

# How SOLID Is the ROCK of GIBRALTAR?

*What's happening to Great Britain? In a few short decades, the proud might of the British Empire has dwindled enormously! Like toppling tenpins, Britain has lost India, her East African colonies, Ceylon, Suez, the Sudan. Is Gibraltar next?*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

## Gibraltar

**A**FTER more than 260 years of British rule, Gibraltar seems doomed to sink into the ignominious sea of continuing British dismantlement and retreat.

Here at the very symbol of British solidarity, there is a feeling of unrest in the air. Signs on the walls say, "No Concessions to Spain," while rioting students in Madrid shout, "Gibraltar is Spain's."

The Spanish claim over Gibraltar is every bit as valid as would be a British

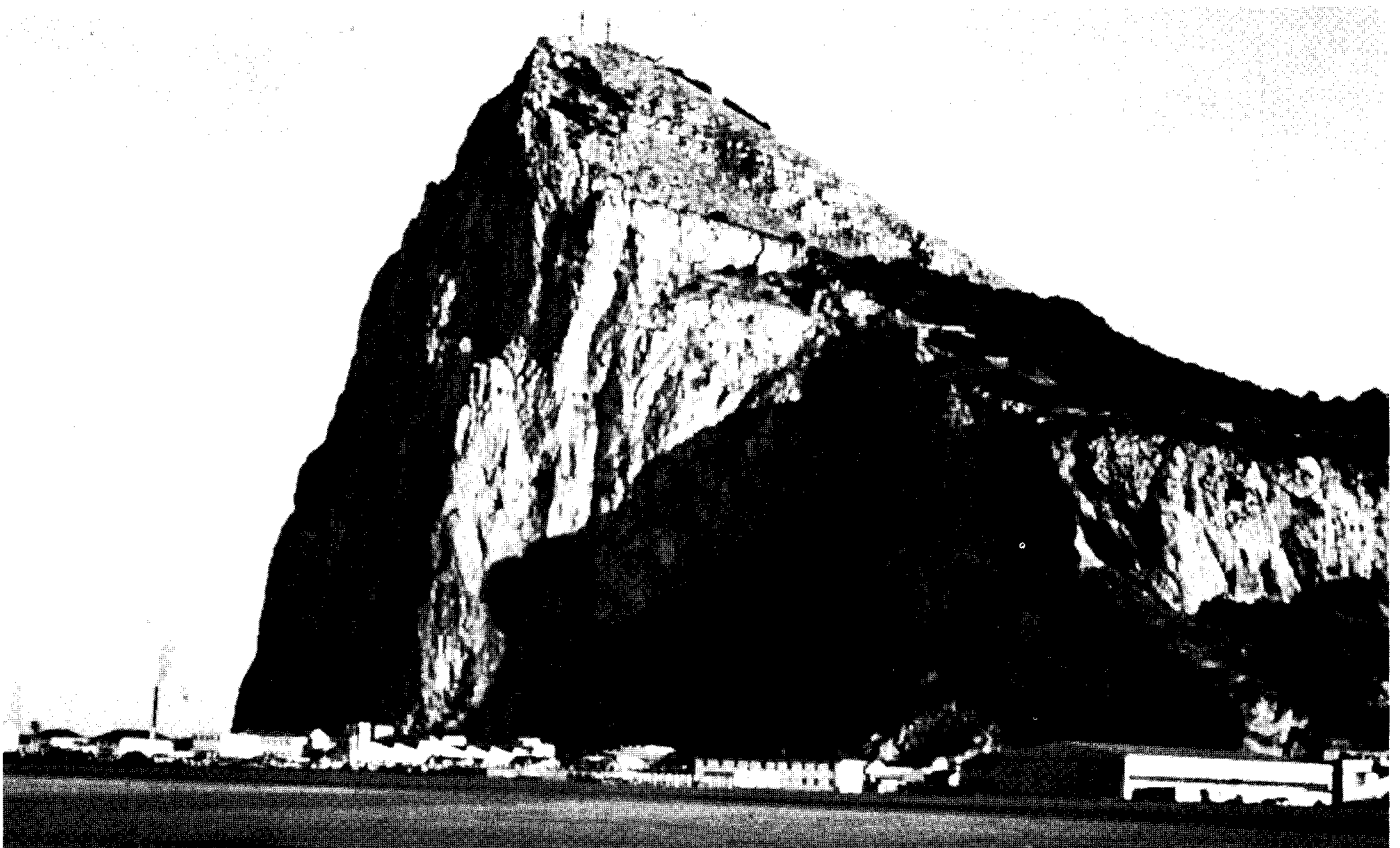
claim over the entirety of North America. And geographical nearness is not quite enough. Spain does not demand that Portugal, for instance, become a part of Spain. But Gibraltar has been in British hands since long before the United States became a nation — 1704, to be exact. In 1713, in Utrecht, Holland, the King of Spain said, "The Catholic King [of Spain] does hereby for himself, his heirs and successors, yield to the crown of Great Britain the full and entire propriety of the town

and castle of Gibraltar, together with the port, fortifications and forts thereunto belonging; and he gives up the said property, to be held and enjoyed absolutely with all manner of right forever, without any exception or impediment whatsoever."

Pretty final words.

From that time to this, the Rock of Gibraltar has been the symbol of British pride and power.

But now the ancient Rock seems doomed to topple after all. Tourism has



Ambassador College Photo

Gibraltar, Britain's famous fortress guarding the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.



Keystone Photo

British troops in Aden. This crown colony was one of Britain's most vital bases. It guards the south entrance to the Red Sea. Britain has removed its troops from here, leaving Aden unprotected against Yemen, Nasser of Egypt or Communist takeover.

been hurt by Spanish harassment at the border; incoming arrivals aboard airplanes are handed printed forms informing them of the difficulty in crossing the border by automobile.

Local citizens are adamant. The daily influx of thousands of Spanish workers hope to keep their jobs. But with Britain having evacuated Aden because of severe financial burdens; with the United States putting pressure on Britain to GIVE Gibraltar to Spain — thus paving the way for happier relationships in Spain for U. S. air bases — it looks as if the Rock is not so impregnable after all.

Actually, the modern hydrogen bombs have rendered the honeycombed fortress obsolete as a strategic military installation. But the economic value of

its port and harbor facilities and its jet-age airstrip is enormous.

Its real value, however, is SYMBOLIC.

Read, in this article, what is happening here — HOW Britain got Gibraltar — and WHY it's being taken away. The historic Rock may not be such an impregnable fortress after all.

Standing athwart the approaches to the Mediterranean Sea like a sleeping lion, the Rock of Gibraltar has symbolized the power and strength of the British Empire for as long as anyone can remember.

The maze of labyrinths, tunnels, storage vaults, ammunition dumps, sleeping quarters, and hidden guns that make up the honeycombed fortress has been a symbol of British prestige and power

since it was captured from Spain in 1704.

But the big Rock has an Achilles' heel — and Franco's Spain seems to have found it.

Gibraltar, a peninsula only two and three quarter miles in length and three quarters of a mile wide, is jam-packed with activity. It is a free port. Ships lay at anchor daily from all parts of the globe.

On the hustling, bustling, British fortress live a scant 19,000 inhabitants. They are, of course, British citizens, although the blood of several Mediterranean peoples course through their veins. The majority are part Italian. Few are either British or Spanish.

A major British naval base and air

facility, and one of the most, if not THE most, important sea gates in the world, Gibraltar has been the synonym of impregnability; the symbol of solidity in our modern world. To use the phrase, "as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar," is to epitomize the immovable, the indestructible. But no longer.

#### Harassments from Behind

Now the British crown colony is being threatened from *behind* — and increasing pressure from Generalissimo Francisco Franco indicates he still hopes to get Gibraltar for his own, someday.

Since October, 1964, Spain has imposed increasingly severe restrictions at the Gibraltar frontier.

Formerly, a work force of 10,000 Spaniards crossed the border daily from neighboring La Línea to work in Gibraltar's dockyard and harbor area, and in the many free-port shops. This number gradually diminished until it was under 5,000. Gibraltar authorities have made up part of the deficit by importing Moroccan workmen.

Then at midnight June 8, 1969 Spanish authorities completely sealed off the land frontier linking Spain with Britain's Mediterranean bastion. This act deprived the beleaguered British crown colony and military base of a third of its labor force.

According to the Madrid newspaper *Ya* (meaning "today" or "now," in English) Generalissimo Franco's aim is to make the Rock "a ruinous burden for



UPI PHOTO

Above, mild-looking Generalissimo Francisco Franco, the world's shrewdest and longest-lived dictator. He is stubbornly but patiently determined to get Britain's fortress of Gibraltar. His strategy can do to Britain what the Spanish Armada could not do!

Below, Port of Gibraltar, part of stronghold complex built by the British.



Ambassador College Photo

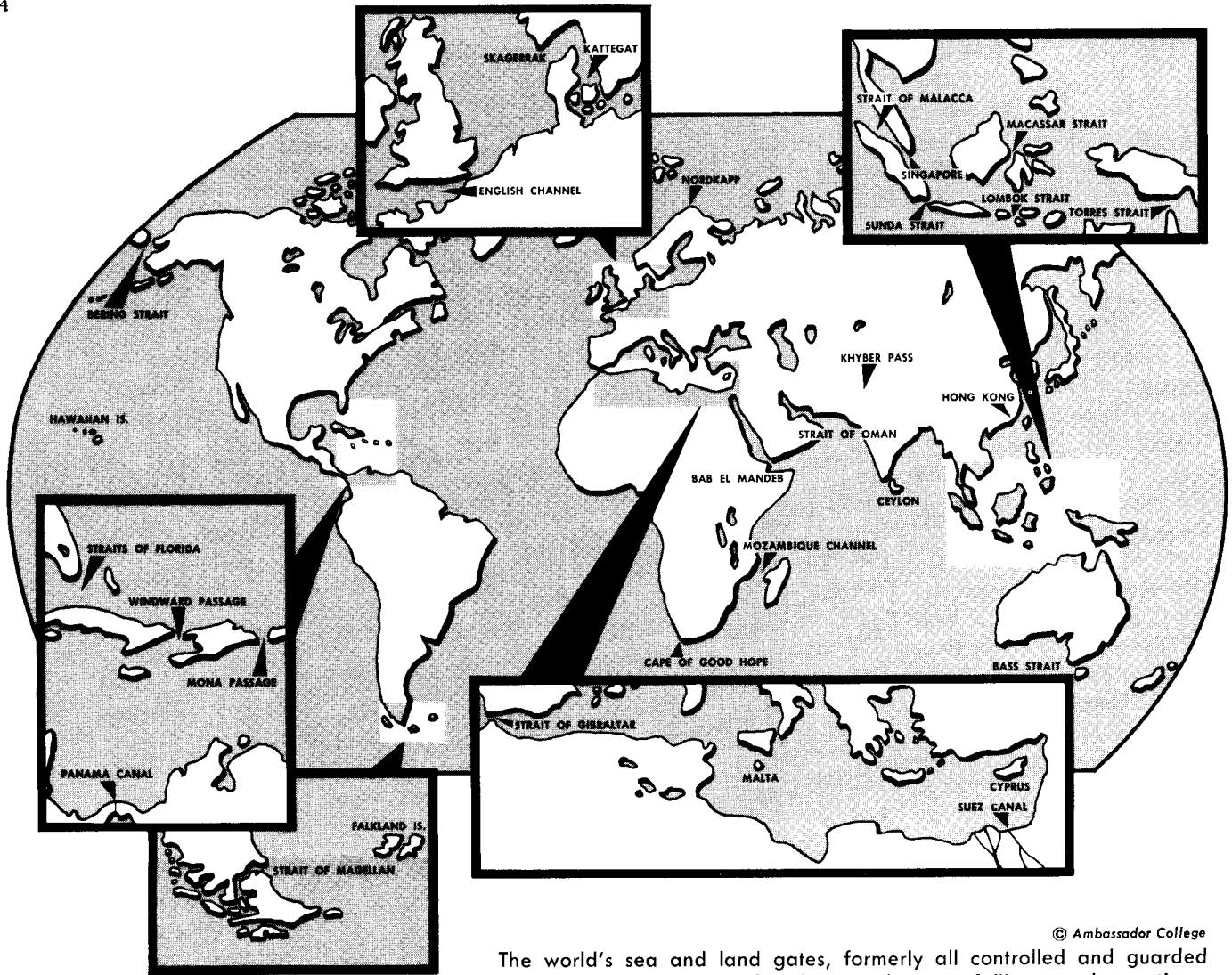
the British taxpayer and a grievous prison for Gibraltar's inhabitants."

#### The Real Impact

But FAR more important than the purely economic or military considerations is the really GREAT meaning of *what Gibraltar represents* to the British Empire!

Britain's sun is setting! The once-proud lion of the seas, the dominant power of the world, is rapidly becoming a weaker THIRD-class power — sharing with the United States the kicks, curses, bruises and impudence of nations which formerly trembled at the name and flag of Britain!

Little do British leaders realize WHO GAVE them Gibraltar, WHY it was given,



© Ambassador College

The world's sea and land gates, formerly all controlled and guarded by Britain and America. One by one they are falling to other nations.

and WHY IT WILL BE TAKEN AWAY from them!

In today's world of hydrogen bombs and guided missiles, Gibraltar as a naval gun emplacement is obsolete. But Gibraltar as a SYMBOL is dramatically VITAL to the British people. It is a symbol of PRIDE, and a symbol of POWER! And, *just like the many other symbols of British and American pride and power, IT WILL BE BROKEN!*

#### How and WHY Britain Acquired the Rock

Believe it or not, the British and American peoples ARE the peoples of ISRAEL in your Bible! Shocking as this sounds when hearing it for the first time, it can be carefully and easily PROVED. If you have not yet *seen* this amazing proof with your own eyes, then write immediately for our free book, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. Anciently, God

made specific promises to *Abraham* and to his seed which have long since *been fulfilled* to the British and American people.

He prophesied, "...in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and THY SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES" (Gen. 22:17).

Skeptics and doubters of God's Word argue this remarkable prophecy refers only to Christ! They say *Christ* somehow "possessed the gates of His enemies" when He shamed the Pharisees, or when He was resurrected from the dead, or when He ascended into heaven.

But read further. The parents of Rebekah, when she had been selected to become the wife of Isaac, were inspired to say, "Thou art our sister, *be thou the mother of thousands of millions*, and

LET THY SEED POSSESS THE GATE OF THOSE WHICH HATE *THEM*" (Gen. 24:60). Yes, "*THEM*," not "*Him*."

The Apostle Paul explained the *duality* of the prophecies concerning the seed of Abraham when he mentioned that ONE Seed which was CHRIST, and in whom all nations would be blessed (Gal. 3:16), but that ONE Seed, which was *Christ*, did not fulfill the racial, NATIONAL blessings of thousands of MILLIONS of seed, of KINGS (MANY kings, *whole dynasties* of kings!) which were also to come from Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, Gen. 17:1-8).

And God KEPT His promise.

Today, the peoples of Israel represent only a small percentage of the total population of the world. Yet they enjoy over FIFTY percent of its wealth! Between Britain and the United States, control of almost every truly strategic and vital land and sea gate had been held until recent times! Look on

ANY map of recent years, prior to the dramatic changes of THESE tumultuous times.

America controlled the Pacific. Our island outposts — the Aleutians, the Hawaiians, Midway, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines — successfully stood as advance guard stations which ultimately led to the defeat of the Japanese Empire. Britain and America have controlled every vital shipping lane on earth by important sea gates. British naval forces controlled Ceylon, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Hong Kong, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Zanzibar, and especially the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

British rule extended throughout India, controlling the famous and vital Khyber Pass — the ONLY land gate from Northern India to Afghanistan, and major artery of India's overland trade. The Falkland Islands, standing offshore of Argentina, gave Britain effective control of the Straits of Magellan. Britain herself, standing like a lion offshore of Europe, with the famous English Channel an insurmountable obstacle to attacking armies in two world wars, and effectively blocking the warm-water ports of the Baltic, comprises another of the MOST important sea gates.

And all this is only the beginning. The most obvious sea gates of all are Suez (now lost to British control), Panama, and Gibraltar.

Gibraltar was first captured by the British in 1704, during the war of Spanish Succession. It successfully withstood a Spanish siege from October, 1704, until April, 1705, and was secured to Britain by the Peace of Utrecht in 1713.

From that time to this, the great Rock has undergone siege after siege — and always remained solidly in British hands. After the Peace of Utrecht, the British spared no cost or effort to render the fortress impregnable. Again, the Spanish attempted to conquer the Rock by siege — commencing on the 7th of March, 1727. But after Admiral Wager approached with 11 British ships of the line, the Spanish lifted the siege, and attempted to BUY Gibraltar, with the fantastic offer of TWO MILLION POUNDS STERLING (this was 1727). The British disdained the offer.

Still, the Spanish kept trying. In the war between Britain and Spain in 1779, the last attempt was made for recovery of Gibraltar by the Spanish. It was besieged for nearly four years! But again, British tenacity combined with the impregnable fortifications of the great Rock withstood attack. From that time to this, the Rock of Gibraltar has been continually strengthened until it knows no parallel anywhere on earth.

Inside, in corridors cut from 40-, 50- and 60-foot-thick limestone layers, are galleries two, three and more *miles* in length — wide enough to permit passage of large vehicles.

Hollowed-out gun emplacements reveal ugly snouts of huge naval rifles protruding from the face of the sheer rock walls, rising 1,400 feet above the sea. Barracks, signal stations, supply depots, hospital facilities, everything necessary for a complete CITY, and all *inside a huge rock* — THIS is Gibraltar, symbol of British imperturbability, the seal of stubbornness, the pride of Britain's power!

But Gibraltar is destined to fall — NOT in glorious and heroic defense after a famous siege — but in utter ignominy; in useless and helpless sacrifice — in disgrace and shame.

#### A Responsibility for Every Blessing

Whether we like to believe it or not — GOD ALMIGHTY gave Gibraltar to Britain. And He fully intended she KEEP it.

But the British and American people have *forgotten* their God. They really don't know WHERE He is, don't know WHO He is, don't know IF He is, and are not obeying His immutable LAWS!

God Almighty said, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Eternal thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Eternal thy God *will set thee on high* above all nations of the earth: and all these BLESSINGS shall come on thee, and overtake thee, IF thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Eternal thy God" (Deut. 28:1-2).

Yes, — IF! The "biggest little word"

in the English, or any other, language!

Then followed a chronicle of the greatest advantages, gifts, blessings, encouragements, refreshments, aids, comforts and wealth that could ever befall any people. God described a people COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT in EVERY way, occupying the very garden spots of the earth. Read verses 3 through 14 with your own eyes.

But then came the stern warning!

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt NOT hearken unto the voice of the Eternal thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that *all these curses* shall come upon thee, and overtake thee . . . The Eternal shall send upon thee *cursing, vexation, and rebuke*, in ALL that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed . . ." (verses 15-20).

*Read*, if you're not afraid of the truth, the rest of Deuteronomy 28! Read for yourself the alarming, frightening, awesome CURSES God prophesied would strike our peoples. And then THINK and WONDER!

Ask yourself about our deepening *social* problems, our skyrocketing *crime*, our mounting *divorce*, our horrifying WEATHER conditions, our diseases and sicknesses, our *racial* tensions and hatreds (read what God says about the "stranger that is within thee"! ) and our *infamy* among the nations of the world. Read it — and wonder!

God said, "And I will BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER . . ." (Lev. 26:19).

Gibraltar is one of the foremost SYMBOLS of the pride of British power!

God has said He will BREAK it!

Can God keep His word? Has He the POWER to interfere in the plotting of nations? Will God *make good* on His *absolute guarantee* concerning our peoples?

We HAVE broken His laws. We HAVE ignored His statutes. We have, nationally and individually, BROKEN His covenant. God says He will now carry out the national punishments He promised!

#### Ignominy of Defeat

One by one, the powerful overseas bases of America and Britain are being

closed down, or taken over by other nations.

Look at recent history. Britain has lost her powerful sea base at Colombo, Ceylon. Cyprus, another major strategic island in the eastern Mediterranean, is the scene of deep trouble. The British East African colonies are no longer under British rule.

Suez, one of the singly most vital sea gates on the face of the earth, was grabbed by the leader of a would-be Fascist North Africa — and Britain was helpless to prevent it.

The United States has been forced to close HUGE air bases in North Africa, and finds herself *backing down* in many areas of the world. Today, the Western Allies find only deepening disagreement among themselves, while Communist and sundry nationalistic advances are made in all parts of the world.

Belgium backs out of the Congo. France loses Indochina. Holland gives over the Dutch East Indies. President Johnson promises Panamanians they are likely to be given what they have long regarded as their own canal — maybe the United States can build a new one.

And all these nations are a part of the ISRAEL of your Bible!

Look at the record. Not in one single case has the loss of one of the VITALLY important overseas areas come through “noble” defeat on the field of arms.

Rather, each has been quietly handed over, given away, or TAKEN away by violent means — daring the combined might of Britain and America to prevent it.

And now Gibraltar is the target of political speeches, economic strangulation, constant pressure and occasional violent demonstrations.

What ignominious shame if, in the end, the British THEMSELVES, backing down under the mounting pressure, literally FORCE their OWN government to GIVE Gibraltar back to Spain!

Or perhaps worse yet, the British succumb to pressure from THEIR ALLY, the United States, to do so! Relations between Washington and Madrid are touchy over the status of America’s huge air bases on Spanish soil. Wouldn’t relations be smoothed over neatly if, some-

time in the future, Spain “requests” U. S. assistance on the Gibraltar issue?

Whichever way it happens makes little difference. Gibraltar WILL go! The Creator of heaven and earth MEANS what He says — and His prophecies WILL come to pass.

### Modern Spain Today

And *why* the sudden pressure from a nation that has been only a minor power since the 1700’s?

Spain is now in the midst of a big industrial boom, herself.

The *U. S. News & World Report* reported on the “new revolution” in Spain — an economic one!

Alfred Zanker, economic correspondent in Europe for the magazine said, “Booming Spain is the world’s newest ‘miracle’ country” (*U. S. News & World Report*, July 27, 1964, pp. 54-56). He told how Spain is now joining ranks with other resurgent industrial powers of this modern age.

Unemployment, long the curse of the flagging national economy, has now dropped to the vanishing point in the cities. According to American businessmen, “Today, Spain seems to be the best place in Europe to make a dollar.”

But the economic boom is only a part of the story.

The real strength of Spain lies in EUROPE! For *years*, we have said on *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, and predicted in the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, that a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE was coming. And for years, we have predicted SPAIN would be one of the ultimate TEN nations to help form the new supergiant of world power.

According to a series of articles written from Barcelona, Spain’s second largest city, by world-affairs expert Dr. Thomas M. Franck, who is professor of international law at New York University, UNITY WITH EUROPE is the real aim of modern Spain.

He said, “The only hope for Spain is EUROPE!” And then added, as if to echo the very prophecies of your Bible, “Spaniards of all classes . . . the church, the rich, and the army — are all VERY MUCH AFRAID of being LEFT OUT of the movement for European unity.”

Generalissimo Franco is even now preparing Spain for the inevitable post-Franco period by putting into motion two transitional steps. Those steps are the announced return to a monarchy and the modernization of Franco’s cabinet.

On July 23, 1969, Franco named Prince Juan Carlos, 31, as his eventual successor and future king. Then, three months later, Franco swept out of high cabinet position all but two leaders of the rightwing Falange Party. The Falange had helped Franco win the Spanish Civil War more than three decades ago.

Into most of the vacant cabinet posts stepped members of the *Opus Dei*, a Roman Catholic lay order. The *Opus Dei* members have long promoted the modernization of the Spanish economy with the goal of eventual membership in the Common Market.

Professor Franck further said, “Catholic leaders cannot but regard the drawing together of Catholic France, Italy and Western Germany as a *historic fulfillment of the mission of Pax Romana, the unity of the Holy Roman Empire!*” (Emphasis mine throughout article.) *Prophecy marches on!*

And as Spain begins flexing its own national muscles, looking longingly toward prosperous Europe for full economic and later political integration, it is quite possible she will make sterner and more insistent demands upon Britain for Gibraltar.

Today, it is Spain talking about Gibraltar to Britain.

But what will happen when EUROPE begins to speak? To whom will Britain listen? Will Britain now hand over the Rock because of WORDS, because of THREATS, because of PRESSURE when she successfully defended it against the combined might of nations in years past?

The Rock of Gibraltar may prove to be a truly rocky problem for Great Britain, and not so solid, after all.

Like it or not — believe it or not, GIBRALTAR will inevitably follow the rest of the sea gates God is now TAKING AWAY from our peoples!

It may not happen tomorrow. It may not happen this year. But it *will* happen! □