

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 7, NO. 29

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 19, 1985

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

It's hard to believe, but five years have already passed since the first Ministerial Refreshing Program started. The major emphasis of the first program was to stir all of God's ministry to support and back Mr. Herbert Armstrong in setting the Church back on God's track. The ministry itself had to be set back on God's track before that effort could be extended to every congregation around the world.

Perhaps many of us would be surprised to realize that it was seven years ago that Mr. Armstrong reinstated The GOOD NEWS magazine, and began to include such articles as "And NOW--The PLAIN TRUTH Being Set Back on Track," "CHRIST NOW PUTS CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S FINANCIAL TRACK!", "AND NOW CHRIST SETS CHURCH BACK ON TRACK DOCTRINALLY" and "CHRIST NOW MOVES TO PUT GOD'S GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE TRACK."

As Mr. Armstrong has so often reminded us, we must not only stay on God's track, we must be moving forward on God's track! As time goes on, the natural tendency is to begin to let down. If we are not careful, the sense of urgency and recommitment to the faith once delivered that we all felt five to seven years ago can begin to fade.

The Apostle Paul warned us in Hebrews 2:1 that "we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." If we do not heed this warning, we, too, will fall prey to the very same attitudes of compromise and permissiveness that took members and ministers out of God's Church seven years ago! Let's not forget that Satan is angry! He sees the growth in God's Church. He sees the increase in PLAIN TRUTH circulation. He sees the increase in stations broadcasting "The WORLD TOMORROW" program. He sees the increase in the number of begotten sons of God. Satan hates this, and will do whatever he can to cause us to begin compromising with God's truth and eventually turn us away from God.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to describe what this Satan-deceived world would be like in the "last days" (II Tim. 3:1-5). And it is getting worse and worse! Moral and spiritual permissiveness is escalating all around us. Don't think you and your family can't be affected! None of us is immune! Only God is. Unless we are tuned in to God and close to Him, we will be caught up in Satan's trap.

I know that some in the Church will take great exception to the recent sermon about liberalism by Mr. David Hulme. Mr. Armstrong, when directing me to send it out to all churches worldwide, told me he felt the sermon was excellent, and that all our people needed to hear it. He even asked me for a copy for his own personal use. Yet I know, because I know human nature, that some, who are already compromising with this world and its ways and attitudes, will be upset, even angry, by what they hear in that sermon. They will see it as "right-winged fanaticism," as "going overboard," or even "dangerous."

Why? Because Satan is the arch-deceiver. He makes black look white spiritually to whoever lacks the mind of Jesus Christ as a result of not exercising God's Holy Spirit. Those who want to "do their own thing" instead of doing God's perfect will hate to have light shed on their darkness (John 3:19).

You've probably heard many times about the frog that is placed in a pan of cool water on a stove. As the heat is gradually turned up and the water slowly gets warmer, the frog doesn't even notice it is in danger! Slowly the water gets hotter and hotter until the frog is boiled to death, without any inclination to jump out to save its life.

How did so many fall prey to the liberalism of the 1970s? It happened slowly. A little compromise here, a little compromise there. Where did it end? They gradually drifted away from God's truth and became part of the world.

What was David's attitude toward God's Law? Notice Psalm 119:10: "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments." David, a man after God's own heart, who loved God's Law, asked God to help him not to wander from His Law. David saw that law as important--as immensely valuable. Notice verse 14: "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches." He put his joy and delight in God's Law and what it produces.

Throughout Psalm 119 David displays the attitude God's people should have toward His Law. As you read it, notice how often David made such statements as "keep thy law," "keep thy word," "keep his testimonies," "respect unto thy ways," "will not forget thy word," "meditate in thy statutes," "forsook not," "not forget," "heritage for ever," etc. The focal point of David's life was the Law of God. He held onto it with great zeal!

But the devil's way, which is the way of deceit that some in God's Church have gone, and some no doubt will continue to go, is to respect one's own ways, to meditate on one's own excesses, to forsake not one's own personal aims, and to seek a "heritage" of self-importance, possessions, power, or a modern lifestyle of "fun and pleasure." Once a person in God's Church becomes consumed in these things, having devised clever excuses and explanations for himself every step of the way, he generally will despise and brand as "self-righteous" anyone who dares stand up and speak the truth about the dangers of permissiveness in the Church of God. Notice God's view in Isaiah 5:20-23:

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

In II Corinthians 2:11, the Apostle Paul reminds us that Spirit-led Christians are not ignorant of Satan's devices, of his methods of trying to get an advantage of us. Yet in Hebrews 2:3 Paul tells us that it is possible to "neglect so great salvation."

Let us not be ignorant of the subtlety through which Satan the adversary will try to divide and conquer. We in God's Church, as the salt of the

earth in God's sight, are the only ones whom God has called out of the darkness of this Satan-ruled world. What a shame it would be for any of us to begin to allow "just a little" of the devil's ways and attitudes to begin to creep into our lives, gradually snuffing out the light of the glorious Gospel that God has so mercifully allowed to shine on us.

On another important matter, I'd like to request your prayers on behalf of Dr. William Kessler, who is suffering from some of the symptoms of diabetes. I know he and his wife, Dee, will deeply appreciate your prayers.

Also, please ask God to intervene on behalf of Mrs. Carrol Miller, who is suffering from cancer. They, too, would appreciate your fervent prayers.

Thank you for remembering both these serious situations, and also for your continuing prayers for Mr. Armstrong and God's congregations around the world.

International News

From Dr. Roy McCarthy We have just passed the halfway mark of 1985 and it is good to look at what has been accomplished in Southern Africa so far this year, and to look at the prospects for the future.

The PLAIN TRUTH continues to be our main tool for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this region. To date, we have added 78,948 new subscribers. Circulation is presently 219,553, with an additional 82,000 magazines distributed on newsstands. GOOD NEWS circulation is 14,500 and growing.

This year has been designated the Year of Youth in South Africa. We have taken this opportunity to offer YOUTH 85 to libraries throughout the country. We are presently sending YOUTH 85 subscriptions to 1,750 high school libraries and 800 public libraries. Total circulation is 4,585.

At the end of the first half of the year, our income reflects the present recession in the country. Our operating account stands at a 5.5% increase over the first half of 1984.

With the regional office now in Cape Town, we recently began dealing with the Cape Town office of BBDO, our advertising agency. They are presently working on proposals for national magazine advertising in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mauritius.

The latest response figures to our advertisements in READER'S DIGEST are as follows: February, 19,055; April, 12,343; June, 6,794.

Recently, I visited a number of prospective members in South West Africa (Namibia), and was able to baptize three people, thus doubling our membership in this area.

There also have been three ordinations recently. On Pentecost, Mr. Malcolm Lee was ordained a local church elder in the Johannesburg central church. On June 15 Mr. Colin Curtis of the Durban church was ordained a local church

elder, and Mr. Wally Young was ordained a deacon in the Durban church. Our full-time ministry now totals 14, four of whom are in the Cape Town office and 10 in the field. There are also eight local church elders.

There is continuing unrest in several areas of the country, including the occasional stone throwing incident, cars being set afire and clashes with the authorities. Many of these occurrences are politically motivated, with people of the same racial group clashing over their political differences. So far, no members have been affected by these disturbances and we give God thanks for His continued protection.

A computer system has been installed in our office. The system is based on the IBM AT, personal computers and a local area network system called Novell--Sharenet G. The objectives of our system are to streamline general administration functions, general word processing and correspondence, financial reports and forecasting and subscriber services.

The advantages of this system are many. Each personal computer is on-line to the AT computer, which acts as the central processor where all programmes and variable data are stored. The central processor holds the following programmes, or software: 1. dBase III for administration and subscriber services; 2. Multimate for word processing; and 3. Lotus 123 for financial modeling.

Each personal computer acts independently; that is, one operator could be inputting a letter via the word processing package, while another operator could be inputting financial statistics via the Lotus 123 package. The procedures take place simultaneously. This is called a multi-user environment and is made possible by utilising the local area network, better known in the computer business as LAN.

The price/performance ratio of this system is far better than that of a mini computer, and there is greater flexibility if it becomes necessary to expand. The installation can be made to go on-line to a large mainframe computer via a modem. There are certain advantages to this, since information from one town or country could be automatically transferred into the local system without human intervention.

Our office in South Africa and Drake Computer Systems (a Canadian based company) have pioneered our system with minimal "teething" problems.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Recent Telecast Shatters Previous Record

This past weekend (July 13-14) we reached a new milestone in the number of WATS calls received. The program "The United States and Britain in Prophecy" brought in a record 20,064 calls.

This is more than 2,000 calls higher than the previous record. In January of this year, the same program resulted in 15,836 calls, which also broke all records. When shown one year ago, it produced 10,105 calls.

The video "superimposure" of our toll-free number was displayed five minutes earlier than usual. This resulted in two "ring-throughs" instead of

one. Many more people were able to get through on their first attempt, which undoubtedly contributed to this last weekend's record. Through our "WATS in-home operator program," 85 members took 1,100 calls.

The identity of the American and British peoples in Bible prophecy has always fascinated our audience. Many callers indicated that this particular program caught their interest and attention even more than others. Following are a few brief comments:

The program enlightened me in a lot of areas. That book has been out a long time and I didn't know about it--I would have requested it long ago! I can't wait to get the book.

D.K. (KY)

Mr. Armstrong's program catches my interest because he gives more understandable history from the Bible than I find most anywhere else. He doesn't "mystify" it like other churches.

C.M. (Washington, DC)

I want to read about the United States and Britain so I'll understand their origins. You don't know about these things unless you read what someone who has studied about it has written.

B.H. (NY)

I'm a commercial airline pilot. I used to hear Mr. Armstrong when I was driving home after my shift. I would say I've heard him for over 15 years. Today's program about who we are and where we come from really fascinated me, so I decided to call in.

O.B. (OH)

I thought the program was very interesting. I've seen Mr. Armstrong's programs a few times but never really paid attention to them. Tonight's program really got my attention!

W.F. (CA)

Excellent Response to Illustrated June Co-worker Letter

After a week and a half, 8,163 members and 8,346 co-workers have responded to Mr. Armstrong's June letter. The response from co-workers (14.9%) is the fourth highest for all letters since 1979; from members, it is the sixth highest response for that period (20.0%).

Many commented that Mr. Armstrong's statements again reminded them of how close we are to the end of this age. They said they would rededicate themselves to more prayer and Bible study so as not to become "lukewarm." Many are concerned about the need for more ministers, and even sent special offerings.

Several also mentioned that the illustrations that appeared in the letter were very effective and added much to its impact. Following are a few of the comments we received:

Thank you for your recent letter reminding us once again of the very reason and purpose of our calling and God's purpose in creating the human race. As we watch world events and troubles

closing in on our nation, we simply must realize how important it is to spend time drawing closer to God, striving to learn to think as Jesus Christ does, and learning the truth of God so well that we will be prepared to teach it in the world tomorrow.

Mrs. W.B. (Plain Dealing, LA)

Thank you for the most recent member letter--that is the first one I've ever seen that used color or even illustrations! It was very well done and quite effective! Your years of training and experience in using your advertising skills have yielded a tremendous "impact"!

Yes, I am praying for more laborers in the harvest! I know our ministry is working under "overload" conditions...and I'm sure in our own area that the ministry is seeing a great increase in workload!

Mr. and Mrs. J.S. (Elk River, MN)

We are sending our tithes for the month of June. We received your most welcome letter yesterday. We were very glad to hear from you. Your letters are very important to us. We pray for the Church to be ready and be closer together. I think if we brethren just knew how little time we have to learn the Word of God, we would spend more time studying and praying than we do.

Mr. & Mrs. G.F. (Clarksville, AR)

Thank you for your most recent letter to the brethren and co-workers. The illustrations of the image and map really make the prophecies come alive. It should really wake your readers up!

Mrs. C.T. (Pasadena, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

IRRESPONSIBLE MEDIA; DIPLOMACY NOT ENOUGH--NIXON In the past several days the news media has understandably been preoccupied with President Reagan's bout--hopefully a successful one--with cancer. Yet it must be noted that another week has passed without any punishment for the known hijackers who commandeered TWA Flight 847. And there isn't likely to be, as speculated in the "Washington Whispers" column of the July 22, 1985, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

Despite all the tough talk, forget any counterstrike in retaliation for the TWA hostages. Reagan has reluctantly concluded that there's no way to hit back as long as other Americans are being held hostage in Lebanon. The best that Washington can do: Keep Arab terrorists nervous about U.S. intentions.

With the hostages back home, attention has since focused on the extraordinary role played by the news media during the crisis. Newspaper cartoonists have had a field day depicting the role of television news coverage. One cartoonist showed a terrorist holding a loaded pistol to a passenger's head. "They shoot us" was the caption. The adjoining panel showed Uncle Sam aiming a TV camera, with the caption: "We shoot them." Another cartoon

featured two heavily armed guerrillas. One asked the other about the strange-looking object on the tip of his automatic rifle. "What is that? A silencer?" His compatriot replies, "No...an amplifier." Actually it is a television camera.

A critical review of the media's role (especially television) in the crisis appeared in the "Essay" column in the July 15 TIME. It was written by a frequent "Essay" contributor, Charles Krauthammer:

The problem of evil has long been the province of philosophy. Philosophy is not particularly interested in that question anymore.... Journalism has taken up the slack. Unfortunately, journalism is not terribly well equipped to handle it, principally because journalism is a medium of display and demonstration.

When evil is the subject, the urge to display leads to dark places indeed. Last month, for example, it led...to Beirut, where during 17 days of astonishing symbiosis, television and terrorists co-produced--there is no better word--a hostage drama....

Driven...by these two journalistic imperatives, technology and competition, journalism will go where it can go. When it has the technology, it shoots first and asks questions later. For the correspondent bargaining for access to hostages, the important questions are Can I get the story/show? and Will anyone else? The question What am I doing? comes up after the tape has been relayed from Damascus, if at all....

Broadcast television imposes limits, strict but self-enforced limits, on explicit sex. Why not on explicit terror?... A few years ago, when some publicity seekers started dashing onto baseball fields during televised games, TV producers decided to discourage the practice by averting the camera's eye. So now, the crowd roars at the commotion, and the viewer strains to see what it is all about, but cannot. Yet he accepts this restraint, this self-censorship, if you will, without complaint because it serves to avoid delays at ball games. Yet we won't do the same when the end is reducing the payoff for political murder.

If we did the same, the drama we would miss would no doubt be riveting. Evil is riveting. From watching Hitchcock we know of the perverse, and fully human, enjoyment that comes from looking evil dead in the eye. But when the evil is real and the suffering actual, that enjoyment is tinged with shame, the kind of shame one experiences when exposed to pornography. And like pornography, terrorist television, the graphic unfolding of evil on camera, sells. During the hostage crisis, network news ratings rose markedly. But this fascination has its price. Lot's wife fixed her gaze on evil and turned to salt.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told American lawyers meeting in London on July 15 that means must be employed to "starve the terrorist and hijacker of the oxygen of publicity on which they depend." The July 8 edition of NEWSWEEK chipped in with a one-page media summation of its own, titled "The Network Circus":

No one was denying that the Beirut crisis was a serious news story with a particularly harrowing last chapter. But the ever-escalating television circus lent an almost comic touch, as if it were "Let's Make a Deal" or "Nabih Knows Best," courtesy of the Amal Broadcasting Company.

"ABC"
The real ABC was all over the story--down to delivering some of the hostages' mail.... Personnel from each network indignantly denied paying for stories--but some added that they couldn't vouch for their competitors. If no money was known to have changed hands, it wasn't for lack of trying on the part of the Amal militiamen.... Several Amal tried to auction off a session with the hostages for \$12,500--and weren't laughed off. "I wouldn't be surprised to see a few of those guys driving around in Caddies a couple of months from now," said one American reporter in Beirut....

On the ground in Beirut, faction-torn Shiites split into yet more factions--each loyal to its favorite American television network. CBS and NBC worried that the competition was growing dangerous.... Even the Shiites wanted a cease-fire. They posted a notice in the Commodore Hotel that all footage of the hostages should be pooled [available to all equally]....

Earlier in the week, NBC's "Today" show tried to fetch Mrs. Allyn Conwell [wife of the unofficial hostage spokesman] by Learjet from the Greek island of Corfu. They were too late: she was gone--to ABC's "Good Morning America."...

After Visnews cameramen taped interviews with several hostages early in the week, Shiites seized the tape and deleted the comments of four hostages whose remarks it didn't endorse.... For most of the week, the same dozen or so hostages were trotted out again and again.... More than anything else, the hostage crisis shows that "news" should be more than just the latest video images--especially if the terrorists are allowed to act as executive producers.

A major news analysis piece on the media appeared in the July 10 WASHINGTON TIMES, titled "The Media are the Message." It focused on the prevailing and presumptuous view that newspeople exist on a plane above and beyond the nation itself:

Critics are accusing the TV newsmen of providing the terrorists with a podium, collaborating with them and frustrating the efforts of legitimate U.S. leaders by pretending to be intermediaries and policy-makers....

"Morally speaking, there are not two sides to this story," said syndicated columnist Dorothy Rabinowitz, on a recent edition of Cable News Network's "The Larry King Show." It was, she said, the story of "a brutal act, a murder and a kidnapping. To attempt to show both sides," she said, "is to imply there is a rationale for a group of murderers who have abducted a planeload of American nationals."...

Critics seemed troubled not by any particular action undertaken by the network newsmen, but a pervasive attitude: that television journalists somehow get an automatic exemption from the burdens and obligations of citizenship; that being a television journalist means you ought to rank your cameras above your country.

"There wouldn't have been any press conference," said Time magazine's William Henry III, commenting on "Nightline" about the chaotic first encounter between hostages and newsmen at the Beirut airport, "if the journalists hadn't attended." Mr. Henry said it "bothered" him "that some Americans in that room were free to go when it was over. Others had to stay. And why were the ones able to leave able to? Because they were being used to transmit the messages of those terrorists...people who were the sworn enemies of this country."...

Network journalists hammered home the same theme: Television was able to document throughout the crisis--even guarantee--that the hostages were alive and well. The hostages were alive, all right, but were they well?...

What weren't the networks telling us? Almost everything of consequence.... What kind of unspeakable things were happening? [Especially with the handful of passengers kept separate because they had Jewish-sounding names.]... "We lived in filth," said hostage Arthur Toga, after he arrived back in the United States. "The place was a hovel. We had cockroaches, rats and a non-working toilet for 19 men with diarrhea."...

CBS Broadcast Group Vice President Van Gordon Sauter saw the role of the media as "an honest broker of information, whether it's a Reagan press conference or the hostages delivering messages to the president." "We were the conduits for what was happening," said CNN's Bernard Shaw.

"I can hardly agree with a position that implies such neutrality," said Dorothy Rabinowitz. Is it really the same, she asked, to say that because "the president of the United States uses the media...we can be used by terrorists as well?..."

ABC scored a ratings' coup when correspondent Charles Glass led a crew onto the Beirut airport tarmac to interview TWA Captain John Testrake from the window of his cockpit.... Everything, the captain said, was OK--almost everything. Captain Testrake was concerned about a possible U.S. mission either to rescue the hostages or retaliate against their captors. "I think we would all be dead men if they did," Captain Testrake said....

"I think that was a very legitimate question (ABC's Charles Glass querying Captain Testrake about the "military option"), to ask that man what he thought about the prospect of retaliation. After all," added Mr. Shaw, "his life was involved."...

It didn't seem to occur to the network journalists, noted the critics, that Capt. Testrake might not be in an ideal situation to decide what is best for America. "There you have the specta-

cle of a man with a gun to his head, he's solicited for his opinion on whether we should take military action," said Dorothy Rabinowitz. "Here his answer is taken and reported."...

Eking out every competitive edge, the television newsmen indiscriminately focus on everything, trivializing the event by their unwillingness to weigh the value of one thing against another. The picture of the Delta Force boarding planes bound for Cyprus is worth exactly the same as a Pentagon spokesman's plea not to tip America's hand.... Hostage spokesman Allyn Conwell's statements are worth exactly the same as the pronouncements of the president of the United States. Television's unblinking eye coolly scanned everything.... The only detail that television, blinded by its tunnel-vision neutrality, didn't notice was America's national interest.

Terrorism: America Loses, Soviets Gain

President Reagan charged on July 8 that Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua "are now engaged in acts of war" against the United States. In a speech to the American Bar Association, Reagan said the "real goal of the terrorists is to expel America from the world." UPI reported on the President's address as follows:

Reagan named Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua, saying the countries were "continents away, tens of thousands of miles apart," but all shared "the same goals and objectives.... Most of the terrorists who are kidnapping and murdering American citizens and attacking American installations are being trained, financed and directly or indirectly controlled by a core group of radical and totalitarian governments, a new, international version of Murder Inc.--all of these states are united by one simple, criminal phenomenon--their fanatical hatred of the United States, our people, our way of life, our international stature," he said.

"At the current rate," Reagan said, "as many as 1,000 acts of terrorism will occur in 1985--that is what we face unless civilized nations act together to end this assault on humanity." Reagan also said the Soviet Union's "close relationship with almost all of the terrorist states" must be recognized. He said the strategic purpose "behind the terrorism sponsored by outlaw states is clear: to disorient the United States, to disrupt or alter our foreign policy, to sow discord between ourselves and our allies, to frighten Third World nations working with us for peaceful settlements of regional conflicts. In short, to cause us to retreat, retrench, to become 'fortress America,'" he said. "Yes, their real goal is to expel America from the world."

Former President Richard M. Nixon has been authoring a series of articles on foreign policy for the WASHINGTON TIMES. In the July 8 issue, Mr. Nixon's piece was titled "Meeting the Threat: Diplomacy Without Clout Doesn't Work." Much of what he wrote appeared to be an update on this premise of his book, THE REAL WAR (excerpted in this column on June 7):

Some naive people contend that diplomacy is the answer to armed conflicts in the Third World. Diplomacy cannot succeed without

military power to back it up. For example, when President Carter ruled out the use of force at the outset of the Iranian hostage crisis, he weakened the effectiveness of diplomacy to resolve it. The pathetic failures of the League of Nations and the United Nations to play a significant role in keeping peace or ending wars is striking proof of the impotence of diplomacy without power.

There is too much of a tendency to see all Third World conflicts as part of the larger conflict between East and West. While the Soviet Union profits from most of them, it is not responsible for all the conflicts in the world. As one observer has pointed out, their policy is to trouble the waters and then fish in them....

It is an illusion, however, that if the Soviet Union does not play a role in a Third World conflict our interests are not threatened. The Soviets do not have to fight to win. Whether they fight or not, wherever we lose, they win. Mr. Khomeini's revolution in Iran had nothing to do with communism or the Soviet Union, but that does not mean that the Soviets did not benefit from it. When the shah of Iran was driven from power, the United States lost its strongest ally in the Mideast. Had he remained in power the war between Iran and Iraq and even the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union might never have taken place....

Instability is the Soviet Union's most powerful ally in the Third World War. The Soviet leaders scan the globe for potential trouble spots, places where people are groping for a better way or suffering through episodes of unrest, and then find ways to make those bad situations worse. While the Soviet Union is not behind all violent revolutions, when they are over, it is first in line to pick up the pieces....

A...mistake many Americans made in the last years of the Vietnam War was failing to see that in Third World conflicts our choice is usually not between our allies and someone better, but between our allies and something far worse. Liberals today frequently call for the United States to break its ties with right-wing dictators. Otherwise, they wrongly claim, we will be guilty of supporting the world's most flagrant violators of human rights.

By any measure, the most repressive governments are those of the Communists. The record is clear. Cubans are worse off under Castro than they were under Mr. Batista. The Vietnamese are worse off under the Communist Le Duan than under Mr. Thieu. Cambodians were worse off under Pol Pot than they were under Lon Nol. When the non-Communist regimes were in power, the United States could at least exert some pressure to increase adherence to human rights in those countries. Now it can do nothing. We must never take a course of action that results in a government that permits some freedom falling to one that permits none. If there is one profound lesson to be learned from the aftermath of the Vietnam war, that is it.

The latest troublespot that could boil over into a real crisis is Sudan, a strategically located African state bordering on eight other nations.

Sudan was quite pro-West until a coup ousted President Jafar Nimeiri on April 6. Radical Libya is now courting Sudan seductively, according to this dispatch in the July 22 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

Fear of new anti-American trouble-making in Africa is rising sharply with word of the signing of a military pact between Sudan--a longtime friend of the United States--and radical Libyan strong man Muammar Qadhafi. Outlines of the agreement, announced in Khartoum on July 8, cover only Libyan training and equipment for Sudan's armed forces. But its mere existence rings alarm bells in the U.S. and other Western nations because of Qadhafi's support of revolutionary violence across Africa and the Mideast.

In Washington, Reagan administration officials [sent]...an unusually blunt warning to the new Sudanese government of Gen. Abdul Rahman Sewar El Dahab.... Sudan was one of the few Moslem nations to back the 1978 Camp David Accords that resulted in a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. It cooperated with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in a secret airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel earlier this year. Partly in return for this support, the U.S. has been sending Sudan more than 400 million dollars a year in economic aid. The only African country to receive more is Egypt....

Sudan [is] the largest nation in Africa and one of its most strategically located. Sudan borders on eight other countries, including some that are considered ripe for subversion, and the Red Sea.... Sudan's warmer relations with Libya emerged against a backdrop of the Dahab regime's efforts to come to grips with a long list of woes besetting this nation of nearly 22 million people. Two of the most serious problems are closely linked--a bankrupt economy and a two-year civil war in the south that further drains Sudan's slim resources....

On top of all the other burdens is the famine that afflicts the entire region. Relief officials list at least 4.5 million Sudanese as famine victims. Nearly 1.4 million refugees, most of them Ethiopians, have flocked into Sudan in hopes of finding food. In Khartoum, there are few illusions that any of these problems will be solved anytime soon. Instead, there is new concern that Sudan may become a cockpit of African turmoil.

A radicalized Sudan would, in turn, place enormous pressure on the key country in the Arab world, Egypt. President Mubarak is under increasing pressure from Muslim clerics to apply stricter Islamic codes.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau