

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

Once again I've had the opportunity to visit our United States summer camps in Big Sandy, Tex., and Orr, Minn. -- this time for their respective second sessions. The Orr visit on Tuesday, July 29, was the first stop before an international trip to visit our regional office in London, our summer camp at Loch Lomond and our churches in Kenya.

I visited the Big Sandy camp's second session on Wednesday, July 23. Again I must report to you that I was most encouraged by the camp programs and the outstanding job our staff is doing. I truly enjoyed on both these visits the extra time to spend personally mixing with the young campers after the address. The enthusiasm in the campers' faces, their smiles and their responsiveness were a joy to behold. These youngsters are truly learning a better way than the world they live in has to offer. And they love it!

Dr. Kermit Nelson demonstrated for our traveling party several of the new procedures we will be adopting in YOU basketball. These new procedures will result in a higher level of sportsmanship and quality of play because they are based upon the right principles of encouragement, support of one another and the building of positive attitudes. After all, as Dr. Nelson explains it, we are one family, one body, all brothers and sisters -- even on the basketball court.

Dr. Nelson will be putting together a videotape presentation -- to be available to you pastors -- explaining all these new guidelines and procedures. You're in for a real treat!

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One of the most exciting aspects of SEP is the overall attitude of support. In the softball games, both teams cheer for each batter. Both teams congratulate any player on a well-executed play. You don't hear any ridicule of a weak player -- only shouts of encouragement. You don't hear "No hitter" or "Boo." You don't see arguing with the umpire. You don't see angry attitudes over a close call, or a "let's-get-'em" attitude. What you do see are two teams of like-minded youngsters, all doing their very best, all

pulling for each other, all encouraging each other and all having real fun and building strong, positive friendships. It's God's way. It bears good fruit. And our kids can see that fruit. The concepts these young people are learning at SEP need to be carried on under each pastor's leadership in each local area.

Each of us -- ministers, laymembers and our children -- are "called-out ones." Jesus calls us lights. He calls us salt. And so we must be. Certainly our children can learn the positive differences between God's way of joy and peace in these seemingly "unimportant" physical activities. It is one small way in which God's law can begin to be written in their hearts.

As this letter is due in Pasadena to prepare for printing we are only two days into our visit to the Borehamwood office. We arrived in London from Orr at about 2:30 p.m., London time, Wednesday, July 30.

Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. we began a tour of London arranged by Mr. Frank Brown, our regional director here. It was certainly a whirlwind tour -- how do you see London in only eight hours? But it is my first visit here, so I found each of the high spots we visited most interesting.

Mr. Gerhard Marx, whom many of you know, served as our guide for the day. After a narrated bus ride around the city, he walked us through Prime Minister Winston Churchill's underground war offices where the government met during Hitler's air raids against London. Later, we toured famous Westminster Abbey, where the monarchs of England are coronated, and the infamous Tower of London, where several were beheaded. I was amazed as Mr. Marx described many of the stories of intrigue, murder and corruption surrounding the long history of England's monarchy. How similar it sounded to the biblical history of the kings of Israel. And it further impressed upon me the utter futility of mankind's efforts to rule himself, and the total impossibility of human beings ever achieving the peace on earth they talk, write, think, debate, argue and fight about.

It was quite a testimony. As we walked through Westminster Abbey, among the tombs and beautifully carved and ornate memorials of famous Britons, many of whom were murdered by corrupt rulers or murdered one another, all tours were halted momentarily for the abbey's hourly prayer. We all listened to the public address system as a short prayer was offered -- that all men everywhere would live together in peace. What a hopeless paradox!

Thursday evening we had a relaxing barbecue with the area ministers hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Brown at their home. Friday we toured the regional office in London and held the Church's annual general meeting and board meeting. Mr. Brown gave me a full update on all the Work's activities administered from the United Kingdom.

Fellow ministers and wives, let's fully understand just how desperate mankind's plight is, and just how important our job is. We are teaching the way of peace to those God has sanctified as the

world's only hope! We, of all people, must not let our senses become dulled to what is happening in this world of modern weapons and ancient lusts, ancient greeds and ancient sins. "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:19, 21).

Stay close to God in prayer. Remember all of us in Pasadena, as we remember you.

With deep love,



FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

INVESTMENT COUNSELING; YOU UPDATE; FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Ghana, Germany, Australia

Investment Counseling Recently we have had a few calls from members regarding bad investments made with another member. In the specific case involved we had no prior knowledge of the member's intent to invest and gave no counsel regarding the wisdom of such an investment. Also, we have no evidence that any pastors have given such counsel. However, it does seem appropriate to address the potential dangers involved. We must be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

I know that as pastors we can become closely associated with members and their needs, which can cloud our judgment if we get caught off guard. We must discipline ourselves not to get involved in business and financial matters between brethren. Under no circumstances should we encourage one member to invest with another or give "advice" to members on business decisions.

Our proper role is to give "counsel" of a biblical and spiritual nature, pointing out God's laws governing our pursuits and helping the brethren draw principles from them. Often this includes reminding members to get all of the facts, weigh the pros and cons, consider the risks and make a wise decision. We all know that sometimes members will lean on us to make decisions for them. But they need to learn to make their own decisions.

As ministers, we are faced with the challenge of promoting unity and trust among the brethren while helping them to be realistic in their expectations of one another. It is no more true that any two Church members can be successful business partners than it is true that any two members (male and female) can become successful marriage partners.

In short, entering into a financial arrangement is a personal decision of the member and the success of such a venture cannot be guaranteed by the Church. It is to be hoped that our members will not allow themselves to be drawn into some shaky get-rich-quick scheme, whether with the unconverted or with brethren of God's Church.

YOU Update Dr. Nelson has submitted the annual YOU activity calendar for the United States for 1986-87, which is included as an insert with this "Pastor General's Report." The dates on the calendar represent guidelines and should be observed as closely as possible.

You will note that two District Family Weekends are scheduled. Details for planning these activities will be forthcoming. Briefly, the first will be built around the talent contest and the second around the basketball season.

As soon as Dr. Nelson returns from SEP, we will put together the guidelines for the talent show, which will be held in November-December.

ATTENTION U.S. CHURCH PASTORS

Recently, the Telephone Response Department made available a special WATS number for Festival Advisers to use when calling the Festival Office. We want to remind all of you, and ask you to pass on to your local Festival Advisers, that these calls be limited to Festival calls only. Please do not use this line for changes of address, literature requests or other routine business. Thanks again for your cooperation.

International News

From the United Kingdom Two visitors from Ambassador Publishing Services, Mr. Terry Warren and Mr. Mike Riley, who are employed in the development of advertising copy and layout, spent an educational two and a-half weeks visiting Britain and several European countries. After arriving in England on June 10, their tour took them to Paris, Zurich, Rome, Bonn, Brussels and Utrecht, before returning to the U.S.A. on June 27. Both men received a greater understanding of European issues as a result of their travels and discussions with representatives of the Church offices in each of seven countries. Future advertising developed for Britain and the rest of Europe is likely to be most positively influenced by the recent experiences of our two visitors.

Ministers who traveled abroad for Pentecost included Mr. Robert Boraker, Personal Correspondence Department Director, and Mr. David Stirk, Business Manager for East and West Africa.

Mr. Boraker, accompanied by his wife, Margaret, visited Athens, Greece, and held Pentecost services for 10 brethren there. This group included two Ambassador College graduates and one former student of the college. Mr. Boraker, who had last made a trip to this region seven years ago, was pleased to note the spiritual progress that had been made by our members in Greece. They are all hoping to see the Work grow in this area of the world.

Mr. Stirk, who kept the Feast in Malta, reported that "things went very well for the Pentecost period with an attendance of 48 people." The island's "Good News" readers were invited to attend four lectures, two before and two after the Holy Day. Despite the Maltese being enthusiastic supporters of the World Cup, which was in progress at the time, 38 new people attended the series of talks. Mr. Stirk remarked that "the interest shown in the Church by these people was quite strong and we hope they will come along towards Church attendance during the next few months."

Mr. Frank Brown has received approval from Pasadena to send Mr. and Mrs. Ken Buck to Malawi. Mr. Buck is a local elder in the Southampton church in southern England. He will be serving the Blantyre congregation in Malawi for an expected two-year period, probably starting at the end of this year or by early 1987. Prior to this, Mr. Buck and his wife, Hilary, will attend the Refreshing Program in Pasadena starting August 3. This will be followed by an initial two-week visit to Malawi to set up arrangements for accommodation. They will then return to England in order to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Guernsey. Mr. and Mrs. Buck have one son, who is minister to the Brandon and Moosomin churches in Canada.

Mr. Tkach has also approved a new Church building for Malawi. This will be available for use as a Feast site since our present one will not be available from 1987 and also satisfy the government's requirement of the Church to have a physical presence in the country. This, of course, will be a great encouragement to our brethren there and will no doubt bring about an increase in attendance, both on the Sabbath and for the Feast.

From Scandinavia More than 9,000 pieces of mail came in from Scandinavia during June -- well over four times the previous month's total! God's Work is continuing to see amongst Scandinavians a growing level of interest in the Church's publications and in the true Gospel message.

Numbers enrolled on the Bible Correspondence Course continue to show a dramatic upward trend. The present figure of 205 students has leaped by 156% over the previous month and is a 12-fold increase compared to June '85. About two thirds of these students receive their Bible Correspondence lessons in the Norwegian language.

A subscription to "The Good News" was recently offered to "Plain Truth" readers who had been receiving the magazine for more than one year. Since May, 566 Scandinavian subscribers have responded to this particular offer.

Almost 2,000 Norwegian booklets were mailed out in the first half of this year -- an average of 320 booklets in each month. The two most requested Norwegian reprint articles in recent date have been "To Hell and Back" and "Do We Have the Complete Bible?"

Attendance at services held in Scandinavia on the Feast of Pentecost reached a combined total of 83. This was approximately 2% up on the figure for last year.

Mr. James Henderson, Manager of the Mail Processing Department at Elstree House, held services for the Danish brethren in both Aarhus and Copenhagen on the Sabbath immediately prior to Pentecost; he also preached sermons on the Feast day for brethren in Oslo, Norway, and Stockholm, Sweden.

Prayer Request for God's People in Ghana Mr. Josef Forson, our minister in Ghana, submitted a report recently that updated us on the severe economic difficulties that Ghana is beginning to enter again.

Huge salary increases of 300% to 500% made a few months ago have now been reflecting themselves in many areas. For instance, increased food and transportation costs virtually wipe out the average wage-earner's take-home pay. Utilities have gone up by 1,000%. Water, which used to cost 2.50 cedis per thousand gallons, now costs 250 cedis. Electricity and fuel bills have gone up by the same percentage.

Another area that has been hit severely by this inflation is housing. Many of the flats are now being rented out for hard currency at the rate of \$600 to \$800 per month. When we inquired if we could pay in cedis, one individual quoted the black market equivalent in cedis -- 160,000 cedis a month. One landlord we approached to provide housing for the Udeaghas required us to remodel his house at a cost of up to 1,000,000 cedis (at our expense) and then pay rent of 50,000 cedis per month, three years in advance.

The standard rent for one-room accommodation, which the average family occupies, is now 500 cedis, an astronomical jump from the 20 cedis fixed at the start of the revolution in 1981. Some of our members are now having to pair up in one room to be able to live decent lives. This means that there will be no plans for marriage in the near future!

Mr. and Mrs. Forson are doing their best to live frugally. They no longer use the water heaters, air conditioners, washing machine or electric cooker. Mr. Forson has bought fans for most rooms and only uses the gas cooker to prepare food. They even try not to flush the bathrooms after use unless necessary.

Please pray for the well-being of God's people in this economically strapped, poor nation.

(Submitted by Frank Brown, Regional Director)

From Germany The month of June started with a three-week language program conducted in the Bonn Office meeting hall for the Ambassador College summer-program students. Twelve students received intensive German-language instruction from Ambassador College German teacher Tom Root, who flew to Germany with the students. After the three-week language program the students then had the opportunity to join the Ambassador College European tour under the direction of Ambassador College faculty member Richard Paige. After this tour, nine of the students went to their respective families for the family program and the other students went to the Bonn Office to help out in various departments.

Also at the beginning of the month, one of our members from East Germany came to visit the Bonn Office for a few days. This was the first time he had ever been in the West. He had been given permission to leave East Germany for 12 days to visit his uncle. Recently, travel restrictions were lessened and East Germans are now permitted to travel out of the country for golden wedding anniversaries, funerals and special birthdays of second-degree relatives such as aunts and uncles. Before then, East Germans could only visit first-degree relatives -- parents or children -- who live in the West.

This month Mr. Fritz had the opportunity to visit our three elderly members in Yugoslavia, which is about six hours away by car from where Mr. Fritz lives. Besides an occasional visit, these members have no services except when they travel to Austria for the Passover and to Bonndorf for the Fall Festival. In addition to this trip, Mr. Fritz also went to Czechoslovakia to make final preparations for the 1986 Fall Festival in Brno.

An event occurred this month that illustrates the troubled times we are living in. Someone entered our property and spray-painted graffiti on the wall at the front entrance of the office. The graffiti was against the Church. Your continued prayers are appreciated.

(Submitted by Frank Schnee, Regional Director)

From Australia The newsstand program and the "World Tomorrow" telecast continue to be our primary sources of new "Plain Truth" subscribers in Australia. We are currently distributing on an average 140,000 copies of the "Plain Truth" magazine each month through 750 outlets throughout the country.

In addition, we have a small newsstand program in Sri Lanka and another location. The public interest in our newsstand outlets in these two areas is exceptionally high. If finances permitted, our distribution of "Plain Truth" magazines on newsstands in Sri Lanka and the other location could be rapidly expanded.

The "World Tomorrow" program is currently being aired over 13 stations throughout Australia and on one station in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We continue to be delighted with the increasing interest being shown in the telecast. During 1985 the number of calls received from Australian viewers on our four WATS lines averaged 141 per program. During 1986

the number of calls has jumped to an average of 277 per program -- up 96.5% over last year.

The prospective member count for the first six months of 1986 is most encouraging -- up 68.5% over the same period last year. This prospective member activity is reflecting a fine increase in new members. From January to the end of June this year the number of newly baptized members increased 27.3% over the first six months of 1985.

(Submitted by Robert Morton, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

July 1986 We are pleased that the July increase this year was 14.1% over July 1985. This is especially encouraging since last July was 17.1% higher than the previous year. The year-to-date increase now stands at 7.9%, which is almost 1% above budget.

Recently, Mr. Tkach had a meeting with the Arthur Andersen & Co. auditors. This was his first annual meeting with them, as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Representing Financial Services in the meeting were Fred Stevens, Accounting Department Manager, and the Treasurer.

The auditors gave Mr. Tkach a comprehensive overview of the audit process, how it was done, their evaluation of the financial records of the institution and suggestions for improvement. They had similar meetings with Mr. Armstrong each year since they were first engaged in 1979.

Their firm audits most of our international offices, as well as the U.S. In 1985 their audit covered 95% of both the income and assets of the institution. Other auditors submitted their reports on other offices, and in a few very small areas no audit is needed. For 1986 Arthur Andersen will audit three additional international areas.

They rated our internal accounting controls for both income and expenditures as being above average. There has been great improvement in this area since they were first engaged. This has come about by our own desire to make improvements, and by their annual written suggestions on how to improve our controls and record keeping.

Having such an auditing firm to evaluate and advise us has brought about continual improvement in the quality of our records, not only here in the U.S., but in our offices around the world. We want to maintain our records in such a fashion that we know where all funds have come from, and where they have gone. This requires continual vigilance and effort on the part of everyone involved in the hundreds of thousands of financial transactions each year.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

EDITORIAL SERVICES

"Good News" Responses "Good News" articles on marriage and the family, particularly the new "Family Sharing" column and evangelist Leroy Neff's August article, "Husbands and Wives! Your Marriage Can Be Happy," are generating a large outpouring of mail. Many readers give heartrending reports of the sometimes incredible trials in which they find themselves. The question of authority and submission in marriage is of particular concern.

Booklet and Brochure Update Minor updates to the Missing Dimension in Sex book have just been completed. Of special interest is an expanded list of recommended reading concerning birth control and related subjects. The TV brochure "Why Does God Allow Suffering?" is now being designed here in Editorial. This brochure includes "Why Must Humans Suffer?" from reprint No. 128, "Why Does God Allow Wars?" from related articles in the September and October-November, 1984, Plain Truth, "The Way of Peace They Know Not" from the September, 1985, PT and "Where Is God When Little Children Suffer?" from the November-December, 1985, PT.

"Youth 86" Letters As we've said many times, not all the readers of "Youth 86" are teenagers. We thought you might enjoy these letters from one past-teenager and one pre-teenager.

A member from New York wrote:

"I am so glad that Youth 86 is offered to more than just the teens. The articles written pertain to each and every one of us at one time or another.

"This past weekend, one of your articles was brought to mind... "Waddya Want?" (May issue). I was with two friends when the waitress displayed an unfriendly attitude. After explaining the article to my friends, and after speaking very nicely to the waitress, she came over and apologized for ruining our day! Imagine that!

"It felt great knowing that we had handled ourselves the appropriate way. The article I read would not [have] been put to good use if we had not reacted accordingly. Your magazine IS for all ages. Thank you."

A preteen from Michigan had this to say:

"My mom and I enjoy the magazine very much. I am 12 years old and looking forward to being active in YOU.

"After reading the June-July issue I would like to share some of the things we do [to keep from] being bored. My mom thinks if our young people can be allowed to get involved with others, it would be a good way for us to be a positive example for young people today.

"Offer to go over and be a helper for a day for a mother with ... children home from school, for free. See if an adult will go with you to visit the elderly. Take them flowers, adopt a nursing home grandma or grandpa, especially one who has no family...

"What would happen if all YOU kids and pre-YOU were to collect cans and bottles all summer and turn in the money for fall Holy Days? Think how many more young people could have this wonderful magazine."

"Worldwide News" Thanks You The July 28 issue of "The Worldwide News" features Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's trips to New York City, N.Y., and Denver, Colo. In the middle spread of the paper we display the winning photographs in the Canadian YOU photo contest. You'll be excited to see the talent portrayed by these young people.

Also in this issue are the Church youths who graduated first or second in their classes in high school this year. Thank you for your fine response to this feature. If some of you couldn't make our first deadline and would like to send in photos and names of top graduates, have them in our office by August 25, and we will feature them in the following issue.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

FROM FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION

AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM CONCERT SEASON 1986-87

Copies of the brochure for the coming concert season are included in this "Pastor General's Report" for Church pastors to display in each congregation. The June 16 issue of "The Worldwide News" ran an article describing highlights of the 1986-87 season and included comments by Mr. Tkach describing the purpose of the concert series.

This will be the Auditorium's 12th season featuring many of the world's finest orchestras and artists in the classical music, ballet, popular and folkloric fields. It will be, if not the best, one of the best series we have had.

One change in the season: Benny Goodman died on June 13, 1986, and the band's performance was canceled. Thoughts about having a tribute were discussed, but the complexity involved negated the idea.

The first concert, performed by the Philharmonic Orchestra of London under Guiseppe Sinopoli, will take place on September 6.

Those coming out to Pasadena for the Refreshing Program should be able to attend some of the performances where tickets are available.

--Ellis La Ravia, Facilities Administration

FROM FLEET ADMINISTRATION

New Development Legislation was introduced in 1984 requiring that vehicle components, such as doors and fenders, be marked with identification numbers to discourage thieves who tear down vehicles to sell the parts. This law states that auto manufacturers must mark as many as 14 parts on some models. Buick has for some years now included special door locks and security systems on many cars in an effort to deter vehicle theft. According to the 1986 General Motors Public Interest Report, a new development for 1987 will be plastic labels printed with the vehicle ID number that will be attached to various components. An attempt to remove this label would leave pieces of the adhesive behind, which cannot be removed without damaging the surface of the part. If the label is stuck back down, the pieces of adhesive will show through, proving that the label has been tampered with.

Safety Tip Never crowd the center line. Ride in the center of your lane and give that center line plenty of room. On a four-lane road, make a habit of using the far right lane as a matter of preference and habit. This not only keeps you away from the center line, but traffic in the right lane usually moves with fewer interruptions, because vehicles turning right cause fewer delays than those turning left. If you see an oncoming vehicle veer into your lane, move immediately to the far right of the lane.

--Dean May, Fleet Administration

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

PLANNED CUTBACKS SUCCESSFUL; MEMBERS BIGGEST SUPPORTERS; MEMBERS' EXAMPLES; WAY OF GIVE

Planned Cutbacks Successful When the budget was prepared in December of last year, Mr. Armstrong approved a reallocation of the Work's resources in order to bring the first commission more in line with the second. The plan is now beginning to show the intended results.

As an example, early in the year growth for incoming mail was at 35 percent. The year-to-date figure is now -2 percent.

We expect this trend to stabilize during the summer months and begin to show a gradual increase next fall.

The three major measures that affected the amount of mail received were:

- Eliminating the blow-in PT subscription cards. These accounted for a large portion of the cards received in 1985.
- Discontinuing the stitch-in return envelopes from "The Plain Truth."

- Placing no ad comparable to the one in the READER'S DIGEST in 1985, which drew almost 120,000 responses.

Plans call for some of the above programs to be reinstated in the months ahead.

Members Biggest Supporters According to our current financial records, the members are continuing to carry the overwhelming lion's share of the Work's needs. The breakdown below shows that the brethren are providing 77 percent of the Work's income. Clearly, these facts point out that members are deeply dedicated and have their hearts in God's Work:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percent of Total Contributions</u>
Members	77.0
Co-Workers	18.3
Donors	3.8
Miscellaneous	.9
Total %	<u>100.0</u>

The "Miscellaneous" category includes donations from businesses, disfellowships and anonymous contributors.

Members' Examples From the many comments we receive about members, it is evident that they are having a positive effect on their communities. Their conduct has often been responsible for drawing individuals in the outside world to the truth. The following categories of comments illustrate the ways in which God's people have affected others:

- Their sincerity and dedication to God's principles often impress family members and friends.
- Their conduct at Feast sites gains the respect of many local residents and businessmen.
- Their behavior at local church functions, such as car washes or dances, presents a positive image.
- Their on-the-job conduct exemplifies Christian living to employees and employers.
- Their eager participation in the "Plain Truth" newsstand program generates interest from many local business people.

Way of Give Our policy of never soliciting donations or charging for literature continues to make a very favorable impression on readers and viewers. Following are some of their positive comments:

The thing I like best is that everything you offer is with no strings attached. I realize that books and television cost money. The way your organization does it strikes me as having more faith in our Lord than the other guys have. It's like you people rely on God to provide for you. You are truly following the scripture "it is better to give than to receive."

(Michigan)

For you to operate with apparently no source of income is a mystery to me. Yet I know that God does work in strange ways. No doubt, you are an instrument used in the promotion of God's Kingdom.

(Mississippi)

I know why you don't ask for money. It is because you are doing the Work of God and He has provided the means by which to finance your program. I know that you are the only Church which teaches the truth of the Bible.

(Hawaii)

I am writing to thank you for the many booklets I have received. And "The Plain Truth" and "The Good News" are the greatest magazines I have ever read. I am learning so many things from the Bible now that I never understood before. I understand now why it costs me nothing for this. Through your organization God is showing love to me. And love is one thing no one can buy.

(Indiana)

I must salute you people because you are doing the things that point to disaster in business -- and yet you succeed!! There must be Someone helping you!

(New Jersey)

I was very impressed that money has never been mentioned in anything I've ever received from you. I didn't think there was anyone left in the world like that. As soon as I get back to work, I'll do all I can to help you in what you're doing.

(Oklahoma)

I am very impressed that you do not constantly harp about money. I feel that you are doing God's Work as He wants it done. Therefore, I am going to start sending a regular donation.

(Georgia)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EC'S GROWING IMPRESSION ON EUROPE; ECU: PILLAR OF COMING GLOBAL ECONOMY?; SANCTIONS ROW: COMMONWEALTH AND MONARCHY THREATENED; FOR THE RECORD

EC's Growing Impression on Europe The past two "On the World Scene" columns have highlighted the growing power and influence of the European Community, which is extending into every facet of society. Some observers, mainly in Britain, as we have noted, are becoming quite alarmed at this process. For example, William Cash, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Stafford and a member of the Select Committee on European Legislation, wrote the following piece in the June 16 TIMES of London, titled "Warding Off the EEC Steamroller":

Today sees the arrival at committee stage of the innocuously entitled European Communities (Amendment) Bill. But the bill is by no means innocuous. It is by far the most important piece of legislation concerning relations between Britain and Europe to come before Parliament since the European Communities Act of 1972.... The bill provides for the passing into law of the Single European Act. This incorporates a number of amendments to the Treaty of Rome, and was approved by the EEC Council of Ministers earlier this year. It now has to be passed by the legislatures of all EEC member states.

X The Act will have a direct impact on British commercial and industrial practice. It will effectively mean that there will be hardly a corner of British business -- buying and selling, manufacturing, agriculture, the environment, insurance, the right to set up in business -- which is not woven into the fabric of the Treaty of Rome. For, once the Act is passed, we are bound to accept all legislation adopted by the Council of Ministers. One of the most important amendments contained in the Act is the extension of majority voting to all decisions taken by the Council.... The 12th report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, dated May 6, 1986, said that "in the long term the position of the UK parliament will become weaker" by virtue of the weakening of the power of British ministers when outvoted in the Council.

Rather shocking words in that second paragraph -- how startlingly like the passage in Revelation 13:17: "...that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the system outlined in the 13th and 18th chapters of Revelation is taking on a shape that only those who understand Bible prophecy can see. As we learn more about the Single European Act and follow its course through the EC national parliaments, we'll do our best to keep you posted.

Global Economic Reform and the ECU At the fiscal heart of this Europe-under-construction is the European Monetary System (EMS), intended to reduce wild fluctuations between the currencies of the EC countries, and the European Currency Unit (ECU), a Community-wide monetary denomination that, although not issued in paper currency, is every bit as valid a currency as, say, the deutschmark or French franc. Observers foresee the EMS as a model with global applications and the ECU as eventually one of the three pillars of the accruing global monetary system, along with the dollar and the yen. The May 1986 issue of EUROPE, the EC's unofficial monthly publication, reports:

Reform of the international monetary system is moving to the center of the stage of economic debate.... To fully play its role in an improved system, Europe will have to continue with the progress that has been made in consolidating its monetary identity through the European Monetary System (EMS) and its currency, the European Currency Unit (ECU).... The world economy has lurched through a series of oil and debt crises. It is often argued that only the existing floating-rate system could have withstood the

resulting tensions. That may be true, but it does not follow that the system is ideal, or that it is not possible to find a better one which would help to ensure that fewer imbalances and tensions develop in the future....

would be more accurate to say that we are looking for the ultimate monetary system

It is appropriate to examine the regional example of the EMS not because it is perfect in its nature or workings, but because: 1) It is a model upon which to improve and to adapt to the needs of a global system; and 2) A strengthened EMS will be an essential ingredient in an improved international system.... The purpose of the [EMS] system is to establish a zone of monetary stability in Europe, with monetary stability implying stability of prices as well as of exchange rates. For this reason, the system has moved the price performance of its other members closer to that of [the most stable member] the Federal Republic of Germany.... It would be wrong to portray this as the other members abandoning their monetary sovereignty to the German central bank. The decisions are being made in common....

The system is evolutionary.... The formal incorporation of the EMS and the ECU in the Treaty of Rome is another important step on the evolutionary path that has been followed since the system was established in 1979. The leaders of the E.C. decided last December to include the following in a new article in the Treaty of Rome: "In order to ensure the convergence of economic and monetary policies which is necessary for the further development of the Community, member states...shall take account of the experience acquired in cooperation within the framework of the European Monetary System and in developing the ECU, shall respect existing powers in this field."...

It is also noteworthy that the...use of the ECU is no longer confined to the Community.... In the third quarter of 1985, there were two Asian borrowers in the market, and other non-E.C. countries included: Cameroon, where the national airline refinanced a previous dollar-denominated loan; the Soviet Union, where Vneshtorgbank, following other similar operations, confirmed its interest toward the European currency; finally, multiple option loans have been granted to borrowers from Rumania, Sweden and New Zealand.... Creating a more stable international monetary system will be facilitated by these developments within the EMS. The improved global system will rest on the three main currency blocks associated with the dollar, the yen and the ECU, and each of those blocks will have to be solid for a cooperative global system to develop smoothly.

In the long run, there may be very close cooperation between the yen and ECU blocs, especially if the dollar is negatively impacted through protectionist measures and/or the Third World debt problem. While I was in Japan this past May for the Tokyo summit, two of Japan's four English-language dailies presented special reports on the increasing cooperation between Japan and the European Community (Common Market).... Jacques Delor, president of the European Commission, recently remarked that the U.S. can no longer be expected to serve as

the locomotive for the world's economy. "It is clear that Japan and Europe must take up the slack," he added. Delor, in his interview with the MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, also remarked that "the EC Commission will strive, step by step, to develop the role of the ECU to transform it progressively into an international currency, the same as the yen."

Sanctions Row Produces Commonwealth Fracture It's the whole world against Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Ronald Reagan, or so it would seem. Both are standing firm against what the President calls the "emotional clamor for punitive sanctions" against South Africa. But the pressure on both leaders of the two greatest nations of modern-day Joseph are intense. And in Mrs. Thatcher's case, unless she gives way substantially, the future of the Commonwealth could be on the line. Even the prestige of the monarchy is at stake (Queen Elizabeth II is head of the 49-nation Commonwealth, and head of state of 18 Commonwealth nations directly.)

Regarding Mr. Reagan first, his political opponents and many of his own Republican Party supporters were dismayed at the President's policy address on South Africa. They had expected an announcement of significant measures against the government in Pretoria, intended to ward off the threat of far greater sanctions proposals sweeping through both houses of Congress. In resisting the call for sweeping punitive sanctions, Mr. Reagan said it would be "immoral and utterly repugnant" to bring misery to South Africa's blacks by throwing them out of work. Sanctions would also destroy the "single economic unit" of southern Africa, he said. Stressing the vital strategic resources and geography of the region, the President said it would be "a historic act of folly for the United States and the West, out of anguish and frustration and anger, to write off South Africa."

Mr. Reagan, it was said, took his hard line partly in support of Mrs. Thatcher, fighting the same battle with the rest of the Commonwealth. "Ronald Reagan wanted to stand behind Maggie Thatcher -- he didn't want her to stand alone," said a senior U.S. official, adding, "She stood behind him on Libya." Regardless of the reason, the President is challenging Congress, threatening to veto any sanctions bill, willing to accept the risk that his veto may be overridden.

Exactly what the Reagan administration is up against in Congress was revealed the following day when Secretary of State George Shultz appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senator Joseph Biden Jr. of Delaware, a youngish "rising star" Democrat with presidential aspirations, emotionally assailed the administration, accusing it of siding with the rulers in Pretoria whom he labeled "some stupid puppet government." The U.S., he shouted, should be on the side of the blacks who, he maintained, "are being crushed." It is important to know where Senator Biden and increasing numbers of younger, liberal elected officials are coming from. He emphatically told Mr. Shultz, for example, that he was a veteran of the American civil rights movement and that he had heard the Reagan Administration's arguments before. Mr. Biden and others, such as Senators Kennedy, Weicker and Cranston, view South Africa exclusively from a black vs. white civil rights perspective. The remainder of the less committed legislators

either follow the lead of the ideologues, or are arm-twisted the other way by President Reagan. "By now," editorialized the July 23 WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Congress couldn't care less about the merits of sanctions. Congressmen just want to vote the measures and be done with having to discuss the subject." (Senator Biden was asked by Mr. Shultz, incidentally, for his comments about Bishop Desmond Tutu's reaction to President Reagan's address. Bishop Tutu had said the speech was "nauseating," "stupid" and "utterly racist." He said twice that the West "can go to h___". Senator Biden replied, "I'm amazed that Bishop Tutu was as restrained as he was.")

Prime Minister Thatcher is, if anything, in even a worse predicament. She is caught between vociferous demands for sanctions on the part of the 49-member Commonwealth and apparent pressure from Buckingham Palace that her opposition to them could cause the Commonwealth to break up. Queen Elizabeth II is known to be on close terms with many heads-of-state of former British colonies, now independent Commonwealth members. Backing up their demands, 31 of the 58 Commonwealth member states and territories pulled out of the Commonwealth Games, the quadrennial track and field mini-Olympics that took place this year in Edinburgh, Scotland, beginning July 24.

Through it all, Mrs. Thatcher has held firm. Outlining her opposition to punitive actions in newspaper interviews, the prime minister said that she could not understand the morality of throwing hundreds of thousands of people, mostly black, out of work. She touched on the irony of saving people from starvation in one part of Africa, Ethiopia, while sending others to the brink of starvation in another part. (Some of Africa's leaders, and those in South Africa, maintain that their people are willing to sacrifice their jobs and lives for "liberation.")

Yet emotions are running so high over the sanctions issue that the livelihood -- and lives -- of millions of people appear to be of secondary importance. The idea of a power-sharing formula as advocated by President Botha and many well-meaning whites in South Africa will not be accepted by the world, and for one concrete but highly sensitive reason, as analyzed by Bruce Anderson in the July 10 TIMES of London:

The whites' desire for power-sharing is an expression of their distrust of the blacks. Which of course it is. The whites fear that one man, one vote in a unitary state, without safeguards, would lead to exactly the same outcome as in the rest of Africa--a one-party state, the squandering of the country's capital stock, the destruction of their way of life and their hopes for their children's future. They also believe that such developments would be profoundly contrary to the interests of most blacks. It is hardly surprising that blacks find these fears deeply insulting. As they see it they have been deprived not only of political rights in their own country, but of human dignity.... There is no doubting the sincerity of the wish of many black leaders for a colour-blind future in which all races would indeed share power by the simple act of voting together. However, given the history of modern Africa, it is hardly surprising that the whites are unimpressed, and see sincerity as naivety. Beyond a certain

point, they will not yield. That is why the two sides are in conflict.

There is indeed a point of no compromise on the part of South Africa's whites (those who will remain, that is--emigration of English-speakers with British passports is up considerably). The government, whether headed by P.W. Botha, or perhaps a future right-wing leadership, or even a military dictatorship, is beginning a retreat into the laager. A mood is growing that the sooner the sanctions come, the better, and preparations should be made now for retooling industry, as in Rhodesia of the '60s and '70s, for wholesale import substitution. Already, international traders are "offering their services" to redirect imports and exports through third parties at hefty commissions. Denied landing and overflight rights, South African Airways jets will likely be "sold" to, say, the Royal Swaziland National Airways and repainted. The world might accept this hypocrisy because Swaziland is an independent country and independent countries should not be interfered with (a hallowed U.N. principle that applies to all except, on occasion, Israel and South Africa).

The sanctions busting may last -- for a while. But once word reached the outside of renewed violence in South Africa, there could be demands, reports Conor Cruise O'Brien in THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY (March 1986), for the U.N. to step in with a Security Council resolution to "prevent genocide." Mr. O'Brien foresees the day of a U.N. military operation and especially naval blockade against South Africa with both the United States and Soviets taking part. Such a blockade is probably the only way South Africa could be brought down. "That thing is my nightmare and has been for years," conceded South Africa's former Ambassador to the U.N. and Washington, Brand Fourie, in a discussion with O'Brien.

In the meantime, what is more at stake for the moment is the Commonwealth rather than the fate of South Africa. Understandably, Queen Elizabeth II, as head of the Commonwealth, is deeply grieved over what is happening to the diverse 49-member multiracial association. She and the royal family would certainly suffer great personal loss should the Commonwealth be fractured, although many average Britons are becoming fed up with the tirades from the former colonies. The SUNDAY TELEGRAPH's Worsthorpe (July 20) questioned respectfully if the Queen is paying too much attention to Commonwealth leaders who share little in common with the British people. The Queen is known to be a close friend of Zambia's President Kaunda. And it is also known that Commonwealth Secretary-General Shidrath (Sonny) Ramphal of Guyana (an ardent foe of Pretoria) has the Queen's ear, freely.

Until now the dangers of this development have been more potential than actual. Quite suddenly, however, they are materializing in a way that could prove both dangerous and ugly. For it almost seems as if the Queen has been misled into thinking that the British people as a whole share her absolute commitment to the Commonwealth; are as blind as she seems to be to the alien nature of many of the countries of the Commonwealth... No consensus exists in this country about what to do with or to South Africa,

or about the importance of the Commonwealth. Strong feelings are aroused on each side of both issues. Strong feelings that have to do with profoundly differing ideas about what it really means to be British.... Yet she is apparently quite unaware that these are matters which the monarchy can only meddle with at that institution's gravest peril. It is not Mrs. Thatcher who should be warned not to take risks with the Commonwealth. It is the Queen who should be warned not to take risks with the Crown. God save the Queen from her new friends.

Thus the Commonwealth, like the British Empire before it, appears severely damaged with an impact this time on the monarchy. It is another indication of Ephraim's fading glory (Hosea 7:8-9, 13:3).

For the Record: In the last "On the World Scene" column, page 22, the first of the two paragraphs ("Charles...King Tot") should have been indented, as it was a quote from PEOPLE magazine. The last paragraph represented my concluding commentary.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau