

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 5, NO. 46

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 16, 1983

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Update From the Netherlands November was a difficult month for the Netherlands and for the Church of God there. For a month the Dutch public service workers disrupted public transportation, postal and garbage collection. The work disruptions started when the government, their employer, introduced wage cuts to cope with severe economic problems. As one Dutch manager here in Utrecht said, "People dependent upon state spending have been sheltered from changes in the world economy, and over the past few months what we have witnessed is social shock therapy."

God's people here are very much aware of what is happening in their country and the world they live in and are more than ever aware of being part of an end-time commission, looking forward to the Kingdom of God. Enduring till the end extends beyond physical comfort and things. Compared to other parts of the world, this country is still very much blessed. The attitude of the Dutch-language brethren is very positive, directed towards God and His apostle Mr. Armstrong. They are presently reminded of Mr. Armstrong's warning in his article in the January 1980 issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, "Prepare to Greatly Reduce Your Standard of Living!"

In spite of the three-week postal strike that caused incoming mail for November to be down by 66.4%, God's Church in this area of the world has been blessed with an increase in income, with the year-to-date figure at the end of November standing at a plus 2.9%.

Many Dutch brethren depend on public transportation to be able to attend services. Somehow public services were only slightly disrupted during the weekends so that regular Church services could be held in all four locations. Although unemployment in the Netherlands is still at an all-time high, God is providing for His own household. The rate of unemployment in the Church is 2.9% compared to the national rate of 17.7%.

From Spanish-speaking Areas The final Bible lectures in 1983 for La PURA VERDAD subscribers were conducted in New York City, Lima, Peru and Temuco, Chile in November with excellent results.

Mr. Larry Hinkle, a local elder serving in the Queens and Brooklyn, New York area, conducted PURA VERDAD Bible lectures in downtown Manhattan on November 5th and 6th, where 183 new people attended. The response level of five percent was the highest for any Spanish-language lecture conducted in the United States. Although there were a number of vociferous religionists present, the meetings went off well. Some 62 people indicated an interest in attending special Bible studies, and ten requested personal visits.

In Lima, Peru, a record-breaking response of 582 new people attended one or more of four lectures presented in the Hotel Crillon on November 19, 20, 26 and 27. The response level of over 25% of all PURA VERDAD readers invited

surpassed the very high levels in Central America earlier this year. Mr. Reginald Killingley, pastor of the Lima congregation, said that he was stunned, but very encouraged and inspired, as he conducted this type of meeting for the first time. He reported that the audience showed a deep appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's articles and literally applauded him and the Spanish Department staff for the efforts made to provide La PURA VERDAD and literature. Mr. Killingley will be conducting a series of follow-up Bible studies in the weeks ahead.

In the most-southerly Spanish-language Church, Temuco, Chile, Mr. Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago congregation, conducted PURA VERDAD lectures on the 26th and 27th of November. Some 40 new people attended--about a six percent response, considered good for an outlying provincial area. Several people traveled eight hours from the Puerto Montt area to attend the meetings.

Mr. Seiglie reports that 23 new people are attending services regularly as a direct result of the public Bible lectures conducted there last March. Church attendance at that time averaged 59--now it is 110! These new people are mostly middle-class with good jobs and education. Also, the number of co-workers and donors in Chile is up sharply from just over a year ago, and PV circulation continues to hover near 10,000.

Mr. Alberto Sousa, pastor of the Ezeiza, Argentina congregation, recently reported that the Church there is experiencing its greatest growth to date in many respects. He said that 20-25% of all income received locally now comes from the mail (donors in Argentina are up 132% and co-workers up 400% over 1982). Mr. Sousa is nurturing a group of more than 20 people in Buenos Aires who became interested in the Church as a result of public Bible lectures conducted last July. He plans more lectures before the spring holy days.

In the near future, Mr. Sousa plans to travel to Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, to set up some promotions to build the number of subscribers there. His comments on the return to civilian rule in Argentina were that, so far, it has allowed him greater freedom to conduct certain aspects of the Church's business. He appreciates the concern and prayers of all of God's people for the brethren in his huge area of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

MEDFORD, OR--FRED DAVIS: I would like to thank Mr. Kelly, Mr. Albert and Headquarters for the two tapes on marriage. They were the best sermons we have ever heard on that vital subject! These sermons are setting a fine pace for us in the field ministry!

DETROIT (WEST), MI--RAY WOOTEN: First visit requests seem to be increasing. This is stimulated by Mr. Armstrong's daily radio broadcasts and weekly telecasts in the area. Many are saying that they have never learned so much so quickly. This, of course, inspires the congregation.

CASPER, WY--DENNIS WHEATCROFT: Attitudes are good overall and the members are behind the Church. Nevertheless, many are being

tried and tested in the areas of finances, health and family relations.

CINCINNATI (EAST), OH--AL DENNIS: Some of our people are running into more persecution. Several have problems over the Sabbath. Others who are involved in the PT distribution program have had to deal with hostile attitudes. One case involved outright lies that were told as one couple was threatened with legal action because they were distributing the PT.

TACOMA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: What a response! In just one evening, the brethren raised \$3,000 at our department store inventory. Two hundred fifty-two enthusiastic members set such an example that the department store personnel manager said she couldn't believe how people could be so happy and enjoy raising money for a church--that other churches just seem to endure it. In fact, this time she called us in advance to make sure we were coming back. She was overwhelmed at such a turnout. God's people are marvelous!

From Canada

LONDON, ONT--RICHARD WILDING: The local PLAIN TRUTH lectures were very successful. We had 46 new people attend the first one and 50 the second (of which 35 were repeats). So all in all we reached 61 new people. The brethren were really inspired to see the interest. Also, we have received two requests for baptism.

ABBOTSFORD, B.C.--DAN HOPE: Feast messages have moved many to get out of their ruts. Spokesman's Club is up in attendance. More people are more hospitable. PLAIN TRUTH stands are getting more support locally and faring well. Mr. Armstrong's broadcast and The PLAIN TRUTH are more a topic of conversation with many of the public that I meet. They perceive him as powerful and making sense about the times.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

We have only one more week of classes before the finals begin for the fall semester. From the reports I have received, it looks as though the students are doing well academically and otherwise.

Recently, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong approved of some of the faculty and/or administration of the two campuses making exchange visits during the next semester. From Big Sandy the McCulloughs and the Salyers plan to visit the Pasadena campus, and the Merediths, Albrechts, and my wife and I plan to visit Big Sandy sometime during the second semester. This faculty exchange helps the two campuses to keep more closely in touch, and it also injects a certain diversity and "freshness of approach" into various classes, forums and assemblies on the two campuses. I think both students and faculty members profit immensely from these exchanges.

You ministers who counsel with prospective students will be happy to learn that it is perfectly okay for a prospective student to mention the campus of

his or her choice (whether Big Sandy or Pasadena) when applying to enter Ambassador. However, you should be sure to inform all prospective students that this does not mean they will be guaranteed entrance at the campus. But it will allow us to be better able to select those students who might actually prefer to attend either Pasadena or Big Sandy. The classes are basically the same at both campuses, but, in some cases, there may be valid reasons for a prospective student being able to attend the campus of his or her choice.

Mr. Armstrong stopped in Big Sandy last week and spoke to the students and faculty while there. He said all went well. I know both students and faculty were happy to have him visit the campus once again. Mr. Armstrong also hopes to be able to speak to the students again at Pasadena in the near future.

Mr. Armstrong also spoke to a large gathering of brethren in the Orlando, Florida area last Sabbath. He continues to make such trips out to the field so he can speak to many thousands of the brethren of God's Churches; and this also gives him a chance to have a little more contact with many of you ministers.

We are always happy to hear of the growth and stability of God's Churches worldwide, and once again ask for your continued prayers.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Newsstand Distribution in "Price Chopper" Supermarket Chain

An exciting opportunity has recently opened up for distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH in supermarkets in central and eastern New York State. A chain of 70 stores called "Price Chopper" has been contracted to display The PLAIN TRUTH magazine on the single-column (three-pocket) newsstand unit at the exits of each store.

Most of the stores are located in the Albany and Syracuse, New York church areas. Mr. Lyle Welty, pastor of the Albany, New York and Springfield, Massachusetts churches, has mentioned that this chain is considered one of the finest in the area. They have an excellent reputation for selling quality products and maintaining neat and clean stores. They are also actively involved in sponsoring community events.

These stores are situated in strategic, shopper-oriented locations, so they are very busy. Since these stores are open 24 hours a day and are in high-traffic areas, we expect PLAIN TRUTH distribution to run between 500 and 700 magazines per store per month.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

One Million New PLAIN TRUTH Subscribers in 1983

The number of new subscribers added to the PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the U.S. in 1983 has surpassed one million. This is only the second year in the history of God's Church that this mark has ever been reached--1982 was the first.

Television was the leading source of new adds, accounting for 29%, followed by 20% from newsstands and 19% from cards placed in subscription issues.

Very Good Response to Semiannual Letter

The response to the semiannual letter from regular subscribers is very good--the second highest since 1979. Eighty-four trays of mail were received on the weekend of December 10-11, an all-time record. (A tray contains about 850-900 letters. The previous record was 68 trays, set during last winter's semiannual letter.)

Readers recognize Mr. Armstrong as a wise and true discerner of the times we live in as foretold in Biblical prophecies. They also appreciate his personal concern for people. In addition to requesting the booklets offered in the letter, many are already asking for his yet to be published book A WORLD HELD CAPTIVE.

187 Tons of Paper to Print U.S. Book

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY continues to be the most requested publication the Church offers, other than The PLAIN TRUTH. Through November of this year, 413,690 copies were distributed. We recently ordered another half-million copies, which are expected to last only until next year's Feast of Tabernacles. In placing the order, we were informed that this one printing will require 187 tons of paper--enough to fill three railroad boxcars.

God Continues to Perform Miracles of Healing

Many people write in to share their experiences of God's intervention when they were sick or disabled. From their letters it is clear that God heals--but in the time and manner He chooses. Some were healed instantly after suffering for years, while others are being healed gradually. The following are some of the inspiring accounts we have received:

Since months have passed and I am now sure of God's healing, I will write. For approximately 47 years, I had been plagued by a rapidly fluctuating temperature and low grade fever on an almost constant basis. Last year it outdid itself, going to 102 and 103 degrees and had me just about incapacitated.

I had many lab tests that showed no reason for it. The local minister anointed me but it kept on. I was getting pretty desperate and distraught and when I was anointed a second time for a colon problem, I also told the minister about this miserable temperature. Like I say, I waited a long time to be certain and I am. God has healed me.

C.G. (Phoenix, AZ)

Thank you very much for having had special prayer made for me when I contacted Headquarters in July. I received the anointed cloth and your kind letter. From the pain and symptoms, apparently I had a bleeding ulcer. There has been no sign of further bleeding since the day after my request and no more pain in my stomach after a few days. I thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His healing. Thanks to all who were concerned about me.

B.M. (Hahira, GA)

A few weeks ago you sent me a prayer cloth and I placed it, in prayer, on my leg that was starting to hurt so much (I had bone cancer). Almost at once the pain went away and I do thank God because I feel it was healed at that moment. The bone scans show no tumors there now. Now across my lower back and into my hips the hurting is quite severe and I am not able to walk well at all. So again I come humbly to you asking for your prayers and I'd like a prayer cloth again.

L.S. (Kirksville, MO)

Our minister has been telling us of many recent healings in God's Church. So, I have another one to add to your list--not a sensational one--but very important to me.

During the Feast a year ago, the middle finger on my right hand began hurting for no apparent reason. All the weeks since then it kept getting worse and I kept bumping it on everything and it became extremely painful. Then my husband became alarmed saying it was a bone felon. His father had had one years ago and nearly lost his finger. It seemed like such a small ailment compared to other people's problems that I hesitated to be anointed for it, but in January I finally asked the minister if he would. He did and already the pain is gone. New skin has formed and as soon as my nail grows out, my finger will be as good as new. God surely takes care of even small, annoying problems.

V.M. (Canton, OH)

I had a very bad habit of smoking. I had tried many times and in many ways to stop but was never able to succeed. Last summer, I talked to the minister about it but the more I tried to quit the more I smoked. So I went to the doctor who put me on a gradual decrease in nicotine by cutting back on the number I smoked each day, but that didn't seem to be getting me anywhere either. I found I could not even go to Sabbath services because of the guilt and unworthiness I was feeling.

I then went to the booklet THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING and saw that I was not looking to God but to man (the doctor) for the healing I needed to quit smoking. And so, as of 5:15 a.m. one morning, I smoked my last cigarette and this time I'm sure it's the real thing, as I'm in no way distressed about it physically or emotionally, the way the doctor said I'd be. I thank God and will always remember this lesson I've learned about faith in God's promises.

E.M. (Gardiner, ME)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SPECIAL REPORT, PART III (CONCLUSION): A NEW ERA BEGINS IN EUROPE
--WILL IT END UP AS A CONFEDERATION OF "TWO SELF-GOVERNING HALVES"?

In the first two segments of this Special Report we discussed the uncertainty affecting the nations of Western Europe today. Instead of cementing both sides of the 34-year-old NATO alliance more firmly together, the

introduction of the Pershing II missile and soon, the cruise missile, is instead causing division. Many West Germans seem to be asking "Why us?" when they realize that the 108 Pershings are destined only for the Federal Republic. The French detect a German restlessness in the heart of Europe, aggravated by the potential of a tempting offer of German reunification from the only nation that can make that possible, the Soviet Union.

Soviet military predominance in Europe already seems to be producing an intimidating effect. This in turn produces concern in influential quarters in the United States. Is defending an allegedly ungrateful Europe worth the expense? Let the Europeans defend themselves, even if we have to sell them the weapons--even nuclear weapons--to do so! So goes the reasoning in some circles. This viewpoint was expressed succinctly by THE NEW YORK TIMES token conservative columnist, William Safire, in that paper's November 13, 1983 edition. He was angered by lack of European support for the U.S. action in Grenada. The time might be ripe to consider drawing down U.S. forces in Europe which, he claimed, were now nothing but "nuclear hostages."

In Europe...President Reagan's decision to prevent further Communist penetration of this hemisphere [meaning Grenada] has met with disapproval from what we thought were our most reliable allies.... The lesson is that our NATO partners are interested exclusively in having the United States defend Europe and are resentful of any action the U.S. takes elsewhere to protect its own security.... The Euro-isolationists demand the right to be protected by American troops and America's nuclear umbrella while reserving the right to undermine American security everywhere else. That removes the "mutual" from mutual defense....

If that is the case...the time is coming for an independent European defense, with the U.S. offering for sale the latest intermediate missiles but not the rental of our troops.... "Wayward sisters, depart in peace," Horace Greeley told the seceding states. As Western Europeans turn inward, the U.S. should wish them well and look to its own vital interests.

Another conservative analyst, Ernest van den Haag, in a June 24, 1983 NATIONAL REVIEW article entitled "Should We Bring Home the Troops?" came up with similar conclusions to those of Mr. Safire.

A reasonable American policy commensurate with our actual ability, the costs we are willing to bear, and the risks we are willing to run...should be as follows: We should indicate to our allies that we will withdraw our troops except for those needed to man bases and perform technical tasks of common interest. We should set a reasonable timetable for carrying out this policy.... While no longer their protector, we will continue as their ally, and will send troops if and when requested and necessary to aid in the defeat of Soviet expansion. But Europe (or Japan) should be as capable of self-defense as Israel is.

Further, we should make available to our allies theater nuclear weapons. They should be under their control, not ours. Our allies must decide where to position them and when to use them.

They may do so on a national or on a European basis. But these decisions cannot be American decisions. In effect the Germans will have to play a much greater role in their own defense than they have so far played, and so will the Japanese.

In a rather surprising article in Britain's SUNDAY TELEGRAPH (November 13, 1983), entitled "Unasked Questions About Peace," chief foreign affairs analyst Peregrine Worsthorne, normally quite hawkish and pro-American, pondered whether now might be the time for Western Europe to consider "an early divorce" from the U.S. and to instead "reach an understanding" with the Soviet Union.

It might be of help to try to clarify some of the recent developments revolutionizing Britain's and Western Europe's attitudes to foreign affairs, of which the most important--but least clearly recognized--is a reduction in fear of the Soviet Union.

Whereas in the late 1940s and 50s it really did seem likely that the Soviet Union would wish to do to Western Europe what it was doing to Eastern Europe--i.e., send the Red Army in to impose Communism--that possibility nowadays seems a bit too far-fetched to be taken seriously. Has not the Soviet empire enough troubles holding down Eastern Europe by force without trying to include additional vast areas of potential disaffection? In any case, would not a Soviet invasion of Western Europe provide Eastern Europe with an opportunity to try to throw off the Russian yoke? Only a mad Soviet ruler could conceivably put the Soviet empire at risk in this way. That was not at all the situation in the 1950s when the Kremlin might well have dreamt about Western Europe being as ripe for Communism as was, at that time, Eastern Europe.... No longer.

Faith in Communism has almost entirely evaporated. On any rational calculation, Soviet domination today of Western Europe would produce far more liabilities for the Kremlin than assets. Even without American thermonuclear protection, Britain and Western Europe have little to fear directly from the Soviet Union. In other words, the original motive behind the formation of NATO--to prevent the Red Army imposing Communism on Western Europe--no longer applies. Of course the Soviet influence over Western Europe would increase if the American defensive commitment was weakened, but not to any horrendous degree.

What people are beginning to realize is that the Soviet threat is now aimed primarily at other parts of the world--namely the Middle East and Latin America--and given a minimum of prudence and resolute statesmanship on the part of Britain and Western Europe, that is how it could remain. It really might be possible for Western Europe and the Soviet Union to establish some kind of modus vivendi acceptable to both. In return for them leaving us alone in Western Europe, we would have to leave them alone in the rest of the world.

Needless to say, any such bargain, either explicit or implicit, would seriously affect Britain's and Western Europe's relations

with the United States. The Americans could not be expected to continue to shoulder the main burden of West European defense against the Soviet Union if Western Europe refused to share its burdens in containing Soviet advances in the rest of the world....

Not that I personally would wish to see that choice made, since I have absolutely no faith in Britain and Western Europe possessing that minimum of prudent and resolute statesmanship which a separate relationship with the Soviet Union would require. Without the American backbone, the European body politic would in no time start flopping all over the place. But that suspicion apart, one has to admit that a separate relationship with the Soviet Union and a less close one with the United States are no longer options which only fellow-travellers on the Left could be expected to espouse....

The new choices are, in essence, between joining the United States in its global competition with the Soviet Union, or evolving a relationship with the Soviet Union which would allow Britain and Western Europe a quiet life on the sidelines of the international struggle. Neither course seems to me self-evidently more sensible or honorable than the other. Of course Britain and Western Europe are on America's side morally. But such is their timidity in practice that the United States might very well be more effective on its own, particularly if the military burdens of defending Western Europe were gradually lifted from its shoulders, as they would be if Western Europe reached an understanding with the Soviet Union.

In other words, such an understanding might strengthen, rather than weaken, the United States in its struggle against Communism in those parts of the world where the threat is still acute, as it no longer is in Western Europe. It is no longer necessarily true that we need the Americans or that they need us. The common interest might best be served by an early divorce, while relations are still close enough for the terms to be amicably agreed.

Europe indeed is in a state of political flux. But worries over the future are not limited to the western half of the continent. In Eastern Europe, the Soviet satellites do not appreciate the threats emanating from Moscow to move Soviet missiles further westward in order to counter the Pershing II/cruise missile deployments. They have displayed surprising outspokenness in their criticisms. Here is a report on this from the November 29, 1983 WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Public statements from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Romania echoed Moscow's condemnation of the U.S. for new nuclear missile deployments that began last week in Western Europe. But the statements expressed reluctance about Soviet plans for counter-deployments in East Germany and Czechoslovakia and stressed the need for continued dialogue with the West.

Just yesterday [Nov. 28], West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl disclosed that East Germany has made quiet inquiries about financial assistance from Bonn despite frequent Soviet threats to

chill relations between the two Germanys if the U.S. missiles were deployed. Late last week East German leader Erich Honecker stressed the need for continued East-West "political dialogue" and promised to "try to limit the damage as much as possible" in relations with Bonn. He added that the planned deployment of new Soviet missiles in his country isn't "cause for celebration."

Czechoslovakia, the other nation due to receive additional Soviet missiles in the wake of the U.S. deployment in Western Europe, also displayed rare skepticism. An official Czech publication recently noted that it had received numerous letters from citizens expressing "doubt whether the recently announced measures for the strengthening of defense" were necessary. Romania, which frequently plays the maverick in the Soviet bloc, went so far as to lump together the U.S. and Soviet deployments as targets of criticism.

U.S. analysts said that these complaints put Moscow in an awkward spot. On the one hand, the Soviets want East European nations to toe the line and enthusiastically endorse Soviet policy. On the other hand, Moscow wants the East Europeans to maintain good enough relations with the West to preserve economic benefits that the Soviets would be hard-pressed to match. As a result, these new sources of discontent in Eastern Europe, combined with the economic malaise that pervades the Soviet bloc, could create major problems for the Soviets. "If that happens, then it could be quite serious for them," says Marshall Shulman, a professor at Columbia University and a Soviet analyst in the Carter administration. "It could be the spark that sets off latent national and political resentments in Eastern Europe."

Needed: Help From Western Europe to "Finlandize" the East

Now we present excerpts from a rather remarkable far-ranging analysis on the future of Europe given by an official in the Press and Information Office of the West German government, Klaus Bloemer. Under the title, "Freedom for Europe, East and West," the article appeared in the Spring 1983 issue of FOREIGN POLICY. Herr Bloemer states that the views expressed are his own, not necessarily those of his government. Simply stated, Herr Bloemer calls for the "political emancipation of Europe--East and West" from under the military dominance of both superpowers, a security relationship between Western Europe and the Soviet Union and the offering of massive economic assistance to the Soviets in return for Moscow permitting all of Eastern Europe (including East Germany) to be released into a neutral type of existence similar to that of Finland. The result, he proclaims: "two self-governing halves of Europe."

It is a harsh truth that the political emancipation of Europe--East and West--will proceed with difficulty as long as Western Europe remains utterly dependent upon the United States. The basis for an autonomous West European foreign policy...lies in a Western Europe allied to the United States but not unilaterally dependent upon it.... Countless historical, geographic, cultural, and strategic interests require that West European countries enter into some kind of security relationship with the Soviet Union.... Efforts to forge a separate peace within Europe must get under way....

The time has come for all Europeans to recognize the anachronistic nature of their defense relationship--characterized by the primacy and prestige of the superpowers--which prevents East and West Europeans from living together as Europeans. This situation cannot be justified endlessly by the standard superpower argument that it would be irresponsible to dismantle a system that since its inception has prevented hot war in Europe.

On the contrary, it may be dangerous for all concerned when power structures become obsolete through growing doctrinaire rigidity. Walt W. Rostow, national security adviser for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, pointed out in THE NEW YORK TIMES in January 1982: "What is now required is a vision--a farsighted plan to end the confrontation in Central Europe that, for 35 years, has passed for normality."...

In Eastern and Central Europe the system of dependent, conformist regimes created by Stalin now fulfills inadequately its function as a glacis [buffer zone] for the Soviet Union. Patterned after the Soviet model, the system has failed economically and socially. From the strict point of view of Soviet security...the 110 million Poles, Czechs, East Germans, Hungarians, Romanians, and Bulgarians who live under communist rule require economic subsidies within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) and represent a potentially disruptive political and social force....

Yet Moscow will be unwilling to face such realities until the West clearly signals acceptance of the legitimate security requirements of the Soviet Union and develops a comprehensive proposal for economic cooperation--a New Deal-Marshall Plan-type proposal...to include the Soviet Union and its allies....

The West must...help stabilize the Soviet economy by modernizing its civilian sectors--a task Moscow cannot manage on its own.... Such a transformation requires a revision of security considerations by both the Soviets and the Americans as well as a willingness in Moscow to initiate far-reaching economic reforms...aimed at improving productivity and the quality of production of the Soviet economy. Business cooperation could be developed without compromising either partner's social philosophies or practices, and thus fundamental political structures would remain unthreatened.... [Significantly, Pope John Paul II has alluded to a similar bridging, by religion, of today's political/ideological boundaries in Europe.]

Any serious effort to create a peaceful balance between the superpowers, however, must inevitably address the state of affairs where confrontation began: in the heart of Europe. A series of bold proposals by the United States and the West European industrial countries to establish an autonomous Europe could provide the framework for a new global understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union.

An essential precondition for such an evolution would be ending both Soviet and American military presence in East and West

European countries. A West European defense organization could offset any strategic advantage the Soviet Union and its allies might accrue from the withdrawal of American nuclear and conventional forces across the Atlantic while Soviet forces remained on the continent, albeit within their national borders. The defense organization would have at its disposal the world's most modern conventional weapons systems--also of U.S. origin--as well as the second-strike capability of the French-British nuclear forces. These forces would be built up and integrated into a West European defense organization....

"Finlandizing" All of Eastern Europe

Any new move toward European autonomy would, of course, also require military adjustments within Eastern Europe. No Soviet troops could remain in Eastern Europe.... The April 1948 Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, based on the following articles, could provide the formula for such treaties: Article 1: In the eventuality of Finland, or the Soviet Union through Finnish territory, becoming the object of an armed attack by Germany or any state allied with the latter, Finland will, true to its obligations as an independent state, fight to repel the attack.... Article 6: The High Contracting Parties pledge themselves to observe the principle of the mutual respect of sovereignty and integrity and that of noninterference in the internal affairs of the other state.

A liberated Europe would require not only reorganizing both the Warsaw Pact and NATO, but also consolidating the political and territorial situation in the German region. The resolution of the German problem requires a Soviet pledge to change fundamentally its European policy by guaranteeing its allies the right to self-determination. The great majority of Germans--East and West--would accept the existence of two states in their homeland if a peace treaty between both the four former occupation powers and the two German states insured that the German Democratic Republic (GDR) emerged with a democratic-pluralistic social order. The GDR--enjoying a status similar to that of Finland--would be obligated to support Soviet foreign policy actively and to cooperate with the Soviet Union economically....

Such an agreement would be in line with the general West German policy of "freedom before unity" and would not differ from the present status--the existence of two sovereign German states.... In 1958 then Chancellor Adenauer proposed that the Soviet Union grant the GDR status similar to that of [free and neutral] Austria.... Social Democratic Party Chairman Willy Brandt stated recently before American journalists in Bonn that the future of a divided Germany was not necessarily in the restoration of a national state. And Kohl spoke in Washington before U.S. columnists of his efforts "to bring the problem of Germany under a European roof."...

Such a treaty...would create for the first time the psychological preconditions for the FRG [the Federal Republic, or West Germany] to enter into political union with its Western neighbors as well

as for a Finlandization of Moscow's European allies. In this respect German policy would assume the function of a European peace policy and a neutralized Germany in Central Europe would be avoided. In view of Germany's geopolitical position, a reunited Germany would also be neither in the German nor in the general European interest. For it would end up in isolation, thereby making impossible West European union and an effective East-West security system....

From the West's perspective the two self-governing halves of Europe would provide the foundation for a secure world peace based on an expanded definition of security that emphasized economic stability and the right to self-determination. These objectives, after all, provided the original justification for the creation of the Western alliance.

One wonders whether Herr Bloemer's prognostication might not be pretty close to the way events will materialize, as indicated in the second chapter of Daniel. Might the Europe to come indeed be composed of two confederated "halves": one leg (and foot and five toes) representing Western Europe, the other leg comprising the nations of Eastern Europe, existing in a Finlandized form, giving due consideration to the security interests of the Soviet Union? In addition the vast economic potential of such a grand settlement of the European problem calls to mind the enormous economic system prophesied in Revelation 18.

As the former U.S. ambassador to Finland, Mark E. Austad (now ambassador to Norway) said recently in Los Angeles, the term "Finlandization" is a much maligned term, used to connote Western European subservience to Moscow, a word highly offensive to the Finnish people, who, faced with reality (an 800-mile shared border with the U.S.S.R.), have managed to preserve their independence. But looking at it from the perspective of the East Europeans, said Mr. Austad, "the East Europeans would love to be Finlandized."

Foreign policy analyst Richard Bannett, writing in the November 29 NEW YORK TIMES, also touched on this "Europe-of-two-halves" theme:

The heart of the alliance problem is Germany--as it always has been--and the security of Germany can be improved only by decreasing the threat of war. To do so, we must reduce tensions between the superpowers. A moratorium on all further nuclear-weapons testing and deployment should be negotiated immediately with the Soviet Union....

This would involve nuclear-free zones, substantial thinning out of forces and a demilitarized zone on both sides of the Elbe. Washington should encourage trade and cultural relations between the two halves of the divided Continent.... The Western Europeans could then assume greater responsibility for their own defense and the United States could begin the withdrawal of its forces. This would take years. How much and how fast would depend on the emerging political and military climate.

The world is truly in for some shocking realignments of the political landscape of Europe in the months and years ahead.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau