

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Ministerial Feast Transfers for 1984

All ministers employed by the Church are required to attend their assigned Feast sites with their local congregations. The Feast of Tabernacles is considered a part of your routine responsibilities in serving the brethren even though you may have no specific assigned duties at the site your congregation will be attending.

Only those who are requested to fill a need at another site will be permitted to transfer. However, if you feel there are extenuating circumstances in your case, please send a written request and explanation to Ministerial Services for consideration. All international ministers requesting transfer should send their requests to their Regional Directors.

Note: All ministerial requests for transfer to U.S. or international sites must be received by April 15.

\*\*\*\* TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL NORTH AMERICAN CHURCHES \*\*\*\*  
(and elsewhere where the pastor deems necessary)

#### Feast Sites at Capacity for 1984

The following Feast sites have reached capacity and no further requests for applications for them can be accepted this year:

Hengelhof, Belgium  
Freeport, Bahamas  
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

## Personal Computers and God's Ministry

With the current popularity of personal computers, some of our ministers have expressed an interest in purchasing and using their own microcomputers. Some men have already been using such equipment for some time. Mr. Norman Smith is an example of one who has a background in the field, and has found a personal computer system useful.

Although the official position of the Church is to neither encourage nor discourage the use of personal computers by the ministry, there are several important factors for us as ministers to consider before joining the rush to the nearest personal computer store. Proper selection is an important factor. Cost is a major factor. But even more important is the commitment of time. Time to learn, time to practice, and time to maintain.

Our calling is to God's ministry. Our first priorities must be our responsibilities to God in prayer and Bible study; our responsibilities to our families (foundational to our qualifications for eldership) to spend time with them in instructing and loving them as God commands, and as a right example to the Church; and our responsibilities to our congregations in visiting, counseling, anointing, conducting regular and in-home Bible studies, giving Sabbath sermons, directing Spokesman Clubs, and providing balanced church activities. If you are one who is capable of fulfilling these responsibilities and still have time to undertake the commitment that the productive use of a personal computer will require, that is fine. But certainly not everyone can.

Please read carefully the two articles we've included here. The first is by Mr. George Birdwell, Manager of our Data Processing Department in Pasadena, and the second is by Mr. Norman Smith, pastor of our San Diego, California congregation. They give more detailed information to assist you if you have been wondering about how effective and how feasible a personal computer might be for you.

The subject of what confidential member information may be stored in, and distributed from, a personal computer will be covered in a Pastoral Instruction soon to be mailed to all Ministerial Manual holders. However, for your immediate consideration, a few points from that policy are given here.

- Member name, status, address and telephone information may only be kept on a personal computer owned and directly controlled by a Church-employed pastor, associate pastor, or assistant pastor. This information may not be kept on a personal computer belonging to anyone else.
- Member name, address, or phone listings may not be distributed to the congregation, or to any outside individual or organization.
- Mailing labels may not be printed for group or mass mailings. Labels for this purpose must be obtained from Ministerial Services.
- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Church ministers (other than a few personal friends) may not be stored on a personal computer.

For more detailed coverage of the full policy, see the forthcoming Pastoral Instruction.

#### PERSONAL COMPUTERS FOR USE BY THE MINISTRY

by George Birdwell

Employees in the Data Processing Department are frequently asked by interested ministers which microcomputer they would recommend. Rather than naming a specific machine, guidelines and cautions are provided here to assist in your evaluation.

1. Be wary of claims that computers in general, or specific computer programs, are "easy to use," or "user friendly." These are relative terms. How easy it will be for you to learn to use a computer depends largely on your background and aptitudes.

A substantial amount of time is required to learn how to make yourself more productive by using a computer. A computer will not make you a better writer or organizer, but it can make the work of writing, filing, or scheduling easier. If you enjoy writing and keeping your office files up-to-date already, a computer can make those tasks more enjoyable. But if those tasks are somewhat frustrating to you now, the added complexity of learning how to do them using a computer may frustrate you even more.

2. Never believe what advertisements say without "seeing for yourself." These ads are written to sell products, and no company is going to admit its product has weaknesses and another brand is really a better buy. Terms such as "state-of-the-art," "newest," "best," and "versatile," are freely used whether they accurately describe the product or not.
3. The instruction manuals (documentation) supplied with computer equipment and programs are often very technical and sometimes inaccurate. They usually are not designed as a tutorial for first-time users, so don't expect to achieve all the benefits promised in the product advertisements without spending considerable time learning how the equipment and programs work.
4. Realize that product reviews written by independent third parties will still reflect the author's background, biases, and ideas--all subjective opinions. Look for a short biography of the author to check whether he/she is qualified to present an "unbiased" evaluation.
5. Use care in attempting to "mix and match" various brands of equipment. If you have not seen it work, do not assume a different brand of printer, etc., could be used with your computer just because the salesman said it could.

At the present time, microcomputers are "hot" items. Without a proper background, you can end up spending a lot of time and money without really having a tool that takes care of your needs. If you are desirous of purchasing a computer for personal and pastoral use, be prepared to spend a lot of money and a lot of time. There is no inexpensive way to provide what will be necessary.

Advertisements abound for inexpensive microcomputers. The Sinclair or Timex 1000, Atari, Texas Instruments TI-99/4A, or the Commodore VIC-20 are appealing because of their low prices. These are computers, but what you receive for the price is not a useful tool to help a minister do his job. They should be viewed as educational tools, not as "business" machines. If someone is interested in learning about computers and programming, this is an inexpensive way of experimenting. It is not practical to upgrade one of these computers enough for it to help a minister do his job, so it will probably be replaced or fall into disuse after a short time.

The Timex 1000 is now available in many parts of the U.S. for less than \$50, but don't expect to do word processing for your sermon outlines with it. Although the price of microcomputers is decreasing, a system with the necessary features will still probably cost \$3,000. If you desire more sophisticated capabilities, the expense can easily double. Before spending thousands of dollars, a person should ask whether it will provide an equal amount of benefits.

If you are serious about performing "business" tasks on a microcomputer, you should first define what you intend to do with it. Word processing and maintenance of small files are the most common uses. For a microcomputer to be a useful tool in doing these jobs, consider these important guidelines:

1. The actual microprocessor is usually not a separate component, but is often located within the keyboard or display unit. It should have 64K or more of RAM (Random Access Memory--where your programs and data are stored while being processed by the computer). If you have less than 64K of memory, what you can do with your computer will be restricted. Many new programs being written require 128K or more of memory.
2. The keyboard should be a full-sized standard typewriter keyboard. Many of the inexpensive microcomputers have pocket calculator type keys, which are not designed for rapid typing. Others have membrane keyboards (keys are concealed beneath a plastic cover to protect the keyboard from spills). These lack the "feel" of the keys needed for effective word processing on the computer.
3. The display unit or monitor (often called a CRT for Cathode Ray Tube) should preferably be 24 or more rows high and 80 columns wide (a standard screen size is 24 x 80). Microcomputers with 64 column screens are acceptable, but 80 columns allow more flexibility.

A television set can be used as a display unit, but only 40 columns are shown on a line. Images tend to blend together, giving a "hazy" display. A monitor made for computers gives a much clearer display and should be at least 12" wide for best results.

4. Two "floppy disk" or diskette drives are necessary for your microcomputer to be functional as a "business" machine. Cassette tapes are suitable only for educational use. The 5-1/4" floppy disks are more popular than the older 8" floppy disks. Each manufacturer normally uses only one size of diskette on his system, so you may not have a choice after selecting a vendor.
5. A printer is necessary, since you cannot always carry your computer with you to see the information stored in it. Matrix printers are fast (120 characters per second is typical) and suitable for many uses. They form characters as a combination of dots (in the same manner as seen on large temperature signs or scoreboards). These printers are relatively inexpensive, ranging from approximately \$300 to over \$1,000, but they do not present a "professional" appearance to your memos or letters. Some print each line twice to give a "correspondence" quality, which may be adequate for personal printing jobs.

However, a letter quality printer has the characters on a "print wheel" which strikes the ribbon, thus forming a clear impression on the paper (30 characters per second is a typical speed). These are more expensive, ranging from \$450 to \$2,500. It is easy to spend more money on a letter quality printer than on all the previous items listed.

6. Other items which may be desirable are a communications port and modem. These allow your machine to "talk" to other computers. The microcomputer components (display, printer, floppy disk drives, etc.) are connected by cables, but communication with other computers is

usually via a telephone line (which requires additional equipment). There are a number of information data bases accessible for a fee, if your computer is properly equipped. They include data from wire services, airline flight schedules, etc.

7. The equipment listed above is commonly termed "hardware," but without computer programs, or "software," to instruct the computer what to do and how to do it, the equipment is useless. Two types of software are necessary:

a. Operating System Software

An operating system is a collection of programs, often supplied by the equipment manufacturer, intended to make your computer easier to use. It allows you to run programs, create and maintain files, and use various types of devices attached to it, such as printers and disk drives. Apple and Radio Shack each have their own unique operating system.

For 8-bit microcomputers, the most popular operating system is called CP/M (Control Program for Microcomputers). There are more programs written using CP/M than any other operating system. For 16-bit microcomputers, the most popular is MS-DOS (Microsoft's Disk Operating System). If you buy a 16-bit computer, such as the IBM Personal Computer, you should select MS-DOS. More new programs are being released for it than any other operating system and it will soon replace CP/M as the leading operating system.

The importance of selecting the right operating system becomes apparent when you buy programs for your computer. Both the type of computer and operating system you have must be specified. Apple and Radio Shack each have a number of programs available for their computers.

b. Applications Software

Anyone who is not an experienced programmer should not plan to write his own programs for a microcomputer. Numerous programs are available for a few hundred dollars which allow you to begin using your computer more rapidly (as opposed to the time it takes to write your own programs). To compare the features of all the software available would be very time consuming. Instead, the following programs are recommended to departments in the Church, and any other products should be compared with these before a decision is made to purchase:

- (1) WordStar is the most powerful and commonly used word processing program for microcomputers. It is available for both CP/M and MS-DOS operating systems. However, it is somewhat complicated to use compared to other programs of less capability, such as WordVision or Select.
- (2) DBase II is the most flexible and powerful of the programs for keeping small files of information, such as duties and people assigned to them, indexes of office files, etc. Its disadvantage is that because of its flexibility and numerous

available options, considerable time is required in learning how to use it.

- (3) Multiplan is an electronic spreadsheet program. It can automate any job where amounts are laid out in columns and rows (such as an annual budget, broken down by month and type of expense). VisiCalc is a better known program, but less flexible. (By the way, these are not checkbook balancing or check register programs.)
- (4) Crosstalk is a program which allows communication with other computers if you have a communications port on your computer and modem to connect it to your telephone.

8. Software and hardware support are vitally important. After following instructions the best you can, you still may not obtain the expected results. There are various reasons this might occur, but after you spend a few hours or days trying to solve the problem, you need someone to call for assistance.

To reduce your frustration level considerably, make certain the dealer who sells you the programs can, and will, answer your questions when you encounter difficulty. Equipment repair should be expected because items will occasionally break down. As with automobiles, it can be expensive, and there are both good and bad repair shops. If possible, ask for recommendations from other people who have been pleased with a vendor's ability and service.

Although this report is rather long, it is not comprehensive. When evaluating a potential purchase of several thousand dollars, gather as many facts as possible--don't be in a hurry. Be certain you can afford. Be certain you can afford the investment of time and money before buying a computer. And be sure there is need to justify the move. You don't want \$2,500 worth of equipment to end up in the attic with your slicer/dicer, 23 channel CB radio, and first generation TV games.

If you are serious about purchasing a computer, visit a local computer store (such as Computerland) and look over the books and magazines available. One very basic book is THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUYING A PERSONAL COMPUTER (published by COMPUTE! Books, Greensboro, NC; \$3.95). Also consult the September 1983 issue of CONSUMER REPORTS (available at most public libraries). It provides 28 pages of information on home computers.

The following periodicals may also be useful (single issues may be purchased, but if you buy a computer and want to keep informed on recent developments, you may desire to subscribe to at least one of them):

1. INFOWORLD (Weekly tabloid; \$22.95 per year; Box 837, Framingham, MA 01701)
2. POPULAR COMPUTING (Monthly magazine; \$15 per year; P.O. Box 307, Martinsville, NJ 08836)
3. BYTE MAGAZINE (Monthly magazine; \$21 per year; P.O. Box 590, Martinsville, NJ 08836)

ONE USER'S OBSERVATIONS

Based on Experience With Apple II  
and IBM Personal Computer

by Norman Smith

A personal computer system large and efficient enough to serve you in your work requires a major (a relative term, but meant to alert you) investment.

As has been stated, first identify your needs. Be reasonably sure they are needs (not excuses to buy a computer) that can be reasonably fulfilled by a system within your budget.

Consider the "opportunity cost." What other opportunities could you take advantage of with the money?

Consider the efficiency gain and the cost of that efficiency gain. One member asked for counsel about buying a personal computer for his wife to use in his business. She was typing quite a few letters to several clients. When asked to consider such questions as how many letters she could type for \$4,000, how many more letters she could send out than at present, how much time she would save, and what else would she rather do with the \$4,000, they postponed buying the computer.

Evaluate your resources such as capability to learn, commitment to learn the system and various programs, interest and capability of family members to assist in learning and in production of useful work, interest and capability of a helper such as a "church secretary," and/or assistance of a computer professional in the local church. Without availability of these resources you may have a "NO GO" situation.

If you proceed further and your present or future budget allows, consider a system that will allow for expansion in capacity and speed of operation.

International News

News From the United Kingdom February has been an extremely busy month at Elstree House (the British Office) with preparations for the installation of a new minicomputer and the arrival of three microcomputers that will link in with it. Coupled with the installation of these computer facilities has been a change in the office layout.

Subscriber circulation continues to climb and is now at almost 125,000--only 2,000 short of the 1974 peak of 126,838. Circulation is expected to pass this mark in the very near future (the magazine is renewed on a regular basis today, unlike the situation in the early seventies).

Incoming mail is also at a very high level. In February, 19,000 letters were received from the U.K. and Eire, up 39% over February of last year. Though these high percentage figures reflect in particular the tail end of the December advertising campaign and the results of the last semiannual letter, mail activity is generally on the increase. One notable fact has been the growth in the number of letters requiring personal correspondence of a nondoctrinal nature. The year-to-date income is up 16% over 1983, which is happily above expectations.

One other event of interest is that our printer, Ambassador Press Ltd., produced the French editions of The PLAIN TRUTH last month, having geared up to handle the extra volume.

With the launching of the Norwegian edition, the English-language PLAIN TRUTH file in Scandinavia has dwindled as readers begin to be transferred to the Norwegian file. Starting in early March, a concerted advertising campaign began in Scandinavia to build Norwegian and English circulations to a projected combined total of around 35,000.

Meanwhile, a small newsstand outlet in Greece, distributing 100 magazines per month, and drawing a response of up to 10% has had to be closed recently because of legal difficulties, but our outlet in Malta has been increased from 600 to 900 magazines a month.

Spanish Report The April edition of La PURA VERDAD is being sent to 203,666 subscribers in 94 countries, breaking by nearly 14,000 the previous record of 189,863 set in January 1983. This all-time mark was reached as a result of the implementation of the new renewal policy from Mr. Armstrong whereby subscribers are given an extended subscription in order to allow more time for them to renew. Since no subscribers are being dropped until the June PV, another record will be set with the May issue. The top 10 countries with respect to PV circulation are:

Mexico	40,897	Chile	9,932
U.S.A.	29,951	Puerto Rico	9,927
Argentina	29,787	Peru	8,812
Colombia	18,133	Guatemala	6,094
Spain	14,735	El Salvador	4,523

In Argentina, the work of God's Church continues to grow in every respect, a trend which picked up speed dramatically a little over two years ago. The following table graphically shows how God is blessing the Church in the third-largest (28.5 million population) Spanish-speaking country in the world:

	<u>Early 1982</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Donors	14	115	721
Co-workers	15	58	287
PV Subs	6,000	30,000	400
Members	89	100	12.4
CC Students	508	1,094	115
Mail Received	7,000/yr	30,000/yr	329

Over the last two years some 32,936 new subscribers from Argentina have been added, which is two and a half times as many as have been added during the first 14 years of the existence of La PURA VERDAD (1968 to 1981). Income has increased to the point where most local expenses are covered by local income.

Mr. Alberto Sousa, a preaching elder who pastors the Ezeiza congregation, also makes regular visits to Uruguay and Brazil to serve brethren on a 2500-mile circuit.

A two-year trend, during which dramatic growth has been witnessed in donor and co-worker growth, continues upward as the number of both reached all-



time highs this month. Presently there are 1,626 co-workers in 26 countries and 3,663 donors in 35 countries.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

#### Bible Correspondence Course Enrollments Set New Record

An all-time record number of new students (195,941) were enrolled in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course in 1983. This year the pace has accelerated, with 25,459 new students added in February alone--the highest monthly total ever! About two-thirds of these new enrollments came from advertisements in The PLAIN TRUTH. The majority of the others came from booklet ads.

We continually receive comments from CC students who say they have never before understood the Bible or learned so much about it until enrolling in the course.

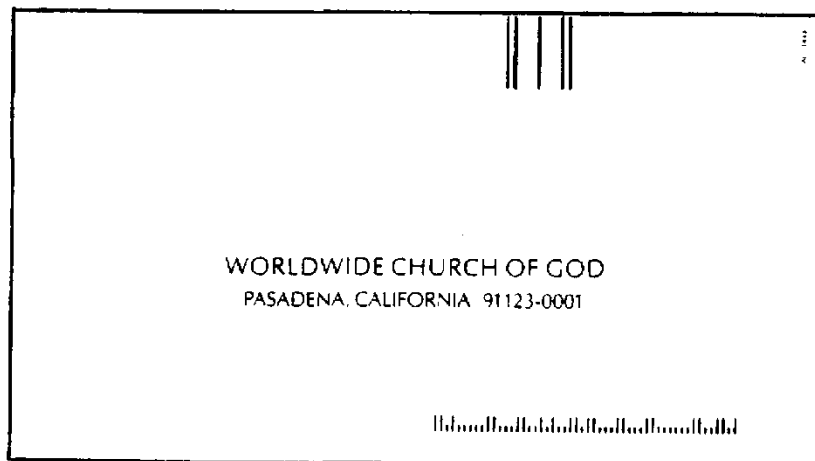
#### "Bar Codes" on Return Envelopes

A number of members and subscribers have asked about the vertical lines which appear on many of our preprinted return envelopes. We'd like to explain their purpose.

Faced by an ever-increasing volume of mail, the U.S. Postal Service has implemented several automated systems to handle its workload. In some cases, letters are not only untouched by human hands but also unseen by human eyes while being processed.

Machines which operate like the scanners used for pricing in many supermarkets, read and sort much of the mail the Postal Service processes. One type of machine, called a "Bar Code Reader" (BCR), interprets vertical lines or bars which appear on the front of the envelope. These bars represent zip codes.

In order to cooperate with the Postal Service, we have begun to use bar codes on some of our envelopes. This system of mail sorting increases efficiency and is faster and more accurate than previous methods. Below is a sample of what one of our envelopes marked with bar codes looks like.



Inspiring Comments About Unconverted Mates

Occasionally, members with unconverted mates have written and shared some very inspiring experiences. Wives who are members have told how their husbands have allowed them to tithe or even begun to tithe on their own income. In some cases, initial hostilities have been melted away and families brought closer together. Often it is evident that God has begun to work with the unconverted mate. Following are some of the comments we have received.

It is with great joy I am writing this to you today. My husband is not in the Church. He hasn't been against it, and even tells people not to eat unclean things. He doesn't keep the Sabbath yet and doesn't study the Bible but reads the articles in The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS. He says this Church is the only one that makes any sense. We have struggled financially for years. My real joy is this--my husband gave a tithe to send to you. He said he needed help and he didn't know if God would help him, but he wasn't getting anywhere the way he was going. I read Malachi 3:6-11 to him. Although he doesn't understand the second tithe yet, I'm still so thankful--God has answered my prayers.

Mrs. J.S. (Burkesville, KY)

My husband, until just recently, refused to have anything to do with the Church, although he never forbade the children or me to attend services. And now he has started attending with us and to tithe also. What a blessing this is as his tenth is many, many times over what I gave. God has not only allowed us to support the work of the Church generously, but has showered us with the very special blessing of bringing our family much closer together. Truly our Father is so generous with His blessings.

Mrs. D.J. (Richmond Hill, GA)

We hear all kinds of talk about the problems we have with unconverted mates if we are a lone member, so I have to say something for the ones that try to help. My husband is a wonderful person. He is not a member, but tries hard to help our children and me in any way he can when it comes to the Church. If he hears of someone having trouble, he's the first to try to help and I thank God for him. He is a wonderful husband and father. God has been so very good to me.

Mrs. B.N. (Rockholds, KY)

I am writing to let you know about my unconverted husband. I have been praying so much that if it be God's will, that He would work with my husband. Well, last Friday he came home with his paycheck and said to me, when you send the Church your tithes, send tithes out of this too. He even told me down to the last 10 cents how much to send. I was so pleased, because now I know God is working with him. So here is ten percent of his pay. He listens to the broadcast, reads all the literature, and reads the Bible.

Mrs. C.O. (Tomahawk, KY)

My unconverted husband was very hostile when he learned about my attending Sabbath services in 1980. I prayed to God to soften

his heart. A miracle happened in the winter of 1982--my husband started coming to services with my two sons and me.

My husband's job takes him out of town for long stretches of time, so he finds it difficult to observe the Sabbath. I feel sad about this. I have brought this problem to God again, asking Him to help my husband understand this test commandment of God. I expect another miracle.

Mrs. A.S. (Midlothian, VA)

For the past thirteen years I have received envelopes with the label printed with my name only, but last week an envelope was enclosed in our member letter from Mr. Armstrong with both my husband's and my name printed on the label. I just had to stand and look at it for awhile. It was something I didn't know if I would ever see, but miracles do happen. Seeing my husband's name on that label is a result of a miracle in our lives. He was baptized last November. This is not only a new beginning in his life, but also a new beginning in my life.

Mrs. J.M. (Americus, GA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

##### ANOTHER COMMON MARKET SUMMIT FAILURE: BRITAIN'S THATCHER CAST AS EUROPE'S "ODD WOMAN OUT"

The latest European summit in Brussels collapsed late on the night of March 20, amid mutual recrimination. Despite a reported near agreement, the ten EEC leaders left the Belgian (and Common Market) capital with no more than a glimmer of hope that their four-year search for reform could be resumed, let alone resolved. The TIMES of London reported in its March 23 edition:

President Mitterrand of France, who presided over the extraordinary two-day meeting, featuring hopes which dipped, soared, and plummeted by turn, was bitter last night. In a pointed, though unspecific reference to [British Prime Minister Margaret] Thatcher, he said he would pursue his forlorn task by calling together the heads of "all those countries which believe in re-launching the Community to reestablish it and give it back its health." Even more ominously, he referred throughout his close-of-summit press conference to a Community of nine countries.

Mrs. Thatcher, meanwhile, refused to take the blame for the second ignominious Euro-summit collapse in four months. She insisted that Britain had been right to hold out for a permanent reduction of its budget payments; the issue which, according to the other nine, brought the meeting to its knees. Mrs. Thatcher said: "I have no good news. We were very near an agreement, but at the end we weren't able to close the gap. It is a great pity."

Although Mrs. Thatcher evidently considered herself part of the French President's next initiative, Britain's relations with the Community are fast approaching a nadir.

The Irish delegation also disapproved of a key element of the reform package--a cap on milk production. The EEC is confronted with growing surpluses of butter, skimmed milk and cheese. Yet for the Irish, a reduction in milk production is a hot political issue. Milk products account for 19% of Ireland's total GNP. Milk is five times more important to Ireland's economy than in the EEC generally. Nevertheless, it was the British who bore the brunt of the criticism. Here is how the NEW YORK TIMES, also on March 23, reported the summit failure:

They used to call France the "sick man of Europe," but now it is Europe itself that seems sick. Summing up another failure by its 10 heads of government to solve the European Economic Community's pressing and fundamental problems, President Francois Mitterrand commented late Tuesday night: "The Europe of the 10 is not dead. But it has suffered another blow, and the more blows it suffers, the more its health deteriorates and the harder it will be for it to get well."

It was a painful moment for Mr. Mitterrand. For three months he had searched for a solution, pouring more time, energy and political will into the Common Market than any other French politician in decades. Even Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had praised his efforts, but the result was essentially the same as at the last summit meeting, in Athens--stalemate--and it had the same basic cause: a national leader's unwillingness to submerge what was described as the vital national interest in the larger cause.

On both occasions, the leader was Mrs. Thatcher. But...it is a problem as old as the community itself. Indeed, the community owes much of its present shape to the insistence of another nationalist, Charles de Gaulle, on the principle of unanimity as a safeguard against the imposition of policies on France. Without that principle, Britain would have been outvoted 9-to-1 Tuesday night and the Market's crisis would be over.

But it is not over, and the recriminations began at once. Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece said the community would be better off without Britain, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi of Italy said Mrs. Thatcher had paralyzed the community, and a Dutch official, giving voice to a usually unspoken but pervasive feeling within the group, said the British "are undermining the most important thing, the West German commitment to the West, edging them toward neutralism." The conference broke down when Chancellor Helmut Kohl insisted that West Germany could not afford the additional contributions that a rebate to Britain would impose....

Paradoxically, the breakdown came at a time when Western European leaders, including Mrs. Thatcher, are more convinced than ever that they cannot solve their problems acting alone, at a time when those problems are worse than in years and at a time when faith in the United States is at a low point.... The sudden rise of Gary Hart, whose picture was on the cover of three of the four major European news magazines this week, has reawakened all the old anxieties about the American electoral system. This is not

because the Europeans mistrust him (they don't know yet) but because they cannot fathom how so young and untested a politician might suddenly have so much potential influence over their lives.

Writing from Rome, the TIMES of London's Peter Nichols (in the March 22 edition) noted the rather flamboyant Italian reaction to the summit's failure:

Little charity towards the British stand is shown in the Italian press. "Thatcher torpedoes Europe," is the main headline in the Rome newspaper LA REPUBBLICA. The Turin LA STAMPA talks of "The shipwreck of Europe" and reports that all participants place the blame for the summit's failure on Mrs. Thatcher. The Milan newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA talks of another European failure which is marked by "the British estrangement in Europe."

The same paper also reported on the Greek reaction:

What irritates the Greeks most about the failure of the Brussels summit, for which they put the blame squarely on Britain, is that Greece's own problems with the Community had been successfully dealt with just before the whole package collapsed. This explains perhaps why the harshest comments about Britain's attitude came from Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, who said: "My feeling is that the other partners would be greatly relieved if Britain left the Community."

The French reaction, also reported in the same TIMES edition, ranged from condemnation of Mrs. Thatcher to caution:

In the minds of the French public and most of the French press there is no doubt at all about who is to blame for the failure of the Brussels summit--Britain or La Perfide Albion, as represented by the intransigent Iron Lady.

Many are demanding Britain's exclusion from the Community, but others are more cautious, if not conciliatory. M. Edgar Pisani, European Commissioner and former Gaullist Minister of Agriculture, said, for example, that it was in the interests of everyone to seek a new solution with Britain. "For Europe without Britain is no longer really Europe."...

"Failure at Brussels: The indomitable Mrs. Thatcher," ran yesterday's headline in LE FIGARO. "Thatcher breaks the bank" LE MATIN proclaimed. There is little attempt in the French press, radio or television to understand the British position. Only the left-wing daily, LIBERATION, suggests that Britain has a fair case.

In yet another TIMES article (same date, March 22) entitled "Europe's Odd Woman Out" Mrs. Thatcher, in the view of the continentals, is now the "bogeywoman of Europe." Yet the lead editorial in the same issue of the TIMES predicted with confidence--perhaps a fair dose of cockiness--that a break between Britain and "the nine" would not occur:

What matters is not this year's rebate but a long-term settlement. The reality of the situation is that, in the long run, the

members of the Community have no realistic alternative than to try to make it work. Talk of a break away of the other nine, and the isolation of Britain, is an absurdity.... There is not the slightest reason to think that the other members of the Community envisage carrying on without us. By now the links are too close for that. The Community is not for unscrambling....

Its formal arrangements provide for give and take between national states, each member seeking to maximize its own benefit as well as contributing to the common advantage. When each takes as much as it can get, it is absurd to charge Britain with risking the nobler political ends of the Community every time that this country (like all the rest) guards its own interest.

Britain, noted correspondent Ian Murray, again in the TIMES (March 20 issue) is still regarded by the continentals as a "Euro-outsider"--and by some of them as a serious impediment to European unity:

Mention the British case or Mrs. Thatcher and the conversation [in Brussels] can turn nasty. "If you go on like this you will wreck it [the EEC]," said the man with the washed blue eyes. "You just don't seem to realize that it has brought us peace."

Between the wars, he explained, nobody ever spoke of the Germans. "For us they were just the sales Boches." But after the last war he could not remember his countrymen talking of Germans in that way. They had become partners with them in a new community, which had made war unthinkable....

Though Mrs. Thatcher has attended more summits than any of the other heads of government sitting round the table in Brussels, she is still seen as something of a new girl. Viscount Etienne Davignon, the man Britain seems likely to support as next President of the European Commission, summed up the problem yesterday. "Mrs. Thatcher does not belong to the generation of the founders of Europe," he said. "She has not known post-war Europe. She does not understand the situation of a country divided like Germany. She is not part of a European movement like the Italians."

For all these reasons, as well as the age-old prejudices and facts of history, Britain remains very much the outsider of the EEC, despite more than a decade of membership, during which it has won no thanks for paying a considerable number of bills.

According to a very senior Commission civil servant (French), there are two crucially important dates in European history. The first was June 18, 1815, when at Waterloo Britain put an end to "the first serious attempt to unify Europe." The second was January 1, 1973, when Britain joined the EEC and began to put an end to "the second serious attempt to unify Europe."

That thought led some French journalists last week to suggest that perhaps the summit meeting should be moved a few miles down the road for a rerun on the Waterloo battlefield. France is confident that it has more allies now than it did 169 years ago....

Yesterday's Marplan opinion poll proved that it was not only the French who felt that way. This showed Britain as easily the least constructive nation in Europe, while the West Germans appeared to be everyone's favourites. A rival Gallup poll showed that only one Briton in four would now vote to stay inside the ECC, even though Mrs. Thatcher claims that the last general election put the question of Britain's membership out of court.

More about the Marplan poll and its overall indictment of Britain was summarized in the March 19 edition of the GUARDIAN:

Britain goes into today's European summit with an image across the Community as the organisation's principal troublemaker, according to an opinion poll carried out in seven member states by Marplan and associated European polling organisations. It is far and away the top choice as the country which plays the least constructive role in the Community's affairs.

The poll, which is being jointly published today by newspapers in the countries which took part show that West Germany is the unanimous choice as the member state which makes the most constructive contribution....

If the EEC generally is unenthusiastic about the British, the British are unenthusiastic about the EEC. If there were a referendum on the issue tomorrow, a majority in Britain, on Marplan's findings, would vote to get out....

In France, Germany, Italy and Belgium--all members of the original six--more voters favoured a move towards federalism than opposed it. In the UK, Denmark and the Irish Republic--all countries which joined later--more voters were hostile to federalism than were in favour of it.

Despite all the criticism levelled at the British, personified by Mrs. Thatcher, knowledgeable experts on both sides of the Channel (as well as both sides of the Atlantic) realize that the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is in need of dramatic reform if the Community is to progress. The problem is, it is almost political suicide for some continental leaders--who would face the wrath of their farmers--to agree to Mrs. Thatcher's positions.

The escalating cost of buying up European farm surpluses--which absorbs about 70% of the EEC budget--is at the heart of Britain's complaint. Why, maintain the British, should they continue to pay and pay to build up unneeded food surpluses and to support uneconomical French agriculture in the process? At one point in the summit, Mrs. Thatcher asked: "I'd thought we'd come here to save money, not spend it."

Here is an illuminating article on Europe's agricultural dilemma written by Rupert Pennant-Rea in the March 10-11 edition of the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE:

When French farmers recently kidnapped two British truck drivers near Paris, the abduction dramatized a problem nagging the European Community, which was created to bring peace and harmony to Western Europe.

The trucks were transporting lamb and pork from Britain to France. The Community has a common agricultural policy that sets prices, but French farmers consider imports of food to be a threat to their livelihood. So, despite the protection they get under the policy, they hijacked the British vehicles and donated the meat, worth about \$28,000, to charity. They bought drinks for the drivers, just to show there was nothing personal in their action.

Such incidents, which occur periodically, not only underline the fragility of the Community. The agricultural policy itself is a source of tension between Western Europe and the United States, which feels that its predominance in the international food trade is being jeopardized. In simple terms, the Community guarantees a fixed price for all crops grown by farmers in its member countries, no matter how much they produce. The prices are high enough to assure a decent living for the most inefficient farmers, who are French.

Successful farmers find it hugely profitable to grow more than they can ever sell, since the Community is committed to buying their surplus. Thus Western Europe is glutted by mountains of butter, lakes of wine and piles of other commodities. Occasional attempts are made to cut prices to enable the law of supply and demand to function. French farmers then object; they have even driven flocks of sheep into the center of Paris to protest. So the surpluses mount, leaving the Community no choice but to export them. This brings the Europeans into competition with the United States, the world's largest agricultural exporter.

The Americans are not opposed to free trade, but they complain quite justifiably that the Community sells food abroad at prices far below production costs, with the difference covered by European taxpayers. The subsidies to farmers have made Europe a big food exporter. Its share of world food sales, mostly to developing countries, has risen from 8 percent in 1976 to 18 percent last year. The Reagan administration, by way of reprisal, has also taken to subsidizing agricultural exports. Last year it underwrote the sale of a million tons of flour to Egypt. The Europeans retaliated by offering subsidized wheat to China, thus escalating the trade war.

Unless Europe's policy is reformed the friction will increase. The European dairy surplus is expected to double in the next five years, and the wine lake will expand to the size of a sea. [The U.S. is now trying to limit French and Italian wine imports.] Intense rivalry with the United States for markets is inevitable. The prospect is, too, that French farmers will continue to vent their anger on British truck drivers and other European rivals, demonstrating in the process that Western Europe has yet to attain cohesion.

THE ECONOMIST of Britain summarized the summit's failure, and the nearly obsessive amount of time spent on agricultural issues, in its March 24 issue. It contains some very interesting observations about the future of Europe:



At a time when the Atlantic alliance, east-west relations, the Middle East and several other issues are matters of major concern, the president of France, the federal chancellor of West Germany, seven prime ministers and one taoiseach [Prime Minister of Ireland] are spending most of their European time disagreeing about a bargaining gap [on agricultural issues].... If this is Europe, even a firmly European newspaper like this one has to ask why.

There is still a chance of reaching an agreement, so long as neither Britain nor its partners hit out in hasty exasperation. One sure way to cause failure would be a premature decision to withhold Britain's budget payments to the EEC. In pique, late on Tuesday evening, the French and Italian foreign ministers blocked the £450m rebate to Britain for 1983 that was agreed upon last year. Mrs. Thatcher has more or less threatened to suspend British payments unless the rebate is paid before the end of the British financial year on March 31st....

This can still be avoided. The EEC has to do better by Britain than it offered in Brussels. But Mrs. Thatcher has her part to play. She is a British nationalist first, a European second. She does not belong to the founder-generation of the community.... She is instinctively hostile to the Europe of the Berlaymont corridors [EEC headquarters in Brussels] and an open-ended farm support programme. But she is European enough to believe in the necessity for a strong Europe, caught between a Russian adversary and an American ally whose support cannot be counted on forever.

Instead of miring itself in...Britain's budget complaint and farm spending...[Europe should] get down to its bigger problems. These are easy to list: lagging technology, internal market barriers, old industries, high unemployment, the need for Europe to do more for its own defence. The conventional wisdom has held that the EEC must be the core of the attempt to solve these problems. But it is entirely possible to imagine European co-operation that is not based on the EEC, or at least not on the present EEC of 10.

A looser community, minus farm policy, but with a free trade area, plus co-operation on defence and technology? A community minus Britain, Ireland and possibly Denmark? The present Europe is not the only possible one.... The leaders of Europe have to go on working together, with or without the present EEC.

Another summit is scheduled for June. If Britain withholds its EEC contributions, Europe's farmers will go unpaid starting about the end of summer, if not earlier. Even with British cooperation the EEC is likely to be bankrupt by September unless more funds are tapped (hence the push to increase the VAT contributions). Thus there could be real fireworks, especially in France, with huge demonstrations and food dumpings. Mrs. Thatcher, and Britain, would be blamed for it all. This would further sour the attitudes of the British public toward the Common Market. In the 1975 referendum, there was 2-to-1 support for British membership. Now polls indicate a 3-to-1 negative opinion.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau