

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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ON THE VERY BRINK OF NUCLEAR W A R !

by Herbert W. Armstrong

FEW seem to realize it. But when President Carter said recently the situation with Russia is more serious than at any time since World War II, he made the understatement of the century.

We are in fact, at the very brink of NUCLEAR WORLD WAR III! It is not going to happen--but let me tell you the situation the U.S. government has bungled its way into.

It is very evident that President Carter has never UNDERSTOOD Russian Communist philosophy and basic point of view. All their thinking is from this viewpoint. It's the place where their "camera" is set. They do not see things as we see them. They do not think as we think.

Let me give you a brief summary. I have said before that more than 50 years ago, I studied thoroughly a so-called "Home Study Course" in Communist philosophy and thinking. How could it have been available to me and not to a man who rose to become PRESIDENT?

It all began with two men, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels. They were German. They, even as I myself have, saw that this world's governments and economic systems were wrong. But they did not really know GOD --they hatched an atheistic society--and they did not have UNDERSTANDING, as God has given me, of The BIBLE!

Their "camera" was set to view the world as MAN views it. They could discern much that was WRONG. But their "camera" was not focused on GOD, and they did not see GOD'S answers to this world's evils.

So, as usually happens in human thinking shut off from God, they had a warped view. They envisioned a world of Communism. They saw that the world's religions were the "opium of the people," so their minds saw no farther than to ABOLISH religion--not to seek the TRUE God and His teaching.

Then, about 1914-1918 came along Vladimir Lenin, a Russian, who had studied and accepted enthusiastically and even fanatically the atheistic ideas of Marx and Engels. Lenin turned those theoretical philosophies into a workable NEW form of GOVERNMENT, eliminating ownership of private property--all of which would be owned by the State (the Politburo group at the helm), and eliminating religion. To accomplish such sweeping changes necessitated a CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, a most essential factor. The PEOPLE had to be induced by education to give up their property and their religion--the two things closest to their hearts.

Vladimir Lenin must be accounted to have possessed the qualities of GREATNESS, if not holiness which he abhorred, or RIGHTNESS! It was during World War I, in 1917, that Lenin led his band of fanatically-dedicated men, including, originally, Joseph Stalin, and Leon Trotsky. The latter defected to South America.

It all started with an inner core, the original founders of the Communist Party.

Lenin's idea was not alone to conquer the minds--that is, the pocket-books and the hearts of the Russian people--but those of the WHOLE WORLD.

As Jesus Christ is to rule the WHOLE WORLD at His now soon coming, Satan moved men of the human GREATNESS of men like Marx and Lenin, to attempt to beat Christ to it!

Therefore the Communist PARTY was formed, not merely as the ONE political Party to be allowed in Russia--but an INTERNATIONAL PARTY active in all nations!

Before World War II the Communist Party in the United States was making great headway. They began infiltrating our colleges and universities. If they could not "convert" professors, they worked on students who would become teachers later. Thus they were recruiting TEACHERS to teach their doctrine all over the United States.

And don't think they were overlooking Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, and Germany where the idea was first hatched. But they did sow the seeds in China, and left it for the Chinese Communists, like Mao Tse-tung, and Chow En-lai and present Vice-Chairman Tan Zehn-Lin, to organize a Chinese Communist Party and put two of the three largest nations on earth under Communism. However, the Chinese Communism is different, and Vice-Chairman Tan told me it is the Russians who have departed from original, pure Communism. But you will see a very large statue of Lenin, along with the late Mao, in Peking. Communism has also made big inroads in Southeast Asia. They almost took over both Singapore and Indonesia (fifth most populous nation), which just barely escaped Communism only a few years ago.

The GOAL is to bring the WHOLE WORLD under Communism. The Russians admit conditions in their country are not yet perfect--but they saw the real benefits of Communism cannot be experienced and enjoyed until the whole world has become Communist.

Now as to Russian Communist strategy. They admit they cannot conquer all nations without one final all-out military war. But to them that is the LAST RESORT, but that is the primary reason for keeping the Soviet Union military strength at either number one or number two in the world.

But their first approach is EDUCATION. It is not alone education in Communism. It is, first, education on the EVILS of other systems (which are many). Second is the advantages of Communism. For example, they knew how to plunge New York City into total darkness one night. All electricity was cut off. Subway trains stopped in their dark tubes--passengers unable to move from their cars.

Then comes guerrilla warfare. This was used in South Vietnam, and our U.S. military forces were untrained and no match for that kind of war. WE DID NOT WIN--we pulled out! The Communists have taken what American soldiers fought and died to protect! I wonder WHEN America will WAKE UP!

Among Communist teachings which I read in the U.S. Communist Party study course (about 50 years ago) are that the END justifies any means. Communists are taught to lie, to misrepresent, to lie under oath, to use any pretense or deception to win a point.

YOU'D BE SURPRISED if you knew how many Russian Communists are kept as full-time spies in the United Nations building in New York! Or for that matter, even as full-time career diplomats in the State Department in Washington. The man who approved and issued my Press pass at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, a leader in the State Department, was later tried and convicted of being a Communist agent.

So much for that brief sketch of the history and methods of Communism.

But WHAT NOW? In what manner are we sitting on a whole flock of smoking Hydrogen Bombs?

President Carter first put a grain embargo on Russia. Of course that hurt some, but they expected that, and decided the results were worth it. Next he has virtually cancelled the Olympic games to be held there this summer. Sure, that hurt some--but as I said before, they took that as a calculated risk. The United Nations passed a resolution against them. But they have felt the stakes are high enough to be worth it. Now the oil-rich Arab nations passed a resolution against them. But I can hear Mr. Brezhnev saying with a smile, "Well, how many divisions do the Arab nations have?"

But where the DANGER lies is this: Now, President Carter has said that the Persian Gulf is an American VITAL INTEREST. He has threatened even military action if the Russians violate it by moving into the Persian Gulf.

Look at a map. Most all oil-producing Arab nations export their oil through the Persian Gulf! Whoever controls the Persian Gulf controls the world's OIL!

Those stakes are pretty high! The Kremlin knows it! How far will they gamble?

Look at the record. Under President John Kennedy the U.S. used military force to BLOCKADE CUBA! Moscow knew that was only the first step. A President who dared do that was COMMITTED to go FARTHER if the Russians engaged U.S. blockading ships. And THAT would have been a war IN THE U.S. AREA OF THE WORLD!

What have I always said? 1) the Russians DO NOT want a nuclear all-out war with the U.S. yet! So the Russians backed off, for, 2) they will back off in face of an equal or superior military force. THAT'S THE ONLY LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND!

Recently in President Carter's Administration, it became known the Russians had armed military men in Cuba. Mr. Carter warned them--a sort

of slap on the wrist. They only smiled and left their troops--and they are STILL THERE! There are other times recently when Mr. Carter has talked, and DONE NOTHING.

You may be sure the Russians are weighing all this carefully. IF they proceed now through Pakistan into the Persian Gulf, WOULD the U.S. fight? Frankly I doubt it. In any war short of NUCLEAR power, we cannot match the Russians in the Persian Gulf--in THEIR back yard!

Yet if the Russians do go ahead, the only kind of war we can match them in is ALL-OUT NUCLEAR WAR. The U.S. should start by blasting both Moscow and Leningrad with H-Bombs! It would be that or the U.S. hangs her head in shame before the world.

WE ARE JUST THAT CLOSE THIS MINUTE TO A WAR THAT COULD ERASE ALL HUMAN LIFE FROM THIS PLANET. For no matter what the U.S. can do, the Soviet Union can rain nuclear bombs and DESTROY New York City, Washington D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco and L.A., and many other cities in between!

WHAT WILL THE KREMLIN NOW DECIDE?

Knowing their policies as I do, I think they will simply stay where they are--keep moving troops into Afghanistan, make it 100% solid, and bide their time. As I said before, THEY ARE IN NO HURRY. They are not on a tight time schedule. But I DO NOT expect them to move their troops back out of Afghanistan!

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WHERE DOES THE U.S. GO
FROM HERE?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The world right now stands on the brink of the FINAL N U C L E A R WAR! There has never yet been a NUCLEAR war! Do you grasp the gravity of the world situation at this minute?

World leaders all know the probability that a nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia can very likely ERASE ALL MANKIND FROM THE EARTH! It means the END of human existence!

Where is this world at the moment--as I write, February 1, 1980?

For more than 90 days the U.S. has been so absorbed with the plight of the 50 hostages in Iran, the government has not realized that the REAL DANGER has been Russia all the time. Of course the R E A L D A N G E R is something else of which the Washington politicians are still unaware. Yet it is now MOVING!

President Carter warned the Soviet against invading Afghanistan. He called Mr. Brezhnev personally on the HOT LINE! Brezhnev considered Mr. Carter to be a weak President who would do nothing. Soviet troops, up to 100,000 or more, poured into Afghanistan.

Mr. Carter began to do something. He put a grain embargo against Russia into effect. He threatened to boycott the Olympic games, scheduled to be held in Moscow this summer. To the Russians these games are a big government project. All other countries may enter only AMATEUR athletes. In Russia the system is different. The government runs EVERYTHING, even athletics. Though the Soviets call their athletes amateurs, they are actually in government employ and in real fact are PROS! Then Mr. Carter set a deadline for boycotting the Olympic games--February 20. But even the AAU has approved the boycott and it is now a certainty.

Washington has gotten a resolution through the United Nations against Russia. But they laugh at that wrist-slap. Nothing but equal or stronger MILITARY FORCE speaks their language! Sanctions, resolutions--they laugh at!

But now Mr. Carter has said that entrance of the Soviet military forces into the Persian Gulf MEANS WAR!

Now WAIT A MINUTE!!! Brezhnev and his fellows at the Kremlin will THINK THAT ONE OVER! So must Mr. Carter's Administration!

1) The U.S. does not want to fight a nuclear war with Russia. Russia does not want to fight a nuclear war with the U.S. They could DESTROY EACH OTHER!

2) The U.S. does not have the military ability to fight Russia in her own back yard--the Persian Gulf--so far from the U.S. American forces would either LOSE, or be forced to turn such war into a NUCLEAR war! The Kremlin, of course, knows that also.

3) President Carter has DRAWN THE LINE. If the Soviet crosses it--it's WAR! (Or else a TOTAL loss of face and prestige in the world). Now what will the Soviets DO? It's their move! Will they decide Mr. Carter is too weak to back up his threat of WAR, and decide they may go ahead and get away with it? I do not think so. I think that is a chance the Kremlin will not take. I think, as I wrote before, the Russian Bear will slow down its pace, go ahead and make their intervention in Afghanistan solid and complete, keep poised, READY to invade Yugoslavia, or Germany, Austria, France, AS A THREAT in a stepped-up WAR OF NERVES!

Now, meanwhile, the IMPORTANT consideration is WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EUROPE?

The President has sent two high emissaries to try to swing European nations (NATO members) over to the U.S. side--to boycott the Olympics, and refuse to sell Russia grain. These two emissaries have met a very cold shoulder--except in Britain. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, has said, "We are WITH you. We stand together with you!" to the U.S.

But, for example, how does Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn look at the picture? Russian forces are right at his eastern border, and more being massed there. They could cross over in massive force within thirty minutes with no notice! Germany, along with other European nations, has no military force capable of defending against such Russian attack. The European nations have relied on U.S. military might to PROTECT THEM from the Russians who are right at their eastern frontier, and now massing heavy troops there! It seems NATO has about fallen into discard.

Herr Schmidt has taken a course that is humiliating for a German who fought in Hitler's army to take. He is unwilling to stand up with the U.S. against Russia if Soviet forces cross Carter's line at the Persian Gulf.

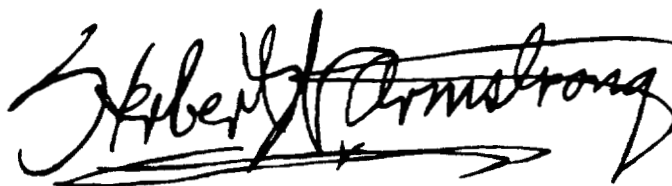
The same attitude is taken in France, Italy, Austria, Belgium. But as I said, that is a humiliating stand for European leaders to take. They take it because in this chess power play Russia has massed forces threatening West European nations, as well as threatening to enter and control the Persian Gulf. And the Persian Gulf control would give the Russians CONTROL OF MOST OF THE WORLD'S OIL!

Now do not for a moment suppose that West European leaders are going to take this humiliating stand, refusing to line up against Russia, without countermeasures!

You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about HOW and HOW SOON they may UNITE and provide a united EUROPEAN MILITARY FORCE so they can DEFEND THEMSELVES! And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And WHO WILL THEY BLAME for their humiliation and their necessity NOW to have a UNITED EUROPE, with a united GOVERNMENT, a COMMON CURRENCY, and a COMMON MILITARY FORCE AS GREAT OR GREATER THAN EITHER THE U.S.S.R. OR THE U.S.A.? They will blame the U.S.! And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!

SO SAYS ALMIGHTY GOD IN HIS WORD!

They can unite ONLY through the Vatican. It will be a CHURCH-STATE union. It won't last long, but will create HAVOC unprecedented!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert W. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Comments From Pastor's Reports

Here are several more very encouraging comments from the Pastor's Reports showing overall growth, enthusiasm, and a spirit of rejuvenation among the churches.

Harry E. Sleder, Everett, WA: "The Everett Church is a new church (1 1/2 years) solidly supporting Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as Jesus Christ guides His Church through Mr. Armstrong."

Carl McNair, Milwaukee North, WI: "I concur with recent comments in Pastor General's Report, etc. that the brethren seem 'turned on' by improvements in the administration of the Church, by improvement in Mr. Armstrong's health and the success of his trips, and a sense of awareness of prophecy 'speeding up.'"

"Growth in area has been minimal quantitatively. Appears God has been doing some 'weeding out.' Ministry here is loyal and supportive of Mr. Armstrong."

Al Dennis, Long Beach, CA: "The Church is stable and growing spiritually. People are facing quite a number of personal problems in their lives. Financially, it is becoming more and more difficult for many."

John Ogwyn, Lufkin, TX: "Things seem to be going very well in the area. PM activity is pretty slow. Mr. Waterhouse provided a real boost to the area and his message was greatly appreciated by all of the members."

Dennis Van Deventer, Victoria, TX: "The brethren are showing good support and loyalty to God's apostle and His work, and are pulling well as a team in God's service."

Dennis Van Deventer, Corpus Christi, TX: "People are pulling together a bit more now. The main body of the Church is solidly behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Work. I'm glad we are able to have the tapes from China, and the Bible study--very good response was received from these--thanks."

"One of the most impressive parts of the recent tape on the book of Romans is the introductory background material given by Mr. Armstrong. It was not only helpful and enlightening, but also dramatic proof that Mr. Armstrong is not the "senile old man" portrayed by dissidents. Many members commented on Mr. Armstrong's incredible fund of knowledge and ability of recall."

Leonard Schreiber, Minneapolis, MI: "The Pastor General's Report of December 20 generated a lot of positive enthusiasm among members. Most are really excited about Mr. Armstrong's trip to China and the prospects for the future."

Randy Schreiber, Blackfoot, Id: "People seem to be trying to work on their marriages, partially as a result of the family relations series. The three baptisms this month encouraged people, as have some new PMs. Everyone very encouraged and excited about Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's trips!!"

David Fiedler, Appleton, WI: "It is really inspiring to see doors continue to open around the world, and now with prospects for Russia also. Mr. Armstrong is sounding younger all the time! God's blessing is evident in His Church."

Gerald Flurry, Tonasket, WA: "Strong little Church with good spirit."

Gerald Flurry, Pasco, WA: "Overall, people are in a good spirit--excited about the Work. Some growth."

Doug Horchak, La Mirada, CA: "Response to Mr. Armstrong's trip very exciting! Members thrive on news of advances in the Work!"

George Affeldt, Sioux Falls, SD: "The PM activity has been good. The trend that I see both here and in Watertown is that the PMs have no problem with understanding the problems the Church has had."

Clint Zimmerman, Pueblo, CO: "PM activity has picked up. These are people who have been around for some time but just haven't gotten around to 'finding' the local Church."

Steve Martin, San Francisco, CA: "World events have renewed commitment of those who we might consider 'lukewarm.' This is a good trend. In-home Bible studies becoming very popular for those who live too far from San Francisco to come to regular Bible study."

Judd Kirk, San Jose, CA: "There has been a good response to Mr. Armstrong's tapes. The people are enthusiastic about hearing firsthand Mr. Armstrong deliver the truth of the gospel to a place like Communist China."

Dan Fricke, Portland West, OR: "The members are basically stable and looking forward to the Work picking up steam along with Mr. Armstrong's trips. Most see the Church moving forward."

Russell Duke, Kansas City East, MO: "There is quite some growth locally --six to ten new PMs in the last two months who are attending Church and growing."

Frederick Kellers, Little Rock, AR: "Everything seems calm. People are thrilled with results of the China trip and tapes from same."

Report on the Work in Germany

The Seventies in Retrospect: For God's Work in German-speaking Europe, 1979 was a very good year overall and closed out the decade of the '70s on a positive note. The '70s proved to be a period of very valuable growth and experience, plus a decade of dramatic, positive change for the German Work as well as for the Work as a whole.

The period of 1970-1973 brought rapid growth both in the German Plain Truth mailing list and in financial support for the German Work. During this time a major breakthrough for the German Work came with the development of compatibility for the printing of the Plain Truth. It is a method of designing the international editions identically, so that only the black plate, from which the foreign language text is printed, needs to be made new and the other existing color separation, plates, etc. can be used for all languages. This effects a tremendous cost savings and has enabled a full-color German PT. Previously we were only publishing in black and white.

By the end of 1973 the German PT mailing list had grown to over 80,000.

In 1974 increasing financial restraints at Pasadena, which had been heavily subsidizing the German Work, led to far-reaching decisions, affecting a complete overhaul of the German Work. During this time the PT list had to be drastically reduced and other consolidating changes were made which led to becoming financially self-supporting in 1975. In 1975 office facilities were also moved from Duesseldorf to Bonn, which has proven to be very beneficial.

In 1977 a period of growth in circulation was again entered. The list, which had bottomed out at 15,000 during 1976, has now grown to 35,000, with virtually no financial help needed from Pasadena.

1979 brought a major surge forward in mail income, which on the average had been only a 6% increase per year from 1973 to 1978. In 1979 the increase jumped to over 11% (the highest since 1972), and the holy day offerings were up by nearly 27%. In all, the German Work now seems ready for its greatest period of growth.

The Church in Germany is very loyal and solid in support of Mr. Armstrong and the Work. Various methods for growth and expansion are now possible, and at present the Work in Germany is in the best financial condition ever. It definitely seems that God has used the developments of the seventies to prepare the German Work for the eighties.

Plans for 1980: Emphasis in 1980 will be on expanding our coverage of German-speaking Europe with the Gospel message, and on increased service to the Church in keeping with Mr. Armstrong's efforts to prepare the Church for Christ's return.

The major thrust in expanding overall coverage of German-speaking Europe will come from our advertising campaign in mass-circulation magazines and newspapers. Limited use of newsstands will also be made. The intent in the advertising campaign is to make Mr. Armstrong and the German Plain Truth increasingly known throughout the German-speaking world. Through these and other tried and tested methods, hopefully over 30,000 new subscribers will be added to the list in 1980.

Efforts to improve service to the Church will center around two things:

1. Translating more Good News articles into German for the membership.
2. Improving the quality of sermons, Bible Studies, counseling and overall service to the Church.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

Notice

If you or any members have questions regarding George A. Holmes Jr., a prospective member, please contact John Bald at (512) 342-9782.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN LAWSUIT RECEIVES LOCAL COVERAGE

Over two weeks after the L.A. Superior Court decision in favor of the Church's accounting firm, only one newspaper (to our knowledge) has reported this significant development in the State of California's lawsuit against the Church. Reproduced here for your interest is an article from the February 5th Pasadena Star-News which covers the story. Permission was granted by the Star-News.

Suit implicating firm in church case fails

By DICK LLOYD
Staff Writer

A lawsuit claiming an accounting firm assisted leaders of the Worldwide Church of God in allegedly pilfering church funds has been dismissed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Court Commissioner Arnold Levin dismissed the action by the state attorney general against the firm of Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo because the state failed to show a sufficient cause of action against the firm.

The overall suit against church leaders, however, remains in force. Rader, treasurer of the church and one of the principal defendants in the suit, is scheduled to answer pre-trial questions on Feb. 20.

His deposition to the state attorney general's office was postponed from Jan. 22 with the concurrence of U.S. District Judge Laughlin Waters. It had been delayed several times previously.

But even though the main case continues, said Jack Kessler, an attorney who is also an accountant and a partner in the firm, "it would seem this is a very significant setback" for the attorney general.

The state has tried to "make a case out of whole cloth," Kessler said, claiming it has been unable to come up with supportable charges. "They must state affirmatively that we did something wrong, or else they have to drop it."

The accounting firm, in which Rader was a partner until 1974, was the church's auditor until two months after the state civil suit was lodged in January 1979 and was one of 12 defendants named in the suit. The case has not been dismissed against any of

the other defendants.

Deputy Attorney General Lauren Brainard said the state will appeal the decision, which upheld a motion filed by attorneys for the accounting firm.

The motion in effect said that even though charges had been filed, they had no merit. It tested the validity of the allegations against the defendants.

Brainard said the state's suit alleges that the accounting firm is "one of the for-profit agencies utilized by the defendants, particularly Rader, to aid (them) in breaches of trust."

The dismissal, in Brainard's view, "is totally irrelevant as regards Rader and other individuals in the case of their breach of trust in the use of the charitable assets of the church. The accounting firm was one of many defendants, and the court felt we had not stated a cause of action against that particular defendant."

"I don't think it is very significant."

Commissioner Levin dismissed the case against the accounting firm after the state failed to amend its complaint to list specific charges.

On three previous occasions, Superior Court Judge Thomas Johnson had ruled that the state's complaint was insufficient as a cause of action and ordered the state to list exactly what the accounting firm did in violation of the law. In each instance the state declined to amend its complaint.

Rader also believes that the dismissal of the suit against the accounting firm is a significant development in the church's battle against the suit that has been in the courts since July 3.

Action against the accounting firm, said Rader, has been "the linchpin of the lawsuit."

"They (the state) charged the accounting firm with the same things they charged us with — that they aided and abetted an intent to pilfer, and that (the firm) was a conduit by which I got funds out — and they claimed I was an active partner in the firm."

The state "had me getting profits through the firm," Rader said. "But they (the firm) are no longer in the case. It took a whole year bring it about."

The state has claimed the accounting firm was a party to fiscal fraud, Rader said. "And you know that anytime you have fiscal frauds, the accountants have necessarily been involved. They have either been criminally involved or grossly negligent."

Dismissal of the suit against the accounting firm proves "there is nothing here, and there never has been," Rader said.

Because the state cannot show a cause of action against the accounting firm, Rader said, "it should be logical, and it is clear on its face, that there can be no wrongdoing and there has been no wrongdoing" by the other defendants.

"The allegations are a pure sham," Rader said, "based on hearsay and gossip coming from people who are disaffected, one-time members of the Worldwide Church of God."

"The attorney general has been pleading all along that there have been no audits. And here they have been dismissed with prejudice," meaning the state cannot bring suit again against the accounting firm.

NEW POLICY RE: PROMOTION OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOKS

We would like to bring to your attention a change in policy which may affect some members in your church area.

After a review of the present marketing situation regarding Everest House books, Mr. Herbert Armstrong has decided that it would be best if church members were no longer involved in the sale of his books published by Everest House. This is not meant to suggest that we are not happy with the work and effort that has been put into the program up till now. It's just that there has been a reevaluation of the best way to handle the marketing options open to us at this time.

We suggest that anybody in your area who is presently involved in promotion of Mr. Armstrong's book to bookstores, etc. stop their activities immediately. This should be done in a business-like way. For example, any new or existing orders or commitments should be followed through but no new business should be activated or encouraged. Please refer future inquiries for book orders directly to Lew Gillensen, Everest House, 3311 6th Avenue, NY. This decision is to stand until further notice.

--Publishing Services

"THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN..."

The processing system used by MPC for handling the millions of letters received each year, is one of the most accurate and efficient in the industry. Both Data Processing and MPC have worked hard over the years to develop this advanced mail processing program.

But, as efficient and well-planned as the system is, we found recently that it isn't yet entirely foolproof. As Volkswagen used to say, "After all, it's only human."

A very important facet of the mail processing system is MPC's checking of procedures to detect duplicate listings (two or more records at the same address, etc.).

However, we learned recently that an innovative elderly gentleman who lives in the Chicago area had devised a clever method of getting around the checking procedures: the old gentleman had used normal appearing names. And, every time he wrote for literature in a certain name, he used the correct PLAIN TRUTH subscription number to go with the name. (In routine checking, we had noticed that there were several records at this address, but it's common for the mailing list to have a number of people living in the same apartment complex).

It was not until an alert MPC employee, working with a stack of literature cards noticed that many of the requests to this address had the same handwriting, that we got suspicious. On double checking, we discovered that there were SEVENTY TWO (72) different names in the file--all at that address!

We asked a minister in the Chicago area to check for us. And, sure enough, he confirmed that the 72 records were in fact one person!

According to the minister's report, we were not the only organization "conned" by this old gentleman. He had done the same thing to other groups and companies, writing for every free offer he could locate. His ruse was so successful that on one day the Post Office delivered SIX large mail sacks to his residence! At this point, his family finally called the Post Office and stopped the delivery.

So ends the "72-record caper." It taught us a lesson: that the human mind, when it is set to a task, often can find a "loop hole" in the best laid plans of "mice and men."

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

The mail comments this week cover three areas of interest: the commemorative activities of January 4-6 in Pasadena, people's positive views toward the Church, and the sound Bible teaching of Church literature.

Church activities in the Pasadena area during the first weekend in January commemorated the attempted takeover of the Church one year ago by the California Attorney General. Brethren from most Southern California churches (stretching from San Diego to Bakersfield) met for Friday night Bible study, Sabbath services, and a gala dance at the Hollywood Palladium on Sunday evening. That weekend emphasized church unity, fellowship, and brotherhood--and resulted in numerous enthusiastic comments.

Also, we want to share a few letters of appreciation from subscribers who have been spiritually strengthened by the Church's positive influence in their lives. And so we are concluding our mail comments with several comments from readers thankful for the deep, meaningful Bible understanding received from our Church literature.

--Mail Processing Center

Brethren Comment About Events of January 5th Weekend

"Last weekend we had the most enjoyable weekend we have ever experienced. Friday night we had a special Bible study giving us an overview of what had happened during the last year. Mr. Helge and Mr. Rader showed us the zeal with which they serve the Work. Then Sabbath afternoon we had the pleasure of hearing you live. It is always a thrill and an encouragement to hear you, Christ's apostle. Your message was very encouraging.

"Then Sunday night we had a pleasant evening at the Palladium. We were able to fellowship with many brethren. The music was excellent. The atmosphere was relaxing. Thank you very much for having approved and made this weekend possible."

--Mr. & Mrs. Rejean Vautour (Pasadena, CA)

"Thank you so much for the very inspiring message you gave to us last Sabbath and the weekend that we will long remember. The Bible study showed to us the true story of the intervention of the State of California against the Worldwide Church of God and our part in it. It was like another Feast of Tabernacles to have so many brethren

ren present. The dance at the Palladium was a beautiful evening; the band brought back many memories of years past and the entertainment was enjoyable."

--Evelyn Powers (Pasadena, CA)

"Just a quick note expressing my deep appreciation for the Southland dance you made possible on January 6, 1980. There were over 2,000 happy people there enjoying themselves immensely. I feel this is just what the Church needed to lift up spirits and get back to true Christian fellowship. It was indeed a terrific way to start off the new decade."

--Pamela S. Dewyer (Pasadena, CA)

"Don and I would like to thank you for the dance last Sunday evening. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was fantastic meeting together again with the brethren."

--Mr. & Mrs. Donald Peabody (Rowland Heights, CA)

"Greetings once again. I must express much thanks for the opportunity we had this past weekend, seeing Mr. Armstrong and hearing from him and also being able to fellowship at the dance."

--Reginald Nicholas (Pasadena, CA)

"Last night we had the greatest dance ever. The Hollywood Palladium sparkled with excited, happy faces, crystal chandeliers, and the clear, mellow tones of good music. Thousands of people enjoyed the blessings of faithfulness to the true God."

--Peter Hultin (Pasadena, CA)

Impact of the Church on Individuals

"I read the Bible and have walked with Christ through most of my life, and I find that the Worldwide Church of God is truly in the forefront of doing the work that Christ intended for the Church to do."

--Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fremmen (Garden Grove, CA)

"My 1-1/2-year-old daughter and I live alone and have depended on the Church for support for some time. I am so thankful for the blessing and security of knowing God's 'orphans and widows' will be provided for. I'm not able to give an offering very often, but when I do come into some money I try to show my appreciation for what God has done for us. This is the least I could do to show my love and thanks."

--L. Darnell (Texas)

"When I came into the Church I was unemployed, in debt, no occupational or educational prospects, no place to live, and recently divorced due to my religious beliefs. Now I am happy to say I have an excellent paying job given by God, my debts are paid, I have a new car, and the outlook is rather bright. God has indeed blessed me very well."

--Michael Morrison (Ottawa, KS)

"After reading Ellen G. White's, THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, and then your literature and books, I have no doubt that I have been attending and supporting the wrong church for years. I would like to know where the nearest Worldwide Church of God is located in my area."

--C.F. Jr. (Port Richey, FL)

"Mr. Armstrong...has written to me often for several years and sends The PLAIN TRUTH free. Of all the Christian organizations that continually ask me to buy something, or ask for money, your church in all these years has never asked me for a dime. That's why I am enclosing a check."

--Lee Maltby (Santa Monica, CA)

Praise Continues for Literature

"I have sent away to other churches and organizations for their materials.... But most of my learning is coming from you. I am thinking more and learning more and understanding more from you."

--Alex Rodriguez (Arleta, CA)

"I have been reading your literature for some five or six years now. I enjoy it very much. I find all your literature very enlightening and as of yet I have never found anything you have sent me that the Bible won't back up."

--Walter Wilson (Alexander, NC)

"I enjoy this informative literature that you've been sending me which helps keep me aware of the ever-worsening conditions around me, as well as better knowledge of the scriptures. How I wish everyone would wake up before it's really too late."

--John Price (Merrick, NY)

"Thank you so very much for your booklets. It seems the more I read them the more I want to read them because I am learning far more now than ever about the Word of God and what's really right and wrong. I trust your church. I haven't trusted a lot of churches in the past, but I trust in yours."

--D.B., (South Bend, IN)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

AFGHANISTAN CRISIS CRACKS THE WESTERN ALLIANCE: The Soviet Union is reaping a side-benefit from its "defensive aggression" in Afghanistan. The NATO alliance is now clearly divided between a Franco-German approach to the Soviet Union and an Anglo-Saxon approach.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has become Europe's strongest supporter of President Carter's policy on Iran and Afghanistan. Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative government was the first in Europe to show unhesitating support for almost every measure adopted by the Carter administration in its confrontation with the Kremlin over Afghanistan.

"The United States is the final guarantor of European security," Mrs. Thatcher told the House of Commons the other day. "They are giving clear leadership, and we should back them."

One Foreign Office source told the Associated Press: "What has made Mrs. Thatcher's support different from other allies is that she has backed up her words with concrete actions. She is convinced that Britain's lot lies with America." (Significantly, the leaders of other white Commonwealth [Ephraimite] nations such as Prime Minister Fraser of Australia and Prime Minister Muldoon of New Zealand have also come out in support of the U.S.-British positions regarding retaliations against Moscow.)

Mrs. Thatcher's instantaneous--almost instinctive--response to aid the U.S. cause contrasted sharply with initial doubts and handwringing in European capitals, most notably Bonn and Paris.

"There is no doubt that the world political situation has come upon difficult times," said West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in one of his first post-Afghanistan comments. "But this is no time for nervousness, cries of crisis, or sharp tones." Other officials in Schmidt's party, the Social Democrats, played down the Afghanistan crisis too. One, a Foreign Ministry official said: "Which is more important to the West as a whole--West Berlin or Kabul?"

Across the Rhine, President Giscard d'Estaing of France almost defended --or at least partially explained away--the Soviet invasion by stating that it was "not necessarily programmed," but that "perhaps it has been determined by the internal situation of Afghanistan."

The continentals finally succumbed to mounting pressure from Washington, as well as their own public opinion. (The Soviets' internal exiling of dissident Andrei Sakharov also was a factor). Yet it took until February 6 for France and West Germany to denounce the Kremlin for its invasion of Afghanistan. At the end of a three-day summit meeting, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt issued a declaration reaffirming their loyalty to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and their determination to honor their alliance commitments.

The two leaders declared that East-West detente "would not withstand another shock of the same order" as the Afghan invasion, and told the Soviet Union that a withdrawal of Soviet forces is necessary "if discussions on which security and the future peace depend" are to succeed.

More to Lose

The two trans-Rhine powers are much more concerned about the immediate impact of a fallback from detente than are Britain and the U.S. They stand more to lose. "The European desire to preserve detente with the Soviet Union," reported Time magazine in its February 6, 1980 edition, "is heavily colored by self-interest. Put simply, Europe is making money out of detente. Last year European Community exports to the Soviet Union amounted to an estimated \$8.2 billion (as compared with U.S. exports for the same year, mostly in the form of grain and other farm produce, worth only \$3.3 billion). West Germany, Italy and France are counting on Soviet natural gas to help meet energy demands in the oil-

scarce years ahead, and a Western European consortium will build a pipeline to bring the gas west. The U.S.S.R. is also providing 30% of the enriched uranium that fuels European nuclear reactors. West Germany is also anxious to avoid new Soviet pressures against West Berlin or any interference with visits of its citizens to East German relatives."

The Franco-German approach seems to involve expressing strong displeasure to Moscow--but then trying to get detente back on the rails without too much disruption of trade.

The French, of course, are attempting above all to stress the independence of their Foreign policy--even though they might end up doing the same thing the U.S. and the other NATO powers do. Paris must not give the impression it is being dictated to by Washington.

"The French way out of this corner," reports L.A. Times Paris correspondent Don Cook, "will be to announce that it is responding to the Soviet aggression by acting in concert with members of the European Common Market--but not in concert with NATO. That, in the French view, would eliminate any appearance that they are coordinating their actions with those of the United States.

"For the first time in a major crisis in East-West relations, the West German government is lining up with the French rather than the Americans, and this is surely one of the most serious diplomatic developments of the present crisis."

Concludes Cook: "How will the Soviet Union attempt to play on this obvious split in the NATO alliance? Perhaps by trying to woo the French and the Germans back into cozy detente and to detach the British and Americans, who are more interested in Soviet adventures outside the NATO area."

James O. Goldsborough, an expert on European power relationships also draws attention to the growing split in the Atlantic Alliance over the approach to the Soviet bloc. In the Los Angeles Times of February 3, he writes:

"While we have been negotiating arms and selling grain, continental Western Europe has developed a more organic relationship with Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. West Germany today is the main Western trading partner for every nation in Eastern Europe. Soviet exports of oil and natural gas to Western Europe have become Moscow's major source of hard currency. Russia has become Western Europe's principal supplier of enriched uranium.

"The relationship is not just economics. Europe has not had a Berlin crisis since the West German Ostpolitik--the effort to improve relations with Eastern Europe--was launched a decade ago.

"Detente has taken on political reality in continental Europe and constituencies have grown up to support it. In France, no important political party opposes improved relations with the Soviet Union (while several oppose improved relations with the United States).

"All these differences tend to push the Europeans in the direction of a European, rather than an Atlantic, policy. Over the past few years we have seen signs of growing divergences--in monetary affairs, nuclear proliferation, economic policy and arms control. Now the divergence has spread to detente.

"What gives the 'European' view significance is the convergence between Paris and Bonn. Though Britain still tends to side with us on these matters, it only isolates London more within the European community. On the Continent there is a feeling that Europe must have a stronger, more independent policy, one that, in a phrase used by Willie Brandt last week, would make Europe a 'broker between the superpowers.'"

The Franco-German versus Anglo-Saxon difference toward detente comes at the very time when Britain's standing within the EEC is at a low ebb. The rub is the size of Britain's contributions to the EEC budget, which London claims is proportionately too high. Reports the Associated Press from London:

"Common Market governments have consistently rebuffed Mrs. Thatcher's attempts to reduce Britain's assessment for the community budget by some \$2.25 billion. The British move has created ill will among market members, particularly France and West Germany, whose leaders continue to work together without heeding British pleas."

Watch for the Franco-German versus Anglo-Saxon split to widen.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau