

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.6, NO.29

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 20, 1984

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### International News

Report From Southern Africa We are experiencing wonderful growth in God's Church in Southern Africa despite the fact that radio and television are closed to us. Since we have to rely solely on The PLAIN TRUTH magazine to preach the Gospel, this necessitates concentrating our efforts in the doors open to us.

First and foremost we embarked upon a direct mail program during the first six months of 1984, sending letters to 700,000 householders. The response has been encouraging. Thirty-eight thousand one hundred eighty new subscribers have been added, giving us a 5.5% response. During the latter half of 1984 we shall be sending out 500,000 direct mail letters in Afrikaans. We start the program with 50,000 in July, 150,000 in August and then 100,000 per month for the next three months.

We have had an exceptional response to an advertisement placed in READER'S DIGEST in February of this year. The response has totalled 29,008, which is a very fine 6.1% return. Further advertisements will appear in August and October.

The newsstand program is also very successful. We have just recently added Johannesburg Central Station and Jan Smuts International Airport to our outlets. This should increase our newsstand distribution to over 50,000 per month. The response is still averaging over five percent. Other sources from which we add subscribers are waiting room programs, blow-in cards, advertisements in national weekend newspapers such as the SUNDAY TIMES and RAPPORT, and word of mouth.

According to our end-of-June computer summary report, we have added 97,064 new subscribers to our mailing list year to date. This is 221% more than at the same time in 1983 and already about 10,000 more than the total added during all of 1983! Our current subscription list now totals 192,070, which is 90.4% more than in June 1983. Circulation of The GOOD NEWS magazine is 9,180, which is 24.4% more than June, 1983. And YOUTH 84 is up 6.1% with a distribution of 1,432.

We still print The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in both Zimbabwe and South Africa. This enables us to use the funds in Zimbabwe. Our present total print run, including both subscriber and newsstand copies, is over 244,000.

At the end of May we had a 15.24% year-to-date increase in income. The number of co-workers is up 22% and donors are up 25% compared with the same time last year. The membership, now 1,521, continues to grow at a rate of five percent. Baptisms during the first six months of 1984 showed an increase of 24.5% over the same period in 1983.

The Pietersburg outlying Bible study in the Northern Transvaal is now attended by 35 members. Mr. Dan Botha, pastor of the Pretoria churches, visits Pietersburg once a month. We have decided that a Church service should be conducted during his monthly visits. This usually takes place on the first Sabbath of each month. In May there were 61 in attendance.

The offerings during the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost were exceptional. The average increase over 1983 was 52%--a truly wonderful response from the members.

Preparations for the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles are progressing very well. We look forward with great expectation to the arrival of two guest speakers from Pasadena: Messrs. Leroy Neff and Dexter Faulkner. Mrs. Neff and Mrs. Faulkner will accompany their husbands. Mr. and Mrs. Neff will attend the Feast sites in Durban and George. Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner will visit four Feast sites in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

We are now sending The PLAIN TRUTH in bulk by sea to Mauritius. This was decided because postage rates doubled recently. By shipping the 5,000 copies to Mauritius and then mailing them locally, we not only reduce costs but are also able to pay in rupees from the local fund.

A Regional Ministerial Conference attended by all 19 full-time ministers and their wives was held at the picturesque Drakensburg Garden Hotel near Estcourt. This fine facility took the ministers and their wives "out of this world" from May 20th to 24th.

During the conference, Regional Director Dr. Roy McCarthy brought the ministry up to date on worldwide aspects of God's Church and local developments. He encouraged the ministers to focus on communication with God, teamwork in supporting Mr. Armstrong, and individual improvement as ministers to serve the members and those God is calling. An outline of subjects covered in Refreshing Program III was also given to help handle some of the immediate needs in Church areas. Subjects covered were music, nutrition, physical and spiritual fitness, army call-up, SEP, the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles, youth counselling, prophecy, being a shepherd and loyalty. Activities during a free afternoon, four evenings and meal times allowed much appreciated warm and close fellowship.

We look forward to the challenge of completing this end-time work now of global impact, entrusted to God's Church, His Apostle Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and his support team around the world.

From the Australian Office We are grateful to Jesus Christ for a most successful and productive first half of 1984 in the work of God's Church in this area of the world. Since January, just under 30,000 new subscribers have been added to the Australian PLAIN TRUTH mailing list. This represents an increase of over 200% in new subscribers compared to the first six months of 1983.

The majority of these new subscribers came on file in response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast, the newsstand programme, advertisements in leading magazines, noticeboard cardholders, and the library/waiting room programme. By the end of June, PLAIN TRUTH circulation in Australia had risen to 85,455--a 45.7% increase over the same month last year.

For some time we had experienced resistance in placing "The WORLD TOMORROW" on television stations throughout the country. However, this year a dramatic change took place. Several stations not carrying the telecast offered us time. As a result we accepted 25 additional stations and relays, bringing the total number of outlets broadcasting "The WORLD TOMORROW" to 96. Ninety-five percent of the viewing audience throughout Australia can watch the telecast, if they choose to do so. We are continuing to advertise the programme in TV WEEK magazine.

The field ministry and members have been doing an excellent job in promoting The PLAIN TRUTH through newsstand and library/waiting room programmes. Since January of this year our newsstand distribution has experienced substantial growth--rising from 70,000 copies to 110,000 copies per month. With the introduction of PLAIN TRUTH countertop displays, many new outlets have been added, especially in country areas. During the first six months of 1984 the number of outlets increased from 196 to 380.

During this same period the library/waiting room programme has also been growing rapidly. Over 5,600 additional libraries and waiting rooms have been added to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list, many of which have also accepted YOUTH 84 magazine.

From the beginning of the year GOOD NEWS circulation has continued to climb steadily. Currently 10,398 subscribers receive The GOOD NEWS--a 44.4% increase over the first half of 1983.

We are particularly encouraged by the increase in the number of co-workers supporting God's Church in Australia. By June 30th they numbered 2,684--a 46.7% increase over the same month last year. This increase in co-workers reflects a growing interest in the teachings of God's Church. More Australians are coming to realise that what Mr. Armstrong is saying on the telecast and in the literature we publish really makes sense in a confused world. During the first six months of 1984 the number of readers requesting personal contact with the Church increased by 23.4%.

By the end of June this year baptized membership in Australia had risen to 3,177--a 3.1% increase over the first six months of 1983.

Three ordinations took place this Pentecost. Mr. Bill Winner, director of Ministerial Services, raised Mr. Orest Solyma to the rank of preaching elder. Mr. Mark Ellis, pastor of the Sydney South Church, ordained Mr. Aubrey Pye a local church elder, while Mr. Alan Dean, pastor of the Churches in Tasmania, ordained Mr. Barry Williams a local church elder.

We had a very encouraging increase of 25% in the offering for Pentecost. Altogether, 5,179 people attended holy day services in Australia--a 2.6% increase over last year.

During the first six months of 1984 mail received from Australia and Asian countries totalled 148,891--an increase of 39.8%. Outgoing mail for the first half of the year also rose significantly. Just under 508,000 envelopes containing Mr. Armstrong's letters and Church literature were mailed--a 42.4% increase over the first six months of 1983.

Income for the month of June rose by 18.8%, bringing our year-to-date increase to 14.5%.

Results from our first direct mail test were finalised last month. We tested four lists, each of which brought a most encouraging response. The response rates to the lists were 2.2%, 2.9%, 3.8% and 5.5%. According to our media agents, a response of 1.5% to 2.0% is considered the industry standard for Australia. Further tests will be conducted during the remainder of this year to determine the most effective mailing lists and package.

Asia: Advertisements offering The PLAIN TRUTH placed in READER'S DIGEST in four Asian countries during the first half of this year have brought responses from a substantial number of people. Results so far are as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>	<u>% Response</u>
Taiwan	804	8.0%
Hong Kong	1,707	7.4%
South Korea	158	1.3%
Malaysia	6,509	11.2%

PLAIN TRUTH circulation in Asia now stands at 42,326--a 3.2% increase over June, 1983. During the first half of 1984, GOOD NEWS circulation in Asia increased by 46.7%, YOUTH 84 by 77.5%, the number of co-workers by 36.5%, donors by 29.0%, and members by 6.8%.

#### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

##### From the United States

LAFAYETTE, IN--DAN FRICKE: To further back up the PGR article on how growth in Church membership is influenced by members, this month we've had two new people begin to attend as a result of member contact or friendship. This shows that God's people are becoming more effective tools and lights in God's hand in reaching out to those of this society with the good news of His way of life. Everyone in God's Church can proclaim the Gospel in this way.

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO--CLINT ZIMMERMAN: I baptized three people this month, which has been the most in a long time. All three have known of the Church for some time. One was a PM for about three years, and another a second-generation Christian now 23 years old. The third came to church in Fontana as a little boy years ago with his brothers, grew up, joined the army, and has now separated from it. It takes years for the seed to grow sometimes, but it is rewarding when it finally happens.

DENVER, CO--JAMES REYER: The Church is doing very well. We are growing! We are being contacted by very interested PMS and are receiving many new letters. The brethren here are really involved in PT distribution and are excited when they see the results of their work. Mr. Armstrong's telecast about the Sabbath had us all buzzing with excitement!

CUMBERLAND, MD--WILLIAM PACK: Since the brethren watch Mr. Armstrong on Saturday mornings, one of the main topics of fellowship

each Sabbath is about the power, clarity, and effectiveness of the telecast. The one on the Sabbath was the most hard-hitting yet!

HAZARD, KY--WARREN HEATON: We had one of the most enjoyable combined picnics this area has ever had. The over 350 that were present is an overwhelming majority of the members of this three-church area. There is a growing love the people want to share.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA--CARLTON SMITH: Members have responded extremely well to a series of sermons on the fruits of the Spirit. They are acquiring a deeper interest in and understanding of the Word of God and are taking the Christian life more seriously.

FORT WORTH (P.M.), TX--BOB SMITH: I have been impressed at the maturity shown by many of our youth in recognizing the responsibility which rests on their respective shoulders as they approach adult stature. The sermons on music--stressing Satan's end-time assault, similar to the D-Day Invasion, and the strategy designed to culminate at the time this Gospel message is going to all the world--have produced excellent results.

GENEVA, AL--DON WATERHOUSE: The teens from this area were very elated when they returned from session one of SEP. The fruits of the program are good. The attitude of these teens is noticeably improved.

CHADRON, NE--STEVE BUCHANAN: God intervened dramatically on behalf of the Doug Johannsen family as they were returning home from a Spokesman Club ladies night. Driving home, they hit a bull that had been hit and killed by a northbound vehicle moments earlier, which had come to rest in their lane. They had dimmed their lights for an oncoming car, so they did not see the dead bull until there was no time to react. At impact, their pickup truck sailed over the bull, rolling in the air, and came down on the passenger cab, caving in that portion of the roof. It then rolled, and momentum continued to spin the truck on the driver's side until it hit the shoulder and righted itself. Miraculously only minor scratches and bruises were suffered by Doug, his wife Betty and two girls. Insurance covered the loss of the truck. Ironically, the replacement truck has a "cattle guard."

ONTARIO, OR--JEFF MCGOWAN: One thing of interest that members in agriculture are discussing is how grim the economic situation is for ranchers and farmers in the area. One area in eastern Oregon reports 40 ranches that have been under water in a normally desert area! Most small cattlemen and farmers are on the verge of bankruptcy, and probably many of them will be foreclosed on this year or they will sell out. I was told that in 1928 the crash came to the field first, and then the crash hit Wall Street. It appears that crashing is happening all over the agricultural areas, and it is a very bad sign for the nation. The members have confidence that God will keep them going as long as their work is necessary to support God's Church.

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICESMr. Armstrong Offers GOOD NEWS to Select PT List

Mr. Armstrong is offering The GOOD NEWS to all PLAIN TRUTH readers who have renewed their PT subscriptions twice (readers on the list for at least two years). A personal letter from Mr. Armstrong to those subscribers is going out in late July.

The stronger spiritual meat of The GOOD NEWS will thus be made available to those with whom God may be working. Initial response projections show the GN circulation rising from about 300,000 to about 800,000 and beyond.

This coming year we plan to emphasize Biblical subjects and doctrinal truths even more, using many of Mr. Armstrong's basic articles and foundational articles from our top writers. If the budget permits, plans also call for expansion of The GOOD NEWS from 32 pages to 48 pages.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGOutstanding Growth Continues

The work of God's Church continued to experience unparalleled, record-breaking growth during the first six months of 1984. Following are the figures (U.S. only) for some of the major categories:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>% Increase Over June 1983</u>
Mail Received	2,374,569	33.1%
Phone Calls	390,389	21.8%
New Names Added to File	947,768	71.7%
PLAIN TRUTH Circulation	4,688,990	27.9%
GOOD NEWS Circulation	226,926	60.7%
New CC Students	139,333	23.0%
Books and Booklets Sent	2,695,442	37.2%

This high level of activity is certainly keeping everyone at Headquarters quite busy. As always, the prayers of God's people are needed and appreciated--so that these increases will continue and we can maintain a high quality of service to the millions being reached by God's Church.

One Million New Names

As of July 16, one million new names have been added to our U.S. subscription files in 1984! This is only the third time in the history of the Church that the million mark has been passed in one year, and it is the earliest to have this occur. Last year a total of 1.1 million were added and in 1982 the count was 1.3 million. We expect approximately 1.7 million names for all of 1984.

Excellent Summer Response to "U.S. & Britain" Telecast

The telecast "The United States and Britain in Prophecy," which aired July 14-15, brought in 10,105 calls. This was the second-highest response ever received during the summer months. It was also 54% higher than the weekend average this summer.

Many callers were amazed at the Biblical proofs identifying the Anglo-Saxon peoples, and were eager to receive THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. One interested minister called, saying he was part of a group of ministers researching America's history.

Co-worker Letter Response Highest in Five Years

Co-worker response to Mr. Armstrong's June 15 letter, which offered volumes I and II of The BIBLE STORY to U.S. co-workers, is the best in the past five years. After just two weeks, one-fourth of all our co-workers requested copies. Many sent donations and some offered to pay for them. The final response is expected to exceed 40%.

Long-time Readers See Fulfillment of Bible Prophecies

Many of our readers have been in contact with God's Church for a number of years. They are beginning to recognize that the things the Church has said about Bible prophecies are coming to pass. They are often amazed and prompted to take our publications more seriously. Following are some of the comments received from subscribers around the world:

I would like to thank you for your free magazine which I've received for some years now. The anniversary issue especially stirred me to go back and read some of the previous editions. It is interesting to see how some of your predictions based on the Bible from 15 years ago are coming to pass more and more today.

For example, developments in Europe and the Middle East, the increasing pollution of our planet, increasing natural disasters, especially in America, etc. Since I can't pay for my subscription, I would like to give you the enclosed donation to support your work.

R.G. (Bielefeld, WEST GERMANY)

Twenty years ago you predicted a balance of trade deficit which would overwhelm our economy to the point of no return. This is coming to pass now. You were right! Please write in a forthcoming article in The PLAIN TRUTH about this balance of trade deficit and what is in the offing. It could be a disaster to America to say the least. So many of your predictions have come true, we know the Great God has given you insight.

Mr. & Mrs. F. (Bentonville, AR)

I totally agree that we all really need a magazine of understanding and The PLAIN TRUTH is that magazine. I was a listener to your program in the 1960s and the last magazine I received was in 1965 due to a change of address.

As predicted in a 1965 issue, there is vast unemployment today; there are also arcades which are full of gambling equipment. People in general are getting no richer in wealth or knowledge. The streets are full of crime, etc. I really could go on. I do wish people would take this magazine seriously.

I have missed not having an up-to-date copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. I was unsure whether you were still printing until I happened to see a friend with a copy. I was very pleasantly surprised to see the magazine is still in existence.

I.P. (London, ENGLAND)

I really do enjoy reading your booklets and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I have been reading them now for many years. My mother and I used to listen to your radio broadcasts back in the 30s and 40s and it looks like you had it pictured right.

C.H. (Tuscumbia, MO)

I want to thank you for all the PLAIN TRUTH magazines and the letters I have received from you. I listen to your programs on TV and radio. Sometimes it scares me--all the things that you tell are coming on the earth--but I can see them happening before my eyes.

You have been telling of the drought and famine and how everything is going to dry up. Well, I can look out the window and see everything here drying up. We have 90 to 100 degree temperatures most every day, and now and then we get a sprinkle of rain. The grass looks like straw, which is not like Michigan weather. I can listen to one of your programs and learn more than all the years I did going to our church.

Mrs. G.R. (Stevensville, MI)

I want you to know how much I appreciate The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Each month I read it from cover to cover. I have seen so many predictions contained in it come true. Each morning I listen to you on radio and watch you on TV on Sundays. I wish you good health and pray that God will bless you for many years.

Mrs. L.B. (Redondo Beach, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

POLITICS, POLITICS--IN EUROPE AND AMERICA While American eyes have been focused--in mystification mostly--at the curious antics of the Democratic convention in San Francisco, Europeans have their own hot political climates to watch as well.

In Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is reeling under a series of economic and political setbacks. On July 10, Mrs. Thatcher told the House of Commons: "The economy is in good shape. Inflation is well under control." The next day the value of the pound fell against the dollar to an all-time low (in the \$1.30 range) and the banks were forced to raise interest rates by another two percent. The building societies (called savings-and-loans in America) quickly followed.



At the same time, the Prime Minister is still engaged in a months-long dispute with striking coal miners, who threaten to expand their action to block railway shipments of coal from non-struck mines, as well as to picket oil supply deliveries. Should the worst happen, a series of crises could shut down power production and manufacturing industries beginning in the winter.

To make matters worse, the government is struggling against an expanding dock strike as well. Still worse, there are rumors of a campaign by senior members of her own Tory Party to ditch Mrs. Thatcher.

In Paris meanwhile, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has been forced back into the middle, at least, in the spectrum of French politics. On Tuesday, July 17, Mitterrand installed Laurent Fabius as Prime Minister. Mitterrand wants to free up the economy a bit, and move the nation into an expensive high-tech mold. A new ministry for research and technology has been created. As a result of the shake-up, the four Communist ministers who have been present in the Socialist-led coalition since 1981 have left, disillusioned about Mitterrand's rightward push.

Polls have shown Mr. Mitterrand's popularity rating recently in the low 30s percentile. He is thus trying to recover his standing in the public eye before the 1986 parliamentary elections. Abandoning his socialist ethic, he finally backed off of a plan to interfere with private (meaning mostly Catholic) schools in France. Almost a million angry parents had taken to the streets of Paris chanting, "Free schools will live." Mr. Mitterrand was also booed as he drove down the Champs Elysees on Bastille Day. Furthermore, his party was trounced in the June European Parliament elections. Overall, the signs are there: Change, or else.

In West Germany as well the political scene may also shift more to the right, or perhaps more correctly, to both the right and the left. The small, centrist Free Democratic Party, which was wiped out in the European Parliament elections, is barely hanging on in the center-right Bonn coalition. Current developments in West Germany were analyzed by correspondent Friedrich Thelen, writing in the July 23 BUSINESS WEEK:

The political fortunes of Franz Josef Strauss, the hard-line boss of Bavaria's Christian Social Union, are rising as those of West Germany's pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP) plummet. The job of Foreign Minister, a longtime Strauss goal, may be within reach of the combative politician following the disastrous setback to the FDP, the minority partner in Bonn's ruling coalition, in June's elections for the European Parliament. If Strauss takes over the foreign-policy reins, he will toughen Germany's stand against Moscow while he strengthens ties with the U.S. and the NATO alliance.

A major shakeup within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing coalition--and possibly in Germany's broader political balance of power--was set in motion by the June election because a German law requires parties to win at least 5% of the total vote to qualify for seats in a legislature. In the 1983 national election, the FDP won 7% of the vote and 35 Bundestag seats, giving the coalition a majority in combination with the 255 seats won by Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian wing,

the CSU. But in June the FDP dropped to only 4.8% of the vote and lost its four seats in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Strasbourg assembly is mainly a consultative body. Still, the election raised the specter that the FDP could be shut out of legislatures in Berlin and two German states in elections next spring. Such losses, by further undermining the FDP's credibility with voters, could pave the way for the party's slide to extinction in the next national election. Although that is three years away, the scenario of an FDP decline has already weakened its bargaining power within the coalition--thus opening the way for Strauss to demand the job of Foreign Minister. That post has been held for 10 years--in successive FDP coalitions with both the Social Democratic Party and the CDU--by FDP Chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher. But Genscher, 57, was so jolted by the Euro-parliament election debacle that he announced he would step down in favor of a new party leader.

Although Genscher said he hopes to stay on as Foreign Minister until the 1987 election, it is doubtful that the shaky FDP can continue to claim that key post as the price for its collaboration in the coalition.... Another major Cabinet job traditionally held by the FDP, that of economy minister, was recently taken over by Martin Bangemann, a 49-year-old lawyer. Kohl picked Bangemann to replace Otto Lambsdorff--who resigned to face charges of having illegally accepted political contributions--mainly because Bangemann is the leading candidate to succeed Genscher as FDP chairman.

The controversial Strauss, 68, has been handicapped in bids for national party leadership by his cold-warrior image, even though his big Bavarian base makes him a power in CDU-CSU politics. Despite his distrust of Moscow, he has been a major force behind the efforts of Kohl and Genscher to strengthen ties with the Communist regime of Erich Honecker in East Germany. In fact, under Kohl, Genscher has been taking many of his foreign-policy cues from Strauss. If Strauss becomes Foreign Minister, he will continue to tighten the East Germany connection with loans and technical aid. But he will be more sympathetic than Genscher has been to South Africa, while pulling back from Genscher's active role in the group of five Western nations that have been trying to midwife an agreement on independence for Namibia. Strauss would also insist on stricter reciprocity than Genscher in relations with Third World countries, aiming to reward friends and penalize adversaries. And in contrast to Kohl and Genscher, whom he denounced for their hand-wringing over the U.S. invasion of Grenada, Strauss would be more likely to applaud such U.S. moves....

Paradoxically, the FDP's weakness will force Kohl to show more concern for the minority partner's political needs in shaping coalition policies. If the FDP lost its 35 Bundestag seats, there is no way that the CDU-CSU by itself could win a parliamentary majority against the opposition Social Democrats--with 202 seats at present--and the Greens, a disparate collection of environmentalists and peace groups that won 28 seats in the 1983

election. Only once in German parliamentary history has a single party won a majority in the Bundestag--a feat achieved by former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the CDU in 1957 in the euphoria after Bonn joined NATO. Unfortunately for Kohl and his coalition, as FDP fortunes have faded, the Green Party has grown, attracting 25% of the votes of West Germans under the age of 25.

All this is a threat to Kohl's leadership. Because he governs only with the backing of the FDP, his internal support within the CDU depends on his ability to attract votes for both parties in the coalition. So if the FDP goes, he goes.

In the July 27 issue of NATIONAL REVIEW, columnist Erik v. Kuehnelt-Leddihn discussed the ongoing struggle in Germany--both Germanies, in fact--over how to treat past German history, specifically how much of it to resurrect.

A significant change is taking place in the German Democratic Republic. At first glance the change in the GDR (known to foreigners as East Germany, although many Germans refer to it as Central Germany--East Germany being the areas ceded to Poland) might seem relatively harmless.... But to those familiar with the political, historical, and ideological nature of the GDR, the evolution is ominous.

A German proverb says that he who masters history owns the future, and the Communist rulers are trying to master the history not only of their own territory but of all Germany. Until the early Fifties, the rulers of the GDR treated the German past as something wholly evil. Feudalism, monarchism, bourgeois democracy, and National Socialism were all prehistory, recorded time not beginning until the great victory of socialism in part of Germany. But in the early Fifties the attitude of the GDR's rulers began to change....

In the 1960s, the GDR decided that the wars of liberation against Napoleon were an acceptable part of Germany's past, and in 1964 the statues of outstanding Prussian generals from Bluecher to Scharnhorst returned to Unter den Linden, Communist Berlin's Fifth Avenue. The crowning event was the recent restoration of the monument of Frederick II.

Whatever remains of the real Prussia (excluding what is now in Poland) lies in the GDR. In 1945 it was the policy of the Western Allies to eradicate and destroy Prussia once and forever. Today, the German Federal Republic (West Germany) is, by and large, a "deprussianized" Germany....

After 1945 this Germany was heavily subjected to American "re-education" of a liberal-left nature. The traditional family, patriarchal rule, classical education, respect for order, loyalty, patriotism, national feelings, military traditions--all this was ridiculed and attacked. Then, suddenly, the policies of the western occupying powers began to change. West Germany, the whipping boy, was asked to become the shield of menaced Europe. It had to resist communism intellectually, ideologically, politically, and last but not least, militarily.

In the Soviet occupation zone, later known as the German Democratic Republic, a completely different process took place. The Germans there exchanged one totalitarianism for another, going from National Socialism to International Socialism. While racism was discredited in this part of Germany, nationalism was not.... Obedience, cooperation, patriotism, discipline--the Teutonic virtues that had served the Nazis so well--were now writ large.

What about national reunion? The GDR has made its terms very simple: It can take place any time. All the Federal Republic has to do is submit to the GDR, which, after all, is the more "progressive" of the two. And if the Poles continue to misbehave, a good slice of their western gains from 1945 could be given either to the "national" GDR or to a reunified Germany. The trump cards are all in Moscow's hands.

In previous years, West Germans with strong national feelings--there is nothing wrong with them intrinsically, is there?--might have frowned on such an offer. The GDR, while cultivating certain German traits that were of use to it, had neglected--indeed rejected--German history. But now things are changing and changing quite rapidly. Last year came the greatest surprise, the rehabilitation of Martin Luther, who was in no way a man of the Left.... Today, even Bismarck is no longer regarded as a monster in East Berlin (he is, after all, the father of the modern welfare state). However, this does not mean the GDR is being converted to anything like a free-market economy, or to the ideals of personal liberty, freedom of speech, or a free press.

Germany (more correctly: the Germanies) has always suffered from divisions, which were geographical, tribal, historical, and religious in character. Only since 1949 have we had a country called Germany (Deutschland), and only since 1871 had there been a German Empire (Deutsches Reich). Between 1815 and 1866 there was the German League and before 1806 the Holy Roman Empire. Prior to the rise of the Nazis there was no German citizenship; there were Bavarian ministers in Berlin and Saxon ministers in Munich, and so forth. Up to 1920, Bavaria had its own postage stamps.

But for all this, there was--and still is--a German national feeling. Whoever has seen the ghastly walls between the two Germanies will realize what reunification would mean to the Germans. Herein lies the potency of the message the GDR is subtly sending to the West. It suggests that east of the walls and the death-strips, German national feeling is vigorously alive. Could not the GDR, the message goes, provide all those nice Germans suffering under the capitalist Bonn government with the real thing that Hitler proved unable to give them: genuine National Socialism?

Next, another development has occurred to show that the process of "Europeanization" continues to grow. Five nations in Europe have agreed to build a new fighter plane for the 1990s. American airplane companies will not be involved in the project at all. Here is a report from the July 11 NEW YORK TIMES:

The Defense Ministers of five Western European countries have agreed in principle on joint development of a new fighter plane, for service in the mid-1990s. The agreement on the plane and on a new jet engine to power it was reached Monday in Madrid by Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Spain....

Military officials say the decision was reached despite United States misgivings over the exclusively European nature of the project, which challenges the American aircraft industry's traditional domination of the Atlantic alliance market.

American officials said the United States had been urging for nearly a year that American companies be included, particularly in developing the engine, avionics and the weapon guidance system. The Americans said costs would be raised by the small size of the European defense industries and by demands from each country for the biggest possible share of work, leading to duplication. The Americans contended that United States contractors would make management more efficient. The United States fears that any cost overruns on the project will reduce the Europeans' combat readiness either by cutting the number of planes they order or by economizing in other fields....

Defense Minister Charles Hernu of France called the pact "the first military cooperation agreement of such a scale to be studied and brought to fruition since the end of World War II." Building the plane, he said, "is a real international challenge that will make Europe an aeronautical power on a world scale."

The new twin-engine single-seat fighter, provisionally called Future European Fighter Aircraft, would fly at twice the speed of sound and is intended to replace the F-4 Phantoms in service with the British and West German Air Forces as well as France's Mirage fighter fleet and the Jaguar fighter-bombers developed by Britain and France.

Should this project be too costly and the Europeans have to cut back on NATO commitments, the U.S. Senate will once again call for a scale-back of American forces in Europe.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau