

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 4, NO. 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 23, 1982

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Television and Radio Station Update

TELEVISION

Alaska

*KTVA (CBS--Ch. 11), Anchorage--
6:30 a.m., Sun.

*KTVE (CBS--Ch. 11), Fairbanks--
6:30 a.m., Sun.

Connecticut

WATR (NBC--Ch. 20), Waterbury--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

*WTXX (IND--Ch. 20), Hartford-New
Haven--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Georgia

*WGXA (ABC--Ch. 24), Macon--11:00
a.m., Sun.

Illinois

*WQRF (IND--Ch. 39), Rockford--
7:30 a.m., Sun.

*WSIL (ABC--Ch. 3), Harrisburg--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

*WICS (NBC--Ch. 20), Springfield--
6:30 a.m., Sun.

Kentucky

WDRB (IND--Ch. 41), Louisville--
10:00 a.m., Sun.

*New stations

North Carolina

*WXII (NBC--Ch. 12), Winston-
Salem--10:30 a.m., Sun.

North Dakota

KTHI (ABC--Ch. 11), Fargo--9:00
a.m., Sun.

Oklahoma

KOKH (IND--Ch. 25), Oklahoma
City--9:00 a.m., Sun.

Pennsylvania

*WTAJ (CBS--Ch. 10), Altoona--7:00
a.m., Sun.

South Carolina

*WIS (NBC--Ch. 10), Columbia--8:00
a.m., Sun.

Vermont

*WEZF (ABC--Ch. 22), Burlington--
10:00 a.m., Sun.

Virginia

WVEC (ABC--Ch. 13), Norfolk--
10:00 a.m., Sun.

West Virginia

WOWK (ABC--Ch. 13), Charleston--
9:00 a.m., Sun.

RADIO

Alaska

*KBYR, Anchorage (1,000 W/700)--
5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30
a.m., Sun.

*KCBF, Fairbanks (10,000 W/900)--
10:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30
p.m., Sun.

*New stations

California

KUNA, San Luis Obispo (5,600 W/96.1)--5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.

Idaho

*KBNY, Nampa (44,000 W/96.9)--7:30 a.m., Sun.; 10:00 p.m., Sun.

Minnesota

KTCR, Minneapolis (50,000 W/97.1)--6:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

Missouri

KMBZ, Kansas City (5,000 W/980)--11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.

Wyoming

KYCN, Wheatland (250 W/1340)--9:30 a.m., Sun.

*New station

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****TO BE ANNOUNCED****

The April 12 WORLDWIDE NEWS contained a "1982 Festival Planner" supplement for U.S. and Canadian members. In the "Instructions" section for the Canadian sites of Calgary, Penticton, Regina and Toronto, members were instructed to receive transfer approval for those sites from the Festival Office in Pasadena. This is incorrect.

Those members wishing to apply to Canadian Festival sites from within the U.S. and Canada should register in their local church congregation. Those from outside the U.S. and Canada should write to their Regional Festival Office for approval. See the April 12 WORLDWIDE NEWS, page 7, for more information.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Several ministers have asked about Mr. William Dankenbring's advertisements for his books which have been distributed to members through mailings, at Feast sites, etc. Are the books endorsed by the Church? Does the Church approve of them or recommend them? Is Mr. Dankenbring still a member of the Church?

ANSWER: Mr. Dankenbring is classified as a member of God's Church. But that does not imply that his privately-sold writings have the approval or endorsement of the Church.

Human nature seems to want to use God, or God's Church, for personal gain or profit. The moneychangers used God's temple as a place of business to sell at a profit to God's people. In blazing anger, Jesus drove them out. Jesus said, "Take these things

hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:16). We, the members, are God's house, builded into a HOLY TEMPLE (Eph. 2:20-21).

In II Peter 2:3 God warns, "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." Yes, SELLING FOR PROFIT their words in writing to the members of God's Church.

Perhaps the selling of doves and things for sacrifice was not in itself wrong, but exploiting God's HOUSE as a place or means of selling to God's people was.

The membership of God's Church has been exploited for private gain a number of times by those no longer members.

God has commissioned HIS CHURCH--not private members on their own--to feed the flock. The Church publishes much literature--magazines, booklets, books, reprint articles besides the personal ministry, to feed the flock--AND WE DO NOT CHARGE A PRICE OR MAKE MERCHANDISE OF OUR MEMBERS IN SO FREELY GIVING GOD'S TRUTH!

Although Mr. Dankenbring is a graduate of Ambassador College and has studied under Mr. Armstrong and our ministers, he has stated in writing, "I appreciate him (Mr. Armstrong) very much, although I have disagreed with him from time to time on some relatively 'small' matters or 'little' things." But what the writer might consider "small" or "little" disagreements might in God's eyes be vitally important disagreements.

God's Church therefore does not endorse nor give approval to Mr. Dankenbring's books, nor those of others than the Church's own publications or those definitely approved.

International News

Canadian Office During March the Work continued to show good growth. Income for the month was up 14.4%, bringing the year-to-date figure to a plus 15.1%. We continue to register an increase in mail received. The total incoming mail was 32,788 pieces, an increase of 63.2% over last year. Of this figure, 9,583 were people contacting the Work for the first time--a 116.8% increase over 1981.

The French area of God's Work continues to show excellent growth. Response to advertising is 288.5% above last year. Total incoming mail is up 126.7% with a 179.4% increase in new people contacting the Work.

The most popular booklets are as follows:

NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD: WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS	20,700 mailed since January/82
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY	13,927 mailed since January/82
THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST	4,721 mailed since January/82
SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS	3,600 mailed since January/82

Ten others are fairly close.

There has been a change in advertising plans. Instead of running newspaper inserts at this time we will be advertising in the following magazines: MACLEANS, TIME and TV GUIDE in May; ATLANTIC INSIGHT, LEGION, L'ACTUALITE, PERSPECTIVES and TV GUIDE in June; CHATELAINE (English), CHATELAINE (French), LEGION and TIME in July.

Shortly thereafter we shall test run the newspaper inserts in four Canadian cities to gauge their effectiveness before we launch the nationwide campaign. Summertime is usually the slack time for the office, with mail slowing down as people take off on their summer vacations and other outdoor pursuits. But it looks like this early summer campaign will see everyone extremely busy right through to Feast time.

Newsstands continue to expand. We are now distributing 267,750 PLAIN TRUTH magazines in the French and English languages. It seems every month we barely keep up with the demand for more magazines. It's very exciting for Church members to see growth in the newsstand program.

March saw us receive the first trickle of what we hope will be a flood of requests from the card holder program.

Australia Just over 2,600 responses have been received so far from our first two advertisements in TV WEEK. These advertisements--a four-colour stitch-in card offering a free subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH--appeared in the Victorian edition of the magazine dated March 6 and 20.

In April the ad will be inserted in the New South Wales edition of TV WEEK, and in the Queensland, South Australian, Tasmanian and West Australian editions during May. Based on current response figures, this advertising program should add around 18,000 new subscribers to the mailing list.

Mail for March totalled 13,992 letters--a 13.1% increase over the same month last year. Over 22,000 booklets and articles were mailed out to interested readers.

Income is currently running at about an 11% increase for the year to date and is continuing to be of concern to us at this time. This figure seems to reflect an economic trend resulting from the recession currently affecting most countries in the world.

Just prior to his leaving for the Solomon Islands to conduct the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread for the members there, Mr. Bill Sidney, our Financial Services Manager, was raised in rank to Preaching Elder by Regional Director Mr. Bob Morton.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

The pace of campus activity quickens as we near the end of the second semester. We have had a very good year, as both students and faculty continue to uphold the high standards set by the Founder and Chancellor of the College, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

This week we are announcing the names of next year's student body officers: Student Body President--Gary Richards (married); Student Body Vice-president--Jim Marion; and Senior Class President will be Tim Grauel, who will soon return from one year of service as a ministerial trainee in Australia.

We have also named most of the 1982-83 Resident Assistants (formerly called Room Monitors), and have chosen Ambassador and Women's Club presidents. In addition, we have announced many other positions of service for the coming summer and for the 1982-83 college year.

Just last night, Mr. Armstrong approved our resuming the operation of the campus radio station, KBAC. It will air Mr. Armstrong's radio programs on a daily basis and will also feature news broadcasts, play good, quality music, etc. It will be run primarily by students, but will be closely supervised by Mr. Richard Ames to make sure that the content of the programs maintains the high standards of this institution.

Last night Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong hosted the first in a series of three dinners for members of the Advisory Council of Elders and their wives. The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with the Jacksons, Hoehs, Merediths and my wife and myself in attendance. The food and drinks were superb, the conversation (which included some reminiscing) was interesting, and the whole evening was most enjoyable. At about 11:30 p.m. we all departed the Chancellor's residence, having had a profitable and refreshing evening. (This college year, Mr. Armstrong has hosted all of the senior students, plus the wives of the married senior students.)

We had a very good college year and look forward to its successful completion with graduation ceremonies scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th. We had to move the graduation date up two days to enable Mr. Armstrong to attend before departing for an important trip to Britain.

I might mention, however, that during the year, as always, we have had some problems with a few students. From time to time we have to drop a student or two for their refusal to believe us when we tell them that Ambassador College demands high standards and that we fully intend to uphold those high standards without compromise! (Even if one of my three sons seriously violated College rules, he would be treated as any other student!) Just yesterday we had to drop two students who, despite clear-cut instruction in this area, recently set a bad example with regard to drinking.

I know that you ministers are not hearing reports (as in the past) of students using drugs, committing immorality or becoming drunk on the Ambassador campus. Nearly all of the problems we have had with students during this present college year have resulted from a very few students who felt they did not have to obey College rules when off campus. We have, of course, made it clear that all A.C. students should continue to set a good example both on and off campus, and also during the summer breaks between college years.

I thought you would enjoy reading the following remarks made by Mr. Ralph D. Levy, faculty member, who recently accompanied the Ambassador College Chorale on its annual trip:

During the break, I had the opportunity to accompany the chorale on their trip to three Northern California Church areas.

I wanted to set my thoughts down on paper, and let you know how genuinely impressed I was with the behavior and positive example of the students. They were true "Ambassadors for Christ." Not only was their music very beautiful, but so was the way in which they represented God's College. Many of the brethren made comments to this effect. One who was host to two of our women students remarked to me that "you really couldn't hope to meet any finer young ladies than these two."

As I observed the warmth and camaraderie so evident among the group, I could not help but be reminded of Jesus' words: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

What has occurred to Ambassador College since 1978 does not cease to impress me. It is not just that the teaching and the administration are "back on track." Certainly this is true, and it is a very important factor; however, I also see Jesus Christ Himself more directly involved in the lives of most of our students at this time. I mention this because I believe the students in general now set a far better example in personal conduct than prior to 1978.

The Ambassador Chorale is to be commended for its musical performances and personal behavior. They did an outstanding job in representing Mr. Armstrong and God's College.

We gratefully receive many good reports on our students' conduct from both the local community and from many who continually visit the campus. We know, however, that we will always have a few students who will not get the picture, who will not heed the instructions they are given, who will consequently get into trouble and will have to be dropped from Ambassador College. But let all prospective students, parents and all members be assured that we fully intend to uphold the high moral standards (as set by the Chancellor) of God's College, and any who don't want to maintain those standards can drop out or not come in the first place. There are hundreds of acceptable prospective students ready to take their place.

Recently, someone(s) broke into the faculty lounge adjacent to the Executive Dining Room in the Student Center and stole a candelabra. Also, just before the Passover, someone broke a window out of my home, but didn't take anything. (Apparently, when our alarm system was activated, the burglar left without taking anything. Our College security men were at my home within about five minutes, and were able to get the license number of the man's car. He was later arrested, and this past Monday I had to attend a pretrial hearing where this handcuffed burglar was arraigned before the judge.) It seems that Satan nearly always especially tries to strike at God's people around the Passover season. But God is our Protector, and we can thank Him that we have His protection in an increasingly crime-ridden and violent world.

We here at Pasadena continue to remember you ministers and your families in our prayers, and ask that you continue to remember those of us here at Headquarters who are privileged, along with you, to help hold up the hands of God's Apostle--as all of us come down the homestretch toward completing God's end-time Work!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

TITHE OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS REACHED BY P.T.

Our latest U.S. subscription circulation figures indicate that since its founding in 1934, The PLAIN TRUTH has been subscribed to by 10% of all the households in the country.

We estimate that nearly 8.5 million people are now or have at one time been subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH in the United States. Compare this with the over 85 million households in the nation and you can realize what an impact The PLAIN TRUTH magazine has had!

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGGod's Church Readyng Itself for Christ's Return

Letter comments from around the nation are showing that many members are indeed preparing themselves for the soon-coming return of Jesus Christ. Brethren have been encouraged and inspired to see the Church undergo a spiritual rejuvenation under Mr. Armstrong's direct leadership and guidance. In their congregations, as well as in their own lives, they see a change from past spiritual decline to positive growth since he has actively taken the helm.

The growth and expansion of the Work and Mr. Armstrong's visits to foreign heads of state and dignitaries have sparked increased excitement and enthusiasm.

Mr. Armstrong's recent exhortations, as well as erupting world problems fulfilling prophecy, have also prompted a sharper awareness that time is short. This has led to greater self-examination, resulting in more prayer, Bible study and fasting. Many are regaining their first love and maturing spiritually. The prophecy of Revelation 19:7, "...and his wife [the Church] hath made herself ready," is truly being fulfilled.

Here are some excerpts from the many letters received:

Praise God and thank you! We are responding to your exhortations and God is blessing us. My first love is coming back--I crave coming home to study; I'm finally beginning to fast regularly again; I'm striving to pray three times daily as David and Daniel did....Desiring God's Kingdom and His righteousness more has inspired me to increase my offering by 33% and I plan to keep it up because I want the Work to grow at the rate of 30% again....God is blessing us through your efforts!

R.C. (Pasadena, CA)

Everything seems to be pointed towards a faster pace. World events are setting the stage for the fulfillment of prophecy, while the sermons and articles are urging preparedness. I feel like we are on the march!

J.M. (Burnsville, MN)

I feel that the past year and a half has been especially valuable to me and that something is going on within me. I can sense I am

changing, growing and developing spiritually. I am refreshed in my views and relationships within the Church and feel that I am, with the help of God, making progress in overcoming and repenting and living a Godly and Christian life.

R.L. (Pittsburgh, PA)

We are in our seventh year in God's Church and the change in direction from our first year (1975) to now is absolutely phenomenal. In 1978, when you began talking about getting the Church "back on God's track," we didn't know we were "off track." But now, thanks to your God-inspired leadership, we do.

K. & S.W. (Wilmington, NC)

I would like to thank you for your recent letter about your trip to the Far East....It has given me a new enthusiasm to work even harder and more diligently to provide more for the Work and to ask God to prepare me spiritually through prayer and fasting as we sprint down the homestretch. May our Eternal and Almighty God continue to...strengthen you, by empowering you with His Holy Spirit as He uses you more powerfully than ever to accelerate His Work in preparing His Church as a chaste virgin bride to marry His Son, Jesus Christ, at His coming.

W.F. (Bronx, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ARGENTINA: A FRUSTRATED MINI-POWER FLEXES ITS MUSCLES As we go to press, British forces have retaken South Georgia island without much of a tussle. Meanwhile the British fleet remains on "full war alert" around the main target, the Falklands, while Argentine troops on the islands, bouyed by the visit by General (and President) Leopoldo Galtieri, have been instructed to fight to the last man, never to lower the blue-and-white flag of Argentina.

What kind of nation is Argentina? The Chileans know this complex, arrogant, frustrated, militaristic mini-power quite well. The following are excerpts from a commentary in the leading Chilean newspaper, EL MERCURIO, published on April 22, 1982. Our minister in Santiago, Mario Seiglie, immediately phoned this story into the News Bureau. The commentary, written by David Gallagher (a Chilean) is entitled "Argentine Victory Over the Shepherds" (please excuse the occasional ambiguity):

To the question of how an educated and cultured people can behave in such a hysterical manner, one only has to peruse the Argentine literature of the past 140 years to see a clear pattern of civilization and barbarianism. There are two persons in every Argentine; the present administration is showing a similar pattern....

It has been said that the Argentine armed forces have long suffered from the complex of never having won a war. And perhaps without expecting a strong British reaction, the 4,000 soldiers who conquered 1,800 shepherds could finally say they won a war against Great Britain.

At the bottom of their hearts the Argentines have always suffered the frustration of not being a great world power. In the 1900's Argentina, after three decades of phenomenal growth, primarily due to British capital, appeared briefly to match the United States in power. These two [countries] were the focal points of European immigration in the 19th century, the two promised lands.

Now this term of being a great power has re-emerged recently in Argentina with President Leopoldo Galtieri's words that there will be a new power in South America, and has presented himself as the new Caesar. The combination of economic instability and great national ambition have numerous historic precedents. The two most important figures in recent history in this way have been Hitler and Mussolini. And the British have already used the term for General Galtieri as a "moth-eaten Mussolini."

Although this is somewhat a drastic view, it does offer some interesting parallels. Mussolini also attempted to unify the populace and win popularity by marching off on military ventures. And it wasn't enough to poison the Ethiopians with gas, but [unclear wording] helped to continue and finally led to a world war. Perhaps Galtieri is well aware of the pattern and, as mentioned later, the "recuperation" of the Falklands is just the beginning in General Galtieri's words.

Like Mussolini, Galtieri could be legitimizing his precarious position with astonishing military feats....It has been said that Mussolini became a prisoner of his myth. In just a few weeks Galtieri created his own myth--that of redeeming the unredeemed land. In no way can he separate himself from this myth and unfortunately as history has shown was the case with Mussolini, Hitler, and Napoleon, the prisoner of a military myth has to continue warring.

Of course all of this is too early to show a definite pattern, but these words also sound like the ones Churchill mentioned during the 1930's as he accurately predicted the future ventures of Hitler. Without a doubt the present crisis in the South Atlantic should make Chile pause and think. But we are not the only ones. There have been other century-old aspirations of Argentina in the region, like the control of both sides of the Panama and Uruguay rivers....

The distinguished people of Italy and Germany are witnesses of what one war or a small group can lead a country to do, especially under economic crises. To prevent the chaos of war from emerging again and maintain Argentina as a civilized state, someone will do a great service to put a stop to a man like Galtieri as soon as possible.

British Influence Wanes, Russia Offers "Help"

The British also know the Argentines quite well. They know (as do the Argentines down deep) that if it hadn't been for British capital as well as the immigration of thousands of Britons (mainly Scots, Irish and Welsh) to Argentina before the turn of the century, Argentina would never have developed into a modern nation.

It has been said that Argentina was a British colony in fact without being one politically. The British brought the cattle breeds that stocked the fertile Pampas and built the railroads and port facilities that transported the bounties of beef and grain to Britain and markets around the world.

About 500,000 third or fourth generation Anglo-Argentines still play a key role in the nation's economy. Some live in English-named and appearing suburbs around Buenos Aires and observe many British customs and traditions. They, along with 17,000 British citizens in Argentina, are very concerned over the looming hostilities. Both groups are concerned over threats of retaliation against British-controlled businesses.

Argentina's decline can mainly be traced to the nationalistic fervor in the post-war Peron period which reduced British power and influence (such as the nationalizing of the railroads, and their subsequent political feather-bedding).

An economically-prostrate Argentina is a military danger. Reports THE ECONOMIST in its April 17, 1982 issue:

Far from being underdeveloped, Argentina is an overdeveloped country in an advanced state of decline. In an attempt to gain a respite from an increasingly militant, Peronist-made union movement, the seizure of the Falklands was a masterstroke.

The Argentine militarists however, need help. As such they are playing directly into the hands of the Soviet Union, which is all too willing to show its gratitude for imports of Argentine grain. The Russians would like to use the Falklands for their "fishing trawlers" in order to monitor free world shipping around stormy Cape Horn and through the Strait of Magellan shortcut. This strait assumes more importance with the gradual slipping away of U.S. control over the Panama Canal.

Soviet Spanish-language radio propaganda butters up the Argentines, differentiating, for example, between "fascist Chile" and the "military junta of Argentina." Not a few Argentine observers are worried over the drift their country is taking. Said a leading newspaper editor: "We seem to be pushed by fate into the arms of the country that should be our worst enemy."

Evil Precedent Being Set

There are at least twenty border conflicts in Latin America which could be inflamed by this evil precedent. For example, Chilean officials are worried about possible threats to both ends of their 2,600-mile long shoe-string nation. They believe that the Argentines, if successful in the Falklands, will try next to wrest from them three contested Beagle Channel islands at the tip of South America. Chilean troops are being mobilized now in the country's southern region.

Meanwhile, Peru and Bolivia side with Argentina in its disputes with Britain and Chile. Both countries would like to recover parts of northern Chile which they lost one hundred years ago in the war of the Pacific.

Gentile Resurgence

The attack upon the lonely shepherds of the Falklands could be highly symbolic--and a forerunner of far more calamitous days ahead for America,

Britain and the white English-speaking commonwealth nations. In Bible prophecy the nations of Israel are always referred to as sheep, while the Gentile powers are spoken of in terms of predatory animals (Psalm 74:1, Jeremiah 50:17, Daniel 7:1-27).

Without the restraining influence of the Anglo-Saxon powers on the world scene--nations which have tried to promote the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes--Gentile nations, large and small, will resort more than ever to the crude method of brute force. The world is going to become an exceedingly frightful place.

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Postscript: Will America Blow Britain's Victory? With South Georgia returned to British control the military momentum rides with the British. The taking of the glaciated island was a fairly easy task. Members of Britain's SBS (Special Boat Service) had been transported to the island before the assault to "spy out the land"--they discovered fewer defenders than anticipated--and to direct the ultimate attack. They were apparently conveyed to South Georgia aboard one of Britain's nuclear powered submarines--a weapon of tremendous advantage for the British.

In the assault, the British were surprised to see one of Argentina's four, aging World War II submarines floating in Grytviken harbor. It was quickly disabled by British helicopters. One battle--25% of Argentina's underwater navy out of action!

Curiously, instead of rejoicing at the British victory, Washington seemed to be wringing its hands over the prospect of war being extended to the Falklands themselves. "Time is running out for diplomacy" is the hackneyed phrase. The British, while admiring the hard work of Secretary of State Haig, are getting impatient with U.S. foot-dragging. The DAILY MAIL newspaper even called the President "Jellybean Reagan" in one of its headlines.

Will the United States wilt before OAS (Organization of American States) pressure and lean on Britain to back out of reclaiming the Falklands? In other words, will we see the 1956 Suez fiasco replayed, with the U.S. depriving Britain of a victory? One senses, ominously, that this could be the case. The U.S. is fearful that a defeated Argentina dictatorship may no longer be able to help it keep the Russians at bay in the Western Hemisphere.

Hence the U.S. is on the verge of seriously offending brother Ephraim (Prov. 18:19) breaching the "special relationship" and fracturing NATO. This could be the biggest outcome of all. Warns a British cabinet official (in the April 26 issue of TIME):

If the President were to choose neutrality between a Britain countering an aggression against its territory and an Argentina which had broken the rule of law, the alliance between our two countries would suffer a blow from which it might take years to fully recover.

There is, shamefully, support for Argentina in top echelons of the U.S. bureaucracy. Reports NEWSWEEK, April 26:

Some Administrative officials have fought a rear guard bureaucratic battle on behalf of Argentina. United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, Assistant Secretary of State Thomas O. Enders and others worry that if [Argentine President] Galtieri's regime topples, its replacement may prove less willing to support Reagan's East-West showdown with Communism in Central America.

In other words, it might disrupt U.S. attempts to hire Argentine military help (which should be seen now as of questionable value)--in fighting U.S. battles. Argentina is a hired "lover" (Jeremiah 30:14), pure and simple. It is almost incomprehensible to see why the U.S. government considers unstable Argentina to be such a valuable ally or wants to prevent its government from falling. George F. Will writes in his April 26, NEWSWEEK column:

Why save it? Consider a parable. A young preacher came to his first church the day of a funeral and, not having known the deceased, asked if anyone would care to offer a eulogy. From a back pew a voice called: "His brother was even worse." The alternative to Argentina's junta--the Peronists--would be worse. They would fill the jails with different victims and empty the Treasury for different beneficiaries. It has been said that Argentines have no causes, only enemies. The Peronists' enemies include "American imperialism," Zionism and rich people. Peronism has perhaps the world's highest ratio of jargon to thought.

There is a theatrical element in all politics, but there seem to be few other elements in Argentina's. When General Galtieri became President Galtieri in December, he said Argentina suffered from "lethargy, apathy and lack of confidence." Perhaps the Falkland adventure is intended as a stimulant....Certainly Argentina does not need the Falklands for Lebensraum. Argentina, with a population of 27 million, is almost as large as India, which has a population of 667 million.....

Argentina...has the artificiality of a society based on mimicry of Europe....Many Argentines are, or are descended from, immigrants from Spain and Italy. According to an American statesman who likes them, they combine Spanish pride with an Italian sense of the state [meaning chaotic politics].

Many Argentines are Anglophiles....But the junta's aggression expresses contempt for Britain. Perhaps because of the notorious Argentine machismo, the junta has misjudged Thatcher....The junta probably is unsavable in the long run--whatever that means in Argentina. Thatcher, an indispensable friend, needs help, and the United States needs an opportunity to demonstrate reliability. Some U.S. ships sailing south would concentrate the junta's mind on the fact that the United States intends to guarantee the success of its NATO ally.

Will the U.S. in the interests of anti-British "hemisphere solidarity" still try to save Argentina's face?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau