

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 18

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 27, 1986

Dear Ministers,

I am excited about the tremendous response we are continuing to receive to the "World Tomorrow" telecast! The last two programs, "Mystery of the Ages" and "Is There a Real Hell Fire?", by Richard Ames produced 35,288 and 38,089 calls respectively.

The response to "Hell Fire" was the highest response ever for a non-prophetic subject, and the third-highest overall response. You probably noticed that for the first time, the toll-free number was displayed six-and-a-half minutes into the program, while Mr. Ames briefly showed one of the booklets he would offer at the close of the program. That 13-second display resulted in 3,000 calls--eight percent of the total weekend response. We also received 153 ministerial visit requests, 43% above the year's weekend WATS average of 107.

Wednesday, May 21, I delivered the commencement address in Big Sandy. It was a joy to again see the campus and brethren there. My only regret on this visit was that I had so little time to spend talking to the students and their families. I really didn't feel I had enough time that week to go down a day early, and we had to leave in the early afternoon to return in time to host a dinner at 6:00 p.m. to precede the Kirov Ballet that evening. (Details of the Kirov will appear in "The Worldwide News.") I hope to return to Big Sandy later this summer to speak to the youngsters who will be attending the Summer Educational Program there.

Friday morning, May 23, Pasadena graduating seniors, their parents and guests were hosted for the annual Graduation Brunch. Then at 3:00 p.m. commencement exercises were held in the Auditorium.

The Commencement address at each campus was entitled "The Best is Yet to Come." I encouraged the graduates to make the most of their Ambassador training by living what they've learned. I explained to them that graduation is only the beginning, or commencement, of their lives. Now it is time for them to put into practice their training, while continuing to train and to learn as they experience life.

Graduation time certainly brings home the great lesson of how important education is, especially education in God's plan and way of life. And, of course, that is exactly what you ministers have been called to be a part of.

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor General . . . . .	1
From Church Administration. . . . .	2
From Editorial Services . . . . .	6
From Media Services . . . . .	8
Mail Processing Update. . . . .	9
On the World Scene. . . . .	12

As you can see in the transfer list, we were able to hire several new men in the U.S. field. I'm pleased to see that, because I know the work load has been especially great for many of you. Even though that is the kind of work load that is a pleasure in one sense, it is still difficult to keep up with the growth. So far this year we are averaging nearly 1,700 new contacts per month. Let's continue praying that God will give us the manpower to properly shepherd those He will call.

One final subject this time. One of our tour guides here on campus was speaking to a man who was quite interested in our literature. In the course of the conversation the tour guide asked if he had spoken to a minister. "Yes, I have," was the reply. "But my first impression was not very favorable." He went on to explain that he had just finished reading the booklet about healthful living and was impressed. But the next day when he had his first visit with a minister, the minister was "grossly obese."

Need I say more? I expect those of you who have been careless to begin immediately taking wise steps to get yourselves into reasonable condition.

Use wisdom. Get sound advice from professionals about a balanced program. Avoid crash diets. Avoid exercise that is too strenuous for your condition. But get started. A slow but sure weight loss program, based on a balanced diet and regulated daily exercise, is best. But as I say, get started now! Record your progress. And stick with it! Enough said.

Thank you again for your prayers and encouraging cards and letters. My prayers are with you daily.

In Christian love,

*Joseph W. Thack*

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

GRADUATION; FESTIVAL NOTICE; BUSES; PRAYER UPDATE;  
RECENT ORDINATIONS; INTERNATIONAL NEWS; TRANSFERS

**Graduation** The whirlwind of activity continues here in Pasadena as the college year concludes. Several of the couples on the Refresher are staying over and others are arriving early for the opportunity to attend the graduation of their sons or daughters from Ambassador College. Personally, I'm off to Big Sandy to participate in the commencement ceremony there and remain through Memorial Day weekend for the marriage of

my oldest daughter, Lisa, to Mr. Andy Burnett of Dayton, Ohio. As Mr. Tkach would say, "I just look like a teenager."

You've probably already looked at the list of transfers on the following pages. Because it takes so much space I won't write further now.

Keep up the good work and let's keep encouraging and praying for one another, especially as we enter this busy summer season.

#### FESTIVAL NOTICE

For security reasons, it has been decided not to hold the Feast of Tabernacles in Fiuggi, Italy, near the city of Rome. Consequently, the Festival 1986 location for all brethren from Italy, Malta and Greece has been moved to Lugano, a small city located in the Italian-speaking area of southern Switzerland. Brethren who had already applied to transfer to Fiuggi will be contacted soon in regard to whether or not they desire to attend in Lugano.

#### CHURCH BUSES

In the September 13, 1985 issue of the "Pastor General's Report," instructions were given to sell all buses and vans that had been acquired for use in the local churches.

As the renewal date for our auto liability coverage is September 1, 1986, we need to make every effort to have all buses disposed of before that date.

Please communicate with the Insurance Department when you have sold your bus and the date it was sold. They will then report this to our insurance company in order to obtain a premium credit.

**Prayer Request Update** Several weeks ago we requested prayer on behalf of Mrs. Sylvia Van Deventer. The Van Deventers have expressed their great appreciation for the many cards of encouragement and prayers asking for God's healing. Since Mrs. Van Deventer continues to experience pain and loss of sight due to the tumor, your continued prayers for God's miraculous intervention are requested.

Mr. Dennis Doucet, a local elder and former church pastor, died on Sunday, May 11. He had suffered a series of strokes several weeks earlier, went into a coma at that time and never fully regained consciousness. He was buried on May 13. Mr. Ken Treybig, the associate pastor in the Big Sandy-

Tyler churches, officiated at the graveside service, which was held at the Whitehouse Cemetery in Whitehouse, Texas. Mr. Doucet is survived by his wife, Lena, and brothers Behrman, a local church elder in the Houston North church, and Nelson, a longtime employee in Pasadena, and other family members.

**Recent Ordinations** The following men were ordained on April 24, 1986 to the rank of local church elder: Frank Best of the St. John's, Canada, congregation; Douglas Peterson of the Red Deer, Canada, congregation and Chris Starkey of the Montreal (English), Canada, congregation. Also ordained as local church elders on April 30, 1986 were David Adolfson of the Winnipeg (East), Canada, congregation and Robert Swihart of the Dayton, Ohio, congregation.

Ordained to the rank of local elders were Orville Skorseth from the Watertown, South Dakota, congregation on April 30, 1986 and Rick Sherrod of the Pasadena, California, congregation on May 10, 1986.

Ordained as preaching elders on April 5 and April 24, 1986 respectively were Reginald Killingley of the Lima, Peru, congregation; and Kenneth Treybig of the Big Sandy, Texas, congregation.

#### International News

**From the Vancouver Office** April saw the beginning of God's Holy Day season with an increase in attendance of 4.3 percent and 2.5 percent respectively for the two Holy Days. Offerings were up 4.4 percent and 2.9 percent. Although not large increases, these figures continue to reflect the steady growth Canada has witnessed for the last few years.

Low commodity prices and unemployment are affecting the membership in some regions of the country. The drop in the price of oil has impacted our members in Alberta. Also, the federal government's recent announcement of a 19 percent cut in the price of wheat in 1986 will adversely affect our members in the Prairie provinces. The downturn in these two industries has a ripple effect through Canada's western economy.

In an effort to counter these difficulties, a number of ministers have held, or are holding, job seminars in an effort to help members find employment, or upgrade their skills to improve their marketability.

WATS response continues to be very exciting. It has pushed our TV responses to a very healthy 149.3 percent increase over last year's figures.

As a spinoff of the strong TV response the total incoming mail was down 31.3 percent. Outgoing Mail was up 21.3 percent, primarily due to the semi-annual letter mailing.

During the first four months of the year we have handled 230,399 letters and calls, a 7.4 percent increase on last year. We have also mailed out 1,164,144 letters and literature requests, a 48 percent increase.

New visit requests continue to increase. We are running at 94 percent above last year. Total number received for the first three months is 679.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

### TRANSFERS 1986

#### ASSISTING PART TIME FROM BIG SANDY FACULTY

Jim Kissee (ASC)	Big Sandy-Tyler, TX
Lynn Torrance (ASC)	Longview-Lufkin, TX

<u>Name</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
George Affeldt	Johnstown-Huntingdon, PA
Rick Beam	Amarillo, TX
Wilbur Berg	Twin Falls-Blackfoot, ID
Mike Blackwell	Fargo-Grand Forks, ND
Tom Blackwell	Abilene-San Angelo, TX
Steve Botha	Manhattan-Westchester, NY
Bob Bragg	Russellville-Mena, AR
Keith Brittain (ASC)	San Francisco-Oakland, CA
Allen Bullock	Dallas East, TX
Jim Chapman	Jacksonville-Gainesville-Ocala, FL
Tom Damour	Laurel-Meridian, MS
Stan Deveaux (ASC)	Long Beach E/W, CA
Jim Duke (ASC)	Anniston-Gadsden, AL
Wayne Dunlap (ASC)	Sacramento, CA
Art Dyer	Philadelphia, PA-Vineland, NJ
George Elkins	Columbia, SC-Augusta, GA
John Elliott	Sioux Falls-Watertown-Yankton, SD
John Foster	Harrisburg, PA
Roger Foster	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Jim Friddle	Reseda, CA
Bill Gordon	Joplin, MO-Independence, KS
Lyle Greaves	Canada
Ted Herlofson (ASC)	Denver E/W, CO
Leonard Holladay	Duluth-Grand Rapids, MN
Greg Johnson (ASC)	Cleveland E/W, OH
Fred Kellers	Nashville-Murfreesboro, TN
Randy Kobernat	Kingsport, TN-Norton, VA
Charles Knowlton	Harrison-Mt. View, AR
Paul Kurts (ASC)	Nashville-Murfreesboro, TN
Ron Laughland	Hammond-Michigan City, IN
Ed Marrs (ASC)	New Orleans, LA
Ken Mattson	Moultrie, GA-Tallahassee, FL
Tom Melear	Portland-Bangor, ME
Jim O'Brien	Parkersburg-Charleston-Logan, WV
Allen Olson (MT)	Birmingham, AL
Vince Panella	Canton, OH



Gary Pendergraft	Liberal-Scott City, KS
Carlos Perkins	Brooklyn N, NY
Gary Petty (ASC)	Houston W-Victoria, TX
Raul Ramos (ASC)	Miami, FL
Phil Rice (ASC)	Fresno-Visalia, CA
John Ritenbaugh	Glendale, CA
Tracey Rogers	Chillicothe-Portsmouth, OH
Jim Rosenthal	Trenton-Middletown, NJ
D.R. Sandoval (ASC)	Tulsa AM/PM, OK
Randy Schreiber	Reno-Carlin, NV
Rex Sexton (ASC)	Spokane, WA-Coeur d'Alene, ID
Ken Swisher	Little Rock-Searcy, AR
Vince Szymkowiak	Detroit East, MI
Dave Treybig	Spokane, WA-Coeur d'Alene, ID
Hugh Wilson	Ft. Collins, CO-Wheatland, WY- Scottsbluff, NE
Chuck Zimmerman	Ft. Smith-Fayetteville, AR

#### NEW HIRES AS ASSISTANT PASTORS

<u>Man</u>	<u>To</u>
Lloyd Garrett	Brooklyn S.-Queens, NY
Hasadore Hall	Atlanta N-Rome, GA
Rodger Ludwig	Philadelphia, PA-Vineland, NJ
Gary Demarest	Rochester-Syracuse, NY
Rick Sherrod	Chattanooga-Murphy, TN
Andrew Silcox	San Antonio E/W, Uvalde, TX
Carrol Bryant	Dayton AM/PM, OH
Ernie Prociw	Wichita, KS
Willard High	Washington, D.C.-Front Royal, VA
Don Henson	Salem-Albany, OR

#### INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

Guy Ames	U.S. Field Ministry
Robert Morton	Philippines (Regional Director)
Robert Fahey	Australia (Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

"GOOD NEWS" CIRCULATION; "YOUTH 86" RESPONSES; SEPTEMBER "PLAIN TRUTH"; UNEXPECTED REQUEST; "WORLDWIDE NEWS" FEATURE

"Good News" Circulation As in other areas of God's work, the publications are growing at a tremendous rate. The worldwide circulation of "The Good News" is nearing the one million mark. That number includes the international language editions. About four years ago, Mr. Armstrong made "The Good News" available to those "Plain Truth" subscribers who showed an

interest in receiving it. The "Good News" subscription rate has grown 77 percent a year since that time. The nonmember readership is well more than 90 percent of the total. Although we have taken steps to stabilize and control the growth of "The Plain Truth," more than 635,000 people subscribed in the first three months of this year, setting a new record. "Youth 86" circulation worldwide has also set a new record--more than 230,000 with the March issue.

**"Youth 86" Responses** Although mail to "Youth 86" is overwhelmingly positive, not so surprisingly, we did get a few letters disagreeing with our views on hair length.

Most of our letters are like the following, however:

"Yesterday was the first day I had ever read your magazine in our school library. I really liked it a lot. Your articles interested me. I'm only sorry I didn't notice it on the magazine rack before. I'm sure I missed out on many good articles. I was reading a letter you printed from a reader on the topic of sex. Would you please send me a free copy of the book "The Missing Dimension in Sex." (Reader, Chino, California)

"I've been receiving "Youth" magazine for five years now and it's really been making huge contributions toward my decision making. Whenever there's a problem or a question concerning something that really confuses me, I just look through my "Youth" magazines until I find help. Sometimes while I'm searching, two or three different articles on the same subject will appear, so I just read them all." (Reader, Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

**September "Plain Truth"** Look for a warm and interesting anecdote from Pastor General Joseph Tkach's boyhood in the September "Plain Truth's" "Personal from the Publisher." We also plan to feature in the September edition an article on teen pregnancy by Ron Toth, showing how our society today encourages it. "Why You Hear a False Gospel Preached Today" by John Halford and Herman L. Hoeh informs our readers that the gospel they hear from pulpits today is not the one Jesus Christ brought. Gene Hogberg's lead article will reflect experiences from his trip to the international economic conference in Tokyo.

**Unexpected Request** Our office just received a request from the National Library of Australia to reproduce the Ambassador-Spokesman Club Speech Manual in braille to serve their Handicapped Section. Perhaps some of our members with sight difficulties in that region will benefit from this project eventually.

**"Worldwide News" Feature** We would like to honor 1986 valedictorians and salutatorians in "The Worldwide News" in July. Please send in the names of those graduates in your area who are academically first or second in their classes. Along with names please send in the names of their schools and photographs of each graduate (used if space permits) to "The Worldwide News," Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91129. To meet our deadlines this information needs to be mailed to us by the end of June.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

MEDIA SERVICES

## JUNE'S AIRING SCHEDULE; SUMMER SCHEDULE; FALL SCHEDULE

**June's Airing Schedule** The response to "The World Tomorrow" telecast continues to be outstanding in terms of the number of response, as well as the comments people are making concerning the clarity of God's message by all three broadcasters. We hope the programs to air in June will continue to be thought provoking and bring in a large response even though June is the beginning of the summer season when responses traditionally tend to drop.

AIR DATE

MAY 31-JUNE 1  
86-18A

**THE PRESERVATION OF THE HOLY BIBLE**

Is the text of the Bible accurate? After being copied, translated and printed hundreds of times since the original manuscripts were written, how can we know that the Bible we have today is authentic? David Hulme examines the incredible history of the safekeeping of the Old and New Testaments.

LIT OFFERED: The Authority of the Bible, PT

JUNE 7-8  
86-19B

**SUCCESS: CHOICE OR CHANCE?**

Is success attainable? Is failure preventable? Or is what you achieve in life simply a matter of luck or blind chance as some believe? David Albert shows that ambition, goal setting and planning are three vital keys to success.

LIT OFFERED: The Early Years, Seven Laws of Success, PT

JUNE 14-15  
86-20B

**WHAT BRINGS LASTING SUCCESS?**

Many people measure success by the acquisition of wealth and material possessions. But is that all there is? David Albert shows what true success really means and explains how mankind has overlooked the most important law that leads to lasting success.

LIT OFFERED: Seven Laws of Success, The Wonderful World Tomorrow, PT

JUNE 21-22  
86-21A

**HIROSHIMA--HAVE WE LEARNED THE LESSON?**

LIT OFFERED: Are We in the Last Days?, PT



JUNE 28-29  
86-22C

**ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OBSOLETE?**

LIT OFFERED: The Ten Commandments  
(booklet updated), PT

**Summer Schedule** For the nine-week period during July and August, we are planning to rerun some of the best programs that all three broadcasters have made since February of this year. "The Pastor General's Report" of June 18th will list these programs.

**Fall Schedule** We are in the process of finalizing the fall television schedule where new programs will start airing the weekend of September 6-7th. We are also in the planning stages of designing a new set for the fall season as well. This will give us the ability to present, as a part of the set, graphics and illustrations pertaining to each program. Once we have everything finalized by Mr. Tkach, we will be updating you on the progress of these new developments.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

YEAR-TO-DATE STATS; IN-HOME PROGRAM; RCS FOR WATS;  
MA BOOK TOPS ONE MILLION; GOOD NEWS TRIBUTE

**Year-To-Date Stats** U.S. statistics for January through April show outstanding growth in most major categories. Here are the figures:

<u>Category</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Total Outgoing Mail	24,594,814	33,906,865	37.9 percent
Total Mail Received	1,797,723	1,930,950	7.4 percent
Average Mail Received Per Working Day	20,973	22,528	7.4 percent
Books and Booklets Sent	1,216,629	2,421,395	99.0 percent
New Names Added to File**	699,691	667,119	-4.7 percent
Total WATS Calls	324,547	662,982	104.3 percent
Member Count	57,661	59,722	3.6 percent
Co-Worker Count	57,288	68,405	19.6 percent
Donor Count	96,305	108,503	12.6 percent
New CC Students (January-March only)	46,062	59,532	29.2 percent

\*\*Includes first-time requests for literature as well as for all monthly publications. The decrease in this category is mainly the result of budgetary cutbacks approved by Mr. Armstrong last fall. Also, one year ago at this time, we were receiving responses to a special ad in READER'S DIGEST, which is not being run this year.

**In-Home Program** The WATS In-Home Program is becoming more and more a vital part of the WATS operation as responses to the telecast continue to increase. During the first weekend in May, in-home volunteers answered a record 5,125 calls, which represents 14 percent of the total calls received (37,748).

Thus far, approximately 3,000 members from 86 congregations have answered over 90,000 calls.

The new call diverters now in use are working extremely well, and they provide a number of outstanding benefits. Calls routed to in-home operators through the new system are sent out faster and more economically. The calls are also amplified so that operators and callers can more clearly hear each other. In case of an emergency or problem, any in-home operator can transfer the call to a WATS supervisor in Pasadena.

Moreover, less equipment is needed to install and operate in-home lines than standard WATS lines. This saves the Work hundreds of dollars per line. As we are able to manufacture more diverters, more church areas will be included as the in-home program expands.

We are including a letter from a couple in Iowa who wrote to us after taking their first in-home calls:

Thank you! Thank you for the In-Home WATS Program. We just served for the first time this past Sabbath, and it is a fantastic way to be more a part of this great Work. We never thought it possible that here in Iowa we could have the privilege of being a part of this program, but we know that with God all things are possible.

It has helped us as individuals to have more zeal and excitement for this Work and it has also helped the whole congregation to be able to hear about the excitement of taking WATS calls and hearing the comments and excitement in the voices of the callers.

We are behind all of you at headquarters 100 percent, and we pray fervently for you, Mr. Tkach, and the great responsibilities that you do have.

Clarksburg, IA

**RCS For WATS** Our Telephone Response area has acquired one of the phone company's latest innovations--a computer terminal called an RCS (short for Routing Control Service). This terminal directly links us to the AT&T central computer in St. Louis, Missouri, that allows us to instantly route all incoming WATS calls to Pasadena and Big Sandy.

The "RCS" gives us the ability to evenly distribute calls between the two campuses. Over 30 routing changes are made each week. This enables us to make the most efficient use of the number of operators available in each office.

On the weekend of April 26-27, the Routing Control Service proved to be invaluable. The Pasadena campus phone system and WATS lines malfunctioned on four separate occasions, and we were not able to receive any WATS calls during these emergencies.

However, each time the Pasadena campus phone lines shut down, we immediately directed all WATS calls to the Big Sandy office via the RCS. As you can see, we were able to avoid thousands of calls from being busied out and lost.

As response to the "World Tomorrow" telecast continues to climb, the ability to effectively route calls between both campuses is imperative. The Routing Control Service helps us to insure that thousands of callers who respond each week will be able to reach us. We are very thankful that God has provided us with another effective tool in carrying out His Work.

**MA Book Tops One Million** The response to Mr. Ames' telecast where he offered "Mystery of the Ages" (May 10-11) brought the U.S. distribution of this book to over one million copies. This is only the tenth book/booklet to pass the one million mark. Although it took many years for the other publications to reach this milestone, "Mystery of the Ages" passed it in less than eight months!

In addition to subscribers wanting to know what the book was about, there were two other reasons for this all-time record. (1) The book had been extensively advertised through letters, the telecast, and other publications. (2) The number of "Plain Truth" subscribers is much higher than it was in past years, making the book available to more people.

**"Good News" Tribute** Scores of "Good News" subscribers have written to thank Mr. Tkach for the special May tribute issue. They especially valued the photos, list of accomplishments in Mr. Armstrong's life, and the tributes given to him by his personal friends and associates. Here are a few comments:

Oh, how I appreciated the tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong! I just had to cry! I miss him so much. I was so shocked when I heard of his death. There has been no other man like him. God could not have chosen a better one. He really stood faithful to his last breath.

Robinson, IL

We just received "The Good News" May issue 'Tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong.' What a beautiful memento to our late Pastor General. Our prayers are for Mr. Tkach and all of you employed in God's end-time Work.

Troy, OH

I want to extend my appreciation and thank you for the wonderful "Good News" magazine I just received for May, with the wonderful photos and the list containing the milestones of Mr. Armstrong's life. We are all going to miss him. We pray that Mr. Joseph W. Tkach will be blessed in all his endeavors, and I will remember him in my prayers.

Sarasota, FL

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### STRAUSS IN SYRIA; REDO NATO, SAYS KISSINGER; PHILIPPINES REALITIES

**Strauss in Syria** For the past several weeks in the Middle East, increased tension between Syria and Israel has led to a case of war-jittery nerves. Yet both sides indicate nothing serious will come of the situation. No Middle East conflict is likely so long as Egypt maintains its special relationship with Israel. Meanwhile, the Middle East continues to draw the attention of important personalities, such as the very knowledgeable Franz Joseph Strauss, who visited Syria earlier this year. The following are translated excerpts from the March 26 issue of the West German newspaper DIE WELT:

Hosting Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, the governor of Kuneitra, "capital of the Arab Golan," sounds an uncompromising note. "We will win back the other two thirds of the Golan just as we wrested Kuneitra from the Zionists in a heroic battle in 1973," he says. Herr Strauss says nothing. It is not the first time he has visited the border area between Syria and Israel.

Small gifts are exchanged, then the governor takes his distinguished guest into a room that serves as a museum. There are slogans about the conquest of Kuneitra, a few photos and a scale model of the town before the Israelis destroyed it in 1974.... [The Israelis withdrew from the area later that year.]

"Where," Herr Strauss asks, "is the Israeli radar?" The question takes his hosts by surprise, underscoring two points, the first being that Herr Strauss does not regard Israel as a Zionist structure. The second is that he seems to have overlooked neither the strategic nor the technological advantages the other side enjoys. The governor, slightly taken aback, points out the spot.... Reality, diplomacy and propaganda are often only this far apart in the Middle East. Syria alone cannot be considered a serious threat to Israel at present. Herr Strauss calls the strategic balance President Assad of Syria would like to strike a long-term program. Damascus still has a great deal left to do....

Herr Strauss's visit was most welcome. The Syrian government is very keen to improve ties with the West at present, it being the only quarter from which economic assistance can be



expected. The Syrians set great store by Germany. That was clear as soon as Herr Strauss embarked on a succession of political talks in Damascus on the first day of his two-day visit. Protocol was at a higher level than on his visit two years previously. The atmosphere could only be termed cordial. At table one joke after another was told at the Soviet Union's expense, with the Syrians laughing heartily.

Herr Strauss feels President Assad has not finally committed himself politically. Just as a war cannot be waged successfully on Israel without Egypt, so peace is impossible without Syria, he says. That is why he outlined to the Syrian leader his desire to see Syria play a leading role in launching a peace process. Military spending imposed a heavy burden on everyone, preventing healthy economic development, he argued....The Bavarian Premier's frankness and plain speaking are highly rated in Damascus. Given his close contacts with the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, and the US administration, Herr Strauss would seem predestined for the role of an intermediary in the Middle East.... Herr Strauss conferred with Mr. Peres in Bonn shortly before flying to the Middle East.

**Redo NATO, Kissinger Recommends** The impact of the U.S. raid against Libya and general European disapproval of it (though French public opinion was in favor) continues to be analyzed in terms of its long-range effects. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger contributed his analysis to the May 11 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The American retaliation against Libya and its aftermath have brought home, dramatically, the extent of discord in the Atlantic Alliance over issues outside of Europe.... The governments that dissociated themselves from American policy were in most cases the friendliest conceivable. Had the opposition in most nations been in office, the reaction would have been far more overtly hostile. All this has produced a new source of tension in the alliance. Few Europeans have grasped the bitterness their attitude has caused among much of the American public....

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was a response to the fear of Soviet aggression against Europe...40 years ago.... Conflicts outside Europe were produced by the process of decolonization; the Soviet role in them was relatively minor. The United States, reluctant to be involved in colonial wars, insisted that the obligations of the Atlantic Treaty did not extend outside of Europe. Indeed, it reserved the right to oppose its allies in dealings with the Third World, and during the Suez crisis of 1956, it went so far as to threaten Britain and France with economic sanctions.

Since then, conditions have changed dramatically. Europe has recovered its economic dynamism and is moving, although fitfully, toward political unity.... But one early problem remains almost unchanged, although the two sides of the



Atlantic have exchanged their roles. Now it is Europe that insists that the treaty's obligations do not extend to the developing world. And it is Europe that feels free to dissociate itself from U.S. actions where indigenous upheavals and Soviet efforts to outflank the alliance produce contemporary crises.

That process of dissociation has been accelerating for at least 15 years. During the 1973 Israel-Arab War, Britain and West Germany refused to grant the U.S. permission to use American bases for reconnaissance--or blocked American arms shipments to the Middle East from their territories.... But there is one fundamental difference. When the United States thwarted Europe a generation ago, it was accelerating an inevitable process of decolonization. When Europe dissociates itself from the United States today, it challenges a concept of global defense therefore, indirectly, the psychological basis of America's commitments even to the defense of Europe. The practical consequence is that a major portion of America's armed force is tied up where governments will permit its use only against the least likely threat, an all-out Soviet attack on the central front.... The United States as well as its allies would make a mistake to paper over the cracks in the alliance that recent events have made explicit.... Sources of the problem can be seen in two facts: First, it is unnatural for a continent with a population larger than that of the Soviet Union--and a gross national product 1-1/2 times greater--to rely for so much of its defense on a distant ally. Second, the prevalent strategic doctrine of nuclear retaliation is inconsistent with the realities of nuclear parity....

A larger European role in the defense of Europe is long overdue. This will require not only a more substantial material effort--where in fact progress is being made--but also an explicit European identity within NATO. If the Atlantic relationship can encourage a European Economic Community where competition with America is inevitable, it should welcome a European Defense Community, in which all incentives would be for cooperation rather than dissociation.... The conclusion, I believe, is unavoidable: Some American forces now in Europe would contribute more to global defense if redeployed as strategic reserves based in the United States, able to be moved to world trouble spots....

**Philippines: Blush Off the Bloom** In the Philippines, the glow of the "People Power" revolution is beginning to die out amid the grim economic and political realities confronting the country. The new government's economic policy, if it indeed really has one, consists largely of blaming the previous government for all the woes of the country. Yet, President Corazon Aquino bases her hopes for winning back young people lost to the Communist-dominated New People's Army on a brighter economic future. In an article in the May 18 LOS ANGELES TIMES, correspondent Mark Fineman analyzed the current mood in the Philippines. His article was titled: "In Manila, the Honeymoon Isn't Over, but Bridal Attendants Stir Concern."

When she was a presidential candidate, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino told more than 1,000 of Manila's most powerful business leaders how she would solve the nation's economic and political crises during her first 100 days in office. "with the zeal of a crusading housewife let loose in a den of world-class thieves," Aquino vowed, she would dismantle piece-by-piece the dictatorship of President Ferdinand E. Marcos and replace it with a human democracy that would serve all 54 million Filipinos.

Now, as the exhilaration of liberation has begun to fade, and as Aquino approaches the 100-day landmark, potential problems are brewing in the government, most of them a result of that policy of "purgation and purification." In the coffeehouses and newspaper columns of Manila, there is grumbling from Aquino supporters and enemies alike that many of her officials are more interested in punishing Marcos than in running a government.

Political crises continue in towns and provinces where Aquilino Pimentel, Aquino's controversial minister of local governments, has fired dozens of popularly elected, pro-Marcos mayors and governors. The Philippine economy remains stagnant, as Aquino's powerful Commission on Good Government has frozen tens of millions of dollars worth of potential investment capital and sequestered assets of major corporations. These steps were taken as part of the campaign to ferret out and recover the fortune that Marcos and his cronies are suspected of having stolen from the national treasury during two decades in power.

Members of the powerful armed forces, who were the key to Aquino's rise to power, are holding back in the battle to put down a burgeoning communist insurgency, out of fear that Aquino's Commission on Human Rights will punish them for violations under Marcos' rule. And, in this political and economic vacuum, the military continues to lose ground in its war against the insurgency, which has taken nearly 800 lives in the Philippine countryside since Aquino assumed office--despite a long-held belief that it was Marcos who fueled the communist rebellion....

Aquino was asked to answer critics who charge that her Cabinet ministers, among them more than a dozen millionaires, three Harvard graduates and two with law degrees from Yale, were as elitist and oligarchic as those of Marcos. They are elitist, Aquino replied, only in the sense of being "the best possible people for the job."

Asked for her assessment of her government based on its first three months in power, Aquino...listed as top achievements the fulfilling of campaign promises to free the majority of political prisoners...and restoring "our basic freedoms." But her greatest achievement, Aquino emphasized, was "getting rid

of Marcos.... If nothing else, I think I should be given credit for having driven Mr. Marcos from office." In the process, however, Aquino has alienated and worried many Filipinos. Particularly vexing is the dissent within the military, which has been cleansing its ranks in the three months since a handful of key generals and colonels mounted the coup....

The campaign by Pimentel, her minister of local governments, to remove most of the mayors and governors who formed Marcos' political machine has sparked violence in several towns and left many key regions unstable. Insecurity at the local level has stymied Ramos' efforts to end the insurgency. Ramos and his strategists say a military solution, alone, is not enough. They contend that their troops have been forced to step up military operations against the insurgent New People's Army because Aquino's civilian government has made no substantive improvement in the quality of local government--one of the rebels' recruiting arguments.

"Not only have they done nothing to improve the goods and services the people in the provinces are getting," a colonel said, "but everything they've done has resulted in even more turmoil on the local level. And in many cases, the people they've put in to replace the Marcos mayors are worse than the people who were there in the first place."...

Concern about the government is not confined to the military. Behind the veneer of optimism expressed by bankers, businessmen and potential investors,...they have been privately critical of the government for failing to enunciate clear economic policies that might lure more investment to the Philippines....

But even the most severe critics emphasize that Aquino's image as a sincere, honest and deeply committed national leader remains intact. This alone...has ensured Aquino a grace period of good will that is likely to extend beyond her deadline of 100 days.

Last week in Los Angeles, Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop of Manila, addressed the World Affairs Council. In a press conference beforehand, which I attended, Cardinal Sin twice expressed his optimism that Mrs. Aquino would bring the nation's economic crisis under control "because she is a housewife" and knows how to manage money. Well, as the following article from the March 22, 1986 ECONOMIST indicates, Mrs. Aquino is hardly a typical Filipino housewife.

Forget about Cory Aquino being a housewife. Mrs. Aquino does not much care for the patronising label, and for anybody trying to understand the new president of the Philippines it is misleading. She is a rich woman who has had the good fortune not to bother too much about the shopping and the washing-up. She is no more a housewife than was Jackie Kennedy, to whom in spirit, upbringing and family ties she bears some resemblance.



Neither has she, at 53, come unprepared to the intricacies of Philippine politics and business. Her father was a sugar baron in Tarlac province. The table-talk at home was local politics, on which the family had a lot of influence. She got a mathematics degree and thought of applying her talents to the practice of law, the normal path into politics in the Philippines. Instead, Corazon Cojuangco married a politician, Benigno Aquino. During 28 years of marriage she had an inside view of the ruthlessness of Philippine politics as her husband rose to become a presidential contender and the main challenger to Ferdinand Marcos. Her husband's career, and his life, ended with his assassination at Manila's airport in 1983....

Mrs. Aquino...is no Machiavelli. But she is clever and subtle, and not to be underestimated. That is the easy part to say about Mrs. Aquino. More difficult for non-Filipinos to grasp is, for want of a better word, her mysticism. In a conversation with THE ECONOMIST she spoke strongly about her Roman Catholicism. She believes that she is president because of a miracle. She is not being metaphorical: she thinks God intervened. Many Filipinos, including politicians from the Marcos camp as well as from Mrs. Aquino's, believe the same.

Religion in the Philippines is intense in a way most Europeans do not comprehend (though many Americans do). The small Protestant sects are fervent, and Muslims look to Iran for inspiration. Philippine Catholicism has taken on the flavour of the country, absorbing a bit of idolatry, a bit of animism, a bit of astrology. The cult known as Maryism--near-worship of the Virgin--is widely supported. Mrs. Aquino's election rallies took on something of the character of a Mass, with statues of the Virgin on the speaker's platform....

Legally speaking, Mrs Aquino is governing unconstitutionally. Under the constitution, Mr. Marcos is still president, having been proclaimed in office by the discredited parliament. Mrs. Aquino's government is technically "revolutionary", although that disturbing word is being dropped in favour of "transitional." The lawyers (following its beloved American example, the Philippines has 35,000 of them, six times the number of doctors) argue incessantly about this technicality, but most people take little notice.

The Philippines' economic picture is indeed depressing for those who are not in the 1 percent of the upper class and 9 to 10 percent of the middle class. Per capita income now ranges at about \$625 per year--\$200 below what it was three years ago. More than half the work force is either unemployed or underemployed. Mr. John Halford and I experienced the underemployment situation when, recently in the Philippines, we stopped at a gasoline station. Six young men pounced on the car to service it. Three were wearing company T-shirts, obviously employees. The other three either were friends, hangers-on or perhaps employees as well.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau