

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Introducing Taped Messages From Headquarters

In recent months, we have been able to send out tapes of some very important sermons and Bible studies given here in Pasadena to be played in all churches worldwide. These were messages by Headquarters ministers that Mr. Armstrong heard here, and felt were especially important and valuable for all of God's people everywhere to hear.

Our congregations will respond to these opportunities for occasional, carefully selected, unifying messages from Headquarters with whatever degree of enthusiasm and appreciation we display. Therefore, we must be careful to present these tapes in a positive and enthusiastic manner. When introducing a taped message, explain to the brethren that:

- Mr. Armstrong has heard this message and wanted all the churches worldwide to hear it.
- It is timely and important for us all.
- Unity is promoted on these occasions when all of God's people on earth are able to hear the very same message and thereby "all speak the same thing" (I Cor. 1:10).

Ideally, the pastor should have already listened to the tape, and be able to add his own personal enthusiasm to these basic points when introducing the message.

If we fail to take this positive approach, showing the brethren the real value of these messages, some may take the attitude that listening to these tapes is a boring waste of time. Hopefully this has not happened in your congregation.

These tapes, whether tapes of Pasadena sermons or Bible studies, should be played for regular Sabbath services, not just for Bible studies. Mr. Armstrong intends that everyone in each congregation hear these messages within a reasonable period of time. This cannot be properly accomplished by playing them for Bible studies only, and expecting all those who did not attend to check them out of the church tape library.

Some have wondered if these tapes should be played on the very first Sabbath after receiving them. This is not mandatory, but they should be played reasonably soon. If a particular tape is an exception to that general guideline, special instructions will be enclosed with it.

Let's all do our part to convey to God's people the same appreciation and enthusiasm for these taped sermons that Mr. Armstrong has for them. This is one more way we can fulfill Paul's admonition in I Corinthians 1:10.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to express our appreciation to you and Mr. Armstrong for the third Ministerial Refreshing Program. It is certainly a privilege to be taught by Mr. Armstrong and the others in key positions of God's Church. The inspiration, knowledge, and understanding gained from the lectures was truly refreshing. As Mr. Blackwell commented to me, there was a special kind of excitement and anticipation for the information God was inspiring the instructors to convey to His ministry at this time.

It was quite evident that a great deal of preparation went into each and every class. I am quite sure it is no easy task to teach the ministry. Nevertheless, the instructors did a superb job and I am confident God is well pleased. We would like to give a special note of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. La Ravia and any who may have assisted them in putting together a notebook on health. It is very informative and certainly substantiates God's laws of health.

Carrol and Peggy Miller

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We wanted to write and tell you how much we appreciated the third Refreshing Program and how thankful we were to be privileged to attend. It was truly refreshing. I didn't think it possible to top the last refreshing program, but you and those who spoke to us truly did.

The subjects that were covered were presented with such zeal and enthusiasm. It was evident that God's Spirit was leading all who spoke, and His Spirit was also guiding the minds of us who were on the receiving end. It was an inspiring and profitable two weeks that we spent at God's Headquarters on earth. And to top it all off, we heard from God's apostle twice and were honored to be present at the Jubilee Celebration.

The campus was very beautiful as usual. We want to compliment the students on their outgoing warmth and willingness to serve us whenever possible.

So again, our thanks to you and those who contributed to the program to make it so successful and refreshing. We are already looking forward to the next time we can be at God's Headquarters on earth.

Wil and Patricia Malone

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Armstrong and all of you men who put so much time and thought into preparing the edifying sessions for Refreshing Program III.

We were especially impressed with the slide presentations and films of the churches around the world; the new insight into

church history (which expanded our minds beyond our own little valley); the positive approach to counseling and feeding the flock; the emphasis on proper childrearing principles and the importance of fulfilling Malachi 4:5-6; as well as the necessity of teaching a balanced approach to diet and exercise.

We are more aware than ever before of the daily pressures on you men at Headquarters and we sincerely appreciate your efforts and accomplishments.

Leonard and Inez Schreiber

Mr. Tkach:

Anna Grace and I certainly want to thank you--and through you, everyone else--who made such a profitable and enjoyable Session #1 possible. As a local church elder, it's the first time I've been able to attend, and I can only repeat what I'm sure you keep hearing from everyone who has the privilege and opportunity to attend one of these sessions: the beauty of the campus, and the unity and dedication of everyone who is working with Mr. Armstrong, both in the Church and in the College, are only reflections of everyone's submission to Jesus Christ and God the Father, in doing the work that needs to be done, and in preparing for the work that yet remains. You have our continuing prayers.

Donald and Anna Grace Lohr

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From Australia

MELBOURNE (EAST), VIC--BILL BRADFORD: Everyone was very enthusiastic to see and hear Mr. Armstrong and encouraged that he would come to Melbourne. We had complete cooperation and participation from all the surrounding churches. It seems we all have a renewed zeal as a result of his visit.

MORWELL, VIC--PETER WHITTING: Mr. Herbert Armstrong's visit was extremely positive and uplifting, providing a tremendous start to '84. His comments relating to our youth have inspired and alerted the brethren to be more conscientious of their God-given responsibilities.

CANBERRA, ACT--ROD KING: The Canberra Church is responding well to Mr. Armstrong's latest emphasis--the importance of our youth to God. Many picked up the point in his latest co-worker letter that this could well be the last area that God will restore before the end. Twenty-one people traveled nine hours to Melbourne to hear Mr. Armstrong, while most of the remainder of the church went to Sydney to hear him via the landline.

GRAFTON, NSW--BILL SIDNEY: The highlight of the month was the trip to Brisbane to attend the Bible study conducted by Mr. Armstrong. We hired two buses. Many members and PMs traveled up to eight hours or more one way to hear Mr. Armstrong.

DARWIN, NT--JOHN LARKIN: The brethren profited greatly from Mr. Armstrong's messages. The two S.E.P. campers are still on a "high"! The church here is solidly behind God's apostle.

GOLD COAST, QLD--PETER McLEAN: There has been a notable increase in the number of young people attending Church and asking for baptism counseling. Mr. Armstrong's trip to the Gold Coast and S.E.P. was a great inspiration to the local members.

TEMORA-WAGGA, NSW--BRUCE DEAN: Most members were able to go to Melbourne or Sydney to hear Mr. Armstrong. The members were really uplifted by Mr. Armstrong's visit.

BUNBURY, WA--BOB REGAZZOLI: The members were tremendously excited about Mr. Armstrong's visit to Perth. No longer do they feel that they are isolated members. This has set the year off to a great start.

PERTH, WA--BOB REGAZZOLI: The highlight in the history of the Church here was Mr. Armstrong's visit to Perth. The members were thrilled to hear and see him and appreciated his concern to come such a distance to speak to them. His visit and the return of some very enthusiastic campers from S.E.P. have tremendously boosted morale.

MELBOURNE (NORTH), VIC--GAVIN CULLEN: I have heard nothing but rave reports about S.E.P.--the teens are more turned on than ever.

ADELAIDE, SA--KERRY GUBB: The members are becoming more aware of the Y.O.U. programme and S.E.P. as a result of the large number of children and adults having gone from here to Lake Moogerah for the camp. I've been trying to draw attention to these programmes of late, due to a common lack of understanding of their importance amongst the older members.

WODONGA, VIC--BRUCE DEAN: All the young people who went to S.E.P. returned elated and very positive. A display of awards, photos, a diagraphme of camp, etc. put on by the S.E.P. campers was well received by other teen-agers, and especially by older members.

TOWNSVILLE, QLD--JOHN LARKIN: The Church overall is solid, stable and the members are loyal to God's apostle. We have the highest attendance in years!

From Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA--YONG CHIN GEE: Out of about 410 people who attended Mr. Armstrong's PLAIN TRUTH lecture in Kuala Lumpur, some 250 are new people. About 20 people contacted the ministers after the lecture. As a result, there is a new crop of potential prospective members. Mr. Armstrong's lecture has reinforced the readers' interest in knowing more about our local Church's activities.

JOHORE BAHRU, MALAYSIA--YONG CHIN GEE: Brethren were able to travel to Kuala Lumpur to attend Mr. Armstrong's PLAIN TRUTH lecture. It was the first time the Johore Bahru members heard Mr. Armstrong speak to them in person.

INDIA (SOUTH)--MOHAN JAYASEKERA: From contact with members maintained by letter and phone, they all seem to be doing well and are having no major problems. All are eager for more contact. I have been delayed in visiting the area as I have run out of pages in my passport and need a new one.

SRI LANKA--MOHAN JAYASEKERA: I was able to visit members in areas affected by floods. They are doing fine and none had any major problems. Income in Sri Lanka is picking up well. One member was laid off but he soon had a better job. People are coping well with high prices and in difficult job situations. God is blessing our members. More are getting involved in the PT mailing operation, and enthusiasm is very high for this part of the work of God's Church.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Mail Processing Workload Up 46 Percent

The response to the work of God's Church continues at the highest levels ever, requiring Mail Processing's every effort to keep pace. The following figures compare the workload in the first two months of 1983 and 1984:

<u>Section</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Mail Receiving	525,936	786,032	49.5%
Telephone Response	126,535	144,300	14.0%
Terminals	652,471	930,332	42.6%
International Mail	123,921	230,054	85.6%
Personal Correspondence	15,091	19,012	26.0%
TOTAL	1,443,954	2,109,730	46.1%

Some of the ways we've been able to handle this additional work include:

- WATS operators doing terminal entry work between phone calls.
- On-call reserve crews working evenings.
- Use of the computer and word processing equipment to more efficiently answer letters requiring personal replies.

We are also very pleased to have the services of Mr. Graham Hawkins, a local church elder from England, who is currently attending Ambassador College. Mr. Hawkins is a business consultant from London and is giving us much valuable assistance in finding ways to improve efficiency in our operations.

Eleven Percent Increase in New Co-workers

In the first two months of 1984, 5,132 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers became co-workers. This is an 11 percent increase in new co-workers, compared to the

same period last year. As you know, such increases are not only helpful to the Church financially, but usually lead to increases in Church membership as these people gain greater spiritual understanding.

The main sources of donations from these new co-workers were the November 1983 semiannual letter and envelopes in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. While it is encouraging to see this increase, co-worker growth is still lagging behind the increases in PLAIN TRUTH circulation. As Mr. Armstrong has stressed many times, continued prayers are needed for more to join in financial support of the work of God's Church.

Unusual First Contacts With God's Church

In the past few years, millions of people have come in contact with the work of the Church for the first time. Occasionally, a person is introduced to The PLAIN TRUTH or The "WORLD TOMORROW" program through unique circumstances. The following comments show that God does, at times, work in unusual ways.

I am a new subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH and I want to tell you how very much I enjoy this magazine. I may never have known about The PLAIN TRUTH if it were not for my oldest son getting into trouble. While waiting for a juvenile court hearing, I read an issue that was in the waiting room. I enjoyed it so much that I brought it home and used the card inside to become a subscriber.

D.L. (Clovis, CA)

The mailman accidentally delivered a GOOD NEWS to me. I would now like to subscribe to the magazine. I'd also like a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH.

H.W. (Washington, DC)

I found The PLAIN TRUTH in a telephone booth while waiting for a tow truck to come and help me. I sat in the car waiting and ended up reading it from cover to cover--it was great.

C.M. (Brentwood, MO)

The PLAIN TRUTH is a great magazine. I got mine out of a box of junk at a rummage sale. Thank God I found it first. I am so thankful for it--the best magazine I've ever read in my life.

N.E. (Brighton, MO)

I found Mr. Armstrong's letter in the street; it was very interesting. May I subscribe to The PLAIN TRUTH?

S.D. (Panorama City, CA)

While I was in a public telephone booth, I found a ripped-off cover of WHO IS THE BEAST? with a handwritten telephone number on the back. I understood, by the title, that it had something to do with the Bible. So I was curious and decided to call and ask about it and to receive it.

J.H. (Oconomowoc, WI)

The last owners of our home left a stack of PLAIN TRUTH magazines in the basement. I've been going through them and have found them very interesting. I'd like a subscription, please.

S.W. (Hackettstown, NJ)

About March of 1982, a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH fell from a magazine stand outside of a business establishment that my husband worked for. There was no wind at the time, so my husband was perplexed but brought it home. Well, needless to say, I have studied it and have come to understand the truth. It has opened my eyes as Mr. Armstrong said. I thank God for His knowledge, as I had prayed so long for the truth.

Mrs. M.C. (Cologne, MN)

I was on my way to work one blustery morning, when a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH blew into me. I asked if anyone on the street had lost the magazine; they said no. I read it and became so relieved. I am sure God wants me to really know him personally. He works in mysterious ways.

Mrs. A.D. (Northampton, MA)

This letter is to let you know how grateful I am for all the wonderful things you are doing for mankind. The first time I became acquainted with you was over 26 years ago in the middle of the Alaska bush country. I was working on a bulldozer, making repairs in the middle of winter. I remember that the temperature exceeded 120 degrees below zero.

A small airplane had dropped me off at an uninhabited campsite with my tools and parts to make the repairs. The plane had to leave and carry back some parts requiring machining. I was alone at night and in freezing cold.

I began to get scared. The plane was overdue, and I was in a dangerous situation. I began to dig trenches in the ice all around the bulldozer. I poured diesel fuel in the trenches and with the help of some gasoline, I was able to ignite it and create a ring of fire around me. At least I would remain warm for awhile. I really began to wonder what I was doing out there, in severe death-threatening weather, by myself. I was really depressed.

Hours passed, and still no airplane. My fire was burning out, and the batteries in my portable work lamps were losing their charge. I had a small portable radio that I carried in my toolbox. I didn't even know if it worked anymore. Anyway, I took it out and turned it on.

I began listening to a message about God and faith, and many other wonderful things that I had never known. My radio was blasting out this message just like I had put new batteries in it. I wasn't worried about the cold anymore, and began talking to God like He was sitting on the bulldozer track keeping me company. That radio message instilled a faith in me that has never been shattered. The speaker mentioned a magazine called The PLAIN TRUTH that I could receive just by writing in.

I wanted you to know that your program made me realize that God does exist. When the radio message ended, the plane arrived. The pilot had a big thermos of hot coffee and sandwiches. I sure felt great. He thought I was going to be mad because he was so late. I told him about the radio message and we both stood there and thanked God.

E.K. (Dona Ana, NM)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EUROPE'S GRIM DILEMMA: "DIVORCE" FROM AMERICA LOOMS AHEAD, BUT HOW WILL EUROPE PROTECT ITSELF?

Coming across our desks every week in the News Bureau is a steady stream of articles in which leading personalities in both America and Western Europe are calling for changes, some of them quite radical, in transatlantic relations. The significance is not always in what is said or proposed, but that so many influential figures are now contributing to this dialogue. For example, here is what Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a former top Kennedy Administration aide, wrote in the WALL STREET JOURNAL of March 5, 1984, in the article, "NATO: Time for a Divorce?"

The conference organized by Aspen Institute Berlin tackled the topic "Where is the U.S.A. Heading?"... Present were parliamentarians, journalists and professors from half a dozen West European countries...and an amiably disharmonious American group, ranging from the far right (three fervent Reaganites) to the liberal left.

The veteran conference-goer becomes wearily familiar with the litany of mutual complaint at these Euro-American shows.... But in the past, recrimination went on within hearty agreement on assessments and purposes. For the first time, I had the altogether disquieting feeling that the consensus itself may be breaking down....

As confidence in the judgment of the U.S. wanes, the Europeans give a stronger impression than ever before of looking for a way out. A State Department official perceptively observed, "Europeans want to escape dependence on an America they can't understand and that doesn't seem to want to understand them." At the same time, Europeans...have no doubt about the indispensability of American nuclear protection. They are not unilateral disarmers, and the need for nuclear deterrence limits their ability to escape dependence. Still they cherish the dream of independence.

The movement toward European autonomy is gathering strength. Britain's Margaret Thatcher visits Budapest and Moscow,...condemns the American invasion of Grenada. Helmut Kohl of West Germany, another conservative head of government, multiplies contacts and arrangements with communist East Germany. David Owen, the leader of Britain's new Social Democratic Party, calls on Europe to take control of its own security policy and free its defense from U.S. domination. Europe, Mr. Owen notes, already

provides more than 90% of the ground forces, 80% of the main battle tanks and combat aircraft and two-thirds of the ships in NATO's European area. European defense ministers are planning an autumn meeting--without U.S. participation--to move ahead on what they call the "Europeanization" of European security....

Divorce is not likely. The Europeans, for all their complaints, still lack the will to real independence from the U.S. and unity among themselves. But the current is running toward separation. Western Europe seems increasingly determined not to be dragged along by the wheels of Mr. Reagan's ideological crusades.

The consultation among European ministers, referred to in the above article, will take place this autumn in Italy, under the aegis of the long-dormant Western European Union. Here, specifically, is what the French are pushing for in the way of European defense measures--and rather startling proposals for West Germany. From the "International Outlook" section of the March 12, 1984 issue of BUSINESS WEEK, comes this article entitled "Paris Drafts Bonn in its Campaign for a Stronger Europe":

France's Socialist government is trying to tie Bonn more closely to France and the rest of Western Europe by reviving long-dormant European cooperation on defense--and it is trying to do so outside the U.S.-dominated NATO. Last year, Paris began regular military talks with West Germany, covering everything from nuclear doctrine to nuts-and-bolts cooperation in weapons development. The French are also creating a Rapid Action Force that could quickly come to West Germany's aid. And Paris is proposing to upgrade the Western European Union (WEU), a defense organization that was originally set up, without U.S. participation, to provide a political framework for German rearmament after World War II.

President Francois Mitterrand's primary aim is not to bypass NATO--in contrast to Charles de Gaulle, who pulled French armed forces out of the NATO chain of command in protest against U.S. "hegemony." What motivates Mitterrand--and French political leaders of all persuasions--is a gnawing fear that the West Germans are sliding toward neutrality in their eagerness to reunite the two Germanys. Such anxieties have been intensified by the crisis in the European Community, which threatens to loosen the network of economic and political links among Germany and the EC's other nine members. "The French have to find a way to relaunch the EC, and one option is to relaunch it in the strategic area," says Pierre Lellouche, director of the European security program at the French Institute of International Relations....

France has signaled what amounts to a fundamental shift in military doctrine by preparing to mobilize quickly to fight, alongside other allies, deep inside German territory. This contrasts with France's military strategy, since the 1966 pullout from NATO's integrated command, of keeping troops in Germany close to the French border as a second-echelon NATO defense....

A more symbolic gesture toward closer military ties with West Germany and the rest of Western Europe is the package of

proposals to strengthen the WEU.... Set up in 1954 after an attempt to form an integrated Western European army had collapsed, the WEU established the rules for West German rearmament and created a framework for European military cooperation, though it was soon overshadowed by NATO. Paris' most controversial proposal is to abolish remaining restrictions on the building of conventional weapons by West Germany--specifically, strategic bombers and long-range, surface-to-surface missiles.

U.S. officials say they welcome the new French willingness to fight side-by-side with NATO allies to defend West Germany. But the Paris-Bonn axis and steps to strengthen autonomous European defense arrangements tend to set Europe apart from the U.S. Mitterrand's initiatives thus revive basic tensions between the Atlanticist concept of NATO and Europeans' urge for independence --spurred, as usual, by France.

Kissinger, Kristol and Kohl Speak Out

Adding to the chorus of transoceanic complaints is former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. In a specially written five-page article in the March 5 issue of TIME magazine, Dr. Kissinger outlined the issues increasingly dividing the alliance, from a lack of agreed strategy on defense and East-West issues to relations with the Third World. Part of the problem, he feels, is that the European allies do not have a large enough stake in the alliance, leading to a position of permanent inferiority.

In his treatise Dr. Kissinger suggested a variety of possible incentives for Europe to play a larger role. His principle proposal involved the suggestion that the post of Supreme Allied Commander should go to a European, while that of Secretary-General be given to an American after Lord Carrington retires. Traditionally these roles have been reversed.

Dr. Kissinger also strongly urged that the Europeans considerably add to their conventional forces so that NATO would, in a crisis, not have to resort to nuclear defense too early, thus bringing on the frightening prospect of a full "nuclear exchange." This the West Europeans have resisted doing partly because of the costs involved along with the belief that Warsaw Pact ground forces will always be superior in number. Aware of this reluctance, Dr. Kissinger warned:

If Europe by its own decision condemns itself to permanent conventional inferiority, we will have no choice but to opt for a deployment of U.S. forces in Europe that makes strategic and political sense. If nuclear weapons remain the ultimate deterrent to even conventional attack, a gradual withdrawal of a substantial portion, perhaps up to half, of our present ground forces would be a logical result.

Irving Kristol, the so-called "dean of neo-conservative journalists," added to the rising decibel level in an article in the February 1984 READER'S DIGEST, entitled "NATO Needs Shock Treatment." He wrote, bluntly:

The Atlantic alliance, now more than three decades old, is gradually emptying itself of all meaning.... The only way to keep NATO from disintegrating may be a radical reconstruction....

It is now unimaginable that the United States would engage in a mutual holocaust with the Soviet Union to protect Western Europe. Why, then, do European leaders join the Pentagon and the State Department in pretending that the nuclear umbrella exists?... In truth, there really is only one viable military strategy for Western Europe. That is to build up NATO's conventional forces enough to fight--and win--a conventional war against the Soviet Union, while at the same time possessing a second-strike nuclear capability strong enough to inhibit the Russians from initiating nuclear warfare.... In effect, the governments of Western Europe are asking the United States to risk nuclear holocaust so that they don't have to cut social-welfare budgets....

If we have learned anything from the NATO experience, it is that dependency corrupts. To the degree that Europe has been dependent upon the United States, European will has been corrupted and European political vitality has diminished. A reconstructed NATO could reverse that process. But it would have to be an all-European NATO, with the United States as ally, not a member. An all-European NATO would not have to worry whether it was serving American interests rather than its own. If it wanted intermediate-range nuclear missiles, we would provide them--but only on request. The way the nations of Western Europe are going to regain the self-confidence and the will to engage resolutely in international affairs is through a large degree of military independence from the United States.

A new Atlantic alliance between the United States and an all-European NATO is possible and desirable. But if this is to come about, we must subject the NATO that now exists, a very sick NATO, to shock treatment. Nothing less will suffice.

So the United States is hoping to push the nations of Western Europe into a more independent stance. Europe is resisting--so far. On his MEET THE PRESS interview last Sunday, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, for example, personally rejected the Kissinger proposal for a European (or a German, Kohl said) to become NATO's Supreme Commander. This, of course, makes sense, since it is rather illogical for the U.S. to possess the only finger on the nuclear trigger, but for the top on-site military commander to be non-American.

The dilemma of the Europeans is essentially this: relations with America are souring to the degree that independence sounds increasingly logical and necessary. But how can they unite--the Common Market seems to be falling apart anyway. And how could they make up for the withdrawal of America's nuclear umbrella?

Stanley Hoffmann, chairman of the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, wrote in the February 6, 1984 NEW YORK TIMES that the main obstacle to an independent European defense system remains the role--especially in the nuclear field--to be played by West Germany.

The crisis provoked in Western Europe by the deployment of medium-range American missiles appears to have been overcome.... Nevertheless, the alliance remains in a paradoxical situation: Its European members are full of deep anxieties and wish to

assert their common identity, and yet wisdom suggests a series of small steps rather than any grand design. The anxiety is close to the surface. The very duration of the missile deployments [for the next five years] guarantees further troubles....

These fears and disagreements have made Western European statesmen eager to revive the dormant ideal of a more autonomous Western European defense within the alliance. There is another reason: The European Economic Community is bogged down in petty discussions about money and milk, its institutions are paralyzed and all its members feel the need to take some initiative proving that the ideal of a united Europe is not dead. But there remain formidable obstacles to a common defense, especially in the nuclear field.

The modernization of the French and British nuclear deterrents will add many warheads, but they remain national forces whose capacity to deter Soviet attacks, especially conventional ones, on the rest of Europe is dubious.... The creation of a common nuclear deterrent for Western Europe would require not only a dramatic French shift from national independence to collective decision-making but also a willingness to let Bonn have not just the right of veto but a finger on the nuclear trigger. No Western European government, and especially not the West German one, is ready for this.

Julian Critchley, a Conservative MP in Britain, and a vice-chairman of his party's defense committee wrote the following in the February 27, 1984 issue of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in an article entitled "As Atlantic Cousins Drift Apart Will Defence Interests Go West?"

Tucked away inside "The Living Planet," the book of David Attenborough's television series, is the statement that Europe and America are drawing apart at the rate of "several centimetres a year." This is, of course, a geological, not a political, judgment and refers to the theory of continental drift, although as much--or more--might well be said by political scientists.

It was only recently that Mr. Larry Eagleburger, the third-ranking official in the State Department, said to Congressmen in Washington that what must happen is "a shift of the centre of gravity of United States foreign policy from the transatlantic relationship towards the Pacific basin and particularly Japan." Are we really drifting apart?...

We in Europe have, on the one hand, long been terrified lest the Americans go home and abandon us; on the other even more terrified lest they come to our aid and blow us up in the process....

We [Europeans] lack leadership.... But possibly the most important speech has been that of President Mitterrand.... Speaking in the Hague earlier this month, he made it clear that Europe cannot and should not break away from its American ally, but he went on to point out that there are key problems in the defence debate which are primarily Euro-centric.

In the February 20 edition of London's FINANCIAL TIMES, foreign affairs writer Ian Davidson concluded his article "Between Two Titans" in this manner:

Ronald Reagan may not be re-elected. But if he is, the frictions between Europe and America on the right way to handle East-West relations may get much worse, because we can be sure that he will not change his gut feelings about the Soviet Union.... Perhaps the NATO study of East-West relations will induce a rethink in Washington. If it does not, it is a racing certainty that the European countries will be forced to draw the unpalatable conclusion that there remains no alternative but a closer co-ordination between themselves on foreign and therefore security policy.

One of the strongest appeals for an independent role for Europe to appear in recent times in the British press was published in THE GUARDIAN WEEKLY, February 2, 1984. It was written by Brian May, who is the author of a new book RUSSIA, AMERICA, THE BOMB AND THE FALL OF WESTERN EUROPE:

It has never been reasonable to suppose that America would be eligible for a leading world political role. As Henry Kissinger once said, the United States "entered the twentieth century largely unprepared for the part it would be called upon to play"....

As the end of the twentieth century approaches, America is no more fit to lead the West than it was at the beginning of it. That it should be allowed to do so indicates the depth of Western Europe's decline.... The spectacle of a group of states, which once dominated the world, considering themselves to be obliged to depend indefinitely on their reckless offshoot on the other side of the Atlantic must be one of the most ludicrous in history. For it is clear that, whatever conclusion is arrived at on the question of whether or not the Russians are a danger, Western Europe, both to regain its self-respect and to avoid the serious existing hazards of the Atlantic Alliance, must gain its complete independence....

It would be unseemly to blame Washington for Western Europe's predicament. It was not the United States that caused its decline and fall.... Instead of self-sacrifice and discipline, we find unprecedented self-indulgence and permissiveness.... Money that could have been used to train and equip conventional armed forces was frittered away on what the previous generation would have considered to be unheard-of luxuries....

Failure to take the bold action needed to achieve West European unity and to avoid dependence on a remote ally amounts to a historic collapse from which it would be hard to recover. Does Western Europe really have to be a pawn in this pointless conflict, constantly in danger of being swept from the board? If it does not, it should act quickly. For a divorce that was too slow could be too late.

Europe today finds itself, as French defense expert Pierre Lellouche said a couple of years ago, at an "historical stage," namely "halfway between a much weakened Atlantic system and a still embryonic European framework."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau