

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 29

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 16, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Southern Africa Regional Director Dr. Roy McCarthy reports that everything is going well with the advertising programs in national newspapers and magazines. The largest circulating national newspaper, The SUNDAY TIMES (approximately 500,000 copies) is launching a colourful 48-page magazine to go with the newspaper on August first. We have approached them and will be placing a full-colour advertisement in the second and the fifth issues. We have been given page seven for the advertisement in both issues. Being a brand new magazine, we feel we should do well capitalizing on the curiosity factor.

Financially we are doing very well, and the figures for the end of June show we have a 20.5% increase year to date. At this rate we can still keep ahead of our inflation rate which is presently 16.5%!

New Zealand The highlight this month was the visit to the Auckland office by Messrs. Richard Rice, Ron Urwiller and Sam Lennon. They were able to spend three full days in the office, conducting very profitable discussions on many aspects of mail processing and office procedures.

On the Sabbath of June 12th, Mr. Rice gave a sermon to 424 brethren from the Auckland Church and surrounding areas. Messrs. Urwiller and Lennon spoke to 106 brethren in Christchurch.

Regional Director Mr. Peter Nathan made a trip to Fiji and Tonga during the month, and was able to visit with and speak to our brethren in both those areas. He baptised one person in Fiji, bringing the number of members there to 40.

Income for June was 13.7% higher than for last June, and the income increase for the first half of 1982 was 21.3% over the same period last year. Incoming mail from New Zealand is up 23% for the year to date. However, Pacific Islands mail is slightly down from last year's total.

We're very encouraged by our latest PLAIN TRUTH renewal results. A large first renewal sent out in April has already brought in a 40% response, with more requests still coming in. When compared to the mere 10% to 15% first renewal response rates which were the norm two to three years ago, this is a phenomenal improvement! Over the past year or so renewal rates have been increasing progressively, and this latest figure is the best result we have record of ever achieving! Clearly, readers are appreciating the meaty and hard-hitting articles that the magazine now contains.

New visit requests are also showing a very encouraging trend. During June, our ministers reported contacting 22 new people, and new visits for the

year to date are up 65% on the same period last year! Sixteen new PM's were added in June, a trend which promises well for the future.

Australia Mr. Richard Rice, Director of the Mail Processing Centre at Pasadena, accompanied by Mr. Ron Urwiller of the MPC International Mail Centre and Mr. Sam Lennon from Data Processing, arrived in Australia June 14 and spent three days with Regional Director Mr. Bob Morton and the office staff, covering all aspects of mail processing standards and office procedures.

Mr. Rice said that their visits to regional offices were at Mr. Armstrong's request to help standardize, where possible, mail processing operations on a worldwide basis.

The lectures and discussions led by Mr. Rice were most helpful as the important principles of proper supervision and office procedures which Mr. Armstrong has taught over the years were explained. The example of courtesy, dedication, and attitude of service expressed by Mr. Rice and the headquarters staff with him left a lasting impression on the office personnel in Australia.

Mr. Rice and Mr. Urwiller flew to Sydney on Friday, June 18, and were given a guided tour of the city, while Mr. Lennon remained at the office for further discussions on data processing procedures. The next day, Sabbath of June 19, Mr. Rice addressed a combined meeting of 635 brethren from the Sydney North, Sydney South, Wollongong and Blaxland Churches. The group returned to Pasadena on Sunday, June 20.

Media: Results from our media coverage for the first six months of 1982 are very encouraging. Television, radio, newsstands, ads in TV WEEK magazine and insert cards in The PLAIN TRUTH have brought in 20,032 new subscription requests. This is a 303.6% increase in new subscribers over the same period last year.

The newsstand program continues to be one of the most effective tools in placing The PLAIN TRUTH in the hands of potential subscribers. Up to the end of June this year, 8,891 newsstand readers had written in asking to be placed on the mailing list. This is a 201.9% increase in newsstand responses compared to the first six months of 1981.

The World Tomorrow telecast is also bringing in a steady stream of requests each week. Since January, 2,469 viewers have responded to the telecast and have been added to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list. This represents an 80.2% increase in letters from viewers over the first half of 1981.

During the months of March through May, a four-color, stitch-in card offering a free subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine was inserted into six issues of the nationwide magazine, TV WEEK. The circulation of these six issues amounted to 1,245,000 copies. So far, 7,439 people have returned the cards and are now receiving The PLAIN TRUTH regularly. The result from this advertising program has been lower than anticipated, as responses recorded in other countries for the same or similar insert have been much higher. This lower response may be due to the historical background of the Australian people. Religion has not played a significant part in the history of this country, and so the people today are somewhat reserved towards responding to advertisements from religious organizations.

Mail: The bulk of responses to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letters from Asian countries usually takes six months or more to reach us. So far 8,885 requests (28.3% of the mailing list) have been received in response to Mr. Armstrong's November, 1981 semiannual letter offering his booklet, NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD, WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS. This response figure will rise slightly as requests are still coming in.

Mr. Armstrong's previous semiannual letter offering his book, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, pulled a similar response with 28.4% of Asian subscribers responding.

Income: The recession is continuing to hurt our members financially. Some have lost jobs and some others in self-employed occupations, especially in the building trades, are struggling to survive. However, Church attendance has not appreciably changed and in spite of some hardship, the members are continuing to solidly support God's Work as a 16.2% increase was recorded for the month. According to our latest survey, the membership contributes 77% of the Work's income in Australia. Income year to date now stands at a 14.4% increase.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Glen Weber, minister in Prince George, British Columbia, wishes to know the whereabouts of a member named Bill Kendall. Mr. Kendall was last seen in the Pacific Northwest. Any minister having information about Mr. Kendall's location is requested to call Mr. Weber at (604) 962-6661.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

On behalf of the Big Sandy faculty and wives I would like to thank both of you for making it possible for us to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We all had a wonderful time. The classes were instructive and inspirational. All of us can now go about our jobs with renewed zeal and vigor for the Work of God. As a result of the program we can all better relate to all facets of the Work, and it helps us to realize that this Work is truly a worldwide Work.

This was the first visit to Headquarters for some of the faculty, and they are still expressing their thanks for the opportunity.

I don't know of any other organization that would be willing to provide its employees with such opportunities. We were all very encouraged and inspired by Mr. Armstrong's increased emphasis upon all of us being learners, and the role of the Church in preparing all of us to teach in the World Tomorrow. We were also

especially aware of the friendly and warm atmosphere which currently exists on campus. It is obvious that everyone is trying to pull together as a team. Thanks again for your hospitality.

Donald and Wanda Ward

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Kathy and I have just completed the seventh session of the Refreshing Program II and we wish to thank you for this wonderful opportunity. We are excited about the new emphasis on our training the members to be teachers in the Kingdom. That understanding added even greater significance to what we received in all of the classes. They all seemed to tie into that theme. I am anxious to carry that theme into my future sermons here in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Ray and Kathy Lisman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I want to thank you for making it possible for us, along with the other ministers and elders, to attend the fourth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It is such a worthwhile and productive program, giving unity and direction to the Church as a whole.

As always, the highlight of the Refreshing Program was your presentation on the first Tuesday showing the high calling God has given His Church. We have heard you broadcast God's wonderful truth for over 35 years.

Lloyd and Ethel Register

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Supporting Team:

I didn't know so much could be packed into five weeks (Programs I and II). With all the material given along with all the ideas and material generated by such, Christ will have to wait at least three and one-half years to come back so I'll have time to get through it all. I've not yet exhausted all of the material and "spinoff" from the first program!

Before coming out to Pasadena I asked everyone in the local area to pray that I'd be one giant "sponge" so I could soak it all up and then return and "squeeze" it out. They must have been praying!

I know that the MRP is the single best thing that has ever been done for the ministry and Church as a whole, especially in terms of unity and growth. I was in on the fifth session this time, and once again all I can say after experiencing the unity, teamwork and camaraderie so evident is thanks for such a tremendous and beneficial program. I'll be eagerly anticipating the third program. In the meantime I will give to the congregations here as fully and thoroughly as I can, with God's help, what has been given to me.

Rick and Angela Beam

Dear Mr. Tkach:

A hearty "thank you!" to you and the entire MRP II staff for the hard work you all put into the program. It was encouraging, enjoyable, exciting, helpful, informative, inspiring, instructive, thought-provoking, uplifting and well-organized! Please also convey my deep appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Armstrong, not only for instituting this program and taking the time to teach us in person, but also for his stirring and faithful example of diligence and drive.

Reg Killingley

From a Ministerial Trainee

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I am one of the guys working on the trainee program in Canada. I work under Mr. Roy Page in Winnipeg.

I am writing you to express my appreciation for this tremendous opportunity. I have learned so much this summer and the ministers I have worked with have been most helpful. I even had the opportunity to spend some time with Mr. Waterhouse. He is doing a terrific job of inspiring the brethren and I had the pleasure of hearing him speak three times.

Mr. Tkach, if you can, please pass my thanks on to Mr. Armstrong and let him know the benefit of this program.

Greg Williams

Another Spectacular Miracle

Heather McCaulley was born on September 9, 1981 with her left leg apparently out of joint. After many attempts to put it back and after a thorough examination, the doctors realized that there was no socket for the thigh bone to fit into! Her parents were told that she needed to be put into a cast right away in the hope that the dynamic growth of early infancy would help a socket to form around the leg held in proper position. Otherwise surgery would be needed to try and cut out a socket in her hip. Unless such measures were successful, Heather would have to wear braces and walk with a severe limp for the rest of her life.

Her parents knew there was another alternative and had Heather anointed. She was put into a cast and the brethren locally were asked to pray for her. The original estimate by the doctors was that it would take six to nine months of treatment before anyone could know anything for sure. Within six weeks and while at the Feast of Tabernacles, a pediatrician examined Heather and pronounced her perfectly normal. Later, after the Feast, the orthopedic surgeon who had put the cast on her said he couldn't be sure she was well because he had never seen such a serious problem of that nature in an infant before. He kept observing her for the next few months just to be sure. Four months later he concurred that Heather was indeed completely well. Her parents knew at the Feast that God had performed a great miracle.

Today, Heather is perfectly fine and her parents are extremely grateful to God for His merciful intervention.

Rick Beam (Tallahassee, Florida)

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

KALAMAZOO, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: Many more new people are requesting contact with God's Church in this area. One noticeable trend is that they have more Bible knowledge than the first-time contacts of the 70's had. Mr. Armstrong's telecast seems to be making the difference. They ask questions about the Sabbath, prophecy and baptism. Not all are responding to God's call, but all are interested in what Mr. Armstrong is showing them in the Bible.

PORTLAND, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: Mr. Armstrong's very strong messages on the telecasts have sobered many here--several have stated that they have never heard him so blunt and powerful. The brethren have been very encouraged to see the many ordinations and hirings of MT's and LE's. Those who have been unemployed have begun to get jobs again. Hope that trend continues all over so the income will pick up. We are praying for it.

QUEENS, NY--EARL WILLIAMS: The brethren remain very supportive of Mr. Armstrong and the Work. They are inspired by the growth of the Work worldwide and locally as they see new avenues for the Gospel opening up.

NASHVILLE, TN--JAMES L. FRIDDLE: Unemployment is minimal among Church brethren. The morale of the Church is excellent. The telecast and news in the PGR surely help everyone to feel he is a viable part of God's Work. Anticipation toward the Feast is running high.

CANTON, OH--JOHN FOSTER: Church attendance is the highest it has been in over a year. The members come early and then stay late in order to fellowship.

PIKEVILLE, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: Because of the pressure Satan is applying, I feel that closeness and spiritual growth have increased in the members as never before. They want to serve in God's Kingdom.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

The Work in the United States is continuing to experience substantial increases in television response, letters received and publications mailed out.

The following table compares growth for the first six months of this year with the same period last year.

These figures are very encouraging to those of us who are processing the incoming responses. God is certainly allowing His message to be heard by an increasing number of people at this time.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE 1981</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE 1982</u>	<u>% INCREASE</u>
Telecast Response (Calls)	55,930	207,537	271%
PLAIN TRUTH (Subscription Copies)	1,094,618	1,735,184	59%
PT Newsstand (Copies)	760,000	1,468,000	93%
Mail Response (Letters and Cards)	1,264,281	1,832,543	45%
Booklets (Copies Sent Out)	802,544	1,888,554	135%
Correspondence Course (New Students)	23,439	47,075	100%
New Names on File	461,532	769,440	66%

Members Encouraged by Mr. Armstrong's Article

Quite a number of GOOD NEWS readers have commented on how inspired and encouraged they were by Mr. Armstrong's June-July article, "How You Can Overcome." Because of their own recent spiritual struggles, those who wrote found the article both timely and refreshing. It relieved their anxieties about "not making it," and stirred within them a renewed desire to strive harder to reach their goal--with God's help.

We would like to take this time to thank you for the encouraging heart-to-heart talk you had with us in the June-July GOOD NEWS. We appreciated it a lot. It really helps us when you feel you can share your feelings with us in this way. It also helps us to remember that we are not alone, even though we knew it all along. Your concern enables us to hang on and pray earnestly for more of God's Holy Spirit to be able to overcome and endure unto the end.

Mr. & Mrs. J.H. (Greenville, SC)

I just received the June-July GOOD NEWS. The Personal, Mr. Armstrong, really lifted me up. It described exactly what I had and have been feeling. Thank you so much!

M.L. (Beattyville, KY)

Thank you for your timely article in the June-July GOOD NEWS, "How You Can Overcome." Having problems with keeping a job, child rearing, making ends meet, etc.--it just seems that I cannot make it. I am either too stupid, stiff-necked or lazy. I pray and study daily but cannot seem to get anywhere. So I have been tempted to just quit. But your article, and the one by Mr. Dibar Apartian on being positive, really help me to try just a little bit harder.

J.V. (Chicago, IL)

I just read your article in the June-July GOOD NEWS, "How You Can Overcome." Thank you very much for the deep knowledge in that article. I think you were truly inspired by God to write this to us all. Lately, I have often been thinking the same thoughts. How, I've wondered, after 11 years of being baptized and still not having the degree of conversion I want to have, nor seeing the spiritual growth I long for--how will I ever make it into God's Kingdom?

Sometimes I feel like Paul. What I want to do, I don't, and what I don't want to do, I do. Mr. Armstrong, you have just answered all the questions in my mind. I'm going to try even harder now to let God exercise the power of His Holy Spirit in my mind and to let that power lead me.

Mrs. A.P. (Perryopolis, PA)

Thank you so much for sharing with us that "glorious assurance" in your article about overcoming in the latest GOOD NEWS! Thank God that He inspires such helpful messages. Sometimes we get so bogged down in our own trials we forget that there is a God in heaven who, if we continually seek Him, will not let us fall. It's so relieving to hear encouragement coming from God through you, Mr. Armstrong. Please know that your concern and love for us is very much appreciated!

B.R. (Roanoke, VA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

OH, THAT PIPELINE AGAIN! This week, one is reminded of the song a few years ago that went, in part, "They're rioting in Africa, there's strife in Iran...." The intermittent warfare between Ethiopia and Somalia has flared up once again. Ethiopian ground forces, backed up with Soviet-made planes, are said to have crossed the Somali border and taken at least two towns. A far bigger incursion has taken place further north. Iranian units are reportedly crossing the border into Iraq with the aim of toppling the Baghdad government and converting Iraq into a second "Islamic republic." Despite the Ayatollah's fervor and the messianic abandon of his troops, this will be a tall order. Iraq possesses superior numbers in men and material, especially the latter. Also, Iraq will be defending its own territory this time, so it may do better than its ill-fated invasion of Iran. The big question is: How many Arab countries will be drawn into the war on Iraq's side against Moslem but non-Arab Iran?

Meanwhile, the political/economic war brewing between the U.S. and Western Europe is still the big story. Reaction from Washington notwithstanding, European countries are going ahead with the \$10 billion Soviet pipeline deal. Just this week, a West German bank syndicate signed a 2.8 billion mark (roughly \$1.14 billion) agreement with the Soviet Union for financing German equipment for the pipeline.

In a dispatch from Leningrad on Tuesday prior to the signing, the official TASS news agency said the contract was "evidence of the steadily broadening economic links" between the two countries. The Soviets have reportedly launched a crash program to build large gas turbine pumps to replace equipment lost to the pipeline in the U.S. embargo.

On both sides of the Atlantic, rhetoric over the pipeline is flying hot and heavy. All the while, insiders report that some sort of compromise may be in the offing. Three leading Europeans came to Washington this week in an attempt to defuse the issue. How this might happen is rather curious, and reveals the rather ridiculous corner the Reagan Administration has painted itself into. It is said that Washington is looking for any sign of reduced political oppression in Poland, real or imagined, to justify a softening of the U.S. pipeline position. (It was the crackdown on the Solidarity movement in Poland last December which led to the original sanctions.) The Soviets, feeling they are gaining a greater influence in Western Europe, are not likely to ease Mr. Reagan down off the hook.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL has reported often on the pipeline row in recent issues. In its July 15 edition, WSJ authors Art Pine and David Brand wrote:

On both sides of the Atlantic, the rhetoric sounds more like that of enemies than of allies. Castigating the Europeans, a senior Reagan Administration adviser in Washington says, "We're dealing here with a bunch of spoiled children." U.S. actions, a top Common Market official complains, are "not only illegal but a threat to jobs in Europe."

About the only thing that the two sides do agree on is that their mounting economic disputes have pushed U.S. relations with Western Europe to their lowest point in recent memory. There is a growing fear that economic retaliation by either side could seriously weaken the Western Alliance....

For U.S.-European relations, the timing of the embargo couldn't have been worse. The two sides were already embroiled in disputes over steel, agriculture, high U.S. interest rates and the strong dollar....To some extent, both sides agree, the disputes have been exacerbated by Europe's economic problems. With 10 million workers unemployed--a postwar record--and little hope for a quick return to prosperity, European leaders are reluctant to give way to the U.S. on economic issues....

The irony, to officials on both sides of the Atlantic, is that the pipeline decision, which was intended to show the Soviets that the West is getting tough in its dealings with the Eastern bloc, may have widened the split between the U.S. and its West European partners. It may have turned what was supposed to have been an East-West issue into a West-vs.-West fight.

"The Russians couldn't have planned it any better," a Washington-based diplomat laments. A White House strategist concedes, "We probably have come as close as we can to giving the Soviets a wedge."

Recent editorials in the influential JOURNAL have castigated the Europeans for carrying detente too far, for succumbing to Soviet economic pressure, backed up with its growing military advantage. The June 29 lead editorial said, in part:

The Soviets have adroitly captured the support of the German and French governments for a business transaction that probably could

not have been managed without government pressure. The deal needs lots of bank credit, naturally, and involves not inconsiderable risk, given the state of the Soviet economy. With the help of SS-20's, the Soviets have managed to persuade Western Europe that Soviet friendship is preferable to the opposite alternative.

The July 12 WSJ lead editorial criticized the Europeans for not doing more to develop natural gas deposits closer to home, specifically in the North Sea. (The leading producer, Norway, has been reluctant to develop its segment of the field more intensively. It claims, in part, that additional revenues would swamp its small economy.) The WSJ editors remarked:

The lesson to draw from the pipeline deal is how far Europe will go to grasp for detente: The price tag so far is the \$10 billion (for openers) in hard currency Europe will pay Russia for natural gas it could just as easily pump from its own back yard. If the Europeans want to argue with Mr. Reagan honestly, they need to start explaining how detente remains a viable policy after what's happened to Poland and Afghanistan. If they are unable to do this and still want to appease the Soviets with subsidized credits, they should at least have the decency not to complain when Mr. Reagan decides the U.S. shouldn't be a party to their blind gamble.

(We bring these WSJ comments to our readers' attention simply to show how rancorous the matter is becoming, not to show which side is "right" or "wrong." Politics, pride and fixed ideological positions make up the equation on both sides.)

On one front after another, misunderstandings and disillusionments are growing rapidly between the two halves of the Atlantic world. The mood to "jettison" Europe is growing in America, at least in intellectual circles. Yet one more evidence of this fact is a major article in the latest HARPER'S magazine calling for the U.S. to pull its troops home from Europe--a theme being repeated quite often these days.

Symbol of an Unraveling Alliance

Another major article on the troubles in the Western world appeared in the May, 1982 issue of COMMENTARY, entitled "The Atlantic Alliance and Its Critics," written by Robert W. Tucker, professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University. It is a long (10 full pages) article; you may want to acquire a copy yourself. Here are but a few excerpts:

The circumstances marking the crisis are quite unprecedented in the history of the Alliance....Within a period of only two years --a period bounded by the invasion of Afghanistan and the imposition of military rule in Poland--almost every possible challenge that could be made to the cohesiveness of the Alliance has been made....

This apparently one-sided character of the Atlantic Alliance has frequently led to the observation that it was never a true alliance....The Alliance, we have been reminded recently, "was strictly Europe-centered; the interest of the United States in

Europe was fundamentally to keep Europe from being taken over or dominated by the Soviet Union and thus putting its enormous economic, technical, and other resources at the disposal of the Soviet Union. NATO was realistically intended to prevent Europe from being used against the United States, not to insure Europe's aid to the United States...the European members of NATO are allies in their own self-defense; they are allies in no other sense...."

Clearly, [when NATO was formed] there was an understanding that reflected some kind of mutuality of benefits, hence some kind of mutuality of duties and rights. In assuming the obligation to protect Western Europe from the threat of Soviet power, we asserted and were usually accorded a right of leadership to determine the manner by which Western Europe would be effectively protected....Western Europe [in return] was not to place its human and material resources, on behalf of which we had extended our protective mantle, at the disposal of the Soviet Union. Although never made explicit, this duty responded to the simple logic of the situation....

This is, admittedly, a rather harsh way of putting the social contract that formed the basis of the Atlantic Alliance....When considered in terms of that understanding, it is easy to appreciate why the central problems now besetting the Alliance are so grave. For these problems not only call the postwar compact into direct question, but threaten to destroy it altogether.

On the one hand, erosion of the credibility of the American guarantee, consequent upon the loss of strategic superiority, is seen by many who were once confident of American protection as a critical change in the terms of the compact, a change that in turn justifies departures on Western Europe's part from duties once owed when protection was assured. On the other hand, those departures can only have the effect on this side of the Atlantic of weakening further the reasons for America to continue in its support of the Alliance. The pattern of making Western Europe's economy increasingly available to the Soviet Union must particularly have this weakening effect, for it strikes directly at a principal American incentive for retaining the Alliance. At the outset inseparable from detente, this pattern has come to define the essence of detente in Europe. Should it persist and grow, and the European commitment to it is now very deep, the result may well be the destruction of the Alliance....

The principal consequence is that an imperfect protection cannot require more than an imperfect obedience. This is all the more so in that we, not the Europeans, are the ones who bear primary responsibility for permitting the shift in the military balance that has resulted in an imperfect protection [reflecting] a position that we have placed Western Europe in perhaps even more than it has placed itself. Now that Europe is in this position, we will have to come to terms with it as best we can.

In the end, the most effective argument against pressing for cancellation or indefinite delay of the pipeline has been that this

would risk wrecking the Alliance....If that is indeed the case, we must conclude that the future of the Alliance is quite bleak. For there is no way of reconciling the logic of the detente that has flourished in Europe since the early 1970's with the logic of an American policy that now seeks to constrain wherever possible the growth of Soviet power. Caught between these two opposing forces, the Alliance will eventually founder....

The general conclusion that forces itself on the observer is that the transatlantic compact has not held. The critics are largely justified in their visions of a dark future, whatever the merits of their indictment. The Alliance is visibly unraveling today, and the rising tempo of its disintegration can fail to impress only the most determined of optimists....

Whatever the proper answers to these questions, there is little basis for optimism....The predicament this great reality poses today could be resolved by a Western Europe determined to assume an ever greater responsibility for its own security. But given the recent weakening of ties among European states and the growing disparity between their military power and the power of the Soviet Union, these prospects appear even more remote at present than they did in the past.

Who will awaken Europe to provide for the means of its own defense once the Alliance inevitably breaks up? Space does not permit some interesting comments from Franz Josef Strauss--reputedly Bonn's next Finance Minister should the conservatives regain power--regarding the nuclear defense of Europe. We'll try to print some of his remarks in a future column.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau