

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In the past two weeks, this world has entered into a "whole new ball game." The intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan changes the whole world picture. Or, does it?

President Carter has said this new development has given him a new insight and appraisal of Communist Russia. It gave me no such thing. I wrote thirty and even 46 years ago, the nature and the undeviating policy and commitment of the Communist Party which runs the Soviet Union.

I wrote then that nothing will dissuade the Kremlin rulers but MILITARY FORCE that is SUPERIOR TO THEIRS.

In 1945--thirty years ago--I was writing articles and making broadcasts comparing Communist Russia to a huge BEAR, lumbering along, kicking against doors. If the door caved in, the bear waddled on in, and once it planted its huge feet inside it would never move out unless driven out by a superior force. But, I then said, if a snarling bulldog came growling viciously at the bear from inside, the bear would draw back and run lumberingly away.

The Russian Communists don't want a war they can't win. That's why for some years we had the "cold war." The U.S. was keeping even with them, or was superior, in armaments and nuclear warfare development. Even so, the Russians pushed at the U.S. as far as they safely could without endangering a nuclear showdown--which they would avoid at any cost.

I was saying over the air, and writing, back in 1934, that the Communist unwavering strategy was, as a first offensive toward world domination, propaganda. They began sowing the seeds of their Communist atheistic education all over the U.S.--especially among college professors and students. They invaded American university campuses, full force, and U.S. universities trustingly let them in. They made inroads into the U.S. Government structure. The State Department was a fertile working ground for their doctrines. The State Department official who authorized my credentials as a press representative attending the San Francisco Conference in 1945, where the Charter for the United Nations was formed, was later convicted as a Communist spy.

The Communist permanent policy, to which all party members are solemnly dedicated, calls first for a war of propaganda (call it education if you will). Next, a war of nerves, or "cold war," short of actual military offensives, then in countries where sufficient inroads have been made, such as South Vietnam, support of guerrilla warfare.

The unchanging policy has been, where the Russian bear plants its boot, it never removes it, unless driven out by superior force.

All Communists have been taught this program. They have been taught that they know total world domination cannot be achieved without one final all-out military war. For this purpose the Red Army was formed, and the Russian nuclear development added. Its purpose meanwhile, was literal defense--but even an offense like that now going on in Afghanistan is termed by Communists "defense," or "liberation."

So, just where are we now, at the moment? We thought it was the Chinese Communists that were backing North Vietnam in the war over there. Vice-Chairman Tan Zhen-lin of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples' Congress, one of the three top men in the Peoples' Republic of China, told me it was Russia who actually backed the North Vietnamese, and was promoting the "domino theory," which he said the Russians are still pursuing. The Vice-Chairman was close to both the late Chairman Mao and Premier Chou En-lai, and fought with them in the war.

Actually, what is taking place right now in Afghanistan is another thrust on the "domino theory." By Monday, January 7, the Russians had 100,000 or more troops in Afghanistan, and more being massed at the border ready to crash on through. The Russian boot is now planted in Afghanistan and NOTHING short of SUPERIOR MILITARY FORCE is going to drive them back.

The "domino-type" strategy means they plan next, in due time, to plunge on further south through Pakistan, giving them an outlet into the Indian Ocean, from where they plan to control, with their superior nuclear submarine fleet, all commerce to and from the Far East and the Middle East.

But more. The United States has been too busy concentrating its mind solely on some 50 hostages in Iran to realize the GREATER turn of events in Afghanistan. But local civil wars are sputtering in three or four separate areas, against the Khomeini government in Iran. Iran is in TURMOIL. It borders on Russia. This offers the Kremlin a logical reason, from their viewpoint, to send massive troops into Iran to "settle the turmoil and civil war," and bring "peace" to Iran. Of course, once the Russian boot is planted in Iran, it will have no intention of removing it. Iran, too, like Afghanistan, will become another Russian satellite nation.

This is all part of Russia's ultimate goal to impose Communism on the WORLD. Once they have formed a ring around the Far East and Middle East, by dominating the Indian ocean, and completed the domino program of toppling over adjacent nations from Vietnam on through Cambodia--Thailand next (King Bhumibol told me he expects the Vietnamese to invade Thailand)--then Malaysia and on into the Indian Ocean at the point of Singapore--once they have achieved all that they will control all commerce through Asia, the Far East and Middle East--then they have only the west to consider.

Meanwhile the "domino" strategy and toppling the nations adjoining continues MARCHING ON. And THIS IS ALARMING EUROPE!

The European allies of the U.S. know that somewhere along the way in this master plan for world Communism is going to be a military invasion next door to the west--into WESTERN EUROPE! Of course first must come domination around Southern Africa.

The European nations have relied on U.S. armed and nuclear strength to protect them from the Russian satellites bordering them on the east.

Again, WHERE ARE WE, at this moment?

President Carter has been concentrating on 50 U.S. people in Iran. Now Russia is employing MILITARY MIGHT. At least 100,000 troops are now in Afghanistan, and more on the way. President Carter says he is trying every option short of military force.

But the Kremlin, even after Mr. Carter called Mr. Brezhnev on the HOT LINE, has USED MILITARY FORCE! They will not be deterred by anything short of SUPERIOR MILITARY FORCE! The embargo on grain and fish may hurt Russia A LITTLE--like a slap on the wrist--but their military forces will keep marching on! Don't for a moment suppose the men at the Kremlin are so stupid that they actually started this MILITARY intervention without first calculating such meager retaliation as these embargos! The men at the Kremlin figured that the stakes were WORTH IT!

Meanwhile, consider this from the viewpoint of London, Bonn, Paris and Rome. Mr. Carter is indulging in wrist-slapping, while the Bear lumbers right along--and EUROPE FEARS IT MAY BE NEXT! THAT IS THEIR FEAR!

I see in this a real fear in Western Europe, that will FORCE European leaders and the Vatican to get their heads together in mutual DEFENSE--European civil nations against nuclear military invasion, and the Roman Curia and Papacy against atheism making inroads over all Europe! In their eyes, President Carter is DOING NOTHING--and Russia is MOVING!

When we entered the decade of the '80s just eight days ago as I write, the world entered an entirely NEW BALL GAME!

The WHOLE WORLD SITUATION HAS SUDDENLY CHANGED! But Washington is BLINDED!

Jesus said, "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:3).

Prophecy says Ephraim and Manasseh would be stupid in worldly politics, and they are!

But for US? Can WE discern the signs of the times? END-TIME EVENTS are going to happen FAST from here on! The '80s well might see the END of this present world; WAKE UP!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font with a horizontal line underneath.

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND IN REVIEW

Mr. Joseph Tkach opened last weekend's Friday night Bible Study (January 4) with these words: "I'd like to welcome you on behalf of Mr. Armstrong this evening. We all know why we are here; because one year ago yesterday Satan launched a most devastating attack on the Worldwide Church of God, the body of Jesus Christ. And most of us sitting here this evening have played an instrumental part in helping support the Work of God and certainly prevent Satan from accomplishing what he set out to do."

Mr. Tkach then announced that the overflow crowd at this special anniversary Bible Study would see the recently completed one-hour documentary prepared by our own television department, after which Mr. Ralph Helge and Mr. Stanley Rader would speak.

Preview of TV Documentary

The TV documentary titled "The First Amendment, Church vs. State," began with sweeping views of the Pasadena campus, while these words grabbed the attention of the viewer: "The Ambassador College campus in Pasadena, California has been the headquarters for the Worldwide Church of God for 32 years. During that time it has grown from one building on a 3/4 acre lot into a complex that is universally regarded as one of the most beautiful campuses in the world.

"Here, on January 3rd, began one of the most dramatic confrontations between church and state in two hundred years of American legal history. That morning, with no prior notice given to Church officials, a California Deputy Attorney General, accompanied by two private attorneys whom he had deputized, arrived at the Church's Hall of Administration. They announced to startled employees that, by order of Los Angeles Superior Court, the Church had been placed in a state of receivership...."

This dramatic and informative television production, made possible by the foresight of Church leaders having assigned our own film and sound crews to record the many subsequent events that transpired during the ensuing months, will begin to be shown on various stations around the country as a one-hour special. Its first airing will be in the Southern California area on January 16. Expected to have real impact in bringing the Church's plight to the attention of the American public, the documentary will be publicized in the television sections of leading L.A. newspapers.

Lawsuit's Continued Impact on God's Work

"Many accusations continue to come in," Mr. Helge said, speaking of his responsibility in the Work's Legal Department which is at the crossroads of events occurring in this litigation. As we know, and as since proven as early as last January in Judge Title's courtroom, Mr. Helge reiterated, there are many lies and unfounded accusations in the state's lawsuit. So now, since the Attorney General is hard put to legitimize his assault against God's Church, he is attempting to score with side blows at God's Work.

Mr. Helge said that the Attorney General has prompted various other agencies to come out and investigate us. The Internal Revenue Service, the Tax Exempt Unit from the county and other law enforcement agencies are

just some who have heard things about us which, when they come out to investigate, turn out to be totally unfounded.

He related an instance in which one of our attorneys [Mr. Marshall Morgan] was dealing with some of these investigators who had already talked to some of the most hard core dissidents in Texas. After seeing our cooperation in bringing forth documents they asked for and then examining them, in a conversation with our attorney they said: "You know something, Mr. Morgan? We have been fed a lot of bull."

The empty and baseless accusations from dissidents and enemies of God's Work, Mr. Helge pointed out, are not unlike those Paul experienced. In the face of various accusations, Paul said, "Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me" (Acts 24:13). So it is today with God's Church and its leaders.

True Brethren Withstanding the Test

"...We are in a war..." continued Mr. Helge. He mentioned how it is a war on all fronts: politically, spiritually and legally. He pointed out that this is therefore a "period of testing." He reminded us of Christ's warning to Peter: Satan would like to sift you like wheat (Luke 22:31). He also recalled the certainty of "fiery trials" (I Peter 4:12) and that when they do come we should not be surprised and be like some who say "'What's happening? What's happening?'" We are told severe trials are going to come so we ought not be shocked and possibly fall away over something we were forewarned would come. It is very important to realize we are in a time of testing.

Wanting to strengthen and encourage those at this anniversary Bible Study, Mr. Helge said "...In this sifting process, you people are the wheat. The chaff has been blown away. Satan came in and he was going to destroy this Work. But, instead, again God used [this adversity] and He used it in such a way as to get rid of an awful lot of chaff."

Referring to a passage in I Corinthians 3, Mr. Helge said that although it talks about the work of the ministry, it also applies to the lay people when it mentions the "fire" as the ultimate test. It is "the ultimate test because when it is all done, that which is the straw and the hay and the stubble is gone--it's just not there. But that which is the gems and the finer products; they become more refined and they become better. And that is what you people and your leaders have all become [out] of this."

Mr. Helge observed that it was in times of great trial that some of our nation's greatest leaders have come to the fore, and in a similar way some of our leaders have risen to the challenges and met the onslaught of attacks from all sides. He reminded us of Acts 14:22 where we are told that through much tribulation we shall enter the Kingdom of God. And what further does this teach us, he asked, directing us to II Corinthians 1:9-10 which talks about persecution: "...that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God...in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

Mr. Helge explained that although the legal processes are slow and the struggle will take time and patience, in the end, since God's Church has been thrust into the improbable position of protecting the rights of all

churches in California and the United States, someday we will be considered not as criminals but as heroes. And as with Paul who was jailed and chained yet took heart and seeing the big picture said, "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel" (Phil. 1:12).

"That is what this case is all about," concluded Mr. Helge, "...and one day when this case is over we are really going to have a party, and I am looking forward to it!"

Highlights of Mr. Rader's Comments

Mr. Rader stressed, as did Mr. Helge, that we are truly in a war with many fronts. The multi-faceted legal battle we are engaged in with the state is a vicious fight because, as Mr. Rader pointed out, "we are dealing with men who have proved again and again now for one year--and I mean this as much as I could possibly mean anything else--they will lie and they will invent where they think it is necessary. And they will malign or slander and defame even when it is not necessary...That is the kind of people we are dealing with."

The Attorney General has shown by his refusing to depose certain people such as Mr. Jack Kessler, that he doesn't want answers that will disprove his case. Neither does he want to be deposed by Mr. Kessler because, as Mr. Rader explained, it would be very plain that the Attorney General "not only never intended to prove up the case, but that he has maliciously abused the power of his office and would then be wide open for legal action to redress the wrongs [he committed against the Church]."

Mr. Rader stressed, again as did Mr. Helge, that we are in a time of testing which requires patience. As much as we might like an early resolution of this church/state conflict, the legal processes are slow and we must build a good foundation. He also emphasized that if we were to let down or simply forget for a moment that we, as a church, have special rights and immunities, any compromises we might make would preclude us from ever being able to be treated as having them again. A legal precedent would therefore be set not in our favor.

Mr. Rader acknowledged the invaluable help all the brethren have been during the past year, and reminded us of how Mr. Armstrong had said over and over again that there was no way he could thank everyone enough. Not only did many brethren put in many long hours for weeks and months at a time helping in every possible way, but their participation in the sit-ins, appearances at court and letter writing helped to bring the Church into public focus. We realized early on that the courts, the media, the public and other religious institutions (which eventually did rally to our aid) first had to be informed about the Church's plight.

Mr. Rader noted, "They were very confused in the Attorney General's office and very confused in the courts. They actually had some idea when they came in here that we were all members of a corporation...like joining a club...and that all you people owed dues." They simply did not appreciate us as the spiritual body of Christ.

"I have a feeling in watching this lawsuit unfold," Mr. Rader observed, "that by now everybody that has learned something about the case from

amongst the public, or the media, has become convinced to a greater or lesser extent that the living Christ does control this Church and that God is on His throne. I bump into these people every day and they are viewing us with renewed respect every day. Only the state, in the Attorney General's office, doesn't believe it. But believe me, in time they will learn."

Resisting Lawsuit Not in Conflict with God's Law

It is important in looking back over the past year to realize, as Mr. Rader pointed out, that there has not been a conflict between God's law and man's law. But, it was emphasized, if there ever is a conflict then we "ought to obey God rather than men." So the past year has been one of protecting rights that the Church does have under man's law, though they are presently under attack by a state agency which, initially, came into the fight with great credibility in the courts.

We must understand that in America we as individuals and as a Church have certain rights under man's law. But Mr. Rader pointed out that this doesn't prevent the Attorney General from trying to assert his own powers of office and even, through misrepresentation of his intent to the courts and to the public, to try to deny our rights in order to achieve his own ends if at all possible.

"They said they weren't trying to take over the Church," Mr. Rader reminded the audience, "...but in the complaint [lawsuit] it says 'We want to change the governance of the Church.'" Still the Attorney General's men say publicly that they just want an examination. "What," demanded Mr. Rader, "has an examination or an investigation to do with governance? They want it changed from a hierarchical structure to a congregational structure. They want to remove Mr. Armstrong FOREVER. They weren't happy to just remove him. They wanted to perpetually bar him forever, as well as everybody else associated with him. What does that have to do with an examination? The answer is obvious: nothing!"

So if we had not asserted our rights under man's law where would the Church be today? What would have become of the Work? Mr. Rader said that as the other churches became aware of what the Attorney General really wanted to do, they rallied to our cause.

Mr. Rader and Mr. Helge have said, when other agencies inquire of us without the abusive conduct the Attorney General displayed, we answer all their questions and show them any documents they want to see. We always have. But some brethren have, nevertheless, thought we were doing the wrong thing by standing up for our rights and the special privileges and immunities that a Church has in this country. Rights that are guaranteed under man's law! "And if we ever have to make a choice between standing up for our rights under God's law and fulfilling our duty under God's law, even if it should mean failing to obey man's law because there is a conflict, I would hope we would all know that we must follow God's law," declared Mr. Rader.

At another time during the same talk and along the same lines, Mr. Rader added that although he believes the lawsuit will be successfully smashed, "because we do have God on our side," nevertheless, "someday there might be a conflict between God's law and man's law. But it is not here yet.... It would only come about in such time and place if the state should prevail and should prevail in such a manner as to obey man's law would result

in breaking God's law...and in the process lose the benefit of the promises God has made to us about that which counts the most, which is our eternal salvation and the World Tomorrow and all that goes with it."

Two Hour TV Question-and-Answer Session

Mr. Rader mentioned that he recently completed a two-hour taping in our own television studio where he sat down and answered, "off the top," any questions that were posed to him by one of our TV crew. He covered a broad spectrum of issues and rehearsed his own relationship to the Work and how it came about, as well as some history of the Work and matters relating to the lawsuit that may still be a question to some. Usage of this material will be determined by future needs. However, segments of the taping totaling about 30 minutes were shown at the anniversary Sabbath services just prior to Mr. Armstrong's sermon.

Mr. Armstrong Speaks to Combined Sabbath Service LIVE

Though physically in Tucson, Mr. Herbert Armstrong was also present in Pasadena via the marvel of microwave transmission. As the main speaker the brethren had come to see and hear during this memorable anniversary weekend, Mr. Armstrong spoke to the over 5000 brethren who were assembled on campus, filling both gyms, the Student Center, Recital Hall, classrooms, as well as the Auditorium. We will not preempt Mr. Armstrong by summarizing what he said since his powerful sermon will be sent to all the churches that were not able to hear him speak live from Tucson.

CHURCH LAWYERS TAKING RECENT COURT RULING TO HIGHER COURT

As his last official action pertaining to the State of California's lawsuit against the Church (just before his transfer to another department in L.A. Superior Court at the close of last year), Judge Thomas Johnson ruled on a motion our lawyers had before the court. The Church's attorneys had requested that the court quash the subpoena issued by the Attorney General's office which demanded that one of the auditors for the receiver turn over to the Attorney General copies of Church records in the auditor's possession. On December 31st, Judge Johnson refused to quash the Attorney General's subpoena.

The documents and records, numbering nearly seven thousand (perhaps running into the tens of thousands of pages) were wrongfully confiscated from the Church during the receivership last January and February. So Church attorneys are taking the matter to a higher court now. But if the court order is permitted to stand it will make a mockery of our first amendment and other constitutional rights. These precious rights will have been effectively wrested from the Church and made of none effect in America!

A previously court-ordered inventory of the documents being held by the auditors proves that they include not only financial records and documents which the Church insists they have no right to, but indisputably constitutionally-protected personal letters between ministers, between ministers and lay members; between attorneys, between attorneys and their clients, etc. If these are allowed to go to a public agency, such as the Attorney General's office, they will become public record and no longer protected by the laws of confidentiality. This is clearly another serious breach of the law which our brethren need to be praying about.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESNews From the Netherlands

Mr. Bram de Bree, regional director for the Work in the Netherlands, brings us the following update for the Pastor General's Report:

The highlight of the month of December has been the visit of Mr. and Mrs. McCullough. We all enjoyed their three-day stay in the Netherlands. On December 15th we held combined services in Tilburg at which Mr. McCullough spoke to both churches.

As for some recent statistics, we received in December a total of 1612 letters, of which 263 were from donors and coworkers. As part of our advertising campaign we offered the booklet Seven Laws of Success and the PT in two newspapers and two monthly magazines. This resulted in 543 new subscriptions giving us a total circulation of 16,243. The Dutch Correspondence Course has been extended by 78 bringing the total to 1093 active students. Our income is holding at a year-to-date increase of 3.91%.

We are continuing our public lectures in the city of Zwolle. We announced the December lecture in the PT which resulted in a first attendance of 10 people. The total number of people interested in attending the once-a-month follow-up lectures has increased to 29. As a result of our activities in this northeast part of the Netherlands, six requests for first visits have come in and church attendance in Bilthoven has increased by five.

We are now in the process of making final arrangements for another public lecture, this time in the Northwest part of the country. This lecture is scheduled to take place in the middle of March.

Looking back at 1979 we are very thankful for stability and growth in the Dutch Work.

--Joe Tkach

MR. ARMSTRONG SEEN AND HEARD LIVE IN PASADENA VIA MICROWAVE

This past Sabbath Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong delivered a powerful sermon, which was microwaved (audio and video) back to Pasadena where more than a dozen Southern California churches convened on the Ambassador College campus.

The audio portion was also sent out to 36 church areas across the United States, as well as six in Canada, via our WATS Line system. Approximately 17,500 church members were able to hear Mr. Armstrong's message live!

Mr. Armstrong requested this opportunity to speak on the first Sabbath of 1980 to set the tone for the beginning of this new decade. But for those who were not on our audio hookup, we will be sending, as soon as possible, an audio cassette tape of Mr. Armstrong's sermon.

If there were any audio problems along the WATS Line system, please let Kevin Dean know so that we can evaluate the situation.

--Media Division

HIGH RESPONSE TO DONATION RECEIPT OFFERS

Since December 1977 the "Sermon Summaries" offered with weekly and monthly receipts have been some of the best pulling literature advertised by Subscriber Development.

With each receipt form we enclose a descriptive offer of a current "Sermon Summary" on Christian living, family relations, the Bible, prophecy, etc. These "Summaries" are brief condensations of selected sermons given in local Pasadena congregations--and in appearance resemble small reprint articles. (Member receipts may not always offer "Sermon Summary" articles since these summaries are frequently printed in the GOOD NEWS or "Worldwide News").

During the past weeks, the Sermon Summary, "What Is Your Image of God?" (taken from a sermon by Mr. Ellis LaRavia), has drawn the highest response in two years from non-member contributors--a whopping 48% response!

The subject of man's relationship to God seems to be one that continually brings a good response from the Work's supporters. They are apparently the kind of people who want to know how to grow in their spiritual lives. Our goal in Subscriber Development is to offer them literature which will help them in this spiritual development.

NOTE: If you have given sermons which you think would be inspiring and meaningful for the Work's co-workers, please send them in. We will be glad to consider offering your sermons as a part of this program.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

We received an unusually heavy mail response to the December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. Two articles especially stood out in drawing a variety of positive and negative reactions. They were "Behind the Pope's Historic Visit to America" by Gene Hogberg and "The Arab World in Prophecy" by Keith Stump.

We received a variety of comments on the article "Behind the Pope's Historic Visit to America." While a number of readers praised the article as factual and timely, some others saw it as an affront to the Pope.

Reactions to the article "The Arab World in Prophecy" were overwhelmingly positive. Readers were impressed that such a complex subject could be presented in an easily understood yet unbiased manner.

Finally, many general comments came from readers expressing appreciation for putting more spiritual content back into the magazine.

--Mail Processing Center

Readers Express Differing Views

I have followed [in The PLAIN TRUTH] the warnings of what to expect worldwide. Each time the data proved correct. And the latest is Why The Pope's Visit to All the Countries? What Is the Reason? So good people keep those informative PLAIN TRUTHS coming my way.

--Marie A. Slack (Lynbrook, NY)

I am writing this letter because of some articles in the December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. The article on the Pope was very interesting and marvelous. The depth of the article has helped me to understand the Bible a little bit better. Keep up the good work.

--Pastor & Mrs. Nam-Son Oh (Dist. Hght., MD)

I have been born and raised in the Roman Catholic faith. After reading your article "Behind the Pope's Historic Visit to America" in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, December 1979, I could not believe my own eyes.

To state that this Pope or any other Pope is working for Satan or on Satan's orders is an outrageous lie!

--T. Kleindienst (Buena Park, CA)

I am a Catholic girl living in Iowa. In response to the article "Behind the Pope's Historic Visit to America" in the December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, I would like to express my disappointment in the author of this article. The author had the nerve to imply that Pope John Paul II was working through the "power of Satan." I am appalled at this blasphemy, and that is exactly what it is!

--Annette Kestel (Schaller, IA)

The emergence of OUR new Polish Pope, John Paul, as the world's only STRONG leader may well presage the rapid resumption of prophesied world events, as you so aptly phrased it.

I shall always keep the December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH for it is indeed a masterpiece and not only in journalism. I extend my congratulations to the author, Gene H. Hogberg, on an assignment superbly done.

--Sister Claude of Jesus (Albany, NY)

Interest in Arab World Sparked by Article

"The Arab World in Prophecy" by Mr. Stump is one of the most eloquent and fascinating articles I have ever read about the Arabs or any other group or tribe of people. The background and references given just, in my opinion, cannot be surpassed.

--O. D. Montoney (Elkins, NY)

Please extend my compliments to author Keith W. Stump for his excellent story "The Arab World in Prophecy." It was excellently written and presented. My studies in the Arab world confirms practically all [points] excepting where the references are in Bible references. My appraisal is a scientific analysis (not biblical).

--Jesse A. Valentine (St. Clair Shore, MI)

The article on "The Arab World in Prophecy" by Mr. Keith Stump is one that every American should read. Yes, PLAIN TRUTH is to be commended for reporting world news in advance and its true meaning.

--Mr. & Mrs. Carl Schnabel (Lake Worth, FL)

I just received a copy of December's PLAIN TRUTH. I wasn't sure I even wanted it until I opened it and found your article "The Arab World in Prophecy." Immediately I sat down and read it. It was one of the best articles on the Middle East and the prophecies fulfilled and yet to be that I've read in a good long time.

--Janet Rose (Clifton, CO)

General Comments

The December number of The PLAIN TRUTH was a wonderful help to me, especially the article "Where Will Christians Rule?" by Raymond F. McNair.

--Mrs. J. L. Adrian (Temple, TX)

As a mother of a three-year-old precious gift from God, I was deeply moved by your masterpiece, "An Open Letter--On The International Year of the Child."

--Mrs. Paul Vincent, Jr. (Conway, SC)

Thank you for the December 1979 issue of The PLAIN TRUTH! It is the best issue ever--so full of meat. I had to check the cover again to see if it wasn't really The GOOD NEWS!

--Helen Halbe (Sierra Madre, CA)

The December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH may very well be the finest one ever. It seems to me that Jesus Christ is becoming even more active lately.

--John Palmeri (Jamaica, NY)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

1980--STARTING OUT WITH A BIG BANG: The Soviet Union, capitalizing on American weakness (hostages in Iran, condoning of Russian troops in Cuba) is in the process of massively subjugating all opposition in Afghanistan. To aid in the political digestion, over 85,000 troops are in the former buffer state--which sits astride the historic invasion routes to India. Probably 200,000 will be there soon. They'll be needed to chase Moslem tribesmen into every nook-and-cranny of the mountainous, poor (\$80 per capita annual income; 90% illiterate) country.

The Soviets obviously counted the cost of their intervention. They weren't going to get U.S. approval of SALT II anyway. They had already discounted the effects of a cut-back in U.S. grain sales and other U.S. counter-measures. They were willing to endure a few slaps on the wrist in the United Nations Security Council; their veto would protect them there anyway. The Kremlin also knew that any condemnations from neighboring nations would be carefully couched. As one Asian diplomat commented: "Asians may fear or dislike the Russians, but a lot of us respect a nation that is not reluctant to use its power."

Fear of crossing Russia was so evident that the Third World members of the Security Council were reluctant to recommend any anti-Soviet action be taken by the U. N. General Assembly.

Significantly, the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan coincides with the re-election of Indira Gandhi as India's Prime Minister. Mrs. Gandhi, quite pro-Soviet in the past, condoned the Kremlin power play by blaming pre-invasion internal troubles in Afghanistan on U.S./C.I.A. meddling--the same line Moscow propaganda has taken. The presence of Mrs. Gandhi in New Delhi will seriously complicate U.S. efforts to militarily shore up arch-rival Pakistan.

While America attempts to "negotiate" with a nation that has captured its citizens, tries to bring the "weight" of "world opinion" down on the mobocracy in Iran, the U.S.S.R. clearly demonstrated that it is willing to use whatever power is necessary to advance its national interest. A fearful world lies mute.

"Imagine the reaction if the United States had air-lifted a thousand military advisers to restore a pro-American regime in Nicaragua" mused Patrick J. Buchanan. The world would have been in an uproar. Why? Perhaps, he said, because the "Communist and Third World detest us because they are revolted by the stench of weakness."

A Madman Speaks

Buchanan went on to explain that despite foreign aid and other solicitous assistance, "most of the regimes of the Second and Third Worlds--representing four-fifths of mankind--ofttimes display an almost irrational contempt for the United States."

Perhaps no one, not even the Ayatollah Khomeini, exemplifies this "irrational contempt" more than Libya's mercurial madman, Colonel Muammar el-Quaddafi. His hatred of both the United States and its Mideast patron, Israel, knows no bounds.

In a remarkable interview with Italy's Oriana Fallaci (perhaps the world's top interviewer) in a recent New York Times Magazine, Quaddafi said, among other things: "An explosion of hatred toward America is taking place. Everybody hates America, everybody, not only the Moslem countries. Because everybody is or has been oppressed by America and sooner or later will revolt against America--even those countries that are not Moslem."

The interview unleashed nearly all of Quaddafi's mad rantings and caught him in one lie after another. He denied the well-known fact that he has offered asylum to Uganda's butcher, Idi Amin. Defending Amin, Quaddafi countered that "all the news about Amin is false, false and artificial, the result of Zionist propaganda." To which Miss Fallaci countered: "If a tyrant who slaughters his people merits the friendship of Colonel Quaddafi just because he [Amin] hates the Jews, then Colonel Quaddafi was born 40 years too late....Hitler would have been a very good friend for you."

Quaddafi, who is so radical that he recently had a falling out with PLO's Yassir Arafat, then went on to defend the deposed ruler of the Central African Empire, Jean-Bedel Bokassa. Bokassa was so notoriously evil he even roasted and ate schoolchildren who disobeyed his commands!

The interview then concluded with a remarkable excursion into the theater of the absurd, including Quaddafi's explanation of his "new gospel."

"FALLACI: Colonel, since you don't consider yourself a dictator, and not even a president, not even a minister, tell me, what are you?

"QUADDAFI: I am the leader of the revolution. How evident that you did not read my Green Book.

"FALLACI: On the contrary, I read it. It doesn't take very long, you know, 15 minutes at the most. It's so small. My powder compact is bigger than your little Green Book....How long did it take [to write it]?

"QUADDAFI: Many years. Before finding the definite solution, I had to meditate a great deal on the history of humanity, on the conflicts of the past and of the present.

"FALLACI: And how did you come to the conclusion that democracy is a dictatorial system, that parliament is a fraud, elections a mockery? There are a lot of things in that little book I don't understand.

"QUADDAFI: Because you did not study it well, and you did not try to understand what Jamahiriya [meaning "congress of the people"] is. You have to stay here in Libya to study how a country works when there is no government, no parliament, no representation, no strikes, and everything is Jamahiriya.

"FALLACI: ...Who elects the representatives?

"QUADDAFI: Nobody! In the Jamahiriya, nobody is elected. There are no elections, there is no representation...You are not even ready to understand the new era, the era of the masses. First there was the monarchy, right? Then men's struggle led to the republic with its governments and its presidents, correct? Now humanity has passed to another stage and created Jamahiriya, which is the final solution.

"FALLACI: And where is the opposition?

"QUADDAFI: What opposition? What does the opposition have to do with this? When everyone participates in the congress of the people, what need is there for an opposition? Opposition to what?...With Jamahiriya the authority of the people is achieved, the dream is realized. The struggle is over.

"FALLACI: Maybe it's over for you, not for me. I want to know what happens to me if I refuse this Jamahiriya.

"QUADDAFI: But you cannot refuse it. Jamahiriya is the destiny of the world. The authority of the people is the final stage. The day of the revolution has inevitably arrived, thanks to the Green Book. In the whole world. And the masses will seize power, and their guide will be the Green Book....

"FALLACI: Colonel, Colonel, tell me: Is there any place for freedom in all this?

"QUADDAFI: Freedom? What freedom? This is freedom. The only true, real freedom. Why do you ask such a thing?

"FALLACI: Colonel, do you really think that this philosophy of yours, this little Green Book, will change the world?

"QUADDAFI: Without any doubt. Yes, without any doubt....The Green Book is the guide to the emancipation of man. The Green Book is the gospel. The new gospel. The gospel of the new era, the era of the masses.

"FALLACI: You're not very humble, are you?

"QUADDAFI: No, I'm not humble. Because I can resist the attacks of the entire world and because the Green Book has resolved the problems of humanity and of society.

"FALLACI: Well, then, you're a kind of messiah. The new messiah.

"QUADDAFI: I don't see myself in those terms. But the Green Book is the new gospel. I repeat. In your gospels it's written: 'In the beginning there was the word.' The Green Book is the word. One of its words can destroy the world. Or save it. Carter can wage any war against us: to defend itself, the third world only needs my Green Book. My word. One word and the whole world could blow up. The value of things could change. And their volume. Everywhere and forever.

"FALLACI: Colonel, may I ask one last question?

"QUADDAFI: Sure, but be brief....

"FALLACI: Do you believe in God?

"QUADDAFI: Of course, why do you ask me such a question?

"FALLACI: Because I thought that you were God."

Commenting on the interview a columnist for the National Review said:
"Wait till he gets his Bomb."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau