



YEMEN TIMES

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PRICE
10 RIALS

A Yemeni Patriot Is Unable to Find Medical Treatment Think Omer Al-Jawi, Mr. President

He is lying in bed seriously ill. He is unable to find proper medical care, and he is barely able to make ends meet. Believe it or not, he is Omer Al-Jawi. Omer Al-Jawi is one of the cleanest politicians in the country. He had had ample opportunity to stash away millions. He didn't do it.

Omer Al-Jawi is one of the leading resistant movement against the British colonial rule in the south and against the oppressive Imamite rule in the north.

Omer Al-Jawi was one of the few politicians in town who has fought to defend Sanaa against the Royalist forces during the 70-Day Siege.

Omer Al-Jawi is one of the leading unitarians of this country. He and Yahia Al-Arashi co-authored the unity constitution which enable the leaderships of the former YAR and PDRY to achieve its unity on May 22, 1990.

Mr. Al-Jawi is the only man in Yemen who stood up to the secessionist forces and condemned their efforts to re-divide the country. They almost killed him for it. He barely escaped death, but his son was badly injured in the attempt to kill him. That was the attempt number 22 on the life of Mr. Jawi. Omer Al-Jawi is a leading opposition politician who is working sincerely to enable the growth of a pluralist political system.



Today, Mr. Jawi is lying in bed - sick and poor. He can't even afford medical care. Is this the fate that honest, clean and patriotic Yemenis can look forward to? This is a question forwarded to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

It Is to Be 'Yes'

Parliament has been holding a series of meetings to discuss the Government's "Program" on the basis of which it is to be granted a vote of confidence. Although no one doubts the government will receive a favorable vote of confidence, there were two developments that were pushing parliament in the opposite direction. These are:

1. The parliament members of the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) blocs refused to follow the orders of the leadership of their parties and blindly approve the government program. They insisted to study the program, analyze its viability, and pass judgement on it objectively. "We are not against the government made by our own party, but we do not represent our party or constituency here in

parliament. We represent the whole country and the interests of the nation. That is why it is imperative that we discuss the program from a national point of view and not from a partisan point of view," said a leading Islah member of parliament.

2. Many parliament members are disappointed in that the program does not include specific plans of action. "The program is a list of good intentions. The government offers many promises of targets to be achieved. However, it does not contain the steps and mechanisms that will help achieve the goals," said a PGC member who is also a prominent businessman.

Whatever the reservations, which will be highlighted in a commentary statement to be issued by parliament, it will be a "Yes" vote of confidence on the government later this week.

Human Rights Watch Gives Yemen 'Thumbs Down'

"Both sides in Yemen's seventy-day war in the spring of 1994 resorted to unlawful tactics that resulted in indiscriminate attacks on civilians, arbitrary detentions, looting, vandalism and the mistreatment of non-combatants," reads a report of Human Rights Watch / Middle East, released on October 25th, 1994. In "Yemen: Human Rights in Yemen During and After the 1994 War," - a report based on a field visit by a Human Rights Watch / Middle East mission to Yemen during 15-30 July, 1994 - the human rights organization calls on the government not to betray Yemen's prior progress towards democratization, and to remedy the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law found during an investigative mission to Yemen in July 1994.

The 31-page report gives detailed information on how the war was "managed" and what kind of violations occurred. It made special reference to "government forces who killed and injured hundreds of civilians by indiscriminately shelling the city of Aden, the attackers deliberately damaged a water pumping station, cutting off Aden's water supply on June 28th and leaving Aden and its suburbs almost entirely without water for weeks." The report also referred to the actions of the "separatist forces which killed and injured civilians by aiming Scud rockets at northern cities, and by indiscriminately attacking government military positions in the immediate vicinity of a Somali refugee camp, injuring and killing scores of refugees."

The major concerns of Human Rights Watch were communicated in an August 24th letter sent to the Yemeni government. The main conclusions are summarized as follows:

1. At the end of the fighting, first the separatists, and then government forces engaged in and permitted extensive looting and vandalism of Aden. During the war, government army attacks on Socialist Party offices in non-conflictive government-held areas were followed by looting and vandalism that was organized and permitted by the authorities. Additional looting of government offices and property, including schools, hospitals, museums, was extensive. Ironically, the government now looks to the international community for assistance to repair damage and replace looted assets that could have been prevented.

2. Yemen has enjoyed a reputation as one of the more democratic and open countries in the region. Government actions during and in the immediate aftermath of the war signal a departure from human rights norms.

3. Although a state of emergency was declared on May 5th, 1994, the government's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) were not suspended because the government failed to take proper steps under the ICCPR. Yemen violated the civil and political rights of its citizens; in particular it detained persons without charges and denied them access to legal counsel and families.

4. After the conflict was over and the state of emergency lifted on July 27th, 1994, the government continued to detain several hundred people, despite a general amnesty applicable to them. Participants in a journalists' seminar after the war ended were arrested, beaten, and then released without being charged. Presses were vandalized during the conflict, making it difficult for the vibrant press to re-establish itself after the war. By October, even the functioning press-houses were warned by the government not to publish nongovernment newspapers without a clearance.

In the final analysis, the world organization has one appeal to make: It calls on the "government not to betray Yemen's prior progress towards democratization, and to remedy the serious human rights and humanitarian law violations.

The organization has yet to receive the government's answer to its August 24th letter or to the appeal in its report of October 25th.

Dr. Iryani: The Casablanca Meeting Is a Landmark for Peace

YEMEN IS IN THE PEACE PROCESS

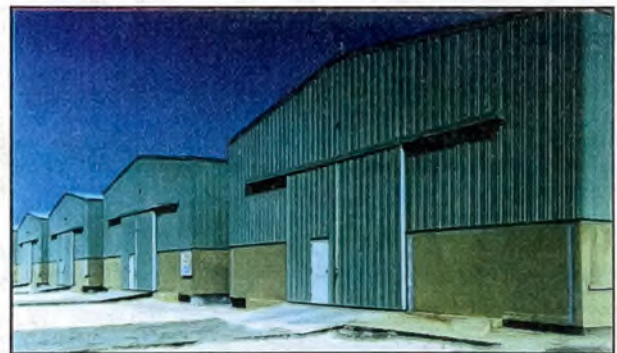
For the first time in the efforts to make peace in the Middle East, the Government of Yemen sent an official delegation from Sanaa to participate in the Middle East Peace process. It is true that in the past, Yemen had participated in the various meetings since the Madrid Conference, but its participation had always been by instructing our diplomatic mission wherever the meeting was held to represent the country. Last week, however, Deputy Industry Minister, Mr. Mohyeddin Al-Dhabbi, headed a Yemeni delegation to Morocco.

"We would have sent a minister to head the delegation, but the government has yet to receive the vote of confidence from parliament," said Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, to the Yemen Times. He confirmed that Yemen was a full partner in the peace process.

"I think the Casablanca meeting was a landmark in pushing forward a just, lasting and equitable peace in the region. It also launches new dimensions to the peace process," he said.



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Coming to Grips with Technology & Its Use

The Yemeni society is based on traditional ties and values. Our consumption, production, association and interaction patterns are based on socio-cultural structures that we have inherited from our forebears. Yet, we have plunged head-on in a world that is driven by modern technologies. Illiterate people are now asked to deal with sophisticated gadgets and tools which require, not only learning the skills to handle them, but also the cultural and sociological depth that goes with them. But who is to lead and guide this change?

Many people are looking towards the elites of society to play this role. Often, these are the political and administrative leaders of the community. If due attention is to be given to the socio-cultural transformations that are driven by technology, the initiative will have to come from the specialists. It is unrealistic to expect politicians, who are overwhelmed with how to remain in power, to anticipate less than obvious - yet startling - changes that are brought to bear on our lives by technology.

There is another dimension to this issue. Older folks are usually more resistant to change and to the absorption of new ways. The older we are, the more difficult it is to understand and absorb the developments affecting our lives. That is why our children easily get on with the electronic gadgets such as video games while we older folks abhor them, or at least stay away from them.

I must say, given that our society has a rather primitive socio-culture which is not adequately linked to modern technology, our people have been able to cope rather well. This is evident from the fact that modern facilities and gadgets such as ovens, refrigerators, television sets, video sets and cameras, satellite dishes, cars, mobile phones, fax machines, etc., have all become part of the daily-used tools in Yemeni families.

Yet, it is possible to say that we have not achieved proper use of these tools. Let me use the telephone system and cars as cases in point. Often, you could witness situations in which a person would dial a number and would demand to know who has picked up the phone handle. "Who is this?" would be a question callers could start with. Now that is not proper. The caller should identify him/herself first, and then inquire about the person they want to talk to. Cars are not properly used. We do have too many cars on our streets, but the street jams are caused by improper driving.

There is the additional worry of not being able to make full use of the machines. Maximum or optimal exploitation is not the order of the day.

The main requirement to achieve the maximum and best use of modern technology is to internalize part of its culture. These tools and gadgets have a culture and social fabric on which they are based. It is critical that societies absorb, or at least understand something of the machines' background in order to put them to proper use.

Of course, I am not calling for Westernization or Japonization or Koreainization of our culture. I am merely insisting that the intellectual leaders of the community should study the way technology is affecting our cultural and social fabric. We need to make some adjustments in this regard.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

President Saleh Holds Talk Shows with Citizens

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has started a new approach in his interaction with the Yemeni public. In his already three-week stay, President Saleh has held several open talk-shows with the public. This is the first time that a Yemeni leader meets with the public in a series of encounters in which the people express their grievances and concerns. Most grievances which were expressed by the people were in the form of lash-out against the excesses and abuse of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Secessionists. The people also asked for development projects and improvement in their living conditions.

At YBI, Workshop on Bank Auditing

On Saturday, November 5th, a four-week workshop on 'Bank Auditing' was launched at the Yemeni Banking Institute (YBI). According to Zain Al-Saqqaf, Director of the YBI, there are forty participants in the workshop. "They come from all the banks and they are to be trained in proper auditing systems of banking activities," he said.

Graphics Exhibition in Sanaa

During the period 1-15 November, a group of artists are exhibiting their graphic art. According to Fouad Al-Futaih, a leading Yemeni painter, disclosed that paintings and engravings on wood, linoleum, and zinc will be on display at the National Center for Arts. "We will also train and educate individuals interested in this form of art during the fifteen-day show," he said. The works of such artists as Fouad Al-Futaih, Mazhar Nizar, Rashad Saleem, Yasseen Ghalib, Ameen Nasher, Adnan Juman, Abdul-Rahman Al-Saqqaf, Ridhwan Hizam, and others will be on display. The exhibition is open for the general public.

Workshop on Auditing of the Transportation Sector

On Saturday, November 5th, a ten-day workshop on 'Auditing of Transportation Sector' was inaugurated at the Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC). Twenty two employees of the COAC are attending the workshop and they are studying ways and means to control inventory and stocks in the transportation sector.

Al-Shoura Verdict This Thursday

In last week's session on Al-Shoura versus the Ministry of Information case, it was given that the final verdict will be passed on Thursday, 10th November. Many observers believe the newspaper will be acquitted and that the Ministry will lose yet one more against the press.

Eritrean President Concludes Visit

Eritrean President H. E. Asias Afewerke concluded a three-day visit to the Republic. He met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Aden. In a bid to entice Taiz entrepreneurs to set up shop in Eritrea, President Afewerke visited Taiz city and chewed qat with the businessmen there. His message: "Come visit and invest, and we shall give you all the incentives you need." Yemen Times sources show his offer has many takers.

More Blackout Time in Sanaa

Sanaa city has been undergoing extended and repeated blackouts over the last week. According to Electricity Minister Abdullah Al-Akwa', one of the main transformers of the city was out of order. "It will take a few days before we are back to the previous level," he said.

Many companies are obliged to have a stand-by generator. Shop owners, specially those dealing in frozen goods, complain of enormous losses. Families have also complained of the ruinous spikes associated with the on and off of electric current. "Many television sets, videos, refrigerators, and other electronic appliances have been damaged because of the spikes," according to one Sanaa resident.

Ministry of Education Allocates Secondary Graduate Teachers

The Ministry of Education has just concluded the distribution of some fifteen thousand high school graduates who are doing the compulsory service. The Ministry has been bolstering its professional staff with the men and doing their post-secondary service.

In addition, the Ministry has also distributed diploma holders who are graduates of a two-year post-secondary program. Finally, the Ministry has taken in all the graduates of the College of Education on its payroll.

It will be noted that the number of teachers serving in the educational system are around 110,000 persons.

Census to Be Taken on 16-17 December

A Republican decree number 7 for 1994 was issued on Saturday, November 5th. The decree specifies the 1994 census to be taken on the 16th of November extending overnight into the 17th of December.

It will be noted that the said census was ready to go earlier this, but was cancelled because of the political crisis. Preparations have been fully underway over the last few weeks as the Central Organization for Statistics steers the work towards its successful conclusion.

Yemen Times Vacancies

Yemen Times is happy to announce 2 vacancies as follows in its newly-opened branch in Taiz:

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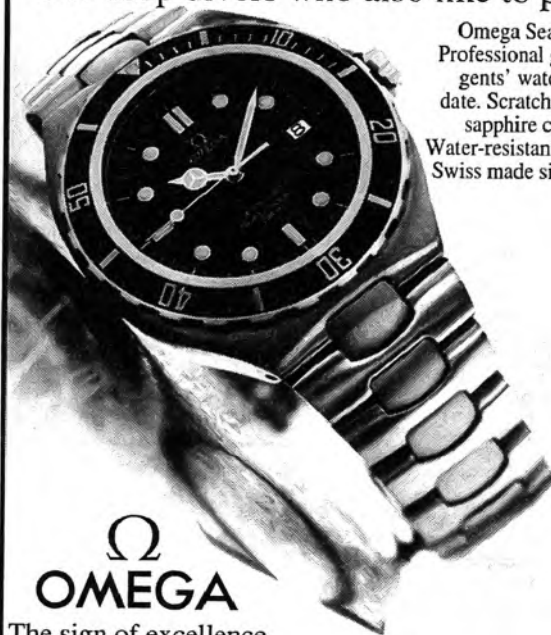
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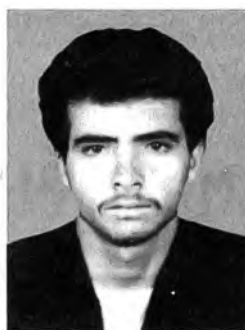
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عبد الغني محمد الجهمي ، وبقية الأصدقاء

Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood:

"We have it in us to build a prosperous Yemen."

Most Yemeni intellectuals and public figures wear many hats. They are involved at several dimensions. One such person is Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood Abdul-Hameed, who comes from one of the most respected families of Taiz.

Abdul-Wahab, 51, is an elected member of the Presidium of the House of Parliament. He is a leading member of the Yemeni Baath Party. He is a prominent figure of Taiz. And he is a leading economist, with a PhD from the former Czechoslovakia, today's Czech Republic.

Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf talked to Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood about numerous issues of current concern. Following are excerpts.

Q: You are discussing these days the program of the government. What do you make of it?

A: The program is ambitious and hopeful. It puts forth many objectives and goals it plans to achieve. Unfortunately, the program does not contain specific steps as to what and how exactly the government hopes to arrive at its goals, many of which are lofty and high. I sympathize and agree with the objectives, but I just need specific step-by-step plan of action.

Perhaps the government does not want to tie itself with specifics so that it may flexibly handle the situations as they develop. Then again, it would do well to treat the achievement of those objectives as a collective duty thus involving the parliament in its efforts. Thus we could be more forthcoming if it needs new legislative action or other steps in the process.

Q: How are the member of parliament re-acting to the program?

A: They are all reacting with a good approach. If the politicians had hoped that the members of parliament from the People's General Congress (PGC) and Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) would automatically line up behind the PGC-Islah government plan, they were dead wrong. All members of parliament have apparently decided to scrutinize the program and take it by its merits.

The feeling is that the members of parliament represent the whole country and its interests rather than a political party or a constituency.

Q: How active is the opposition in parliament and in political life in general?

A: I think we have to redefine the roles. It is crucial for this country that all political parties

and power centers, groups, individuals, etc. to agree on a set of objectives and goals. That is what I call the parameters. Then, the majority party which forms the government is responsible for implementation of those goals, and the opposition serves as a watch-dog to follow how much has been implemented.

In general, I think our parliamentary experience has been acceptable. It would have been far richer if the political parties had fielded more able candidates to parliament. The level of sophistication among the present parliament members is far less than what the country could have fielded. Then again, parliament is supposed to reflect the general public, and this parliament accurately reflects the level of sophistication in our society.

Q: You are a leading member of the Baath. Recently, internal schism within the party has come out to the open. What happened?

A: Actually, the main problem is the way the party is being managed. We have suffered enormously in the last parliamentary elections. We only succeeded in achieving seven seats in parliament, which is far less than the presence of our party.

Due to lack of sufficient experience as well as the ways and means of the past, the national leadership of the party was unable to offer new vision or guidance to the party members. To the contrary, secretive deals and over-centralization continued and even increased.

At a later stage, the secretary-general of the party, Dr. Qassim Sallam, did not even call for meetings of the 15-person national leadership of the party, and started making decisions by himself for the party. Finally, we called to a



meeting of the national leadership of the Party. The then-Secretary-General did not attend, although a majority of the members of the national leadership did attend.

We took many decisions including removal of the secretary-general and others. We have refrained from naming a replacement because we are preparing for the general congress of the party, which shall name the secretary-general and the top leadership, including the national leadership.

Q: Wouldn't you say the steps you have taken were far-reaching given that the problem as you put it were related to differences in the style of management of the party? Or were there other reasons?

A: There were also many other reasons. Another important reason was that, although we are part of the overall Baath Party, and we believe and share in the pan-Arab goals and vision, each country has its own peculiarities.

Therefore, decisions concerning the national-level issues should be dealt with exclusively within the country concerned. It is unbecoming to discuss purely internal Yemeni issues at the pan-Arab level. The 'former' secretary-general insisted on consultations with abroad on every issue.

That was a major point of difference, and exposes our party to violations of the Yemeni law and constitution.

Q: Since the split, how much of the party does your side control. For example, do you have control over the party branches?

A: I am afraid the 150 party branches represent a major financial; and administrative undertaking which we are unable to handle. So they remain with the 'former' secretary-general.

But these issues will be dealt with in the coming general congress which will be held within about one month.

Q: It looks funny that your party should issue two newspaper - one in red color and the other in green - carrying the same name. How can this happen?

A: I think it is up to the government to rectify this kind of situation. We approached the Ministry of Information and presented to it all the documents and papers, but it was unable to take a firm stand. Its decision was to let both sides issue a newspaper, even if under the same name.

Q: Let us move on to another subject. You were elected as leader of a task force representing the Taiz people. There were two major demands - the University of Taiz and the Taiz City Water Project. What has been achieved?

A: You yourself (Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf) are a member of the task force and you know what has been done. We met President Saleh and reached

several decisions. Let me elaborate as follows:

Regarding the University is concerned, the President had ordered execution of the project, but there is always some snag. The main problem was and continues to be compensation for the land owners where the university is to be built. I think we are finally able to pin down the issue and get on with the work. We will need to see the President to expedite things as soon as he comes back to Sanaa.

As far as the Taiz City Water Project, the problem was that the experts decided the abundant underground water reservoir is found in Al-Sayyani area, which is in Ibb governorate. The people of the area objected to tapping the water for use in another governorate. A committee that included Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, Sadiq Ameen Abu Ras and myself was formed and we went to speak to the people. The president also received the elders of the region and listened to their complaints and corrected any misinformation. They were convinced, especially since all underground resources are the general property of all Yemenis and to be managed through the state or the party which it authorizes.

We do not want any harm to be inflicted on the people of Sayyani or anywhere else, but we cannot also stand by and watch as one of the our large cities is thirsty and suffering. We hope that this matter will also be resolved soon.

Q: You are one of the leading economists of Yemen. Many people say Yemen's real problem is the economy. What is you reading on this count?

A: The government, in its program of action, has outlined a major economic problem. To handle the economy, the country needs stability in all fields. That includes legislative stability, meaning that we should not keep changing the rules of the game. How can entrepreneurs have confidence in long-term investments if we keep changing the rules?

Another aspect is political stability. This can only be achieved if the system permits all Yemenis to chip in. We should encourage everybody to have a stake in the system. What I am saying is that no individual or group should be excluded from the process.

Let me outline a system in which all sides agree on what needs to be done, in a general sense. Then, those who receive a mandate from the people - through elections - will have the chance to implement what was agreed upon. Those who did not win in the elections will play the role of watchdog to make sure that those who won will carry out what was agreed upon.

Unless we have a stable system, and which makes room for all Yemenis, we will continue to go from one crisis to another. This has a negative impact on our economic performance.

Q: How do you see the prospects of the future?

A: Although there is reason to pessimistic, I am optimistic about future prospects. I think that we will pull through from the current difficulties. But what price we pay and how fast we do that depends on the wisdom of the political leadership and its resolve to take bold measures towards correction and reform.

I am sure we have it in us to build a prosperous Yemen.

Editor's Note:

The Yemen Times stands ready to print the other factions' point of view in the Baath party regarding the points raised by Dr. Abdul-Wahab Mahmood in this interview.)

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UnderAge Employment: A Disturbing World Phenomenon

New statistics continues to show that underage employment is still a universal phenomenon - triggered primarily by greed of employers and their desire to avoid payment of normal wages and work benefits and rights. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the phenomenon persists all over the world, although some countries are more notorious than others.

In a newly released report, the ILO points to three groups of countries. These are the countries of the Indian Sub-continent, the Latin American Plantations, and parts of Africa.

Millions of Indian children slave away in farms and factories for a pittance, often enduring torture by employers to produce goods which do a booming business abroad.

Some of the finest carpets, glassware, garments, leather products and polished gems exported from India are made by poor boys and girls in their teens who work up to 16 hours a day on meagre portions of food.

Many are engaged in risky jobs which adults would never do,

sitting beside burning furnaces or holed up in dark and dingy work places which dot thousands of towns and cities across the country.

"Child laborers in India are the nameless, faceless children of a lesser God," said Kailash Satyarthi, the most celebrated Indian child rights activist. "They are members of an exiled civilization. They are considered neither children nor laborers. They are the most docile tools for greed-profit-making machines," he said in an interview in New Delhi "It is the worst form of slavery."

Satyarthi, 40, says India has at least 55 million child laborers. The US Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs said in September that the country has a child workforce of between 44 and 100 million, the world's largest. Indian officials estimate the figure at some 20 million.

The government appears to be slowly waking up to the problem under pressure from activists and international groups, some of which want products made by children in India to be boycotted



ning to dawn on the Sub-continent although the officials continue to fail to end such brazen exploitation despite being armed with adequate legislation to do so. These governments say they will plug the loopholes in existing laws.

The concern of the international community has been the main motivator for these countries to address the problem.

In Latin America, recent reports indicate that children are openly employed in plantations and some industries - many of them dealing with illegal products, such as processing drugs. To add insult to injury, teenage female employees are routinely molested by the foreman and other work overseers.

A recent American report indicated that more than 40 million children were employed in various jobs in Latin America. Most of them grow up deformed and affected because of the work conditions. As the children grow old, they are dismissed. The boys thus join street thugs, and the girls become prostitutes.

Sociologists and educationists worry about the governments' inability to control this phenomenon, in spite of its prevalence. "It is a serious issue which the government does not see as a priority matter," complained a university professor of sociology in Quito, Ecuador.

In Africa and parts of the Middle East, there has not been a commercialization of child employment. The phenomenon exists as a result of traditional values in household economies where children are taught at an early age to follow in the footsteps of their parents (read fathers). As a result, children will accompany their parents to their private business and help out. Recently, employment of children has become visible in urban centers in shops and various artisanry and other jobs.

"It is puzzling that children are employed in societies which already suffer from adult unemployment," commented an economics professor at Sanaa University. "In other words, it is not the shortage of labor that compels employers to search for children. It is the search for low-paid workers and employees who would not clamour for benefits and other rights," he added.

Worldwide concern is forcing governments in these regions and countries to address this problem. The ILO is beginning to single out countries which do not respond, and the organization has been calling for action against them. Yemen is one of the countries which has yet to tackle this issue. The sooner our officials see this, the easier it will be to handle.

worldwide. The carpet industry was especially targeted.

The problem also exists in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These countries are waking up to the problem. The threat is begin-

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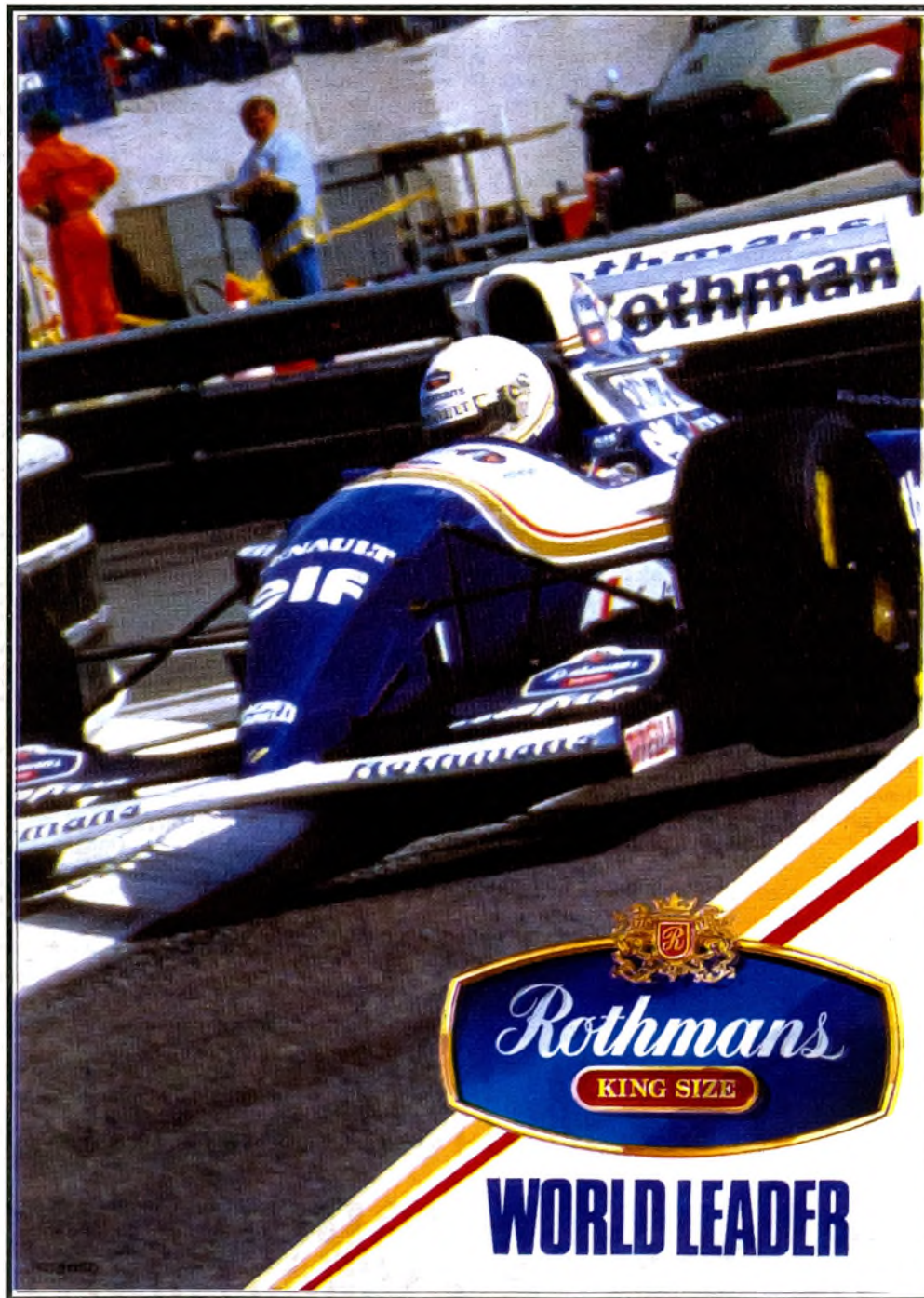
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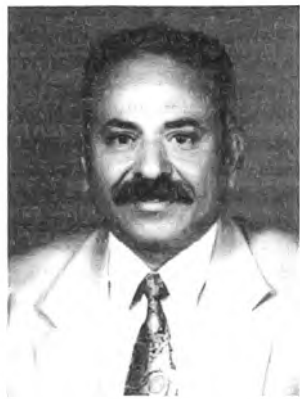
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THE PRICE ESCALATION - THE MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEM

By:
Ali Mohammed A. Nasser,
Sanaa.



Most of us are aware of the overwhelmingly strained state of our economy. There are two elements which prominently characterize and extensively dominate the behavior of the Yemeni economy at present. Those two elements are the lack of foreign exchange and the extravagant sensitivity of the national economy towards the foreign sector. As much as the first element the scarcity is concerned, it is remarkable that this problem is emanating from the sharp decline by almost 60% of immigrants remittances following the Gulf Crisis and besides the meager exports which contribute only around 20% of the value of imports. In relation to the second element - sensitivity - that may be clearly comprehended though realizing that the share of real commodity production in the Gross National Product (GNP) is but below 40% which the remnant portion which is 60% of the GNP is accrued by the activities of different services, thus the inclination to import is well extravagantly high. It is obvious that not only consumer goods or production goods have to be imported from abroad but both have to be. Even those products which are produced locally we find that their inputs such as raw materials and so forth have to be brought from abroad. Hence

the very humble yield of foreign exchange have to satisfy reams of imports to meet the burgeoning needs. Of course we have not to overlook the mis-location and the misuse of the too limited foreign exchange resources that has been contributing considerably to the aggravation of the problem. Nevertheless having these realities formerly in mind we may notably remark that there is quite puzzling and bewildering facet in the behavior of our economic activities. That is really the reciprocal relation between the dollar par value in terms of Yemeni rial and the ever uprising prices of commodities and services. It is a common place to state that it is not odd to note that the price of your tea cup has been heavily raised in the very short duration stretching between ordering and drinking it. When you may passionately inquire about the reason beyond such

price leap you are surprised by the quite equivocal answer "The dollar is rising up". Hereby the bewildering and puzzling phenomenon inheres in the so outright and instantaneous rebound of many business men and mongers to the dollar up rising. Such rebound takes almost, if not always a indirection; thus a rise in the dollar exchange rate leads up to a commensurate rise in prices but the contrary is not to occur as to thus the decline in dollar rate vis-a-vis the Yemeni rial does not bring about even a sensible rather than commensurate decline in prices. Actually such economic behavior is quite paradoxical in terms of poor performance of the market that is still dragging behind and have had not yet reached that much of perfection as well as in terms of spheres and channels though which changes in dollar value is transmitted to the indigenous economic activities and economic transactions. The capital market of which the money market forms merely a part has not been yet formed in Yemen. The current activities those apparently illustrate the existence of the money market and its functioning are simply the rebound of the acute speculation which is economically very impairing activity in which reams of our limited resources have been devoted to fuel those speculative deals.

Thus we have to infer that the noticed promptness and instantaneousness in the response of prices by uprising in return to dollar value fluctuations are not by all means a symptom of market perfection but that is rather principally attributed to market distortions those are caused by precipitous speculation with convertible currencies. Further, we have to note that the devotion of quite a considerable part of national resources for the purposes of speculation occurs on the expense of stabilization and growth and on the expense of expanding production and investment which might be set forth had those resources been allocated in the advantage of prudential economic development. Regarding the spheres and channels of transposing the dollar value rise in terms of price uprising we have to emphasize that in normal conditions such effects take a considerable time lag to occur where the relevant frontier is exchanging deal with foreign trade partners and thus though the access of imported commodities to the local market it may be realized that the costs of such commodities have been risen and consequently prices do rise. Hereby usually these might be an increase or decrease in the costs of imported goods corresponding to the exporter currency denomination and thereby occurring fluctuations. That is

the concept and the principal governing this matter in general. But we notice that here in Yemen even if the dollar per value does not score a rise vis-avis the rial yet prices do rise and that is interpreted to the consumer as a result of dollar uprising. Thus we can derive them from only one explanation. It is the great concern to realize windfall gains and profits irrespective of the sufferings of the public. In countering such situation can the state help by fixing prices? Definitely not. I think it is more logical to look for the real reason inherent behind such economic behavior. It will be of a great aid in discovering the appropriate means for solving such a problem. I think that the price distortions are simply a reflection of the inability of the market to function properly. The market system is paralyzed partly by virtue of the prevalent multiple exchange rate system and the distortions created by the subsidization. Nonetheless, the present performance of price - mechanism is totally oriented in favor of the harmful speculation process. Foreign exchange is concentrated in the hands of a very few dealers who play a speculative role and thus leading to harmful swings in determining the value of the rial. Their goal is to try to earn windfall gains through such an effort. Meanwhile these few money

mongers have created very close ties with the dominant importers - as well as with individuals in power within the government or state apparatus, or at least who can influence them - with both groups of whom they have vested interest. Together, they form a block which confronts any efforts to introduce measures to correct the situation. Moreover, competition is quite limited, and there is a default state of monopoly, or at least oligopoly, which differs by long odds from the monopoly state familiar elsewhere a to being of niggardliness and greed to appear so recognizable. Benevolent people who are willing to exert efforts against the devastating role of this underdeveloped monopoly and its ravaging role have to be alerted that the influence of this monopolistic group have the means and the possibilities to thwart any serious attempts plan to affect their vested interests. I do not intend to exaggerate but it is necessary to emphasize that such a monopolistic group is not going to surrender without resistance and endless efforts. But once this group is sufficiently surrounded and sieged, it may surrender. That will come sooner or later. That is the inevitability of the life-cycle, since life goes on without desisting. Isn't it?



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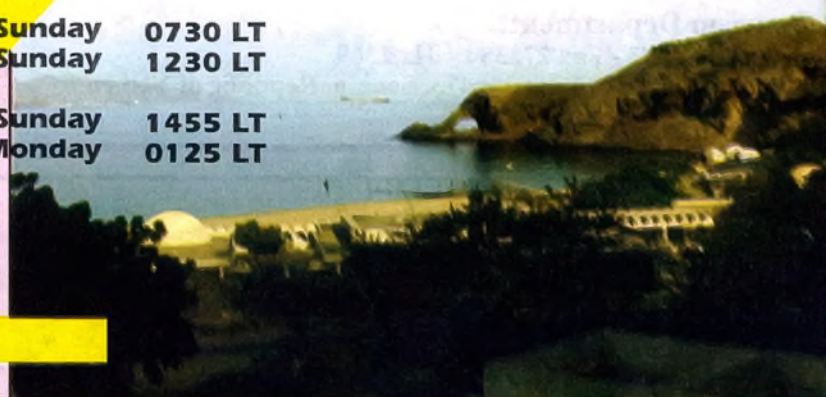
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NEW MALARIA VACCINE REDUCES INFECTION & DISEASE

After a preliminary study reported this February that the Colombian "SPf66" malaria vaccine was safe and induced antibodies in Tanzanian children, a larger field trial in the same area has now shown that SPf66 can reduce the risk of clinical malaria by around 30% in children.

This is the main conclusion of the first trial of the vaccine in Africa, published in the medical journal *The Lancet* last month.

This is a very encouraging result, but it does not warrant

widespread use of the vaccine at the present time. Therefore, further evaluation and improvement of the vaccine will be required.

SPf66, synthetic peptide vaccine, was developed by Dr Manuel Patarroyo and his colleagues in Colombia, and underwent extensive pre-clinical and field testing in South America. These earlier trials showed that in that region the vaccine appeared to be safe, that it induced an immune response, and that it was partially protective among

children and adults. But a crucial question remained: is the Colombian vaccine capable of protecting children against malaria illness in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 90% of the global burden of malaria-related morbidity and mortality is found?

In order to address this question, a group of African and European institutions developed a protocol and conducted a randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial in Idete village, Kilombero District (Morogoro region), South Eastern Tanzania. The institutions involved were: the National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania); the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas and the Hospital Clinic in Provincial Barcelona (Spain); the Swiss Tropical Institute; and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK).

The trials were approved by the Tanzanian authorities, WHO and the participating institutions. The research was co-sponsored by the participating institutions, the Swiss Development Cooperation and the UNDP / World Bank / WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (TDR).

The Tanzanian trial which began in 1992 and was completed in August 1994, aimed to establish the efficacy of the Colombian vaccine in protecting children between 1 to 5 years of age in an area of intense year-round transmission of plasmodium facip-

arum malaria. Two hundred and seventy four children received three doses of malaria vaccine, and 312 received three doses of an unrelated placebo. No severe side effects were observed. Vaccinated children had a 31% lower risk of developing a clinical attack of malaria. Taken together with the results from South America, these results confirm the potential of SPf66 to confer partial protection in areas of high as well as low intensity of transmission.

The Tanzania trial has been a particularly demanding test for the vaccine. A person in the area suffers an average of 300 bites a year from malaria-infected mosquitoes (which carry the disease from person to person) and in the rainy seasons as many as 20-25 infectious bites a night - some 100 times the rate in Colombia. The majority of the people in Kilombero District are infected with *P. falciparum* parasites, the most dangerous form of malaria.

Kilombero is no exception in tropical Africa, where such malaria infection rates are

common. The resulting widespread infection is not generally life-threatening to the adults, who after repeated exposure as children have developed immunity. But in young, non-immune or only semi-immune children, *P. falciparum* malaria is a major killer. In addition, parasites are increasingly resistant to the most commonly used drugs, and mosquito control has not proved to be feasible in many parts of the world, especially Africa.

An effective, affordable malaria vaccine could be an important contribution to reducing the massive child mortality from the disease in Africa - where some two thirds of people are more than an hour's walk from a basic health clinic, and where often such clinics have no drugs to supply. The Colombian vaccine is also currently under trial in West Africa in The Gambia in infants between 6 months and 11 months old, and the border of Thailand and Myanmar where malaria shows resistance to most known anti-malarial drugs-in children aged 2-15

years old.

Many questions still need to be addressed. How safe and effective is this vaccine in all high risk groups in malarious areas? How cost-effective would it be in different epidemiological and social setting? What might or should be done to improve the vaccine? These and other questions will now be addressed over the next few months.

Dr. Manuel Patarroyo generously offered to donate the full license rights of SPf66 to the World Health Organization in June 1993. Negotiations on these matters are still in progress.

It is anticipated that six to eight other *P. falciparum* malaria vaccine candidates could enter clinical trials over the next two to four years, with financial support from TDR and other funding agencies.

As no single intervention tool will represent a panacea, an effective malaria vaccine is expected to be used in an integrated approach, together with other control tools, including drugs and insecticide-impregnated bed-nets.



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Abyan Governorate: Dismal Conditions Despite Unity Medal

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

Abyan is probably one of the pivotal governorates in the south. It played a critical role in the military struggle against British colonial rule, it was a key player in the political rivalry since independence, and it was a cornerstone in the politics since re-unification. Some of its sons attained the highest state position in the former PDRY (e.g. Salim Rubaye Ali, and Ali Nasser Mohammed are both from Abyan). And today, Vice President Mansour Hadi is from Abyan. So are many senior officials and officers.

For such a distinguished role, President Saleh awarded the governorate of Abyan recently the Medal of Unity.

Be all of that as it may, one has to say that the conditions of Abyan today are very dismal. Its citizens suffer from an exceptionally high unemployment, near-total breakdown of utilities and services, and lack of any development activity. To add to the governorate's problems, socio-political rivalry is at its peak today.

Competition among the leading political parties has resulted in a tense situation. Slowly, Abyan is emerging as a center-stage for the operations of the extremist flank of the Islah. The words Jihad, Tareq Al-Fadhli, and other symbols of this flank are ordinarily mentioned in the course of Abyan events.

In several field visits to Ji'ar, Zinjubar, and other urban centers, we observed many deplorable sites.

- The rain water still fills up the holes and ditches that have become a permanent feature of the roads and streets of the capital of the governorate. It is threatening the city with a number of problems, especially as it is mixed with the garbage which was not removed for a long time. as the pictures above show.

- The school buildings have been damaged, and those still standing have no furniture. The chairs and desks have mostly been robbed.

- Unemployment is a major problem. You can see hundreds of adult men idly standing by at street corners or in coffee/tea drinking places.

- For a population that has been



Abyan's Streets: Flooded with rain water and garbage



so badly hurt by the warfare, the medical facilities are clearly inadequate. The hospitals are neither capable nor equipped to handle even the normal demand for medical care.

- The most menacing aspect of the conditions in Abyan is the overhaul or transformation that is going on. The tension that has developed in light of the Islah near-total take-over of the governorate - and an extreme brand at that - is the problem.

The people of Abyan are trying to feel for a place in the political power-structure of the country. They are, no doubt, going to command a special place. But whether that will translate into a major developmental effort in the governorate is a different matter. If the past is anything to go by, very little of the influence and power of the natives of Abyan in government is returned to the governorate in the form of development projects. That is why there is a strong movement in support of

local government in Abyan. As one local put it, "Instead of waiting for our native sons in high posts to remember us, we would rather take as much control of our lives as possible and initiate development."

The governor, Sheikh Ali Omer, actually himself complains of over-centralization. "Up to-date, we do not even have a small budget which we could use to address the many local needs. We have to plead with the authorities in Sanaa," he said. But that will hopefully be changed with the new budget, for 1995. This will be prepared on the basis of a decentralization of the authority to dispense. There is a lot of apprehension among the Abyan people who are waiting for a clear indicator of the leadership's interest in their affairs. They are waiting for development projects. So far, this is not happening. The Abyan people will probably wait until mid-1995 before they will reach a conclusion.

Economic Prescription for Yemen

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Professor of Economics,
Sanaa University.

There is no doubt that the most pressing problems facing Yemen today are related to the economy. It is the economic performance of the new government that will determine its fate and that of the ruling parties.

There is urgent need to steer the economy back on the right track. In spite of the many actions and corrective measures needed, it is my opinion that the government must embark, as a priority, on those steps that will generate more economic growth. The problem of Yemen is one of poverty and low income more than anything else. That is why the policy thrust of the government should focus on generating more income.

The basic way to help activate economic growth is to promote new investments. The policy of the government, therefore, should take the actions that would encourage investors and entrepreneurs. These include:

1. Curbing the Power of Bureaucrats:

The Government should take steps to curb the disproportionate power of employees who act whimsically vis-a-vis the businessmen. The Government needs to define the roles of bureaucrats and should impose

stiff penalties if they exceed their authorities.

2. Correcting Factor Costs:

Correcting the price structure which at the moment are biased in favor of labor. As a capital-scarce society, money should be more expensive than labor. This means that new enterprises must be more labor-intensive rather than capital intensive. But this involves haggling with labor unions and other forces.

The government must help push for correcting the factor costs and should tip the balance in favor of capitalists in their negotiations with labor, within limits. This will, in the longer run, create more jobs for workers, and thus more income.

3. Moving from Subsidizing Consumption to Subsidizing Production:

There is pressure on the government to remove subsidies given to consumption, and rightly so. Subsidies are justified on social justice, class harmony and other grounds. Unfortunately, the rich benefit from subsidies more than the poor.

The tax system is supposed to help reduce class differences. But the subsidy system can still be used to encourage a higher level of production, as most industrial countries are doing. Indirectly, that will also keep prices down, comparatively.

4. Opening Up the South:

A good policy that could generate economic activity is to "open-up the south" for more business. A thorough study that will achieve population relocation (from the densely populated north) could achieve many things.

Such a policy could lead to more business for the whole country, achieve national unity, and help accelerate development of the south.

There are many ways this can be done, although I would urge a thorough analysis of the social, cultural and other dimensions.

5. Unloading the Parasites:

The system is carrying a lot of dead wood, in the form of big mouth parasites who claim a share in all output and income. I am not speaking of the bureaucrats, but of the senior officials, officers and top aides of the leadership. Their claims add to the costs of production, and many times, block it altogether. The government would do good to chop off the dead wood and to free businessmen from their clutches.

Those are the practical steps that come to mind as the government feels its way in the maze of economic confusion that it faces. Remember, economic growth is the only savior for this government.

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Islamic Militancy Is Seen as a Response to American Politico-Cultural Domination?

Everybody agrees there is a rise in the wave of Islamic militancy as manifested in the fundamentalist political movements. In many countries, those individuals and groups spousing a return to the "pure" Islamic way of life are winning the race for the hearts and minds of the public. Country after another is being overwhelmed by the power of Islamic blocs.

The West is perplexed as it watches helplessly the liberals and social democrats fall under. It also sees the modernist local military machines unable to contain the forceful march of extremism as it is called, in spite of massive campaigns. In Algeria, more than 10,000 persons have been killed since the imposition of emergency conditions to stop the Islamists from taking over power - even through the ballot box. In Egypt, the state looks powerless to control the onslaught of Islamic groups. Even Israel, with its superior intelligence and military prowess, appears unable to check the Hamas actions.

The basic driving force behind all these actions and the general public support is twofold:

a) The modernists, especially the military officers and their junior partners in power (intellectuals, urban upper/middle class, and businessmen) have failed in achieving the goals they have been promising over the last four decades. The prosperity, development, social harmony and justice, decent life and in general, the happiness they have promised their people, have not materialized.

To the contrary, conditions have deteriorated visibly. The explanation offered to this situation is that there is a new colonization process. Many people are upset because they think this is untrue; others believe it to be accurate and fear the Muslims will lose.

"The effort to use Islam as a bulwark against individualist Western (American) culture is greater today than any in my 14 years in the area," one American career diplomat says. But he acknowledges that the Muslim resistance may be growing because the penetration of American products and ideas has increased markedly in the same period. The Islamists seem at times, to be brandishing swords at a tidal wave.

A UNIQUE BRAND OF COLONIALISM

Just as Egypt has begun to face its most difficult threat from an Islamic movement in a number of years - with Westerners threatened and a few even killed - the hands-down most popular television program there is "The bold and the beautiful," the American daytime soap opera that runs at prime time in Egypt. Cairo boutiques name themselves after the soap's main characters - Brooke, Ridge, Thorn and Storm. Advertisers use their images to sell luxury goods.

And in the tonier neighborhoods of Tehran, women are barely inside the front doors when their cover-all chadors are abandoned to reveal miniskirts. Inside, cigarettes are lit and homemade alcohol consumed. The latest Hollywood films, banned by the Islamic regime, are rented by door-to-door salesmen. All empires have brought with them cultural and commercial products. Roman pottery and building styles filled Asia Minor a couple of millennia ago and

Ottoman architecture conquered the Middle East from the 16th to the start of the 20th centuries.

But American cultural colonialism seems to be an entirely new species. This has to do both with the uniqueness of America and the ways in which the World has changed, mostly through technology.

The United States, a collection of ethnic and racial groups which preaches individual merit and personal satisfaction above all else, is the world's first nation that claims no tribal base. While all Western countries profess to value individualism, the British, French, Italians and Germans all demonstrate a greater suspicion of outsiders and foreign names than do Americans. There really are no foreign names in America anymore. Everyone in the United States is part of the mix; 90% of feeling part of the American dream is simply showing up.

The material and cultural products that succeed in the American market do so for their appeal across ethnic and racial barriers, making the US a kind of dry run for marketing around the world.

This suggests that magnetism of American goods and style is something that goes well beyond the raw power that America wields as the world's strongest country. What we tend to think of as "American" is increasingly something akin to an expression of the modern spirit, what the Trinidadian writer V.S. Naipaul has called "our universal civilization."

When Polish singers use rap rhythms, when Chinese television stations broadcast consumer query programs with a mix of Western pop tunes, when Palestinians launch a newspaper and say they want it to have a strict separation of news and opinion, they are all making use of American models that have moved well beyond America. This universal civilization has been a long time in the United States. But when represented by the expansion of Europe in recent centuries, it had an ugly racial taint and was therefore far less attractive.

This is not to suggest that the United States is free of racism, simply that its stated philosophy is now sufficiently free of it as to make its spirit deeply attractive and accessible around the world. Nor is the world free from nationalism. Far from it. But the tag of individualism - and the accumulation of wealth and independence it promises - has grown fierce.

What cannot be denied by even the most casual or hostile observer is that hundreds of millions of people find Americanness - its openness, sense of freedom and possibility, its vitality - immensely appealing. Drinking coke and wearing caps that say "Chicago bulls" may be trivial expressions of that spirit, but they seem to bring a sense of association with it.

America is the only civilization that has placed at its moral core the "pursuit of happiness," an idea that "fits all men," yet one which many have difficulty understanding.

At another level, the world too has changed, chiefly through the proliferation of technology and English.

English today is the world's lingua franca. When a Brazilian meets a Japanese, when a Nigerian meets an Egyptian, when a Colombian meets an

Iranian, English is the language of communication. English is studied in every country - its elasticity and informality admired and absorbed.

CONFLICT RESTS ON VIEW OF THE WORLD

The conservative Muslims may wish to shelter their young from what they think of as soft-porn American TV series and dangerous ideas of secularism and equality of women. But the sprouting of satellite dishes on the roofs of their cities suggest they are fighting an uphill battle. Even if they are able to buy time through massive investments that block the use of satellite dishes or if they pass strict laws forbidding this or that, the fight seems to be futile.

One of the key questions facing a non-Western civilization is whether the Western machines and English skills everyone covets can be imported without the method of inquiry and spirit that helped produce them. In addition, can the freedom and expansiveness be separated from the looseness of traditional morals and violence that characterize American society?

Dr. Moustafa Mahmoud, an Egyptian Islamic commentator, writing in *Al-Ahram* newspaper earlier this year, clearly thinks not. He wrote:

Islam offers mankind heaven and immortality. What does the West have to offer other than Coca Cola, hamburgers, blue jeans, Madonna, Michael Jackson and the whole gamut of ephemeral pleasures? Islam offers the eternal spirit that God breathes into all of us."

Even then, the Muslim populations - like all other human being - want a piece of the action. They have shown they want some of the "ephemeral pleasures." That is why a common sentiment expressed by Muslim elites today is the desire to import technology without the whole package of Western culture. An interesting case of conflict between the West and the rest occurred at the recent UN sponsored population conference in Cairo. Although the publicized battles were over abortion and adolescent sexuality, the deeper conflict was really over world views.

The document that emerged from the conference and which is to serve as a blueprint for population stabilization over the next two decades, reads at times like a radcliffe seminar paper. It is filled with talk of individuals "realizing their potential," of "empowering women," of peoples' rights to liberty and well-being.

As the difficulties faced by the translators of the document showed - try "empowering" women in Mandarin or Russian - these are foreign concepts in many culture. Yet they are now enshrined in a document signed by more than 150 nations. In other words, while originally American, these terms and ideas are now increasingly universal.

Even so, this universal culture is still stunning the growth of individual cultures around the globe. And that is causing increasing resentment.

"All those Schwarzenegger films are not culture," says Patrice Claude of Paris's *Le Monde* newspaper. "All we get abroad is the stuff that already made its money on the American market." But to the extent that they reflect societal values, such as mobility and individual freedom, fast food

and big cars are an expression of culture in its largest meaning. Such things are changing the world. It is an impact that generates great confusion. When you elevate something, part of you can only despise it.

Judy Posner, a former anthropologist at York University in Toronto and now a free-lance writer, says, "When anyone is put up on a pedestal, they are hated."

CULTURAL JUNK FOOD FOOD IN ABUNDANCE

Even in a place like Israel, where is taken for granted that America is the model and the future, there is a lot of grumbling about the United States. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres made headlines last year when he said that the biggest cultural threat to young Israelis comes not from the penetration of the Arab World, but from American cable TV.

The truth is that what cultural elites all over the world disdain in American culture is precisely what American intellectuals and opinion-makers detest: the violence, drugs, glorification of the crass. When the world fights to stop the penetration of such low-brow aspects of American culture, they find American intellectuals on their side because they too suffer from the same problem.

Militants percent the battle over American culture is an intercultural war, although it has now taken the shape of a war against the mass-marketing monster that was born in the USA. As it stands, it looks like a battle doomed to fail.

The Bell of Nobel

The Nobel prize Committee announced its decision to award Yasser Arafat, Yitshaq Rabin and Shimon Peres its Nobel prize for peace this year. Each one will pocket nearly \$330 000.

I would like to on Mr. Rabin's initial protests against awarding Arafat the prize. Apparently, he still believes the man with whom he recently signed a peace deal is a terrorist and takes responsibility for every Israeli killed. This may not please many Arab leaders who seem very eager to take photos with Rabin.

Rabin's career itself was one of blood, hatred and brutality against the poor Arabs ever since:

In 1948, he was a young officer and he took part in the first Arab Israeli war. He was the leader of a force which attacked Lid and Ram Allah. All the males were killed or sent to jails, whereas the women and children were sent ... no where.

In 1967, he was the joint of staff officer. Near the Jordanian border there were three Arab villages - Amwas, Yallo and Bait Noaba. The villages were taken by the Israelis. Poor villagers were sent across to ... nowhere... The site was given to Ghosh Amonim to build new Israeli settlements.

In 1988, as defense minister, he ordered the Israeli air force to launch attacks on Lebanese villages in the south. He also supervised the breaking of the arms of Palestinian children who throw stones during the Intifada.

In 1993 as prime minister, he ordered again the air force to launch attacks on the south of Lebanon, all along the security zone. The result was the destruction of more than sixty villages, more than two hundred dead and more than a quarter of a million were homeless.

I don't think, Mr. Rabin has much to complain about, and I don't think that is a good c/v for a Nobel prize winner!

Alhassan Mohamed Abdalla, Sana'a

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

INTEREST-FREE BANKING

On page one of your issue No. 37 of 25th September 1994, I read with pleasure about your intention to call for a seminar on 'free-interest banking'. In my opinion, your efforts on this subject, if successful, will add to your struggle to free the Yemeni people from the sufferings in various aspects of our life: economic, social and political. Interest-free banking has been established in most of the Muslim world, although many are still doing their business under the system as a *usury* in their transactions. Still, some banks which strictly follow the Shari'ah in all their activities are trying to establish the legitimate banking trade and aim towards the creation of a real Islamic banking system. They have survived in parallel and competed successfully against the modern banking and financing system. At the same time, they are working to set up an example for those who are keen to exclude usury in their work.

Usury is condemned in the Qura'an, as it encourages idle and cruel blood suckers who do not know how to invest or apply their money in a legal manner. These people take the easy way out - taking no risk. They lend their money to those in need and they charge exorbitant interest rates called usury. At best, they deposit their wealth with banks which on their behalf then lend the money to third parties, again charging interest which in Islam is forbidden in Islam.

Those who find themselves compelled to keep their money in banks for safe keeping are advised not to mix whatever interest is paid to them with their own rightly-earned money. Instead, they are advised to give the money earned through interest to the needy or to charitable societies.

Those who take usury, though they are forbidden and devour others' resources wrongfully, God says to them. "We have prepared for those among them who reject faith a grievous punishment." (Surah An-Nisa (Women) [Verse 160]; and Allah adds in Surah Al-Baqarah (The Cow) "Ye who believe! Fear God and give up what remains of your demand for usury; if ye are indeed believers." [verse 278]. "If ye do it not, take notice of war from God and his Apostle...." [part of Verse 279]). On the same issue, number thirty seven, you have quoted in your column that 70% of the wealth in cash of the Yemeni people is kept out of banking circulation, because of fear of being involved with usury.

The nation needs the wealth that is kept idle, it needs this wealth to be well invested. Let fear of usury not prevent us from investing our wealth in legitimate trade and/or investment to increase the prosperity of our people and the stability of our nation. God himself said, "God has permitted trade and forbidden usury." (part of the Quran verse 275, Al-Baqarah).

I am looking forward to hear from you or read in our 'Yemen Times' the firm date of the seminar, which I would be pleased to attend.

Omer Awadh Bamatraf,
Aden

PRAISE TO YEMEN TIMES

I'd like to take this opportunity to present my best regards to our esteemed newspaper - the Yemen Times.

I am a regular reader of the paper and one of its admirers. In this letter I don't intend to criticize the newspaper as such, because it deserves much praise. I'm bringing this up because I feel that Yemen Times is a paper that accepts the other view point, especially when compared to other newspapers. I advise never again to cancel the Letters' Page.

I am very interested in the Letters to the Editor page which you have resumed recently. I am dead certain most people like it because it is the pot where the readers meet, and they interact with the editors.

Hussein L. Mohamed,
College of Education, Al-Mahweet.

POWER BLACKOUT IN MUKALLA

I would like to express my sentiment through this wonderful newspaper - Yemen Times - concerning normal power failure in Mukalla.

The recurrence of power blackout has become something usual in daytime or at night, without notice or warning. Sometimes, the power failure extends for more than seven hours daily, and it really becomes a form of punishment to the residents of Mukalla.

Our mind is so busy concerned with when and what time the next power failure will occur, no one will ever manage to rest or spend time comfortable in his/her house as the power goes off and on. The power failure problem has become a big

headache which haunts the residents.

It is well known that Mukalla is the provincial capital of Hadhramaut, and it deserves better attention. Besides, it is the hottest part of the country. The town needs modern facilities to provide a steady supply of water and electricity.

We are aware that electric generation is disrupted due to by old generators and sometimes because of mechanical problems. A solution to this problem must be found, as the present conditions cannot remain as they are. The continued interruption of electric supply and the accompanying spikes have ruined many household appliances, including refrigerators, air conditions, fans, television sets, etc.

We can't understand the policy of the government. How can we afford to buy new jet fighters, scud missiles, rockets and other expensive military hardware and not to be able to establish a steady power-source. If we are still backward, it is partly because of wrong priorities, or even perhaps someone is contriving to stop Yemen from ever rising up.

Saeed Abeid Bin Dahman,
Mukalla.

HAPPINESS

Happiness is the objective which people are looking for and it is the very ultimate goal in human life. To live without happiness means to be barren, and one might decide it is not worth living. When one is happy, one will love life.

How can we live happily? Is there a guide for that? This is a difficult question, but I can answer it in my own way by giving a few ideas about how one can be happy.

The first prerequisite is to take care of one's health. Many persons are careless about their health.

A good understanding of the family is another prerequisite. A good understanding between husband and wife always leads to harmony and comfort for the whole family, especially the children.

Many people believe to be rich means happiness. I can name many a rich person who is not happy. Happiness is priceless and cannot be bought or sold with money. Of course, money can make life easier by providing amenities, but it definitely is not everything. In other words, you can be happy whether you're a rich person or poor.

A relationship based on trust is another factor which can make a person happy. If you have a good trust relationship with the people you deal/work/live with, then you are more likely to lead a happier life.

Selfishness causes unhappiness, one who lives for oneself and works to have everything for him/herself will always be left alone. Nothing lasts long, except doing good deeds for others and he/she who helps others is happier.

Faisal Baggash Hayal,
Taiz

COMMENTS ON 'BACK TO CHOPSTICKS'

First of all I would like to express my appreciation for your newspaper and I hope you will keep up and preserve all the exceptional qualities that your newspaper possesses.

Next I would like to refer to the commentary on the article, "Back to Chopsticks" written by Fadhel A. Nasser. He said that it has been proved that digestion really starts with the fingers, as we touch the food. But when our hands never produce digestive juices, how is it possible for digestion to take place in our hands?

And with reference to the experiment he gave as an example, I think the food (rice) which we touch with our hands gets spoilt because of some bacteria being replaced in the rice from our hand and because of digestion.

Mekonnen Kahsay,
Sana'a.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RESUMPTION OF PUBLICATION

Let me congratulate you for surviving the terrible war! I was very glad to receive the newspaper again. I believe it is a good sign for the Yemeni people that a newspaper like yours has continued to publish throughout the war.

I sincerely hope the poor folks of Aden will now face some happier times, too.

Pertti Hamalainen,
Helsinki, Finland.



INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS



Pen Friends Corner

By: Rahila Ba-Alawy

THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP: PRICELESS...

I joined IPF about three years ago because I had a great desire simply 'to be a friend'. I figured that everyone needs a friend at some time or another and I had heaps to offer for anyone out there needing a friend.

It was great being able to have meaningful exchange with people, even if on paper! I get the feeling that I was, in some way, bringing a little bit of joy into someone else's life. All went well for about one year and when my membership came to an end, I renewed it eagerly awaiting my next list of prospective pals.

However, life doesn't always follow the expected path and my life changed dramatically through a series of unexpected physically and emotionally draining events.

I wasn't able to write to the people on my list for many months and those letters that I received also went unanswered. I wanted to write but I couldn't sit and concentrate until I had recovered enough. So I had to be content to 'print' a letter in my mind until I was able to actually write it.

During that time, I received letters from my regular pals informing me of all that was happening in their lives, thus making me feel as if I hadn't lost touch with the real world outside.

Although I was confined to bed, I was still able to feel and follow what was going on on the outside world. Now, three of my five children have joined IPF and the oldest (15) shows signs of being an 'addict' too as her list of penfriends increases. Perhaps the two younger ones will eventually join IPF but there is plenty of time for them because they aren't even school age yet! I find myself wondering just how many pen pal addicts there are out there in the big wide world. Surely I am not the only one!

Anyway, I just wanted to say THANKS!! IPF for bringing a new dimension into my life and please continue the great effort. I'd also like to add that anyone who reads this and isn't sure whether to become a penfriend themselves - go for it. Your life will be changed for the better.

Adapted from *People and Places Magazine*
By: Mrs. Heather Dodd, IPF Member, Australia

A NOTE FROM RAHILA:

We have many friends out there - world wide, young and old - urging for new members from Yemen, which is known to be a beautiful country with friendly people.

For more information write to: Ms. Rahila, P. O. Box 481, Sanaa, Yemen.

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FROM COLD WAR FRONT-LINE TO PROMOTER OF WORLD PEACE

Russian President Boris Yeltsin could not have missed the energy and single-minded determination with which Berlin, the new capital of a unified Germany, is being rebuilt. All around cranes swung backwards across what was once the communist part of the city.

A cross from the Grand Hotel where he was staying while in Berlin for ceremonies marking the departure of the last of his troops from German soil, the destruction of the old communist party building went on relentlessly. The irony could not be missed. "Berlin is playing at becoming a Babylon," wrote the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel*, a tongue-in-cheek reference to an ancient imperial city.

Despite the joke, the future in Germany is serious business. Billions of marks are flowing into Berlin to build for tomorrow and the arrival of 20,000 government officials being relocated from Bonn.

Yeltsin, as well as the heads of state of the Allied nations, have seen off their troops which for decades protected different sides of the Berlin Wall, the symbol of a divided Europe. The departures marked the end of an era for Germany - though Allied troops will remain in the country as part of NATO, the main Western military alliance.

"Before we were an occupied country," commented Eggert Hardten, a student busily managing half a dozen aid projects sending young people to work in the former Yugoslavia. Germany now has its sovereignty back, although not until foreign troops have gone will we see "what a free Germany actually is," he says.

"Germany had no foreign policy before; it was only concerned with itself," Hardten says.

The German constitutional court

has paved the way for the new leadership role. The court finally settled the dispute over whether German troops could serve outside NATO's immediate area of concern - the defense of western Europe. It said the troops could now do as long as they were United Nations peace keepers with the specific approval of parliament.

That historic ruling echoed the 1991 treaty between the four powers - the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France - which ended the occupation of Berlin and permitted the reunification with the words that Germany would now be sovereign partner "to serve the peace of the world."

But this did not mean Germany would be the world's policeman, wrote *Die Zeit*. "Not every power had to do everything."

Just how much a role Germany will play on the world stage will be determined by internal politics. The trauma of the consequences of World War II continues to live on as the country is haunted by the fear of loss of life in fighting abroad.

The economic superpower of Europe wants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. If German troops are to serve as peace keepers, the country wants more influence over UN decisions, which is a fair demand.

There is little doubt that Germans want to play a bigger role globally. The tragedy of Rwanda touched the nation. Almost 7,000 specialists, 2,000 of them doctors, offered themselves for a relief program in Zaire.

There are hundreds of initiatives to help east European countries with German management skills and money. And a German administrator, Hans Koschnick, the former mayor of Bremen, is heading the European Union's

efforts to reconstruct the Bosnian city of Mostar.

But while Germany is anxiously playing a new role abroad, it is still facing the problems of reunification. Some see it as the biggest problem for the country in the years ahead.

The big upswing in the east's economy is still awaited. Although 342 million marks were invested there between 1991 and 1993, there is still more than one million unemployed persons. The cost to the government has been enormous. This year, 175 million marks will flow into the five eastern states.

The problems are more than just economic integration. Many east Germans complain of insensitive treatment by their western cousins. The discontent is reflected in the growing popularity among the 167 million *Ossies* (easterners) of the PDS party, the successor to the former communist party.

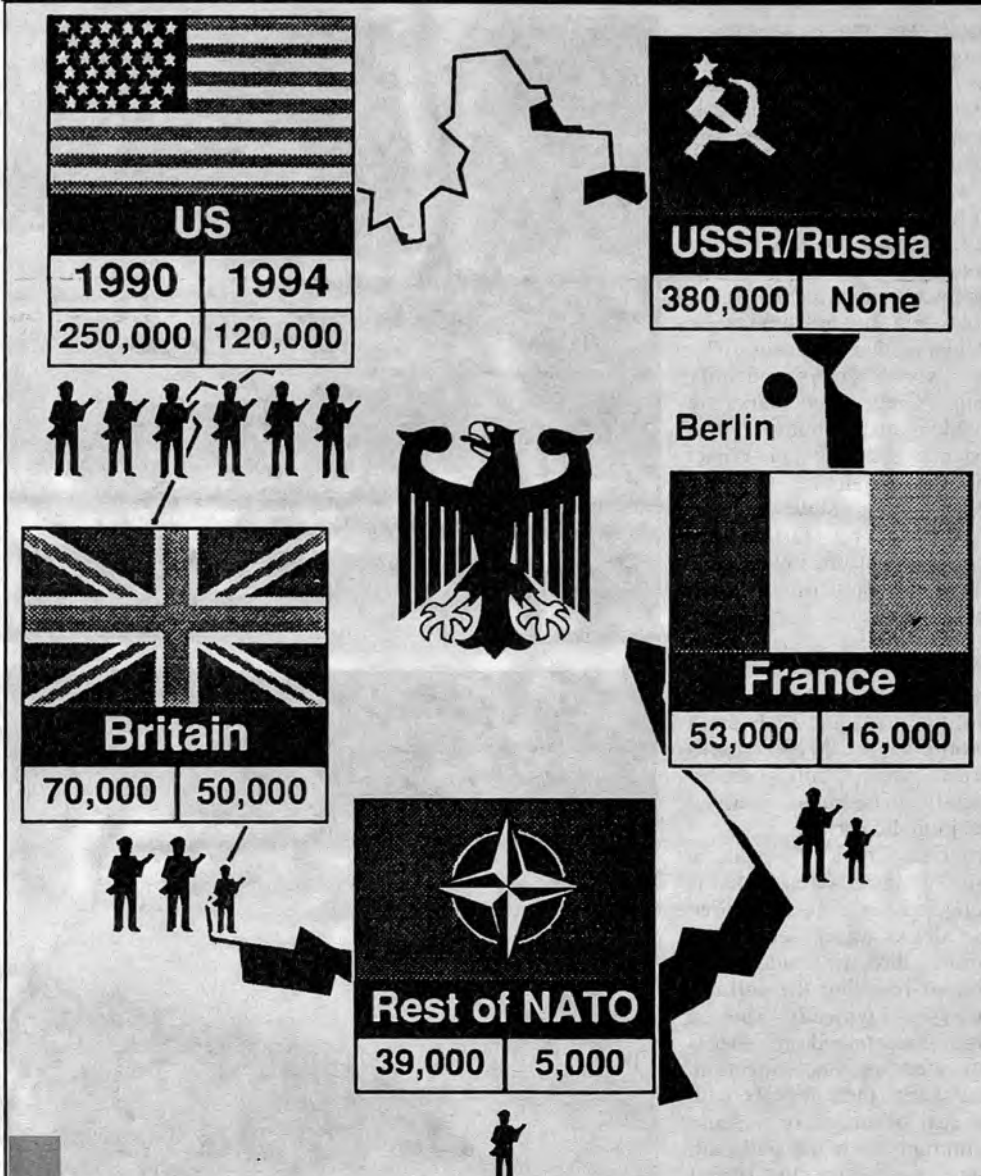
A survey by the *Institute für Demoskopien* in Allensbach showed that many are dissatisfied with the solidarity between east and west and 58% hope that this will change. Even left-wing journalists come in for criticism that they treat the eastern part of the country as foreign.

Some of those peering through the railing of Treptow Park on the day Yeltsin surveyed his last troops in Berlin almost 50 years after they celebrated their victory for the good "of all mankind" were curious young people who had seized the new opportunities by fleeing the far reaches of the former Soviet empire to settle in Germany.

Their presence underlines that Germany's spectacular success has made it a magnet for millions. In 1991, immigrants pushed the country's population over the 80 million mark.

And the flow continues.

Foreign Troops in Germany



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The Great White Shark: The World's Predator Extraordinaire

Remember the movie *Jaws*? Forget it, along with virtually everything else you've heard about the great white shark. Despite the grisly tales, it's not a crazed killer. Instead, it is a skilled, stealthy predator with a highly selective palate and, although people are occasionally bitten, they aren't on the great white's menu.

Attacks on humans tend to be accidents that are caused by the way sharks identify things. Great white sharks are unable to determine from a distance whether an object will be palatable, so they either bump slow moving objects or bit fast-moving ones. As a result, unpalatable things are sometimes bitten but not eaten.

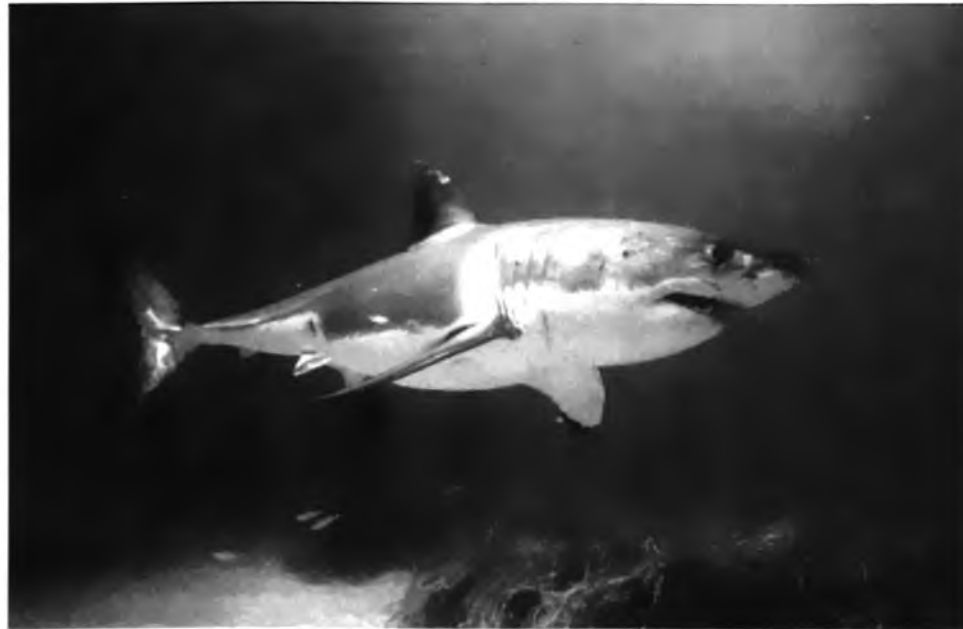
Predatory Behavior:

Their attack patterns vary with the prey, and seals are a favorite target. White sharks attack seals from almost directly underneath, without breaking the surface.

Observers typically spot a large bloodstained area that is elongated in one direction. The sharks attack seals from almost directly underneath, without breaking the surface. Observers typically spot a large bloodstained area that is elongated in one direction. The shark then appears with the seal beside it, or is seen swimming with the wide tail beats necessary to propel itself with a heavy load. If the seal escapes, it has a 40% chance of avoiding the shark. More usually, it remains in the shark's mouth while the shark evaluates taste and texture to determine whether its prey is edible. After a time underwater, the seal floats to the surface, no longer bleeding, but with a bite of flesh missing. Based on those observations, scientists believe the great white kills its prey by draining it of blood.

In contrast, attacks on larger, stronger sea lions start with an explosive splash as a sea lion is grabbed and carried underwater. Because sea lions have very strong fore flippers, their struggle seems to force white sharks to bit prematurely and release them. The shark recaptures the bitten sea lion 75 per cent of the time. But, as with cats and birds, the predator may be taunted. Sea lions sometime appear alongside a shark and perform swift rolls around it. The frustrated shark cruises ahead, seemingly unable to move with sufficient agility to attack or pursue.

On the South Farallon Islands, about 30 miles off the California coast, biologists have been making regular observations of sharks since 1969. Between 1987 and 1992, more than 80% of attacks on pinniped (seal and sea lion) colonies occurred 25-450 meters from shore. The attacks coincided with the rising tide, which forced the seals and sea lions off the beach, and increased in proportion to the number of animals in the water. The



attacks peaked early in the morning.

Growth and Feeding:

Great white adults prefer energy-rich, fatty foods like seal and sea lion and feed selectively on whale blubber, rejecting muscular tissue to fuel a rapid growth rate of more than 5 percent per year. Sharks too small to capture pinnipeds eat fish, crustaceans, and smaller sharks. Males reach maturity at about 10 feet and females at 13-14 feet. At some point their growth pattern changes and they grow wider, developing tremendous chests. Great whites digest food rapidly, so energy becomes quickly available for use. Their body temperature is at least nine degrees Fahrenheit higher than that of the surrounding water, and they retain that heat thanks to a net of tiny arteries and veins that return the heat generated by the shark's movements to the swimming muscles and stomach, like a heat pump. Great white sharks tend to feed only during daylight hours, even when easy targets are present. The preference for daylight is probably linked to how they identify their targets. There is a theory that they rely on each of their six senses sequentially, depending on distance from an object: first, hearing and electroreception; then, smell, sight, and lateral lines; and, finally, taste.

Complementary to their acute hearing is a lateral-line system in which vibrations, pressure changes, waves, and water movements are detected by dairies of sensory canals extending along the sides of the head and body. That system detects low-frequency vibrations at distances of more than one mile. Additionally, sharks' keen sense of smell helps them scent food over great distances and detect blood in concentrations as small as one part per million.

Great whites are extremely farsighted and can see fine details and colors. Unlike most sharks, they see poorly in low light. Before an attack, their eyes fixate on various potential targets, revealing the white sclera of the eyeball. Sharks are the most electro-sensitive animals known to science and my use that sensitivity to navigate using earth's magnetic field. Great whites also detect the weak electric fields that are generated by all living things. The electro-sensory system is visible in the ampullae of Lorenzini, surface pores on the snout and lower jaw leading to nerves connected to the brain. Because great whites cannot distinguish between natural and man-made signals, they have been observed to veer away from bait to attack metal sharp cages, which, because of the way metals behave in salt water, emit a strong signal.

teeth are arranged in two functional rows and four non-functional rows, so that whenever front teeth are lost during feeding, their replacements move forward.

Great whites prefer cool waters and are found in the Mediterranean and off the coasts of southern Australia, South Africa, and the eastern and western United States. From the surface, great white sharks are barely visible. Their backs are generally dark, gradually turning from dun gray to slate gray as the sharks mature. The name "great white" reflects their vast white underside.

Social Behavior:

Great white sharks tend to travel alone, giving wide berth to other sharks. When two or more arrive at the same food source, dominance is ritualized in threat displays. Two great whites meeting at the surface twist their bodies to the side, lifting their tail fins and most of their bodies out of the water and slapping the sea, splashing water at each other. After a few volleys, the shark that has directed the most tail slaps at the other usually feeds.

In the South Farallons, most of the attacks on seals occur between late summer and early winter, indicating (by their absence the rest of the year) some pattern of movement. Sharks along Dangerous Reef off Australia also travel among islands, with loose groups of either males or females populating one area at a time.

The few sharks that have been tagged and followed have all cruised at about two miles per hour, swimming just below the surface or along the bottom. They spend little time in midwater; the ascents and descents are gradual and steady, however; and are completely unlike their rapid ascents when attacking.

Maturity and Mating:

No one has ever witnessed white sharks mating, but because their anatomy is similar to that of blacktip reef sharks and reef white-tips (which have been observed), scientists believe the patterns are similar. Male and female great whites appear to spend most of their lives apart yet near. Females tend to prefer the warmer - but still cool - waters of near-shore islands, and males spend more time in the richer feeding grounds around islands farther offshore. As yet, however, no one knows whether sharks mate for life, how they choose their partners, or even how often males and females socialize.

During copulation, a male shark grasps one of the female's proctoral fins with his teeth, then rolls one of his two claspers cartilage-

supported extensions of the pelvic fins into a scroll-like shape and inserts it into her cloaca. A spike at the top of the clasper flares out, snagging the uterine wall and locking the clasper in place. Sperm mixed with seawater runs down a furrow in the clasper and into her body.

According to fishermen who have caught pregnant great white sharks, litter size is about 6-11 pups. The length of the gestation period is unknown. One 17-foot mother carried foot-long embryos, each connected to a 10-foot-long umbilical cord attached to a yellow yolk sac about the size of a softball. Another great white carried 192 egg cases in her uterus.

The enormous number of egg cases also suggests that white shark embryos within the uterus eat other yolk sacs that continue to descend during pregnancy.

Because baby great white sharks are born live, they are safer in warmer waters that drain less energy from the body. They receive no parental care. On the West Coast of the United States, great white sharks tend to be born near San Diego and travel north to islands off San Francisco to feed. They probably have a life span of 25 - 30 years, based on the growth rings that appear like tree rings in their cartilaginous backbones.

A Shark at Risk?

Great white sharks are relatively rare and appear to be becoming more so. Between Cape Hatteras and Cape Cod, another area known for great whites, long-line fishermen caught 4,770 sharks between 1961 and 1967, but only 36 were great white sharks.

There is no hard evidence that great whites are endangered, but there are warning signs. In Australia during the 1960s, the ratio of other sharks to great whites caught in nets protecting swim beaches was 22:1. In the 1980s, the ratio was 650:1.

Throughout the world, fishermen, divers, and others who know their waters thoroughly say that great white shark populations are thinning significantly and that the remaining great whites are not as easily attracted, aggressive, or large as those seen 20 years ago.

Great whites cannot make the quick come-backs that other fish can because of their built-in vulnerability as slow-growing, long-lived creatures that produced relatively few offsprings. Determining their cause of the apparent decline in the population could take twenty years, and the information could come too late to save the great white shark. Therefore, nations and states are beginning to act to save them. In 1991, South Africa became the first country to protect the great white shark. Legislation was recently passed in other countries.

A Study Project on "Terrorism in Yemen"

By: Dr. Muhammed Ahmed Al-Khayyat,
Deputy Dean,
Social Foundations Dept.,
College of Education,
Sanaa University.

The following is a summary of a project proposal presented to a funding agency.

Background:

Terrorism is one of the critical problems facing the world today. It also brings many fields together. Politics and sociology are considered the two major fields which are directly and seriously concerned with the topic. The work of scholars in Europe and the USA on terrorism is found in many research centers and universities. However, such work does not exist in Yemeni research institutions or universities. Actually, it is difficult to refer to any work by a local scholar in the field. That is why it is highly critical to enrich the field and address this issue.

Objectives:

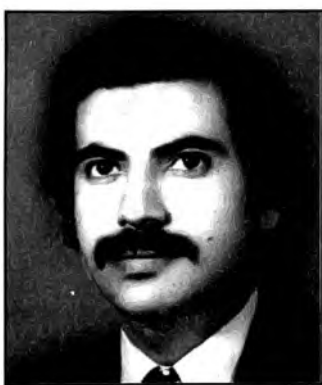
This study project aims to meet two major objectives. The first is devoted to collecting as much data as possible to cover the annoying shortage in the courses I teach at the university. The second is acquiring the most practical ways of educating high school and university students against terrorist recruitment.

The Methodology:

There are some facts about the Yemeni society that must be stated before discussing the project thesis. These facts are as follows:

- Yemen is a poor society,
- The illiteracy rate in Yemen is very high.
- Yemen is a tribal society,
- Yemen is a society of unequal interests,
- Political parties in Yemen live in an extremely conflicting state.
- The Yemeni economy is no longer able to employ many of the university graduates.

The migrant returnees have increased the problem of unemployment. Given the above mentioned points, it will be readily seen how they affect the formation of terrorist groups and terrorist activities. Terrorism is the most serious and harmful problem to both developed and undeveloped nations. Its harm, however, affects the under-developed societies more than the developed ones. Although, they all



face the same problem, their reaction is different. Some societies; say in Europe and America, have paid considerable attention to the need of fighting of terrorism. On the other hand, some of the Third World countries seem oblivious to the issue and pay no attention to the complicated situation. They think that they are out of its reach.

Third World countries, more than the developed ones, have to understand that fighting terrorism is every body's business. What makes the situation more serious and call for urgent action to fight terrorism is that the world has experienced an unprecedented level on the formation of terrorist groups. Recently, some Arab and Islamic countries have experienced wide-spread armed activities of some extreme religious groups that added unbearable burden to the societies of these countries.

There are several reasons behind the formation of these groups. Informed writing and interviews in the media give two major reasons.

The first one is poverty. Poor countries, most often, offer the environment for the formation of terrorist groups. Some people suggest that terrorism occurs even in rich societies. This is true, but it must be understood, that terrorism comes from the unemployed people within the rich societies. The second reason relates to the disequilibrium in interests among different members of society. Most if not all Third World countries have stratified societies comprised of different tribes or different sectarian groups with different interests. Some tribes or sects in a society enjoy more power and wealth than others. That leads to tremendous injustice in the distribution of income, wealth and power, thus leading to enormous grievances, which ultimately could lead to the formation of terrorist groups and activities.

In addition, it is worth men-

tioning here that terrorism takes more than one form and takes place in different societal levels. Terrorism may take one or all of the following forms:

- Political terrorism,
- Intellectual terrorism,
- Religious terrorism.

We are concerned here with religious terrorism. Or described in another way, terrorism that manipulates religion to achieve irreligious benefits. I chose the religious form of terrorism for the following reasons:

- Yemen is a Muslim country,
- Most of the Yemenis are illiterates who can be deceived easily
- Real power is in the hands of the tribesmen,
- The state has no real control over the tribes,
- The recent appearance of political parties,
- The existing competition among religious groups,

Thus, the religious form of terrorism presents a real danger to the country. Let me add one more dimension. After the re-unification of Yemen in 1990, the system is based on democracy and political pluralism, as a mechanism for controlling the power. Democracy, according to some experts, sometimes gives rise to terrorist groups. Some reports in the media confirmed this assumption when they pointed out that terrorists had come to Yemen since the country adopted the pluralist political system.

In the last three years, religious groups in Yemen have been very active. Their activities have extended to many governmental and private agencies. They concentrated, particularly, on the educational institutions. In Sana'a University, where I work, some faculty members and employees have joined religious groups. They work hard to recruit their colleagues, and when and if they are turned down, they become very unfriendly and treat them rather shabbily.

In addition to these peaceful attempts, there is a widespread rumor that there are several camps established for training the Mujahideen. Some reliable sources have indicated that the most likely recruitment grounds usually come from the following groups.

- The illiterates
- The poor,
- The unemployed
- The tribesmen
- The students.

The illiterate people are very vulnerable and can be deceived

easily by sophisticated preaching and devious preaching. When such people get recruited, they become sincere and dedicated mujahideen who do what they are told. Unlike other groups, they are moved by their honest and true belief and do not look for money or other incentives. The other groups as well, except the students, are money hunters. If the proper payments are made, therefore, recruiting them is an easy job.

What concerns me, here, as a sociologist and as an educator, is the last group - the students. This concern is based on two main reasons: The first one is related to the nature of my job as a university professor which requires a good theoretical background on the subject of terrorism which I teach to the students. The second reason is related to the increasing number of high school students and university graduates. High school students who are at a critical age are easy victims for the extremists, either for believing in the speeches they hear, or by being deceived by the promises delivered by the extremists.

Additionally, aspiring university students and university graduates cannot easily find

jobs nowadays. Therefore, they become easy victims to the temptations of the recruiters. Extreme religious groups usually provide such students with well furnished apartments, handsome monthly allowances and often arranging for their marriage. These groups of innocent people, directly or indirectly, become involved in acts labelled as religious jihad. Terrorism as a universal phenomenon, must be every nation's concern. However, despite the fact that terrorism causes political upheaval as well as social problems, it has not been tackled with the same intensity from world nations, particularly, of the Third World.

Fighting terrorism comes at the top list of the developed countries' priorities, and it takes two forms: academic and governmental intervention. The former appears through generous grants given to research institutions and universities to carry out profound work on terrorism and terrorist groups. The latter rests on two manners: Government action against terrorism does not concern me in this study. But I do want to work against the recruitment of high school and university students/graduates.

WE have to stand against all attempts of terrorist recruitment. To accomplish this, the thesis of my study project, two approaches are to be followed. The first approach consists of two steps: library research, and meetings with well-known scholars in the field to benefit from their experiences, insight and conclusions.

The second approach is devoted to meeting with experts in the government agencies working in this field in order to benefit from their accumulation of practical knowledge.

Importance of the Study:

The significance of this study can be appreciated through the following points:

- The study will enable me, through the courses I teach at Sanaa University, to guide the students to help themselves against terrorist activities and potential recruitment.
- I train high school teachers who should take care of high school students. The study will provide me with the theoretical knowledge and with practical expertise, which will give me a good chance to share with other faculty members what I learned about terrorism, and how to handle it.

Contest No. 4

مسابقة رقم ٤

Prepared by:

Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

إعداد:

معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

P.O.Box 16927, Al-Raqas St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sanaa; Telefax (967-1) 209721
ص ب رقم (١٦٩٢٧)، صنعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء، تليفاكس ٢٠٩٧٢١ (١-٩٦٧)

This contest is for the students enrolled at Al-Farook Institute

Please fill the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the institute by Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

هذه المسابقة خاصة بالطلاب الذين يدرسون في معهد الفاروق

يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى المسجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس. سيعلن أسم الفائز بالجائزة في العدد القادم من «يمن تايمز».

Down Large grey mammal	Down We have 26 letters in E	Across Image recorded by a camera
Across My sister's son	Across A solid circle	Down Device for transmitting speech
Down Another word for doctor	Across Medicines are prepared and dispensed here	Down The study of places and people
	Across A victory or major achievement	

Name: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Winner of Contest No. 3

The winner of last week's contest (Contest No. 3) is student **Akberet Haile** (picture). Congratulations: The correct answers were:

أفقي: ١ - صف، ٣ - تكبير

عمودي: ٤ - شارع، ٦ - ريش



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Women in Ancient Yemen

According to the Bible (1 Kings 10; 2 Chronicles 9), the Queen of Sheba herself came to Solomon to press him with questions, and found him to be a wise and wealthy king. The Quran (Sura 27) and the Ethiopian legends add more spice to the story, but it still remains the story of Bilqis or of Makeda, against a background of masculine powers. Legends of Arabian queens are not however restricted to Yemen and hazy days of glory on the edge of history, as the real live Arab Queen Zenobia of Palmyra came quite close to wrestling Egypt from Rome, and thus almost became the most powerful ruler on the Eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and a serious menace to Rome during the third century A.D. Long before her, during the eighth century B.C., the Assyrian kings Tiglath-Pileser and Sargon II encountered quite a number of blood thirsty women cavalry leaders. They mentioned these queens because they defeated them, but as Sargon's body was ultimately destined to be left lying on a foreign battlefield, we may assume that other Assyrian kings fought undecided or unsuccessful actions against Arabian cavalry, which they chose to forget. At the time, the Arab cavalry was riding horses and camels and shooting arrows at the poor Assyrian infantry, accompanied by some charioteers who rarely dared to loosen the reins to take the time to shoot, and it would not be surprising if the Arabian cavalry were not a bit much for the conservative Assyrians.

That women appear as legendary rulers is perhaps not surprising, but their failure to appear on the coins suggests that they did not in fact actually rule, as the coins quickly changed from depicting the Athenian goddess Athena to depicting male rulers and male gods (see Yemen Times 31 October 1994, p. 11). Viewed from the coins alone, one would rapidly draw the conclusion that women's roles in public life were purely legendary and that their participation was limited to the conventional assumptions. The same conclusion could be drawn from the Assyrian texts a decade or two later, as by the end of the eighth century B.C., Assyrian sources mention kings and not queens in association with Saba. The first coins date to a period many centuries later than this. Should we then draw the conclu-



sion that early Yemeni society was ruled by women, and that it was then transformed into a masculine society? Or should we simply assume that the legendary women were simply part of the exotic tales of far-off Yemen?

The answer may be that seeking real ancient Yemeni heroines one should include others aside from the queens. It is one thing to have the queen of Sheba hovering on the historical horizon, but it is quite another to debate whether the female figures depicted on stelae from Qataban



are priestesses or goddesses (see also Yemen Times, October 10 1994, left photo), and that is in fact an on-going debate. The French-speaking world tends toward the latter interpretation, while German-speakers prefer the former. Given the evidence of the jewelry which has been actually found, and the execution of the stelae, it would potentially be justifiable to suggest that these are not real women, but ideal images of what men want women to be: chaste and discrete, silent and obedient. The women depicted on the walls of temples in the Jawf are set on pedestals, but seem to be considerably more lively, but we have no idea of who they were. We know however from the jewelry that at least some ancient Yemeni women enjoyed a considerable degree of discrete ornamentation (see Yemen Times 17 October 1994, p. 11).



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In 1950, the American excavations at Timna (the capital of Qataban) brought to light an inscribed block of stone, relating that a certain living woman named Barat spent her own private funds to consecrate a golden statue to the god Ashtar, charging the god to protect her and hers. She was apparently obliged to provide for a rain sacrifice by the king, and this statue was part of her duty. The golden statue is - of course - long gone, but a number of other preserved

alabaster statues depict women, accompanied by one line inscriptions naming women. As similar depictions of men are assumed to depict men, then it should not be inappropriate to suggest that these statues are of living women, and that they paid for them out of their own means, for public display, either in the city or in the cemetery at Timna. Hayd bin Aqil.

Another inscription from Marib records the dedication of a statue of a woman - by a group of women - as an expression of thanks for the god's having delivered a daughter from the perils of disease.



Another inscription records the thanks rendered to the god Ashtar for having granted the happy parents a daughter. Another inscription notes that a man's wife also dedicated a statue of thanks for being saved, just as her husband did. One of the most curious inscriptions records that a woman named Lutf dedicated a statue to the god in thanks for having assured that her husband return safely from a foreign excursion undertaken at the orders of their lords, but this appears to be quite parenthetical as the text relates that the woman herself is actually



even more grateful for having been rescued from near death when bearing a stillborn son, without a word of sorrow at the loss: quite an interesting attitude for a public document, especially as she goes on to give thanks for the welfare of her daughters.

These women were carrying out public responsibilities, and thus the suggestion that the female figures depicted on other Qatabanian stelae should be regarded as women or priestesses rather than goddesses is permissible. Given the role that religion played in the ancient world, and quite specifically in South Arabia, these women will have had considerable authority and power, aside from financial means. Although the statues of priestesses seem to be associated with the finds from Qataban, fragments and other types of stelae associated with other ancient Yemeni kingdoms likewise depict women, suggesting that they played equally important roles there. One of the finest is the conical necked statue of a woman from Dhala dedicated to a god, but there are also simple but extremely elegant funerary heads of women. Virtually all of the statues and stelae depict women wearing dresses with high necklines, and simple symbolic jewelry, suitable for important public representative purposes, and statues and inscriptions and stelae of women were found in virtually all of the ancient Yemeni kingdoms.

All of this would suggest that ancient Yemeni women functioned as important officials, as priestesses, and as commercially

active members of society, even as professional women with traveling husbands. On the other hand, the fine jewels from daily life show that they also appreciated and enjoyed other pleasures as well. It is not quite the substantiation of the myth of the Queen of Sheba, but the evidence attests to the depth of women's involvement in public life in ancient Yemen, and as happened in Palmyra, the occasional ancient Yemeni queen may have exercised power in a grand manner, and charmed the world. The discrete ornamentation displayed by the jewelry - as compared to the contemporary mode among Arab women in Palmyra



for example - shows that they bore their responsibilities with grace, dignity and pleasure. The

fabled wealth of ancient Yemen suggests that society benefited from their participation.

This is intended to be the final installment of the series on objects stolen from the museums of the Southern and Eastern governorates during the recent conflict. I would like to express my thanks to the readers and editors of the Yemen Times for their interest, and to the staff and leadership of the General Organization for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums who made it possible to establish which objects were missing and enabled us to publish photographs of the missing artifacts, of which a great many more were stolen than could be pictured in these pages.

By: David Warburton, who is an archaeologist and Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.

The opinions expressed are his own.

All the items pictured - and many more - were stolen from the Museums in Shabwa and Aden.

Editor's Note:

Since the beginning of this series, the Yemeni parliament has passed a new antiquities law forbidding the trade in artifacts. Many individuals have approached the Yemen Times expressing their interest in returning certain pieces of stolen artifacts that have come to them. If you have any information or pieces of antiquities, their return can be arranged on a "No-questions Asked" basis.

The only confirmation Yemen Times needs, which is also in the interest of the Yemeni people, foreign scholars, tourists and the government is that the objects are returned to the museum, and do not find their way to the possession of other individuals, once they are returned.

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