



Yemen Times Offers the First Glimpse on their Backgrounds, Ideas and Plans

# Meet the New YSP Leaders

Yes, the new Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party is another Ali. In the Exceptional Round of the Central Committee, Ali Saleh Obad, nicknamed Moqbil, was elected Secretary-General. There is no assistant, and no head of party secretariat. Moqbil was imprisoned eleven times, and spend a total of some ten years in jail because of his political ideas and beliefs.

"The conditions of the YSP today is tragic, but we will pull through," he told the Yemen Times in his first interview with the media since he took over as Secretary-General. It is a good thing he realizes he is in a tight spot. He has to make his party come to terms with whom he refers to as the "victorious allies" and yet, he does not want to antagonize the party leaders, including those outside the country to the extent of splintering off. "I have been in contact with President Ali Abdullah Saleh regarding the steps necessary to allow the party resume its political life. I think we gradually normalizing the situation," he said.

The new party leadership would like to pursue a low profile and slowly build back confidence among party members and in relations with the other political forces. One of the points on which Moqbil insisted was that the former leaders of the YSP should not any more speak in the name of the party, and they should adhere to policies charted out by the new leadership. In return, he will press for a full and comprehensive amnesty for all without exception.

Abdulghani Abdulqader, 48, was born in Taiz, but all of his adult life has been in Aden. He is the person who got the highest votes in the Central Committee elections. He is known for his quiet diplomacy and extremely low-profile approach. The soft-spoken Abdulghani also received the Yemen Times and agreed to a short interview. "However dominant certain individuals become in our party, they eventually go away and the party remains," he said in a clear reference to the preponderant dominance of Ali Salim Al-Beedh and his close allies. "Our party is broad-based and cannot simply be removed from the political equation of Yemen," he added.

The real new face in the leadership of the YSP is Yahya Mansoor Abu Usba'a. Although he had been among the important figures of the party, he had not been member of the politbureau prior to last week. He is expected to play an important role in the workings of the party. "We should really get it over with. Instead of passing out compromise decisions, we should call them as they are," Yahya told the Yemen Times. What he meant was that the party should openly condemn the former leadership in order to speed up its rehabilitation process. The party elders decided to leave that matter to the General Congress, which is scheduled to take place during the middle of 1995. "We do not need rival leaderships abroad and we should not give ammunition to others," said an elder.



The new YSP leaders have chosen the right track. To lie low for a while, strengthen relations with the national forces and build new bridges. "We are basically in the opposition, although one of our decisions calls for the establishment of a national government," said Moqbil. The next few weeks will witness a number of meetings to work out the steps to breathe new life into the YSP.

Pictures clockwise:

Ali Saleh Obad, Abdulghani Abdulqader, and Yahya Mansoor Abu Usba'a

## Summary Bio on: Ali Saleh Obad (Moqbil)

**Party Title:** Secretary-General of Party  
**Job:** Member of Presidium of Parliament  
**POB:** Dirgag village, Khanfar, Abyan  
**DOB:** 1945  
**Children:** two daughters and one son  
**Note:** In the last 3 upheavals in the former PDRY, he sided with the losing side, and got victimized. This time, he stayed out of it.

## List of YSP Politbureau Members

### A: Old Members:

1. Ali Saleh Obad (Moqbil) - Abyan - Member of Parliament
2. Abdulghani Abdulqader - Aden - former Vice Foreign Minister
3. Fadhle Mohsin Abdullah - Lahej - former Fisheries Minister
4. Abdul-Wahed Al-Muradi - Taiz - Party Official
5. Yahya Mohammed Al-Shami - Ibb - Party Official
6. Dr. Hussain Al-Humazah - Ibb - Party Official
7. Ahmed Ali Al-Salami - Al-Baidha - former Electricity Minister

### B: New Members:

8. Yahya Mansoor Abu Osba' - Ibb - Member of Parliament
9. Abdulbari Taher - Hodeidah - Journalist
10. Mohammed Saeed Moqbil - Aden - Member of Parliament
11. Othman Abdul-Gabbar Rashed - Aden - Member of Parliament
12. Mohammed Ahmed Shaibani - Taiz - Publisher
13. Salim Omer Bukair - Hadhramaut - Party Official
14. Sa'ad Salim Faraj - Hadhramaut - Party Official
15. Abdullah Ahmed Mujaidee - Marib - Member of Parliament
16. Mohammed Ghalib Ahmed - Lahej - Member of Parliament
17. Ali Munassar Mohammed - Lahej - Member of Parliament
18. Saleh Awadh Sinan - Al-Maharah - Member of Parliament
19. Ahmed Haiderah Saeed - Abyan - Party Official
20. Mahmood Hussain Saba'ah - Abyan - Party Official
21. Abdullah Baidar - Sana'a - Party Official
22. Salim Al-Khanbashi - Hadhramaut - Party Official
23. Saleh Nasran - Shabwah - Party Official

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemeni Intellectual Leaders Agonize Over the Real Position of the Western Governments vis-a-vis the Democratization of Yemen

One of the main points over which leading Yemeni intellectuals agonize is the level of commitment of the Western governments to the democratization process of the Republic of Yemen. The starting question is really, "Why should the Western countries care?" Actually, there is very little reason for the West to give any real attention to Yemen.

1. The economic size of Yemen is really too small. The total GDP of Yemen is much less than that of a medium-size city in the West. Even within the Arab World, the GDP of 14 million Yemenis is less than that of the 2 million or so Omanis. So there is very little significance to our economic size.
2. The total import bill of Yemen is less than one billion US dollars per year. This is distributed among forty exporting countries. Again on this count, there is very little reason to be interested in Yemen.
3. Some people speak of Yemen's resource potential, with clear reference to the energy sector. By any stretch of imagination, Yemen cannot be perceived as a major oil exporter. Of the some 350,000 bpd it produces today, it consumes half. Again here, we do not see any justification for interest in Yemen.
4. Some people speak of geopolitics as the reason why the West should pay attention to Yemen. But those people who say that have an archaic notion of geopolitics. Location is no longer a real factor given that long-range weapons can engage an enemy from practically any distance. So what is this talk of a strategically located Yemen?

Now all those points bode a bad omen for Yemeni intellectuals who want the West to care. The modernizing forces in Yemen see in the West a "friend" that can provide moral as well as tangible support in the transformation process which they promote. They still bank on a positive Western role if and when the chips are down. However, there has been quite a bit of soul searching regarding what to expect. This has re-affirmed two points:

- a. To recognize that it is the Yemenis who should lead change and to decide how much of it they want and how fast. This also means that it is the Yemenis who must bear the brunt of the resistance to change from the traditional forces.
  - b. To realize that Western "help" - if and when it comes - will not play a decisive role either in halting the anti-change traditional forces or in enabling the modernizing forces to stand their ground.
- So the agonizing process continues, as the intellectuals continue to hope for a positive role from the international community in interacting with their transformation process. Increasingly, there is a feeling among intellectuals that they could be let down when the chips are down. But this questioning is healthy in that it forces the intellectuals to take the front line in the confrontation with the traditionalists and not to count too much on outsiders.

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### Evolving a National Plan of Action to Eradicate the Guinea Worm

The Republic of Yemen is busy evolving a national plan of action to work to eradicate the Guinea Worm (dracunculiasis). Victims are infected through drinking water which harbors the Cyclops, a tiny crustacean, or water flea (copepod), containing the embryonic parasite. Although the host is killed in the stomach, the larvae of the worm settles in the tissues of the abdomen. Following the mating and gestation period (one year), the female - which can grow to almost one meter - migrates to the lower parts of the body of the patient. With time, the worm begins to emerge through the skin at the site of a painful blister. As the victim body gets in water, the worm releases thousands of larvae into the water. The cycle is then repeated.

Dr. Trenton K. Ruebush, Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Guinea Worm Eradication, arrived in Sanaa on September 3rd on a ten-day visit. "I am here to study the guinea worm infection situation in Yemen and to discuss with the Yemeni officials what can be done to eradicate it. The full eradication target of guinea worm in the world is 1995. Dr. Abdul-Hakeem Al-Kohlany, of the Epidemiology Department of the Ministry of Health, and Dr. Ruebush's counterpart, stated that they will visit various governorates to document cases of the disease. "At the end of our tours, we will hold a workshop on 12-13/9/1994 on the results of the visits and the plan of action," he said.

### Government Openly Threatens a Private Newspaper

The 26th September Newspaper, an official organ of the Ministry of Defence - managed by one of the president's closet aides, ran an editorial-like article on 8th September threatening openly Al-Shoura newspaper. We hereby reprint an exact translation of the article:

**Quote:**  
**Al-Shoura ... Which Did Learn!!**

Some newspapers have not learned until now the reality of what has happened, and have not absorbed the changes in the national scene. The traitorous secessionists had started the fire of chaos in the nation, but they were kicked out of the country after the people have spit them out and reaffirmed the country's unity with their blood.

Among such newspapers is Al-Shoura which has persisted in its old and unacceptable ways of illogical journalism. Al-Shoura has not learned what has happened as it races against time to present each new edition full of excesses and poison that are detested by public opinion and general taste.

We wish those in charge of Al-Shoura will understand that the Yemeni people will not tolerate such childish gimmickry, and will not be merciful, ever again, with those who want to rekindle the fires (of in-fighting) in the nation, as there is no reason to fish in the dirty ponds.

The destruction that was done is enough. We hope Al-Shoura will not be more royal than the king.

**Unquote.**

### Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Party Commemorates 3rd Anniversary of Assassination of Hassan Al-Huraibi

On Saturday, September 10th, the Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani party held a major oratory session to mark the third anniversary of the date Mr. Hassan Al-Huraibi, a leading member of the party, was assassinated in Sanaa. "Up to date, the government is not able to make the culprits accountable for their crime," stated Ahmed Kalaz, Chairman of the Party Secretariat.

The party has tried hard to push the authorities into enforcing the law and justice, "especially since the murderers are known to it."

### New Cuban Ambassador Arrives in Sanaa

New Cuban ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Hector Argiles (Read: Arheelus). Mr. Argiles, 54, is a father of six children. He has a BA and post university degree in economics. The ambassador had served in Angola and Iraq, prior to his appointment in Sanaa. He had also served extensively in the Cuban Resistance Movement, the Army, the Central Committee of the Party, and finally at the Cuban Foreign Ministry. In addition to Spanish, Ambassador Argiles speaks Russian and English. He has received six honors and medals from the Cuban leadership. Yemen Times welcomes the ambassador.

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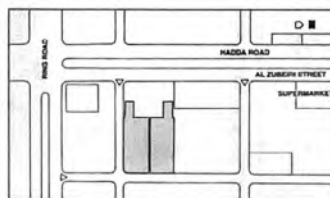
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## Tetra Pak's Arne Mattsson:

# "There is need to invest in agribusiness to benefit from Yemen's abundant fruit production."

Over the last decade, the level of Yemeni output of fruits and vegetables has risen rapidly. However, there are two factors that now stand to limit the growth of output. First is the fact that the harvest time - often in the summer - is extremely focused in time. In as short a time as six weeks, the whole harvest must be cleared. The second factor is that cold storage facilities and distribution networks are very limited. Investments in this sector, so far, have been minimal.

The only way that continued growth of output can be secured is by moving into agribusiness - meaning investments in processing and packaging projects. The leading international company in this sector and with an office in Yemen is Sweden's Tetra Pak. Yemen Times Chief Editor Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf went to talk to Mr. Arne Mattsson, Managing Director of Tetra Pak Yemen. Mr. Mattsson, an engineer, has extensive experience in Europe, Asia and Africa, before his Yemeni association. Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your company's work in Yemen?**

**A:** Tetra Pak came to Yemen some 8 or 9 years ago. There is a great potential for business here. We have a full-fledged office which provides complete back-up needed by our customers, as well as the help required by potential investors. Even during the war, our office was open to attend to our customers' needs.

**Q: I know your company is focusing on data collection and research. Do you have any idea of the production estimates of some of the vegetable and fruits?**

**A:** I have been here only one year. During the past, I was busy attending to business we already had. Recently I have been looking into what can be done in the future. I am impressed by the quantity and quality of fruits in the country. And your editorial on the need for investments in

packaging and processing set me off. I thought this is exactly where I want to start.

**Q: Yemen produces many varieties of fruits. Harvest is a short time. The absence of marketing and storage facilities leads to a large waste. We would like to know what kind of options there are for Yemeni investors?**

**A:** Yemeni investors have a lot of options. We can assist in taking care of the fruits through investments in agribusiness. We can process the fruits into juice, concentrate, jam, etc., either for domestic consumption or for exports. Packaging can be done in various volumes and sizes from 250 liters to bags of 1,200 liters. Can you imagine the export options that could be opened for the country if these fruits are preserved for longer periods.

**Q: What kind of money are we**



talking about in case an investor wants to start in a processing unit.

**A:** That is a very difficult question to answer because it depends on many things: what type of product we are taking about? What capacity, etc? But I can say the projects can range from as small a cost as 400,000 dollars and can go to several million dollars. We can also go for the real giant projects.

It is a difficult question to answer. In many cases, an investor would start with a small-size plant, with an option for upgrading.

**Q: Your company provides technical support. Do you also provide credit facilities to the investors?**

**A:** We do assist in securing loans from various organizations worldwide. We also guide our customers to benefit from

Swedish and E.E.C facilities. We help guide investors, but financing is really the customer's undertaking.

**Q: Could you tell us about your current customer base in Yemen?**

**A:** We have six large companies to which we have supplied the plants. Our involvement so far has been in dairies, and now we are moving increasingly into juices.

We are eager to help the country benefit from the abundant production of fruits which can be processed. I am talking about the mango, papaya, guava, melon and many other fruits. Much of the output is wasted due to mis-handling and low prices in peak supply seasons. The country needs to invest in processing and packing facilities.

**Q: What is the range of service your company offers?**

**A:** Our company offers the whole range of hardware. We start from the fruit itself, cleaning, pressing and converting it into juice, concentrate, jam, etc., and packing and even distributing the product. One of the important advantage points of our company is our constant involvement with research and

data collection. Therefore, we are at the front edge of the technology, worldwide.

With respect to Yemen, we are the only company that has a full-fledged office in the country with the objective of providing prompt and full care in maintenance and after-sale services.

**Q: I understand your company is moving from carton packing to plastic packing. What is the logic behind this?**

**A:** There is a tendency in the world to go into plastic packing and we in Tetra Pak are doing the same. This has the impact of reducing the cost of the final product drastically. We can do it here in Yemen if the companies want it. The final decision-maker on this matter, however, is really the consumer. The carton (paper) packing is better, but it costs a bit more.

**Q: What is the implication of plastic packing on the environment?**

**A:** Tetra Pak is very serious about environmental considerations. We use only materials which can be recycled in one way or another, or which are degradable.

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## Female Leaders Speak to Yemen Times About Women's Issues in Yemen

During the workshop covering the preparations for the Yemeni presentation to the Peking Conference scheduled for 1995, many female leaders gave lectures on various issues. Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times summarizes this and next week some of the papers.

### 1. Paper on "Violence Against Women" by Ms. Fatima Ali Al-Huraibi:

Ms. Al-Huraibi has done a lot of research to document the violence to which women are exposed at home and at work.

"Physical violence against daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, aunts and other female relatives is common in Yemeni families," she said. Unfortunately, that violence is extended even to female co-workers.

There are four factors working against this female-beating phenomenon in Yemen.

The first is that there is a social stigma associated with female-beating. Males who beat up their wives or other females relatives are frowned at by society.

A second element is the "arsh" system according to which the



person beaten-up is financially compensated. That is why wives who are beaten up are given financial remuneration, which though not sufficient to make up for them, helps curb the men who beat them.

A third factor is the education of women, and the encouragement they get in pursuing careers. Women who earn income independently of their male relatives are far less tolerant of such abuse as beating.

Finally, the author has listed government laws and regulations that protect women against male violence.

Ms. Al-Huraibi then listed the factors that lead to female abuse. Among the notable ones are

early marriages, polygamy, old men marrying off young girls, illiteracy, poverty, and abnormal socio-cultural behavior.

Another symptom of violence against women, as seen by the author, is that some sectors are closed off against women. In the legal and military/police sectors, women are almost banned, and the few that are included are there as a carry-over from the former South Yemen. There are 25 females court judges (of a total of 224), 40 female lawyers (of a total of over 600), 44 female prosecutors and attorneys (out of a total of 664). In the military/police sector, there is one female colonel, one lieutenant colonel, 5 majors, 16 captains, 45 1st lieutenants, 80 sergeants, 120 corporals, and 80 soldiers. "The media, women's groups, human rights' organizations and government agencies must join hands to minimize the abuse of women's rights, especially violence against them," Ms. Al-Huraibi pleaded.

Ms. Al-Huraibi, an engineer, is Advisor to the Chairman of the Agricultural Cooperatives Union.

### 2. Paper on "Impact of Wars on Women" by Ms. Aneesa Abdullah Ghanem:

Wars have been a permanent feature of the human civilization, and it is almost exclusively men who decide to wage wars. But women bear the brunt of it. That is the premise with which Aneesa has been working, and she has tried to use the four wars to which Yemen has been exposed over the last ten years to prove her point. These are:

1. The 1986 Civil War,
2. The Iraq-Kuwait War,
3. The Somali Civil War,
4. The 1994 Yemeni War.

"Random bombing often hits families, and the mothers are the most that grieve. When the husband dies, wives are widowed and the fate of widows is quite a hard one in our country. When the bread winner is imprisoned, it is the mother and her kids that suffer," Ms. Ghanem stated.

Those who suffer are not only



the women in the families directly affected by the war. "We have seen cases in civil wars and international wars in which troops invade villages and cities and plunder the families, and in some cases rape the women - as we have seen in the Bosnian War," she said.

Using the Somali refugees as a case in point, the author asserts that it is the women who are left to tend for the family. "The statistics of the Somali refugees in

Yemen speak for themselves."

Aneesa also pointed to the hardships inflicted on Yemenis families due to the return of some one million Yemenis who had been working in Gulf States. Such families have lost their sense of security, and have been afflicted by a lot of psychological and social trauma.

"I do not have sufficient data on our last war, but I will bet the women suffered enormously," Aneesa urged all sides to come together to devise a mechanism which will reduce the fall-out of the war burden on women. According to her, one important mechanism education which allows women to earn income independently of their male relatives. That would give the family two lifelines instead of one, and that by itself is an improvement," she concluded.

Ms. Ghanem is Director-General of Statistics/Media at the Immigrants' Council.

### 3. Paper on "Women in Yemeni Laws" by Ms. Asma Al-Basha:

Ms. Al-Basha tackled the difficult task of investigating what Yemeni laws about women and their rights. She reaches three major conclusions:

- a) There is no law in Yemen that specifically tackles women's rights. Whatever is tackled is done through other related like the law of the family, etc.
- b) Whenever women and their rights are addressed, the law is fair and encouraging.
- c) Most practices are not in any way observant of the laws. She gives as an example the law forbidding marrying off girls unless they are at least 18 years. "But it is done, all the time," she laments.

But her main problem is really what happens not in the family, but at the workplace. "You can clearly see the level of discrimination against women in employment, promotion, and in assigning to them decision-making jobs," she complains. One thing to immediately work on is to increase awareness



among men and women alike regarding the rights of women. "If people are aware of their rights, then they are more like to insist on them and exercise them," she adds.

Again here we see that the level of education is the basic factor in increasing awareness and in assertively exercising one's rights. That is why Asma Al-Basha's paper goes into great length to insist on providing access to education to women.

At another level, the paper speaks of the need for full enforcement of the laws and reg

ulations. "Our experience shows that as fair as the laws may be, unless we have effective implementation, they are as good as non-existent."

Ms. Al-Basha goes to explain the role of tradition and custom in standing against full implementation of the law. "One of the roles of laws is to mould societies towards a preferred behavior. That is why when the law and traditions are in conflict, we should uphold the law at the expense of traditions," she says.

An interesting point raised by Asma is the negative role of some women and the positive role of some men regarding the rights of women. "We have the interesting phenomenon of some women resisting an independent role for women because they prefer the security of being 'taken care of'; and on the other hand we see a lot of men working to help improve the lot of women," she concluded.

Ms. Al-Basha is Assistant Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Planning and Development.

### 4. Comment Based on "The Experience of the former PDRY" by Ms. Fathiyah Mohammed Abdullah:

Ms. Abdullah has been involved in women's rights for a long time. As the Secretary-General of the Women's Union in the former PDRY, she represented women in the Copenhagen, Montreal and Nairobi conferences. In the last workshop, she did not present a written paper, but she chaired the session on Poverty and Women.

"My main comments were based on the experience and progress of women in the former PDRY. Among the notable achievements have been the outlawing of polygamy, enabling women to reach decision-making levels in government such as member of the Presidium of Parliament, and



Vice Minister rank, enacting the law of compulsory education for girls and boys, the labor law which guaranteed equal treatment of women, etc. We had many top-ranking women in the army and police, as well as in the judicial system," she said. She urged the women of unified

Yemen not to allow society to slip backwards in terms of women's rights. "I can see it happening. We are losing some of our achievements."

Fathiyah spoke of the need to have quantitative and qualitative objectives. "We should say, for example, by the year 2000, such a percentage of our doctors should be women, so many of our ministers, judges, officers, etc. must be women," she said.

She especially insisted on enacting the appropriate laws to guarantee education, training and job opportunities for women. "Unless we women push hard, it won't happen."

Ms. Abdullah is Advisor to the Minister of Pensions and Social Affairs. She holds the rank of Vice Prime Minister.

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## Aden's Deputy Governor:

# "Aden faces enormous tasks, but we can handle the situation."

By: Shaher Mus'abain,  
Aden Bureau Chief, Yemen Times

More than any other city in the Republic, Aden faces the task of reorientation and transformation. Its citizens are doing a lot of soul-searching regarding the future of their city, and in effect, their own future.

"Of course, we all realize the enormous tasks ahead of us in Aden. But we can handle the situation, and I think Aden shall prevail," said Mr. Waheed Rasheed, the Deputy Governor of Aden. Mr. Rasheed was referring the loss of furniture, equipment and other assets of the government agencies in Aden due to the pillaging during the last days of the war and the weeks following it. "That is why most government agencies were paralyzed, and they are only gradually returning to normal functioning," he said.

The Deputy Governor also pointed to the damage done to private property. Many families and companies have lost their vehicles, equipment, furniture, and some even their homes.

"A committee has been formed to assess the damage and to give estimates of the compensation requirements," he added. The Deputy Governor disclosed that the residences fully destroyed are less than a hundred.

The official then stated that his office is pre-occupied with efforts to determine the families which lost their bread-winners in the war. "Our task is to make the lives of these families as easy as possible, given the circumstances," he said.

Mr. Rasheed then pointed to the sensitive issue of property ownership in Aden. "Property in Aden has changed hands several times over the last couple of decades. In addition, we have the



random construction effort and organize the use of land-use, in light of the special role (free zone) to be played by Aden," the Deputy Governor stated.

Speaking about the security situation in the city, he disclosed that the ease of access to arms has created a dangerous and precarious situation. "We have retrieved a lot of the arms, and we are steadily enforcing the law in terms of carrying and using arms in the city. But this is a long and arduous process, but the law shall prevail."

With reference to the recent events that involved armed clashes between the government forces and armed militias, the Deputy Governor expressed his regret at the destruction and the subsequent loss of lives. Armed militias have recently destroyed several shrines in Aden - especially those in the Al-Hashimi and Al-Aidaroos mosques.

## Bekanntmachung fuer Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 16. Oktober findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die ausserhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und dort keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, koennen bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Fuer ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, dass sie

1. nach dem 23. Mai 1949 und vor ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland \*) mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland \*) gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewoehnlich aufgehalten haben;
2. a) in Gebieten der uebrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltag seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland \*) nicht mehr als zehn Jahre verstrichen sind;
3. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 26. September 1994 oder spaeter bei der zustaeendigen Gemeindebehoerde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (Para. 18 Abs. I der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblaetter) sowie informierende Merkblaetter koennen - von den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, - vom Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, D-65180 Wiesbaden, - von Kreiswahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskuenfte erteilt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Sanaa, Telefon 01 - 21 67 56 und 21 67 57

Sanaa, den 29. August 1994

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

\*) zu beruecksichtigen ist auch eine fruehere Wohnung oder ein frueherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thueringen zuzueglich des Gebietes des frueheren Berlin (Ost)).

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# What Is Yemen's Inflation Rate? And Who Is Responsible for It?

Statistics are some of the hardest things to find in Yemen. And when you do find some numbers, they are utterly unreliable, and are often concocted. One of the commonest questions asked is related to the inflation rate. Most citizens complain about the ever-rising cost of living.

The table associated with this article, gives comparisons of wholesale factory prices. The retail prices are usually 30% higher. Over the last four years, the price level of basic consumer goods - as shown in the table - have increased about four-fold.

But the last item listed on the table shows the price of the US dollar has jumped higher than the price of any of the goods. What does that mean?

It basically means that the importers and/or producers of the goods are not the main reason for the rise in prices. If the importer has to put up more Riyals to purchase each dollar with which he/she/they import the goods, then it is only natural that the price tag will be higher. It is therefore, obvious, that to find the reasons for the rising price-levels, one has to find the reasons for the continued deterioration in the value of the Yemeni currency.

So, what makes the Riyal fall steadily?

The answer to that has to do with

## Comparison of Price Structure for Basic Consumption Goods in Current Yemeni Riyals

Commodity	May 1990 Price	September 94 Price	1994/90 Prices
Sugar (10 kgs)	391	1800	460%
Rice (50 kgs.)	351	2000	570%
Ghee (15 pounds)	93	510	548%
Tomato Paste (24 cans)	240	750	313%
1/4 Liter Milk	70	280	400%
1/4 Liter Fruit Juice	68	289	425%
12 Cans Beans	110	450	409%
12 Cans Broad Beans	85	410	482%
2.5 kg Powder Milk	150	675	450%
Sack of 50 kg Cement	70	300	429%
Truck-load Gravel	600	2500	417%
Truck-load Sand	450	2400	533%
24-Packet Detergent	174	613	352%
Carton Body Soap	183	725	396%
Riyals per US Dollar	14	82	586%

the triple deficit in the Yemeni economy.

First is the trade imbalance. The balance of payments deficit has been a major headache to this country. In the past, remittances from Yemenis working abroad and foreign loans and grants have more than off-set the deficit in the balance of payments. But those days are long gone.

The second deficit has to do with the government budget. For as long as anyone can remember,

the government of Yemen has lived beyond its means. It has been covering its deficit by borrowing from the Central Bank of Yemen. Its account today stands at a debit of almost 150 billion Riyals. This means printing more and more fiat money.

The third deficit is related to the negative national savings rate. In other words, the total earnings and receipts of this nation is less than its expenditures in investment and consumption.

So, why are the government and journalists blaming the merchant class and industrialists. Because it is easy and there is no fear of reprisal. Moreover, such baseless accusations feed these anti-capitalist tendencies feed nicely on the anti-rich feelings of tribalism and socialism.

It would be in the interest of the country if the government took steps to stop any such anti-businessmen campaign, if at least in the official media.

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## Attention Indian Nationals

The Embassy of India, Sanaa, requests Indian nationals who are returning/resident in Yemen to kindly get themselves registered with the embassy. Registration forms can be had from the embassy.

Alternately they may write to us giving details of names, address, telephone numbers, employers' name and address & passport details.

### Embassy of India,

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P. O. Box 1154, Sanaa (RoY).  
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Fax : 00-967-1- 263062  
Tel: 241980/1/2

## ada Organizes Seminar on Computer Networking

Arab Digital Agencies (ada) has organized last week a seminar in which guest speaker Sam Al-Bihairi of NASS spoke about networking. Many technicians and would-be computer wizz-kids have attended the interesting lecture.

Sam, with 18 years of experience in the field, is trying to link up with local entrepreneurs to bring this technology to Yemen. His main contact person has been Mr. Abdullah Faris, himself at the leading edge of this technology. Faris, co-owner of ada - known more popularly as Diwan for the company it represents in Yemen - has been promoting the use of computer hardware and software.

Dr. Mazen Al-Salehi, General Manager of ada, stressed the importance of networking to achieve the most efficient flow of data through the wires. "Most users are still limited to the appletalk networks, which are rather primitive and limited. We need to move to new systems such as ethernet and NASS systems," he added.

Faris pointed out that the world is already being linked through various systems, allowing users to have access to rich information deposits worldwide. ada is organizing an important computer exhibition late next month.



Pictures from the lecture of Mr. Bihairi and the audience



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# 2 Firsts from the Ministry of Education: Decentralization & Informatix Department

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi,  
Yemen Times.

The Ministry of Education now stands to claim the honor of being the first government ministry in two innovative policy decisions. These are steps towards decentralization, and the establishment of an Informatics Department to coordinate the use of the media in the educational effort. "We have taken clear-cut policies in both counts," said Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Minister of Education. It is true, under the able guidance of Dr. Al-Qirby, the gigantic ministry has already taken tangible steps towards a full transformation in both counts.



## A: Decentralization:

Three examples of the delegation of authority and responsibility by the ministry to the governorate branches are given below:

1. At the preparatory level, each governorate already prepares its exams and corrects. In the past, they used to receive the exams from Sanaa and then send the exam papers for correction by Sanaa. This is no more.
2. At the secondary level, we have established four regional centers - Sanaa, Taiz, Aden and Mukalla - charged with preparing and correcting exams.
3. To establish an Educational

Council in each governorate. The chair is the governor and membership includes the governor's director-general, three principals of schools, three public figures interested in education, and the president of the local development council. This council has wide-ranging responsibilities like appointing directors of educational centers, naming technical committees to attend to tasks related to the schools and education. At another level, Dr. Al-Qirby disclosed that his ministry is

busy at work to establish technical community colleges, in a clear re-orientation towards market needs. "We are going to start with three technical community colleges in Sanaa, Aden and Taiz," he said. The experiment - once successful - is hopefully going to be replicated in other governorates at a later stage. The Minister also indicated that the unification of the educational hierarchy and student-promotion system had been completed last year. He added that

this year, the curricula will be fully unified.

Finally, he pointed out that some 70,000 students took the high-school leaving exams in June. At the time, part of the country was engulfed in war and, therefore, students in the southern and eastern governorates were not able to take the exams. "We have arranged make-up exams in the southern and eastern governorates. They started on August 18th, and some 13,000 have taken them. Everything is back to normal," the minister stated.

## B: Informatics Department:

On Thursday, September 8th, the Minister inaugurated the establishment of a new department which will maximize the use of media technologies in the educational process. In addition, the modern facilities will be used to bolster the Teaching Aids.

According to a 17-point task list prepared by the new department, links will be established with the TV, radio and newspapers with the purpose of using these facilities to promote more extensive and accurate awareness among the public.

One of the tasks also calls for the publication of an educational monthly called "Al-Ghad" (Tomorrow).

Minister Al-Qirby who spoke on the occasion proposed to commemorate the 8th of September of every year as the day of Infor-

matics in education. He also called on all newspapers - whether owned by the government, political parties, unions or private individuals/companies - and the radio and television stations to participate in the campaign to "enlighten the general public".

One of the main difficulties facing the transformation process being pushed by Minister Al-Qirby is the sheer size of the people involved. The ministry is charged with the responsibility for some three million pupils and students, and to manage the administrative and financial needs of almost 100,000 teachers and employees. "That makes it even more urgent for us to speed up the decentralization process,"

he indicated.

Another problem is the politicization of the work at all levels. "If we push out inefficient people, they always tend to give it a political twist and deploy the machine of a whole party against us. By the time we explain ourselves, a lot of time, energy, and resources could be wasted," the minister said.

A third problem has to do with financial limitations. The ministry, in spite of the priority awarded to it, still is unable to secure the funds it needs to perform its work in the way its leaders want. "That is why we have cut back on certain expenses and we have pushed cost-effective measures in all our endeavors"

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## A Yemeni Cyclist Roams the World

By: Yahya Yusuf Al-Hodeidi,  
Yemen Times.

Next week, Yemeni cyclist Abdullah Al-Otaila will embark on a second adventure. "I will fly out to Iran, and from there, I shall start cycling eastwards for two years," he told the Yemen Times.

Yes, Mr. Otaila will drive from Iran to Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China, Korea and finally to Japan. "My mission is one of good-will and love among humanity," says the Yemeni adventurer.

Last year, he completed an 18-month trip that has taken him around the Mediterranean. He started off from the United Arab Emirates, into Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and back to Yemen.

"I do it for the adventure, for the fun. But then there is the serious message which is that whatever our nationalities, we are all human beings and we should not be afraid of one another," says the idealist cyclist.

What kind of problems does he face in his adventure?

The first cumbersome problem has to do with visas and letters of introduction. His passport is a fat one and has so many stamps. The problem of language is not a major one. "Human being can communicate if they try. Hand gestures is an international



language which is understood by all," he asserted. The real problem, however, is a financial one. Al-Otaila, 25, is self-financed. "I depend on the courtesy and support of people I meet. In many cases there are immigrant Yemenis who help me out," he disclosed.

Al-Otaila travels as a messenger of peace. But the peace he has in mind is one between human beings and nature. "We must take care of the environment, otherwise, we could do permanent damage. I talk to all people I meet about the need to protect the environment," he said.

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Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
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France	268832/3
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Hungary	216250, 216679
India	241980/1/2
Indonesia	217388
Iran	243439/40
Iraq	216682/790
Italy	265616/73409/78846
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Dem)	232340
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	216317/319
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	208815/6
Mauritania	216770
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	215626/7/8
Oman	208933/4
Pakistan	248813/14
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Poland	248362
Qatar	217488/296
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Russia (FR)	78272/78275
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Oman	233433/460
Palestine	232340/232717
Russian (FR)	232792/232625
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# YBRD Honored for Achievements

By: Yemen Times Staff

As preparations get underway in New York to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations (in October 1995), a list of special citations is being readied. That list, Yemen Times learned, includes the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development (YBRD).

In recognition of the importance of the anniversary - commemorated under the theme "A Vision of Hope", the United Nations is undertaking an international program of multi-cultural events. The Regency Corporation Ltd. is producing an officially-recognized book encompassing the 50 years of the UN. The book, to be issued in the six official languages of the UN (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), will examine the UN's multi-dimensional responsibilities and highlight the vital role of its humanitarian, development and financial agencies. It will also

document the UN's global efforts to keep peace and protect the environment, emphasizing the importance of sustainable human development - putting people at the center of development and focusing on their needs and potential. The invitation to include the YBRD in the book's citations is due to:

"Conscious of the need to work in partnership with all sectors of the community - specifically the financial sector - it was felt particularly appropriate to invite the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development to participate within the historic initiative... (because) the Bank is perceived not only as a symbol of economic development, but also as a worthy ambassador for the Republic of Yemen, which celebrates its 38th year of membership of the UN in 1995."



Mr. Ahmed Al-Muhanny has graciously accepted the invitation to include the bank in the book and sees the marketing opportunity as well as the prestige associated with the selection of the YBRD in this extraordinary global initiative.

Al-Muhanny has decided that the YBRD's participation in the book will be in the form of a message from its chairman and a profile of the bank. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali, is pressing hard to use the

occasion to bolster the UN image worldwide. He has already called the occasion a "milestone for the international community" and a time for "charting a new course for the next century." The Secretary-General himself is leading prep-

arations for the celebration under the banner of "United the Peoples of the World for a Better Future."

It will be remembered that the YBRD was established in October 1962, one month following the September 26th Revolution. Until 1972, it had served as a commercial bank as well as a central bank because it took care of government accounts. During that time and since, it has also served as a development bank because it financed development projects, construction, etc. The YBRD established over two dozen companies and plants which continue to play a key role in the progress of Yemen.

"The YBRD's contribution to the country is clear. Even with all the hardships we face, we shall continue in our commitment for the welfare and development of the country," the YBRD Chairman assured.



## Priceless Beauties Stolen from the Southern Museums during the War

By: David Warburton.\*

During the recent events, rumors spread like wildfire that the museums and libraries in the Southern and Eastern governorates suffered considerably. The General Organization for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums (GOAMM) of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has now published *A Preliminary Catalogue of the Missing Artifacts from the Museums* which goes some way towards countering those rumors, and sets forth the facts that the Organization's fact-finding mission could establish. Led by Dr. Ahmed Bataya, General Director of Antiquities, the mission visited every installation of the GOAMM in the Southern governorates in the first week of August.

While most of the museums were vandalized or looted, the Al-Ahqaq library in Tarim was untouched and the Aden museum was not emptied, contrary to some of the wilder reports reaching Sana'a. We were not able to establish a precise account of exactly what was missing in each and every museum, but in general it can be confirmed that of the thirteen (13) facilities we investigated, at least ten (10) had suffered from thefts or vandalism or both. The damage was most complete in Lahej/Hawta where the entire museum was emptied, but the situation in Hailayn was not much better, as the broken showcases remain to be disposed of. Vandalism and thefts also occurred in Dhala and Mukalla. In Aden, Ataq, Bayhan, and Zinjibar serious thefts considerably diminished the value of the collections of antiquities. At least two of the three Museums of the Martyrs in Aden were vandalized.

It is difficult to gauge the importance of the damage, as archaeologists are not accustomed to estimating the value of finds in dollar terms, as we treasure a fragmentary pottery vessel found in situ more than a gold trinket whose origin is unknown, and yet people always want to know what "thing are worth". Our eyes were exposed to dismayed scenes of carnage in museums at Hailayn and Aden where the remnants of displays littered the floors, but the situation in Ataq was worse, as treasures there had been lifted from the showcases without breaking the glass. Although museums across the country suffered, and the catalogue attempts to define the extent of this damage. In this article, I just want to hint at the degree of the damage in archaeological terms, drawing on the material from just two groups of items in just two museums.

In Aden, the most important losses were the principal treasures of the Muncherjee collection. The degree of the tragedy can be best understood by grasping the fact that the Aden museum was created by the British in order to house the Muncherjee collection, which they had purchased from the collector's son, for the sum of £15,000 in 1960. As the government then raised more than £20,000 just to build the building to house the antiquities, one appreciates that the price paid was purely nominal. Inflation has driven down the value of the pound sterling, and recent decades have seen an incredible increase in the price paid for antiquities on the European

market, so that several weeks ago an ordinary sculpture from an Assyrian Palace - in no way unique - fetched some \$5 million. The objects removed from the Aden Museum are however completely unique, so that in very crude dollar terms, the objects stolen from the Aden Museum are thus worth - at the very least - several tens of millions, if that could possibly mean anything in comparison to the historical and artistic importance of the objects. Many of the objects in the Muncherjee collection were acquired from what was apparently the Royal Necropolis of the Kings of the Kingdom of Awsan, which flourished more than 2000 years ago in Shabwah. Awsan is virtually unknown today for it disappeared as an independent force before the seeming dawn of South Arabian history, perhaps as early as the 8th century B.C.E. when it was destroyed by the Sabaeans. Mukarrib Karabil Watar, so that the Sabaeans then became virtually synonymous with South Arabian civilization, until the appearance of the Himyaritic kingdom around 2000 years ago. Until now, no serious archaeological excavations have been undertaken into the heartland of the Awsan Kingdom, in wadi Markha, so that virtually everything we know about Awsan is derived from the objects in the Muncherjee collection.

The most wonderful pieces in the collection were the statues of several generations of kings, with their names and filiation inscribed on the statues, providing us with a text book case of art history and epigraphic detective work, as we have effectively one statue for each generation, and the relations between the generations are defined. A decade ago, describing the statue of the Yasduq'il Far'um Sharah'at, one of the finest of these royal statues, Dr. J. Pirenne wrote:

"Significance of the document: 'This is particularly great as the recognition of the re-appearance of a flourishing Awsan Kingdom after its destruction by the Sabaeans. Mukarrib in the 5th century B. C. revolves upon the interpretation of this statue. Based upon my date for this statue, I have deduced the revival of the kingdom with a second zenith around the first century B.C. (under the predecessors of Yasduq'il).'"

The issue of the location and interpretation of the revival of the kingdom of Awsan is one that continues today, long after the late Dr. Pirenne has left the scene, and the importance of the statues will not diminish if excavations in wadi Markha were to prove that Dr. Pirenne was mistaken about the date and the re-appearance of the kingdom. The statues of the kings of Awsan are unfortunately just part of losses that the Aden museum has suffered, but they give an idea of what these losses mean to archaeology, art, history and epigraphy. And the museum visitor will certainly miss these treasures. Thus, even though these objects were not found in situ they are still of remarkable importance, and possess indeed a certain beauty as well.

It was remarked above that archaeologists generally appreciate insignificant objects found in situ more than gold trinkets, but even archaeologists are naturally overjoyed when they can find gold and silver in situ, as happened in Wadi Dura

(Shabwah) in 1985, when Jean-Francois Breton and the joint French-Yemeni team opened up some tombs filled with wonderful objects. Alerted by villagers that treasures lay hidden in wadi Dura, a joint French-Yemeni team came to investigate. The gold, silver, ivory and bronze found in those tombs and carefully taken to the Ataq Museum was stolen from that museum during the war. Again, the finds are unique and wonderful. These objects have been praised before in the pages of the *Yemen Times*, and speculation advanced about the reason for their presence in a cemetery a good way off the incense trail joining the Arabian and Mediterranean Seas.

Suffice it to say that it was the very sword hilt stolen from the Ataq museum which induced me to begin my excavation in Yemen at the place that I chose, which was the mound of ruins beside the cemetery. That sword hilt was made of silver adorned with golden rosettes inlaid with red glass, and it was definitely not Yemeni. Among the other treasures are exquisite cups and bowls and ladles with beautiful inscriptions in South Arabic letters. Like many of the other things in the collection, they may have been made in Yemen by foreign workers, but they were distinctly foreign in nature, and these objects induced me years ago to inquire just why such magnificent finds were in that particular wadi.

The objects themselves are unique, and they were found in a scientific excavation, and thus there is no question about their province, so that their archaeological value equals their financial value, which cannot be estimated. Looking at the objects themselves as a group, one is inclined to pose philosophical interpretation about Yemeni history, and as archaeological treasures we can compare the elaborate artwork of the ornamentation with other finds from around the world, and as artistic treasures they enriched the Ataq museum enormously. As archaeological objects, they gave meaning to the city beside which they were found, which would otherwise have perhaps never have attracted attention.

On the one hand, the history of Yemen hinges on the interpretation of the statues of the kings of Awsan, while no the other archaeological activity in Yemen was directly influenced by the finds in wadi Dura.

On the one hand, the interpretation of the history of Yemen hinges on the interpretation of the statues of the kings of Awsan, while on the other hand, archaeological activity in Yemen was directly influenced by the finds at wadi Dura, which were the first scientifically accomplished rescue excavations, and the finds themselves led to our recent excavations. These two groups of objects, the statues of the kings of Awsan and the treasures of wadi Dura indicate that these are treasures which belong to Yemen, and to all humanity, as part of the cultural heritage of man. It is a tragedy that these and many other treasures have been removed from the national museums of Yemen, and it is to be hoped that the objects can be recovered, by alerting the public in Yemen, and authorities around the world about the losses. The trade in antiquities stolen from museums is illegal, even if Yemen has not yet adhered to the



UNESCO convention concerning the antiquities trade. It is to be hoped that these tragic events can lead to an change of this situation. Anyone interested in acquiring a copy of the report should contact the Ministry of Culture.

\* Mr. Warburton is the Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS). He is an archaeologist who participated in many missions in many countries and produced many reports. He joined the mission of the GOAMM to aid in preparation of the catalogue and damage assessment. He translated Dr. Pirenne's comments form the *Corpus des inscriptions et antiquites Sud-Arabs* (Louvain, 1986) II: 316. The opinions expressed here are purely his own and do not reflect those of GOAMM or AIYS.

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