



YEMEN TIMES



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Yemen Undertakes Difficult Talks Towards

Reconciliation

As the power struggle in Yemen continues, the different parties are trying to carve out as much of a space for themselves in post-war Yemen as possible. The arbiter for this power-struggle is the People's General Congress leadership. The Ali Nasser Mohammed people have finally realized that they are neither able nor allowed to totally replace the Yemeni Socialist Party. They have, however, partially replaced it, and that is the end of the line. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah), which has played a decisive role in the war, has reconciled itself with the fact that the YSP will be its partner - along with others - although a much weakened partner. The president has been personally quoted as having told the Islah leadership, "The YSP is part of the political actors on the Yemeni scene, and it will continue to be so." So, the Islah effort is now directed towards visualizing that role and down-grading it as much as possible. The opposition, hopelessly weak, is also looking for a role. Many opposition people are working hard to convince the YSP to lead the opposition. According to an Nasserite party leader, it makes more sense for the YSP to remain within the opposition and help in the political evolution of the country. Whatever the stand of any party, the buzz-word in Sanaa these days is reconciliation. This means that the various parties recognize their differences, and agree to interact within a pluralist political system. It also means that no side will seek to

exclude any other side or to deny their right to political participation. It is in this light that one should view the current meetings in Oman, and Syria, and the upcoming meetings in France, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council and Assistant Secretary-General of the People's General Congress, is at this moment in the Sultanate of Oman to negotiate the return of some 3,000 military men, and a lot of hardware. The government of Yemen is willing to provide guarantees for the safety of these men if they agree to return and commit to work within the framework of constitutional legitimacy and a unified Yemen. The Omani officials have been offering their good offices for this purpose. It is expected that some of the YSP Political Bureau members who are now in Oman, such as Mohammed Saeed Abdullah, are considering returning to Yemen provided certain arrangements are made. It is these arrangements that Mr. Abdulghani is discussing. On the 28th, a formal meeting is to be held in Paris, France, between a delegation to be led by Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, and a delegation representing the YSP and its partners. Dr. Al-Iryani is said to insist that only those political parties which are represented in parliament will have the right to participate in the talks. That means only the YSP can participate. That is why observers believe this to be a tactical step which would later be abandoned in order to incorporate the various southern

political parties and groups in the talks. Meanwhile, politicians outside the ruling cliche, and especially those outside the country, are more worried than ever, especially in light of the crack-down on journalists and politicians last week. As Jarallah Omer in a call from Cairo to a friend in Sanaa stated, "This kind of action does not help politicians outside Yemen come back." A Nasserite politician quipped, "Maybe we should consider underground work, again." But the momentum for reconciliation continues unabated. The rulers know that there could be a lot of unrest and agitation if the various political/social forces are excluded from the political life of the country. That is the rulers are talking about a broad-based government. The thrust should not be to try to bring in everybody in a broad-based government, but it should be to give everybody a fair chance at competing within an open and pluralist system. In fact, a broad-based government that includes everybody may not be in the best interests of the country. If this were to happen, then there would not be any opposition. The government that best serve the political evolution of Yemen is one formed by the People's General Congress along, with both the Islah and YSP in the opposition. But if that were not feasible, then the PGC and Islah should form the government, with the YSP and the smaller parties - as well as independents - in the opposition. Reconciliation should not mean bringing everybody into the government.

I Want My Phones Back

Is there any respect for the law in this country? The telephones of the Yemen Times are not working. All four of them. The fax number is not working either. The chief editor's home phone is not working. His brother-in-law's home phone number is not working. It has been over a week now. Everybody knows that the political security is responsible for this situation. The Minister of Communications said that the paper better talk to the prime minister. Another friend said better call the president. Is it really necessary to call the president of the republic to get our phones working again.

There are several questions that arise in this matter. The most troubling question is the legality of what happened. What gives anybody the right to disconnect the telephones of others? Even under security pretexts, must there not be guidelines and limitations, and why are things left to the whims/moods of a few individuals who often use their authority wrongly. The other question is related to the issue of compensation if and when the security people hurt the interests of citizens and private companies. If compensation were to be paid, it would really help improve the situation and limit the excesses of the security people.

BACK TO THE PAST ?

What happened on July 17th, was it a freak incident, or is it going to set the norm for the future? That is the question people in Yemen and outside have been asking all week. "This is a scandal," said Mr. Hafez Al-Sheikh, the Bahraini journalist and writer who has been very supportive of Sanaa. Two news agency reporters who are also supportive of Sanaa described last week's events as a "Return to the police state of the past." Ambassadors in Sanaa expressed their shock and dis-appointment in Sanaa. Even a government minister called it "stupid." All around, it was a major political blunder. It started on Sunday, July 17th, when Mohammed Al-Sourmi, the Deputy Chief of the Political Security apparatus, gave instructions to round up many journalists and intellectuals and lock them up. The soldiers came by the dozens, and they came at night. They were in (civilian) qabili clothes. Their tactics were aimed at terrorizing families and neighborhoods. I was one of 22 persons arrested and tortured. They put me in a 1.5 x 2.5 meter underground cell at the installations of the political security south of the diplomatic quarter near Safia. There was no free access to the toilet, the dry kudam (hard bread) was not eatable. For the 24 hours we were locked up, it was a nightmare. Most of us went through a similar experience. I would like to share mine in detail. On Sunday night, I was arrested by some twenty "soldiers" and locked up for the night in my 1.5 x 2.5 meter cell. There was a small pad, a two-inch thick sponge to serve as my bed. On the morning of Monday 18th, I began to inquire about my neighbors. There was Saleh Al-Baidhani, an electrician who has been in jail for over two weeks. Then there the man from Shabwah who is accused of being a Saudi agent. Then there is Khaled, across the hall. I didn't get a chance to know them well because it was forbidden to speak to each other. One of my neighbors persistently and recurrently asked for the time. "What time is it?" Then fifteen minutes later, he would ask again, "What time is it?" Another neighbor kept praying for God. He gave many promises to be a good Muslim if he were to go out of that place. A third kept pleading for a cigarette. Around early afternoon, I was blind-folded and handcuffed, with my hands behind my back. I was led by several men through a number of alleyways within the building, and then pushed into a corner. Then they started beating me with their hands and kicking me with their feet. The scars on my face continue to date, and my knee still hurts from their heavy boots. They yelled insults as they beat me. Then they took me back to my cell, and the handcuffs were giving me a lot of pain. My wrist began to bleed. I pleaded with them to take off the blindfolds and handcuffs. First, they took off the blind-fold, and then, two hours later, they took off the handcuffs. Around ten o'clock, they came back for me. Again they blind-folded me and led me through a number of stairs and alleyways and into a car. There were about six men. They drove me around for about twenty minutes. They told me that they would pass me on to another team. Finally the car stopped, and they helped me get off the car. They told me to leave the blindfolds on and to wait for the team to pick me up. A while later, nobody came. I peaked and quickly returned the blindfolds on. Soon, however, the barking of dogs was getting closer and sounded more menacing. I took off the blindfolds, and discovered I was in the outskirts of Sanaa. I looked around and walked towards two small houses. I knocked on the door of one of them, quickly introduced myself as a university professor and explained that I was kidnapped by some thieves and left on that spot. I discovered that I was in the area of Madhbah, close to Wadi Dhahar road. It was also anecdotal to learn that the other house belonged to the driver of Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, not that the man is implicated in any way. I walked for about fifteen minutes towards the main highway, and then towards Sanaa, wondering all the time, if the other security team will catch up with me. I hitchhiked a ride with a truck-driver, and once in Sanaa, got a taxi-driver, a certain Ali Ahmed Al-Matari, who had come out from his home in search of something to eat. He brought me to the Taj Sheba Hotel, where I booked a room for the night. I called up Dr. Siyamend Othman who was also staying at the Taj, and asked to see him. He kindly woke up, and welcomed me to his room. Alongwith his colleague, Dr. Abdul-Hussain Aziz, they listened to me patiently, and gave as much comfort as they could. They explained to me that there other persons arrested as well. Since I did not know whether I was let go, or whether I was a fugitive. Dr. Othman then suggested to swap rooms, and asked me to sleep in his room. Dr. Aziz stressed on me to hit the wall of his next-door room, in case there are any developments. Those two men gave a lot of ease of mind. The next day, I paid a quick visit to my office. I learned that two junior clerks of the Yemen Times were also taken in for 24 hours, and they underwent a similar experience. My archives, papers and documents were ransacked. They went through my ledgers and account books. They disconnected all my telephones, including those of my home and those of my brother-in-law. The telephones are still inoperative. I got in touch with many individuals and groups. Everybody was horrified and shocked. No one could understand what could be achieved from such action. Many people kept wondering whether this incident sets the pace and tone for the future of political interaction. Members of the President's office kept insisting he did not know about it, and once he did, he ordered the release of everybody. Even then not everybody is released. Meanwhile, many of the victimized journalists and politicians, members of the opposition, members of parliament, and even certain members of the government are asking for an investigation to determine who was behind the crack-down and for what purpose. If it happens, Yemeni democratization is still in shape.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Normal Life in Aden

The city of Aden, licking its wounds, is gradually moving to wards normal life. The damage was enormous, and the suffering continues. But the normalization process has started.

Electricity is now available during most hours of the day. The repairs needed by the generators have been carried out, and many spares are being replaced. Engineer Ahmed Al-Aini, General Manager of the Public Electric Corporation, is quoted as having said that 90% of the city is now lit. Electricity is available daily except for a few hours of black-out.

Water supply to the city is now being pumped on a steady basis. Over 70% of the wells which had been working prior to the war have been repaired, and work on the other continues.

Government offices are now open. Many of these have lost many of their furniture, equipment, and files. Even then, the offices are gradually resuming services to the public.

Petrol and other fuel needs have been ensured at pump stations. That is why more and more civilian cars are back on the road.

Shops, restaurants, grocery stores, and other similar businesses have opened again. The citizens are now able to purchase their needs, although some of the household items are not available.

The radio and television stations will take a little while longer to return to full operations. The Ministry of Information officials have announced that service can be resumed, but there may be some more technical problems. Similarly, the press of Aden is in a dilemma. The main printing press, the 14th October Press, has been ransacked and the damage is near-total.

The army has moved out of the city, although it continues to encircle it. Nonetheless, the local police has taken charge of the city. That is an indicator that security is gradually returning to pre-war levels.

Repair of some of more heavily damaged installations is going to take a little while longer. The factories that have been burnt down, the buildings that have been damaged, the airport, and other major installations will be shut down for a long time.

One of the most ominous problems of the city, however, is the fight over real estate ownership. Many private houses and other property confiscated by the authorities have changed hands many times. Each time a new class of rulers takes over, they snatch the property. Thus, many of the officials who lost their homes in 1986 have returned to lay claim on them.

With all those headaches, the patient people of Aden have slowly regained control on their daily lives. The drudgery of "modern" living is creeping in gradually as foreign journalists quickly give way to foreign workers associated with oil and other companies.

Yes, Aden is returning to its ordinary life. It won't be like it was some three months ago, but it will be a new normal life.

Reforming & Restructuring the Armed Forces

The armed forces started on Saturday, July 23rd, what could be a far-reaching reform and restructuring program. The major features of the program are the unification of all armed groups under one command, diluting any tribal or regional hegemony over sectors or units of the armed forces, upgrading the scientific and technical know-how of the soldiers and officers, and raising their capabilities by introducing new training tactics.

The program also plans to instill in the armed forces the need for respect for democracy, political pluralism, freedom of speech and the press, human rights, and constitutional legitimacy.

The National Defence Council had met last week under the chairmanship of Lt-General Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Presidential Council and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, to put the final touches on the program.

"The program is based on the communique issued by the Presidential Council on the 7th of July, and was prepared by the Minister of Defense," a military spokesman said.

Iranian Delegation Concludes Visit to Yemen

An Iranian delegation headed by Mr. Hussain Sheikh Al-Islam, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, concluded an official visit to Yemen.

The delegation was received by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Sheikh Abdul-Majeed Zindani, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Acting Prime Minister Al-Attar, Vice Prime Minister Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi, Foreign Minister Mohammed Salim Ba-Sindiwah, and many other officials. Iran supported Sanaa in the war and enjoys strong relations and good cooperation with Yemen.

EC Support for Yemen

The European Community (EC) issued a communique in which it welcomed the end of military hostilities in Yemen. The communique issued in Brussels on July 20th, also committed 2 million ECUs to help meet the urgent needs of the country within the emergency package.

It also welcomed the Yemeni leadership's renewed commitment to a pluralist political system, human rights, freedom of speech and the press, and the government's commitment to

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pay compensation for damages. It finally stressed the territorial integrity of all countries in the region

The Political Bureau of the YSP Meets in Damascus

The Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party is currently holding extensive meetings in Damascus, Syria. The meetings are chaired by Mr. Mohammed Salim Saleh,

Assistant Secretary-General of the Party. The military members of the bureau are not attending the meeting.

According to Yemen Times sources, the party is discussing the best way to shore up the party, and its role in the construction of the country. The party and its leaders are doing a lot of soul-searching in the aftermath of the war.

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Siyamend Othman:

"Yemen needs to make greater effort to improve its human rights record."

Dr. Siyamend Othman, 43, comes from an illustrious family. Of Iraqi Kurdish origin now a British citizen, Siyamend left his native land in 1966. He never returned. He first attended public school in the United Kingdom, then to Lebanon, and, in 1975, to France in pursuit of higher education.

His grand father was a member of the first Iraqi senate, which was formed following the country's admission to the League of Nations in 1933. His father was among the first Iraqis to obtain a Ph.D. from a Western country. Siyamend himself obtained a Ph.D. from France in 1985.

In 1988, Siyamend joined Amnesty International as a researcher at the organization's International Secretariat in London. His work today is focused on the human rights situation in the Arabian Peninsula. This responsibility brings him to Yemen frequently.

On his visit last week, Yemen Times talked to him at length about his work at Amnesty. Excerpts of the interview:

Q: Could you tell us about Amnesty International, what it does and how it works?

A: Amnesty International is a worldwide movement which was founded over 30 years ago.

Within the general human rights field, it focuses on specific areas which we refer to as the "Mandate". Our mandate includes working for the release of people who have been detained for the peaceful expression of their conscientiously held beliefs or because of their race, color, sex, religion. We consider such people to be "prisoners of conscience".

Amnesty International also calls for fair trial of all political detainees and campaigns against torture and the death penalty. Information gathering and research as well as the initiation of campaigns is done by the International Secretariat which is based in London.

We are a non-governmental organization with membership in excess of one million in over 40 countries. Amnesty International does not receive or accept funds from governments; it depends on its members both - for action and financing.

In recognition of its work, the organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Q: Speaking about members, do you have a chapter or section in Yemen?

A: We have groups which are under formation. We hope these will develop to form a section in the not too distant future.

Should point out that our members in Yemen are not allowed to gather information or campaign on human rights violations in their country. This is an Amnesty rule which applies to our members worldwide as well as to the staff at the International Secretariat. Its purpose is to ensure objectivity and to protect our members.

Q: Could you tell our readers a little bit about Amnesty's involvement with Yemen?

A: Amnesty International's work in Yemen is not new. Our first report on this country was published in 1966 and it related to the torture of political detainees in Aden at the hands of the British occupation forces. After independence, the organization continued to monitor the human rights situation in both the former DRY (South Yemen) and the former YAR (North Yemen), and published numerous reports on violations in the two former states. We have continued with this effort after the country's uni-



fication in 1990.

It may be pertinent to mention here that many currently prominent Yemeni politicians and professions had been prisoners on whose behalf Amnesty International had campaigned. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, presently the Vice Prime Minister, and Mohammed Ba-Sindiwah, the Foreign Minister, are two examples that come to mind.

Q: How have the authorities reacted to your concerns?

A: On occasions, the authorities have responded positively to our appeals, but there remain many outstanding issues which need to be urgently addressed. In particular, the violations which have been committed since the 4th of May (the outbreak of war). We believe that thousands of suspected political opponents were detained following the outbreak of hostilities.

Amnesty International welcomed the general amnesty declared by the Presidential Council which resulted in the majority of these detainees being released. However, hundreds are still held incommunicado and we are gravely concerned that some of them have been tortured and that others may be at risk of "disappearance".

We have urged the (Yemeni) authorities that all these detainees be released unless they are charged with a recognizable criminal offense, in which case they have to be brought before a court of law.

Q: There are reports that the bombing of Aden has led to widespread arrests. What is your assessment given your field trip to Aden?

A: After the government forces entered Aden, scores of people were arrested, the vast majority of whom have been transferred to Political Security detention centers in the northern governorates. As far as the latest reported arrests in Aden are concerned, we are unable to confirm the number or the identity of those alleged to have been detained.

Q: Last week, there was a crack-down on journalists, intellectuals, and other people associated with a Yemen Times seminar. What is your information on this?

A: As soon as we became aware of these arrests, we initiated urgent worldwide appeals to the President and issued a press statement on this matter (Please refer to box). We urged that all those detained in connection with the seminar be immediately and unconditionally released

because they are prisoners of conscience.

We can now confirm that these people have all been released. Obviously, we are pleased that the authorities have responded positively to our appeals in this case, and hope they will be similarly be receptive to the other concerns we have raised.

Q: If a government does not respond to your appeals, what kind of pressure can you bring to bear?

A: Given the quality of its information and its political objectivity over the years, Amnesty International has acquired credibility with the public at large and with opinion makers. The organization has become a sort of moral authority whose pronouncements very few governments can completely ignore. One of our most deadly weapons is the pen which our members and sympathizers use to write appeals to governments.

Q: Many donor countries, especially Western government, have made statements indicating that they condition their assistance programs and aid packages on the human rights record of the recipient countries.

A: We are not ourselves involved in this. We simply provide the reports and information, and it is for the donor countries to draw their own conclusions and decide what to do.

We do not ask governments to cut off aid, particularly humanitarian aid, to a country just because of its bad human rights record.

Q: In general, how would you assess the human rights picture in Yemen today?

A: Unification in 1990 inaugurated a democratization process which resulted in relatively fewer political arrests being carried out. However, other violations - particularly the torture of detainees held on criminal charges - continued unabated. Since the beginning of May this year, our concerns in Yemen have increased dramatically.

On the other hand, we have been encouraged by the general amnesty decreed by the Presidential Council and by the assurances we have been given by Yemen's highest authorities confirming that "no efforts will be spared to observe international human rights standards."

The future of the human rights situation in Yemen will depend on how the country's leaders will deal with the political and economic consequences of the war. We will continue to closely monitor the situation.



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YEMEN: RISK OF TORTURE AFTER RECENT ARRESTS

More than 15 journalists and other professionals arrested by the Yemen political security police over the weekend may be subjected to ill-treatment or torture while in detention, Amnesty International said today.

An Amnesty International delegation was in Yemen when the arrests took place on 17 and 18 July, which followed a seminar held by the Yemen Times newspaper on "The future political perspectives of Yemen".

Dr. 'Abdul-'Aziz al-Saqaf, the editor-in-chief and publisher of the Yemen Times and Ahmad al-Sufi, a journalist, were among at least four of the detainees who were released 24 hours after their arrest. Both had been beaten and Ahmad al-Sufi was chained with leg-irons.

"In view of their treatment, we have serious concerns for the well being of those still under arrest", Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization's delegates have urged the authorities that all those held in connection with the seminar should be unconditionally released.

Amnesty International's delegates are in Yemen to conduct research into human rights concerns including the arrests of thousands of political opponents since the beginning of the civil war in May. Although the majority were released following a general amnesty decree by the Presidential Council, hundreds of suspected political opponents remain in detention throughout the Republic of Yemen.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that some detainees may be subjected to torture or at risk of "disappearance". The delegates plan to raise all these concerns with government officials during their stay.

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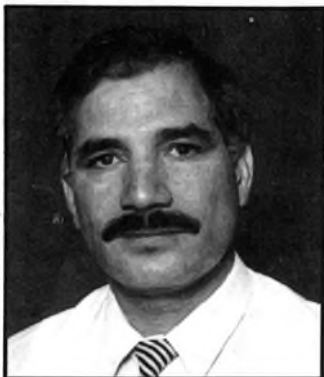
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Onchocerciasis (Sowda) in Yemen

By: Dr. Abdul-Latif Molan,
Chairman,
Department of Parasitology,
Faculty of Medicine,
Sanaa University.



Onchocerciasis, a filarial infection in humans (caused by the parasitic nematode *Onchocerca volvulus*), occurs endemically in two regions of the world - the tropical zone of Africa and Central and South America. Now another focus has been found in the Republic of Yemen.

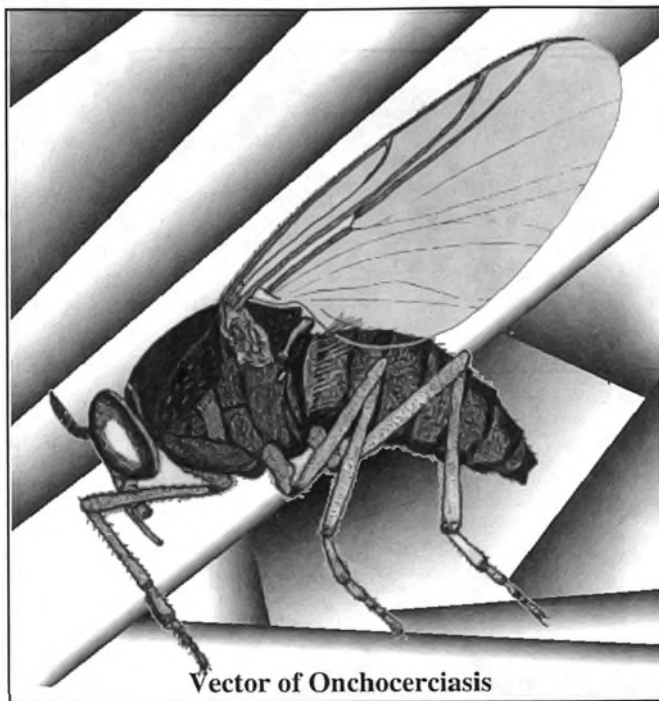
The foci are found most commonly near rivers or streams in hilly or mountainous regions where the black flies, *Simulium*, breed in fast-running streams. Onchocerciasis has emerged as a great world health problem, afflicting an estimated 40 million persons in the world, approximately 326,000 of whom are blind. The number of countries affected is 34, and the number of people at risk is 90 million. The disease has aptly been named "river blindness" by the natives of Africa.

The infective larvae (microfilariae) are transmitted through the bite of the infected *Simulium* blackflies. Adult worms develop in subcutaneous nodules, releasing a large number of microfilariae into the surrounding tissues. Most of the pathology of onchocerciasis results from the migration of microfilariae into the skin and eyes, leading to intense itching and disfiguring dermatitis, and ocular damage, including blindness.

In Yemen, Onchocerciasis is seen as a dermatitis, usually

confined to a single extremity. Typically, one leg is involved, occasionally an arm; rarely is the trunk affected. There is a pruritic papular eruption; the skin is swollen and dark; regional lymph nodes are enlarged and soft. Microfilariae are scarce in the skin, and they more likely to be seen if biopsies are taken around the ankles. This is referred to locally as Sowda (from the Arabic word "aswad" for black) in reference to the darkened skin. Fortunately, ocular involvement seems not to be a feature of Sowda while in Africa and America, it is the most important feature of Onchocerciasis.

Sowda is a peculiarity of Onchocerciasis in Yemen. This form is only rarely seen in most of the other endemic areas. Since it was suggested by Merighi that Sowda might be caused by another species of *Onchocerca* other than *O. volvulus*, two workers (Anderson and Fuglsang) collected microfilariae and adult



Vector of Onchocerciasis

collected.

Although some studies have been done on the prevalence of Sowda in Yemen, the true picture of its prevalence is still uncertain as all the studies in Yemen have been carried out in one governorate - Taiz.

Dr. J. F. Walsh (WHO consultant) visited Yemen in 1991 and reported that the focus of Onchocerciasis is more extensive than had been documented previously and that the figures of 60,000 people at risk and 20,000 infected, which was given in the third report of the WHO expert committee on Onchocerciasis in Yemen, have grossly underestimated the real picture.

In much of West Africa, transmission of *Onchocerca* has been greatly reduced through the activities of the Onchocerciasis Control Program. This has mainly involved regular release of biodegradable insecticides into the rivers to destroy the *Simulium* larvae.

More recently, a newly-developed microfilaricide - ivermectin - has been introduced to treat infected persons, and to halt the progression of the disease. Although ivermectin at the prescribed dose of 150 mg/kg does not appear to kill the adult worms, and although microfilariae begin to re-appear in the skin two to three months after treatment, the numbers of microfilariae observed have still been below pre-treatment levels, even one year after

worms from patients with Sowda for morphological examination during a short field study during 1977 in the governorate of Taiz. The comparative morphological studies of the collected parasites and many other *O. volvulus* worms from various parts of Africa and Guatemala ascertained that the local filaria causing Sowda in Yemen is *O. volvulus* and no morphological differences indicating another strain has been seen.

Concerning the vector of Onchocerciasis, Garms and

Kerner (1982) showed that the Yemeni form of the *Simulium damnosum* (blackflies) complex is anthropophilic and can harbor developing filarial larvae indistinguishable from those of *O. volvulus*, thus providing evidence that it is the vector of Onchocerciasis in Yemen. In 1988, Garms et al., described the Yemen representative of the *S. damnosum* complex as a new species.

Simulium rasyani been named after the Wadi Rasyan where most of the specimens had been

Yemen Times Needs Representatives in the UK & USA

Yemen Times plans to print a UK and a USA edition of the newspaper. Hopefully, this plan will be consummated by the coming anniversary of the September Revolution.

Yemen Times needs representatives in London, Birmingham, and Cardiff - in the UK, and in New York, Detroit and California - in the USA.

Applicants, who must be residents of those cities/countries, are encouraged to write to us.

Thank you!

The Publisher

كل سنة وأنت بخير يا حمادة



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Watch It Guys, Women Are Getting Even !

may be part of Women's Liberation in retaliation to centuries of harassment and physical abuse by men. But whatever the cause, the already overworked few Delhi police is not amused at the rise of incidents of women beating their husbands black and blue with sandals, shoes, kitchen utensils, brooms and "handy" weapons.

The Delhi Police's specialized Crime Against Women Cell now finds that it has to perform a dual role - of taking both cases of wife-bashing and husband-bashing.

Out of the 9,000 cases of harassment registered by the cell last year, about 1,350 cases, or 155 of the incidents concerned women beating up their husbands, in many cases mercilessly.

This is a recent trend and the police have no clue or explanation for the phenomenon. Statistically speaking, it means that women are still more at receiving end violence than men. But is the sudden spurt in cases of husband-bashing is an indicator, husbands and wives could in years to come be in a neck-to-neck race in spouse-bashing.

Obviously, the violence against men is sparked by marital discord, but the traditional docile Indian women picking up arms, albeit non-lethal, has rattled the Indian male population. For the Delhi police, as formerly such cases were rare, it means tackling a new trend in crime.

Police officials say that it could be wrong to assume that the statistical jump in cases of

husband-bashing is because more men are now coming forward to lodge complaints when they became victims of violence by their wives.

Cases of husband-beating are not confined to the poor or middle class, or the less educated, the officials say. In fact, their prevalence is evenly spread among all classes and communities.

A senior police officer gave an instance of a woman, living in a posh housing complex in South Delhi who was charged with "harassment" of her husband after she beat him with her sandals. Ironically, the woman follows a religion that preaches non-violence.

In another case, a woman who was not satisfied with the beating she gave her husband, hired musclemen to do a more thorough job.

In yet another instance, a well-placed man who had just returned from a foreign business trip was accused by his wife of stealing her jewellery, and when he denied the charge, he was beaten up badly, the police officer said.

The wife of a lower division clerk in the federal Labor Ministry suffered physical abuse for six years at the hands of her husband who was a drunkard. Then one day, she decided to strike back. When her husband returned home in an inebriated condition, she beat him black and blue with her sandals and some kitchen utensils.

The experience in Egypt is even more frightening. There,

the media reported several cases of wives not only beating up their husbands, but in several cases also killing them. The celebrated cases have led to the crowding of Cairo courts. Residents stormed the court-houses for first-hand information. Most men shook their heads in disbelief and shock to find the media reports to be true.

In many cases, the wives have killed the husbands, cut them to pieces, put them in garbage bags and dumped them for collection by the garbage truck. The number of husband-killing was so high that sociologists, psychologists, and other experts have held numerous meetings to discuss the phenomenon. In one year alone, Cairo reported more than 130 cases of wives killing their husbands in a pre-meditated way.

Apparently the women have had it. Enslaved and toiled for years, and humiliated by the husbands, suddenly there was the urge to get even, in a more violent way.

Although marital problems are an underlying reason, jealousy of a second wife or a mistress has also featured as an important reason.

Here in Yemen, the situation is still under the control of men. The wives continue to succumb to the whims of men, even when the women are abused. Wife-beating is today a major problem in Yemeni families. The husbands would do themselves good to consider a retaliation.

Fear

I am afraid of a dream...
which would testify that there is no fragility like me
I am afraid of a dream...
which would explode like a mine...
in the spontaneity of my days
I spit it out
so that I no longer wait for the white thread
and I pray to the black.

I am afraid of a dream...
which would break like old pita
in the mouth of my mother
A mouth uninhabited
by the mountains of Tihama;
I won't eat from the timeworn era.

I am afraid of a dream
that gambles within me
so that I no longer manage to wash
and I shoo away the poor.

I'm afraid...
It grows round in my eyes
It drips from the embers of my letters
It remains the Arafat in my conscience
It leads me into the wrangling of my mother!



By: Amna Yusuf Mohammed Abed,
TA, Arabic Department,
Languages Center,
Sanaa University.

Translated By:
Rym Katkhouda, and
Jenny Seymoure.

Rep[rinted from:
Contemporary Arab Writing.

تهانينا الحارة

يتقدم الاهل والأصدقاء بأحر التهاني والتبريكات

((للدكتور محفوظ عبدالله بامشموس وحرمة))

بمناسبة إرتزاقهما مولودهما الأول وبالرفاء والبنين
وجعله الله قرّة أعين والديه وجميع الأهل

عن الجميع:

والدكم عبدالله بامشموس ، د/عبدالعزیز السقاف ، محمد عبدالرحمن النضاري
د/ محمد عبدالله بامشموس وحرمة ، د/سعيد عبدالله بامشموس
وجميع آل بامشموس وآل باززع

الهيئة العامة للموانئ والشؤون البحرية

تقدم التهاني والتبريكات للشعب اليمني الأبدي والقيادة السياسية المباركة
بمناسبة النصر العظيم للوحدة اليمنية والنظام الديمقراطي ومسيرة التنمية .

كما نهنيء الشعب بذكرى إنتخاب الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

The Port and Maritime Board

presents its heart-felt felicitations to the
people, political leadership and armed forces of Yemen
on the victory of Yemeni unity, democracy & development.
We congratulate the people on the anniversary
of election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

An Athlete's Efforts to Introduce a New Sport to Yemen

Roller Skating Comes to Yemen

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,
Yemen Times.

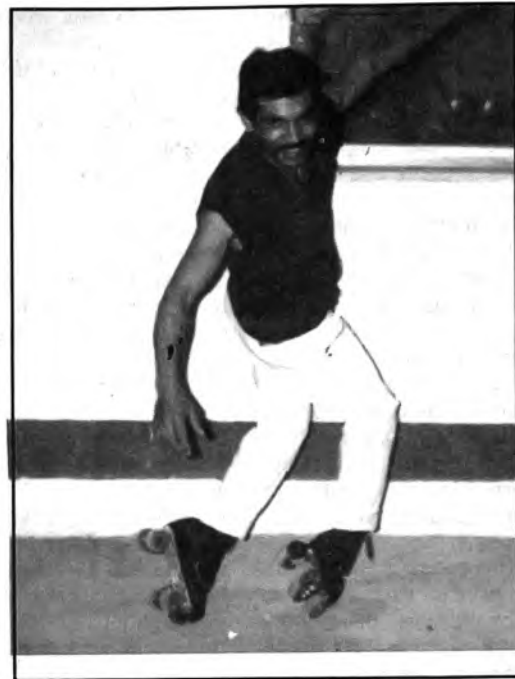
Roller-skating is a game that has yet to become popular among Yemeni kids. Part of the reason is that there aren't many places to practise. There are few asphalted roads, they have too many holes, the finishing is too rough, and of course, competition from vehicles and other traffic is enormous.

The clubs and sports centers do not have the facilities for roller-skating. The game itself is virtually unknown to most children. Hence the lack of growth of this sport.

One man is trying to change that. Hassan Ali Ahmed Mussid, a former employee of the Baptist Jibla Hospital, is a roller-skater, par excellence. "I have tried over the last two months to convince the Ministry of Youth and Sports to simply list this game among the athletic events it supports or even encourages. But, I have failed to even sit down and discuss my proposal to any one," he bitterly complained. "At one stage, I met Mr. Hassan Al-Khowlani, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, and explained to whom what roller-skating is, and how we can introduce it to the general public. 'Look, now is the rainy season. Once it is over, come back and we shall talk again,' he told me. I did not understand the relationship between roller-skating and the rains. I was later told that it was the nearest excuse the official could think of to get rid of me."

Hassan learned this game from an American friend whom he had met in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He used to practise with a large group of athletes, mainly Saudis, but also a few foreigners. "We had clubs we could go to for practice. Sometimes, we would even travel long-distances on roller-skates. For example, we have travelled the Riyadh-Al-Kharj (about 75 kilometers) several times," he explained.

There are two types of roller-skating tools. The most common one is the one where the rollers are attached to the feet. This is the type that Hassan uses, and he performs like ice-skaters with a lot of skill. The game itself requires a lot of grace and physical fitness - it is a combination of ballet and acrobatics.



"It is not as difficult as it looks," he says. "But, if one wants to excel, long hours of practice are necessary," he quickly adds.

The second type of roller-skating is one in which the rollers are attached to a (wooden) board on which the athlete stands. This version allows a different kind of performance. "While the first type allows whirls and other horizontal physical maneuvers, the second is more amenable for loops and other vertical maneuvers," the athlete explains.

Hassan, in mid-twenties, is from Al-Maqadimah, a village about three kilometers from Ibb city. He has travelled to the USA and Germany to perfect roller-skating, which he had picked in Saudi Arabia. In those countries, he participated in quite a few competitions and races, and he has done relatively well.

"This sport does not require any major investments up-front. Children can get their rollers, and all we need is a place where they can train. It is also a game that is based on the degree an individual wants to push himself," clearly with only boys in mind as trainees.

He had tried to use the open space of some of the villas in Sanaa as training ground. "That would have worked, but it proved to be too much of an imposition on the owners. We have considered crazy training hours in the open squares of the capital city, like Maidan As-Sabeen, but again, it just didn't work," he stated.

The game lets the children blow steam and exert energy, without the violence associated with many of the other sports. "While there is a group spirit and team performance, each athlete is left on his own pace," he added.

He is now looking for patrons among the business community and companies. In many countries, rich persons help finance the introduction and growth of new sports, and also finance the training needs of promising young athletes.

"I am wondering if that kind of thing can happen with us. It would be a miracle," stated a visibly frustrated Hassan Mussid.

Hassan also enjoys other sports, notably, horse-riding and bowling - neither of which is also a popular sport in Yemen. "For example, if someone were to start a bowling club or center, it would be a good investment from a purely financial point of view," he urged. But that decision is best left with the investors.

In the meanwhile, our enthusiastic roller-skater will have to wait until opportunity strikes. Keep your fingers crossed.

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join the Yemeni people, political leadership, and armed forces in celebrating the victory of Yemeni unity and in rejoicing in the consolidation of national cohesion.

We also present congratulations on the anniversary of the election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Mangoes in Yemen

These days, wherever you go, you can savour the luscious mango juice - freshly squeezed. Unlike most other fruits available in the market, the mango is new-comer.

For a quarter of a dollar (YR 0), you get a glass full of mango juice. It is also a chance to gossip for a few minutes with the people who usually line up the small shops and mixers. This is usually a corner spot or a small place that serves thirsty customers while they stand on the street.

Yemen today produces four varieties of mango, the favorite being the samakah mango, which means fish mango. Don't let perplexed fishes have anything to do with mangoes, but this variety has taken the shape of a fish, or so has the Yemeni mind determined, with some imagination. This is a sweet fruit, and the inside kernel is slim, thus giving more meat.

The second variety is the ombay mango, most probably referring to the place of origin of the first sapling. The large green ungainly looking mango with mottled sides is a succulent fruit.

The third variety is hybrid which has been produced by the local research stations. The local mango was married to a number of foreign fruits, and the product is the yellow fist-sized mangoes.

Finally, there are the much smaller local varieties. These are popular with the little kids

because they are easier to handle.

Yemeni mangoes vary in size. They range from about 50 grams to almost one kilogram. The color varieties also range from dark green, to yellow, pink and orange.

Handling a mango, in the sense of eating it directly, is quite an experience. There are two aspects to watch for, and you end up losing however careful you are:

The first aspect is that mangoes are slippery. At least once or twice you are bound to get a jolt as the mango slips away. That is why in the Taiz dialect, mangoes are referred to as faga'ah (fugga' = plural) meaning the scare or the thing that gives you the scare.

The second aspect is that you are bound to mess up your face, and possibly your shirt, while eating the fruit.

The main production areas of mangoes are Taiz and Hodeidah. Recently, the fruit has been introduced into Lahej and Abyan.

Nobody knows the quantities of mangoes this country is growing annually, even though there is clear evidence of the rise in total output.

Some entrepreneurs, like the Hayel Saeed Anam Group, which has grown the samakah mango in vast plantations, is considering exporting the fruit. The neighboring Gulf markets are an ideal outlet, although at the present politics stands in the way. But that could change.

Airline Services are Back

Fares are back to normal in the airlines industry. The insurance surcharge has been totally waived for Sanaa International Airport, and whatever extra premium exists for other airports is subject to waiver over the next few weeks.

The end of the war in Yemen and the gradual return of peace has enabled the national and foreign airlines to resume their flights.

YEMENIA - Yemen Airways is back on its normal flight program, albeit on a skeleton schedule basis. Given the low level of business, Yemenia managed to lease out one of its planes, with crew, to a Turkish charter company. The 727-200 Boeing plane is used for charter flights between Turkey and Europe. The two-month lease expires on September 20th, but is extendable for an additional two months.

"Business was down in Yemen in the aftermath of the war. The summer months are an important tourist season in Turkey. So our interests matched," said Ameen Al-Haimi, Director of Passenger Services at Yemenia. He also added that his company will study the local market situation and will decide on that basis the possible renewal of the leasing contract.

ALYEMDA is struggling hard to pull itself together and resume services. Arrangements to fly back an Alyemda 707 Boeing plane from Cairo to Sanaa was blocked by Egyptian authorities because the Yemeni carrier owned some \$150,000.



To add insult to injury, the engine of the plane was taken out to make sure the plane would not be flown out.

Meanwhile, Alyemda is also negotiating the return of other planes - a Boeing 737-200 and an Airbus-310 from the United Arab Emirates. Again, there has been no tangible progress on this count. One of the Alyemda Dash planes which was at Al-Ghaidha was flown to Sanaa last week, and it could be used for internal flights.

Meanwhile, Alyemda has asked for, and obtained financial advances and technical support from Yemenia. Yemenia is also honoring Alyemda tickets that had been issued earlier, and whose revenue has been used. Indeed, the task of Mr. Saeed Naji Salim, the Acting

Chairman/General Manager of Alyemda is a formidable one.

Royal Jordanian (ALIA) has resumed services to Sanaa with a two-flight a week schedule. Its Regional Manager Ali Hileyyil and Omar Mohammed Omar the General Manager of their GSA in Yemen - UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism - are both upbeat on the prospects that business will pick up fast.

U. Jens Ipsen, Representative of Lufthansa German Airlines in Yemen, confirmed that the German carrier will resume services latest by mid-August. "If Lloyds insurance will waive the 0.1% surcharge, our cargo subsidiary, Lufthansa Cargo Airlines, will start on the 4th of August," he said.

Egypt Air has filed requests to resume flights, and it is

expected to start operation next week, if not earlier.

Ibrahim Al-Kohlani, Regional Manager of KLM of the Netherlands told the Yemen Times he is studying the market conditions in order to assess viability and to determine the best time to resume flights. The question is not whether or not, but when to resume flights, he said.

Ethiopian ambassador to Sanaa, Mr. Yusuf H. Nasser, indicated Ethiopian Airlines is studying its schedule in order to quickly fit in its flights to Yemen.

Other airlines which used to fly into Yemen are in a similar situation.

"I expect the Yemeni market to show a quick boom. The airlines see this, and they are bound to return," Mr. Al-Haimi concluded.

Limited Response to the UNDP Emergency Appeal

According to our estimates, Yemen's urgent needs in the aftermath of the war are \$200 million. This is what the emergency program designed to help the Republic of Yemen needs. Up to-date, the total cash money raised for the job is \$1.5 million," disclosed Dr. Awni Al-Ani, UNDP Resident Representative and Coordinator of the UN agencies in Yemen.

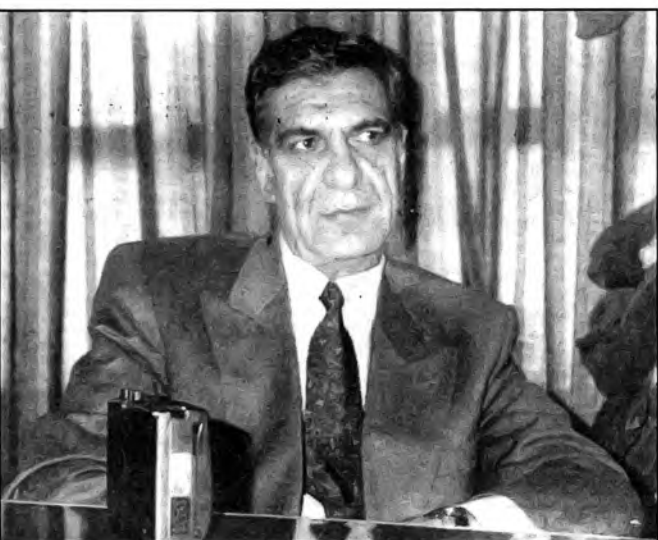
In a press conference on 20th July, the UNDP official stated that he was entrusted some one month ago by Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar, Acting Prime Minister, to coordinate all emergency international aid to Yemen. Three assessment missions were sent to the war affected areas - one to each of Taiz-Lahej, Abyan-Shabwah, and Aden.

He preliminary reports, distributed to donor countries and international organizations, discussed on the urgent needs of three distinct sectors:

- . medical care,
- . utilities (water/electricity),
- . displaced persons.

The UNDP official divided the sources of funds available to the emergency program to three groups as follows:

A: Cash Donations:
Dr. Al-Ani stated that so far, 1,525,000 was received by the program. Of this money, 900,000 came from the Dutch government, \$600,000 from UNDP resources, and \$25,000 from the US Embassy. Additional donations have been



directly made to the ICRC (International Council of the Red Cross), CARE, and other similar organizations," he said. He added that the money is being used to purchase medicine and medical appliances, water pumps, electric generators and parts, diesel, and various other needs.

B: Food Aid:
The World Food Program (WFP) has made available 6,500 tons of food worth about \$2.2 million. This will be distributed to Aden (50%), and the other half will go to various parts of the country. "This week, 650 tons will be distributed in Aden," he said. He also indicated that the distribution mechanism will totally be the responsibility of the

UNDP and the ResRep. The WFP's normal annual food aid to Yemen is worth \$17 million.

C: Re-Allocations of UN Resources:

Some \$7-8 million of UN's Yemeni budgetary allocations will be re-assigned for use in the emergency package. This money will go for the repair and reconstruction of sewage, electricity and water networks and systems.

A UN mission arrived in Sanaa on Thursday, 21st, to assess the war damages and to present a full report on the humanitarian needs of Yemen. "I hope this report will activate a positive world response from donors to Yemen's needs," Dr. Al-Ani concluded.



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الحديدة ت: ٢٢٢٤٦٠/٣ تليكس: ٥٦٦١ ابو جبة يمن فاكسميل: ٢١١٥٥١ ص ب: ٤٠١٥
الخرطوم ت: ٧٤٥٦٩ - ٧٤٦١٠ - ٧٤٥٦٢ تليكس: ٢٢٣٦٩ سيجان فاكسميل: ٧٤٥٦١ ص ب: ١٩٣٦
بورسودان ت: ٢٦٣٠ - ٢٩٧٨ - ٤٤٦٥ تليكس: ٧٠٠٧١ يارن ص ب: ١٦٠

Super Projects Are Improving World's Morale

For anyone who has ever daydreamed about building the world's tallest skyscraper or digging the longest tunnel' the bizarre super-projects' conference is the place to be.

The third annual meeting, held last month in Barcelona's Villa Olimpica, brought together 200 dreamers, consultants and executives from all over the world to talk big - really big.

To qualify as a bonafide superproject, a plan must cost at least \$1 billion. It should also affect the local economy, enhance the environment and improve the quality of life.

Projects already underway include Hong Kong's new \$16 billion airport complex and a \$27 billion water scheme in Libya.

Still on the drawing board is a plan to build a tunnel linking Europe and Africa via the Gibraltar Straits.

There are ideas for sea water desalination systems, gene mapping projects and the development of bacteria that can neutralize toxic waste.

"The concept is not far-fetched," he said.

"After all, Russia once owned Alaska and we didn't have any trouble absorbing it. Once upon a time, they called that colonialism but I don't think it's colonialism but I

don't think it's colonialism."

If buying part of Russia proves a bit tricky, Arizona engineer George Koumal says building a \$37 billion tunnel under the Bering Straits would at least link the area to America.

Koumal has funding for the state of Alaska and has already spent \$250,000 on drawing up plans.

The money did not stretch to a feasibility study but he is convinced the project would boost global trade and lift morale on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

"It would again be possible to say in the US: go west, young man."

And in Russia, it would be possible to say: go east, young man," he said.

A mixture of idealism and hardheaded realism fires the minds behind the dreams.

"Super-projects will produce new wonders of the world to thrill and inspire the world's people."

They will improve world morale. But most importantly, they will be built in order to meet the basic of humanity," said McKinley Conway.

Conway is a former US senator from Georgia and current chairman of the Atlanta-based, non-profit World Development Council (WDC), which sponsored the conference.

The WDC counts among its members US engineering and construction group Bechtel International, Boeing, and Korea's Daewoo Corporation. It distributes information on some 1,000 projects worldwide, each costing at least \$1 billion.

Around one third are as yet only ideas, plans are being drawn up for another third and the rest are already underway. Some of those in Barcelona were drawn by the scent of possible lucrative contracts, especially for construction.

"I came to network, to see what projects are going on around the world," said Tony Williams of the British-based WT Partnership, a construction management and cost consultant group.

He had made four or five good contacts and said: "If I leave here with that kind of hit, I'll be happy."

Some project managers came to learn how others deal with growing environmental, political and economic challenges.

Boaz Wachtel of the human rights group freedom House criticized some of the ideas for bringing badly-needed water to the Middle East, saying they ignored regional politics, and put forward his own proposal for a "peace water pipeline" This would channel water from

a Turkish lake and divide it evenly between Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Jordan.

Super-project managers are getting better at turning dreams into reality but they have room to learn, said Peter Morris, director of special projects at London-based Bovis International.

Morris said 99 per cent of the projects he studied in the mid-1980's cost more than their original price tag and management teams who overlooked potential conflicts, such as environmental challenges, were often to blame.

"If we are to manage our projects successfully, we have to change our focus. We have to manage our projects at a more strategic level," he said.

With the world population expected to grow by one billion over the next decade, Conway said.

"Those who think about world programs must think big, very big. We must undertake the greatest development programme in the history of the world," he said.

Big is the key-word for next year's meeting in Japan where the Shimizu Corporation wants to build the city of the future - a huge pyramid that could house one million people.

Invitation for Tender

The General Corporation for Foreign Trade & Grains

invites tenders to import 10,000,000 sacks for wheat packing

Parties Interested in bidding for this tender are cordially asked to approach the Commercial Department to receive the full set of related documents for a non-refundable fee of YR 2000.

The bid offers will be opened at noon on Saturday 6th August, 1994.



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