

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

After a good increase of 15.5% in January, the February income increase was disappointing. The month started off with negative figures, but conditions gradually improved until we ended the month with a 6% increase over February, 1984. This brought the year-to-date increase to 11.2%, which is slightly less than the 12% increase we had budgeted for. The severe weather conditions in February probably limited the income of some of our contributors, decreasing the amounts of their tithes and offerings.

Most departments have done a very good job of holding expenses under budget. In fact, the income shortfall was offset almost exactly by the amount the combined departments were under budget. This means that even though the reserves are still too low, they have not eroded below expected amounts through the end of February.

We are hoping and praying that this downward income trend will change soon. If we and all the brethren prepare properly for the spring holy day offerings and are generous according to how God has blessed us, I'm sure conditions will improve.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

God has been richly blessing His Church with new open doors and much new growth. This is resulting in an increased number of new visit requests for each local pastor. Many of these visit requests are generated by The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, and a great number by "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast.

Individuals making their first contact with a minister of God's Church expect him to be just as warm, understanding, friendly and personable as Mr. Armstrong is on the telecast and in his Personals and articles. We must keep this in mind when we are talking to a new contact. If we are not careful, we could come across as cold, too businesslike, or super efficient. As the Apostle James tells us, "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom" (Jas. 3:13). God expects each of us to do his part to be a right reflection of Mr. Armstrong and of God's Church.

This carries over, of course, into all of our relationships with people. We should ask ourselves often, "How would Jesus Christ treat this person?" We must ask God continually for the mind of Christ in counseling and working with His people. God is not harsh and inconsiderate, nor is He lax and weak in administering His Law. As ministers, we should always be conscious of how we are affecting people. God expects us to set a right example in this area of human relations. He will give us the help we need if we are looking to Him for it.

Regarding the upcoming Night to Be Much Observed, it should again be observed the same way as in the past several years. Groups of two or three

families should eat and fellowship together in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin that we as New Testament Christians experience. The host or leading man should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion, but no further "sermonizing" should be done.

The meaning of the Night to Be Much Observed should be carefully explained on the preceding Sabbath, and the brethren should be encouraged to bear that meaning in mind as the background and focus of their spiritual fellowship during this special evening. Also point out how enjoyable it is to open our homes to one another--to plan and serve together, helping and fellowshiping with one another even in cleanup. And make sure that no widows or other single people are left out on this very important occasion.

Some have asked about the use of restaurants on this night. Although eating in a restaurant is not prohibited, experience has shown that it is much more preferable to have the meal for the Night to Be Much Observed in homes rather than in restaurants. The opportunity for quality fellowship is far greater in a home than in a restaurant. And since the Night to Be Much Observed does celebrate coming out of the sin of this world, observing it with brethren in an intimate, home atmosphere is much more meaningful.

A restaurant, even in a private room, provides too many possibilities for things to go wrong that might spoil or put a damper on the evening. Plans or reservations can be fouled up in many ways. There could be too few seats, wrong food served, improperly prepared food, poor service, unexpected noise ("music") or other distractions, last-minute cancellations due to sick children or auto problems, difficulties or sensitivities in computing each family's share of the bill, etc. These things have actually happened to various brethren at one time or another when they ate in restaurants on the Night to Be Much Observed. Many who have observed this very special evening in restaurants felt they missed the spirit of the occasion. On the other hand, we realize that there may be the rare situation where some may find a restaurant setting appropriate.

Be sure to also remind the brethren to plan and prepare well in advance for this spring festival period so they won't come up short at the last minute because of meal needs on the first holy day. There should be two services on that day as on all holy days except Atonement.

On another subject, we have been asked several questions about saving second tithe from one year to the next to visit an overseas Feast site, or a distant one on one's own continent. If it is necessary for a member to save his excess second tithe to make such a trip, he should first discuss it with his local pastor. His pastor should help him evaluate the advisability of transferring to a distant site.

The first priority concerning the use of second tithe is to properly rejoice before God at one's assigned Feast site. Members should not "skimp and save" during the Feast one year so they can travel to a faraway site the following year. Not only should a member properly rejoice before God at the Feast, he should fulfill his obligation to share his blessings with the less fortunate by sending in some excess second tithe. He should also contribute the tithe of the second tithe to the Church. If he is financially able to do all these things and still have extra second tithe, then he could save the excess until he has sufficient to transfer to an overseas or otherwise distant Feast site.

Members who are saving second tithe over in this manner should also have a valid reason for wanting to transfer--such as visiting parents or grandchildren whom they have not seen for years, or specific educational opportunities (for example, visiting Headquarters or Jerusalem). Their desire should not be simply that of wanting to take a vacation.

Thank you, as always, for your faithful labor of prayer for Mr. Armstrong and all of us here in Pasadena. Our prayers are with you in the great calling God has placed upon your shoulders.

Recent Ordinations

On the Sabbath, December 1, 1984, Mr. Dennis Leap was ordained a local church elder by Mr. Gerald Flurry, pastor of the Pasco, Washington congregation. Mr. Leap, who recently moved to New York, now serves in the Buffalo (South), New York church.

During the New Zealand regional ministerial conference February 21 and 22, 1985, Mr. David Klenner, of the Palmerston North congregation, was ordained a local church elder. Hands were laid on Mr. Klenner by evangelist Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, New Zealand Regional Director Mr. Peter Nathan, Mr. Jack Croucher and Mr. Lyall Johnston.

International News

From Mr. Bob Morton We in the Australian and Asian regional office continue to be most encouraged by the number of WATS line calls being received in response to Mr. Armstrong's telecast. Throughout January we averaged over 90 calls each week.

With the introduction of our four WATS lines, we thought there might be a significant drop in the number of letters received in response to the telecast. However, we are pleased to note that there was only a small drop in January. When we add together the WATS line and letter responses to the telecast for January, the number of requests increased by 126.5% over the same month last year. Of those responding to the telecast, either by phone or letter, 82% requested a PLAIN TRUTH subscription for the first time.

We are also delighted by the continuing interest being shown by Sri Lankan viewers to Mr. Armstrong's telecast currently being aired each Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. over Colombo station ITN11. In January, 728 viewers wrote in requesting The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and the other literature offered by Mr. Armstrong on the programme. If this trend continues, the PLAIN TRUTH mailing list in Sri Lanka will more than double by the end of 1985.

By the end of January, Mr. Armstrong's November, 1984 semiannual letter, offering THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS and THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS, had resulted in 10,890 responses from Australian PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. These responses represent 12.4% of the mailing list. Over three-quarters of the people who responded asked for both booklets.

The response from Asian subscribers to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter totaled 5,778 requests by the end of January--10.8% of the Asian mailing list. Because of the distances involved, responses from the Asian area will continue to come in for many months yet.

We received and processed a total of 28,346 letters in January--a 5.7% increase over January, 1984. Outgoing mail increased by 1.0%, with a total of 64,405 pieces of mail sent to interested readers.

From Mr. Colin Adair Except in the area of finances, January has started the year off very well for God's work in Canada. Response to Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter has been tabulated. The following figures show the numbers and percentages of response.

	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
ENGLISH	233,002	23,979	10.3%
FRENCH	67,042	13,078	19.5%

The French response is interesting in that it shows how much more effective mailing the semiannual letter is over stitching it into the French language PLAIN TRUTH. A year ago when we stitched the semiannual into La PURE VERITE, we received a 1.9% response. By mailing the most recent letter separately, the response jumped dramatically.

Newspaper inserts continue to trickle in. As of this writing we have received 43,498. This campaign culminates soon in Manitoba, being the last province to have the newspaper inserts.

In January, we began a trial project of advertizing and offering The PLAIN TRUTH through a transit shelter in the city of Winnipeg. This same experiment will be expanded to five other cities: Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto and Halifax. In addition to the transit shelters, we have been offered access to a shopping mall in each of these cities. As we are provided rental space free for one month, we have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of this type of distribution. During the first three weeks of the project, 1,000 magazines were distributed from the transit shelter in Winnipeg.

A new direct mail campaign is now underway. Approximately one million pieces (eight hundred thousand of which are in English and the remainder in French) will be mailed. We are estimating a 5 to 6% response.

We recently offered The GOOD NEWS to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers who have been receiving the magazine for at least two years or have renewed twice. We received a 17% response for the English GOOD NEWS and a 20.7% response for the French.

Incoming mail was up a healthy 38.7% over January, 1984. This translates into 53,124 letters, cards and calls into the office. Of this figure 11,281 were first contacts. Outgoing mail decreased 28%, although we still sent out 108,375 pieces. The number of WATS calls received was 1,537, a decrease of 2.7% from last year. Canadians, it seems, do not use the telephone as frequently as their cousins to the south.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGInteresting and Unusual Packages Sent to God's Church

Not only does God's Church receive tons of letters and cards each year, we also receive some unusual and amusing packages. To enable you to see that some of our work has amusing overtones, we're listing a few of the items we've received over the years. We are in no way trying to make light of people's sincerity by presenting this list. However, in most of the following cases, these things were intended to be humorous:

- Manuscripts and cassette tapes from self-proclaimed prophets.
- Frozen food that was quite unfrozen when it reached us.
- A five-gallon can of popcorn in three different flavors.
- Garden seeds.
- A box of odds and ends, including an unopened "antique" bottle of Coca-Cola.
- A rock from an atomic bomb site in New Mexico.
- Water from the Jordan River.
- Gold teeth and fillings.
- Two sticks representing the nations of Israel and Judah (Ezek. 37:17-18).
- Used razors, toothbrushes and a bar of soap meticulously decorated with sequins.
- A rubber snake.
- Nails intended for the "Building Fund."
- A box of bricks.
- Several old neckties, designated as his "first tie," "second tie," "third tie" and "tie of the tie."

The conclusion of the matter? Almost anything can come in the mail--and has!

Reminder About Holy Day Offering Envelopes

Holy Day offering envelopes have been sent to all members in the United States. Most should have arrived by the time you read this. If any members have not received theirs by Monday, March 25, please have them contact Mail Processing by calling our toll-free number (1-800-423-4444) before Friday, March 29. Replacement envelopes will be sent immediately by first class mail to those needing them.

Bible Study Awakens Brethren to Scope of God's Work

A number of members have written in, commenting on the tape of Mr. Ray Wright's recent Bible study in Pasadena. They were amazed and greatly encouraged to more fully realize the present size, scope, and complexity of God's end-time work. This information truly helped them to see the "big" picture, and also reinforced the importance of their part in God's Church, as the following letters show:

I wish to take this time to say thank you to Mr. Wright for the sermon we heard via tape about the work. Sometimes we think small because of the small amount we are able to give. But God certainly shows us that it is His work, just by the growth, quality, and up-to-the-minute articles written each and every month. I feel the sermon helped us to really understand how our prayers and offerings are needed. Thank you for giving us the facts in language we can all relate to.

J.H. (Monroeville, PA)

I wanted to thank you for the tape by Mr. Wright on the impact of the Church. It is remarkable how we don't realize how really great this work is unless we are told. There is a tendency to see it only on the local level. It is true, as you have said, the success of the work is in proportion to how much we please God. I am very happy to be a part of so great a work.

L.W. (Harrison, AR)

The sermon tape by Mr. Wright telling us of the tremendous growth in the work was so exciting and encouraging. But it also taught me a lesson. I had just received my annual contribution statement and my head was swollen because my tithes and offerings had amounted to almost twice the first tithe figure of my yearly income. But the few hundred dollars I gave was just a "drop in the bucket" compared to a \$120 million operating budget.

I am now simply very thankful that I am physically able to work and support this commission and realize God wants our hearts in the work. He will see that the income is added as needed, and I do not have to be "impressed" with my own donations--just keep my heart in the work. I will pray that all the brethren, donors, and co-workers can continue to prosper so this work can continue to answer every request.

Mrs. N.W. (Concord, NH)

Mr. Ray Wright had us on the edge of our seats last Sabbath as we listened to his tape about the growth of the work.

Mrs. S.G. (Mansfield, LA)

Please accept my small tithe to help you in doing God's work. This past Sabbath we heard a sermon tape of Mr. Ray Wright on the scope of the work. It really made me realize how important our tithes and offerings are in getting the work done. Thank you for the sermon tapes from Headquarters. They seem to come just when I need to hear about a certain topic.

A.C. (Henderson, KY)

We appreciated so much hearing a tape by Mr. Ray Wright today on God's work! One doesn't think of its gigantic scope or how very important a part we each have in doing the most important work on earth. Much thanks to God for you, Mr. Armstrong, and all the ministry who are always there to instruct and encourage us!

S.W. (Duluth, MN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S.-EUROPE RIFT OVER CENTRAL AMERICA;
ETHIOPIA AND KENNEDY; NOVEL SOLUTION TO AIDS

There's no mistaking it now: Central America has become the number one foreign policy concern of the Reagan Administration. Washington is stepping up both the rhetoric as well as the actual physical pressure on the Marxist Sandinista regime.

In some of the bluntest words to date, President Reagan said in a press conference that he won't be satisfied until the Sandinista rulers say "uncle," and open up the governmental process to the pro-Western forces now arrayed against them. This challenge only makes the Sandinistas cling all the tighter to power.

Secretary of State George Schulz, in a major address in San Francisco, called for the free-world equivalent of the "Brezhnev Doctrine." The latter was formulated by the Soviets in 1968 in response to the threatened break-away of Czechoslovakia from the communist world. Simply stated, the Brezhnev Doctrine affirms a once-communist-always-communist policy, that the Soviets and other bloc countries have the right to intervene in a wobbly communist state in order to "preserve the fruits of socialism." Secretary Schulz said the U.S. and the West in general should not be afraid to restore a free-world country, having fallen under communism, to its former status.

Thus the ante is mounting. President Reagan knows he has but two choices open to him now: Let Nicaragua alone, allowing it to infect other countries in the region--for theirs is a revolution without borders--or support those indigenous contra forces fighting the Marxist government. Should the latter policy fail, the U.S. somewhere down the road will be faced with two other more painful choices: Let communism spread throughout the region--or send in American troops to redress the balance of power.

No one wants to entertain the latter option, but the Democratically controlled House of Representatives also insists on blocking military aid to the contra "freedom fighters" (as the President calls them). The Sandinistas know this reluctance well; they float phony proposals designed primarily to sound peaceful--such as offering to send home 100 Cuban advisors (out of the few thousand who are there)--in order to influence Congress to withhold arms going to their enemies.

This is a big and growing foreign policy crisis. And it is having an increasing impact on the solidarity of the NATO alliance. Washington and most European capitals view the crisis through different prisms. Simply put, the Reagan Administration perceives a genuine threat to America's national interests. Many Europeans, on the other hand, believe the U.S. is acting paranoid over the existence of a small "socialist" state. This "misunderstanding" over the true nature of the crisis in Central America has the potential of ripping NATO asunder, as American analyst Irving Kristol writes in the March 1985 issue of ENCOUNTER, a British journal of current affairs, literature and the arts. Here are key excerpts from his lengthy warning to the Europeans, titled "A Transatlantic 'Misunderstanding'":

The basic reason for the increasing tensions between the United States and its Western European allies--and not only in the case of Central America, which is more symptom than cause--is the divergence that has occurred, ever since World War II, in the political ethos [guiding beliefs] of the United States and Western Europe. This divergence can be simply stated: The political ethos of Western Europe has been significantly influenced by socialist ideas and socialist modes of thinking, while the political ethos of the United States has been only superficially affected by them....

There are two...ways in which the socialist temper caused Western Europe to recoil from a more assertive foreign policy. The first has to do with its imperial past, about which most Europeans are convinced they ought to feel guilty. They are, as a result, inhibited from any action that might even seem to be "imperialistic"... Secondly, because European socialism and European communism have a common root in Marxism, European socialism is at least partially disarmed, ideologically, when confronting militant Communism....

It is a fact that, for over a century and a half now, the nations of Central America have demonstrated an extraordinary incapacity for self-government.... The nations of the region are either in turmoil or in potential turmoil. And now there is a new element, in the form of Soviet-Cuban intervention in that turmoil, with the intention of establishing Marxist-Leninist regimes in the area, and throughout the Southern hemisphere as well.

Do such regimes necessarily constitute any kind of threat to the United States? Europeans tend to think that the U.S. government is indulging in hysterical exaggeration when it asserts they are.... Why, they ask, cannot the United States live amiably with neighbouring nations that have different socio-economic systems? The answer is, of course, that the United States has little trouble doing just that. There have been left-wing and quasi-socialist regimes established in Peru, Bolivia, even in Mexico, and they have not precipitated any kind of crisis in U.S. foreign policy. But Marxist-Leninist regimes, actively supported with military aid and economic subvention by the Soviet Union, are a new kind of challenge. These tend to be totalitarian tyrannies, not the more familiar left-wing dictatorships or one-party left-wing governments. With massive Soviet assistance, they are enduring tyrannies--as enduring as the Soviet tyranny itself. And they (i.e., Cuba and Nicaragua) are active Soviet allies in this hemisphere--which is to say, they are active American enemies....

From a purely military point of view, the movement of countries such as Cuba and Nicaragua into the Soviet camp is not at all such a trivial matter. Cuba today is, after the United States, the largest and most powerful military force in the Western hemisphere--much more powerful than Canada or Brazil, for instance.... In addition, Cuba has provided--and is continuing to expand such provision--submarine bases for the Soviet fleet and airfields

where Soviet planes can land. In the strict and narrowest sense of US national security--i.e., defence of the continental homeland--Cuba is no threat. It will never invade the United States. But should there be a Soviet-American confrontation, those Soviet bases and Cuba's own military strength--to say nothing of its strategic location on the sea lanes--would surely count for something.

And there is another consideration. Yes, there really are dominoes out there (and they are especially there in Central America).... All revolutions in Central America have some indigenous roots. But that insurrection in El Salvador could not be so threatening were it not for Cuban and Nicaraguan assistance to the rebels. And if a Marxist-Leninist regime is once established in El Salvador, what will happen to Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama, where embryonic revolutionary movements are already active? And what, eventually, will happen to Mexico itself? These are all very shaky regimes, rife with corruption, and with ineffectual military establishments. Their vulnerability is acute.

These nations are well aware of their vulnerability, which is why they are now engaged in the so-called "Contadora process," trying to act as peace-making mediators for the region. But, though everyone expresses pious approval of such mediation, the sad truth is that it is more political theatre than anything else. These countries have no independent "leverage" on the situation--they are simply too weak. And there are no "misunderstandings" to clear up, since the United States and the Sandinistas understand each other well enough.... [And] economic assistance does not really provide an answer to the immediate threat of Marxist-Leninist insurrection....

To some degree, the European attitude is little more than a desperate hope that it can keep comfortably aloof from the turbulence of a world-wide ideological conflict.... Whatever the sources of the European perspective and European conduct...one thing is clear: America's European allies are fast approaching a moment of decision. The United States is not going to remain committed to the defence of Western Europe, at the risk of nuclear annihilation, if Western Europe is not equally committed to the defence of America's interests. In the debate over Central America, the very existence of NATO itself is at stake....

So our allies in Western Europe should start thinking with some care about Central America. As things now stand, they are too inclined to be frivolous, distancing themselves publicly from American policy in order to appease anti-American political opinion at home, while at the same time offering private assurances of solidarity. It is a short-sighted tactic--as any such appeasement generally is. A major clash between the United States and Europe over Central America could soon lead to overwhelming pressures in the United States for a redefinition of its role in NATO--even to the point of the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the European continent. This prospect is something Europeans should ponder most seriously.

It should be obvious also that Moscow has every incentive to keep the pressure on the U.S. in Central America. It sees renewed hope for one of its most sought-after objectives: the removal of U.S. ground forces from Western Europe. Only after this occurs can the process of confederating the nations of Western and Eastern Europe begin.

In the February 8, 1985 WALL STREET JOURNAL, John R. Silber, president of Boston University, wrote an opinion piece entitled "Plain Talk Behind Closed Doors in Central America." Dr. Silber was a member of the Kissinger Commission, which drafted recommendations regarding the war-ravaged region. Dr. Silber said that the Sandinistas distort history, as all communists do, to justify their need for massive arms to defend the revolution. He also divulged the fears that most of the other leaders of the region have but are afraid to speak of openly. Nicaragua's growing might intimidates them, and nowhere is there absolute confidence that the U.S. presents an effective counterforce. Excerpts of Dr. Silber's article follow.

The U.S. did not force the Sandinistas into their military build-up. The U.S. did not encourage the Sandinistas to censor the press, install block committees, forbid free labor unions, imprison and harass their opposition and ultimately hold a sham election. We in the U.S. should not reproach ourselves for forcing the Sandinistas into Marxism and militarism--for we did not. Our error was in failing to perceive that after the revolution the Leninist Sandinistas who had the guns would set up a dictatorship and blame their betrayal of the revolution on us....

Many citizens of the U.S. are still reluctant to accept the realities of the situation. Central Americans, on the other hand, are acutely aware of the threat on their doorsteps. When members of the Kissinger Commission met in private with high-ranking civilian leaders in Central America, we were told of their deep concern over the military buildup in Nicaragua and the massive Soviet-Cuban presence there. Without exception, these leaders agreed that the government of Nicaragua is determined to export revolution....

In Panama, the leaders made it clear to us that the Panama Canal may well be under attack within three or four years if nothing is done to contain the situation in Nicaragua. Yet publicly, the leaders of Panama have been reluctant to speak of such a possibility. Costa Rican leaders, both of the ruling National Liberation Party and of the major opposition party, have spoken of economic and political subversion caused by Nicaraguan infiltrators in Costa Rica, of an international Sandinista propaganda campaign against Costa Rica, and of the inability of the Costa Ricans to match Nicaraguan military might in order to defend their country from Sandinista adventurism. Yet these leaders, too, have been reluctant to speak frankly about their concerns in public.

President Suazo Cordova of Honduras spoke with the Kissinger Commission of the necessity of supporting El Salvador and of the threat to his country from Nicaragua. He has, since that time,

been outspoken in his position; there is no essential difference in what he says publicly or privately. He told us: "As far as peace negotiations are concerned,...how can you have rational negotiations between a belligerent and hegemonous nation--greatly superior in arms--and four nations who are militarily weak?... Mark my words, if El Salvador falls, Honduras and Guatemala will fall. And if that happens, one day your own capital will face the bombs of the terrorists of international communism."

Ethiopia--Let the Starving Continue

No one in the world doesn't have some sketchy knowledge of the plight of the hungry millions in Ethiopia, and now the southern Sudan. The Sudan has its own famine, plus it is home to many starving northern Ethiopians who have fled there since the Ethiopian government would not direct food to their region, held in rebel hands. Rock entertainers in both Britain and the U.S. have made records, the proceeds of the sales of which are intended for famine relief. At the recent NBA professional basketball all-star game in the U.S., players donated their paychecks to the same cause. Meanwhile, the Russian-backed military government in Addis Ababa seems to place its priorities elsewhere, as this article, entitled "Arms Deliveries at Famine Port Delay Grain for 16 Days," in the February 1, 1985 DAILY TELEGRAPH reported:

Fresh controversy has arisen over Ethiopia's handling of famine-relief shipments at the Red Sea port of Assab. A Danish grain ship had to wait 16 days while Soviet ships unloaded arms for the Ethiopian Army. And some 7,000 tons of grain destined for famine victims in rebel-held areas was confiscated while in transit.

Ethiopian port officials seized the cargoes of two European ships on Jan. 22, according to the BOSTON GLOBE newspaper. Officials in Washington confirmed that the grain on board the West German and Belgian ships had been impounded after port authorities found the vessels were sailing on to Port Sudan, further up the Red Sea, to unload part of their cargoes. The Sudanese port is the main access point for food aid to guerrilla-controlled areas of Ethiopia in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

Ethiopian policy now appears to be to confiscate all food cargoes from ships bound for Sudan which call in at Assab first. The food is then diverted for famine-relief in Government held areas. An American official said: "The issue is not that the food is going to waste. The point is that the food is not getting to the places where we estimate one-third of the total drought-affected population lives."

Neither West Germany nor Belgium has made any formal complaint to Ethiopia, an omission that clearly irritates the United States Administration. The official said: "We get no support from donor countries on the need to pressure Ethiopia on this point. They want to placate Ethiopia for fear of jeopardising their programme in the rest of the country."

The February 22, 1985 NATIONAL REVIEW drew attention to the contrasting impressions gained by Senator Edward Kennedy on his January trip to Africa, where he visited both South Africa and Ethiopia:

Last month Edward Kennedy visited segregated South Africa, where he vowed to fight apartheid. Then he visited famine-ridden Ethiopia, where he vowed to fight "hunger." Curiously--well, not so curiously--Kennedy didn't criticize the Marxist-Leninist regime in Ethiopia. In the time-honored Communist way, the Ethiopian regime is using the famine, and even blocking outside relief efforts, in order to subjugate recalcitrant parts of the population. The white regime of South Africa has done nothing remotely approaching this. The emaciated bodies of the Ethiopians speak as graphically of tyranny as the corpses at Auschwitz. Yet Kennedy scrupulously observed the convention of international progressive etiquette that forbids us to call the handiwork of Communism evidence of "social injustice" or "the need for systemic change."... No, these cliches of liberal analysis are reserved for capitalist societies.

Southern Africa too has (until recent flooding) been in the grips of an extreme drought. But with its modern infrastructure it was able to outlast the crisis, and provide for the needs of all its peoples. Mr. Kennedy, upon his return, wrote a very lengthy report in an issue of PEOPLE MAGAZINE about his grim impressions of visiting refugee camps in both Ethiopia and the Sudan. Nary a peep about the politics of the famine, however.

AIDS--Grim Statistics and Fanciful Solutions

In an article titled "Hysteria Yields to Grim Facts," the SUNDAY TIMES of London (February 24, 1985) published some of the latest grim statistics regarding the spread of AIDS--Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome--in the U.S. The British are very concerned over the extent of the disease in the U.S. since it is now spreading rapidly in the U.K.

Up to February 18, there were 8,495 reported cases [in the U.S.] including 4,077 deaths. It has taken five years to reach this figure. Yet this year alone experts expect it to double. Although 73% of cases are adult homosexuals, the borders of the disease are extending: 587 females and 97 children under 13 have Aids. A six-year-old boy caught the disease after sexual abuse by his father who had caught the disease from his lover. In San Francisco a 66-year-old nun died following a contaminated blood transfusion. A Florida couple in their seventies and married 50 years both have Aids. The man, a hemophiliac, was infected by a blood transfusion and he infected his wife.

Recent research into donated blood suggests that around 400,000 people and virtually every American hemophiliac has been exposed to the Aids virus. Of these it is estimated that 4% to 19% will develop Aids outright and 25% some of the symptoms. To put this in perspective, there are 12m blood transfusions a year in America.

Another report, this time from the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD of January 31, 1985, estimates that about 50 per cent of homosexual or bisexual males in a

selected group in Sydney, Australia are now positive for the AIDS antibody, representing anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 in the city.

A rather "far-out" solution to Britain's mounting AIDS crisis was advocated by the editorial staff of THE ECONOMIST, an otherwise quite conservative publication. The editors suggested (in the subhead of an editorial titled "A Plague on Homosexuals?" in the March 2 issue) that "a more liberal attitude, and less panic, could help contain Aids." They then wrote:

Acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a dreadful disease. It kills by stripping the body of its defences against other diseases.... Its death-toll, mostly among homosexuals, is doubling in several advanced countries every few months. Attacking homosexuals will not help matters. The sensible response is for society to be more tolerant of homosexuality, in thought-out ways.

The reason Aids has spread so fast is that many male homosexuals are sexually promiscuous. The best single way of preventing further spread is to persuade them to commit buggery [sodomy] with fewer, and known, sexual partners. Intolerance will not achieve that. Deliberate tolerance might. So sanction some sort of legal "marriage" for gays in the hope that this will give them more reasons to be less promiscuous? The Christian churches could help by focusing less on St. Paul's hang-ups and more on Christ's compassion.

"Tolerate and regulate" sin seems to be the approach rather than to "recognize and eliminate" it. Another example is provided by that mecca of toleration, Amsterdam. In January, the city authorities were scheduled to place into operation two new barges where heroin addicts can watch television and play table tennis while they inject themselves. The new barges (Amsterdam is located on a network of canals and waterways) were to replace a floating center set up last year that had become too small to handle the 200 to 250 addicts who were using it daily.

The stated aim of the project is to reduce the number of addicts who hang around the nearby Zeedijk drug-dealing area. But the authorities may find, true to the experience of government-sanctioned programs, that the number of addicts using their new facilities will exceed expectations, given the official tolerance granted.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau