

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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WHERE WE ARE, NOW!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Let's not take everyday routine of events for granted. Let's awake to the REALITY of where we are in the panorama of world events. For we are in a very SERIOUS time!

As we approach perhaps the greatest Feast of Tabernacles in 1900 years, we need to be conscious that we are approaching CLOSER THAN WE THINK the very tremendous event this Festival pictures to us--the millennial world reign of the KINGDOM OF GOD!

At the Feast last year we had the new book ready on "THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL." This year we have another book ready to distribute at the Feast, one to each family, about the very event we are attending to celebrate--the wonderful world as it will be for a thousand years, ruled by THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

I have just finished reading again this entire book--though it is not a thick book. I had not read it or seen it since writing it more than two years ago. I am my own worst critic, but for this book I will say I am not displeased because it does not seem as if I wrote it--but that Christ inspired and I merely typed it at His dictation.

I AM dissatisfied with the cover and the outer paper flap. That can be changed before the book is put on the market in bookstores. But the book itself, I feel, is inspired and inspiring--as well as TIMELY!

I have said before, it has seemed as if God had purposely held up and delayed the progression of prophesied world events. And undoubtedly to give us time to get ourselves--HIS CHURCH--ready for these final climactic events and Christ's coming to RULE! But NOW there are significant signs that these events will be SPEEDED UP. The "resurrection" of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire," the Great Tribulation, and the plagues of the first phase of the "Day of the Lord," will in all probability come rather suddenly and unexpectedly on us.

Many of the present Pope John Paul II's activities point to the fact that he can be the pope that will initiate this European reunion, in a "United States of Europe." As a matter of fact, his having come from Poland, and the effect of his visit there indicate that instead of the coming "resurrected" Holy Roman Empire including such nations of Israelitish ancestry as Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the ten nations to compose it may include such nations, now Russian satellites, as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia. The latter two are long since, to a considerable degree, independent of the Kremlin. The Soviet Union may soon experience a breakaway of some of the Balkan satellite nations. It does seem that the nations of Israelitish ancestry, in western and north-

western Europe, would likely be excluded from the coming ten-nation "Roman Empire."

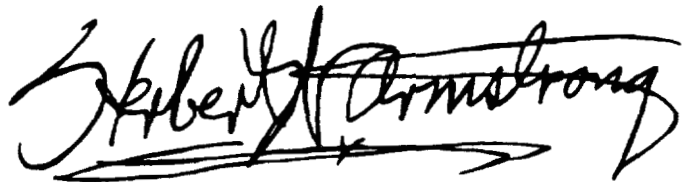
Once in a while I cannot avoid reflecting on the fact that I have lived a longer-than-average life. From the viewpoint that most lives have ended several years earlier than mine, I could certainly conclude--as I am aware many have concluded--that my lifetime is nearing its end--though I know God can keep me alive as long as He needs me in His Work and His Church. Abraham, Moses, and others lived to a much older life than I have so far.

Yet this very circumstance makes me realize that THIS WORLD is now very old, and nearing its END! We are in the LAST DAYS! I think it is important that you ministers and wives realize this fact--that the imminency of the END of this present evil world's life is much more real than many of us have realized.

As we approach this year's Feast of Tabernacles, it is important that we REALIZE that--that although Christ has moved swiftly this past year and more to set His Church back on God's track, we as a Church are NOT yet ready for either the protection promised us from the imminent GREAT TRIBULATION, or the coming of Christ.

What we all need seriously now is real FASTING, and fervent PRAYER, before the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles!

We must be vigilant in this, and put it first in our lives to avoid neglect--for TIME IS NOW SHORTER THAN EVER!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

In a recent Pastor General's Report Mr. Armstrong referred to the important difference between Quality and Quantity, a concept that certainly holds true in regard to membership in God's Church. This vital factor was ignored by some in the past when the ministry was asked (not by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong) to create a 10% growth in each local congregation. As a result, the requirements for baptism in many cases were completely watered down. To baptize just for the sake of filling a quota is not scriptural--not God's way! The bottom line is a fraudulent or invalid baptism for the individual concerned, and a shameful neglect of responsibility on the part of the minister.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong's instructions to the ministry are to conduct in-depth counsellings for baptism to determine whether or not the prospective member really understands what repentance is all about, had made an unconditional surrender to God and had accepted all church doctrines, so we may all speak the same thing (I Cor. 1:10). The prospective member should have a total change of mind and heart and direction of life, from the self-centered way of vanity, greed, and hostility to authority to the God-

centered way of obedience to God's Law, submission to authority, and love and concern for other human beings equal to self concern!

A person cannot simply decide to repent and so as a matter of routine, just "repent."

Jesus Christ said that none can come to Him, except the spirit of the Father draws him (John 6:44,65). God then grants repentance (Rom. 2:4). The person is brought to real repentance--totally conquered by God--to obey His Law! Remember what Jesus says in Luke 14:25-33 about counting the cost before following Him. Anyone who is not willing to forsake all that he has cannot be Christ's disciple. The role of a minister in counselling for baptism is a sober responsibility and must not be taken lightly. Fulfilling that responsibility with utmost care will virtually eliminate the past problems of invalid baptisms.

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

PASTOR GENERAL'S HOTLINE TAPE SCHEDULE

The August 21 edition of the Pastor General's Report mentioned that you would be receiving a schedule for your calls to the Pastor General's Hotline WATS tapes. These news of the Work tapes will be made by Mr. Armstrong whenever possible, or a member of his Pasadena staff, to help keep the entire Church current on the latest happenings.

Preferred Calling Times

We will begin airing two tapes per week October 29, 1979. A new tape message will be available each Monday and Thursday morning at 8 AM Pasadena time. However, we request that each Church Pastor, or someone he assigns, call between 11 AM and 12 noon their time, if possible. This way calls will be arriving at four different times here in Pasadena because of the four different time zones across the nation.

These are your preferred times, but if you wish to call at another time, please call between 8 AM and 5 PM Pasadena time. Please do not call Saturday or Sunday. We have no staff for Saturday, and we need to keep the lines open Sunday in order to take literature requests from people watching "The World Tomorrow."

The Number To Call

Use our basic WATS number: 1-800-423-4444. Those calling from California, Alaska, or Hawaii should place a collect call to 213-577-5225. Give the WATS operator the special identification code. (The code remains the same as before).

If you receive a busy signal, or your call is answered by our answering machine which asks for your name and address, hang up and try again after five minutes. We are limited in the number of calls our WATS line can take at any one time.

If you have questions you would like to hear answered on these tapes, feel free to state them at the time you call. We will pass them on to Mr. Kevin Dean.

Message Verification

This WATS phone service can also be used to verify the authenticity of a message phoned to you by the National Phone Network. You simply tell the WATS operator you wish to confirm the most recent National Phone Network message, and give the identification code.

Call ANY TIME to verify a "Priority 1" message--and only during the hours of 8-5, Pasadena time, to confirm "Priority 2, 3, or 4" messages phoned to you.

This Hotline service will be suspended for the Feast period between Monday, October 1st to Friday, October 19th (inclusive).

Any further questions about this telephone service should be directed to Kevin Dean, (213) 577-5186.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

FEAST SITES DAMAGED BY HURRICANES

Recently, three Feast of Tabernacles sites have been severely threatened by hurricanes! Savannah, St. Petersburg and Biloxi have all faced exposure to these dreaded storms. St. Petersburg escaped, but Savannah and Biloxi experienced damage--threatening our observance of the Feast of Tabernacles in those areas.

Savannah

Hurricane David hit the Savannah area September 5. The Savannah Mayor John P. Rousakis said, "We expected the worst and were grateful that there were no fatalities. David was no gentleman. He was mean, but not devastating."

Savannah had looked Hurricane David in the eye and survived. Most of the complications were power blackouts, telephone service failure and dangling live electrical wires. About 60,000 homes were without electricity and an estimated 90 homes in the surrounding area were damaged by falling trees.

All of the motels reserved in the area survived, so, everyone's housing reservations in the area remain undisturbed. The storm damaged about 4,000 square feet of roofing on the Civic Center building which we use for Festival services, causing water to gush into the theater balcony and orchestra pit. However, the Chamber of Commerce has assured us that this damage is being fully repaired and will in no wise affect our services or activities there.

Biloxi

This area was hit by Hurricane Frederic on September 12--exactly 10 years to the day that the same area was devastated by Hurricane Camille. When Frederic hit Biloxi, it was a more severe storm than David was at the time it struck Savannah. The auditorium survived undamaged, but we have lost the use of several motels in the Biloxi area.

The area just to the east of Biloxi, including Mobile, Alabama, received the worst destruction from the storm. Only one of the motels we have lost

was actually destroyed by Frederic. The others, interestingly enough, have been confiscated by the Emergency Preparedness Crews and will not be available for at least two months.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE that numerous church families attending in Biloxi will have to be reassigned housing in other facilities. We are presently attempting to contact the area but are hampered by phone lines which are still out of order. Only today (Monday, September 17) have we been able to get in touch with anyone by phone in that area. It no doubt will be necessary for Al Garrett, our Biloxi Housing Officer, to make a special trip to Biloxi to replace the housing units we have lost and examine the others to be sure they are suitable for church members attending the Festival.

Please encourage everyone attending Biloxi to be patient. By the next Pastor General's Report we will be able to announce the motels we have lost and the procedure we will be using to notify members concerning their new housing assignments.

--Sherwin McMichael, Festival Dept.

CHURCH PASTORS TO RECEIVE NEW COLLEGE CATALOG

Seemingly everyone is commenting on how enthusiastic and highly motivated the freshman students are at Ambassador this year. We are off to a great College year--with God's continued blessing.

Very shortly all Church Pastors will be receiving the latest Ambassador College Undergraduate Catalog. Since we haven't had a catalog in over two years, we thought it good to send it to you as soon as it comes off the press.

This year's catalog reflects the new thrust of the College. For example, after an absence of several years, Mr. Armstrong's "Founder's Statement" is once again in the front section of the catalog. It contains some very important concepts. It has probably been many years since many of you have had the opportunity to read the "Founder's Statement," so we are sure you will appreciate seeing it again.

We hope this catalog will help you not only to better understand what the College is doing, but also help you in counselling young people in your congregation who have questions about Ambassador.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the catalog, please drop us a line. We of the College administration and faculty certainly do appreciate your input, especially in the area of evaluating prospective students.

We ask your prayers that we may keep Ambassador on track. We must keep it the kind of God-centered College which Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong intended when he, under God's guidance, founded it over thirty-two years ago.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

"ON A LIGHTER NOTE"

Last Thursday afternoon, Mr. Jim Thornhill and I visited with Mr. Armstrong in Tucson. It was an extremely profitable and enjoyable visit. First of all we previewed a videotape showing the kind of dancing

we taught this year at summer camp, and the standards we were aiming for at college, church and Y.O.U. dances.

Mr. Armstrong was very pleased with the demonstration presented by Ambassador graduate Chris Moen and his partner Janne Barrett, a college Junior. He stressed the need for close supervision of the dances and a balanced and moderate selection of music. In keeping with Mr. Armstrong's wishes, we are once again sending tapes from headquarters for the Festival Y.O.U. disco dances along with guidelines for the coordinators and members at each site.

We concluded our visit around the piano where I was able to play several selections for Mr. Armstrong including "disco" versions of "Alice Blue Gown" and Beethoven's "Fifth." We'll have more information for you in the near future on our goals in achieving balance in this very sensitive, but extremely important area of our social activities.

--Ross Jutsum, Music Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Last week we used up the remaining 18,000 PT newspaper inserts (a sample of which we included in the August 14 Pastor General's Report) in the Palm Springs Desert Sun, a newspaper whose readership is perhaps among the most affluent and influential in the nation. The response should prove to be very interesting, especially when compared with San Diego and Sacramento, the other test cities in which we used this promotion.

You may remember that the insert is up front about what we are trying to do and is not hiding behind a news magazine approach. It is open about our message, the Church and the Bible. We have found that this approach is best in the long run. It gives us a lower initial response, but a much better quality of reader; one who knows what to expect from The PLAIN TRUTH.

This is the time of year when we look at what we've achieved over the past 12 months. A lot of water has gone under the bridge, as they say. We've had our problems, but we've worked to overcome them. The enemies of God's Church tried hard to disrupt the Work early this year, but with God's help we didn't miss a beat in publishing. We were closed down and locked out twice, but somehow we made up the time by coming in at night and working doubly hard when we got the doors opened up again. The magazines kept rolling off the presses around the world. Publishing of the gospel was not disrupted. For this we should be very thankful.

Some interesting figures for the past year are that we printed over 30 million magazines, booklets and mailings, worldwide, amounting to over 1,500 tons of paper. When converted back to trees this would amount to over 70 acres of forest--a totally incredible fact when you consider all this was given away free. Next year's trees are growing somewhere in the forests, waiting to serve us in this great commission!

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS GROUPS JOIN FIGHT IN U.S. SUPREME COURT

Various church organizations and other groups deeply concerned over the State of California's violation of the Church's constitutional rights and freedoms, have been watching our case with increasing alarm. We now have before the nation's highest tribunal a special petition asking, in effect, that the U.S. Supreme Court review this case closely now (before it would ordinarily reach that Court) because of the extraordinarily grave constitutional implications of what the California Attorney General is doing. Just recently a number of these groups have "spoken up" by filing supporting briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court in behalf of the Church. Below is an article which appeared in today's Pasadena Star-News (reprinted by permission) reporting on a news conference called in Washington D.C. by some of these groups in further support of the Church's rights.

Church receivership criticized as illegal

By DAN MEYERS
Star-News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The State of California in effect "established a religion" when it took control of assets and management of the Worldwide Church of God, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney said Monday.

"It is very clear to us that the actions of the state have violated ... the First Amendment," said the attorney, Nina Kraut, assistant legal director for the ACLU Washington office.

Speaking at a press conference, Ms. Kraut and Lee Boothby, a lawyer for a Maryland group called Americans United for Separation of Church and State, criticized the state for putting the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church in receivership beginning Jan. 3.

Superior Court Judge Jerry Pacht ordered the action after six former members of the religious group accused church leaders of misusing and not accounting for church finances.

Attorneys for the church have lost a series of attempts to have

the receivership order rescinded. They now are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case when the court reconvenes in October.

The ACLU, Americans United, the Alliance for the Preservation of Religious Liberty, the Institute for the Study of American Religion, and the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council have filed a brief in support of the church's position.

"No First Amendment right is absolute," Ms. Kraut said. But she added that the state "overreacted" when it took control of the Worldwide Church of God.

Boothby said, "The State of California has intruded itself violently" in the case.

The attorneys said their support of the church was based on principles of freedom of religion, not on an analysis of the charges of financial abuse that prompted the receivership order.

"Whatever the abuses may or may not be, they do not warrant" such extreme action, Boothby said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSThe Netherlands

The month of July is the vacation month in Holland. Many people have 3 to 4 weeks vacation and consequently incoming mail is slow and very low: 457 letters were received and 224 donor/co-worker letters. However, our income shows a 11.57% increase over the previous month, a healthy sign indeed. Our attendance over one year ago is plus 10.42% and requests for visits keep coming in. The quality of the visit requests is very high and interest is very positive.

Our newspaper advertising campaign is to start this month covering the Northern and Eastern provinces of the Netherlands. A series of three lectures for PT readers has been scheduled for October 31, November 7 and 14 this year in the city of Zwolle.

We are looking forward to a most enjoyable Feast. This may be the largest Feast we ever had in Holland. So far we have 77 foreign people scheduled to attend. This should bring our total attendance to about 300. This year we will have Mr. & Mrs. Peter Michielsen from Calgary, Canada visiting for the Feast and assisting Mr. Bram de Bree (the Dutch Regional Director) in the speaking (in Dutch). A simultaneous English translation will be provided.

Philippines

Our incoming mail continued to show a healthy upward trend as compared with previous months--a good total of 7,661 letters. Also, we processed and sent out 23,957 mail matters; almost 80% of this volume can be attributed to the warm responses brought about by booklets offered in our Subscriber Development Program.

However, as early as March this year, we had to slow down or stop the promotion of PTs by way of insert coupons to keep the PT copies to a financially manageable level of 50,000. Nevertheless, our latest statistics showed 50,953 Philippine subscribers as of August 13.

Churches: We have 19 Churches or local congregations and 9 outlying Bible studies. Church attendance totals 1,682 and local Bible study attendance totals 1,354. Bible study attendance in the 9 outlying areas is 195.

Finances: Increase in August this year compared to August of last year was 46.50%. Income from January to August this year registered an increase of 25.90% over the same period last year.

Plain Truth Lecture: Mr. Adair conducted a PT lecture on August 4 in Davao City, some 1,000 kilometers south of Manila. There were 130 new people out of the 172 who attended; the rest were members. These people were invited to a special Bible seminar the following day and thirty-seven new people came, out of the total attendance of 77 which included members.

Speaking Engagements: Mr. Bien Macaraeg, Elder of Metro Manila Church, spoke on sex and dating at the Eulogio Rodriguez Institute of Technology. Present were 400 students. The first speaker was a Catholic priest who is a radio personality and magazine columnist. He apparently beat about the bush on his basic theme that "as long as one has love he can express it any way he wants." Mr. Macaraeg's message, on the other hand, aroused

great interest and one of the nuns in the audience was quoted as saying, "Very good, very good," as Mr. Macaraeg answered many follow-up questions.

Mr. Pete Melendez, a Local Elder, spoke before 60 students and faculty of the Philippine National School for the Blind in Pasay City, Metro Manila, August 30. He spoke on the subject, "How to Develop Confidence." The students (ages 16 and above) and faculty were enthusiastic about the subject and asked many questions during the forum following the lecture. The invitation came about as a result of a suggestion by a blind member of God's Church who is presently enrolled in that school. The lecture was actually the first in a series on social behavior and human development as applied to the blind. Succeeding lectures which will be held monthly, will cover such topics as laws of success, family relationships, dating and marriage.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

MAIL COMMENTS

Mr. Armstrong's radio and television programs are having an increasing impact on our listeners and viewers. Mail responses indicate many people are being led to an understanding of God's Way. Following are a few example letters.

--Mail Processing Center

Radio and Television Responses

This morning I turned on my radio and got the last half of your sermon, but that was enough to wake me up to the fact that I was going at finding God the wrong way. I've been trying to proposition God to let me have financial security in return for my being a part of His Kingdom.

The little business that I had going, "Bob's Key and Lock Service" --a good key concession in a local department store--I had to close up and move because the store manager would not renew my lease. This happened last Friday. I was dumbfounded. So this Sunday morning to say I was "depressed" is putting it mildly. While having my morning coffee I thought I'd turn on the news, but instead of news, you came on the air. I thought I'd listen--maybe a sermon might help. And did it help!

I sincerely believe that God had something to do with me tuning in to get the morning news, as your sermon certainly woke me up to the fact that I'm the guy that's been going at this thing all wrong--"God, you help me and I'll help you." What a laugh! So please, Mr. Armstrong, mail me the literature as mentioned on your program.

--Robert C. Allen (Pompano Beach, FL)

Each evening as I listen to you, again and again I am moved to tell you how much I appreciate truths you have spoken through the years on The WORLD TOMORROW broadcasts. I am so very grateful, and even though some of the tapes were made some years ago, God's truths are

EVER new! I thank God for your ever-loyal service to Him and us who listen and love God's truth.

--Mrs. Jewel B. Wray (Atlanta, GA)

Still good to hear you, Mr. Armstrong, on the radio because you speak with authority in your voice--very little is spoken today with authority (conviction) by our leaders! They simply are not convincing. Consequently, their statements are not believed by the masses. Keep up your good works.

--Robert Caylor (Anderson, IN)

I saw your program about repentance and the White Throne Judgment on Channel 4, WDAF, Kansas City, Missouri. I really enjoyed it. Thank you for bringing more knowledge for me to work on.

--Chris Theiss (Liberty, MO)

I just want to take time again to tell you how much enjoyment and excitement I get when I hear you on radio talking about the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. It really lights up my life and gives me something special to look forward to in the world tomorrow. I just can't seem to get enough of the spiritual food. I do hunger and thirst after righteousness.

--Mrs. Leonard Harris (Newark, NJ)

I have been listening to Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts and find them enlightening, with easily understood explanations of the Bible.

--LeRoy McKee (Indianapolis, IN)

"Right on!" Sir, to put it in a very hip way. I love your programs and have never been more inspired in all the nearly ten years of contact with God's Work!

--Mrs. Barbara L. Graham (Hebron, IN)

At last I've tuned in to a man that talks sense. I'm tired of these church rip-offs, and when you need counseling or help they're not around.

--M. Bryant (Lower Lake, CA)

I am incarcerated in the Indiana Prison at Westville Correctional Center, and I listen to your broadcast on WMAQ Radio, Chicago, Illinois. I was most impressed by your sermon on abundant life and what it really means. I am coming out of prison a better man than I went in--I am coming out with the love of God. Thank you sincerely for the love of God that you minister to your fellowman.

--Michael Reed (Westville, IN)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

KISSINGER TELLS EUROPEANS: "DON'T COUNT ON US;" THE FRENCH LAUNCH NUCLEAR "TRIAL BALLOON." The after-holiday political season in Europe has opened with a flurry of activity.

In early September, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a NATO study group meeting in Brussels that Europeans could no longer count on the United States to guarantee their security. NATO's strategic security philosophy, he said, is based on an out-of-date American nuclear doctrine to which he had contributed while in office and which is no longer valid because of growing Soviet power.

American nuclear doctrine, which rests on "assured destruction" of Soviet cities, industry and population, is no longer valid, Kissinger said, because of "the total vulnerability of the United States." (Kissinger's spoken words "total vulnerability" were downgraded to "limited vulnerability" in the official transcript typed up afterwards.)

Addressing a top-level experts' conference in Brussels on "NATO--the Next 30 Years," the former secretary of state said: "Don't you Europeans keep asking us to multiply assurances we cannot possibly mean, and if we did mean should not want to execute, and if we did execute would destroy civilization. That is our strategic dilemma into which we have built ourselves by our theories and the encouragement of our allies. It is not a declining will, but an objective problem. Of course a President will threaten, but will he do it?" (The phrase, "but will he do it?" was changed to "but is it a realistic course.")

NATO's unity, of course, has been based for 30 years on the premise that the United States would do it--would, in other words, treat an attack on Europe as an attack on the United States. In 1962 Charles De Gaulle decided the U.S. never would risk losing New York to save Paris and declared that France would go its own way in defense. The other allies have constantly asked the United States for reassurance on that point and received it. Now Kissinger seems to be retracting it.

"I have contributed some of these theories so I am not casting any blame," said Kissinger. "I have sat around the NATO Council table in Brussels and elsewhere and have uttered the magic words that the U.S. military commitment remained undiminished which had a profoundly reassuring effect, and which permitted the /allied/ ministers to return home with a rationale for not increasing defense expenditures. And my successors have uttered the same reassurances. And yet if my analysis is correct these words cannot be true, and if my analysis is correct we must face the fact that it is absurd to base the strategy of the West on the credibility of the threat of mutual suicide."

Kissinger urged a rapid overhaul of U.S. doctrine, substituting a "counter-force" strategy that would concentrate on strategic Soviet military targets. At the same time, there would be development of a new system of "Eurostrategic" nuclear weapons in western Europe, which would be integrated into such a strategy. These would counterbalance the monstrous SS-20's the Soviets have targeted on major European cities.

Kissinger's message, reported Morton Kondracke in the New Republic, "was such a shock that it became the center of conference debate." Don Cook, writing in the Los Angeles Times added: "It is a rather sobering beginning to NATO's next 30 years to have one of America's most spectacular secretaries of state now saying that all the assurances he had given the alliance in the past were eyewash."

"The Window"

Kissinger, elaborating on some of his points, said in conversation that he thinks there is a period of about three years (others call it the "1,000-day period") in which the United States and its allies can turn the situation from growing vulnerability back to reasonable security. Unless this occurs the United States and its allies will enter the so-called "window of peril" period (or Moscow's "open window of military opportunity")--roughly the time between 1981 and 1986, when the new MX missile system is expected to come on stream. During this "time of unusual peril" (to use the terminology of columnist Ernest Conine) the Soviets could either invade the west, or more likely, translate their military superiority into one of nuclear blackmail, or at the very least, heavy political leverage against Western Europe (the so-called "finlandization" syndrome).

French Ask Germans to Upgrade Their Nuclear Force

Mr. Kissinger has finally spoken the unspeakable words--that Europe is in a far more vulnerable position than anyone dared realize. Yet, the French, for one, have suspected this "ugly fact" for a long time.

And now the French--unofficially--have called for closer military cooperation in the nuclear field with the West Germans. The first Frenchmen to broach the idea, in mid-August, were Gaullists--despite the Gaullists' expressed fears that the West Germans would sell out NATO in return for any Soviet hint at possible German reunification.

The two Gaullists, retired general Georges Buis and politician Alexandre Sanguinetti, floated their idea in the unlikely pages of the leftist Nouvel Observateur. (London's Daily Telegraph called it a "spectacular trial balloon.") They argued that France now needs West Germany's money to stay in nuclear competition with the super powers.

The Gaullists' opener was accompanied by a new book by three young French officers called "Euroshima," urging France to share its nuclear power with other Europeans instead of continuing to go it alone. The three--including two officers on active duty--hardly speak for the French Government. Yet readers were quick to note that under French regulations they could not have published their treatise without the approval of their superiors.

"So far, the West Germans aren't nibbling," reports the Christian Science Monitor. Initial German comment has warned of an adverse Soviet reaction to any West German access to nuclear weapons that isn't harnessed to the Americans. Several newspapers reminded the French of West Germany's voluntary treaty renunciation of nuclear weapons of its own. The conservative Die Welt editorialized that "such wild utopian ideas...should be filed in the folder /marked/ 'curiosities.'"

In fact a new West German Defense white paper unequivocally rejects any thought of a European nuclear force decoupled from the U.S. "Nothing could be farther from the aim of the federal government than to create a European nuclear force," the paper states. But, of course, the white paper expresses the view of the current Social Democratic Party in power. (Look for Franz Josef Strauss, former conservative Defense Minister and now CDU Chancellor candidate, to get much political mileage out of the Kissinger bombshell.)

In other areas, the Germans and the French are co-operating to a remarkable degree, in a relationship the New York Times Magazine calls "the new entente cordiale." As doubts about America grow--and as long as Mr. Carter is in power--their mutual interests are bound to intensify.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

