

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 1

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 4, 1980

THE B I G YEAR AHEAD

by Herbert W. Armstrong

We enter now a new year--and a NEW DECADE--of great OPPORTUNITY and of great PROMISE--if we get on the ball--and on our knees--and make it a year of great progress in GOD'S WORK!

This may be the most exciting--the most crucial--and the MOST WONDERFUL decade in the history of the world. For it is now within the range of POSSIBILITY that our LEADER, Jesus Christ, may come in Supreme POWER AND GLORY, making the KINGDOM OF GOD a REALITY during this momentous decade of the '80s!

THINK OF IT!

That is now within the realm of possibility. Think how swiftly the decade of the '70s whipped by! It now seems like no time at all! Yet momentous events occurred in these ten years--both in the world, and in GOD'S WORK!

I believe God has been holding up the progress of world events to give us in His Work time to finish our mission. I have mentioned before, that in the comparatively near future, when God is cutting short the GREAT TRIBULATION and the DAY OF THE LORD is due immediately to follow, how God will then HOLD UP and DELAY pouring out the plagues of the DAY OF THE LORD (Rev. 7:1-plus) until after the sealing of the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude in all nations are sealed. If God will cause delay in world events then, He may just as likely have caused delay during this past decade.

The Work He is doing through us was not yet finished! I came to a natural death almost two years ago. My heart stopped completely. There was no breath, no pulse--no blood pressure. The nurses worked over me furiously, using mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and pushing heavily and rhythmically on my heart. God brought me back--for dual reasons: to be used in setting His Church and College back on the track, and to finish the Work to the world.

Look at what the living HEAD of this Church has done through me since restoring my life! The Church has been set back on the track doctrinally, especially in such doctrines as tithing and healing. The Church has been rejuvenated spiritually. The ministry has been set back on the track--some liberals, malcontents and men not enthusiastically with us have left or been disfellowshipped. It has been a matter of great sorrow to see them go, yet a greater sorrow to realize their condition--and hopefully and prayerfully God may work on some, bring them to repentance, and restore them in our midst.

The college has been started all over again from scratch--freshman class only, except for retaining some loyal students who wanted to continue and graduate. Now it is the same Ambassador College it was more than ten years ago--GOD'S College. It was then, and is again, the ONLY college, so far as I know, FULLY ACCREDITED--by GOD. My son and those then around him wanted the accreditation of Satan's world. Getting rid of PHDs and others from this world's universities, and their "tenure" contracts cost the Work TWO MILLION DOLLARS--but was WELL SPENT! Other policies UNAUTHORIZED and without authority from me or the Board, have cost the Work another \$2 million.

The PLAIN TRUTH has been set back on the track--and now look forward to a great growth this year!

For the past ten years what has been called "HEADQUARTERS"--the staff at Pasadena, and the Pasadena and adjacent area membership--was the one greatest HEADACHE! It was well spiced with malcontents, liberals, "members" and ministers whose minds and hearts were filled with resentment, bitterness, disloyalty, rebellion against THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. Many in other areas around the world never did realize the inroads Satan had made right at Christ's HEADQUARTERS! But JESUS CHRIST brought me back to life to CLEAN UP "that mess" (as some malcontents sneeringly called it) at "HEADQUARTERS"! Pasadena is like a totally DIFFERENT PLACE today! Now there is PEACE--JOY--UNITY--enthusiasm--loyalty--TOGETHERNESS! A totally different spirit and atmosphere pervades the Pasadena campus today.

Bible Study attendance had dropped to a trickle, and Sabbath attendance was shockingly down. Now the auditorium is well filled both Friday nights and Sabbath, beside the Imperial gym.

This past year saw crashing down on that campus Satan's "trump card"--his big blow to destroy God's Church and College, through the power of state government. We are not out from under that foreboding cloud yet --but it is "on the back burner"--so to speak, now, and the status quo is allowing GOD'S WORK TO SURGE FORWARD IN THE GREATEST THRUST SO FAR!

Yes, we have suffered Satan's persecution and efforts to DESTROY the Work of the living GOD, through Jesus Christ's guidance and power, and at the same time made marvelous strides during this past year in setting OURSELVES back on the track--a cocking of the gun, as it were, to trigger the MOST POWERFUL LEAP AHEAD since this Work started in 1933!

HOW WE SHOULD THANK AND PRAISE GOD! He has surely been with us, protected us, blest us!

This has been a year of weathering Satan's mightiest blows--almost turning the headquarters area into liberalism, lukewarmness, division, and hopelessness--as well as dimming the spirituality, closeness to Christ and to God, and a general lukewarmness in the WHOLE CHURCH --and Christ Himself has started the WHOLE CHURCH surging back into closeness to Him, into hope, unity, and enthusiasm and spiritual INTEREST in the Work.

In a word, it has been a year of weathering the storm not only, but PREPARING ALL OF US SO THAT CHRIST CAN USE US IN THE FINAL THRUST TO

FINISH GOD'S WORK IN A BLAZE OF SUCCESS! The new ENTHUSIASM is contagious --and the whole Church is catching it!

The year--and the decade of the '70s--ended with the most important single event in the Work so far--the carrying of the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD into Communist China--to those now educating, molding the thinking of A FOURTH OF EARTH'S POPULATION! We reached those who are making themselves RESPONSIBLE for the thinking and beliefs of ONE BILLION PEOPLE!

We haven't even started to turn that billion people into converted children of God. God has not called us to do that. WE HAVE done what God called us to do--delivered the Message that was Christ's Gospel AS A WITNESS to those God holds RESPONSIBLE for the beliefs of one-fourth of all the people on earth!

And now the door has been opened by Christ to carry this Message into the third largest nation--where, also, the few LEADERS at Moscow are RESPONSIBLE for the beliefs of almost 300 million people in the Soviet Union!

Yes, God brought me back from death FOR A PURPOSE--and the living CHRIST is bringing to fruition that PURPOSE!

HOW NEAR TO FINISHING THE WORK?

Now just where are we, in terms of FINISHING the Work Christ is using us in doing?

Just HOW do we go about MEASURING how far God expects HIS WORK, NOW, to go? Does He expect us to reach EVERY LAST SINGLE PERSON on earth with the KINGDOM OF GOD Message? Of course not! Then how many? 1%, 10%, 50% or more? I think Jesus Himself showed us!

We are "sowing the seed" and the seed is "the Word"--in our case today, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. In the parable of sowing, or spreading the Gospel, by far the greatest portion of the "seed" fell by the wayside. "Those by the wayside are they that hear (or see in print); then cometh the devil and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved" (Luke 8:12). Matthew's version has the same. In other words, by far the largest number hear or see the Word --hear part, perhaps only 30 or 60 seconds of a broadcast or telecast--have no interest as soon as they see it is about the Bible, turn away. Or, they pick up a sample copy of the PT on a newsstand, and as soon as they see it is concerned with religion, put it back. BUT THE SEED WAS SOWN. In such cases we have done what God expected of us.

Those on the stony places have no root--the seed cannot take root or grow. Those among the thorns may become interested, even repent and be baptized, but the cares and interests of the world, or jealousy, envy, resentment, enter their hearts, and they leave.

It is only the very smallest percentage that remain, bearing fruit, and shall enter God's Kingdom.

Now we have found, through 46 years experience, and other religious broadcasters all agree--that every request received for literature

offered on radio or TV represents 1,000 who actually heard part or all of the broadcast. And, after each year, each subscriber to The PT represents 50 who listened, but did not subscribe. In other words, the circulation is 2% of the number reached on the air during a year.

Using these tried and tested figures, we may assess something of the number we have actually reached.

Remember, we are not commissioned to convince and convert members--but only to proclaim--or announce--the coming Kingdom of God AS A WITNESS.

We are now in the third generation. How many who were hearing the Message at age 70, back in January 1934, have since died? And of course they have been replaced by others reaching their teens or twenties who might be listeners during the 46 years since.

Our records show that in that 46 years, approximately 12 MILLION, worldwide, have for the first time requested literature--the PT, or a booklet, book, or Correspondence Course. Now of necessity there has to be some duplication there. About 2 million of those were received by other offices outside the U.S. IF there were no duplication, then we would have reached some TEN BILLION in the U.S. alone. In three generations, there has been perhaps 440 million who could have been reached if we reached everybody.

But even allowing liberally for duplication, we have to conclude that, to the extent God requires, we surely have reached to some extent about 85% of those 15 or older in the United States.

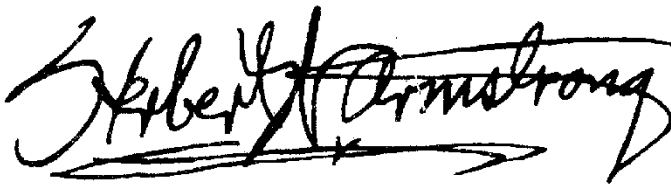
On the same basis I would estimate we have reached 35% or 40% in Britain--perhaps 15% to 20% in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and perhaps 5% to 10% in such countries as the Scandinavian countries.

We have, on the same basis, reached 35%, or 40% in Australia, and in The Philippines, and perhaps 15% or 20% in South Africa. A smaller percentage in other countries--yet we have members in India, South-eastern Asia, other countries in Africa and South America.

HOW FAR does God expect His Work to go? As a witness, only, now that Christ has opened the doors to China and Russia, I would say He might bring this Work to a close within a very few years, very likely in the first half of the decade we now are entering!

WE NEED TO WAKE UP! It is definitely LATER THAN WE THINK! Our BIGGEST JOB, from now on, is to be sure WE, OURSELVES, GET CLOSER TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO GOD!

So PRAY for all the ministry, and all the Brethren--as I do repeatedly and daily! Pray for me, and those at Pasadena. We are definitely on the LAST LAP of the race--probably on the HOME STRETCH. Give THANKS TO GOD! Keep praying, "THY KINGDOM COME!"

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent underline.

SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS

by Herbert W. Armstrong

On Thursday of last week, one day too late for last week's Report, Soviet military forces said to number 30,000 or more troops, crashed across the Afghanistan border.

This has drastically CHANGED the whole picture of the Iranian hostage situation.

Afghanistan adjoins the Iran border on the east, and the Russian border on the north. The Russian border also adjoins the Iran border on its north.

Some years ago I had been invited to visit Afghanistan and have a private meeting with its king. But a military coup overthrew the government there before I could make the trip. Apparently Russian Communists were involved in that military coup, for it appears a Soviet-dominated man took over the rule. But apparently the Kremlin was not satisfied with his loyalty to them. A Kremlin-appointed is the new Afghanistan head, though he is still in Russia. The former leader was assassinated.

This brings a most grave and serious change in U.S.-Soviet relations. President Carter used the emergency HOT LINE to talk personally to Mr. Brezhnev, and reported that since that talk he has greatly revised his appraisal of Russia's intentions. Today, January 2, the President had a long conference with leaders of the Pentagon and the State Department, and reported that he came to a decision on action to be taken--though it was reported military action against the Soviet is not considered.

Now the question is: HOW LONG before Russian military forces will also invade and TAKE OVER IRAN ALSO? Local differences with Khomeini are sputtering in different parts of Iran. Russia may say she is marching in to stop the civil war and bring "peace" in Iran.

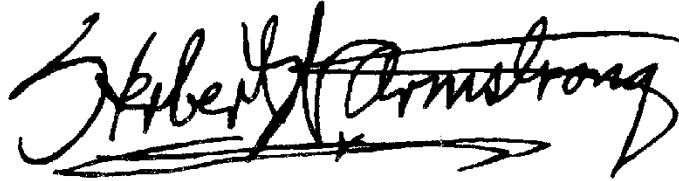
In any event, this brings about a WHOLE NEW BALL GAME, so far as U.S.-Soviet relations are concerned. It endangers the SALT treaty, threatens NATO, and gives European nations the fearful jitters--with Soviet-dominated countries ON THE VERY EASTERN BORDER OF WESTERN EUROPE NATIONS! It is even hinted today that the OLYMPIC GAMES may be boycotted by the U.S. this coming summer. And President Carter has recalled the U.S. Ambassador from Moscow to fly immediately to Washington.

Make no mistake! THIS IS SERIOUSLY SIGNIFICANT! The nations of Europe are going to feel a NEW URGENCY to speed up plans for a UNITED EUROPE, restoring the medieval "Holy Roman Empire!" It may well be done through the Polish Pope.

And when THAT happens, our Work will be finished, and the GREAT TRIBULATION brought on!

This new development since the Report last week has suddenly put a NEW LOOK on the entire world situation!

TIME IS SHORT! It may now RAPIDLY grow SHORTER! We must work with all our might to get God's Church READY! Now is the time for earnest, prevailing PRAYER as never before!



WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

December 20, 1979

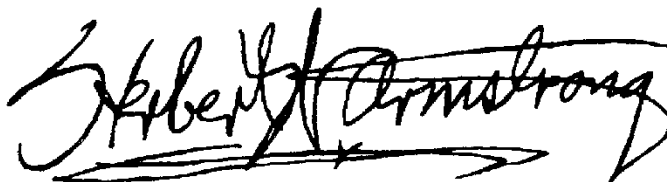
TO ALL DEPARTMENT MANAGERS
AND ALL EMPLOYEES:

As of this date, I am suspending all employment, compensation, and benefit policies contained in the Employee Relations Policy Manual, pending study of same. These were all proposed without my knowledge or authority.

The same applies to all Employee Benefit Manuals.

These policies were never authorized or approved by me or the Board of Directors, and were only discovered by me today. No

one has ever been authorized to set policies in either the Church or College except myself and the Board of Directors.



President

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Pastor General's Hotline Tape

Several ministers have not been calling in regularly for the Pastor General's Hotline tape. Some have not called at all since the Feast of Tabernacles. The Pastor General's Hotline is a synopsis of the latest news from Mr. Armstrong and Pasadena and is something that definitely should be utilized by every Pastor. We all should realize that Mr. Armstrong instituted the Hotline tape for a reason--to keep the ministry informed--and we should all make use of it for that purpose.

Many men have even made a practice of recording the tape so that it can be played in services or in Bible Study for the brethren to be kept informed on the latest news of the Work. Mr. Armstrong has instituted this practice in the Pasadena Churches. Properly introduced and positively approached, the tapes can be a source of tremendous encouragement and will enhance the enthusiasm and excitement the brethren have about the Work.

This great Work of God is the most important thing in our lives. As God's people we devote all our energies and efforts to it. The ministry and brethren alike are desirous to hear what is happening, and Mr. Armstrong has provided the Pastor General's Hotline as a means of making this information readily available. Let's all not fail to take advantage of this opportunity to inform ourselves, as well as God's people, of the activities of God's Work.

--Joe Tkach

MAIL COMMENTS

In this week's comments we are including letters of continuing support for Mr. Armstrong, appreciation for Y.O.U. and Y.E.S. and gratitude for biblical insight received from the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.

--Mail Processing Center

Support for Mr. Armstrong Continues

I am a 1973 graduate of Ambassador College in Big Sandy. I am 30 years old and am married to a 1971 graduate and have two sons, ages 3½ and 5½. We are in God's Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

My family is behind you in every way and wish to thank you for your unwavering dedication to this great commission God has called you to. It is a constant source of encouragement when a man of your age continues on fighting daily for God's Truth.

I await your letters. They are factual, frightening, and soothing all at the same time. Those letters prove to me your apostleship because of their clarity and wisdom.

--Mrs. Daniel Erickson (Paw Paw, MI)

We are very thankful to Jesus Christ for using you to wake us up and set His Church back on the track! How great it is to have and know that Christ is behind His Church and each of us individually once again. There is such a big difference from a year ago.

--Mr. & Mrs. Steve Book (Canon City, CO)

I can't understand why some people want Mr. Armstrong to entertain royalty in a greasy spoon cafe. Whenever a thought of criticism crops up in a person's mind against the very apostle that God appointed, that attitude does not come from God and should be repented of. Our battles are against Satan.

--Mrs. Clyd Holler (Stella, MO)

I first of all must thank you for the inspiring leadership you have given in a world which is rapidly falling around our ears. I have been a member of the Church of God for a little over a year, and in that time you have shown an example of high honor and courage in the face of extreme difficulties. I admire you greatly for your faith, your endurance and the love you exhibit in your letters and broadcast. I truly appreciate the strong leadership you have provided for us in these last days and I know that through Christ's help this will continue until His return.

--Doris Penney (Paradise, Newfoundland)

The trials you have been passing through are proof to me that you are God's man. No man could have carried this load without God's strengthening spirit.

--Charles T. Smith (Burnt Prairie, IL)

Just a short note to let you know my prayers daily ask the Great Creator God to fully bless you physically, mentally, and spiritually as you continue the commission of preparing the way for the return of the conquering Jesus Christ. I am sure that your witness to the world and the escalating decline of true Israel are signs that we are so close to the Great Tribulation.

--Edmund Lombard (Syracuse, NY)

Appreciation Expressed for Y.O.U./Y.E.S.

I am very happy and thankful for Y.O.U. It has greatly benefited my friends and me. I am glad that God is blessing Y.O.U. He has especially blessed the local chapter in my area. We have all grown

individually and together. Y.O.U. has helped to build many friendships which are very close. Thank you very much for all the help you have given Y.O.U.

--Debra Papula (Alamogordo, NM)

Mr. Armstrong, I thank you for being behind Y.O.U. I talked to a woman at the Feast who told us, "You kids don't know how lucky you are. I can't help but think if Y.O.U. had been around when my kids were young they might still be in the Church today." It's helped us to see that God does care about us. It's kind of hard for carnal minds to understand that God cares.

--Margie Lyons (Beattyville, KY)

We in Visalia are looking forward to the material we will soon be getting to help us in the Y.E.S. classes.

--Mr. & Mrs. Earl Van Wert (Farmersville, CA)

Thank you for the Y.E.S. program. It is truly the responsibility of the parents to teach their children, but most of us don't know how. We need help.

--Mrs. Elaine Townsend (Visalia, CA)

Impact of Bible Correspondence Course

Last year I took your Bible Course which has changed my life around more than words can express. It has given me an entirely new look and understanding as to why the world is what it is today. So many so-called truths I had learned and accepted in my previous years have now been completely cancelled out. Now when a question arises I go first to the Bible to find the truth.

--Mrs. James F. Lanning (Maysville, KY)

We are on the 12th lesson in the Bible Course. Sure has been rewarding to be able to study the Bible by way of the Bible Course. It has opened our minds to God's way.

--Mr. & Mrs. Gerald D. Fry (Clarksville, AR)

The last lesson, number 12, is tops. Very informative and helpful. But I'm not too sold on the seven annual Sabbaths.

--Einar J. Anderson (Hendersonville, NC)

Your Correspondence Course is the best I have ever seen and Lesson Number 6 is especially outstanding. It gives the best instruction on "What is hell?" that I have ever read. Thank you so much.

--Robert Browning, Sr. (Pitman, NJ)

The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course is helping me to understand. My mother always used to say "with all the knowledge you are learning, seek understanding." The devil is always busy trying to stop education from the standpoint of God's laws and His way of life. Carry on.

--Mr. W. Browne (Silver Springs, MD)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SOVIETS "INVITE THEMSELVES" INTO AFGHANISTAN: In a carefully orchestrated plan of attack, the Soviet Union has poured up to 50,000 troops into neighboring Afghanistan. On Thursday last week, advance elements of the invasion force, arriving in a 72-hour-long, round-the-clock airlift, engineered a government coup, installing Babrak Karmal as the new president.

Karmal was hand-picked by the Kremlin to replace Hafizullah Amin, an earlier pro-Soviet puppet who was unable to stem anti-government forces in Afghanistan's rugged hinterlands. Amin was ousted and executed. Then, in an action reminiscent of the Red Army's invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Karmal allegedly called upon the Soviets for urgent assistance to preserve his rule. In faked response, the remaining 40,000 Soviet troops, who had been poised north of the Soviet-Afghan border, stormed in. According to terms of the so-called "Brezhnev doctrine" the Soviet Union obligates itself to preserve the "irreversible gains" of socialism wherever they are threatened.

Immediately after Karmal allegedly took over, Mr. "Brezhnev sent him a telegram, congratulating him on his "election" and wishing him "big successes" in his new role. Just how cynical this was is indicated by the latest evidence that Karmal has not yet arrived in Kabul from his exile in the U.S.S.R. It is known that his plea for help was pre-recorded and broadcast from inside the Soviet Union!!

Czechoslovakia's newspaper Rude Pravo, in Prague, said of the Kremlin's move: "The Soviet Union acted in the best traditions of the spirit of international solidarity among revolutionary, anti-imperialist forces, as a genuine friend of the Afghan people." The Kremlin itself justified its intervention on the basis of its 1975 "peace and friendship" treaty with Afghanistan. It blamed the unrest in Afghanistan on Chinese "imperialism" and, of course, the CIA.

It is no coincidence that the blatant Soviet incursion into Afghanistan has occurred while Iran is showing signs of dissolution. Khomeini's fractured country is falling apart and the Soviets want to be in position to pick up some of the pieces.

Even more important, Afghanistan represents for the Soviets key real estate necessary to implement a giant pincer plan designed to encircle the Persian Gulf oil reserves, the oil lifeline of the free world.

The Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that the incursion was part of Soviet strategy to seize oil-producing areas, control sea lanes and out-flank Europe, thus posing "a grave threat to peace and security in Asia and the whole world."

Soviet control of Afghanistan would extend Soviet influence to within 350 miles of the Arabian Sea. By using Afghan bases, Soviet aircraft could reach the Strait of Hormuz--the vital "chokepoint" for oil moving from the Persian Gulf into the Arabian Sea--and remain on station there for at least 30 minutes before having to return to base.

The latest Soviet actions indicate that Moscow is prepared to take whatever steps appear necessary to maintain its foothold in Afghanistan, which had recently been on shaky ground with the ineffective Amin. The lesson is, reports New Republic magazine, that "power counts, and the Soviet Union is willing to use it."

Afghanistan is crucial not only for its nearness to Mideast oil--or even its own oil potential, considered by some Soviet scientists to be formidable. The Soviet Union has viewed the territory Afghanistan as a key to its ambitions for centuries. The czars of the 18th and 19th Centuries looked southward greedily with an eye toward gaining access to warm-water ports on the subcontinent. "It was the main preoccupation of British foreign policy for many years to protect the Afghan flanks against Russian designs," according to one European diplomat. Now the Soviets are in position to control the vital Khyber Pass and other strategic land routes.

The Soviet takeover naturally sent shockwaves throughout the Middle and Near East. A UPI dispatch from Beirut noted that six Middle East nations denounced Soviet military intervention in Moslem Afghanistan as a threat to the stability of the strategic oil-producing region. "The earth is shaking under their feet," a Lebanese newspaper said of the fear by Moslem nations, including petroleum giant Saudi Arabia.

To the east of Afghanistan, the rulers of Pakistan are extremely nervous. "We have witnessed the satellitization of what was once an independent buffer state," a senior Pakistan government source summed up. Pakistanis fear that if the Soviets consolidate their position in Afghanistan, they can begin to exploit ethnic splits already straining Pakistan's unity. Pushtu-speaking tribesmen in north-western Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan have long dreamed of their own independent state of "Pushtunistan," while Baluchis in western Pakistan have nurtured similar desires of joining their brethren in southern Afghanistan and eastern Iran to form an independent Baluchistan.

Indeed, Moscow's new man in Kabul, Karmal, in one of his first speeches, called on "our brotherly Pakhtoon and Buluch people to take a decision" about their destiny. This was an apparent reiteration of the traditional Afghan claim to speak on behalf of Pakhtoon and Baluch ethnic groups living on either side of the Afghan-Pakistan border.

Israeli newspapers, according to a UPI dispatch from Tel Aviv, viewed the events in Afghanistan as a decisive test of U.S. ability to reassert its weight in world affairs.

"Russia, who is exploiting the crisis in Tehran, is simply spitting in the face of the Americans and, under these circumstances nothing will save the United States unless it actually uses the power it has," the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said editorially.

"It is difficult to believe that President Carter will be able to accept the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan without the greatest blow to U.S. prestige," the newspaper Haaretz said.

Mr. Carter, as expected, dispatched a "stiff protest" to Mr. Brezhnev over the Washington-Moscow "hot line" concerning the Afghan development. The Kremlin boss, also as expected, turned a cold shoulder to Mr. Carter's request for Soviet withdrawal.

Shortly afterward the President claimed that Mr. Brezhnev lied to him about the Soviet forces being "invited" into Afghanistan. He also said that his own opinion of the Soviets' ultimate goals had undergone a "dramatic change." Nevertheless, one day later, Mr. Carter said he was still pushing to secure Senate ratification of the SALT II treaty!