

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Report From New Zealand All three Feast sites in this part of the world reported an exceptionally profitable and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles--truly the best Feast ever! The brethren in Rotorua, New Zealand were blessed with the opportunity to receive a live transmission of Mr. Armstrong's first holy day message. Videotapes of the service were then rushed to the sites at Pacific Harbour, Fiji and Mu'a, Tonga.

Rotorua feastgoers were also privileged to hear from Mr. Dean Blackwell and Mr. Ray Wright. Mr. Blackwell had been in Fiji for the Day of Atonement, and went on to Tonga after the Feast. A surprise visitor to Rotorua was "Big Beak," who arrived from the U.S.A. complete with his costume and delighted the young children during social activities.

Festival registration for the three sites totaled 1,425, a slight increase over last year. Comments from the brethren were overwhelmingly that this was the "best ever," a quote we are sure was echoed at other feast sites worldwide as the Eternal showered His blessings on His people. Holy day offerings posted an increase of 5.4% on the first day and 21% on the Last Great Day. The holy day offering increase for the whole year was 10.5%, and holy day attendance for the year was up by an average of 4.9%.

Meanwhile, back at the office, just under 6,000 items of mail came in during September, 25% over last September. Mail income for the month was up 5.6% and now shows an increase of 15.8% for the year to date.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LARRY WALKER: I have noticed an encouraging new trend over the past few months regarding PMs. We are receiving more visit requests, and most people we visit are genuinely interested. Also, many are responding sooner than ever before and progressing toward baptism faster. Most PMs are in response to either the telecast or member contact. We recently had two now-married daughters of former members return to Church. There seems to be a real sense of urgency as people see the signs of the times throughout the whole Church here.

CAMBRIDGE, OH--SHORTY FUESSEL: Over the past two years the congregation in Cambridge seems to be developing into a very pleasant, stable and industrious family. Since its inception the Church has grown with the addition of about 35 new people. This has allowed a broadening of perspective and also responsibility as a few new people in a congregation this size are immediately noticed and the brethren are eager to set the proper example.

(Continued on page 3)

**TO BE ANNOUNCED
IN ALL ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHURCHES**

1984 Feast Transfers to Acapulco

Although the most recent Feast of Tabernacles is still a vivid memory, your assistance is requested in helping the Spanish area of God's Work to plan far in advance for next year's Feast in Acapulco, Mexico.

We need to have an idea of the maximum number of people who may wish to transfer to Acapulco in 1984. If you attended Acapulco in 1983 and wish to transfer there again next year, you may also request to do so. But please realize that your positive reply represents no commitment whatsoever on your part to actually transfer to Acapulco. It will merely give an indication of what we can expect, and therefore enable us to negotiate prices and plan accordingly.

To give you an idea of lodging costs for nine days, please note the following: a suite (which accommodates a maximum of four adults, or two adults and three children) will range from U.S. \$550-600; a double room (which accommodates a maximum of two adults, or two adults and two children) will range from U.S. \$450-500. Food will cost approximately 65% of the cost of meals in U.S. and Canadian resort area restaurants. Check with your travel agent regarding current air fares to Acapulco for an idea of that cost.

If you think you might like to transfer to Acapulco, please write to:

SPANISH DEPARTMENT
300 West Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91129, USA
Attention: Acapulco Transfer Inquiry

Or, if you live in the U.S. (outside of California, Alaska, and Hawaii) you may call on the Church WATS line (1-800-423-4444). Those who live in California, Alaska, or Hawaii may call 213-304-6111 collect. In either case, simply inform the operator of your name, address, and that you might like to transfer to Acapulco in 1984. Whether you write or call, please be sure to mention how many individuals, including children, would be in your group.

If you live outside the U.S., send your reply by airmail to the above address.

All who are interested in attending the Acapulco feast site in 1984 should call or send in their reply before December 9.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports (continued from page 1)

Most of these PMs are serious about living God's way of life and in a relatively short period of time they are ready for baptism.

PT circulation is improving with new outlets being obtained as old ones seem to have reached a saturation point. And the local Y.O.U. chapter is growing as some previously turned-off young people are becoming turned on!

BOISE, ID--JEFF MCGOWAN: Many of the parents need help in realizing the importance of working with their children with the Y.E.S. program. After a meeting I held with them, I do believe some will do better.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: The Church here is very excited about The PLAIN TRUTH supermarket program plus the lighted display island at Bradley International Airport. With world conditions continuing to worsen, our brethren here realize God is moving to get His warning message out.

JONESBORO, AR--CLYDE KILOUGH: Mr. Armstrong's recent tapes could not have been more timely. The remarks he made at the end encouraging everyone, telling them they're doing a good job, etc., really go a long way in picking people up. There's nothing like a pat on the back from the leader to lift morale.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Mr. Roland Sampson, although no longer a minister, is still a member of the Church. Mr. Sampson was formerly pastor of the Bermuda congregation, and continues to reside with his family in the Caribbean. This notice is not to be announced to your congregations.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGThanks to Members

Once again we want to extend our sincere thanks to the brethren for their care and cooperation in preparing fall holy day offerings. As with last spring, there were far fewer discrepancies, check problems, and envelopes without subscription numbers than in previous years. This was a tremendous help, especially at this busy time of year. Processing time was kept to a minimum.

We would also like to express our thanks to all those who gave of their time to help with offerings at the feast sites.

Important Note About Receipts

Because this year's festival occurred in late September, there will be a combined September-October receipt, rather than a separate one for each month. This receipt will be mailed in mid-November.

1983 Bible CC Enrollments Set New Record

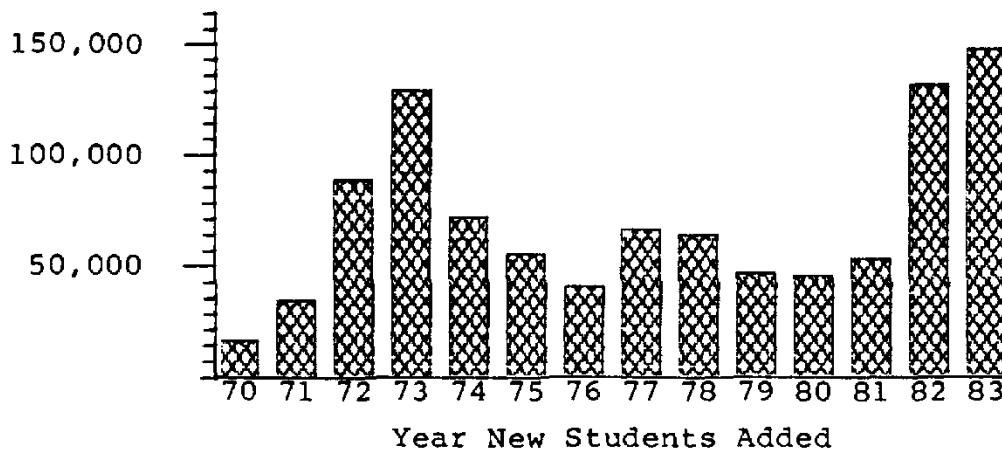
In the first nine months of 1983, more people have enrolled in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course in the U.S. than in any other entire year. Through September, 151,430 names have been added--compared to 134,643 for all of 1982, the previous record year.

The main reason for this outstanding trend is stepped-up advertising in The PLAIN TRUTH and in booklets. Responses from The PLAIN TRUTH account for 54% of this year's total, followed by 31% from booklet ads.

The history of CC enrollments since 1970 is pictured by the following graph:

NEW STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN U.S.

1970-1982
Including January-September 1983



As a historical note, the course began in 1954 with 8,194 enrolled. The total number of enrollments in the U.S. since then has now reached 1,370,072.

Monastery Interested in Bible Correspondence Course

Recently we received the following letter from the Director of Religious Education at a monastery in New York. He was so impressed with the Correspondence Course that he asked if it could be made available to all 700 members of his order. (Please note that the word "friar" means "brother" or "member of a religious group.")

Dear Sir:

We are very interested in being enrolled in the Biblical correspondence course, published by the Worldwide Church of God.

We saw some of Lesson One, and are very impressed with the format. All our friars are pledged to an ongoing study of the Bible. It is my duty, as assigned by the Minister Provincial...to be the Religious Education Director.

We are a mendicant order, with little means to finance too ambitious an endeavor, but could raise some contributions to perhaps cover reproductive costs of the material. In view of the comment that bulk copies are not available, we propose to request a single enrollment, and then "teach" the lessons in our Vicariates.

Ultimately, we plan to introduce the understanding of the Bible to about 700 friars.

Friar R.J. (Staten Island, NY)

Students Delighted With Correspondence Course

Students of the Bible Correspondence Course are amazed at how exciting Bible study becomes once they enroll. Many have commented favorably on the new tests and continuation of the course beyond Lesson 12. Following are some comments:

I just received Lesson 2 of the Bible course. I am so excited. I never dreamed I could acquire all of this Bible knowledge through the mail. Everything is so beautifully explained. One generally thinks of the Bible as being so complicated, but you make studying it so simple.

M.L. (Opa Locka, FL)

WOW! I have just completed my first Correspondence Course lesson. It is packed with information that I have never realized, although I have been attending the Worldwide Church of God for over twelve years. I am now a junior in high school. I received the course about a week ago and haven't had the time to work on it until today. It has taken me a couple good hours to read and study, but was worth every minute of it.

L.S. (Williamstown, NJ)

The test was very comprehensive and well constructed. It showed much thought in preparation. It was a challenge and delight to take this test. I promise to do better next time.

R.H. (Rosamond, CA)

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank God and the staff of the Bible Correspondence Course for all the lessons that I have been receiving. Lesson Twelve was absolutely fantastic. It brought to mind all the things I have been learning and put together what the Christian life is all about. I'm glad that the lessons will continue. One can never stop learning about the Bible.

Mrs. J.T. (Lake Hiawatha, NJ)

I have recently received Lessons 14 and 15 of the Bible Correspondence Course. Thank you for continuing these lessons so we can gobble up God's truth! As I am to be a teacher in the world tomorrow, I'm striving to learn all I can so I can do the best job possible!

K.K. (Matheson, CO)

My husband and I have taken Bible courses from more than one denomination. We are now studying your Bible course. It is very enlightening and the hours spent are so very happy and truly exciting. It is the only course we have found plain and truthful. We both would love to be baptized in the Worldwide Church of God.

Mrs. C.K. (Fort St. John, B.C., Canada)

I have just received another lesson of your Bible Correspondence Course, and wish to commend you on a job well done. Although I have attended and graduated from a university, the subject matter and its treatment has never been better. It has been a very rewarding course and has given answers to questions I had long thought were unanswerable.

D.H. (Anchorage, AK)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ON THE SPOT MIDDLE EAST REPORT: VIOLENCE WRECKS DIM PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

JERUSALEM, OCT. 27

It could not be a more opportune moment to be in the Middle East than right now, traveling as I have been with Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and his staff.

After initial visits to Copenhagen and London, along with a brief side trip to Brussels to meet once again with European Parliament member Otto von Habsburg, we in Mr. Armstrong's party flew on to Amman, Jordan and lastly here to Jerusalem.

The day before we left Amman, the latest eruption of violence rocked the Middle East. Early on Sunday morning, October 23rd, two terrific explosions flattened the American and French command posts in Lebanon. As of the latest count 229 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers perished, with more still uncounted for in the rubble. It was the worst single-day loss of life for American military personnel since Korean war days. For the French the loss was the greatest setback since the fighting in the Algerian War of Independence in the late 1950s.

Evidence now strongly indicates that the perpetrators of the barbaric act--carried out by suicide "kamikaze" terrorists driving TNT-laden trucks into the compounds--were members of a Shiite Muslim politico/military group with a stronghold in a southern Beirut slum area near the airport where the American forces were housed.

Shiite radicals are implacably opposed to Western military forces whom they see not as neutral "peacekeepers" but as military props behind the weak government of President Amin Gemayel. In turn the Gemayel government, the Shiites believe, is strongly biased toward Maronite (Christian) Arabs, the traditional moneyed class in sectarian Lebanon.

American intelligence believes that the one who masterminded the suicide bombings was Hussein Mussavi, leader of the Shia Muslim "Party of God." While Mussavi denies it (partly out of fear of avowed U.S. retribution), he nevertheless told a TIMES of London reporter: "I personally consider this

deed is a good deed which God loves and which his prophet--may God praise his name--loves. I bow before the souls of the martyrs who carried out this operation."

Because of their abiding hatred, the Lebanese Shiites (who comprise one-third of Lebanon's population) are easily manipulated by nearby and outside powers--namely, Syria, Iran and the Soviet Union--all of whom have their own aggressive ambitions in the region.

On October 26, Israel's new Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Israel knows who was ultimately behind the latest carnage--"Syria together with terrorist elements operating under Syrian aegis and enjoying Soviet protection." Mr. Shamir elaborated on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's earlier remark that the multinational peacekeeping force must not run away from the challenge lest anti-Western forces take over the region. "If we give in to terror," said Mr. Shamir, "Syria will succeed in its plot to take over [all of] Lebanon, and the U.S.S.R., with its client, will become the dominant factor in the Middle East."

Syria, reinforced by 7,000 Soviet military personnel coupled with new Russian armaments, including SS-21 missiles, has rebounded from its near demise at the hands of Israeli forces in the early part of last year's Lebanese war. On Wednesday, in his office in the Knesset (Parliament), Speaker Menachem Savidor told Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Aaron Dean and me (with our TV crew filming the proceedings) that by the 17th or 18th day of the war Syria was effectively knocked out of action. The PLO military structure was shattered. Moreover, Soviet prestige in the region had sunk to a low ebb. Recognizing the new reality, top Jordanian officials, we were informed, paid a secret visit to Jerusalem to discuss the possibility of a settlement with Israel a la the Israel-Egyptian accord. Worried Syrian officials, in turn, traveled to Washington to see what they could salvage from the debacle.

However, U.S. diplomacy dillydallied, failing to seize the uniqueness of the moment. For one thing, Washington, always wanting to appear "evenhanded" between Israel and the Arab states and trying as ever to get "all interested parties" together, attempted to bring Saudi Arabia into the overall picture. The Saudis, however, though they be the paymaster of the Arab world, have next to no political clout among their neighbors.

Precious time was lost. The war dragged on. Jordan became disheartened. Let off the hook, Syria once again turned to Moscow which was only too willing to "help" and reassert its influence. Eventually Israel got bogged down in Lebanon too, pulling back to a southern defensive perimeter, leaving the Americans and Europeans, who encouraged such a pullback, exposed to the full fury of fratricidal Lebanese infighting. A fleeting "moment that might have been" was lost.

Americans, it seems, have had a naive "aw-come-on-guys-let's-stop-all-this-silly-fighting" approach to one of the most complex, ugliest situations in contemporary times. The "peacekeeping" premise has been shattered. The tendency to cut one's losses and run is strong in some quarters. Instead, said Mr. Savidor, America must "show vision, tenacity, perseverance," adding that "with weakness you never gain respect from the Arabs.... Only one thing counts [in the Arab world]: power." One wonders whether America

is really up to such a challenge. Lebanon is not the "piece of cake" that Grenada is.

The Iranian Connection

The fact that the French command post was also destroyed was another clear indication of who directly carried out the double Beirut debacle. Lebanese Shiites are greatly influenced by Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution in largely Shiite Iran, including its ideal of martyrdom. The pro-Iranian groups also have an additional reason for attacking the French. Paris is Iraq's main Western ally in its war with Iran.

The Shiite problem in Lebanon was exacerbated by Israel's 1982 incursions into Lebanon. Thousands of Shiites in southern Lebanon fled the Israeli advance, driven northward into Beirut's metropolitan area, reinforcing like-minded Shiites there.

The government of Iran, of course, wants to propel its "holy war" revolution throughout the largely Sunni Muslim Arab world. As Dr. Habsburg reminded us again, the Shiites are extremely restive, now in a "volcanic" stage. Whether the Shiite revolution spills over and overthrows the states and tiny sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf all depends on the outcome of the Iran-Iraq war, now into its fourth year.

This war has already proved to be incredibly bloody. Some estimates put the number of dead so far as high as 500,000, many of them the result of "human wave attacks" by Iran's fanatical revolutionary guards. Nevertheless Iran, richer and more populous, is gradually wearing Iraq down. Iraq's oil route out through the Persian Gulf has been blocked, cutting revenues to the Baghdad regime, forcing it to rely on billions of dollars of grants from Saudi Arabia and other worried Gulf states.

Now, in the latest disturbing development, Iraq is receiving from France five Super Etendard fighter bombers. Iraq already has on hand 30 long distance firing Exocet missiles of the variety that wrought havoc on the British Royal Navy in the Falklands War. Iraq's aim is to destroy, or at least threaten to destroy, Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal complex and/or to ward off ships loading oil there.

Iran, in turn, has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz entrance to the Persian Gulf should its oil facilities be wiped out. If a blockade is successful (no one knows whether Iran's navy is capable of carrying one out) 40% of Western Europe's oil needs plus 60% of Japan's would be cut off, crippling the world's economy.

Once again the U.S. faces entanglements. The Pentagon has prepared a mobile strike force to intervene if necessary to keep the Gulf open. Should this occur an embittered Iran might try to destroy Saudi and Gulf state oil facilities across the Gulf in retaliation.

In expectation of this, the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-- Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman-- held their first ever joint military exercises earlier this month. They are talking of establishing what one source called a "small scale NATO of their own."

Jordan's Entanglement

One of the more impressive and progressive (meaning in this case more Western-styled) Arab countries in the Middle East is Jordan. Mr. Armstrong and his traveling staff spent approximately five days in the bustling capital city, Amman. A report in an upcoming edition of the WORLDWIDE NEWS will detail the very interesting developments in Jordan involving God's Work.

Behind Jordan's apparent prosperity (next to no unemployment, with much menial labor done by imported Egyptian contract workers) lurks a growing danger. Like its Israeli neighbor across the Jordan River, the government of King Hussein also focuses on Syria as its main external threat. This was emphasized to me by Jordan's energetic Minister of Information, Mr. Abu Odeh, at a dinner he hosted in his home for Mr. Armstrong's party. Two other cabinet ministers, the director of Jordan Television, as well as a prince and princess were also present.

Jordan is actively supporting Iraq (also an enemy of Syria) in its life-or-death struggle against Iran (which has close ties to Syria). This support was much in evidence on a side trip I took to Petra, which is located approximately three hours driving time south of Amman.

The best road to take to Petra is the Desert Highway which lies to the east of the slower King's Highway. The two-lane blacktop Desert Highway is the main arterial road from Amman south to the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan's only port. The road also transports a major portion of military supplies overland to Iraq. It is incredible to see how many trucks use this road, especially at night when they operate in convoys. The heavy truck traffic is chopping portions of the road surface into a teeth-chattering washboard.

Interestingly, Jordan, with its political stability and more moderate outlook toward the rest of the world, is slowly replacing Lebanon as the Arab commercial center in the Middle East. A fine weekly publication called THE MIDDLE EAST TIMES, published in Cyprus, reported in its October 17th edition that the European Common Market is turning Jordan into its main Mideast trading center. It said:

Jordan has caught the eye of the European Economic Community and will probably be playing a major role in the EEC's future relations with the Middle East....

European experts favorably view Jordan's flourishing commerce with her Arab neighbors, the leading role of the tertiary or service sector of the gross national product and the presence of many Jordanian employees in key positions in the countries of the Gulf. They feel that, despite limited natural resources, Jordan could become the commercial center of the Middle East, similar to the place of Lebanon in the past.

The interest of the Ten in Jordan has been manifested in recent years by numerous visits, seminars, exhibits and trade fairs. King Hussein visited the European Commission in 1982 and was honored with an invitation to address the European Parliament. Several months later, his visit was followed up by that of his brother, Crown Prince Hassan.

In the hotel where we stayed, the Amman Marriott, a revolving festival of Common Market goods and foods is being held. It featured foods and wines from Germany while we were there.

Perhaps Jordan's deepening ties to Europe help explain why "Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon" (Dan. 11:41) will escape being overthrown by a future European power striking into the Middle East. Apparently Jordan will already be closely linked to Europe by that time.

Israel Muddling Along

Our visit to Israel coincided with nationwide municipal elections. Fortunately for the city of Jerusalem and for our projects there, the tireless 72-year-old Teddy Kollek was easily returned to power as mayor. "Teddy," as he is always referred to, personally came up to Mr. Armstrong's suite first thing on Wednesday morning to convey election results to Mr. Armstrong. He hosted a luncheon the previous day for Mr. Armstrong and appeared again at another lunch on Wednesday. He would have seen us off at the hotel Thursday morning had he not been detained by business.

Both Mayor Kollek and Knesset Speaker Savidor have been instrumental in safeguarding Jerusalem's famed archaeological projects from being blocked by the opposition of ultra-orthodox Hassidic Jews. Mayor Kollek in fact was attacked by a mob of Hassidim just a few days ago. The reason for the attack escapes me at the moment, but he showed us evidence of the assault--a badly bruised left arm. It's good that the mayor is of considerable size.

All of us in our party agreed that Jerusalem is indeed fortunate to have such a man at the helm. We saw yet another fruit of his tireless efforts in Jerusalem, in cooperation with archaeological experts. We were taken by Professor Nahman Avigad to the "Cardo"--an unearthed street and shopping arcade dating back to Crusader (Byzantine) times and even in portions to the time of the Roman occupation. It was the main north-south thoroughfare running through Jerusalem. At one spot a lighted pit along the arcade path revealed a portion of the wall of the first temple! Another pit showed where blocks of the first temple joined those of the second (Herodian). Nearby a dig has unearthed Jerusalem's city wall dating back to the eighth century B.C. (Hezekiah's time). It showed, said Professor Avigad, that Jerusalem was a more extensive and grand city than previously thought.

The Cardo dig, underway for 14 years, was opened to the public only a month ago. Professor Avigad will soon publish his findings in a book entitled, in English, DISCOVERING JERUSALEM. It will be published in the U.S. by Nelson.

In Israel itself, the Lebanese situation continues to be a running sore. Two more Israeli soldiers were ambushed and killed in south Lebanon while we were there. The Israeli shekel is very weak, having recently fallen from 68 to 84 to the dollar. One reason for the weak economy, Mayor Kollek told me, is that the national government did not--as in previous wars--require the public to sacrifice to pay for the Lebanese war, which of course was not fully supported by the people, at least as it dragged on. Government spending on other areas of the economy continued much in the same way that

President Lyndon Johnson tried a guns-and-butter policy in America in the 1960s--fighting a war in Vietnam and trying to build a "Great Society" at home.

Speaker Savidor commented further about the strains on the overburdened shekel. One-third of Israel's national budget, he said, goes for defense and another third goes for debt retirement. That leaves the last third for social programs, with every party, political and religious interest group fighting to retain or increase its own share. This leads to "lively" debates in the Knesset, to put it mildly. We stepped inside the Knesset chamber for two to three minutes. Never have I heard such high-decibel wrangling. It makes the U.S. House of Representatives look like a day-care center.

Finally--Watch Cyprus

On top of all the mayhem in the Middle East, another crisis is brewing just offshore in the eastern Mediterranean. Any day now, we were tipped off early on in our trip, the authorities representing the Turkish half of divided Cyprus may announce a unilateral declaration of independence. It is just a matter of proper timing. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash has already had lengthy and apparently positive meetings with the mainland Turkish government. However, Ankara is under growing pressure from the United States not to favor such a move. Washington warns that it could precipitate another Greek-Turkish crisis along NATO's weak southern flank and result in a cutoff of military aid to Turkey, similar to what happened after Turkish forces invaded and took over part of Cyprus in 1975.

Well, that's it for now. It has been a very profitable trip for Mr. Armstrong and his traveling team. You'll read more particulars, I'm sure, in the WORLDWIDE NEWS.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau