



# YEMEN TIMES



September 19th through 25th, 1994

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**EL SOFFARY**

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## Haidar Is Replaced by Haidar in SA

Lt-Brigadier Haidar Saleh Al-Habeely returned last week to Yemen with his some 500 men - known as the Peace Brigade. They are made up of Yemenis from the Baihan region, and for a long time, they had vowed to fight against the regime in the former PDRY. Saudi Arabia provided them a camp at Tabook and gave them the necessary financing and training and limited arms. In the recent war, the Peace Brigade sided with its old foe against the unity government. But that was not destined to be a lasting arrangement. The Peace Brigade's camp has now been turned over to the new forces that fled upon the fall of the secessionist government. These new forces are under the command of Haidar Al-Attas. Hence the pun Yemenis play with. Roughly translated, it stands for Haidar Exits Saudi Arabia, and Haidar Enters it.

Colonel Al-Habeely and his senior officers were received by President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week. He was told there was room for all Yemenis in the country, and that they need not seek refuge in other countries.

"We are happy to return to our country and be re-integrated," he said. He also pointed out that his men were being merged into the Yemeni armed forces.

Lt-Brigadier Al-Habeely then praised the comprehensive amnesty issued by the presidential council and described it as an important factor in the country's healing process. He and his men renewed their pledge to the constitution and to the goals of the Yemeni Revolution.

The Peace Brigade had been formed in the 1970s to counter the excesses of the then-ruling regime in the PDRY.

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN TROUBLE IN YEMEN

The evidence showing the regime's intolerance for freedom of the press is piling up. Everyday, there is new proof that freedom of the press in Yemen is being subjected to abuse. Below are examples:

1. Mr. Hisham Bashraheel, Chief Editor of *Al-Ayyam* newspaper, accused the Minister of Information, of giving orders not to print his newspaper. Mr. Bashraheel stated that there is now proof that the government is blocking his paper. *Al-Ayyam*, one of the country's largest newspapers has charted for itself an independent course and has successfully resisted being sucked in by any of the power groups, including the ruling ones.

2. Ahmed Kalaz, President of the Secretariat of the Tagammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani - an opposition party - told the Yemen Times that his party is unable to publish its newspaper - *Al-Tagammu'*. The 14th October Press, which used to publish the newspaper, said it had "technical" problems when printing opposition or independent newspaper. The 14th October Press, of course, prints government and ruling party newspapers.

It will be noted that the publication of the newspaper was stopped by the secessionists when they were in charge of Aden because it expressed fiercely unitarian sentiments. Today, it is harassed by the unitarian authorities.

3. *Al-Shoura* newspaper continues to serve as fair game to the attacks of the government press. It has been threatened and criticized repeatedly and openly for expressing points of view which are divergent from those of the rulers.

## Yemen Times Seminar on Interest-Free Banking

The Yemen Times is discussing with the Yemeni Banking Institute to jointly sponsor a seminar on "Interest-Free Banking". The time-frame is for the second half of October.

According to banking statistics, some 60% of the total money supply is outside of the banking system as Yemenis shun dealing with interest, which is prohibited under Islamic law. Muslim scholars and bankers have devised the interest-free banking as an alternative. This is similar to Venture Capital, so well-known in the Western World.

Interest-free banks, commonly known as Islamic banks, have mushroomed in many parts of the world. It is estimated there is a total of 1500 banks along these lines. Some countries, like Iran and Pakistan, have almost totally converted their banking system along interest-free lines.

Here in Yemen, there were several attempts at establishing an interest-free bank. The seminar will invite scholars and practitioners to shed light on this phenomenon.

The 1st General Congress of a Big Party

# ISLAH's Congress

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

Just over four years since its establishment on September 13th, 1990, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) goes on the record tomorrow, Tuesday 20th September, as the first among the major parties of Yemen to hold its general congress. 2400 men and women - the 1200 original founders, along with another 1200 members representing the governorates) will meet for three days (20-22/9/1994) to discuss important issues related to the current political situation as well as the role of the Islah and what they want it to become. The Islah stands out among the big three (PGC, Islah, YSP) as the only party which decided to let its congress pass judgement on the performance of the current leadership, and the chance to elect another one.

The main topics of discussion are the internal by-laws (and charter) of the party, the report of the Secretary-General Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi giving an assessment of the party's progress and interactions, and the political vision statement which

outlines the party's outlook towards the main philosophical and political issues.

Following the discussions, the congress will the Council of Elders (Majlis Al-Shura) composed of 100 persons from among which the chairman, two vice-chairmen, and members of the Supreme Board will be elected. The congress will then elect the chairman and six members of the judicial council, also a member of Supreme Board. The congress will also elect the secretary-general, his two deputies and four heads of the main departments in the secretariat (i.e., political, information, economic, and internal administration).

There are four main competing forces in the congress. The first is the tribal bloc headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, the theological group or former Ikhwan Al-Muslimine headed by Sheikh Abdul-Mujeed Al-Zindani, the business/merchant class, and the bloc of young and aspiring members. According to Faris Al-Saqqaf, one of the rising aspirants, there is not expected to be any real push and shove as many behind-the-scene agreements have been

reached. Even then, some surprises cannot be ruled out.

There are two key issues that observers are going to be looking for are:

First, is this congress going to be a rubber stamp that will provide the seal of legitimacy to the existing structure, or is it going to be a real effort at evolving a new leadership and a chance to allow new blood and new ideas to get into the Islah system? In as far as the congress succeeds in overcoming the behind-the-scene deals, it will reflect a genuine power source.

Second, will the all-male Islah leadership find room for female participants in the top decision-making echelons? It will be noted that the Islah boasts an 18% female membership, and women are among the 2400 persons gathered for the congress.

Many observers believe the new leadership will be composed of the old leadership supplemented by token new faces.

Whatever the outcome - and many Islah members are optimistic - the first general congress of the Islah is a turning point for the party and a milestone in the country's political evolution.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Monetary & Fiscal Policies are the Base for Reform

The atmosphere in Yemen is ripe for change - real change. The country needs reform, and the political leadership seems willing and able to introduce the needed change. Political, constitutional and military changes have taken place and on a massive scale. But the acid test for the transformation will only come if and when economic change takes place. Within the broad economic adjustments required, many issues are raised such as the removal of the subsidies, encouraging investments, correcting the deficit in the balance of trade, privatization, etc. All those issues are important and vital, but I contend that corrective measures in monetary and fiscal policies are the crux of the reform package. Allow me to elaborate:

#### A: MONETARY POLICIES:

##### 1) The Banking Sector:

a) Did you know that the banking community in Yemen is a net borrower of society and business? Now this is strange, for the role of banks is really to provide financing.

b) Did you know that for a capital-short country, the cost of capital is highly undervalued. In other words, there is a negative interest rate. What this means is that people will not engage in savings, at least not in cash, and that money will not be available for entrepreneurs. In addition, this phenomenon distorts the factor costs of production, and thus the capital-labor mix in production.

c) Did you know that foreign exchange is undervalued? In addition, Yemen has the honor of being the country with the highest number of exchange rates. There is the foreign ministry exchange rate of YR 5 to the dollar, the subsidized import products rate of YR 12, the customs rate of YR 18 for imports, the YR 25 rate for the diplomatic community accounts, and the parallel market rate of around YR 80 for the dollar.

##### 2) The Money Supply:

a) Did you know that the money supply has grown by an average of YR 25 billion over the last three years, whereas the GDP has shrunk by an average of 6% every year?

b) Did you know that government borrowing from the Central Bank has grown to reach a phenomenal YR 150 billion? This factor is the major driving force behind the continued printing of fiat money.

c) Did you know that more than half of the money supply is outside the banking system? Banks have failed to reach out, and their management have actually discouraged deposits because they could not find acceptable outlets.

#### B: FISCAL POLICIES:

##### 1) Revenues:

a) Did you know that the government barely receives 50% of the tax revenue it should collect? The reason is that most of the violators are the people with influence. I am not talking of businessmen, I am talking of government officials and military/security officers.

b) Did you know that the government could raise another YR 10 billion if proper user charge and fees were applied to the services instead of the bureaucratic measures?

c) Did you know that government bureaucrats pocket at least 60-70% of certain accruals to government.

##### 2) Expenditures:

a) Did you know that the government could save 30-40% of its expenditures if it simply re-assigned its army of employees from clerks to teachers or any other field for which it hires foreign personnel?

b) Did you know that 15-18% of the country's foreign exchange expenditures is on senior government officials and officers who travel to attend parties and ceremonies?

c) Did you know that 25-30% of total payroll in the army is for non-existent soldiers?

The list is endless, and there are many specific steps that can be taken to improve the situation.

In the past, political maneuvering and a divided leadership stood in the way of real reform. What stands in the way today?

*The Publisher*  
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## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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### YAFA Honors American Ambassador

The Yemen-American Friendship Association (YAFA) held a lunch reception at the Taj Sheba Hotel on Saturday, September 17th, in honor of departing US ambassador, Arthur Hughes and his wife. The ambassador's three-year term of service in Yemen comes to end later this month.

YAFA also took the occasion to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Kin-cannon (Information Attache) and Colonel and Mrs. Seel (Defence Attache) who arrived in Sanaa a short while ago.

Mr. Abdul Wassa Hayel Saeed, Chairman of YAFA gave a short speech in which he bid the ambassador farewell. "I am sure that the ambassador and his wife have left a part of them with us. I would like to feel they are also taking a part of Yemen with them," he said.

Ambassador Hughes reciprocated by saying, "I have enjoyed my stay and work in Yemen. The YAFA has made my work easier and more worthwhile."

On the occasion, Abdul Wassa disclosed that the membership of YAFA has steadily increased and had reached 938 persons at last week's count. About 30% of the members are women, and most are young intellectuals and businessmen.

YAFA is working on its 1995 plan of events all of which aim at bringing closer the Yemeni and American peoples and governments closer. "We also work to encourage business ties," said Abdul Wassa.

Members of the Executive Board of YAFA and friends attended the luncheon.

### Taiz 5th Scientific Seminar This Week

The 5th Scientific Seminar of Taiz will start on September 20th. This year's theme deals with the Ear, Nose, Throat, and Neck Problems. According to Dr. Hassan Hamood Al-Udayni, an outstanding otolaryngologist in Taiz, the seminar will focus on the salivary gland diseases and carcinogenics oral bad habits in Yemen.

### Adenis Defy Extremists and Perform Annual Religious Rituals

The citizens of Aden, in open defiance to the extremist militias who destroyed the Al-Hashimi and Al-Aidaroos shrines, performed an annual ritual on Friday, September 16th. Yemen Times attended the events, which were heavily guarded and protected by the security forces.

Religious leaders from Taiz, Sa'adah, Sana'a, Hadhramaut, Ibb and other governorates participated. His Eminence Mustafa Al-Aidaroos, who is charge of the Al-Aidaroos Mosque and Shrine, told the Yemen Times that he is happy with the turnout, in spite of the rumors and intimidation. "The people of Aden have stood their ground and decided that they will not be intimidated. I take this opportunity to thank the security forces for their visible and effective protection," he stated.

Over 10,000 persons - males, females and children participated in the procession towards the Al-Aidaroos Shrine in honor of the holy man.

### Car Hijacking Is Back!

Many incidents indicate that the stealing and hijacking of cars is back. So you better watch out! According to reports, several individuals in Sanaa have lost their cars over the last few weeks. And it is not only foreigners who are victimized.

The last victim was non other than Ishaq Yahya Al-Qahm, member of Parliament. His 1988 model Toyota 4-wheel drive car was lost on Thursday, September 15th.

The country had witnessed widespread kidnapping and hijacking prior to the war. It was part of the political crisis. That was all blamed on the "bloody communists". We are waiting to see who is going to get the wrap, this time.

### Stronger Yemeni-Libyan Ties

Yemeni-Libyan ties have witnessed a visible consolidation over the last few weeks.

One indicator of that development is the level and volume of Yemeni participation in the celebrations of 25th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution.

Another indicator is the 1500 tons of food, clothing and other requirements shipped by Libya to Aden. It was reported that the "shipment was financed by private contributions from the Libyan citizens to help their Yemeni brethren in the aftermath of the war."

A final indicator is the level of official and party presences in the reception offered by the Libyan embassy on 14/9/1994.

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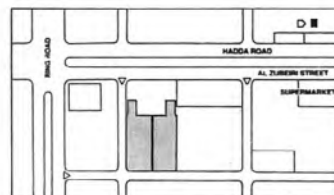
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**DISCOVERY.**

DISCOVERY 3.9



**Hodeidah Businessman Abu Bakar Shammakh:**

## "Hodeidah's economy suffered from serious set-backs over the recent past."

Economic conditions in Hodeidah have deteriorated drastically over the last few years. Investments in the city and hinterland have fallen sharply, and existing enterprises have cut back steadily on new commitments. The city shouldered most of the brunt and burden in the aftermath of the return of Yemeni workers who had been kicked out of the Gulf countries. In addition, the spectre of a thriving Aden is seen as taking away some of the city's traditional import business.

To better assess the conditions of Hodeidah, Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf spoke to Mr. Abu Bakar Salem A. Shammakh, a leading Hodeidah businessman and public figure is the Chairman of its Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also involved in a lot of voluntary and people organizations. He is the Chairman of the Hodeidah Red Crescent, and the patron of the city's leading athletic club - the Al-Ahli Soccer Team. Abu Bakar is a member of the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress (PGC).

Excerpts of the interview:

**Q: How do you assess the economic conditions of Hodeidah city today?**

**A:** Let me start by saying that Hodeidah has always been Yemen's leading commercial center. It was the harbor through which the country's international needs were imported. As a result, most business enterprises were located there. But many things happened to dampen the fortunes of the city.

First, there was the centralization process of the 1980s, as a result of which many companies relocated to Sanaa. The city lost a lot of employment opportunities and economic activities.

Second, in the aftermath of the Gulf War, some one million Yemeni workers returned to Yemen. Most of these passed through Hodeidah, and many stayed on. As a result the city's population doubled overnight. The implications of that on the

needs of services, unemployment rates, crime levels, etc., are self-evident.

Third, with the unification of the country, Aden has offered an alternative to Hodeidah as an import option.

Those and other factors have hurt the business prospects of Hodeidah.

However, there had been substantial investments in cold storage facilities and warehousing, transportation, industry, etc. As a result, the city will continue to plan an important role in the economic growth of the Republic.

**Q: Are there specific measures that need to be taken to help improve the situation?**

**A:** Yes, of course. But, we are not interested in measures that will help just Hodeidah city. We think the government should take measures that will help the



economy of the country as a whole. The Hodeidah Chamber of Commerce and Industry had sent several proposals to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other senior officials. Our view is that some structural changes are essential in correcting the distortions, especially in factor costs. For example, the pricing of foreign exchange and capital are highly inappropriate.

**Q: Do you see any new investments in Hodeidah, or is it at a disadvantage to attract new investments?**

**A:** I think there are limited investments in all the country. But Hodeidah has a fair chance of attracting new investments. For example, we are planning a \$1500000 investment which involves an upgrading and expansion of our tanning and

leather products factory.

We also have investment plans for other parts of the country, notably Aden. If efforts to convert Aden into a free zone are fully underway, then there will be a lot of new investments. We ourselves have allocated US\$ 5 million to start what will hopefully become Yemen's largest printing house. We also have other projects under study.

**Q: Could you tell us a little bit about your tanning and leather products plant in Hodeidah?**

**A:** Our family has been in the leather business for almost half a century. Our factory in Hodeidah was the first in the country. It employs 350 persons and purchases some 10,000 hides of goats and sheep every day from all over the country. We have financed the collection network of hides by providing credit to small entrepreneurs.

The company's exports of processed hides reached \$16 million in 1992. The level has since fallen, but we expect to return to that level soon.

We also produce leather goods such as shoes, belts, etc. We supply the artificial limbs factory

with all its needs of leather and shaped products. In addition, we are responsible for the preservation of certain handicrafts which involve leather by providing the necessary inputs. Examples are the djambia (dagger) and pipes of hubble bubbles.

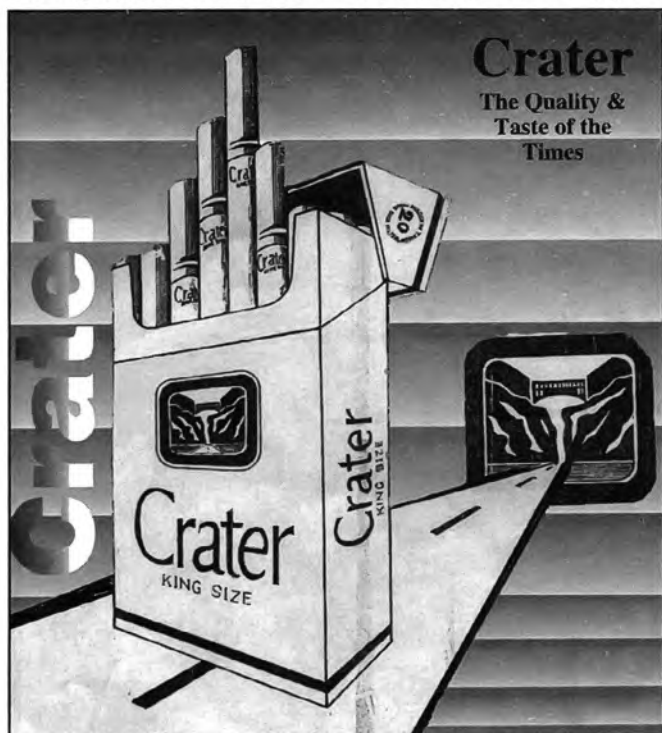
In short, the factory is a pioneer in its field. It uses a resource that were wasted and environmentally-problematic and converts it to high-priced products.

**Q: How do you see the future of business?**

**A:** I am happy that the country's political will and leadership is now unified. I am also happy that it is the PGC that leads the country because it is a business-oriented party. Its leader, President Saleh, is responsible for the stability and economic growth that we have seen in the past.

I am optimistic about the future prospects. I do insist and urge our officials to embark on the necessary reforms and changes in order to enable a more effective economic adjustment process.

I believe we have it in us to rise to the needs of the occasion, to create the conditions that will allow the growth of a strong Yemen and a thriving economy.



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# Back to School Preparations

By: Fatma Rawah,  
Social Editor,  
Yemen Times.

Some three million children and adolescents are heading back to school later this month. Toddlers get their first taste of discipline as they are directed to day-care centers and kindergartens, and six-year olds flock to primary schools.

I went to several schools to see how prepared the system was to receive our children. I visited a dozen, in addition to an interview with the Director-General of Education of the capital city, Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed Sharaf. The way the school administrators cope with the requirements of a new school-year is very novel and interesting.

For example, given the limited space, schools are trying hard to make sure underage children do not join. So, a rule of thumb to define whether a child is already six years old or not is evolved. This their ability to touch their ear-lobe by reaching out over the head. Those children who can't reach their ears, are told to re-apply next year.

Another method is to ask the little children to identify numbers and count double digits. If they fail, again they are told to re-apply next year.

The problems of starting the school-year on time are many. Already the initial starting date

of 17th September has been postponed, for two weeks.

"We have many problems. The main problem is the eternal shortage of everything, including teachers, books, desks, etc. For example, 922 foreign teachers have not showed up to teach in the schools of the capital city."

Another problem is managing the 6000 or so teachers and administrators in charge of the 94 schools in Sanaa city.

While there is a shortage of qualified teachers, there is an over-supply of principals and other administrators. "I have over 70 principals, assistants and other administrators who are out of work and for whom I am trying to jobs," Sharaf said.



Ibrahim Mohammed Sharaf

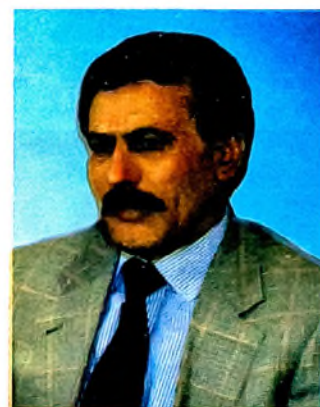


Trying to define the age of a new applicant

Ibrahim, 43, is an old hand in the field of education. He had served in various capacities in different parts of the country. "We are overwhelmed by many little things which pile up. We are lucky we get a strong support and commitment from a minister who understands where we are going, and what we are up to." One way to reduce the pressure is to encourage private schools. Already there are some two dozen private schools in Sanaa, and they are absorbing a rising number of children. "We are helping private schools. Some 88 of our teachers are today seconded to private schools in Sanaa," he said.



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# The Constitutional Amendments: What They Are, and What They Mean?

The House of Representatives is busy these days discussing wide-ranging constitutional amendments. The leading parliamentary blocs are in agreement regarding the need for the changes, and what they are.

"You see, most of the constitution of the Republic of Yemen was drafted as early as 1981. Besides, it was based on a series of vague compromises between two authoritarian regimes. That is why it does not reflect the aspirations or even the realities of Yemen today," stated Mr. Ali Abdullah Abu Hulaiqah, Chairman of the Constitutional Committee, and the rapporteur of the parliamentary committee charged to prepare the amendments.

Parliamentary reparations for the amendments started over a year ago. On 5/9/1993, parliament formed a 70-person committee to receive amendment proposals, study them, get feedback and present a comprehensive package. Subcommittees were formed to evolve a unified position that reflects the ideas and attitudes of the various segments of society. The proposed amendments are embodied in a 62-page report presented on October 6th.

There are five major groups of amendments, as follows:

**1. Identity in the Constitution:** One over-riding concern has been that the constitution does not offer a clear-cut identity definition for Yemen. One aspect of this is that the first article does not state that Yemen is an Arab and Islamic state. Now that is added to it. At another level,



article (3) mentions that Islamic Sharia is the main source of legislation. Now the proposal is to amend the article so that all legislation is based on Islam and that no laws contrary to Islam can be enacted. There are many other smaller changes here and there to make the articles of the constitution compatible with Islamic law and values.

## 2. Economic Liberalization:

The current constitution does not clearly indicate that the economic system is based on market mechanisms. It does not sufficiently safeguard and sanctify private property. The reason is that the constitution was drafted prior to the fall of the communist ideology worldwide. The amendments will clearly

state the capitalist nature of the economy, within the scope of Islamic solidarity and fraternity among the people. Among the clear examples of these changes are the removal of all insinuations that the government will supervise trade or economic activities. Thus the current phraseology of "The government shall direct foreign trade..." (Article 9) is being replaced by "The government shall encourage..."

The public and private sectors will continue to co-exist and compete within certain specified parameters.

## 3. Political Liberties:

The current constitution does not openly state the right of the people to engage in political

activities within a pluralist political system. The amendments will clarify that. They will also specify the right of citizens to engage in unions, syndicates, and any other professional groupings. Clear references will be introduced regarding human rights, freedom of speech, etc. The amendments will also elaborate on the rights to vote, run in elections, and participate in public life.

## 4. Unifying the Leadership:

The Constitution stipulates a group leadership. It states that the country's highest executive body is a presidential council composed of five members. The amendments will replace all references of "presidential council" with "president of the republic." The proposal is for the president to take over the duties and responsibilities of the presidential council so that national unity is embodied in one person. The amendments call for electing the president by parliament.

Prior to his election, the presidential candidate will have named his deputy or vice president and disclosed the name to the parliament.

At the same time, the amendments call for a clear-cut division among the three branches of authority - the executive, legislative and judiciary. It is towards this end that the role of the judiciary is being brought up in a clearer fashion, and in a way comparable to the descriptions of the other two branches.

## 5. Diverse Amendments:

Finally, there is a vast array of diverse amendments here and

there. Some of these are directed to simply remove any contradictions between articles, and in many cases to clarify the vague aspects in the old version. In half a dozen cases, the technical words used - like in the mineral/oil exploitation articles - are just not correct, and they are being corrected.

Mr. Abu Hulaiqah expects the amendment proposals to move swiftly and smoothly through parliament. "All the six major parliamentary blocs - the PGC, Islah, YSP, Baath, Nassrites, and the Independents - have agreed to the amendments. They have all participated in them," he indicated.

The constitutional amendments, which many lawyers and observers regard as the re-making of the constitution, "will give the country a clearer vision and a unified thrust forward," according to Abu Hulaiqah.

The powers of President Ali Abdullah Saleh will be immensely strengthened after the amendments, and that is a source of worry to many people. Others feel the country needs a unified leadership to implement the reforms and progress required in the future. "But that is exactly what the country needs," said one PGC leader referring to strengthening the position of the president. "We have won the elections, and we need a free hand in guiding the affairs of the country. If we fail, the voters have the chance to vote us out come election time," he said. The amendments are expected to pass through parliament later this week. The amendment package as put forward by the parliamentary committee is expected to be adopted intact.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri,  
Yemen Times.

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## Aden Security General Manager Colonel Hussain Al-Radhi:

# "The confrontation with the people who destroyed the shrines is over and the situation is under control."

By: Shaher Musa'abain,  
Aden Bureau Chief,  
Yemen Times.

"The confrontation that had taken place with certain armed men who tried to destroy the shrines in Aden and the security forces is over. We have decisively dealt with the problem, and it is over." So said Colonel Hussain Al-Radhi, Assistant Deputy Governor and General Manager of Security in Aden.

In an interview with Yemen Times, the Aden official played down the gravity of the situation, and re-assured the citizens that "things were under control." He said that the overall panic was due to the recent events. "The citizens were slightly scared because the recent war were on their minds. The events of last week were un-important in themselves."

Some people blame the security apparatus that it was lenient or late in reacting to the threat. But Colonel Al-Radhi contests and refutes that conclusion. "We acted decisively and swiftly. We are not trigger-happy if that is what these people who blame us want."

Asked about the identity of the people who wanted to destroyed the shrines, he said they were people who had strong beliefs in religion and about such practices. He did not elaborate. Neither did he give any specific number regarding their size.

With respect to their concentration locations, the Colonel pointed out that these groups were stationed in various points in the city in buildings they occupied by force. They were ultimately dis-



lodged from those buildings and we are now in the process of returning the buildings to their rightful owners," he added.

The official stated that the members of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) were not involved in the destruction process or in the subsequent fighting. "Some people confuse between the two groups. We have assurances from the Islah that they do not even condone the actions of these people, let alone taking orders from them."

In response to a question as to who stands behind them, the official refrained from answering saying that the investigations are still underway and have not reached any tangible conclusions.

The Colonel declined to offer hints regarding what he thought the future held. "I cannot say if we will ave any terrorist-like attacks in the future. I hope not, in any case." In a novel approach in this regard, he said that he is working on a plan to enlist the positive participation of the citizens. "We want to involve the citizens in the security of their neighborhood. One way to do that is to alert us to any strangers or lawless behavior," he indicated.

With respect to the forceful re-occupation of houses by citizens who had been evicted from them during the 1986 upheaval, the official said that they have worked to minimize the suffering of both sides. "Many people have been arrested for such unlawful behavior and we are persuading people who have grievances to go to the courts," he pointed out.

In response to a question regarding the prison conditions and the number of inmates, he said that the numbers were small, and regarding the conditions, he indicated that the International Committee of the Red Cross pays regular visits to the prisons.

The security officer also pleaded with Non-Governmental Organizations, unions, and the media to help in normalizing the situation. He recognized there may be excesses in the actions of some of his men, but he asked to be alerted to them. "We are willing to interact with these organizations as partners in helping improve the situation. We are all responsible together," he said. He concluded by pointing to the priority accorded to Aden's security by the political leadership. "We are going to enforce law and order fully," he said.

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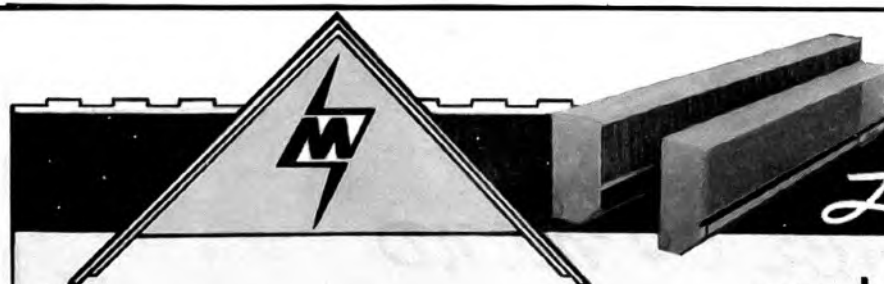
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## World Bank Sets Up Shop in Yemen to Help in Adjustment Program

A 17-person World Bank delegation has just concluded a 10-day visit to the Republic of Yemen. An important member of the team is Dr. Osman S. Ahmed, the appointed resident representative of the Bank in Yemen. "We had plans to open the office in June, but given the incidents in the country, that was postponed. We now hope that the World Bank office in Yemen will be operational come November, 1994," Osman told the Yemen Times.

The office will start small, but will be built-up gradually. Its establishment shows:

1. the importance the World Bank (WB) attaches to its programs in Yemen. It will be noted that the WB programs in Yemen are one of the most important in the region. So far, the Bank lending to Yemen has exceeded one billion US dollars, and the current portfolio of 23 projects has a total allocation of some half a billion dollars.
2. the presence of a WB office in Yemen will help improve the implementation pace of projects in Yemen. It will be noted that the absorptive capacity of Yemen had been limited. At the moment, some US\$ 300 million of funds are available for disbursement on projects, but these are moving too slowly.
3. The WB office in Yemen will allow for more interaction



between the Yemeni authorities and the bank officials regarding the needed structural adjustment in the economy. "It will provide an additional forum for us to think together about what can be done to improve economic performance and to adopt together the measures needed towards that end," said Dr. Osman. The office will also enhance the level of interaction with the intellectual and professional communities. "We shall put in place a library of Bank publications which could be used by researchers," Osman said.

Dr. Osman, 47, a native of neighboring Somalia, is the father of three daughters. An economist by training, he joined the bank in 1985. His last post was manager of the corporate planning division at the IFC. He has taught and written extensively in economic development. "I am happy to be assigned to Yemen. I am familiar with the area, and I feel part of it. I look forward to coming back in November and settling-in with my family." The strong feeling of good-will and vast knowledge of Dr.

Osman Ahmed is already an asset for the office.

The World Bank team visiting the country has other concerns, as well. It is composed of specialists in the sectors of electricity, water, education, health, agriculture, etc. They are here in response to the immediate reconstruction needs of the country. At the same time, they are here to touch base with Yemeni officials and learn from them the future development needs of the country. As Dr. Osman concluded, "We are here to hold discussions and learn from them their assessment of the economic situation and their plans about the future. We will assist in any way we can in achieving the government objectives."

Notwithstanding the immediate reconstruction needs, Yemen's immediate and medium-term policies are definitely going to be the decisive factor in the country's success in development. A major requirement for that is the reform package which aims to reduce the distortions and inefficiencies in the system. It is here that the real contribution of the World Bank office will be witnessed. Dr. Osman goes to great length to insist that the reforms and corrective measures are devised and agreed upon by the Yemeni authorities. The Bank simply helps in the implementation.

## Agricultural Credit Bank Branch Resumes Services in Shabwah

By: Mohammed Hassan Sha'ab, Yemen Times.

The Agricultural Cooperative Credit Bank (ACCB) resumed services last week, according to Mr. Fouad Salem Saleh, Vice Manager of the Bank in Attaq, Shabwah's capital.

The bank had been exposed to considerable looting and plundering during the war. "We lost many of the documents we kept at the bank as collateral against the loans we had given out," Fouad told the Yemen Times. The bank also lost many of its ledgers, documents and other important papers.

The funny thing is that there was some one million in cash in the bank's main safe which the thieves could not steal. "They tried to open it, but they could not. They even brought in welders, but they could not," the branch manager said.

But it was more funny when the bank management was unable to open the safe themselves. Because of the mishandling, the keys would not work any more. "So we formed a committee to break-open the safe," he said.

The main development, however, is that the bank branch has resumed operations in Shabwah governorate. Loans are available once again to the farmers and herdsmen. The bank records show that over 600 farmers and herdsmen have benefited from the loans and other facilities. Over YR 23 million have been disbursed.

The ACCB policies have the objective of enabling farmers, herdsmen, fishermen, etc. increase their output. One major way in which that is made possible is by providing the needed money to finance the acquirement of capital goods. In many cases, the bank does not offer cash, but it directly buys the machines or other capital goods required by the farmer and the value is then charged to the account of the borrower.

The total bank lending so far has crossed the mark of two billion covering more than a quarter million loans.

In Shabwah, farmers are already lining up in front of the bank branch. They need a large capital infusion to replace the seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machines they lost during the war.



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## Establishing an Institute to Promote Democracy in Yemen

By: Ahmed Al-Soufi,  
Sanaa.



The question of democracy has been and continues to be a pivotal issue in the political life of the Yemeni people. In this critical period through which the country is passing, there is a growing awareness on the need and vital importance of evolving and preserving a democratic system. This can only be done if all sectors of society work together to create the necessary atmosphere for the rulers and general public to respect democratic rights. This is especially urgent in light of the weak democratic institutions in the Yemeni society, whereas the anti-democratic (traditional) forces are strong and well-entrenched and have a stronger sense of their interests which could suffer in a democracy. problems. It is also worth noting that there are structural impediments, negative traditional values, tribal affiliations, built-in military hegemony and many other factors which influence our transformation process the wrong way.

In my limited understanding of the workings of democracy, modern institutions play a vital role. But before that, there should be a minimum respect for the rule of law which must govern the inter-relations and interactions of individuals and groups in society.

In our the daily life and workplace, as well as in our new consciousness, there are new relations which we must understand and internalize. We should not allow people who have a stake in the traditional power-structure to intimidate us or to force us to abandon our dreams of joining the rest of civilized humanity in the quest to achieve freedom, equality, equal opportunities, and many other values embodied in a state capable of reflecting these aspirations in its structure as well as in the way it handles the affairs of the state internally and externally.

To increase awareness of this reality is the im-

mediate task that faces all forces of modernization in the country. We need to construct a modern state and define the role of the individual and institutions in a civil society which is based on a new vision. Democracy and respect for the right of others are two values we have to internalize and accept as our own if we are to promote progress. We have tried many other ways, and it is clear that unless we give each other breathing room, our society will continue to fight with itself.

This is the driving force behind the establishment of the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy (YIDD).

YIDD is envisaged as an independent non-governmental institute, engaged in objective socio-political studies. I think the establishment of the YIDD comes in response to the need to properly interact with the profound transformation that is taking place in the Yemeni society. One manifestation of this transformation is the radical change in the prevailing political regime. Today, there is in Yemen more than at any time in the recent history more respect for democracy, political pluralism and a clear acceptance of a peaceful succession in power.

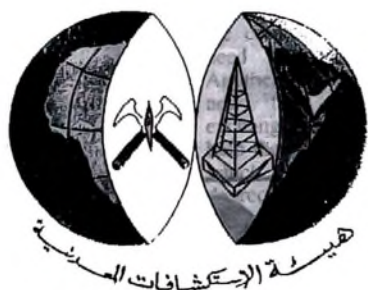
The YIDD comes to bolster these new developments and to make-up for the weak democratic traditions and the lack of full implementation of the rule of law in the activities of the public and the official organs of the state.

The institute will target the individual, institutions, state organs and society at large. It will seek to promote democratic thinking within a realistic and practical set of solutions to the socio-political phenomena in our society.

Interested and concerned individuals, groups and organizations can get more information from:

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# Private Hospitals & Clinics: Shouldn't Someone Supervise them?

We have many private clinics and hospitals that spring up every day here and there. These are equipped with new and expensive equipment. Patients pay good money to be attended to. Unfortunately, the service is far less than satisfactory. The country has many good doctors, and yet we are flooded whole-sale with mediocre doctors from other countries. The reason is that the Yemenis who own and manage the hospitals are so greedy to reap up as much as possible in as short a time as possible. So, they recruit unqualified foreigners to man the hospitals. Even if the foreigners are qualified, they are told to cut corners in the service. I would not have noticed this problem if not for my brother's operation, two weeks back. I am giving below his story to explain what happened and what I understand is a common experience.

I will not mention the name of the hospital but I have been going there - all the way to the airport road - twice a day for almost two weeks and I have observed some shocking things. I do not know how people who taken a professional oath and call themselves doctors can do all the things I have been seeing them do to their patients.

On the second day after the operation on my brother - which was done by a Russian doctor at a cost of YR 30,000 - I prepared soup and took it to the hospital. I was shocked to see another patient on the

same bed as my brother was shoved out, the very next day after the operation. Where is my brother? He was already discharged and the "nurse" told me he will be okay after two to three days. At home, my brother got worse and started bleeding. He got infected.

We took him back to the "doctor" who brushed us aside with "Everything is tamam (meaning okay)." The bleeding and pain continued. We took my brother to another doctor who confirmed that the wound had been infected and a re-operation was necessary. We rushed him back to the hospital and we were not ready to accept the 'tamam' of the doctor. The doctors realized that my brother had a problem and they re-did the operation. I cannot say what went wrong because they never told us the reason for doing the operation over.

The doctors did not care, but they were keeping good tabs of the days he slept in the in-patient ward, and the operation costs. They felt no responsibility towards their patients, and I hear they mishandle so many cases and many patients suffer.

The Republic of Yemen needs to enact laws to punish doctors for their negligence and lack of proper care. Shouldn't someone supervise private hospitals and clinics?

By: Fatma Rawah, Social Editor, Yemen Times.

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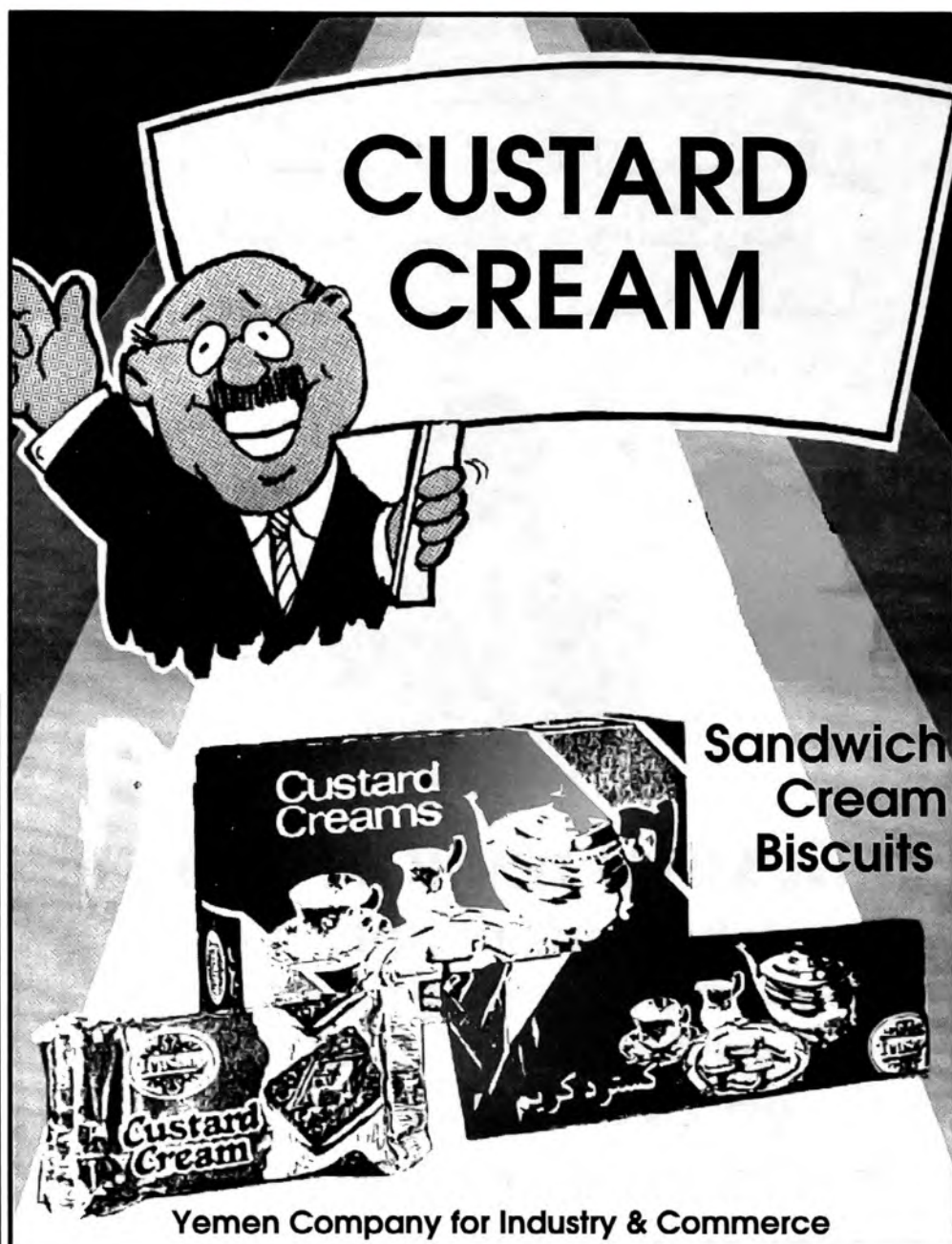
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**Mohsen Al-Yusufi:**

# "All Yemeni airports are operational at pre-war levels."

By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,  
Yemen Times.

"We have worked day and night to bring back all the country's airports, affected by the war, to their pre-war levels. They are now operational," said Mr. Mohsen Al-Yusufi, Chairman of the Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CVMA).

In a special statement to the Yemen Times, he disclosed that all southern and eastern airports - especially Aden and Mukallah - are functional.

Mr. Al-Yusufi indicated that the damaged airports included Aden, Mukallah and Taiz, although many others had also been affected. Aden airport was most badly hit. "The airport at Aden lost many of the facilities and equipment. We have been able to recover some of these and replace others," he indicated.

At another level, the official indicated that there were enormous investments to upgrade the secondary airports, officially known as internal airports (given that they only receive internal flights).

The CVMA boss was upbeat at the pace with which international airlines have resumed their services to Yemen. "You know, ALIA/Royal Jordanian, EgyptAir, Ethiopian Airlines, Gulf Air, Lufthansa, KLM among others have already returned to Yemen. We are happy with their return, and we will do everything we can to help out," he said.

Mr. Al-Yusufi disclosed that a French company has been awarded a YR 220 million contract to light up the airport. "Airport lighting will start next month," he said.



The official also disclosed that the CVMA is looking for funds to finance the reconstruction of the Aden runway. "Although both Al-Ghaidha and Al-Mukallah airports' runways were also hit, these were better built and the damage is much less extensive," he said.

Project plans for the next five years have been completed. "Our needs for equipment, machines, and massive investments are evident. The total financing needs is over \$30 million to implement those projects," he disclosed.

As more international carriers fly into Yemen, the standards at airports must be raised. The country needs more modern tower equipment, surveillance machines, emergency systems, and other assets.

"Next week, we shall inaugurate the new meteorology system

which offers accurate and detailed climatic data. This is crucial for aviation, as well as for agriculture and other sectors," he added.

"Aviation safety regulations and standards at Yemeni airports have improved markedly over the last few years. But this is a continuous process, and we have to keep up with the rest of the world. For that purpose, we invite an international inspection team to come and assess our systems and propose changes and improvements," Al-Yusufi pointed out.

With respect to the merger of the two national carriers YEMENIA and ALYEMDA, the official said that a high-level committee headed by Vice Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal has been formed to make the necessary preparations towards that objective," he concluded.

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on the anniversary of  
the September 26th Revolution.



## Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor

### Editor's Note:

Starting with this issue, the Yemen Times resumes publishing the letters it receives from its readers.

### FORMATION OF AN OFFICE FOR DEPUTIES

It is almost a year and a half since Yemen held its general parliamentary elections which were according to our standards free and fair. The elections were an opportunity for the people to elect the leaders of our own choice. However, many of us have come to realize the bitter truth that some of our representatives have not done their job, and have not even acted as elected members of parliament. Let us give examples of this. First, Many deputies do not show up for meetings in the House. That is why one sees endless rows of empty chairs in parliament.

Second, many representatives come to the meetings without even the minimum preparations. Some do not even know what issues are to be discussed. Third, many deputies have not done enough in terms of co-ordination between them and the people who have elected them. Some have not even returned to their constituencies since their election.

It is on the basis of the above reality that we strongly recommend that every deputy should have an office in his/her constituency. This will give the citizens easy access to them and communicate to them their various concerns in development, education, health care and other related issues. Once there is a point of contact in every constituency, it will be a lot easier for the people to meet and discuss with our representatives without any hindrances.

The idea will also go a long way in terms of unifying the people of the same area (constituency) and will increase their awareness for the common issues. The members of parliament will serve as a focal point for the people and all problems can be channeled through the MP's office. This way, the MPs will find real issues to raise in parliament instead of the endless and meaningless babbling that is going on at this moment. This way, the deputies will truly become representatives of their constituency. They will also promote development projects which will go a long way in terms of co-ordinating and developing the spirit of teamwork between the public and their deputies. It is my sincere hope that this suggestion will not fall on deaf ears. This is the right time to build and evolve our democratic system.

Let us learn to develop by ourselves and contribute towards the welfare of the nation without waiting for foreign guidance. Charity begins at home.

Abdulkadir & Fuad,  
Sana'a.

### POULTRY PRODUCTION IN YEMEN

Poultry production in Yemen faces many problems which affect meat and egg production. Some of the factors are:

1- Prevalence of Poultry Farms: You can see farms scattered all over the country and that is not good because of the temperature and moisture variations. These are factors that effect chicken growth

2- Chicken Feed: In Yemen, many companies have invested in the field of poultry production by putting up large sheds. But they are unaware of the importance of chicken feed. The food given to the chickens must consist of protein, energy and growth promoters. Instead the companies pursue short-sighted profit-seeking policies.

3- Laboratories: In spite of large investments, these poultry farms have no labs which help in diagnosis of poultry diseases. No research is carried out. They all work on the basis of 'al-barakah' - God's blessing. That is why many a poultry farm has been destroyed by uncontrolled diseases. Labs can easily do culture and sensitivity tests of different specimen. Labs can also help increase production levels.

4- Marketing: Many farmers cannot continue in poultry business due to the high prices of chicks and other inputs. But if there were a central market for poultry inputs and processing, they could get better results.

There are many more steps that our country can follow up to improve its production volume, price levels, and trade balance. Let us push our economy to its optimal point and put our country at the best position.

Dr. Abdalla Abdul-Latif,  
Hoban Association for Poultry Production,  
Taiz

### WHO IS THE MOST INTELLIGENT CREATURE?

I don't have words to express my admiration to you (the Yemen Times team) and my appreciation to the journal itself. Your are a source of hope for many of us. Please keep up the good work.

I am happy to contribute to this prestigious newspaper the following paragraphs.

Who do you think is more intelligent? The green plants or human beings and other animals?

Of course some would say what a stupid question. But please bear with me for I am not an idiot. Please read the following fascinating story selected, from a book entitled 'The Doomsday Conspiracy' authored by Dedney Dheldon.

The book talks about UFOs

(Unknown Flying Objects) and the risky intelligence jobs. I selected a purely scientific part of the book and present it to you to make your mind whirl.

In October of 1990, an alien spaceship crashed and landed in the Alps of Switzerland. The NSA (National Security Agency) of the USA discovered two bodies of alien creatures. Together with the spaceship, the two alien creatures are taken to the CIA's sophisticated headquarters for further research. To everybody's surprise the following things are observed.

- The bodies have a green fluid like plants instead of red blood.

- Under experiment, it was learned that they were capable of responding to abstract stimuli, such as love and hate.

- After the crash landing of the spaceship, it was discovered that one of the aliens broke a hand. But it was observed that a complete hand with new fingers were recreated. We know that plants are able to regenerate and

replace destroyed parts. In comparison human beings and animals do not have the capability to regenerate.

I have persistently asked myself whether human beings are really the most intelligent or the most advanced creatures of this world. Scientists called these UFO plant creatures as thinking plants. Now that poses a question of comparison: if these aliens are thinking plants, then how does their intelligence compare to that of human beings?

I don't want to be misunderstood or condemned for thinking the way I do. I believe that God (Allah) has created human beings after His own image and made us the masters of the world. But is it necessary that we should be the most intelligent creatures of this world on that ground alone? Even the Ginnis are capable of doing what we humans cannot. It is an important question.

Ali Ahmed Al Homeldy,  
Sana'a.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

I send my warm congratulations to the Yemen Times for its fighting spirit. If more people in the Third World stood up for their rights, their countries will undergo a real democratization process.

I believe that the Yemen Times is a torch-bearer in Yemen's democratization process. It deserves to be helped, as it offers hope to other individuals and groups.

I hope the team of Yemen Times and its readers see its mission: not just that of informing its readers, but also of helping create the atmosphere for a modern society. It often takes one individual or a small group of people who play a critical role in leading the peaceful evolution of their societies. These people often suffer because of their role, but it is a worthwhile cause.

Petra Brixel,  
Stuttgart, Germany.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on the resumption of publication. (We were never shut down except for one week.) I hope the end of civil war will bring a return to the openness that accompanied the unification.

I trust you are well.  
Best wishes.

Thomas B. Stevenson,  
New Lexington, Ohio, USA

### DELIGHTED

Delighted to find that communications are now re-established between the Yemen Times and the rest of the world - about time too!

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Yemen, with which I am fascinated. Looking forward to hearing from you, soon.

Beverley-Jane Cornick,  
Paris, France.

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تتقدم

إلى شعبنا اليمني العظيم وقيادتنا السياسية الشجاعة  
وقواتنا المسلحة الباسلة وحكومتنا الرشيدة  
بأعطر التهاني وأجمل التبريكات  
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## The Russians Demand to Be Paid

Mr. Victor Posoviluk, Director-General of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, paid an official visit to Sanaa last week. He held extensive meetings with Yemeni officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mr. Posoviluk described himself as the personal emissary of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, thus disclosing that he had delivered a written message from the Russian leader to the Yemeni ruler.

"We have talked about many issues of bilateral concern, but especially in the field of economic cooperation. But the Russian official wanted to know when the Yemeni authorities will pay the military debt owed to the Russians, and for which payment is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the Yemeni debt is denominated in roubles (or is it rubbles). That is why the total value of the debt is not agreed upon by the two sides. The Russian official suggested that a technical team from Moscow could visit Sanaa to agree on the sum, and to specify a repayment schedule. Many observers believe that Russia would settle



for a fraction, as low as 8% of the nominal dollar value of the debt estimated at around \$3 billion. Most of this is owed because of arms shipments to the former PDRY.

With respect to other issues discussed with Yemeni officials, Mr. Posoviluk indicated that his government advised the Yemeni authorities to quickly wrap up

the various aspects of the recent civil war.

He stressed that his government is in full support of Yemeni unity. "We think that the Yemeni people want to preserve their unity. The world should help them in that," he said.

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

## تهانينا الحارة والعطرة



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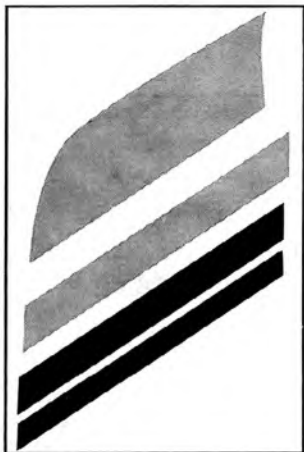
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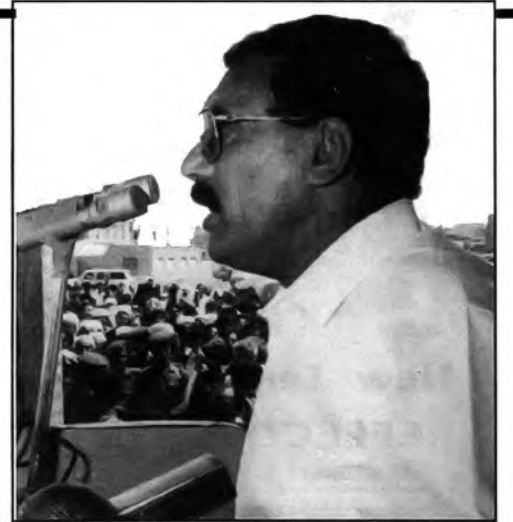
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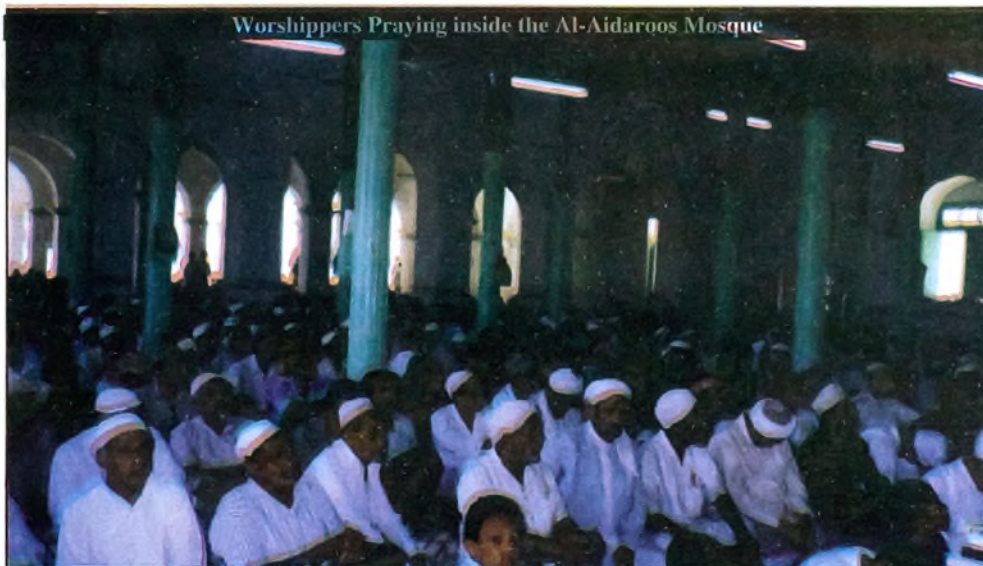


## Aden Visits Al-Aidarooos

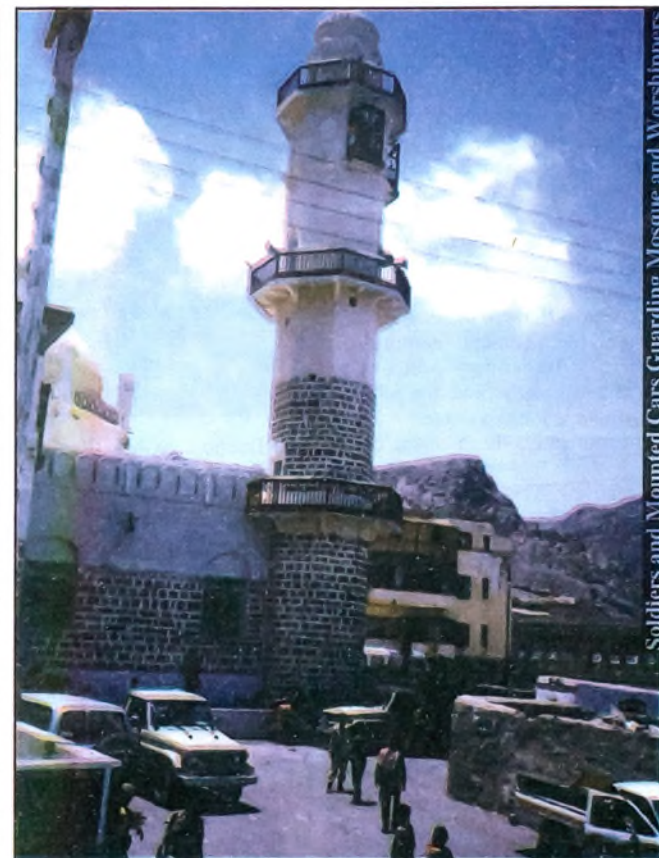
By: Shaher Musa'abain,  
Aden Bureau Chief,  
Yemen Times.

Friday September 19th was the day of the annual "pilgrimage" for the annual ritual at Al-Aidarooos Mosque and Shrine in Crater, Aden. Traditions and popular custom in Aden over the last few centuries have made this ritual one of the main social events in the city.

According to legend, Al-Aidarooos was an upright person who helped his fellow Yemenis. Upon his death, he was honored by the people who treat him as a holy man. His tomb has become an important religious site which people visit to perform rituals. This year's turn-out, although large, was much less than the



Worshippers Praying inside the Al-Aidarooos Mosque



Soldiers and Mounted Cars Guarding Mosque and Worshippers

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numbers that used to flock to the mosque. But that is understandable given the rumors of threats that filled up the city. As a result, men from the police, the central security, and the emergency force have manned the intersections and streets leading to the shrine. Several armored and mounted cars and trucks were also visibly located. Soldiers were even stationed on the hills overlooking the mosque as well as on roof-top of the houses.

Two weeks back, armed religious militias have destroyed the Al-Hashimi dome and mosque in Sheikh Othman, and parts of Al-Aidarooos mosque. The militias object to some of the traditions which border on superstitions and heresy. The militias, in a confrontation with the armed and security forces, lost their ground but are still able to threaten and intimidate the public.

"This year's procession and celebration is much less elaborate than in preceding years. One main missing component is the "kiswah" - the highly decorated piece of cloth that covers the tomb of Al-Aidarooos.

Most political parties, including the Islah, have condemned the violence and destruction of the shrines. President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered the reconstruction of what had been destroyed at the government's expense.

These reactions have gone a long way to appease and pacify the citizens of Aden and the people of Yemen. But the government's firm handling of the armed militias have to continue if they are to have a lasting impact.

"Even then, one can read the fear and anxiety on the faces of the people who went to pray in Al-Aidarooos Mosque on the this occasion," said an officer. The religious community, especially those in charge of the sites, are

firm in their resistance of the intimidation of the militias. In an open defiance, the clergymen are preparing a major procession to Al-Hashimi mosque, even before the completion of reconstruction. One of them stated, "These are our traditions. We do not need people to come and order us around. If this regime believes in the people's right to free expression, press, etc., it is even more important to guarantee freedom of worship," he said. Scholars, theologians and civilians

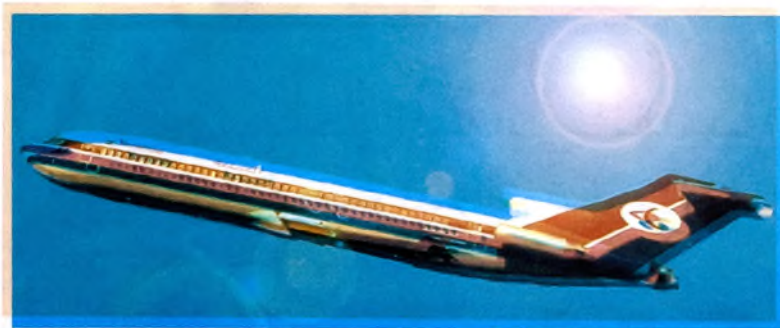
from various parts of the country attended the special Friday prayers at Al-Aidarooos last week. Their presence was a symbol of moral support for the citizens of Aden in their right to continue with their traditions.

Meanwhile, there has been an underlying philosophic self-questioning and soul-searching about the rituals. It is believed that in the near future, preachers will analyze the rituals with the purpose of purifying unwanted aspects.

## Yemenia



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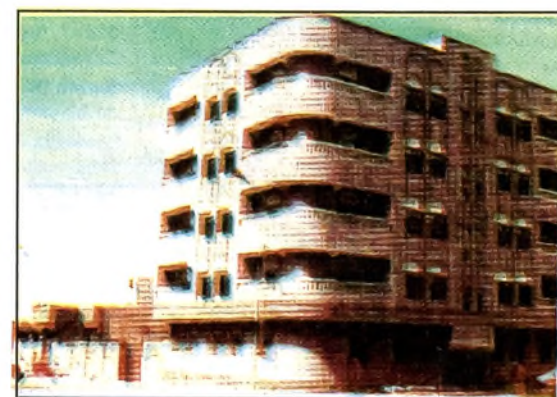
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