

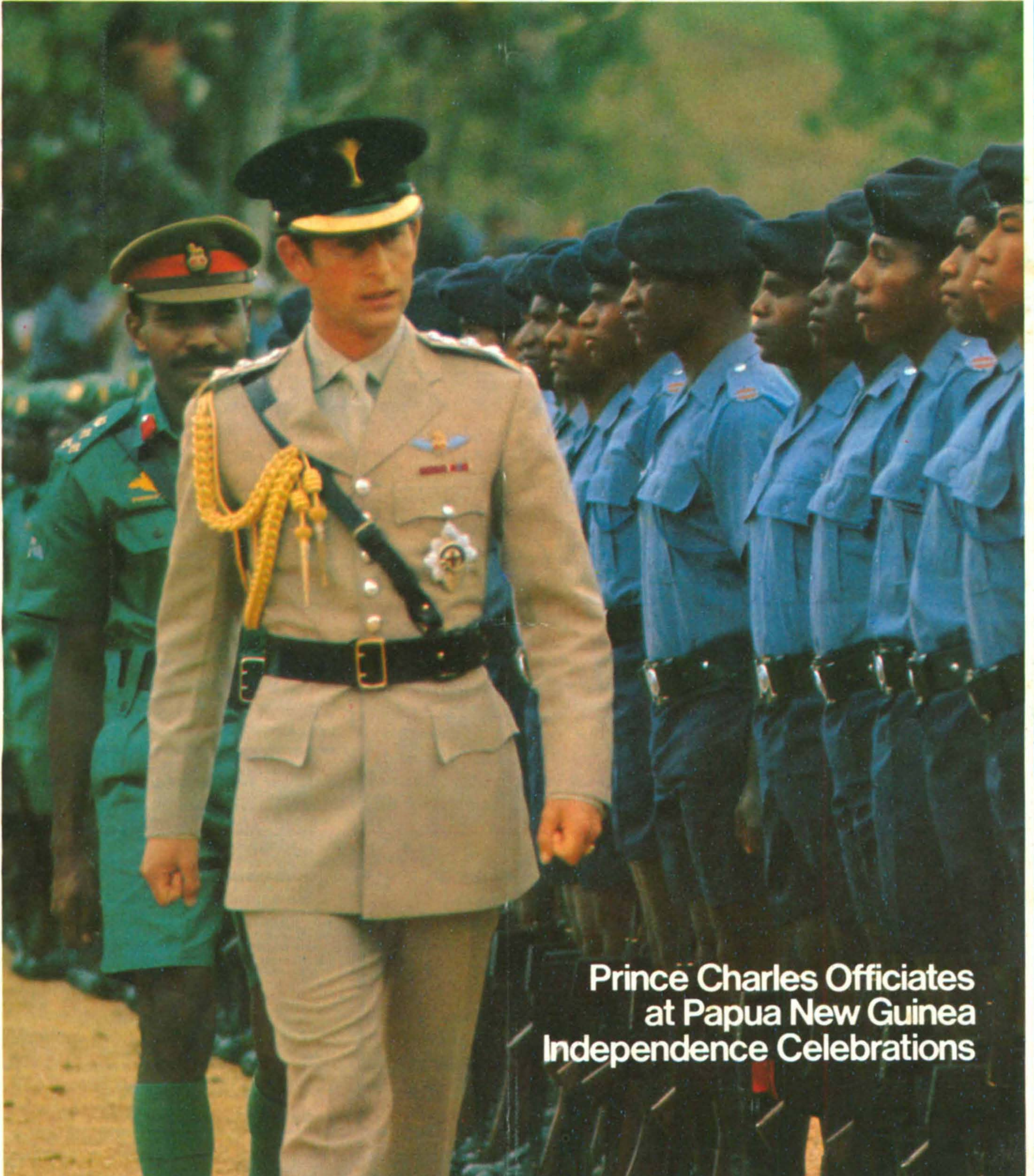
LEARNING TO LIVE WITH  
**VIOLENCE**  
See page 14

Registered at Post Office Headquarters  
Wellington as a magazine.

# plain truth

DECEMBER 1975

SOUTH PACIFIC EDITION



Prince Charles Officiates  
at Papua New Guinea  
Independence Celebrations



Syndication International

# plain truth

Volume XL No. 11 Circulation: 3,802,715

## The Passing of Europe's Old Guard

Will the future leading players merely encore the old scenarios, or involve us all in a whole new drama?

2

## Vatican Issues New Call for European Unity

In an unpublicized but highly important speech Pope Paul called for a united Christian Europe.

3

## Mining the Seas of Tomorrow's Fish

While the fishing nations angle for territorial advantage the demise of the industry could well be on the horizon.

6

## Papua New Guinea's Day of Hope

Will Australia's new economic policy toward her former colony cause her to lose more than credibility?

8

## Learning to Live With Violence

Don't let "the way it is" stay that way. You can do your part in changing things.

14

## The High Price of Peace

"Lasting peace," say the experts, "is probably unattainable." Furthermore, it would be more expensive than war!

20

## Empty Optimism

Simple optimism in the face of bad news doesn't succeed in sweeping the problems under the carpet.

26

*Plain Truth* has no subscription or newsstand price. It is supported through contributions from our readers and those who have chosen, voluntarily, to become co-workers with us in this worldwide work. *Plain Truth* is non-profit, accepts no commercial advertising, and has nothing to sell. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and are tax-deductible in New Zealand. Those who can are encouraged to add their financial support in the spirit of helping to make *Plain Truth* available, without price, to others. Contributions should be sent to *Plain Truth*, Office nearest you (addresses listed below). *Plain Truth* is published monthly by Ambassador College, Pasadena, California, 91123. © 1975 Ambassador College. All rights reserved. Printed by New Zealand Newspapers, Auckland, N.Z.

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG  
**Editor:** GARNER TED ARMSTRONG  
**Managing Editor:** Arthur A. Ferdig  
**Assistant to the Editor:** Robert L. Kuhn  
**News Editor:** Gene H. Hogberg  
**Features Editor:** Gary Alexander.  
**Art Director:** Allen Merager  
**Publishing Coordinator:** Roger G. Lippross  
**Publishing Administration:** Dexter H. Faulkner  
**Copy Editor:** Jim E. Lea

**Senior Editors:** C. Wayne Cole, David Jon Hill, Herman L. Hoeh, Charles F. Hunting, Raymond F. McNair, Roderick C. Meredith  
**Bureaus:** Brussels: Ray Kosanke; Jerusalem: Mark Armstrong, Chris Patton; London: Peter Butler, David Price; Sydney: Don Abraham; Washington, D.C.: Henry Sturcke  
**Correspondents:** Auckland: Graemme Marshall; Bonn: Wolfgang Thomsen; Johannesburg: Robert Fahey; Manila: Colin Adair; Sydney: Don Abraham; Vancouver: Dean Wilson  
**Contributing Editors:** Jeff Calkins, Robert Ginskey, Ron Horswell, Brian Knowles, Adli Muh-tadi, Carole Ritter, George Ritter, Don Schroeder, John R. Schroeder, Keith Stump  
**Graphics:** Art: John Dunn, Monte Wolverton, Garry Haggerty, Ron Lepeska, Gary Richardson; Photography: David Conn, Alfred Hennig, Phil Stevens, Warren Watson; Photo Files: Al Leiter  
**Business Manager:** Frank Brown  
**Circulation Managers:** United States Edition: Benjamin Chapman; International Editions: Leslie McCullough

**Regional Editors:** New Zealand Graeme Marshall, Australia Dennis Luker, Philippines Colin Adair.  
**Graphics:** Val Brown  
**Circulation Managers:** New Zealand Bill Hutchison, Australia John Crabtree, Philippines Frank Gonzales.

- NEW ZEALAND AND PACIFIC ISLES: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, N.Z.
- Australia, S.E. Asia: P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220.
- The Philippines: P.O. Box 2603, Manila, 2801
- United States: P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123
- Canada: Plain Truth, P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver B.C. V6C 2M2
- United Kingdom and Europe: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England
- South Africa, Mauritius and Malawi: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000
- Rhodesia: P.O. Box U.A.30, Union Ave., Salisbury
- West Indies: P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936

Be sure to notify us immediately of any change of address. Please include your old mailing label and your new address. Important! The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited art work, photographs, or manuscripts.

It is time, once again, to check up on the state of the world at the present time — as compared to 10, 25 and 50 years ago — and to look at what lies ahead.

Look, first, at what has happened in the past three decades. Look how freedom of speech and freedom of action have changed the whole tempo of life.

The new “freedoms” in speech were getting started 30 years ago. Audiences viewing the movie *Gone With The Wind* were shocked when Rhett Butler said to Scarlett O’Hara, “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.”

Twenty-five years ago I was emotionally shocked when, in a Broadway play, an actor on stage talked to two other men about “an S.O.B.” (he spoke the words) “like you” (pointing to the other man) “and like me” (pointing with his thumb to himself) just as the final curtain was rung down. I was stunned to hear such words in a play.

But when things like that no longer shocked audiences, they dished out to the public stronger shocks, until we have come to X-rated movies. Today, the public is fed a diet of increasing violence, murder, sex and themes undreamed of 30 years ago, and in most homes children are exposed to these themes unless parents prevent it.

The once-taboo subject of sex is freely discussed among teenagers. My son Garner Ted explained on his television programme how one father felt it his embarrassing duty to discuss with his seven-year-old son a few elementary facts about sex. At that point the seven-year-old said briskly, “Oh sure, dad, what would you like to know?”

Most people do not realize how dramatically things have changed. When I was a boy, there was very little crime compared with today. Violence was rare. Morals were high in comparison. Families stuck together.

## Personal from...



# THE STATE OF THE WORLD

All the world’s evils have multiplied since then. Nations are coming apart — governments are being overthrown — at the rate of one a month.

You may read a headline in your newspaper reporting the overthrow of a government in Africa, Asia or South America. Probably you do not read past the headline. Perhaps you miss it entirely. Anyway, it’s a long way from where you live, and its true significance may not be impressed on you. But with me it has been different.

When government after government is overthrown — when a king, president, or prime minister whom I have known and talked with, one after another, is assassinated, taken prisoner, or forced to flee for his life as his government is overthrown, it strikes home to me.

It means that the days of civilization as we know it are numbered.

I have written before of how, in June of 1973, at a luncheon in New Delhi, the ambassador from Ethiopia invited me to visit his country and meet Emperor Haile Selassie. The Afghanistan ambassador also invited me to visit his country and have a meeting with King Mohammed Zair Shah. Before I could arrange to visit Afghanistan, the government was overthrown, and

the king fled into exile. Twice I visited Emperor Haile Selassie, but in August 1974, he was taken prisoner in a military coup overthrowing his government, and about a year later he died.

In August 1973 I went to Santiago, Chile for a meeting with President Allende, and three weeks later he was assassinated by machine-gun in the very room where I had the meeting. I had visited Prime Minister Kittikachorn of Thailand twice in his residence in Bangkok. A riot of 200,000, mostly students, overthrew his government, and he fled to the United States. I also met President Thieu of South Vietnam, but he fled to Europe shortly before the North Vietnamese took over Saigon. Another government leader whom I knew was President Rahman of Bangladesh, who was recently assassinated and whose government was overthrown.

I knew these men! When their government was overthrown you may be sure I realized the significance.

So what about the world today?

In Europe, the troubles in Portugal and Spain may trigger a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in the form of a united Europe. Leaders in Europe have long wanted a political-military union.

(Continued on page 24)

# The Passing of Europe's Old Guard

by David Price

**L**ONDON: The Franco era in Spain is over. And with its passing undoubtedly will also pass Spain's relative tranquility of the last three and a half decades.

Changes must take place soon in other countries ruled by aging patriarchal leaders. The future of Yugoslavia after Tito is uncertain. The country has long borne the intimate stamp of his own personality. Moreover, the uncertain health of U.S.S.R.'s Leonid Brezhnev and his impending retirement cast a greater shadow over the whole of Europe. Will his successor follow the path of *détente* or will he choose a policy of more aggressive and violent exploitation of the West's "crisis of capitalism"?

## Juan Carlos' Thankless Task

General Franco's successor, Juan Carlos, is faced with the thankless task of heading off dissent and possible revolution in the country. Realizing that the most important pillar of Spanish society is the army, the Prince has tried assiduously to curry support from its ranks. (And this has meant attending sergeants' functions as well as conferring with the generals.)

The support of the army will be especially important in assuring an orderly and peaceful transition from the autocratic style of Franco to a perhaps more democratic style under Juan Carlos. Recently Spain has been rocked by shooting and bombings of urban guerrillas wanting greater political freedom and separatism. In the twilight of his rule, Franco earned the odium of left-wing supporters around the world

by the execution of five men responsible for police assassinations. Besides coming to grips with the fiery separatism of the Basques, Juan Carlos will have to try to defuse the explosive political situation that has led to street battles with machine-guns and bombs in many cities, and resulted in thousands being thrown in prison by the security police, as well as the muzzling of the press.

If Spain's new leader is to rely on the army, he will find it no solid pillar of strength. According to recent reports by exiles, as many as a thousand officers support the popular front of the Democratic junta comprising communists, socialists and Christian democrats.

Juan Carlos is therefore faced with the difficult task of maintaining national unity in Spain, while bringing the country slowly closer to the mainstream of the European democratic tradition. The peaceful unfreezing of political freedoms for Spaniards will require a great deal of astute and wise leadership. In the coming months and years, as this political evolution takes place, it will become clearer whether Spain will take its place as an aspiring member of the European Community, remain a semi-isolated neutral state — or drift under Soviet influence should presently outlawed Communists rise up in strength.

## Yugoslavia: Will Collective Scheme Work?

Ever since the days when Tito's name came to the fore as a resistance fighter against the Nazis, he has towered head and shoulders in political stature above any of his rivals. The 83-year-old communist

leader has been the mainstay which has held together the crazy-quilt federation of differing nationalities, languages, religions — even alphabets — which is Yugoslavia.

Numerous purges of aspiring politicians during the years have meant that there is no heir apparent to Tito. Instead he has engineered a new constitution which decrees that, after his departure, power will pass to a collective council with members drawn from the constituent regions of Yugoslavia.

Some observers feel the shared authority plan is a recipe for disaster. They believe that the Soviet Union will attempt to drive a wedge between nationalist factions of the federation, with the object of bringing all or part of Yugoslavia back into the Moscow orbit, from which she was expelled in 1948.

Of course, such activity would be in clear violation of the principles of the European Security Conference. Nevertheless, a Soviet-controlled corridor through Yugoslavia would realize the centuries-old Russian dream of a doorway on the Mediterranean Sea. Soviet naval bases on the Adriatic would shake the very foundations of NATO and put the democracies of Italy, Greece and Turkey in grave danger.

## Finland: Kekkonen Holds the Bear at Bay

"Finlandization" was a word coined to describe the uneasy twilight condition which exists when a small, independent country is forced by either geography or politics, to live under the overpowering shadow of the Russian giant. It is in this cautious atmosphere that President Urho Kekkonen, who has held power during most of the last twenty years, has trod a diplomatic tightrope between Finnish national interest and Soviet influence.

It may not be true, as Finns jokingly say that Finland's foreign policy is "made in Moscow," but "U.K.K.," as he is called, is summoned regularly to the Kremlin to assure the Soviet hierarchy that everything is just fine in Russo-Finnish relations.

Now 75 years old, the vigorous Kekkonen hopes to run again for the next election in three years' time. Whatever the outcome — or the longevity of Kekkonen — the maintenance of a strong government in Helsinki will be of vital importance in preserving not only Finland's tenuous independence, but the status quo of northern Europe in general.

### Brezhnev — Stepdown Believed Near

It has been apparent that for some time General-Secretary Leonid Brezhnev has been suffering from some type of sickness — perhaps cancer. His retirement from public affairs is expected in the next few months. The possible change of leadership could not have come at a more critical period for the West. For, at the moment, the Kremlin seems divided amongst itself as to the best policy to follow.

There are those who argue that the Soviet Union, needing a prolonged infusion of Western technology in order to attain a position of world industrial domination, will continue its program of cooperation with capitalist powers. Others maintain that now is the time to fully exploit divisions in the West, while it is ailing with an economic recession. Recent pronouncements in the Soviet Press have reminded Communist Party leaders in Western Europe that revolution, not parliamentary processes, is the way to political power. Should this militant faction gain control in the Soviet leadership, it would destroy the policy of *détente* and return the world to Cold War confrontation.

Of considerable bearing on this are relations of the U.S.S.R. and China in the post-Mao, post Chou en-Lai period. It's no secret that Moscow would like to see new leadership in Peking that could eventually lead to some form of rapprochement between the two communist giants.

One thing is clear, when one looks at the "old guard" in several key countries: radical changes may be only a heartbeat away. □



Ernst Herb — Plain Truth

## VATICAN ISSUES NEW CALL FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

### "Reawaken Europe's Christian Soul," Paul VI Tells Bishops in Rome Conference

Recently, in an unusually critical reference to the Protestant Reformation, Pope Paul VI said the 16th-century revolt against the papacy had hampered efforts toward European unity.

"The Reformation — it is a historical fact — has contributed to a division," the pope observed in an address before a gathering of 80 Roman Catholic bishops, cardinals, and prelates in Rome.

He told those in his audience that it was their "mission as bishops in Europe" to "reawaken Europe's Christian soul, where its unity is rooted."

It was the Catholic faith "that made Europe" in the past, the Pontiff stressed. In discovering this "secret of its identity" the Continent could then perform the "providential service to which God is still calling it."

#### Constant Theme

The theme of European unity — and the expected role of the Catho-

lic church in helping bring it about — is not a new one for the Vatican. Pope Paul has frequently spoken out on the subject during the 13 years of his pontificate. His predecessors, popes John XXIII and Pius XII, also publicly endorsed the creation of a European political community with a supranational character.

Pope John said Catholics should be "in the front ranks" of the unification effort. Anticipating the potential obstacles on the road to unity, he also advised that "the progressive creation of European unity requires the defeat of isolation and narrow nationalism."

Carrying on the theme, Pope Paul — just three months after his election in 1963 — likewise endorsed the idea of a united Europe, asserting that the Vatican "is persuaded that the great issue of European unity . . . must be solved positively." He added: "We are also persuaded that the solution of the question . . . calls for the creation of a unified men-

tality and for the diffusion of a common culture. Without this European unity cannot be reached.”

Moreover, Pope Paul suggested that the Roman Catholic faith “can be a coefficient of incomparable value for infusing spiritual vitality to that fundamental unified culture that should constitute the animation of a socially and politically unified Europe.”

### Church's Role in History

Historically, the Roman Catholic Church has performed just such a function as suggested by the pontiff.

The Holy Roman Empire spanned the millennium from the coronation of Charlemagne as Holy Roman emperor by Pope Leo III in A.D. 800 to the empire's abolition by Napoleon in 1806. It saw a close association between the ruling dynasties of Frankish and German kings and the papacy in Rome, al-

though there were frequent church-state quarrels. Until the 16th century, the Holy Roman emperor was personally crowned by the pope.

The Holy Roman Empire held forth the pretension, at least, of political unity, but its primary unity was found in the religious sphere. The Roman church was the real rallying point, providing a unifying theme among the diverse national and political elements on the Continent. Personal loyalty to the church transcended, as a rule, lesser secular loyalties and divisions.

But since the passing of the Holy Roman Empire, Europe has been hopelessly divided without even the semblance of any kind of unity. Two world wars have ravaged the Continent, and divisive national and factional quarrels have flared up periodically.

In a reference to this, Pope Paul observed in November 1963:

Europe, to the extent of being like its soul? The Reformation — it is a historical fact — contributed to a division.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“We think that only the Christian civilization, from which Europe was born, can save this continent from the void it is experiencing, permitting it to humanly master the technical ‘progress’ for which it has given a taste to the world, to find again its spiritual identity and to assume its moral responsibilities toward the other partners of the globe. There is . . . the vocation of Europe, by means of the faith. And it is there that our mission as bishops in Europe takes on a gripping perspective. No other human force in Europe can render the service that is confided to us, promoters of the faith, to awaken the Christian soul of Europe where its unity is rooted.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“It is through this spiritual means that Europe must again find the secret of its identity, of its dynamism, of the providential service to which God is still calling it, of the witness that it must give to the face of the earth.” □

## “Only the Christian Civilization Can Save This Continent”

*The following are key excerpts of the address given by Pope Paul VI in Rome, October 18, to the participants of the Third Symposium of the Bishops of Europe. Present were 80 representatives from 24 European countries. The address was given in French.*

“Europe! There are many ways of looking at it. But has one ever been able to speak of its unity? Until yesterday, it seems to have been a continual battlefield. However, attempts at political unification have known their time of glory, if one thinks of the Roman Empire, then of the Carolingian and Germanic empires that followed. More profoundly, it is the Greco-Roman civilization which characterized them all and, even more so, the same Christian culture. Yes, a common factor animated this great ensemble: It was faith. Can it not be said that it is faith, the Christian faith, the Catholic faith that made

“Everyone knows the tragic history of our century. If there is a means of preventing this from happening again, it is the construction of a peaceful, organic united Europe.” “The need for unity,” he added, “becomes more urgent by the day.”

“A long, arduous path lies ahead,” the pontiff asserted in 1965 in a reaffirmation of the church's support for the building of a united Europe. “However,” he continued, “the Holy See hopes to see the day born when a new Europe will arise, rich with the fullness of its traditions and animated by a common will to build the best possible future for the millions of inhabitants of Europe.”

Pope Paul observed in 1969 during a meeting with West German Chancellor Willy Brandt that the Vatican “notes with pleasure that the German government contributes actively to the achievement of the aim [of European unification].” In light of the dominant role of the German nation in the medieval Holy Roman Empire, this statement carried added significance.

### Ties to EEC

The Vatican provided a tangible demonstration of its support of unification by establishing diplomatic relations in 1970 with the European Common Market Commission in Brussels and naming a papal nuncio (ambassador) to the EEC.

Speaking personally with the president of the European Parliament in November 1973, the pontiff said the search for European unity must combine both “boldness and realism.” He reminded the Common Market official of the “profound interest which the Holy See has long felt for the progress of European unity.”

In view of the Vatican's continual support of the United Europe idea — plus this recent further affirmation of the concept — Roman Catholicism may once again provide the unifying theme to override the long-standing differences obstructing the road to European unity. A modern-day “Holy Roman Empire” may be just over the horizon. □



## Worldwatch

by Gene H. Hogberg

### SIPRI Shockers

STOCKHOLM: Conversing with spokesmen in the various government agencies here in the beautiful Swedish capital is an interesting experience. Regardless of whether one talks to the representative of the department of education or of social welfare, correction, economic planning or national defense, the reply is nearly always the same to the question of how Sweden has been able to achieve such a remarkably high standard of living. "Well, you must realize," comes the inevitable response, "Sweden has not been at war for nearly 160 years."

There are certainly many other valid reasons for Sweden's unique form of egalitarian prosperity — a generous amount of both fertile farmland and natural resources; a highly sophisticated industrial base; a talented, educated work force that has traditionally operated in harmony with both industry and government, rather than in a hostile, adversary relationship.

But perhaps the factor of no warfare since Napoleonic times — despite a continuous and formidable outlay for national defense to preserve Sweden's neutrality — really is as significant a reason as the Swedes themselves maintain.

In this light, it's significant that here in Stockholm is headquartered a unique organization, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI for short. It is an independent, international research group delving into the problems of peace and conflict, with special emphasis on disarmament and arms regulation. It was founded in 1966 by the Swedish Parliament to commemorate Sweden's 150 years of unbroken peace.

SIPRI produces many publications dealing in depth with the entire range of war and weapons topics from the problems of chemical and biological warfare through the international arms trade to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. But its most prodigious (and expensive: £12) effort is its annual yearbook entitled *World Armaments and Disarmament*. Its 1975 edition contains many sobering facts, including:

- The total world military expenditure for 1974 was about £100,000 million. This is roughly equal to

the entire national income of the poorer half of mankind. With the share spent by NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization nations below 80 percent for the first time, there is additional evidence of the global spread of the arms race. In 1974, 20 countries spent more than £500 million on their armed forces. Nine of them were non-NATO/WTO countries. In 1954, only one non-member of the two blocs had a military budget of this size. Thus the whole world is becoming more militarized.

- The trade in arms to Third World countries increased by 40 percent between 1973 and 1974. More than half of the total arms supplies in 1974 went to the Middle East; 27 percent went to the Persian Gulf states alone, where a buildup of unprecedented proportions is taking place.

- 1974 was a record year for the number of countries conducting nuclear explosions. 35 nuclear explosions were conducted: 20 by the U.S.S.R., 5 by the U.S.A., 7 by France, 1 by the U.K., 1 by China, and 1 by a newcomer to the nuclear club, India. According to SIPRI estimates 1,012 nuclear explosions have been conducted since 1945.

- The explosion of a nuclear device by India in May 1974 dramatically demonstrated that a country with a significant peaceful nuclear program can readily and cheaply produce nuclear explosives. Today, at least 20 countries could be in a position to do so. By 1980, there could be over 30.

- By 1980 the nations of the world will have accumulated about 350,000 kilograms of plutonium. Even if safeguard procedures should prove to be 99.9 percent effective by 1980, enough plutonium could be diverted without detection by international atomic energy inspectors to produce nuclear weapons at the rate of one per week.

- The strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreements concluded or discussed so far between the United States and the U.S.S.R. will not prevent these countries from doubling or even *tripling* their present warhead inventories. In addition, both the warheads and their delivery systems are being made more accurate, penetrative and less vulnerable.

In summary, reports SIPRI, "events in 1974 repeated the now familiar pattern of relatively rapid progress in military technology and little progress in attempts to control the nuclear and conventional arms races taking place across the globe."

The SIPRI researchers deserve commendation for doing everything in their power to point out these grave threats to human survival. But are the world's political leaders paying any attention? □

# MINING THE SEAS OF TOMORROW'S FISH

by Mike Wood and John D. Stettaford



Wide World

**L**ONDON: Cod and chips are still a tasty part of the staple British diet — but for how much longer?

The humble cod, like every popular species of fish we eat, is threatened by three decades of intensive super-fishing, which is turning the once-considered inexhaustible seas into something like a worked-out near desert of edible fish.

The end of World War II left most nations desperately short of food and without the time to grow food on farms. Maritime countries seized on fish to meet the immediate need. Left largely undisturbed for six war-time years, the oceans were teeming with all kinds of fish.

A crash programme of building modern fishing fleets was begun. These new vessels took every advantage of naval electronic detection and navigational devices developed during the war. Even the change from the cumbersome coal-fired steam engine to the compact, powerful — and (then) cheap to run — diesel engine made long distance deep sea fishing practical for the first time. And the development of deep freeze in the early '50s completed the required technology.

## Russian Supremacy

Today national fishing fleets roam every international sea. By far the largest fleet belongs to the Soviet Union. She now has more than twice as many modern, sophisticated large trawlers than all other nations put together. Japan, according to Lloyd's Register of Shipping, is in second place with a fleet approaching half the amount of the Soviet gross tonnage.

But fishing has become too efficient!

The ability to locate and capture fish may well have outstripped natural rates of replacement. Fleets continue to increase, but fish catches are dropping despite the introduction of new technology to find fish.

Sonar, for example, originally developed to locate unseen submarines lurking under water, has been so successfully employed to locate fish that complete shoals can be

captured in hundreds of tons in one draw of the net. Nets able to enclose the *whole* of London's St. Paul's Cathedral are not uncommon!

The cumulative effect of using this kind of technology has been to virtually mine the seas clean of tomorrow's fish.

Basil Parish, a British fisheries expert, recently stated on B.B.C. radio that greater sophistication of fishing methods is no answer to the natural law of diminishing returns currently being experienced by fishermen.

## The Threat of Extinction

At the moment political squabbles are overriding far more serious issues. While the large fishing nations continue to disagree over fishing rights and the extent of territorial waters for example, one crucial aspect of the problem is not receiving enough attention: research into the ability of key fish species to replenish their kind.

Great hopes were placed in the recent Law of the Sea Conference to address both the ecological and political problems of world fishing. But apart from publicizing the problems, the only concrete agreement was to meet again later.

Some ecologists believe that it must be left to the fish themselves to solve the problem if man can't — or won't. It may be a solution, but it won't mean more fish, at least for a while. The reasoning goes: if stocks continue to plummet, fishing will become more difficult and therefore less profitable. Less ships will ven-



"WHAT NATIONAL INTEREST DO YOU REPRESENT?"



ture into the seas, so that less fish will be caught and therefore more will survive to replenish fish stocks.

But other ecologists fear that pollution, presently suspected to be killing whole seas (the Black and Mediterranean seas in particular) — together with other as yet unknown and unsuspected effects of man's disturbance to the natural balance of sea creatures — may tip the scales into extinction for some fish species.

Nor can illegal methods, hopefully not too widespread, be discounted. Using smaller mesh nets than those internationally agreed, for example, plunders the younger, immature smaller fish before giving them a chance to breed, and affects fish stocks for years ahead.

In the long term, to avoid a potential fish famine, nations are going to have to put aside politics and agree who fishes what, where, when and how much, or Friday's cod and chips will only be a nice memory within a decade or so — or become as expensive as caviar, once staple fare for Russian peasants and now the food of only the very rich.

History teaches, however, that nations and people rarely give up food or food sources without a fight. The isolated "cod wars" of the 60s and 70s could well be paled into insignificance by any future greedy international scramble to overfish the world's oceans. □

(Co-author Wood is a well known freelance journalist whose work regularly appears in British and European professional fishing journals.)

**THE ROMAN** is a typical freezer stern-trawler used in most distant-water fishing fleets. Her home port is Grimsby. The bridge (below) is of a typical post-war medium-sized fishing boat. The range of electronic gadgets used — sonar, radar, navigator, etc. — are all at the captain's finger-tips. More modern vessels, some of passenger-liner size, have correspondingly more sophisticated and highly specialized electronic aids. One now considered practical, but not yet introduced commercially, is using infrared-seeing satellites to pinpoint ocean currents in which fish are likely to shoal.



Lloyd's Register of Shipping



Mike Wood and Associates



## COVER STORY

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S DAY OF HOPE

## But the Big Challenge Lies Ahead

by Don Abraham

**T**he independence celebrations in Port Moresby were over. On this momentous occasion Mr. Michael Somare, the new nation's first prime minister, had flown back to his home electorate in the East Sepik to spend a little time with his own people. At a reception in Wewak which was also attended by Prince Charles, an elderly man approached Mr. Somare, knelt near him and stroked his feet. He was followed by others who did the same thing. The men later explained that the legs and feet carry a man where he is going and for that reason are very important. More than anything else perhaps, this simple expression of faith and hope symbolises the immense burden that has befallen Mr. Somare as he seeks to lead his people out of their relatively primitive present into the cares and anxieties of the twenty-first century, and the help he is going to need if he is to be successful.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: A new nation was born here September 16.

At 12:01 a.m. that day, Sir John Guise, then Papua New Guinea's Governor-General designate, made a radio broadcast announcing the birth of a new nation to the world, fireworks burst over Port Moresby and a 101 gun salute boomed out

**WHAT WILL** the future bring for this inhabitant of the "Land of a Thousand Tribes"?

over the capital's harbour. The biggest day in the people's history had arrived.

With the official final lowering of the Australian flag on the afternoon of September 15, leaving the red, black and gold one of Papua New Guinea flying alone on the flagstaff, Australia lost a colony, and the world gained its 151st fully-sovereign nation.

And despite the fears expressed by some, there was no violence. The birth was free of ugly incidents.

### Australia's Long Association With Papua New Guinea

Australia has had a long and proud relationship with Papua New Guinea. The Australian flag was first raised in Papua — the southern half of the country — in 1906, only five years after Australia had gained its own independence, and except for the few years following Japan's invasion of the island during World War II, it had flown over New Guinea — the northern half — since World War I.

The transfer of power from Australia to Papua New Guinea was achieved in a spirit of friendship and cooperation seldom seen on such occasions. It was in marked contrast to the fierce struggle that erupted on the tiny Portuguese colony of Timor on August 11 in support of Timorese freedom, which was still raging during the independence celebrations.

Sir John Guise referred to the peaceful transfer of power during the flag-lowering ceremony when he said, "It is important that the people of Papua New Guinea, and the rest of the world, realise the spirit in which we are lowering the flag of our colonisers.

"We are lowering it — not tearing it down."

Now, as Papua New Guinea is about to enter 1976 as an independent state, in what stead has its history as a dependency placed it to meet this challenge?

### Many Problems to Overcome

Despite the goodwill that Australia and Papua New Guinea have for

each other, the new nation faces many major problems.

For a start, there are the serious complexities caused by the shattering of the country into numerous tribal and language groupings. Papua New Guinea is sometimes called the "Land of a Thousand Tribes." Its estimated 2,500,000 people speak between 700 and 800 languages — about 15% of the world's total.

This means that on average, there is a change in language every 35 or 40 kilometers or so. In reality though, because some regions are only sparsely populated or even unpopulated, changes occur even more frequently in the densely populated areas. Australia tried to overcome this problem by using pidgin English as a kind of *lingua franca*. Today, English is gradually replacing pidgin, but it will still be a long time before even a simple majority of the people speaks it.

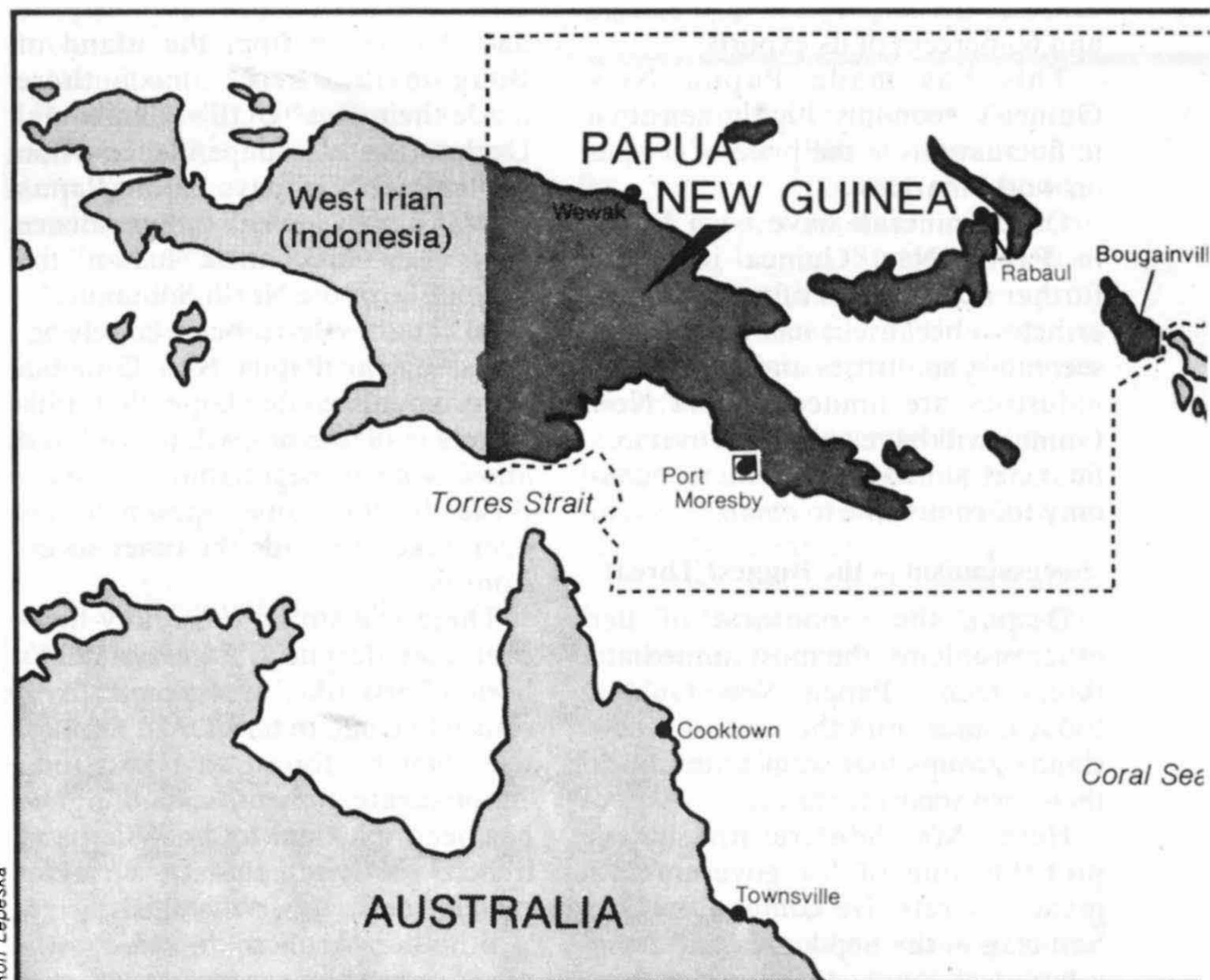
The lack of what might be called a "national consciousness" is another major obstacle facing Papua New Guinea's leaders.

The nation's harsh and forbidding terrain centered on the massive Central Cordillera — thrusting itself violently upwards to attain in places a height of over four thousand meters, with threatening volcanoes, deep impenetrable valleys, swiftly flowing rivers, thick and forbidding jungles and vast swamps and wastelands — imposed an isolation on the country's hundreds of tribes which results in their living out their lives totally oblivious to the existence of any but the nearest of their neighbours.

Asaro Mudmen, Tari tribesmen, Sepik villagers, Kukukuku tribespeople, Wigmen from Wabag and hundreds of others — many dressed in exotic and colourful costumes, faces smeared with brilliant paints or covered by fearful masks — dotted the land.

This led to the development of numerous communal-type societies based on individual villages or tribes. Loyalty belonged to the village or tribe from which the individual came.

This "village mentality" still dominates the thinking of many Papua



New Guineans. Although it is being slowly broken down, it will be a long time before it is completely eliminated.

Until a genuine national consciousness is developed, village and tribal loyalties will remain a potential threat to the political and social stability of this young yet ancient country.

### Copper is King

There are also some serious economic obstacles to hurdle. Papua New Guinea is one of the world's poorer countries. Its economy, which until recently was based on copra, coffee, cocoa and timber products, is now overwhelmingly dependent on the copper ores and concentrates produced at the giant Conzinc Riotinto Mine on Bougainville.

For example, the spectacular growth in the value of Papua New Guinea's exports between 1971 and 1973 — rising from \$A101,932,000 to \$A229,463,000 per annum — was due almost entirely to the copper mine coming into production. In fact, this one company provided nearly 30 percent of the country's total revenue and 60 percent of its exports!

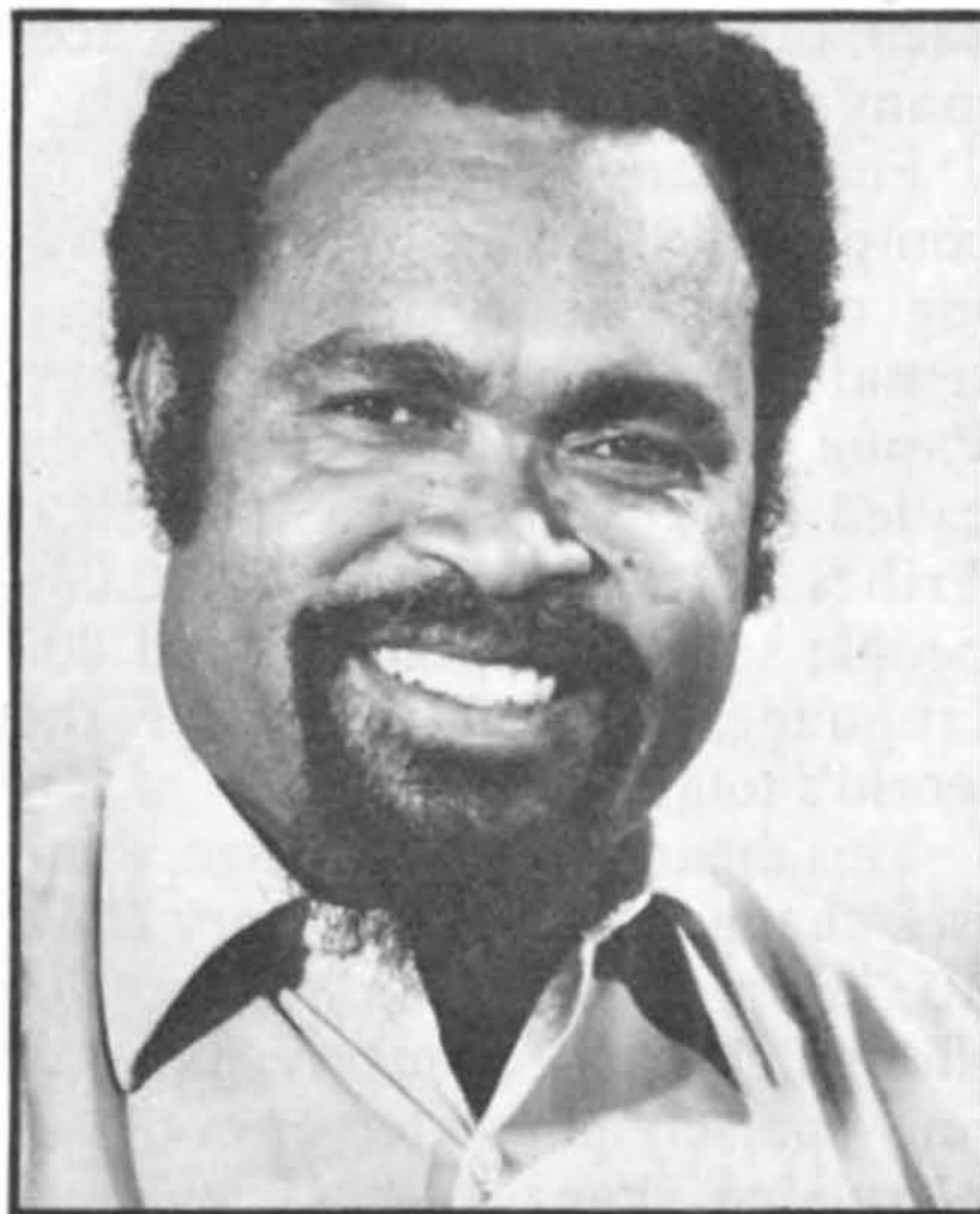
This has made Papua New Guinea's economy highly sensitive to fluctuations in the price of copper on world markets.

Other minerals have been found in Papua New Guinea including further rich deposits of copper. Nevertheless, because it has virtually no secondary industries and its primary industries are limited, Papua New Guinea will have to rely on overseas financial aid to underwrite its economy for some time to come.

### Secessionism — the Biggest Threat

Despite the seriousness of her other problems, the most immediate threat facing Papua New Guinea today comes from the various secessionist groups that want to establish their own separate states.

Here, Mr. Somare himself is probably one of his government's greatest assets. He comes from the Sait clan in the Sepik area and from a boy, was taught that his clan had



**PRIME MINISTER** Michael Somare. He has the difficult task of guiding nearly three million largely primitive people into the twentieth century.

the "magic of peace." Disputes can be solved by discussion. He is also a strong believer in decision-making through consensus.

If anyone can bring the disputing parties together and achieve peace, it should be him.

The most serious challenge to the central government's authority to date has come from the island of Bougainville. Secessionists there made their own "UDI" — Unilateral Declaration of Independence — on September 1, 15 days before Papua New Guinea's own Independence Day. They named their "nation" the "Republic of the North Solomons."

So far they have been largely ignored by the Papua New Guinean government in the hope that ultimately cooler heads will prevail and allow serious negotiations to start. Basically the same approach has been taken towards the other secessionists.

There is a strong possibility however that despite the government's best efforts the secessionists will refuse to come to terms. Mr. Somare will then be forced to take strong action against them, something he has been reluctant to do. When and if he does there could be a violent reaction from the secessionists.

Whether Mr. Somare can control it will remain to be seen.

### The Australia - Papua New Guinea Border Dispute

Another potentially thorny problem and one which involves Australia directly is that concerning the Australia-Papua New Guinea border which at its closest point is only a few hundred metres south of the Papua New Guinea mainland.

In fact, the border is so close to Papua New Guinea's shores that villagers living along the coast who fish for a living — as many of them do — must fish in Australian waters. Understandably, this situation is quite unacceptable to the Somare government.

For some time now, the Australian federal government and the Papua New Guinean government have tried to have the border moved south away from the Papua New Guinean mainland.

However, the Queensland government has strongly resisted these moves, demanding that the border remain where it is. This attitude, if maintained, could eventually lead to a breakdown in relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Supporters of the present border being retained raise several arguments — some of them surely facetious — in support of their claim.

One concerns the inclusion of the island of Bougainville — which is closer both geographically and ethnically to the Solomon Islands — in Papua New Guinea, as though this provides justification for preserving the present Australia-Papua New Guinea border.

The point is of course that Australia is responsible for securing and maintaining friendly relations with Papua New Guinea. It is not responsible for what happens in other areas. An alleged anomaly in the Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands border is hardly an excuse for perpetrating an injustice on the Australia-Papua New Guinea border.

Australians would have a better understanding of how the Papua New Guineans feel about this question if they stopped to consider what their own attitude would be if the border were only a few hundred metres north of the Queensland

mainland coast, instead of being the other way around.

### In Australia's Interest to Help

Papua New Guinea — and what happens there — is of critical strategic importance to Australia. The fact is that this country simply cannot afford to allow Papua New Guinea to fail in the great challenge confronting it.

There is even reason to state Australia has a *moral* obligation to help its less fortunate neighbour to fulfill its basic responsibilities to its people, to adequately feed, clothe, educate and house them.

At the moment, Australia enjoys a high degree of goodwill in Papua New Guinea. Most Papua New Guineans have a high regard for Australians and look on them as their friends. This makes it even more imperative that Australia does the right thing. Papua New Guinea is going to require assistance for many years to come and it is only natural that it should look to Australia to help provide it.

If Australia lets Papua New Guinea down, it will be forced to go elsewhere. Should this happen, Australia's influence in this strategically important region will be greatly reduced — perhaps irreversibly.

In the light of all this, it is difficult to understand what motive the Australian government had in unilaterally reducing its aid to Papua New Guinea in its 1975 budget.

Not only did this cause Mr. Somare to lose face in the eyes of many of his people, but it also generated considerable illwill towards Australia among better-educated Papua New Guineans.

In addition, the timing of the announcement — right on the eve of the new nation's independence celebrations — revealed an incredible degree of insensitivity on the part of the Australian government. It did little to help the two countries get off to a good start.

However, with the transfer of power to the new nation now completed, Australians of goodwill wish the people of Papua New Guinea a happy and successful future. □

# Rhodesia — Ten Years Later

by Melvin Rhodes

**S**ALISBURY, RHODESIA — The nation which British Premier Harold Wilson said would be brought down "in a matter of weeks, rather than months" celebrated its tenth anniversary of independence on November 11.

A friendless nation, defying the world, firmly committed to principles other countries detest, Rhodesia has emerged with a stable government in a continent of coups, counter-coups and revolutions.

Few Rhodesians envisaged the events that would follow their unilateral declaration of independence (U.D.I.) from Britain that Friday morning in 1965. Most expected a constitutional settlement over the weekend, with Rhodesia accepted as a Dominion within the British Commonwealth. But the British government would not back down on its insistence on a speedy path to black majority rule for the rebel colony.

If Harold Wilson, through the British appointed Governor-General in Salisbury, had ordered the arrest of the rebel prime minister and his cabinet, the whole enterprise might have failed. While Wilson hesitated, Rhodesia consolidated.

### Negotiations Fail

Not since 1776 had a colony of Great Britain declared itself independent. The thirteen American colonies had won — with some help from the Continental powers. Did Rhodesia also have a chance?

Within weeks, Harold Wilson appeared at the United Nations urging all member states to cease trading with the rebel government. Neigh-

bouring white-ruled South Africa and the Portuguese colony of Mozambique refused to comply — a severe blow to Mr. Wilson's strategy.

Negotiations were tried again. Two sets of talks followed between the two prime ministers, on board H.M.S. *Tiger* (1966) and H.M.S. *Fearless* (1968). The prime ministers agreed, but Mr. Smith was unable to sell the proposals to the right wing of his party.

A further blow to a settlement came in 1969, when Rhodesia introduced a republican constitution, breaking the final link with Britain — the Crown.

### Economy

Still unrecognised, and a virtual pariah among the nations, Rhodesia was battling through on the economic front.

Since 1965, the economy has un-

---

***The ruling Rhodesian Front is now talking of a mixed-race cabinet. Racial barriers are gradually being removed, equal opportunity introduced.***

---

dergone dramatic changes. Tobacco production in 1965 was 246 million lbs., making Rhodesia the world's second biggest producer of tobacco after the United States. This has since been cut back in order to produce crops needed in Rhodesia, to make the nation self-sufficient in foodstuffs.

Following independence, the tobacco produced is sold secretly to foreign buyers who are willing to defy U.N. sanctions.

In the first eight years after U.D.I., Rhodesia's production in the mining sector more than doubled. Gold, nickel, asbestos, chrome and coal are all mined in large quantities, and like tobacco sold abroad secretly. Chrome is openly purchased by the U.S. as a strategic metal.

The manufacturing sector grew in leaps and bounds following independence. As foreign goods became

unavailable, enterprising Rhodesian businessmen produced their own versions. At first, these products were often inferior, but would soon rank as top quality products anywhere in the world.

While Ford and BMC closed down their motor assembly plants due to a lack of spare parts, French and Italian companies opened new ones.

However, cars remain Rhodesia's most apparent problem. A newcomer to Rhodesia soon notices the age and the price of most cars. Pre-1965 models sell at exorbitant prices, but customers have no choice as money is not available for luxury imports. Petrol is rationed, not because it is unavailable, but because there is no foreign currency to pay for it.

1974 saw Rhodesia chalk up a 9% real growth rate, in a year in which most countries suffered a minus growth rate. This year won't be as good however and 1976 is expected to be noticeably worse as the effects of the world recession reach Rhodesia.

### Settlement?

The change of government in Britain in 1970 opened the door to a new settlement opportunity. Rhodesian leaders meanwhile have approved the principle of gradual progress to black majority rule.

The situation has been complicated by other changes however. Future direct negotiations are unlikely between Britain and the Rhodesian government. The formula now is for Rhodesia's black nationalist groups and the white government to get together on a joint programme. When these two opposing forces agree, British recognition will be a mere formality.

Also complicating the chances of a settlement is the division within the black nationalist movement itself. The A.N.C. (African National Council), united only last December, has now split again into two factions.

The hard-line terrorist faction, based in Lusaka, Zambia, is led by Bishop Abel Muzarewa. The more

moderate wing is led by Joshua Nkomo who has a strong popular following amongst the African population.

The three-year-old war against black terrorism is an increasing drain on the nation's economy. All white men between the ages of 18 and 50 are drafted into the security forces for a period of five weeks, two or three times a year. Leaving their regular jobs, this is harming the economy, and leading to disillusionment and despair among many Rhodesians. A significant number of young whites, faced with a life-time of military service, are leaving the country.

If Smith were to make a major concession to the blacks, there is now a good chance of a peaceful settlement and recognition from the community of nations. Once adamant about no power-sharing, the ruling Rhodesian Front is now talking openly of a mixed-race cabinet, and the possibility of a black prime minister. Racial barriers are gradually being removed, and equal opportunity introduced.

Rhodesian whites, faced ten years ago with the imminent possibility of a black take-over and the consequent loss of all they had worked for, took a gamble. They haven't lost yet and they do not intend to in the future.

Whatever the settlement, the whites believe they have earned a permanent place in the Rhodesian sun. Prime Minister Ian Smith has stressed he wants a society where "neither race dominates the other."

That's not an easy task in a country where blacks outnumber whites 22 to 1. But, after defying the world for ten years, Rhodesians are not about to surrender to the combined forces of black nationalism, terrorism, economic sanctions and ostracism by the world community.

As *détente* gathers momentum in southern Africa, the various nations bordering Rhodesia, and the opposing factions within the country, have too much to lose.

A settlement in Rhodesia is desirable, and there is now a very good chance of pulling one off. □

# RETHINKING THE UNTHINKABLE

by Robert Ginskey

Total nuclear war, according to conventional wisdom, would be a suicidal exercise in international irresponsibility. In short, nuclear war is unthinkable. The concept of the Balance of Terror and the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction are based on such unthinkability.

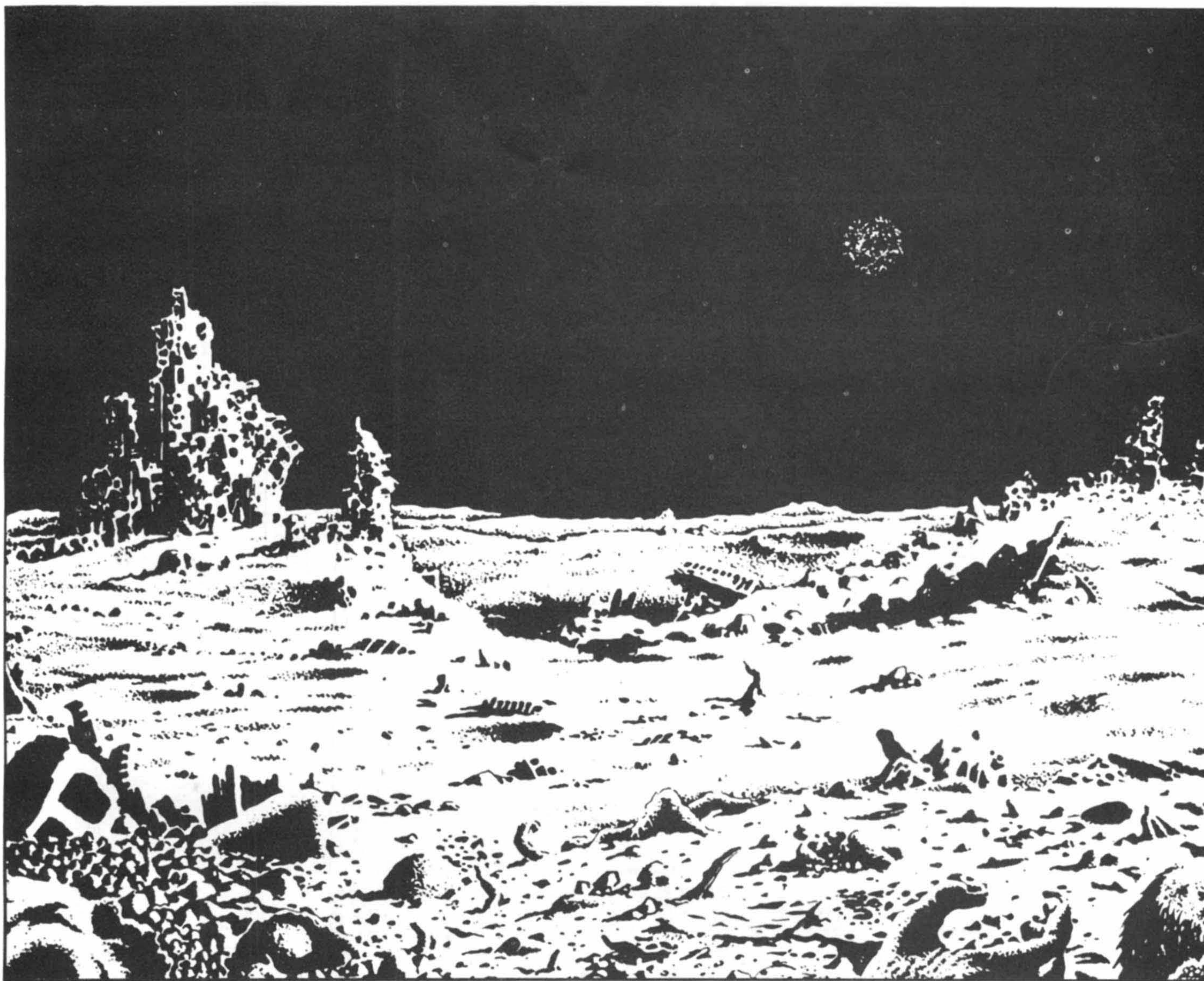
But now comes a reevaluation by a National Academy of Science study that seemingly concludes that the impact of a nuclear holocaust on nations other than those directly hit by the bombs would not be so catastrophic as commonly thought.

The report — entitled *Long-Term Worldwide Effects of Multiple Nuclear Weapons Detonations* — concludes rather optimistically that the human species apparently could survive a nuclear exchange equivalent to 10,000 m. tons of TNT. That explosive power is about the total nuclear megatonnage of both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

According to Academy President Philip Handler, the study predicts the worldwide effects of such an "unimaginable holocaust" would "be less prolonged and less severe than many had feared."

Yet the very optimism of the report has caused a storm of controversy. The Federation of American Scientists has publicly denounced the study for encouraging the irrational use of nuclear weapons through a "Strangelovian scenario" in which nuclear war is seen as a viable method of achieving national purposes. The U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which had contracted for the £28,000 study, was so dismayed at the tone of the report that it issued a statement asserting that no aggressor nation could launch a nuclear war without suffering economic and ecological devastation.

Basil Wolverton



Actually, the report contains sufficient information on the effects of a large-scale nuclear war to deter all but the most nihilistic of nuclear nuts. If such a war occurred, the report concludes there would be many serious consequences, including:

- Widespread, high-level radioactive contamination, especially in the northern hemisphere,
- A reduction of the ozone layer by about 50% for three years,
- A 10% increase in skin cancer for about 40 years,
- A significant reduction in agricultural production,

- A possible dramatic alteration in climate and global temperatures.

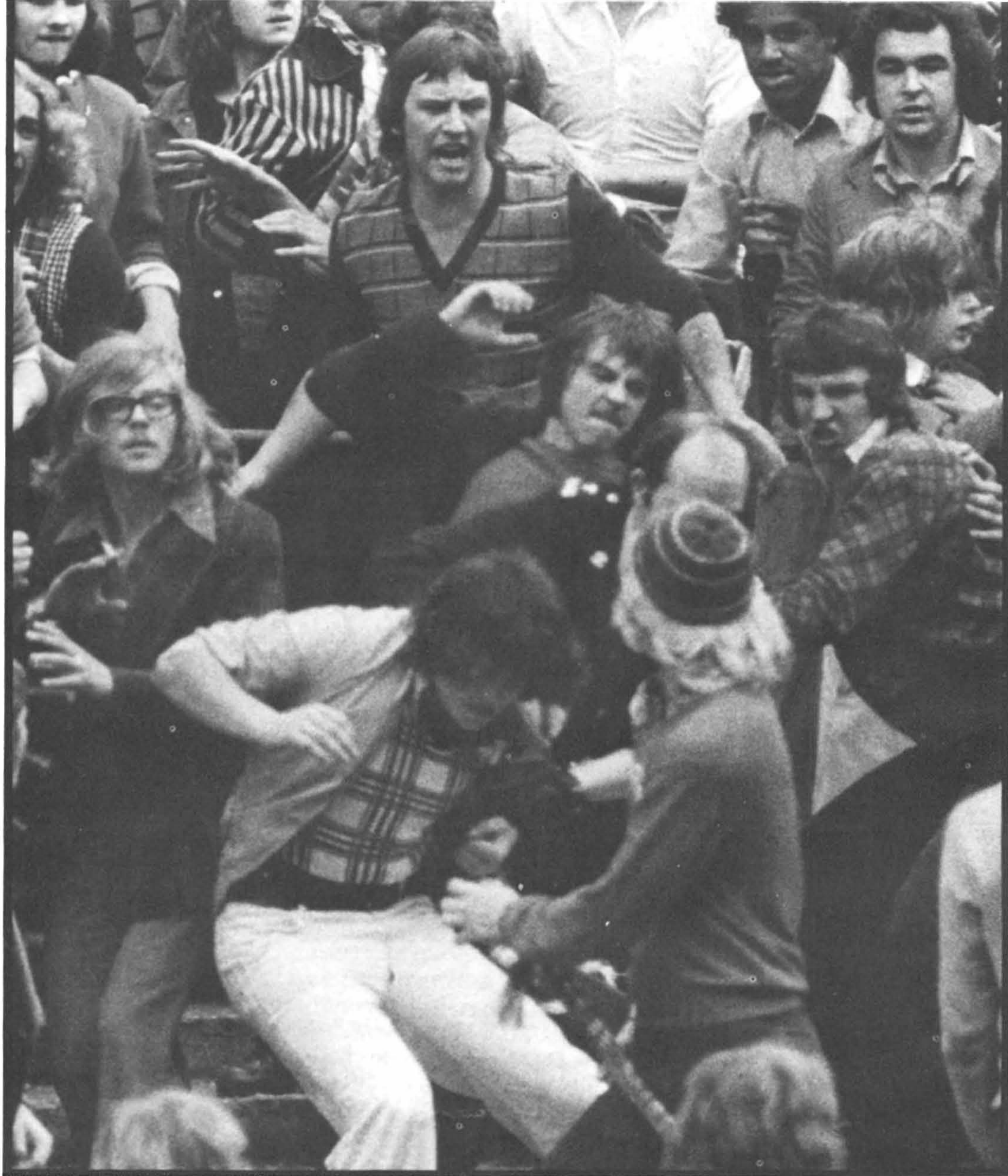
The principal new concept developed in the report is that the major predicted long-term effects of nuclear war would not result from the dispersion of radioactive materials, but rather would be the result of an increase in ultraviolet radiation due to a reduction in the earth's ozone layer. This conclusion should serve as an additional deterrent to the use of nuclear weapons.

Indeed, the original purpose of the academy's report was to find out whether certain catastrophic hazards from nuclear war might have

so far escaped notice. The potential dangers from the destruction of the ozone layer were just the kind of new hazards they were looking for.

But the tragedy is that in rethinking the unthinkable, such findings have partially been obscured by comforting claims that future generations would be subject to only "minimal stress" a decade or so after a nuclear war.

The report may be correct in its assertion that mankind would survive an all-out nuclear nightmare, but the horror of such a holocaust can hardly be overemphasized. □



# LEARNING TO LIVE WITH VIOLENCE

A  
SURE  
ROAD  
TO  
ANARCHY

by David R. Ord



Little Gail was only 7 years old. But she was old enough to be scarred for life, physically and mentally, by the nightmarish tragedy which befell her one peaceful summer's evening.

Gail was dragged screaming from her home, brutally raped, and stabbed in the stomach. She was found ten hours later on a hillside just barely alive.

An isolated incident? It would have been a generation ago, when most of today's adults were Gail's age. But violence of this kind is tragically becoming more and more a frequent occurrence in the Britain of the mid-'70s.

It wasn't too many years ago when a murder would dominate the front-page headlines and be continually talked about for months. Today, murders are becoming commonplace, and it takes a Black Panther to kidnap and brutally strangle a helpless girl and cut down four sub-postmasters in cold blood to get through to us that we are living in a violent age.

There was a time when the nation could relax after the apprehension of a man such as the Cambridge rapist. But nowadays if we think we can relax because he is safely behind bars in 1975, charged with seven cases of rape and two of causing grievous bodily harm — a legal term for the vicious stab in the stomach he administered to his eighth victim, and the knife slashes which severed arteries in the wrist of the ninth — we are sadly out of touch with reality.

### A Violent Society

"I hope they get him!" This is how most of us react as we hear of the latest grisly attack on the ten o'clock news. But for every assailant we place behind bars, there are plenty more in the pipeline. So we're gradually learning to live with violence — it is becoming widespread, and no one seems to know how to stem the tide.

Soccer violence is a phenomenon we have come to expect. It is accepted that after any major cup-tie or international match, hooligans

will run wild. Recently, London Transport refused to provide services to a match in London, and British Rail have been forced to curtail services to soccer supporters. Tempers flare on the pitch, and top players resorting to vehement fist fights do little to help cool passions in the stands.

After one game, in which spiked metal discs with sharpened edges were thrown at police, Kung Fu-style, along with the usual broken bottles and bricks, a supporter was seen on his way to the next match armed with an axe — for self-defence. Little wonder, when supporters can be stabbed during a match.

Violence stalks every area of our society. London Transport officials warned earlier this year that unless violence on buses and on the Tube is brought under control — incidents of assault there presently being around 700 a year — parts of the capital may have to be deprived of services.

Incidents range from the jostling of staff accompanied with refusal to pay for a fare, to the take-over of entire buses with extensive damage and terrorizing of passengers. British Rail relates similar events and statistics.

We have also become accustomed to the continual snipings, sectarian murders and bombings in Northern Ireland. They still continue to make the television news much of the time, but the reaction has turned from one of horror and outcry to, "Only one or two killed this time — that's good."

We have even begun to learn to live with the terrorist bombings that have hit England. Despite the fact that 56 people have been killed and 668 injured during the wave of bombings which began in 1972, there is still the feeling among too many that acts of terrorism are still at "an acceptable level."

Only when a man involved in saving the lives of others is blown to pieces is our complacency shaken. Following the tragic death of her husband, the leading cancer specialist Professor Gordon Hamilton Fair-

ley, Mrs. Hamilton Fairley said: "I feel no bitterness. We, as family and friends, pray that his assassins and others may see the wastefulness of his and all other similar deaths, and that the rest of us in this wonderful world will learn something valuable from our own personal and terrible loss."

But for how long will those poignant words ring in our ears? Where do we go from here? Is there any end in sight to violence?

### Why No Public Outcry?

Surveying the increasing lawlessness of our age, one cannot but hold fears concerning our future as a safe, democratic society where there is true freedom. The growing impotence of our political institutions and the deterioration in the fabric of our social life make it hard to be optimistic. But the problem goes beyond this — the deepest cause for concern is our seeming lack of will to act decisively to counteract the problem.

We *could* change. We could take the appalling crime statistics to heart. We could admit the chaotic state our permissive ideas have brought us to. We could face squarely the fact that we have failed our youth, turned them off and given them no goals or reasons for being. If our children are disrespectful, lawless, we should realize that the onus is on us as parents.

But will we?

Our society is likely to collapse not because of a lack of technical know-how, but as a result of a failure of *will*.

It's so easy to get used to a bad scene. None of us want it this way. We want to be able to travel safely on a train, to enjoy an evening out at a restaurant without fear of being maimed by a bomb, or to go to a football match without being attacked. But we learn to live with these things. Violence becomes "acceptable".

Take the young policeman who stumbled across criminals at work in London. He paid with his life! You don't remember the incident? That's no surprise. It's getting pretty hard

to remember even the *sensational* violence, because it's so rapidly buried by an avalanche of yet more-blood-curdling incidents. Our sense of outrage becomes dulled.

The problem is public apathy.

### When This Lot Grow Up

Reporting on the rising crime rate — 21 per cent increase last year — Sir John Hill, Chief Inspector of Constabulary for England and Wales, drew attention to the problem of juvenile crime when he stated: "The continued growth in cases of criminal damage and indeed the general rise in sheer wanton vandalism, which is plain for all to see in any public place, is a worrying feature of our society today."

When most *Plain Truth* readers were in school, it was unheard of for pupils to terrorize teachers. Yet the past 12-month period saw literally *thousands* of cases of assault on teachers. More and more, teachers are simply breaking down under the strain of trying to control unruly classes.

What kind of society will ours be when today's young vandals are themselves parents, raising a still more-lawless generation? The rapid deterioration in the stability of society over the past few years cannot but alarm any concerned citizen. Are we moving toward an age of violence, perhaps even toward a Mark-II version of the Dark Ages when we shall once more be ruled by the law of the jungle?

It's time we understand the causes of violence, time we find the antidote — before the forces of law and order are overwhelmed and we take the plunge into anarchy.

### What You Can Do

What can you, as an individual, do to stem this increasing tide of violence?

We live in a nation which is governed democratically. There are representatives of the people who have a voice in the law-making bodies that can introduce the tough measures that are needed to combat violence. You as a citizen can in-

fluence those representatives. You can make your views known to your member of Parliament by writing to him when you hear of ineffective judicial judgments, by objecting to weak legislation.

You can write to the Broadcasting Authority, and to the television stations, when particularly harmful programmes are aired. The media claims to be giving the public what it wants. You can let them know that you, for one, do not want violence and violence-inciting pornography on the screen. If enough of the general public would let the authorities know that they do not want this kind of programming, there would be changes.

You can refuse to buy the kind of newspapers or magazines that highlight violence and pornography, and refuse to attend films that feature similar degenerate subjects.

But above all, you can ensure that your children are brought up in such a way that they never resort to violence.

### Parental Role Paramount

Interviewed by *Plain Truth* (see page 17), Dr. Rhodes Boyson placed much of the blame for the increasing rate of violence on ignorance about how to rear children. He explained that parents are the victims of pseudo-intellectuals who have confused them as to how to bring up a child. He stressed the need for parents to take the time to educate themselves, and then work with their children so that they grow up understanding values.

How many parents make a profession of bringing up a child? Princess Grace of Monaco once stated: "What better 'thing' of one's own can one do than share in the creation of a new life, thereafter integrating it into a loving and wholesome family and continuing to guide the formation of its personality and the moulding of its character?"

Perhaps there is no finer example of child rearing than that evidenced in the case of Prince Charles. From the moment of his birth, the heir to the throne has been groomed for his

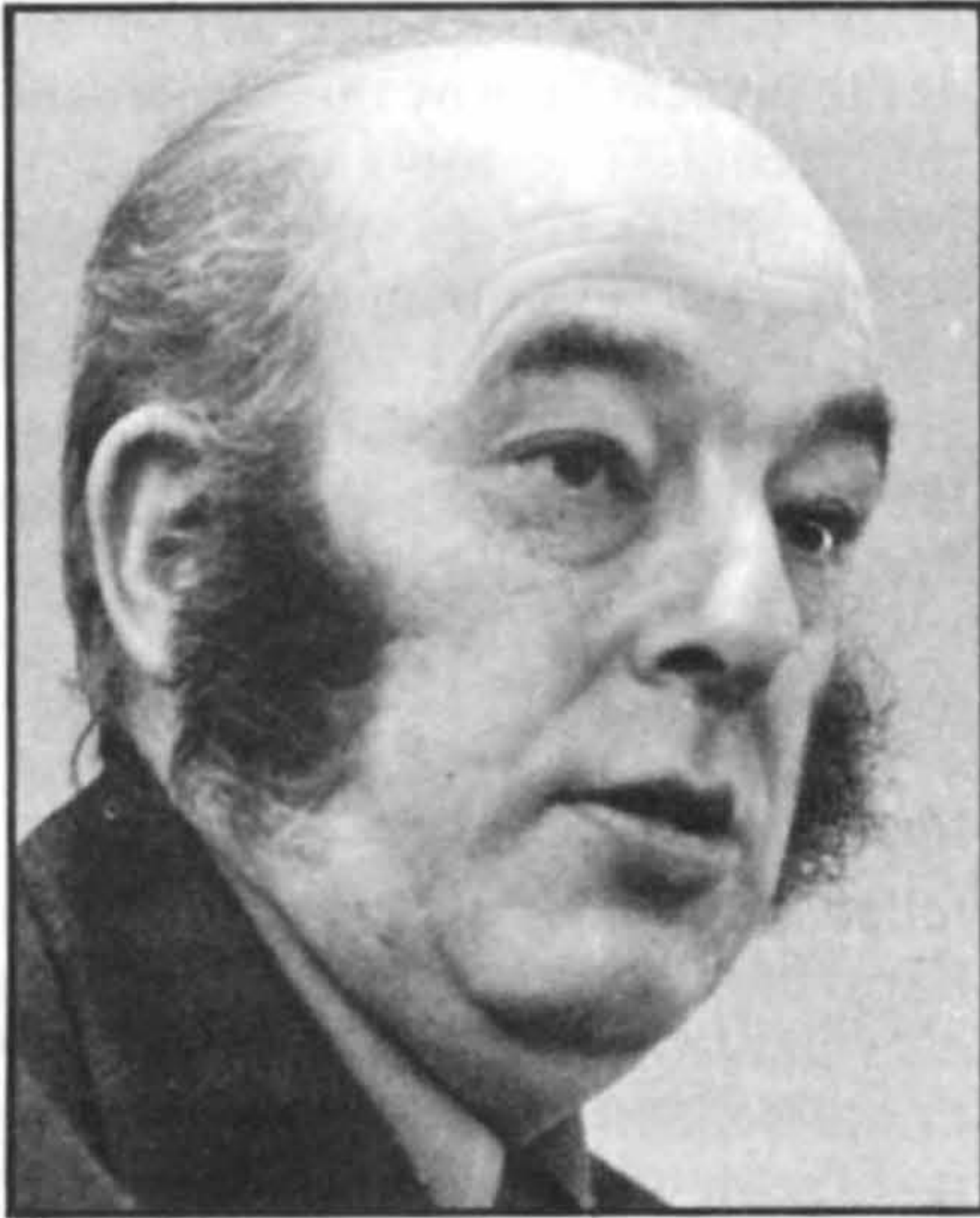
adult role in life. His future capability to eventually lead and inspire the whole nation as its king is the result of no accident. It has taken years of diligent, unceasing training on the part of his parents and other supervisors.

Dermot Morrah, in the book *To Be A King*, written with the approval of the Queen, describes the tremendous effort that went into the upbringing of Prince Charles. Every aspect of his childhood was planned with his future role in mind. A great deal of study went into determining the course of his training.

How many parents ever think to study — to educate themselves — concerning how to bring up their offspring? There is no more vital role a human being can play in this life. It is building for the next generation and for the future stability of society. Too many parents assume that children just "grow up", and hope that somehow they will turn out to be decent citizens. The tragic statement, all-too-familiar to the police when a juvenile is apprehended, "The ungrateful wretch! We've given him everything he could ever wish for. What have we done to deserve this?" reveals an abysmal ignorance concerning the most fundamental principles of successful child rearing.

An ancient proverb says that if you train up a child in the way he should go, he will not depart from it when he is old. If you are a parent, you need to know how to raise your children so that they will be responsible citizens. The pathetic individual who stabbed and raped seven-year-old little Gail need never have turned to crime if he had received correct parental guidance.

Next month we will feature an interview with Mrs. Dermot Morrah, widow of the author who researched Prince Charles's upbringing. In the meantime, write for our booklets *Crime Can Be Curbed — Here's How* and *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*. They are available without charge, paid for by others who are concerned about the state of violence in our country today. □



## Interview with Dr. Rhodes Boyson B.A., M.A., Ph.D., M.P.

*Dr. Rhodes Boyson has been a member of Parliament for Brent North since 1974, and before that he was headmaster of Highbury Grove Comprehensive School in North London. He is known as an outspoken commentator on education in Britain. A graduate of the London School of Economics and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Dr. Boyson is the author of several books on education including Education: Threatened Standards, Oversubscribed, and Crises in the Classroom, published this year. The following is an interview which he gave to Plain Truth on the relationship between the standards of education in school and in the home, and increasing violence in society today.*

**PLAIN TRUTH:** Dr. Boyson, what are the causes of the increasing incidence of violence in this country today?

**DR. BOYSON:** There is a breakdown of law and order in society. What we are finding here is not just a question of excessiveness, say, of murder, it is a breakdown of authority all the way through to the chaos of the classroom where the teacher can't keep order and there is no true educating being done. I think a lot of it is the fault of the trendy sociological and welfare lobby which have done untold harm, where their emphasis is on the criminal as opposed to the person attacked. There is either a misunderstanding or a complete non-reading of human nature. We legislate these days presuming there is no such thing as natural sin — which I believe there is. I see each individual as a mixture of good and bad, and believe that society must legislate according to the way the man is, and not according to the way we would like him to be.

It is popular to believe that if somebody misbehaves it's not because of original sin in him, or that he has succumbed to temptation, or to the quick buck, but because it is an ill of society. Maybe he was maltreated in childhood. Maybe his grandfather was a drunkard. Maybe his great-grandfather ran away with another woman. We do not pin responsibility on people now. And if we do not pin responsibility on individuals, there is a moral decline, because the idea that we are all guilty means nobody is guilty, and that is the end of any sense of moral responsibility.

If you presume everyone is good, and that anybody who does not behave is experiencing a sort of psychological aberration, instead of recognizing that it is the old Adam in him that does it, then it is no wonder that we have the problems of the present day. The probation officers — most of whom I would sack tomorrow — will say this boy did this because he was short of spending-money at the time, or because somebody had jeered at him at the Saturday dance. Instead of

saying, "He did it. He knew what he was doing. He should have had more sense. He should be punished for it, and maybe he won't do it again." Let's face it. Most of us are good not because we will to be good, but because of a structure that has been put up around us which encourages us to be good, since we fear the consequences of not being good.

To put it in blunt terms, if it pays people to be bad, a lot of people will be bad. If one were advising children on careers at the present time, probably train robbery, or bank robbery, would be the best careers to go in for. If you consider the number of years such people are in prison, the length of parole, and the amount of money they get away with, the sad thing is that in certain cases, crime now pays. It is the job of any government to ensure that crime does not pay, and to ensure that people who obviously and intentionally break the law suffer for it enough that they no longer want to break the law.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** Do you think that if there were more stringent sentences, there would be less crime?

**DR. BOYSON:** Yes. I am certain of that. It is not just a question of conviction of the criminal, but of making them outcasts of society for a time. They must be allowed back in when they have worked their passage, not automatically. One doesn't condemn people for life, that would be wrong. But they must work their way back. In the question of taking of a life, there is no means of them working their way back in this life, as far as I am concerned. The capital punishment ought to be there. If you get 20 years for robbery, and 25 years for murder, if a robber is being picked up he might as well murder. You are playing into their hands for the difference of five years if he gets caught, as against the odds that he will not be caught. It seems to play into the hands of people who wish to commit murder.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** Do you see any reversal of this trend?

**DR. BOYSON:** If our democratic society is to survive, there must be a reversal. But nobody is going to save us unless we do it ourselves. The

initiative must be ours. I would say we can still save ourselves, but it is not certain we will save ourselves. There is nothing predetermined in human nature — that is why the individual must save or destroy his own soul. There have been civilizations like Rome and Greece that eventually just broke up because they didn't learn the lessons of what they were doing. If people have the death wish in them, the freedom of human nature is such that they can destroy themselves with that death wish — and there are signs that this may be the case. But it is reversible.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** What will it take to bring about such a reversal? Does the answer lie in strong leadership?

**DR. BOYSON:** When a society is in danger of breaking down, you have got to have authority from the top down to set it right. The risk is what type of authority it is going to be. Having virtually destroyed our democratically elected authority, which was a lot better than the things we are replacing it by, one doesn't know what is going to follow after.

It will come to this. People will clamour in the end for leadership. But, since we have destroyed so much of our responsible and trusted leadership, where will the new leadership come from? So many people who should be giving real leadership have abrogated that leadership. This means there is a crisis of confidence in authority. There is a wide open gap in this country at the present time, which no one is filling and it has opened the way for charlatans to move in. So when that authority comes, it could be a left-wing dictatorship just as easily as a responsible leadership. That is the risk that we have to face at the present time.

I think that the ordinary person in this country is as sound as ever. I would defend the ordinary person anytime. He is the least corrupted member of society, particularly in the working class. Most people in this country want some peace and quiet, and to be allowed to live their own lives. All the people like the international socialists, or the IMG, or Vanessa Redgrave, don't represent more than 400 people in a Parlia-

mentary constituency in this country. The average person is as sound as ever, and would back sound leadership.

If one looks at 1940, it was touch and go. It was just chance, and we were fortunate, that Churchill was there. There was nobody else who could have raised the morale of the nation at that time. One sees it in the Old Testament as well — the times when you have leaders, and the times when you haven't. And there can be long gaps in between.

We could pick up. I would like us to pick up. I am fighting all my life for us to pick up. But there is nothing inevitable in that. I don't think it is certain that we will pick up.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** Can the family play a significant role in the fight against the breakdown of our society?

**DR. BOYSON:** In the ideal state, which will never exist, parents should be the only guardians of public morals, apart from a church. But I think parents themselves have been confused by what I call the traders in second-hand ideas — the pseudo-intellectuals, the Dr. Spock “baby-knows-best” types.

I don't blame the parents. I blame the leaders of our society. Parents want to do what is best for their children. They want their children growing up to be good citizens whom they are proud of having bred. But since they are battered by television, radio and newspapers about all kinds of trendiness, and not punishing them, and not giving them a right lead, I don't blame parents. It is the leaders of our society I blame.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** If the leadership of the country is not showing parents how to bring up their children to be healthy members of society, can education help?

**DR. BOYSON:** I don't think it can be solved by education in the schools. The classical liberals believed this in the 19th century, and look where it has got us. Teachers in many cases are the least well-equipped to do this. I don't think the schools can do anything. They do more harm than good.

There are two points about this. Left alone, most parents wish well of their children, and would cope better

than being brain-washed as they are at the present time by the schools and the media. The cat knows how to bring up her kittens. We have Blue Persian kittens at home, and there is no doubt about the training that is given by the mother cat. The mother thumped them around and trained them to be clean. Nobody told her how to do this — she didn't need to go to school.

It is the confidence of parents that is being destroyed, by the pseudo-intellectual who has done so much harm in our lifetime that nobody can ever make it up. So the first thing, I think, is that there is a natural instinct in all man — primitive man as well — that he wants his children to be brought up to fit into society as responsible citizens.

The second point on this, and this is where the church or religion comes in. There should be buoys in society that point people to the open channels as opposed to the depths. And the right parents see the guidance that is given by these — even if they are not practising within those religions themselves — that they point to the stars, as against the gutter. But instead of the influence of the morality of the churches these days, so much of the guidance, if one reads the quality papers, comes from people whose views go the other way. It's not exactly anti-God — that's too simplistic. But there is no pointing towards the stars. There is no question of respect for good men. There is this strange egalitarianism that will bring all people down so that all are equal in the gutter. So you have got the deterioration on both sides of the family. One is the pseudo-educational intellectual who says let the child do what he wants, and destroys the role of the father and the mother, doing untold harm. And secondly you have the opinion-leaders in society who don't point men to the stars, but point men downwards. I don't blame the parents at all. The parents are the neutrals in all this in most cases — brainwashed, and not knowing what to do.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** What part do you think television is playing in the brainwashing of parents?

**DR. BOYSON:** Quite a large part.

It is not just television, it's the radio, it's the media, with rare exceptions in all cases. These days the television establishes certain norms of behaviour. The norms of behaviour are unpleasant, or not pure, whichever way you put it. This is beamed into every house all the time. I know the risks of oppressive censorship — there are risks on each side. But I do feel that very much of what is put out at the present time is destructive of morality. The stress on violence, the unpleasant language which is used, the constant drinking — all these various factors treat the aberration as if it were the natural, instead of being the aberration. All of this is some kind of retreat from the ideal that we want. But if all the emphasis is on the retreat, as against what people want and what some people attain, then you have an age which creates an anti-hero. And we have an age from "That was the week that was" that now creates an anti-hero — that the church, parliament, royalty, military, anybody in authority, is suspect.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** You mentioned the church. If education cannot help reverse the trend, would you say that the responsibility lies with the clergy?

**DR. BOYSON:** They certainly bear a great responsibility for the decline. It has been said that if the Communist party had as many full-time organizers in this country as the Christian church has, we'd have gone Communist a long time ago, and I don't think that is very far off the truth. They have been concerned, not for the saving of souls and human salvation — which is the only job of the church as far as I can see — but they make themselves a kind of welfare state, a Rotary Club without the good dinners, being more concerned about the "third world" (whatever that may mean) instead of the behaviour of their own parishioners. Many of them have ceased to be religious leaders, and they have become a mish-mash of humanism.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** You mentioned that the average person wants a little peace and quiet. What can he

do about the deteriorating condition of our society?

**DR. BOYSON:** All he can do is shout. He can't do a coup d'état to transform society. But he can assess his leaders in the trade unions, his leaders on his local council, his county council, and in his Parliament. He can make sure that he elects people with whose views he identifies, irrespective of which party they come from — the sort of person who is likely to bring in the kind of world he prefers to what we have at the moment. He can also buy magazines and newspapers that push his case.

**PLAIN TRUTH:** What can a parent do to ensure that his child doesn't turn out violent?

**DR. BOYSON:** I think that the parents should take an active role — that they shouldn't sit back as an observer of the scene. The parent is the main contestant in the boxing match as it were, as to which way it is going to go. He should familiarize himself with the various ideas and theologies of the time. Not necessarily to churn it out, and to bore the pants off his offspring. But so that he himself works out his own philosophy. The first thing is that he must get his own philosophy right. He must read round the threats of our time — of Communist disturbances, and the destruction of the values which all of us, I hope, believe in. To educate himself about the sort of temptations that are going to come to his offspring when they leave the house may help him to decide how the home ought to be run.

I think the big thing — apart from the teaching of moral values, which we all believe in — is to teach him a sense of history. I am always glad that I am a historian, because it gives you a sense of perspective of the time. Any youth cult — and, thank goodness, I think we may be moving away from the idea that youth is good, and that age is bad, whereas basically adolescence is simply rather messy, rather difficult, and you should grow through it as fast as you can — ought to read history, and see what happened during the Russian revolution. The fact

is that most of these trendy ideas and most of the disruptive ideas have been tried somewhere at some time, and have done more harm than good. I think one should encourage young people to read history, and to realize that although things change it is basically a changing scene on the same revolving stage — the moral questions are still the same as they were in ancient Greece, and as they were in the Middle East, where the religions came from. So give children a sense of history.

Provide good books so that children are given an inoculation which will help them face adult life. Talk about issues freely about the house. Don't be put off by some strange question from the young. If your child says, "Isn't all society corrupt, daddy? Isn't all power with the rich? Aren't the police persecuting the poor?", don't dismiss the question. Take it down to the grass-roots, and talk it out. Show him how civilization developed. The main thing is for children to grow up without chips on their shoulders, and to realize at the same time the non-perfectibility of human nature — that if we have a society that is reasonably good, then we should hold on to it, because we will never have a perfect society in this life, and it is a "pilgrim's progress".

**PLAIN TRUTH:** So it's a matter, then, of the parent educating himself, and taking the trouble to work with the child?

**DR. BOYSON:** That's right. To be ready to cooperate with the child when the child wants it. And also to set values. Where a parent wants to say "no", he says "no". And "no" means "no", inside that home. It's his job to lead inside the home. That is where the leadership begins. And if he says, "You're not going there," it isn't on. And when the daughter or the son says, "why not?" he explains why not and says, "Look, whether you agree with me or not in this case, this is it. This is the rule of this house." That is the authority. You give the reason, but if the reason isn't accepted the parent is still the authority. □



# THE HIGH PRICE OF PEACE

***Lasting peace, while not theoretically impossible, is probably unattainable; even if it could be achieved, it would almost certainly not be in the best interests of a stable society to achieve it.***

**— Report from Iron Mountain**

by Robert Ginskey

Like most everything else in our modern world, the cost of peace has been rapidly soaring. There was a time when national peace and security (i.e., superior arms) could be purchased for comparatively paltry sums, but today the annual cost of peace has reached into the multiple billions.

Back in 1951, for example, the nations of the world spent a mere £150 million on foreign purchases of conventional weapons. In fiscal 1974, they laid out some £9,000 m. — a staggering 6,000% increase. Yet these figures represent only international arms purchases. Adding domestic “peace costs,” we find the nations of the world are now spending £120,000 m. a year on “defense” and “world peace.”

The U.S. alone has spent over £75 billion on defense since the end of World War II. In 1974, the U.S. led in sales of international arms with some £4,000 m. in weapons sold, followed by the Soviet Union (£2,750 m.), then France and Britain. Since 1950, the U.S. has sold or given away over £43,000 m. in arms to various nations, presumably to insure world peace.

## The Price of Middle East Peace

The new Israeli-Egyptian peace settlement in the Middle East will also cost Americans dearly. The U.S. assistance to Israel in 1975 will be close to £1,600 m. — which may not be too surprising in view of the Israeli military concessions to Egypt.

In fact, the United States has shipped so much weaponry to Israel that the U.S. National Guard and Reserves are still short of tanks, even though the Chrysler assembly line is now turning out five tanks daily compared to one per day before the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Yet, interestingly enough, U.S. economic assistance and arms sales to Arab countries for 1975 will be equally impressive — some £1,100 m. to Arab nations, including £500 m. for military items to Saudi Arabia alone.

Peace, it seems, can most effectively be achieved by expensive and

extensive armaments. Thirty years ago, only 5 nations were in the position of providing significant arms for world peace. Now, over 30 nations are involved in a big, highly competitive way, and 50 nations sell arms to some degree.

The push is toward "ultimate" weapons. One military technological revolution follows another with such bewildering rapidity that one is hard put to keep abreast of developments.

The development of precision-guided munitions was one breakthrough that is having a profound effect on the peace-keeping abilities of the world. Stimulated by the effective use made of laser-guided bombs in Vietnam, there now exists a whole class of precision-guided munitions. They include all those bombs, missiles, and other projectiles that can score direct hits on their targets at full range, with a high probability often approaching perfection — one shot, one hit. According to the design of these missiles, the target may be a tank, ship, aircraft, bridge, radar installation, a concentration of armor, or troops.

### The Costs of Peace

What is the price for such peace-keeping weaponry? The cost of precision-guided missiles varies from about £1,500 for an anti-tank missile to about £250,000 for an anti-ship missile. Even the expensive ones, however, are hundreds of times cheaper than some potential targets — a modern fighter can cost about £10 million, a cruiser over £50 million, and a tank between £250,000 and £450,000.

Billions of dollars are also being poured into electronic equipment—jamming devices, decoys, sophisticated radar tracers, and intelligence sensors. These electronic devices are used virtually everywhere — on ground vehicles, ships, and aircraft; or they may be strewn about the battlefield by rockets, mortars, and artillery shells.

So subtle and rapid are the thrusts and parries between radar systems and jamming systems that computers have taken over the job

of orchestrating defenses — "watching" for probes by enemy radars, instantaneously deciding what countermeasures to use, and deploying invisible forces to jam radars and turn aside oncoming missiles.

Radar-decoying chaff, misleading heat sources, and even repeating false radar echoes are among the new electronic countermeasures. Radars must shift up and down the spectrum, changing probing methods like a running back on a football team to penetrate defenses.

Even satellite-jamming by satellite has been used. There is evidence that the Soviet Union has directed electronic countermeasures against U.S. satellites.

The result is that incredible changes in the nature and cost of warfare are occurring as electronic sophistication increases.

Now even a "well-equipped" army may be virtually wiped out in a few minutes. Sophisticated "hiding" is becoming more important than fighting! The ramifications are far reaching. For example, if both sides use a full panoply of automatic

### Can Man Afford Peace?

In the middle 1960s, a secret think tank was commissioned to objectively analyze the possibility and desirability of peace. The primary purpose of the analysis was to see just how feasible and desirable total world peace would actually be. Of course, in making such a study, it was also necessary to consider the benefits war provides the nations who choose it as a way of life.

The result of over 2½ years of research was a rather unsettling and disturbing report that was anything but hopeful about man's chances for achieving a lasting peace.

The so-called "Iron Mountain Report" (in reference to the secret nuclear shelter which served as the location of some of the meetings) pointed out that the usual explanation for war is that it is caused by international conflicts. War is generally seen as an extension of national policy designed to extend and defend the self-interests of a nation. As such, it seems logical that man could, if he would only be less

---

***The United States has shipped so much weaponry to Israel that the U.S. National Guard and Reserves are short of tanks, even though the Chrysler assembly line is turning out five tanks daily.***

---

weapons, how will victory be determined? Will the victor be the one with the biggest arsenal at the beginning of war? If so, we are moving into an era in which nations will spend even more on weapons than they do now.

Yes, the price of "peace" is indeed escalating. But what about *true* peace — not an insane arms race that goes by the name of "defense," "security," "balance of power," or "world peace" — but real, genuine peace? What about a peace that is not just the absence of war, but an absence of even the preparation for war? Surely it would be absurd to talk about such a peace as being too costly. Or would it?

belligerent, eliminate war and achieve lasting peace.

But, the report continued, a system based on war also has many nonmilitary functions that make it very attractive — so attractive that, *paradoxically, "peace" may be simply too costly to consider!*

The report listed the functions of war (other than the obvious military ones of national aggrandizement, expansion, or defense) as follows:

- *Economic.* War, emphasized the report, allows a country to dispose of excess production and surpluses. War has a voracious and unlimited appetite that soaks up any excess inventories. The economic advantages of war are unsurpassed; war

can and does stimulate the economy, reducing unemployment. In fact, there are an estimated 91,000 jobs created in the U.S. for every \$500 m. in annual arms sales. Other countries have similar economic incentives to maintain a war mentality.

- *Political.* The permanent possibility of war, said the report, is often the foundation for a stable government. War, or an arms race, supplies the basis for general acceptance of political authority. Historically, concluded the report, it is extremely difficult to stay in power if no credible "external" threat of war exists; in fact, the whole concept of a nation-state derives much of its force from the reality (or illusion) of conflicts with other national entities. The report stated that political leaders often need war to survive.

- *Sociological.* War, maintained the report, allows a country to control many elements of youth, social dissidence, and destructive antisocial tendencies by channeling them into the war machine. War also creates a strong social cohesion, based on a mutual enemy in a life-and-death crisis. War, said the report, gives overriding cogency to national programs such as wage and price controls, physical fitness, or "patriotism."

- *Ecological.* War, the report points out, often serves to reduce the population in a way that man seems unable or unwilling to achieve by "peaceful" means. War is thus a mechanism for periodic population control.

- *Cultural.* Art, music, and creativity, claims the report, are often inextricably involved with the drama, excitement, and glory of war. Take away war (and the mentality that accompanies it) and many people believe that the arts would largely dry up and become sterile, purposeless.

- *Science and Technology.* Inventions and scientific discoveries are extremely dependent on the stimulus of war. From the first smelting techniques for brass and iron to the practical applications of

atomic energy to the latest breakthroughs in laser optics and micro-miniaturization, war (and the preparation for war) has provided an overwhelming impetus for technological development.

- *Social Release.* War, according to the report, often serves the same function as holidays, celebrations, and orgies — a release from tensions and an adjustment of the standards of social behavior, i.e. the "moral climate." Also, and very importantly, war provides a way to dissipate the general boredom, often a most persistent social problem.

- *Ideological Clarification.* Finally, the report emphasized that a war mentality helps men to make decisions — to choose one side or the other, to become committed to a cause. The simple decisions of warfare are often appealing to a large number of people who would otherwise become frustrated and confused with vague and ill-defined moral questions.

As partial substitutes for the non-military functions of war, the report suggested a massive space program (perhaps in response to real or imagined space invaders), a gigantic public welfare program, or even an elaborate and sophisticated system of slavery and repression. Yet such "solutions" would hardly be expected to engender long-term public support.

In short, the Iron Mountain Report concluded that lasting peace, while not theoretically impossible, is probably unattainable; and even if it could be achieved, it would almost certainly not be in the best interests of a stable society to achieve it.

The paradox is that in spite of man's earnest desire for peace, the price may simply be too high.

Only a total reorientation of the fundamental values and institutions of man's civilization would seem to be adequate for making peace a viable alternative to war. But until such a time — given man's present social, economic, and political institutions — the incredible cost of war may actually be exceeded by the high price of peace. □

## Politicians—the People's Big Switchoff

by Liam Nolan

Turn nasty on a child or animal often enough, and they will soon realize that you are not to be trusted. They'll give you a wide berth and ignore you. That, I believe, is what has begun to happen on a huge scale with people relative to politicians. The world is currently bespattered with politicians who have betrayed the trust placed in them by those who elected them to office, and the sobering fact is that individuals are "switching off" from politics.

Apart from discredited elected representatives, there are enough former dictators and other heads of state who were found to have done reprehensible things while in office to make China's Triads or Sicily's Mafia seem like thoroughly honorable organizations.

But since this piece came to be written as a result of a remark I made one hot night in Dublin during a discussion on politics and politicians, I'll confine myself to those elected to office by the votes of the people, the politicians in countries ruled according to the democratic system.

It is worthwhile to go back and dig a little to unearth how democracy first evolved and to ask what it is. We bandy the word about blithely, but do we really know what it means, what its history was, where it came from and why?

Democracy has been defined by dictionary compilers as a form of government in which sovereign power resides in the people as a whole and is exercised either directly by them or by their elected representatives.

If you go right back through human history, you'll find that two main methods of government have



been tried: One is based on force (the government of the many by the few, or even by one); the other is based on persuasion (the government of the many by themselves or by their elected representatives).

Emperors governed their ancient empires by force; they had their armies to back them up. The "common people" had no say in deciding their own future.

But in Greece a new movement began around 600 B.C. when some city-states set up the first democracies. The word itself comes from two Greek words, *demos* meaning "people" and *kratein* meaning "rule." The males of these city-states would congregate to discuss problems and decide major issues of their communities. (It is perhaps worth pointing out that women were not represented, nor were slaves.)

The populations of these initial centers of democracy ranged from five thousand to ten thousand, but as populations increased, it became clearly impossible for *all* the citizens to gather together to make community laws. Thus, out of necessity, evolved the idea of representation — trusted individuals being elected to represent the people.

Inevitably, because of human inclinations, ambition and the desire for power, some of the representatives became little more than mob leaders and abused their positions and power for their own self-aggrandizement. Then came threats from the surrounding powerful empire states, and little democracies were absorbed, defeated.

However, a hardy seed had been sown, and democracy as an ideal survived. In time the idea became fact once more as democracies were set up in England, the Netherlands, Italy and the Rhineland. They survived until the centralized European monarchies were established.

The British are proud of the fact that since 1295 they have been electing representatives to the Parliament at Westminster. But though it may seem strange when reminded of it in 1975, it was only in 1832 that the "middle classes" were given the vote, while hundreds of thousands

***Heads of state, minor local politicians — a disturbing number have shown a fearful propensity for corruption and for betraying the trust placed in them by those who voted them into office.***

of women had to wait for that privilege until 1918!

Germany became a democracy after World War I. That democracy crumbled under the dictatorship of Hitler. Italy had its own dictator in Mussolini. There were other dictatorships, too, in Europe. Nor should one forget Soviet Russia which has a system in which all opposition parties were abolished and rule is by one party only.

Democracy has been called the noblest of political ideals. Among the most famous and frequently quoted words about it were those spoken at Gettysburg by Abraham Lincoln. He said: "We here highly resolve . . . that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Since Lincoln's time millions of Americans have died in the defense of democracy. So have millions of other nationalities. But now democracy is once more under almost unendurable stress — and again from the inside.

There is a growing cynicism among people regarding the manner in which politicians, great and small, famous and insignificant, have been seen to conduct themselves in the use of power for their own selfish ends. Heads of state, elected representatives, minor local politicians — a disturbing number have shown a fearful propensity for

corruption, for besmirching their professions and for betraying the trust placed in them by those who voted them into office.

It has been happening all over the world. It would be too easy to name names. All of us could do it. But the very ease of being able to do so is itself a terrible indictment of the way in which man, once he absconds from standards of ordinary decency, gallops headlong toward willing corruption.

If the switch-off of trust in politicians and political machinery increases, the danger is that the lack of interest will lead to anarchy, one of the concomitants of which is chaos. Politicians who are seen not to give a damn (or who are suspected of not giving a damn) about morality are increasingly finding themselves devoid of support. But mere lack of support could very easily spread outward and onward to a wholesale distrust and lack of interest in politics in general.

And if that were to happen, we would have a situation in which the mass of the people would abrogate their political responsibility. For that to happen would be a calamity.

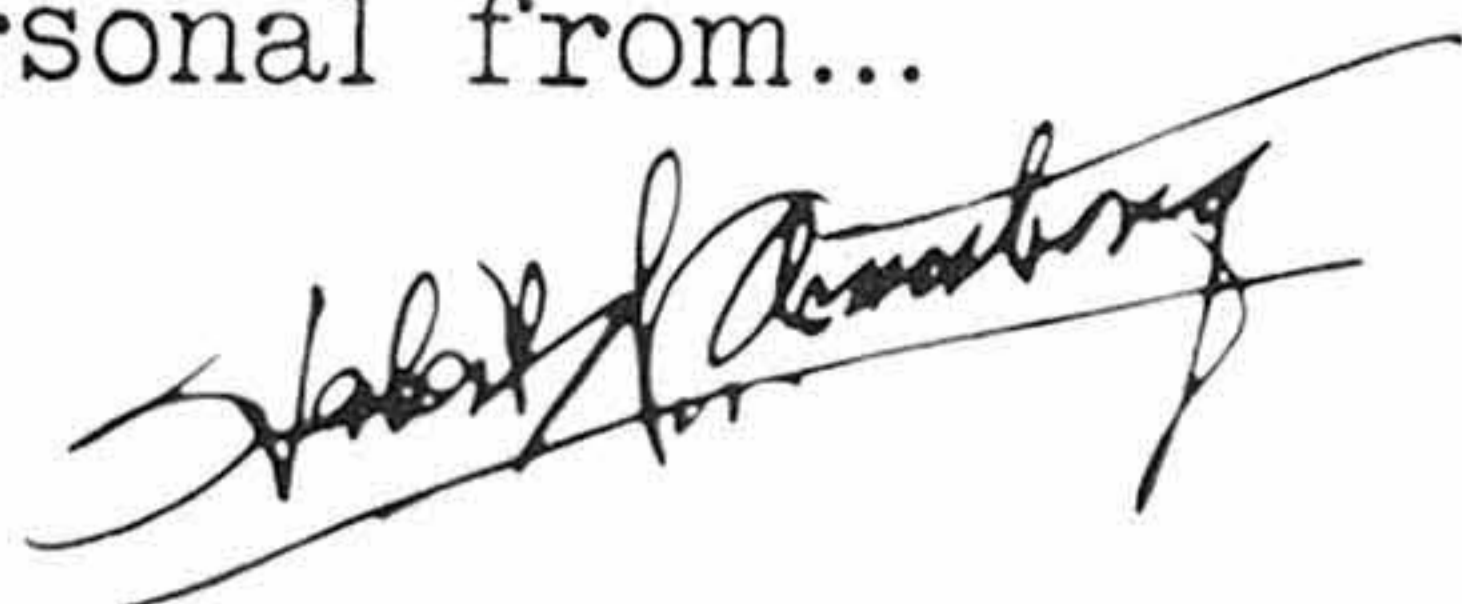
What is necessary is the reestablishment of solid moral standards of behavior. We now stand at such an advanced stage of knowledge of all kinds — medical, technological, scientific, agricultural, educational — that never before in history has there been such a colossal potential for achievement — or *wastage*.

Let us apply some of our common sense and knowledge to averting that wastage. Let us use all our perception, intelligence, sensitivities and nerve-endings to avoid disaster and to save something true and fine.

Demosthenes said: "There is one safeguard known generally to the wise, which is an advantage and security to all, but especially to democracies against despots — suspicion."

All right, let us use that suspicion wisely, because what Thomas Woodrow Wilson said in 1917 is even more appropriate now nearly sixty years later: "The world must be made safe for democracy." □

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

They just have not known how to bring it about.

In Portugal, communists virtually took over the government — then suffered a temporary setback. But communists never give up. If they stage a comeback, gaining control of the government in a country that has for centuries been Roman Catholic, Rome may take drastic action to unite all Europe.

In Spain, General Franco won the war against communism between 1936 and 1939. But recently the Franco government has been under sharp criticism from all over Europe for executing guerrillas who had killed Spanish policemen. Since then he has suffered a series of heart attacks, and at the time of writing lies critically ill, close to death. Conditions in Spain are becoming ripe for a religious-dominated, European-oriented government, with Prince Juan Carlos as king.

Since World War II, the nations of Europe have relied on American military power to offset Soviet power. But they are fast losing all confidence in the United States as a world power.

Right now I feel sure that North Korea is planning an invasion of South Korea. If it comes, and the United States does not go immediately to South Korea's aid, the U.S. will no longer be recognized as a world power. And the present temper of the American Congress would seem to forbid any further U.S. intervention in Korea.

In the Middle East, Dr. Kissinger has worked out an agreement between Egypt and Israel. At best it will be temporary. It is already under attack from guerrilla leader Yassir Arafat and other Arab nations. *Plain Truth* for many years has been predicting that the Middle East, centering on Jerusalem, will be

the focal point of war and world upheaval from now on.

Violence has continued, virtually unchecked, daily in Beirut, as it has in Northern Ireland. That Catholic-Protestant battle has reached into London. Recently, I went over to Harrod's department store. It was about 3:30 in the afternoon. I found all doors closed, and a group of people standing around aside. There had been a bomb scare. Later, when the doors were opened, I found the official I wanted to see, white and shaking.

"This is the second bomb scare in this store," he said, "and the last time the bomb exploded and caused a lot of damage."

Yes, one way or another, I per-

**Most people do not realize how fast things are changing. When I was a boy there was very little crime. Violence was rare. Morals were high by comparison. All the world's evils have multiplied since then.**

sonally am made very much aware of the troubled state of this world.

When Jesus Christ walked on this earth, His disciples asked Him *when* the end of this present age would come and what sign would signify it. This is really the pivotal point — the center — the crux — of all New Testament prophecy. In answer, first He warned them of false gospels being proclaimed, *in His name*, and deceiving the many — that is, the world as a whole. During the first century, the gospel message Christ proclaimed had been sabotaged, and the world of that time had turned to another gospel. But, continued Jesus, "... this gospel of the kingdom [of God] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and THEN shall the end [of this age] come."

The word "gospel" means "good news." Jesus came as a MESSENGER from God (Malachi 3:1), and His message was the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. His message was the ANNOUNCEMENT that the Kingdom of God is coming and will bring us world peace at last (Mark 1:1, 14-15).

The kingdom of God is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD of which Christ was born to be the KING.

I repeat — as I have said many times — world-famous scientists say that the only hope for the world now is a world supergovernment to rule all nations! And that is precisely what Christ announced — that was His message — His gospel.

Following Jesus' answer to the sign just prior to this end and His return to earth, He foretold the TIME OF TROUBLE this world is now heading into. "For then," He said, just after the worldwide proclamation of the coming World Government, "... shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

NEVER have world conditions been as bad as they now are. We are rapidly heading into this time of "great tribulation!"

But there is the saying, "It is darkest just before dawn." It is already quite dark in this world.

It is going to get a lot *darker!*

*But then!* Then will come the glorious Kingdom of God to rule all the earth — all nations — with the rule of the living God — with the basic LAW that is LOVE and full of mercy, compassion, forgiveness, bringing *world peace* at last! At that time every man will learn to have outgoing concern for the good and the welfare of others, and seek to help, serve, and share, not to take unfair advantage of, beat in every deal, rob, cheat, deceive and harm. The fact that you read this is evidence that that happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW is near. Very near! □

# UNDERSTANDING LONELINESS

by Lyn Barrow

About four years ago along with a colleague and friend, Peter Martin, I set out to answer a number of pertinent questions about loneliness.

What is this disquieting human condition? How widespread is it? How best does one combat it?

We appealed through the media at our disposal for lonely people to relate to us their actual experiences, their own loneliness, its negative qualities or alternatively how they had mastered it.

The response was quite amazing. We received more than 3000 letters.

A number of facts became clear throughout the following months. First, that loneliness is widespread in Australia. In fact in our view this could be the most formidable — and neglected — social question in our society. In terms of numbers it certainly is. And all too frequently loneliness is the basis or correlate of other social neuroses like alcoholism or suicide.

Second, status, education, or wealth do not of themselves protect or insulate against this condition. It respects neither age, sex, nor circumstance. We have spoken to lonely housewives, executives, students, old people, young people, and children.

Misconceptions about loneliness also abound, with one of the most prevalent being that loneliness is the result of isolation, or that loneliness and isolation are the same thing. In other words, that we are lonely when we are moved away or isolated from familiar faces and surroundings.

The truth is that loneliness is *not* a “physical” state. It is an emotion, a feeling — always.

It's true of course that special circumstances can contribute to feelings of aloneness. But on the other hand, some people are lonely in a crowd, a classroom, the office, or even in the midst of a family.

Another fact. Loneliness has



many faces — that of the lonely young, or of people who withdraw into isolation because of the hurt they have experienced, and of those who are God-lonely.

Then there are those who lack commitment, not so much to people, but to a cause or something else worthwhile. Their lives are empty.

Some become victims of the “higher-the-fewer” syndrome while others feel isolated because they are handicapped, atypical, or in some way different from the majority. And of course, there are many people who are unable to cope with situations that lend themselves to feelings of aloneness such as old age, widowhood, and desertion.

Martin and I were more than grateful when Antipodean Publishers gave us the opportunity to record the experiences of a wide range of lonely people. We believe that

this will be a most useful book for among other things, the actual experiences it records make clear that loneliness is not an insoluble problem. Far from it. Understanding loneliness and coping with it are realities — realities pointed out by people who have learned from experience to understand and cope with it.

What is the solution — the way out of loneliness and back to a full life? There's no one royal road, but there are a number of paths. I will mention just one or two here.

First, the lonely must perceive their condition not as a thing that is fixed or permanent but as something temporary, a situation that *can* and *will* be changed.

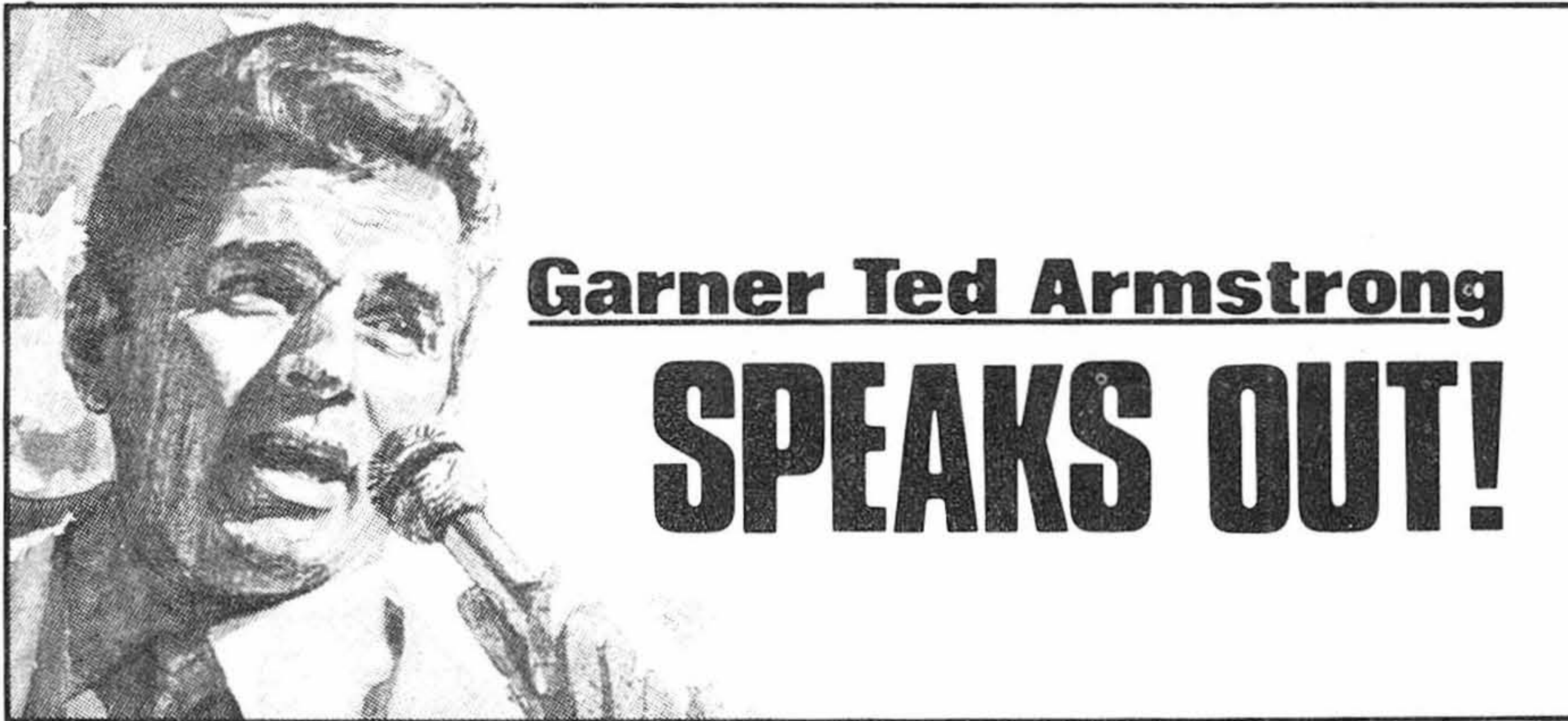
Self-acceptance is basic to any solution. In essence what we must do is accept ourselves and our feelings — but to do so with self-respect. This helps to counter wasteful and negative reactions like self-pity and self-condemnation.

Self-acceptance with respect leads to a desire for improvement; and the frame of reference now, rather than something negative or self-defeating, becomes: This is a problem. I accept that it is, but I choose to face it and to better it.

This sort of acceptance leads to new goals and new undertakings, and gives direction to both.

Loneliness has many faces and can be a complex problem. But in the movement from insularity back to the human family, to friends and to fellowship, self-awareness — acceptance of one's self and condition but with respect — is always an important first step.

*Understanding Loneliness* — Lyn Barrow and Peter Martin. Published by Antipodean Publishers. Recommended maximum retail price \$2.95, 136 pp. Single and multiple copies available from the publishers, 7 Lanceley Place, Artarmon 2064, and from most newsagents and bookstores. □



## Empty Optimism

**N**ot long ago I spoke out on behalf of the office of the President of the United States in decrying the strange pre-occupation of the American press with a "slip" that President Ford had publicly made.

I very much respect the office of the President of the United States and respect the man who occupies that office.

I also respectfully disagree with many of the things Mr. Ford has said.

Recently, President Ford felt like rebuking the U.S. "prophets of doom" in a strong partisan speech to five thousand Republican women in Dallas.

He said, "I have heard too much from people who say everything is falling apart, how the quality of life in America is sliding downhill, how the dollar is worthless, how murderers and muggers have driven everyone behind locked doors, and how even the President of the United States should stop visiting public places and seeing the American people."

The President said he "had had it with pessimists saying such things who seem to be writing a 'self-fulfilling prophecy' of doom for America."

"I reject such pessimistic scenarios," said the President.

Mr. President, I respectfully disagree.

Surely Mr. Ford does not mean to imply that, simply because he has "heard too much," the things these alleged prophets of doom are saying are therefore *wrong*?

It happens to be a simple fact,

Mr. President, that the quality of life in America is sliding downhill. The dollar is becoming more and more worthless. Murderers and muggers do drive innocent citizens behind locked doors, and the President himself HAS been subjected to two assassination attempts within a very short period of time.

Over the years I have continually spoken out against the game of "hide-and-go-seek" played by too many of us.

By hiding our eyes from the myriad problems around us and seeking instead our own personal pleasures, we seem bent upon submerging ourselves in petty day-to-day trivia, all the while ignoring the truly monstrous problems confronting the entirety of the human race and each of us individually.

Evil will never disappear by ignoring it. We cannot *wish* it away, and simple optimism in the face of bad news will never whisk away the problems or quietly sweep them under the carpet and out of view.

What is happening round the world today? Crime is up, soaring above all understandable relationships to population growth. In the U.S., statistics show that the chance of being victimized by a violent crime has increased 24% since 1968, and more than 50% in the past few years! The average urban American baby boy born since 1974 faces a greater likelihood of dying a victim of murder than did the average American soldier in World War II!

Attacks upon the family and the home continue to become more prevalent beyond any known example in the history of the human race. A recent U.S. survey by a group of university sociologists found that of 2,300 wives, fully *half* felt they would eventually go outside of their marriages for sexual experiences! And one out of every three between the ages of 26 and 30 freely admitted they already had!

Another study, conducted by the U.S. March of Dimes foundation, shows that mothers under 16 giving birth to children rose by 80% in the thirteen years between 1960 and 1973.

And then there's our entertainment. It was more than three decades ago when Rhett Butler said to Scarlett O'Hara, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," in the epic film *Gone With the Wind*. Even though fully knowing what to expect, audiences all over the United States frequently lined up two abreast around the block to see that particular film and to collectively gasp in shock at the utterance of the "forbidden" word.

Compare that, if you will, to the unbelievably flagrant violation of anything representing the last vestiges of sensitivity or decency which has become common tablefare for the average Western home via the medium of television or motion pictures today.

Also our teen-agers can freely attend motion pictures where the most violent, unrestricted and raw abuses in the form of profanity and filthy speech, coupled with violence and sex, are presented on the screen. It does little good for parents to very carefully attempt to train their children at home in the correct use of the English language and in high principles of morality. Training them to respect the property and persons of fellow human beings is of little benefit when the public media in one dramatic moment in a darkened theater can sweep aside much of the painstaking and careful education given at home.

Our societies are in a moral landslide — downhill!!

Just last season, for example, American television showed the rape of housewives, delved into the story of the private life of a prostitute, and highlighted the day-to-day existence of a homosexual couple. These are all topics which would not have even been mentioned on the air, let alone be shown on television, only a few years ago. One major production for "adult" audiences, "Beacon Hill," has taken viewers through various and sundry episodes of political corruption, showed various sexual relationships between employees and their mistresses, and even invited the viewer to watch a striptease.

It appears that it is not enough that the news alone is filled with shootings, assassinations, kidnappings,

bombings, premarital sex, extra-marital relationships, abortions, women's lib, the gay liberation movement, blackmail, murders, drugs, wiretapping, embezzlement, and international bribery by big business. Our "entertainment" also seems to be totally obsessed and preoccupied with the same fare.

Open, raw, unbelievable violence, sexual permissiveness, thievery, lying, cheating, and every assorted form of brutality is the current trend in television as well as in motion pictures. We are living through a "TV era" which is dramatically affecting all of our social patterns.

And do you ever listen to the lyrics in popular and country-western music these days? Even the lyrics of

most songs reflect and emphasize these same themes, indicating how widespread and 'accepted' such occurrences are.

Another aspect of the insanity in American television is the modern daytime quiz show. Some of these shows feature everything from roulette and dice games to pinball machines, blackjack, horseraces, and virtually every kind of game which would normally be found in Las Vegas or Reno. Participants appear to be mindless children, leaping and jumping up and down, pounding their heads, slapping their hands together, rolling their eyes, biting and gnawing on their tongues and lips, getting so excited one honestly wonders whether a heart attack is not imminent when they are told they have won one of our modern "adult toys" such as a stereo, a color television set, or a car.

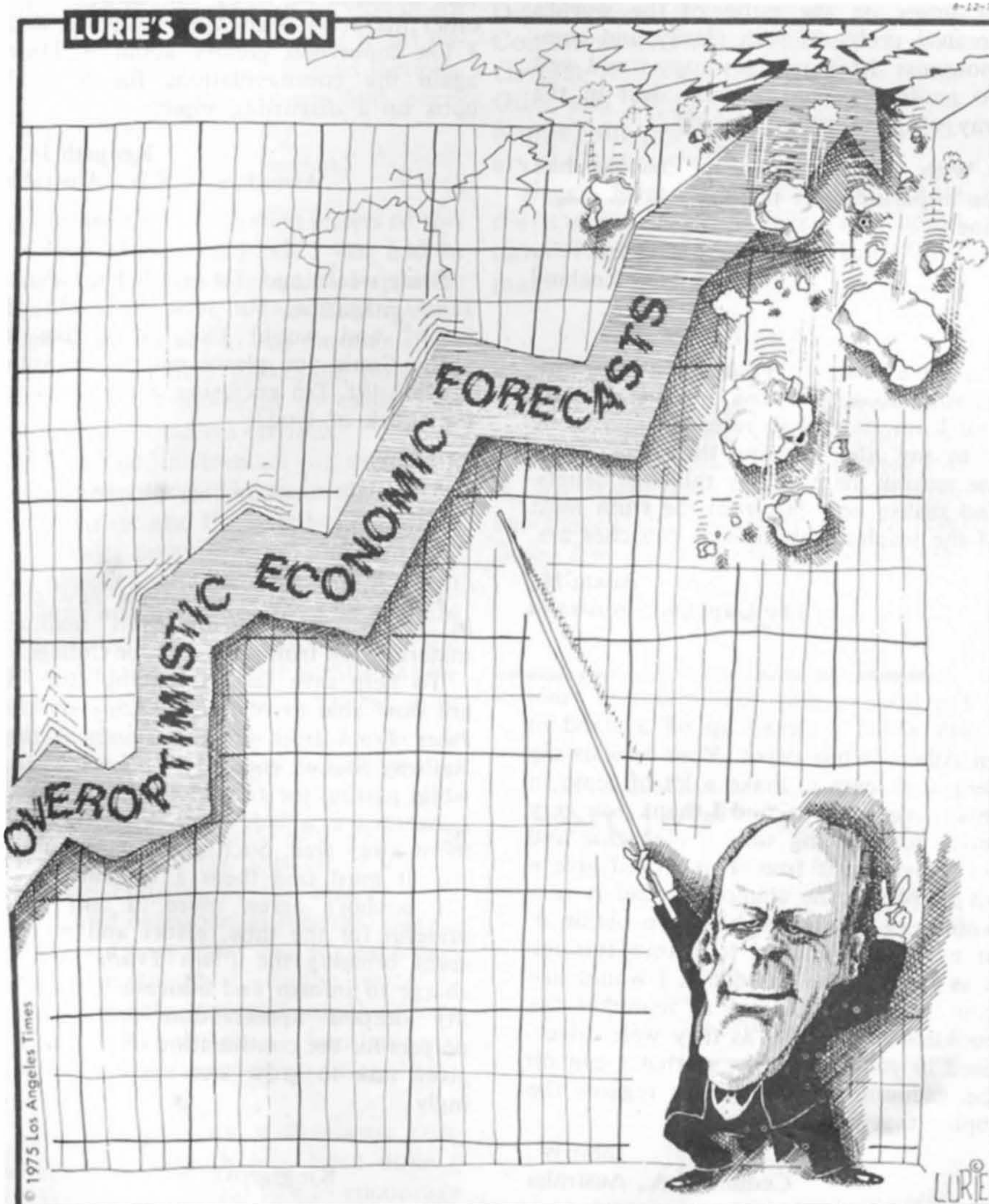
All in all, our Western societies, and the United States of America in particular is very much SICK.

Rather than speaking out AGAINST these evils here in the U.S., which would, in my opinion, GREATLY enhance the stature and integrity of Mr. Ford, the President chose to attack the "doomsdayers" and portray himself as a man who believes in a bright future.

He said, "I did not take the sacred oath of office to preside over the decline and fall of the United States of America."

No one can fault those words, nor the sentiment behind them. However, as we view ourselves today in the midst of a landslide into the ultimate debauchery of a modern Sodom and Gomorrah, we must all realize that empty optimism cannot stand up against the rapid decline in the quality of life, the deep economic sickness which threatens the value of our money, and the insane rise in violent crimes.

It may be instructive to ponder whether, like it or not, intended or not, the President of the United States of America may indeed be presiding over the decline and the fall of the United States of America and even also witness the demise of the whole Western world. □



**orchids**

**onions**

## letters

Received my first copy of *Plain Truth*. May I sincerely say a big thank you!

Because at 75 I was getting more confused with my politics and religion added to the everyday turmoil of this modern society with its violence and corruption, etc.

I assure you that it was a fortunate day for me when I sent for my copy of *Plain Truth* — because it has already helped me some way in answering problems arising out of my health condition. Your article by Carole Ritter "Relaxing Your Way to Better Health" I am certain is going to help me personally to enjoy the remainder of my God-given years more comfortably.

Mr. W.H.,  
Shannon, New Zealand

Thank you very much for sending the *Good News*. I have found it very informative and most interesting and has given me a greater insight into the Bible and also into areas I would never have normally contemplated.

I was very pleased to receive the October issue of the *Plain Truth* — especially to find it in a magazine form instead of a tabloid form. I tend to enjoy it better and if I leave it on the table, I find that it is less likely to end up wrapped round the kitchen scraps! I feel that it is an improvement on the former type and hope that it will continue.

Miss L.S.,  
Wellington, New Zealand

I find your Correspondence Course and booklet aids compelling reading and immensely enlightening. My old views and beliefs are quickly evaporating. You have answered so many questions for me. Yes, the questions quoted in the third paragraph of the booklet "How to Study the Bible" have always puzzled me. That is why I gave up going to church. The sermons held nothing and you came away with an empty feeling. I do wish you could be allotted time on the Mon-

day night programme on radio "Faith and Works" 7.30 p.m. on National Radio. I know television is too expensive so I won't suggest that!

Miss E.H.,  
Christchurch, New Zealand

I would like to cancel my copy of *Plain Truth* which I have always thoroughly enjoyed and found it unbiased and most informative and puts its finger on the pulse of the world's greatest problems with clarity and commonsense. I feel now my copy could well do another person a great deal in the way of plain truth thinking.

With many thanks for having had the opportunity of reading a great magazine.

Mrs. P.S.,  
Okato, New Zealand

I have just finished reading your fascinating book "The Ten Commandments" and I am starting to reread it and apply it to my life. Reading this book made me rethink many of my religious beliefs, and realise how far from the truth most of the teachings of today's churches are.

Adam H.,  
The Gap, Qld., Australia

I've been reading your magazine *Plain Truth* which I picked up off a stand in an Adelaide bus depot. Your articles dig deep and seem to make a lot of sense in this modern world, and I thank you very much for printing such a magazine and for providing it free. This would give a lot of people the chance to read it who would not otherwise be able to obtain it, or even feel inclined to glance through it as I did in the bus depot. I would like you to please send me as many of the booklets as possible, as they were advertised in your magazine, so that I can fill the vacuum in my mind as regards the topics that are discussed.

John W.,  
Ceduna, S.A., Australia

I am 20 years old. I have contemplated running from home and even suicide after considering my condition of unemployment, no money to continue my education and living in an impoverished family. Fortunately, I discovered a copy of the *Plain Truth* in the bathroom of a hotel just when I was going to take off the electricity switch — simplest way of killing myself, by electric shock. After reading it, I changed my mind, for I realised that many people in this world are worse off than I am. So, I hope you can send me a copy of your magazine.

L.K.T.,  
West Malaysia

Only yesterday I was lent a copy of your book entitled "Our Polluted Planet". I am amazed at it, as it was stunningly brilliant. Although it was published in 1968, I am enquiring if I could possibly buy a copy, as it by far surpasses all other literature written on pollution, and I am concerned greatly about it. Once again my commendations for a great book on a disgusting topic.

Kenneth J.C.,  
Armidale, N.S.W., Australia

Some weeks ago, I cancelled the *Plain Truth* magazine, but now feel "out of touch" and would like to receive it again. Could you please put me on your mailing list. I'm enclosing a donation to the Work of God.

J.H.B.,  
Pomona, Qld., Australia

I am most concerned at the new rise in postal rates affecting all mailing material sent from Ambassador College.

To help save further mailing costs, I am now able to obtain my copy of the *Plain Truth* from the newsstands at the Railway Station each month. Last week, while passing the free *Plain Truth* stand, I overheard a lady say "Fancy giving them away free. Such good paper used, too. It must cost them a fortune."

I couldn't agree more. I am very grateful for the time, effort and money spent bringing the *Plain Truth* free of charge to inform and educate humanity. My deepest appreciation and sincere prayers for the continuation of your God-given task to grow and expand exceedingly.

Mrs. M.G.M.,  
Kingsgrove, N.S.W., Australia

How disappointed I was to find the "Orchids & Onions" section of the October *Plain Truth* so inundated with "onions"! Hardly a good word to say, it seemed.

Everyone seemed so quick to attack and ridicule, with barely a passing mention of the merits of the magazine.

I have been a regular *Plain Truth* reader for several years, and always find it enjoyable and stimulating, notwithstanding occasional minor slip-ups (it is human to err!).

It seems to me that people who accuse *Plain Truth* of partiality, or of having some political, racist, or sexist "angle" usually are influenced by their own prejudices, reading things into the articles which are not there, or imputing motives by assumption.

My experience is that *Plain Truth* has always striven to point out that in this sick world, there are serious faults on all sides, and that a portion of blame for the evils of the world accrues to all nations, all political and religious factions, both sexes, all age groups and every living person individually.

R.A.W., Hull, England

I am not used to writing letters of this sort very often, but I felt I just had to write and tell you how much I appreciated your article (The Ecology of Human Relations) in this month's *Plain Truth*. The article makes its point so naturally, and develops so easily that the conclusion seems obvious.

I think the illustrations you used were particularly good. The examples of the supermarket and the telephone dialling were really down-to-earth and familiar. The article is just the right length — not too long and not too short. The title has been thoughtfully devised to catch the eye and make the reader want to know what lies behind the catch-phrase. And the anecdote at the beginning, drawn from a real-life example, is so different and interesting that it just naturally draws the reader further into the article, and keeps alive the interest. The way you have constructed the article, using quotes and examples at the right places, produces a very clear and logical story-flow that naturally leads the reader to the right conclusion, and somehow uses language that is more familiar and doesn't carry any sort of traditional religious stigma.

Please accept my enthusiastic congratulations. I think you have done a great job, and I would like to encourage

you to keep it coming! We need more of this kind of article to really convince people and make them think.

G.B.,

Harrow, Middx., England

I have long been an avid reader of *Plain Truth* and always admired the generous and genuinely disinterested way in which you make so many free copies of your monthly magazine available to the British public.

Bearing the title of your magazine in mind, namely *Plain Truth*, and realizing too that accuracy is a constituent part of truth, I must draw your attention to Wolfgang Thomsen's article on the conditions in communist East Germany entitled "Across the Oder-Neisse, Life is Better Now" (October 1975). Despite his North German name, Herr Thomsen has little geographical knowledge of Oder-Neisse. In fact, at the Potsdam Conference of 1945 at which the former German Reich was tri-parted, the rivers Oder and Neisse were laid down as forming the provisional eastern boundary of Germany with Poland. . . .

Hence, Herr Thomsen's title "Across the Oder-Neisse", if accurate, could only refer to Poland, *not* East Germany. . . .

E.W.B.,

Croydon, England

• *The choice of the title — and the source of the totally unintentional geographical error — lies with our editorial staff, not author Thomsen, who also pointed out the misplaced border, unfortunately after publication. We are sorry for the confusion it may have caused our readership.*

#### NOTE TO FIJI READERS

At last it is possible for you to donate to the work of *Plain Truth* in Fiji using your own currency.

For details, write to:

*Plain Truth*,  
P.O. Box 2709, Auckland, N.Z.

I am a relatively new reader of *Plain Truth*, but something which I observed, almost at once, was that unlike most magazines *Plain Truth's* main ambition is to educate instead of entertain and I approve and enjoy of the property in *Plain Truth*. Most of articles published are interesting, informative and overflowing with truth and enthusiasm.

My complaint, therefore, is addressed to a certain sector of the public, anyone with average intelligence can tell us of the world's strife, the causes of our plight and the persons to blame. But, alas, very few can give us a practical solution to the problems of the modern world. Perhaps if certain people would stop blaming and throwing accusations around and would get down to the hard, even impossible, task of finding the answers, then we would have a better chance of survival.

Y.W.,

Tynemouth, Devon, England

It is with regret that I read the views expressed by Mr. Herbert Armstrong in your August copy of *Plain Truth*.

It is a very sad thing a man should be so utterly unaware of the meaning of Christianity and yet believe himself to be a man of God. . . . He reminds me very much of the man in the temple, who when he prayed "Thanked God he was not as other men", and you remember Christ's judgment of him? We are *forbidden* by Him to judge and condemn other men, we are *commanded* to love one another, *not hate*. The vicious attack made on homosexuals, is both unchristian and not true.

At this present time, one in twenty people born are homosexuals and *no one* neither the medical world, or the psychologist can find the cause.

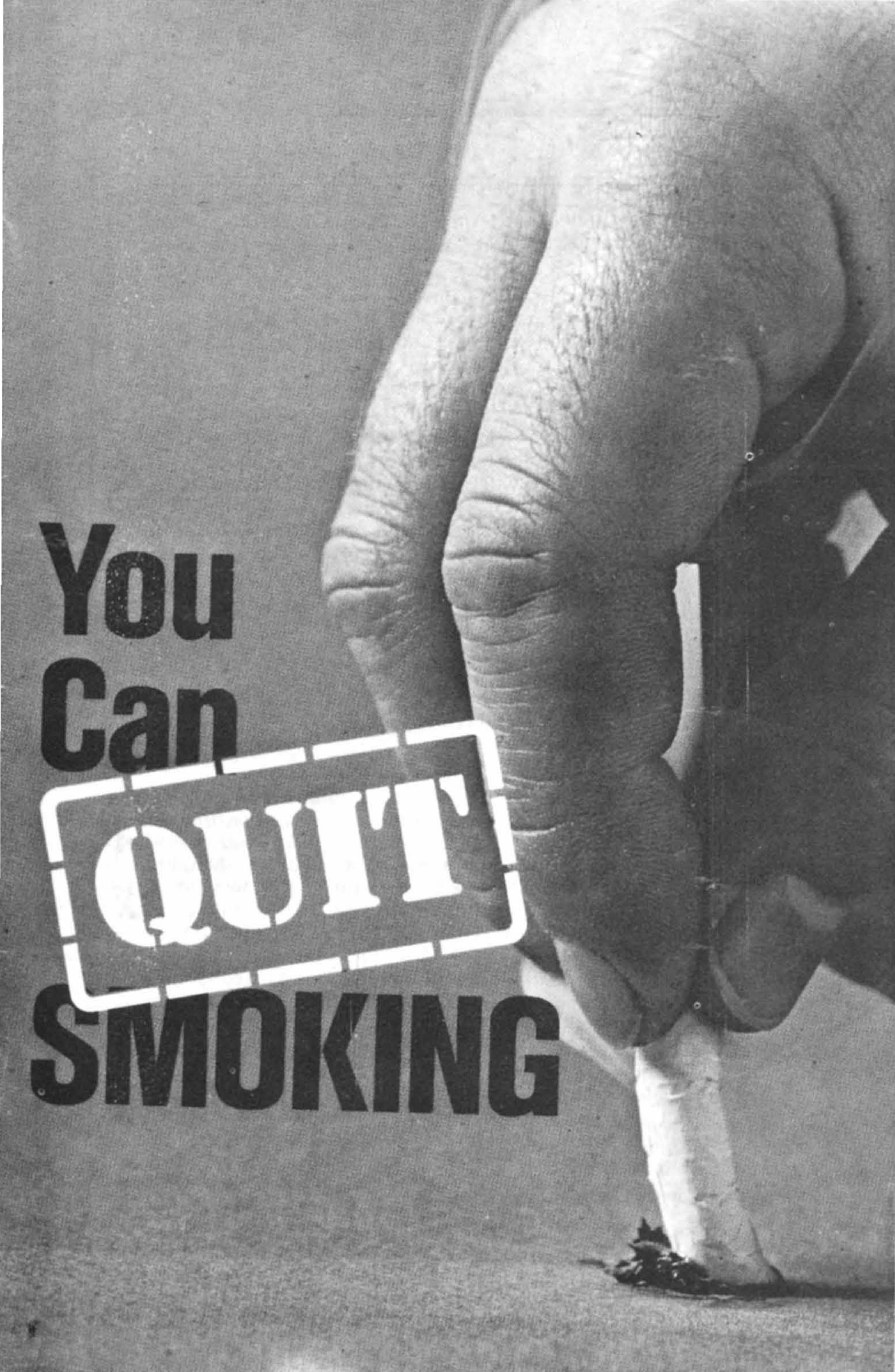
There are a number of people in the Church of England who know, and live among these people as I do, seeing very often the despair and isolation they have to face. Do you really suppose men and women would *choose* to face the negative and often, the hatred of other people, let along the sneers?

There is absolutely no "cure" for a *true homosexual*, a bisexual, yes maybe. They are as God has seen fit to make them, and when you disprove and reject them, you reject Him.

Christ knew all about mankind. He did not live in a fool's paradise. Nothing is hid from Him, and yet He said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another" and "Let he who is *without sin* cast the first stone."

Mrs. C.F.,

Catford, London, England



**You  
Can**

**QUIT**

**SMOKING**

**SMOKING is claimed to be the number-one preventable cause of disease.**

*Yet, despite dire warnings, millions continue to puff away. Smoking advocates claim it is pleasing to the senses, enjoyable, fun. They say it is relaxing, restful, and refreshing. Some even insist that smoking is harmless!*

**What are the FACTS? Is smoking harmful to health? WHY do millions continue to smoke in spite of warnings from top health authorities? HOW can YOU QUIT?**

**Read the answers in this vital, informative booklet! If you're a smoker, IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

**plain truth** •

P.O. Box 2709, Auckland, 1, New Zealand  
P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220

Please send me a copy of the free booklet  
**You Can Quit Smoking**

(Please print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_