

WELCOME TO YEMEN

WELCOME TO YEMEN

a unicef 

Children's Movement Foundation's Fund

guide

3rd edition
updated for 1994

WELCOME TO YEMEN

Ahlan Wasahlan Bikun Fi Al Yaman

a UNICEF Guide

Third Edition
updated for 1995



Updated for UNICEF by Hilda Muller and Moira Al-Nammari

edited by Robert Tyabji & Carl Tinstman

Compiled by: Rashid Yassin Fedhel

Illustrations: Adnan Gunman

Photos: Fritz Piepenburg, Robert Tyabji

Cover photos: Robert Tyabji

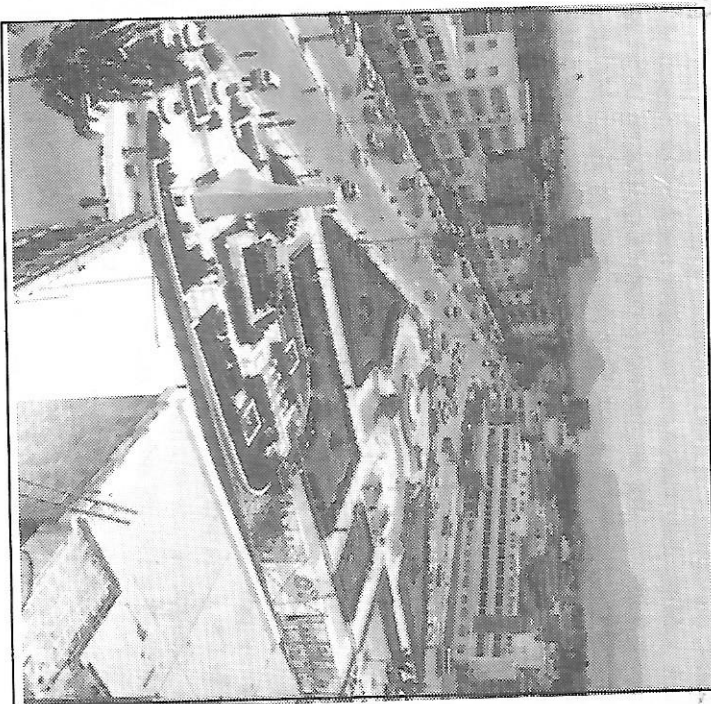
Map of Sana'a adapted from Nortech Surveys

Produced with support from Yemen News Agency, Sana'a

To all UNICEF Staff and Consultants
coming to Yemen

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY
NOT FOR QUOTATION

January 1995



Sana'a, Al-Tahrir Square

Editor's Note

Within a year of their publication, both previous "Welcome to Yemen" editions were out of stock - a sure indication of the need for comprehensive and concise information on Yemen. While the guide is primarily for UNICEF staff, consultants and visitors, other international agencies and many companies have shown increasing interest, prompting this third edition.

More information and telephone numbers have been added, as have some real-life anecdotes to provide qualitative information laced with spice and humour. Our thanks go to Hilda Muller and Moira Al-Nammari for updating the text, to Hootoksi Tyabji for her anecdotal snippets, and to the many other contributors to this edition.

Special thanks are due to UNICEF's financial contributors, particularly Eric Watkins of the Yemen News Service, and to all those who have bought this book. By buying the book, you are participating in a broad-based effort to improve the survival, protector and development of Yemeni children.

- Robert Tyabji
- Carl Tinstman

Foreword

Welcome to Yemen!

Three years ago UNICEF Sana'a produced the first edition of this booklet. It was meant primarily as a briefing document for UNICEF staff members assigned to Yemen. The positive feedback received encouraged the production of a second edition in 1992. The continuing popularity of the booklet has led us to further update and re-issue "Welcome to Yemen". Families have reported that the information contained was very comprehensive, relevant and of great assistance to them in quickly settling into the new environment. This would have been enough to warrant the update and re-issue. However, we were further encouraged by the growing demand for the booklet from other people who share with us the privilege to live and work in Yemen.

Given the rapid changes in the environment, particularly the economy, some of the information in a document such as this is likely to be quickly out-dated. Nevertheless, even slightly dated information can be important enough to guide the newcomer. We apologize for any such "stale" information and hope that readers will share our belief that its importance warranted inclusion.

As before, we invite your comments and suggestions for improvement of the booklet. Information on new services and places to visit, as well as opinions of facilities are particularly useful. Please also feel free to share any insights on living in Yemen you think might benefit a newcomer.

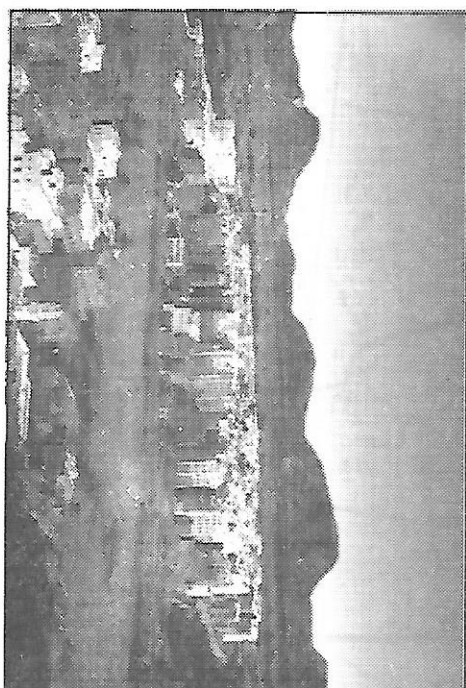
Finally, you should know that when you buy this booklet you not only have a valuable source of information, but you will be contributing funds that will help children and women through UNICEF assisted programmes.

We wish you happy times in Yemen, however long your stay.

Carl Tinstman
UNICEF Representative
Sana'a, January 1995

Yemen at a Glance: Basic Data

The land	Approx. 555,000 sq. km. with a coastline of some 2,000 km, situated north of the equator and south of the northern tropic.
Population	13 million (estimated); density: 21 inhabitants per sq. km; 76% live in the countryside.
Growth rate	3.1 %
Capital	Sana'a, over 1 million inhabitants
Large towns	Aden , port city and commercial capital, 330,000 inhabitants; Taiz , industrial city, 240,000 inhabitants; Hodeidah , port city, 210,000 inhabitants
Climate	Ranging from tropical to moderate according to altitude. Rainy seasons bring varying rainfall to different regions.
Religion	Islam, Shi'ites (Zaydis) in the north, Sunnis (Shaf'is) in the south.
Language	Arabic, English is only spoken by an educated elite.
Literacy	male: 53%, female: 26% (1990)
Life exp. at birth	52 years (1992)
Infant mortality	107 per 1,000 live births (1992)
> 5 mortality	177 per 1,000 live births (1992)
Government	Multi-party republican state
Economy	Market oriented with strong public sector industries: food processing, textiles, construction materials. Exports: oil, refined petroleum products, leather/skins, salt, coffee, tobacco, cotton, fruits & vegetables, fish
GNP per capita	YR 9,432 (US\$ 786) (1992)
Currency	Yemen Rial (1 US\$ = 12 YR) and Yemen Dinar (1 YD = 26 YR)
Time zone	GMT + 3 hours



Shibani, "Chicago of the Desert"
Wadi Hadramaut

Cover: Sana'a, Bab Sabah (Bustan Al-Sultan)
Back cover: Ibb Mountains

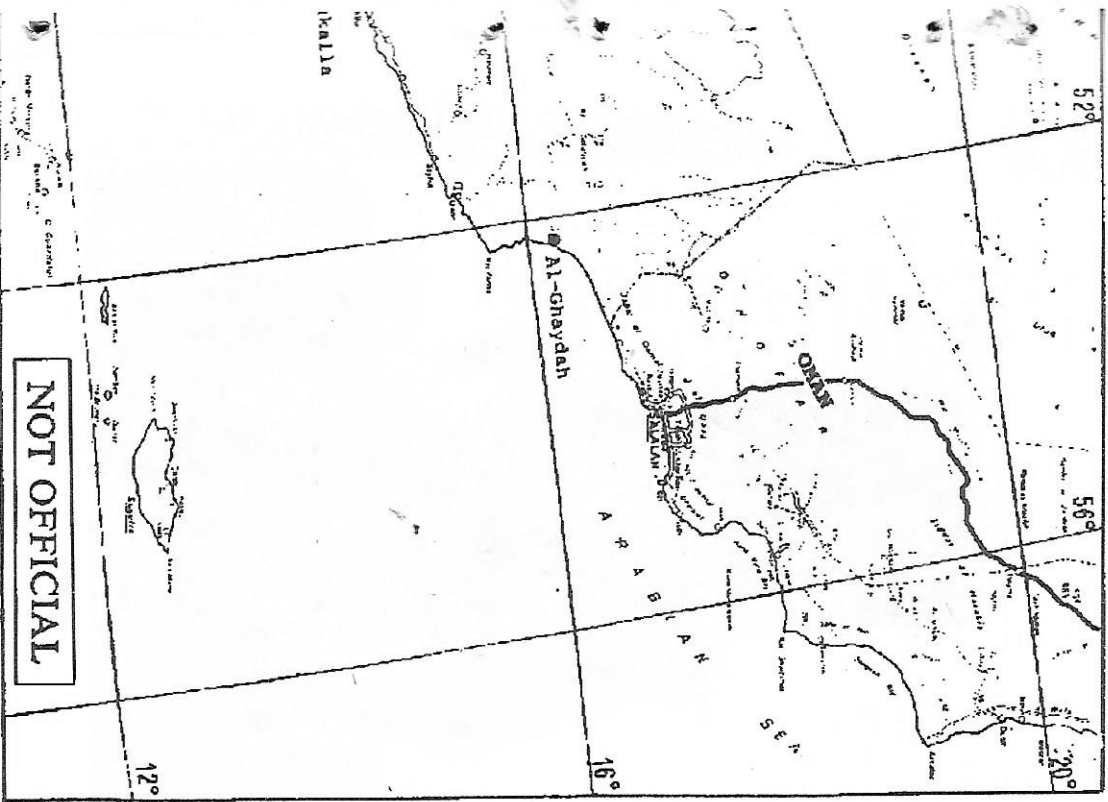
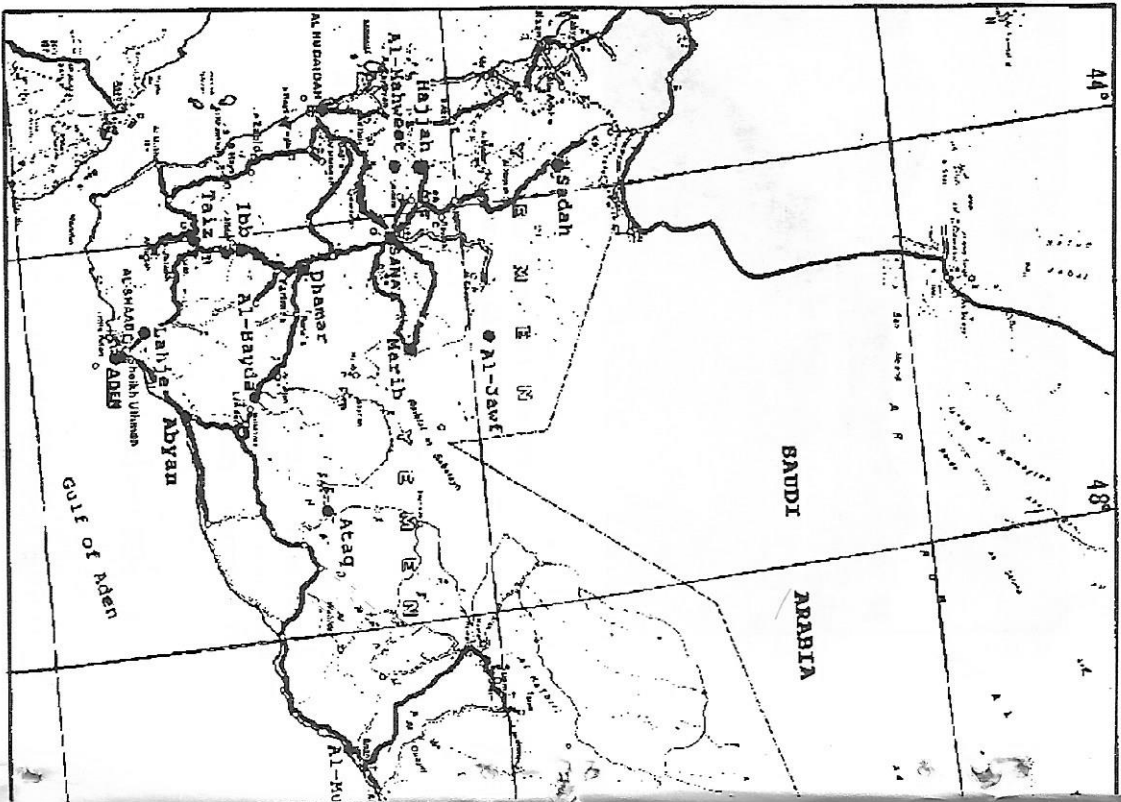
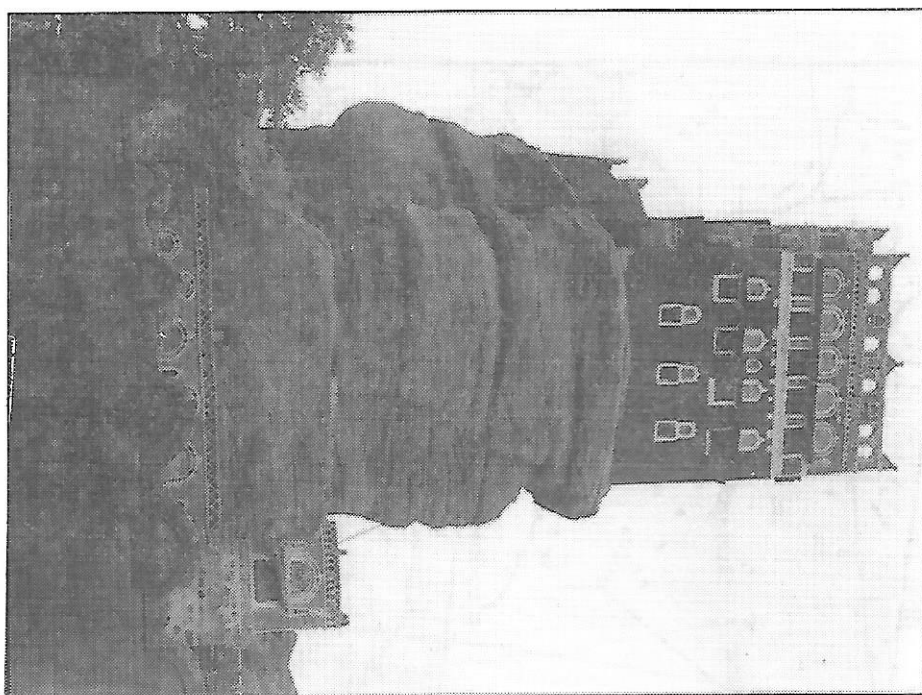


Table of Contents

Editor's Note	xi
Foreword	xii
Yemen at a Glance: Basic Data	xii
Map of Republic of Yemen	xiv
Part I BACKGROUND	
1.0 Geography	1
1.1 Location and size	2
1.2 Physical features	2
1.3 Climate	4
1.4 Susceptibility to natural disasters	4
2.0 History	5
2.1 Ancient history	5
2.2 Islamic history	7
2.3 Colonial powers in Yemen	8
2.4 Modern history	9
2.5 The unification of North and South	10
3.0 Population	13
3.1 Size	13
3.2 Ethnic groups	15
3.3 Religion	17
3.4 Language	17
4.0 Politics	18
4.1 Government	18
4.2 Political Parties	19
5.0 International Relations	20
5.1 Foreign Affairs	20
5.2 Development Assistance	21
6.0 Economy	22



Wadi Dahr, near Sana'a

7.0	National Development Status.	...	23
	Plans and Policies	...	23
7.1	Agriculture	...	24
7.2	Fisheries	...	24
7.3	Water Management	...	24
7.4	Oil	...	25
7.5	Industrial Development	...	25
7.6	Tourism	...	25
7.7	Health	...	25
7.8	Education	...	26
7.9	Women	...	27
Part II THE CULTURE			
8.0	Greetings and Farewells	...	28
8.1	<i>Salam aleikum!</i> - Peace be with you!	...	28
9.0	Invitations and Visiting	...	29
9.1	Why not bring a gift?	...	29
9.2	Conversations - but without women!	...	30
9.3	Let's eat!	...	30
9.4	Join the afternoon <i>qat</i> chew!	...	32
10.0	Communication and Gestures	...	34
10.1	Slowly, please! - Unless you're driving!	...	34
10.2	Do's and don'ts	...	35
10.3	Topics, titles and expressions	...	36
11.0	Relationships	...	37
11.1	Dealing with authorities	...	37
11.2	The men's world and the women's world	...	38
	- Account Of A Tafilta	...	39

12.0	Social Customs and Attitudes	...	41
12.1	The Arab family	...	41
12.2	Changing lifestyle	...	42
12.3	Environmental protection	...	42
12.4	Some insights into the Yemeni character	...	43
	- Things are usually not what they seem	...	46
	- On climbing a rock face	...	46
	- On the value of guns	...	47
13.0	Special Occasions	...	48
13.1	Religious and national holidays	...	48
13.2	Births, weddings, burials	...	49
Part III LIVING AND WORKING IN YEMEN			
14.0	Arrival	...	52
14.1	Visas	...	52
14.2	Immunization requirements	...	52
14.3	Airport procedures	...	52
14.4	Transportation from the airport	...	53
15.0	Currency	...	54
16.0	Security	...	54
	- On hijacking	...	55
	- More on security	...	56
17.0	Pets	...	58
18.0	Local Hospitality	...	59
	- A lesson from behind the veil	...	59
19.0	Advice to Families	...	60

20.0 Advice to Singles	... 61
21.0 Standard Weights, Measures and Units	... 61
22.0 Local Documents	... 62
23.0 Travelling in the Country	... 62
24.0 Photography	... 63
25.0 Your Departure	... 64
Living and Working in Sana'a	
26.0 Introduction	... 65
27.0 Plan of the City	... 67
27.1 Physical Layout	... 68
27.2 Getting around	... 69
28.0 Hotels	... 70
29.0 Housing	... 71
29.1 Furniture	... 73
29.2 Utilities	... 73
30.0 Importing Personal and Household Effects	... 74
31.0 Household Help	... 74
32.0 Banking	... 75
33.0 Restaurants	... 76
34.0 Shopping and Services - Christmas shopping	... 78

34.1 Food	... 79
34.2 Household Items	... 82
34.3 Clothing	... 82
34.4 Personal care items	... 82
34.5 Personal care services	... 83
34.6 Books, magazines, periodicals	... 83
34.7 Appliances	... 83
34.8 Photographic supplies and equipment	... 84
34.9 Music and video	... 84
34.10 Cars	... 84
34.11 Souvenirs	... 85
34.12 Alcoholic beverages	... 87
34.13 Home improvement and repair	... 87
34.14 Duty free shops	... 87
35.0 Clothing	... 87
36.0 Communication	... 88
37.0 Health Facilities	... 89
37.1 Specialists	... 90
37.2 Hospitals in Sana'a	... 90
38.0 Schools	... 91
38.1 Sana'a University	... 93
38.2 Language Institutes	... 93
39.0 Religious Institutions	... 94
40.0 Recreation	... 94
40.1 Parks, Playgrounds, Public Happenings	... 94
40.2 Museums, Exhibitions, Cultural Performance	95
40.3 Television, Video Clubs, Libraries	... 96
40.4 Clubs, Sports Facilities, Societies	... 97

Living and Working in Aden

41.0 Introduction	.. 99
42.0 Plan of the City	.. 102
42.1 Physical layout	.. 102
42.2 Getting around	.. 103
43.0 Hotels	.. 103
44.0 Housing	.. 104
45.0 Utilities	.. 104
46.0 Household help	.. 104
47.0 Banking	.. 105
48.0 Restaurants	.. 105
49.0 Shopping and Services	.. 106
49.1 Food	.. 106
49.2 General supplies	.. 106
49.3 Personal care services, home repairs	.. 106
49.4 Importing household effects	.. 106
49.5 Cars	.. 106
49.6 Souvenirs	.. 107
50.0 Clothing	.. 107
51.0 Communication	.. 108
52.0 Health Facilities	.. 108
53.0 Schools	.. 109
54.0 Religious Institutions	.. 110

55.0 Recreation

.. 110

PART IV ABOUT UNICEF

56.0 UNICEF in Yemen	.. 113
56.1 UNICEF Country Programme	.. 114
	.. 115

APPENDICES

A Useful Words and Phrases	.. 117
B Overview of Commodity Prices	.. 120
C City Codes, Handy Telephone Numbers, ISD Codes	.. 125
D International Agencies	.. 129
E Hotels	.. 131
F Embassies	.. 133
G Oil Industry Companies	.. 135
H Airlines Serving Sana'a and Aden	.. 136
I Inter-City Transportation	.. 137
J Geographical Information	.. 139
K UN and Government Holidays	.. 140
L Selected Bibliography	.. 141

NOTES

.. 143

PART I: BACKGROUND

Imagine riding through the great Arabian desert under the scorching sun or a lashing sand storm, crossing a seemingly endless plain of nothing but sand dunes. How miraculous would seem the mountains of Yemen, rising steeply in spectacular formations with countless terraced fields where sorghum and corn sprout and acacias and fig trees give shade! How pleasant would be the fresh air, the cool seasonal rains and the balmy ambience!

Because of inaccessibility and its past rulers' isolationist policies, Yemen has long been a mystery to the rest of the world. North Yemen opened its doors to foreigners only in the early 1970s after the despotic Imam (religious ruler) was overthrown and the republicans emerged victorious after an 8-year civil war. Aden, on the other hand, flourished as a busy harbor under British rule from 1839 to 1967, while the rest of South Yemen remained a largely unknown "hinterland". Today, the "Land of the Queen of Sheba" is an 'insider's tip' for travellers seeking the untouched and the exotic, and is visited by some 70,000 tourists each year.

Although still counted among the world's least developed countries, Yemen has undergone tremendous change and development during the last 25 years. An ardent desire to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of modernization and technology is evident everywhere. However, traditions and backwardness still prevail in many aspects of life, which impede progress.

The unification of former North and South Yemen in May 1990 sparked great hopes for the country's future. Yet, developments following the Gulf crisis in 1990/91, when Yemen took a sympathetic stand towards Iraq, have been disastrous for the economy at a time when additional resources for the unification process were desperately needed. The political crisis which followed a few months after the first nationwide elections in April 1993 brought into the open deep-seated conflicts between former North and South. The concurrent rise of Islamic fundamentalism helped create a new and complex situation. Political instability and economic hardship may continue to plague Yemen in the foreseeable future.

1.0 Geography

1.1 Location and size

The Republic of Yemen, which occupies the south-western part of the Arabian Peninsula, is located between 42.50 - 52.50 longitude and 12.50 - 17.50 latitude in the subtropical zone between the northern tropic and the equator.

The Red Sea to the west and the Gulf of Aden to the south make up a 2,000-km long coastline. Across the Bab al Mandab Strait, Djibouti is the nearest African country and Oman is the neighbor to the east. The border in the desert with Saudi Arabia to the North has not been clearly defined. Official sources now state the size of Yemen at 555,000 sq.km. excluding the Empty Quarter. The unification of North and South made it the second largest country on the peninsula after Saudi Arabia.

1.2 Physical features

The landscape changes dramatically as one moves eastward from the shores of the Red Sea and northward from the Gulf of Aden to the great desert. Five distinct geographical areas with climatic zones ranging from tropical to moderate can be distinguished:

The *Coastal Area*, called the *Tihama*, or "hot land" is a desert-like plain 30 to 40 km wide. Quite fertile when irrigated, dates and cotton grow well here. Reefs protect the coastline and there are many beautiful beaches. A touristic infrastructure, however, has yet to be developed. The most popular sand beaches are near Khawkhra and on the Aden peninsula.

The *Western Mountains* are the most spectacular feature of South Arabia. Rising steeply to 2000 m, they are lined with tens of thousands of intricately-fashioned terrace fields. The terraces are part of an age-old yet highly sophisticated system of water and soil management that enabled an agriculture-based society to flourish in an otherwise hostile environment. Deep *wadis* (valleys) divide the mountains and discharge the monsoon torrents into the sea. Many *wadis* are lush with papaya, mango and banana groves. The western slopes are the natural habitat of coffee: a crop that started its world

career in Yemen during the 16th century. The terraces are used also to cultivate sorghum, wheat, barley and corn.

The *Central Highlands* and their large basins, in one of which the capital Sana'a is located at an altitude of 2350 m, boasts the highest mountain on the Arabian Peninsula, Nabi Shu'aib (3650 m). During the summer, grapes, grain and vegetables grow and fruits are grown and large-scale agriculture is practiced.

The *Eastern Mountains*, ranging from 2300 m to 1100 m are barren and rugged and agriculture is carried out mainly in the *wadis*. Yemen's ancient civilizations developed and flourished at the edge of the desert. The seasonal rain water was dammed with remarkable technical skill and year-round irrigation systems were developed. A new dam has been constructed near Marib, the ancient capital of the Sabeans, and a large reservoir has been created in the desert. Plantations of citrus and water melon have been established in the area.

At the edge of the desert, the *Ruba Al Khali* (Empty Quarter), only some grass or shrubs grow, on which the cattle of the nomadic Bedouin tribe graze. Further east, life ceases and sand dunes dominate the landscape.

The southern part of the country, extending to the Oman border, is mostly desert, only 0.6% of the land being cultivable. Settlements are scattered with vast areas separating them. Oases like Lahej and Wadi Hadhranaut are exceptionally beautiful with lush vegetation and thriving agriculture.

Yemen also has some 115 islands with distinct climatic and natural characteristics. Among those located in the Red Sea, Kamaran is the biggest, and Mayoon island, in the Bab al-Mandab strait, has strategic importance. Socotra, with an area of some 3,600 sq.km. and a population of of 80,000, is the largest and most interesting of the Yemeni islands. It is situated, together with some smaller islands, in the Arabian Sea, some 500 km from Mukalla and 700 km from Aden. Flora and fauna have striking African features and the mountainous region boasts many rare plant and tree species.

1.3 Climate

Climatic zones range from tropical on the coastal strip and subtropical in the western and eastern mountains, to moderate in the central mountains and basins. High temperatures and high relative humidity prevail in the lowlands; in Aden the mean daily temperature in summer is 36.6°C, and in winter, 28.6°C. Sana'a in the central highlands is generally very dry and temperatures rarely exceed 30°C, in summer, while they may fall below zero in winter nights.

The summer monsoon brings rain that varies considerably from region to region. It permits rain-fed cultivation on the terraces, which are part of a sophisticated water management system. In the south-west (around Ibb), it rains from February to October and a rainfall of upto 1,000 mm/year may be recorded. Other areas enjoy two rainy seasons, in March-April and July-August. Rainfall in Sana'a averages 250 mm, decreasing eastward to 50 mm. Aden receives very little rainfall, on average 50 mm per year.

1.4 Susceptibility to natural disasters

The tectonic processes which formed the mountains of Yemen and caused immense volcanic activity from the beginning of the neo-zoic age (some 70 million years ago) continue even today. The Arabian plate which separated from the African continent to form the Red Sea still moves eastward a few centimeters each year. Today, there is no volcanic activity, but the "fires of Yemen" are remembered in history. Hot springs testify to the fact that the earth has not completely settled yet. The severest earthquake of this century hit the Dhamar region in 1982, taking 2,502 lives and affecting more than 265,000 persons in 1,072 villages and hamlets. The earliest recorded earthquake was in 742 AD in the "desert of Saba". 25 earthquakes are believed to have occurred since the 8th century. The last earthquake, which measured 4.5 on the Richter scale, occurred in the Udayn region west of Ibb in November 1991, and killed 26 persons.

South-bound wadis occasionally suffer severe damage from floods after heavy rainfall. In most cases, this is caused by neglect

and erosion of the mountain terraces above, which trap and utilize the rainwater.

In February, 1993, Aden suffered major floods which killed 12 people and caused extensive damage to property and the city's ageing drainage and sewerage systems.

2.0 History

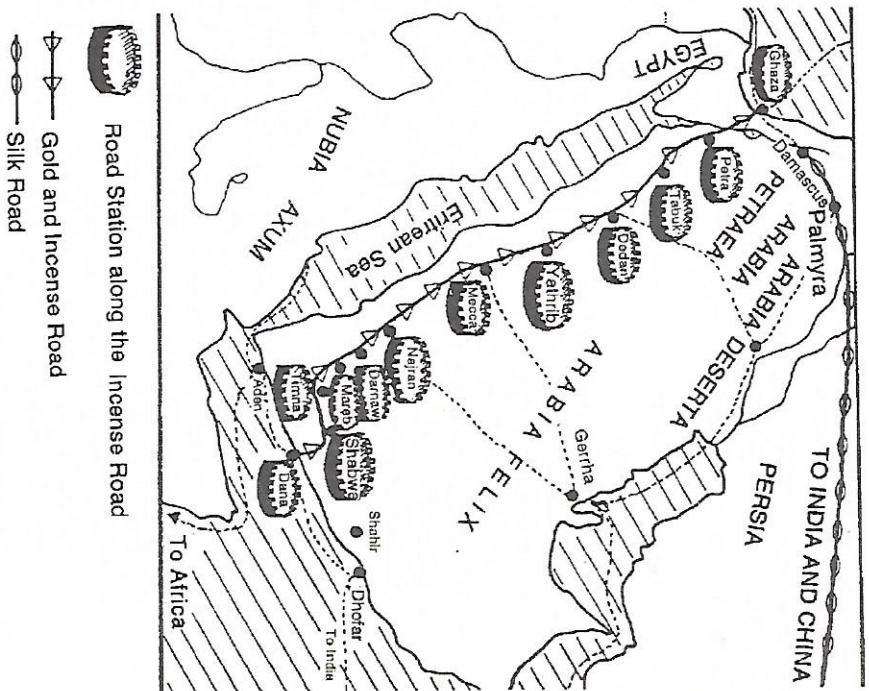
2.1 Ancient history:

The traders of the Gold and Incense Road

The most prominent and celebrated figure of Yemen's ancient history is the legendary Queen of Sheba (named Bilqis in Arab tradition), who visited King Solomon of Israel during the 10th century B.C. bringing with her a large retinue and an abundance of gold and spices. Challenging Solomon with riddles, she eventually had to capitulate to his wisdom and accept his God. This exotic story has sparked the imagination of countless generations and has found entry into three Holy Books: the Bible, the Koran and the Ethiopian Kebrā Nagast. Yet among all the Sabeans inscriptions found in temples and houses so far, not one makes mention of her.

Prehistoric tools and settlements have been found in various places in Yemen. Archaeologists recently discovered that irrigation in the Marib oasis dates back at least 5 millennia. The ancient South Arabian kingdoms which started out as theocracies, all developed in the mouths of large *wadis* between the mountains and the great desert. The kingdom of Saba with its capital at Marib was the most powerful, at times dominating all of South Arabia. The great Marib Dam, built to harness and exploit the seasonal floods by means of an elaborate irrigation system, provided sustenance for some 30,000 inhabitants and was counted among the wonders of the ancient world.

The Sabeans were not only great builders and technicians, but also successful traders. The Greeks and the Romans called the southern part of the peninsula "Arabia Felix", glorified by the fabulous wealth supposedly enjoyed by its inhabitants. Since the domestication of the camel (around 1500 B.C.) large Sabeans



caravans moved north along the edge of the desert, covering in 60-70 days the distance from Qana on the Indian Ocean to Ghaza on the Mediterranean Sea. The trade route, which was protected by the kingdoms along the way, became famous as the "Gold and Incense Road". Incense was an item of high prestige, burnt in large quanti-

ties in the temples of the Mediterranean civilizations. It grows naturally only in the lower Hadhramaut, in Dhofar (now part of Oman) and in Somalia (ancient land of Punt). Among the luxury goods supplied by Sabeen merchants were spices, ebony, silk, fine textiles from India, rare woods, feathers, animal skins, and gold from East Africa. To secure their trade monopoly, the Sabeens kept the origin of their riches a secret, perhaps inventing for themselves the myth of their spectacular wealth.

At the end of the second century A.D., a new power emerged in South Arabia: the Himyarites. They eventually conquered Saba and established their rule over all Yemen. But the first centuries A.D. were a time of great changes in the world, that eventually also led to the downfall of the ancient South Arabian civilization. The trade monopoly was broken when the Romans started to deal with India directly via the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The overland route declined, and social and religious structures began to disintegrate. Negligence caused the final destruction of the great Marib Dam in 570 A.D. which, according to Arab tradition, caused thousands of Yemenis to emigrate to other parts of Arabia.

Judaism and Christianity spread among the people, and the old celestial gods lost their power. Eventually, Yemen became deeply involved in the Persian-Byzantine power struggle. In 530 A.D., the Christian Axumites of Ethiopia, supported by Byzanz, conquered Yemen. They were expelled again in 575 A.D. by a joint Himyarite and Persian army. The Persians remained in power until the arrival of Islam in 628 A.D.

2.2 Islamic history:

A province at the far end of the Islamic Empire

The emergence of Islam sparked a spiritual revival in the region, profoundly changing and reshaping the Middle East. The Persian governor of Sana'a, Badhan, was among the first to embrace Islam. Other prominent figures followed, bringing in their whole families and tribes. The Prophet Muhammad himself sent missionaries to Yemen, who built the first mosques. In the Islamic conquests of the

7th and 8th centuries, Yemenis constituted a large part of the Islamic forces. And when settling down as far away as Tunisia and Andalusia, they excelled as architects, administrators and merchants. Yemen became a province at the southern edge of the large Islamic Empire. Because of its remote geographical location, a number of petty states and semi-independent kingdoms were established in rapid succession, controlling various parts, and sometimes all of Yemen from different capitals.

Among these was the Ziyadi Kingdom (821-1012) with its capital at Zabid in the Tihamah, where the first university of Islamic learning and natural science in South Arabia was established. It is said that algebra was invented here. Other important centers of Islamic learning are the Great Mosque of Sana'a, which was built in the Prophet's lifetime, and Tarim in Hadhramaut, which still boasts an extensive library of handwritten books.

The Suleyhi dynasty that ruled much of Yemen from 1046 to 1138 adhered to the Fatimi faith, following the Fatimi Caliph in Cairo. Queen Arwa bint Ahmad, well remembered and loved till today, ruled from Jiblah for over 60 years until her death at the age of 92. Taiz became a capital in 1174 under Turan Shah al-Ayyubi, a brother of the famous Saladin who fought Richard the Lionheart in Palestine. It was the center of a splendid Sultanate under the Rasulid dynasty from 1229 - 1454, a period of great wealth and building activity.

The Zaydi dynasty of Saada lasted longest and was overthrown with the last Imam in 1962. Founded in 897 by Al-Hadi Yahia, a descendant of the Prophet, their Shiite teaching of Islam is still adhered to by most of the northern tribes of Yemen.

2.3 Colonial powers in Yemen:

The Turks and the British

With the discovery of the sea route around Africa to India, Yemen quickly gained strategic importance to the European powers, first the Portuguese, then the British. The interests of the Europeans frequently clashed with the rulers in Egypt and the emerging

superpower of the Middle East, the Ottoman Turks. The Turks occupied Yemen in 1538, but fierce resistance, especially from the Zaydis in the North, led to their expulsion in 1635.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Yemen again experienced a prosperous period after the world had discovered a new drink that originated from Yemen: coffee. Holding the world production and trade monopoly of coffee, Yemen allowed British, Dutch, French, and later American trade missions and factories to be established at the Red Sea port of Mokha. But coffee production declined steeply after the European powers established plantations in their own colonies.

In 1729, the Sultan of Lahaj gained independence from the ruling Zaydi Imam, starting the division of North and South Yemen that would last 260 years. In an attempt to secure the trade route to India, the British occupied the port of Aden in 1839. This prompted the Turks to safeguard their interests along the Red Sea by taking the northern part of Yemen in 1848. The border between North and South Yemen was fixed by the two colonial powers in 1905.

2.4 Modern history:

North Yemen

After the Turkish withdrawal in 1918, North Yemen became a sovereign monarchy, ruled by the Zaydi Imam Yahya Hamid Ad Din. In an effort to protect his country against harmful foreign influence, he pursued a closed-door policy, thereby depriving his subjects of any chances of development. The resistance movement of the "Free Yemenis" operating from Aden instigated the assassination of the Imam in 1948. However, within a week, his son, Ahmad Hamid Ad Din, had regained power over the country with the help of the northern tribes. Reigning from Taiz, he exactly followed the line of his father's outdated, despotic style of government.

When Imam Ahmad died in 1962 of the wounds inflicted upon him in various assassination attempts, the revolutionary forces, led by Colonel Abdulla al-Sallal, proclaimed the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) on September 26, with Sallal as its first president. Imam

Badr, Ahmad's son, had escaped to the north and started a bitter civil war with the help of the tribes loyal to him. Egyptian troops came to the support of the republicans, while the royalists were backed by Saudi Arabia. A peace treaty, signed in Jeddah in 1969, finally ended the civil war. It guaranteed an equal share for both parties in the new government, while the Imam and his family were exiled. General Ali Abdullah Saleh, North Yemen's fifth president, was elected by the People's Constituent Assembly in 1978 after the assassination of his predecessor, Al-Ghashmi.

South Yemen

Aden received the status of a British Crown Colony in 1937, while the rest of South Yemeni territory became the "Aden Protectorate" following the conclusion of peace treaties with some 1300 tribal chiefs. The "Federation of South Arabia", founded in 1959 on British initiative, sought to give the protectorate a new political and administrative structure. However, the South Yemenis wanted to establish their own sovereign state. Two competing liberation movements started armed resistance in the late 1960s: the National Liberation Front (NLF), a communist group, and the Front for Liberating Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY), inspired and supported by Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser.

In 1964, Britain promised independence by 1968, but hastily withdrew her forces in late 1967, leaving power in the hands of the NLF. A Soviet-style "People's Democratic Republic of Yemen" (PDRY) was established with strong ties to the Eastern block. South Yemen was the only declared communist state in the Arab world, and by its nature rather isolated from other Arab countries, which consider Islam their basis of government.

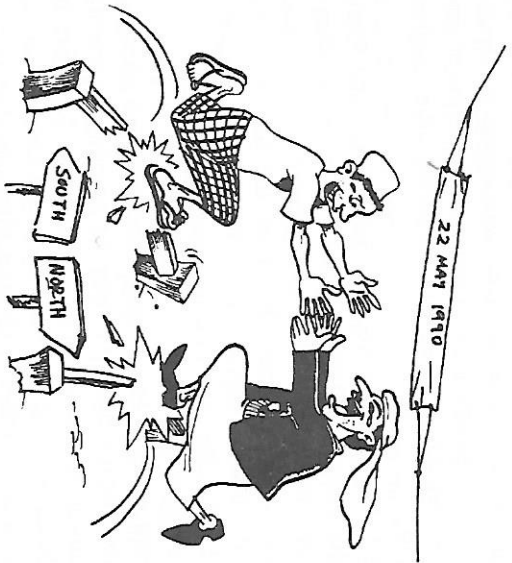
2.5 The unification of North and South Yemen

Unification had from the outset been the declared goal of the two republics. However, ideological differences as well as the conflicting interests of the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, who each backed one of the parts, made a union seem impossible. South Yemeni

propaganda and infiltration into the southern part of North Yemen led to the eruption of the first border clashes in 1971/72. By mediation of the Arab League, a treaty was signed in October 1972 between the two governments to negotiate the terms of unification. The declaration was renewed and confirmed after another border war in 1979.

In 1981, President Ali Abdullah Saleh (YAR) and President Ali Nasser Muhammad (PDRY) signed a draft constitution for the unified state, that envisioned a mixed economy, a political system of parliamentary democracy, Islam as the official religion and Sana'a as the historic capital. A number of joint companies were established and in the late 1980s restrictions on travel and communication were eased.

The thaw of East-West relations and profound changes in the Eastern block finally paved the way for speedy implementation of Yemeni unification plans. Inspired by the fall of the Berlin Wall, President Saleh and Socialist Party Secretary General Ali Salem Al Beedh, who had succeeded Ali Nasser Muhammad after the bloody clashes of January 1986, concluded the "Aden Agreement" on 30 November 1989. For the first time, a fixed timetable for unification was agreed upon. In the face of workers' strikes and mounting discontent in economically weakened South Yemen, and growing opposition from Islamic fundamentalist circles in North Yemen, the draft joint constitution was submitted to the two parliaments ahead of schedule.



One day after the vote, the "Republic of Yemen" was declared on 22 May 1990, with Sana'a as the political capital and Aden as the economic capital. A 5-member Presidential Council including three North and two South Yemenis was founded with General Ali Abdullah Saleh as President and Head of State, and Ali Salem Al-Beech as Vice President. After a three-year transition period, nationwide elections were held on 27th April 1993, from which the Islamic Islah Party emerged as the third political force. A three-party coalition government including the People's General Congress (PGC), the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) and the Islah Party was created and Abdulaziz Az-Zindani from Islah was elected to the Presidential Council.

In August 1993, deep-seated differences came into the open when Vice President Al-Beech withdrew from the political scene in

Sana'a and took up residence in Aden, prompting cabinet ministers and civil servants from the South to follow suit. As the rift deepened, there was an escalation of media propaganda on both sides, and sporadic clashes occurred between army factions loyal to the PGC and the YSP. In an effort to contain the crisis, a National Dialogue Committee consisting of various party representatives and other influential personalities drew up a Document of Pledge and Agreement (18th January 1994), which was signed in Amman, Jordan, by President Saleh, Vice President Al-Beech and other national figures on February 20, 1994. A full scale war broke-out on May 5, 1994 and ended on July 7, 1994. The factions loyal to the YSP lost the war and Yemen was reunified.

3.0 Population

3.1 Size

The most densely populated part of Yemen is former North Yemen, with 48 inhabitants per sq.km and a total population of 9,371,692 (1986 census). Though much larger in area, former South Yemen had a population of only 2,076,339 (1988 census) with a density of 7 inhabitants per sq.km. After unification, the Republic of Yemen became the most populous country on the Arabian Peninsula with a total population of 11,951,960 (based on projections for 1992, Statistical Yearbook 1992) and a density of 21 inhabitants per sq.km. Recent estimates put the population figure at 13 million.

With a population growth rate of 3.1 percent and a life expectancy averaging 52 years, the population is very young (52% are under 14 years of age). Some 76 percent live in the countryside, widely scattered amongst some 65,000 villages and hamlets. However, due to rural emigration, the cities and towns are growing rapidly. After the forced return of nearly 1 million "returnees" from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states prompted by the Gulf crisis in 1990, Sana'a had to cope with an enormous influx of people and is now said to have over a million inhabitants. While the country has generally absorbed the returnees well, others who didn't have family to return to are still trapped in camps in the Tihamna region.

Population of main cities (recent estimates)

Sana'a:	over 1,000,000
Aden:	330,000
Taiz:	240,000
Hodeidah:	210,000

A nationwide census was underway in 1994, but was postponed because of the political crisis.

Administratively, the country is divided into 17 governorates (11 in the North, 6 in the South) plus Sana'a city. Each governorate is divided into several districts. The Document of Pledge and Accord (18th January 1994) calls for the establishment of new administrative units or zones, bringing together territories of former North and South, and for delegating more power to local government.

GOVERNORATE	POPULATION			NO. OF DISTRICTS	NO. OF VILLAGES/TOWNS
	URBAN	RURAL	TOTAL		
ABYAN	25418	313494	338912	4	2198/2
ADEN	392822	43647	436469	4	677/23
AL-BEIDAH	43752	327027	370779	12	1165/2
DAMAR	61510	758619	820129	9	3366/3
HADRAMAUT	227984	447848	705832	8	2231/15
HAJJA	33494	825325	858819	33	3042/4
HODEIDAH	346477	899843	1246320	22	1871/19

IBB	128083	1433902	1561985	20	2697/10
AL-JAWF	1649	49881	51530	8	123/1
LAHJ	37488	530507	567995	5	3921/3
AL-MAHRA	43406	64568	107974	4	317/2
MAHWIT	13609	295687	309296	8	1231/3
MARIB	6549	108340	114889	11	401/2
SAADAH	31781	355795	387576	14	1062/3
SANAA	670487	1741335	2411822	38	4503/5
SHABWA	29619	205453	235072	5	1960/6
TAIZ	247553	1559404	1806957	20	2667/4
TOTAL	2341681	9910843	9525356	225	33432/107

Source: MOPH

With cities growing at an annual rate of 8 percent, urbanization is giving rise to grave social and environmental problems. Sana'a is growing the fastest, and by 2000 AD about half the urban population is expected to be living in the capital (the city's present share is 38 percent).

3.2 Ethnic groups

Most Arabs take great pride in their lineage. Yemenis traditionally trace their origin to Shem, the eldest son of Noah. Qahtan (identified as the biblical Yoktan), a descendant of Shem in the 4th generation, is remembered as the forefather of the Yemeni tribes. The northern Arabs, along the same tradition, are descendants of Adnan, a son of Ishmael, son of Abraham. Because Adnan is of a much later generation, the Qahtan Arabs from South Arabia call themselves the true, "original Arabs", or *Arab al Ariba*, while the

northern Arabs are considered "arabized Arabs", or *Arab al Mustariba*.

There is indeed a noticeable physical difference between the usually small, slightly-built Yemenis and their larger, sturdier brethren in the northern part of the peninsula. Yemenis are a lively, active and friendly people, offering the proverbial Arab hospitality to their guests. Tough and untiring when working in the fields, they can also turn into fierce fighters in times of feud.

The tribes with their fixed territories and ancient traditions still play a vital role in Yemeni life. A tribesman, or *qabili*, relies completely on his tribe and will readily fight for the honor of a fellow tribesman. Five major factors characterize a tribe: 1. the common lineage beginning with the ancestor of the tribe; 2. the common territory (except for the wandering Bedouin tribes at the edge of the desert); 3. a fixed social order with a *sheikh* elected as the head of the tribe; 4. economic independence and a weekly market as the center of economic exchange; and, 5. unique features in customs, clothing and architecture.

More than 20 years of republican rule and a rapid development process have already done much to loosen the formerly rigid, medieval social structures carried on into this century. The revolutions declared all Yemenis equal, abolishing the class system and most of all the privileges of the religious nobility (the *sayyids*, descendants of the Prophet). The lowest class, however, the Akhdam, who are of African origin, still don't mix with others. From an ethnic point of view, three different types of people may be distinguished: 1. The Tihamis with a darker skin color show ethnic connections with Africa and live in straw huts that are reminiscent of that continent; 2. The Highlanders with distinct Arabic features live in multi-storied stone or mud-brick houses built with remarkable architectural skill; and 3. The Bedouins who roam the desert and live in tents made of goat hair, distinguishing themselves in many ways from the sedentary population. Differences also exist between rural folks and traditional city dwellers. San'a is the most striking example of a unique, refined urban culture that

has developed over a period of more than 2,000 years. In Aden and other parts of southern Yemen, Indian and Indonesian influences are evident among the people.

3.3 Religion

Islam permeates every aspect of a Yemeni's life. Islam forms the basis of the constitution and the judiciary system. While Christianity ceased to exist in Yemen probably before the 10th century, a sizable Jewish community has lived here till the middle of this century. The Jews emigrated to Israel in 1948/49. Only a tiny minority stayed, mainly in the far north.

There are two major Islamic denominations in Yemen: the Zaydis in the north and the Shafa'is in the south. No exact border-line divides them, but it can be said that north of Dhamar the Zayji population outnumbers the Shafa'i and vice versa. There is also a small community of Ismaelis (less than 2% of the population) settled in the Harraz mountains east of Manakha.

In religious practices, the Shiite Zaydi and the Sunni Shafa'i denominations vary only slightly in the wording of the *Idhan* (call to prayer) and both groups use the same mosques. However from a social point of view, the Zaydis have preserved their tribal structure and were known as fierce fighters, especially against foreign occupants. The tribal structure in the Shafa'i-dominated south is much looser. Shafa'is were mainly tradesmen and merchants. Even today the wealthiest business families come from a Shafa'i background. In the formation of former North Yemeni governments, great care has been taken to give both groups equal representation.

3.4 Language

The ancient South Arabian language belonged to the southern group of the Semitic languages and has disappeared except for some evidence remaining in the dialects spoken on Socotra Island and in Al-Mahra near the Oman border. The beautiful archaic Sabeian script has fallen into oblivion as well; only the Amharic script of Ethiopia, a Sabeian colony in antiquity, still bears some resemblance to it.

Arabic, another language of the Semitic family, was spoken in Mecca at the time of the Prophet Muhammad. It became the language of Islam and was adopted by the South Arabians together with the new religion. Since the Koran was revealed in Arabic, it is considered the language of Allah and Muslims take great pride in it. From the script has developed a unique art form: Islamic calligraphy.

Baghdad played a leading role in the formation of Arabic calligraphy as an art form. The shape of Arabic letters lends itself to their depiction of objects. The very early example shown here, in the shape of a lion, is dedicated to Imam Ali, who was called "the Victorious Lion of God".



Yemeni Arabic is quite close to the high language, but a great variety of dialects

are spoken. Women, who are strictly segregated from male society, have developed their own idioms that even the Yemeni men may not understand. A few words of Arabic spoken by you as a foreigner will be greatly appreciated by the Yemenis who will be quick to praise your efforts!



4.0 Politics

4.1 Government

The Republic of Yemen, established by the merger of the two Yemens on 22 May, 1990, is a parliamentary democracy. Its constitution defines it as an independent, Islamic, Arab state. Legislation is based on the Islamic *shari'a*.

The first all-Yemen elections were held successfully on 27th April 1993 after a transition period of 36 months, during which the country was governed by a 5-member Presidential Council and a

unified cabinet of ministers from former North and South. Both former parliaments were merged to form one unified legislature.

As a result of the elections, three parties emerged as the main political forces: the People's General Congress (PGC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh (28.1%), the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice President Ali Salem Al-Beech (18.3%) and the Islah Party (16.7%), a coalition of Islamic groups headed by Sheikh Abdullah Hussein al-Ahmar, leader of the Hashid tribal confederation.

The Shura Council (parliament) was elected for a four-year term. Out of 301 seats, 123 were won by the PGC, 62 by Islah, 56 by YSP, 7 by Baath Parties, 3 by Nasserite Parties, 2 by Al Haq Party, and 48 by independents. Only two women, both from the South, were elected to parliament. Women in Yemen enjoy the right to vote and are also eligible as candidates. However, only 16 percent of the eligible women voters actually registered, while on the men's side 70 percent registered. 80 percent of all registered voters actually cast their votes, making for a 36 percent overall poll. Out of 3,181 candidates, only 41 were women, which amounts to less than 1.3 percent.

After the war of May 5, 1994, President Saleh was re-elected by parliament for a five-year term. Abdulaziz Abdulghani retained his position of Prime Minister.

4.2 Political Parties

Both former states had been governed by a one-party system. In the South, the Socialist Party held the monopoly, while in the North, the "People's General Congress", consisting of representatives from all segments of society, was founded in 1982 to draw up the so-called "National Charter" and support the government.

After unification, political parties were allowed to establish themselves officially for the first time in Yemen's history. The "winds of democracy" have encouraged people to voice their opinions freely and have led to the formation of over 40 political parties. Among them, the following ten are considered the most important and had their representatives included in the Supreme

Election Committee:

- People's General Congress (PGC): founded in 1982 as a popular nationalist organization; after unification emerged as the political party of President Saleh.
- Yemen Socialist Party (YSP): founded in 1978 as the single ruling party to govern former PDRY; after unification abandoned Marxist principles, but retained its core membership.
- Islah Party: Islamic coalition founded after unification, comprising groupings like Muslim Brotherhood (originated in Egypt), Wahhabis (originated in Saudi Arabia) and tribal groups like the Hashed Confederation.

- Baath parties: three wings - Iraqi Baath (most influential), Syrian Baath (small), and Yemeni Baath.
- Nasserite parties: 3 distinct parties, drawing inspiration from the late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser, now actively working as opposition parties in mediation roles.
- Haqq Party: second popular, yet rather small Islamic Party with distinct Yemeni roots, following the Zaidi school of Islam.
- League of the Sons of Yemen (Rabitah): oldest nationalist political party in Yemen, founded in 1950 to challenge British occupation in South Yemen, forced into exile after communist takeover; not represented in parliament, it is part of the outspoken national opposition block.
- Federation of Popular Yemeni Forces (FPYF): historically centered around the Al-Wazir family, advocates a blend of Socialism and Islamism (inspired by the Iranian revolution).

5.0 International Relations

5.1 Foreign Affairs

Yemen pursues a policy of non-alignment. While PDRY was for two decades firmly aligned with the communist bloc, YAR carefully maintained a balance between East and West, and received aid from both. Arab nations are considered closest and are thus called "brotherly countries", while most other nations are termed "friendly countries". Relations with South Africa have improved after its

renunciation of apartheid policy, and diplomatic relations are being considered. A long-standing supporter of the Palestinian cause and of Yasser Arafat's PLO, Yemen officially approves and supports the new accords between Israel and the PLO.

The Republic of Yemen is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Non Aligned Movement. The YAR was one of the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), an economic union between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and YAR, founded in February 1989.

5.2 Development Assistance

According to the 1987 UNDP report, the major donors to YAR in the field of technical cooperation were the USA, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. Assistance focused on education, agriculture, health, international trade, and finance.

In the area of capital investment, major donors were the IDA (International Development Association), Saudi Arabia, Germany, Japan and KfAED (Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development). The funds were allocated mainly to the transport and communication, agriculture, international trade, finance, education and health sectors.

Assistance from Arab Gulf countries decreased steadily during the 1980s due to a general economic downturn and the Iran-Iraq war. It completely dried up in the wake of the Gulf crisis that erupted in August 1990. After 1991, no new 5-year plan has been drawn up.

PDRY had been a recipient of assistance from the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries. However, funding had decreased sharply by the end of the 1980s due to economic problems prevailing in those countries.

Western donors and international agencies maintained their assistance to the newly founded Republic of Yemen and extended projects into the southern part of the country. Official development assistance (ODA) amounted to US\$ 244 million in 1991.

6.0 Economy

Yemen is still a predominantly agriculture-oriented country. Most agriculture is based on subsistence farming using traditional methods. A small consumer industry has grown which partially meets local demand, but most industries depend heavily on imported raw materials.

Both the northern and southern parts of Yemen traditionally depended, to a large extent, on foreign exchange remittances by Yemeni workers abroad, and development aid. Unification demanded additional funds for amalgamating the two administrations; something the country could ill afford along with the financial shocks of the Gulf crisis. Yemen suffered a foreign exchange loss of about US\$ 2 billion in 1991 alone, mainly from the stoppage of remittances and aid from the Gulf states. Even though oil exports have since 1988 augmented traditional foreign exchange earnings, macroeconomic imbalances and instability are likely to plague Yemen's economy during the foreseeable future.

Yemen's economy is market-oriented. However, because of economic recession and a high inflation rate, the public sector is playing an increasingly important role by subsidizing food commodities. In an effort to attract foreign investment, a new Investment Law has been devised. By declaring Aden a duty free zone, the government hopes to revive the once busy port to its past significance. However, bureaucratic delays and fears of political instability do little to instill investor confidence.

Main exports: oil (89% of all exports), refined petroleum products, fish, coffee, fruits and vegetables, leather/skins, cotton thread, tobacco, honey.

Some figures (source: Statistical Year Book 1992):

Exports: 5,693 million YR (474 million US\$)
Imports: 31,076 million YR (2,590 million US\$)
Trade Balance: -25,382 million YR (2,115 million US\$)
GNP: 122,006 million YR (10,167 million US\$)
Per capita GNP: 9,432 million YR (786 million US\$)
(US\$ conversions at official rate of 1 US\$ = 12 YR)

7.0 National Development Status, Plans and Policies

Development in a country where no modern structures existed until the 1960s is a formidable task. However, Aden as a British colony had undergone rapid development, while the rest of the country had no schools, administrative service, local currency or banking system, health services, and electricity, modern communications, water and sanitation systems were virtually non-existent. Goods were transported on the backs of laborers and animals, and 90% of the people were engaged in subsistence agriculture.

The difficult terrain and lack of educated, qualified and experienced personnel are still the main obstacles to development in Yemen. Government policy is therefore targeted at improving human resources and physical infrastructures, and by implementing a 3-year-plan and three 5-year-plans since the 1970s, impressive results have been achieved. A high growth rate (in the YAR: 11% per annum) was possible initially because of large-scale remittances from migrant workers and substantial external assistance. Through the establishment of self-help organizations, North Yemenis contributed their own funds for the development of local infrastructure. The **Local Councils for Cooperative Development (LCCDs)** still play a vital role in the development of the country. In South Yemen, radical land reform was introduced in the early 1970s, abolishing large-scale land ownership. Besides private agriculture (20% of cultivable land) there were co-operative farms (70%) and state farms (10%).

Despite its comparatively high per capita income, Yemen still belongs to the LDC (Least Developed Countries) group, because of the high child mortality rate, short life expectancy, high illiteracy rates, and low level of access to basic services such as safe drinking water supply and health care.

In the YAR, the government made little attempt to regulate the economy or interfere with market forces and thus succeeded in encouraging private investment. PDYR, on the other hand, had introduced a planned, state-run economy which proved to be less productive.

7.1 Agriculture is accorded top priority. The challenge of self-reliance in agriculture faces a number of constraints, among them high population growth, inadequate irrigation, small land holdings and problems with marketing, storage and distribution of produce. Yet, it is one of the few non-oil sectors that has substantial export potential. Some 63% of the labor force is engaged in agriculture, which accounts for 20% of GDP. 7% of Yemen's land area is cultivable, and about 40% of this is usually cultivated. Irrigated land accounts for about 20% of total cultivated land, but for over 50% of agricultural output. Qat, a profitable and hence desirable cash crop to the farmer, is taking up an excessive portion of irrigated land. Some 2 million tons of cereals have to be imported each year. Near self sufficiency has been achieved in poultry, eggs and some fruits and vegetables.

7.2 Fisheries has great potential for development, with some 300 fish varieties available in the Yemeni territorial waters of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Currently, some 30,000 fishermen extract 100,000 tons of fish a year, only a fraction of the estimated potential yield of 450,000 tons. Most fishing is done at surface level a few kilometers from the shore - better equipment would allow deeper and more distant fishing. In 1993, some 1,500 tons and half a million cans of fish were exported.

7.3 Water management is an area of critical concern in Yemen today. Urbanization, industrialization and new agricultural methods have sharply increased the demand for water, which is being met by drilling deep wells. Uncontrolled drilling has led to the alarming fact that groundwater reserves are being depleted twice as fast as the recommended safe rate. Over 90% of the water extracted from aquifers is used for irrigation. About half of all urban dwellers in the north and 70% in the south have access to piped water and sewerage systems at home. Access to water in the rural areas is around 40%.

7.4 Oil accounted for 89% of Yemen's exports in 1990. In the second half of 1992, some 40,000 b/d are expected to be pumped through a pipeline from Shabwa to Bir Ali on the Gulf of Aden. Yemen's third oil pipeline (120 km) was completed in 1993, adding some 120,000 b/d from the newly discovered Masceela oilfields in Wadi Hadhranaut to the total output. Yemen's total oil reserve is estimated at two billion barrels. Known gas reserves are much bigger, estimated at some 20 billion cubic feet. Yemen presently operates two refineries, in Aden (110,000 b/d) and Marib (10,000 b/d). There are plans to establish a third refinery either in Shabwa or Mukalla. A liquefied petroleum gas bottling plant is to be established in a joint venture between Hunt, Exxon Consortium and a Yemeni company.

7.5 Industrial development is greatly encouraged by the government, especially industries based on local resources. A greater share of private investment, local and foreign, is desired. Traditional handicrafts and small-scale industries are still dominated by informal on-the-job training. The modern sector is rather small, comprising about 200 industrial establishments with approximately 30,000 employees. All in all, the producing sector employs some 270,000 persons, or 11% of the labour force.

7.6 Tourism is promoted as an earner of foreign exchange. Because of its rich cultural heritage and outstanding natural features, Yemen attracts cultural tourism, rather than mass tourism. The private sector is being asked to build much-needed hotel and recreation facilities for tourists. In 1992, some 72,000 tourists visited Yemen, bringing in a revenue of 46,906,600 YR.

7.7 Health. In this sector, a preventive approach is being emphasized. The Constitution states that health care is the right of every Yemeni and should therefore be free. The current government health system, however, reaches only 40% of the population. It comprises four levels of service: 1. primary health care units

covering 2,500 people; 2. auxiliary centers serving 15,000 people; 3. health centers serving 50,000 people; and 4. hospitals providing more sophisticated services.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), supported by UNICEF and others, has been highly successful and the target of Universal Childhood Immunization by 1990 (80%) was achieved for all antigens except measles (74%). However, coverage has slipped but fresh efforts to raise and sustain coverage in the context of meeting the World Summit for Children goals are underway. The use of oral rehydration therapy, vital for reducing the more than 30,000 child deaths caused by diarrhoeal dehydration, has been raised from an estimated 7% in 1987 to over 26% in 1993.

7.8 Education, a prerequisite for strong economic growth and social development, is seen as a priority and receives some 23.5% of total public expenditure. During the early 1980s, schools were built at the rate of one a day in the YAR and some 700 new schools were established in South Yemen between 1968-1980. Still, only 6 out of 10 children attend primary school, and only 1 out of 5 primary school pupils is a girl. While PDYR relied on Yemeni teachers, YAR used to employ a force of 20,000 expatriate teachers, mostly from Egypt. When during the Gulf crisis some 18,000 foreign teachers left Yemen because of an acute foreign exchange shortage, the government adopted crash measures by training 10,000 Yemeni secondary school graduates and 15,000 army conscripts as primary school teachers.

To unify the different systems of North and South, a basic educational stage of 9 years followed by a secondary stage of 3 years has been adopted. Teachers normally receive two years of training at one of the Teacher Training Institutes.

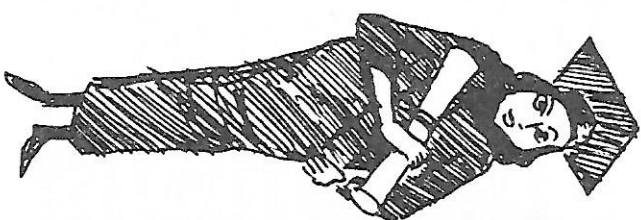
Yemen has universities in Sana'a and Aden. Technical and vocational training is provided by Technical Secondary Schools and Vocational Training Centers, but there is an unmet need to expand the vocational training sector. Non-formal education and literacy training are of special importance for adults. Women especially need

opportunities for empowerment towards them taking increasingly proactive roles in development.

7.9 The status of women is defined by Islamic and strongly conservative values. A woman's responsibility is viewed as being the education of the children and management of the household. In the countryside, women bear the additional burden of agricultural chores, and in addition to the work of raising many children, household responsibilities often include carrying water from distant places and collecting firewood.

Education, for various reasons, is beyond the reach of country girls, thus leaving them with little or no means to break out of their situation. However, the government recognizes women's role in building a new society, and an increasing number of women are going in for formal education and joining the work force (13% of the total labour force). The Yemeni Women's Union and several rural development projects focus on women's development issues, particularly promotion of female education, raising of health standards, and reducing drudgery.

Adeni women were able to improve their status earlier because better educational opportunities and a freer regime under the British. In the socialist period, the General Union of Yemeni Women, a mass organization of the Socialist Party, acted as the sole agent for women's development. A progressive achievement for South Yemeni women was the family law, which gave women rights through a more woman-friendly interpretation of the Shari'a. The new family law of the unified



state, however, came as a severe set-back for women's liberation. Mounting pressure from fund-amentalist circles today poses a serious challenge to the country's feminists.

Still, defying prejudice and traditional concepts, more and more Yemeni women are now boldly pursuing their professional careers, working as doctors, lawyers, teaching fellows, architects, accountants, teachers and secretaries. Some energetic women have recently organized voluntary associations to help other, less fortunate women. Among them is the Social Organization for Family Development (SOFD) helping the Akhdan, the lowest social class living in slums, and the Yemeni Women's Voluntary Society supporting women in prison and carrying out various training programmes for women. A sign of women's growing interest to help themselves is the increasing females enrolment in the various language institutes (some 50% against a former 10%).

PART II THE CULTURE

8.0 Greetings and Farewells

8.1 *Salam aleikum!* - Peace be with you!

A heartfelt embrace is the natural expression of joy when greeting a close relative or friend in the Arab world. Arab heads of state demonstrate the brotherly ties between their nations by embracing and kissing one another's cheeks. When two friends meet on the street, they often express exuberant joy that to outsiders may look rather effusive. The embracing and kissing is repeated again and again, accompanied by exclamations like *keyf halak*, *ya akhi* (how are you, my brother?) and *ana bikhey?* (are you well?). It is not uncommon for people to stop their cars in the midst of dense traffic to greet a friend and start a conversation, until loud honking from all sides compels them to drive on! A more formal greeting is to hold the other's hand and kiss it. Traditionally, men and women don't embrace or shake hands, but exchange only verbal greetings.

Formal words of greeting are *Salam aleikum* (Peace be with you) or *Salam aleikum wa rahmat Allah wa barakatun* (Peace and God's Grace and Blessing be upon you). The answer to both is *wa*

aleikum as-salam. *Salom aleikum* is said upon meeting new people, acquaintances, friends or relatives. Children say it respectfully to elders, who may return the greeting with a short *keyfak* (how are you) and stroke their head. Other forms of greeting are *sabah al-kheir* (good morning) or *masa al-kheir* (good evening), which are answered with *sabah an-nur* or *masa an-nur*.

The handshake is commonly used, especially when meeting foreigners. Some traditionalists may refuse to shake hands with a foreign woman, adhering to a strict interpretation of Islamic ethics that forbids a man to touch a woman. Yemeni women, in turn, may be very reserved when meeting foreign men and might speak to them only from behind the veil. Upon parting, both parties shake hands, saying *ma salama* (with peace), and eventually adding a pious wish like *fi amanat Allah* (under Allah's protection).

9.0 Invitations and Visiting

9.1 Why not bring a gift?

It is important to arrive on time - but don't expect to leave on time! Being invited to a Yemeni's house for a meal is a special event, and your host will do everything to make it a memorable occasion. To produce a typically sumptuous Yemeni meal, the women of the house must work for hours. If the host's is a modern nuclear family, the wife will seek a sister or cousin's help because alone she would be overwhelmed by the task.

While the visitor is not expected to bring gifts, a present will be appreciated. Gifts considered precious are local (*baladi*) honey, butterfat, coffee or coffee husks, raisins and almonds - commodities often brought along by relatives from the countryside when visiting their families in town. Given the fact that imported equivalents are not considered as valuable, a foreigner could bring a potted plant (newly fashionable!), some perfume (adored by every Arab) or a box of cookies or sweets (not only children's favorites!). On the occasion of births or weddings, a gift may be given as well. However, it will not be opened in your presence, but put aside without much ado. If a Yemeni wants to show his appreciation to a

foreigner, he often gives him a traditional item such as a brass vase, an incense burner, a water pipe, a *jambyah* (dagger), or a hand-woven basket. The foreigner may bring in turn a souvenir from his own country when returning from a holiday.

9.2 Conversation - but without women!

Sitting comfortably in your host's *majra* (sitting room with mattresses on the floor), you may compliment him on everything you see: his house, the garden, his children. But you will not see his wife during the visit nor be able to compliment her directly about the excellent meal she has produced for you. As a foreign woman, however, you may well step into the kitchen and sit with the women in a separate room after the meal. While the family usually eats together, men and women (foreign women are exceptions) eat separately when guests are invited. After the men have finished eating, the women and children rearrange the leftovers (still plenty!) and eat in a separate room.

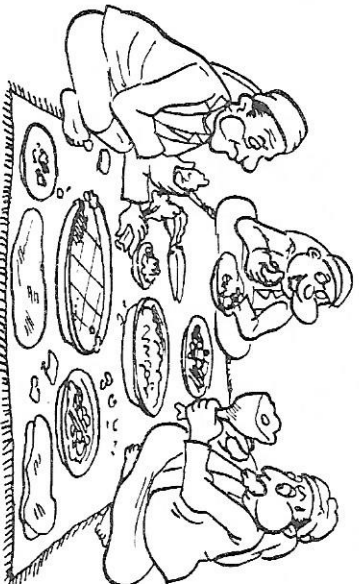
Every Yemeni is proud of his country and loves it dearly. He will be delighted to hear that you like it, too. *Keyf al Yaman?* (How is Yemen?) - is a question you will hear many times. Answers like *Al Yaman tamam!* (Yemen is good!) or *Al Yaman bilad jamil jiddan* (Yemen is a beautiful country) will be much appreciated. Often you will be asked which one you like better, Yemen or your own country! A diplomatic answer is that you love them both! Knowing very well that developed countries offer higher living standards, Yemenis will nevertheless be pleased to hear that you like the people, the pleasant climate and the beautiful landscape of their country.

9.3 Let's eat!

A plastic cloth or some newspapers are spread on the floor of the dining area and the dishes of food are shared between the diners. In the house of a modern, wealthier family you may be seated at a table and eat from individual plates, but the feeling of closeness is stronger the original way! The meal starts with *bismillah* (in the

name of Allah) and is eaten very quickly with one's right hand and with great appetite. Bread is always baked fresh in the *tannur* oven and served hot. The bread is used as a kind of spoon to scoop up the various soft dishes, and to grip the meat. A full meal includes different kinds of boiled or roasted meats like mutton, beef and chicken. Pork is strictly forbidden for Muslims. Fried fish, rice, vegetables and salads are often served before the meat to quell the first hunger pangs. Fish is prepared in many special ways and some spicy dishes are evidence of the Indian cuisine that has entered South Yemeni cooking.

A typical North Yemeni dish is *hulbah* and its variant *setlah*, a steaming sauce made of ground fenugreek, leek and spices, served in the same stone dish in which it is prepared. You may at first not like the unfamiliar, slightly bitter taste, but will become quite fond of this indigenous dish before long! Pastries and deserts with sweet



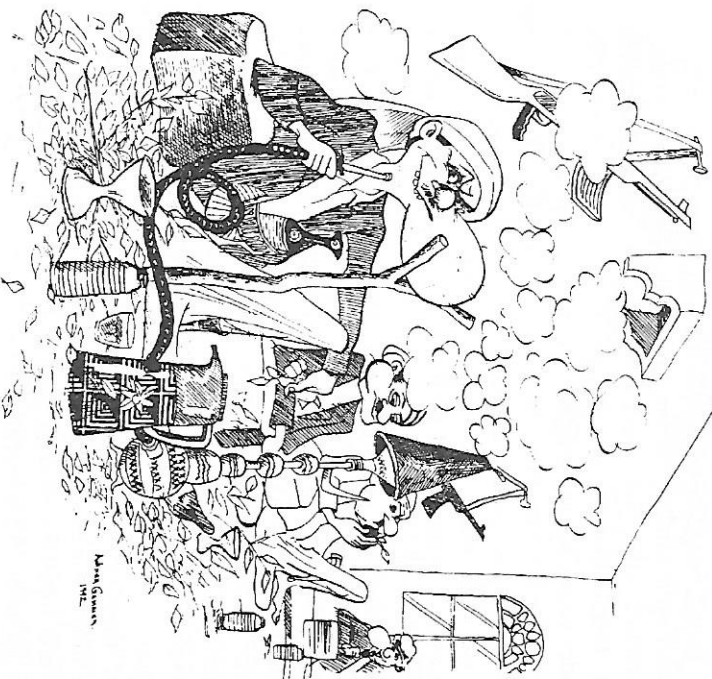
tea or *qishr* (brew from coffee husks) are only served to those who won't chew *qat* after the meal. Sweets and fruits would spoil the

palate and repel the slightly bitter taste of the fresh *qat* leaves that are chewed and stored in one's cheek all afternoon. The juice, which is swallowed, contains substances similar to amphetamines and has a mild stimulating effect.

9.4 Join the afternoon qat chew!

While *qat* is considered a vice by some and a blessing by others, it is all-important to the social life of the Yemeni people. In former South Yemen, the consumption of qat was restricted by law to the weekends. But since unification the habit of chewing daily has spread rapidly. If chewed regularly, qat causes sleeplessness and loss of appetite, not to speak of the negative effects it has on the family budget! The price of a bundle ranges from 50 to over 1,000 Riials.

The debate about the pros and cons of qat chewing rages on.



One view is that qat is not a drug and is harmless; that it contributes to the economy by reducing expenditure on foreign products, while increasing the cash flow between town and countryside. Others insist that qat is detrimental to health and that it harms the economy by stopping productive work every afternoon. Nevertheless, qat is the

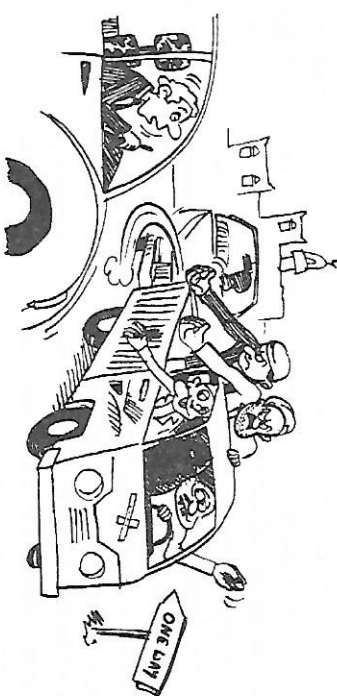
all-important reason for people to socialize. Many public figures have their regular *majlis* (session), where people from different walks of life meet and openly discuss any matter. For business people it is almost obligatory to join their partners' *qat* sessions in order to pursue their business.

In the Old City of Sana'a, the top floors of the multi-storeyed houses with windows on three sides through which to gaze upon the marvelous view, were built especially for entertaining friends over *qat*. People lounging comfortably on mattresses carefully pick the tender young leaves from the twig taken from the bundles of *qat* at their side. Meanwhile the coiled hoses of the huge *mada'a* (waterpipes) are passed around to each smoker in the room. Bottles of ice cold water and sometimes soft drinks (or occasionally hot, sweet tea) are served by the dozen to quench the thirst brought on by the *qat*. The first hours are spent in lively discussion, the imagination soars and solutions to all problems are found - at least in theory! Political and sometimes mildly ribald jokes (which may be considered highly risqué by the company present) are shared, and sometimes a professional entertainer may be present to sing, tell stories, arrange the prayers. The session finally draws to a close in peaceful silence, each participant reflecting deeply while feeling marvelously at one with the group. The setting sun bathes the beautifully decorated houses of the Old City in soft, surrealistic light, providing the perfect finale to the afternoon's experience. The *muethins'* voices calling the *maghrib* (sunset) prayer end the peaceful togetherness with the reminder that it is time to pray and then go home to the realities of life.

10.0 Communication and Gestures

10.1 "Slowly, please!" - Unless you're driving!

Yemen, like other parts of the Orient, is a place where people never seem to be in a rush - except when sitting behind the steering wheel, manoeuvring the latest Land Cruiser, a worn-out taxi, or a pickup through chaotic traffic at rush hour. In Yemen it is necessary to acquire the art of easing oneself into moving traffic, getting others to pause and let one in. Traffic, wild and undisciplined as it seems,



has its own etiquette and you'll manage very well once you have learned the gestures and manners of the road and acquired the capacity to stay cool. It is only the uninitiated foreigner who gets upset when drivers break the 'rules' as he has been taught them. Everybody else (sometimes even the policeman at the corner) keeps a stoic patience for which the orient is so famous! North Yemenis, called *Shimalis* (Northerners) by Adenis, have recently become notorious for exporting certain driving habits into the peaceful and well-regulated streets of the southern metropolis.

A gesture that is used frequently is the *Shwoya! shwoya!* sign for patience, meaning "Slowly, slowly!" or "Please wait a moment!". With the thumb and the other fingers joining at the tips, the right hand is moved up and down from the elbow in a soothing manner. Speech is often accompanied by lively gestures, as is bargaining on the *sug* (market). Yemenis love to bargain and can spend half an hour buying a sheep. Tihamis have a whole set of gestures to express their opinions while negotiating on the *sug*.

10.2 Do's and Don'ts

Friendship between people of the same sex is often expressed by holding hands when walking in the street. A foreign ambassador

may find himself hand in hand with a Yemeni minister while touring a project site! However, men and women, even married couples, are never seen walking arm in arm or exchanging intimacies in public. Women are veiled, so that only their eyes, hands and feet show out of the black 3-piece *sharshaf*, the one-piece black *shadar* or the colored Indian *sitara*. Traditionally, women should even walk one or two steps behind the men.

It is a grave impoliteness to stare after a woman or to make suggestive remarks to her. Still, this kind of thing may happen occasionally, not only to foreign women but even to properly veiled Yemeni women. Far from being the "nonpersons" they appear to be behind their veils, Yemeni women are likely to rebuke loudly any man who has behaved improperly. A foreign woman may choose to ignore verbal annoyances or scold in any language if the insult is graver. The strongest Arabic reprimand for bad conduct is *atib!* (shame!). It can also be said to children who can become quite boisterous with strangers. In any case, there will usually be other Yemenis around to help a foreigner and even apologize for the bad conduct of others.

10.3 Topics, titles and expressions

Opinions are uttered freely and with conviction, at least in settings where one doesn't expect repercussions, as at a qat session. Men like to discuss politics and international events, while women have their own topics ranging from cooking to their intimate married lives, apparently keeping no secrets among themselves.

People usually have three names, their own given name, followed by the names of their father and grandfather. Women keep their father's name. Some families have adopted family names, often the name of the place of origin. When addressing people, usually the given name is used, but someone who possesses a title or a higher position may respectfully be called *duktur* (doctor) or *ustadh* (professor). Non-Muslims are generally addressed with *sayid* or *sayyida* (mr. or mrs.) or *sadiq* (friend). The ethnic closeness felt among Yemenis is strengthened by Islam which teaches that all

Muslims are brothers and sisters. Thus, *akh* (brother) and *ukht* (sister) are frequently used among Yemenis and other Arabs, but seldom with non-Muslim foreigners.

Religious attitudes have also found their way into daily language. Accepting any event - joyful or sad - as God-given, the Muslim humbly says: *min Allah!* Even a non-Muslim foreigner may soon find himself saying *Alhamdulillah* (thank God) or *Inshallah* (God willing) when expressing gratitude or hope. *Bukra, inshallah!* (tomorrow, if God will!) is an expression often used by Yemenis, but it can be quite annoying for a foreigner because of its ambiguity. It can really mean tomorrow, but it may also mean the day after, or next week, or perhaps never!

11.0 Relationships

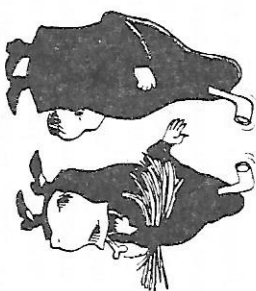
11.1 Dealing with authorities

Religious scholars, the *ulama*, have traditionally been the most respected authorities, and advice and arbitration is still sought from them. Elected tribal chiefs, the *shaikhs*, also have that function. With the introduction of a modern administration, however, much of the power and authority formerly held by traditional leaders has shifted to those representing the state. In order to get your matter of concern through, you often have to go to the top. A word from the *mudir*, the boss, will make things happen that formerly seemed impossible. Sadly, very little decision making power is found in the lower echelons of an establishment, be it private or public. Knowing influential people is also apt to bring about quicker results. A multitude of stamps and signatures to be collected from various departments may well take a whole morning of running around. Inevitably, there is the indispensable one - a lower-level clerk, or perhaps a watchman - who holds the final Key to solving your problem, but who is always absent at the critical moment! But no problem, "*bukra, inshallah!*"

11.2 The men's world and the women's world

The obvious division in Yemeni society is not the difference between rich and poor, but the schism that exists between the sexes. The Islamic requirement to dress modestly (originally meant for both men and women) developed over the centuries into the adoption of the veil, which was originally a Byzantine custom. Upper class women were the first to veil themselves, followed by the lower classes who considered the veil fashionable. Yemenitis, by nature, adhere strongly to traditions, and many men feel that no other man outside the immediate family should ever see the face of his wife. For the women, veiling is an ingrained habit not to be lightly discarded.

The veiling practice is generally a part of city culture and is more strictly observed in the north. Many women in Taiz or the Hoggeriya south of Taiz have never veiled their faces, wearing only a black cloak and headscarf.



Rural women in the Tihamah walk about quite freely and even participate in the market as vendors and buyers. In Aden many women work in public wearing western dress and not even covering their hair.

Regardless of veiling practices, however, segregation between the sexes is very strict all over the country. It has created two distinct spheres: the man's world and the woman's world. Men dominate public life and meet in the afternoons for qat sessions. Women have their own afternoon get-togethers, called *tafria* (especially in Sana'a) and enjoy a sisterly relationship among themselves. They treat foreign women cordially and without shyness, quickly accepting them as one of their own.

Account of a *Tafria*

I feel lucky to be able to share the very special relationship women have with each other here in Yemen.

As a teacher of English as a foreign language, in the last two years I have noticed a significant increase in the enrollment of women in my classes. Most of them are completely veiled.

At first I found it hard to tell who was who but now I'm much better at it and have learned to watch out for shape, gait and an individualistic flashing of the eyes!

I once had a class party for the women in my home. As I went into the kitchen to fetch the goodies the girls decided to un-veil in the garden. What fun it was! "Hi teacher, I'm Bushra" one of them said, and just as I was thinking "this is not as I would have expected her to look," they broke into giggles and said "No, no, this is Bushra" and on it went till the end of the morning, leaving me more confused than ever! I still don't know which name belongs to which face!

On another occasion I was invited to a "gat chew" along with my 80 year-old visiting aunt, who commented at the end that it reminded her of pages from Arabian Nights!

Let me try and describe the qat scene. We were ushered into Karima's home by this beautiful young lady with a devastating smile. She took my hand and said "Welcome, teacher" and I couldn't believe that the shapeless form in the classroom and this person were one and the same! We entered a plush dining room where a large buffet table was set with all sorts of goodies which we quickly ate so that we could go on to the next room...the dewan. Also called a mafraj, this is where qat chews take place. Traditionally, it is on the uppermost floor where the outlook is the best.

In Karima's home the dewan was on the ground floor, looking out into the garden. The large room was covered with thick carpets, and the ceiling was an expanse of elaborate chandeliers. In the middle of the room were three large madaas or hubbly bobbies, fitted with multiple hoses. Each could be smoked by several women at the same time! Each woman carried her own mouthpiece, which

she fitted to the hose for a few minute's smoking, then removed it before passing the hose to her neighbour.

Along three walls were the maffraj cushions and draped over the rich velvet coverings were the most exotically dressed and coiffured women I had ever seen. Some wore their traditional Samani outfits and hats while others were straight out of the latest Vogue! All wore the most exquisite jewelry. They kept coming with their bundles of gat which they then proceeded to wipe and chew with great ceremony.

One of the ladies was an accomplished singer and musician, and once she got going there was no stopping her! She belted out bawdy songs with one cheek stuffed full of gat, the oudh (lute) under her arm and a lewd gleam in her eye! We clapped and cheered and hooted and fell about laughing and every once in a while two or three ladies would jump up and do a Yemeni dance. This is quite easy to master as it is a series of two or three slow steps repeated over and over again.

As the hours passed the room began to get stuffy hot and full of smoke and I caught the imploring looks of my aunt who was clearly wanting to escape, but we were to sample one last treat before we left. Karima came bearing a brass tray with a clay incense burner. She waved this under our arm-pits, under our skirts and under our hair. We were also offered a tray full of the latest French perfumes and after several puffs we were sent us on our way with our bodies "smelling sweet for our husbands" and our minds and hearts enriched once again by the warmth and charm of Yemeni women!

The strict separation of public and private life finds its expression in the high walls surrounding the houses, and the barred and curtained windows. The private sphere includes the women and children, who must be protected from any intrusion or harm. Thus, women are also called *harim* (originally: a sacred, inviolable place), a word that became known as harem in the West.

Although a Muslim is allowed to marry as many as four wives, he is required to care for them equally. Multiple marriages are less frequent today, and the wives usually live in different houses or

even different cities with their own children. In South Yemen, the practice had been banned by law and marrying a second wife was only allowed in exceptional cases.

12.0 Social Customs and Attitudes

12.1 The Arab family

The family as the smallest unit of the tribe is the cornerstone of Yemeni society. Traditionally, people live within large extended families in multi-storied stone or mud-brick houses which are built with remarkable architectural skill. The Arab family is famous for the strong cohesion among its individual members, who all find protection, support and natural self-esteem in it.

Children are adored, and to have many children is considered a blessing from Allah. Sharing a room with other family members is the rule. So there is almost no privacy in the houses and therefore little room for individualism. Often, three generations live under one roof, including the grandparents and the various sons' families. Old people's homes are unknown in Yemen - a fact that every Yemeni is proud of.

Respect for elders is instilled early in small children who are cared for by their older siblings and respect them nearly as much as their parents. In the warmth of such family life few neuroses develop. If someone falls ill, the bill for expensive treatment abroad is willingly shared by brothers and cousins. There is always room in the house for visiting relatives who may stay as long as they wish.

The authority of the parents, particularly the father, is uncontested. Challenge to it, especially by a girl, is unheard of. Match-making by parents is the normal road to marriage, and most brides and grooms first meet each other on their wedding night. Traditional early marriages as well as the notion that girls belong in the house and therefore need no education, are the factors that most severely impede social development in the country. Campaigns to eradicate illiteracy and combat ignorance are carried out by the government with support from international agencies, including UNICEF.

12.2 Changing lifestyle

Trends toward a new lifestyle can be observed in some cities, especially Aden. Even in northern cities, young couples are beginning to prefer living away from the extended family, women are joining the work force, and day-care centers are being established for the children of working mothers. The presence of bright and diligent girls in the universities shows that women are not content to lag behind their male colleagues.

Television is the single most effective instrument of change. Two TV channels, broadcast from Sana'a and Aden, are closely followed and it is estimated that 90 percent of the population has access to TV. The most recent development in telecommunications has been the satellite dish revolution. Ever since satellite dishes were introduced 2 years ago, they have been proliferating like mushrooms on the roofs of homes, and have spread from the main cities to the towns and even villages. It would be interesting to study how international television programmes from the West, Russia, and the near and far East will effect Yemeni culture.

Imported goods from every continent flood the market, encouraging a western-oriented style of life. Distinct Yemeni features, however, like the beautiful *qamariya*, stained glass window arches and a comfortable *maftaj*, are preserved even in newly-built houses. Electronic equipment of all descriptions is freely available, television and video sets enjoying the greatest popularity. The presence of fax machines in village homes is no longer a rarity. Islam encourages a positive attitude towards material possessions which are considered a blessing from God. The Koran states: "Wealth and children are an embellishment of the life of this world."

12.3 Environmental protection

Concern for the protection of the environment has so far developed slowly in Yemen. Too big is the task of modernization, too urgent the wish to catch up with the rest of the world. However, an Environmental Protection Council has recently been founded to create awareness of environmental issues, with the waste disposal

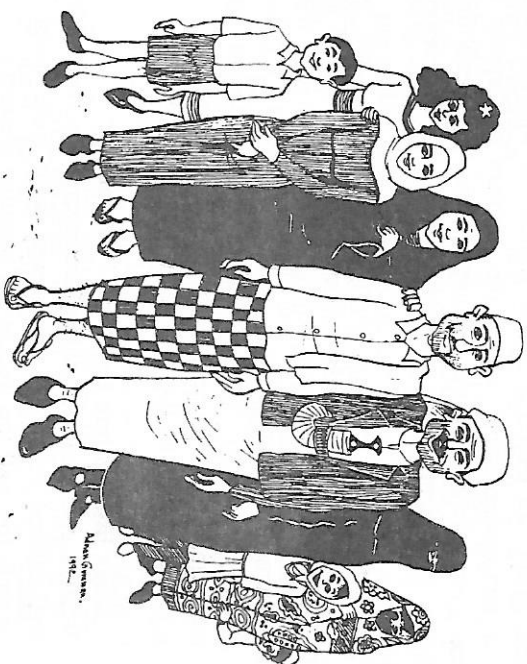
problem foremost. Traditional Yemeni society had developed an elaborate system for recycling organic wastes, but with the appearance of non-biodegradable wastes, the problem of disposal has become overwhelming. While the larger cities have established waste disposal systems, many secondary towns are still developing them.

Another issue is erosion. Agricultural terraces built with incredible skill by countless generations have to be repaired after each rainy season. Large-scale labour migration has already led to the abandonment of many terraces, and the precious soil is being washed away irreversibly. The problem of erosion, desertification and water resource management are burning issues that need to be brought to the attention of the population more urgently.

12.4 Some insights into the Yemeni character

While Western goods and technology are eagerly absorbed, foreign ideas and cultural influences are viewed with some suspicion. Knowing only too well the weaknesses plaguing western societies, the Yemeni is careful not to lose his own Islamic, Arab identity (often viewed as superior), his cultural uniqueness and strong moral perceptions. This attitude underlies any dealings a Yemeni has with a foreigner. While acknowledging the other's differences a Yemeni will rarely concede superiority or easily accept outside ideas, however good they may be. But strong in nature and character himself, he admires strength, boldness and even stubbornness in others, and deeply despises weakness. While he possesses a remarkable shrewdness and an ability to subtly criticize himself, criticism by another, even if justified, is not taken easily and quickly hurts his pride. Being fully aware that his country is still burdened by backwardness, he is pleased when people discuss the many achievements realized to date. Every Yemeni takes great pride in his long history of civilization and wants to be recognized as a cultured person.

To people newly arrived in the country, the Yemeni may look somewhat wild in a handsome, reckless way. His curly hair and



loose headscarf, beard and flashing dark eyes, his *gallabiya* (long robe) or *fuah* (skirt) girded with the traditional *jambiyah* (curved dagger), and, often, his Kalashnikov slung nonchalantly over a shoulder, and his slippers feet reinforce the impression. Women, enigmatic behind their veils, show grace in their movements and reveal their strength through bright, mysterious eyes and determined speech. The Yemeni's unshakable self-confidence, and the belief that his country is the center of the world make servility an unknown to him. With the independent spirit of the tough mountain inhabitant he considers *hurriya* (freedom) the highest virtue. Though many Yemenis work hard when emigrating to other countries, they tend to take it easy in their own, where they feel they are their own master and claim the right to enjoy their lives.

It is not easy to know a Yemeni deeply. He can instantly show

great generosity and openness towards a total stranger. But there may be times when the Yemeni you consider your good friend, hurts you and falls short of your expectations. But on the next occasion he may meet you with the lightheartedness of a child, and you cannot but forgive him! A great capacity to love and an unbeatable sense of humor characterize him. Never mind if his politeness makes him promise things he cannot really keep, or his oriental perception of time contradicts yours! With an open mind and the willingness to learn from each other, people of different cultures indeed have a lot to give each other.

The Yemeni often views

the world in terms of an extended family, and he will interrupt even the most serious discussion to deal with whoever seeks his time and counsel. He may also stop business several times a day to pray. No irritation should ever be shown at these digressions; they are an unshakable rule of Islamic life.

It takes some time to get used to the sometimes rough and apparently impolite way of dealing with one another in this country. But after penetrating the external shells, surely you will come to agree with the Prophet Muhammad, who said of the Yemenis: "They are the most amiable and gentle hearted of men. Faith is of Yemen, and wisdom is Yemeni."



Things are usually not what they seem

Yemenis are generally peace-loving folk, although they sometimes appear otherwise.

One afternoon during the Gulf crisis, the ambassador of a European country received a call. A mob had marched on the embassy, shouting slogans to protest the country's role in the conflict. Post haste, the ambassador drove his armoured 4WD to the embassy. It had been raining heavily but this had not deterred the crowd and the ambassador thought he could approach the embassy unnoticed through a back lane. But the heavy vehicle sank into the slush with the wheels spinning and was quickly bogged down. Within moments the mob had surrounded the hapless ambassador. But when they realized who the driver was, the demonstrators lifted the vehicle out of the mud. After everyone had had a chance to shake the ambassador's hand, they sent him on his way with good natured cries of encouragement, and returned to their slogan-shouting!

On climbing a rock face

Our eldest son was visiting Yemen for the summer vacation and had brought a friend along from upstate New York. On the first weekend, we decided to do some mountain climbing. The boys are quite experienced in this so we were not concerned about them but thought it might be a bit much for Matt, our guest. Anyway, we drove for an hour and a half towards Mahwit. We found a nice spot and the boys set off, each trying to out-do the other in stealth and speed. A couple of hours later, as evening approached, we shouted to them to come down and were told "in 15 minutes." Soon, our youngest came sliding down the steep hillside asking for rope. Our first thought was for Matt but it was our middle son who had got himself stuck on a narrow cliff ledge with a sheer drop on one side and a smooth rock face on the other. He was spreadeagled on the rock, unable to move forward or backwards and there was no way for any of us to reach him and help. We had no rope in the car (a serious mistake) and so we waited by the roadside to ask for help. A pick-up with five Yemeni men stopped and in our broken Arabic

we were able to communicate the problem. Immediately, four of them scuttled up like mountain goats and the fifth stayed at the bottom with me. They formed a human chain around Farhad and had him use their bodies to step on and get down. They saved him at considerable risk to themselves and expressed their triumph by shooting into the air! My husband gratefully offered them all the money he had. But the leader of the group looked at him in disdain and told him it was an insult to offer money in return for the life of a son! He then proceeded to un-do his "futah" (Yemeni dress) which was stuffed with notes which he then offered to us!

On the value of guns

Fascinating architecture, bleak yet haunting landscapes, and wild-looking men in footas sporting Kalashnikovs and jambiyas are part of the everyday scene in Yemen.

Boys in secondary school carry their guns into the classroom and nobody thinks anything of it! A man unarmed is no man at all!

Our sons were in Sana'a for Christmas and we decided to celebrate our oldest's 21st birthday with a large dance party. Our garden is perfect for summer parties, but that January was freezing, and the rooms of our house are too small to accommodate a crowd - there certainly is no space for dancing! So we decided to rig up a large tent in the driveway, with coal barbecues for warmth. Perfect...but where would we find such large pieces of tarpaulin? Could they be rented?

After asking around for a few days, a Yemeni friend led us to a store on Taiz Road. It had all sizes and shapes of canvases, ropes and entire tents with all kinds of accessories used for wedding celebrations. We picked three large rectangular tarps and after much bargaining, settled on a daily rate to be paid in full in advance. As we were counting out the money, the owner of the shop informed us that we would have to leave a security deposit - a large amount of cash, or, preferably, my husband's gun. When my husband said that he didn't own a gun, let alone have one on him, the shopkeeper refused to believe this and declared that the deal was off! We begged

and pleaded and offered all sorts of things in place of the gun. The papers of our car, a UNICEF ID, and all the cash we had! But none of these were considered of sufficient value and we succeeded only in increasing the man's disdain for us. NO GUN? What sort of people were we? By now, we were all growing tired of this saga and decided that we should just have to manage without the tarp. Suddenly I saw a gleam in the shopkeeper's eye! He had glimpsed my gold bangle and in the interest of 21st birthday celebrations, I reluctantly handed it over wondering if I would ever see it again!

The party was a great success and later I went back to return the tarp with apprehension. Would the owner have disappeared with my bangle? Would the shop still be there? But I needn't have given it a second thought! The precious bangle was returned wrapped in the same dirty scrap of paper in which it had been thrown when I gave it - and there we were with yet another pleasant memory of life in Yemen!

13.0 Special Occasions

13.1 Religious and national holidays

As the daily schedule revolves around the five prayer times, so the year centers on the religious feasts. While the solar calendar is used in public life, religious holidays follow the Islamic lunar calendar in which a year has 354 days. Thus there is no regular season for the holidays, and they may occur at different periods of the solar year. The greatest Islamic holiday is *Id-al-Adha* or *Id Arqat*, the Feast of Sacrifices during the main pilgrimage to Mecca. It is celebrated officially for 4 days but is extended by many people for a more lengthy holiday. The second-most important feast is *Id-al-Fitr*, the Feast of Breaking the Fast. It follows the Islamic month of *Ramadan*, when fasting is strictly observed during daytime. Restaurants and tea shops remain closed until dusk and the streets wear a deserted look. Official working hours during Ramadan are 1100 to 1500 hours (at UNICEF, 1000-1400). Life picks up dramatically after 8 or 9 pm, when people have eaten and come out to stroll and shop. Private businesses, doctor's practices and shops stay open till after mid-

night, and everyone sleeps late into the morning.

Other religious holidays are *Mawlid al-Nabi* (Prophet's Birthday) and the Islamic New Year's Day.

Secular holidays are 22 May, the Day of National Unity; 26th September, Revolution Day in the North, and 14 October, Revolution Day in the South. Labour Day on 1st May as well as the solar New Year are observed as holidays. The weekly holiday is Friday.

13.2 Births, Weddings, Burials

The three main events in a person's life - birth, wedding, death - are celebrated in special ways.

After the **birth** of a child, the mother enjoys a period of rest for 40 days, when all household chores are done by the other women of the house. The mother receives female visitors every afternoon and sits on an elevated bed clad in especially beautiful clothes. A religious celebration, *mawlid*, is often held during this period, and the 40th day is celebrated with a great number of friends crowding the *diwan* (room for special festivities).

Boys are usually **circumcised** on the 7th day, a happy occasion for the father who slaughters a sheep and invites his friends. Female circumcision is not practiced except in certain parts of the Tihamah. Birthdays are not celebrated, and many people still do not know the day or year of their birth.

Marriage is the next important event in a person's life. The boy's mother begins by looking for a suitable wife for her son, and once a family has been identified, the marriage is negotiated by the father. Due to strict segregation between the sexes and the practice of veiling, men are unable to find their own brides. Only in Aden and in some of the more progressive families in the north, are young people left to choose their own mates.

Early marriages are still common, but among the educated elite the trend is to marry in one's twenties after completing one's education. The marriage contract is concluded between the father of the bride and the bridegroom in the presence of a *qadi* (judge). A bride price is usually paid, of which the girl receives a substantial share

in the form of gold, dresses, materials and other valuables. The gold is her own personal treasure to wear on festive occasions and to keep as insurance against divorce or other unforeseen calamities.



A typical wedding celebration lasts three days and often involves over a hundred guests. Men and women celebrate separately in different houses. The men gather in the bridegroom's house to share a big meal, chew qat and listen to an *o'ud* (lute) player and singer. In the evening they join together in the street which is decorated by many colored lamps suspended between the houses. A musician playing the *mizmar* (an oboe-like instrument) entertains the guests and religious and tribal songs are sung. Janbiyah dances are performed to the rhythm of two drums.

The bride celebrates in her parents' house or a special "wedding palace" together with a great number of female relatives. On different days she wears the traditional wedding costume and a white Western wedding dress. A female singer and luteist may entertain the guests, or Western disco and Arabic belly-dance music may be

played and the guests induced to dance. On the wedding night, the bride is brought by her father and other relatives to the groom's house to meet her future husband for the first time. From the moment she crosses the doorstep she belongs to the house of the husband. She may, however, always visit her own family and finds protection there in case of quarrels between the spouses.

Burials commonly take place on the very day a person dies. The deceased is covered with a richly embroidered blanket. After a prayer in the mosque, he is carried by four men on a bier to the graveyard, accompanied by male relatives and friends singing religious songs. Gravestones with inscriptions are more commonly erected in the south, while a typical graveyard in the north is nothing more than a collection of large stones. After the burial, the family gathers for a meal to share remembrances of the dear person who left them.

PART III LIVING AND WORKING IN YEMEN

4.0 Arrival

For airlines serving Sana'a and Aden International Airports see Appendix H.

14.1 Visas

Entry visas are required for all visitors to Yemen (except for those holding a reentry permit or nationals of certain countries). Visas may be obtained from any Yemeni embassy or consulate. The UNICEF office can arrange a visa for you through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if there is no Yemeni representation where you live. Be sure to send in all passport details and 3 photographs, and allow at least two weeks for the visa to be issued. No travel should be undertaken before you have confirmed that your visa will be issued to you upon arrival in Yemen.

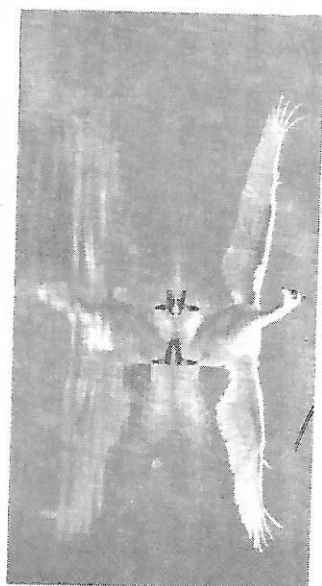
After having entered the country on your visitor's visa, the UNICEF office will obtain for you a multiple exit and re-entry residence visa. Normally, spouses of foreign residents are not allowed to work in the country. Permission may, however, be obtained from the Yemeni authorities.

14.2 Immunization requirements

Health certificates indicating valid vaccinations are only required from travellers arriving in Yemen from afflicted countries. It is advisable to take antimalarial pills when visiting the Tihamas. Aden and Sana'a are considered malaria free.

14.3 Airport Procedures

Immigration forms are given to you on the plane and have to be handed in at passport control. Customs officers check the luggage closely for video tapes, magazines and alcohol. Video tapes must be handed in to be checked by the Ministry of Information and can be picked up from there after a few days.



KLM's Swan spreads its wings over six continents to more than 350 destinations.



Convenient connections from Sana'a to "The World via Amsterdam-Schiphol".



For more details, contact your travel agent or KLM direct on telephone (01) 278747



Printing & Publishing

702930NS

BOOKS, NEWS PAPERS & MAGAZINES.

- BROCHURES, LABELS etc

- COLOUR SEPARATION

- COMPUTER DESIGN & TYPESETTING

- CONTINUOUS FORMS

- THE MOST ADVANCED MACHINES

TEL : 612844 - FAX : 612845 - P. O. BOX 12503
SANA'A - REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

There is no green line area at the airport. The chalk mark drawn on your luggage by the custom's officer is checked by a soldier at the gate. If needed, porters are available for a modest payment. Foreign exchange facilities are not always available at the airport.

There are taxis but no regular bus to town. Normally, if you are consultant to UNICEF or on a UNICEF mission, UNICEF will arrange for you to be picked up at the airport. If information or help is needed from UNICEF call 231256, 7 or 8; or, after office hours (between 2.00 pm and 7.30 am) or on Fridays, at 216334. In Aden, at UNICEF, tel. 232987; after working hours, at 251735.

In the process of Yemeni unification, political union has preceded monetary and economic union. Both currencies are still in use.

The currency of North Yemen is the Yemen Rial (YR), divided into 100 Fils. The Fils, however, is no longer in use. Banknotes are available in one, five, ten, twenty, fifty and hundred-Rial denominations.

The official exchange rate is 12 YR to 1 US dollar. However, a special bank rate of 25 YR to 1 US dollar is granted to some organizations, including the UN. There is a considerable difference between the official and open market value of the Rial; it has risen to over 100 Rials to the dollar in the last year.

In March 1994, the government announced that licences had been issued to 30 currency exchange establishments in San'a and 6 in Aden, to carry out foreign exchange transactions at a special open or parallel rate of YR 84 to 1 US dollar.

The South Yemeni Dinar (YD) has 1,000 Fils. 50 Fils is still called a Shilling. Banknotes are printed in 250 and 500 Fils and one, five and ten-Dinar denominations. Coins are in denominations of 5, 25, 50, 250 and 500 Fils. The current official exchange rates of exchange are 0.461 Dinars to 1 US dollar, and 26 YR to the Dinar. However, a special bank rate of 0.961 Dinars to 1 US dollars is granted to some organizations, including the UN.

Due to the present state of the economy, devaluations of both currencies are expected to take place. One is not permitted to take Yemeni currency out of the country, and foreigners may take out no more than US\$ 2,000 each (this ceiling may vary and should be checked beforehand).

During the last two and a half decades, Yemen has been considered a safe country for foreigners to live in. Generally, foreigners are treated with respect and are seen as being here for the benefit of the country. However, the political and economic climate has deteriorated during 1993 - 94 and the security situation has worsened

considerably. Especially disturbing is the new trend of kidnapping foreigners as a misguided means to enforce tribal demands on the government. Fortunately, the lives and well-being of the hostages have not been seriously threatened, so far, but one cannot take chances and the UN had placed strict road travel restrictions on its staff.

Another cause for worry, although not new, is the increased incidence of armed hijacking of cars on the highways, and even in the city (there were 51 incidents reported in 1993). Foreigners need to be constantly aware that they are vulnerable to attack. Being alert improves one's chances of recognizing and evading a potential attack situation. Resistance is definitely not advisable!

Sadly, blood feuds between Yemeni tribes, families and individuals are still widespread (though they are more common in the countryside) and land disputes are all too often settled with guns. Fortunately, foreigners have not been involved and are generally not endangered.

In the wake of unification and democratization, a freer press regime has developed, and hijacking, major car accidents, shootings and other incidents are published in the Al-Thavira newspaper and openly discussed in other publications. A potential threat to public security is the widespread wearing of firearms, especially in the rural areas, but increasingly also in the cities.

House break-ins may happen to both foreigners and Yemenis, but the experience has been that they occur only when the house is empty. Because of this, it is wise to have someone live in your house while you are on leave.

A warden system is in place under the UN Designated Official to improve the security of UN personnel.

On hijacking

There was a spate of car hijacking in Yemen with the latest Toyota 4WD models the main targets. To drive around in one of these sleek and curvaceous "Leila Allaways", so named after the famous Egyptian actress, was an invitation for trouble. The hijackers would

take the vehicle but leave the driver and the other occupants standing by the road unharmed. In many cases, the hijackers took the car to gain bargaining power in disputes with the government - they had no quarrel with the occupants and therefore had no reason to be unkind to them. At one point, it became something of a privilege to be hijacked, as it gave people something different to talk about and bestowed a kind of rakish notoriety on the unfortunate owner. Actually, many hijack experiences brought out the innate kindness of the Yemeni people. Among all the wild and wonderful stories that abound, this is one of my favorites.

A European couple and their infant daughter were visiting friends in Yemen. It was their first trip to this part of the world and they were delighted when their hosts offered them their new car for a day trip to the ruins of Marib, where the ancient dam which for centuries had sustained the great civilizations of southern Arabia, and where the remains of Queen Sheba's temple and King Solomon's rest house are important attractions. They packed a picnic lunch and secured the baby in a bassinet in the back seat. After a fascinating visit and not far from Sana'a, they were stopped by men brandishing Kalashnikovs and clearly wanting the car. The frightened tourists stepped out, trying desperately to explain that there was a sleeping infant in the back, and could they please take her out? But the men were in a hurry and not about to listen to the babbling of these foreigners. They drove off, baby and all, leaving a cloud of dust and two utterly devastated people by the roadside.

Ten minutes later, just when the man had managed to calm his wife down, there was a screech of tires as the bandits returned in the hijacked car and pushed the baby out of the window into the relieved parents' arms. Hijacking a car is one thing, hijacking a baby is just not on!

More on security

In the fall of 1993 an American diplomat failed to appear at a friend's Thanksgiving dinner. He was last heard from at sunset when he was leaving the house of some Yemeni friends. Much later

that night, it turned out that he had been kidnapped not far from his home and taken to a village some 80 kilometers east of Sana'a. His captors wanted the government to pay rent claimed by them for setting an oil pumping station on tribal land, as well as for some other things they said were long overdue, including the construction of a primary school and a clinic. The kidnapping became an international news event, and following a week of negotiation, the hostage was released unharmed.

This was not the first time a foreigner had been kidnapped as a bargaining chip in the settling of disputes between tribes or between tribal leaders and the government. Often, a tribe's leaders become impatient with government tardiness in paying dues, or delivering on promises. In such cases, the temptation to "invite" a representative of a powerful foreign country to be a "guest" can overcome the potential risks. A British manager and his pet dog were honoured guests for nearly ten days, long enough for him to gain a considerable amount of weight. He was said to have been reluctant to be "rescued" from his ordeal! There have been several instances of foreign oil workers being taken hostage by local tribesmen. Some elderly French tourists were kept for more than two weeks in an attempt to force the government to re-align a road to pass through a particular tribe's land. In February 1994, three UN officials including two women, one of whom is Yemeni, were kidnapped just outside Sana'a, but were released the next day. And, in March - August 1994, a trio of Dutch project officials were been incarcerated for more than five weeks by the very same people who captured the American diplomat, and apparently for the same reasons.

No kidnapping is pleasant, however hospitable your "hosts" may try to be. The repetitive diet, long periods of enforced idleness, the inability of many captives to communicate with the captors, the fear that one's hosts may lose patience and turn nasty, the constant uncertainty of one's fate, the longing to talk with colleagues, friends and loved ones, and many other factors play on one's emotions more and more with each passing day. In every case, some form or degree of trauma results.

So far, no hostage has been deliberately mistreated, and no hostage has been knowingly harmed. On the contrary, friendships have been known to develop between hostage and captor. A week after a certain hostage was released, he was lunching and chewing qat with his captors! However, one cannot help but wonder how long this state of affairs can continue until something goes wrong and someone gets hurt. Until now, foreigners, being unarmed, have been easy prey to heavily armed tribesmen or the occasional not-so-well-intentioned roadside bandit. But as the frequency of hijacking, car thefts and kidnapping increases, and travel becomes more restricted for security reasons, more people are consciously preparing themselves to deal with trouble, should they be faced with it. Conversation is now dominated by security matters. Yemenis and foreigners alike are fitting vehicle alarms, and a plethora of security devices, from time-delayed ignition cutoff switches to infrared and video surveillance systems, are available in the local market.

17.0 Pets

Pets may be brought in if accompanied by a veterinary health certificate and an import permit from the veterinary office in Yemen.

Domestic animals common in Yemen are donkeys, cows, sheep, goats and poultry. There is also a long standing tradition of beekeeping; Yemeni honey is reputedly among the finest in the world and its high price reflects this. Doves are often kept on the roof and occasionally birds in a cage. Cats and dogs roam wild and feed from garbage. Pet dogs attract interested attention, especially from children, but a watchdog is likely to discourage would-be burglars.

The National Veterinary Services Development Programme (Tel 226462 and 235892), a project of the British Overseas Development Agency, offers quality veterinary services, including immunizations and surgery, and home visits can be arranged in emergencies.

18.0 Local Hospitality

There is mutual curiosity among Yemenis and expatriates to learn about each other's culture. The quickest way is to invite friends to one's home. An old Arab tradition holds that the one who has shared a meal with you will not be your enemy. Yemenis take great pride in showing generous hospitality to their friends, and in the countryside foreign travellers are often invited to eat and spend the night in Yemeni houses. Arab hospitality is expressed in terms of plentiful food and generous sprinklings of perfume on the departing guests. (also see Chapter 9, Invitations and Visiting)

Luncheons may be more practical than dinner invitations if a complete meal is to be served. Yemenis who have chewed qat in the afternoon hardly feel inclined to eat well in the evening. Yemenis generally prefer their own cuisine and may be picky about things that taste unusual to them. Pork is not available in the country and should not be served in any form to Yemeni guests, as its consumption is forbidden by Islam.

One should not invite Yemeni men and women to the same party. Yemeni women never accompany their husbands to official receptions. Men and women either have to be accommodated in different rooms or be invited on different occasions. Family-level invitations between Yemeni and expatriate families usually pose no such problems, because the different customs of foreigners are recognized in private. Such casual invitations often prove to be golden opportunities to gain deeper insights into Yemeni life.

A lesson from behind the veil

In the 20 years that we have lived as expatriates, one comment made by a Somali friend has always haunted me. He said, "Have you noticed how hard expatriates try to become native the first few months that they are here? Why can't they learn to accept our cultural differences rather than force themselves to 'love' our way of life. Friends can only be made when there is mutual respect and understanding of our diversities and opinions."

While in Yemen, I saw my Somali friend's point of view when I hid my true identity behind a veil.

We were invited to a formal sit-down dinner at a colleague's home. It was in honor of a visiting "expert" and all those invited were expatriates. Not in the mood for this, and wanting to have some fun, I accompanied my husband dressed in a sharshaf and veil. When we arrived we were reluctantly ushered in and there was a look of wild panic around the table as this Yemeni lady was seated. Who was she? Where was my husband's wife? Didn't he realize alcohol was being served? Did she speak English? Could she use a knife and fork? I saw these questions in my mind's eye but of course they were never voiced. Instead, the lady on my right kept smiling at me like a cheshire cat and passing me endless bowls of food without a word being said. The gentleman to my left articulated his words with such stress and emphasis, that even I as a native speaker of English, had trouble following what he said! Every once in a way, some misguided soul would make comments like "We love your beautiful country.." and "Yemen has such stunning architecture!" Then I was forgotten for a while till someone else went on a guilt trip and tried to "include" me in the conversation! I felt like some poor mute who was living off the charity and largesse of these folk. Every once in a while someone would be talking animatedly and then notice me and quickly stop as if to say, "We mustn't joke around this one, it might offend her..."

Just before I decided to un-veil I silently saluted my Somali friend. Since we had that conversation five years ago, he has died. He had articulated what I had just experienced, and the lessons I have since learned from behind the veil have always been valuable ones!

19.0 Advice to Families

There is hardly a Yemeni who doesn't get married, because in Islam the family is viewed as the God-willed way of life. A foreign resident's family therefore is always treated with respect, and children in particular attract attention and warmth. Complete

strangers may come up to you on the street and kiss your baby or small child - something you can hardly prevent!

You may also invite Yemeni neighbors' children to play with your own children - but not too many at a time! Depending on the ages of your little guests, the more delicate toys should be removed beforehand. Although many toy shops have sprung up in Sana'a, for many children toys are still a novelty. Battery operated toys are favored, though educational toys are seldom available.

20.0 Advice to Singles

Early marriages are still common and someone who hasn't married by his mid-twenties is viewed with some pity. The Arabic word for "single" is akin to words for human deficiencies like "blind" or "deaf". When in contact with single expatriates, however, Yemenis may come to accept their lifestyle quite readily. There are many single expatriates in the country, including women. As women are well respected, assaults on women are rare. Proper conduct and decent dress, however, are an absolute requirement.

Foreign men may feel uncomfortable not being able to mix with Yemeni women. Many have expressed regret that half of their host country's society remains a mystery, shrouded in black veils. If, in a rare case, a foreigner wants to marry a Yemeni woman, he needs the consent of her family and has to convert to Islam. In the case of a foreign woman marrying a Yemeni man, there are no such difficulties. Foreign wives of Yemenis residing here come from many different countries.

21.0 Standard Weights, Measures and Units

Weights:	Kilograms, grams
Temperature:	Degrees Celsius
Measures:	Kilometers, meters
Electricity:	Voltage: 220 V. Frequency: 50 Hz. Since fluctuations may occur a voltage stabilizer (locally available) should be used with sensitive equipment (e.g. computers).

Cloth: Sold by the meter (sometimes yards), or by weight.

22.0 Local Documents

Travelling by road used to entail passing through many military checkpoints where travellers' identities and vehicle ownership were checked and weapons retained for safekeeping. Since unification and the trend towards democratization, however, this is no longer the case and most military check posts (barring a few at strategic places or points along the route which are known for car theft) have been removed. UNICEF staff are provided identity cards by the Ministry of Planning and Development which entitle them to travel anywhere in the country without additional permits. Additional cards from UNICEF and UNDP can also be provided.

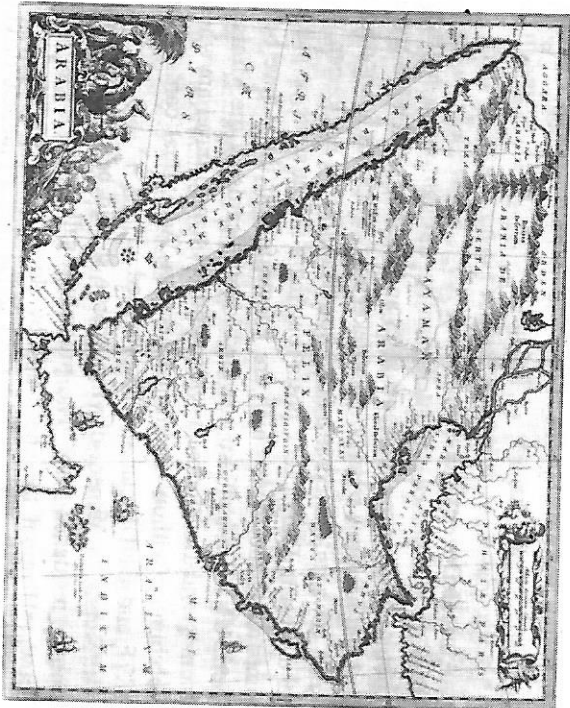
In Sana'a, a Yemeni driving license should be obtained after securing a residence visa. The procedure calls for a visit to the Al-Throwra Hospital for check-ups by doctors of various departments, followed by a theory test (and sometimes a practical driving test as well!) at the traffic police office. Yemeni driver's licenses are valid for 5 years.

If you have a Yemeni driver's license you can obtain an international driving license from the local AAA agent in Sana'a. This license is valid for six months in most countries.

In Aden, an international driver's license is recognized, but has to be stamped by the Aden Police before it becomes valid. To acquire a local driving license by presenting a valid national driving license is a procedure that requires several weeks to complete.

23.0 Travelling in the Country

To appreciate Yemen's considerable natural beauty, one has to leave the city and explore the countryside. While the main roads are well surfaced and travelling them is a comfortable experience, taking to the rugged mountain tracks in a 4-wheel-drive vehicle is an adventure well worth the effort. The serpentine mountain roads offer breathtaking views into *wadis* lined by countless man-made terraces.



Universal
travel & tourism



العامية
للسفر والسياحة

Your guide throughout Arabia Felix

Addresses

SANAA: HEAD OFFICE: Saif Bin DHI Yazen Street - P.O. BOX 10473
Tel. 275028/29/30 - Fax 01-274150 - Tlx. 2688 - Sita: Sahitoyg Sahdmrj

TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
Bowmia Street, P.O. BOX 10473 - Tel. 272861/2/3
Fax 272384 - 275134 - Tlx 2369 - SANAA

BRANCHES:

HODEIDAH: Opening in 1994

MUKALLA: Opening in 1994

ADEN: Maduram Street, Almualla - Tel. 02243475 - Fax 02221148
TAIZ: Jamal Street, Alakaba - P. B. No 5324 - Tel. 04 225384

AIRPORT OFFICES:

SANAA: Tel. 344057

SEYUN: Tel. 09844222

MUKALLA: Tel. 09621137

Visit the barren eastern mountains with their fascinating rock formations and be awed by the encroaching desert's sand dunes! Dive into the clear waters of the Red Sea or the Indian Ocean or explore the tropical flora and fauna of the lower wadis with their clear monsoon streams and unique settlements and cultures!

And if you like the offbeat, don't miss the experience of crossing the desert 'Ramlat as Sabatayn', on the southern corner of the Ruba-al-Khali, between Marib and Shabwa, the shortest way to the famous Wadi Hadhranaut. An experienced local guide-cum-guard is a must for this trip and can be hired in Marib. Or you could follow the ancient Gold and Incense Road along the edge of the desert, stopping at the road stations of yore. Both trips have only become possible after unification, since these interesting parts of the country lie in the formerly sensitive border area. It is possible to book such trips with a local travel agent who can provide a car with a driver, and a local guide/guard. The security situation should be checked beforehand.

To enjoy the varied scenery, explore mysterious historical sites, marvel at the architecture, and most of all to meet the people, many of who maintain their original ways of life, is an unforgettable experience. And wherever you go, children will appear - curious, boisterous, and sometimes quite annoying! You don't need to give in to their demands for pens, money or other things, just show some good humor and they will love you!

Alas! Travel restrictions in force at the time of writing may well hinder you experiencing this aspect of life in Yemen. To many who have had the pleasure and privilege of being able to travel freely and without fear in this wildly beautiful and hospitable country, this is an irreplaceable loss.

24.0 Photography

Children may sometimes ask you: "sora?" - "photograph?" This can be a welcome opportunity to take pictures, but the girls you were especially keen on "shooting" may be shy and run away. Men are quite willing to have their picture taken, but be more cautious with

women! Photographing women, even if veiled, is considered very rude. Also be careful not to photograph military sites, airports or harbors, which are restricted security areas.

Despite the restrictions, Yemen is a photographer's paradise. Some of your shots of traditional activities, like ploughing with the help of a donkey or grinding sesame with a camel, have potential historical value, because the old ways, now still widely observed, are destined to become things of the past!

25.0 Your Departure

You should have no difficulty selling your household goods, especially the ones not readily available here. Newly arrived foreigners are always looking for things they still need and Yemenis are particularly eager to buy from foreigners. You can sell to friends and acquaintances and post a list at the leading supermarkets or advertise in the English newspapers.

According to a new arrangement, UNICEF bears shipping costs for one container with personal effects. A dependable agent in Sana'a is Yemen Packing and Forwarding at the southwestern part of the Ring Road beside the petrol station, Tel. 208897/98. In Aden, packing and forwarding is mostly handled by Thabet Sons & Co., Ma'alla, Tel. 243177

Air tickets should be re-confirmed and bank accounts can be closed without difficulty. Transportation to the airport will be arranged by the UNICEF office.

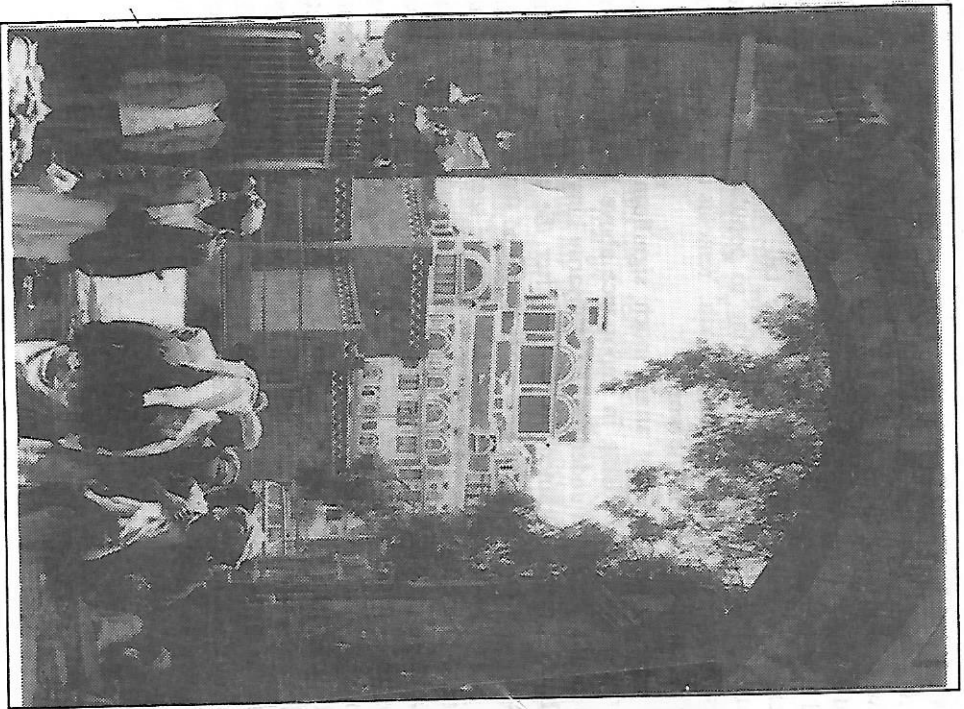
Living and Working in Sana'a

26.0 Introduction

It was never easy to reach Sana'a, the "Hidden Jewel of Arabia", situated as it is in the heart of mountainous Yemen. Yet those who did take upon themselves the tiresome journey on donkey or camel-back were awed and inspired by the tall, beautifully decorated houses of the age-old city. According to popular legend, the city was founded by Shem, the son of Noah. Yemenis thus claim it to be the oldest living city in the world.

Yet, Sana'a did not attain much significance until the first Christian centuries. Rising in importance above Marib, it became the capital of Yemen under the last Hinyarite king at the end of the fifth century and attained full bloom after the coming of Islam. Except for short intervals, Sana'a has remained the capital city.

"*La budda min Sana'a* - Sana'a must be seen ..." are famous words first attributed to Imam Muhammad Al Shafi'i (768/820), the founder of the Shafi'i school of Islam. Generations of visitors have expressed their admiration for the city in countless pieces of literature. And the Old City continues to inspire foreign residents and tourists alike who enjoy the genuine oriental air of its markets and narrow lanes, and the unique architecture. Harold Ingrams, who came to Sana'a in 1934 to negotiate the Anglo-Yemeni Treaty, described the town as "the greatest Arab city I had seen - unspoiled by European influence".



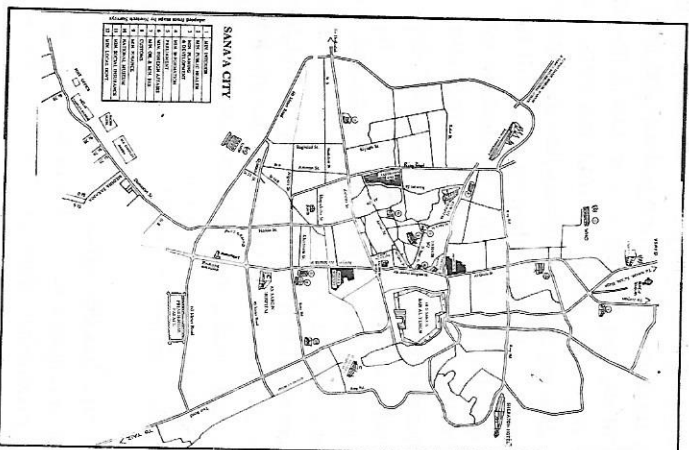
Bab-al-Yemen and the walled city of Sana'a

Until the outbreak of the revolution in 1962, Sana'a's seven gates were shut each night at 8:00 p.m. Only one gate - Bab Al

Yemen - remains intact, and part of the ancient wall still stands along Zubeiri street. In December 1984, UNESCO declared Old Sana'a a World Heritage City, signalling the start of the Campaign of Safeguarding the Old City.

After the revolution, the capital burst its confines and frantic building activity caused real estate prices to rise astronomically. By 1984, the city had expanded to ten times its original size, and from 1962 to 1986, the population grew from 34,000 to 427,150. As rural emigration continues and due to the return of Yemeni emigrants from Saudi Arabia, the population of the capital is now estimated at one million.

27.0 Plan of the City



The plan above shows only the major roads and landmarks. You can make your own notations on the pull-out map provided.

27.1 Physical Layout

Sana'a lies in the Sana'a basin at an altitude of 2350 m. Mount Nuqum in the east, the Hadda hills in the south and the 'Asr ridge in the south-west form natural boundaries. Further expansion is possible only along the Taiz road in the south, and to the north in the direction of the airport. The Sa'ilah, a dry river bed, cuts north-south through the city and becomes a torrent after heavy rainfall.

The old walled city had the shape of a butterfly, and at its juncture lies the modern city center, Al-Tahrir Square, or Liberation Square. Inner and outer Ring Roads facilitate traffic and most of the main roads are well paved. The eastern part of the Old City has not been touched at all by modern construction activity and thus remains the organic settlement of past centuries. The Old City has about 40 mosques, some of which sport beautiful minarets, making for a distinct skyline. Beyond Bab Al Yemen lies its commercial center, Suq Al Mith. Another old *suq*, albeit smaller, still functions in the former Jewish quarter, Al Qa. In the modern city, shops and commercial establishments line many of the main streets. The most-frequented shopping areas are Abdul Moghni Street and Jamal Abdul Nasser Street, both starting at Tahrir Square.

Industries line the Taiz, Hodeidah, Saada and Airport roads. Modern and cost-conscious construction has led to the abandonment of traditional materials such as clay and brick and has encouraged the construction of small multi-storied apartment houses. However, besides cement and steel, the traditional stones remain in high esteem and are still widely used in combination with the beautiful stained glass window arches, giving the city its attractive, clean-cut aspect.

A posh housing area has developed to the south towards the village of Hadda. Many foreigners rent villas in this area and a number of embassies have established themselves there. The guarded Hadda Complex with the American Community Center offers lavish

furnished apartments with a tennis court and swimming pool. Children's playgrounds and parks with sparse vegetation can be found in various areas. Two amusement parks, one behind Hadda Cinema and one in Ath-Thawra Park on the airport road, have become popular attractions for families with children. On two days a week both facilities are only open to women and children.

27.2 Getting around

The ever-increasing number of cars sometimes leads to severe congestion during the rush hours. Yemeni drivers may seem reckless but it does not take too long to adapt to their way of driving. There is a limited bus service, but the *dhabbab* (shared micro-bus) is the most common and cheapest means of public transportation. These vehicles ply fixed routes and can be flagged down. There are also many private taxis, but the fare should be agreed upon beforehand as they are not metered. Sana'a taxis have a black stripe on both sides (For inter-city transportation see Appendix I).

There are at least nine types of vehicle license plate:

- White:** Temporary, customs-exempted (aid projects, private cars of eligible foreigners)
- White with red square:** Diplomatic
- White with red numerals:** Military
- Green:** Government
- Blue:** Private
- Red:** Private vans or lorries
- Yellow:** Taxis
- Black:** Private from the southern governorates
- Dark blue:** Police

Yemenis love driving their cars, even though vehicles are rather expensive because of high import duty. Motor cycles and bicycles are becoming more common. For city driving, a saloon is sufficient. A growing network of paved roads, now also connecting the

northern and southern parts of Yemen at various places, makes travel between main cities easy. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are mandatory for trips off the main roads, especially in the mountains, the desert and at the seaside.

28.0 Hotels

First-class hotels were built in Sana'a during the 1980s. Today, there are two 5-star, two 4-star, and a number of more modest hotels in the city (see Appendix E for hotel accommodation in the whole country). Apart from these hotels, the traditional *funding* in most Yemeni towns offer modest dormitory-style accommodation.

Hotels in Sana'a

NAME	CLASS	LOCATION	PHONE/ FAX	PRICES (1995)
Sheraton	5 Star	Dahr Hinyar Street	237500-3/ 251521	Single:\$ 220 Double:\$ 250
Taj Sheba	5 Star	Abdul Moghni Street	272372-3/ 274129	Single:\$ 190 Double:\$ 210
Plaza	5 Star	Algiers Street	205483 209750	Suits 1 or 2 Bed Rooms: \$ 230
Crown City	5 Star	Hadda Street	216181	Suits:\$ 125/night \$ 750/week \$2,700/month
Hadda	4 Star	Hadda Road	215212-4-5/ 263094	Single:\$ 95 Double:\$ 110
Panorama	4 Star	Riyadh Street	218974/ 201492	Single:YR.2070 Double:YR.3220
Al-Rawda Palace	3 Star	Al Rawda	340226-7/ 340226	Single:YR.1175 Double:YR.1430

Sam City Hotel	3 Star	Al- Qiyadah Street	276294-8/ 275168	Single:\$ 20 Double:\$ 25
Shaniri Plaza	3 Star	Abdul Moghni St.	272592 or 272604	Single:YR.1500 Double:YR.2500
Dar Al- Hamd	3 Star	Al-Hay Al-Izaya	203054-5/ 283117	Single:\$ 40 Double:\$ 50

Some hotels in traditional *funding* style have opened in the old city of Sana'a, in original houses modified for hotel purposes. They offer a unique living experience, at modest prices, in the enchanting environment of old Arabia. The popular ones are listed below.

Golden Dar		222949/ 230605	Single:\$ 15 Double:\$ 15
Taj Talha		237674/ 223921	Single:YR 850 Double:YR 950
Al-Qasmy Palace		273855/ 271997	Single:YR 850 Double:YR 950

Special rates for staff of UN organizations can be negotiated with most hotels. The Sheraton, Taj Sheba and Hadda hotels have health club facilities including swimming pool, sauna and fitness room, and the Sheraton has a tennis court as well. Coiffure establishments are located in Sheraton and Taj Sheba, and all three hotels have drycleaning services.

"House-sitting" for an expatriate on leave is an inexpensive alternative to a hotel while you look for your own house. Another possibility is to rent a furnished apartment or villa on a short-term basis through an estate agency.

29.0 Housing

The intense building activity in Sana'a has made many new, modern houses available. Unification and the return of Yemeni emigrants in

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Naukshout Street
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Telephone (09671) 205483
Facsimile (09671) 209750

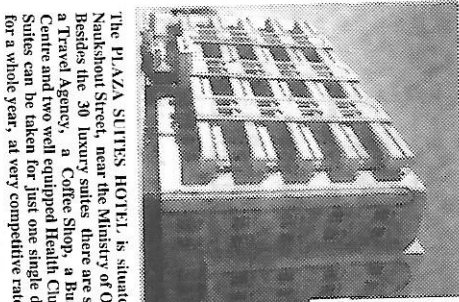


We are at your
service at the
AIRPORT

PLAZA SUITES HOTEL

All the LUXURY SUITES are fully furnished and carpeted and are equipped with cutlery, crockery and linen. The modern kitchens have fridges, cookers and all the necessary utensils and tools. The lounges, dining rooms, and both bedrooms are provided with high quality Italian furniture. Satellite TV and telephones are standard. Videos are also available. Suites are serviced daily by maids, while there is ample safe parking and 24 hour security.

The PLAZA SUITES HOTEL is situated on Naukshout Street, near the Ministry of Oil. Besides the 30 luxury suites there are shops, a Travel Agency, a Coffee Shop, a Business Centre and two well equipped Health Clubs. Suites can be taken for just one single day or for a whole year, at very competitive rates.



The Property Centre

The Property Centre, which was established in 1990, is the largest and most successful property company in Yemen, catering almost exclusively for expatriates. The company can provide villas and apartments in excellent locations; all have been suitably renovated to satisfy the highest western tastes and standards.

Villas and apartments can be leased for long or short periods at very competitive rates. For more details contact

Telephone: (09671) 215714
Facsimile: (09671) 225800
SANA'A - YEMEN



OFFICE OPENING HOURS
8 am to 1 pm and 4 to 7 pm, DAILY
Except Thursday afternoons / Fridays
LET US TAKE CARE OF YOU



the wake of the Gulf crisis led to a housing shortage and consequent rent increases. Rents went up dramatically beyond 1992, and landlords began insisting on dollar payments. Most foreign residents live in spacious 'villas' (one or two-storeyed houses with a garden), most of which are leased unfurnished. Furnished and unfurnished apartments are also available, many with utilities, satellite television and cleaning services included in the rent.

Having a garden around the house is worthwhile, especially if you have children. There is no better welcome than the cool, fragrant air of your garden when you come in from the dusty, noisy streets! And if you don't enjoy gardening, you can always hire a gardener to help.

The quality of houses has improved over the years. Kitchens may still be rather small, but there are always two or more bathrooms and a large *diwan* or *mafraf* which may boast fine stucco decor on walls and ceiling. Most houses are built of (or clad with) solid stone, and they all have flat roofs, which may leak during the rainy seasons if the house is very old. You will surely like and appreciate the beautiful stained glass windows, which compensate for the iron bars that mar the view but provide security. However, it can happen that the loudspeaker of the mosque nearby is aimed at your bedroom window; some cotton wool in the ears will soften this inconvenience, and you'll soon get used to it, anyway!

Although many foreigners prefer the Hadda area one may live anywhere in the city. Finding a nice, lively Yemeni neighborhood may be more rewarding than living in a wide, rather sterile street lined with high concrete walls, where no children play and neighbors seem not to care at all about each other. There are foreigners who go into raptures about the old-style Yemeni tower houses and move into the Old City or to Al Rawda, the garden city off the airport road. While offering modern sanitary facilities, these houses with their charmingly irregular features and individualistic decorations emanate an unrivalled air of the old. Each house is truly an original work and can offer a unique living experience. Besides, the air inside mud-brick houses is said to be especially healthy and it is

a fact that these houses provide far better insulation against heat and cold than the modern, cement-block type of construction.

UNICEF can assist in contacting real estate brokers and, when you have selected a house, advance you payment of a 6 - 12 months rent if insisted upon by the landlord, and help in preparing the lease. Villas at present rent between US\$ 1000 and 2000 per month (palaces for US\$ 5,000 and more are also available!), and are plentiful since some oil companies have packed up.

29.1 Furniture

Most expatriates import their furniture and buy additional requirements locally. There are many carpenter's shops in the city, but the furniture they produce is generally of mediocre quality and rather expensive. There are also shops selling furniture imported from Europe and the far East, but these tend to be expensive.

29.2 Utilities

The ever-increasing demand for electric power in Sana'a forces the power corporation to rotate electricity supply to different districts for an hour or so every few days. Better have candles ready and keep your flashlight at hand! Locally available gas, petroleum or kerosene lamps are a great help. Since there are fluctuations in the power supply, a voltage regulator for sensitive machines like computers etc. is a must, and you can buy them here.

Electric storage heaters provide hot water and butane gas is preferred for cooking. It is advisable to keep a spare gas cylinder as a standby, as there are occasional gas shortages. Besides, your gas is likely to run out at 9 p.m. just as you are heating the meal for your guests...

The city water system is constantly being extended. There are also privately-owned wells which provide water to houses in the neighborhood. Water is stored in a tank at ground level and pumped to another tank on the roof of the house. The quality of the water is generally good, as all water comes from a deep underground reser-

voir. However, according to some studies, the reservoir may be depleted in less than 10 years! It is one of the most pressing challenges to provide the ever growing capital with water from alternative sources. Water supply is not always regular in some areas, but tanker vehicles are readily available when needed to augment your normal supply. It is considered wise to boil and/or filter your drinking water or buy it in bottles or cans.

30.0 Importing Personal and Household Effects

Household effects normally arrive at the port of Hodeidah within 4 to 6 weeks from the United States or Europe. UNICEF handles the clearing procedure, a lengthy process of 2-3 weeks that requires dozens of signatures and stamps! Household effects arriving within 6 months of your arrival in Yemen may be imported duty-free.

31.0 Household Help

Many foreigners and well-to-do Yemenis employ household help. Most of the larger villas have accommodation near the gate for a watchman, who often also works as a gardener. The building may also serve as lodging for a maid, who is usually provided free room and board. Maids often come from Ethiopia, Somalia or Djibouti. Among Yemenis it has become fashionable to employ household help from the Philippines or India. Good cooks are hard to find, and a maid may need training before she can cook the kind of food you like. Cleaning women can be hired by the day. Salaries vary according to personal arrangements. Some indicative figures:

Watchman/gardener:

8,000 - 12,000 YR/month
At the time of writing, UN international personnel stationed in Yemen may hire two guards and be reimbursed upto a total of US\$ 600.

Maid or nanny:

10,000 - 12,000 YR/month, 5 hours a day, 5 days a week (or 100 US\$). East

Asian help are usually paid US\$ 200 to 300 plus room and board for six day's work per week.

Cleaning woman: 800 - 1000 YR/month, 3 hours, once a week.

32.0 Banking

Banks operating in Sana'a are listed below with their telephone numbers:

Central Bank of Yemen	274371/3
International Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank	275373
Yemen Bank for Reconstruction & Development	271623/4
Yemen Commercial Bank	213662-6
BRANCHES OF FOREIGN BANKS:	
Arab Bank Ltd.	240921-29
Banque Indosuez	272801-3
United Bank Ltd.	272424

Most UNICEF international staff have Rial and Dollar accounts with the Arab Bank at Zubeiri Street. Payments for goods and services are still largely effected in cash. However, the use of cheques is gradually becoming more widespread and many of the supermarkets in town will accept your local currency cheque without question. Foreign currency can be sold or bought at the current market rate at any of the authorized money changers in town.

33.0 Restaurants

Traditional Yemeni restaurants, called *mata'am*, are found all over the city. They are frequented only by men and have a simple character, although efforts to improve the decor are being made constantly. *Mata'am* are cheap and the food is fresh and hot. Foreigners are always welcome and often treated with special consideration. In the morning, Yemenis eat *foul* (bean mash) or *beidh ma'a tomat* (scrambled eggs with tomatoes) together with bread and hot, sweet tea. At lunch time, meat (chicken, beef, mutton) and fried fish is available with vegetables and rice. Fresh salads should be avoided. The evening diet is *foul*, *kibda* (fried liver) or *lahm soghar* (small fried pieces of beef). Special tiny restaurants serve only *hulbah*, a typical north Yemeni dish, and women sitting at the doorsteps sell home-made bread to be eaten with it. Fish restaurants offer whole baked fish from the oven with bread and *sahawig* (spicy, cold tomato sauce). The fish may be burned on the outside, but the inside is always delicious!

Since unification, and especially since the return to Sana'a of thousands of Yemenis in the wake of the Gulf war, new restaurants, along with bakeries, workshops and laundries, seem to have sprung up everywhere. Below is a list of restaurants which have for one reason or another become relatively well known.

NAME	LOCATION	TYPE OF FOOD
SHERATON HOTEL	Dahr Himyar St.	International, Chinese, Indian, Coffee shop, Happy Hour
TAJ SHEBA HOTEL	Abdul Mogni St.	International, Friday brunch, business buffets, Coffee shop
HADDAD HOTEL	Hadda St.	International, Egyptian

DAR-AL-HAMID HOTEL	Al-Hay Al-Izaya St.	Arab/Yemeni
AL BUSTAN	Near Bab Al Balaga	Arab/Lebanese
AL HALWANI	Zubeiri St.	Arab/Yemeni
TOURISTIC	Hadda St., near Hadda Village	International, Arab
KOREANA	Hadda Area	Far Eastern
CONCORDE PASTIERI	Hadda St.	International
AL-MESBAHI TOURIST	Hadda St.	Lebanese
ARAB NIGHTS	Old Airport Rd.	Arab/Yemeni
AL FANOOS	Djibouti St.	Arab/Lebanese
QASR AL SADR	Noukhot St.	International
AL JABAL	Hadda St.	Arab
1760 PHILIPPINE RESTAURANT	60 Meter Road	Far Eastern
MANKAL CHICKEN TIKKA	Amman St.	International
SAM CITY HOTEL	Al-Qiadah St.	International
More Western style fast food restaurants have opened recently, where you can enjoy your hamburgers, french fries, pizzas or fried chicken. Some of them are:		
CHIC	Hadda St.	Fast food
AL NORAS	Hadda St.	Fast food
RAINBOW	Hadda St.	Fast food
KENTKI FRIED CHICKEN	Zubeiri St./Ring Rd. corner	Fast food

BIG BITE	Hadda St.	Fast food
MARO	Maro 1: Al Qasr St. Maro 2: Djibouti St.	Fast food

Both Sheraton and Taj Sheba Hotel have night clubs.

34.0 Shopping and Services

In general, Yemen is not considered a cheap country for foreigners to live. But the fall in value of the Yemeni Rial on the free money market (where it is about eight times the official rate), gives foreigners earning hard currency an advantage. Local goods become relatively cheap, whereas imported ones may still be double or three times as much as in their country of origin, making them prohibitively expensive to most Yemenis. Despite the worsening economic conditions, you will still be surprised at the range of goods available in the shops in Sana'a. But poor you, should you happen to be looking for a particular item! Surely you will find it one day, but only after you have scoured the market, or imported it!

There are no department stores, and small, specialized retail shops characterize the main shopping areas. Some new, multi-storey shopping malls reminiscent of those found in other Arab countries have recently opened as well. Small wholesale shops are to be found all over the city, especially handy for bulk purchases of items such as toilet paper or tinned milk.

Christmas Shopping

I am so excited about the gift that I managed to find for my husband. He loves old carpets and I spent three days in the sug of the old city looking for something special. On the last day when I was beginning to give up hope of finding anything at all, I came across this tiny shop off the main path and inside a dark, side street.

There were two old men sitting on some dirty rugs, chewing qat and watching the world go by. I asked what they were selling

and they seemed quite surprised by my silly question! The rugs, of course! I looked at them and they were terribly over-priced and not attractive at all. I indicated that I was looking for something special for my husband and proceeded to have a chat. They were most interested in the family and thrilled when I showed them photos of Rob and the boys.

One old man then said he had a special rug in his house and did I want to see it? Of course I did, so off we went past goats, camels turning the oil presses, and little children playing and chasing each other down dirty, narrow alleyways. Finally he stopped and began to bang on this great, ancient iron knocker on a small wooden door. We were now right in the heart of the old city. There was a shout from his wife on the other side and once he had properly identified himself we were let in. It was like walking back in time! The house must have been centuries old. All stone, with narrow passages, steep stairways and low arches through which we had to bend to enter. We climbed right to the top where there was this dark room with about ten rugs piled one on top of another. I found a three meter runner and the old man kept telling me how precious it was! I bought it in spite of the fact that it has three small tears along the side which were crudely fixed but which lent the carpet a certain air of respectable age. I also told the old man that if my husband didn't like it, I would return it after Christmas. He agreed, but as it turned out, it was the perfect gift! It is very rare to find good carpets in Sana'a and I was very lucky to have discovered this little hole in the wall shop!

34.1 Food

It is worthwhile to get to know the local grocer, who may not have a vast variety of goods on his shelves, but is just round the corner and is open till late at night. He may also get you eggs, sugar or flour in times of scarcity. Some supermarkets cater especially to foreigners (Brothers, Dhamran and Paradise on Kharoun Street, Al-Alimi on Hadda Street, and City End in the Hadda Complex). While usually well stocked, they may occasionally run out of some items between shipments.



The government wants to keep up a steady supply of basic foodstuffs such as flour, wheat, sugar, rice, at subsidized prices. The 1984 ban on imported fruits had the effect of promoting horticulture in the country. Fruits like banana, mango, papaya, grape, apricot, peach, apple, orange, grapefruit, and even strawberry, are grown locally and are rather small in size but very tasty, and sometimes are rather expensive. A large variety of fresh vegetables is available, too.

The local consumer industry which developed after the revolution has placed many basic foodstuffs on the market. Mineral water, juices, soft drinks, milk (both UHT and fresh), yoghurt, biscuits and sweets of various kinds are available in abundance.

Meat accounts for nearly a third of total food imports. Live cows and sheep are brought from neighboring Ethiopia and Somalia

and frozen meats are imported from New Zealand, Australia and India. Butchers generally don't use freezers but chop the carcass to the customer's liking. The meat is examined at the slaughterhouse before delivery to the butchers. Two shops on Zubeiri Street cater more to the needs of the foreigner. Frozen meats, including poultry, are sold at most supermarkets.

The main fish market is located in al-Qa, but there are several shops in other locations (eg, opposite Brother's Supermarket off Khartoum Street, or Al-Asima Fish Center on Zubeiri Street sells deep fried fish, shrimps and crabs to take home). Fresh fish, notably kingfish and red snapper, as well as prawns, arrive daily from the coast.

Yemenis are known throughout the Arab world for their excellent baking. Small bakeries make a variety of crisp breads, buns, rolls and flat loaves of various sizes. Tasty home-made breads made from whole flour are sold by women in different parts of town. The best sweets are sold in shops run by Lebanese. Try Al Hashimi, Moka, and L'Amour on Hadda Street, Al-Jandool on Zubeiri Street or Queen Sweets on Qasr Al-Jumhuri Street. Good ice cream is sold at Penguin and L'Amour on Hadda Street.

Arabia would not be Arabia without spices! You get an idea of what it must have been like in olden times when you enter the spice *sug* in the Old City. Myriads of spice shops have sprung up all over town, selling goods hygienically packed in plastic bags. You may not find your "Herbes de Provence", but it is worthwhile exploring the large variety offered, from cumin to *saffron*. The Yemeni curry powder, called *hawaj*, is used in most Yemeni dishes and a dash of it will give your cooking just the right local flavor. Some of the shops will roast and grind coffee for you with a handful of spices. Boil *Qishr* (coffee husks) for at least half an hour with ginger, pieces of cardamom and cinnamon and a lot of sugar. These spices will also add flavor to your tea!

In the evenings tasty snacks such as *samboosas*, *shawarma* (pieces of roast beef mixed with salad and spicy sauces rolled into bread), *kabab* and *moutabbakkiya* (a kind of fried bread or *paratha*) are prepared in stalls outside the restaurants. *Dijaj mashwi*, freshly-roasted chickens, are also sold.

34.2 Household Items

The large supermarkets offer a range of cleaning materials and other utilities. Several shops sell kitchen wares (the largest one is at Qasr Al Jumhuri Street) from France, Germany, and Italy. While good china is rarely found, plastic utensils, manufactured in Yemen, are sold in the Bilqis-al-Yemen stores.

34.3 Clothing

Traditionally, clothes are made by tailors and seamstresses. The colorful displays of soft and shiny fabrics for women's clothing especially strike the eye. Expatriate women may also have their dresses made in one of the many ladies' tailor shops, or at one of the expatriate dressmakers in town. While there is a limited selection of models, one can also bring along an old piece to be copied. Other shops sell material for men's suits or tailor the long, one-piece *galabiyas* from white cloth. Ready-made clothing (yet no facilities to try them on) as well as shoes are available on Jamal Abdul Nasser Street, Abdul Moghni Street and all over town in a variety of qualities, mostly imported from Far Eastern or Middle Eastern countries. Neat children's clothes, especially for the younger ones, are to be found as well, cotton ones becoming more frequent nowadays. A limited selection of layette (for babies' needs) can be found at Chicco on Khartoum Street, Children's Paradise on Abdul Moghni Street opposite the post office and in various shops on Abdul Nasser Street.

34.4 Personal care items

Arabs love fragrances, and no wonder you find many perfume shops in Sana'a! These also sell cosmetics, which are quite cheap compared to Europe or America. Shampoos, shaving cream, tooth paste, face creams, and moisturizing sticks are freely available. Facial and footcare creams are essential in the dry climate. Baby's disposable diapers and lady's sanitary napkins are sold in the supermarkets.

34.5 Personal care services

There are men's barber shops all over town. Their services are quick and inexpensive. For women, the hairdressers in the big hotels are recommended. Yemeni women traditionally have their hairdressers come home, however, more recently, ladies' coiffure shops have opened in various locations.

34.6 Books, magazines, periodicals

There are two Arabic dailies, "Ath-Thawra" (former North Yemeni government paper), and "14 October" (former South Yemeni government paper). A whole range of weeklies has appeared after unification, most of them affiliated to one of the newly-formed political parties. Since unification, censorship of the local press has been lifted, leading to a refreshing new freedom of expression and the opportunity to publicly expose social and political grievances is taken seriously by the media. Publications from outside, however, are still subject to censorship and may be banned at any time for political or other reasons.

The selection of English language books offered in the bookshops and stationers is rather limited and often consists of second hand books. There is an English Bookshop on Qasr Al-Jumhuri Street offering some English children's books as well as specialized books. Arabic/English and English/Arabic dictionaries are available. Newsweek and Time Magazine are usually available, while international newspapers, such as the Herald Tribune, Financial Times, USA Today, Arab News, etc., may occasionally appear on the market.

The only local English language newspaper is the weekly Yemen Times. One may receive foreign publications by mail without difficulty.

34.7 Appliances

It may be best to import your major appliances (washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, freezer, refrigerator, microwave oven) which when available can be expensive in the local market. The washing machines commonly sold are the non-automatic type (combination wash tub and spin dryer). Butane gas stoves are used universally

since bottled gas is subsidized by the government and cheaper than electricity. An electric heater, gas or kerosene stove is quite useful during cold winter nights. Since the temperature in San'a seldom exceeds 30 degrees C, and the climate is always dry, air conditioning is not necessary but fans may be needed. A wide selection of multi-band radios, television sets, video recorders (multi-system) and stereos is sold in the many electronics stores around town. Repair shops should be carefully scrutinized before entrusting them with your equipment.

34.8 Photographic supplies and equipment

Cameras are sold in most electronics stores. Color photo labs abound and the quality of their work is reasonable, though variable. Black-and-white films and printing facilities are not available. Slide films are sold in some shops, but you cannot normally have them processed here. Many small studios produce passport pictures and family portraits with fancy backdrops.

34.9 Music and video

Music tapes are available in small shops where a bewildering array of disco, Arabic love songs, Hindi film tracks, Western classics and country western music lines the walls. Music tapes are very cheap, since they are not originals, but the quality may be poor. Copies of your favorite music can be made on the spot. Phonograph records are not sold, but a small selection of compact disks may be found in the shops.

To rent a video tape from any of the video libraries in town one needs first to become a member. Both VHS and Betamax tapes are available, but the quality is often poor. For this reason foreigners prefer to exchange video tapes among themselves, and some expatriate groups operate their own libraries. Any material containing pornography or scenes of nudity or intimate behavior is prohibited in Yemen.

34.10 Cars

You are entitled to import duty-free one private car during your assignment to Yemen. This should be done as soon as possible after

your arrival. While waiting for your car to arrive, you may rent a UNICEF vehicle after office hours at the established UN rate (you must have a driver's license). Once your vehicle arrives, it must be stamped into your passport every 6 months, and a year's insurance is essential.

Japanese cars like Toyota, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki are the most popular. Cars are expensive, so it is recommended to import one or buy from a foreigner who is leaving. A 4-wheel-drive vehicle is not necessary in the city, but essential if you plan to tour the country off the main tarmac roads. Generally, in view of the recent increase in the frequency of car hijacking, it is advisable not to buy the latest model Toyota Land Cruiser.

There are many small repair shops but few of the mechanics are formally trained. In Yemen, everyone is a *muhandis* (engineer) if he can handle a screw driver! Spare parts may not always be readily available and one should import a set of essential spares with the car. Some new, well-equipped automobile workshops have recently opened, such as the Yemen-Austria Company (tel: 614090/-614091, fax: 614092), located off Taiz road, Shumaina area, opposite the big qat market.

34.11 Souvenirs

Browsing through the old *sug* can be rewarding for the visitor in search of old and exotic items. Silver jewelry, daggers, guns, pieces of old handwritten Korans, coins and other curiosities may be trophies for the collector. But be careful of imitation "Himyaritic" statues and the like. Silver jewelry and jambiyahs (curved daggers) with colorful, embroidered belts are the most popular souvenirs from Yemen. While some genuine pieces of old silver ornaments can still be found in the *sug*, most of the jewelry is "white metal" or E.P.N.S. *Jambiyas* were traditionally manufactured by assembling parts made by four separate craftsmen, and although one can still see some of these craftsmen at work in the *sug*, some of the parts are now being imported. The most precious part of the dagger is the handle, which if made of rhinoceros horn, is extremely valuable. A variety of intricate knives with silver-handles and

sheaths is also available in the small shops of the old *suq*. Nowadays cow's horn, artificial amber and even plastic have replaced rhinoceros and giraffe horn. The cheapest jambiyah outfits cost around 800 YR.

Efforts are being made to revitalize cottage crafts. A handicrafts center has been established in the first restored caravanserai of the old city, Samsarat Al Nahas. Crafts like silversmithing, wood carving and leather work are taught here. The shops in the basement sell the finished products and a lot more. A Women's Handicraft Center is operated in the old city near the Fuleini mosque. They sell nicely embroidered clothes, cushions and tapestries. Traditional basketry, some pottery and other items are sold in small handicraft shops. Watch for exhibitions of rural women's handicrafts held once in a while by certain projects. The richly embroidered traditional dresses and women's trousers with narrow embroidered ends are attractive and in great demand by foreign women.

There is no tradition of carpet weaving in Yemen. Rugs made from goat's hair or sheep's wool and shawls and bedspreads made from cotton were traditionally woven here, but out of 35,000 weavers in 1962, only 50 have survived the competition from cheaper, imported synthetics. However, some genuine Yemeni woven fabrics with colourful stripes can still be found in the old *suq*.

Arts like painting, drawing and sculpturing have only developed in Yemen in modern times. The best known art shops are No. 1 Gallery on Khartoum Street and the National Art Center (the restored Samsarat Al-Mansuriya) in the old *suq*. Don't miss the splendid view from the roof top and enjoy a cup of tea up there! They feature various artists, Yemeni and foreign. Other galleries are the Yemen Gallery, Dammoun Gallery, and Arab Gallery. Many a scene of Yemeni life expressed in oil, aquarel or pencil can be bought to decorate your walls back home. Occasionally, artists from among the expatriate community organize private exhibitions of their work.

34.12 Alcoholic beverages

As Yemen is a Muslim country, the consumption of alcohol by the local population is strictly forbidden. However, UN and diplomatic missions are permitted to import a quota of alcoholic drinks twice a year. While a foreigner may drink alcohol in his own home, he is not permitted to carry or transport alcohol, nor may he serve alcohol to Yemenis.

34.13 Home improvements and repair

Two vocational training centers provide training to young people in various technical fields. Electricians and plumbers, while not easy to come by (as is the case everywhere!) can be contacted through electrical and plumbing supply stores.

Yemenis are well-known for their building skills, of which the beautiful houses are ample evidence. There are many building contractors in Sana'a and the hardware and paint stores around town are well stocked with materials of generally good quality. A wide range of brand-name hand and power tools is available. There is ample scope for the do-it-yourself expatriate to express himself! However, if you are not so inclined, discuss your needs with the landlord who will usually be willing to help out in any way he can.

34.14 Duty free shops

There are no duty-free shops or hard-currency shops in Sana'a. You may bring in your personal effects duty-free but only within the first 6 months. For goods imported later, one should be prepared to pay customs duty.

35.0 Clothing

Sana'a's altitude of over 2,000 m makes for a pleasant climate year-round. It is generally warm and dry with temperatures seldom exceeding 30 deg. C. It can be quite dusty, especially before the rainy seasons, when strong winds raise dust from the dry fields. When it rains, mostly in March-April (the "small" rainy season) and July-August ("big" rainy season), the temperature falls and the

humidity rises, making one feel fresh and invigorated. Galoshes (gumboots) are useful as the ground gets very muddy during the rains and many of the side streets are unpaved. In winter, from November till January, temperatures may drop to below freezing at night, and it will be uncomfortably cold in houses and offices, even if the strong winter sun warms up the air outside to 20-25 deg. C. during the day.

Cotton wear is preferable during the warm season, although most Yemenis prefer to wear synthetics. During the winter, warm clothing becomes necessary especially as houses are not centrally heated.

The Islamic dress code is strict. Foreign women should respect local sensibilities and dress modestly in public, but they are not required to veil or wear a headscarf (although a light scarf is often quite practical because of sun, wind and dust!). Skirts should be of reasonable length and the arms generally covered. Trousers are acceptable, too, preferably with a long blouse. Yemeni men in the highlands always cover their arms and legs and wear some kind of headdress, while lowlanders (including Aden) often wear short sleeves because of the hot and humid climate. Shorts for men are not appropriate in any part of the country. When trekking, the very strong sunlight has to be taken into account and a hat or headscarf as well as an ample supply of sun blocking cream should never be forgotten. Appropriate evening wear for formal receptions should be taken along, too.

36.0 Communication

The main post office at Tahrir Square is open from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. except on Fridays. Letters and parcels can be posted from there or from any of the smaller post offices in the city. There is no mail delivery and letters are received at the customers' Post Office Boxes. UNICEF staff may receive mail at the UNICEF post box, no. 725. Parcels are checked by customs officers and a number of stamps and signatures may be required before delivery.

UNICEF staff can send and receive personal mail, including

newspapers and magazines, through the weekly UNICEF diplomatic pouch to New York.

While the telephone system is efficient and dependable there is a shortage of new lines in certain areas. The Yemen International Telecommunications Co. Ltd. (in association with Cable and Wireless, Alcatel and others) operates a modern and reliable international direct dial (IDD) system via satellite with instant connections to nearly every part of the world. At present, the cellular network covers Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden, Mukalla and Al-Gheida, and more areas of the country are being added. Unfortunately this review is temporarily suspended as of end 1994. Telexes and faxes can be sent from Yemen Telecommunications offices in town, or from the UNICEF office. Booths to make international phone calls are also provided.

37.0 Health Facilities

Many impressive accomplishments in the field of health have been made since the revolution. Health services in imamic Yemen were virtually non-existent, and the few hospitals operated by a handful of heroic foreign doctors are said to have been in a hopeless state.

The health system in the YAR was developed with the assistance of friendly countries and international organizations like UNDP, UNICEF and WHO. Health professionals from around the world work side by side with Yemenis. There are many foreign-trained Yemeni doctors and Sana'a University has its own medical faculty. Yemeni doctors outnumbered their foreign colleagues for the first time in 1986. Doctors who have to work a certain number of years in public establishments also practice privately during the afternoons and charge reasonable fees for their services.

There are a number of public and private hospitals and clinics in Sana'a. The services of a UN Medical Officer are available to UN staff and dependents. The clinic is located in the UNDP building off the southern Outer Ring (60 Meter) Road, Telephone 215505; working hours: 0830 to 1330 except Thursdays and Fridays.

37.1 Specialists:

Cardiologists: Dr. Mohammad Al Noami, tel. 241201/206364
Dr. Nasser Munibar, 266165

Dentists: Dr. Ina Makki, tel. 206840
Dr. Mohammad Radman, tel. 283879
Shehab Dental Center, tel. 205580

Dermatologist: Mrs. Bahani, tel. 272464

E.N.T.: Dr. Mohammad Alkateeb, tel. Res.272581,
201444, 227399
Dr. Abdul Wahab H. Nassr, tel. 240490

Gynecologists: Dr. H. Al Irtani, tel. 235977
Dr. Nina Nasher, tel. 240257
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khazan, tel. 612272/3

Pediatricians: Dr. Abdo Rahman Al Muayyed, tel. 270781
Dr. Abdul Rahman Ishaq, tel. 271996
Dr. Tariq Sinaan, tel. 208081

Radiologist: Dr. Reddy, 206924

Surgeons: Dr. Ali Aljuma, tel. 215083, 242513
Dr. Shamoun, tel. 222637
Dr. A. Hadrani, tel. 234463, 240279

37.2 Hospitals in Sana'a:

AL-JHAWRAH HOSPITAL (public, general)	Bab Sahaun	246971-3
KUWAIT HOSPITAL (public, general)	Kuwait St.	203382-4

JUMHURI (REPUBLICAN) HOSPITAL (public, general)	Zubeiri St.	202191-3
MILITARY HOSPITAL (public, general, esp. for military personnel & their families)	Bab Shu'ub	222513/4
AL-SABAIN HOSPITAL (public, esp. for women and children)	Sabain Square	262216
SAIDA HOSPITAL (private, general surgery, urology)	Al-Hurriyah St., opposite Ministry of Planning & Development	223970/1
AL-MOAYYAD CLINIC (private, general surgery, urology, gynaecology)	Airport Road, Hasaba	231947/8
AL-KHAZAN NATIONAL HOSPITAL (private, general surgery, gynaecology)	Bir Obaid, Taiz Road	612272/3
NESHWAN HOSPITAL (private, surgery, urology, orthopedics)	Taiz Road, nr. 60 Meter Road	210065
RED CRESCENT HOSPITAL	Off Hadda St.	203131-3

The Yemen Drug Company (YEDCO) produces a range of basic medicines. Pharmacies have varying stocks of medicines, but you are advised to bring along special medications or drugs you need regularly. Spectacles and contact lenses are available in specialized shops.

38.0 Schools

Educational institutions under the Imam's rule were basically Koranic schools, with the exception of two government schools in Sana'a to train administrators. After the revolution, a modern 3-tier educational system was established consisting of 6 years of primary school, 3 years' preparatory school and 3 years' secondary school-

ing. Sana'a University was founded in 1970 and grants a Bachelor's degree after 4 years of study. Since 1984/85 a 2-year Master's course can be completed in certain subjects.

Schooling in government schools is free for all citizens, however, books and uniforms have to be paid for. According to the Constitution, education is the right of every citizen, but enrolment, especially in the countryside, is at the discretion of the parents. The low primary school attendance (20%) and high dropout rate of girls confirms the belief that girls don't need an education is still prevalent.

Crowded classrooms (up to 100 children per class in Sana'a), the use of strict and often outmoded teaching methods and the tradition of learning by rote make local public schools quite unattractive to foreigners. A number of private Yemeni schools have been established in recent years, run under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, which have smaller classes, better equipment and often run an English section. These often include nurseries and pre-school classes and cater to the wealthier families.

Foreign schools and nurseries, which may be more suited to the needs of expatriate children, are briefly described below:

Sana'a International School (Tel. 234437): pre-school through secondary (5-17 yrs.), 200 children, teachers are American and international, fees: US\$ 9,000 per year, American curriculum, accredited to the Middle States Association of Schools & Colleges, USA.

British School (Tel. 215478; Fax. 215477): pre-school through 4th grade (4-10 years), 46 children, teachers are British or American, fees: US\$ 5,000 per year, British curriculum.

French School (Tel. 206694): nursery through 12th grade (3-16 years), 140 children, teachers are mainly French, fees: FFr. 13,000 or 16,000 per year, French curriculum, supervised by the French embassy.

Pakistani School (Tel. 243673; 247830): nursery through 11th grade, secondary level (3-16 years), 1100 children, teachers are Pakistani and international, fees: 24,000 YR per year, Pakistani/British curriculum, run by the Pakistani Embassy.

Indian School (Tel. 241188): nursery through 10th grade, secondary level (3-16 years), 200 children, teachers are mainly Indian, fees: US\$ 520 per year, Indian curriculum, English medium, run by the Indian embassy.

Mary Anne's Nursery School (Tel. 205020): age 2.5 to 5 years, 40 children, teachers are British, fees: US\$ 500 per 3-month term, run according to U.K. nursery standards.

Montessori Pre-School (Tel. 215630/1/2/3): age 2.5 to 5.5 years, 20 children, teachers are British and international, fees: US\$ 1150 to 1750 per year.

38.1 Sana'a University:

Foreign students studying at Sana'a University have to do an entrance examination and must master enough Arabic to pass the tests in Arabic which are compulsory in all faculties (even English Literature). Sana'a University (new): 250504-9 and 250553; Sana'a University (old): 200514-6 and 70531.

38.2 Institutes

Arabic classes for foreigners are offered by:

Yemen Language Center (tel. 285125) located off al-Qa' Square

Yemen International Languages Institute (tel. 206917) on Hadda Road in the Al-Gharazi Building

Sana'a University (tel. 250524), Ring Road

English:

British Council (244121/2)

Yemen American Language Institute (YALI) (203251)

French: French Cultural Center (271666)

German: for adults and children: German School (tel. 247922)

Computer & Secretarial Training:

The Business Connection Institute (tel. 213747/8)

Spectra Institute (tel. 414623)

39.0 Religious Institutions

Mosques may with permission be visited by non-Muslims. There are no churches or synagogues in northern Yemen. Protestant services are held on Friday mornings at the Hadda Community Center. Mass is held on Friday evenings at Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity and on Sunday afternoons at the Hadda Community Center.

40.0 Recreation**40.1 Parks, Playgrounds, Public Happenings**

Public recreation facilities are scarce in Sana'a. On Fridays Yemeni families flock to the few green parks and children's playgrounds that exist in the city, or visit nearby scenic spots like Hadda or Wadi Dhahr.

Sana'a's two amusement parks, however, have some nice facilities like merry-go-rounds for children, bumper cars, and ferris wheels. For two days in the week the facilities are reserved exclusively for women and children. The bigger one is Ath-Thawra Park located along the Airport Road (enter from Amran Road), the smaller one is Sabain Park, between Hadda Street and Khamsa Warbaeyn (45) Street.

There are two sports stadia in Sana'a, one in the city center on Qasr Al-Jumhoury Street, the other, bigger one on Amran Road. Soccer is very popular, and games are often held in one of the stadia.

Official parades or demonstrations are held at the spacious Sabain Square, where there is a permanent stand reserved for officials.

40.2 Museums, Exhibitions, Cultural Performances

The National Museum in the Dar as-Sa'da (Imam's palace) near Tahrir Square is of great interest. Here are displayed pre-historic, Sabeian and Himyaritic finds and there is an Islamic section and an ethnological exhibition.

The Military Museum on Jamal Abdul Nasser Street documents more recent history, focusing on the revolutionary struggle.

The Archeology Section at Sana'a University has its own museum exhibiting a number of antiquities as well as the only mummy so far discovered in Yemen.

An exhibition of Quranic manuscripts at the Dar Al-Makhtutat located near the Grand Mosque in the old city can only be visited by arrangement. It houses precious, old Quran fragments that were found in the Grand Mosque of Sana'a.

A permanent handicrafts exhibition is housed in the building of the General Corporation for Tourism in the western part of Tahrir Square. It displays crafts, dresses, paintings, drawings and jewelry from various parts of Yemen.

Art exhibitions as well as exhibitions of handicrafts made by various women's groups are often held either at Jamal Abdul Nasser Hall in the old University on the western Ring Road, in the Cultural Center of the Ministry of Culture on St. No. 16 off Amir Street opposite the Ministry of Justice, or at the public library Dar al-Kutub on Seif Bin Dhi Yasin Street. Watch for announcements!

Music and dance performances, staged by Yemeni as well as visiting foreign troupes, are held in the hall of the Centre for Yemeni Studies on Baghdad Street. Various embassies organize classical or folk concerts staged by professional teams from their respective countries, usually at one of the hotels. Occasionally, a circus visits Sana'a for a few weeks.

Abu Yonis, a sister company of the Yemen Language Center located off Al-Qa' Square (Tel. 285125, Fax 967-1-289249), offers

lectures and audio visual presentations on a wide range of topics relating to Yemen and the Arab world. For large audiences or receptions, it can hire the National Troupe for Popular Arts to present a live show of Yemeni music and dance.

40.3 Television, Video Clubs, Cinemas, Libraries

Two television channels, Sana'a (Channel 1) and Aden (Channel 2) entertain and educate the public in Arabic. Daily English News are broadcast at 19:30 on both channels and after 10:30 on Channel 2. Occasionally, an English programme may appear on either channel, but there are no prior announcements in English. To fans of Arabic music, songs and dance, as well as Egyptian soap operas, t.v. offers a great variety.

Satellite TV reception, now available to those who can afford (at \$600 - 2000) the installation of a dish and receiver, has greatly widened the range of available programmes.

Video shops offer a range of English language films to their members, but the quality of the tapes is often rather poor.

Two cinemas, Cinema Bilquis on Abdul Moghni Street and the Hadda Cinema Complex on Hadda Street, show Arabic, Western and Indian movies. They are, however, exclusively the domain of males!

The Yemen American Language Institute (YALI, tel. 203251), located off Baghdad Street, Street 15, has a library of English books and video tapes.

The British Council (tel. 244121/2, 244153/4/5/6) on Sabain Street has a spacious new library including educational videos, and offers a film programme once a month.

The American Institute of Yemeni Studies (AIYS, tel. 242236), located between Zubeiri Street and old airport road, has a rich collection of documentation on Yemen available for members, as well as occasional lectures.

The Centre for Yemeni Studies on Baghdad Street houses a library where any publication on Yemen in Arabic or foreign languages should be included and can be viewed there.

The French Cultural Centre (tel. 271666), located off Al-Amir Street (or Al Adl Street), Street 8, has a library of French books and organizes film evenings and occasional exhibitions.

40.4 Clubs, Sports Facilities, Societies

Many expatriates engage themselves in cultural activity which involves most of the nationalities represented in Sana'a.

The Sana'a Singers holds musical events and welcomes anyone with vocal talents. (tel. 215327)

The Sana'a Amateur Music Society (SAMS) stages plays and musicals.

The British Embassy Club on Saif bin Dhi Yasin Street has a tennis court, pool table, darts, swimming pool, and children's jungle gym.

The Cable and Wireless Club at the International Yemen Telecommunications compound on Amran Road, opposite the UNICEF office has a swimming pool, tennis court and playground.

The Indian Embassy Club on Shawkani Street, opposite the Italian Embassy has badminton courts, table tennis and a clubhouse for darts, carom and theatrical and musical events.

The Hash Harriers welcome anyone who wants to stay fit and at the same time explore the countryside around Sana'a to a hike on Monday afternoons. Children can come along, too. (See announcements at City End Supermarket)

The Taj Sheba, Sheraton and Hadda hotels offer yearly memberships in their fitness clubs with sauna, jacuzzi, swimming pool and fitness center. The Sheraton also has tennis courts available to club members.

The Diplomat Club (tel. 217466) on Hadda Road behind the Hadda Cinema has a fitness centre with bikes and stepmachines and offers aerobics classes (special clothing on sale!) and Tae Kwon Do training (the latter especially for children). Karate, Judo and self defence courses can also be organized on request. Zarine Watson's popular fitness classes feature step aerobics - ask around for details.

For women:

The International Women's Association (IWA) welcomes any women to a programme every second Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the Taj Sheba Hotel, and occasionally organizes outings and visits to places of interest.

The American Women's Group (AWG), which is also open to all women, presents a programme every third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Taj Sheba Hotel. It also organizes bazaars and offers many interest groups and events for women and their families.

Interesting courses like batik, painting, sculpturing, handicrafts, gymnastics, etc. are organized by talented women. You, too, can do something if you have a special skill, or watch for announcements if you are interested in an exciting new hobby!

For children:

Children can join the Brownies or Girl Scouts clubs for many interesting activities (tel. 215241).

Awana Club, which meets Friday afternoons from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Hadda Complex Auditorium offers Bible teaching as well as games, singing and other activities to children ages 3-12.

Private activities may be organized for children as well. Anybody who can teach ballet, music, handicrafts and the like will find many opportunities to keep busy and perhaps earn some pocket money, too!

Charity:

Expatriate women can also do something for charity here in Yemen. Both women's groups, IWA and AWG, raise money through various programmes and activities which they donate to various charities. A women's group meeting every Monday afternoon makes Christmas items from donated materials and gives the money earned to charitable groups in Yemen.

If willing and capable, expatriate women may also actively support one of the Yemeni women's societies who do voluntary work.

SOFD (Social Organization for Family Development) has a comprehensive programme in support of a group of Akhdam women who live in a shanty town near Asr off Zubeiri Street. Their women rehabilitation centre (tel. 214099) offers literacy training, health and hygiene training, medical services, sewing and basket weaving courses as well as child attention for the children of women trainees. It has recently opened a production unit help poor people generate extra income.

The Yemeni Women Voluntary Society runs a women's training centre, supports the Women's Handicraft Centre in the Fulethi area of the old city of Sana'a and cares for ladies in prison. It occasionally organizes interesting fundraising events like women's parties, barbecues or fairs where expatriate women have lots of opportunities to socialize with Yemeni women, many of whom can speak English and other languages well!

The Mother Theresa Home, located on Street 26 off Taiz Road, which cares for physically and mentally handicapped children and adults, can be supported by private donations of clothes, towels, soaps, and children's toys.

Living and Working in Aden**41.0 Introduction**

A black, volcanic massif jutting into the blue waters of the Gulf of Aden, the Aden peninsula lies on the south-west coast of Arabia, 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab al-Mandab. Because of its strategic location on the trade route between India and Egypt, its protecting backdrop of mountains and its sheltered anchorage, Aden was settled by man far back in history. The Old Testament, in Ezekiel 27:21-23 (6th cent. B.C.), mentions Aden among the trade partners of Tyre, a Phoenician port on the Mediterranean Sea.

The old city of Aden is situated in the crater of a dead volcano. An elaborate system of rainwater storage tanks, partly cut out of the living rock, is the oldest evidence of human activity. Aden is believed to have been the main harbor of the pre-Islamic kingdom of Awsan, and after its annexation by the kingdom of Saba at the end

of the 5th century, it continued to play an important role in connecting Africa with the Gold and Incense Road of Arabia.

Boasting a population of 80,000 in 1276 A.D. (according to Löffgren), Aden flourished as an entrepot for the trade between India and Europe via the Red Sea and Egypt even in Islamic times. However, when in 1498 the sea route to India around Africa was discovered, the Europeans started to trade with India direct and Aden's importance declined. While Mokha on the Red Sea experienced its heyday as Yemen's main commercial center for the coffee trade, Aden, by 1839, had been reduced to a village of 600 souls living in some 100 houses amidst the rubble of older buildings in the crater.

The modern boom of the old port was staged by the British who, for military and commercial reasons, began to appreciate this natural harbor located midway between Bombay and Suez. They seized the peninsula in January 1839 and transformed it into the 19th century's third-largest harbor after New York and Liverpool. As a bunkering station and a free trade zone it attracted not only immense sea traffic, but also a mixed population who all found ample opportunity for work. The 138,000 inhabitants in 1955 comprised Adeni Arabs, immigrant Yemenis (many merchants came from Mokha after its decline), immigrants from the Protectorates, Indians, Africans (mostly Somalis), Europeans (mostly English), and Jews.

The presence of these different communities created a distinct Adeni culture, which contrasted sharply with the sleepy cities to the north, which experienced little development until nearly a century later.

Stagnation and deterioration, however, later overtook Aden as the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen which came into existence after the British withdrawal in 1967. Independence coincided with the closure of the Suez Canal; nationalization of businesses and property and the subsequent exodus of many entrepreneurs sapped the city of its life-blood and Aden once again declined into insignificance. When the Suez Canal opened again, some eight years later, world trade routes had altered substantially

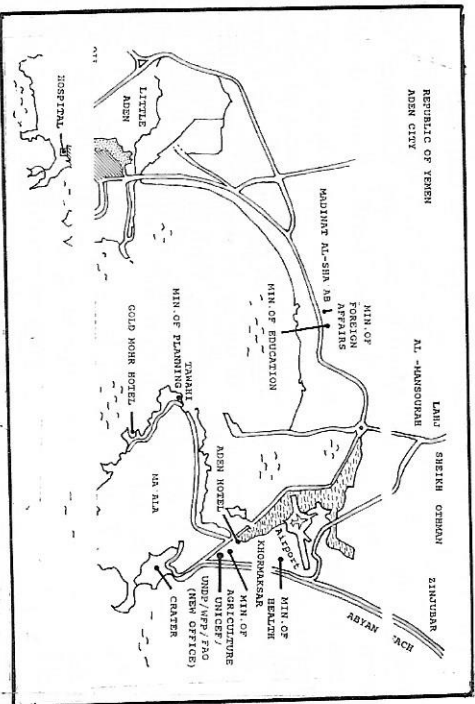
and Aden's services as a middle-distance fuelling port had become outdated. The failure of the state-run economy eventually led to civil strife and economic stagnation.

For many years there have been ambitious plans to establish a free-trade zone and to take advantage of the port's excellent location to attract container transshipment traffic. By transshipping at Aden, main-line ships calling at the port can save three days in comparison with the extra steaming required to reach the Gulf path.

Investment in Aden's first deepwater alongside berths started in 1988, with the Ma'alla Multi-purpose and Container Terminal opening in 1991, providing five new berths. Future development plans for the North Shore in Aden harbour include more berths and deepening the port to 16 meters (deeper than almost all ports in the Middle East.) Meanwhile, a number of port management firms have shown strong interest in the future of the port and one of them is re-establishing its ship fuelling services. With increasing traffic through its port, Aden looks poised to position itself as the "economic and commercial" capital of Yemen.

Recent oil finds in the south are giving the economy a much-needed boost. The largest operating in the south is Canadian Occidental (CanOxy), with its phenomenal drilling success rate, upto March 1993, of 76 percent. Its Masila project is now sustaining a production rate of 135,000 bpd. With the company's ongoing training programme, 60 percent of the workforce has been "Yemenized".

42.0 Plan of the City



42.1 Physical layout

The Aden peninsula is flanked to the east and west by large bays. To the east is the old city and harbor, called Crater. Just offshore is Sirah Island, a triangular rock with a castle. Eastern Bay silted up before the British came, and in 1860, the old harbor was replaced. The modern harbor lies between the peninsulas of Aden and Little Aden and measures about 15 km east-west by 7 km north-south.

The Tawahi (Steamer Point) and Ma'alla sections, built in European style under British rule, lie on the banks of Western Bay, separated from Crater by the mountain ridge of Shamsan (1725 feet).

Tunnels cut through the rock lead from Ma'alla to Gold Mohur.

The isthmus of Khormaksar connects the peninsula with the main land and the city quarters of Sheikh Othman and Al-Mansourah in the north. Most foreign representations as well as houses occupied by expatriates are located in Khormaksar, a short distance from the airport. Little Aden is the site of the oil refinery constructed by the British.

42.2 Getting Around

A bus or shared taxi costs 5 to 10 Rials a trip. Car rental can be arranged through the Aden Hotel, but is expensive. A private car is a great asset, not only for getting around town, but for trips outside Aden as well.

43.0 Hotels

The Aden Hotel, reopened in 1990, has once again given Aden a hotel of international standard. The Crescent in Tawahi used to be very popular during the British period.

NAME	CLASS	LOCATION	FAX, PHONE	PRICES (US\$)	
				Single	Double
Aden Hotel	5 Star	Khorma- ksar	232947 232911 232070	207	252
Gold Mohur	3 Star	Tawahi	204171	96	118
Crescent	2 Star	Steamer Point	203471	35	50 68
Ambassador	1 star	Steamer Point	204403	25	35
Rock Hotel	1 star	Steamer Point	202266	33	33

Shams Hotel	(New)	Steamer Point	202040	60	80
-------------	-------	---------------	--------	----	----

The Sailor's Club at Tawahi is one of the very few establishments which accept local currency. Currently, the cost is Y.R.1,000 per person and it has been renovated.

The best value at the time of writing is the Shams Hotel, located just behind the Gold Mohur. It is spartan, but comfortable and clean. It's disadvantage is its distance from town (14 Kms).

44.0 Housing

All houses except a Yemeni's primary residence were nationalized. Construction of housing after independence was slow and the shortage of houses became acute and chronic. Many of the houses were damaged in the 1986 and 1994 clashes and others fell into disrepair. Although a foreigner can choose to live anywhere in the city, suitable accommodation is still limited to the Khormaksar area, near the UNICEF office.

45.0 Utilities

Aden has dependable electricity and water supplies. The electricity is 220 volts AC, 50 cycles. As air conditioning is required for at least half the year, electricity costs tend to be high.

The city water supply which comes from tube wells north of Aden, is considered safe. However, because of the water's high mineral content, many foreigners prefer to drink bottled water.

Appliances deteriorate rapidly due to the humidity and corrosive salt content of the air. Electrical appliances are expensive in the local market and the choice of brand and type is limited.

46.0 Household help

One may employ a maid, often from Somalia or Ethiopia, to help with the cleaning and cooking. Salaries vary from Y.R. 8,000 to 15,000 a month according to the number of hours worked, but don't

expect outstanding efficiency! A high standard of cleanliness is required to keep away ants, cockroaches and flies, all of which thrive in this climate!

47.0 Banking

The main banks are the National Bank of Yemen and the recently opened branches of the International Bank of Yemen, the Indo-Suez Bank, the Arab Bank, and the Yemen Commerce Bank. Foreigners can hold external (US dollar) accounts. While it is always possible to exchange dollars for Rials, the reverse can be cumbersome.

48.0 Restaurants

All the main hotels in Aden serve food. The Rock Hotel in Tawahi, although not particularly famous for its cuisine, offers a beautiful view over the harbor from its top-floor restaurant. Apart from the hotels, the Ching Sing (Chinese) in Ma'alla and the Nashwan (Lebanese) in Tawahi. Some local restaurants, though not very appealing from outside, offer good Yemeni food. Fish, the Adeni staple, is served everywhere, and *hulban*, "imported" from the north, is available in some establishments.

New restaurants include Candies at Khormaksar, which serves a mix of Yemeni and Lebanese food (informal and fairly inexpensive); the Corniche Restaurant and Fast Food at Khormaksar - American style burgers, fish and chips and great pizza (also good steak and fish). There is also a new Lebanese-style restaurant called Jewels set in a lovely location at Steamer Point's corniche area, overlooking the sea. Food is good, but portions are small. Gaining popularity among expatriates is Ali's Bunsen Burner, a local restaurant in Crater just behind the meat and fish market. Open-air, cheap and delicious food local-style. Just up from Ali's is the Red Sea Hotel which is also cheap and friendly. Many new popular restaurants cropped out after the war and offers good food.

49.0 Shopping and Services

49.1 Food

A wide range of foodstuffs from the north became available after unification. But even basic commodities have doubled or trebled in price, severely straining South Yemeni family budgets and prompting demands for higher salaries. Fresh vegetables and fruits are sold at private stalls, and fish, crabs, lobsters, and prawns are sold by the fishermen themselves through government outlets. Mutton, beef and chicken are available at the local markets, while imported frozen meats, duck and turkey, are available at the Victory stores.

49.2 General supplies

It is expected that most of the commodities available in Sana'a (see Chapter 34) will soon appear on the Aden market also. In the past, foreigners (and Adenis!) made occasional shopping trips to Taiz and Sana'a.

49.3 Personal care services, home repairs

There are a number of barber and hairdresser shops but the latter are of a rather low standard. There is a hairdressing salon at the Aden Hotel and a ladies' hairdresser at Nashwan in Tawahi.

UNICEF can help locate contractors to carry out various home repairs, but the standard of workmanship is mediocre.

49.4 Importing Household Effects

Household effects of UNICEF staff are normally sent by air. They usually arrive within a week and are cleared by the UNICEF office in a week or so.

49.5 Cars

UNICEF international professional staff are entitled to import a private car duty-free within 1 year of arrival in Aden. It is advisable to order through UNICEF or through agents in Jeddah or Djibouti. Second-hand cars are sometimes available from departing foreigners. Selling one's car locally may prove difficult because the prices

offered are generally rather low. Common makes are Toyota, Peugeot and Suzuki, but spare parts for these vehicles are scarce and the work done by local garages is often unsatisfactory.

49.6 Souvenirs

A handicrafts industry catering to tourists hardly exists yet and few shops sell such items. Local crafts include basketry (notably from Lahaj and Hadhramaut), rugs made of goat hair or sheep wool, handwoven *futahs* (men's skirts), and some antiquities. A simple but original item to bring home from South Yemen is the "Bainai chair", or *hadwa*, a handwoven belt placed around one's back and knees for support while sitting on the floor. Yemeni silver crafts (jewelry, jambiyahs) are available, both old and new. The largest silver shop is located in Harat Hussein in Crater. Almost all the silver and gold smiths of Aden came from Hadhramaut, but northerners are about to penetrate the lucrative gold trade as well.

50.0 Clothing

As the climate in Aden is hot and humid all year round, light-weight clothing, preferably cotton, is worn. *Jambiyahs*, an indispensable part of male attire in the north, are hardly worn by southerners, and in fact are forbidden in Aden. The traditional men's outfit (very comfortable at home, too!) is the *futah*, a long skirt wound around the waist and worn with a short-sleeved shirt. Normal office attire is the short-sleeved safari suit, which can be tailored locally. Shorts should not be worn, except to the beach.

Adeni women are famous for their progressive attitudes. Many have jobs and wear western-style clothes without covering their hair. After unification, however, the veil is being increasingly adopted because of mounting conservatism. The veil, *shadar*, is a length of black cloth wound around the head and body and held together from inside with one hand. In the home and at women's parties women wear the *dura*, a long, light, gown which is tucked at the waist into an embroidered underskirt. Foreign women may wear anything that is not offensive to Islamic sensibilities, such as long cotton dresses.

skirts, trousers and modest blouses. Cocktail dresses are often worn by women at evening functions, though men tend to dress casually even on official occasions. A light Western suit, however, will be useful from time to time.

While a range of material is available and some tailors are highly skilled, foreigners often prefer to import their clothes. The selection of ready-made apparel is rather limited and not of the best quality. It is best to import a range of clothing, including swimwear. A light sweater, jacket or shawl will be useful in December and January, when the evenings are cooler. Warm clothes are necessary for trips to the highlands (including Sana'a), especially in winter and during the rainy seasons.

51.0 Communication

Post offices located in all city quarters are open from 0800 to 1300 hours. While there is a local delivery service, foreigners use the P.O. boxes of their respective organizations for receiving mail. Airmail to and from Europe takes between one week and three weeks and from Asian countries slightly longer. UN personnel may use the weekly diplomatic pouch to New York, FAO pouch to Rome or WHO pouch to Geneva - for personal letters only!

The local telephone system is adequate, but new private lines are difficult to obtain. Before the war, Aden was part of the cellular telephone network, owners of portable cellular telephones could access other cellphone owners anywhere in the network, as well as the national trunk system. Since the war, however, the system has not been operational.

International lines with direct subscriber dialling are now more readily available. Card-operated international calls - reasonably priced, fast and reliable - can be made from Tele-Yemen's new facility in Maalla.

52.0 Health Facilities

In contrast to North Yemen and the Protectorates, health and social services in Aden were quite advanced by the end of the 1950s. The

Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Khormaksar was recognized as one of the finest in the Middle East. After independence, the government of the PDRY was faced with the awesome task of setting up an adequate health system for the whole of the country. By 1988, 32 hospitals, 24 health centers and 2 maternity centers had been established (Statistical Yearbook of the PDRY.) Of 729 physicians practicing in the country, 622 were Yemenis. The nursing profession was made attractive through high wages, and male and female nursing staff receives good training in the Higher Institute of Health. Aden University has its own faculty of health.

Despite their achievements, there is a serious shortage of specialized doctors and qualified nurses. The number of East European personnel working at Al-Gunhouriya Hospital (former Queen Elizabeth Hospital) has dwindled, but a highly-regarded Chinese medical team still practices in the hospital in Crater. The new, modern Aden Hospital was completed in 1993, and now it is fully operational.

A number of private clinics have opened and there is a diagnostic and X-ray centre at Barzec Clinic in Khormaksar. The Aden Clinic has opened recently and enjoys a good reputation locally.

A UN doctor is available to UN personnel from 0800 - 1300 Saturdays to Wednesdays and is on 24-hour emergency call, but dental care is still not adequate. In view of the inadequacy of local facilities, expatriates with serious illnesses may be evacuated.

53.0 Schools

Some good educational facilities were established during the British period and Adenis had the opportunity to go to school much before their brethren in the north and in the protectorates. In 1956, 10,000 pupils, including girls, were enrolled at free government schools in Aden and some 50 were receiving higher education abroad at government expense. When PDRY was founded, education received priority attention and great strides were made. In 1988 (Statistical Year Book of PDRY), there were 38 kindergartens, 989 unified schools and 62 secondary schools in the country, as well as a number of

vocational and specialized institutes. One of the main objectives was to eradicate illiteracy, which was 90% in 1967. By 1983, illiteracy had been reduced to 40%, and during the same year, a 6-month campaign was launched, involving all teachers and secondary school students, to target the remaining, mostly female, non-literates.

The local school system was different from that in the north. It consisted of 8 years unified school (compulsory and free of charge) and 4 years secondary school. There are also vocational schools for technical training in health and education. Girls and boys were educated together at all levels, and the number of females studying at Aden University were almost equal to the number of males. However, after the war segregation have been started. Non-Arab foreigners usually don't consider sending their children to local schools because of crowding, curriculum and language.

54.0 Religious Institutions

There are two Catholic churches in use. The church in Crater has a service on Fridays and the renovated church in Tawahi holds services daily.

Christchurch in Tawahi is undergoing major reservations and includes a health clinic to serve the local community. Meanwhile, Friday morning services are held at a private residence in Khorma-ksar.

55.0 Recreation

Arab cultural activity in Aden is very lively. Music, dance and theater performances attract large audiences, a sign of the Aden's worldliness and love of culture. Arabic and foreign plays in Arabic are staged frequently. Cinemas featuring Arabic, Western, and Indian films are popular. Aden television (Channel 2) occasionally runs programmes in English, including Western films.

Many Adenis regularly visit clubs, where disco music (sometimes played by a live band) can be heard all evening. Gold Mohur Beach has two popular clubs, the Yemeni Club and the Diplomatic Club. The latter is still popular with foreigners, but standards have

declined over the last few years. There is no longer an annual fee, simply an entrance fee. Many expatriates spend weekends at the public beach next to the club or to Wreck Beach, just behind the club.

The British Club left the scene, with the departure of B.P., and a popular gathering place for expatriates now is at the "Hog's Breath Club" (yes, really!) situated in the Canoxy compound at Abyan Beach Road. Darts, snooker, scrabble and beverages make for a homely atmosphere. The high prices at the Aden Hotel have resulted in a marked decline in patronage, except for the still-popular Happy Hour held every evening.

Swimming is the most popular sporting activity (for Yemeni men) besides football (soccer), which is a favorite of children who play in the streets and wherever else possible! A number of beautiful small, sheltered sand beaches all around the peninsula offer opportunities for swimming and other aquatic activity. There are some boats, but diving equipment has to be imported. The Bureika Club in Little Aden has tennis courts and a football field.

For those who like hiking, a climb up Mt. Shamsan (1,725 ft.) is most rewarding. It offers a panoramic view of the peninsula and Bay of Aden. The Tawila Tanks and Sirah Tower are other spots for an outing inside Aden.

Parks have been few (one is near Nashwan Restaurant in Tawahi), but there are some playgrounds for children. A new park has opened at Abyan Beach (opposite the old UNICEF office) and although still incomplete at the time of writing, it is already proving to be a major attraction to local families, with its colourful slides and landscaped gardens overlooking the sea. Kiosks and food-stalls will open soon and further along the shore at Seera there is a familiar (if slightly incongruous) red-tiled roof appearing - yes, Pizza Hut has come to Aden! Further on in the direction of Seera, an ambitious adventure playground called Merryland is under construction and looks as though it could very well be Aden's own Disneyland!

Touristic attractions, besides Bazaar Street in Crater, are Aiderus Mosque, the Aden Minaret and the Archeological, the Ethnographical and the Military Museums, all in Crater.

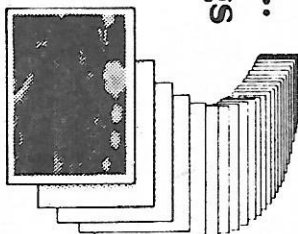
The foreign community has shrunk since unification and 1994 account conflict. Embassies were downgraded to consulates, and UN offices became sub-offices. However, business prospects are good and the number of foreigners is on the increase again.

Parties, festivals and numerous other functions are organized officially or in private.

Arabic lessons have become popular amongst expatriates, although this may have something to do with the plight of a group of French travellers, who decided to spend a day on one of the more secluded beaches, reachable only by sea. Local fishermen took them there by boat and left. The arrangement was to pick them up just after sunset, but as night fell (and all food and drink was gone), the helpless tourists realized that there had been a "communication problem". This was confirmed when the cheerful fishermen came to pick up the weary travellers just after sunrise!

Part IV ABOUT UNICEF

UNICEF CARDS ... they say nice things about you before you write a word!



Because proceeds
from the sale of UNICEF
cards help UNICEF
help needy children in
over 100 countries.

UNICEF works with governments in developing
countries to establish programmes of long-range
benefit to children, combining health care, clean
water supply, nutrition, education and social
services.

What better way, then, to meet your holiday needs
than with UNICEF cards. When you buy UNICEF
cards, you express your special commitment to
children and help bring them the basics in life they
so desperately need.

UNICEF is unique among the organizations of the United Nations
in that it is concerned with a particular age group - children - rather
than a sector, such as education or industry.

UNICEF operates in 115 countries, and 80% of our staff work
away from headquarters. UNICEF got its acronym from the fact
that we started in 1948 as the UNITED NATIONS INTERNA-
TIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND. However, after
successfully helping the children suffering the effects of the second
world war, mainly European children, the UN extended and
broadened the organization's mandate. Now no longer merely an

"emergency fund", we were now able to address the problems of the larger number of children in developing countries like Yemen. So although we kept the UNICEF acronym, we are now called the United Nations Children's Fund. Recently we were also given the mandate to pursue the welfare and development of women.

The organization now operates an annual global budget approaching US\$ 1 billion. Each country receives support related to the size of its child population, the child death rate and the national income; the larger the first two and the smaller the third, the greater the amount of assistance. On this basis, Yemen will receive US\$ 12.5 million in assistance over the current programme period, 1994-1998. The UNICEF Executive Board has approved an additional amount of US\$ 12 million of supplementary funding, which is being sought from donors for specific projects.

The general public worldwide contribute more than 20 percent of UNICEF's resources, mainly from private sector contributions, the sale of UNICEF greeting cards and related products, and from special fund-raising events. The National Committees for UNICEF, our principal partners in the industrialized countries, have played a key role in fund raising.

56.0 UNICEF in Yemen

UNICEF established offices in the former PDRY and YAR almost twenty years ago. Our principal goal is to ensure the survival, development and protection of every Yemeni child as well as to ensure the well being and full development of Yemeni women.

More specifically, our work is focused on assisting Yemen meet its Year-2000 goals for children and women. These goals include reductions in child and maternal deaths, child malnutrition, and adult illiteracy, increases in the numbers of children completing primary education, and increases in access to safe water and excreta disposal.

56.1 UNICEF Country Programme

The UNICEF Country Programme 1994-1998 evolved from an analysis of the situation of children and women in Yemen.

Sectorally, UNICEF supports health (based on a primary health care approach and focusing on sustainability) and basic education (particularly girl's education, through the established school system as well as alternative systems.) Planning, advocacy, communication, social mobilization, monitoring and evaluation are key supporting components.

The first two years will be devoted to laying a solid foundation for achieving and sustaining the Year-2000 goals for children. Our aim is that Yemen will meet some of them as early as end-1995; by then 80% of infants should fully immunized (which is the coverage achieved nationally at end-1990), to have 80% of all cases of dehydration due to diarrhea treated by oral rehydration solutions, and to iodate all salt consumed in Yemen as a means of controlling iodine deficiency disorders (it is not well known that iodine deficiency disorders reduce mental ability, even if no goiter is visible, and are a serious problem in Yemen.)

A two-track strategy is being pursued with our counterparts: (1) work at the national level to achieve certain goals set at the National Population Conference, and (2) simultaneously support an integrated programme, with maximum community participation, initially in the four governorates of Abyan, Hodeidah, Ibb and Sana'a.

We expect that by helping to develop strategic alliances with communities, non-governmental organizations and the media, we can create the synergisms needed to advance the country programme towards its goals.

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY GOALS

- 1 Reduce the infant mortality rate from 130 to 60 per 1,000 live births;
- 2 Reduce the child mortality rate by 50 percent;
- 3 Raise immunization coverage among infants to greater than 85 percent and expand tetanus toxoid immunization coverage among women in the reproductive age group;
- 4 Reduce by half child deaths due to diarrhoeal dehydration;
- 5 Reduce by half the incidence of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-5 children;
- 6 Reduce by 33 percent the number of deaths among under-5 children due to acute respiratory infections;
- 7 Reduce the maternal mortality rate by 50 percent;
- 8 Raise life expectancy at birth from 46 years to 60 years;
- 9 Reduce total fertility rate from 8.4 to 6 live births;
- 10 Raise contraceptive use from (about) 3.5 percent to 35 percent;
- 11 Raise coverage of primary health care from 40 percent to 90 percent;
- 12 Expand basic education to reach an enrolment ratio of greater than 85 percent among the relevant school population;
- 13 Reduce the adult illiteracy rate to less than 30 percent among males and 50 percent among females;
- 14 Increase access to clean (safe) water to reach 80 percent of households as compared to 48 percent in 1991.

APPENDIX A Useful Words and Phrases

GREETINGS

as-salaam aleikum! peace be upon you (greeting)
 wa aleikum as-salam! ...and upon you be peace (answer)
 keif halkum? how are you?
 bikheir, al-hamdu lillah! fine, thanks be to God
 sabah al-kheir! good morning (greeting)
 sabah an-nur! good morning (answer)
 masa' al-kheir good evening (greeting)
 masa' an-nur good evening (answer)
 ma's-salaama! with peace! (good bye)

SHOPPING

aish tishit? what do you want?
 fi andak...? do you have...?
 min fadhlak, jib li kilu burtugal! please give me a kilo of oranges
 bikam hadha? how much is this?
 hadha ghalil! this is expensive
 hadha rakhis! this is cheap
 shukran kathiran! thank you very much
 afwan! you are welcome
 aye khidma? any service?

SOME CONVERSATION

min fein anta? where are you from?
 ana min Britania/Frenza/
 Almanya/Amrika I am from Britain/France/Germany/America
 keif al-Yaman? how is Yemen?
 al-Yaman balad jamil! Yemen is a nice country
 fi andak awlad? do you have children?
 andi bint wa walad I have a daughter and a son

mumkin shah/qahwa/barid? have tea/coffee/something cold?
 la, shukran! no, thank you
 ana mush fahim! I don't understand
 ana mush arifi! I don't know
 hadha tamam wa nuss! this is very good
 hadha mush tamam! this is not good
 fein al-barid/al-fundug/
 al-mat'am/al-nathaf/al-hamam? where is the post office /hotel/
 restaurant/museum/bathroom?
 ma fish! there isn't any
 ala jamb! stop here (e.g. to the taxi driver)
 yamin! right side
 yasaar! left side
 ala tool! straight on
 in sha'allah! God willing
 ma aleesh! never mind

NUMBERS

wahed	one
ithneen	two
thalatha	three
arbaa	four
khanza	five
sita	six
sabaa	seven
thamania	eight
tissaa	nine
ashara	ten
hidasher	eleven
ithnasher	twelve
thalatasher	thirteen
arbaatasher	fourteen
khamzasher	fifteen
etc.	
ishreen	twenty

wahed-wa-ishreen	twenty-one
ithneen-wa-ishreen	twenty-two
thalathreen	thirty
arbaeen	forty
khamzeen	fifty
sittteen	sixty
sabaeen	seventy
thamaneen	eighty
tissaeen	ninety
miya	hundred
miyatein	two hundred
thalath miya	three hundred
alf	thousand
ashara alf	ten thousand
miya alf	hundred thousand
million	million
miliard	billion

APPENDIX B

Overview of Commodity Prices

Reg: Regular (or Seasonal) Irr: Irregular Nev: Never
 Acc: Acceptable Mod: Moderate
 S = Sana'a, A = Aden. Prices are relative to local income

PRODUCT	AVAILABILITY			QUALITY			PRICE		
	Reg	Irr	Nev	Good	Acc	Poor	High	Mod	Low
FOOD									
Meat									
- Beef	S,A				S,A		A	S	
- Mutton/Lamb	S,A			S,A			S,A		
- Pork		A	S				A		
- Goat		S,A		A	S		S,A		
- Poultry (regular)	S	A			S,A		S,A		
- Other		S,A			S,A		S,A		
Fish	S,A			S,A			S,A		
Seafood		S,A		S,A			S,A		
Staples:									
- Rice	S,A				S,A		A	S	
- Maize		S,A			S,A		S,A		
- Flour	S,A				S,A			S,A	
- Bread	S,A			S	A				S,A
- Sugar	S,A				S,A			S,A	
- Potatoes	S,A			S,A			A	S	
- Other grains	S,A			S,A				S,A	
- Butter	S,A			S	A		S,A		
- Margarine		S	A		S			S	
Dairy									
- Milk									
- Fresh	S		A	S				S	
- UHT	S,A			S,A			A	S	
- Powdered	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Cheeses	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Yogurt	S,A				S,A		A	S	

PRODUCT	AVAILABILITY			QUALITY			PRICE		
	Reg	Irr	Nev	Good	Acc	Poor	High	Mod	Low
Vegetables									
- Carrot	S,A			S,A			S,A		
- Celery		S	A	S			S		
- Cabbage	S,A			S,A				S,A	
- Onion	S,A			S	A		A	S	
- Tomato	S,A			S,A				S,A	
- Peppers, etc.	S,A			S,A				S,A	
- Lettuce	S,A			S	A			S,A	
- Cauliflower	A	S		S	A			S,A	
- Radish	S,A			S,A				S	A
- Beetroot	S	A		A	S			S,A	
- Egg plant	S,A			A	S			S,A	
- Okra	S,A			S,A				S	A
- Fenugreek	S,A			S,A			A		S
- Beans	S,A			S	A		S	A	
- Peas	S	A		S,A			A	S	
- Potato	S,A			S,A			A	S	
- Spinach	S		A	S				S	
Fruits									
- Orange	A	S			S,A		S,A		
- Apple	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Banana	S,A			A	S			S	A
- Papaya	A	S			S,A		S,A		
- Grape	S,A			S,A				S,A	
- Pomegranate	S,A			S,A			A	S	
- Mango	S,A			S,A			S,A		
- Water Melon	S,A			S,A			S,A		
- Sweet Melon	S,A			S	A			S,A	
- Peach	S	A			S,A		S,A		
- Apricot		S,A			S,A		S,A		
- Fig	S	A		S	A			S,A	
- Quince	S		A		S			S	
- Strawberry	S		A		S		S		

PRODUCT	AVAILABILITY			QUALITY			PRICE		
	Reg	Irr	Nev	Good	Acc	Poor	High	Mod	Low
Clothing									
- Men's general	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Women's general	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Children's general	S,A				S,A		S,A		
- Shoes	S,A				S	A	S,A		
Drugs/Medicines									
- Over the counter	S,A				S,A		S,A		
drugs									
- Prescription drugs	S,A				S,A		S,A		
Eyeglasses									
- Spectacles	S,A				S,A		S,A		

APPENDIX C City Codes, Handy Telephone Numbers, ISD Codes

City Codes

Sana'a 01; Aden 02; Hodeidah 03; Taiz & Ibb 04; Mahwit 034; Mokha 046; Saada 051; Hajjah 07; Al-Beida 061; Al-Jawf & Marib 063

Handy Telephone Numbers (Sana'a)

Telephone Inquiries 118
International Operator 155
Local Operator 110
Telephone Complaints 113, 117
Yemen Telecommunication Ltd. 225594
Sana'a Airport (Tower) 250868
Sana'a University 250552-4
Chamber of Commerce 221061, 232361

Courier Services, Packing & Forwarding Agents

Aramex 208887
DHL 249878
Life Express 207885
Skypack 77310
Red Sea Packing 203692
Yemen Express 73946, 74572
Yemen Packing 208897/8

Banks (Sana'a)

Arab Bank 240921-6, 263187
Banque Indosuez 272801-3
Central Bank of Yemen 274371-3
Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank 207327, 207816/7
Industrial Bank of Yemen 207381/3
International Bank of Yemen 272920-3

Emergency numbers

Electricity 177
Water 171
Fire 191
UNDP Dispensary 215305
UNDP Doctor 240063 (residence)
Republican Hospital 222238/091
Al Thawra Hospital 246971-5
Red Crescent 203136
Police (Sana'a) 1111, 270439
Rescue Police 199
Traffic/Accidents 193
Criminal Investigation Dept. (C.I.D.) 274771/2

Rafdain Bank 275169
 United Bank 272426/7
 Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development 271623/4
 Yemen Kuwait Bank 240783, 272925

•Government Offices (Sana'a)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Protocol Office) 202594; Consular Section 202453
 Ministry of Interior 252701/7
 Ministry of Tourism 271970/2
 Ministry of Planning and Development 250101-4
 Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resources 202309, 202313
 Immigration Department 250761/3
 Customs Department 260381/2
 Inter-City bus transport 262111/3
 TV Station 250001/3
 Radio Station 200060/1

Catering Services

Arabian Catering Co. 217121
 Sheraton Sana'a Hotel 237500
 SSI 240764
 Taj Sheba Hotel 272372
 Yemen Catering & Services Ltd. 206902, 216012

International Dialling Codes and Time Differences (GMT)

Algeria	213 (-2)	Benin	229 (+2)
Angola	244 (-2)	Bermuda	1-809-29 (-7)
Argentina	54 (-6)	Botswana	276 (-1)
Australia	61 (+5)	Brazil	55 (-6)
Austria	43 (-2)	Brunei	673 (+5)
Bahamas	1-809 (-7)	Bulgaria	359 (-2)
Bahrain	973	Burkina Faso	226 (-3)
Bangladesh	880 (+3)	Canada	1 (-6.5 to -12)
Belgium	32 (-2)	Cayman Islands	1-809-94 (-8)
Belize	501 (-9)	Chile	56 (-8)
		China	86 (+4)

Colombia	57 (-8)	Libya	218 (-1)
Comoros	469 (-1)	Liechtenstein	41-75 (-2)
Costa Rica	506 (-9)	Luxembourg	352 (-2)
Cuba	53 (-8)	Macao	853 (+5)
Cyprus	357 (-1)	Malagas	261 (-1)
Czechoslovakia	42 (-2)	Malawi	265 (-1)
Denmark	45 (-2)	Malaysia	60 (+4)
Djibouti	253	Maldives	960 (+2)
Egypt	20 (-1)	Mali	223 (-3)
Ecuador	593 (-8)	Malta	356 (-2)
Ethiopia	251	Martinique	596 (-9)
Fiji	679 (+9)	Mauritania	222 (-3)
Finland	358 (-2)	Mauritius	230 (-1)
France	33 (-2)	Mexico	52 (-9)
Gabon	241 (-1)	Monaco	33-93 (-3)
Gambia	220 (-3)	Monocco	212 (-3)
Germany (W.)	49 (-2)	Mozambique	259 (-1)
Germany (E.)	37 (-2)	Namibia	264 (-1)
Ghana	233 (-3)	Nepal	977 (+3)
Granada	1-809-444 (-7)	Netherlands	31 (-2)
Greece	30 (-2)	New Zealand	64 (+9)
Guadeloupe	590 (-8)	New Caledonia	687 (+8)
Guam	671 (+7)	Nicaragua	505 (-9)
Guatemala	502 (-9)	Niger	227 (-2)
Guinea	592 (-7)	Nigeria	234 (-2)
Haiti	509 (-8)	Norway	47 (-3)
Honduras	504 (-9)	Oman	968 (+1)
Hong Kong	852 (+5)	Pakistan	92 (+2)
Iceland	354 (-3)	Panama	507 (-8)
India	91 (+2)	Papua New Guinea	675 (+7)
Indonesia	62 (+4)	Paraguay	595 (-7)
Iran	98 (+0.5)	Peru	51 (-8)
Iraq	964	Philippines	63 (+5)
Ireland	353 (-2)	Poland	48 (-2)
Italy	39 (-2)	Portugal	351 (-2)
Ivory Coast	225 (-3)	Puerto Rico	1-809 (-7)
Japan	81 (+6)	Qatar	974
Jordan	962 (-1)	Romania	40 (-2)
Kenya	254	Salvador	503 (-7)
Kuwait	965	Saudi Arabia	966
Lebanon	961	Senegal	221 (-3)
Lesotho	266 (-1)	Seychelles	248 (-1)



Singapore	65 (+4)	United Kingdom	44 (-3)
Somalia	252	Uruguay	598 (-7)
South Korea	82 (+6)	US Virgin Islands	1-809-77 (-7)
Spain	34 (-2)	US Samoa	684 (-14)
Sri Lanka	94 (+2)	USA	1 (-8 to -11)
St. Vincent	1-809-45 (-7)	Vanuatu	678 (+8)
St. Lucia	1-809-45 (-7)	Vatican	39-66982 (-2)
St. Kitts & Nevis	1-809-469 (-7)	Venezuela	58 (-7)
Sudan	24911 (-1)	West Samoa	685 (-14)
Surinam	597 (-2)	Yemen	967
Swaziland	268 (-2)	Yugoslavia	38 (-2)
Sweden	46 (-2)	Zaire	243 (-2)
Switzerland	41 (-2)	Zambia	260 (-1)
Syria	963	Zanzibar	259 (-1)
Taiwan	886 (+5)	Zimbabwe	263 (-1)
Tanzania	255		
Thailand	66 (+4)		
Tonga	676 (+9)		
Trinidad & Tobago	1-809 (-7)		
Tunisia	216 (-2)		
Turkey	90 (-1)		
U.A.E.	971 (+1)		
Uganda	256		
UK Virgin Islands	1-809-47 (-7)		
Union			
Myanmar	95 (+6.5)		

APPENDIX D

International Agencies

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Al Koraishi Building, Al Sitten Street, (opp. Al-Awkar Housing Complex, Hadda, P.O. Box 551, Sana'a.
Tel: 217088/089/074, 216728; Tlx: 2234 UNDP YE; Fax: 263067; Cable: UNDEVPRO SANAA

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (UNDTCD)

As Above

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA)

As above.

Tel: 215198, 217088/089/074, 216728; Tlx: 2234 UNDP YE; Fax: 263067; Cable: UNDEVPRO SANAA

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Ring Road, opp. Sana'a University (old), P.O. Box 12093, Sana'a. Tel: 204963 Tlx: 3158 UNHCR YE

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Same as UNDP. Tel: 215199, 216729; Tlx: 2234 UNDP YE; Fax: 263067; Cable: UNDEVPRO SANAA

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

Chinese Technical School Road, off Hadda Street, P.O. Box 1867, Sana'a.
Tel: 207609, 207331; Tlx: 2345 FOODAG YE; Cable: FOODAGRI SANAA, ROY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Ministry of Health, Al Hasaba (near Radio & TV Corporation), P.O. Box 543, Sana'a.
Tel: 252213; Tlx: 2683 WHO YE; Fax: 251612

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority Bldg., P.O. Box 551, Zubeiri Street, Sana'a.
Tel: 272168, 272119

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO)

Civil Aviation & Meteorology Bldg. Zubeiri St., P.O. Box 551/ICAO, Sana'a.
Tel: 274709/272618/19/22; Tlx: 2234 UNDP YE

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Bait-al-Aman, Old City. Tel: 243401; Ministry of Social Affairs, Sana'a. Tel: 262800

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

Yemen Ports and Shipping Corporation, Aden. Tel: 22184

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

Central Bank of Yemen, Tel: 71324

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

Al-Juruf, Amran Road, Sana'a, Tel: 251294

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, & SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

PRESERVATION OF OLD CITY OF SANAA PROJECT
Dar-al-Jadeed, Old City, Tel: 274611

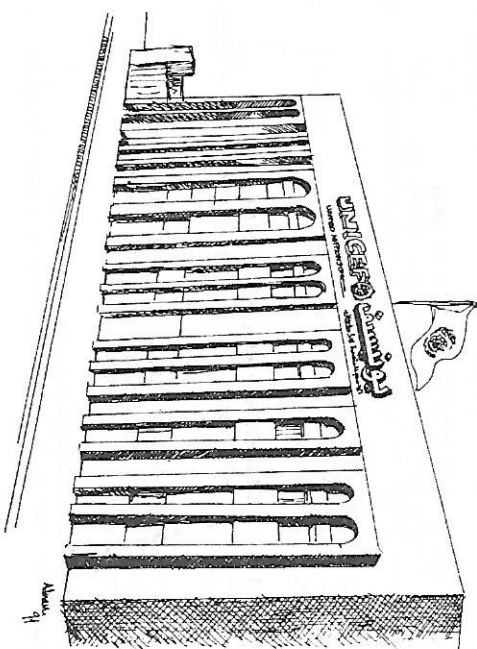
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AMRAN CEMENT PLANT
P.O. Box 1976, Amran, Tel: (07) 229575, 229568

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTER (UNIC)

4 Handhal Street, Al-Bounia Area, P.O. Box 237, Sana'a, Tel: 274000, 274041; Fax: 274043

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Al Hasaba, Amran Road (next to Water and Sewerage Authority), P.O. Box 725, Sana'a
Tel: 231256/7/8; Telex: 2461 UNICEF YE; Fax: 251613The UNICEF
office in Sana'aAPPENDIX E
HOTELS

Hotel Accommodation
In Sana'a and Aden there are a number of first-class hotels, constructed in the early 1980s, with the capacity to cater for all incoming visitors.

Classified Hotels in Yemen

Name	Class	Address	Phone	Telex
Sana'a				
Sana'a Sheraton	5 star	Dahr Hinyar St.	237500-8	2222
Taj Sheba	5 star	Abdel Moghni St.	272372	2561
Plaza	5 star	Algiers St.	205483	
Crown City	5 star	Hadda St.	216181	
Hadda	4 star	Hadda Road	215214/5	2227
Parorama	4 star	Riyadh St.	218974	
Al Rawda	3 star	Al Rawda	340226/7	2498
Dar Al Hamid	3 star	Al Hay Al Izya	203054	2770
Sam City	3 star	Al-Qadiah St. (Tahrir Square)	270752	
Shamir Plaza	3 star	Abdel Moghni St.	272592/604	
Al Ikuwah	2 star	Bin Dhi Yazin St.	74026/127	2350
Al Mukha	2 star	Abdel Moghni St.	72242	2298
Al Iskandar	1 star	Rep. Palace St.	72330, 72457	
Shahara	1 star	Abdel Moghni St.	78502	
Al Khayyam	1 star	Abdel Moghni St.	75272	
Arwa	1 star	Abdel Moghni St.	73838	
Al Zahrah	1 star	Abdel Moghni St.	72550	
Ash Sharq	1 star	Abdel Moghni St.	74226	
Aden				
Aden Hotel	5 star	Khiornaksar	232011	
Gold Mohur	3 star	Steamer Point, Tawahi	23471	
Crescent	2 star	Steamer Point, Tawahi	23471	
Chalets Complex	2 star	Khiornaksar	31301	
26 September	1 star	Steamer Point, Tawahi	22266	
Ambassador	1 star	Steamer Point, Tawahi	24403	
Al-Nasr	New	Hafat Hussein, Crater	52217	
Al Hurriya	1 star	Al-Qate'a, Crater	52134	
Qasr Al-Gazira	New	Al-Maidan, Crater	53357	
Ausan Hotel	New	Sanad St., Crater	31906	
Sea View		Khiornaksar		

Hadrarnaut Governorate

Al-Shaab Hotel	Al-Diss, Mukalla	2345, 2346
Al-Mukalla Hotel	Mukalla	2650
Ghail Bawazeer Complex	Ghail Bawazir	2267, 2245
Al-Sharg Hotel	Shahr	
Seyoun Chalets Complex	Seyoun	3366
Al-Salaam Hotel	Seyoun	5221
Qasr-al-Qupa	Tarim	
Taiz		
Marib	3 star	Aldabua Mountain
Al Ikhwah	2 star	Aldabua Mountain
Plaza	2 star	26 September St.
Al Janad	2 star	210529
De-Luxe	1 star	Jamal St.
Marib		
Bitiqs Marib	5 star	2666, 4033
Hodeidah		
Bristol	3 star	Sana'a St.
Ambassador	3 star	Sana'a St.
Al Buri	3 star	Sana'a St.
Al Ikhwah	2 star	Sana'a St.
Red Sea	1 star	Sana'a St.
Hodeidah	1 star	Sana'a St.
Khawkhia		
Fundug Al-Khawkhia	Khawkhia beach	(03) 361100
Saada		
Al Mamoon Hotel	3 star	2203/2459

APPENDIX F**Embassies in the Republic of Yemen**

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Republic of Germany
PO Box 509, Ring Road No. 14, 24755/6	PO Box 2562 & 2541, St. 22 off Djibouti Street 216756-8, 277314
People's Republic of Bulgaria	Hungarian People's Republic
PO Box 1518, Bir Shair Area 224881, 224884	House 9, As-Safia Street 248147
People's Republic of China	Republic of India
PO Box 482, Zubeiri Street, 275337, 265340/1	PO Box 1154, off Zubeiri Street 241980, 1
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	Islamic Republic of Iran
PO Box 2501, Al Safia Al Gharbia Al Junubiyah 247946, 73320	PO Box 1437, Hadda Street 206944/5, 248050
Republic of Djibouti	Republic of Iraq
Southern Ring Road 247791	off Baghdad Street 244122, 244153-5
Arab Republic of Egypt	Republic of Italy
PO Box 1134, Jamal Abdul Nasser Street 275948/9, 73100	PO Box 1152, #9, Street 29 (near Customs) 72792, 78846, 73409
People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Japan
PO Box 234, Hadda Road (near Technical School) 208833	PO Box 817, Al-Tareeq Al-Dafry, Al-Safiyah Al-Gharbiyah 207356, 79930
Republic of France	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
PO Box 1286, Al Baunia Area 73169, 201958, 275995	PO Box 1209, Al-Hasaba, Mazda Street 232340
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Republic of Korea
PO Box 2152, South Street 60, As Safia 216701, 216736	PO Box 1234, 42 Hadda Road 204522/5

State of Kuwait PO Box 17036, St. 22 near Ring Road 60 216317, 216686, 208086/9	Somali Democratic Republic PO Box 101, Hadda Street 241794-6, 248188/9, 225188
Republic of Lebanon PO Box 38, Hadda Street 240437	Republic of Sudan PO Box 517, 82 Hadda Street 265231-4
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahuriya PO Box 1506, St. 8, House 145 208815/6, 243932/3, 240449	Russia PO Box 1987, 26 September Street 78272, 203142
Kingdom of Morocco PO Box 10236, Al Safa Al Gharbiya 247964, 247800, 208935	Syrian Arab Republic PO Box 494, Zubeiri Street 247750-2
Kingdom of the Netherlands PO Box 463, Hadda Street 215626-8	Republic of Tunisia PO Box 2561, St. 22 off Djibouti Street, Safia 240458/9, 240457, 240417
Sultanate of Oman PO Box 105, Asir Area, Zubeiri Street 208933/4	Republic of Turkey PO Box 12450, off Baghdad St., Al Safa Al Jun- biya 215478
Islamic Republic of Pakistan PO Box 2848, Ring Road off Hadda Road 248813/4, 248181	United Arab Emirates PO Box 2250, Ring Road/Al Quds Street 248777-9
State of Palestine PO Box 110, 185, Southern Ring Road 240363/4	United Kingdom PO Box 1287, Hadda Street 215630-3
Republic of Romania Al Safa area 247921	United States of America Saawan Street 238842-5
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia PO Box 1184, Southern Ring Road 240429-31	

APPENDIX G Oil Industry Companies in Yemen

Sana'a	
ARCO Shabwa 205515, 204101, 209003	Occidental Petroleum 205252, 203331
BP Exploration Operating Co. Ltd. 248255, 249169, 248370	Parker Drilling 749088, 749788
British Gas 414434, 414438	Phillips Petroleum 203878
Canadian Occidental 414035, 414036	Schlumberger Overseas SA 414208
Chevron Petroleum Yemen 247861, 247862, 247811	Seismograph Service Ltd. 240764
Clyde Expro 417925, 417926	Shell Exploration and Development Yemen 272782, 272783, 272787
Furnet Petroleum Service 244882	SSI 414639, 417937
Halliburton Worldwide 217039, 216333	Total Yemen 208923, 208924, 213437
Occidental Yemen 203773, 203331	Western Geophysical 205560, 205567
Hawk Oil 209626, 209627	Yemen Hunt Oil Company 216080
Lasmo 417971, 417957	Aden
Nabors International 243692, 243695	BP Exploration Operating Co. Ltd. (02) 1810012
Nortech Surveys 414663	Canadian OCCIDENTAL (02) 233881, 231338
Nimir Petroleum 201307	ELF Aquitaine Petroleum BV (02) 232150, 232112

APPENDIX H Airlines Serving Sana'a and Aden

Airlines calling at Sana'a International Airport

Airline	Agency, Tel.
Ethiopian Airways (ET)	Mareb Travel, 272435/6
Sudan Airlines (SD)	Rashid Travel
Aeroflot (SV)	Arab Travel, 76685
Air France (AF)	Air France, 272895/6
Lufthansa (LH)	Tihama Travel & Tours, 272583/667
Syrian Air (RB)	Syrian Air, 272543
Egypt Air (MS)	Egypt Air, 275061
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	Universal Travel, 275028/9/30

Yemen Airways (TY) Head Office 232381-9; Airport 250868/831; Central Reservations 250800/1; Hadda St. 204538/550; Zubeiri St. 260834/5; Abdul Moghni St. 274803/4

Airlines calling at Sana'a International Airport

Airline	Booking Office, Tel.
Aeroflot (SV)	Maalla, 43688
Air France (AF)	Maalla, 43508
Al-Yemda	Crater, 53966, 52528
Ethiopian Airlines (ET)	Freight Office/Khornaksar, 31514
Middle East Airlines	Maalla, 43657
Yemenia (TY)	Maalla, 43248, 43662
	Crater, 53848

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
British Airways

APPENDIX I Inter-City Transportation

By Public Bus

The General Corporation for overland Transportation, GCOT, organizes regular bus trips connecting the major cities in Yemen.

From Sana'a (Bab Al Yaman) to:	
Aden	0800, 1330 hours
Hodeidah	0630, 0700 hours
	0800, 1130
Taiz	1400, 1500
	0630, 0700
	0800, 0900
	1330, 1400
	1500
Al Beida	0700, 1400
Qatabah	0700, 1400

From Sana'a (Bab Sha'ub) to:	
Marib	0700, 1400
Hajjah	0700, 1400
Sa'da	0700, 1400

From Hodeidah to:	
Taiz	0700, 1400
	1500
Al Haradh	0700, 1400

Tickets have to be purchased from the GCOT prior to the journey. Buses wait in front of the GCOT office. Each bus leaving Sana'a is matched by another bus leaving from the destination town to Sana'a at the same time.

By Service Taxi

Service taxis wait until full and then drive along a certain route. The various lines have different colored stripes painted on the exterior.

From Sana'a (Bab Al Yaman) to Hodeidah	blue stripe
From Sana'a (Bab Al Yaman) to Taiz/Aden	green stripe

- From Sana'a (Bab Shu'ub)
to Amran, Hajjah,
Sa'da **Brown stripe**
- From Sana'a (Bab Shu'ub)
to Marib **Yellow stripe**
- From Aden (Sheikh Othman)
to Sana'a **green stripe**
- From Taiz (Hawban)
to Sana'a **green stripe**
- From Taiz to Hodeidah
and at Turbah **red stripe**
- From Hodeidah (Sana'a Road)
to Taiz **red stripe**
- From Hodeidah (Jizan Road)
to Abs, Jizan **red stripe**
- Taxis with **black stripes** operate only within the city limits.
- By Private Taxi**
Private taxis can be hired for transportation to any city in Yemen.
Prices should be agreed upon with the driver before starting the trip.
- By Rented Car**
There are several tourist agencies in Sana'a renting self-drive cars. For more information, contact Al Mamoon International Agency, Tel. 242008, or Hadda Car Hire, Tel. 240237.
- Cars with drivers as well as organized group excursions are also available from some touristic travel agents, e.g.:
- YATA Tel. 224236, 224277, 231797
Universal Travel Tel. 275029/30
ABM Tours Tel. 270856-7
- By Airplane**
Domestic flights are available to Hodeidah, Taiz, Al Buga (northern border), Riyan and Sayoun (Wadi Hadramaut).

APPENDIX J

Geographical Information

Distances

From	To	KM
Sana'a	Aden	439
	Taiz	256
	Hodeidah	226
	Saada	243
	Marib	173
	Shibam	34
	Rihana	31
	Hajjah	127
	Wadi Dahr	12
Aden	Taiz	256
	Zinjibar	58
	Al Hawta	36
	Dale	140
	Mukalla	640
Taiz	Hodeidah	256
	Mokha	107
Ibb	Jiblah	8

Altitudes of Cities and Mountains (above mean sea level in meters)

Sana'a	2300
Aden	sea level
Taiz	1500
Manakha	2200
Thula	2400
Mt. Nbi Shiyab	3720
Mount Sabir	3006
Shaharah	3000
Sumarah Pass	2700
Hodeidah	sea level

APPENDIX K **United Nations and Government Holidays**

	UN holiday	Government holiday
New Year's Day	1 January	1 January
Eid-al-Fitr	12 and 13 March	12-17 March
Labour Day	1 May	1 May
Unity Day	22 May	22 May
Eid-al-Adha	21 to 23 May	21-23 May (tentative)
Islamic New Year	8 June	8 June (tentative)
Prophet's Birthday	17 August	17 August (tentative)
Revolution Day		26 September
Revolution Day		14 October
Independence Day		30 November

Dates listed as tentative may change depending on the lunar phase. If any holidays fall on a Friday, the following day will be observed instead.

APPENDIX L **Selected Bibliography**

- Touristic**
 APA Insight Guides: "Yemen", Singapore 1992
- Fritz Piepenburg: "New Traveller's Guide to Yemen", Yemen Tourism Company 1987
- Early Travellers**
 Frey, Claude: "A French Doctor in the Yemen", London 1957
- Niebuhr, Carsten: "Travels through Arabia and other countries in the East", Beirut 1965
- Stark, Freya: "The Southern Gates of Arabia. A Journey in the Hadhramaut", London 1936
- History**
 Doe, Brian: "Southern Arabia", Thames & Hudson 1970
- Phillips, H. St. John: "The Queen of Sheba", London 1981
- Phillips, Wendell: "Qataban and Sheba", London 1955
- Politics**
 Bidwell, Robin: "The Two Yemens", London 1983
- Burrows, Robert D.: "The Yemen Arab Republic The Politics of Development, 1962 - 1986", Colorado/London 1987
- Ismael & Ismael: "P.D.R. Yemen Politics, Economics and Society", London 1986
- Stookey, Robert: "The Politics of the Y.A.R.", Colorado 1978
- Stookey, Robert: "South Yemen. A Marxist Republic in Arabia", Colorado 1982
- Social Issues and Studies**
 Al Haddad, Abdul Rahman: "Cultural Policy in the Y.A.R.", UNESCO 1982
- Groom, Nigel: "Frankincense and Myrrh", London/New York 1981
- Makhlouf, Clara: "Changing Veils", London 1979
- Saggar, Abdulaziz (Ed.): "The Middle East City. Ancient Traditions Confront a Modern World", New York 1987

Stone, Francine (ED.): "Studies on the Tihama", London 1985

Picture Books

Costa, Paulo / Vicario, Enrico: "Yemen - Land of Builders", New York 1977

Lewcock, Ronald: "The old walled city of Sana'a", UNESCO 1986

Marchaux, Pascal & Maria: "Arabian Moons. Passages in Time through Yemen", Singapore 1987

Jenner, Mike: "Yemen rediscovered", London 1983

Sources

UNICEF offices, Sana'a and Aden, and various UNICEF reports

UNDP Report of 1987

PDRY Statistical Year Book 1988

German Embassy, Sana'a

Piepenburg, Fritz: New Traveller's Guide to Yemen

Bidwell, Robin: The two Yemens

Stookey, Robert: *The Politics of the Y.A.R.*

Kour, A.H.: The History of Aden 1938-1872

Ismael & Ismael, PDR Yemen

Yemen Report, Heft 2, 1990

Statistical Yearbook 1990, Second Edition

NOTES

[illegible]