

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.6, NO.36

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 24, 1984

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

**** TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES ****

Family Togetherness at the Feast of Tabernacles

Throughout the year family members of God's Church tend to become separated by the demands of jobs, schools, and other daily responsibilities and activities. But God's Feast of Tabernacles is a time for families to draw closer together as we worship Him.

Accordingly, it would seem only natural for parents and their children to want to sit together in services as they listen to God's ministers preach from His Word. Parents should therefore make sure that their teens and younger children sit with them.

Of course, it would be fine for the teens or younger children to sit with their friends occasionally, provided that the parents of the friends are also there. However, unsupervised teens should not sit together in groups, as this hinders their attention to the messages and prevents family togetherness. Other problems have resulted from this practice in the past--problems which parents and teens should be striving to avoid this year by sitting together.

When we come before God as a family, He will bless us individually and as a family. This is because worshipping God in this way glorifies the One who created family life for a great purpose. Let's do everything we can during this festival season to draw our families together!

**** TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES ****

Members' Conduct at Hotels During the Feast

The Festival Office receives letters each year praising Church members for their good conduct at the Feast of Tabernacles. Festival Coordinators also tell us how warmly the Church is welcomed back to festival-area communities each year.

Unfortunately, we also occasionally receive a report which doesn't conform to our expectations. This type of complaint is usually from the owner or manager of a hotel, claiming that one of the members abused or damaged his property. Some have told stories of noisy, boisterous conduct by God's people; of disregard for hotel rules; or of damaged beds and furnishings which have cost hundreds of dollars to replace.

Not only is this type of report embarrassing to deal with at the time, it can also greatly damage a developing relationship with a hotel. Negotiating for rooms at good rates for next year's Feast can become very difficult after such an incident.

Although these reports seem to be caused by a very tiny percentage of God's Church, we should all be aware of the influence we can have. Hotel personnel are quite aware of our presence since we spend much of our time in the rooms, hallways, restaurants and recreational areas of the various housing establishments at each feast site. They see our attitude and conduct close-up for eight days or more.

As was stated in a recent PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT: "We have a responsibility before God to set a right Christian example at all times." This involves showing Christian love and concern for others. So let's all be extra conscious of being tidy and clean with our belongings; careful with the furnishings in hotels; and respectful of the need for quiet, well-mannered conduct by children and adults alike.

Our good conduct is one more way in which the Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows God's soon-coming Kingdom, both to ourselves and to all those around us. We are to be a light to the world--a living witness of the coming Kingdom of God.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

(NOT to be Announced)

Due to telephone inquiries received regarding Mr. and Mrs. Bill Freeland, we feel it is necessary to advise the ministry that Mr. Freeland has resigned from the ministry and that their membership in the Church has been terminated. This notice is not, and should not be considered, a marking, but is provided only for the ministry's information so you will be knowledgeable of their status.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Ministerial Refreshing Program is one of the best things that has been done for the Church and ministry. The unity and harmony that is generated through instruction, example and God's Holy Spirit is priceless. And the direct contact with a Headquarters team that is dedicated, loyal, together and hard working is very inspiring and contagious.

My wife and I just finished the sixth session of the current program. We very much enjoyed and benefited from it and we hope and pray that it will be God's will for this program to continue. Thank you for your dedicated service in yielding to God. We have all been and continue to be benefited by it.

Rick and Angela Beam

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I just wanted to take a moment to thank each of you who were involved in the planning and execution of Refreshing Program III. For me personally it was the most beneficial of the three. First of all, it helped raise my awareness of the deceptions Satan uses to hold this world captive. Also, it helped me realize as never before just how much growth God is giving to the work of His Church. Throughout the year, the various department heads have kept all of us up to date on the growth in the various departments. However, when all of them were addressing us, one after another, each filled with enthusiasm about the growth he has seen in his respective area, the effect was simply awesome. Hearing the facts and seeing the enthusiasm made me realize this Church is going forward by leaps and bounds. Thanks for this vision.

Jim Lee

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I would like to add our names to those who express their appreciation for MRP III. Seeing the many facets of the work of God's Church and the successes around the world in every area is truly awe-inspiring. How God uses so few to do so much is indeed hard to explain to others. Truly this is the work of God and thankfully He allows us to have a part in it. For those of us in His ministry, it is a double blessing.

Thanks to all behind the scenes who helped with the many functions and put together the programs we got to see and be a part of for those two weeks. It's a thrill to be a part of the Church of God. Thanks again for all the help and excellent leadership in this end-time Church.

Mel and Pat Williams

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Once again the Ambassador College campus at Pasadena buzzes with activity as we prepare for the new school year. This is Orientation Week--when students register, have housing assigned to them, receive clearance from the Financial Aids Office, and take care of many other details which prepare them for full participation in the unique Ambassador education.

Again this year new students on both the Pasadena and Big Sandy campuses will be permitted to enroll only in the two-year Associate of Arts or Associate of Science programs. At the end of two years, we will select about half of the two-year graduates to go into the four-year Bachelor of Arts program.

We have over 650 students enrolled at Pasadena for the fall semester, and over 160 of that number are freshmen. The 650 figure includes students who live off campus, most of whom are married students or "special" students (those who are not enrolled in a degree program, and who usually take only one class).

The annual cost of being educated at Ambassador College is still just a little over \$4,000. Yet the average cost of an education at the typical private college in the United States now runs over \$9,000 per year! So the Ambassador education is a "fantastic bargain." We have deliberately kept tuition, room and board costs at Ambassador down so we do not price the Ambassador College education beyond the reach of the young people in God's Church.

I wish to take this opportunity to again thank you ministers for the fine prospective student evaluations you give the College. They are extremely valuable in helping us determine who should attend Ambassador. Please keep up your thorough evaluations of prospective students in your area.

By the time you ministers receive this PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, we will have held the Freshman Reception and the Orientation Forum. Mr. Armstrong is scheduled to address all the students at the Orientation Forum on Friday the 24th. He will have met the new students at the Freshman Reception the previous evening.

It looks like we will have another very good year at Ambassador. It appears we have a very fine group of freshmen, including the married couples, and we look forward to getting to know these students much better.

I ask your continued prayers that we faculty members may be given the wisdom, understanding, zeal and strength to faithfully serve these students as we impart to them the precious truths taught at God's College.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Excellent Response to The BIBLE STORY Offer

Over 17,000 co-workers requested volumes I and II of The BIBLE STORY, which Mr. Armstrong offered in his June co-worker letter. This was one of the highest responses from co-workers in the past eight years.

Many are now writing to tell us how much they are enjoying The BIBLE STORY. They especially appreciate its easy-to-understand style and attractive illustrations. Several heartily agreed that the books are not just for children. Following are some general comments about The BIBLE STORY:

I just want you to know how much my 12-year-old granddaughter and I are enjoying The BIBLE STORY. We read it every night and just can't put it down! It is wonderful.

H.I. (Red Level, AL)

Thank you for The BIBLE STORY volumes. They have just arrived and are truly beautiful! Most amazing are the many fine drawings. I think the books would be big sellers if they were in bookstores.

P.G. (Trenton, NJ)

This past week I received The BIBLE STORY. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Although I am far from being a child, I have longed for material from the Old Testament in a continuous and simple form.

Mrs. D.M. (Wayne, PA)

I am very pleased to own the new BIBLE STORY books. We read from them every night. It's a great idea for children! Thank you.

W.W. (Cornelia, GA)

More All-time Records

Several more all-time records were set recently as God's Church continues to experience tremendous growth this year:

- Mail received in the United States topped three million pieces on August 17. This is the earliest date, by more than two months, to reach this mark. Total mail anticipated for 1984 is 4.5 to 5 million pieces.
- Publications mailed out in the U.S. through July totaled 45 million, including 8.8 million in June. The total figure includes 31.6 million PLAIN TRUTH magazines, 3.1 million booklets and 4 million letters from Mr. Armstrong. New records have been set in all these categories.
- More than 150,000 U.S. subscribers have enrolled in the Bible correspondence course, the most ever in a seven-month period. By year's end, we estimate that well over 200,000 new students will have enrolled.

Telecast and Publications Promoted by Others

One of the ways people become introduced to God's Church is often through personal contact with others. Our viewers and subscribers frequently share their enthusiasm for the TV program and our literature with family, friends and associates. Following are a few examples:

Words cannot be given to tell you how much The PLAIN TRUTH has enlightened our family.... Our children who are now adult enjoy and discuss the articles. We have learned to get our Bibles, look up and discuss things. We don't always agree with each other or with you, but we're reading.

Our 14-year-old son looks forward to the youth magazine. He takes it to Sunday school and shares it. You are making God's Word more exciting and alive than all the years we've gone to church. We're still going, but with a new awareness.

Mrs. J.B. (Stockton, IL)

My fellow workers talk a lot about Mr. Armstrong. They like him and have found out, by referring to the Bible, that he always speaks the truth.

R.Z. (Lawrence, MA)

I enjoy your program when I am able to see it. A little Christian lady 99 years young in a nursing home where I work is always telling me about you and how she enjoys your program.

H.M. (Payson, IL)

I'm 15 years old and watch your program. I personally like your method of preaching about the Kingdom of God and how you explain the events that were prophesied and are soon coming. My friends

and I talk about the Bible and your program as often as we can. My uncle likes your program too, so I told him to subscribe to your magazine.

P.N. (Lynwood, CA)

Your magazine is so wonderful to read and so true. I let my pastor read most of the magazines and booklets.

Mrs. V.E. (Scottsville, VA)

I saw your telecast today and would like very much for you to send me The PLAIN TRUTH every month. When I was a child, my father used to tell us about you, but I was never serious. Now I am 24 years old and ready to listen.

R.R. (Killeen, TX)

I am very pleased to read your literature and magazines; they give me peace of mind. I also read them to my two daughters, ages 5 and 10 years. I also told my friends and relatives, so they asked me to subscribe for them and I did--I hope you don't mind. They borrow my booklets and they feel the same way I did when I read them.

A.L. (New York, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE TWO GERMANYS (PART II); THE SMOLDERING REBELLION INSIDE EASTERN EUROPE

Despite highly vocal Soviet complaints, the precedent-shattering trip of East German Communist party boss Erich Honecker to West Germany is still on, for September 26-29. The visit is part of a wide-ranging series of arrangements between the two German states which include, on East Germany's part, a relaxation of rules for exit visas, and the dismantling of deadly automatic scatter guns along the border separating the countries. Already almost half the border has been so deactivated. The East Germans also contracted to cable in West German television to those areas of the country--the so-called "valleys of those who know nothing"--which have not had access to it heretofore. The price West Germany has paid for the latest round of inter-German detente amounts to another big government-guaranteed bank loan, this time \$330 million.

The Honecker visit itself will be largely symbolic; no new breakthroughs are expected, although there may be a call on the part of both governments for a renunciation of the use of force by the Eastern and Western military blocs, an attempt to revive grand-scale detente. Honecker will not visit Bonn, the capital of the Federal Republic, since the West Germans do not recognize East Germany as a sovereign state. The East German chief will visit his homeland in the Saar. He may also go to Munich, where undoubtedly Franz Josef Strauss will be on hand to welcome him.

The Kremlin remains highly suspicious about the visit and all that it portends. It professes to see far deeper, more sinister motives behind the growing inter-German relationship. In late July PRAVDA launched a vitriol-

ic attack on West Germany's Chancellor Kohl for saying there should be a new "security partnership" between the two Germanys. Nothing surprising in that, perhaps, except for the fact that it wasn't Kohl who originally called for this. The idea was Erich Honecker's, expressed in a letter to Kohl.

Here, from the press, are more analyses of the revived "German Question." The first is a NEW YORK TIMES editorial, reprinted in the August 13 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. It is entitled "Germans in a Romance."

The Germanys are straining to bridge the gulf that history has dug between them. Hitler's thunderous quest for Lebensraum (more living space) is what brought Germany to ruin and left it, and Europe, *divided into Communist and democratic zones.* Most non-Germans have since figured that these divisions are permanent and stable. But Germans, East and West, now talk passionately about Spielraum--more room for maneuver between the powers who divided their country....

This West German yearning for an Ostpolitik aimed at detente is hardly new; it was invented by Willy Brandt's Social Democrats, some of whom would now pursue it clear out of NATO. What is new is the enthusiasm for Ostpolitik among West Germany's pro-NATO conservatives. They are discovering national emotions even deeper than a desire for profitable East-West trade.

Still more startling is the reciprocal enthusiasm of East German Communists.... East German officials are unmistakably proud of Moscow's denunciations of their "independence." And if Mr. Honecker makes his defiant trip...he will gain stature also in Hungary and Romania, which have been cheering him on.

West Germany, meanwhile, is unashamed of the red carpet it has prepared for him. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been reading up on his guest's youth in the Saar region and claims to be impressed by the nationalism that moderated Communism even then. Franz-Josef Strauss, Bavaria's erstwhile cold warrior, has bestowed his blessing after a tour of the East with a case full of credit offers.

It is easy to make too much of all this, but dangerous to make too little. The Germans hunger to feel united even if they must live apart. By purging the dream, or nightmare, of "reunification," they think they have found the way to maneuver around the superpowers. These stirrings could be seen as the final steps of accommodation to a bitter defeat. More likely, they are the first faint steps toward the unknown by people who think it was their fathers, not they, who lost World War II.

Writing in the August 17 LOS ANGELES TIMES, international relations observer Robert E. Hunter reveals that Herr Honecker "knows his limits" but at the same time is shrewd enough to take advantage of Moscow's weakened position in the East Bloc.

There is risk of making either too much or too little of what is happening. There can be little doubt that Honecker knows his

limits. He has no intention of being the next Imre Nagy (Hungary), Alexander Dubcek (Czechoslovakia) or Wladislaw Gomulka (Poland). Honecker can count the 20 Soviet divisions in his country as well as anyone. And in the past he has sung the Kremlin's tune whenever required to do so.

Yet he knows that there is a complex politics within the Soviet empire, of which even Moscow must take some account.... There is awareness that the Soviet style of reacting to challenge has changed over the years. In Budapest (1956) the Red Army invaded by itself, in Prague (1968) other Warsaw Pact armies provided cover, and in Warsaw (1981) Moscow induced the Poles to invade themselves. Recently the Soviets stood by as the Polish government provided amnesty to Solidarity leaders.

The Soviets are deeply disturbed by the defiance displayed by the East Germans. They are smarting under what might be called the "Rodney Dangerfield syndrome"--"I don't get no respect." NEW YORK TIMES correspondent Serge Schmemmann writes from Moscow in his paper's August 6 edition:

What has aroused the Kremlin's anger..., diplomats believe, is more the timing of the initiatives, their independence of Moscow and the fact that it is Germans who dare defy their Soviet conquerors [rather than Poles]....

Soviet leaders are for the most part old men who remember the war. They sustain fear of a revived Third Reich and abiding taste for their role of wartime victor. World War II, the Great Patriotic War as the Russians call it, has become something of a national legend to Soviet Communism, with the Soviet role in the war swelling to superhuman proportions.

The vexed commentaries by Soviet authorities in June during the Allies' celebration of the 1944 Normandy invasion underscored the sensitivity of Soviet leaders to deviations from their version of the war. As they perceived the commemoration, it was an attempt to belittle the Russians' suffering and victories. In this context, independent moves toward better relations between the Germans must look to Moscow like "revanchist" yearnings, lacking in the penitent deference expected of an aggressor nation that was defeated.

Chancellor Kohl has long irked the Russians on this score. On his first state visit to Moscow last year, he publicly rejected the charge of revanchism, asking Mr. Andropov to his face how he would act if Moscow and the Soviet Union were divided.

In the August 20 WALL STREET JOURNAL, Roger Thurow writes that the "German Question" remains an unsettling one for powers in both Eastern and Western Europe.

"Closed," said Hans Apel, a former defense minister who is running for mayor of West Berlin: "The question is no longer open." It is useless, he said, to talk about German reunification in a national sense; it can only happen through the larger reunification of Europe....

"Open," insisted Alois Mertes, the deputy foreign minister. The German question is still alive, he argued, and the divided city of Berlin proves it. Mr. Apel's comments, he said bitterly, are "factually incorrect and politically irresponsible"....

The German Question has been edging out into the open since the ascent of the present Bonn government in the fall of 1982. Chancellor Helmut Kohl has positioned "German-German relations" on the cutting edge of his administration's work. He, like many West Germans, fosters the keen hope that someday the German people will be reunited. He concedes, however, that the present East-West power structure renders such thinking fruitless.... He adds that the unity of the German people remains "an historic task."...

In Washington, where Mr. Kohl's eastward efforts have thus far been tolerated because of his strident pro-NATO stance, officials are beginning to watch closely to make sure that the chancellor's feet remain firmly planted in the West. In Paris, which has twice this century been invaded by a united Germany, officials are following the German-German minuet more neurotically than ever.

An AP story in July by Mort Rosenblum revealed that Germans, while looking at events realistically, don't want to dismiss reunification as some kind of "impossible dream." It's interesting to note that the "German dream" is everyone else's feared nightmare.

Few Germans expect to see again a single fatherland, with 80 million people towering over uneasy neighbors. But many assert with growing conviction that "Germany" goes beyond 35-year-old lines on a map. "I don't wake each morning and think, Ah, reunification," a West German official said privately in Bonn. "But I get mad when Americans and others dismiss it as an impossible dream."

The average German today is 38, born a year after Hitler's Third Reich collapsed in World War II. In a series of interviews, Germans on both sides decried history that refuses to recede into the past....

"I am sick of all this Nazi, Nazi, Nazi stuff," said a 42-year-old Munich engineer, typical of many. "Why can't we be like others, proud of who we are, without everyone calling it new German nationalism?"...

Across West Germany, a new mood is clear. Deutsche Welle--German New Wave--sets it to a throbbing beat. In "USA," Peter Schilling mocks a movie star president who treats Germans as pawns. Another pop star, Nena, sings of West Germany as a "Satellite State."... Sociologist Erwin Scheuch of the University of Cologne said few young Germans recognize a permanent debt for the U.S. role in rebuilding Germany. "Gratitude is historical," he said....

Adolf Hitler, though roundly reviled, is seen increasingly in terms of "Yes, but..." by Germans who evoke the social order and

security he provided. "Some older people wouldn't mind a small Hitler--just a small one--to restore order," said Max Kolbe, an agriculture student in Munich, referring to unemployment, protests and strikes that trouble West Germany's surface calm....

Recent polls suggest West German concern has shifted from security to other issues. A third of their rich forests are dying or dead, a reason why the left-leaning environmentalist party--the Greens--won a surprising 8.2 percent of votes in European Parliament elections.

One survey found 10 out of 93 couples interviewed felt career and material goods were more important than having children. With a birth rate of minus 0.2, the world's lowest, the number of Germans in the West could drop from 56.9 million to 38.3 million in less than 50 years, a government study said.

In the August 19 LOS ANGELES TIMES, William Pfaff puts the division and possible future reunification of Germany in the larger context of a divided Europe.

Anything remotely resembling German unification remains unacceptable to the Soviet Union. The partition of Germany is for Moscow, the achievement justifying the World War II. The sharpest anxiety continues to be felt in Moscow at anything that hints at a German rejection of the "results of the war." This is interpreted as "revanchism."...

Germany's division cannot be rectified without reopening the question of Europe's own division, of the postwar balance of power in Europe and of the relations of the superpowers not only with Germany and the rest of Europe, but with one another. The Cold War, after all, began in Germany, over the control of German power.

These are the issues that certainly will eventually be reopened. The resolute ignoring of them in Western capitals, and in Western political circles, may well prove to be a serious error.

The key to German reunification resides in Moscow. Christopher Layne (LOS ANGELES TIMES, August 14) stresses that it will take a younger generation of Soviet leaders--not those personally identified with the horrors of World War II--to consider playing the "trump card" of reunification.

Geopolitical and domestic factors give Moscow an obvious German card.... Of course, Moscow's trump card is reunification; the present Soviet leaders are probably too rigid to consider the German card, but their successors may be more flexible....

For West Germany the road to Berlin leads through Moscow, and if Bonn concludes that its allies are thwarting reunification it may act on the logic of its geopolitical circumstances and seek reunification--possibly on Soviet terms. This is not imminent, but it is certainly possible if no progress is made on the German Question in coming years. The deepening desire for reunification and the increasing estrangement from the United States felt by growing numbers of West Germans suggest that our paramount chal-

lenge is to manage U.S.-West German relations in a way that will cast America as the champion of Germany's national aspirations rather than as the cause of their frustration.

The German problem, notes Angus Macpherson in THE MAIL of Britain, August 5, is compounded by a defiant spirit that is growing throughout the frustrated nations of the Soviet-dominated East Bloc. Macpherson believes that there has been considerable encouragement given to the East Germans by their fellow satellites.

Western diplomats are convinced that these are not just spontaneous gestures of defiance. They are being orchestrated. There must have been collusion between many satellite leaders and prior agreement to resist Moscow. Hungary's defence of East Germany against Moscow attacks was too swift not to have been planned.

Possibly a conspiracy to rebel was hatched in the corridors of the Comecon meeting in June. It was certainly then that things began to go awry. This first summit of the Communist bloc "Common Market" in 15 years was a disaster. The satellites stubbornly refused Moscow's pressure to integrate their economies more closely with Russia and cut down on their valued trade with the West. The Soviets, for their part, declined to offer one ruble to help their allies pay off huge Western bank loans. Little came out publicly. But Pravda reported it had been "comradely, but also businesslike"--i.e. a flaming row.

It was this debacle that seems to have been a turning point. As a threat to the Communist way of life, the new recalcitrance in Russia's empire does not approach the seriousness of the Hungarian Revolt in 1956 or the Czech "human face" experiment of 1968, both terminated by Soviet tanks. Not yet, anyway. But because it is both more widespread, more orderly and more disciplined, it is an even more fundamental challenge to Russia's hitherto unchallengable authority....

The dissent is not only political and economic. It is even starting to pose a threat to the huge but unwieldy Soviet military machine. Rumania--ironically the most Stalinist, locked-away society of all--has also always been the most maverick towards Moscow. President Nicolae Ceausescu has for years refused to allow the forces of his Warsaw Pact allies to exercise on his territory. This year he even banned Russian officers from a "map-reading" exercise. Now there are persistent reports that he is planning to quit the Pact altogether when the treaty comes up for renewal next year.

Russia's long-surviving Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, has flown to Rumania to try to scotch this devastating prospect. He appears to have failed totally. Offers of a new Russian pipeline and cheap gas were spurned. Gromyko made a volcanic speech blaming the Americans and the west for all the military tension in the world. Ceausescu wasn't even there to hear it....

Just why is dissent welling up so powerfully now? One reason is straightforward human psychology. The subject countries just no longer feel so cowed by the might of Moscow as they used to. "Old

men like Chernenko simply don't inspire the terror that Stalin used to, or even Kruschev," says Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, Director of the Foreign Affairs Research Institute in London.

Chernenko, rumors persist, is ailing. He has not been seen in public for a month. In the end Moscow not only has a German, but a much larger East European problem on its hands, observed William Pfaff in the July 29 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Eastern Europe...has become a society in distinct political evolution.... These countries can be said to be liberating themselves from Soviet control, not by direct challenge but through a deeper social evolution and by the reassertion of their national personalities....

Two processes, overall, are at work. The governments themselves experience the force of nationalism and the ambition of their individual leaders. This has been a turbulent region throughout modern history. The "Balkan problem" was a preoccupation of 19th-century diplomacy. The Hapsburg empire had constantly to deal with Hungarian, Czech, Polish and Serbian national feeling--and in the end it failed and collapsed. The Soviet Union took all of this on in 1945. It looks more and more to have been an insane imprudence, conceivably a fatal one.

The second process is that Eastern European people themselves are recreating how they live, indifferent to what the governments say.... [Lech] Walesa remarked that there now are more independent publications in the country than there were in Solidarity's heyday. There is a free intellectual life, which ignores the Ministry of Culture and the official press and television. There are unofficial schools and universities. The church remains the most powerful institution in the country.

Elsewhere...officials fear rocking the boat. But the boat isn't seaworthy. To change the metaphor, like the ivy that grows up the tree but eventually smothers and destroys it, human and national reality slowly but very surely is destroying what the Soviet Union has tried to create in Eastern Europe. How to deal with this truth is the perplexing and dangerous problem history now sets before the Soviet Union.

The official reaction of the Hungarians, Romanians and others to the Honcker trip should tell us more about the "political evolution" underway in Eastern Europe.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau