

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 20, 1980

The PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Millions of dollars are being donated to and spent by four aspirants for the Presidency of the United States.

What a spectacle it is! Most who contribute to campaign expenses do so for selfish advantage, hoping to get something out of it. This world has been brainwashed by a subtle and clever devil in the "GET" principle of life.

Once again the situation is like someone said of a previous election, "Well, thank God, only one of them can finally win." Actually, not one is qualified for the position.

But the winner will have his hand on the greatest throttle of POWER possessed by any man on earth. And that is what each candidate COVETS! It makes me think of a 15-year-old boy who can hardly wait another year to get his hand on the POWER that goes with a steering wheel. Unfortunately, we have had some ex-ministers who played politics within God's Church, coveting MORE POWER! Usually those who covet power are not competent to wield it.

There are no more really "strong" leaders in the world in the government of any nation--men such as Joseph Stalin, the man of steel, or Winston Churchill. But one is now looming on the horizon--Pope John Paul II. We may hear a lot more of him, later.

Recent Gallup polls indicate Governor Reagan is now in the lead of the three candidates expected to be in the race after the political conventions. President Carter rated second, with Congressman Anderson a poor third. But even Reagan showed well under 50% of the poll.

That would indicate the final election may be thrown into the House of Representatives. But Ted Kennedy is still running. He is counting on the President falling downhill rapidly before the Democratic convention--which he already has started to do. I predicted this three or four months ago when Mr. Carter escalated in the opinion polls because of the hostage situation in Iran. But now that very hostage situation is dropping him back down rapidly. Don't be surprised if Ted Kennedy is the next President after all. He isn't fit for the office--but then, WHO IS? Kennedy still shows much boyishness and immaturity, but the sudden weight of the office might sober and mature him. President Carter has not measured up to the stature of the office, and is so recognized in Europe. Ronald Reagan has a much sounder philosophy of what the national government ought to be than any of the candidates, but just is not big enough a man for the job.

Whatever happens, the country LOSES! If there exists a man in the United States of presidential caliber, he is big enough to refuse to run for the job.

In any event, the heads of the governments of Europe--all likewise men of inadequate caliber for the job--have lost all confidence in relying on the United States to protect them from Communist encroachments. The Russians have now made their move toward their projected WORLD DOMINATION by sending, now, more than 100,000 troops into Afghanistan. They will not retreat. They are in no great hurry (a bear lumbers along slowly most of the time) but in due time, they at least now PLAN to keep moving on. One more small leap across Pakistan and they can control the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf--CONTROLLING THE WORLD'S OIL. Europe now fears them. The Europeans want political and military UNION. No leader in Europe is strong enough to unite them.

BUT, Pope John Paul II is rapidly gaining stature and public acclaim. He now looms as the world's ONLY STRONG MAN! He can bring about the prophesied resurrection of the "Holy Roman Empire." Then the world will quickly be plunged into the final conflagration of world wars. That will seal the doom of the United States--and the British!

But ALL THIS IS THE FINAL GASP OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS WORLD, UNDER THE SWAY OF SATAN AND HIS WAY OF "GET."

Just consider how idiotic--how foolish--it all is!

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD will then soon take over. Jesus Christ, in SUPREME POWER AND GLORY, will HEAD the government of the world tomorrow over all nations.

There will be no political elections. No \$100 per plate banquets to raise campaign funds for willful aspirants who covet POWER. No little, unqualified men running for office. No fear of other nations, nor of nuclear war.

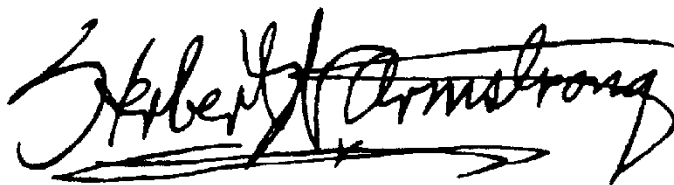
Those Jesus Christ will APPOINT to the chief offices ALREADY have undergone their training in their mortal life on earth. I expect father Abraham to be resurrected to the next highest office under Christ. King David will come alive and rule all the nations developed out of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel. Each of the original Apostles will be appointed head of one of those twelve nations.

Christ will be Supreme Judge as well as Supreme Executive. The "Congress," "Parliament" or LAW-MAKING BODY will be GOD THE FATHER IN HEAVEN. Those of us who are given office of rule will rule by GOD'S LAW! All will be JUST. We shall not rule or judge as the world does now--but we shall have power to read men's minds and hearts (Isaiah 11).

NO ELECTIONS! NO LITTLE MEN unqualified for office spending millions of dollars crying out, "Vote for me--I want to be President."

Well, fellows and wives, we now do not have long to wait. This present election travesty may well be the very LAST political election for

the presidency of the United States, with little incompetent men vying for the coveted prize. There will be no more coveting, nor lying, nor murders, nor broken homes and families. There shall be PEACE, HAPPINESS, JOY, all living the way of "GIVE" which is outflowing LOVE!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News for May Is Amazing!

In Australia, mail received, income, literature mailed out and church attendance all smashed previous records. In New Zealand, mail received was one of highest totals ever (up 61% over May 1979), and income was the second highest monthly total on record. In the Netherlands, incoming mail for May was up 298% over the same month in 1979, and income was up 61%.

In Germany, the largest number of new subscribers in any given month since the German office was opened in April, 1961, was added to the list. Credit for most of these subscribers goes to the new "KLAR & WAHR" flyer, which appeared in "DIE WELT" newspaper on May 6th, bringing 4400 responses. Ads were also placed in the weekly magazine "DER SPIEGEL" and two weekly Swiss magazines, "SCHWEIZER ILLUSTRIERTE" and "SCHWEIZER TELE TV."

Following is the report from the Australian office:

"Plain Truth Promotions: We are continuing to vigorously promote The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. In May we added almost 7,000 new subscribers to the mailing list. We are now approaching the 100,000 mark--the highest number of Australian subscribers ever on record.

"New subscribers are being added to the list as a result of the following promotions: 1) householder cards, 2) newspaper inserts, 3) ads in national magazines, and 4) ads in leading Australian newspapers.

"We are most grateful for the excellent work by our members in placing PLAIN TRUTH householder cards in letter boxes throughout Australia. As a result of their efforts so far this year, over 15,000 new subscribers have been added to the mailing list.

"Because of the consistent response to the householder card promotion we have gone ahead with the printing of an additional one and a quarter million cards. These will be distributed by our members and, in selected areas, bulk mailings through the post office.

"Mr. Dean Wilson, Regional Director for Australia and Asia, and Mr. Chris Hunting, Coordinator for Asia, flew to Singapore and Malaysia for Pentecost services. In addition to being in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore for services on the Feast of Pentecost and the previous Sabbath, they were on a fact-finding mission concerning the possible establishment of an office

in that area of the world. Initially, a minister will probably be stationed in Singapore to pastor the local church there and the church in Kuala Lumpur. We are hopeful that this can be accomplished by beginning to conduct Bible studies again on a regular basis in Ipoh, Taiping, and Kota Bharu in West Malaysia. Likewise Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia would receive attention, as well as Indonesia and Thailand.

"The New Zealand office reports that mail from the Pacific Islands this year is shattering all previous records. Over 6,800 pieces have come in from the Islands so far this year, 140% up on the same period in 1979. Responses are now coming in to some ads we placed in selected newspapers in Western Samoa, Cook Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Tahiti. Some of these areas are French speaking, so we used French language ads offering La Pure Verite, and these are bringing in a fine response.

"Things are happening in the tiny island Kingdom of Tonga. Recently the P.T. mailing list there was quadrupled by a promotion to all the post office boxes in Nuku'alofa. Over the last few months we've begun a small newsstand program in Tonga, and beginning with the June P.T. Morris Hedstorn Ltd., the leading department store chain in the Pacific Islands, has agreed to display 300 copies each month on their newsstands. Attendance in Tonga for Pentecost was their highest church attendance figure ever, and the offering more than doubled that of last year."

#### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

LAKE CHARLES, LA--DENNIS DOUCET: We deeply appreciate Mr. Burk McNair's visit this month. Our people appreciate Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes --please keep them coming. The majority of our members are alert and aware of events worldwide and nationally. They are also keeping up with the situation of State vs Church. Mr. Helge's explanation on hotline was a great help. Encourage him to continue to do this as events warrant.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: The State vs Church battle is finally being recognized as a real threat to the Church of God--as well as to religious freedom generally. The Channel 13 retraction--and its portent--combined with Ralph Helge's hotline tape and comments via the Pastor General's Report have generated a "stirring up" and soberness which might not have been otherwise produced so dramatically.

MEDFORD, OR--FRED DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the strongly worded employment agreement! Also, for clearing the air regarding the meaning of the word "porneia"!

ROSEBURG, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Church attendance is continuing to climb; the brethren are getting more involved in Church programs; overall a very positive attitude prevails; a number of the local family problems are beginning to stabilize. My wife and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve in this area--we are very much enjoying these two churches and serving the people. Thanks again for the opportunity.

BIG SANDY, TX--DON WARD: Record Holy Day offering for Big Sandy--average per person offering of \$25.98, a 52% increase, with a 72% increase in total offerings over last year. I believe this reflects the general spirit and attitude of the Big Sandy and Tyler brethren in their support of God's Work and Mr. Armstrong's leadership. The checks are made out to

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, so there is no doubt in their minds where their offerings are supposed to go.

SAN ANGELO, TX--LYLE GREAVES: Very successful Pentecost; holy day offering increased \$7.00 per person over spring. Many positive comments about Mr. Armstrong's writing--excellent articles setting forth clearly what is truth. Can see how far off track we were before.

NORTH PLATTE, NE--DON HOOSER: We had a very inspiring Pentecost! The recent news of our writ of certiorari being turned down by the U.S. Supreme Court is certainly disappointing, but we trust that it is God's will to bring greater glory to His name in the long run.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--DOUG HORCHAK: Pentecost Holyday offering up over 20% from last year. Reflects steady progress of brethren's attitude in support of Mr. Armstrong and the Church.

GRAND ISLAND, NE--DON HOOSER: The members and teens here have been very pleased with the improvements Mr. Armstrong has made in SEP and the lowered tuition, and some are very disappointed that their applications were turned down because both sessions were filled.

BAKERSFIELD, CA--ALFRED J. MISCHNICK: Am having many calls for more cards and more card holders for the PT request card program. All I can say is, "They are on order." An order for books will be placed and the library book program is being vigorously implemented. Also we are starting the waiting room PT subscription program and members are responding very nicely. New life is appearing with these new member involvement programs.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### DRAFT REGISTRATION

The House and Senate have both now passed the draft registration bill, and it appears very likely that men 19 and 20 years of age will be required to register this summer. The Church has prepared procedural information to assist men who will be required to register. Please advise young men attending church who were born in 1960 or 1961 to request this procedural information if they wish church assistance.

To ensure prompt handling of the requests, please have the men request the article, "Selective Service Procedures" by title, and indicate which local church they are attending. Requests for this information should be sent to the following address:

Special Services  
Worldwide Church of God  
Box 111  
Pasadena, California 91123

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

#### MEDIA SERVICES UPDATE

We have very good news concerning the office-studio facilities over in Tucson. About 10 days ago John Prohs and I installed microphones and other audio equipment that will enable Mr. Armstrong to record radio programs from his home.

This week the remainder of our lighting gear that will be used in the taping of television programs should be delivered here in Pasadena. These new lights will give off less heat than is normally directed at the subject. Therefore, these lights will appear to be less intense and will not be as hot as the lights we've been using to tape Mr. Armstrong in the past.

There is a lot of exciting news concerning the coming Feast of Tabernacles. Plans are being finalized to tape Mr. Armstrong the first and last holy days and to beam his messages live via satellite and microwave facilities to all continental U.S. Feast sites as well as those in Canada.

We are even considering sending the first holy day message live, by an international satellite, to the British Isles feast site located in Brighton. If we start at noon on the first holy day in Tucson, the British site will be able to receive the message at 8 p.m. for their evening services.

We are also planning to send an audio feed of the first holy day message to the remaining worldwide feast sites. We will be contacting everyone with specific details for each area. Please remember to pray for the success of this mammoth undertaking.

Mr. Joe Tkach and those of us in Media Services are also planning to send to the feast sites various programs on film that we hope will be both rich and rewarding for all to enjoy. Current topics under consideration are Mr. Armstrong's China trip, Mr. Rader's Manila press conference, a feast entertainment musical and "A Bridge Around the World," featuring a heart-warming and intimate look at God's people worldwide.

At Ted Herlofson's request we have sent him a 7 1/2 minute tape program featuring Mr. Armstrong and the Work, plus some intriguing comments concerning prophecy. Mr. Herlofson is using it at a fair booth in Central California and has said that this program made quite an impact upon the people watching it. This 3/4" or 1/2" cassette video tape program will be available to other ministers--just give us a call on the WATS line.

Also in the final stages of editing is a 10-minute introductory film for mini-campaigns and public Bible lectures featuring how the Work began with Mr. Armstrong during the days of the Depression, giving a brief history of God's worldwide Work. Prints should be available in about three to four weeks.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

#### TREMENDOUS DEMAND FOR PT PROMO MATERIAL!

The demand from local church areas for the bulletin board card holders has been so great that we have run out of supplies! We have mentioned previously in this Report about your overwhelming response to this very cost-effective, low-key way of promoting The PLAIN TRUTH to the general public. The cost per response is now 26¢ per new reader. As yet we don't know how well these new readers will renew their subscriptions, but the initial CPR is low. The real test to any of our programs in circulation is how well the new readers renew their subscription after they have been receiving the magazine for a period of time.

New supplies of the card holders and cards will be mailed in four to six weeks. Sorry for the delay, but you did surprise us with the incredible response.

--Publishing Services

# Why, Mike Wallace, on 60 Minutes did you not tell the plain truth?

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times June 16, 1980

**I**N 60 Minutes (CBS, June 8) you took a second swat at the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD.

You attempted a second "under-the-belt smear" by using the term, "God and Mammon." You covered and misrepresented only part of the financial picture—only that which would defame and discredit the Church of Almighty GOD. You called us a "wealthy church." We are not. You made us look wealthy by saying our financial income is greater than that of Billy Graham or Oral Roberts combined. Whether true or false, I respectfully point out that we are a CHURCH. They are merely evangelistic and broadcasting crusades—though the latter also operates a minor university.

Why did you not tell the No. 1 TV-viewing audience in America that we are a CHURCH of long standing? That the No. 1 allocation on our annual budget is the ministerial payroll supporting ordained ministers on all continents of the earth? And that the devoutness of our membership is attested to by the fact that more than 95 percent of all members of our hundreds of local churches faithfully attend services with their children every week?

Why did you falsely represent us as having only a financial operation—IGNORING our primary motivation, which is SPIRITUAL, proclaiming the TRUE Gospel message of Jesus Christ to the world and to our baptized members? Why did you deliberately avoid mentioning that our primary interest, purpose, and



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

activity, is devoutly SPIRITUAL, and that the financial area is only a minor means to that end?

Why did you not tell America that this present nearly half-century-old succession of the true Church of God was raised up and has grown on *living faith* in God and in Jesus Christ our Savior *alone*—that we never solicit money from the public?—that although our members believe in the Christ-taught doctrine of tithing, the second tithe does not come to the Church, but is saved by members for their own expenses and spiritual enjoyment attending our biblical annual festivals?—that the third tithe is contributed only every third year and goes not into Church operations, but for the support of our widows, orphans and poor, thus taking that burden off the public tax rolls?

You know well that a half-truth, or a partial truth, can be manipulated to utterly MISLEAD your audience! Even more than an outrageous direct lie. Our attorneys have urged me to sue you for a misleading, defaming and slanderous attack on a sincere, devout, upstanding Christian citizenry. But I prefer to simply tell the public THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH and NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, at our own expense. We do not

attack or strive to harm anyone!

In the massive lawsuit brought against GOD'S Church by the office of the California attorney general, such church bodies as the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, the Catholic League, the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and others, representing 83 million American citizens, have come to our aid.

These large church bodies do not believe all our doctrines, even as they do not believe one another's, nor we theirs. But they do believe in the First Amendment of the Constitution, guaranteeing the right of freedom of religion.

When you subtly back up this lawsuit and attack the Worldwide Church of God on the most-viewed program on national television, you indirectly attacked all other churches. In defending ourselves from this corrupt political attack we defend all other churches in California, and by extension, in America.

We are comparatively small, yet we fight to uphold the RIGHTS of all churches in this land of the free and home of the brave.

If you want more information, write to us: The Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call our toll-free number: (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 577-5225.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
Pastor General  
Worldwide Church of God  
Pasadena, California

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's comments include letters about the telecast which continues to be a source of inspiration and priceless knowledge to viewers across the country. Also included are encouraging letters of support for Mr. Armstrong.

--Mail Processing Center

Telecast Feeds Grateful Audience

This letter is a very inadequate way of telling you just what I have felt since I was sitting alone, lost and confused about what life is all about and why, after 57 years of living, I had come to an abrupt stop. What a shambles my life was in!

My TV was on and it was your Sunday morning program, and I hadn't even looked at it since I had turned it on. I had been so deep in my own thoughts. But suddenly you were talking, seemingly directly to me...and I caught your words about Archangel, Adam and Eve, God, Good and Evil.... I cannot write in words just where my mind was, but a whole new thinking took hold of my heart, mind and soul.

--Gertrude F. (Spokane, WA)

I have learned so much in the short while I have listened to Mr. Armstrong's TV show. I just can't wait for every Sunday to come. I wish I was living in California. I must say, keep up the good works of God. Only in truth will we survive.

--Eva A. (Brooklyn, NY)

Last Sunday's TV program was really great. There you were standing before these leaders of the most populous nation on earth, telling them of the Kingdom of God. That truly proves who God is working through. I'm thankful to have a part in it.

--Donald B. (Poyen, AR)

The telecast is getting stronger and stronger and more effective.

--Robert M. (Fort Wayne, IN)

I listen to your TV program every Sunday morning. The only complaint I have is it's too short. I'm very sure you are a teacher sent by God.

--Anna S. (Mercersburg, PA)

I have been listening and watching your telecasts for approximately a month. I can't tell you the profound influence you have had relative to my growing more in Christ.

--Laurin H. (San Pedro, CA)

I often watch your program on Sunday morning and I find it most gratifying and uplifting. Some of the verses in the Bible often [appear] contradictive. I understand some of the verses much better now because you have explained in our everyday language just what it means very clearly.

--Bernice Y. (Saunderstown, RI)



Support for Mr. Armstrong

It is with much thanks that I send this check for my tithes and offerings to God's Work. I know it is going to the right place and that Mr. Herbert Armstrong is God's Apostle. Why do I know this? Because this is the only Work that is preaching the true Gospel. Mr. Armstrong is the only one that is warning the nations and our own country.

--Mark I. (Brocton, NY)

In sending money I am giving Christ's Work under His Apostle a vote of confidence. Also I am sending it for the purpose of fulfilling Christ's Great Commission, of proclaiming the Gospel Jesus taught to all the world for a witness to all nations.

--Irvin D. (Elizabeth, IL)

I want to thank you for the encouragement that you gave us by your example. Your seemingly tireless efforts to do the Work that God has set before the Church shows the fruits of God's Holy Spirit at work in you and the Church. We follow you as you follow Christ. We know that it is Christ who is opening the doors to the communist nations. We know it is Christ who has pruned the Church and is now adding new members as people's eyes are opened to the truth. As this civilization races towards its final doom, we know that our hope is with the return of Christ and the setting up of the Kingdom of God. We are all pulling together with our prayers and finances to get this Work finished by the help and power of our Lord and Saviour.

--Mr. & Mrs. Jack T. (New Knoxville, OH)

I continually pray for you and your wife, the ministry, the International Work, and the brethren worldwide. Remember if need be, I'll sacrifice half of my paycheck for this most important Work on the face of the earth.

--C.M. (Memphis, IN)

My wife, myself and my family stands solidly behind you as you endeavor to accomplish the "Great Mission" God has called you to do. We know that Satan is angry at you in this end time! But we also know that God Almighty is with you!

--Mr. & Mrs. S.G. (Azusa, CA)

This morning on the radio station WBBM (CBS), Chicago, a CBS special segment on religion attacked you, Mr. Rader and the Church with bitter hatred. I could just about see Satan patting him on the shoulder. Now, more than ever, I am behind you and thank God and you for opening my mind to the truth. What you have to say hurts, but it's truth.

--Gary M. (Rockford, IL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BAD NEWS FOR SOVIETS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS: Nearly everywhere the Kremlin looks these days, developments are discouraging. The Soviet leadership has finally admitted publicly over Moscow Radio and in a Pravda dispatch, that the military situation in Afghanistan is getting worse rather than better. Rebel "cutthroats," as Moscow Radio calls them, have been successful at blowing up schools and hospitals. "Their activity is seriously disrupting normal life in the country," the radio dispatch adds.

The Daily Telegraph editorializes on Russia's bloody dilemma: "Clearly the Russians grossly underestimated the political and military hostility they would encounter, and equally grossly overestimated the ability of their tanks and gunships, however ruthlessly employed, to crush guerrilla resistance. They may well have become so used to the Europeans trembling in their shoes at Russia's relative superiority that it never occurred to them that the Afghans would really fight for their freedom against, by all civilized standards, hopeless odds...Russia has got herself into a ghastly mess. There must be red faces and worried heads in the Kremlin. But the only solution envisaged seems to be more troops and more slaughter. The question arises of how long Russia's inefficient and overstretched economy can stand the additional strain of Afghanistan on top of Cuba (£ 5 million a day), Vietnam (£ 3 million a day) and so on, increasingly, around the world. This is the Achilles heel that the West must mercilessly exploit."

Ilya Dzhirkvelov, a former KGB officer and Tass correspondent defected to Britain in April. He tells now that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan took Soviet officials stationed abroad by surprise and left them in an embarrassed position in having to try to defend their government's action.

Soviet troops in Afghanistan, claims Dzhirkvelov, are likely to become permanently bogged down in a war they may never win on foreign soil--with serious ramifications for Soviet society as a whole. How can you justify to Soviet mothers and fathers the deaths of young Russian lads in Afghanistan? If they were dying for some high political motive that would be another matter, but Afghanistan poses no threat to the Soviet state. So why did the Kremlin do it? Mr. Dzhirkvelov told The Times that in his view it was to show the world--and above all Washington--that they could get away with it as "proof of the contempt of the Soviet leadership for the United States President and world opinion."

(There were reports today that the Soviet-installed Afghan President, Babrak Karmal, has attempted to kill himself. There are so many defections from the regular Afghan army that 15 year-olds are being rounded up on house-to-house searches and dragged off to training.)

Soviet authorities have also gotten other bad news recently. Archrival China joined the exclusive club of ICBM powers in May. Two unarmed Long March 3 missiles lifted off from the remote Zinjiang region and traveled some 6,000 miles to a target zone near the Solomon Islands in the Pacific. The needle-nosed, liquid-propelled rocket--known in the West as the CSS-X-4, No. 4 -- is relatively crude. But it showed that China intends to allocate scarce resources to hold its own in what it calls "a world in great turmoil." The test, reported Time magazine, proved China's ability

for the first time to deliver nuclear warheads to any point in the Soviet Union, not to mention Europe or the Western U.S. This point was not lost on the Soviets, though their press studiously ignored the missile firings.

The Soviets are disturbed over nuclear developments on their western flank as well. They have been putting heavy pressure on the Western European NATO powers, especially West Germany, to refrain from deploying 572 intermediate-range "Pershing" nuclear missiles on European soil. These missiles would take only six minutes to hit Soviet soil compared with 30 minutes for ICBMs coming over the pole from the U.S.

Not to Moscow's liking either is the steady upgrading of France's nuclear strike force--a force outside of NATO and U.S. control. The French nuclear deterrent was substantially reinforced on May 23 when the first battery of nine "S3" strategic missiles equipped with one megaton thermo-nuclear warheads became operational. This brings the potential power of the French deterrent, composed of five nuclear submarines, 50 Mirage 4 bombers, and the missiles on the Plateau d'Albion, up to a total strike power of 75 megatons. A second battery of nine S3 missiles will become operational before the end of 1982.

"The French Government," reports The Times of London on May 23rd, "has also ordered studies in the production of a neutron bomb and a decision on this is likely to be taken by the National Defense Council headed by President Giscard d'Estaing in July. If it decides to go ahead (and the Chiefs of Staff are favorable to the idea) the French forces could be equipped with the neutron bomb within five years."

Meanwhile, the British are hotly debating whether to even stay in the strategic nuclear business. The French are following the British debate closely: "They would like nothing better," reports the L.A. Times, "than to be able to say that they have the only true nuclear independence in Europe."

It is very likely that the French nuclear force will be the nucleus of a combined European force in the future.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

Post Script: For an excellent insight into life in the Soviet Union, I recommend that ministers and other readers of The Pastor General's Report obtain a copy of the June 23, 1980 issue of Time magazine. Virtually the entire issue is devoted to the theme: Inside the USSR.