

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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CORRESPONDENCE COURSE TO TAKE ON NEW LIFE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The Ambassador College Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE is to start a new life and be greatly expanded--still under direction of Mr. Richard Sedliacik.

Mr. Sedliacik is coming to Tucson on Thursday of this week to go over plans for the expansion with me.

We may use much of the older former 58-lesson course--after editing and updating. But the lessons will go back to a new lesson every month, year after year continuously.

Many are excited about the renewal and expansion of the Correspondence Course. It did much through the years to help build God's Church.

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NEW TV AND RADIO PROGRAMS

A new office, and broadcasting studio is now nearing completion here in Tucson. I am setting myself to the task of producing six new half-hour TV programs a week, and also seven new radio programs a week, in addition to general executive management and oversight of the entire work of the Church, Ambassador College, and the Ambassador Foundation.

Ambassador College is now "back on the track" and running smoothly. God's Church is once again GOD'S Church. And, in connection with the Foundation, the WORLDWIDE personal evangelism of the Church is leaping forward as never before.

In a little over two weeks I shall be leaving on a visit to Jerusalem, to Cairo and Bricket Wood. First stop will be Chicago. On the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread, I will speak to some four or five thousand members from surrounding churches at Chicago--then from there on overseas. When we come back, the plane will have its annual inspection and overhaul for some two or three weeks, and then off for Moscow and Warsaw.

At Moscow, in addition to meeting some of the Kremlin leaders, we hope to arrange for a scholarship in the performing arts where winners annually in such arts as ballet and gymnastics will make first performances at the Ambassador Auditorium. The Foundation will arrange for their bookings all the way across the United States, winding up at Lincoln Center in New York.

Mr. Rader was in Moscow making preliminary arrangements a week ago. In our visit to Moscow, as in China, we are to be housed in a government Guest House, as guests of the USSR. They are very friendly to us in the Kremlin, but right now very hostile toward President Carter and the government at Washington. At least that is the attitude they express to us. Mr. Rader also stopped over in Warsaw and everything there is all set for our visit. I will meet the very top officials and speak before groups of leaders.

Mr. Rader called me the other day from Tokyo. He is now again in China, where he has speaking engagements before four University Law School groups--one in the far north in Manchuria, north of North Korea. Mr. Rader tells me that while speaking to Law School audiences on International Law, he does have opportunity to get in announcements about the coming Kingdom of God.

Mr. and Mrs. Rader will return by way of Moscow, to finalize arrangements for my visit, and we will meet at Jerusalem. The Raders will continue from there with us.

Obviously, in a Communist country where there is no religious freedom and the national "religion" is atheism, I cannot use such Biblical terms as "salvation," "repentance," "forgiveness of sins," etc. Yet God has shown me how to carry to them the GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God--the true GOSPEL--by using such simple terms as "GIVE" and "GET." I explain that the "GIVE" way is really outflowing LOVE--the way of serving, helping, cooperating and sharing. But the "GET" way is SELF-centeredness, vanity, coveting, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife which lead to destruction, violence and war, and rebellion against authority.

In countries like China and Russia, they UNDERSTAND this. As a matter of fact, many professing Christians still do not really understand the meaning of "REPENT." It means MUCH MORE than emotional remorse or being sorry.

A Methodist Bishop was speaking in one of the smaller churches. His sermon was on "Repentance," but with all his scholarly explanation, he was unable to make these simple church people understand. A black man near the rear of the church held up a hand and asked if he could speak.

"I think I can show the people what you mean, Sir," he said. The Bishop told him to go ahead and explain. The man got out into the aisle and began walking rapidly toward the pulpit, saying "I'm going to hell! I'm going to hell!" Reaching the front he turned around and began walking to the rear, saying "I'm going to heaven! I'm going to heaven! I'm going to heaven!" Then he turned back forward saying, "I think what you--all mean by Repentance, Sir, is to turn around and go the other way!" The congregation UNDERSTOOD!

In foreign countries--especially atheistic nations where there is NO freedom of religion, I have to do as the Apostle Paul did. He said, "Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law" (I Cor. 9:20). I also have to speak a language that they UNDERSTAND--and a language that is PERMISSIBLE in their country.

When I tell them that EVERY TROUBLE, EVERY EVIL IN THIS WORLD HAS COME FROM PEOPLE LIVING BY THE ATTITUDE OF "GET"--and that in the world to come, which world-famous scientists say (with a single world government) is our only hope of PEACE, we shall all have to turn around and go the way of "GIVE," they UNDERSTAND. And I have preached not only the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) of the coming Kingdom of God, but I have also shown that all must REPENT--turn from the way of "GET" to the way of "GIVE." Some in Peking the next day were overheard saying they never thought of that before--but turning from "GET" to "GIVE" is our only hope!

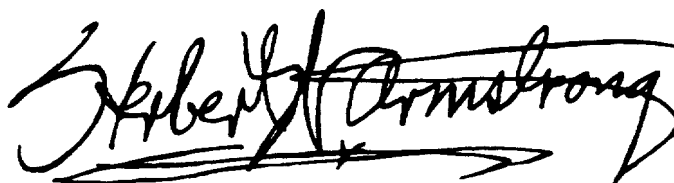
In every way the Work of GOD is leaping ahead once again.

Booklets that BUILT the Work during the 1950s and up to about 1967, which were either "killed," or, like the U.S. in Prophecy booklet, greatly reduced and the LIFE cut out of it--during a conspiracy to abolish everything I had ever written, and substitute new LIBERAL doctrines following the "STP" line--all those booklets are being brought back into print. The TRUTH of God, not a watered-down liberal and secular teaching, is once again going out IN POWER!

I have today gone thoroughly into the state of the Spanish work with Mr. Leon Walker and we have new advertising plans for pushing forward the Spanish Work, though it showed a big increase in 1979 over 1978.

Advertising in newspapers and magazines, and increasing numbers of radio and TV stations will be continued.

As long as we PLEASE JESUS CHRIST, God's Work will forge ahead. And as we increase in the fervency and earnestness of PRAYER in the right attitude, the Work will prosper!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

News From the Netherlands

Responses to the recent offer of Mr. Armstrong's book, TOMORROW, WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE? to all the 14,071 subscribers to "Echte Waarheid," the Dutch edition of the Plain Truth, have been received at the Utrecht office. Three hundred and twenty-seven people requested the book. This may not seem like many, but remember it was an offer of a publication in a "foreign" language to the Dutch.

Although Holland gives many a visitor the impression that many Dutch people speak English, the responses to English literature offers indicates that the vast majority of our readers are non-English speaking. The Good News circulation of 140 supports this.

A winter advertising campaign continues offering, in three newspapers, "Why Were You Born?" and over 330 responses have so far been received. Church attendance in Utrecht and Tilburg is near 200 each week, up 19.5% over 1979, and income is up 16.1% year to date.

New Zealand Update

Christ continues to bless His Work in New Zealand with exceptional income increases! This month's income was 24.6% up on that of February last year, even though that in turn had been 36.3% up on February 1978. Income for the year to date is now running at 23.7% above the same period in 1979. Mail continues to pour in at an increased rate too--this month 222% more mail was received than in February last year, bringing the year-to-date mail increase to 177%.

Part of this month's income comprised a donation of \$1,200 from an "opportunity shop" which has just been opened up by a group of women from the Auckland congregation. Situated in a very busy part of the city, the shop is selling second-hand goods of all types. After only three months of operation, income from the sale of goods has already well topped the \$2,000 mark. All proceeds are donated to the Work and are being split two ways--60% to the Work as general income and 40% to special projects and programs such as S.E.P. and Y.O.U. activities that benefit the Church throughout the country.

Almost 6,500 requests for Mr. Armstrong's book TOMORROW, WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE have now been received. And we have very good news from Tonga--the Plain Truth mailing list there has quadrupled as a result of a recent promotion to all of the Post Office Boxes in Nuku'alofa.

--Joe Tkach

NEW PETITIONS BACKING CHURCH FILED WITH U.S. SUPREME COURT

God's Church is in the news again as it goes to the U.S. Supreme Court in an effort to get an immediate review of the very important matters at stake in our legal standoff with the California Attorney General. Eighteen ecumenical, civil rights and religious groups are standing up to be counted. They have banded together into three groups in order to collectively ask the nation's highest tribunal to allow them, through three separate Amici Curiae ("friends of the court") briefs, to submit an "objective and knowledgeable point of view to aid it [the court] in considering the important issues..." in this premier church/state case.

In a press conference last week in Washington D.C., representatives of many of the supporting organizations went public about their interest in our case. And in so doing they are telling the court "This matter is of major concern to responsible national organizations interested in the preservation of civil freedom generally and in the avoidance of government entanglement in religious institutions specifically."

You will recall that in mid-November of last year the Church went to the California Supreme Court to seek relief from "discovery" proceedings in which the Attorney General had been authorized by the lower courts to pry into private Church matters. At the time we were gratified when 15 different organizations lent their support to the Church. Although the State's high court did not choose (by a very close margin of 4-3) to act at that time, it could not help but have noticed the impressive numbers that came forward then. There are even more involved this time as we go to the federal level. Last time the only really large constituency not represented in one way or another were those of the Jewish faith. This time we have The Synagogue Council of America which represents the three divisions of the Jewish religion: Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed.

Organizations in Support of the Church

1. National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
2. Synagogue Council of America
3. Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
4. Lutheran Church in America
5. Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches
6. Board of Church and Society, the United Methodist Church
7. William P. Thompson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
8. National Association of Evangelicals
9. Northern California Ecumenical Council
10. American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California
11. Americans United for Separation of Church and State Fund, Inc.
12. Institute for the Study of American Religion
13. Berkeley Area Interfaith Council
14. Christian Legal Society
15. Methodist Federation Fund
16. Committee to Defend the First Amendment Research Institute
17. Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity
18. Alliance for the Preservation of Religious Liberty

Newspaper Coverage

The press conference brought national exposure to the cause as it was announced and disseminated around the country. Here is a home-town version as seen in the March 8th Pasadena Star-News.

Worldwide church gets new support

By DAN MEYERS
Knight-Ridder Newspaper

WASHINGTON — The National Council of the Churches of Christ, representing 32 religious groups followed by 40 million Americans, has joined a Supreme Court battle on the side of the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God.

At issue, according to a "friend of the court" brief filed Friday, are "not just the rights of the Worldwide Church of God and its members ... but those of every religious body and every American."

The State of California, through the attorney general, has demanded numerous church documents on the basis of accusations by six former members of the church that its leader, Her-

bert W. Armstrong, and treasurer, Stanley Rader, misused church funds.

The Worldwide Church of God has lost attempts in lower courts to block the state from obtaining its records. Its Supreme Court appeal was filed Monday.

Last January the church was placed in receivership — literally put under the custody of the state. The receivership ended when church members posted a \$3.4 million bond.

The attorney general has argued that the church is a licensed California corporation that legally can be regarded as a charitable organization. As such, the state has the obligation to make sure the money is handled properly, attorneys for the state said.

But organizations ranging from the American Civil Liberties Union to the National Council of Churches of Christ have disagreed, charging that the attorney general is violating the separation between church and state.

"What we are really alarmed about," council spokesman Dean Kelley said Friday, "is not just this single case — appalling as it is — but the theory on which the

attorney general is proceeding: that the contributions made to a church create a charitable trust, which the state has the right and obligation to oversee.

"It is hard to believe it has been enunciated in the United States rather than in Iran or China or the Soviet Union."

Kelley stressed that his group is judging not whether Rader and Armstrong in fact misused funds, only whether the state acted properly in taking over the church rather than prosecuting individual officers of the church.

"Our support of its appeal is not an endorsement of that church or its leadership as such," Kelley said.

Attorney Laurence Tribe, who represents the Worldwide Church of God, said that the appeal for a Supreme Court review of the state's demand for the church's papers is the last legal recourse the church has to keep its records private.

Also joining as "friends of the court" are 17 other religious and civil rights groups who say the State of California has gone too far with the Worldwide Church of God.

EXCITING NEW DOORS OPENING TO NEWSSTAND PROGRAM!

Our compliments go to the 278 United States church areas involved in The PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Program! Each month 40%-50% of all new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers are added because 3,000 church members and their pastors are actively involved in distribution efforts.

The Program is growing as exciting new doors open. For example, Washington D.C. pastor Sherwin McMichael and Newsstand Coordinator William Fairchild report that distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH has begun in the Washington D.C. National Press Club. About 15 copies are being picked up daily. They also report that, among many other distribution points in Washington, The PLAIN TRUTH is being distributed at a vendor's newsstand across from the Executive Office Building. During a recent official visit to Washington, the President of Kenya and his large entourage stayed at Blair House, the official guest house for visiting heads of state. According to Mr. McMichael, the street vendor reported that The PLAIN TRUTH was being picked up by several of these visiting Kenyans.

In another area, Nashville, Tennessee, pastor James Friddle and Newsstand Coordinator, William Malone, report that after months of continuous effort, permission was granted by the Nashville City Council to place PLAIN TRUTH newsstands on public streets anywhere in the city. Six all-weather newsstands are now distributing almost 500 PLAIN TRUTH magazines per day.

Many pastors feel the newsstand program has been an excellent vehicle for church member involvement. Louisville, Kentucky pastor Ray Meyer relates, "The Newsstand Program has helped bring a greater degree of unity to our brethren. The members enjoy the opportunity to help support Mr. Armstrong in such a direct manner. They are encouraged because they have immediate visual proof of the 'fruit of their labors.'" Chattanooga pastor Bill Cowan says, "Personally, it is my opinion that this is one of the strongest means for the local church to back up Mr. Armstrong's efforts. It's encouraging to the brethren, it's creating a good image of the church, and it helps Mr. Armstrong get his job done."

Our thanks again to all involved.

--Publishing Services

"WHEN WILL MY LITERATURE ARRIVE?"

Periodically we are asked about the length of time it takes for literature to arrive, how our mailing system works, etc. In this issue we would like to explain to you a little more of the "inner workings" of the Mail Processing Center. We hope this information will be helpful to you in answering questions you receive about our mail service.

Almost all of our literature requests are sent from Pasadena via Third Class mail for the sake of economy. According to the official standards set by the U.S. Postal Service, Third Class items are to be delivered in ten days of being put into the mail. This is the stated goal, but in reality it often takes closer to 14-18 days. Thus, from the time we mail a booklet at the Pasadena post office until it reaches a destination on the East Coast, just about two to three weeks can be involved.

A Typical Example

Let's illustrate how a letter or WATS call would be fulfilled in terms of time:

1. A letter request for the Crime booklet is mailed to us on the first day of the month, say a Wednesday.
2. It takes three to five days to reach us, arriving on Sunday, the 5th. Or, in the case of a WATS call, we receive it on the 5th.
3. The request is processed into the computer usually the same day or the next. In this example, since our MPC offices are closed on the weekend, the processing could take place on a Monday or Tuesday, the 6th or 7th.
4. In order to save additional postage costs, we often try to mail in bulk shipments (sending a certain number of booklets at a time to get volume rates). This is achieved by generating address labels from the computer only once a week, usually Sunday night. Out of necessity this requires that requests be held from two days to a week, depending on whether the request letter arrives at our offices the Friday or previous Sunday before our "label pull." In this example, the Crime booklet could be addressed and mailed about Tuesday, the 14th.

NOTE: Even though booklets are frequently held a few days for these bulk rate mailings, tests have shown that travel time is shorter, and these bulk parcels will often arrive at their destination city in as short a time as booklets which are mailed individually.

5. Now, the Crime booklet in our example will take about two or three weeks (normal U.S. Postal Service delivery time) before it arrives to the person asking for it. In our example here, it would be near the end of the month, or during the first week of the month.

All in all, it would have taken four to five weeks from the time the person wrote to us until his literature arrives. We realize that this is not ideal, but it is unavoidable.

It would be optimum if all our literature could be sent via the faster route of First Class mail--rather than Third Class or being held for even lower bulk-rate mailing. However, postage which now costs the Work over \$1,000,000 a year would skyrocket to over \$5,000,000 per year if we were to try to mail all literature First Class! As you can understand, costs are simply prohibitive.

NOTE: We are able to send occasional literature requests First Class to people whom you contact in ministerial visits. Just have the people use the special yellow envelopes and request cards--or have them tell us you want them to receive certain booklets by First Class mail. (Normal literature requests, however, will come Third Class.)

Other Causes for Occasional Delay

- A. Current literature will go out of stock temporarily Usually, if the delay is going to be significant, we send computer-printed "Temporarily Out-of-Stock" notices to those who requested the affected literature.
- B. At times new literature will be advertised before it is actually in stock Usually, this is based on expected printing schedules and if a printing difficulty arises (as they occasionally do), this can result in delay.
- C. Loss in the Postal system Regrettably, literature is often lost by the U.S. Postal Service. Also, when people move, booklets and articles are often not forwarded to them by the Post Office. We receive hundreds of letters every month from people who have not received their literature due to these factors.

The problems of mail delivery outlined in this report are common to other religious organizations--as well as large commercial enterprises. In fact, many of them openly tell their media audience to allow six weeks delivery time. Our usual 3-4 weeks delivery time is quite good in the industry. Our organized systems, working with the Post Office, insure the fastest delivery time, at the lowest cost. It's not as fast as First Class--but is among the fastest of Third Class.

It is our goal in Mail Processing to give all letters and literature requests the best service possible. We strive to look upon every call and letter as coming from a potential child of God--and process the request as quickly, conscientiously, and accurately as possible.

If you have questions or comments--or suggestions for improvement--we'll be glad to hear from you. And, let us know whenever problems arise. We're here to serve.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's letter comments cover three topics. We have received a number of encouraging letters regarding Ambassador College. Following these comments is a heartwarming assortment of children's letters. Misspellings and awkward phrases have been copied verbatim. (Sorry we can't include all the colors the children used! We also received many appreciative comments on the new "reprint article series" that were introduced about ten months ago. Since then more than 200,000 of these popular 16-page series have been sent out.

--Mail Processing Center

Appreciation From a Parent and A.C. Students

This letter comes with much thanks to Almighty God for blessing you [Mr. Armstrong] with such tremendous spiritual vision. I have just returned from visiting my daughter in Pasadena and was overwhelmed at what I saw and heard at Ambassador College. We took the tour of the grounds and many of the buildings, attended Bible study, services and met many heartwarming brethren. The whole experience was very uplifting and God gave me a little more, rather much more, of an insight about His Work and His Apostle.

--Mrs. E. Winters (Rochester, PA)

I really appreciate what this Work is accomplishing and I am strongly behind it. Ambassador College has been the greatest thing that has happened in my life and I hope it will continue for many other young people.

--Greg Williams (Pasadena, CA)

We are grateful to be given the opportunity to be in Pasadena and to be able to attend Ambassador College. I thank you for having stuck through all the trials you have had to go through to keep this college accredited by the true God of the universe.

The experience of living through A.C. is scintillating. We are taught the way to live by dedicated teachers who are on the "right track."

--Mr. & Mrs. Rejean Vautour (Pasadena, CA)

I have been very blessed to attend God's college, Ambassador College, and I am enjoying it tremendously. It is giving me an opportunity to grow spiritually closer to God. I want to "devour" every bit of knowledge that I possibly can. Women's Club is going to help me and teach me to become a Christian woman.

I am so thankful for being called into the Church. It has helped me as well as many others to learn to live the "good life" and reap the benefits. I have been in the Church six years and in one month at college I have learned almost as much, and in some areas more, than I did in six years.

--Maria Kosion (Pasadena, CA)

Letters to Mr. Armstrong From Young Supporters

I hope to meet you sometime, I know I will. I am in 4th grade, I am 9 years old I like school. Math is my favorite subject. I like to read. I am reading the Bible. I am in Numbers. Almost in Deuteronomy. I like the sabbath. I like to rest. I hope the Chinese believe the truth you told them. I would like to get THE EARLY YEARS. I live in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. I will read the book. Will GOD PROTECT and BLESS you.

--Russell Robbi Elurum (Coon Rapids, MN)

My name is Francee Hart. I'm 12 years old and live in the City of Champions, Pittsburg. I have one brother and my Parents. I have a dog named Missy and a cat named Thunder. I just wanted to tell you a little about me because I know so much about you. I'm so glad your God's Apostle and that God opened my parents minds leading them in the right path to God's Kingdom.

Before I close now I almost forgot to mention that in your December GOOD NEWS I was overjoyed when I read your article on a "Timeless Message to Teenagers."

--Francee Hart (City of Champions, PA)

I have been praying for you and Mr. Raider. My classmates have been teasing me about Christmas, but I will always obey God's rules. And I'll stay in God's Church as long as I live! I am in the 4th grade. Mr. Lohr is our minister. His two girls and I go to the same school

--Heidi Topash (Lutz, PA)

My name is Joey Lopez. I am in the Long Island church. I like the way you preach. I'm in fourth grade. The Church is a big one. I have heard the tape you have sended to us. I sometimes watch THE WORLD TOMORROW.

How was the Church started? I have been in the Church for six years. It is nice to be with the Church. I have for got to tell you where I live. I live on Long Island when me and my family went to the feast we have seen the things you have did. I like the church alot.

--Joey Lopez (Riverhead, NY)

We are glad to hear that you are back from China. We were happy to hear your tape. We pray that God protects you.

I learned how to tie my shoes yesterday.

I am almost five years old.

I hope your eyes are getting better. We have some toy monkies. I like them.

--Tanya Lorraine Thomas (Grand Junction, MN)

Response to Reprint Series Articles

I especially look forward to and enjoy reading each new reprint series offered. In each series I can read several articles dealing with biblical topics from the different vantage points brought out in each set.

--Steve Baranaskas (Cherry Point, NC)

Your [reprint series] articles have enriched my life and also the family. They have given me new outlooks on Bible truths. I am slowly agreeing with Mr. Armstrong on many things that I would have not considered as truth before.

--M. H. Sherwood (Hereford, AZ)

I think you're doing a great job in this reprint series. Sometimes one misses an article and this way we don't lose out!

--Arnold Jeske (Abrams, WI)

I feel the reprint series is a good idea. It allows relatively new co-workers, subscribers or members the opportunity to get articles (of their interest) which they missed. Also it gives a consolidation of articles on specific subjects. Sometimes it is beneficial to have several articles together for more comprehensive reading.

--Tom Gerald (St. Matthew, SC)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EUROPE'S BOLD MIDEAST INITIATIVE: In a news conference yesterday (March 11) President Carter smiled away his administration's diplomatic blunder at the United Nations (over the anti-Israel resolution) as being only an honest mistake. But others don't take the vote--repudiated almost 72 hours later--so lightly. Columnist George F. Will, for example, says: "By its suspiciously tardy, sinisterly partial and obviously panicky retreat from its U.N. vote, the administration has earned the distrust of Israel, the contempt of the Arab nations and the ridicule of a watching world."

The United States, by its U.N. bungling, has severely damaged its entire Middle East policy. In the wake of Russia's invasion of Afghanistan, Mr. Carter had declared the Persian Gulf to be of vital interest to the U.S., and "off limits" to Moscow. Since then, U.S. diplomats have scurried about, seeking friends in the Gulf and elsewhere in the region. Little has been accomplished. Who can trust Washington now?--especially after March 3 (the day of Mr. Carter's disavowal.) Only tiny Oman, the Gulf state most directly threatened by Soviet aggression, has offered partial use of its facilities to the Pentagon. Elsewhere there are few takers. Even Pakistan, the day following the ignominious switch-aroo, rejected America's \$400 million aid package. Washington's jilted lovers are upset!!

France and the EEC Move In

The oil rich Arab Gulf states want to be as free of the dominance of both Moscow and Washington as they can. Yet, they are weak and vulnerable. They need support from somewhere. And it's coming from Western Europe, with France taking the lead.

On March 1, French President Giscard d'Estaing set out on a whirlwind tour of five Gulf states (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia) plus Jordan. Though it had been planned beforehand, Giscard's trip could not have been better timed to take advantage of Mr. Carter's diplomatic pratfall. Reports the Daily Telegraph of London:

"Giscard believes the time is ripe for a strong French push, to catch on the rebound sheiks and emirs whose trust in Washington has been undermined... They [the Arab leaders] have watched approvingly as France does right by its own, and sometimes other people's allies in Africa and elsewhere." (It was generally overlooked in the press that King Khaled of Saudi Arabia appealed to France, not America, to mastermind the Mecca mosque mop-up operation.)

President Giscard, in his very first stop in Kuwait, signed a joint communique with the Kuwaiti emir, calling for Palestinians' right of self-determination--in effect, backing a P.L.O. state. It was the first time a pledge of support for Palestinian self-determination had been given by one of the Common Market countries. Dan Cook, L.A. Times Paris correspondent (and one of the very best in the business), assessed the aggressive French policy this way:

"A major and fundamental trans-Atlantic split is rapidly widening between the European common market countries and the United States over Middle East policy....The contrast between President Carter backpedaling on behalf of the Israelis while France was pushing forward on behalf of the Palestinians could scarcely have been made more vivid, or welcome, to Giscard. The French president repeated the self-determination formula in similar communiques as he went on to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Jordan. He also picked up a number of important long-term oil deals along the way...."

"The inevitable results of all of this within the next six months will be the sad, even dangerous, weakening of Sadat's position because of his failure to deliver anything for the Palestinians; the Palestinians gaining strong support in the United Nations from the Europeans in their quest for homeland and the right of self-determination, and Israel frantically and vainly building more West Bank settlements...."

The Common Market, as a whole, is going to follow up this first major diplomatic foray into the Middle East with more action. "Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington," reports the U.S. News & World Report, "now talks of revising key U.N. Resolution 242 to address the problem on a Palestinian homeland. The European Economic Community fashions a political declaration that would call for bringing the Palestine Liberation Organization into peace talks." Note that. The Common Market now embarking upon purely political joint action.

The Chancellor's Concerns

The French-led Common Market Mideast drive follows on the heels of widespread mistrust over U.S. demands for strong action against the Soviets in the wake of Afghanistan. The French for their part, have not attempted to hide their dispute with Washington over this crisis. French businessmen, in fact, stand to gain more than other EEC members in increased trade with Moscow. A half-billion dollar aluminum smelter project in Siberia, frozen by America's Alcoa, will probably now go to French contractors.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany was in Washington last week trying to convince Mr. Carter of Bonn's sensitive position with regard to the Soviets and detente. Mr. Schmidt told interviewers in Washington that the U.S. must remember that Germany is still divided; that the Soviets can turn up the heat on isolated Berlin at any time. "I can't forget," he said, "that the Warsaw Pact troops are only 30 miles from my own home in Hamburg."

Schmidt also told interviewers from the Wall Street Journal that "we import 97% of our oil and gas, some of it from the Soviet Union. It is not too easy for us to tell them we don't need it any more. We need itWe have to export in order to be able to import. We export about about 30% of our GNP. Your exports are about seven percent. We clearly see that sanctions vis-a-vis the Soviet Union--or South Africa--are a sword with two edges.

"Since the conference of Helsinki in 1975, we have gotten, with the agreement of the East European government, about 230,000 Germans out of their states who wanted to leave those states to join us in the Federal

Republic of Germany. There is a great amount of talk about human rights. We have been able to give human rights to almost a quarter of a million people within five years. And there are still some waiting to be given the same opportunities. All this could come to a standstill...."

No More Zig-Zag

What angers Mr. Schmidt and other European leaders is the total hot-and-cold unpredictability--"le zig-zag" the French call it--of the current Administration in Washington.

Presidentially, America's allies are supposed to follow a hard-line toward Moscow. Yet, who knows what tomorrow may bring--Mr. Carter is already speaking of taking the SALT II treaty out of the deep freeze this spring. Will Europeans be left clinging to an anti-Soviet limb again in the near future, with Mr. Carter ready to saw it off in the interest of renewed detente?

The Europeans have been burned more than once. The neutron bomb is the prime example--and they weren't consulted beforehand on Mr. Carter's Olympic boycott ultimatum either.

Little wonder that the Germans want to create for themselves, as one aide to the Chancellor says, "more elbow room (to) protect the interests of Western Europe, and within it, West Germany." Despite inner frustration and anger, Schmidt is cautious in his remarks about Washington and the Atlantic Alliance. Not so his close friend, President Giscard who, a few days ago in a televised interview, talked glowingly of the "reappearance of Europe as a new center of influence and decision in the world."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau