

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The September issue of The PLAIN TRUTH will carry the ninth and final installment of the series of articles on childrearing. Be sure to encourage the members to read all these articles, and to occasionally review them. All ministers should also read these articles carefully, and make use of the principles set forth in them in their own families, in counselling and in Bible studies and sermons. Improper childrearing is certainly one of the major problems in the world today, especially in the Western nations.

Family relations is an area in which we will always need to be giving quality, balanced instruction, especially as God grants increased growth in His Church. Let's be sure we are continually making full use of the fine instructional material available to us in The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS, YOUTH 85 and WORLDWIDE NEWS.

Mr. Dean May has informed me that new legislation affecting the use of fleet vehicles by the U.S. ministry has gone into effect. The House and Senate have passed bills repealing the controversial law that had required taxpayers to keep detailed daily logs of business use of automobiles. That law was enacted last year as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, and drew vociferous protest from many segments. The bill repealing those requirements has now been signed by President Reagan.

In attempting to implement last summer's Deficit Reduction Act, the Internal Revenue Service had promulgated guidelines calling for many burdensome contemporaneous records. The new bill has ended those strict contemporaneous record-keeping requirements, reestablishing the former practice of providing "substantiating evidence." Personal use of company cars must still be reported on employee tax returns.

Where does this leave us now? It appears that ministers on the fleet program need not keep a detailed daily log book. However, evidence should be accumulated to substantiate our estimation of personal usage. There is no question we must still keep records to know what our personal usage is. The monthly chargeback for personal usage will probably satisfy the tax liability based on current IRS regulations. Congress has requested the IRS to write new regulations on these provisions before October 1, 1985. We will keep you informed of any further developments in this regard. (Please see the box on page 2.)

Please note that all fleet drivers from the Pasadena and Big Sandy Corporate Fleets will receive additional instructions on personal use of their cars in the near future.

On another subject, I would like to request that we all be praying fervently for Mrs. Leonard Schreiber, who is suffering from melanoma, a very serious form of skin cancer. Many have expressed their concern for Mrs. Schreiber, and I know the Schreibers appreciate the prayerful support they are receiving from God's people and their fellow ministers.

Mrs. Jim Reyer has been improving steadily and has regained most of her strength, although the cancer is still present. The Reyers feel God has definitely intervened. Mrs. Reyer is now functioning normally and feeling well in spite of the cancer. Please continue to pray for her complete recovery.

One final matter. Please pray that God will provide a suitable site for the Feast of Tabernacles in Nigeria this year. It seems each year that one problem or another comes up at the last moment, creating difficulty for some of our brethren in being able to meet for the Feast.

God is on His throne. He promises to hear our prayers, whether on behalf of an ailing brother or sister, for opening a door for a Feast site, or for opening new doors to preach His Gospel to the world. As always, thank you for your diligent prayers for Mr. Armstrong, for everyone here in Pasadena and for one another.

Tax Requirement for U.S. Fleet Drivers

As granted by the new record-keeping requirement measure passed by Congress, the Corporation has elected not to withhold taxes from the amount of personal usage added to your compensation. That will be your responsibility.

International News

From Mr. Frank Brown Our summer advertising campaign is bringing in an excellent response. By the end of May the response to the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH advertisement had reached 1.2%, and new subscribers from both the OBSERVER and the TELEGRAPH ads totalled over 14,000. The U.K. PLAIN TRUTH subscriber list for the July/August issue is up by 10% over June and now stands at 106,000. Further growth will occur next month, since not all ad responses were received in time for the file update.

May was another record month for mail income, breaking the previous record (set last month) by 2.5%. The month's increase was 27.4% compared to May, 1984 and the year-to-date increase is 10.7%.

Scandinavia: We are anticipating lots of mail from Scandinavia in the next few weeks, as two million four-colour inserts appear in quality publications in Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The mail generated by these advertisements is likely to be more than the total received to date this year, and should almost double the Norwegian PT file over the next few months!

A small newsstand programme has opened in Oslo, distributing around 1,500 copies of Den ENKLE SANNHET per month, as well as 500 English PLAIN TRUTHs. Most of these magazines are distributed through our outlet in what is said to be the largest bookstore in Scandinavia. The store is situated on the main street (Karljohan Gate) in Oslo.

We are pleased to be able to report further exciting progress in the work of God's Church in Scandinavia. "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast went on the air

in the Oslo area on Sunday, May 5th, at 10:30 a.m. on Norway's largest cable network. This new channel has 140,000 connections within the Oslo area and should have a growing impact.

Middle East/Continent of Europe: The PLAIN TRUTH files for the Middle East and the European continent are picking up again after the dip caused by renewals. The Middle East file is doing particularly well, with 2,923 subscribers added during May.

The newsstand programme has opened again in Greece after being closed for a few months. There are five outlets in and around Athens currently distributing 500 magazines per month.

Africa: We are currently mailing 57,506 copies of The PLAIN TRUTH to Africa, which is 68.8% higher than 1984. GOOD NEWS circulation stands at 1,116, which is a 50% increase over 1984.

Unfortunately, we have bad news regarding the mailing out of literature to readers in Nigeria. As you may know, Nigeria is experiencing severe economic problems. Now the government has introduced austere measures to combat these problems. While inflation soars, people's incomes have been held down. Naturally, this has had a detrimental effect on the Church's income. Postage alone has been increased by up to 500%, which will severely hamper our ability to mail out booklets.

On a more positive note, the attendance at Passover in Ghana was the highest ever in the eleven-year history of the Church there. My wife and I visited Ghana for Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread.

From Mr. Robert Morton Over 4,000 new subscribers were added to the Australian PLAIN TRUTH mailing list in April. The majority of these new subscribers came on file as a result of our PLAIN TRUTH advertisement in the April issue of READER'S DIGEST, the newsstand programme and "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast.

In December last year the Australian PLAIN TRUTH subscription list passed the 100,000 mark for the first time. Since then we are pleased to report that new subscriptions have kept pace with the drop-off caused by the renewal programme. Currently the mailing list stands at 101,237 subscribers--a 39.4% increase over April, 1984.

Our WATS line number is continuing to boost responses to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast. Responses have increased so far this year by 92.4%. A small group of volunteers from the members of the local Gold Coast church have been trained in the WATS line operation and are now making a valuable contribution helping to answer the telephones each Sunday morning.

The mail count for April totalled 20,077--a 12.5% increase over the same month in 1984. Income for the month increased by 13.3% over April last year, bringing our year-to-date increase to 5.9%.

We have been most encouraged by the number of inquiries from people seeking counsel from the local ministry, desiring baptism, or wanting to attend church services. So far this year these requests have increased by 36.3%.

Attendance in Australia during the Feast of Unleavened Bread was 5,502--an increase of 4% over last year. The first Holy Day offering was down 9.7%,

while the second Holy Day offering increased by 5.2%. These offerings were still very fine when compared to the exceptionally high offerings received last year during this festival. We are grateful to the members for their continuing support of God's Church through the Holy Day offerings, especially in light of the current industrial unrest and economic uncertainty in this country.

In Asia The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list is growing quite rapidly. Advertisements in the February issue of READER'S DIGEST in Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Sri Lanka have brought in 1,391 responses so far, with the bulk of responses yet to reach us. The Asian mailing list currently has 63,265 subscribers--an 81.1% increase over April, 1984.

In Sri Lanka "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast is aired weekly on channel ITN11, Colombo, and Mr. Armstrong's messages continue to capture the interest of viewers in that country. So far this year 1,619 requests for the literature offered by Mr. Armstrong on the programme have been received.

The count of responses from Asian subscribers to Mr. Armstrong's November, 1984, semiannual letter has now been finalised. Asian readers requesting the booklets offered by Mr. Armstrong in his letter totalled 10,987--20.5% of the Asian mailing list.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL CHURCHES WORLDWIDE ****

Photographs of Ambassador College in Pasadena

The Ambassador Information Center is seeking to update its photo archives for the Ambassador College Tour Guide Training Program. If you have photographs or slides of the Pasadena campus, especially prior to 1970, we would like to view them, and possibly duplicate some for our files. (It will be considered that the rights in the copies of the photographs will belong to Ambassador College.) If known, please include location, date and names for each picture. Please write your name and address on each picture or slide, and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can return your originals to you. Mail the photographs to:

Ambassador Information Center
c/o Timothy Morgan, Tour Director
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, California 91129

Thank you VERY MUCH for your help!

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Update on "In-home Operator" Program

As we reported several weeks ago, new technology now makes it possible to transfer incoming WATS calls directly into members' homes. This pilot pro-

gram has been quite successful and is proving to be of particular help during the summer, when many student operators are away from Pasadena.

"In-home" operators have been carefully selected from local churches in Southern California. In most cases they have already had considerable training and experience in taking calls here on campus. In addition, an intensive training program has been instituted, including several classes conducted by our WATS supervisors. These training sessions are held right in members' homes and include an in-depth slide presentation, audio cassettes and reference notebooks. Our own staff demonstrates how to take literature requests by answering actual calls.

Thus far, 4,300 calls have been taken by 130 operators. Those asked to serve are excited about this unique opportunity. As the response to the telecast continues to increase, the in-home operator program may be expanded to Church areas across the country.

Updated Index of Church Literature

The latest Literature Index, in two parts, is included with this PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. It lists all currently available books, booklets and re-print articles by literature code and subject. Please take the time to become familiar with this index and discard any previous ones you have in your possession. Some publications on older lists are now out of print.

This index is for your personal use. Please do not post, duplicate or lend it to others. We always try to fill any reasonable requests for our publications, but when long lists of literature are requested, postage and processing costs increase considerably. Moreover, Mr. Armstrong has always felt that people should receive only a limited number of publications per request so they can properly study and absorb the information given.

Changes in this list will be regularly announced in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. We will be sending a revised Literature Index to all ministers once a year. Thanks for your help.

On the Lighter Side

Of the thousands of letters and calls generated by "The WORLD TOMORROW" program, some are very amusing and humorous. Following is a collection of our most recent colorful comments we thought you'd find enjoyable:

I bought my husband a new TV for the bedroom just so I could watch Mr. Armstrong on Sunday nights! (But don't tell my husband. He thinks I bought the TV just for him!)

Mrs. J.B. (Sherman Oaks, CA)

I try to listen to the program every week even though my church doesn't allow me to.

E.L. (Brooklyn, NY)

I remember arguing with my husband one night. Mr. Armstrong came on the air, and we both quit arguing and started listening. It stopped our arguing. Mr. Armstrong doesn't yell and scream. Instead, he speaks plainly and is very understandable.

I.D. (Bronx, NY)

He is very, very interesting. He lifts me so much more than my minister does. My minister ought to listen to Mr. Armstrong to learn how to become interesting.

A.P. (Cleveland, OH)

I'm getting ready to go to church, and I keep the broadcast blasting so I can hear it in the next room.

S.I. (Statesville, NC)

I'd like to know more about your church before I sign up. I heard Mr. Armstrong today. Do you believe in the New Testament? You're not Jewish? You're not Jehovah's Witnesses, are you? OK --send me the literature.

Mrs. M.G. (Central Point, OR)

I would like to say it's quite a relief not to hear someone cry, beg and plead for the bucks so they can continue on (crying, begging and pleading) next week. I'm also amazed that a person can say more in about 25 minutes than all others combined in a day.

F.V. (Dallas, TX)

One Sunday I turned your program on and really got quite a blessing from it. You didn't ask me to join your one-hundred-a-month club. You didn't say if you didn't receive one million dollars you would have to leave the air. Thank God for you, and I wish there were more like you.

A.B. (Luther, MI)

I usually don't view the Sunday "video of the gods."... I had just heard a preacher's pitch on saving the world (via the inspired viewer's \$200 cash). Anyway, your broadcast followed. I like you. You're good.

D.S. (Grand Haven, MI)

Since our grandchildren outgrew Captain Kangaroo, we have never bothered to even turn on our TV on a Saturday morning until I pressed the remote control by chance this morning at channel 5--then kept glued to it until the end of your program.

L.F. (Bronxville, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

TIMID UNCLE SAM GETS HIT AGAIN Once again America is held hostage. The crisis over the fate of the crew and passengers of TWA Flight 847 has left the American public frustrated and angry. People are demanding that the government "do something" to prevent recurrences of terrorist acts against American citizens and property. Sifting through the amount of news material, interviews and analyses on this latest outrage, one main point is evident: Because it has failed repeatedly in the past to retaliate against acts of terrorism--often despite avowals to do so--the U.S. was a ripe target for the latest hijacking. And unless the government can summon the will to deal a punishing blow to terrorists this time, more disasters are certain to come. First of all, here are excerpts from an editorial titled "The Next Hijacking," which appeared in the June 18 WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Various sages have repeatedly concluded that for a variety of complex political reasons, the U.S. can do nothing about terrorism. If that is so, then Americans should get one thing clear in their minds while they watch this current drama play out in Beirut: This is far from the last hijacking or terrorist incident involving American civilians or soldiers. Its repetition is a sure thing....

Among the repeated events that allow the terrorists to draw that conclusion [that anti-American terrorism is a productive political instrument] one stands out: the October 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut that killed some 240 U.S. soldiers. After that, the U.S. left Lebanon. For the operation's planners, there were no costs. At the time of the Marine-barracks bombing, we urged a retaliatory strike at the Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek, which intelligence sources had identified as the base of the bombers. More generally, we suggested that President Reagan order military strikes against Syrian military installations inside Lebanon. It is certainly plausible to believe that if this had been done then, Americans would be less likely to be taken hostage in the Middle East today.

Yes, we understand. In a retaliatory strike it would be impossible to target only the guilty; civilians might die.... Americans now held prisoner in Lebanon might also perish. And of course the argument will be made--is now being made--that Lebanon's feuding Moslem factions are now so splintered that the U.S. could never correctly assign guilt for the kidnapping. This is a philosophy of criminal jurisprudence that is perhaps more appropriate to Algonquin, Ill. [where several of the passengers were from]. We're talking about Lebanon. In a situation like Lebanon, the answer is to make someone responsible.

Shiite radicals have made Americans the prime targets of their attacks. The list of assaults is growing--and tragically, the U.S. hasn't responded forcefully to any of them. Here is a summary of anti-U.S. Shiite activity, as reported in the article "Mideast Terror Strikes Americans" in the June 24 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

The latest assault by pro-Iranian militants, who see martyrdom as a ticket to salvation, came after a number of attacks on U.S. targets in the last two years. Hijackers forced a Kuwaiti airliner to Teheran last December and murdered two American officials to press demands for the release of Shiites held by Kuwait. The same group also took responsibility for a bombing in March that killed 18 near a U.S. air base in Spain at a restaurant that is popular with Americans. Earlier attacks caused 63 deaths in a suicide bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in April, 1983, and 241 U.S. servicemen died in an attack on the Marine barracks six months later.

There are also seven other Americans captured in Lebanon over the past several months who are still unaccounted for. Former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr. said on June 19 that "we knew" who was responsible for the bombings of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks but simply failed to coordinate an effective response to the assaults. He further said that U.S. failure to make swift retribution results from the idea that "our

hands will be dirtied" if innocent lives are lost. Even President Reagan seemed to reflect this attitude in his June 18 news conference when he said that unless we could "pinpoint the enemy" any retaliatory attack could mean "you're a terrorist, too."

The U.S. may try to take the "high moral ground" in the Lebanon quagmire, but Americans fail to realize there are few innocents in the more radicalized communities. The women in the towns and slums harbor their gun-toting husbands and sons; the children are inspired and trained to be future terrorists. Perhaps the U.S. government should have learned a lesson from the recent NBA basketball finals: The Los Angeles Lakers were finally able to defeat their old nemesis, the Boston Celtics, by abandoning their "finesse" game and playing Boston's "physical" style of basketball. Not pretty, but it worked.

As it stands now, the U.S. has no reputation for protecting its interests and citizens--a first and foremost responsibility of any government. America is a soft touch. Since the Shiites demanded the return of 700 of their captives in Israel, why didn't they hijack an El Al plane? Here is what Barnard L. Collier had to say in an article "U.S. Criticized for Failure to Hit Back at Terrorists" in the June 19 WASHINGTON TIMES:

It is already established administration policy under National Security Decision Directive 138, signed by President Reagan on April 13, 1984, to take a series of measures to combat terrorism throughout the world. These include pre-emptive strikes, punitive retaliation, and going to the source of the terrorism if it is sponsored by a particular state. Jeffrey Record, a senior fellow of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and a former legislative assistant for national security affairs for Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said that "punitive action can be very easy. It's all a matter of the will to take the action."...

Edward Luttwak, senior fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies and a severe critic of the Defense Department, said: "In a strategic response, one can never deal with problems on a case-by-case basis. The question is how to begin to create the idea that you don't want to attack United States planes. The dog that didn't bark in this whole affair is the El Al airliner that didn't get hijacked. If the hijackers wanted the Israelis to release prisoners, why didn't they hijack an El Al plane? The answer is that they didn't hijack El Al because the Israelis have built a reputation of the sort the United States must build up. They know you can out-terrorize terrorism."

Mr. Luttwak said hijackers who might contemplate piracy against Israeli planes must consider the following: "They will probably have to face a prompt rescue of the hostages the first place the plane sits long on the ground. There won't be several days of diddling around. The planes are secure with some sort of sky marshals, and the Israelis do not allow third parties, like the Greeks, to take care of their airport security. There will be some form of rather swift retaliation, against the hijackers or their protectors. There is individual pursuit of individual hijackers. An Identikit picture is made of them and is kept on file for as long as 10 years. The terrorist must worry that one day while he is on the beach on the Riviera he will be murdered."

On the other hand, Mr. Luttwak said, "The U.S. record in hijacking is really quite pure. The U.S. has not retaliated for any of these outrages; they have not pursued individuals."

The TWA terrorists weren't dumb. They knew that with the hijacking incident played out every night on American television, with their spokesmen interviewed by correspondents and "anchor-people," that their cause would get a hearing before millions.

And, of course, the highly competitive news media wouldn't dare consider a news blackout on sensitive matters--an act that would deprive the hijackers of the forum they want so much. Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch, in fact, has complained that the networks are in a race with each other to report on any suspected contingency plans to rescue the hostages. ABC News even chartered a plane to fly over the Sixth Fleet positioned off the Lebanese coast. "Our plane was not intercepted and we plan to continue aggressive news coverage," said an ABC director. Mr. Burch added that "there seems to be more respect for next fall's scripts for 'Dynasty' and 'Dallas' than there does for U.S. contingency plans."

The United States government continues to fumble around without any clear policy response to terrorism. It is further hamstrung by inter-departmental bickering, hesitancy on the part of the military (burned badly in the barracks explosion) and an emaciated intelligence operation. This was explained in the June 20 article "A Clear Plan to Handle Terrorism Still Eludes Divided Reagan Camp" in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Ronald Reagan, for all his tough talk, has failed to develop a coherent anti-terrorism policy.... Administration officials say they probably lost any chance for a quick rescue mission to free the Flight 847 hostages after the first 48 hours. Such a move was discussed but was ruled out because of technical problems. There is a continuing debate within the administration, however, over whether the U.S. should apply force if the crisis drags on....

Administration officials agree that as long as saving hostage lives is the top priority, the U.S. will have limited options in handling terrorist incidents. A tougher policy would require the U.S. to subordinate the welfare of the hostages to broader national concerns--a painful step for any U.S. president....

Quarrels within the administration have hindered development of a coherent anti-terrorism strategy. The reaction to the October 1983 bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut, for example, was a case study in bickering and indecision. Shortly after the bombing, U.S. intelligence identified a terrorist target in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. There was a top-level debate on Nov. 8, 1983, two weeks after the bombing, about whether to attack the target. But President Reagan was leaving that day on a trip to Korea, so officials decided to postpone a decision until he returned a week later.

When he got back, disagreements between the State Department and the Pentagon over the operation continued, and the U.S. at the last minute backed out of plans for a joint reprisal raid with France. The French went ahead on their own on Nov. 17. There never has been any American retaliation for the bomb that killed 241 American Marines....

Lack of reliable intelligence also continues to hinder the U.S.... The administration has tried in recent months to push wary CIA and military officials into tougher anti-terrorism programs, including closer links with other nations' spy services.... The CIA, for example, resisted for months the arguments by some administration hard-liners that the U.S. should mount preemptive operations. The agency viewed such tactics as perilously close to assassination, a tactic that helped bring the CIA into disrepute in the 1970s....

Administration officials believe that developing a sound anti-terrorism policy has been difficult because elements of such a policy go against the American character. "Our virtues are frequently our vulnerabilities," contends Noel Koch, a deputy assistant secretary of defense who helps supervise counter-terrorism planning. "The value we place on an open society is exploitable. Our respect for human life is exploitable. And so there is question of how to maintain these values and yet defend ourselves. There are no happy choices available."

In one way, it is incredible that one of the Shiite warlords, Nabih Berri, should be acting as guarantor of the passengers taken off the TWA plane and performing a role as some sort of interlocutor between the hijackers and the U.S. His Amal Shiite gunmen, shortly before the hijacking, had launched a bloody foray into the same Palestinian camps that the Christian Phalangists did in 1982 when the Israelis weren't looking. At least another 600 Palestinians were brutally murdered. But where was the Western press this time? asked the NATIONAL REVIEW in its June 28 issue:

September 1982: Christian Phalangist militiamen massacre hundreds of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Beirut. The Israeli army, charged with guarding the camps, intervenes only after the slaughter is well under way. An international uproar ensues during which Israel is compared with Nazi Germany, and many American journalists (Anthony Lewis springs to mind) accuse the Begin government--Defense Minister Sharon, in particular--of complicity in the killings. Indignation flourishes. Some...link America, by implication, to the massacre. An Israeli commission investigates the whole matter.

May 1985: Shiite militiamen, aided by Shiite elements of the Lebanese army and also by the Syrian government, massacre hundreds of Palestinians at Sabra and Shatila. But this time there is no outrage. The Syrian government will not appoint a commission to investigate its role in the atrocities. There is no international clamor. Not a word has been heard from Anthony Lewis or for that matter from Jesse Jackson, who never fails to bring up the 1982 killings during any discussion of Israel. Why not? Because they have no way of linking Israel or the U.S. to the camps today, and no way of blaming us for the slaughter.

Flight 847 Hijacking Only a Symptom

In a broader sense, more than the United States is held hostage in the Middle East. So are moderate Arab leaders, such as Jordan's King Hussein. The radicals are determined to shoot down any pretensions at peace with

Israel that the King has floated recently. The enemies of peace comprise two camps, closely interlinked. First there is the loose state cooperative of Libya, Syria and Iran. They coordinate their efforts more closely than ever, as the article titled "Libya, Syria and Iran Coordinate Schemes to Strike U.S. Targets, Arab Sources Say," also from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (June 19), shows:

While attention is focused on the hijacked American jetliner held hostage here, a much broader terrorism network aimed at America and moderate Arabs is taking shape in the Middle East.... The foreign ministers of Libya, Syria and Iran met in January in Tehran and laid the groundwork for a new "anti-American strategy," Arab sources close to the Syrian government say. The countries agreed to escalate terrorism against U.S. interests and personnel on a world-wide scale, the sources say....

Syria and Libya also agreed to whip up Palestinian terrorism by radical Palestinian factions opposed to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Arafat has angered the radicals by his apparent willingness to participate in a peace process led by moderate Arabs and the U.S. Iran, the sources say, pledged to encourage terrorism by Moslem extremists.

The second enemy of peace is an upsurge in Islamic fundamentalism. Aroused Shiites, urged on by Libya, Syria and Iran, have declared war on the forces of moderation in the Middle East. Karen Elliott House, foreign editor of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, wrote the following in a background piece, "The West Will Remain Hostage," in her newspaper's June 20 edition:

This week the headlines from the Middle East are about hijackers and hostages. A week ago it was peace plans and PLO politics. And a few weeks earlier it was an assassination attempt on the emir of Kuwait and bombings (the first in modern memory) in the capital of the desert kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

All of these events reflect a fundamental truth: In the turbulent Middle East, the men and matters of the moment are but little sailboats bobbing on the waves. Beneath the surface lurks the sea monster of radical Islam whose long tentacles of terrorism can reach up at any instant to snatch the sailboats and their captains.

The princes and presidents of the Middle East with their armies and their bodyguards, their palaces and their riches surely ought to feel safer than some unarmed American traveler on a TWA jetliner. But they don't...because the terrorists are primarily pursuing them. In short, the golden geese of the Middle East are sitting ducks--maybe even dead ducks....

Last week's hijackings once again underlined the impotence of America and her moderate Arab allies in the face of Islamic terrorism. But Arab rulers already understood the score: In the battle for the Middle East, radical Islam is 3 for 3. First they drove America out of Iran. Then they blasted the U.S. out of Lebanon. Finally, they chased Israel out as well.

All this has consequences for America far beyond Lebanon.... The goal of radical Islam is to drive all Westerners and all traces of Western influence from the region--including pro-Western Moslem rulers. In the eyes of true believers, America and Israel are not causes of the Mideast's problems; they are merely symptoms. The real trouble, as the true believers see it, is rulers who have betrayed Islam and allowed "imperialists" and "Zionists" to penetrate the Middle East.

For instance, the first words broadcast from the cockpit of TWA 847 last week included a derisive swipe at the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization. "Jerusalem is calling you, you that claim yourselves Moslems.... To the people who surrendered to Israel, to (Egyptian President) Mubarak and (PLO Chairman) Arafat, (Jordan's King) Hussein and Saddam (Iraq's president), to the usurpers of the thrones, Jerusalem can only be liberated by the hands of the true believers...."

The true believers, of course, have been joined and used by terrorists with other agenda, including the governments of Iran, Syria and Libya, who each have their own reasons for wanting to terrorize Americans and Israelis. But that merely compounds the risk to pro-Western rulers, like Jordan's King Hussein, who want to broaden Mideast peace. For not only do the true believers want to eliminate them for cooperating with the "imperialist infidels" and "Zionists," but so do their political enemies such as Syria. As a result, the bloodshed and violence in Lebanon almost certainly imperil peace prospects and further feed fundamentalists' faith that they can eventually eliminate Western-leaning Islamic leaders the same way they eliminated the shah of Iran....

The best guess is that the Middle East will remain a slaughterhouse for America and her friends for years to come. For America is as much a hostage of radical Islam now as five years ago when 52 American diplomats were held hostage by the ayatollah's Islamic zealots.

It should be plain that, more than ever, the United States is in no position to douse the cauldron of violence in the Middle East. That may have to be the task of a future European "Third Force."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau