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the new al-Ayni government on February 5, Sana Radio carried on February 7 a press interview in which the new Prime Minister, al-Ayni, while not explicitly reaffirming the February 3 apology, had nevertheless stressed his government's desire for peace and better relations with Saudi Arabia.

With respect to U.S./Yemeni relations, Mr. Wrampelmeier explained that they remain broken and that he did not foresee any early resumption. He recalled the events that led up to the ouster of the U.S. AID mission from Yemen in April, 1967, followed by the YARG's decision to sever diplomatic ties during the Six Day war. Were relations to be resumed while the Yemen civil conflict remains unresolved and the Yemeni Republicans continue to accuse Saudi Arabia of supporting the Royalists, there would be real danger of a repetition of the difficulties that had plagued our relations prior to the break. The Yemenis also undoubtedly hope that restoration of relations will soon be followed by resumption of aid. This, however, is unlikely in view of the budgetary limitations on our foreign aid program. The resulting Yemeni disappointment could have a souring influence on our relations. Under the circumstances, we therefore consider the time still premature for resumption of diplomatic relations with the YARG.

Mr. Molgat stressed that he did not know what Ottawa's response would be to the Yemeni approach. Canada has few interests in the Arabian Peninsula and does not have relations even with Saudi Arabia. He wondered what would be the likely Saudi reaction were Canada to establish relations with Yemen. Mr. Wrampelmeier thought that the Saudi reaction would probably be negative, but it would be difficult to predict how strong that reaction might be. He was unaware, for example, of any strong Saudi reaction at the time Kuwait agreed to exchange embassies with Yemen last year. Mr. Molgat agreed to particular interest in Mr. Wrampelmeier's comments about reported shortages in Yemen. Taking notes, he suggested that the Canadian UN Mission may wish to contact Tony Hagen, the UNDP representative in Yemen now on consultations in New York, for further information about Yemen's requirements for food aid and in particular cereals.

In conclusion, Mr. Molgat agreed to keep the Department informed of any further developments with respect to the Yemeni approach to Canada.

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