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YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • June 30th thru July 6th, 1997

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Eng. M. Al-Tayyeb on
Vocational Training.
Page 3.

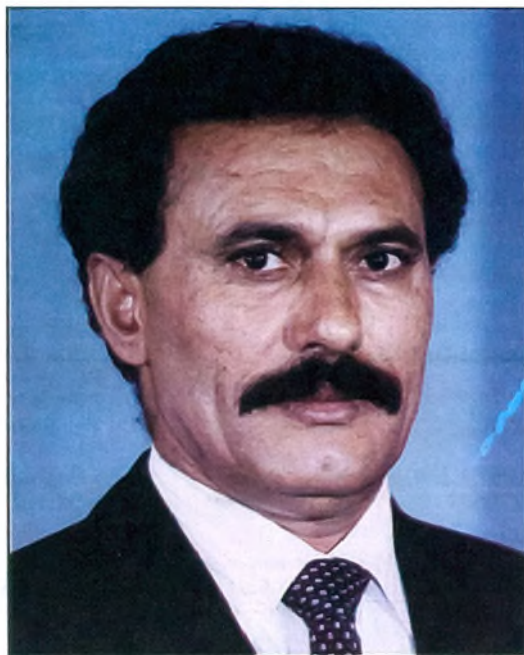
Chinese Deputy Foreign
Minister on Bilateral Relations.
Page 5.

Ms. Jomaan: A Model of
Yemeni Businesswomen.
Page 7.

Inside Yemen's Central
Prisons.
Page 10.

A Gesture of Stronger Friendship and Appreciation from the West:

President Saleh in Bonn & London this Year. In Ottawa & Washington Next Year



Preparations are being completed for a state official visit by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Germany and the United Kingdom in mid-September. According to the London-based Al-Quds newspaper, which published a front-page story in its edition of Friday, June 27th, the Yemeni President will arrive in Germany on June 14th and in London on June 16th.

Yemeni-German relations are exceptionally good, and the visit will add another milestone in the cooperation. In London, President Saleh will cut the ribbon for the launch of a major festival on Yemen. This festival, which will travel to many UK cities, is in an attempt to inform the British public on the Yemeni civilization.

The visit to London itself comes follows strenuous efforts to rehabilitate the bilateral relations which had plunged during the 1994 civil war.

The newspaper further disclosed that the Yemeni President is also likely to pay similar state visits to Canada and the USA during 1998. The visit to Canada will be the first ever by a Yemeni President to that country, while that of the USA will be the first official visit since President Saleh shook hands at the White House with former US President George Bush in 1989.

Al-Quds indicated that these visits come at a time when the world is giving full recognition to Yemen's democratization process and economic reform. "It is a sign that the Yemeni system is taken in as an active and positive player by the world community."

CanOxy to Assist in Educational Project:

Canadian Oxy's New Pleasant Surprise

Mr. Victor Zaleschuk, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Company, indicated that the company was pleasantly surprised with a new discovery 'last month. Speaking during a meeting with Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, President of the Consultative Council, in Toronto last week, Zaleschuk said that his company's experience with Yemen has been one of full satisfaction to both sides.

The two sides also exchanged views as to how to strengthen the bilateral relations and cooperation. Mr. Abdulghani asked the company officials to encourage the Canadian Government to open an embassy in Sana'a. He also

prodded Canadian companies to be more forthcoming in their investment and trade policies with Yemen. "We shall do everything we can to make it worthwhile for Canadian companies to invest in Yemen," he said. Mr. Abdulghani carried the same message in meetings with other Canadian companies.

The CanOxy President also promised that his company will contribute to a project that will help enhance the education of Yemeni scholars and students.

The new oil field will produce roughly 12,000 bpd, thus possibly making the CanOxy output from Masila to exceed the 200,000 bpd mark. More exploration/development is underway.

Yemen as a Transit Point for Drug Trafficking !?

The judge in Amran court was getting puzzled. The number of cases involving drug dealers in his court were getting higher and higher. "Last month alone, there were nine such cases."

The man was talking about disputes among collaborators regarding how to split the bounty. The men were drug traffickers!

Yemen Times was keeping its ears up on June 26th to check

out how Yemen was handling the International Day to Combat Drug Trafficking. The answer was simple. It was not handling it.

Two of YT reporters came back to the chief editor asking to be relieved of the story. They gave no explanations. Scratching the surface indicated that some big shots with a lot of clout were involved in the lucrative business. The journalists did not want undue

risk. The stuff comes by air, mostly from Bombay. Rough people go to the airport to pick it up. It should be easy to pin down the rascals, if the authorities decided to do it. The powder is then land-shipped to the lucrative Saudi and Gulf markets. Not much risk here. But not business either. "Not many Yemenis use the stuff. They are hooked on qat."

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OUR VIEWPOINT

In the Beginning Was THE WORD !

The power of the word is not something new to be appreciated. But the new meaning of the power of information is indeed a serious business. The 21st century promises to be the informatix age. No country can survive, let alone flourish, without being part and parcel of the information system, now dubbed as the cyber highway. It is the internet. In our increasingly globalized environment, access to information, and the ability to use it, is vital.

For small and backward countries like Yemen, there is a serious concern of exclusion. The prerequisites for joining the information world are not there.

1. Even the most advanced sector of modern Yemen - telecommunications, is not up to standard. The total number of telephone connections in Yemen is less than 200,000. That is just over 1% of the population base. In the advanced world, the percentage is higher than 80%.
2. To join the world, we need the hardware - computers. The number of computers in this country does not exceed 10,000, yielding a ratio of 1:1,600. In some advanced countries, the ratio is fast approaching 1:1.
3. To operate the computers, one needs a reliable source of energy - electricity. As most people know, this in itself is a problem. Some improvements are in the pipeline for the cities, notably the capital city, but there is nothing in the offing for the countryside in the foreseeable future.
4. The language of the internet is English. Yemen's school system has not succeeded in giving this ability to the students, in spite of a six-year effort. Although this problem is not unique to Yemen, most of the world has succeeded in acquiring English, at least as a second language.

While those are the obstacles, the new global information system also offers major opportunities. The capacity to receive, download and share information through electronic networks gives us a chance to alleviate poverty in many ways. It breaks the monopoly on knowledge. The buzzword has been 'leap-frogging' - the suggestion that backward nations can reduce the stages of development and cut down on costs.

As importantly, however, such access to information is "a great democratizing power," as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said. It removes censorship by enabling individuals, groups and communities across national boundaries to interact (interface?) freely.

There is need to enable, at least the elites of Yemen, to catch up with the rest of the world. There is need to establish cyber cafes in the major cities so that people who can have the ability to plug in, do get a chance to do so.

Towards that end, the Yemen Times will embark on a project that will offer university professors and their assistants, leading businessmen, public figures, intellectuals, journalists, lawyers, and other individuals to get a crash course. Yemen Times will put up the seed money required to start this project. We hope to open the cyber cafes later this year.

The Publisher


This is part of our mission. It is our duty and responsibility towards Yemen.

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Iranian Culture Warmly Received

After six days full of activity, the Iranian Cultural Week ended on Friday 27th June on a high note. The five Iranian films shown during the week were enthusiastically received by the Yemeni audience. They were more in tune with Yemen's much cherished Islamic values than Western films. Some of the films will be shown on Yemeni TV. Before every film show, the "Leemer" band of Bushahar performed beautiful folkloric music and popular Persian songs. The audience loved it. The activities also included exhibitions of hand-made Persian carpets with live weaving demonstration; wooden handicrafts; Arabic lithography; and a special exhibition of the Holy Koran and other books published in Iran. The week's activities were attended by many Yemeni officials and large crowds from the general public.

Germans Assistance in Vocational Training

Within the framework of Yemeni-German cooperation in the field of vocational training, the roofs of two buildings in the Vocational Training Center will be rehabilitated. The total value of the project is approximately \$250,000. The handing over of the site will be ceremoniously conducted in the presence of Yemeni and German officials as well as the contractor and the Yemeni press. This will take place on Tuesday 1st June at 11 A.M. at the Vocational Training Center on Baghdad Street, Sana'a.

Aden University Health Center to Open Soon

The final preparations are underway at Aden University to inaugurate the first joint project between the university and the private sector. In collaboration with the Aviation and Engineering Agency, the University Health Center will be opened towards the end of July. The center will provide health services to the university teachers, employees and the general public. It is equipped with up-to-date medical equipment such as X-ray machines, sonars, ECG machines, and advanced laboratory facilities. These equipment will be installed by Yemeni engineers and technicians trained by Siemens of Germany. Top-notch Yemeni specialists will man the machines.

Investments in Yemen

According to statistics issued by the General Investment Authority, 17 new projects were licensed during May of this year. The total investment cost was YR. 3,025,967 with fixed assets of YR. 1,985,376. The number of new jobs created is 729. Most of them are in industry (488 jobs), 179 jobs in the services, and only 14 in agriculture. The total number of investments licensed by the Authority since its establishment in April of 1995, has reached 1027 projects, creating 52,964 new jobs.

Western Military Vessels Continue to Call on Yemeni Ports

Yemeni ports are now regularly visited by Western military vessels. Over the last few weeks, ships from Germany, UK, USA, Italy and other countries have visited Aden and Hodeidah. Last week, a French military ship is docked at Hodeidah harbor.

PRINTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of the Republic of Yemen will be introducing a print shop, with the support of the Dutch Government and UNDP. Tenders are invited from qualified suppliers for:

- Part I: A printing machine**
Part II: A cutting machine
Part III: Miscellaneous equipment and supplies.

Suppliers may tender for Part I, Part II or Part III, or for all three Parts. Tenders for any Part must cover all the components specified in the tender documents. Incomplete bids will be rejected. Bids must be in German marks. All imported goods will be exempt from customs charges and should be delivered CIF to Sana'a. Parts I and II should be packed in wooden cases, Part III in a container.

Suppliers must use the official tender documents, and should provide supporting brochures and other relevant documentation. Suppliers should also provide a company profile. A contract will be signed between the "Support to the CSO Project" of the Netherlands Economic Institute and the successful supplier(s).

Tender documents are available from either:

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Central Statistical Organization
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Republic of Yemen

Telephone: +967 1 250108
Fax: +967 1 250664

Hans van Rijn
Netherlands Economic Institute
PO Box 4175
3006 AD Rotterdam
The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 10 453 8800
Fax: +31 10 452 3660

Bids must be submitted to the Chairman of the CSO in sealed envelopes not later than noon on 24 July 1997. Suppliers should indicate clearly which Part or Parts are included in the bid.

Delivery to the Central Statistical Organization, Sana'a, should be within four months of the date on which the contract is signed. Payment will be made by letter of credit for ninety percent of the value of the consignment, against shipping documents, with the balance of ten percent after installation/validation of the equipment/supplies.

The CSO has the right to increase or decrease the items asked for in the tender documents, or to cancel components.

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of the state. The economic development plans, adopted by the government, will help create many new job opportunities. Economic reform is aimed to improve the people's living conditions. This is bound to slow down the pace of emigration.

Q: How about unemployment? How many expatriate work in Yemen? Is Yemenization of the workforce working?

A: Unemployment is very worrying. It is related to the country's economic and developmental situation. It was at the top of the recent Geneva International Labor conference, which I attended. Unemployment is widespread, especially in the Third World. Some of the ideas advocated to tackle this problem include creating small and medium-scale projects to absorb the idle workforce. It is not necessary in this regard to concentrate on big or capital-intensive projects that may only need a relatively small workforce.

The unemployment rate in Yemen is very high, although no one can venture with a number. The five-year plan in Yemen will take care of a reasonable number of unemployed people. Political stability and extensive development are the answer to this very pressing problem.

It is quite true that there are big numbers of foreign workers in Yemen, particularly in oil companies. These companies say that their non-Yemeni workers are very highly skilled, and that there are no available Yemenis to replace them.

For this purpose, the Ministry is in the process of establishing a databank. This will include detailed information on the size, numbers, skills, qualifications, and many other specifics for both the Yemeni and foreign workers.

Then, we will be able to better assess the inflow of foreign workers and their contribution to the local labor market.

We are not interested in hindering the work of oil companies. They are obliged, by law, to replace their foreign workers with Yemenis they train within a limited period of time. I am happy to note that some companies are already doing that.

Q: Could you tell us about vocational training for young people? do you have programs that target women in particular?

A: Vocational training is a very important matter. It determines the very future of nations.

Here in Yemen, we have many institutes that cater for the youth, as they complete intermediate and secondary education. I know these are not sufficient, and we are working on plans to expand the opportunities, fields of specialization, and intensity of training.

Women's issues command a great deal of attention locally and internationally. We at the Ministry of Labor have put the need to open up the labor market for women at the top of our agenda. Working can provide women with an independent source of income to improve their living standard.

We have many ideas and projects to establish vocational training centers just for women. Experts from the World Bank and other donor organizations will be coming to Yemen soon to conduct a survey to help women in several fields. A national strategy will be adopted as a result of this survey. Huge local and international resources will be channeled to this field.

I would like to disclose that the first thing I did here in this ministry was to establish a general directorate for women.

More constructive steps will be taken in the near future.

The Vocational and Technical Training Authority has many plans for the future. Large investments have already been allocated. We will soon witness an increase in the number of technical training institutes. Educational curricula in these institutes will be updated to keep pace with the rapid technological progress worldwide.

Q: Graduates of technical and vocational institutes are often unemployed. Should there not be a mechanism of guiding their studies to meet market needs? Should there not be a mechanism for finding work for these people?

A: Graduates of the technical institutes look for, and find work on their own initiative. The role of the Ministry is to provide good skills for them. It does not employ them.

In addition, we try to tailor the programs in vocational and technical training institute to meet market needs. But the recent track record shows a humble level of success.

The major problem is that vocational training in Yemen does not keep pace with the changes in the demands of the work market. We have not yet reached a good state of coordination between the type of training provided and the actual market demand.

Preparations are now underway to establish a special organ whose job is to ascertain the real requirements of the work market. Vocational training provided by the technical institutes will be adjusted periodically accordingly. Coordination with the private sector is already in progress in order to establish suitable training policies.

But in the end, remember that it

is the trainees who choose in which field they want to be trained.

Q: What are the most important recommendations adopted by the Geneva conference?

A: The Geneva conference came out with many recommendations. Several are related to child labor, which is forbidden by international conventions. Yemen has signed an international agreement in this regard.

Unemployment also received a lot of attention by the participants at the conference.

The other very crucial issue at the conference was the connection between social criteria and international trade. As you know, the world is now moving rapidly towards trade globalization. It is witnessing the formation of a huge, open global market. A social criterion is to be attached to all this. This entails that any commodity not up to the internationally agreed standards will be put out of international circulation. This matter is being seriously contested by many countries.

The are seven human rights treaties related to social criteria.

Q: At the Geneva conference, you took the occasion to conclude several agreements. What are they?

A: Yemen has come out with five projects, concluded on the side of the Geneva Conference. This is the first time our country makes such an achievement through the World Labor Organization. These projects include female vocational training, a national plan to eradicate child labor and begging, reorganizing the Ministry of Labor, vocational health, and vocational inspection. Work on these projects will start within the next few weeks.

According to the World Bank, the future of Yemen depends on human resource development. That is WB lingo for people. Thus, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training is expected to play a rising role in the country's development efforts.

Last week, the ninth round of the Central Council of the General Union of Workers' Trade Unions was held in Sana'a. As a corollary to that, a seminar on Trade Unions and Globalization was also held, in order to come to grips with the changes in the world labor market.

On this occasion, Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakil and Mr. Al-Izzi As-Selwi of Yemen Times met Engineer Mohammed Al-Tayyib, the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, and filed the following interview.

Mr. Al-Tayyib is an energetic young man who has a sense of his mission. He is also well aware of the possibilities given the technological and mentality changes worldwide.

Excerpts:

Q: Your ministry is working at the moment to improve some laws and legislation. Could you give us some details?

A: There are many laws that need to be revised to come to terms with the changes of the times, and to enable better enforcement. The Labor Law is by far the most important of these. It regulates relations between the Ministry of Labor, trade unions and employers. This law does not have executive by-laws yet, and is not enforced either. This will be the ministry's top priority.

We have some reservations on the Trade Unions Law. That is why we had to refer it back to parliament.

The Ministry of Labor's executive by-laws also needs to be reviewed. Other issues such as vocational health and safety are addressed by the new Republican law.

Q: Are workers in Yemen allowed to go on strikes to further their demands?

A: Work relations in Yemen are rather good. Hence, we do not have many major strikes. If they do occur, they are usually ended amicably. Compared to many other countries, Yemen is quite

good in this respect. Strikes are legal within the framework of the laws and regulations.

Q: What does your ministry propose to do regarding the emigration of professional cadres out of Yemen?

A: The emigration of qualified Yemenis out of the country is not something new. Yemen has been supplying immigrants to the world throughout the ages. People are always seeking new ways to improve their economic livelihood. Immigration is the easiest way out of a bad economic situation.

Yemen has lately witnessed many hardships. The burdens of unification; the Gulf War and the return of over a million Yemeni expatriates from the Gulf region; and the war against secession have all contributed to our present difficult economic conditions.

I agree with you that some highly qualified people have left Yemen. But they are not as many as one might imagine. Besides, this issue, however does not concern the Ministry of Labor alone. The measures that must be taken to curb this phenomenon falls within the bigger strategies

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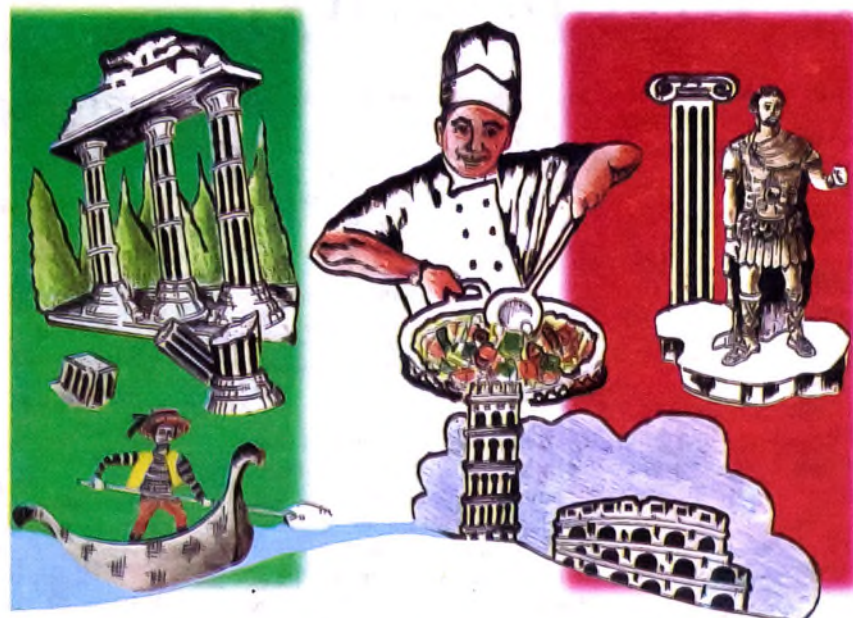
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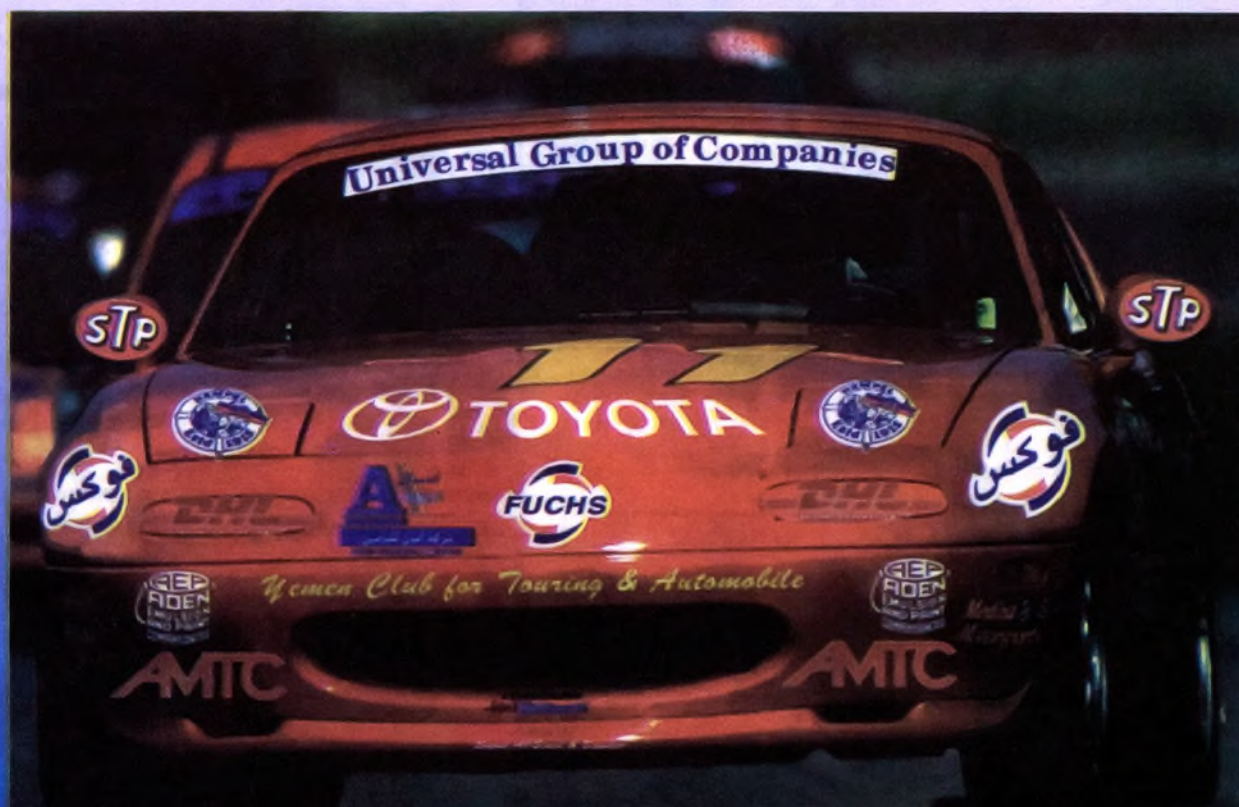
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Chinese Officials Hail Bilateral Relations with Yemen

Yemen and China exceptionally good relations. This is logical since Yemen was one of the first Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations, way back in 1956.

Over the last few weeks, different Chinese delegations have been following each other's footsteps in Sana'a.

Mr. Ji Peiding, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs in the People's Republic of China, headed the last delegation to Sana'a. He entered the diplomatic service in 1965.

Mr. Peiding, 55, is now responsible for West Asia and Africa.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of Yemen Times, talked to Mr. Ji Peiding and filed this interview.



Q: What is the purpose of your visit?

A: As you know, the friendship and cooperation links between Yemen and China go back a long time. My visit comes as part of the political dialogue currently taking place between the two countries. We held very constructive talks with our Yemeni counterparts over the last few days.

Q: What exactly did you talk about?

A: We had talks with Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Mr. Mohsin Al-Ayni, the Vice President of the Consultative Council, Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of Health, Mr. Ghalib Ali Jameel, Deputy Foreign Minister, the Deputy Minister of Education, and other officials.

We discussed ways and means to consolidate and expand the already close cooperation between Yemen and China in many fields; notably in health and education. We exchanged many ideas and opinions regarding the bilateral relations, regional and international issues. We are very satisfied with the outcome of this visit.

Q: How do you see the future of Hong Kong?

A: Hong Kong will return to the mother land within the next few days. We are very proud of that. It will end 150 year of shame for China. Hong Kong will have the status of a special administration region. As specified by the late President Deng Xiao Ping, there will be one country with two systems. The present system and way of life in Hong Kong will continue after its return to China. The Chinese government will take the necessary measures to guarantee the stability and prosperity of the region.

All Hong Kong's affairs, except defense and foreign affairs, will be managed by government of the region. The capitalist system, currency, and customs duties will remain as they are. The Chinese central government will not take a single penny from taxes levied in Hong Kong. Travels between Hong Kong and mainland China will require special permits. This proves that Chinese government's determination to preserve the stability and prosperity of the territory.

Q: What about the laws enforced in Hong Kong? Will they remain the original British laws?

A: The British laws will no longer apply in Hong Kong. The region's Legislative Council will design new laws for Hong Kong, within the framework of the basic legislation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Q: What about other territories such as Macaw?

A: Macaw will revert to Chinese rule on 20th December, 1999. This same concept of one-country-two-system will apply there as well. Actually this concept was first advocated by Mr. Deng Xiao Ping especially for Taiwan. We hope that the authorities in Taiwan will abandon their attempts to fragment China. There are 6 million people in Hong Kong and 21 million in Taiwan.

Mr. Yu Yingzhi submitted his credentials as the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Sana'a in August of 1995. He is now about to leave for Saudi Arabia to serve as ambassador there.

Mr. Yingzhi, 59, is an able diplomat. The fact that he is an Arabologist - a student of Arabic history, Chinese-Arab relations, the Holy Quran - have helped him a lot.

His diplomatic career is extensive in the Arab World, ranging from Baghdad to Morocco, passing through Egypt, Sudan, the UAE and other countries.

On the occasion of his imminent departure, Mr. M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to him, and filed this interview.



Q: What are your impressions now that you are about to leave Yemen?

A: I have very profound impressions. First, I appreciate the efforts made by the Yemeni government under the leadership of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Yemen has adopted a foreign policy relying mainly on peaceful, non-aligned and friendly relations. Great efforts are made by the Yemeni government to consolidate its relations with Arab and non-Arab countries.

In solving its disputes with other countries, the Yemeni government resorted to peaceful negotiations. Big practical results were achieved this way. Such an approach helps to preserve peace and stability in the region. Tackling the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute is a good example.

Q: How do you assess the cementing of the Yemeni national unity?

A: Yemeni national unity is continuously being enhanced, leading to more stability. The last parliamentary elections were hugely successful. This is attested to by many international observers who took part in monitoring the elections. I warmly congratulate the President, government, and people of Yemen for the success of the elections. The political stability created in the aftermath of the elections will help the government and people concentrate more on economic development.

Q: Could you briefly tell us about the development of Yemeni-Chinese relations?

A: These relations are quite distinguished. Diplomatic links between the two countries were first established on 24th September, 1956. Rapid developments have been achieved since then,

irrespective of the many world changes that took place. Cooperation between China and Yemen has extended to many fields ranging from politics, trade, culture, health, education, sports, etc. Bilateral relations are enhanced by the exchange of many official visits.

An agreement pairing Shanghai and Aden was recently signed. Other protocols in various other fields have also been signed.

The volume of trade between the two countries has reached \$ 667 million last year. China has started buying oil directly from Yemen. This is beneficial to the two countries. An agreement has been reached to construct the fly-over bridge in Sana'a, dubbed the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Bridge. Execution of the project is expected to start soon.

The enhancement of the friendly links between the two countries will not only serve the two nations, but will also have a great benefit for world peace and stability. I am quite sure that Yemeni-Chinese friendship and cooperation ties will witness great progress, as we rapidly approach the 21st century.

Q: What are your feelings at this time as Hong Kong is about to revert to Chinese sovereignty?

A: Hong Kong was occupied in 1842. Its return to Chinese rule on 1st July, 1997 corrects an abnormal historical situation. I rejoice with my people.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts its office in Sana'a.

This position is open to Yemeni nationals only.

Assistant Resident Representative (ARR)

Duties and Responsibilities

Manage all human resources matters related to nationally recruited staff, including training, career development, promotions and advise the Resident Representative on the application of rules and regulations pertaining to personnel administration; manage the accounts and financial transactions of the UNDP office and field office budget; manage the management information function of the field office; manage office premises and other assets (e.g. UN vehicle pools); establish and maintain liaison in assigned areas of responsibility with the Government of Yemen, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies not part of the United Nations system;

Qualification / Experience / Skills requirement:

Minimum Master's Degree preferably in Business Administration with at least 10 years proven experience, including progressively responsible work in general administration (preferably with the UN System or international organizations). Very good knowledge of computer, English and Arabic is essential.

Remuneration: The net base salary will be within the range of YR. 1,284,587.00 per annum.

National Program Officer (NPO) - Task Manager.

Duties and Responsibilities

The NPO under the general supervision of the Assistant Resident Representative (Team Leader) will perform the following duties:-

Responsible for both implementation and development of the task group; participate in the management of UNDP Country Program activities and the mid-term review in consultation with the Government of Yemen and other UN Agencies; analyze the economic, social and political situation in the Republic of Yemen and identify technical cooperation needs relevant to UNDP activities; guide and coordinate the formulation and revision of project documents, appraise program proposals, introduce in the formulation process new development, modalities, policies and practices; assist in the monitoring of the day-to-day program and evaluation of progress made by ongoing projects.

Qualification / Experience / Skills requirement:

Post-Graduate degree preferably supplemented by technical courses in the field related to the work of the organization and computer skills. Minimum 5 years' progressively responsible development program work of which at least 2 years' were closely related to support of development program activities. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

Remuneration: The net base salary will be within the range of YR. 1,061,637.00 per annum.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received **no later than 15 July 1997**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Sponsored Page

The Great Speed Race: Skoda Wins a Tough Challenge

Mr. Al-Ahwal



The crowd cheered wildly as the drivers revved up their engines.

Three, two, one, GO!

Engines roared. Great clouds of dust rose. The crowd got wilder and wilder. A great race of technology and human skill and endurance has started. The tremendous efforts of scientists, technicians, and seasoned race drivers were put to a test, lasting only a few seconds only.

There is a champion in every Skoda. This was proven one more time in Sana'a last week.

It is a car that has benefited from 50 years of experience. Skoda can look back at a motor sports tra-

dition dating back all the way to 1936, when Skoda won the Rally Monte Carlo for the first time. These championship victories ensure continuity and progress in the design and engineering of all Skoda models.

In rally conditions, vehicles must endure the toughest driving and climatic conditions. Skoda has endured just such condition, and came out victorious. The last race won by Skoda was the 1000 Lake Rally in Finland in 1996.

Friday 27th June in Sana'a will always be remembered as a fantastic day for Skoda. Driven by the German Andreas Wegner, a Skoda Felicia car came in

second place at the speed race held at Al-Saba'een stadium. Wegner is the Commercial Attache at the

racer and a mechanic for a rally team in Germany in the late 70s. He was approached, 3 months ago, by Mr. Saeed Al-Saud of Universal to assess the possibility of car races in Yemen. He suddenly found himself involved again in car races. And this time, it is in Yemen, not Germany.

"Skoda is 100% the daughter of Volkswagen AG Germany," Andreas proudly announced. He has known the representatives of Skoda car in Yemen - Al-Ahwal Group of Companies - for a long time. "I thought it is a good idea to approach Skoda, and ask if they are interested in the race," Andreas said.

According to him, Skoda was one of the leading rally cars in the 70s in Europe. They had excellent cars to the 70s standards. Skoda's

enthusiastic and responded positively to the Andreas proposition.

"We had 10 days to prepare a car, and we did it," stated Andreas. "Some people might have a bad image of Skoda, as a slow car." Andreas took it upon himself to show such people that Skoda is a powerful car with a lot of capabilities, and it can race with other famous cars.

As a race driver with a long experience, Andreas has greatly vouched for Skoda. On the 27th, he went a step further... to practically prove what he had said.

Mr. Abdo Sarhan Al-Ahwal, the Board Chairman of Al-Ahwal Group of Companies, Skoda's GSA in Yemen, said, "We are very proud of



tinguished car."

No wonder, therefore, that the car has been making its presence felt in the car market in Yemen. Consumers have been keen to benefit from the many features of the car, the reasonable price, and the excellent maintenance and repair service.

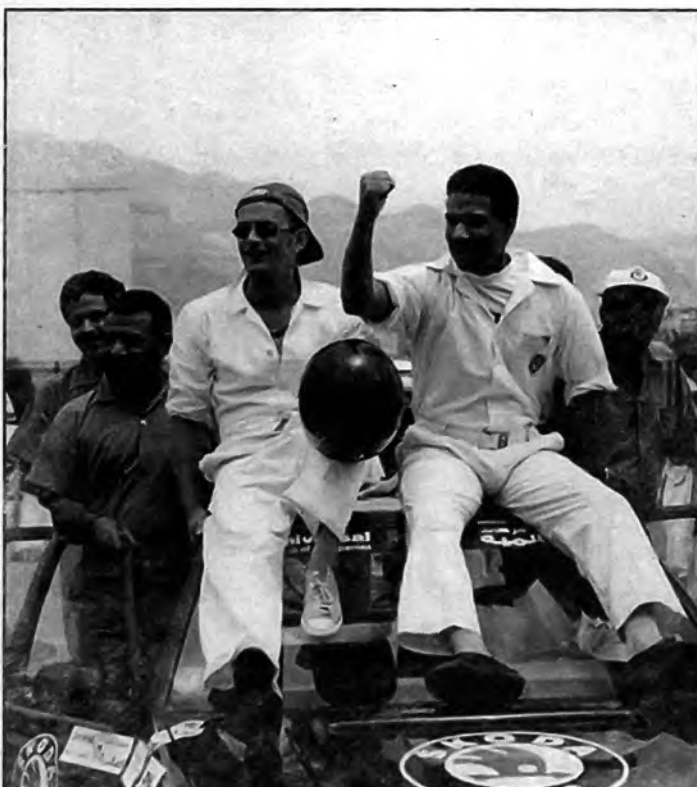
Regarding the preparations for the race, Mr. Al-Ahwal expressed his great admiration for the high level of organization that characterized the whole event. He also believes that such an event will greatly contribute to building excellent Yemeni race teams.

"Skoda has made a significant contribution in this new field of sports in Yemen," Mr. Al-Ahwal added. He thanked all those who participated in organizing the race, and the ministers and dignitaries and the general public who attended.

More on the race on page 15.



German Embassy in Sana'a. He worked as a stock car service manager, Mr. Nabeel Yasseen, was very Skoda's performance in the race. It is a truly dis-



Ready, Set, Go!

“Women in my country should not hesitate to push ahead in all fields, including businesses. In this way they can become active participants in the development and progress of Yemen.”

The world of trade and business in Yemen is one dominated by men. This has been the case since time immemorial. But change is coming to the country. One dimension of this change is the rise of female business leaders.

Ms. Wafa'a Mohammed Ahmed Jomaan is one of a few Yemeni women who have established themselves in the world of trade and business. She comes from a well-known family with extensive and varied commercial connections.

A great believer in women's rights, Ms. Jomaan has actively taken part in the establishment of the first club for business women in Yemen.

Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times talked to Ms. Wafa'a Jomaan and filed the interview below:

Q: How did the idea of the Business Women's Group or club come about?

A: The idea was concretely evolved during last month's visit to Britain by a delegation of five Yemeni business women. I was in that delegation. We were invited by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce. We met with different British businessmen and women. So the idea had been in our minds for a long time, but it was crystallized during our British visit.

We decided, all five of us, that the very first step to take upon our return to Yemen was to start by forming a group or club to encompass Yemeni business women. This group will then grow by bringing in more business-women.

I want to use this occasion to pay tribute to the encouragement by our British business women friends.

Q: How many business women are there in Yemen?

A: I cannot give you an exact figure, but there are, I believe, quite a few Yemeni women working in business and commerce. Many of them, however, have not had the chance to be known by the community in general. The majority are in charge of small enterprises, such as stores.

I am sure that the establishment of the Business Women's Group will encourage these business women to come forward. It will also be a catalyst for those women who had been thinking about it by giving them ample opportunities.

Everybody will then realize that there are maybe hundreds of aspiring Yemeni females in the business world.

Q: Has British expertise have a role to play in forming the group?

A: Yes, of course. Our British business women friends have already provided us with a lot of data and information, relevant to the organizational aspects of the such a group. I am grateful and appreciative of the tremendous encouragement provided by the British Ambassador in Sana'a.

I understand that Britain has provided similar encouragement and assistance to female business groups in other countries.

Q: Will membership of this group be restricted to a particular class of women?

A: The conditions for the group's membership are already specified. It will be open to all women who have commercial, industrial, or professional connections. Female doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc. are also welcome to join. Membership will also be open to non-Yemeni females working in Yemen.

Q: How receptive were the Yemeni officials to the forming of the Business Women's Group?

A: We were met with great encouragement and enthusiasm by the official organs, the NGOs, and the public in general.

Q: You are yourself a business woman. Could you tell us about your 'Reham Natural Mineral Water' project?

A: I studied more than 200 possible projects. I found myself more inclined to the somewhat smaller project, now known as Reham Natural Mineral Water. This project serves two purposes. First, it is a lucrative business enterprise. Second, it



gives an opportunity to provide the people with naturally clean and healthy water. High quality water subject to stringent hygiene standards is directly delivered to homes, offices, hospitals and other clients.

I feel that I am engaged in an enterprise suitable to my capabilities. I am also participating in protecting the people from many water-carried diseases such as hepatitis. According to several medical studies, many people in Sana'a contract this disease through contaminated water.

Q: How did the general public receive your project?

A: The public's response was greatly encouraging. I can confidently announce that the project has achieved a success rate of at least 75%.

Q: How do people deal with you as a business woman in a world largely dominated by men?

A: I receive great respect and encouragement in all my dealings. This, in principle, means there is no objection to women being in business and commerce.

Q: What about officials in government?

A: The same is true. The Water Authority is a good example. Due to my work, I am in constant contact

with officials there. They are very supportive and helpful.

Q: Do you have any other projects in mind for the future?

A: I am concentrating at the moment on the Reham project. It has many positive economic contributions. It contributes to protecting the environment. The ordinary plastic bottles used in bottled water are not recycled, and are not biodegradable. The containers in which Reham water is supplied are taken back for cleaning, sterilization and refilling. We also have special containers of different sizes to deliver water to our regular clients, according to demand or to a set timetable.

Q: To what do you attribute your exceptional success in business?

A: First and foremost, it is from God. My father has given a lot of his time and efforts. With his advice, financial support, and unlimited encouragement, I was able to launch my project.

Q: Any last comment?

A: Women in my country should not hesitate to push ahead in all fields, including businesses. In this way they can become active participants in the development and progress of Yemen.

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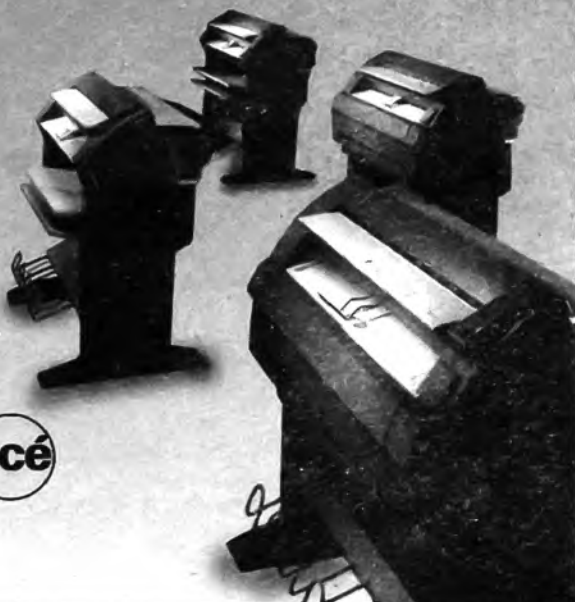


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On July 1st, China Draws the Curtain on a Phase of Colonial History !

The Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland

HONG KONG: THE ORIGIN OF THE HONG KONG QUESTION

The Hong Kong area (including Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, hereinafter referred to as Hong Kong) is located at the coast of South China with its shores lapped by the South China Sea. It covers an area of 1,092 square kilometers and has a population of 6.21 million, of which 95% are Chinese.

Chinese people have lived, labored and multiplied there from generation to generation. Before it was occupied by the British, Hong Kong had had a fair level of socio-economic, cultural and educational development. It was not a "barren land." Administration of Hong Kong by the central authorities of China, as can be verified with written records dates, back to the Qing Dynasty (221-207 BC). China's central governments of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties established the Tumen Military Supervisor's Office, the Guanfu Military Supervisor's Office and the Kowloon Military Supervisor's office respectively in Hong Kong, exercising effective administration there.

Beginning from the 18th century, Britain encouraged the criminal activity of smuggling opium into China. In 1840, using China's ban on opium trade as a pretext, Britain launched its first war of aggression against China, the infamous First Opium War in history, occupying large tracts of Chinese territory along the southeast coast of the country. In August, 1842, the Qing government was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking with Britain. According to this treaty, Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain. The Treaty of Nanking was the first unequal treaty China was forced to sign in its modern history. The treaty marked the beginning of a period when China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. During 1856-1860, Britain and France launched the Second Opium War against China. In February, 1860, British troops occupied the Kowloon Peninsula. In October, 1860, Britain compelled the Qing government to sign the Convention of Peking, forcibly delimiting the southern part of the Kowloon Peninsula into the colony of Hong Kong. In 1898, under the pretext that French occupation of the Canton (Guangzhou) Bay posed a threat to Hong Kong, Britain coerced the Qing government into signing the Convention Respecting an Extension of Hong Kong Territory, leasing by force from the Qing Government a vast tract of Chinese territory north of the Boundary Street and South of Shenzhen river, including 235 nearby islands and inlets (known later as the New Territories) for a term of 99 years. Britain thus occupied the entire Hong Kong area.

Up to the present, Britain has ruled Hong Kong in a typical colonial fashion. This, however, does not mean Hong Kong is a British colony. A colony usually refers to a country that has lost its sovereignty as a result of foreign rule and administration. Since HK is a part of Chinese territory, the concept of colony is not applicable to HK. After Britain occupied HK, the Chinese people waged numerous struggles of resistance against British colonialists. The Chinese people and successive Chinese governments have never recognized the permanent occupation of HK by Britain.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government's consistent stand on the HK question has been:

- that HK is a Chinese territory,
- that China does not recognize the three unequal treaties imposed on a former Chinese government by the imperialists,
- that the HK question should be solved at an appropriate time through negotiations,



- and that, before its solution, the status quo should be maintained.

In November, 1972, at the request of the Chinese government, the 27th General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution to exclude HK and Macao from the list of colonies. Since 1978, China has entered a new historical period in which economic development takes center stage. The Chinese people have been working hard for their country's socialist modernization and peaceful reunification. They are for world peace and against hegemonism. With the new situation in mind, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping put forward the concept of solving the Taiwan and HK questions with the "one country, two systems" formula. At the same time, as the year 1997 - when the term of lease of the New Territories expires - was drawing near, Britain repeatedly sounded China on its stand and attitude on a solution to the HK question. Such developments showed that conditions were ripe for solving the HK question.

On September, 24, 1982, when he met with the then British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Deng Xiaoping talked about the Chinese government's principles on a solution to the HK question: First, the Chinese and the British governments may hold talks on the HK question; but since the Hong Kong area is Chinese territory, the question of Chinese sovereignty is not subject to negotiation; China will certainly recover HK when the time comes.

Second, should a situation out of control arise in HK during its transitional period (this refers to the period from the time when Sino-British Group talks began to 1997), the Chinese government will be compelled to have other considerations on the time and way it recovers HK. China will adopt policies that are suited for HK to maintain its prosperity and stability. What Deng Xiaoping said fully reflects the will and wish of the Chinese nation. The Chinese and British governments from then began holding talks on solving the HK question.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC POLICIES FOR HONG KONG

In the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the Chinese government has made a clear commitment regarding its policies on HK. These basic policies are contained in Annex I of the Joint Declaration, entitled "elaboration by the government of the People's of China of its basic policies regarding HK." The policies were later made into law: "The Basic Law of the HK Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" enacted by the National People's Congress on April 4, 1990.

The main content of the Chinese government's basic policies regarding HK may be summarized as the "One country, two systems," "Rule of HK by HK people," "A high degree of autonomy," and the policy of allowing HK's previous capitalist system and way of life to remain unchanged for fifty years.

WHAT IS "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS"
Deng Xiaoping summarized the policy when he said: "It means that, in the People's Republic of China, a socialist system is practised in the mainland with the population of one billion, while a capitalist system is practised in HK and Taiwan. Specifically, it means that, after HK's return to the motherland, a HK Special Administrative Region (HK-SAR) will come directly under the authority of the Central People's government, and that the socialist system and policies will not be practised in the SAR."

WHAT DOES "RULE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE" MEAN SPECIFICALLY?

It means that the executive authorities and legislature of the HK Special Administrative Region (HK-SAR) will be composed of HK's local inhabitants rather than appointees from the mainland. The central government will not send a single person to the HK SAR to assume official duties there. There is, however, a standard for "rule of HK by HK people." That is to say, the government of the

future HK SAR will be composed of patriots. This, of course, does not mean the exclusion of other kinds of people from official posts. In fact, the regional government may invite foreigners to serve as advisors. But who are patriots? They are people who represent their own nation, sincerely support China's resumed exercise of sovereignty over HK and do not harm HK's prosperity and stability.

WHAT DOES "A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY" MEAN SPECIFICALLY?

It means that the state will authorize, in accordance with law, the HK-SAR to exercise a high degree of autonomy and that the central government will not interfere in affairs that fall within the autonomous power of the HK-SAR. The HK-SAR will be vested with executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. A high degree of autonomy, however, is not total autonomy. To uphold national unity and maintain state sovereignty and territorial integrity, the central government has retained some necessary powers. For example, the central government will be responsible for HK related foreign affairs and the defence of HK.

WHAT DOES THE POLICY OF ALLOWING HONG KONG'S PREVIOUS CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND WAY OF LIFE TO REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR FIFTY YEARS MEAN?

It means that the HK-SAR's previous socio-economic system as well as lifestyle will remain unchanged, and that laws previously in force in HK will remain basically unchanged. The HK-SAR will be established on the basis of a capitalist socio-economic prosperity in the HK-SAR. It is for the maintenance of the HK-SAR's social stability and economic prosperity that the Chinese central government has used the "one country, two systems" formula, allowing HK to retain its existing capitalist system after its return to the motherland. This policy accords with the will of HK people and is conducive to China's modernization as well.

For the same purpose, laws previously in force in HK will remain basically unchanged. The central

government will not apply in the HK-SAR laws that are in force in the mainland. Inhabitants of the HK SAR have long lived under, and are used to, its previous judicial system. The policy of allowing HK's existing laws to remain basically unchanged, therefore, agrees with the will of the HK-SAR's inhabitants.

Way of life is closely related with a socio-economic system. People's lifestyle in HK is related with its capitalist system. The lifestyle has taken its present form over long years of a socio-economic life peculiar to HK. In the future HK-SAR, therefore, people should be allowed to live the way they have done. Such a policy is sometimes vividly described as "horse-racing will continue as before, and so will dancing and stocks speculation." Also, changes to the HK-SAR's previous political system will be kept to a minimum to ensure HK's smooth transition.

HOW THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION CAME INTO BEING

The HK question is left over from history, having its origin in three unequal treaties - the Treaty of Nanking, the Convention of Peking and the Convention Respecting an Extension of HK Territory - that Britain forced the Qing government to sign. The Chinese people have always opposed these unequal treaties.

Since 1978, China has entered a new historical period and the Chinese people have been striving for their country's modernization and reunification. They are for world peace and against hegemonism. With the new situation in mind, the Chinese leader Deng proposed finding a solution to the Taiwan and HK question in accordance with the concept of one country, two systems. That is to say within the People's Republic of China, the Chinese mainland will continue to have a socialist system, while the existing capitalist system in HK, Macao and Taiwan will remain unchanged.

At the same time, as 1997 - the year when the term of lease of the New Territory expires - was drawing near, the British side repeatedly sounded China on its stand and attitude on the HK question. Investors in HK also expressed concern about its future. These developments showed that the time was ripe for settling the HK question.

From September 1982 through September 1984, Chinese and British officials held negotiations on the future of HK. The talks proceeded in two phases. In the first phase covering the period from 1982, starting with the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to China, till June 1983, the two sides held talks mainly on principles and procedural issues. In the second phase, which extends from July 1983 through September 1984, delegations of the Chinese and British governments held 22 rounds of talks on specific, substantive issues.

On September 24, 1982, Deng Xiaoping met with Mrs. Thatcher. The Chinese leaders formally notified the British side that the Chinese government had decided to recover the entire HK area in 1997. He also briefed the British side on special policies the Chinese government would adopt for HK after its return to China, including policies to establish a HK special administrative region to be administered by the local Chinese and to allow the region to keep its existing social and economic system and its way of life. Thatcher insisted that the three unequal treaties Britain forced the Qing government of China to sign in history remained valid and said that, if China agreed to continue British administration over HK, Britain might consider Chinese demand for sovereignty over HK.

In response to Mrs. Thatcher's allegation of continued validity of the three treaties, Deng Xiaoping unequivocally told her in their meeting: "On the

question of sovereignty, we have no room for maneuver. Frankly speaking, the question of sovereignty is not an issue that can be discussed." He further said, "in no more than one to two years, China will formally announce its decision to take back HK."

After this meeting, the two sides agreed to hold discussions through diplomatic channels on the settlement of the HK question. In the next half year, as the British side did not change its stand on the issue of HK's sovereignty, bilateral discussions made no progress.

In March 1983, Mrs. Thatcher sent a letter to the Chinese premier, making the pledge that she was prepared to suggest to the British parliament at a certain stage that the sovereignty of the entire HK region be returned to China. As a result, in April of the same year, the Chinese government replied to the British side expressing the Chinese government's willingness to hold formal negotiations with the British government as soon as possible.

In July 1983, the delegations of the Chinese and British governments began formal negotiations. At the start of the negotiations, the British side attempted to gain the right to continue administering HK after 1997, the so-called "right of administration," in exchange for its recognition of Chinese sovereignty over HK. This was naturally rejected by the Chinese side. As a result, no progress was made in the first four rounds of negotiations.

In September 1983, when he met with Edward Heath, a former British prime minister, Deng Xiaoping said that the British attempt to exchange sovereignty for the right of administration would get nowhere. He urged the British side to change its attitude lest a situation should arise in September 1984 when the Chinese government had to unilaterally announce its principles and policies on settling the HK question.

In a letter she sent to the Chinese government in October, the British Prime Minister said that the two sides might explore a permanent arrangement for HK on the basis of the Chinese proposal. In the fifth and sixth rounds of negotiations, the British side affirmed that it no longer insisted on British administration over HK, nor did it attempt to seek a joint administration of HK with the Chinese in any form and expressed its understanding that the Chinese plan was based on the premise of the return to China of both the sovereignty of, and right of administration over, HK in 1997.

Only at this point was the main obstacle to Sino-British negotiations removed.

Beginning from the seventh round of negotiations, discussions were based on the Chinese government's basic principles and policies on settling the HK question. Although it had clearly promised not to raise any suggestions that conflicted with the principles of Chinese sovereignty over HK, the British side, through presenting working documents during the discussions, put forth many suggestions that aimed at retaining to the maximum extent of British influence in HK after 1997 and at making it a sort of semi-independent political entity away from administration by China's central government. But that was consistently rejected by China.

In April, 1984, after the 12th round of negotiations, the two sides shifted to discussing matters concerning arrangements during the transitional period in HK and the transfer of power. The two sides had widely divergent views on the issue.

In April and July of the year, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe twice visited China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart. The high-level meetings played a positive role in moving the negotiations forward. After repeated discussions, the two sides at last reached an agreement to establish a Sino-British Joint Liaison Group. This Group is for Liaison purposes only. It is not an organ of power. Its function is to engage in consultations on the

implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, discuss matters relating to the smooth transfer of government in 1997 and exchange information and conduct consultations. The Group, established its base in HK on July 1, 1988, and will stop functioning on January 1, 2000.

In the last three rounds of negotiations, the two sides held discussions on a number of specific issues that are quite complicated technically and in policy terms, concerning mainly nationality, civil aviation and land. The two sides also held repeated consultations on the wording of the agreement to be signed.

The Chinese and British sides reached agreements on all issues on September 18, 1984, and initiated the joint declaration on September 26 in Beijing.

This marked the satisfactory conclusion of two years of negotiations between the Chinese and British governments on the HK question. The agreement consists of a principal document - "Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of HK." It has three annexes - "Elaboration by the Government of the People's Republic of China of its Basic Policies Regarding HK," "Sino-British Joint Liaison Group" and "Land Leases."

On December 19, 1984, the heads of the two governments formally signed the Joint Declaration on the HK question in Beijing. On May 27, 1985, the Chinese and British governments exchanged instruments of its ratification in Beijing. With this, the Sino-British Declaration formally went into effect. In the Autumn of the same year, the Chinese permanent delegate to the UN and his British counterpart together presented the Sino-British Joint Declaration to the deputy secretary-general of the UN in charge of legal affairs, thereby, completing UN registration formalities for the Sino-British Joint declaration and making it an internationally recognized legal document.

The Declaration affirms that the government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over HK with effect from July 1, 1997, and that the government of the United Kingdom will restore HK to China on the same date. The Chinese government sets forth its basic policies regarding HK in the Joint Declaration. They are mainly as follows: to establish a HK Special Administrative Region directly under the authority of the central government, which will enjoy a high degree of autonomy except in foreign and defence affairs which are the responsibilities of the central government; HK's existing laws will remain basically unchanged; the HK SAR government will be composed of local inhabitants; the current social and economic systems in HK will remain unchanged, and so will the lifestyle, the HK SAR will retain the status of a free port and a separate customs territory; it will retain the status of an international financial center; it will have its independent finances; using the name of HONG KONG, China; it may on its own maintain and develop economic and cultural relations with states, regions and relevant international organizations; the maintenance of order in HK will be the responsibility of the HK SAR government; and these basic policies of the Chinese government will remain unchanged for fifty years.

The signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the satisfactory settlement of the HK question is a major event in the history of the world as well as in the modern history of China. It marks a major step forward made by the Chinese people in their striving for the reunification of their country. It has also provided new experience for the settlement of international disputes, especially in the settlement of issues between states left over from history. The satisfactory settlement of the HK question has not only received endorsement and support from the Chinese people including HK compatriots, but also won extensive appreciation from the international community.

HONG KONG'S STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER WILL NOT CHANGE AFTER 1997

Since the 1960s and 1970s, HK's external trade has developed rapidly. In 1988, HK overtook the Republic of Korea, Taiwan and Singapore in external trade to become the top trader among the Four Small Dragons of Asia. In the same year, HK's per capita external trade reached US\$21,000, overtaking such developed countries as the United States, Britain and Japan to rank second in the world. The following years witnessed continued growth in its external trade, which reached 2,421 trillion HK Dollars in 1994, to rank eighth in the world, indicating that HK had become an international trade center. HK maintains trade relations with more than 200 countries and regions in the world.

External trade was HK's earliest business endeavor. After its occupation of HK by force in 1841 Britain declared the island a free port with the purpose of selling opium to China. Later, the British gradually used HK as a base to do entrepot trade with Asian countries by taking advantage of its fine, sheltered anchorage and geographical location at the center of the Asia-Pacific region and its proximity to the Chinese mainland.

During 1841-1951, HK remained mainly a port for entrepot trade. After the outbreak of the Korean War, countries in the West imposed a trade embargo against China, which caused a drastic decline in HK's entrepot trade. The following years saw the emergence and rapid development of a processing industry in HK. By the year 1970, locally-manufactured products had become the mainstay of HK's external trade.

With China implementing policies of economic reform and opening to the outside world since 1979, HK's entrepot trade recovered and expanded rapidly and its external trade grew dramatically. After 1988, the value of its entrepot trade once again exceeded that of its export of locally-manufactured products, signifying that a major change had taken place in the structure of HK's external trade. In 1994, HK had a trade volume of 855 billion HK Dollars with the Chinese mainland, far more than its trade with the United States, which stood at 316 billion. HK's trade with the mainland came top in its trade with all its business partners in the world.

After its return to China, HK will continue to have all the conditions that have made it an international trade center, and its external trade will develop further.

The basic law of the HK-SAR stipulates: "The HK Special Administrative Region shall retain the status of a free port and shall not levy customs duties unless otherwise, prescribed. It shall apply a free trade policy, including the free movement of goods, intangible assets and capital."

After 1997, HK will maintain its status as a free port and develop its external trade on its solid material foundation and by using its superior natural conditions. Applying a free trade policy, HK government will not interfere with external trade activities. Its main role will be to formulate free trade policies and regulations, develop trade channels and improve the environment for external trade expansion.

The HK SAR government will continue to allow free competition for all goods and services on local and overseas markets. It will not discriminate against, nor will it impose restriction on, the import and export of goods from outside its boundary. Except for a limited few "controlled goods," the HK-SAR government will impose no controls on the entry and exit of commodities. People can engage in all internationally legal trade in HK. That ensures continued and enhanced prosperity for HK and China.

Angela van Dijk:

"My heart broke as we went from room to room, observing the terrible conditions that these poor women have to live in."

Ms. Angela van Dijk is an American high school girl. She went to school at the American International School in Sanaa. For her graduation research work, she chose a topic that is quite sensitive for the Yemeni society. She chose to investigate the conditions of female prisoners, a subject that is often swept under the carpet.

It was quite an experience for an 18-year-old girl from the US. Angela meticulously did her research, and wrote a well-documented report based on field visits to several prisons in Sanaa, Taiz, Ibb, and Saadah. She herself spent a long time at varied time intervals inside the prisons.

The final result is impressive. The "Conditions of Four Women's Prisons in Yemen" shows a maturity and concern for the human situation, much beyond Angela's young age. The study is both passionate and objective. With a little extra effort and a more critical opinion, it could very well serve as a final-year BA graduation project.

Angela's main reason for choosing this crucial, yet very disturbing, subject is the very fact that it is not often discussed. "People, including myself, tend to think little of what goes on behind prison walls," Angela wrote in her introduction. The methods used to research the topic include reviews of various published and unpublished documents and articles; interviews with volunteers, lawyers, journalists and officials working with women's prisons; and field visits to women's prison facilities in Sana'a, Ibb, Taiz and Saadah. Most of the data and information were collected between October, 1996 and March, 1997.

The report starts with a brief review of articles in Yemeni law and constitution that deal with human rights and justice. Then each of the four women's prisons is considered separately. The observations and comments made by Angela refer to the general conditions, food, health care, prisoner treatment, crimes and sentences, age and nationality, children, and individual case studies.

Towards the end of each chapter, she gives some suggestions and recommendations for improving the prisoners' conditions. A simple layout of the physical structures of each prison is also shown at the end of the report.

"Conditions in Yemeni prisons are horrifying." Many females are serving long sentences for relatively minor crimes such as stealing, drinking, begging, adultery, or for just being poor, lonely and mentally ill. Others are witnesses to a crime, have family problems, or are picked up for not having legal papers. The range of sentences varies from 1 to 14 years. Few women are actually murderers or dangerous criminals."

Health standards are extremely low due to poor hygiene and overcrowding. Disease spreads quickly and there is no meaningful medical care for the sick. Problems are compounded by corruption at all levels of prison management. The male guards have full power



Angela: Appropriate name for the girl with the golden heart.

over the women. They can beat them, rape them, and take away their personal belongings. Women in prison are seen as bad and shameful. The general belief is that they deserve what they get.

"My heart broke as we went from room to room, observing the terrible conditions that these poor women have to live in," Angela wrote, describing her first visit to the Sana'a Central Prison. She goes on describing the awful conditions. Each cell measures about 4 by 3 meters with no windows. About 10-15 women are put in each cell. When the door is closed, the only light that enters the room comes from the little barred peep hole in the metal door. There are no beds. The prisoners sleep on simple mats on the hard concrete floor. They are provided with one blanket each with no pillows. Bathrooms are dirty and smelly.

The women get three very simple meals a day. Occasionally, meat, fish and poultry are provided by donors from wedding or feast left-overs.

"The government of Yemen does not provide any health care at all." It is provided by the Red Crescent, the American Women's Group and other voluntary organizations. Bad diet is the major cause of bad health; psychosomatic diseases are also very prevalent. Many women develop hysterical illnesses because they want to get out of prison so badly. Although they are not mentally ill when they arrive, women often become mentally ill while in prison. Inmates are forced into sexual relations with the officers and guards. Women are not just taken and raped, but "agreements" are made to grant the officers favors. In Sana'a prison, there is only one female guard. She walks around with a water pot and a thick stick. When a woman does not obey her, she throws cold water over her or hits her with the stick.

For a woman to be released, a male relative must come and

collect her. In some cases a woman is imprisoned for much longer than stipulated by the sentence because there is no male to collect her from prison. When a woman is thrown into prison, even if she is innocent, the family is greatly shamed and might abandon her. She is not part of the family anymore, even when released. After finishing their sentences, some women marry complete strangers in order to get out of prison.

The women enjoy some "luxuries." Many inmates are allowed to smoke, chew qat, and walk freely from room to room. Cell doors, however, are barred shut every night at 8 pm, or sometimes earlier. But they do not get any exercise.

Children are born and raised in prison because their mothers happen to be there. Sometimes children are picked off the street because they do not have any identification. Boys are free when they are 10 years old. But the majority have no where to go. Some of them are sent to the orphanage. Girls, on the other hand, must remain in prison with their mothers and other inmates. There is no orphanage for girls in Yemen.

In concluding her report, Angela stated the following:

* There is no true justice, the laws are not kept or taken seriously enough.

* Inmates suffer from poor health with no access to basic health care facilities.

* Criminals, refugees, and the mentally ill are housed all together.

* Children in prison with their mothers are surrounded by negative influences, anti-social role models, crime and hopelessness.

* She recommends the following: * More government interest and involvement.

* Employing female guards at the female prisons, with whom the women prisoners can feel safe.

* Children should not be in prison. They need education and proper homes.

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Managing Director

P.O.Box (73) Muscat-113 Sultanate of Oman.
Fax (968 -795958), e mail: Khonji I@gto. net.om

CORRECTION:

In Last week's report on the new partnership between British Petroleum (BP) and the Thabet Brothers, BP inadvertently appeared once as PB. That was a typing error, and the acronym is, of course, BP. Our sincere apologies.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the departure of one of our staff members in the Controlling Department we seek to employ at short notice a **FINANCIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (m/f)**.

This interesting position will include the following tasks:

- handling the creditors administration
- handling expense accounts (verification, routing, correspondence)
- daily records/accounting
- daily cash position
- writing cheques and transfers
- handling petty-cash in absence of the Assistant Chancellor
- other financial matters as directed.

Priority consideration will be given to candidates with command of the Dutch language. If a Dutch speaking candidate is employed, after the initial training, the following tasks may be added to the job description:

- handling the project administration for development aid activities (expense accounts, keeping the budget controlling status current in LOTUS)
- setting up financial project-files and keeping them current handling the bookkeeping for local expenses (registration, monthly expense accounts sent to the Ministry in The Hague).

Required education and experience

Secondary education supplemented by secondary economic-administrative education.

Extensive experience working in the financial-administrative field, bookkeeping, development aid project administration, computer skills (Wordperfect, Windows, Lotus) and filing.

Excellent knowledge of the English language is a must.

Required personal qualifications

Self-stater, good social skills, detail oriented, orderly, flexible.

Applications with C. V. and passport picture may be sent, within two weeks of this announcement's publication, to:

Royal Netherlands Embassy
Attn. Mr. H. van Praag
Hadda Road
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen



UAE's Tourism Revenues Set to Match Oil Earnings

Revenues from tourism in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would equal that from oil by the year 2000 if the current growth in tourism continues at its present rate, according to the Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB). In 1995, tourism contributed 11% to the UAE's Gross National Product, and it is expected to rise to 20% by the turn of the century. The report said the UAE distinguishes itself on two grounds regarding suitability for developing tourism. "Not all countries have the resources to invest in the development of high class leisure facilities. The Emirates, owing to its role as the entry port of trade in the Gulf, has a very cosmopolitan atmosphere which is well suited to the development of vacation and business tourism," the EIB study said. A good index to measure the expansion in the tourism sector is the rapid rise in total available capacity of hotels which has more than doubled in five years between 1991 and 1996, from 122,000 rooms to 304,000.

The majority of these facilities are in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The tourists spend on an average of Dirhams 2,724 (some US\$ 800) during their stay, of which 78% is on shopping.

Mauritius Gov't Under Pressure

Mauritius may have a reputation as a sun-kissed island paradise, but local opposition politicians and economists warn that storm clouds are gathering ahead. "Confidence between government and the private sector is a vital factor, and any loss of such confidence would entail negative impact on the economy," the Joint Economic Council (JEC), a private sector economic policy coordinating group said in an appeal to the Finance minister. It said the budget should focus on deficit reduction, the pursuit of a coherent monetary and foreign exchange policy and increased economic integration.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam came to power in December 1995, thus bringing an end to the 13-year reign of Anerood Jungnauth. He was elected on a platform which promised a clean government including extensive democracy, transparency, enhanced economic management and prosperity leading to the next century. But many say he has failed to deliver.

Charges of incompetence, over-centralization, lack of collective responsibility in cabinet, constant feuding in parliament, corruption and mismanagement have severely sullied the government's image in the public's eye.

Damascus Says 'No' to Privatization

Syria is seeking to expand its private sector with reforms to revive the economy, but it has no plans to sell off public institutions, the Syrian Minister of Economy, said. "Syria's private sector contributes nearly 63% of the gross domestic product. It is a high level which surpasses that in many neighboring countries," he said. "We do not consider privatization as an important matter. We want to develop and activate the public sector and at the same time support private initiative," he added. Several Arab countries have announced privatization of their state enterprises as part of reforms that also included improvement of investment laws. The reforms, some prescribed by the International Monetary Fund, were needed to tackle slow growth, debt, unemployment and other economic woes. The investment laws in Syria do not target foreigners, but aim to stop capital outflow and repatriate overseas funds. There are serious efforts to boost relations with creditors and to reach a formula of understanding for repayment and servicing of the foreign debt.

Iranian Moderate Politicians Aim for a Multi-party System

Iranian moderates boosted by the election of a reformist president are seeking to form a political party, a development which could lead to a multi-party system in the country. The moderate faction, composed of modernist technocrats close to the outgoing president Akbar Hashimi Rafsanjani, have announced plans to form a party under the name of "Servants of Construction in Iran."

Among its members are Gholam Hussein Karbaschi, Tehran's flamboyant mayor who played an instrumental role in the election of the new president Mohammad Khatami, and two members of Rafsanjani's family - his daughter Faezeh Hashimi and brother Mohammad Hashimi.

The moderates are hoping to benefit from the existing political situation created by Khatami's landslide victory in the May 23 poll against the conservative parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri. The modernists, who favor gradual reform in tune with Western democratic tradition, were previously stifled by conservatives and hard-liners, who labelled the moderates as 'Liberals' a derogatory term in Iran's political vocabulary. The presidential election clearly showed the need for political parties. The existence of parties will ensure the growing participation of people in the political process and makes officials more accountable as quoted by Tehran Times.

Palestine State Gets EU Support

The European Union urged Israel for the first time to consider allowing the creation of a Palestinian state. In a statement adopted following the Amsterdam Summit, EU leaders said, "Europe calls on the people of Israel to recognize the right of the Palestinians to exercise self-determination, without excluding the option of a state. The creation of a viable and peaceful sovereign Palestinian entity is the best guarantee of Israel's security," said the 15-nation bloc.

At the same time, they called on the Palestinian people to reaffirm their commitment to the legitimate right of Israel to live within safe, recognized borders. The European call for peace in the Middle East warned that stagnation on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks is a permanent threat to the security of all and urged the peoples and governments of the Middle East to renew talks.

The EU reaffirmed its opposition to new Israeli settlements and said it supported Arab-Israeli security cooperation.

US: Democracy in Bangladesh Is Not Perfect

Bangladesh needs more time to develop a better democracy," a senior US official said in an interview. "I think it is important to develop a concept of loyal opposition that participates in parliament to take democracy forward or make it perfect. Definitely some more time is required. For Bangladesh, a functioning parliament is very important where everybody will participate," noted a senior State Department official.

On Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's one-year rule, she said, "I am very pleased with Sheikh Hasina and her government for decisiveness in terms of foreign investment." She hailed the landmark treaty signed by Hasina with neighbouring India.

Bangladesh was ruled by the military directly or indirectly between 1975 and 1990.

"Congress vote obstacle to peace."

The Kuwaiti government said that the decision by the US House of Representatives to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's united capital obstructs the Middle East peace process. "The Kuwaiti cabinet expresses its regret and concern over the decision. The cabinet affirms that the decision represents an obstruction to the peace process."

Lebanon-Malaysia Boost Trade Ties

Lebanon and Malaysia agreed to establish full diplomatic ties and are working to increase economic cooperation, a Lebanese government official said. The decision to upgrade the relations from the current honorary consular level was the first fruit of the visit to Beirut by the Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad.

Mahathir, leading a Malaysian delegation, was on a 3-day visit to Lebanon. Talks covered possible Malaysian participation in Lebanon's post-civil war reconstruction projects and investment in the private sector. Malaysia exports US\$ 20 million worth of industrial and food products to Lebanon annually.

Under the diplomatic agreement, both sides will open embassies in each other's capitals later this year, the government official said. The countries discussed plans for Malaysia to provide Lebanon with technological and industrial expertise as well as training.

Iraqi-Syrian Phone Links to Resume

Iraqi-Syrian relations have been on a ground-breaking spree over the last few weeks. The two sides have embarked on a normalization of relations which included the re-opening of the border, exchange of products, and more political coordination.

Last week, an Iraqi delegation discussed reconnecting telephone links between the two neighboring countries. Zuhair Adel Younis, President of the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, said, he discussed "reestablishing telephone, fax, and telex lines" with the chairman of Syria's communications company, Makram Obeid. However Younis ruled out re-opening of an oil pipeline between Banias in Syria, which Damascus shut down in 1982. Younis is heading the Iraqi delegation to Syria on the first visit since the two countries broke off ties in 1980 at the start of Iran-Iraq war. The Chamber of the Syrian Commerce hoped the UN would agree to Syrian border entries to be used as transit points for Iraqi goods.

Islamabad's New Budget Draws Fire

The new budget is of the rich, by the rich and for the rich as no relief has been given to the poverty-stricken masses groaning under the increasing price-hike and inflation. A spokesman for the opposition added, "We will oppose the budget inside parliament because it fails to provide any relief to the poor. The rich mobile phone users have been provided with a financial remission," he noted.

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY

HYOC has job opening for qualified individual in the following positions:

ACCOUNTANTS

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Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- 4 Years degree in Accounting or Business Administration.
- A minimum of two years work experience in Accounting.
- Computer experience.
- Must be fluent in spoken and written Arabic and English.

All candidates must be YEMEN NATIONALS

If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume and a photograph to:

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Attn: Personnel Department
P. O. Box 481, Sana'a
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ONLY A FEW MORE SEATS ARE AVAILABLE.

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Duties

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- Use effectively a range of audio-visual aids including video and computers.
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Qualifications and experience

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- An internationally recognized TEFL/TESL teaching qualification such as the RSA Cert TEFLA or equivalent.
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- Near native-speaker English proficiency.

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Initially at the CPF Masila, Hadhramaut. The instructor may be called upon to teach at other company locations in Sana'a and the terminal.

If you think you fit the job description, please send your full CV to the following address:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen
P. O. Box: 15137
Fax: 269897
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Attn: Human Resources Supervisor

NGO Works to Preserve & Revive a Local Culture & Heritage

Five Happy Occasions in One Carnival at constituency 44 in Taiz Governorate



Under the auspices of Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed Anam, member of the parliament and the Chairman of Al-Aghabira and Al-Aarooq Welfare Association, a big carnival was held at constituency 44 last week. The carnival was attended by VIPs such as Abdul-Qawi Othman Ali, Abdul-Haq Saeed, Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Yahya Yasseen Mohammed, Sheikh Ali Abdul-Haq Al Aghbari and many others.

The occasions for this celebration are five-fold:

- 1- Honoring the top and honors students at Al-Aghabira and Al-Aarooq schools. Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed gave those students prizes and appreciation certificates.
- 2- Completion of the asphalt-tating of Al-Rahida-Hayfan road. The second phase of the project, involves asphaltting the Hayfan-Al-Mafalees road, which will start very soon. The third phase, will extend from Mafalees to Aden.
- 3- Completion of the electricity supply project directly from the central electricity grid system. This will be officially inaugurated in September.
- 4- The arrival of a team of civil engineers from the Ministry of Local Administration headed by Engineer Mohammed Ismael Al Abarah. The team has made a survey for the location of the new governmental complex in Hayfan. The construction of the complex will be in accordance with the most modern architectural specifications.
- 5- Locating the place in which the stadium of Hayfan city will be constructed. Hayfan city is expected to be the center of the

district according to the new administrative zoning law.

Notes on the Association's Achievements in the area:

* Al-Aghabira and Al-Aarooq Association has made great efforts in following up the water

It should be noted here that Prof. Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf had adopted a similar project in Al-Hadharem area in 1985.

* The Society has built many housing centers within the 'Productive Families' scheme. This is a new and successful endeavor that deserves to be

people. This was supported by Mohammed Abdo Saeed and sponsored by the Hayel Saeed Anam Group.

* The rate of illiteracy has decreased a great deal in the region, thanks to the efforts of the association. Moreover, there are even Yemeni university-

graduates.

* One of the important efforts executed by this association is the basic statistics project. "With the basic and accurate information we have, such as livestock size, growth of housing construction, income levels and sources, we are better

handicapped people in each village. The population growth also gives a good indicator of the needed services.

Museum of Arts and Folklore:

One of the new and bold ideas has to do with the establishment of a museum in Hayfan. "There is clear need to preserve and revive the local culture and heritage," explained Mohammed Abdo Saeed. Thus, the museum was established and inaugurated last week.

The museum of arts and Folklore occupies one of the main halls of the Vocational and Training Center. It contains antiques, jewelry, old guns, some old pottery and household utensils, and all things used by the forefathers of the area. It also contains many beautiful Yemeni paintings produced by the artists from the region.

Future Projects:

"We are constantly sounding the local population as to their needs. Then we see if the needs can be met in an economically viable way. Economic feasibility is an important factor in project selection and implementation," the MP representing the region said. Sometimes, it takes one man to lead a group/region and serve as a catalyst for rapid growth and development in a region. In the Al-Aghabira and Al-Aarooq region, it is Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed.

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



project from the central water supply system which covers many villages of the area. This project has faced many difficulties, especially because the water is brought from a distant source, near Shureijah city.

taken as an example by other associations.

* Al-Saeed Vocational and Training Center is considered as one of the best achievements for Aghabira and Al-Aarooq

graduate female teachers working in the schools of the area. For example, in Al Hadhwah School alone, there are 37 female teachers working there. All of them are university

able to determine the present and future needs of this area," said the Chairman of the Association. This is especially true regarding the needs of the



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the joyous moment
in celebrating the resumption
of exercise of sovereignty over
Hong Kong
by the Government of
the People's Republic of
CHINA

We extend greetings and
congratulations to all members
of the Chinese Community
in Yemen.

الشركة الصينية للطرق والجسور

تحتفل
بهذه الأيام السعيدة
بمناسبة إستعادة حكومة
جمهورية الصين الشعبية
سيادتها على هونغ كونغ إبتداء
من ١٩٩٧/٧/١ .

كما ننتهز هذه الفرصة لتقديم
التهانى والتحايا لكافة أفراد
الجالية الصينية في اليمن .



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 25-6-97
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Minister of Interior Mediates Between Warring Tribes in Mareb
- 2) National Bloc Application to Form Political Party Rejected for Incomplete Documentation
- 3) Suspect in Blowing Up Petrol Station Arrested in Hadhramaut
- 4) YR. 16 Billion Tax Revenue During Jan-May 1997

Article Summary:

Highway Brigandy

A Yemeni family returning from the Emirates was attacked by a group of brigands in the Ramah region of Hadhramaut. Traveling in two Land-Cruisers, the victims were tricked into stopping by the gang, which pretended to be asking for water. The brigands started shooting when the family refused to hand over the two cars and the rest of their possessions. Three people were killed instantly, and two were seriously injured. The victims were taken by helicopter to Sayoun Hospital.

The attackers were pursued by the police and the tribesmen of the area. Five tribesmen and one brigand were killed during the confrontation.

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-6-97
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Kuwait to Resume Diplomatic Relations with Jordan and Yemen within Two Months
- 2) The President Calls for Overcoming the Gulf War Repercussions
- 3) Council of Ministers Endorses Firearms Bill of Law

Article Summary:

Trickery in Secondary School Exams

According to the security officer at the Education Bureau in Sana'a, 12 people taking the exams in place of the real students were discovered at Ibn

Khaldoon exams center. The small security force protecting the center was attacked by a group of students and other people. One person was arrested, and the exam answer books belonging to the impersonators were seized. Another forceful attempt for group cheating was also foiled by the center's management assisted by the security force.

AL-TAJMMU': Aden (Weekly) 23-6-97
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) EU Countries Expressed Fear of Hindrances to Reform Program
- 2) Redundancies Announced in Yemenia Airline Offices in Aden
- 3) Abyan's Public Prosecutor's Decision to Interrogate Corrupt Officials Not Fully Implemented

Article Summary:

Confidence Without Discussion

by Omar Al-Jawi

Parliament has granted Faraj Bin Ghanim's new government its confidence, without really discussing its program publicly. This goes to show that parliament is obedient to one party, and hence to one president. This state of affairs is a continuation of the rigged elections. The new Prime Minister is an intellectual who has agreed to run an illegitimate administration. He is giving promises the "Yemeni way." The government's credibility can only come through putting an end to the military-tribal rule, and instituting a truly national equality.

Otherwise, the next four years will be spent, it seems, with a blind parliamentary confidence; extending our hands to the donor countries; and American guarantees for our subservient attitude.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-6-97
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) UN Criticizes Absence of Yemeni Policy to Combat Poverty
- 2) Prisoner of Conscience, Mansour Rajih to be Released Soon

Article Summary:

American Ghost Haunts Sana'a

American pressure on the Yemeni government is increasing. Local and regional dues must be paid in order to propitiate the Americans. The US considers the Islamic fundamentalists in Yemen as representing a danger to its national and its allies' security. As the Americans are demanding, normalization with Israel should start with economic and cultural aspects, and move on to political normalization. The assumed rights of Yemeni Jews living in Israel is another thorny issue. Good will gestures have already been made by Yemen. The Islah is out of power. Structural reforms are progressing well.

The Americans are also exerting pressure in the very sensitive border issue with Saudi Arabia. The latest American message to Sana'a called for a quick and secret agreement; whereby Yemen will receive unlimited support in return for paying the "dues."

26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-6-97
(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Sends Message to King Hussein on Bilateral Relations
- 2) \$100 Million Provided by Arab Monetary fund for Structural Reform in Yemen
- 3) Intensive Crackdown on Car Thieves, Brigands and Outlaws
- 4) Chewing Qat is Forbidden in Military Barracks and Installations

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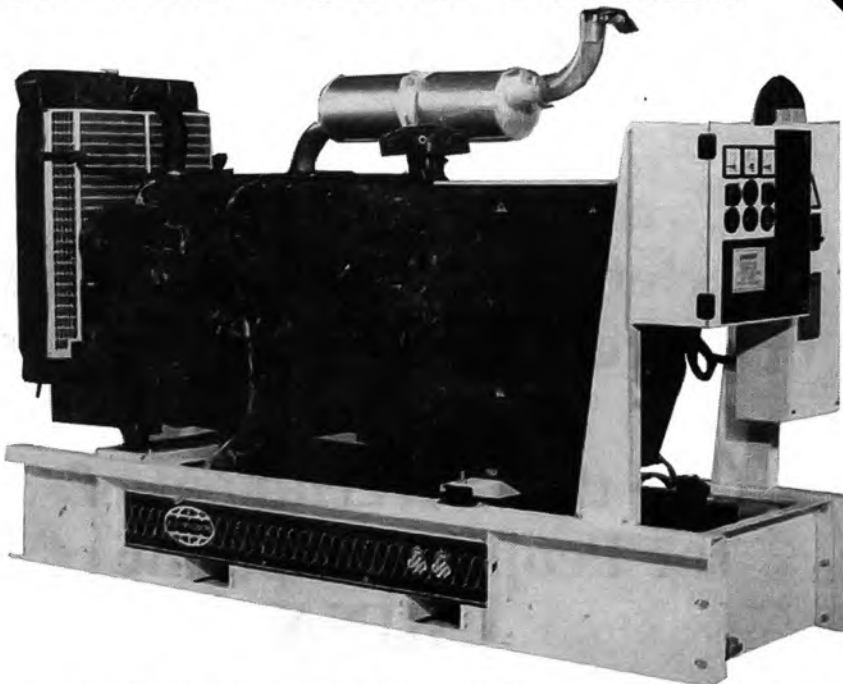
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The Yemeni Squash Champ Wa'ad Wins Again

The Yemeni champ Wa'ad Al Hashimi was able to come in the first place in the Local Junior Squash Championship which took place in Dubai last Thursday. He participated in the under 16 years group and the under 18 years group. He became the first in both groups. Wa'ad has been living in UAE. His father supports his international participations. The Yamenia Airlines have supported him by giving him tickets for some of his matches which he travels to play carrying the Yemeni flag. Wa'ad is one of the champs who feel proud of belonging to their nations. Next issue will offer more details.



Today, Fighting Starts!

Sana'a boxers are getting ready for the participation in the boxing championship which will start today in Al Ahli Club. The championship is organized by Al Ahli Club and sponsored by The businessman Shayef Zuhrah. About 42 boxers are participating in this championship. The winners will have financial prizes and participation certificates. The championship will last for three days- until July 2, 1997. A large number of officials, diplomats, and businessmen are expected to attend the finals of the championship.

1st Yemeni Sport Event: A Great Success

The Auto-Test Speed course organized for the first time by the Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile (YCTA) was staged this weekend at Sana'a Saba'een stadium.

The event, attended by a large crowd of supporters and motor sports fans, turned out to be a success beyond expectation. Nineteen entrants competed for the YR. 100,000 prize and for the distinction of being the fastest driver in the course. Mohammed

Hassan Makki skillfully took the trophy, posting the best total time with his BMW 316. The first and second runner up were Andreas Wegner at the wheel of Skoda Felicia and Ibrahim Al-Khulaidi on Hyundai Elantra who respectively took home cheques worth YR. 75,000 and YR. 50,000.

All competitors put on a great show, encouraged by the cheers and applause of an enthusiastic and supportive audience. Screeching tires, clouds of dust raised in tight curves and engine roars kept the public's excitement and pleasure high throughout the race.

Great attention was given to safety and thanks to the friendly cooperation of the fire brigade,

traffic police and Red Crescent, every measure was taken to ensure the protection of the drivers and the public.

After presenting the trophies to the winners, Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, President of the YCTA, expressed his thanks to H.E. Dr. Abdulwahab Raw, the Minister of Youth and Sport, for his patronage of the event. Mr. Shaibani also thanked H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bishari, the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Makki, the Deputy Minister of Health and Mr. Mohammed Surmi, the Deputy Minister of National Security for their attendance and support. Special thanks were conveyed to Mr. Saeed Al-Saud, YCTA, Motor-sporting manager for his dedication and hard work in preparing and making this event a success.

YCTA is a division of the Universal Group of Companies which offers citizens international motoring documents (international driving licenses and carnet de passages en douane) and a number of services and benefits through the membership of the club. A promotion campaign for the

club card due to be launched in the coming weeks will detail to the public all the exciting benefits of membership.

Simultaneously, YCTA's has a mission to create an interest and promote motor sports in Yemen. As such, the Auto Test Speed Course must be the first event of many more to come. YCTA is a member of the federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and hence is the only recognized association in Yemen authorized to train and enter professional Yemeni rally drivers into international rallies sponsored by the FIA.

Universal is Yemen's No 1 travel agency network with 17 outlets and 8 airline GSA Agencies including American Airlines, British Airways, Royal Jordanian and Thai. It is one of the fastest growing business houses in the country's tourism industry and the leading inbound tour operator. Investigating in Yemen's future, Universal owns and runs 7 three to five star hotel properties across the country.



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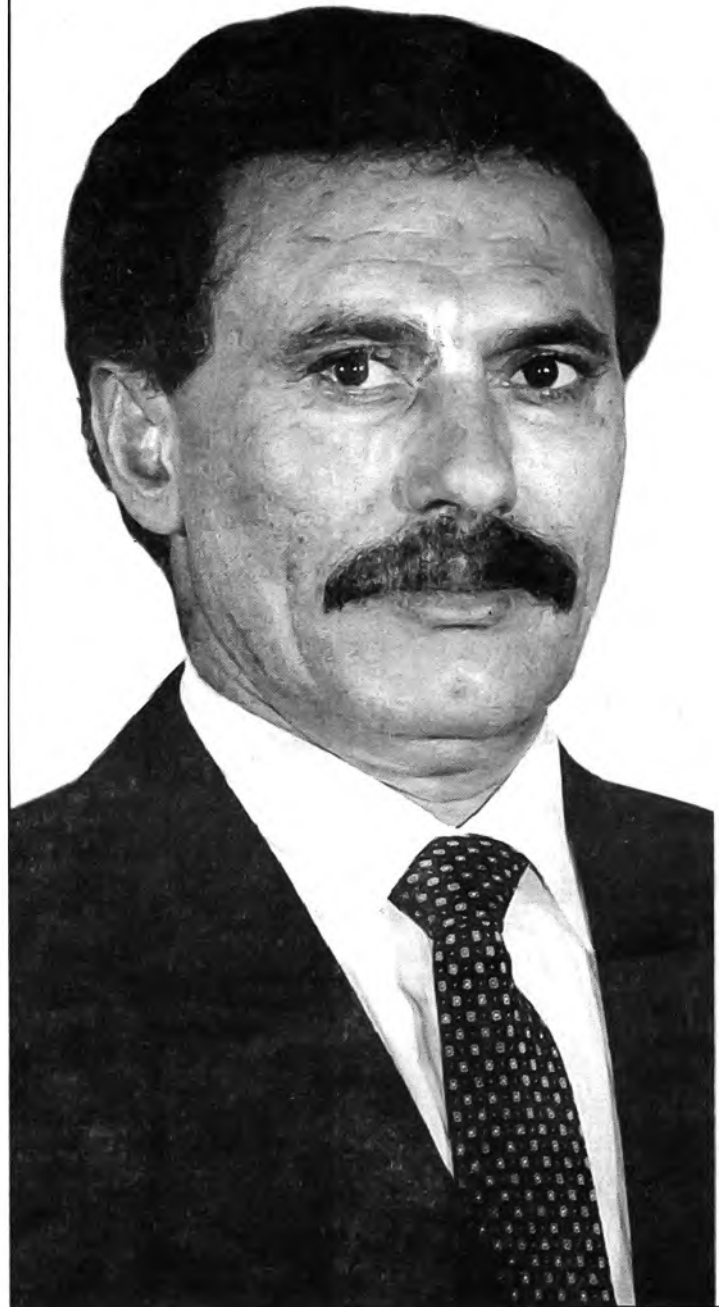
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Now You See It. Now You Don't!

So the mobile phones are off again. The excuse is the same one used last time - misuse by some of the tribesmen of Yemen. While we should all understand and sympathize with the security needs of this country, the steps taken are not appropriate, in my opinion. Putting the service out of service is not the answer. I have several reasons for my point of view:

a) What about the investor?

The mobile telephone service is a foreign investment in Yemen - TeleYemen. Thus, the authorities cannot simply shut down any enterprise that has been previously approved. What message does that send to other potential investors? And if the authorities, under certain conditions, have to do that, compensation payments are in order.

b) What about the consumers?

There are today about 9,000 people who subscribe to the mobile telephone service offered by TeleYemen. All of a sudden, these people are now cut off. Isn't there any responsibility and/or obligation towards these people?

c) Modern technologies:

As technology makes headway, soon, individuals will be able to link up via international mobile services. How will the Yemeni authorities be able to cut off these people in the future. Modern technological breakthroughs are steadily withering away government control over people.

Yemen needs sensible solutions to its problems. Whatever solutions the government espouses, they should seriously take into account its obligations towards consumers and investors. Cutting off the service is neither responsible nor sensible. So a few tribesmen abuse the service. Get after them.

I am using this example to highlight a problem that exists in many sectors, where irresponsible government attitudes increase the cost of doing business in Yemen.

One last point. The security consideration to many activities are overblown. To add insult to injury, the security apparatus of Yemen is actually helplessly inefficient. Moreover, modern technologies are making the reach of this apparatus ever shorter and shorter. And thank God for that.

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



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