

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 6, NO. 8

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 24, 1984

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Ministerial Refreshing Program III Begins

The first session of Ministerial Refreshing Program III ended Tuesday evening with a fine banquet served in the Student Center for all of the attending ministers, instructors and their wives. Attending this first session were seventeen of the nineteen U.S. Festival Coordinators, along with Regional Directors Stan Bass, Frank Brown and Frank Schnee, as well as seventeen U.S. and international ministers and nine local church elders. (The Festival Coordinators stayed over for special Feast meetings on Wednesday and Thursday before returning home on Friday.)

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong addressed the group on the first afternoon of the session. Mr. Armstrong discussed his recent successful trip and, among other things, stressed the need for the ministry to be teaching God's people how to be effective parents.

Session two begins Wednesday, February 29. Session three will begin March 21 and be the last before the Passover season. We'll pick up again in early May with session four.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you again during the course of this third Refreshing Program!

### International News

From Auckland, New Zealand The dust is just beginning to settle after an extremely exciting and eventful few weeks for God's Church in New Zealand. Late December and early January saw three important activities occurring simultaneously--a busy and productive Summer Educational Program on Motutapu Island, the "Ambassadors to New Zealand" cycle tour, and a five-day visit by Christ's apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Letters have been coming into the office all through January expressing deep appreciation for each of these inspiring summer activities. In particular, the brethren are still talking about Mr. Armstrong's visit, and will treasure memories of it for a very long time.

Later in January, Regional Director Mr. Peter Nathan conducted a very worthwhile visit to Fiji and Tonga. He made five new member visits in Fiji, and was able to baptize three people in Tonga, including two daughters of our local elder there, Mr. Tolu Ha'angana. There are now 59 brethren in Fiji and Tonga, and Mr. Nathan reported that they are all well and growing in the faith.

Income for January was up 5.7%, and mail was up 17.2% over January 1983. All categories of mail showed increases, but particularly encouraging was the fact that donation mail was up by a very fine 30.8%. We've now received a 20% return from the December semiannual letter with replies still coming

in strongly. In addition, the special 50th anniversary issue edition of The PLAIN TRUTH has prompted many favorable comments from our readers.

Canadian Update January has started out well for the work of God's Church in Canada. Income stands at a plus 25.2%. It's very encouraging to see the continued dedication of God's people.

December saw us do some retrenching in the field of radio as we cut back dramatically the number of stations that air the broadcast. As has been pointed out before, the radio audience of today is fragmented when compared with the audience of a few years ago. This diversity of audience interests has spawned many new radio stations which cater to these smaller audiences. This cutback has freed up money which will now be ploughed back into other areas of the Work.

Our overall goal is to add 120,000 names to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list during 1984. To accomplish this we need to augment our ongoing programs which consist of the TV and radio broadcasts, blow-in cards, newsstands, waiting room and cardholder programs. These in-house programs will add many thousands to the list, but not enough to maintain it at its current level, or to expand it.

The first big program to come on stream will be direct mail. It has been enlarged to 400,000 packages. We are looking for a higher percentage of return than with the first mailing. As with our first venture into this field, we will be running a number of test packages trying to find the most effective way of generating a reply. On a cost per response basis, direct mail is one of the least expensive ways of adding someone to the mailing list, which probably explains why so many companies employ this method of promotion.

In late August or early September, we will again try a national newspaper insert campaign. These two major programs will be supplemented by smaller ongoing programs, some of a more localized nature. It certainly looks like a busy and eventful year ahead for us.

Total incoming mail for the month of January was 38,302--a 23.8% decrease over 1983. Total outgoing mail was 150,581--a 2.6% increase. WATS calls for the month of January set a new record for the office. January a year ago we received 833 calls. This year saw us handle 1,579 calls. We certainly appreciate the dedication of the local brethren who regularly assist in this area.

### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

#### From the United States

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN--LARRY WALKER: We all appreciated the recent sermon tapes from Mr. Armstrong. It is exciting to be receiving so much new truth--actually, boring deeper into the trunk of the tree. As one person put it, in a hurricane you don't reach for the twigs, you grab onto the trunk of the tree.

PORTSMOUTH, OH--DAVE TREYBIG: The sermon tapes from Mr. Armstrong are certainly appreciated. They not only teach but promote unity so we all look to Headquarters and God's Apostle for direction. There seems to be greater unity in the local

Churches and the sermon tapes undoubtedly are great contributing factors.

FT. MYERS, FL--DANIEL BIERER: One of the brethren was diagnosed several weeks ago as having malignant cancer. After prayer and anointing, he had further tests done. No sign of cancer was found. Needless to say, we all rejoice over God's answer to our prayers!

BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: Trials are still affecting the brethren. One man was hit in the eye with a piece of metal. After anointing he had the metal removed and his eyeball collapsed. The doctor reinflated it but there was little chance for the man's sight to return. It has completely healed and he has normal vision.

CHICO, CA--MARC SEGALL: I wanted to comment on how much we appreciate the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. I've been reading the pastor's comments from the other church areas to my congregation. The brethren expressed appreciation for being able to learn about the similar blessings and trials other congregations experience.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

#### "WORLD TOMORROW" Telecast Produces Four Record Weekends

Recently, four consecutive "WORLD TOMORROW" telecasts, dealing with soon-coming prophetic events, brought in a total of 47,699 calls. These four programs resulted in the first, third, fourth and fifth highest weekend responses ever received.

Many callers commented that they normally show little interest in religious-type TV programs, but that The "WORLD TOMORROW" is different. "Mr. Armstrong makes sense--he doesn't beat around the bush," is a typical remark. Viewers are particularly intrigued by his clear presentation of biblical prophecy and his message of hope about God's future government on earth.

Here is a summary of these four weekends:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>No. of Calls</u>
Jan. 21-22	Revelation: Catastrophic Event	13,873
Jan. 28-29	The Scarlet-Colored Beast	11,153
Feb. 4-5	The Coming Great Tribulation	11,475
Feb. 11-12	The Missing Key to Prophecy	11,198

Booklets offered during these programs included THE BOOK OF REVELATION UNVEILED AT LAST!, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and WHERE IS THE TRUE CHURCH?

#### U.S. Book Still Number One

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY was the most requested piece of literature in 1983 (other than The PLAIN TRUTH)--461,856 copies were mailed. This was the fourth consecutive year that the U.S. book has been

number one. About one-third of these requests came via the cards which were in The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand edition. Another fourth were from The "WORLD TOMORROW" telecast. The summer semiannual letter generated 75,000 more requests.

#### Big Sandy WATS Start Up Date Rescheduled

I've just returned from a brief trip to Big Sandy and am pleased to report that our WATS line equipment is all set up and fully operational, and the staff is eagerly awaiting the first incoming phone calls. The "kickoff" date (February 10) was postponed because the phone company was unable to tie our lines into their system as quickly as expected. The new target date is February 28.

#### Brethren Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's Sermon Tapes

Members in the local churches always consider Mr. Armstrong's taped sermons a highlight and very special blessing. They are helped, enriched and encouraged by the fresh understanding his messages bring. Following are a few of the recent comments we've received.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful words of encouragement, instruction, admonition and inspiration that we have received from you, not only in letters and articles, but most especially in the taped sermons that we have been hearing. I do so much look forward to them. Indeed, God is revealing more truth to you and we thank Him for it. We thank you for sharing this precious gift with us.

C.L. (Houston, TX)

I just have to write a note to thank you for your messages on tape we have been having on the Sabbath. We have learned so much in the Church through you--how God calls us and opens our minds to understanding; what the Gospel and Kingdom of God are; God's purpose and plan; what the government of God is; how Satan kidnapped the whole world; what a good foundation is; what the family of God is; the true meaning of "born again"; and the spirit in man and how, when coupled with God's Spirit, we can get spiritual understanding--and so much more.

Thank you, thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for it is through you we have this knowledge. You have more understanding than anyone on earth today and how blessed we are to have you pass it on to us. God's Spirit is certainly working in you and through you.

M.L. (Youngstown, OH)

Thank you for the sermon tape which was brought to us last Sabbath about the spirit in man and the composition of spirit. It is always great to hear your sermons because it brings us back to the trunk of the tree or "home base." Sometimes I get so wrapped up in my own problems that the overall plan of God seems so distant. Bringing the Kingdom back into perspective is refreshing, even more so than a glass of cold water on a very hot day.

Mr. & Mrs. D.W. (Soldotna, AK)

We heard your message on the Philadelphia era's commission at services this past week and were renewed with excitement for the job we have a part of in this Work. We look forward with anticipation to having a part in the time of restoration of God's ways upon this suffering world. Thank you for your service and your prayers that help open our minds to this way.

J.H. (Epsom, NH)

Thank you for your latest tape concerning the foundation of a new world. I have determined to become a much stronger part of the "Temple" to which Christ will come.

A.M. (Mount Clare, WV)

We heard your latest tape at Bible study and were really moved by the new truth that you made available. After the study was over, a buzz of animated chatter filled the room. We count ourselves the most blessed and most fortunate of all peoples who have ever lived. To be alive during the close of this age and the transition into the World Tomorrow and to know what is happening is wonderful! We do pray daily for your health, comfort and safety. We also ask God to give you more of this stimulating new truth.

L.V. (Sherwood, OR)

Last Sabbath, here at church, we had one of your latest sermon tapes, expounding the book of Galatians. It was very informative, educational and full of spiritual meat. We would like to thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for all the truths you have reestablished in the Church of God. Yes, indeed, it is very easy to take all these truths of God for granted. There is no other church on the face of this earth that has these truths. We thank you again, Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. & Mrs. G.K. (Lancaster, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### THE SLUGGISH ECONOMIES OF EUROPE--BOTH EAST AND WEST--AND WHY THEY NEED EACH OTHER

The selection of Konstantin Chernenko as the new leader of the Soviet Union represents, as we discussed last time, a sort of "holding pattern" on the part of the Soviet hierarchy. At home, this means that the Soviet economy, along with that of its East Bloc neighbors, will continue to limp along, making little, if any, progress at all. The Soviets are falling further behind the U.S. and Japanese economies, which together are streaking into the high-tech future. (In fact, a new word has been coined to express American and Japanese technological collaboration--"Jamerica.") Here are excerpts from an article in the February 27, 1984 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT about the U.S.S.R.'s stalled economy.

Konstantin Chernenko is confronted by the same dilemma that bedeviled Yuri Andropov and other leaders of the world's first self-styled workers' state.... The work force, nearly 67 years after the Russian Revolution, is inefficient and unmotivated. The work ethic is virtually nonexistent, and absenteeism is a national disease....

During 15 months at the top, Andropov made no more than a partial stab at confronting the problem.... Do-nothing bureaucrats, tradition-bound party officials and footdragging managers proved stronger than the threat of coercion. From a Western perspective, one basic contradiction about the Soviet economy stands out: The U.S.S.R. outproduces the U.S. in steel, coal, natural gas and oil. Soviet shipyards and continuous-steel-casting plants are first-rate. Siberian hydroelectric power stations are worldclass. Yet the Kremlin, 38 years after the end of World War II, still cannot provide enough food and consumer goods to meet the needs of the Soviet people. Instead, for four consecutive peacetime decades, industry has been geared to serving the needs of the military....

Today, the peasants' private plots total only 3 percent of Russia's arable land. Yet these tiny strips, usually less than 2 acres each, produce 60 percent of the nation's potatoes and honey, 40 percent of its fruit and eggs and 30 percent of its meat, vegetables and milk. About 15 to 20 percent of the nation's food is sold in legally sanctioned private markets. Most household repairs are done by moonlighters. Even getting a spare part of a car is dependent on blat--influence....

Many elements built into Soviet society underpin this inertia. For instance, the system of promotion from low to medium to top-level jobs in the Communist Party rests almost totally on loyalty and trustworthiness to the party, not on competence.... New ideas that might run counter to existing practices find little favor....

This dread of change is making itself felt most vividly in Russian factories. The managers know that they will be blamed if something goes wrong when new equipment or procedures are introduced, so they shy away from innovation. Supervisors think first about protecting themselves and only second about improving performance. Careers revolve around sacrosanct production quotas decided years in advance by bureaucrats in far-distant Moscow. Whether goods produced are needed seems to be of secondary concern.

On the shop floor, indifference takes another form--alcoholism. Each year, some 40,000 people die from alcohol poisoning in the Soviet Union, compared with 19,000 in the United States. Experts say alcohol abuse almost certainly is responsible for the decline in male life expectancy in the U.S.S.R. from 66 to 62. It also lies behind chronic absenteeism and the high divorce rate....

Another brake on reform comes from Marxist ideology. Some Communist-ruled nations--Hungary is an example--experiment with such capitalist ideas as profits and private enterprise. But not the U.S.S.R. Instead, its leaders regard orthodoxy as a prime virtue.

While the Soviet economy remains on hold, so do the so-called "Young Turks" in the hierarchy, many of them trained technocrats who would like to genuinely modernize the economy. These men have to bide their time, all the

while exerting what influence they can in what the TIMES of London called "the subterranean struggle for the soul of Russia." The February 14 FINANCIAL TIMES added this:

Mr. Chernenko appears to have been chosen to hold the ring while younger men gain more experience and support. It would be easy to dismiss his selection as a symbol of the lack of imagination and resistance to change of the aging Kremlin power brokers. It certainly reflects the strength of opposition, at this stage, to the appointment of younger men who could be expected to hold power for a decade or more and really set their stamp on this vast, unwieldy multinational empire and world power....

The selection of Mr. Chernenko...ensures continuity and...means that the younger men can be advised and watched as they groom themselves for the eventual and unavoidable generation change. Above all, perhaps, the choice of Mr. Chernenko provides a breathing space, time in which to complete a review of Soviet domestic and foreign policy objectives.

#### Western Europe: The "British Disease" Takes Hold

It is not only in Eastern Europe where the economic future seems bleak. The once proud industrial powers of Western Europe also are afflicted with long-term prospects of little growth. The following article by Brian Reading in the SUNDAY TIMES (London) of February 5 shows how far the economies of free Europe have slipped in recent years.

Looking back, what strikes me most is the relative decline of Britain and Western Europe these past 14 years. In 1970, the 10 countries which now comprise the European community had a combined gross national product equal to the United States, and more than twice the size of the 10 major Pacific-basin economies --Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines. Today the EEC has contracted to 93 percent of America's GNP and the Pacific 10 have expanded to 62 percent. From less than half of us, they have grown to two-thirds our size. They will easily overtake us before this century is over.

The economic centre of gravity of the free world is moving from mid-Atlantic to mid-Pacific. Since the second oil crisis, Western Europe has suffered its worst slump for more than 50 years.... Recovery is at a snail's pace, or still over the horizon. Whereas the Pacific has sailed through this latest world recession with hardly a pause and America is pulling out of it like an express train, somehow we in Europe have not come to terms with the shocks of the past decade--floating exchange rates, oil price hikes, monetarism and the microchip.

In Britain, of course, we are used to contemplating decline. In the late 1970s, as America's smoke-stack industries ran into trouble, we remarked, sometimes with relish, that the United States had contracted the British disease too. We were wrong. The American economy has shaken off its industrial past and, along with the Pacific countries, is leading the new industrial

revolution based on information technology. Meanwhile, our main export has been to spread the British disease, not across the Atlantic, but across the Channel: everything that was said to cause Britain's economic decline 20 years ago is now true for most of Western Europe, including France, West Germany and Scandinavia....

Are there sunset continents as well as sunset industries or economies? If there are, Western Europe is one....

America's problem is that it saves too little; Japan's that it saves too much. Put them together as one unit--"Jamerican"--as their growing trade ties increasingly do, and their problems largely disappear. That's Europe's problem. The Pacific has hogged 84 per cent of the growth in exports to the United States since 1980....

Britain and the rest of Western Europe's problems [primarily] lie in our ossified institutions.... It is not only our overblown governments, widespread nationalisation, high taxes, generous social security systems and numerous poverty traps which are to blame for our dismal performance, but also our unions, [and] inflexible pay systems.

It might be good to reflect back on the February 3 edition of "On the World Scene" in which were presented excerpts of the WALL STREET JOURNAL/Europe report revealing "stark evidence" of the decline of Europe as a source of technological leadership. Regarding the West German economy, the present short-term prospects are quite optimistic. After years of virtually no growth, forecasters predict a 3.5 percent overall increase in GNP this year. Yet, long-term prospects are not so rosy. A recent article from the LOS ANGELES TIMES (February 1) focused specifically on West Germany's rather surprising fade in the field of science and technology.

The label "Made in Germany" had risen from the ruins of World War II to become synonymous with quality and top technology. But then, virtually unnoticed at first, West Germany's technical leadership began to fade.

As the windfall of knowledge from the U.S. space program spurred American industry and the Japanese challenge gathered force, many of West Germany's most prestigious companies seemed to be paralyzed.... Agonized the nation's leading economic daily Handlesblatt... "A rare disease has spread through the Federal Republic of Germany: 'technology pessimism.'"...

Management and long-term planning failures by many smaller companies, cultural inflexibility and a reluctance to take risks in an era of rapidly accelerating change, a perceptible erosion of the famous German work ethic--all have undoubtedly played a part. But so have government tax policies, which for years have discouraged investment and left German industry desperately short of cash....

German quality remains, but in too many cases so do the same old products. Industries famous for innovation have slipped from the



pinnacle. The Japanese have built cheaper, lighter, more versatile cameras, driving many German producers to the brink of collapse. Today, the largest camera manufacturer in West Germany is a subsidiary of Kodak....

But far more worrisome to West German economic planners is the growing realization that the nation appears to have slept through crucial new developments in the areas of micro-electronics and biotechnology, industries that many believe hold the key to success in the 21st Century. In the important area of large-scale micro-electronic circuitry, West Germany counts only one major producer, Siemens, and industry observers believe it to be roughly a year and a half behind the United States and Japan.... A report submitted not long ago to the Federal Economics Ministry by the Munich-based Ifo economic research institute noted that Germany's current export mix is heavily weighted toward goods that will play a steadily diminishing role in world trade.

Noting that Germany's problems to some extent are symptomatic of trends elsewhere in Europe, Heinz Riesenhuber, the minister of research and technology, said recently, "Unless we act to correct the present course, there is the danger of Europe becoming a second-class industrial region."...

The...decline in profitability has hit German industry especially hard, because it has few alternative sources of cash. The stock market, so important in the United States for companies seeking funds for expansion into new ventures, in Germany tends to avoid risky issues.... Conservative West German bankers [also] tend to avoid risk....

"A young man with an idea in Germany faces mainly skepticism and reluctance," Munich management consultant Manfred Brede said. "Steven Jobs (the inventor of the Apple computer) would never have gotten off the ground here."

There are other factors inhibiting creativity. For example:

-- The exponential growth of higher education in the postwar period, coupled with the decision to distribute student and faculty talent equally between the country's 60 universities, has effectively ended the long tradition of the German professor nurturing a select few brilliant students. Although the policy has given equal opportunity to every student, it has left the nation without any recognizable scientific elite....

"For the type of work we're doing we need to tap an elite," said Dr. Heinz Schwaertzel, director of Siemens' Corporate Laboratories for Information Technologies in Munich. "The problem is there is not an elite to tap."

-- The failure of German universities to provide rich talent has further weakened a research establishment that many believe has never recovered from the loss of so many outstanding scientists in the time of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich....

-- The reputation of West German scientific journals has declined...and...the number of Nobel prizes awarded to Germans in scientific fields since the war is barely a third of the number won in the first four decades of the century. "We do second-rate research rather well," said Klaus Pinkau, director of the Max Planck Institute of Plasma Physics at Garching, near Munich.

-- The country's unprecedented affluence and enviable range of social benefits have tended to dampen entrepreneurial spirit and diffused some of the energy that fueled the so-called economic miracle of the immediate postwar years. For anyone over 30, six weeks of annual vacation is common, a benefit generous even by European standards. The key trade union demand in the current round of wage negotiations is reduction of the work week from 40 hours to 35. Large vacation bonuses, employer contributions to personal savings, accident, health and unemployment insurance--all tend to inhibit talented scientists and engineers in mid-career from branching off on their own....

A 1982 study by the Cologne-based German Economic Institute found that on top of the average wage of \$11,000 a year, German industry paid an average of \$8,000 in mandatory fringe benefits. "We have an enviable record of labor peace, but we pay an extremely high price for it," said Gerhard Fels, the institute's deputy director....

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right coalition government has already instituted measures aimed at rejuvenating German industrial excellence.... In a speech last month, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for creation of two privately funded universities for engineering and science, each with 2,000 students, modeled after Caltech [in Pasadena, California]. "We will be able to recapture our peak in research only when we create elite universities such as those that exist in the United States, Japan, Britain and France," Genscher said.... But regaining the position it lost over the past two decades will be a slow and difficult process for West German industry, if it can be achieved at all. "Things seem to be moving in the right direction now," Fels, the economist, said. "But it remains to be seen if it's enough."

The high-flying economies of Japan and the United States are racing ahead, with the U.S. increasingly looking to the Pacific Rim area for its future. Meanwhile the Soviet Bloc languishes in the economic doldrums, and the nations of Western Europe fear that they too may be consigned to a second class future. It might prove to be a very logical policy for the Soviet Union to turn more than ever to Western Europe for economic relief. The West Europeans presently have all the technological expertise to help the Soviet world--the very latest in high technology may not be necessary. And the West Europeans could certainly use the business--especially if trade ties with the United States continue to worsen. In this light mark March 1 on your calendars. That's the date when the Common Market is scheduled to slap new tariffs and quotas on a range of U.S. products in retaliation for U.S. tariffs on imports of European specialty steel products.

Such an economic tie-in could form part of a larger East-West "deal" in Europe that we've speculated about lately. In any case, the two halves of Europe are slowly inching together. Notice this February 15 WALL STREET JOURNAL article written by Franz Loeser, an East German party official who fled west last September:

It wasn't the money that outraged West Germans and dumbfounded East Germans last fall when Franz Josef Strauss carried one billion Deutsche marks, or about \$355 million, to Erich Honecker on the other side of the Berlin Wall. It was the political significance of West Germany's bank loan to its Communist neighbor and the fact that it was delivered by Mr. Strauss, a virulent anti-communist in the eyes of the West Germans and an evil capitalist to the East Germans....

For more than 30 years East German schoolchildren have been taught that Franz Josef Strauss is imperialism incarnate. Then one morning East German citizens opened their copies of Neues Deutschland, the leading Communist Party paper, and saw a front-page photograph of Erich Honecker shaking hands with Franz Josef Strauss. Greater astonishment followed upon reading that Strauss was now a man of peace and goodwill. Bewilderment was complete when the East Germans learned, via West German television, that Mr. Strauss had lent East Germany one billion marks. Their own media had never mentioned the loan.

So East Germans faced the rude realization that their country was in such economic disarray it had to accept a loan from the avowed archenemy of "real socialism." It was more than a shock and humiliation. Driven by economic opportunism, the party leaders had remolded Mr. Strauss as a goodwill ambassador and clumsily tried to cover their tracks by hiding the loan. Their already tarnished credibility suffered further.

The loan's political impact for East Germany...represents another step toward dependence on West Germany.... Economic dependence inevitably fosters political dependence. But the connection ...doesn't mean Mr. Strauss can order Mr. Honecker to tear down the wall.... The political weaning of Communist countries is much more gradual, complex, subtle and contradictory.... So the Strauss loan...wasn't the flub it might have appeared. On the contrary, it was part of the West German government's calculated effective long-range strategy to defeat East Germany's "real socialism" by economic rather than military means.

Moscow simply is unable to provide the economic assistance needed by the relatively prosperous (by East Bloc measures) East German economy. The German Democratic Republic has to maintain a higher standard of living than the other Eastern countries because its citizens are accustomed to comparing their lifestyle with the West Germans (80 percent of East Germans regularly watch West German television). The Kremlin has no choice but to give the DDR a larger economic (but not political) leash.

"East is East and West is West," goes the old saying, "and ne'er the twain shall meet." Except in Europe, that is.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau