

Conditions in Yemen Said Most Primitive in Middle East Area



PRIMITIVE COUNTRY — A land "being dragged kicking and screaming into the 18th century" is how a British diplomat summed up Yemen a few years ago. Yemen's hereditary rulers have kept the country at the most primitive level of any in the Middle East. Here, a rocket launcher is set up outside an ancient fort (top) as victorious rebels hunt for pro-royalist groups in March this year. The bottom picture shows vegetable gardens in an old part of Sana'a. (UPI)

(Editor's note: In Yemen, the currency is so heavy that it takes three men to carry \$500. But it's not much of a problem to the natives for this is one of the poorest countries in the world. This is another of the profiles of countries written by United Press International reporters living or working in them.)

By **RAYMOND J. MOLONEY**
United Press International

Sana'a, Yemen — (UPI) — A visit to Yemen is a visit back in time. A British diplomat newly posted to the country a few years ago summed it up neatly when he wrote home that he found himself in a land "being dragged kicking and screaming into the 18th Century."

This is an agricultural country of 75,000 square miles in which some 4.5 million people — no one knows just how many because there's never been a census — live under the most primitive conditions left in the Middle East. Its backwardness is no accident. The country was kept deliberately in its primitive state by its hereditary rulers, the imams who claimed to trace their ancestry back directly to the Himyarite dynasty founded in the 2nd Century, B.C.

Now something new is being tried in Yemen. Last September a group of young army officers, fired by the winds of change blowing through Arabia from Abdel Gamal Nasser's Cairo, revolted and sent the imam fleeing. Their battle is not yet won for the imam rallied loyal tribesmen as he fled and he still fights in the eastern hills.

Yemen is no great prize except perhaps in the battle of ideas. If your eye moved too quickly over the map you would miss this little country nestled just above the central eastern coast of Africa and south of Saudi Arabia. This is a land with no university and few schools except for religious classes conducted in the Moslem mosques. Literacy can only be guessed at for there are no

official figures but it probably is no higher than 15 per cent, if that.

There is virtually no industry and the country's economy is based almost entirely on agriculture. Despite a fine climate with a temperate summer, cool winters and an adequate rainfall, it is a poor agriculture, dependent mainly on two crops, coffee and qat. Qat is a bush whose leaves and green shoots are chewed by virtually every Yemeni male from the age of six upwards for the mildly narcotic effect. Even these crops are fading.

Summer Session Set at Ashland's Lincoln School

Ashland — Southern Oregon college will again conduct a six week's summer session elementary school for students in southern Oregon June 24 to Aug. 2 at the Lincoln school in Ashland.

Hours will be from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Children from kindergarten age through the sixth grade are eligible to attend.

Some of the features of this summer's school program include a non-graded organization based on the theory of continuous pupil progress rather than grade level achievement standards; some team teaching; youngsters will be placed in reading and mathematics achievement levels according to their needs and abilities; social science will be organized around problem areas of challenge and interest to all youngsters regardless of age and educational background; and a limited number of opportunities will be provided for youngsters with particular abilities to pursue advanced independent study projects in science and mathematics.

Children enrolling in summer school are expected to attend regularly and acceptance for enrollment is based on the assumption that they will attend the entire six weeks. No transportation or insurance is provided by the school and the only expense involved is a small fee charged for mid-morning snacks for the kindergarten group. Additional information may be obtained from Southern Oregon college.

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The coins, with their original 1780 date, are still minted in Europe especially for the Yemeni market. They make banking something to see. The only bank in Yemen still is — of necessity — a Saudi Arabian one. It became established under the imams and continues to operate even though the new Yemeni regime is bitterly involved with Saudi Arabia which it accuses of backing supporters of the imam in the continuing civil war.

Earns \$20 Per Month

A skilled Yemeni worker today earns between \$15 and \$20 a month. One of the first acts of the new republican regime last fall was to raise the pay of army privates from \$5 to \$15 a month. The incomes of farmers struggling with their poor crops, raised by methods little changed in centuries, is even lower.

The currency of Yemen is another of its anachronisms. It is still the old Maria Theresa thaler (worth roughly 80 cents U.S.) dating back to the time of the Austro-Hun-

garian empire at the close of the 18th Century.

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Has Two Capitals

Yemen has two capitals — Sana'a and Taiz — but few telephones, one weak radio station, no railways and only four real roads. One of the roads, built with a loan from Red China, is a tarred surface one running 200 miles from the port of Hodeida to Sana'a. The port itself, on the Red Sea, is the work of Soviet engineers. In a fine demonstration of positive neutrality, two other of

Yemen's roads are the work of U.S. engineers under an outright American foreign aid gift. These run 313 miles from the port of Mocha to Taiz, and then on up to Sana'a. The fourth road joins Taiz and Aden.

The American engineers made the Yemenis most unhappy when they insisted the roads they were building would have a gravel surface. The Yemenis wanted a tar surface matching the Chinese-made road that was completed

two years ago. But now the Chinese road already is becoming daily more scarred with pot-holes and the Yemenis are beginning to think the Americans may have been right after all.

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Anti-Semitism Question Considered

By **WERNER ZWICK**
United Press International

Frankfurt, Germany — (UPI) — The young American business man, a third generation descendant of German forebears, had been traveling in West Germany for a month, "sizing up the situation."

"I've been offered a splendid job here with exciting future prospects," he said. "But I am engaged to a Jewish girl from California and she is timid about us making our home in Germany. She needs convincing that anti-semitism no longer exists. I came over here to prove it to myself, too."

The American smiled wryly, sighed a little, and gave his verdict: "I'm not taking the job. I won't bring her here."

Why? The American had no firm answer. "I can't put it into words for you."

Be Uncomfortable

"I just knew she'd be uncomfortable, and so would I, for her sake. It's not anything you really can put your finger on. Nobody here — German or otherwise — has said to me he doesn't like Jews or has anything against them. In fact everyone protests just the opposite."

How had he gone about "sizing up the situation?" That was a little hard to explain, too. "But one thing I did was sometimes, in stores and places like that, I'd give a very Jewish-sounding name. I'd get that look, sometimes. You know. Nothing said. No real change in the manner. Just something. Anyway, I know I don't want to bring her here. Too bad. It would have been a good chance for us."

German Embarrassed

The American was embarrassed, talking about it. As embarrassed, possibly, as Germans themselves when the subject comes up. German embarrassment often comes to the surface.

In a noisy Frankfurt beer stube one recent evening there was suddenly heard, above the oom pah pah of the band, an angry voice saying, "You damn Jew!"

Man Arrested on Josephine Warrant

Medford city police Thursday arrested David Leroy Winans, 45, in a downtown hotel on a felony warrant from the Josephine county sheriff's office. Winans, who was lodged in Jackson county jail, is charged with obtaining money under false pretenses.

Immediately all conversation dropped off. At every table the customers, gay and lively a moment before, sat quietly looking uneasily at one another. In the silence — even the band seemed muted — the offender, slightly drunk, called for his check and, avoiding stares, marched swiftly out. In a few minutes things were back to normal.

From Berlin to Bremerhaven the reaction is much the same when the national closet is opened and the skeleton of anti-semitism in Germany is exposed.

Not Many Jews Left

There aren't many Jews in Germany and more. From 700,000 before Hitler, there are today some 25,000 to 30,000 left. Most of them are older generation, roughly two-thirds over age of 45. Scarcely 4,000 are under 21. A low birth rate and emigration continue to shrink the figures.

A German Jewish leader, Rabbi Hans Grunewald, has said Hitler's plan for a Jewless Germany may be fulfilled in another 20 years.

Practically all observers agree that, excepting only the rare fanatic or crackpot, there is no active anti-semitism in Germany. When Hitler's 1,000-year Reich crumbled 12 years after its birth, most Germans were genuinely shocked by the full revelations of the murderous programs and the extermination camp horrors. The national revulsion led West Germany when it regained self-government in 1949 to make it a crime even to utter an anti-Jewish remark. It has been said it is safe to attack anything in West Germany today except a Jew.

Go To Prisons

Two young Germans went to prison when they smeared swastikas on a Cologne synagogue on Christmas eve 1959. Arnold Strunk, 25, and Paul Schoenen, 32, also went to prison for painting swastikas on a synagogue. Elementary school teacher Ludwig Zind fled to Cairo after an arrest warrant was issued for him for publicly calling a man "a Jewish pig."

A pathetic incident involving a Jewish woman patient at West Berlin's Behring hospital stirred the country unhappily. Her supper came with a knife and fork bearing swastika emblems and under the shock of seeing the dread symbols she uttered a heart attack. An investigation showed that 62 of the hospital's 5,500 sets of silverware still bore markings of the Third Reich. The administrator was fired. The few extremist right-wing groups in West Germa-

ny have either been banned or stripped of influence at the ballot boxes. The West German government in a special report last year said anti-semitism was practically nonexistent. In a recent statement Interior Minister Hermann Hoehcherl told the country that "ultra-nationalism is dead" and "undercover existence of anti-semitism is meaningless."

Jewish leaders agree that overt anti-semitism, allowing always for the occasional twisted individual, is gone. Dr. Henrik George Van Dam, the Jewish community's secretary general, reported this year that anti-semitism and neo-Nazism are no longer problems in Germany.

Why then, the continuing self-questioning? Why the fears of one American about

bringing a Jewish wife to live here?

It is not the sort of thing that can be accurately polled. Surveys can at best come up with answers in generalities. One leading West German editor, asked to state his view, said helplessly:

"Who knows if anti-semitism is dead in Germany? Who knows if it is dead anywhere?"

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MAY IS AMERICAN BIKE MONTH

Quickie Quiz For Safe Cycling

Safety is as safety does, and before reaching the doing stage, KNOWING HOW is most important. As today's 55 million cyclists gear up for Spring and Summer bike fun, a quick quiz to test their safety procedures knowledge might pay handsome dividends. Here then are 10 true or false questions designed to test your bike IQ.

1. A bike should be ridden on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
2. "Jumping" a curb will not damage a properly inflated tire.
3. The hand signals for stopping or turning a bike are the same as for cars.
4. Riding two on a bike is all right for an experienced rider.
5. When passing a slow-moving car, pass on the right.
6. The cyclist has the right of way over pedestrians.
7. Riding "no hands" is safe on a smooth, straight road.
8. Stop signs, traffic lights, and other signaling devices designed for the autoist do not apply to the cyclist.
9. A level, straight highway is a good place for a bike race.
10. A cyclist should stop, look and listen at ALL intersections.

Answers: 1-F, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-F, 7-F, 8-F, 9-F, 10-T.

The cyclist who answers three or more of the above questions incorrectly had better stay home until he learns the rules of the road.

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