

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.7, NO.18

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 3, 1985

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

At the end of the first third of the year, the income is still lower than projected. Thankfully, this continues to be offset by an almost equal amount that the departments are under budgeted expenses. Although income has not met our expectations, we have a year-to-date increase of 9% over last year. A little background might be helpful to show what has happened.

You may recall that last year there was quite a lot of emphasis on being prepared for the Holy Day offerings, resulting in a very fine increase in the spring offerings of almost 30% over 1983. This year, we were comparing our numbers with those larger-than-average increases. And because there has not been the same emphasis on being prepared in 1985, the total offerings were actually less than last year by about 4%. This has lowered our overall average for the year to the 9% figure.

In view of the lower than expected offerings during the Days of Unleavened Bread, I hope we all will be better prepared for the Pentecost offering. Increased income will make possible the hiring of more badly-needed ministers to visit new prospective members and to care for the local churches, as well as increase our ability to spread the good news of God's soon-coming Kingdom.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Wednesday, May 1, Mr. Herbert Armstrong left for another overseas trip. Please pray for the success of all his activities and for God's protection and good health for him and his party. We're looking forward to hearing about the trip in the near future.

This past Sabbath, Mr. Mark McCulley gave a sermonette in the Auditorium PM congregation on the subject of festival sign-up and preparation. He discussed an interesting and vital point I want to mention to all the ministry. Mr. McCulley pointed out that preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles is a lesson in following the government of God.

Festival preparation requires following directions. It requires paying attention to details of instruction, and following through on those instructions. We know the Feast of Tabernacles is a foreshadow picturing the wonderful World Tomorrow, to be ruled by the government of God as administered by the Kingdom of God. Our preparation for observing the Feast each year is an opportunity to experience and grow in the cooperation and unity that result from following the government of God.

Each year at festival sites around the world, God's people set a shining example of cooperation, peace and carefully coordinated organization--made possible by God's Holy Spirit working in us, inspiring us to be responsive to His government. People in the local communities often have a hard time understanding how it is possible for several thousand people to come to-

gether in one place and have so few problems. That is because they simply have no comprehension yet of the real solution to all the world's problems, which will be the restoration of God's government to all the earth when Christ returns.

Each of us is a bond servant of God, bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ. At baptism, we made an unconditional surrender to God and His authority in our lives. If we are faithful to that commitment, we grow year by year in the unity, cooperation and peace that come as a direct result of yielding ourselves to the government of God in every aspect of our lives.

This yieldedness should be reflected in our preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles. Each of us must faithfully do his part, including administrators, festival coordinators, pastors, associates, assistants, elders, deacons, festival advisors and lay members. We all must know the instructions and follow them. Of course, it is not natural for humans to follow instructions. But with God's Spirit, we not only learn how to follow instructions, we also learn why we are to follow them. As we make a habit of it, we come to deeply appreciate and even love the results--the end product--of the way of God, of cooperation, of submission to His government. God's way produces peace. It produces unity. It produces all the positive results the world sees exhibited by God's people at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Our careful and yielded preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles is an important part of the spiritual momentum and growth necessary to prepare us to fulfill our calling as a part of the soon-coming government headed by our Master, Savior and elder brother, Jesus Christ. So let's all keep in mind the need to be diligent in following all instructions regarding the upcoming Feast. And be sure to help God's people understand the need to do so also.

As each of us does his part in following instructions, yielding ourselves to the government of God in His Church, the Feast becomes more of the true foretaste of the World Tomorrow that God intends.

On another subject, the decisions regarding transfers of U.S. ministers have now been made. I had an opportunity to discuss these transfers with Mr. Armstrong last Friday, April 26. Each of the men involved was then contacted on Monday, and preparations for the moves are now under way. Most moves will take place in early summer, just after most schools begin their summer vacations, while a few others will take place later in the summer. I really appreciate the fine attitudes of all the men being transferred, and the enthusiasm with which they are looking forward to their new assignments. We will publish the list of transfers in next week's PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Recent Ordinations

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, April 6, Mr. Earl St. Denis, of the Wetaskiwin, Alberta, church, was ordained a local church elder by church pastor Mr. Will Wooster. And on the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 12, Mr. Charles Lowe was ordained a local church elder in Bridgetown, Barbados. Hands were laid on him by evangelist Mr. Leroy Neff, regional director Mr. Stan Bass and church pastor Mr. Arnold Hampton.

International News

From Mr. Frank Brown The anticipated decline in PLAIN TRUTH circulation has occurred in the U.K., Scandinavia, European continent and Middle East. This decrease is the result of the change in the renewal system last year, which meant that there was a "piling up" of renewals. These renewals have now taken their toll, with circulation in the U.K. dropping to about 100,000. With our nationwide advertising campaign just getting under way, however, we expect the file to grow again. It should reach the highest ever level of over 160,000.

We are also testing a new four-colour insert card in the U.K. newsstand edition and we hope this will boost our already healthy response of 2.5% to an even higher level.

Mail income for March was up 11% over March of last year, bringing the year-to-date increase to 2%.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation in central and northern Africa has remained stable since it was not affected in the same way by the change in the renewal system. In this area, circulation has to be carefully controlled, otherwise it would grow beyond our means to support it financially. Circulation is now 55,700, which is 47% higher than March, 1984. The membership is growing at a remarkable rate--there are now 404 baptised members--up 10.1% from 1984.

Following our offer of The GOOD NEWS to PLAIN TRUTH readers of two years standing, our GOOD NEWS circulation has grown considerably in all areas, as the following statistics show:

U.K.	13,890	+25%
Scandinavia	754	+48%
Continent of Europe	3,330	+33%
Middle East	1,164	+ 9%

Plans for the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles are well under way, and most U.K. members have already selected their site preferences. About 150 U.K. brethren will be travelling abroad to keep the Feast. It seems that the strength of the American dollar may have made the U.K. sites more attractive to American visitors this year. Already 450 transfers to the U.K. have been confirmed. Mr. Paul Suckling and I are planning to visit most of the U.K. sites, and we also hope to have live satellite transmission from Pasadena to Jersey, Dunoon, Southport and Tenby.

With the increasing work load at Elstree House, we have had to rethink our office arrangements. The mailing area has been enlarged to cope with the ever-increasing outflow, and Mr. Cliff Neill has joined the staff to help in this area. Further changes will take place in office layout when Mr. Gerry van der Wende joins the team in May, transferring from Publishing Services in Pasadena. He will be responsible for the evermore complex financial planning, forecasting and back-charging involved in publishing operations. He will also investigate and monitor all print costs, evaluating cost effectiveness at every stage. Since we now print 10 editions of The PLAIN TRUTH and two editions of The GOOD NEWS here in the U.K., tight financial controls are essential.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGWATS Calls Received in Members' Homes Is Possible New Breakthrough

We are currently conducting a pilot program in which some calls in response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" program are answered in private homes. WATS calls coming into the Pasadena Mail Processing Center can now be automatically diverted to a church member's residence by programming his home phone number into our recently acquired "automatic call distributor."

There are a number of potential benefits in having church members answer calls in their homes:

- Almost all calls could be handled by live operators, even with accelerated growth in telephone response.
- It provides many additional operators at practically no cost.
- More calls could be taken during periods of unusually high response.
- "In-home operators" could provide an emergency backup system in case a number of operators were ill or absent.
- It gives many additional members an opportunity to serve the Church in a direct way.
- It is much more convenient and less expensive for volunteers to serve in this way than drive long distances to Pasadena or Big Sandy.

Presently, operators participating in this pilot program are Mail Processing employees or volunteers who have been specially trained and serve on a regular basis. The same strict procedures followed in our WATS department are maintained for home calls.

As response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" program continues to climb, we foresee the possibility of setting up "in-home operator" systems in other cities across the United States. We'll keep you informed if the program proves to be successful and meets expected standards.

Abortion Article Evokes Heavy Response

As expected, the article on abortion in the May PLAIN TRUTH brought in a flood of letters. Many readers were shocked and deeply moved at how widespread the practice of abortion has become. While a few expressed contrary beliefs, the majority were very supportive and definitely agreed with the article. Following are some of the letters we received:

I congratulate you on the May 1985 abortion article. Your description of what commonly happens to a fetus in an abortion was the most gruesome, horrible thing I have heard described. But as unsettling as this is, people need to know. I would not even mutilate an animal like this, let alone a human. No creature deserves this sort of death.... Every time I read about abortion, I find the situation much more appalling and gruesome than I had ever previously imagined. And incidentally, I am a "feminist."

L.M. (Beverly Hills, CA)

For a good while after reading Mr. Toth's article on abortion in the May PLAIN TRUTH, my stomach did not want to settle down. That article should somehow be required reading for every man and woman, doctor and nurse. How long is God Almighty going to put up with such atrocious and abominable wickedness?

G.A. (Somerset, OH)

I am writing you concerning the article on abortion in the May issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. I am only twelve and some people may say that I'm too young to have an opinion on abortion.

Well, I think it is really wrong. Babies have a right to live just as you and I do, no matter how small they are. If their hearts beat, they're alive! The doctor who oversees an abortion is very guilty. God is against abortion. It says so in the Bible! And the Bible is all true.

Children can be a real blessing to a family. But there will be some women who will never know only because they went through with the abortion and let the doctor kill their own flesh and blood. I am glad that you stepped out and published an article like that. Keep up the good work!

P.B. (Ivyton, KY)

I have been reading your publication with interest but I found your article on abortion in this issue not to be filled with "understanding"... Population growth is the main cause of most of the world's economic and social problems. Each year we add more people than ever before and each year we have more starvation, malnutrition, and wars.

Crusading against abortion does not deal with the main problem, which is uncontrolled population growth. Dealing with one part that makes the main problem worse without dealing seriously with the other side of the problem is hypocritical. Most women in the world have abortions not out of selfishness but because they cannot support and take care of more children.

D.W. (Tallahassee, FL)

Your article on abortion made me realize what a mistake I would have made if I had listened to my boyfriend. He wanted me to get an abortion, but I would not listen. I kept telling him I needed more time to think. But I realize he was only thinking of himself....

My definition of abortion is murder. Does mankind have the right to choose who should live and who should die? No, one of the greatest gifts of God to women is the bringing of a new life into the world. I am a strong believer in God, and there will be a day that Jesus Christ will teach people to have different opinions toward unborn children.

Thank you for writing this article. So many people need to read this, and if I ever come across someone who is thinking about getting an abortion, I will let her read this article so she will understand what happens to that unborn child.

S.C. (Trenton, NJ)

After reading your article on abortion in The PLAIN TRUTH, I was very surprised at how many women have had an abortion. I can't see how anyone could take the life of an unborn child. They must not realize that they are killing one of God's wonderful miracles. If they don't want to have a baby why don't they use one of the birth control methods.... At least then they wouldn't have to murder an innocent, helpless, unborn child. God has a purpose for each and every one of us on earth, and I don't think taking a life is one of them.

S.R. (Chillicothe, OH)

I am a Catholic priest. I congratulate you on your article based on statistics on abortion. It is one of the best I have read. Without hesitation, I could use it as it reads from the pulpit.

J.M. (McAllen, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

"BITBURG CONTROVERSY" SOURS U.S.-GERMAN RELATIONS;
CENTRAL AMERICA: U.S. POLICY IN SHAMBLES

Everywhere the United States looks these days there is trouble. Forty years after emerging as the world's preeminent power, challenges abound as never before. After a highly successful first term in office, President Reagan is surrounded, rather suddenly, by foreign problems. Rebuffed by a "let's-not-get-involved" Congress, his Central American policy lies, for the moment at least, dead in the water. His policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, intended to diffuse regional conflicts throughout Southern Africa and keep the Communists at bay, is under attack both in Congress and on the campuses of American colleges.

The all-important relationship with Japan is seriously endangered by demands for trade retaliation against Tokyo. At stake is continued harmony between Washington and its former Pacific enemy of forty years ago.

On top of all this, as the time to commemorate the 40th anniversary of V-E Day (May 8, 1945) draws near, the President finds himself caught between a rock and a hard place with regard to relations between the U.S. and the Federal Republic of Germany, the modern-day western two-thirds of America's primary World War II European adversary. It all revolves around the "Bitburg controversy."

President Reagan had agreed to a request by Chancellor Kohl to visit the German army burial ground in the small town of Bitburg, near the Luxembourg border, as a visible expression of the reconciliation between the American and German peoples. Chancellor Kohl suggested this, it is said, as a result of having had a similar reconciliation with President Mitterrand of France. They earlier met at a cemetery in Verdun, France, which contains the remains of both French and German soldiers of World War I.

Anxious to emphasize the good relations between the two countries at present, the President good-naturedly consented. Shortly afterward the plan blew apart when it was discovered that the Bitburg cemetery contains the remains of 49 Waffen-SS soldiers among the 2,000 bodies lying there. (An

advance team from the White House, in going to the cemetery, did not notice the SS gravestones, apparently because of snow on the ground.)

A howl of protest then arose among World War II veterans organizations and especially Jewish groups and concentration camp survivors. (The SS as a whole was responsible for running the camps, although the Waffen-SS units, who were elite combat forces, were not involved.) The President was urged in many quarters, including 82 members of the Senate, to cancel the Bitburg portion of his state visit to West Germany. On the eve of his visit, over 300 House members also recommended cancellation. Chancellor Kohl, however, insisted that the trip remain as planned, as the prestige of his government was on the line, to say nothing of the very future of the U.S.-German relationship. Despite the domestic opposition, the President held firm, greatly relieving his embarrassed and aggrieved German hosts.

White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan told reporters that Mr. Reagan is "anguished" by the protests aroused by the planned visit, and he added during an interview on CBS News' televised "Face the Nation" program that "the President has been quite upset, as he's been a staunch friend of Israel."... Mr. Regan added that the affair will "leave a scar on him (Reagan), because he is wounded by this internally. In his heart, he will be hurt at what has been said about him and his insensitivity, when he's a very sensitive person," Regan said of the President.

It was reported in the WASHINGTON POST that former President Richard M. Nixon privately urged President Reagan last week not to back down from plans to visit the cemetery. The POST claimed that White House sources said that former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger also urged Reagan to go ahead with the planned visit, citing the importance of relations with West Germany.

The strongest remarks against the visit were made by Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who went further than other senators in suggesting that relations between the two countries could be seriously damaged if Reagan goes ahead with the visit. "If Germany, in its insistence on our President's honoring the Nazi war dead, is trying...to pretend that the Nazis were anything other than the lowest and vilest of criminals, then we must wonder whether the lessons of World War II have already been forgotten by the current leaders of Germany," Cranston said. "If that is so, perhaps we had better reassess our relationship" with West Germany.

It is a bit ironic that so much fuss should be made over the cemetery in Bitburg. The town itself is small--only 12,000 inhabitants. It is part of an unusual "twin city" arrangement. Located nearby is the site of the U.S. Air Force 36th Tactical Fighter Wing, which houses 11,000 Air Force personnel and their dependents. The residents of Bitburg largely live off the U.S. military business. Ever since the base was constructed in 1952, local relations between Germans and Americans have been good. In the biggest irony of all, on every Memorial Day since 1959, the U.S. base commander has joined the mayor of Bitburg in laying a wreath at the same spot where the President was asked to place one. It goes without saying that the burghers of Bitburg are confused. It has, as one source stated, "shaken the faith of many citizens here; people who are openly proud of the hospitality they offer servicemen from a country they believed was their closest ally."

The upshot of the whole affair is that, after a 40-year "honeymoon" of sorts, U.S. relations with the German people, like those with Japan, are marked for a change.

One of the most forboding articles appeared in the April 26, 1985 LOS ANGELES TIMES. Written by the TIMES Bonn correspondent Tyler Marshall, the article was entitled "Bonn Stunned by Cemetery Furor, Takes Another Look at U.S. Relations."

The intensity of opposition to President Reagan's planned visit to a German war cemetery next month has stunned West Germany's political elite, causing many here to reassess the meaning of the country's ties with the United States.

At present, the reassessment is taking place on a personal rather than a policy level, and few here expect the controversy to yield any immediate, visible change in the political relationship. However, it is the policy-makers and opinion-formers--those most familiar with the United States--who are engaged in the process. Together, they appear to share a sense of disbelief at the level of U.S. reaction, consternation about how to defuse it and worry about its long-term impact.

Two basic issues appear to separate German and American perceptions on the emotional issue. Many Americans see the 47 [actually 49] graves of Hitler's infamous SS soldiers at the Bitburg cemetery as a symbol of SS terror during the Holocaust. However, Germans focus only on the cemetery itself, stressing that most buried there were teenagers drafted for the Western Front in the final months of World War II....

Closely linked with the German perception of those buried at Bitburg is a sense of disillusionment that, even though Germany has accepted historical responsibility for the Holocaust and spent long years as a U.S. ally, the American view of Germany as a nation besmirched remains strong.

"We have said 'Never again war from German soil'; we have said 'Never again a dictatorship'; we have aligned with the West and built our democracy," said Alois Mertes, state secretary in the West German Foreign Ministry and conservative member of Parliament for Bitburg. "What can we do? How can we make it good? After 40 years, after 35 years as an ally, that the Holocaust stands square in the middle of everything, after so much... It is a terrible human disappointment." Prof. Michael Stuermer of Erlangen University, a personal advisor to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said, "What is happening in the (United States) puts into question an unspoken assumption of our years in the Western alliance--that Germany had achieved a degree of forgiveness."

The depth of reaction here to the U.S. protest is fueled by a combination of factors, all peculiar to West Germany. Few countries are as proud of, yet so insecure about, their democracy as is West Germany. No European country is more sensitive about criticism by outsiders. No relationship means more at virtually every level of German society than that with the United States. It is

now apparent that it was Kohl's eagerness to cement Germany's reconciliation with the United States and to win recognition for the country's postwar transformation that caused him to propose the cemetery visit in the first place....

There is also concern about possible longer-term fallout from the controversy. "It will take time for this to show up, but it will come," said Prof. Stuermer. "Hardfaced bureaucrats totally underestimate the politically emotional dynamite that lies in those graves."... The controversy also comes as West Germans have begun to focus for the first time on the personal sufferings of their own citizens during the war, a subject previously untouched because of the guilt that hangs over that entire period of German history. "No German parent dared tell his child how hard it was during the war," Stuermer said. "It just was never done."

Some German leaders blamed Chancellor Kohl for forcing Mr. Reagan into a seriously compromising position. Franz Josef Strauss labeled the preparation for the Bitburg visit as "clumsy" and the results "embarrassing." He called instead for Reagan to lay a wreath at a tomb of the unknown soldier in Munich, a monument for those killed in World Wars I and II. The newspaper BILD, in a recent front-page commentary, urged Kohl to cancel Reagan's scheduled cemetery visit. "Suddenly it is clear on what thin ground the 'friendship' of former enemies stands," the commentary said. "Friendship cannot be forced with violence or with grand gestures. The chancellor should spare Reagan the journey to Bitburg."

Several commentators said the affair has achieved the very opposite of what Mr. Kohl intended and has instead managed to identify the Germans more closely with Hitler in the eyes of the American public than they had been for years. "The old wounds, which were supposed to be healed, have broken open again," wrote Dietrich Strothmann in DIE ZEIT.

The Nicaragua-Vietnam Parallel

"A Nation Drenched in Bickering: His Nicaragua Policy in Tatters, Reagan Faces Risky Rebuilding," was the title given to an article written by David Gergen in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, April 26, 1985. Mr. Gergen formerly served in the Reagan White House. Mr. Gergen took note of the fact that immediately after the House handed Nicaragua a victory, Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega contemptuously flew off to Moscow, to plead for economic and military aid, especially in light of rumored U.S. economic sanctions against Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan debacle this week in Congress is sure to bring a new wave of recriminations in a nation already drenched with partisan bickering. Now that the House has rejected all forms of aid to the rebels in Nicaragua, Republicans are itching to charge Democrats with losing Central America. To the GOP it looks as if the United States is now breaking faith with the rebels, abandoning them in their hour of peril....

The finger-pointing cannot disguise the critical fact that U.S. foreign policy in Central America is now in shambles. Congress has tossed out the Reagan plan and left nothing in its place. Not since pulling the plug on Vietnam and refusing aid to rebels in Angola a decade ago has Congress handcuffed a President so badly.

"Oops! We made a mistake" seems to be the reaction of some congressmen to the Ortega visit to Moscow. Senate Majority leader Robert Dole of Kansas said that the visit indicates Congress made "a major misjudgment." THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, on April 26, placed the Congress-Ortega relationship in the context of a very ill-advised marriage:

Minister: "And do you, the U.S. Congress, solemnly take this man, Daniel Ortega, to be your lawfully wedded responsibility, for richer or poorer, till death do you part?"

Congress: "We do!"

Minister: "If anyone present knows any reason why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony, let him speak now or forever hold his peace."

Someone has, but a little too late. Senator Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, now says he'd have voted for the contra aid if he'd known of Mr. Ortega's just-announced plans to make a post-wedding trip to Moscow. Too late, senator. He's Congress's problem, now. Have a nice honeymoon!

A cartoon in the WASHINGTON TIMES showed Comandante Ortega on the phone to the House Minority leader Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, saying: "Hey-y-y...Senor Tip...muchas gracias...to show my gratitude I'll send you and the boys a case of borscht from Moscow...."

Ten years ago, on April 30, 1975, the war in Vietnam ended with the fall of Saigon. Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was recently interviewed by Jack Burby, assistant editor of The LOS ANGELES TIMES editorial pages, and Art Seidenbaum, editor of OPINION, about the events leading up to the defeat and how it has affected U.S. foreign policy, including the current dispute over U.S. conduct in Central America. The interviews appeared in the April 28 TIMES:

Q. How about Nicaragua right now and this problem of political divisions within government?

A. On Nicaragua, we are in danger of repeating the same sort of domestic debate--an Administration request hard to reconcile with a definition of vital interests. How could something be of vital interest and be only worth \$14 million? And Congress was saying you must make a compromise; you might have non-lethal aid for the guerrillas. What is the meaning of that? Either it's not a vital interest or it's worth more than \$14 million, or it's worth lethal equipment. I don't want to enter into the merits of that dispute in this interview but the shape of the debate has been very similar to Vietnam....

Q. Defense Secretary Caspar M. Weinberger seems to have taken Col. Harry Summers' book about Vietnam, "On Strategy," to mean that you can't ever involve yourself in a military action unless you have full support of the American public. A lesson from Vietnam, apparently. Is that valid?

A. A President is elected to take care of the future of the people and the people will not forgive him for disasters, even if

the disasters correspond to their own wishes. After all, Chamberlain had 90 percent of the people with him at the time of Munich and 18 months later Munich became an epithet. So what do you do when a President and his closest advisers are deeply convinced that something is in the overwhelming national interest and they can't carry the Congress or the media with them? This is one fundamental problem.

What we absolutely need is some kind of consensus on what is a vital interest.... We have to be willing to face the fact that the challenge is almost certain to be ambiguous; if you could prove that the danger to us is overwhelming, everybody would agree, but by the time that the danger is overwhelming in the modern period it is too late to do something about it.

But if we commit ourselves, we must prevail. You cannot fight a war for a stalemate; you can only fight a war for a victory and then you can be generous in the settlements.... But if you proclaim stalemate as an objective, you're likely to lose or at any rate get into so protracted a conflict that the public will not sustain it.

Most Americans, and apparently their representatives as well, have little inkling of the intensity of the hatred directed at them by their adversaries. Notice this article from the December 14, 1984 NATIONAL REVIEW:

Jose Luis Llovio Menendez is hardly a household name in the United States, but you can bet he has made a name for himself in Cuba. From 1966 to 1981, except for a brief stint in prison for reasons he's still not sure of, Llovio served the Castro regime, usually in the fields of either finance or culture. After years of disenchantment with Castro, Llovio fled in 1982....

Although he has been in the U.S. for almost one year, Llovio only recently met the press.... "Fidel hates totally the United States," Llovio told reporters. "He hates its institutions. He hates its policies. He hates everybody here." In his discussion of Central America, Llovio confirmed Castro's deep involvement in the region. He is certain, for example, that Castro is covertly bankrolling the guerrillas in El Salvador....

Llovio offered little hope for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador or anywhere else in the region. Castro and his henchmen don't want a settlement, he said; they want "to make a lot of Cubas everywhere. They want Nicaragua and El Salvador. After that Honduras and Guatemala, you can be sure."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress, with blinders on, thinks the way to peace in Central America is through "negotiation." It's just possible that an angered House may yet approve funds (\$28 million is rumored) for the contras beginning the next fiscal year, starting on October 1. Still, \$28 million is hardly enough, given the stakes. And, should the contras start to succeed, a new Congress after 1986 or 1988 will probably only pull the plug again, probably just when the contras are on the verge of victory.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau