

administrative and reception work." said Mr. Jackson adding, "We also have some professionals on secondment from the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources." Mr. Jackson is in Sanaa "to kick off the Calvalley operations in Yemen and to meet ministry officials for more information concerning the work program and the plan of action proposed over the next year under the PSA." Regarding their meeting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Mr. Jackson said, "We are very fortunate to have been



received in audience by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The government has been very helpful and supportive, and everyone from the ministry's various departments were very helpful. We have no complaints, whatsoever. The situation in the country is geared towards development, and that is why we are happy to work here." Mr. Edmund Shimon, the President of Calvalley, indicated that he was able to talk to the President of the Republic for a good while. "We are quite honored that he took the time. We are quite positive about that and it is an indicator of the support on which we can count

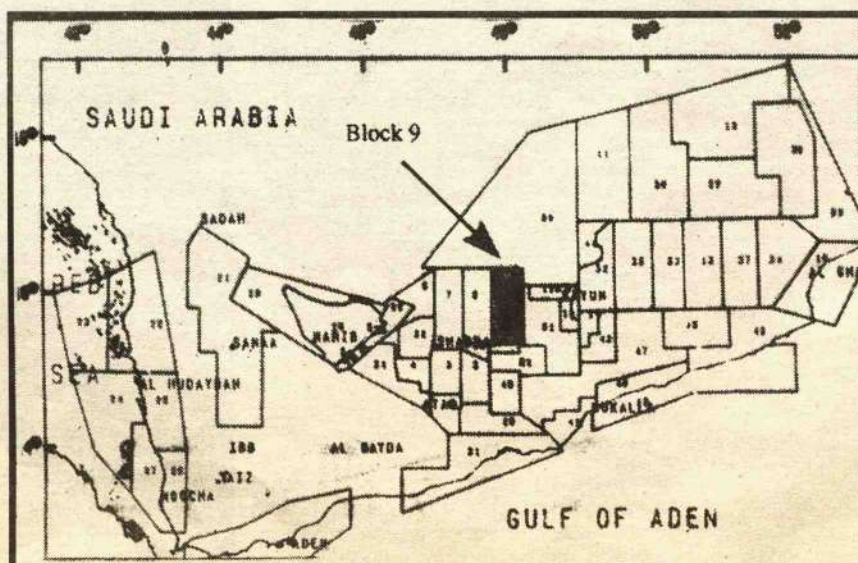
during our work," he said. On Calvalley's expected contribution to the Yemeni economy, Mr. Shimon was quite sure that it is going to "make a very positive impact on the economic situation." He gave his assessment that "Yemen is an excellent place to conduct a business."

CalValley is a publicly traded, international oil and gas exploration and development company based in Calgary, Canada. The company is engaged in full cycle exploration, production, and marketing of crude oil and natural gas.

A team of experience professional geo-scientists and highly qualified engineers has been put together to manage the project - both in Yemen and Canada. Thus, field exploration is expected to start early in 1998. Whatever data already exists on the block has already been compiled, and more seismic and other data is being compiled. Exploration wells will be drilled later in 1998. "We are excited to be in Yemen, and we are highly optimistic," concluded Mr. Jackson.



Jackson, Executive Vice President of CalValley Petroleum, have been very helpful in meeting the appropriate people and acquiring the PSA. "We hope to be drilling our first well in the second quarter of 1998," added Mr. Jackson who has been involved in various aspects of the oil and gas industry for almost three decades. "The Sana'a office is staffed with a number of Yemeni nationals doing



Yemenis in Djibouti: Problems, Concerns, and Hopes



Djibouti is a small country at the Horn of Africa. It lies across Bab Al-Mandeb straits from Yemen. A former

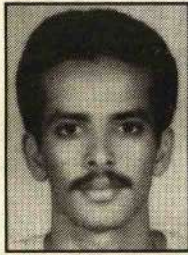
French colony, Djibouti became independent in 1977. Its area is around 23,200 sq. km. Yemenis started to immigrate to Djibouti during the early years of this century to escape the harsh living conditions at home. Many of them worked as sailors on French ships, or soldiers in the French army during the Second World War. Some of them obtained French nationality and lived in French colonies or in France itself. Today, Djibouti people of Yemeni origin make up around 12%. They work in different fields, particularly in commerce and small private enterprises. Imad Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times flew to Djibouti to talk to them about their concerns. They had this to say:

1. Taher Saeed Saif, President of the Yemeni Expatriate Association (YEA) in Djibouti.
The most important achievements of the YEA is the founding of the Yemeni school including primary and secondary levels of education. Two batches



have already graduated from this school. The YEA also helped to repatriate Yemeni refugees who came to Djibouti, escaping the civil war in Somalia.

2. Sameer Khalid Saeed, Secretary of the Yemeni Expatriates Association in Djibouti.



The YEA in Djibouti needs the support of the Yemeni government, especially in those activities which are of priority to them. We hope that they'll be met in the near future.

The Yemeni government should help finance the repatriation of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti who escaped to the civil war in Somalia.

The government should also pay attention to the cultural needs of the Yemenis in Djibouti. Educational and cultural publications need to be regularly provided. We need strong exchange in folklore, history, etc.

YEA also asks the Government to facilitate the granting of Yemeni personal ID cards through the embassy to Yemenis in Djibouti. YEA

requests the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Immigrant Affairs to monitor the December, 1997 elections of the new YEA board of directors.

Our job is to serve as a bridge to bring Yemen and Djibouti closer and achieve more cooperation and understanding.

3. Mohammed Ali Daoud: Shopowner.



The Yemeni community faces many problems in its daily life. The well-off Yemeni merchants should support the Yemeni schools so that education would be free. We are now preparing for election of the new executive committee of YEA.

4. Shakeeb Mohammed Sofyan, Importer/Exporter.



Conditions in Djibouti are fine and comfortable. I have opened a general trade shop in Sana'a and I plan to undertake a major investment soon. Corruption at Taiz and Aden airports is a big problem, and I hope the authorities would change the officials there.

The authorities should also stand by us when we have commercial problems. For example, I have the agency of a Japanese cloth manufacturing company. I had sent them money for a consignment. Now they claim that they are bankrupt, and will only send a small proportion of the original order. I want the Yemeni embassy would help me.

5. Abdullah Ibraheem Aqlan: School Teacher.



The Yemeni community in Djibouti follows development at home (Yemen) closely. They are attached and there is a sense of belonging. Following the sad events of the past, now spirits are high and there is optimism.

تهنئة

أطفات الطفلة
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بسمة أمين
هاشم
الزريقي
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وعقبال المائة سنة.
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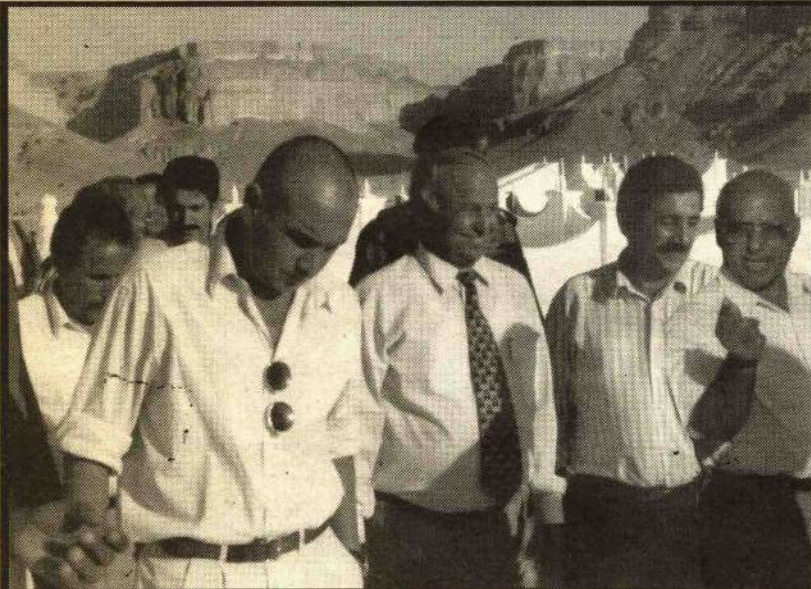
For further inquiries please contact university Registrar
If you are abroad please contact Yemeni embassies to get more info.
Email: arwa@y.net.ye **Web site:** http://www.arwa.univ.y.net.ye

الف مبروك

نتقدم بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
للأستاذة الفاضلة الأخت فوزية السلفي بمناسبة إرتزاها مولودها
«باسل»

جعله الله قرّة عين والديه ، ونفع به أهله ووطنه وأمه
من زميلاتك :
المدرسات والإداريات في مدرستي السماوي وخولة بنت الأزور

The Opening of Al-Hawta Palace Jewel in Wadi Hadhramaut



years ago in an architectural style unique to the Hadhramaut region. The two other buildings have been recently erected using material similar to what was used to build the older building.

All in all, the Hawta Palace comprises 65 rooms and 6 suites that are furnished with first-class furniture and fixtures. The Hawta Palace also boasts excellent amenities and services. Its fully air-conditioned restaurants and pool-side buffet represent the epitome of elegance, and

have facilities to accommodate 200 patrons. Two swimming pools are available for adults and children. The beautiful green spaces are crisscrossed with enchanting narrow footpaths, excellent for evening strolls who want to talk to the stars alone, or with the company of another person.

For ensuring the safety and comfort of the Hawta Palace guests, a modern fire-fighting systems has been installed. Continuous water and electricity supplies are guaranteed by the installation of a 50 cubic meter rooftop and 80 cubic meter ground-floor water tanks, as well as a 600-watt auxiliary electric generator. Other equipment and facilities include a diesel pump with a capacity of 30,000 liters, a water well, and 3 cooking-gas storage tanks. "Conforming with 1st class hotels, a fully automated booking system, is in place at the Hawta Palace," said Mr. Alawi Al-Sanabani.

Does Universal provide security guarantees for its client tourists?

"We provide services and advise our clients of the safe regions to go to and the ones to avoid," Sanabani added.

The future spells a lot of promise for the Hawta Palace and for Universal in general. "Conference halls, 25 more rooms, and various sport fields are going to be constructed on the hotel grounds," announced Mr. Alwan Shaibani, the brain and dynamo behind the rise of the UNIVERSAL Group of Companies. He added, "Our fleet of cars is continuously expanded and new luxury hotels are added to our already wide range of accommodation facilities."



The Hawta Palace Hotel was opened by the Vice-President, Mr. Abdurabbu Hadi Mansoor, on Thursday October 2nd in the Seiyoun. Mr. Hadi expressed his great admiration for the new hotel and the tremendous success achieved by Universal for Travel and Tourism in restoring the old palace. "This should encourage more investors to follow suit," he said, addressing the businessmen and others who were present at the opening ceremony. He added, "Tourism benefits not only the travel agents, but the government and all the Yemeni people as well."

Among the senior officials to attend the occasion were the Governor of Hadhramaut Governorate, Mr. Saleh Obad Al-Khowlani, the Deputy Governors, the General Manager of Seiyoun District, many businessmen and local community elders.

"The Hawta Palace Hotel is opened after four whole years of construction work. It is a great achievement in the Hadhramaut valley," said Mr. Alawi Al-Sanabani, the project manager. He expressed a lot of optimism in the future of tourism in Yemen "provided that businessmen are given the atmosphere conducive to productive work."

The Hawta Palace - a 4-star hotel - lies one kilo-meter away from Hawta city center, 15 kilometers from the Seiyoun International Airport, and 7 kilometers from Shibam. It is centrally located as a springboard from which to visit different parts of Wadi Hadhramaut. Situated inside a 32,000 square meter compound, the Hawta Palace consists of three buildings. The main building, fully renovated and refurbished, was built 57

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علي محمد حيدر

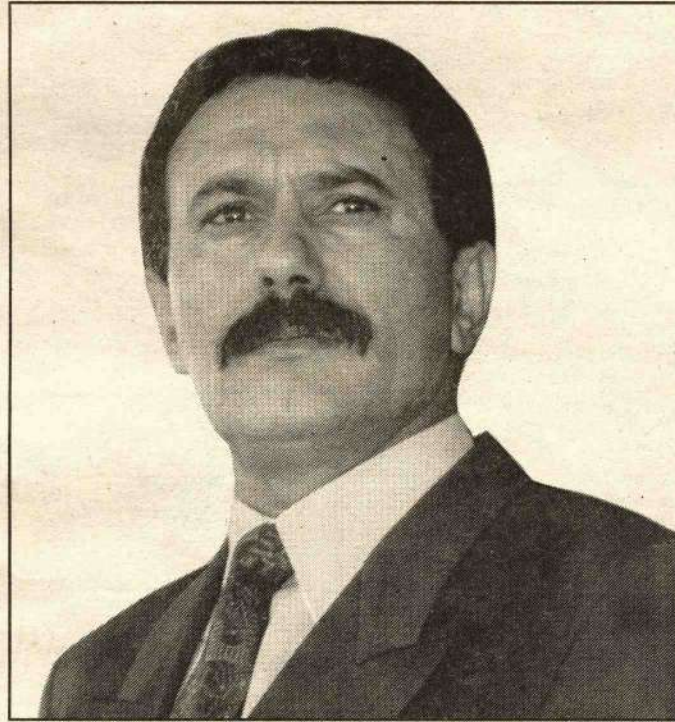
صاحب محلات شيك بار شيان (جيبوتي)

يتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الفريق علي عبدالله صالح،

وللحكومة اليمنية وللشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى الخامسة والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
المجيدة، والذكرى الرابعة والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من اكتوبر المجيدة
كل عام وأنتم بخير



AU CHIC PARISIEN

CHEZ ALI

ALI MOHAMED HAIDAR

present

his heartfelt felicitations and congratulations
to the Yemeni people and their leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the Government Headed by Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim
on the happy occasion of the anniversary of the September Revolution
and October Revolution.

Many Happy Returns

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Tel: 351727
Fax: 354663
P. O. Box: 149
RUE DE PARIS
PER DE DJIBOUTI

محلات شيك بار شيان (جيبوتي)
هاتف: ٣٥١٧٢٧
فاكس: ٣٥٤٦٦٣
صندوق بريد: ١٤٩
جمهورية جيبوتي

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A • C • P

A Jack of many Trades and Master of ALL

He paints. He acts. He teaches science and mathematics. He is a ventriliquist. Those and more are some of the gifts and activities of Martin Dansky.

Martin, 44, born in Canada, began his art career in Italy. He had trained himself in artistic centers in the Concorde University in Montreal before going to Italy. His paintings are today circulated in the Czech Republic, Greece and Canada. Representing an Italian gallery here, Martin promotes Yemeni paintings in that gallery.

He appeared occasionally in cabarets with Groucho, his ventriliquist doll, in Italy and Canada. His art is a kind of slapstick humor on people's fall-backs and bad habits.

Martin is currently employed by the American school in Sanaa to teach a number of courses in mathematics and science to high school children. He is also tutoring in English.

Yemen Times is happy to present this talented person to its readers.



Q: How are adjusting?

A: This is my first experience with Yemen. People here are quite pleasant and I enjoy the surroundings and mountains.

Q: Have you starting brushing yet?

A: I intend to take an aesel and paint brushes. I am especially thinking about going to the villages and paint my own interpretation of them. Perhaps I will symbolically paint a villager in front of a classical style building.

Q: How long will you be staying here?

A: Well, I should be here for a year. I hope to meet other artists both in the field of painting and in cinema and theaters so that I could share my work and learn more. I also like to travel a lot.

Q: Will you be teaching art?

A: Unfortunately, No. Although I would like to do. I do dedicate myself to painting after my work day.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about your artistic technique?

A: I developed a technique of my own as far as my paintings are concerned, which is naive. I'd like to show reality in my own way and this usually involves moving landscape scenes or the interior of

not a mean actor. I am a very good small-part actor in films which have brought me into contact with big mean people like Liza Minnelli, Burt Reynolds, and Burt Labncaster when he was alive. He was in the Achle Lauro film where I played the role of Hassan - an Egyptian diplomat who works as a mediator between the Palestinians and the Americans.

Q: Do you think the Italians or the Yemeni taste that would inspire you to paint?

A: Well Sana'a is so different from Rome that it should inspire me in some way. The fact that I am reminded of that kind of monumental classical structure as many of the old buildings of Rome. Here, I see something a little bit more stark. The ochre colors of the old buildings, the lands around the city appeal to me very much. It's so different from the Roman scene that it should give me new ideas, which is what the artist really needs to be able to paint new scenes.

Q: You tend to paint nature more than humans. Why is that?

A: Yes, you have a point there. I have difficulty painting human form. I tried several times. I succeeded but I find it not a part of my personality. I like dealing with people, but I find people can be subject to critical views that I just prefer to paint nature. The occasional individual, though, enters my pictures.

say. But I like very much bright yellows, reds and sometimes blues.

Q: How would you describe your artistic elements?

A: I have repeated elements in my paintings which go back to my childhood - stayaways and walk-aways that come out of my dreams. My paintings are experimental. It follows a sort of experimental school. I'd like to use new techniques to create a play with dimensions. I am a bit tired of the just a 3-dimensional painting. I'd like to do things, which have been done before, but give the artist different views to see things. Many people, for example, might have difficulties to determine which is the upper-part of my painting. I have to tell them which one is which. You see the painting itself could be not one but two or three, depending on which way you look at it.

Q: have you been influenced by other artistic schools?

A: Well, I appreciated some of the work done by Canadian artists of landscape which goes back to the famous group of seven who painted landscape scenery in the wilderness of Canada. Recently, I have been also influenced by the modern painters who were famous in the fifties in Italy like Catuso. There is also some Chagale in my paintings and Picaso - the great masters. They liked to create a message from the symbols that they used. In light settings, I often use nagels and cupids in the background of my paintings, and sometimes

use virgins in the front. Lately I copied some cartoon characters in my paintings.

Q: Are you planning to hold an exhibition in Yemen?

A: Yes, I had been to the Hadda galery and they were respetive. I'd like to approach the embassies of Italy and Canada to see if they hold exhibits. And I'd like to do both collective and individual shows.

Q: Will you be presenting a puppet show here as well?

A: Well, I haven't got the puppets with me. Even-



tually, I would like to contact a theatre where I could do a spot for ten minutes and make up a musical act. People might not be used to it. Then, it breaks up and this also helps people get involved because I go from table to table and have people introduce themselves to the puppet. The puppet talks and I don't say anything.



buildings that I paint with statues that suggest a certain reality.

Q: How about your acting career?

A: I am an actor in theater and in film I have done some very good films in Italy and in Canada with American, French, Italian and Algerian actors. I did a film with an Algerian actor about the voyage of terror, the story of the Achle Lauro. However, I am

Q: What colors do you like to use?

A: I like to use light colors, very bright red and yellows. These colors often dominate my paintings. Lately, I tried to balance between the bright and dark colors to give my paintings more dimension. I picked that up from the realistic movement, which is going on now in Italy and Canada. The use of shading has now come into my paintings - a dark background which will reveal a bright foreground,



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إلى القيادة السياسية بزعامة الفريق

علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم

وإلى الشعب اليمني البطل

بمناسبة ذكرى ثورة (١٤) اكتوبر المجيدة،

وكل عام والجميع بخير.

The Chairman, General Manager,
and all staff of
International Bank of Yemen ysc
present their best wishes and
heartfelt congratulations to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh
the government headed by
Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim,
and the Yemeni people
on the 14 October Revolution.



Many Happy Returns

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Condemnation of Turkish Invasion of Northern Iraq

Once again the intrusion of Turkish troops into northern Iraq, in an attempt to push back rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) has raised international disapproval. UN Secretary-General Koffi Anan, Arab League Secretary-General Dr. Ismat Abdul-Mageed, among others have called on the Turkish government to respect the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Turkish troops backed by artillery and air power entered eight PKK camps destroyed by air raids over the last couple of weeks. Around 15,000 troops are taking part in the push against PKK who are fighting for self-rule in southeast Turkey which often operates from northern Iraq. Turkey said its troops will withdraw once their mission against the PKK is completed.

The Kurdish fighters want the Turkish authorities to recognize their rights to teach their children the Kurdish language, to promote their distinct cultural and social values, and to instill a sense of independent identity. Although the world sympathizes with the Kurdish people in Turkey, the PKK's terrorist activities are strongly condemned.

Kuwait, Bahrain Link their Stock Exchange Markets

Investors in the Bahraini and Kuwaiti exchange markets will soon have a wider range of shares as the two countries signed an agreement to link up their stock markets. A joint committee will finalize the trading mechanism and clearing facilities, exchange officials said.

Each market would continue to observe its own regulations, including the rules that apply to foreigners. Both countries restrict trading by international investors. Bahrain allows limited access to foreigners who live in the country while Kuwait lets them buy shares through investment funds.

The new agreement will create a market with a capital of US\$32 billion - 26 billion in Kuwait and 6 billion in Bahrain.

US Billionaire Soros: The Best Defence Is Offence!

George Soros a US billionaire described Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad as a "menace" to his own country.

"Dr. Mahathir is a menace to his own country," Soros told a World Bank seminar in Hong Kong, a day after Mahathir said currency trading was

immoral and should be banned. Soros said the capitalist system and global trade were characterized not only by the free movement of goods and services but also by the free movement of ideas and capital. Without such flows, we only need to remember what it was like in the Soviet Union, Burma, China and North Korea, he said. The emphasis on Asian values in the region had served as an excuse to hamper development of democracy, Soros told the seminar, held in advance of World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Hong Kong.

The speculation actions of the US billionaire had brought havoc to the currency exchange markets of the Southeast countries.

Bosnia - Israel Relations

Israel and Bosnia announced the establishment of diplomatic relations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York. Israel's Foreign Minister, David Levy, said that steps were agreed upon concerning relations with Bosnia.

Moroccan Elections in November

Morocco will hold parliamentary elections on November 14, the official Moroccan news agency disclosed. "The government has set the date for the next legislative elections for November 14," the interior ministry was quoted as saying.

Planned for September, the elections were delayed until November apparently to meet the pressing demands of the Moroccan opposition.

Jordan Suspends 10 Newspapers

Jordan has decided to suspend publication of at least 10 weekly newspapers for failing to comply with the new press laws, according to officials. Seven of the newspapers which failed to raise their capital to US\$450,000 as required by the new press code, were informed of the decision by the interior ministry.

Saudi - British Crisis

The sentence handed down by a Saudi court against two British nurses has become the center of a new international diplomatic crisis. One of the two nurses faces a possible death sentence and the other to eight years in jail and a flogging. The two UK nationals have been convicted of murder of an Australian colleague, lawyers said.

The British Government has come under pressure to do something. It has preferred, so far, to resort to

low-key diplomatic efforts. Saudi ambassador to Britain said the nurses were likely to be spared at higher levels of the judicial process. Saudi Arabia is very sensitive about foreign intervention in its internal affairs, and has brushed aside any criticism of its legal system.

Dubai Driving Licenses Valid for Ten Years

New driving licenses issued in Dubai will be valid for ten years instead of five years, while the fees will remain the same, said an official in the Dubai Traffic Authority. The charges are the same for new licenses as well as renewal of an old ones.

New motorists, aged between 18 and 21, will still be issued annual licenses before being given a 10 year valid licenses. All probationary driving license-holders must not accumulate more than 12 black points in one year or they will lose their licenses, according to director of the traffic movement department. Statistics showed that 245 driving licenses were revoked because drivers had accumulated more than 12 points. Foreign drivers with licenses will be issued a 10-year license after passing parking, reverse, hill and road tests.

Saudi/Kuwaiti Border Talks

A technical committee charged with defining the sea border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia met in Riyadh at the end of last month, according to the official Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA.

Quoting the Kuwaiti ambassador to Riyadh, Sheikh Sabah, the agency said the committee is to complete discussions on drawing up the sea border between the two countries. The meeting aims at finalizing the issue of the border. It is to be noted that Kuwait has not defined its sea borders with Saudi Arabia, and Iran although the uncharted area includes potentially rich oil and gas fields.

New Israeli Conditions for Talks

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu offered Syria a new formula for reviving peace talks. As quoted by Haaretz Newspaper, Netanyahu forwarded the formula to President Assad via US Secretary of State, Madeline Albright during her visit to Syria. Under the new formula, both Israel and Syria would be free to raise any negotiating demands, including insistence by Damascus that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights and return to the positions it held on June 4, 1967 prior to the outbreak of the six-day war, the newspaper said. Syria demands to start

from where the negotiations left off in 1996 under Israel's former Labor Party.

Israel also put conditions of annihilation of Islamic fundamentalism by the Palestinian Authority for the the resumption of talks on executing the Oslo Accords.

Sudanese Warring Parties to Resume Talks

Sudanese peace talks that stalled three years ago will resume in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on October 28th, it was reported. The Khartoum government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) agreed to resume their talks. The two parties said in a joint communique that they agreed to provide chief negotiators and negotiation teams of not more than six people each. They pledged to fully cooperate in the search for a negotiated solution to their conflict.

The warring parties signed the communique in the presence of foreign ministers of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya who had met earlier on the Sudan crisis under the auspices of the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

The civil war in Sudan has pitted rebels in the south against the north since 1983. The rebels want greater autonomy or independence.

Qatar's Debts Hit US\$5.7 Bn

Qatar is reeling under almost US \$6 billion of debt built up to finance projects aimed at transforming it into the world's biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) producer, according to official figures. Qatar owes US \$5.7 billion to international banks and other creditors and the debt is set to increase as more funds are borrowed for LNG ventures, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation said in its annual report. The debt accounts for nearly 79% of the gross domestic product, while debt servicing accounts for 20% of GDP and 45% of exports, one of the highest rates in the world. The debt is expected to rise in the coming years because of the ambitious investment plans and their financing needs.

"Despite the increase in debt servicing, the situation will begin to improve at the start of the next century," according to the report. Qatar's North field is by far the largest known gas basin in the world, containing nearly 10 trillion cubic meters of non-associated gas, around seven percent of global gas reserves. On the other hand, plans are under way to boost oil capacity to more than 500,000 bpd by the year 2000, from around the present 400,000 bpd.

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to the Yemeni people and their leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh
and the Government Headed by Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim
and to all friends of Yemen
on the happy occasion of the anniversary of the October Revolution



AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 30-9-97. (Nasserite Unionist Party) News Review:

- 1) Police uncovered network of veteran Arab fighters of the Afghan war that infiltrated Yemeni security to facilitate movement of fighters and arms into Arab and African countries - forged Yemeni passports also discovered.
- 2) Saudi Arabia occupied new border areas inside Yemen - new communication network and other services were installed. Campaign to turn Yemeni citizens into Saudi nationals preceded occupation.
- 3) General Secretariat of Nasserite Party to hold ninth general session.
- 4) Following popular unrest in Al-Shihr, Hah-dramaut, interrogations continue with 13 arrested.
- 5) Tribal sheikhs, judges, lawyers, and university professors form private body to settle blood feuds.
- 6) Officials and employees suspected of carrying out big robbery at Antiquities authority are released and investigations halted by high-level orders.
- 7) Intense contacts between Islah and PGC to save their post-election agreement whereby Islahi-held official posts are retained in return for Islah staying out of opposition.
- 8) Students complain of being not admitted into College of Medicine despite their high grades; while, other are allowed in according to non-academic criteria.



AL-JAMAHEER: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-10-97. (Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party) Main Headlines:

- 1) Eritrean Military Commander of Force that Occupied Hunaish Killed in Fight with Eritrean Opposition Forces
- 2) Parliament to Deliberate Administrative and Judicial System Legislation
- 3) Several Million Riyals Embezzled in Religious Endowments Bureau in Taiz
- 4) Rector of Sana'a University; "Ba'ath Party actively participated in planning the 26 September revolution."

Article Summary:

Health Insurance by: Mohammed Al-Zubairi
There is no comprehensive national strategy to provide extensive medical care for the citizens. The absence of adequate medical facilities and lack of qualified staff have driven many Yemenis to seek medical treatment abroad, leading to the depletion of the already scarce foreign currency reserves. Private health care has become beyond the means of many people with limited income. They often resort to the cheap smuggled medicines which probably cause more harm to their health. In addition to the health budget allocated by the government, small monthly contributions by government employees can help finance a reasonable health insurance system.



AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-10-97. [Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)] News Review:

- 1) Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Al-Ahmer visited Syria and Lebanon
- 2) Elections are to be held to choose new dean for the College of Agriculture at Sana'a University - appointed dean got two votes in last year's university elections.
- 3) Costing YR 75 million with a capacity of 5,000 lines, first stage of communication network is inaugurated in Aden.
- 4) Islah Charitable Society to distribute 60,000 school bags with stationery items to cover all governorates.



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

- 5) New plan is signed to demarkate Aden Free Zone after infringement by Authority of State's Lands on areas allotted for the Zone.
- 6) Due to dispute with private investors, new land is allocated for educational hospital at Sana'a University.
- 7) With a capacity of 500 students, first Scholastic institute for girls is opened in Sarwah, Mareb.
- 8) Of 82 projects licensed in Aden during first half of 1997, 27 are industrial, 23 for tourism. Projects capital is YR 51 million and expected to create 439 jobs when completed.



AL-TAJAMMU: Aden (Weekly) 29-9-97. (Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party) Main Headlines:

- 1) Yemeni-Saudi Border Deal: Land for Support
 - 2) National Navigation Company to be Sold to 5 Private Companies Monopolizing Shipping & Unloading in Aden
 - 3) Socialist Party Politburo Holds Meeting at President's House
- Article Summary:**
The Price of Silence - editorial
The Yemeni-Saudi border settlement concerns all the citizens of Yemen. The secrecy of negotiations conducted between the two sides must be rejected. It is a question of the fate of future generations. It is a calamity that Saudi Arabia captures new areas; while, the opposition parties and the people in general keep silent. This can be the beginning of a downward spiral of encroachment and loss of more land. There is no excuse whatever for the silence. It is a matter of sovereignty and destiny.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-10-97. (Yemeni Armed Forces) Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Expresses his Appreciation for Services Provided By "Impact" Society for the Blind In Yemen
- 2) Military and Youth Parades Held in Various Governorates To Celebrate 35th Anniversary of September Revolution
- 3) Headed by Prime Ministers of Both Countries, The Supreme Yemeni-Egyptian Joint Committee Hold its 4th Meeting at Beginning of November.
- 4) Vice-President Inaugurates Emergency Electricity Project and Lays Foundation Stone for Terrestrial Communication Station in Mukalla.
- 5) Medical Cooperation Agreement Signed by Yemen and Several American Organizations

Article Summary:**The Imam's Missionaries by Yahya Al-Sadmi**

After the 1993 parliamentary elections, the Yemen Socialist Party, which did not fare well, started employing sectarianism to subvert the stability of the country in preparation for secession. For this purpose, the YSP used 3 types of divisive factors: tribalism, sectarianism, and religious denominationalism. They tried to revive sectarian hatred buried since the days of the Imam. Money was paid to several groups belonging to each of the above types. Special squads from the YSP were assigned the tasks to liaise with these groups. They failed but still have some of their cohorts trying to inject their poisons into society.



AL-UMMA: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-10-97. (Al-Haqq Party) News Review:

- 1) The President: "Saudi support and re-admittance of Yemeni labor into Saudi Arabia are subject to resolving the border issue."
- 2) In coordination with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism unveiled comprehensive security plan to guarantee safety of foreign tourists.
- 3) Another baby died in Insulin catastrophe in Reima - Ministry of Health refuses to attend court hearings on this case.
- 4) Yemeni National Committee to Resist Normalization with Israel calls on Prince of Qatar to cancel Doha economic conference.
- 5) Quarrel leads to death of secondary-school student in Dhamar.
- 6) Qatari newspaper attacks Parliamentary Speaker, Sheikh Al-Ahmer, for rejecting Doha conference.
- 7) People who returned antiquities lost during civil war are still waiting for financial rewards.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-10-97. (Yemeni Socialist Party) Main Headlines:

- 1) Two Soldiers Arrested in Lahaj for Allegedly Tearing Down President's Photo'
- 2) PSO and Customs Officials Involved in Smuggling Diesel to Somalia

- 3) Security Forces Break Up Peaceful Demonstration in Mukalla
- 4) Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed Underwent Heart Surgery in London
- 5) YSP Condemns Violation of Iraqi Sovereignty

Article Summary: Embargo on Yemenia

An international embargo has been imposed on the Yemeni national carrier, Yemenia Airlines, for failing to pay huge debts due to international companies. The first step was taken by the British company Honeywell to which Yemenia owes £62,000 for spare parts and maintenance services supplied over a period of 3 years. The American Boeing company has stopped dealing with Yemenia altogether. This situation has driven Yemenia to look for middlemen to buy spare parts; thus, incurring huge expenses.

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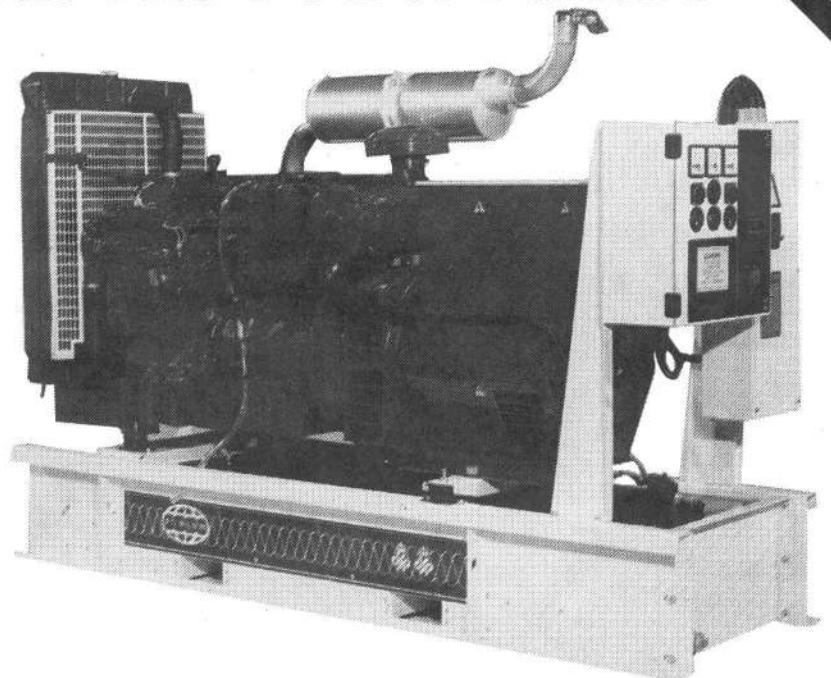
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Training of International Basketball Coaches Concluded

Organized by the Yemeni Olympic Committee in coordination with the International Basketball Association and funded by the International Olympic Solidarity, an international training course for basketball coaches was concluded in Aden. A total of 18 coaches, representing different governorates, participated in the course. The lecturer was the Yugoslav basketball expert Vladav Makovitch who was specially commissioned by the International Olympics Committee to supervise and lecture in this course. This course is an essential step for developing and improving the conditions of this game in Yemen. Due to the problems that faced the basketball game in the current tournament, Minister of Youth and Sports disbanded Basketball Association and formed a temporary committee to manage the affairs of the game until a new association is elected. At the end of the tournament the Yugoslav expert thanked all people concerned for their hospitality and reception in Yemen.

Under the Auspices of the Ministers of Youth and Defense, Al-Wafa Sports Festival Held

Organized by Al-Ahli Club, Al-Wafa Sports Festivals was held to commemorate the late Yahya Al-Odhri who was one of Yemen's best football players during the seventies. The Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Abdulawahab Rawih and the Minister of Defense, Brigadier Mohammad Dhaifullah were the first honored guests to attend the festival in addition to a number of Yahya's friends and colleagues. Many sports clubs participated in the festival in addition to the Yemeni Olympic Committee. The Minister of Youth opened the festival, expressing his heartfelt condolences to the deceased and said that "his soul is still here with all the sympathy and faith to the sports which he loved and sacrificed his life for it." A football match was held between two old teams. The "mature" football stars greatly enjoyed the game. They were all with no physical fitness and with heavy weights, but they tried to show competitiveness, skill, and competence in spite of their ages and agonies of life. This commemoration festival revived many memories that were shared by all during youth time. At the conclusion of the festival, a number of cups and presents were presented to the son of the deceased, Hani, and the rest of his family by both ministers in memory of his past activities.

The Prince Becomes King of the Rings Will Naz Win 4 International Titles?

"If you want to beat Naz, you'll have to use a gun," said the Prince's promoter Frank Warren during their visit to Yemen in 1995.

Naseem's Iron Fist has certainly become the terror of the rings - a present-day legend. The Prince's challengers - world featherweight champions - find it hard to get near Naz, let alone punch him. He is like a cat making the mouse dizzy before devouring it.

Since Naseem started his boxing career in 1992, his victories never stopped. He qualified in 1994 to challenge Europe's Italian champion Bill Castro who fell at the 12th round after a ferocious fight. "Castro looked like a ghost," commented Naseem after their fight. This fight made Naseem win the championship's belt, and regain it for Britain which lost it since the Second World War.

"I'll be champion of the world," shouted Naseem after that famous fight. One after the other, his opponents fell. The point came when Warren agreed to arrange a fight with the British world featherweight champion Steve Robinson in 1995. Around 25,000 spectators, 99% of them were Robinson's fans, gathered in Cardiff to witness the historic fight. Naseem's knock-out punch made Steve fall unconscious at the 8th round. Naseem got his World Boxing Organization (WBO) title.

After much negotiating with Don King, Tom Johnson's promoter, agreed to arrange a fight with Naseem in London. Johnson also fell in the 8th round under the onslaught of Naseem's bomb-like punches at the London Arena in February of 1997. Naseem got his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title. A series of fights followed in which many a famous boxers - starting with Bill Hardy and not ending with Juan Cabrera - fell under Naseem's Iron Fist.

Naseem's next fight with the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, Wilfredo Vasquez, has been postponed indefinitely. Another fight is also planned with World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Luisito Espinoza. Winning these fights will earn Naseem two more titles.

Sheraton's Tennis Open Championship

Celebrating the anniversaries of the September and October revolutions, Sheraton Sana'a is organizing a tennis open championship from September 26th to October 10th. Sixty-six amateur Yemeni, Arab, and international players are taking part.

The matches are divided as follows:

Men's singles: 43 players

Ladies' singles: 12 players

Men's doubles: 20 players

Mixed doubles: 16 players

All in all 80 matches are to be held - 8 matches are held every day of the championship.

"Valuable prizes will be presented to the winners," said Mr. Mansoor Al-Arabi, the championship's supervisor. The first prize is a return ticket to Amsterdam presented by KLM. Consolidated Contractors (International) Company, the Arab Bank, the Yemeni Company of Electronic Calculators are financing cups, trophies, and other prizes to be presented to the other winners.

The final matches will be as follows:

Mixed doubles: 9-10-97 at 17:30 hrs

Ladies' singles: 9-10-97 at 16:00 hrs

Men's doubles: 10-10-97 at 10:30 hrs

Men's singles: 10-10-97 at 16:00 hrs

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Sheraton Sana'a and KLM organized the first international open tennis tournament. Seen above are Abdullah Melhem GM Sheraton, Abdullah Okasha-Area Manager KLM with Sanjay Sharma-Director of Sales.

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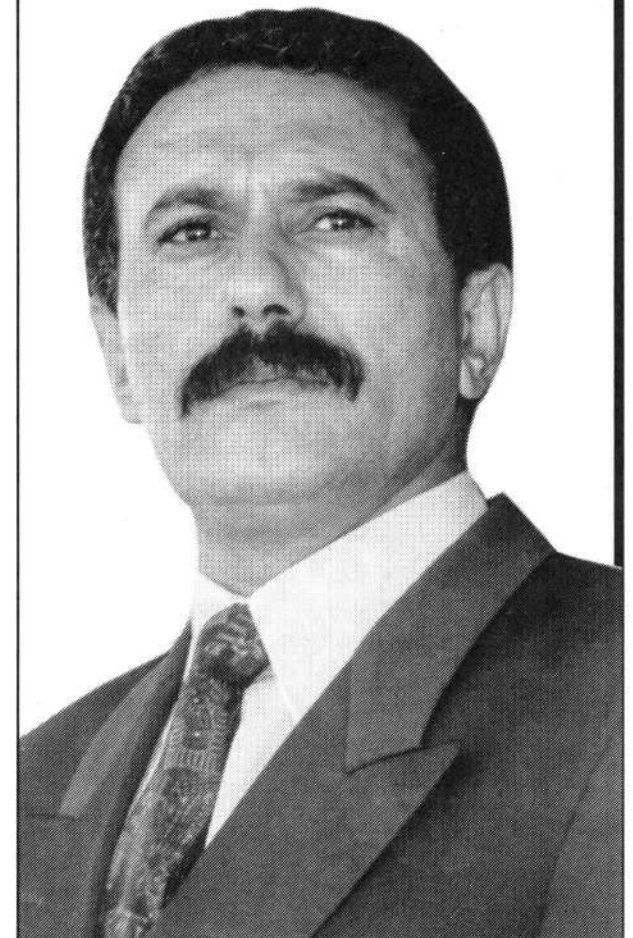
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**Revival of an Ancient Local Tradition:
 Al-Maharah Autumn Festival**

In September of every year, the area of Jawf in Al-Maharah governorate becomes the stage for the autumn festival. Yemenis and tourists alike flock to Jawf to see this exotic festival.

This year's festival, the third in what has become an annual tradition, is a revival of an old local celebration. This year's events started with a 70-strong camel race in Al-Faidami area. Groups of folklore artists came from various parts of the governorate to share their products. In addition to the folk music and dance, sport events such as football and volleyball matches were organized. Awards were given to the winners in the tug-of-war match and the 80-km running race. The festival was concluded with more singing and dancing, and aptly concluded with a public banquet. The prevailing mood was one of enjoyment and festivities.



The events themselves brought together the traditional with the modern, they combined the local with the national and international, and they linked up the normal with the rare and unique. Jawf is some sort of a valley surrounded by majestic mountains from all sides, except the south. The area on this side

extends to the white sands of the Mahara coastland. The timing of the festival is reminiscent of an ancient local culture. It marks the end of the first monsoon rains which come during the months of July, August and September. The farmers and shepherds share the bounty of nature by enjoying themselves and paying tribute.

The land at this time becomes covered with a lush carpet of green, extending from Damkoot to the border with Oman. As the people celebrate, looking up the tops of the mountains, shrouded with the autumn mist, gives a unique feeling of the beauty of nature. At the same time, the sound of the powerful sea waves echoes all over the place. The Al-Maharah Autumn-Festival is a unique experience for all.

By: Saad Ali Mohaisin.
 For Yemen Times in Jawf Al-Maharah.



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