

YEMEN WANTS U.S. TO STEP UP ITS AID

Seeks Rise Despite Arrest of Employes as Spies

By **DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT**

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SANA, Yemen, March 17—President Abdullah al-Salal of the Republic of Yemen said yesterday that unfortunately he had had to arrest some employes of the United States aid mission as spies but he would nonetheless like a great deal more American aid.

He said this by way of explaining a statement he made in a speech to the graduating class of the Republican Military College last month.

In the speech, he said "there is no value" in foreign technical assistance. "We can do without their aid and say goodbye to them."

He complained that Western countries had provided Saudi Arabia with money and arms that "were used against our revolution."

In one of his rare interviews, the man who overthrew Imam Mohamad al-Badar four and a half years ago repeated his protest against arms given to Saudi Arabia but in effect took back his denunciation of American economic aid for Yemen.

With the exception of the Kennedy Memorial Water System, which the United States built for the town of Taiz at a cost of more than \$6-million, the aid, he said, was almost entirely a continuation of projects begun for the Imam.

"It is not enough to meet our needs," he said. "We expected more."

Since just before the revolution the United States has spent \$45-million on aid to Yemen, about half of it for roads linking Mocca, Taiz, and Sana.

He had spoken harshly last month, the President explained, because some persons were employed by the aid mission "just to give information and news and to interfere with our authority."

"We consider some of these as spies and we arrested some of them," he said.

The President sat in a gilded Louis XVI chair in the reception room of his residence, which was built by Turkish invaders hundreds of years ago and later used by the Imams. Bundled up against the chilly mountain night air, he stared morosely into space as he slowly and deliberately constructed his replies.

He said the republic would like peace with Saudi Arabia, which pays and arms tribesmen who still support the Imam, but "our idea of peace is always based on the Republic." This suggested that the President would not compromise, as has been proposed, by dropping the name "republic" until a plebiscite can be held.

Whether the Federation of South Arabia unites with Yemen after the scheduled British withdrawal this year "is up to the people there to decide," Mr. al-Salal said.

"We believe in self-determination," he added. "However, it is all one country. You need only read history to find it is one country."

Behind President al-Salal's announcement of the arrest of alleged spies lay months of harassment of the American aid mission. The motives for the harassment appear to be mixed up with the republic's struggle for survival economically and militarily.

The first overt act against the American mission was taken in October, when Michel Harriz, an American citizen of Lebanese origin employed as an interpreter, was expelled.

Bozooka Fired

On Feb. 8, the day President al-Salal opened a new Russian school in Taiz, a bazooka was fired at the building. Nineteen persons, 10 of whom had had connections with the American aid mission, were arrested in connection with the incident.

One of the nineteen was a male nurse, Ahmed Yunes, who accused Mrs. Dorothy Steward, an English teacher for the United States Information Service and the wife of an aid mission engineer, of attempting to recruit spies.

Among those arrested after the attack on the Russian school was Hassan Naham, a naturalized American of Yemeni origin who had been employed by the aid mission.

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