

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Don't Expose Your IGNORANCE!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Some of our ministers have been nonchalantly unaware of this, but they have been giving the appearance of being ignorant and uneducated.

I have heard some of you saying things such as, "John took Sam and I to lunch." One of an eighth grade education ought to have expressed it, "took Sam and me." The speaker gave the appearance of being uneducated or careless in his speech. Or, he may have said, "Sam and me both saw it." He should have said, "Sam and I."

Or, in giving announcements in Church: "Somebody has left their car lights on." Or, "It's raining outside. Does everyone have their umbrella?"

I have heard such ungrammatical expressions from our ministers so often that I asked Herman L. Hoeh to prepare a brief few paragraphs explaining correct usage in such cases. His explanation follows.

CORRECT USAGE OF PRONOUNS

by Herman L. Hoeh

Nothing shows a speaker or a writer to be a novice any faster than the misuse of pronouns. Teaching the correct use of pronouns in school is not enough. There is always the need to follow up with a lifetime of conscious practice when speaking or writing.

How to use pronouns correctly? That, for some, is a problem because bad grammatical habits have been allowed to form.

Nominative case pronouns--I, we, you, he, she and they--are used as subjects or as predicate nominatives.

In the sentence, She and I are going shopping today, She and I are the subjects. The nominative case forms must be used. One never says, Me and her are going shopping today.

In the sentence, John's closest friends are you and I, you and I are predicate nominatives following the verb to be. They are in the nominative

case. In this instance modern folksy usage may vary, as when Sir Winston Churchill warmed up the U.S. Congress by introducing himself: This is me, Winston Churchill.

But something is wrong in the following sentence: The president met Sam and I. The pronoun I is incorrectly used as the object. I is a nominative case form and should not be used as an object. The objective case form me should be used. We should say, The president met Sam and me.

To make it clear, drop Sam and and say, The president met me.

Objective case pronouns--me, us, you, him, her and them--are used as direct objects or indirect objects. In the sentence above Sam and me are direct objects.

Indirect objects are in the objective case as in, Father is giving Sam and me a gift. One never says, Father is giving Sam and I a gift.

To make that clear, drop Sam and and say, Father is giving me a gift.

One other common mistake in pronoun usage involves the possessive form of the pronoun. We should never say, Somebody has left their car lights on, or, Does everyone have their umbrella?

The proper usage in each case requires the singular possessive pronoun: Somebody has left his car lights on, and, Does everyone have his (or her) umbrella?

Indefinite pronouns that end in one or body are always singular in number and take singular verb forms and singular possessive pronouns.

We also properly say, Each of the girls has her coat. Each refers to the girls as individuals.

* * * * *

FROM MEDIA SERVICES

Feast Satellite Transmissions

This year's Feast of Tabernacles will be the fourth year in a row that we are transmitting Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's holy day messages live to Feast sites. In the past three years we have used a combination of microwave and satellite, but this is the first year that every single site in the United States will receive the signals via satellite.

We will be on a new United States Domestic satellite, Westar IV. We are coordinating the satellite feed through WOLD, the satellite company which syndicates our weekly TV program to 40 U.S. stations.

The six sites in Canada will receive both of Mr. Armstrong's holy day messages live via microwave from Blaine, Washington and Peace Bridge near Buffalo, New York. Since it is illegal in Canada to take a signal directly off a U.S. satellite, we will have to microwave (land line) the signals across the U.S./Canadian border where they will be distributed via further microwave transmissions to the individual sites.

For the past two years the British Feast sites have also received live transmissions of Mr. Armstrong's first holy day message. This year, for the first time, New Zealand and Australia will also be receiving the audio and video signals of his first holy day message live via satellite. The schedule for services in the British Isles and New Zealand for the live transmission is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Eastbourne, England..... | 9 p.m. Sat., Oct. 2 |
| Southport, England..... | 9 p.m. Sat., Oct. 2 |
| Tenby, South Wales..... | 9 p.m. Sat., Oct. 2 |
| Rotorua, New Zealand..... | 8 a.m. Sun., Oct. 3 |

Australia will receive the signal live at 6 a.m. on Sunday, October 3 and tape delay it to be shown later at the four Australian sites. So this year we will be on three separate satellites: Westar IV for the United States, Major Path One for England and the Pacific Satellite for Australia and New Zealand.

In addition, England will be making video cassette copies of Mr. Armstrong's first holy day message for West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Malta, France and Holland. Many of the remaining overseas sites will receive the first holy day message via tape-delayed telephone hookup from Pasadena.

Since the Last Great Day will be over at the overseas sites by the time we transmit Mr. Armstrong's message from Pasadena, all overseas offices will receive film and/or tape copies of the Last Great Day service after the Feast to be distributed to all local congregations.

Needless to say, we are very excited about the Feast this year! Please remember Media Services in your prayers so that God will bless the entire operation of our satellite and microwave transmissions at all sites.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****TO BE ANNOUNCED****

Audition for Talent Show at Jekyll Island

Anyone who is transferring to Jekyll Island for the Feast of Tabernacles and is interested in performing in this year's Talent Show should be prepared to audition on Monday, October 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The Talent Show will consist primarily of musical talent--both instrumental and vocal. Participants will be expected to provide their own instruments.

International News

German-language Area In the first half of August, Regional Director Mr. Frank Schnee attended meetings in Pasadena for all international PLAIN

TRUTH editors, in which important decisions were made regarding the future of the foreign editions.

Shortly after Mr. Schnee returned, Messrs. Richard Rice, Ron Urwiller and Sam Lennon of Pasadena visited the Bonn Office from August 19 to 23 for meetings on Mail Processing procedures. These constructive meetings gave us valuable insight and better understanding of the policies laid down by Mr. Armstrong for processing mail, as well as the high standard of quality Mr. Armstrong established for God's Work. This visit, along with the new Mail Processing and Personal Correspondence manuals, was truly another positive step in bringing unity in God's worldwide Work. Then on Saturday, August 21, Mr. Richard Rice gave an inspiring sermon to the Bonn congregation, which meets regularly in the Bonn Office.

In August, incoming mail increased considerably over last year, in spite of that month being the peak of the vacation season. The total mail amounted to 6,094 pieces--31% more than August, 1981. The mail income for the month to date also showed a remarkable upward trend. August closed with a 32% increase over last year. That brings our year-to-date income total up to a plus 17%.

Report From French-speaking Areas Bomb Scare! Our minister in Bordeaux, France, reported that on the Sabbath of August 21, while the members were assembled in the hall adjacent to the train station, the police burst in during the sermon and asked that the building be evacuated because of a bomb due to explode at 3:05. However, the members were allowed to return 15 minutes later. A device was found but no harm was done and services continued as planned.

Paris: In view of the recent attacks on the Jewish community in Paris, the Minister of the Interior has decided to protect all who--in the government's eyes--are Jews. Therefore, the police offered to post a guard at our hall on 53 de la rue Losserand!

Haiti: The French radio broadcast in Haiti, which had not been aired for nearly a year, can now be heard once again each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Lebanon: Due to hostilities between Israel and the P.L.O., copies of La PURE VERITE sent to Lebanon have been returned, and all other routes for getting our mail through have been closed. Hopefully the doors will open soon and our subscribers will again be able to receive their literature.

As of August 30, 1982, French language files showed the following statistics:

| | EVERYWHERE EXCEPT CANADA | CANADA | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Subscribers to La PURE VERITE | 57,970 | 56,117 | 114,087 |
| Members | 751 | 472 | 1,223 |
| Coworkers | 1,714 | 512 | 2,226 |
| Donors | 117 | 1,193 | 1,370 |
| C.C. Students | 2,325 | 4,012 | 6,337 |

The most requested booklets during the first six months of the year have been: NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD (7,803), THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW (1,331), and WHY WERE YOU BORN (1,098).

News From Southern Africa Feast preparations are all going well here. The only potential trouble area is Zimbabwe, where insurgents' actions are causing some concern. If conditions flare up prior to the Feast, arrangements may have to be made for the members to travel in an escorted convoy to Victoria Falls. We pray that this won't be necessary and that our brethren will have safe passage.

Mr. Ron Urwiller will be arriving here soon to help us streamline our part in the processing of file updates by the International Mail Centre in Pasadena. Then Mr. Richard Rice and his wife will arrive a week or so before the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Rice will help us with our mail processing procedures and be our guest speaker for the Feast of Tabernacles. He will visit and speak at our Durban, Victoria Falls, George and Sonesta festival sites.

Excitement is very high with the news of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's forthcoming visit to South Africa, tentatively scheduled for November 4-9. Needless to say the members are bubbling over with the anticipation of hearing him in person once again. His last visit to Johannesburg was in 1977.

After Mr. Armstrong's visit we shall have Mr. Gerald Waterhouse with us for the first two weeks of January, 1983. He will commence his tour of South African Churches starting in Mauritius. After visiting South Africa he will go to Zimbabwe en route to Nairobi, Kenya.

Our financial situation is holding up well in spite of rising costs, inflation and a depressed economic condition. Our August increase was 37%. Our year-to-date increase was 22%.

From the Australian Office Responses to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter offering his two books, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW: WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE, increased our mail count significantly for August. So far 9,674 Australian subscribers (13.2% of the mailing list) have requested copies of Mr. Armstrong's books, with responses still coming in. Because of the distances involved and the slower mail delivery in some areas, responses to Mr. Armstrong's letter from our readers in Asia will not begin arriving until next month. It will take six months or more for the bulk of these Asian responses to reach us.

During August we received 21,928 letters and mailed out 21,006 items of literature to interested readers. While our year-to-date increase for mail received is not high--a plus 5.5%--actual publications mailed out year to date show a significant 49.1% increase. This increase in the number of booklets and articles requested is encouraging as it reflects a growing subscriber interest in the literature advertised in the magazine.

Australia is at present in the grips of one of the worst droughts in living memory. Eighty thousand farms (60% of the nation's total) are stricken with drought, placing 350,000 jobs at risk in one state alone. National unemployment is expected to reach nearly eight percent, interest rates have risen to an all-time high of nearly 19%, and inflation is currently running

at 10.4%. In addition, the value of the Australian dollar has slipped below the American dollar for the first time in years.

We continue to be most grateful to the living Jesus Christ for providing the financial means to continue His Work in this area of the world, especially in light of the present economic conditions in this country. Though seriously affected by the recession themselves, members and coworkers contributed a 10.3% increase for the month. This level of commitment to the Work of Jesus Christ is most appreciated. Our year-to-date increase now stands at 15.1%.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Ever since the Ministerial Refreshing Program began, letters of thanks from ministers have flooded your office. Esther and I, having attended Session #8 last July, can now appreciate why, and wish to add yet another such letter. The programme is something to shout about, being highly inspirational, beneficial--very refreshing, we discovered.

God is the author of this programme; otherwise I cannot explain the present understanding and unity existing among you and your team, the lively interest in your individual work, and the great enthusiasm which came across in quality lectures.

We sensed, too, the spirit of love, admiration, loyalty and respect for the physical head of this Work. This was refreshing indeed, but it must be a solid upliftment for Mr. Armstrong, particularly needed in these days when Satan seems to be letting loose every demon at once in an effort to hinder God's Work around the world.

Esther and I say thanks to Mr. Armstrong and you, and the staff for your several contributions.

We also hold many pleasant memories of persons outside the lecture room--ministers, students and the many workers in every department of the College.

Above all we are grateful to God who inspired the institution of the programme. However, lasting proof of the sincerity of a minister's gratitude will be seen only in his translation of such words into action. We pray God will make it possible.

Ed and Esther Straugham

Dear Mr. Tkach:

From my own experience and talking to other ministers, I feel that the Refreshing Programme is possibly one of the finest programmes Mr. Armstrong has ever instituted to promote unity, trust, loyalty and renewed dedication amongst the ministry--which of course spreads throughout our respective flocks. To have this programme on a continuing basis also promotes a great bond with those of you at Headquarters which grows from year to year. Communication is improved; we look forward to our next visit;

there is an increased sense of belonging--being part of a valued team dedicated to an enormous job.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay. It was everything we could have hoped for. The atmosphere of friendship and rapport amongst the ministry was marvellous to behold, and in fact it felt like one large close-knit family. We felt the programme was improved in a number of important respects from our first session. The atmosphere a little more relaxed, but the information presented just as pertinent and a valuable addition to all we learned the first time around.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of the instructors and all the Ministerial Services staff for your valuable contributions and continual hard work. Particularly of course we want to thank Mr. Armstrong for his incredible wisdom, persistence and fine example. Just where would we all be without him?

Finally of course we are most thankful to God Himself for inspiring such programmes and making it possible for us to serve Him and His Church more effectively.

John and Lynn Meakin

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife, Mary, and I would like to thank you for the very uplifting and challenging opportunity of having been a part of Session #9 of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. The whole atmosphere of the campus--the beauty, the tranquility, the genuine friendliness--gave us a refreshing foretaste of the Millennium. A special thanks to all the men who came from the various departments to instruct us. We pray now for the power to put this teaching into effect in our lives.

Alan and Mary House

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena)

Since this is the last PGR before the Feast of Tabernacles, it occurred to me that it might be good to mention in this issue one or two items relative to Ambassador College applicants.

March 1st, 1983 will be the deadline for receiving completed applications to Ambassador College. Any completed applications which arrive after that date have little chance of being seriously considered for the 1983-84 college year. (Just this afternoon, I spoke to Mr. Leslie McCullough, Deputy Chancellor at Big Sandy, and he said that A.C. at Big Sandy also wants to make March 1st, 1983 the cut-off date for receiving completed applications.)

As you know, A.C. does not normally consider any application unless the results of the Scholastic Aptitude Test are included. So shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles, we plan to give some pertinent information regarding the SAT tests in the PGR and WORLDWIDE NEWS. Let me say now, however, that any prospective student who plans to take the SAT test should seriously

begin making arrangements to do so very soon. Since normal SAT testing is scheduled for Saturdays, special advance arrangements must be made in order to take the test on a Sunday, and it can take two to three months from the time an applicant requests a Sunday test date until he receives his test results.

My wife and I will be spending most of the Feast of Tabernacles with the brethren in Britain. In addition, we plan to spend one day at Bonndorf, West Germany with the German-speaking brethren, and then will spend the Last Great Day of the Feast with our French-speaking brethren in Praz-sur-Arly, France. We certainly look forward to seeing God's people in those areas.

After the Feast we plan to visit the various offices of the Work in Europe and do some touring in Switzerland, France, West Germany and Italy before returning to Pasadena. Mr. Armstrong has approved our taking this opportunity to do some sightseeing in Europe before returning to Pasadena one week after classes resume.

May God grant all of you ministers, your wives and families a happy, safe and in-every-way blessed Feast of Tabernacles!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Latest Literature Index

The latest Literature Index (two sheets), which is being included with this PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, is a list of all currently available booklets and reprint articles, and is for your personal use. May we, therefore, ask that you not loan out your list or allow it to be duplicated in your Church area. This could cause considerable expense to the Work.

We are always happy to provide members with any reading material they need or request. However, when long lists are sent in requesting dozens and sometimes hundreds of pieces of literature, our postage and processing costs increase considerably.

Thanks always for your help and cooperation. Any recommendation for improvement in the index will be appreciated.

46 Million Letters and Cards Received

The Work's Mail Processing Center has received over 46 million letters and cards since 1934. Such a volume of mail is difficult to visualize, so the following illustrations may help.

If all these cards and letters were placed in a single stack, it would tower more than 20 miles high and weigh over a million pounds. Laid end to end, the mail would stretch from San Francisco to London or more than 5,300 miles.

If this amount of mail were read by one person during normal business hours, it would take him or her more than 400 years! (It is interesting to note that several long-time employees in Mail Processing have personally read more than half a million letters.)

All-time Record for New People

More people were added to the file in the first eight months of this year than in the first 30 years of the Work's history. So far, 964,791 new names have been added. By the end of the year this number will have climbed to more than one million names.

The major sources for these adds are The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and The WORLD TOMORROW telecast.

Ministerial WATS Line Reminder

Occasionally, ministers will call in on the Work's media WATS line (800-423-4444) for information other than routine literature requests.

As you may remember, these lines are used primarily by viewers responding to Mr. Armstrong's programs. Our operators are trained to take these calls, but are not equipped to handle administrative questions dealing with computer listings, changes of address, etc. For help in these matters please dial 800-423-4464 which is a number in MPC specifically for your use. (An exception would be if this line was out of commission. In this case, please call on the literature request line to report it.)

Thanks always for your help and continued cooperation.

Feast Fever Is Mounting!

With the Feast of Tabernacles only days away, anticipation for another "great Feast" is mounting. Brethren are eagerly looking forward to spiritual instruction and fellowship at the different Feast sites. Here now are some enthusiastic comments recently received.

I am really looking forward to the Feast. Singing hymns with 6,000 or more brethren does something to you! The microwave transmissions are really a blessing. God must be pleased with how the Work is being humanly led, or He wouldn't bless us this way. I'll never forget that first microwave transmission--I was in Norfolk. It was a thrill, singing "Sing Praises and Rejoice" (one of my favorite hymns), with 6,000 other people plus the feastgoers in Tucson. I can only imagine how God felt, hearing so many voices sing!

J.S. (Harrisburg, PA)

I'm beginning to get "Feast fever"! Thank God for giving His people the truth about His holy days!!

D.F. (Sulphur, OK)

I am looking forward with great anticipation to the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles when we can meet with God's people, sharing great love, peace and joy, picturing the soon-coming Millennium with Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of all. This is my most joyous time of the year.

H.D. (Chippewa Lake, OH)

I'm really looking forward to the fall festival season and, of course, especially the Feast of Tabernacles when we have the

opportunity to hear from many of God's ministers. I am also hoping to hear you (Mr. Armstrong) again, as we have during the past two Feasts.

N.S. (Monroe, OR)

"Feast fever" is really running high in our family. We're eagerly looking forward to the sermons and fellowship, and especially Mr. Armstrong's vital messages.

Mr. & Mrs. R.S. (Elkhart, IN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ISRAEL AND THE P.L.O.--EUROPE SIDES EVEN MORE WITH THE LATTER

World public opinion, especially that of Europe, is solidly lining up against Israel in its deepening involvement in Lebanon. No matter what Israel does it seems to turn out wrong. The smoke is still clearing from the weekend massacre of Palestinian residents of two urban camps in West Beirut. Israel has been indirectly implicated in the blood-letting for permitting Falangist militiamen into the camps in search of P.L.O. guerrillas. The Falangists instead went berserk killing everyone they saw, including women, children and the elderly.

The rightist militiamen were seeking revenge for the shocking murder, on Tuesday September 14, of Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel and over a score of his top aides. Significantly, P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat did not claim responsibility for the dastardly act. He couldn't, surely, for he was about to embark on another mission to Europe to shore up his role as a legitimate statesman. On September 15 Arafat topped off an earlier red carpet welcome in Greece with a real jewel for his black-and-white head-dress: a 20-minute private audience with Pope John Paul II in Rome. The reception understandably unleashed a storm of protest in Jerusalem.

After the meeting, the Vatican released a communique saying John Paul chose to meet Arafat because of the Pope's "constant preoccupation to foster the difficult peace process in the Middle East." The communique added that by granting the audience the Pope "demonstrated his benevolence towards the Palestinian people...expressing the wish that an equitable and lasting solution be reached as soon as possible to the Middle East conflict which would, excluding recourse to armed violence in any form and above all to terrorism and vengeance, lead to the recognition of the rights of all people and in particular to those of the Palestinians to a homeland of their own--and of Israel to her security." (Emphasis ours.)

Thus John Paul was careful to distance himself from the P.L.O.'s terrorist methodology. But even though he referred to Israel's need for security he once again squarely came down on the side of a homeland--he has used the Latin word "patria" in the past--for the Palestinians, not some sort of vague, non-sovereign self-rule, the extent to which the Israelis are even willing to consider. Vatican officials had also taken care to play down the importance of the Arafat visit. The Pope, said one, granted Arafat's request for a meeting out of "humanitarian concerns," that the meeting "in no way implies any kind of legal recognition" of the P.L.O.

Vatican interest in the meeting was intensified by its shock over remarks attributed to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on Monday, September 13. Mr. Begin accused the Vatican hierarchy of ignoring the Holocaust of World War II and the killing of Christians in Lebanon for the past seven years while receiving Arafat, "the man who perpetrated the crime in Lebanon and is bent on the destruction of Israel, which is the completion of the work done by the Nazis in Germany." The Vatican struck back with almost unprecedented fury, calling the remarks "an outrage against the truth" and "disrespectful of the person of a Pope."

For Arafat, the Papal visit represented yet another diplomatic triumph following the P.L.O.'s military setback in Lebanon at the hands of Israel a little over two weeks ago. He is truly "turning lemons into lemonade."

After being ousted from his besieged headquarters in Beirut, Arafat met almost immediately with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreaou, the first head of government in the European Economic Community to receive him. Arafat was welcomed with full military honors.

Arafat's arrival in Italy, noted the September 16 LOS ANGELES TIMES, "was not marked by official honors as in Greece, but he was guest of honor at a luncheon given by Italian President Sandro Pertini [the head of state and official "welcomer"] in the official presidential Quirinale Palace. His reception by Pertini was viewed as another wedge in opening the doors of other Western European leaders to Arafat's personal diplomacy. French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson already has said that President Francois Mitterrand will receive Arafat 'at an appropriate time.'"

The ostensible purpose of Arafat's trip to Italy was to lead a P.L.O. delegation to the annual meeting in Rome of the international Inter-Parliamentary Union. In a 19-minute address in Arabic to the union Wednesday morning, Arafat bitterly lashed out at Israel, which boycotted the session. "I come as a messenger of peace," Arafat said to the parliamentary group, which gave him a 90-second standing ovation at the end. (Yet the P.L.O., at the Fatah Revolutionary Congress in Damascus, Syria in 1980 called for "the extermination of the Zionist entity, economically, politically, militarily, culturally and ideologically.")

Sharon Speaks Out

While Arafat is banqueted, the Israeli Defense Forces consolidate their hold on the southern half of Lebanon--probably theirs for the foreseeable future. At the same time, the IDF is looking suspiciously at surrounding countries (such as Jordan) for any sign that the newly arrived P.L.O. gunmen might be attempting to overthrow their host governments, and thus provide a threat once again to Israel. Here are a few key excerpts of an interview with Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon conducted by the famous razor-sharp Italian interviewer, Oriana Fallaci, printed in the August 30, 1982 TIMES of London. The interview gives quite an insight into the character not only of Sharon but of the P.L.O. and its "messenger of peace," Arafat.

FALLACI: Why do you call them terrorists? A terrorist is someone who distributes terror among the unarmed, for instance a defenseless citizen walking in the street....Yet in Beirut they were soldiers who faced you as soldiers.

SHARON: You remind me of Ambassador Habib who refrained a smile each time he read or pronounced the word "combatants." In fact he knew my reaction. No, madam. They were not combatants, not even in Beirut. When you enter [as the P.L.O. did] a surgery room of a hospital where the doctors are trying to save a wounded man, and you disconnect his oxygen wires, you order him away to make room for your own wounded, you aren't a soldier. You are a terrorist, a murderer.

The Syrians don't behave that way, the Jordanians don't behave that way, the Egyptians don't behave that way. Arafat's killers do. Always. Since always. We had dozens of military installations at our borders with Lebanon, yet they never attacked them. They always shot the children, the women, the old people. [Note how Amalek behaved: Deut. 25:17-18.] Cowards! Ask me anything, don't ask me to call them soldiers.

FALLACI:...For weeks you bombed those civilians in the most ferocious way, an amount of fire that I have never seen in a war....You bombed...the houses, the hospitals, the hotels, the schools, the embassies....

SHARON: No, no, no, no! We hit them because they were next to the military installations which made them targets! We hit them because the terrorists hid themselves behind the population! Look at these aerial photos. At 120 meters from the Vatican Embassy, a mortar battery of 82 mm. At 15 meters from the Egyptian Embassy, another battery like that. At 300 meters from the Soviet Embassy, a good part of the heavy artillery and middle range artillery. At a few dozen meters from the Japanese and Chilean Embassies, again middle range and heavy artillery. Next to the Spanish Embassy, a 130 mm cannon. All around the American Embassy, a number of tanks. Do you really believe, for a moment, that we wanted to shell the American Embassy, the Egyptian Embassy, all the other embassies?

FALLACI: All right, I agree....I prefer to say that, here you are right....Besides, the P.L.O. kept the anti aircraft guns on the roof of the hospitals. But the point isn't this. It is the exaggeration, the disproportion of your bombing....Why did you go on with that massacre even when they had agreed to leave? And why when the agreement had been reached, on August 11, thanks to Habib, did you order the most ferocious bombing of all, 12 endless hours that caused almost 600 dead?

SHARON: Because Arafat continued to play, to trick, to lie. Because he made a joke of us, that liar. You can never trust him, you can never trust them. They live on shrewdness and they always betray their word, their agreements. Even during the expulsion they did. They had agreed to give their names, for instance, instead they haven't. They had agreed not to board jeeps and trucks, instead they tried to. On August 11 they still demanded that we withdrew from Beirut, to be substituted by the international forces. So I bombed them, yes....But it worked. The following night...they bent to our conditions. And I stopped.

[To another question, one about possible trouble with the Syrians in the Bekaa Valley Sharon answers]:

SHARON:...We can shell Damascus any moment. But...we sincerely prefer a peaceful solution. Why should war be always the way to settle things?

FALLACI: What about that! I thought you liked war.

SHARON: This is the biggest mistake that people make about me. I mean, to portray me as a warrior, a warmonger who likes to shoot. I hate war. Only one who has been in war as many times as I have, only who has seen in war all the horrors I have seen, only who has lost in war all the friends I have lost, and has been wounded as I have, can hate war as much as I do. And if you ask me what the happiest years of my life have been I answer, the three years I was on my farm, driving my tractor and taking care of my beautiful sheep.

[Sharon then explained his view that the Palestinians already have a state--Jordan, or as he refers to it, in its older term "Transjordan"--thus excluding the West Bank which the Jordanian army took over in 1948 and held until 1967.]

SHARON: We shall never permit another Palestinian state...[in] what you call the West Bank....Judea and Samaria shall not be touched. Nor Gaza. Forget it. Judea and Samaria belong to us. They have been ours for thousands and thousands of years. Judea and Samaria are Israel. So is Gaza, all Gaza Strip. And even if the Bible did not exist, even if our feelings did not exist, our security exists. Our survival. This is a crucial matter because in that region two thirds of the Israeli population lives and without Judea and Samaria we would be wiped out immediately.

FALLACI: General Sharon, do you believe in God?

SHARON: Well, I am not religious. I never was, though I follow certain rules of the Jews like not eating pork. I never eat pork. However, I think I believe in God. Yes, I think I can say that I believe in God.

FALLACI: Then pray God also for those who don't believe in him, please. Because I have the terrible hint that you are about to throw us all into some apocalyptic disaster.

Population Change in Israel a Major Factor to Consider

One cannot fully understand events in the Middle East without comprehending one key factor: the shift in Israel's population in favor of the Sephardic community--those Jews whose ancestral host countries were in the Arab world rather than Europe. The Sephardic community has found a lot in common with Prime Minister Begin, an Ashkenazi Jew from Poland, who nevertheless has held some non-conventional Zionist ideas, more to Sephardic thinking. Milton Viorst, writing in the DAILY TELEGRAPH of London explains the impact this crucial shift has:

Gradually political power has passed from the Ashkenazim, Jews of European origin, to the Sephardim, those who emigrated from Morocco, Iran, Yemen and other Arab countries after Israeli independence in 1948. At the time of the great Sephardi migration, Zionist leaders assumed that Jews in large numbers would also arrive from the West and from Eastern Europe but relatively few actually did. Today the Sephardim, though only a fraction of world Jewry, make up half of the Jewish population of Israel, and, with a higher birth rate, they are growing proportionately stronger.

It was no secret that the Sephardim, children of the Arab world, had sharply different political traditions from the Ashkenazim. What had not been anticipated was the appeal of Menachem Begin, a Polish Jew with neither knowledge of nor interest in Sephardic culture, to the Sephardi masses. Accustomed to emotion in their politics, the Sephardim were drawn to Begin's personal flamboyance, soaring rhetoric, dramatic oratory. But it is sheer coincidence that his revisionist concept of Zionism seems also to have been tailor-made to fit them.

The seminal thinker of revisionism was the Russian-born Vladimir Jabotinsky, who repudiated the tenets of mainstream Zionism, which were: lawful purchase and colonisation of the land in Palestine, negotiation with the great Powers to guarantee a Jewish homeland, cultivation of a new Jewish society based on the tenets of egalitarian socialism. [The Soviets backed Israel in the 1948 war because of Zionism's intense socialistic ideals. King Ibn Saud feared Israel would introduce Bolshevism into the Middle East.] Jabotinsky had one objective, to establish a powerful Jewish nation-state, and he believed it should be achieved by the force of Jewish arms. Begin became a Jabotinsky disciple in the late 1920's, joining the revisionist youth organisation Betar in his native Brest Litovsk....

Though Begin the politician has surely been faithful to democratic procedures, Betar indisputably had an authoritarian flavour....It trained tirelessly with arms to liberate Palestine "on both sides of the Jordan...." Before leaving, the British partitioned Palestine into two parts, in one of which the Jews predominated, in the other the Arabs. A partitioned Palestine was less than the mainstream Zionists wanted, but they chose to accept it. The revisionists refused the compromise. It is this issue that has left Zionist thought in angry disarray....

The Sephardim have little sympathy for Labour's ambiguities, or for Ashkenazi concepts of democracy, egalitarianism, socialism. Begin offers strength, orthodoxy, certitude. More significant, perhaps, the Sephardim respond to Begin's identification of the enemy. For the Ashkenazim, shaped within the context of European anti-semitism, the Arabs are a problem to be solved. To the Sephardim, who lived for centuries under Islamic domination, they are foe...with whom there are scores to settle. To the Sephardim, the humanist Zionist dream is a European creation, which they never really knew. To them, Begin's message is a call to strike back.

After protests from many of his followers, Begin returned the Sinai, on the grounds that it was not part of historic "Eretz Yisrael." But he has made clear that, even in exchange for peace, he has no more territory to cede. Furthermore, by referring constantly to Israel's current holdings as "western Eretz Yisrael," he proclaims, if not the revisionists vow to expand eastward, then at least his conviction that whatever the Arabs hold of Britain's old Palestine mandate is at the sufferance of the Jewish State.

One cannot help but think that the Begin government would show no hesitation whatsoever in attacking and even occupying at least part of Jordan should Hussein lose control of his country and the P.L.O. take over. (The P.L.O. almost did this in late 1969. When Syrian troops were about to cross the border to help the P.L.O. Israel warned them to stop. This enabled King Hussein to muster enough power to crush the P.L.O. revolution and kick them out, unfortunately to Lebanon.)

In the interview with Sharon excerpted above, the Defense Minister expressed the hope that the eight Arab host governments who have taken in the P.L.O. expellees would be able to control P.L.O. activities in their lands. "Besides, should they try to overthrow governments Israel would not stay motionless....I made those murderers a gift: the gift of life....Woe to them if they dare to start again with their bloody activities, even in countries which are far from Israel. Woe to them."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

POSTSCRIPT With the Day of Atonement approaching, ministers will certainly want to obtain a photocopy of the August 30, 1982 NEWSWEEK article "Giving the Devil His Due." It is on pages 72-74 in the North American edition. It is a very interesting survey tracing the historical views of Satan and evil, explained by theologians down through the years. It would be too long to excerpt here. Hopefully a photo copy can be obtained in your nearest library. Here are just a couple of excerpts:

Over the last two centuries he [Satan] has been debunked by rationalists, exorcised by psychotherapists and demythologized by theologians. Though the problem of evil remained as mysterious as ever, by the middle of this century the Devil has become a mere metaphor to all but the most persistently literal-minded.

Belief in the Devil is clearly embedded in Christian tradition. Jesus evidently believed in him; [Hey, what about Matthew 4?!] so did the early church fathers, the great medieval theologians and the Protestant reformers. But that belief has faded among many Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants today....Even among otherwise orthodox Christians, his figure has become vestigial: he exists in Scripture and tradition, but he has been trivialized by a thousand superstitions. "Occasionally you'll find a preacher going overboard about Satan," says Southern Baptist pastor Kenneth Chafin of Houston, "but that's usually someone fixing to have a nervous breakdown."

--G.H.H.