

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

We have had a very positive and successful series of meetings with the Regional Directors this week. Mr. Armstrong began the annual conference on Monday morning with an inspiring message on the subject of unity and teamwork. He compared the regional offices to the spokes of a wheel, all connected to the hub--headquarters. But, Mr. Armstrong stressed, it is an unusual wheel--one that has no rim. Each spoke is connected to the hub, and to each other through the hub, not by a rim. We all work through headquarters, and thereby are all able to speak the same thing. We must all respond as one, like a well-functioning team, or a well-oiled machine, all regulated from headquarters.

Mr. Armstrong also stressed the personal examples of ministers. He reminded us of the old saying, "Actions speak louder than words." Our personal examples of unity, faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus Christ and the government He has placed in His Church inspire that same unity in God's people.

Mr. Armstrong explained that we are not teaching an "American religion," an "Australian religion," or a "European religion." We are teaching God's truth and His Word. God has placed the headquarters of His Church in the United States because America is the only place the Church can operate as it must to do God's work.

All of us need to remain close to God so we can be solidly "compacted together" as parts of the spiritual temple God is building. Jesus set the example. He was closer to God than any of us has ever been. As Mr. Armstrong pointed out, there will be absolutely no dissent nor conflict in God's Kingdom. That is the goal we must strive for now, through contact with God and by the unifying power of His Holy Spirit. The Church will be changed into the Kingdom of God when Christ returns. Therefore, let each of us work all the harder daily to grow in unity, becoming more firmly bound together by the mind of Jesus Christ.

I really appreciate your support of this conference through your prayers. I know God has heard, and has really blessed it. Mr. Armstrong attended virtually every session of the conference, and commented for a few minutes after several of the presentations, maintaining the overall theme of unity throughout the meetings.

The outlook for growth in 1985 is truly exciting! The Gospel is being proclaimed, and more powerfully every year! Our job is to please God, in cooperation, in unity, in support of one another, in communication with headquarters and with one another, and in heartfelt prayer. When our ways please God, He blesses us. Let each of us do his part this year to promote the unity and oneness that Jesus Christ expects of us!

More details about the conference and a wrap-up of the material presented by each Regional Director will appear in coming issues of the WORLDWIDE NEWS. We're including here the regular monthly reports (which this time are year-end wrap-ups) from Dr. Roy McCarthy and Mr. Robert Morton.

International News

From Dr. Roy McCarthy 1984 was the best year in the history of God's Church in Southern Africa. God richly blessed His Church with some spectacular increases, leaving one with the feeling that God is speeding up His work. This has encouraged and stirred everyone to finish the work rather than just do the work. In this report we will briefly summarize the growth in Southern Africa and our future plans--especially for 1985.

We still have no television nor radio available to broadcast "The WORLD TOMORROW." We must therefore continue to concentrate on increasing distribution and circulation of the 48-page PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Our latest circulation statistics show 213,000 on our subscription list. Another 56,000 magazines are distributed on newsstands--giving us a monthly circulation of 269,000 magazines. This raises our readership to over 800,000. The total number of subscribers increased during 1984 by 56.3%.

During 1984 we added 169,318 new subscribers--an increase of 96.5%! Our ongoing three-letter renewal system keeps the file active--hence in 1984, 87,270 subscribers were dropped because they failed to renew. The following identifies the sources from which we added the new subscribers.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>% of total 169,318</u>
Direct Mail	62,192	36.7%
READER'S DIGEST	48,669	28.7%
Newsstands	21,179	12.5%
Regular Mail	18,909	11.2%
Other: Blow-in Cards, Waiting Rooms, Newspaper Ads	18,369	10.9%

The percentage of response to our direct mail efforts was a healthy 5.18%.

The highlight of 1984 was the 28,980 responses to the READER'S DIGEST advertisement placed in the February issue! The two subsequent ads (in August and October) brought in totals of 10,970 and 7,843 respectively. In 1984 there was a 67% increase in total incoming mail.

Our GOOD NEWS circulation is 9,815, an increase of 15.2% and due to rise soon when responses come in to Mr. Armstrong's letter to PT readers who have renewed twice offering the GOOD NEWS magazine. YOUTH magazine circulation has risen by 17.2% and stands at 1,140.

Our finances during 1984 showed an increase of 17.4% for all accounts. The operating account (assistance and festival funds excluded) showed an increase of 15.8%. Our donors total 1,906, a 16.2% increase, and co-workers total 1,619, a 10.6% increase.

These fine increases were recorded in spite of the fact that South Africa has a depressed economy due to the prolonged drought, a low gold price, an inflation rate of 13% and a very low rand/dollar exchange rate. A record low of 42.3 U.S. cents to a rand was reached on January 15. Unemployment has increased as firms retrench or close down. This has affected several of our members. Salary increases have been very low--in some cases some have even taken cuts in salary or a decrease in hours worked per week.

Our members total 1,557--an increase of about five percent over 1983. Baptisms in 1984 totalled 118, which is an 18% increase over 1983. Our prospective member list shows an increase of 14%.

Presently we have 17 congregations pastored by 11 full-time field ministers--six preaching elders and five local elders. There are four local church elders. Another five ordained men are employed in the office in Cape Town.

As of December 22, the Johannesburg Church, which had reached an attendance of 618, has been separated into two congregations--the Central and East Churches. The Central Church is pastored by Mr. Dan Botha and the East Church is pastored by Mr. Ron Stoddart. Other recent transfers have been Mr. Andre van Belkum to Cape Town, with an attendance of about 370 (220 members), and Mr. John White to Pretoria. Four pastors have a two-church circuit and one has three churches. The total average Sabbath attendance is 2,529.

A successful SEP was held at Wagondrift near Estcourt in Natal during 1984. And smaller Youth Camps were conducted at Elgin in the Cape Province and in Zimbabwe. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kellers and three Ambassador College students assisted.

The 1984 Feast of Tabernacles was indeed our best ever. God certainly blessed the members--their joy, fellowshiping and concern one for the other were much in evidence. Attendance was up just over seven percent and holy day offerings for the year averaged a plus 36.5%. 1985 will see Feast sites in Livingstone, Zambia; Mutare, Zimbabwe; Grand Baaie, Mauritius; George and Durban in South Africa.

Our office move to Cape Town took place prior to and immediately after the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles. Not only did we drop from 6,000 feet above sea level to the coast, but we descended from the 35th floor of a 50-storey building to the fifth floor of a seven-storey building. We have slightly more floor space but our rental is about 30% cheaper. We are 25 minutes away by road to where The PLAIN TRUTH is printed. The environment and office facilities certainly add to our enthusiasm.

One area of concern has been Zimbabwe, where the pastor of the Harare Church was refused a residential permit--a result of changes in the government's attitudes toward religion. The pastor, Mr. Robert Klynsmith, can enter on temporary visas, which he has no difficulty at present in obtaining. We would appreciate your prayers for God's intervention.

Plans for 1985 include a second direct mail letter to about 900,000 households, although we may decide to be more selective and mail to smaller, more specific mailing lists. We are mailing out the first direct mail letter to 110,140 additional households--72,980 in English and 37,160 in Afrikaans--at the end of January.

We plan four, perhaps five, READER'S DIGEST advertisements--beginning with the February issue, and then basically every other month till October. We also plan to place 10 advertisements during the year in top national magazines. In addition, we plan to increase our newsstand distribution to 80,000 per month and continue with the blow-in card from time to time.

God's work is being done--we are going through the doors open to us as fast as we are able. Please pray for us, as we pray for God's work worldwide, that the doors may remain open in the areas we administer, and that we may be granted utterance through the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS, and other publications to bring the only message of warning and of hope to mankind prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

From Mr. Robert Morton We are pleased to report that the work of God's Church in Australia and Asia has been blessed with solid growth throughout 1984. The following is a brief summary of what Christ has accomplished in this area of the world during the past twelve months.

For the first time in the history of God's Church in Australia, The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list exceeded the 100,000 mark. By the end of December, circulation had risen to 101,060 subscribers--a 68.3% increase over 1983.

Through the newsstand programme, advertisements in READER'S DIGEST and other leading Australian magazines, "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast and the library/waiting room programme, 59,115 new subscribers were added to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list during 1984.

In Asia The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list also recorded a healthy increase. Throughout the year 30,356 new subscribers were added to the file, bringing our Asian subscription list to 55,651--a 59.9% increase over the previous year. New subscribers came onto the Asian PLAIN TRUTH mailing list mainly from advertisements in READER'S DIGEST in Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka. In addition, about one-fifth of the new subscribers were added as a result of "word of mouth."

Extremely encouraging results have been achieved in the newsstand programme throughout Australia. The field ministry and members are doing an excellent job in promoting The PLAIN TRUTH, resulting in a 114.3% increase in newsstand circulation--from 70,000 to 150,000 copies per month. Currently there are 607 newsstand outlets throughout the country, and 365 members are involved in newsstand distribution.

In Asia, interest in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine on the newsstands has been exceptionally high. A small newsstand programme of 800 copies per month is currently being tested in Malaysia, while in Sri Lanka, 3,000 copies are distributed each month on two newsstands. As finances permit, we will increase the newsstand circulation in Asia throughout 1985.

An exciting new development for God's Church in Australia occurred in late December. Our new WATS number--008 074 222--was advertised for the very first time on "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast over Channel 7 Brisbane. From that first weekend of advertising our new number on Mr. Armstrong's programme, we received 107 WATS calls, of which two were visit requests. We have begun to receive a steady trickle of calls during working hours, indicating that viewers are jotting down the number and waiting to call us at a time suitable to them.

Australians generally seem to be in transition between being a "write-in" society to becoming a "phone-in" society, and the WATS system in this nation is still in the experimental state. Currently we have four WATS lines (known in Australia as the "008 Service"). These four lines were especially laid to the Gold Coast for our use and currently we are the only

local organization with this facility. The WATS number is now being advertised on "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast across the nation, and we expect 1985 to be a very productive year as more and more people make direct contact with God's Church by phone.

A major effort by our members in Australia throughout 1984 dramatically increased our library/waiting room subscription list. At the beginning of the year we had only 376 libraries and waiting rooms on file. By the end of December over 9,900 new outlets had been added to the list, many of which also requested a subscription to the YOUTH magazine.

In addition, two of our Church members were successful in placing The PLAIN TRUTH, Mr. Armstrong's books, and a number of relevant booklets into the library of every prison and corrective institution in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory. The number of prisons and corrective institutions which are now the recipients of the Church's publications is 66.

Other encouraging increases have occurred in The GOOD NEWS and YOUTH circulations. In Australia The GOOD NEWS mailing list rose by 86.6%, and in Asia by 78.4%. Australian YOUTH circulation climbed by 61.0%, and in Asia it rose by 63.3%.

These fine increases in our magazine subscription lists have brought in many additional requests from our readers. In 1984 we received and processed 302,355 items of mail--a 47.4% increase over the previous year. In addition, outgoing mail passed the one million mark for the first time in the history of God's Church here in this area of the world: 1,025,051 pieces of mail were posted--a 25.3% increase over 1983.

Mr. Armstrong's visit to Japan, China, Hong Kong, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand in November and December greatly enhanced God's work in these Asian countries. As a result of Mr. Armstrong's visit with leading officials in Sri Lanka, "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast was accepted for airing over Colombo TV station, ITN11. The first telecasts aired in early December, and resulted in 526 responses. A special system has now been organized so that the literature requested by viewers in Sri Lanka can be placed in their hands with a minimum of delay.

Currently 38 full-time ministers serve the brethren in 50 congregations throughout Australia and Asia, and 27 full-time employees serve in the Australian regional office.

This past twelve months 152 members were added to God's Church in Australia, bringing our total membership to 3,222--a 3.1% increase over 1983. In 1984, 25 Asian members were added to God's Church, bringing the membership in the Asian area to 389--a 7.2% increase over the previous year.

Attendance in 1984 at the six festival sites in Australia increased by 5.2% to 5,702, and the brethren continued to wholeheartedly support God's Church through their holy day offerings--up 25.4% over 1983. In Asia 702 brethren gathered to observe the Feast of Tabernacles at four festival sites--Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Burma and the Solomon Islands. This was a 13.4% increase in attendance over 1983.

SEP camp at Lake Moogerah began December 27, 1984, with a jam-packed programme of activities, education, challenge, fellowship and fun scheduled

for our young people. This summer 224 campers from Australia and Asia were accepted for SEP. They are being served and supervised by 11 ministers and wives, and 78 staff members. Reports indicate that this is the most outstanding camp ever conducted for our young people in this country.

We are very grateful to Jesus Christ for continuing to provide our financial needs through the members, co-workers and donors. With an increase of 13.0% in December, our end-of-year increase in income finalized at 15.2%.

Recent Ordinations

Mr. John Borax, associate pastor of the Calgary (North), Canada congregation, was raised in rank to preaching elder Sabbath, January 5, 1985. Hands were laid on him by the Regional Director for Canada, Mr. Colin Adair, and by Calgary pastor Mr. Graemme Marshall.

That same Sabbath, in San Fernando, the Philippines, Mr. Bermevon Dizon was ordained a local elder by evangelist Mr. Dean Blackwell, Philippine Regional Director Mr. Guy Ames, and office manager Mr. Rod Matthews.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

1983-1984--One Record Year After Another

As we have previously reported, 1984 was a year of record-breaking growth for God's Church in nearly all categories. The following table illustrates the tremendous increases we experienced in the United States compared to 1983, which was itself a record year:

<u>Category</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Mail Received	3,865,580	4,927,491	27.5%
WATS Calls	621,732	790,793	27.2%
Total New Names Added to File	1,085,228	1,710,324	57.6%
PLAIN TRUTH Subscriptions*	2,315,708	2,596,851	12.1%
GOOD NEWS Circulation*	173,358	379,682	119.0%
YOUTH Magazine Circulation*	96,079	107,242	11.6%
Books and Booklets	4,027,284	4,875,034	21.1%
Bible Course Enrollments*	195,941	241,985	23.5%
Co-workers*	49,205	55,605	13.0%
Donors*	88,724	104,458	17.7%

*File counts as of December

Co-worker Growth Matches Subscriber Growth

During the past three years, the number of U.S. co-workers has increased from 33,000 to over 55,000. This is an average annual increase of 18%! This rate of growth is nearly as high as that of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine for the same period. It is evident that co-worker growth is paralleling the same upward trend of the PT subscription list.

Member Donations Up by 12.7%

We are also pleased to report that member contributions for 1984 were up by 12.7% over 1983. This was substantially higher than the increase in baptized members, which was 3.3%. Thus the brethren continue to give more per person in supporting God's Church than ever before--an obvious reflection of the increased dedication of God's people in helping to do God's work!

Ambassador Students Appreciate College Experience

With the second semester of college now underway, we thought to share some comments received in the mail from Ambassador students. A number have written in to express their heartfelt thanks for the fine opportunities available in Pasadena and Big Sandy. From their comments, it's clear that attending Ambassador College is one of the greatest blessings these young people have experienced. Following are a few of their letters:

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you very much for your faithfulness to God and the example you have set for all of us. I am currently a freshman at Big Sandy. God has truly given me a chance to partake of the best education a person could hope for.

I look forward to each and every day trying to learn as much as I can, but knowing that there is still much I need to learn. It is easy to tell that this is God's college and that the faculty is bending over backwards to train us in the way we should go. Truly this is a part of my life I can be extra thankful for.

D.V. (Big Sandy, TX)

I send the enclosed check simply because I am so thankful for all the blessings I have received. I am an Ambassador College student and even though money is not as plentiful as it once was, my blessings are much more abundant.

I want to thank you most sincerely for opening this college in the first place, and being guided by Jesus Christ. It is indeed the only place to be where one can "recapture true values." I pray for continued growth of the Church and am working diligently to do as much as I can for the work in my own small way.

V.S. (Pasadena, CA)

Please let Mr. Armstrong know that I personally appreciate the care and concern he has given me over the years. I have benefited just this past school year because I was able to attend Ambassador College at Pasadena. Nowhere else have I seen so many excellent teachers. Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly shown that he has God's guidance by the fruits of God's work. The college with campuses at Big Sandy and at Pasadena has been a rich blessing to every member of God's Church.

J.M. (Pasadena, CA)

Please accept this letter of appreciation for your dedication to the Ambassador College campus and its student body. Just after my arrival here, you took time out of your busy schedule just so

you could personally welcome the incoming freshmen (of which I am one). Even while writing, I can see you out of my dorm window here at Grove Terrace personally inspecting the construction taking place nearby. I would just like to thank you for being such a fine inspiration to us all!

D.J. (Pasadena, CA)

I am about to embark on one of the most exciting opportunities of my life in a few days, being a freshman student at Ambassador College, Big Sandy. This is in fact a very unusual thing, as I am at last able to attend after seeking this goal for thirteen years! I appreciate very much God's opening the door for me to attend, in this, my third year.

R.H. (Big Sandy, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BRITAIN'S "DIGNIFIED DEMISE"; GREEN LIGHT AT LAST
FOR THE "CHUNNEL"?; CANADA'S "SWISS CHEESE" DEFENSE

Britain is going down--but in style, and with not a little flourish. That seems to be the message the news commentators relay as the pound retreats to historic new lows. To continue a theme begun last week, we present a few more articles, beginning with comments by Anthony Lewis, syndicated columnist for THE NEW YORK TIMES. Mr. Lewis reported the following in his January 25 column:

The world has got used to the decline of Britain.... What Americans and others from rich countries mostly do about Britain is cluck at its economic misfortune--and take advantage of it.... More foreigners will fly over for the Harrods sale, or buy property in London. For us it will be forever England, cozy and quaint....

Peter Jenkins of THE GUARDIAN...wrote last month about the consequences "of a decade and a half of accelerated decline." He quoted an observer of 17th-century Spain as saying that its decline had become so rapid that "one can actually see it occurring from one year to the next." Jenkins said: "We see it ourselves. We see urban dilapidation and squalor, a rotting housing stock and rusting transport facilities, shabby-looking people in filthy streets and public places, things everywhere broken or not working."...

Economists and historians have traced the decline back to Victorian times. The rot set in, they suggest, even as the empire reached this apogee. The country emphasized glory abroad over enterprise at home. It rewarded philosophers and sneered at businessmen. The roots of the British disease, it is often said, are deep.

But the politicians of the last 20 years or so have certainly accelerated the trend.... The worst of it is the lack of a credible political alternative now. Labor has moved so far to the left... that it hardly seems a potential governing party.... Peter Jen-

kins has...sometimes...seen the chance for a miraculous regeneration. But last fall he took "the gloomy view that the adaptation that would be required of us, after all that has gone before, will prove too great--and that, like Venice, success will consist in managing a long, civilized and dignified demise."

An editorial in the January 20 SUNDAY TIMES of London also took stock of Britain's declining fortunes:

The rest of the world is sending us two messages, both of them profoundly depressing. First, the world's money men now seem to regard Britain as a one-commodity country. Just as if we were a Third World nation dependent on one crop, the value of sterling on the exchanges now seems to depend on oil prices: when they weaken, so does the pound. Of course, we can protest that North Sea oil accounts for less than 6 per cent of our national wealth. But in international finance perception is often more important than reality.

Oil is so important to sterling because the rest of the world sees North Sea oil as about the only thing Britain has going for it. For it seems that, and this is the second message, the world's money men are beginning to realise that, even after five years of Thatcher government, the economic decline of Britain continues apace. Despite the progress that has been made (the turnaround in Jaguar cars is one of the best examples), we remain an inefficient, uncompetitive nation, afraid of new technology, uncomfortable with competition, short on business enterprise and management flair, long on appalling unions and still obsessed with class divisions which are the joke of the world.... Every so often the rest of the world takes stock of our nation, and marks sterling down....

To reduce unemployment from 3.5m to a still-too-large 2m by 1990 it is estimated that about 2.2m new jobs will be needed over the next five years--an increase in employment of 10 per cent. Nothing in the recent performance of the British economy suggests it will generate anything like that number of jobs in the rest of this decade.... There are still far too many ingrained impediments in this country for business enterprise to flourish using the latest technology, free from union restrictions and the old school tie. Until the government starts to tackle these supply-side constraints in a radical way, Mrs. Thatcher risks becoming yet another prime minister who came to power determined to reverse our decline, but who was destined to fail.

The "Chunnel"--Will It Go Through at Last?

Britain's economic doldrums are partly responsible for the revival of an old idea--that of constructing a tunnel under the English Channel linking Britain with France and tying into the continental transport network. Many thousands of presently unemployed workers stand to profit, in the short run, from the project (which probably would entail a twin-bore rail link).

The idea of a Channel Tunnel (or a "Chunnel" as some call it) is further enhanced by desire on the part of some in Britain to show that the country is

serious about its commitment to a "real Common Market." It thus acquires strong political symbolism. In addition, both the British and the French governments now hold a similar crucial viewpoint--that the project should be built with private capital and that the major role of both governments should be not to guarantee private risk capital but to issue a commitment that the project, once launched, would not be stopped for political reasons. The French were left hanging when Britain's Labour government, in 1975, cancelled the most recent project (there had been several previous attempts). Digging had already progressed a mile and a half at both the British and French entrances.

The idea of private financing for the "Chunnel" has acquired new favor ever since the British government decided to sell off shares in publicly-owned British Telecom. Even the government was surprised how avid British investors were to gobble up the stock issue. A January 16 TIMES of London editorial entitled "A New Link for Europe" praised the "positive enthusiasm" for a new tunnel attempt:

The atmosphere surrounding that venerable project has unquestionably changed in the last few months. For the first time, or certainly the first time in many years, the idea has captured the imagination and earned the positive enthusiasm of the British prime minister.... [Late last spring Mrs. Thatcher announced] in a joint declaration with President Mitterrand, that she recognized "the potential importance of a cross-Channel fixed link as an element in the great European transport network," and considered "that such a link would be technically feasible and financially viable." Thus the question is no longer "whether" but "how."

What has changed? In one sense nothing, or nothing in the British attitude. The British position has been, ever since Mr. Crosland stopped the digging ten years ago, that the tunnel must not come at the taxpayer's expense. It is the French, long scornful of this attitude, who have come round. La rigueur is the order of the day now for government spending, even more in Paris than in London. The guarantees now being offered are political--government will not cause investors to lose their money by taking action to scupper the project--rather than financial. The private investor is being asked to put up his own money at his own risk. But, and this is a crucial difference, he is being asked--or he is going to be....

A number of factors have come together to produce this change. The solution of Britain's budget problem in the Community has made Europe in general and M. Mitterrand in particular seem suddenly more attractive. The emphasis on creating a "real common market" by removing obstacles to trade endows the idea of a direct link to the continent, without the hassle of unloading and reloading or the danger of interruption by gales and fog, with an obvious relevance.

The persistence of high unemployment [has]...undeniably also lent a certain lustre to a project variously estimated as likely to provide fifty or even a hundred thousand jobs in the late 1980s, especially if it really does not have to be financed out of the public sector borrowing requirements....

And the political symbolism of a project which would literally bind this country, not just to France but to the European continent, is something we should surely by now be able to welcome rather than shun. As evidence of our European commitment, it would carry far more conviction than any number of flags, anthems, or maroon-coloured passports [referring to the standardized European Community passport which took effect on January 1].

On the surface, Britain's economy could use a "shot in the arm" from the tunnel enterprise. But is it so good for the country in the long run? The following is repeated from a short report published in the August 1966 issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. It dealt at that time with the previous tunnel scheme (the one subsequently scrubbed in 1975):

Britain and France have at last agreed to build a tunnel under the English Channel!... Businessmen and ambitious generals alike have dreamed of such a tunnel since the days of Napoleon.

In 1880, a French-English combine actually started digging. But work was stopped after nearly two miles of the tunnel had been excavated. The project was revived in 1890, but to no avail. Attempts in 1906 and 1914 again proved fruitless. Each time plans were stopped cold by the British War Office. England's top generals repeatedly vetoed the scheme as a peril to Britain's island security. In today's nuclear age, however, such fears have vanished. But officials don't see the hidden danger....

God promised our countries fantastic national wealth. He promised protection from our enemies (Deut. 28:7). He settled us behind protective geographical barriers. The United States has been blessed with two ocean frontiers. The British Isles have been separated from the Continent by the choppy waters of the Channel. Even Hitler's massive air attacks in World War II couldn't subjugate Britain.

But God is about to breach the Channel gap.... Unless we repent, one third of our peoples--including millions of British--will die in nuclear warfare at the hands of a resurrected Roman Empire in Europe. After that, another third will be carried off into captivity (Ezek. 5:12). But how? The English Channel tunnel may well prove to be the primary expulsion route taken by millions of hapless Britons.... Britain's days of "splendid isolation" are numbered.

One channel tunnel project after another has fizzled down through the ages. But at last, Britain's protective moat looks like it is about to be breached.

"Chunnel" Yes, Eurostamp No

How far will the British be willing to go, however, in the cause of European unity? The "Chunnel" idea sounds good, especially to a pragmatic conservative government, but the latest unity scheme floated by a European Community committee may be a non-starter. The idea is to produce a common postage stamp for use by all ten EC countries. The most popular version of this idea advocates having a stamp depicting a map of the Community on the right-

hand side, with its value in European Currency Units (ECU's) on the left, complete with the conversion rate in local currencies.

Many admit the project may have to await greater monetary harmonization and a firmer value for the ECU. Nevertheless, the reaction from Britain has been strong. Stamps in Britain have never failed to portray the head of the reigning sovereign.

A British member of the European Parliament, Mr. Leslie Huckfield, said of the plan: "I'm going to tell them where they can stick their stamps. Getting rid of the Queen from British postage stamps will reinforce the strong feeling of the vast majority of the people of Britain who are totally opposed to our membership of the Common Market." Mr. Alf Jones, deputy Labour leader in the Parliament, added: "This is another example of Euro-fanatics dreaming up crackpot schemes."

Canada's "Swiss Cheese" Defense

It is not only the United States and Britain that are on that slippery slope of national decline. The same is true of Canada. America's northern neighbor is not often in the big news of the day, but that doesn't mean it has not undergone tremendous changes in recent years. Specifically, Canada's once-proud military forces are in a virtual state of despair and disrepair, the victims of welfarism and a changed view of what Canada's role in the Western world should be.

While the new conservative government of Brian Mulroney has pledged to bolster its armed forces, the following report, entitled "Canada's Beleaguered Military Struggles to Stay Alive," which appeared in the October 19, 1984 WALL STREET JOURNAL, shows how difficult it will be to make the required changes. The article was written by Eric S. Margolis, the defense and foreign affairs columnist of the TORONTO SUN.

While Washington has been rebuking its European North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies for failing to boost their conventional forces, Canada has almost completely disarmed with hardly a murmur of U.S. protest.

At the end of World War II, Canada had the world's third-largest navy and almost one million men under arms. In 1962, a still-powerful Canadian navy assumed defense of the North Atlantic, temporarily substituting for U.S. warships blockading Cuba.

Today, Canada's military power is only a distant memory. Its once-proud armed forces now rank on a par with those of Ecuador or the Philippines. This process began 16 years ago when the new Liberal government of Pierre Trudeau set out to reduce U.S. ownership of a major portion of Canada's industry, heighten nationalism and create a Scandinavian-style welfare state. To finance such sweeping programs, Ottawa embarked on massive deficit spending and the relentless diversion of funds away from the military....

Canadian territory is vital to the defense of U.S. airspace and its maritime approaches. And Canadian leaders have long been uncomfortably aware that the U.S. might act to defend Canada if

Canadians did not do so themselves. "Unless we defend our own sovereignty," says George Bell, director of the Canadian Institute for Strategic Studies, "we could become a protectorate of the United States."...

Canada...spends just under 2% of gross national product on defense, the lowest amount of any NATO member save tiny Iceland and Luxembourg. There are only 83,000 men and women (in and out of uniform) in Canada's armed forces--this to defend territory larger than the U.S. But even this figure does not tell the full story. The land component of Canada's unified armed forces can field only about 8,000 combat troops and a paltry 114 tanks. Though highly trained and of excellent quality, in numbers the army is little more than a gendarmerie. Canada's air force has some of the world's best pilots but only 150 combat aircraft, half of which are obsolescent or ready for the scrap yard. Despite the air force's purchasing of new F-18 fighters, attrition will leave it by 1987 with no more than 138 warplanes with which to defend Canadian airspace, patrol the Arctic and support NATO.

Canada has one of the world's longest coastlines and is a major exporter. Yet the state of its navy was described recently at a parliamentary committee hearing as "pathetic." The navy's 23 destroyers and frigates have an average age of 23 years: Half are nearing the end of their service lives; only four have any modern armament. The older ships suffer from chronic boiler troubles and their electronic gear is so ancient that their required vacuum tubes must be purchased from, of all places, the U.S.S.R.

Last January, during a naval review for the defense minister in Halifax, more than half the ships on display broke down. One Canadian admiral puts it simply: "Going to sea in wartime would be suicidal." Nor does Canada have a single mine sweeper to keep its vital ports open during hostilities.

The infrastructure of military power is also lacking. Trained manpower reserves are almost nonexistent; there is no industrial mobilization capacity at all. Should war erupt tomorrow, Canada could not even supply its troops with enough rifles, not to mention all the high-tech equipment of modern war. Canada's once-extensive arms industry has been allowed to wither away by a government that considered it wicked and immoral.

Confirming this alarming state, a recent study by the nonpartisan, blue-ribbon Business Council on National Issues reports that Canada lacks not only the ability to meet its NATO commitments, but even the means of defending itself.... Some Canadians are becoming unhappily aware that their nation has been stripped of its defenses. Many, however, still believe the notion promoted by the past government, that the armed forces' prime role was for United Nations peacekeeping missions. There is a particularly distressing irony here. Pierre Trudeau, by striving to lessen U.S. influence over Canada, may well have made his nation even more dependent on its powerful and sometimes overbearing neighbor....

Brian Mulroney's new Conservative government is well aware of Canada's military distress. The defense minister, Robert Coates, has promised to reequip the armed forces to a "significant degree," with priority going to the navy. During the election campaign, he promised \$190 million more for defense--an amount that represents about five fighter aircraft. Defense, as always, is a very low priority for Canada....

Such sweeping improvements in the military can come only from the social-welfare budget--the most-sacred cow of Canadian politics. Soviet troops may have to land in Toronto before Canadians agree to cuts in their beloved welfare schemes.

Another idea that Canadian authorities came up with years ago to streamline (and probably deemphasize) the country's military structure was to amalgamate all branches of the military--army, navy and air force--under one command, called the "Canadian forces." I remember attending the seven-nation economic summit in Ottawa in June 1981. We journalists were told that the various heads-of-government were to land at the "Canadian forces" base adjacent to the Ottawa airport. An air force base was implied, but not stated. Such "uniforce" ideas hardly inspire an esprit de corp--any more than the "unisex" direction the U.S. military was headed during the Carter Administration.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau