

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

### Supermarket Program Expands!

Mr. Armstrong has recently approved the expansion of the Supermarket Program (originally introduced in the New York City area) to include the additional 3,500 supermarkets now available to the Work across the country. Mr. Armstrong once again told us he felt this was one of the greatest doors that has ever opened to God's Work!

A letter from our Circulation Department will soon be arriving explaining the program to each of you who will be involved. This dramatic increase in PLAIN TRUTH circulation and exposure does bring with it the need to plan even more carefully than before. We need your urgent and immediate assistance in the planning of PT usage in our present programs.

If you have not already done so, please send us your Monthly Coordinator's Report showing how many newsstand PT copies you have left over from previous issues. This is extremely important in helping us assess the number of magazines that are available for redistribution through some of the doors that are now opening for God's Work.

In addition to the expansion of the Supermarket Program, many new lighted display islands have suddenly become available to God's Work in key locations for the first time. Major airports all over the country are now opening up--Kennedy (New York), O'Hare (Chicago), Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Detroit and Cleveland--to name a few. Since these locations are prime advertising areas that normally are tied up for three to five years, the opening up of these display islands for PLAIN TRUTH distribution is a rather remarkable and miraculous event. With these additional outlets, worldwide PT circulation will now exceed six million copies for the first time in the Church's history!

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### International News

Southern Africa Report There is much good news and much to be thankful for. We don't have electronic media, but by using our two main doors--advertising and newsstands--God's Work is being done and blessed.

The PLAIN TRUTH subscriber list is now 111,000, with an additional 43,000 being distributed on newsstands. Since the beginning of this year we have added 40,194 new subscribers. This compares very favorably with 1982 when for the whole year we added 62,000.

We have an ongoing renewal program whereby those not responding by the third letter are dropped from the subscriber list. Those thus dropped have received 12 issues of the magazine. Our current renewal rate is 53%.

A series of advertisements in national magazines have brought in 5,083 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Our first advertisement in READER'S DIGEST since 1972 has thus far produced 12,714 responses. This has exceeded our expectations. The first advertisement had a response card stitched in the magazine and we feel this card added greatly to the response we received. We shall also have advertisements in the September and November editions of READER'S DIGEST.

Here are some other interesting statistics: The newsstand program gives us a 4.5% response--adding 1,950 new subscribers monthly from this source. We have 10,124 active BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE students. Our GOOD NEWS circulation is now 7,500 copies per month. A total of 1,350 YOUTH 83 magazines are mailed out per issue. We have 1,307 co-workers, 317 of whom have been added this year. There are 1,481 donors, 606 of whom donated for the first time this year. Our total membership is 1,457, 51 of whom were baptized since January.

The financial situation continues to look very good. In South Africa we have a year-to-date increase of 33.1% and in Zimbabwe 24.65%. This helps us cope with an inflation rate still running about 13%.

Our Mail Processing Department has been kept very busy these first six months. Incoming mail totaled 147,088--a 49% increase. Outgoing mail totaled 194,529--63% more than in the first half of 1982.

Our preparations for the Feast of Tabernacles are going very well. Mr. Burk McNair and Mr. David Hulme are scheduled to visit us as guest speakers.

Mr. William Bentley, pastoring the Bulawayo Church in Zimbabwe, will make his first visit to Pasadena with his wife. They will be attending the last session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program, commencing the 8th of August. They are really looking forward to this opportunity.

The ministers and members are very excited and eager for news about God's Work, and continue to show much love and concern for the well-being of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. He is continually in our prayers.

Australian Semiannual Report The first half of 1983 has been a fruitful and productive six months for God's Work in Australia. In January a door that had been closed to us in Melbourne was miraculously opened by Jesus Christ, permitting "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast to be broadcast over ATV Channel 10. The first program aired February 20. Soon after, several other major stations followed.

By the end of June, the number of TV stations carrying "The WORLD TOMORROW" (including those smaller stations that pick it up by relay and broadcast to remote population centers) had risen to 71. The telecast in Australia can now be viewed by 88% of the nation's population!

Though Australia has been badly hit by the recession, droughts, bush fires and floods, Jesus Christ has continued to provide the income to accomplish His Work in this area of the world. In June we received a very fine increase in income of 16.1%, bringing our year-to-date increase to 12.3%. This increase is partly due to 1,873 new co-workers--a 45.3% increase over June, 1982.

The number of new people responding to God's calling during the first half of this year is also most encouraging. Baptisms are up 2.6%; new prospective members are up by 118%; and reinstatements are up 133%. The most encouraging aspect of this latter statistic is that a number of people who left God's Church during the early 1970s are now asking to be reinstated..

During the first half of this year the number of new readers requesting The GOOD NEWS magazine rose significantly. By the end of June the list had grown by 2,974 subscribers to 7,275--an 81.6% increase over June, 1982.

The number of new students taking the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE has also increased dramatically. Blow-in cards advertising the course in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine have been a major contributing factor to the increase. At the end of June, 1,885 new students were enrolled in the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE--a 156.7% increase over the same month last year.

Interest in the YOUTH 83 magazine has also been considerable. Currently, 2,820 subscribers, including quite a number of adults, receive the magazine. This represents a 26.1% increase over June, 1982.

The ongoing renewal program has kept The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list free of uninterested readers. Circulation in Australia at the end of June stood at 61,614 subscribers. Sixty-eight percent of those to whom renewal letters have been sent have asked to remain on the mailing list, compared to 54% during the first half of 1982, and 22% during the same period of 1981.

This increase in interest in The PLAIN TRUTH by our readers has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in requests for the Church's publications. Over 150,900 envelopes containing literature have been mailed out so far this year--a 62.3% increase over the same period last year.

Rapid growth in PLAIN TRUTH circulation in Asia during 1982 temporarily limited funds available for advertising in Australia for the first five months of 1983. However, efforts to control this growth have freed up funds to continue ongoing advertising in this country.

During the period January to May, new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers have come mainly from our newsstand program, blow-in cards in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, and "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast. The newsstand program continues to be a most effective tool in preaching the Gospel, with a consistent 1.2% of the readers asking to be placed on the mailing list.

In June, the first advertisement in a number of years appeared in READER'S DIGEST. By the end of June, 2,365 responses had been received, with additional requests still coming in. Throughout the remainder of 1983, ads promoting The PLAIN TRUTH magazine will appear in other leading magazines: WOMAN'S DAY, WOMEN'S WEEKLY, NEW IDEA and NEWSWEEK. These advertisements should add a considerable number of new subscribers to the mailing list in Australia.

During the first half of 1983, a number of ministers conducted Public Bible Lectures with very good results. Excluding members, an average 2.5% of PLAIN TRUTH readers invited have attended the lectures. Interest in the literature displays has been high, with the majority of the new people in attendance requesting Church publications. As a result of these lectures, a number of new people are now in regular contact with the ministry, and some have been invited to services.

Caribbean News Mid-May, some 2,000 letters were addressed to PLAIN TRUTH "Prime" subscribers (those on the mailing list at least 18 months) on the Island of Jamaica. They were invited to attend a PLAIN TRUTH lecture series in Kingston, the capital city. Regional Director Stan Bass conducted these lectures on the 5th and 6th of June.

Results were encouraging despite heavy rainfall the second night. The first night there were 84 new people present. With the rainfall, only 22 new people attended the second night, yet 12 of those had not been present the previous evening; consequently the two Bible lectures reached a total of 96 new people.

January 1, 1983, "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast began airing over Jamaica's one and only television station, JBC-TV. Response has been phenomenal! When the 1982 year-to-date total of 434 radio responses is compared with the 1983 year-to-date total of 5,142 radio/TV responses, the impact Mr. Armstrong and "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast are making in Jamaica becomes evident.

From June 24th through the 28th, Mr. Bass paid a visit to Nassau, Bahamas. Mr. Bass spoke to the Bahamian brethren on the Sabbath of June 25th. Before returning to San Juan, Mr. Bass was able to review office and festival matters with the pastor in the Bahamas, Mr. Kingsley O. Mather.

In what may be the traditional "lazy, hazy days of summer" trend, income has fallen off, compared to June 1982, by 7%. This, of course, is always disturbing, but God's people will be praying for a return of the increase experienced during the first quarter of 1983. Income during that period; calculated in U.S. dollars, was up a whopping 60%!

#### Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the privilege of attending the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was truly refreshing to see all of the ministerial staff you used for the program to teach us the real, true and solid "Word of God." There was no shade of liberalism whatsoever in their teachings. Each one of them really backed you up. They were united in purpose and spoke the same thing. This reminds me of the favorite scripture of your late wife, Loma, in Psalm 133:1. We also noticed the dedication, hard work and zealously in wanting to obey God among the students and members. We were inspired by their example.

Going to Ambassador College and staying there for two weeks was like going to the "Feast of Booths." The atmosphere is different. The people are different. The surroundings and landscape of the college are different--they are clean and beautiful. This was a total contrast to the atmosphere, the people and the unpleasant environment of this world.

The most important thing of all is the knowledge we learned, especially from you, sir--the messages you gave to us during the first day of our classes and during one of the Sabbaths of our

stay there. This knowledge will be passed on to God's people in our area so that they, too, will profit and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Medardo and Henrietta Maninang

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

The first Refreshing Program was most uplifting, and I had difficulty in comprehending that it was possible for it to be improved upon. But this second one did! On the first Sabbath back home, when I was informing the brethren of the various classes, I found that I was tending to repeat: "This class was really uplifting," or "It was inspirational to see how God is directing the Work at Pasadena."

We would like to express our gratitude in being able to come and experience the warmth, the service, the guidance, the fellowship, and the total "refreshing" that was provided for us, which we in turn will pass on to others.

D'Arcy and Yvonne Watson

Mr. Tkach:

Greetings! Bev and I want to thank you very much for the inspiring and informative two weeks we just completed in the second Refreshing Program. It was great seeing old friends and making new ones in the ministry. The classes were right on target in helping us become better shepherds of the flocks under our care. We are looking forward to the third round when it comes. In the meantime we will certainly try to follow your closing challenge to "keep the faith--and spread it!"

Fred and Bev Davis

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I wish to thank Mr. Armstrong, you and all who are involved in the Refreshing Program. We found the lectures instructive, inspiring, and personally helpful, as well as a source of information to be passed on to others.

We enjoyed the meals and the fellowship with the other ministers attending, faculty members, and students of Ambassador College while dining in the Student Center. At the Kaffeeklatsch, we were able to make new acquaintances and enjoy those made long ago in Church areas and at the annual festivals. We were invited out and into the homes of ministers and brethren at Headquarters and appreciated the hospitality and fellowship of all.

"What was it like?" we are asked by the brethren here at home. We tell them it is as refreshing as the best Feast of Tabernacles they have experienced. We have also told them it is a very humbling experience. Christ has, through the use of those He has chosen to be at Headquarters, "washed our feet." Now He expects us in the same manner to wash the congregations' feet, so they can in turn "wash one another's feet."

Thank you and Mr. Armstrong for including local church elders in the program, and for including the ministers' wives. We feel it helps them to feel and better understand that they are an important part in the service of the ministry. The presence of the wives really adds to the "atmosphere" and enjoyment of the program. Another benefit of the Refreshing Program was becoming acquainted with those serving in international areas. Including some of them in the group helped us to realize the international scope of the Work and that we truly are the "Worldwide" Church of God.

Reinhold and Katherine Fuessel

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Gay and I wish to thank you and all the staff for the hospitality and many generousities extended to us during the recent Refreshing Program. The sessions were informative in explaining current policy and practice; and the growth and sophistication of the Work around the world was impressive. It was also very pleasant and nostalgic to visit with many friends of long duration. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the future.

Will and Gay Berg

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

#### New Six-month Record for Books and Booklets Mailed Out

Between January and June of this year, 1,964,400 books and booklets were mailed out in the United States. As it has been the trend over recent months, this was another all-time record! The ten most frequently-requested publications were as follows:

<u>Order</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	203,804	THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY
2	122,147	THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST!
3	98,376	WHAT IS FAITH?
4	91,598	WHAT DO YOU MEAN...SALVATION?
5	87,621	WHY WERE YOU BORN?
6	86,470	DID GOD CREATE A DEVIL?
7	80,748	WHAT IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?
8	78,411	ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS?
9	76,037	NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD
10	70,279	JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN...CONVERSION?

These ten pieces of literature accounted for 51% of all books and booklets sent out.

PLAIN TRUTH the Number One Source of Literature Requests

Eighty-five percent of the preceding literature requests came in as a result of three major sources: The PLAIN TRUTH magazine--48%, "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast--22%, and booklet cards and envelopes--15%.

The distribution of literature is an important fulfillment of the Work's commission and has borne much fruit. It is interesting to note that 9% of all U.S. members, baptized since 1970, first came in contact with the Work through a book or booklet.

Booklets Provide Understanding and Enlightenment

This week we are featuring comments from our readers about specific booklets they have read. These comments openly express their gratitude and excitement about the new truth and inspiration they have received. Many have had important questions answered for the first time in their lives, and been given new hope and purpose. Following are some of these comments:

I have just finished reading THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, which you so graciously sent to me. I must say that I am shocked. I have never read anything so enlightening in all my life. I can only pray that every man, woman, and child will have a chance to read this book--and very soon.

S. & B.H. (Waretown, NJ)

I just received a booklet from you called THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST! I have been struggling for some time to understand the symbolism of the horses, trumpets and other things described in Revelation. The booklet has really helped me when I needed it most. I am grateful.

L.E. (Easthampton, MA)

Thank you for all the literature you have sent me. Your booklet, WHAT IS FAITH?, made me understand exactly what faith is. I thank God for bringing this to my understanding, for now I really do know that all things are possible through Christ Jesus. All of your teachings are thought-provoking and in accord with the Word of God.

G.J. (Sunrise Village, FL)

I have been like other millions of Christians. I thought when I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I was born again. When I read the booklet JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN--BORN AGAIN? I was shocked. I have been in the dark until now. May God bless and keep you for helping so many people to find the plain truth from God's Word.

I.H. (Baltimore, MD)

Thank you for the LIFE AFTER DEATH? booklet. I read it as soon as it arrived. I want to explain why I sent for it. My mother passed away two years ago and I was devastated by her death.... When I heard you say what happens to people after death and how so many preachers teach about going to hell immediately with no chance for remitting sins, I listened closely. I did not know that people had a chance to have God put His Spirit in them, with

no Satan around to deceive them during the Great White Throne Judgment. Thank you so much for taking a heavy load off my mind.

G.F. (Mansfield, OH)

Thank you for your booklet WHY WERE YOU BORN? I found out that today's religious teachings are far from what Jesus was teaching in His time. I am glad I sent for your booklet.

G.K. (Dalton, PA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### CENTRAL AMERICA: DIRECT U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT BEGINS; THE PRESIDENT CONFRONTS A FEARFUL CONGRESS AND A DISBELIEVING PRESS

Ominous developments, with far-reaching implications, are now underway in strife-torn Central America. President Reagan has suddenly embarked on a strong show of U.S. military force in the region in order, he says, "to provide a shield for democracy." Soon, two aircraft carrier battle groups along with the battleship New Jersey will be positioned in international waters just offshore the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines of the embattled region. Approximately 4,000 U.S. troops will undergo extended six-month maneuvers in Honduras.

The President, heeding the advice of his National Security adviser, William Clark, his U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, and CIA Director William Casey, is clearly sending a message to both Havana and Moscow: Further meddling in the region, especially the support of Communist-backed guerrillas in El Salvador, supplied through Marxist Nicaragua, can no longer be tolerated. (It was a recent step-up in arms supplies from the Soviet Union and other East Bloc countries that prompted the show of force.)

Mr. Reagan defended his plans in a televised press conference on July 26. As usual, the press was overwhelmingly skeptical. Unfortunately, because of a fearful Congress and a disbelieving press, the President is forced to describe his military buildup in terms other than it really is. After all, "military maneuvers" involving up to 4,000 troops lasting six months, rather than the usual week to two weeks, are highly unusual.

The President's dilemma in resorting to classic "gunboat diplomacy" was briefly explained by one reporter: How can Mr. Reagan scare the Sandinistas without scaring the American public? (Although polls indicate the public is more confused than scared, it's the press and the Congress that is running scared.) Even some top officials in the Pentagon express some concern over the effectiveness of the big show of force. Said one: "You don't scare Salvadoran guerrillas in the jungles with aircraft carriers over the horizon." (They will generally be positioned about 150 miles offshore.) Other military officials are worried that the public will be more disappointed than ever if the carrier task forces are withdrawn, as planned, some five months from now, not having affected the war on the ground.

And what, indeed, is the real task of the task forces, anyway? Mere saber-rattling? It appears so. All indications are that they have no orders at present to intercept foreign (meaning Soviet Bloc) ships headed for the area, even those suspected of carrying weapons for the Sandinistas and their Marxist allies.



Despite President Reagan's assertion that he has no plans for direct military intervention in the region, the likelihood of just such an occurrence has been greatly increased. This is due primarily to the growing U.S. presence in Honduras. This country, bordering on both Nicaragua and El Salvador, is becoming the U.S. "nerve center" in Central America.

A new base in that country trains, under U.S. advisers, Salvadoran government troops. The CIA, with more than 150 "operatives," runs the affairs of 5,000 anti-Sandinista "contra" rebels along Honduras' frontier with Nicaragua. A radar base near the capital of Tegucigalpa monitors all air traffic and guides secret reconnaissance flights over the region. Runways are being enlarged to accommodate the huge C-5A transports which can carry 345 U.S. troops each. Construction will soon begin on a \$150 million air and naval base on the country's Atlantic Coast (Cam Rahn East?). A high U.S. national security official was quoted as saying: "We have developed a program for a significant and long-lasting increase in the U.S. military presence in Central America."

Honduran government officials are generally supportive of these moves. Their country's impoverished economy (poorest in the hemisphere after that of Haiti) gets a shot in the arm, plus its fledgling democracy gets "big brother" help in its ideological fight against the Marxists next door. Meanwhile, U.S. pressure against Nicaragua is pushing that country increasingly into the arms of Moscow and Havana. The latter two are stepping up support to make sure that the revolution in Nicaragua doesn't fail.

War between Nicaragua and Honduras is therefore a greater likelihood than ever--with the U.S. possibly dragged into it. As NEWSWEEK in its August 1 edition said: "The...danger was that Honduras would drift into war with Nicaragua--pulling the United States right along with it."

#### Mark August 1 on Your Calendars!

Perhaps the most significant development of all is the fact that the new U.S. "ground exercises" in Honduras begin on Monday, August 1, with the arrival of an initial military survey team. There will be a continual buildup afterwards until the number of troops reaches about 4,000 by mid-November. (The troops will, initially at least, be rotated in on three week tours of duty, with the total number kept at the 4,000 level.)

Are we thus seeing the beginning of a new political time sequence we speculated about in this column, back on January 21, 1983? To refresh your memory: On August 6, 1945, an American B-29 "Superfortress" dropped the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Japan's fate was sealed. The U.S. was the uncontested number one world power. Despite a soon-coming stalemate in Korea, the U.S. still had pride in its power. But that was not to last.

On August 5, 1964, 19 years after Hiroshima, almost to the day, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved, at President Lyndon B. Johnson's request, the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. The resolution, in response to attack by North Vietnamese naval craft on U.S. vessels, authorized the President to "take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression." The way was paved for America's ultimately disastrous full-scale military involvement in Southeast Asia. The United States left the fight after "peace" was supposedly

reached with North Vietnam in early 1973. South Vietnam, bereft of U.S. aid, collapsed in early 1975. The years since then have witnessed a steady erosion in U.S. willpower and prestige.

Now, once again, during the first week in August, nineteen years after the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, the U.S. is moving into another war situation. And, as in Vietnam, it is approaching this new war with hesitation, uncertainty, and with the lack of a solid game plan. The conflict between President Reagan and the Congress (especially the House) over the funding of anti-Sandinista "contras" is a perfect example of such confusion over U.S. goals in Central America.

The President is trying to overcome Congressional and public anxiety with the appointment of a bi-partisan twelve man commission, headed by Dr. Henry Kissinger, to help shape a long-term national consensus on Central American policy. At the same time, as in Vietnam, the U.S. is "inching in" militarily--a sure recipe for failure. Reported the LOS ANGELES TIMES in its July 28 edition:

Despite the President's rejection of a Vietnam analogy, a July 8 working paper of his National Security Council, which provided the basis for much of this increased activity, admitted that "an incremental escalation" of military activity and economic aid for Central America could suggest "an awkward parallel with Vietnam."

#### "Deep Misgivings" in Pentagon

Some top Pentagon brass, as mentioned earlier, are said to be worried that the public does not understand the need for the action and that, consequently U.S. efforts could fail as in Vietnam. Here is a report in the July 27, 1983 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

WASHINGTON--President Reagan's decision to order massive U.S. military maneuvers in Central America and to seek more funds for covert operations against Nicaragua was made despite deep misgivings by some of the nation's senior military officials about the ultimate costs and consequences. Uncertain about precisely what the President's decisions are intended to accomplish, these officers fear that a Vietnam-like situation eventually could develop in which American forces would become involved in the Central American conflict but would not have the tools, the operating freedom or the public support necessary for success.

Without clearly stated goals and adequate means for achieving them, some officers said, the armed forces could lose the hard-won gains in public esteem they have achieved since the dark days of Vietnam.... "If I knew exactly what we were going to do down there, I'd feel a whole lot better," said one ranking Marine officer who asked not to be identified. "If I don't understand it, how is Joe Sixpack going to understand it? What we don't want is to find ourselves out on a limb again," he added, recalling the lack of public support for U.S. troops during the Vietnam War.

While the degree of apprehension varies among individuals, high-ranking officers interviewed evoked the image of Vietnam to

express fears that the United States, as Gen. Edward C. Meyer, former Army chief of staff, put it recently, is in danger of being "led down the slippery slope."

Any commitment of U.S. troops, Meyer said in a meeting with reporters several weeks before the announcement of extensive exercises in Central America, "would need a clear identification of purpose up front and a clear evaluation by the military of whether it's possible to do that." "We didn't do that in Vietnam," Meyer added. "We inched our way in." Even I was a little confused as to why I was there...."

Air Force Lt. Gen. John T. Chain, deputy chief of staff for plans and operations...expressed surprise and concern that senior Pentagon civilians had described the deployment as a military shield to protect governments supported by the United States. "That's too much," he said in an interview Tuesday. "That means you have a strategy for isolating the area, setting up a barrier. What we don't want," he added, "is to get sucked into a Vietnam-type thing where we get nibbled to death."

In his editorial entitled "Still a Hobbled Giant," in the August 1 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Marvin Stone showed how America's will to win was lacking in Korea and Vietnam and apparently is still missing today. In other words, the U.S. has the power to win--no one questions that--but the pride in that power has vanished, true to prophecy:

Central America is providing yet another demonstration of how difficult it has become for the United States, as a superpower to wield its power effectively.

The first such demonstration ended 30 years ago, on July 27, 1953, when the U.S. signed an armistice ending the Korean War. After three years of fighting, in which 34,000 Americans died, we called it quits.

This writer witnessed the signing of the Korean armistice and, after that dispiriting experience, was one of three correspondents flying back to Tokyo headquarters with Gen. Mark Clark, commander in chief of the United Nations forces. I remember General Clark's eyes misting over and his remarking sadly: "Do you realize this is the first time an American commander has ever ended a war which the U.S. did not win?"...

Since then, the U.S. endured a second war without winning--that in Vietnam. There, in 1973, the U.S. once again pulled out, after another long and costly fight with Communist forces, leaving behind 58,000 American dead.

Now, still another time, the U.S. is facing the threat of Communist expansion. And again the U.S. faces a difficult decision. In Central America, the countries involved are even smaller than Korea or Vietnam. Their military forces are relatively miniscule. The scene of conflict is much nearer the U.S., and therefore more easily accessible. In a conflict, the U.S. doubtless could prevail if it chose to apply sufficient power.

But the problem here, as it was in Korea and Vietnam, is this: Can the U.S. really make effective use of limited force? Can it afford to commit troops if there is no intention of doing all that is necessary to win? That determination was lacking in Korea and Vietnam....

Morally, most Americans are reluctant to use any military force against small adversaries. Politically, a U.S. President's freedom to act decisively is hampered by an often reluctant Congress. And historically, Americans are still gun-shy from the frustrating failures in Korea and Vietnam.

The result is another dilemma: Americans do not want to let Communism gain a strategic base so close to home. But they are not yet willing to contemplate what may have to be done to prevent that, if economic and political strategies fail to deny further expansion to Soviet-Cuban power.

Thus, this giant nation could be rendered an almost helpless giant when it comes to opposing the Soviet style of expansionist aggression. This semiparalysis set in 30 years ago when we forced General Clark to settle for less than victory. We repeated the performance in Vietnam. Given the mood of the country, will it be any different in Central America?

The August 1 NEWSWEEK asserted that there are some high up in Washington who "now talk giddily about 'beating the Communists' for the first time since the Berlin air lift." These persons have not yet read Mr. Armstrong's UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY wherein he states: "The United States, even still possessing unmatched power, is afraid--fears--to use it, just as God said: 'I will break the pride of your power'.... The United States has stopped winning wars...."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau