

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The 20th and final session of the third Ministerial Refreshing Program began this past Wednesday, August 21. We have been very encouraged by the tremendous response from the ministry to this program. Many have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come to Headquarters for these sessions. The fruits of the MRP have been obvious in the renewed growth and spiritual vitality in congregations of God's people around the world, as each minister returns to his local area with a deepened commitment to "teach as we have been taught" the marvelous truth God has revealed to us through His apostle, Mr. Herbert Armstrong. We are now looking forward to seeing each of you again in Refresher 4, scheduled to begin early next year.

I'd like to address certain questions regarding when to begin counting for one's third tithe year. We have normally recommended that members count from the Passover or Feast of Tabernacles closest to the date of their baptism. For example, if one is baptized in August or November, he would begin counting from the Feast of Tabernacles of that year. If he is baptized in February, he would begin counting from Passover of that year.

God's Church does not have an ironclad policy as to when a person should begin his third tithe year. A person may begin counting from before his baptism (in the case of teenagers); from his date of baptism; or, as already stated, from either the Passover or Feast of Tabernacles closest to his date of baptism. We normally recommend the latter method for ease of calculation and for the sake of memory. (We might be surprised at the number of members who forget the date of their baptism.) Also, self-employed members sometimes have difficulty determining their actual income until a formal accounting is made. They may find it more convenient to choose a date around the time they determine their income for tax purposes.

Whatever starting point the individual chooses, he should continue that cycle from then on, the only exception being a woman who marries. We recommend that she use her husband's cycle. If she has just finished a third tithe year when she marries, and her husband's third tithe year is about to begin, then she need not pay third tithe on her income (if she is working) until the next third tithe year of her husband. This could result in the wife not paying third tithe for about four years. Nevertheless, such matters should be decided by the couples themselves.

I would like to ask each of you to pray for Mr. Elijah Chukwudi, one of our ministers in Nigeria. He has developed a critical abdominal problem, and we would appreciate your prayers for his healing.

Please also continue to pray faithfully for Mr. Armstrong. It is truly remarkable how productive he is, and how hard he continues to push himself. As he has said so many times, all the credit truly goes to the great God. Let's be sure we are doing our part in supporting Mr. Armstrong through our prayers to our great God on his behalf, not only for his strength, safety and health, but also that God would continue to keep the doors open for him to proclaim the Gospel around the world.

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL U.S. & CANADIAN CHURCHES ****

Change for September 28 Sabbath Service

There has been a change in the location and time for services in Niagara Falls on the Sabbath of September 28. The new location and time are:

Sheraton Brock Hotel
Ballroom
5685 Falls Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario
10 a.m.

This new facility takes the place of the one printed in the August 19 issue of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS.

International News

From Mr. Frank Schnee At the end of June, our office manager Mr. John Karlson, my wife and I flew to Orr, Minnesota, to attend a conference for YOU camp directors and regional directors who could be present. Though we do not have a summer camp in the German-speaking area, we do have a winter camp each year in Austria, which will be expanded this year to include campers from international areas. It was very valuable to see the set-up of the camp at Orr, and to have the guidelines, as set by Mr. Armstrong, spelled out for us. It was very good to more fully understand the overall purpose of the camp and the efforts being made to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers. The opportunity to visit Orr will have a tremendous impact on our winter camp, since we have seen areas in which we can improve our overall effectiveness.

While at Orr, I was impressed by the understanding, concern, warmth, love and patience shown to the campers. It's very encouraging to see that Mr. Armstrong visits and personally speaks to each group of campers at Orr. This young generation, more than any other, needs the love and understanding being shown to it through the Church's youth program.

On July 7, a group of Imperial and Ambassador College students, led by Imperial faculty member Mr. Mike Carter, stopped by our Bonn office for a visit and tour of the facilities.

During July, we were also visited by Mr. Roger Lippross from Publishing Services in Pasadena. Mr. Lippross came to see the new Bedford typesetting system, which we have recently installed, before traveling to the Church office in the Netherlands. Miss Peggy Warkentin, who has been training us to use the new equipment, has been traveling back and forth between England, Holland and Germany to help get the system operational.

On July 10, we were very happy to welcome Mr. Grant Spong and his family, who arrived from North Carolina. Mr. Spong will pastor the Bonn, Dussel-

dorf and Darmstadt churches. He will also be assisting at the new Feast site in Krakow, Poland and directing the Festival choir there.

On Sunday, July 21, Mr. Ray Wright, director of Publishing Services in Pasadena, and his wife arrived from London to discuss publishing operations. This type of personal contact is very helpful in keeping this aspect of God's Work in Germany running smoothly.

Also during July, the Ambassador College Summer Program students had the interesting opportunity of having a two-week trip through the Elsass area of France, Strasbourg, southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria. In Switzerland, the tour continued on the Stein am Rhein, where a 10th century monastery was visited. The students then took a breath-taking gondola ride up to the top of Mount Santis in the Alps, followed by a cheese fondue dinner in the heart of the Swiss cheese area. In between all this they were given a day off for some waterskiing on Lake Konstanz in Germany. After their stay in Switzerland, the students traveled to Austria, where they spent several days at local church elder Helmuth Kaserer's home. Visits to Salzburg, Vienna and other places of interest were also made.

We were sad to see the 1985 summer program students depart for the United States at the end of the month. We had a fine group and very much enjoyed having them here. As we have seen in the past; this program continues to be very valuable in providing manpower for God's Church in the German-speaking area.

To end on a very happy note, our income for July showed an increase of 29.4% over July of last year. This brings our year-to-date income to a 2.5% increase over 1984.

From Mr. Frank Brown Reports from the Summer Educational Programme at Loch Lomond in Scotland are very positive, with tremendous enthusiasm from everybody attending, though there has been heavy and continuous rain. Although some activities had to be curtailed, spirits were not dampened and alternative activities have been developed. Mr. Herbert Armstrong had planned to visit the camp but was unable to do so. However, I was able to visit on the weekend of August 3. A fuller report will come next month.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation for the U.K. and Eire reached 122,150 with the July-August issue, an increase of 15.1% over July 1984. GOOD NEWS circulation is 17,660, an increase of 131% over 1984. Growth is also evident in the donor and co-worker lists: donors are up 6.1%, while co-workers increased by 1.7%. The year-to-date increase in mail income stood at 14.4% at the end of July.

Scandinavia: The combined English and Norwegian PLAIN TRUTH circulation for Scandinavia reached 34,634. This increase of 27.8% over last year is primarily a result of the current advertising programme in newspapers and magazines in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. A further advertising campaign is planned for the autumn to bring circulation up to the targeted end-of-year level of approximately 50,000. GOOD NEWS circulation in Scandinavia is 1,581, up 138% over 1984.

The Norwegian editor, Roy Østensen, has been in Pasadena to assist in developing the Norwegian subtitles for "The WORLD TOMORROW" programme currently being shown on Janco T.V., a cable station in Oslo, Norway.

Europe and Middle East: English language PLAIN TRUTH circulation is very strong in Europe, and especially in the Middle East. As a result of the war in Iran, little mail has been getting through for a long time, but recently there has been a flood of requests for the magazine from Iran. Many who write in express an interest in learning about Christianity.

The entire island of Malta can now receive "The WORLD TOMORROW" telecast from the Sicilian transmitter of the Italian station Rete Quattro. PLAIN TRUTH penetration in Malta is already one of the highest in the world, and now the island is receiving "The WORLD TOMORROW"--something that most Europeans are yet to be blessed with.

Africa: During the recent black Africa ministerial conference held here in early July, Mr. Josef Forson, pastor in Ghana, was raised to the rank of preaching elder by Messrs. Greg Albrecht, David Stirk and myself.

In Nigeria, we have now secured a site for this year's Festival. It is in Kano, at the Bagauda Lake Hotel, the same site used in 1983. Because of the rate of growth in Nigeria, it is very probable that we will need more than one Feast site in future years.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

(Not to be Announced)

Sarah Wing is disfellowshipped. She is approximately 40 years old, a Caucasian and is from the Denver, Colorado, church area. Should she appear in your area, it is imperative that you immediately contact Mr. James Reyer or Mr. Ken Swisher for more information. Biblical instructions regarding disfellowshipped members should be stringently enforced in her case.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

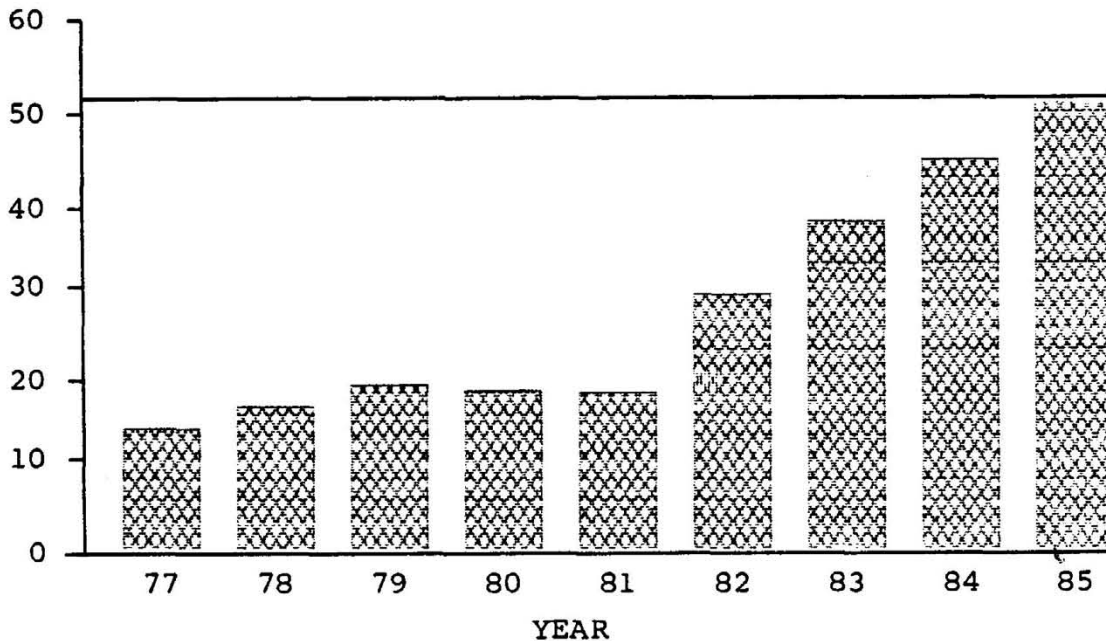
52.6 Million Pieces of Mail Sent Year to Date

The record pace of the work of the Church is continuing. During the month of July, 10.9 million pieces of mail were sent out in the United States, bringing the year-to-date total to 52.6 million pieces. This was nearly seven million more than last year's January-July total. The following graph shows January-July counts for the past nine years:

TOTAL PUBLICATIONS MAILED IN U.S.

Including Magazines, Booklets, Letters, etc.

MILLIONS For January-July of 1977-1985

Multiple Copies of Our Literature Often Requested

The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and many of our other publications are frequently requested in bulk by individuals as well as public and private organizations. Requests have come from libraries, law enforcement agencies, public health service organizations, and veterans' groups, just to name a few. In addition to The PLAIN TRUTH and the YOUTH magazine, the most frequently requested publications are CRIME CAN BE STOPPED--HERE'S HOW, THE SILENT EPIDEMIC, and THE BOOK OF REVELATION--UNVEILED AT LAST!

While our policy is not to send literature to people who may want to distribute it indiscriminately, we do fulfill reasonable requests for multiple copies from respectable organizations. The following are a few examples:

We have been advised that your college prints a booklet entitled CRIME CAN BE STOPPED--HERE'S HOW! From all reports, it sounds like a publication we would like to distribute to our clients. If possible, we would like 25 copies for trial distribution at your earliest possible convenience. It is our understanding that there is no charge for the booklets. If so, it is a generous gesture on your part.

In the event that the booklets are well received, it is possible that we would like more for an upcoming event soon to be held in Champaign, Illinois [by our security services organization]. It is a show whose theme will be, "Crime, What Can You Do?" It would seem that your booklet would be an appropriate handout for such an event.

(Bloomington, IL)

I received my first copy of The PLAIN TRUTH and was very impressed with the contents. I will be looking forward to the next issue. I am retired, and very active in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, a preventive program for the youth of Illinois. I work with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but also am very active locally in various organizations.

On page 37, your introductory issue showed copies of your publications, including "Alcohol and Drugs." Would you possibly have any back issues on this subject? I could use a quantity of any articles, books, or information sheets you might have on alcohol and drug abuse that I could use in the schools. I talk and show films to all grades from kindergarten through high school.

(Ottawa, IL)

We received the shipment of your booklets THE SILENT EPIDEMIC. They are very useful in our clinic.

(New Orleans, LA)

I would very much like to take 25 copies of your June issue of The PLAIN TRUTH for distribution to my relatives in India. The article "Inside the New India," by Keith W. Stump, is one of the best, rare complimentary articles on India I have seen in an American journal in many years. It is well written, factual and devoid of a jaundiced stereotyped view that many ivory-towered Western journalists normally entertain about India. Thank you kindly for your prompt attention and generosity.

(Memphis, TN)

You recently sent me a copy of your YOUTH magazine to look over. I was impressed. It could be a real asset to our campus. I would like to use it in one of our religion classes, and place several copies in the library and possibly in the dorms. Please send us 30 copies to my attention at the above address. Thank you very much.

(Calhoun, GA)

Parents and Youth Praise SEP

We have received numerous comments from both parents and young people who recognize the immense value of the Summer Educational Program. Parents are pleased to see the positive growth in their teenagers and the stronger interest they are showing in God's Church. Several young people mentioned that they had gained many new friendships and were very thankful for the instruction they received at camp. Many commented that the SEP experience helped them put their lives on the right track. Following are some of their letters:

I was a camper at SEP for the first session this summer. Mr. Armstrong, SEP is absolutely fantastic! I am learning how to put the positive attitude, enthusiasm and courage we learned at camp to work in my daily life. SEP really strengthened my mind and helped me grow closer to God. I also made so many special friends there--I felt like I was a part of one big family at SEP. Camp really helped me set my life on the right track and I will always

remember the fun, joy and peace I experienced. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for SEP. It has been a great blessing for all us campers.

G.A. (Carmel, CA)

I have recently returned from the first session of SEP in Orr, Minnesota, and I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to go to camp.... My tuition was paid by others, and I am very grateful for that. Since I study at home by correspondence course, I was able to attend the first session, before the Canadian school year was over.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for coming to visit us at Orr. I am going to do my best to follow the advice you gave when you spoke to us. You set a wonderful example for us to follow as YOU members, and I really appreciate that.

I have learned a lot from SEP, and I really enjoyed this experience as well. It has given me quite a bit to think about. As I study at home, I don't have many opportunities to spend time with kids my own age, but camp has given me many opportunities to do this.

B.S. (Atikokan, Ont.)

My son, upon arrival back home from SEP at Orr, was greatly impressed with Mr. Armstrong. He can see that we truly do need to pray daily that God will grant Mr. Armstrong physical and spiritual strength. I truly thank him for putting forth the effort to visit the sessions. He made a lasting impression on our son.

E.L. (Swanton, OH)

Our daughter just got home from SEP in Big Sandy. She really enjoyed it and it helped her out a lot. She made so many friends, and has heard from some of them already. She is looking forward to the Feast because a lot of the teens she met are going to the same site.

The attitudes are so good at SEP and we are so glad because the teenagers are a very good example to others when they get back home. We wish all the teens could attend SEP. We've had four children go to SEP in 13 years and it helps out so much. We are so glad to be a part of God's Church and know His truth.

Mr. & Mrs. E.B. (Elkhart, IN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA; APOCALYPSE IN AFRICA When people talk of "the arms race" they almost always think of the vast arsenals of nuclear weapons produced by the two rival superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Western allies such as Britain and France possess their own formidable and growing nuclear forces, as does Communist China. Then there's India. In 1974 New Delhi exploded its own so-called nuclear device. Not much has happened since then in India, but now, spurred on by the belief that arch-rival Pakistan is pushing ahead on its own nuclear program, the prospect of a fully nuclearized India is beginning to take shape. Result: Another nuclear

race--this time on the Indian subcontinent. Here are excerpts of a report written by Rone Tempest that appeared in the August 9 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

NEW DELHI--Amid mounting pressure in Parliament for India to resume its nuclear weapons program to counter developments in neighboring Pakistan, the government announced Thursday that a new research reactor near Bombay has gone critical, enabling it to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

The Indian Atomic Energy Department announced that the 100-mega-watt Dhruva reactor at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center began a sustained chain reaction Thursday morning. "This is a landmark in the country's atomic energy program," said Chairman Raja Ramanna of India's Atomic Energy Commission. Ramanna said that the new reactor is the largest research reactor in the world and will have medical and industrial applications for India's large and advanced nuclear industry.

In Washington...an expert on nuclear proliferation said the disclosure signals to Pakistan that India no longer need rely on other nations for enriched uranium and other materials needed for nuclear explosives. Those suppliers, including the United States and Canada, have barred India from using their nuclear materials in weapons, according to Leonard S. Spector, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace....

"It's definitely a signal, and not a very benign one," Spector said. "They're saying that if Pakistan continues its pursuit of the bomb, we now can respond without any legal restrictions,... and we don't have to use any imported technology. There's an arms race here, and the yachts are circling before crossing the starting line. They're getting ready."

The announcement here comes as the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi faces mounting pressure to reactivate a nuclear weapons program dormant since India tested a nuclear device in the Rajasthan desert in 1974....

Neither India nor Pakistan has signed the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and both have charged recently that the other is engaged in developing nuclear weapons. India's so-called bomb lobby made up of defense experts, military officers and intellectuals, stepped up its activity after a recent broadcast by ABC, the U.S. television network, reporting that Pakistan had successfully tested a nuclear triggering device, using non-nuclear explosives. This followed reports that Pakistan, at its secret nuclear research facility near Islamabad, is capable of producing weapons-grade enriched uranium....

The 1974 explosion employed plutonium made with U.S. and Canadian materials, but India sidestepped the two nations' bans on weapons-related use of the materials by saying that the explosion was for peaceful purposes. The much larger reactor that went into operation Thursday gives India the potential to produce a much greater volume of plutonium, Indian officials said.

Africa's Apocalypse--a Liberal-assisted Bloodbath Looms

A few days ago, Bishop Desmond Tutu, after President Botha's speech in Natal, claimed he was fearful that only a miracle would prevent a bloodbath in South Africa. The Nobel Peace Prize winner went on to attack President Reagan's South African policies as "an unmitigated disaster for our people," adding that "when we become free, we will remember who helped us."

Speaking from his Johannesburg home, Tutu stressed that he should not be mistaken as a "pacifist" just because he advocates nonviolence. "I am sufficiently realistic to know that a time could come when you have to say here are two evils--injustice, oppression, exploitation--and the other evil--overthrowing this by an armed insurrection," Tutu said. "Which is the lesser of two evils?" Then, he added, "The church has a tradition which enables Christians to say there is a time when it is justifiable for Christians to overthrow an unjust government, but I hope we haven't gone to there yet."

The Bishop continually harps on how "evil" and "vicious" apartheid and the South African government are and says that President Reagan's constructive engagement policy is "as evil" and "as vicious." The news media, of course, reports Tutu's charges virtually without any "Hey-wait-a-minute" comment. After all, he is a "man of the cloth" and a Nobel laureate. On the other hand, the media reacted wildly to Baptist minister Jerry Falwell's contention, after a five-day visit to South Africa, that Bishop Tutu is a "phony...as far as representing the black people of South Africa." This admittedly blunt remark also brought on torrents of rage from U.S. civil rights leaders. One said Falwell was a "racist demagogue" and that his remark was "tantamount to treason." (Against which country?) Jesse Jackson came through with one of his classic hyperboles: "Anyone who would choose Botha over Tutu would choose...Hitler over the Jews; would choose Herod over Jesus; and would choose Pharaoh over Moses."

American liberals and civil rights activists are almost unanimous in demanding that the African National Congress--backed by South Africa's banned Communist Party--be brought into the "negotiating process" and that its long-imprisoned figurehead, Nelson Mandela, be released unconditionally. (South African President P.W. Botha has said he would be prepared to consider releasing Mandela if the black leader pledged he would not plan or instigate any violent acts for political purposes.)

Where does Mandela stand? He made his position abundantly clear on August 21 during an interview conducted in prison by WASHINGTON TIMES columnist John Lofton and syndicated columnist Cal Thomas. Mandela repeated his refusal to renounce violence in order to win his freedom. "I can't fold my arms. I want to live like a free human being," Mandela was quoted as saying. "There is no alternative to taking up arms. There is no room for peaceful struggle."

The two columnists quoted the nationalist leader as saying that communism is preferable to apartheid because communism has no color bar and, under communism, "everybody would be living better."

On the question of divestiture and economic sanctions against South Africa, Lofton and Thomas said Mandela is "definitely" for this strategy. Asked about whether blacks and other nonwhites would be hurt by divestiture, he

is reported to have said: "We have to tighten our belts. There must be sacrifice for liberation."

At the same time Mandela issued his uncompromising remarks, his wife, Winnie, was equally defiant. She told other reporters, in the bluntest of terms: "The only aspect that can be discussed by the black people of this country and the ruling Afrikaner is the handing over of power."

Interestingly enough, on one of his many U.S. TV appearances, I heard Bishop Tutu, in denying he had any political ambitions of his own (being a cleric), refer to Nelson Mandela as "my leader." It may or may not mean anything, but both men are of the Xhosa tribal nation.

In the United States, the ANC's pure-blood Marxist credentials mean little to leftist activists. For example, former UN Ambassador (now Atlanta mayor) Andrew Young recently referred to the ANC as the "legitimate leaders of South Africa's majority."

Revolution and civil war are bad enough in Uganda, El Salvador or Lebanon, (where communal fighting this past week has escalated greatly). War in South Africa, however, could result in almost indescribable consequences, according to one of the most perceptive news analysts today, Peregrine Worsthorne. The following are excerpts of his article in the July 28 SUNDAY TELEGRAPH titled "A Worse Evil than Apartheid":

The proclaimed purpose of the black revolutionaries in South Africa is to render that country ungovernable. If they were to succeed in that aim, the result would be murderous civil war, mass starvation, as in Ethiopia, and, depending on who won the civil war, either an eventual black dictatorship or a white military dictatorship far more tyrannical than anything so far experienced. No good, and much dreadful evil, would come from rendering South Africa ungovernable.

Recognition of this truth--ie, the appalling consequences for all concerned of anarchy in South Africa--should be the point of departure for all responsible reactions to what is happening in that unhappy country.... First things first, and the first thing for the West to be clear about is the absolute, overriding necessity of discouraging violent revolution in South Africa from which only evil can come, not just in the short run but for the foreseeable future. All races would suffer monstrously. Bad as the present situation is, that arising from violent revolution would be incomparably worse.

That being the case, one might have expected the Western world to use such influence as it has to discourage the black revolutionary organisations from their tragically misguided policies, and to warn them most urgently of the dangers that they are courting. As it is...as far as I can see there has not been any official or unofficial condemnation of revolutionary violence; only official and unofficial condemnation of President Botha's emergency measures designed to contain revolutionary violence, and demands on him to release Nelson Mandela unconditionally; ie, without waiting for Nelson Mandela to renounce revolutionary violence.

The Western assumption seems to be that its most important contribution is to try to pressurise President Botha into concessions to the principle of majority rule. In Western eyes the source of the problem lies with the whites; with apartheid. Thus it follows that the best way to stop violent revolution is to force President Botha into sharing power with the blacks. Up to a point this is true. But not beyond that point, and the point to avoid going beyond is where pressure on Mr. Botha begins to topple over into encouragement of black revolution.

My fear is that much opinion in the West is indeed beginning to topple over into this chasm, as a result of too many people being brainwashed into thinking that anything would be better than the present system of apartheid. Seen from this angle the blacks would be better off dead than under white rule. I do not believe that this is at all the view of most blacks in South Africa, among whom there is much more realism about the benefits of white rule than there is among Western liberals; or perhaps greater realism about what the fate of many hundreds of thousands of blacks would be if the whites were provoked into all-out repression. Over here, many thousands of miles away from South Africa, the prospect of black revolution may lift up white liberal hearts; but among most blacks on the spot the prospect is much more frightening than the continuation of apartheid....

A more equitable system is on the way. It won't be "one man, one vote" in a unitary system, or majority rule; nor should it be, given the special circumstances of South Africa.... Nobody doubts this in South Africa. At issue is the extent of black power to be conceded, or rather the extent of white power to be retained....

That is the non-revolutionary prospect--very far from Utopian, very far short of the ideal of racial equality. But also very far from intolerable from the point of view of ordinary blacks. My own view is that this--some form of modified white minority rule--is the best that the blacks can reasonably hope to get for quite a long time to come, and that the West should be telling them this in no uncertain terms. For the alternative, black revolution would be an infinitely worse evil.... Yet the West seems strangely blind to where the true danger lies, and is carrying on as if black revolution were the lesser of the two evils.

Most Western statesmen in private are more than aware of the absurdity of this pretence, which they feel they have to keep up so as to avoid outraging the Third World in general and black Africa in particular, not to mention the anti-racist lobbies among their domestic electorates. Thus one does not hear a word in the West about the need to cut off supplies of money and arms to the African National Congress, which is organising the murder of blacks in the townships, but one hears millions of words about sanctions against South Africa. Yet the last thing that should be done now is to weaken Mr. Botha, or to strengthen the ANC....

The cult of anti-racism, by elevating racial equality into a new kind of sacred cause, is in danger of encouraging Western governments into all sorts of irrationalities, the worst of which, by

far, would be to try to stop President Botha from stamping out black revolution. What the black revolutionaries are doing to other blacks in the townships is absolutely damnable, and only fanatics can possibly believe that the cause of racial equality excuses such actions.

South Africa could be on the edge of a race war which would be disastrous for all races and might well land the super-powers in a confrontation even more bitter and dangerous than was Vietnam. At present it seems that the West feels it can do nothing more constructive than try to pressurise Mr. Botha into giving way.... Down this path disaster lies.... Anti-racism today threatens to become the new fanaticism which causes people to take leave of their senses in great matters as well as small; in local, national and now even international affairs.

Referring to the meddling in South Africa's affairs by American liberals, syndicated writer Cal Thomas wrote in the August 22 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The American track record for helping other nations is not a good one. We "helped" get rid of Batista in Cuba, and got Castro. We "helped" topple the Shah in Iran, and saw him replaced with the Ayatollah Khomeini. We "helped" rid Nicaragua of Somoza, and the price is the communist Sandinistas.

Call for Sanctions--and a Bailout

One manifestation of the liberal blindspot is the avoidance of the economic realities of the whole of southern Africa. Nine other countries in the region--six of them landlocked--are heavily dependent upon South Africa for employment, as well as transportation links to the outside world. For example, 85% of Zimbabwe's imports and exports go through South Africa, plus at least 50% of those of Malawi, Zambia and Zaire. The economies of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland are so closely interwoven with South Africa that the four of them are linked in a customs union.

International sanctions would cripple all of these economies before they would harm South Africa's. Common sense should indicate the foolishness of applying sanctions. But emotion and hostility now take precedence over reality. Several of these countries have formed the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). These countries have tried, unsuccessfully, to wean themselves away from dependence on South Africa. Officially, they support sanctions, but the SADCC Executive Secretary said this past week that sanctions must be coupled with "equally important measures" to support their economies. Tanzania's President Julius Nyrere went so far as to say that a "Berlin-style airlift" might be necessary to rescue the SADCC states. Nyrere, who has been so successful in getting enormous amounts of guilt-ridden Western aid for his country, would certainly try to hit up "Uncle Sam," the Scandinavians and others for such emergency aid.

One thing is definitely certain: Mr. Mandela is in error to state that under communism "everybody would be living better." Under such a totalitarian system the material birthright blessings that have been available not only to the children of Israel, but to all the other peoples of southern Africa, would cease.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau