

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Canadian Update February turned out to be a busy month, although not as busy as the corresponding period of a year ago. Incoming mail totaled 39,728 pieces, of which 11,670 represented new people contacting the Church for the first time. Although the overall mail was down 3.7%, mail representing new people contacting us was up 2.2%. Outgoing mail was 149,011--up 42.4% over February 1983. Income for the month of February was a plus 19%, bringing the year-to-date figure to a plus 22.3%.

The latest count for the February READER'S DIGEST ad is 3,463 cards and 80 coupons. We are receiving a much better response to this advertisement than to the previous ads.

February, although the shortest month, saw a new record set for WATS calls. A total of 1,741 calls were handled by our operators, which represents a 92% increase over last year. Our WATS telephone number changes on May 2, 1984. The new number will be 663-2345. We hope this will be easier for people to remember. With this change in number, we will now have a bank of 10 lines set aside for our use. On the changeover date we will open up an extra line into the office.

During February, Messrs. Colin Adair and George Patrickson from the Vancouver office, and Mr. Richard Pinelli, pastor of the Toronto Churches, accompanied by Mr. Roger Lippross, Publishing's Production Director from Pasadena, visited the Southam Murray Printing Plant in Toronto to view its operations and discuss the possibility of moving the printing of The PLAIN TRUTH from Lawson Graphics to Southam's. On this visit discussions for acquiring second class mailing privileges were held. Suggestions were made which, if implemented, would put us into a much stronger position to be accepted for second class privileges. We have, with Mr. Armstrong's approval, initiated these changes. We realize we are facing an uphill battle, but if we are successful in acquiring this privilege, it will save the Church a considerable amount of money.

From Bonn, West Germany During February, Regional Director Frank Schnee and his wife Esther flew to Pasadena for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. During their three-week stay in Pasadena, Mr. Schnee also had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and others. Also while there, Mr. Schnee spent time with the College's German-language students and attended a German club meeting where he met with students interested in taking part in the German summer program.

On February 18 the seventh Spokesman Club meeting for East German club members was held in Zwickau, East Germany. Club director and minister Mr. Paul Kieffer attended the meeting with his family. This particular club meeting was a Ladies Night and there were 20 in attendance. After the meeting the members and their guests had a dinner and then a dance. Mr.

Kieffer commented that the club is going well and that the men are now on their fourth or fifth speeches in the club manual.

Another area of increasing activity has been in the amount of visit requests in the German-speaking area. The ministers here have all commented on this trend, which has resulted in increased Church attendance in the last few months. One of the reasons for the growing number of visits can undoubtedly be attributed to our advertising campaigns of the past several years. Since January 1, 1980 we have put 357,000 new subscribers on the list for The PLAIN TRUTH. Of these, 303,500 were for the German language edition, KLAR & WAHR.

One of our most successful ads was the back page cover ad of the January 1984 ADAC MOTORWELT magazine. To date, we have received 43,310 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH in one of the six languages. This represents a DM 3.31 (or \$1.30) cost-per-response, which is the best we have had yet. All together, nearly 45,000 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers were added so far in 1984!

Due to the increased number of requests for KLAR & WAHR, total incoming mail was 82% more than in February of 1983. We also sent out 78% more booklets and 62% more Bible correspondence course lessons than in February of last year.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

Mr. Armstrong, thank you for providing the Ministerial Refreshing Program for those of us given the opportunity to serve in Christ's ministry. We have just completed the first session of MRP III. The unity produced is so needed for the ministry as well as the membership of God's Church.

We appreciate the blessing of coming to Headquarters and being taught by you and those you direct to teach us. The environment at Pasadena is one where the giving and receiving of instruction is fabulous. Being in Pasadena and seeing the worldwide activity shows everyone that this is truly an international work of God.

Thank you for the excellent example you are to us. Your desire to serve and give is always evident. Your humility and loyalty to God are qualities all of us seek. Thank you for showing us to always give God the credit, which is the example of how to really get things done. Not by our own might, but by the power of the Spirit of God.

Our desire is now to teach the brethren with the consistency, patience, and understanding displayed in teaching us. Our prayers are that our mission can be accomplished and God's Government ushered in to establish peace and harmony for all.

We are totally behind you. Thank you for leading us so faithfully under Jesus Christ. Thank you for teaching the only way that leads to happiness and eternal life.

Joe and Pat Dobson

Dear Messrs. Armstrong, Tkach, et al:

Refreshing Program III has continued in the same fine tradition as its predecessors. There was a good mix of both new and review material, the latter being presented either from a new angle or with more depth than previously. It is good to continue to build on the fine foundations that MRP I and II provided.

We certainly are refreshed by the spiritual direction and physical change of pace, but each Refreshing Program shows us how much more there is to do, both in quality and quantity. Thanks for another fine program!

Ray and Carol Meyer

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong and the others who made it possible to have such a meaningful and inspiring Refreshing Program. My wife and I appreciated the opportunity of attending as it had been two years since we were there last, and we both agree the refresher classes were inspired by God to keep the Church on track and in unity so we all say the same thing around the world.

The beautiful 50th anniversary pins and paperweight along with many wonderful memories will long be remembered. Thanks again for all the updated knowledge that will help us and our Church area.

Don and Rea Bailey

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Mr. Armstrong for the Refreshing Program. It truly was refreshing, inspirational and informative. We could not have been there at a better time. The international representation of those in attendance, listening to Mr. Armstrong so soon after his trip "down under," the 50th anniversary celebration, the spirit of unity so evident among the students and staff, the beautiful setting, the concerts we attended, the delicious meals and special attention we were given added so much. Mary appreciated the luncheon at Mrs. La Ravia's for the women.

The weather was great. It was two weeks of living in another world--symbolic of God's world. Thank you from both of us.

John and Mary Hillerson

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

SUMMERSVILLE, WV--CHARLES CRAIN: We appreciate Mr. Armstrong's recent tapes. They are especially encouraging at this time. The GOOD NEWS and PLAIN TRUTH articles are getting better and better each month. We appreciate the efforts of the writers and staff for the fine job they are doing.

LAFAYETTE, IN--DAN FRICKE: Mr. Armstrong's sermon on unity was much appreciated. The local Church congregation here is solidified behind Mr. Armstrong in doing God's work. The Church is more cohesive and unified now than ever before. On another subject--the magazines are more impressive and helpful than ever. The efforts of all of you at Headquarters is really appreciated.

ROSEBURG, OR--LEONARD SCHREIBER: In the past, members have often voiced how the holy days just crept up on them. Thanks to the good articles that come out long before the holy day they address, many have commented that they are preparing now for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: Brethren are still experiencing numerous trials. The trials are of the type to "wear you down," but the brethren are turning to God and growing in faith, loyalty and character. As a result of Mr. Armstrong's tapes, telecasts and broadcasts, brethren are growing in strength and excitement as they see and hear Mr. Armstrong proclaim the truth to the world.

AKRON, OH--BILL JAHNS: The public Bible lecture has shown me that there are many more listeners than we realize now getting the witness from the telecast and PT distribution program. This was the largest number of PMs I had ever seen at a lecture. The new PT distribution programs and Mr. Armstrong's strong telecasts are getting the message across.

OLYMPIA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: A number of members became discouraged after losing several of our better PT newsstand outlets all at once. This was especially hard felt because the "Good Neighbor Board" has not opened up in this area yet. After praying and fasting, the members went out and established 36 new outlets in one day! This is an increase of over 50% in newsstand locations! All involved have no doubt whatsoever that God does hear our earnest prayers. Needless to say, this turnabout has greatly encouraged the Church area.

HOUSTON (EAST), TX--DAVID JOHNSON: Several good quality PMs have recently contacted us. Most have been listening to Mr. Armstrong and reading the literature long enough to be fairly well-grounded. It's encouraging to see such strong growth potential. We should be baptizing between eight and ten people before Passover.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI--BILL MILLER: We experienced a week of persecution and interesting comments on a radio talk show recently. A number in Holland, Michigan don't like Mr. Armstrong being on radio and TV and made their hostility known. We appreciated the free publicity!

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL--RANDALL KOBERNAT: We had quite a miracle here. On our Y.O.U. campout we were on a hayride when an 11½ year old boy fell off the trailer with 28 people aboard, and it ran over him. He was left in the middle of the road bleeding from his

ear due to a basal fracture. The U-bolt holding the trailer to the axle cut a deep gash in his leg. He had seven to eight fractured ribs, but no internal injuries. The trailer tire marks could be seen on his chest. Today he is doing fine--only problem remaining is his double vision caused by an injured nerve controlling eye movement. After having seen him that night and knowing what had happened to him, I thank God that he is still with us.

FINDLAY, OH--JIM HAEFFLE: Over 40 brethren participated in an inventory count at a department store this month to raise money for the social fund. The department store people were so pleased with the example our people set, though we were not the only ones working there, that they sent us a letter complimenting our people and offering to hire up to 12 of them for their store. They wanted our people to fill out applications and come in for an interview to be hired. A good light and example can really help in times when jobs are scarce. It certainly was a good light for the Church as well.

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS PERKINS: I had a delightful session with an elderly Catholic priest in the rectory. He said he believed much of what Mr. Armstrong teaches, but was having trouble understanding certain facts about Easter and God's holy days (Unleavened Bread specifically). He said he was even sending offerings to the Worldwide Church of God. Discussing our doctrines with others can be an exhilarating experience--a wonderful foretaste of the World Tomorrow.

LAKE CRYSTAL, MN--VICTOR KUBIK: An unexpected storm after Sabbath stranded several brethren--two families spent the whole night in their automobiles in 70 below wind chill temperatures. All others were able to find shelter in farmhouses on the way. A total of 25 people died in the storm. We thank God for protecting the brethren.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

For nearly three months, we ministers who serve on the faculty at Pasadena (about 15 of us) have been attending ongoing Student Progress Meetings (usually held on Tuesdays and Thursdays) in order to evaluate the progress of the graduating seniors (about 190) and the juniors.

We have just about finished evaluating the progress of both the seniors and juniors. These Student Progress Meetings are very important in helping the College Administration properly evaluate the graduating seniors so we can make recommendations to those in God's Church who need to hire new employees. (Last year 72 graduating seniors were hired to serve in the Church worldwide!) Also, it is important that we carefully evaluate the junior class (next year's seniors) so we can properly fill the many leadership positions in the College for the coming 1984-85 college year.

Those of us ministers who have attended the Student Progress Meetings have been quite pleased with the overall progress of the students. We continue

to receive many compliments from visiting ministers and wives attending the MRP, and also receive many commendations concerning student conduct from both Church members and nonmembers who visit the campus.

On Friday, March 23rd, my wife and I will leave Pasadena on our eight-day trip to the Big Sandy campus where I will lecture in a number of classes, speak at the Forum and at one of the Bible studies, and give a couple of sermons. All of us feel that these faculty exchanges between the two Ambassador College campuses are very worthwhile for all concerned, and hope to be able to continue them year after year.

Those of us who serve the students at God's College ask your continued prayers that we shall continue to be inspired and empowered to serve the students diligently, going beyond the call of duty as we help train the future leaders of God's Church.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Accounts of God's Intervention Shared

We continually receive letters describing dramatic healings and other miraculous examples of God's intervention in the lives of members, co-workers and PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. Here are just a few examples of recent healings:

- A man with a serious back injury which occurred in the 1950s was healed.
- A woman who was paralyzed and near death was healed after asking for an anointed cloth.
- One person's rheumatoid arthritis cleared up completely after 17 years.
- A woman's grandson recovered from a near-fatal auto accident in just six weeks, after she requested prayers.

In addition to these incidents, there are many reports of healing of advanced cancer, disappearance of tumors and kidney stones, and rapid mending of broken bones. Here are a few other incidents which illustrate God's intervention:

- A man who expected to be laid off with others in his company was not only kept on, but received a raise.
- Several farmers reported high crop yields despite poor weather.
- A member's car, which she had to stop suddenly to avoid hitting some 50-gallon drums which had fallen on the highway, spun mysteriously so that it received only glancing blows rather than direct hits.

These are just a small sampling of the many letters we receive weekly and monthly. They point out the powerful truth that God is on His throne and continuing to work miracles daily for those being called at this time.

Celebrities Contact God's Church

For more than fifty years, God's Church has been "sowing the seed" of the true gospel throughout the United States and the world. Millions have been reached, including people from all strata of society.

Among those who contact us to request literature are dozens of celebrities, government officials and other well-known people. Some are prominent actors and actresses, singers and entertainers, coaches of professional sports teams and television news personalities. Individuals in public office or government service include a number of U.S. congressmen and senators, mayors, and the consul generals of foreign countries.

Because our address files are confidential, we cannot publish their names, but many would be instantly recognized. It is evident that God's Church is truly reaching people from all walks of life.

Teen-agers Respond to God's Truth

More and more young people are writing and calling in response to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts. Many tell us they are deeply moved by God's truth, and want to live better lives. Some are even willing to give up friends rather than continue in the world's ways. Following are some recent letters from teen-agers:

I would like to take the time to commend you on all of your great worldwide efforts. I am a 17-year-old high school senior. The first time I saw your television show I was overwhelmed. I knew that Mr. Armstrong was truly a man of God.

I have always tried to live a Christian life but needed help. The church that I am officially a member of wasn't teaching me anything. Your booklets and magazines are the guidelines to my future. I can see changes in my life. Life is clearer now. Thank you.

I will be graduating in May and looking for a good college. In your PLAIN TRUTH magazine I read an article on Ambassador College. Can you give me some more information about it?

T.M. (Pegram, TN)

I would like to give you some information on how I learned of you. I was living in Virginia and was on drugs and drinking alcohol. When I decided to stop, I couldn't handle the pressure and stress of life. Then I got colitis and couldn't handle that either, and dropped out of school. My parents didn't agree with that so I decided to leave at 17 years of age and go to Pennsylvania to live with my grandparents.

I figured that I needed something else in my life and started watching religious programs on TV. I knew God was the answer, but on these programs they make everything seem so easy. All you have to do is say a prayer and you're saved and going to heaven.

One night I was turning from station to station on the radio and heard you. I really liked your preaching. I knew you were dif-

ferent when at the end of your half-hour you didn't plead for money like the others. You were preaching different things than I had ever heard before. Then I happened to find a magazine of yours in the house and found out at what times you were on the radio and TV.

I have learned from and enjoyed your booklets and radio sermons so much that I sent for more booklets and the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. I am also sending you a contribution to use where you need it.

S.S. (Mt. Pleasant, PA)

I am seventeen years old and have been watching your show for well over three years. The more I watch it, the better I feel. It is the best religious show on television. I really like it because it is very interesting and keeps my attention. I also like the way you show pieces of film that show people all the troubles going on in the world.

T.B. (Muncie, IN)

I am fifteen years old and have a part-time job now and I would like to start tithing. So, I am sending in tithes from my last three paychecks.

I also want to thank you for the Bible correspondence course and YOUTH 84. I have learned a lot of things about the Bible and about my life that I hadn't understood before. Thank you very much.

M.T. (Ingram, TX)

Right here in my room I have the Holy Bible, a whole bunch of your articles and 31 of your booklets. I always look forward to getting a new one.

I feel so special sometimes when I'm with my friends. They don't live the way of life that I live and don't know the secrets that I know. I wish I could tell them but they would just think I was stupid, and don't know how to have fun. I feel sorry for them. Every night, however, I ask God to take care of them.

I don't really even like being with my friends anyway. Once you learn about God you can't stand it when somebody swears or wants to think about and do lustful things. I am so glad that I'm not like that and I thank Jesus and the Father. I also want to thank you; you have helped me more than you probably know.

K.O. (Gilbertsville, PA)

I watched your TV show on Sunday and really enjoyed it. I usually don't like to watch preaching on TV, but your sermon was great. I saw where I could get a magazine about the gospel and I would love to get it.

I would also like you to know that since I watched your show, I have been trying my hardest to become a better Christian. Something came to me like a new light--a reason to live. Even though some of my friends smoke dope and drink, I want to be a Christian, even if it means losing them. I pray for them all the time.

Please pray for my friends and me. I'll be praying for you and your family. Please don't forget my magazine. I'm fifteen and when I get a job I'll send a donation to your church.

S.B. (Sheffield, AL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WINDS OF PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA--HOW STRONG? A remarkable series of events is underway in southern Africa--political developments thought beyond the realm of possibility years ago. They bore their first fruit this past Friday, March 16, with the signing of a nonaggression treaty between South Africa and its Marxist neighbor to the northeast, Mozambique. At the same time, the groundwork has been laid for a cessation of hostilities along the Angola-South West Africa border, leading to the possible independence of SWA, commonly referred to these days as Namibia.

The complex SWA-Angola situation is still several critical steps away from fruition--the main obstacle being the removal of the 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola--but the new relationship between South Africa and Mozambique is already a reality. The new ties between the two countries, which had been strained since Mozambique won its war of independence against Portugal in 1975, have developed very rapidly in the past few months, finally leading up to the historic treaty-signing ceremony near the border town of Komatipoort. The exact location, along the banks of the brown and sluggish Nkomati River, had been quickly hacked out of the bush in order to accommodate the more than 1,000 guests, including 300 newsmen. (Since peace is not supposed to come through cooperation with South Africa, news coverage to the United States of this breakthrough was pitifully underplayed.)

Before retiring to a specially constructed pavilion for the signing formalities, South Africa's Prime Minister P.W. Botha and Mozambique's President Samora Machel conversed for over an hour inside a railway coach which was parked on the railway line which connects the two countries so that it exactly straddled the border. All in all, it was an historic occasion, certainly deserving of more worldwide attention than it received. The editor of the SUNDAY TIMES of Johannesburg, Tertius Myburgh, conveyed the mood of the occasion in an on-the-spot report in his paper's March 18 edition:

One had to be utterly cynical or misanthropic, or both, to be unmoved by the extraordinary events of that day. There was Samora Moises Machel, dazzlingly uniformed Marxist Marshall and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, saluting as the SAAF band played Die Stem [South Africa's national anthem] in a blazingly hot piece of no man's land on the Lowveld border. There was [Prime Minister] Mr. P.W. Botha, quietly suited and every bit the avuncular [uncle-like] boerediplomaat, inspecting Mozambique's impressively turned-out national guard and accepting a flower of peace from a small black child.

Only a few months ago our aircraft were flying east across that same frontier to bomb ANC [African National Congress] bases in Maputo. Only a few months (weeks?) ago ANC cadres were sneaking westwards across that border to prime their bombs in south African cities....

But today was different. Assembled on two temporary pavilions overlooking the red, hastily levelled parade ground were the guests of the two leaders. Eastwards sat the luminaries from Maputo, invited by President Machel. The proximity of so many Marxists, including diplomats from the Soviet Union, North Korea, East Germany and Cuba, attracted the curious binocular gaze of VIPs on the South African stand in the west.

As his guests, Mr. Botha had assembled virtually every mover and shaker in South African society. Crowned corporate heads, bankers and heavyweight eminences of every stamp were visibly exhilarated by seeing a little bit of history being made.... "Historic" is a much-abused word these days, but this, clearly, was the real thing. It seemed entirely appropriate that the men and women who largely shape South African affairs should be present at this moment.... Guards of honour were inspected, the khaki-clad President Machel's slightly swaggering body language compared with Mr. Botha's homier, but dignified, style.

Red and white balloons marked "peace" were still drifting overhead into the Lowveld from the Mozambique pavilion as the crowd drifted into sweltering marquees for [refreshments].... Conversation was animated, the talk was of history and of new beginnings. Even the Conservative Party's Mr. Tom Langley seemed to enjoy himself hugely in the company of some new Mozambican friends. Outside, soldiers from the two countries clinked beer bottles and exchanged gifts and jokes.

As Mr. Botha's hot but still exhilarated guests set off for the train-bus-plane link which would transport them back to Jan Smuts with Madison-Avenue efficiency, they watched soldiers of the Mozambique national guard trooping back towards their border. Most of them carried a bottle of Grand Mousseux wrapped inside their commemorative copies of the Nkomati Accord. Like the river flowing slowly eastwards in the valley below, it all seemed very symbolic indeed. Next step, Namibia?

The treaty clearly benefits both sides. The most important provision of what has come to be known as the Nkomati Accord is its Article Three which commits both sides to prevent their territory, waters or air space from being "used as a base, thoroughfare or in any other way by another state, government, foreign military forces, organizations or individuals which plan or prepare acts of violence, terrorism or aggression" against the other.

By a stroke of the pen the outlawed African National Congress has had the ground cut out from under its feet. The ANC had been using bases inside Mozambique to launch terrorist raids into South Africa. Over a year ago, ANC "freedom fighters" ignited a bomb in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, killing 17 people and injuring over 40. In retaliation South Africa launched a raid into Mozambique, bombing ANC compounds in the capital of Maputo.

Mozambique also expects to gain political stability since South Africa will no longer support a counter movement inside Mozambique known as the Mozambique National Resistance. Significantly, the night before the treaty

was signed, MNR's radio propoganda transmitter, located inside South Africa, was silenced.

In their respective speeches, both leaders underlined the political, economic and social differences in their two countries, but stressed that these differences would not impede cooperation. Declared Mr. Botha: "In signing this agreement today, we have opted for the road of peace.... Our task now is to...do all we can to ensure that historians will rank today as a major turning point in the destiny of our subcontinent."

"The agreement we have concluded," said President Machel, "enables the region to concentrate its efforts on the prime struggle of the continent and humanity--the struggle against hunger, disease, ignorance, poverty and underdevelopment." He also said: "We shall continue to be aware of the remaining contradictions but we recognize that we are indissolubly linked by geography and proximity. We do not want southern Africa and our two countries in particular, to be the theater for a generalized conflict."

Mozambique, to be sure, needs all the help it can get. It is in desperate economic straits, compounded by the drought and floods afflicting southern Africa--which, according to one estimate, resulted in more than 100,000 Mozambicans dying from starvation in 1983. The Soviet Union simply can't give the aid Machel's government must have. (As one observer commented: "Bullets and hand grenades do not fill hungry stomachs.") The keys to aid were two countries: the United States and South Africa. In the article "Pax Pretoriana" in the April 2 issue of THE NEW REPUBLIC, author John St. Jorre writes:

WHAT HAPPENED? The short answer is that Machel had no alternative. Virtually every known natural and man-made disaster has struck Mozambique: droughts, cyclones, floods; botched social and economic policies; a chronic shortage of skilled manpower (ever since the Portuguese left en masse at independence); a drop in world prices for the country's agricultural exports; and the cancerous armed rebellion, backed by South Africa, that threatened the survival of the government.

Machel first tried to get help from everyone but the South Africans. He went to Moscow to solicit his Soviet friends. They replied that they could afford no more than they were already giving him (arms, heavy machinery, food, and fuel). A tour of Western Europe produced little of substance. Portugal, the former colonial power, was ready to provide technical assistance, but had no cash to spare....

That left the Americans. Relations had risen from rock bottom early in the Reagan period.... But the United States had a price: Mozambique would have to mend its fences with South Africa first and then American aid could follow. (There is speculation that a \$200 million aid package, plus food aid, over a four-year period was dangled in front of the Mozambican government.) Machel's revolutionary party, FRELIMO, debated and agonized over its limited choices. Finally Machel agreed to do what the Americans and the South Africans asked of him.

The South Africans, for their part, are considering economic investments in Mozambique. They also hope that Mozambique's tourist industry, once so valued by vacationing South Africans, can be revived.

Fortunately for Machel, since the Reagan administration has come to power, it has pursued a policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, in stead of one of open confrontation, as during the days of the Carter administration (and would be again under either a Mondale or Hart administration).

In fact, the U.S. has been offering its services as an active broker (as have officials in Portugal). Much of the credit for the breakthrough in Mozambique and the movement in Namibia goes to Chester A. Crocker, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. The success of Crocker and his assistants, who have been shuttling back and forth across the continent in Kissinger-style diplomacy, confuses the liberal policy-framers who believe that progress can be made in southern Africa only if South Africa is diplomatically isolated. Continued author St. Jorre:

Liberals are more confused than angry. They have roundly condemned Crocker's policy as morally wrong for having produced a "tilt" toward Pretoria. Yet Namibia's independence has always been high on their agenda, so they are a little shaken to see Crocker's strategy of cozying up to the South African government beginning to produce diplomatic results.

Their genuine desire for Namibia's independence now sits uncomfortably with the possibility that it could be brought about by their Republican opponents using a strategy they have universally condemned as immoral and unworkable. Left-wing criticism has also been muted by the vision of southern Africa's black Marxist leaders striking deals with the detested apartheid regime in Pretoria. The old racial and ideological lines, so clear in the past, have suddenly started to wobble. It is all very puzzling.

Only one head of state or government of a neighboring black nation, the Prime Minister of Swaziland, accepted the invitation to come to Komatipoort. Sensitivities prevented others from personally attending. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe pledged "total support" in a message to President Machel. In addition, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia--who has offered to chair a summit conference between South Africa and the region's black states--said he had "complete confidence" in the initiative. Angola and Botswana also sent messages of support. (Mr. Kaunda, incidentally, called Mr. Botha a sincere man, seeking to "follow his honest mind in a sea of racial land mines.") In sum, more hand-wringing for liberal activists.

A "Constellation of States" Envisioned

What the far-reaching Prime Minister Botha has envisioned for a long time is a "constellation of states" in southern Africa, each contributing its share to the wealth and prosperity of the entire subcontinent, with South Africa, the region's economic powerhouse, being, as it were, the "locomotive" to pull everyone along. The scheme is not without its flaws, most notably the fact that the neighboring independent black nations, especially the so-called Frontline States, are unwilling at present to deal

one-on-one with South Africa's various black homelands which have become independent (four of them so far). Here is how Brian Pottinger, writing also in the SUNDAY TIMES (Johannesburg) of March 18, describes this scheme:

South Africa has embarked on a dramatic Africa initiative which could profoundly shift its foreign-policy orientation away from Europe and the United States towards the African continent....

Among the exciting possibilities now arising from the momentum of the latest initiatives is the creation of a new regional economic bloc to challenge the industrial nations' ability to dictate raw material prices. Such a new alliance would be a de facto realization of the long-held dream of Mr. P.W. Botha's government--an economic constellation of Southern African states....

At the same time the Prime Minister [speaking at Komatipoort] laid heavy emphasis on South Africa's "Africaness" and harked back to the Afrikaner's own struggle against colonialism and imperialism. In a speech which struck a strong responsive chord in his part-Mozambican audience, he said the responsibility existed to give the subcontinent a chance to live and grow without the interference of outsiders.

"As Africans we take pride in our identity and in our traditions in this part of the world. Instead of dividing our energies and resources let us pool them, for it is in our combined economic strength that the promise of a more prosperous region will be realized." He also pointed out neither South Africa nor Mozambique had a hand in drawing the political map; it was done by others who served the interests of colonial powers and who spared little thought for the inhabitants of the region.

Mozambican President Samora Machel--while admitting differences of opinion on questions of domestic policies--echoed almost precisely the same views. He referred to the bitter legacy of European colonialism in Africa and described the people of the continent as "survivors" who had always struggled to eradicate foreign domination and exploitation. And in a powerful reaffirmation of the Lusaka Manifesto of 1969 he repeated that white South Africans were indeed Africans....

The creation of the conditions for a southern African economic community...still faces major problems. Chief among these is the existing imbalance in levels of development between South Africa and its neighbors--something which could lead to greater and not lesser economic dependency for the weaker members.

All this talk of peace and cooperation, of course, does not sit well with the Soviet Union, which has a vested interest in promoting turmoil in the sensitive region. At the moment, Moscow does not know quite what to do. Perhaps it will wait until after the 1984 U.S. presidential elections. Either of the two top Democratic Party contenders would be preferable to President Reagan on the entire range of East-West issues in Moscow's eyes, of which the future alignment of mineral-rich southern Africa is a vital part. For example, former Vice-President Walter Mondale had a standoff with the late South African Prime Minister John Vorster in Vienna in 1977 at

which time Mr. Mondale said the Carter administration would accept nothing but a firm one-man-one-vote commitment by Pretoria to its own political future. That summit collapsed immediately. Senator Gary Hart, Mondale's opponent, is on record as being in favor of a timetable of increasing economic sanctions against South Africa. So the Kremlin may have to wait until there is a turn again in U.S. policy in southern Africa before continuing the struggle. For some background on Soviet intentions, here are excerpts from a report in the April 1984 SOUTHERN AFRICAN FACTS SHEET:

If South Africa can establish a security accommodation with Mozambique and Angola the whole political face of Southern Africa will undergo instant change, with universally acceptable independence for South West Africa an immediate prospect.

The gravest obstacle to the opening of a new era for Southern Africa will come from two sources: one, Russia, which has now uninhibitedly marched onto the Southern African stage and for which the replacement of conflict with peace in the subcontinent would be a devastating blow to her long-term strategic planning, especially in respect of Southern Africa's vast minerals treasure house and in respect of her maritime interests.

One almost has the "sinking feeling" that all the talk of peace and prosperity can't last. There are too many forces opposed to peace for the "regional superpower"--a new term coined to describe South Africa--to contend with over the long run, especially should it be politically isolated. But peace will certainly last as long as God wills and His Church has a work to do in this fascinating but embattled part of the world. Meanwhile, the lesson of cooperation rather than confrontation being the key to progress is being indelibly written.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau