

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

February 3, 1983

We now have the financial information for January. It is very good compared to January last year, with a 12.7% increase in income. This is not as great an increase as December's, which was 20% more than December, 1981, but it is still more than last year's increase of 11.4%.

We have been working on a combined financial report for the worldwide Work, which we hope will be in the February 21 edition of THE WORLDWIDE NEWS. We expect to include information showing that there has been an upturn in donations from co-workers and donors during 1982 of about \$2.5 million. The worldwide income was over \$117 million, a 10.2% increase over 1981. Since that report will give more details about the overall finances worldwide, this report is a little shorter than usual.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Church Anniversaries

There seems to be more and more interest in celebrating the anniversary of the beginnings of local Churches. As the number of Churches approaching their 20th or 25th anniversary increases, more and more questions come up regarding the cost of these celebrations.

Because we have to be concerned with the budget and the impact on the current financial situation, we don't want to either encourage or discourage these celebrations. However, we do feel that the celebration should be low-key and for the local area only. The policy for ministerial visits to an anniversary celebration is that the time must be considered as personal time off and requested according to policy. Any cost of travel, such as gasoline expense for a fleet car, must be personal as well--the same as the fleet policy for vacation travel.

Because there are 15 Churches in the United States which will be approaching their 20th or 25th anniversary this year, we have to be circumspect about cost. Even though 15 may sound small, it involves 65 present and past pastors plus associate and assistant pastors. As a result, the only item Ministerial Services can help with is a moderate increase in the cost of hall rental for the one Sabbath involved. All other costs must be covered by the hosting Church and its guests.

U.S. Hall Rentals

We need your help with a slight change on the Hall Rental Voucher. Effective immediately, please start putting the Church code on the voucher in the box along with the Church name. The reason we need to start doing this is that sometime ago the auditors suggested we should have a better system

of verifying hall rental payments. By adding the Church code we will be able to periodically send you a listing of all hall rental and related payments for your area.

If you do not know your Church code, you can find it on member listings, Feast registration listings, or national telephone network listings. It is a three or four digit number, usually found next to the Church name. If you are unable to find it, please call Ministerial Services and we will provide it.

Also, as long as we're discussing hall rentals there are some other related points we need to address.

There are several ministers who send their vouchers each month directly to the Accounting Department post office box. This delays the processing of the vouchers because Accounting has to send them to Ministerial Services for approval. This round trip takes at least an extra day or two. Since checks are mailed out twice a week, this sometimes causes the checks to be mailed as much as three or four days later than they otherwise would have been.

In some few cases we have had to lease halls where we have to pay utilities or other miscellaneous expenses. These expenses should be listed on the extra lines on the Hall Rental Voucher instead of on a General Disbursement Voucher. Also, in some cases we have been reimbursing the local pastor or a deacon for these expenses when it is better to pay the bills directly. All you need to do is attach the bill to a Hall Rental Voucher and fill it out. If it is necessary to handle it on a reimbursement basis, you should attach all receipts to the voucher.

Finally, as a convenience, any time there is a flat monthly amount being paid for the use of a hall, we can set the payment up on an automatic basis. To do this, we need a Hall Rental Voucher from you and a copy of your contract. In the absence of a written contract, we need a memo describing the arrangements you have made. It should include the following information: amount of monthly payment, expected length of use, who the check is to be mailed to, time of month check needs to be received and anything else that would affect the payment.

Obsolete Correspondence Course Lessons 21-24

It has come to our attention that some ministers are still loaning out copies of Lessons 21-24 of the old 58-Lesson CORRESPONDENCE COURSE to prospective members who are counseling for baptism.

Lessons 21-24 were published before God led Mr. Armstrong to the true understanding of the origin of "human nature." Most of Lesson 21, which covers the subject of human nature, is therefore based on the premise that God put an evil nature in Adam and Eve and that all humans since then are born with this same evil nature. Of course, at the time of its publication, this lesson did reflect and expound the Church's understanding on this subject. Lessons 22-24 also reflect this same teaching.

Ministers should now refer PMs to current Lessons 9-12 if they wish to have them study in depth the subjects of repentance, baptism, the Holy Spirit and God's way of life prior to baptism. These lessons contain thorough Biblical expositions of these important subjects.

Though the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE was shortened to 12 lessons during the '70s, it still continued to faithfully reflect the teachings of God's Church. The course did not become tainted by liberal teachings that crept into the Church during the last decade. (Those who have taken the time to go over the first 12 lessons already know this.) It is as much a "trunk of the tree" course as the old 58-lesson course was; it just was limited to 12 lessons for about 10 years. Now Mr. Armstrong is expanding the course. (New Lessons 13-16 and Test 4 have already been published, with Lessons 17, 18 and 19 at the press and many other new lessons coming along.)

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Robert Ellington has recently been disfellowshipped and indicates he will leave the Jacksonville, Florida area and try to attend services elsewhere. He is retired and lives in a Volkswagon van. Please contact Mr. Allen Bullock if he shows up in your area.

International News

Caribbean From Regional Director for the English-language Caribbean area, Mr. Stan Bass, comes this report: December was a very exciting month for God's Work in the Caribbean. Apart from increases in mail, income, additions to the Church and prospective members, we were blessed with a visit by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to the island of Jamaica. Following are the highlights of that visit.

Thursday evening, December 16, 1982, at six-fifteen, the N111AC, carrying Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and his party, arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. Armstrong spent two days in Jamaica where he met with dignitaries and spoke to the local congregation of God's Church. On Friday morning he met with the Governor General, the Most Honourable Florizel Glasspole. The Governor General, himself 73 years old, was amazed at Mr. Armstrong's continued activities. He wanted to know if Mr. Armstrong had considered retirement. Mr. Armstrong replied that he would not retire.

They went on to talk about the increasing importance of the European Common Market, the European Parliament and other related subjects. Mr. Armstrong explained that the world was going to be shocked at the emergence of a United States of Europe which would be the resurrection of the ancient Holy Roman Empire. The Governor General expressed his confidence that, although it appeared certain, there would not be a nuclear World War III.

Later, Friday afternoon, Mr. Armstrong met with the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honourable Edward Seaga. This meeting lasted about fifteen minutes. The Prime Minister had to leave for an out-of-town appointment at four o'clock. Therefore their conversation was general in nature and rather brief. The Prime Minister expressed some interest in the size and growth of the Church in the Caribbean and in Jamaica.

Sabbath morning, at eleven o'clock, Mr. Armstrong addressed the local congregation. He explained the reason for the Church and the role it plays in our salvation. He also explained the two trees of Genesis and how ancient Israel did not have the Holy Spirit. One hundred and forty-four adults and fifty-seven children were present, making that Sabbath a record attendance for the Jamaica congregation.

Immediately after Sabbath services, Mr. Armstrong held a meeting with all the English-speaking ministers of the Caribbean and Mr. Pablo Gonzalez, Pastor of the Spanish-speaking Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Mr. Armstrong's talk to all the ministers and wives present was both sobering and encouraging.

Before Mr. Armstrong began the meeting with the ministers and wives, Mr. Stan Bass presented Mr. Armstrong with a scroll containing the signatures of the members of the 12 churches and two outlying Bible studies in the English-speaking Caribbean. He also presented Mr. Armstrong with two other gifts: a clock made of Jamaican cedar given by the Kingston, Jamaica congregation, and a painting of Kaiteru Falls (Guyana) sent by the members of God's Church in Guyana.

1982 in Review: The year proved to be an unprecedented one for the growth of God's Work in the Caribbean. Our total mail count of 79,031 was up 88.2% over last year. Following is a breakdown of the mail:

		Percentage Increase Over 1981
White Mail	14,875	111.0
Regular Mail	64,156	83.6
Donation Mail	17,704	23.6

For the first time in the history of the Work in the Caribbean the income topped the million dollar mark. The region actually received US\$1,158,856, which was an increase of 35.5% over last year. Interestingly, our expenditures also increased by 35.5% over 1981. Fortunately, the expenditures fell short of the million dollar mark, thus permitting us some reserves.

The Churches experienced encouraging physical growth. With the membership increasing by 10.8% we now have a total of 829 members. The increase in Church attendance over 1981 was 29.6%, thereby bringing the average attendance figure to 1,542. Bible study attendance increased by 35.7% and Feast attendance was up 16.8%.

Overall, it was a year of blessings from God. With the addition of a Church in Dominica we now have 12 Churches meeting on a regular basis (some twice per month). Also, we added one more Bible study in October when 19 persons (14 of which are members) met in St. Vincent for the first monthly Bible study. To top it off we were privileged to have Christ's apostle visit the Caribbean twice during 1982. With enthusiasm running high and spirits renewed as a result of his recent visits and sermons, we look forward to even greater blessings and greater achievements in this new calendar year of 1983.

U.K. & Eire At the end of 1982 PLAIN TRUTH subscriber circulation for the U.K. and Eire was approximately 86,000--an increase of nearly 29% over 1981.

Mail received for 1982 was up 7.7% over 1981, and literature dispatched was up 11%. The steady growth of circulation over the last few years has resulted in a 12.5% increase in donors and a 4.5% increase in co-workers over 1981. The advertising programme has pulled 30,000 responses for the year, and the newsstand programme has led to 12,000 new PT subscribers. Response from the newsstand programme is running in the region of 2 to 3.5%. Income for 1982 was up 6.3% over the previous year.

There have also been changes in ministerial deployment at the end of the year. Mr. Mark Ellis, who has been pastor in Ireland for several years, is leaving to serve the Work in Australia and will be pastoring Sydney South. Mr. John Jewell has moved to Ireland to replace Mr. Ellis, his responsibilities in Southwest England now being carried by Mr. David Bedford.

Scandinavia This past year saw the translation and printing of several booklets into Norwegian. In addition, several lessons of the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE have been translated and typeset, and are awaiting final graphic design before printing.

Due to limitations on advertising in the first half of 1982, circulation in Scandinavia dropped to 10,000. In 1983, by placing advertisements in certain direct-response publications, we plan to boost circulation over 20,000 and to continue the booklet translation programme.

Mr. Peter Shenton, pastor for Scandinavia, visits the area 8-10 times per year to hold services and visit members and prospective members.

New Zealand 1982 has been a year of solid growth for God's Work in this part of the world. As a result, God's warning witness is now being brought to more New Zealanders in a more powerful way than ever before!

The year began with a series of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's full-page WALL STREET JOURNAL ads being run in New Zealand's two top daily newspapers, plus a series of full-page PLAIN TRUTH promotional ads in the country's highest circulation magazine.

As the year moved on, some radio stations began to show interest in "The World Tomorrow" broadcast. In October, four stations began airing the program every Sunday evening--the first time Mr. Armstrong has been heard on the air in New Zealand since 1978.

The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand program swung into full gear in 1982, with just under half a million magazines distributed on the newsstands, an increase of 331% over last year. Around 5,500 newsstand response cards were returned to the office, up 364% over 1981, and almost exactly 50% of these people requested THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY along with a regular subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. Several visit requests have already been received from people who came into contact with us through the newsstand program.

Newsstand distribution averaged over 40,000 copies per month. In addition, an average of 42,350 copies of The PLAIN TRUTH were mailed to subscribers each month. As of December, it is calculated that one in every 13.7 New Zealand households receives the magazine!

Tough economic conditions and a government-imposed year-long wage and price freeze began to affect the income as the year progressed. Mail income ended

the year with an increase of 13.7% over last year. This means we are lagging a little behind the inflation rate and new growth will be prevented next year unless the income picks up. Numerous opportunities for promoting God's Message are available, and the possibility of private television opening its door to us this coming October is an exciting prospect.

During 1982 we received 78,491 letters, 76% of these coming from New Zealand and 24% from the Pacific Islands. This was a slight reduction on the 1981 total.

Mr. Armstrong's December, 1981 semiannual letter brought in 9,890 responses or 21.9% of the mailing list. The July, 1982 semiannual brought in 8,000 replies or 20.9% of those to whom it was sent. Responses to the November, 1982 semiannual are still pouring in, with over 6,500 already having been received.

PLAIN TRUTH renewals have reached an excellent level this year, with approximately 70% of subscribers requesting that we continue their subscriptions.

An encouraging indicator of potential Church growth was an increase of 51% in the number of new visits conducted by our ministers in 1982.

1982 was a notable year for overseas visitors. Dr. and Mrs. Herman Hoeh were with us for Passover and Unleavened Bread, and Dr. Hoeh spoke in four locations, reaching some 85% of the brethren in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Messrs. Richard Rice, Ron Urwiller and Sam Lennon visited the Auckland office in June.

Mr. Dexter Faulkner and Mr. George Patrickson were with us for the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Herbert Armstrong was with us too--by means of live video satellite transmission! November saw a visit by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, who spoke in every Church area.

Late in December, five Ambassador College students flew in to serve as counsellors and staff at the 1982/83 S.E.P. Over 160 campers and staff enjoyed an extremely successful summer camp on Montutapu Island, near Auckland.

We ended the year with 665 members, 600 co-workers and 1,658 donors supporting God's Work. The Church meets in 14 different locations, with a total average monthly attendance of over 1,000. GOOD NEWS circulation increased by 18.6% to a total of 1,423, and YOUTH 82 circulation of 1,638 was seven times greater than that of YOUTH 81.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

There are not enough words in any language known to man to express the praise to our Great God for inspiring you and your staff to set up the Ministerial Refreshing Program and making allowance for the local Church elders to attend. The Program is truly God inspired.

To see you was a great delight inasmuch as I did not have this opportunity on the first Refreshing Program. It is very exciting

to see what God is doing through His apostle and His servants at Headquarters and around the whole world.

Our prayer is that the next Refreshing Program be held at a place of safety for all. Our prayers, as with all of the brethren, are with you and your staff daily. Praise, honor and glory be to our Father through all those He has called as a result of your labors. Thank you.

Ken and Burdetta Wooldridge

Thanks for Special Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Dianne and I would like to tell you how much we appreciated the opportunity of attending our second Ministerial Refreshing Program series held on Sundays for local elders in Southern California. Receiving the information from the program is so very important. With my demanding job situation, it is impossible to plan on taking off for the regular sessions, so I really appreciated the opportunity to get the information in this Sunday series.

The fact that the majority of the sessions were live, rather than on tape, was a very welcome improvement. Please thank all of the presentors for giving their time to us. Also, please thank Mr. Dan Tucker for always having a delicious lunch ready for us, and dinner too for those who were able to stay after the day's sessions were over. Each year we are able to draw closer to the other local elders from the Southern California area which certainly is another big advantage of the program.

It would be difficult to tell you which session was the most helpful, as all of them were very meaningful and can be put to immediate use. It was, however, extremely inspiring to end with the presentation by Mr. Larry Omasta of Media Services as he talked of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's most recent travels and showed clips of his strong messages which were given in the Philippines, Japan and Greece. It was fabulous to hear personally of the exciting behind-the-scene miracles God works out so that Mr. Armstrong (and crew) can get the witness to those in high places of authority.

Roland and Dianne Clark

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

Greetings once again--this time from Big Sandy, Texas! My wife and I arrived here on the eve of the Sabbath nearly one week ago, and we plan to remain here through next Tuesday (the 8th).

We both are enjoying and profiting from our visit to the Big Sandy campus, and we hope the campus is profiting from our visit also. While here, I have been able to take a number of Bible and speech classes, and I spoke at the college assembly Thursday morning. I have been asked to speak once again to the students and faculty at the forum next Tuesday--just before returning to the Pasadena campus.

I was also privileged to speak to the Big Sandy congregation last Sabbath, and look forward to speaking to God's Church in Tyler this coming Sabbath. The Church in Tyler has remained strong and stable throughout all of the trials and tribulations which Satan brought on the Worldwide Church of God (including the Churches in the Big Sandy area) during the last decade.

It is always heartening to see the growth and stability of God's Churches and it is also encouraging to see how closely united are the faculty and students of Ambassador College's Pasadena and Big Sandy campuses. It's good to see that in all of the opening prayers in the Bible classes here, as at the sister college at Pasadena, the students never fail to pray for Mr. Armstrong.

My wife and I have very much appreciated the warm "southern" hospitality which has been shown to us by the faculty, students and brethren. Since arriving here on campus, there has hardly been a single evening that my wife and I did not have some kind of a get-together with various members of the Big Sandy faculty. And Eve and I are looking forward to having all of the faculty over for a get-together this coming Sunday evening. This will give us a better chance to get to really know all of the Big Sandy faculty even better. It will also give all of them (especially those with whom we haven't had an opportunity to visit personally) a chance to get to know my wife and me a little better.

The campus here is still looking very beautiful. During the years of "moth balling" (from 1977 to the fall of 1981) the buildings and grounds could not be kept up to the same standard as when the budget and manpower (much of it student manpower) made it possible to keep the campus in its former immaculate condition. Many of the roads on campus have recently been repaved and a number of the buildings have been repainted and refurbished. Mr. McCullough mentioned to me recently that the College here has fairly recently dug up and replanted about 100 good-sized trees. Since the College has its own tree moving equipment, it has been possible to move these trees and replant them at minimal cost. To have them moved by an outside crew would cost well over \$100,000!

Over the past weekend we had about two inches of rain, but today we are having glorious, clear weather. As I type this report, I can look out the window and see across beautiful Lake Loma that surrounds this guest home on three sides. It is a breathtakingly beautiful and inspiring view.

While here, I have been able to have several meetings with Mr. Les McCullough (Deputy Chancellor), Mr. Larry Salyer (Dean of Students), Dr. Lynn Torrance, Mr. Jim Kissee and others in order to discuss various matters which pertain to the interchange of students and faculty between the two campuses.

Also while here, my wife and I have had a chance to visit with my brother, Burk and his wife, Billie Sue. He is now serving as Pastor of the Big Sandy and Tyler churches. He, Mr. Les McCullough and the other ministers here are all working together very beautifully. It is good to see the same kind of harmony that prevails at Headquarters in Pasadena. (See Ephesians 4:13-15 and Psalm 133:1-3.)

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor, Pasadena Campus

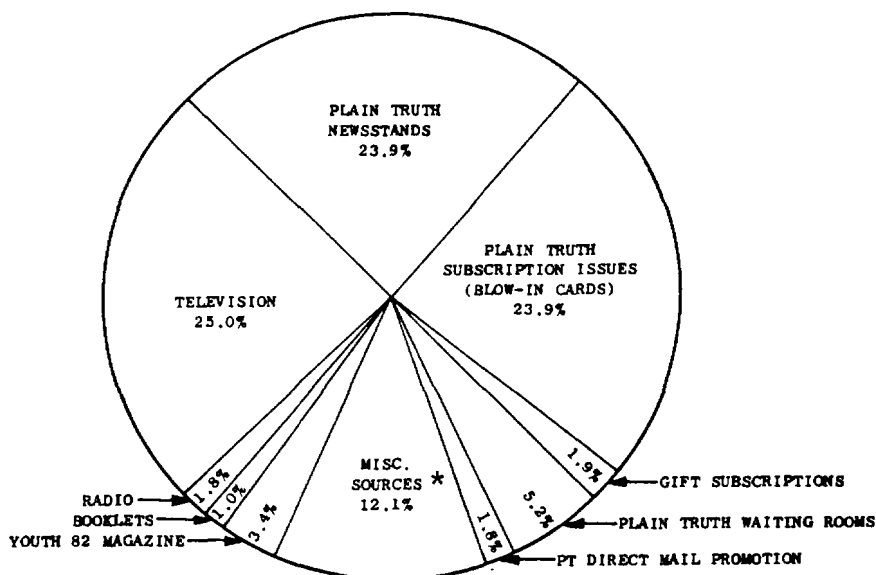
UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGSources of New People Added to U.S. File in 1982

A total of 1,312,701 names were added to the U.S. file in 1982. The two major contributors to this all-time record were the expansion of "The World Tomorrow" on television and increased PLAIN TRUTH circulation. An analysis of all sources revealed the following:

- The telecast was the leading single source of new names for the first time since 1978. A total of 328,232 (25%) were added to the file in 1982 from TV.
- All PLAIN TRUTH programs combined accounted for 60% of the names added. These included subscription issue blow-in cards, newsstand copies, waiting room subscriptions, card-holder programs, newspaper inserts, and renewals.
- It is interesting to note that 363,594 names (28%) resulted from PLAIN TRUTH programs which are maintained by volunteer Church members.
- Over 45,200 people were added to the subscription list of YOUTH 82, which was advertised in a semiannual letter and on "The World Tomorrow" program.

The following pie chart gives a breakdown of the new names added, including the percentages for each category.

SOURCES OF NEW NAMES ADDED TO U.S. FILE IN 1982



*Miscellaneous sources include: personal referrals, Public Bible Lectures, newspaper ads, CORRESPONDENCE COURSE and GOOD NEWS, among others. 2.1% of all names came from undetermined sources.

Letter Comments From International Areas

This week we are featuring comments received in some of the international offices in response to The PLAIN TRUTH, "The World Tomorrow" program and our other literature. God's true Gospel is having an impact everywhere it is proclaimed. Surely, the Gospel is reaching nations around the world just as Jesus Christ prophesied.

Quite recently a friend of mine showed me your November/December, 1982 publication which I read with great interest. I was so impressed by some of the articles that I wonder whether it would be possible for you to put this consulate on your mailing list. If, as it would appear, you have some other publications available, we would certainly be most grateful if you could spare a copy of each. Looking forward to hearing from you at your convenience and thanking you in anticipation.

A.C., Consul of Chile (Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA)

I have been reading The PLAIN TRUTH now for over a year and have always found it a very interesting magazine. Together with the booklets you have sent me, it has opened my eyes to some of the facts of the Bible. You are really making me understand the Bible and see things in their right perspective. I am particularly touched by the way you relate God's words to today's problems. Lastly, I thank you for your efforts to tell the people about the Kingdom of God yet to come.

E.B. (Lugazi Kampala, UGANDA)

I used to be a junkie but after reading one of your articles on drugs, I truly feel that I have been cleansed. Your magazine works as a lifeline to the British society's outcasts. Please publish this letter so that others that may feel the same way will not be afraid to make public their views.

D.B. (Windsor, Berks., U.K.)

I would like to express my appreciation for the valuable material you have sent me. The PLAIN TRUTH was of great value to my friends and me at school. Your copies carry really important facts. My social life has risen to a better level and my attitude towards life itself has changed drastically. Since leaving school and venturing into the cruel world, I find that I have received the answers to most of my problems.

S.P. (Via Dete, ZIMBABWE)

I've been reading The PLAIN TRUTH since the summer of 1980. It is the only magazine that I eagerly wait for, believe in and read from cover to cover. I feel that says a lot. Thank you. I'm already looking forward to the first copy of my subscription to The GOOD NEWS. I would like to thank you for the offer to subscribe to it.

E.K. (Stadtbergen, WEST GERMANY)

For several years I have been reading your booklets, and am now on Lesson 12 of your CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. I have come from disputing your statements to realising you are presenting God's

Word as it is, and not as men interpret and twist it. It hasn't been easy for me to withdraw from my church group, but I felt I should keep the Sabbath. I will be contacting you soon.

Mrs. V.G. (Mackay, AUSTRALIA)

I've seen your program on WGN-TV via satellite here in Colombia. It is very inspiring. I have just begun to watch it and will continue to do so every week. I'm interested in your offer of The PLAIN TRUTH in Spanish.

F.F. (Medellin, COLOMBIA)

I watch your show on television, and can honestly tell you I enjoy it. I not only wanted to let you know I like it, but I would like to have the booklets you advertised--The PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS and NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD. I would also like to let you know I'm not a Christian woman and do not go to any church, but your show made me sit up and listen.

S.Q. (Aylesford, CANADA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SPECIAL REPORT: THE STRUGGLE FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

For the past three weeks the Federal Republic of Germany has been the scene of an extraordinary amount of East-West political sparring. The reason: West German national elections are only about a month away (March 6) and the balance-of-power in Europe is at stake. Never, in recent memory, have other powers tried so hard to influence the outcome of one nation's balloting. West Germans are already calling it the Rakettenwahlkampf (missile election campaign).

Here, briefly, is a summary of what has been happening. First, on January 16, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko came to Bonn carrying both an olive branch and a filled nuclear quiver. Mr. Gromyko spent three days urging West Germany's leaders to reconsider their official support for the NATO stand on intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Moscow and Bonn, said Gromyko, "are under the same European roof," and should therefore keep pressing for detente. The Foreign Minister denounced American leaders as being "ready to plunge humanity into a nuclear catastrophe for the sake of their ambitions...."

Gromyko's main aim was to weaken Bonn's commitment to accept the Pershing II missiles slated for deployment on West German soil, beginning the end of this year. All 108 Pershings are to go into Germany, with the 464 land-based cruise missiles scheduled for at least four other NATO countries besides the FRG. The Soviets are concerned most of all about the Pershing II, a missile with a powerful nuclear warhead that could reach Soviet targets in seven to eight minutes from launch time. (The slower, ground-hugging 500 mile-an-hour cruise missiles would take up to two hours.) Mr. Gromyko warned the Germans they would be swept up in a dangerous confrontation with Moscow if they agreed to accept the new missiles.

Mr. Gromyko blandly denied that Moscow had any favorites in the March 6 election, but it was clear to all that the Kremlin has already "cast its vote" for Social Democratic candidate Hans-Jochen Vogel, who is already on

record as being against President Reagan's "zero-option" plan under which NATO would forswear positioning its 572 new missiles only if Moscow dismantles its 345 SS-20 and over 200 older generation missiles targeted on West European sites.

Later that same week, shortly after Mr. Gromyko left town, French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Bonn. In a surprisingly frank address to the Bundestag, Mr. Mitterrand warned the delegates of what he perceived was a dangerous drift toward neutralism in West Germany and a softening of that nation's commitment to the nuclear defense of Europe. The French newspaper LE MATIN noted the irony of a French Socialist president "exhorting a Germany tempted by a pacifist adventure to get a grip on itself."

Behind Mr. Mitterrand's forceful presentation is the fact that France's own independent deterrent nuclear force would cease to be credible if NATO fell apart and the U.S. withdrew its nuclear protection of Europe. Thus the French leader warned the Germans of what he perceived was the gravely serious danger of splitting off ("decoupling") the U.S. from its European allies--a distinct possibility if the new made-in-U.S.A. weapons are not accepted on the continent. The future of Europe, he said in so many words, hinges upon West Germany's resolve.

On the heels of Mr. Mitterrand's departure arrived Vice-president George Bush of the United States. Mr. Bush encouraged the Germans to hold firm to both the original NATO "twin track" decision (new missiles unless the U.S.-Soviet negotiations over the Euro-missile situation succeed in Geneva) plus the President's "zero-option" offer.

The Vice President said that "Soviet SS-20s have been sprouting like fields of asparagus" since 1977 and that Europeans must be willing to station new missiles on their soil to prevent war. In a slap at Mr. Gromyko's earlier statements, Bush said: "I was left wondering whether he reminded Germany of the German proverb: 'When a fox preaches, watch your geese.'"

Mr. Bush's "vote," as that of Mr. Mitterrand, was cast for the conservative Christian Democrats led by Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The CDU leaders publicly profess fidelity to the U.S. position, but inwardly are said to doubt whether President Reagan can win the missile stand-off with Communist Party boss Yuri Andropov. Even Bavaria's Franz Josef Strauss says it is "absurd" to expect the Soviets to scrap all its Euromissiles; that a compromise is the best that can be hoped for.

(Mr. Andropov had earlier announced a new (what some observers called a "half-zero") offer--a cutback to 162 Soviet missiles in exchange for no new NATO nukes. The 162 number was intended to match the existing number of French and British delivery systems. London and Paris immediately turned this offer down flat. Besides being "national" rather than NATO weapons, they are all topped with single warheads as opposed to the triple-warheaded Soviet missiles. Then, too, Mr. Andropov did not offer to scrap those missiles above the 162 count but only to remove them elsewhere--since they are mobile--perhaps east of the Urals, ostensibly beyond European targets.)

The Vice President brought with him an open letter from Mr. Reagan addressed to the people of Europe. Mr. Bush read the letter in a speech while visiting West Berlin. In it the President offered to meet with Mr. Andropov "wherever and whenever he wants" in order to sign a treaty which

would "banish from the face of the earth" all land-based American and Soviet intermediate-range missiles.

Mr. Andropov rejected the offer almost immediately, stating that it was just "the same zero-option," and a "patently unacceptable solution" amounting to nothing but "unilateral disarmament" on the part of the Soviet Union.

Impact Upon Japan

Closely observing the "triple header" in Germany were the Japanese. Tokyo is very concerned that any "interim solution" (what the Germans call a compromise on the Euromissile issue) would endanger their own security. This is because they are convinced the Soviets would never scrap their medium-range missiles but only ship them east of the Urals, where from 90 to 100 SS-20s already are believed to be targeted on China and Japan (more of them on the former, most likely).

In an attempt to assuage Japan's growing fears, Secretary of State George Schultz went to Japan at the same time that Vice-president Bush flew to Europe. Mr. Schultz told Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that the U.S. would not sign an agreement that would permit the Soviets to shift SS-20s from Europe to Soviet Asia.

President Reagan also obviously had the Japanese in mind when, in his open letter, he called for intermediate-range weapons to be "banished from the face of the earth"--not merely shifted elsewhere. Up until now the Japanese have felt secure, protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Should the Japanese ever feel their security is severely compromised, they might feel it necessary to go far beyond what the U.S. is now asking them to do in military terms, and to become a real superpower to counterbalance the Soviet threat.

Thus, it seems that no matter what it does, the United States is going to gravely disappoint a major ally. It will either place West Germany in a very uncomfortable position vis-a-vis the Soviets by not compromising on zero-option, or it could end up shaking the Japanese-American security relationship to its very foundation.

"Year of Europe"

For some additional background here are excerpts from the news media on this very vital subject. The first article deals with the European defense scene in general, written by a French foreign relations expert Pierre Lellouche, in the January 24, 1983 international edition of NEWSWEEK.

Ten years ago, Henry Kissinger proclaimed 1973 to be the "Year of Europe" only to see his plans to revitalize the NATO alliance crash in Western disarray over the Yom Kippur war and the Arab oil embargo. Now, however, unheralded by any trumpeting from Washington, it appears that 1983 may well be the real Year of Europe. For it is in this year that NATO must finally decide whether to deploy a new generation of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, a question that is vital to the future of the continent. As French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson put it recently, 1983 will be "the most difficult year for the alliance since its inception in 1949."

The battle to restore the nuclear balance in Europe will not be easily won....More directly, the growing antinuclear movement has spread through the West with many people now viewing nuclear arms themselves--and not the Soviet Union--as the greatest threat to peace. They argue that following the concept of deterrence, although it has ensured peace for decades, will now lead to an uncontrolled arms race, and, eventually to World War III....

If Moscow can [stop the NATO plan], it will have demonstrated that it can reverse a NATO military decision and that it now has more influence over Western Europe than the United States has. This would signal a fundamental shift in the postwar security arrangements on the Continent. The Soviet goal of a divided, defenseless Europe, split away from America but still providing essential capital and technology to the Soviet empire, would be achieved.

No Missiles, End of NATO?

Now this February 2, 1983 dispatch over our Associated Press wire machine:

A top State Department official says any retreat from its decision to deploy nuclear weapons in Western Europe this year would be "the beginning of the end" of NATO as an effective alliance. Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Tuesday night ... "If the Soviets learn that we and our allies lack the will in the face of missile rattling to carry out difficult decisions commonly arrived at, then we can look forward to even more aggressive behavior each time we seek to respond to Soviet provocations...."

A Worried France Looks On

The nation most deeply concerned about Western Europe's slow slide into Moscow's grip is France. The NEW YORK TIMES of January 24, 1983 reported the worrisome French perspective in a lengthy dispatch from Paris surrounding President Mitterrand's speech to the Bundestag. Here are key excerpts:

In a direct, forceful presentation Thursday [January 20 in Bonn], Mr. Mitterrand said in substance that the debate on the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Europe was really less one of numbers than of political will, with the essential test for the Atlantic Alliance being its ability to stop an attempt to "decouple" the United States and Western Europe.

Although he never used the word neutralism, Mr. Mitterrand attacked "all those who would bet on decoupling" and said they were the people who risked creating an imbalance of forces that would threaten peace. Coming from the podium of Parliament, the speech served as a warning about the consequences of the rise of neutralism in West Germany, and as an attack on those West German politicians who would not fully support Mr. Mitterrand's thesis that Europe "must not be deprived of a means to answer the nuclear weapons specifically directed against her."

This kind of approach moves the issue away from a discussion of what kind of mathematical formula is needed to govern reductions and deployments, and into an area where a Western chief of state is saying that there is a struggle going on for the future of Europe, and that West Germany is the weak point....

The reaction to Mr. Mitterrand's remarks in much of the French and West German press was that he was endorsing Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democrat, over Hans-Jochen Vogel, the Social Democrat, in West Germany's national elections on March 6. But to many, the speech really reflected a deeper change in French attitudes about West Germany, and France's willingness now to say out loud what is often thought but sublimated in other allied countries: that the question of maintaining West Germany's involvement in the West is now a serious one, and the key stake in the outcome of the missile issue....

For the French government, events in West Germany over the last two years have given support to those officials who see segments of the West German political class dominated by a desire for accommodation with the Soviet Union in order to move, in the long term, toward German reunification.... [But] the French uneasiness is not just directed at the German left. A diplomat here, commenting privately on the visit to Bonn last week of Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union, found it extraordinary that the Christian Democratic-led coalition was not more aggressive in pointing out what he saw as the lack of novelty and contradictions of Mr. Gromyko's presentation. "They reacted as if they were in a trance," he said....

If West Germany refuses to deploy the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles, then, the French reason, it will be hard to refute the argument of those Americans who believe that Europe will not defend itself, and is not worth defending. Following this analysis, if the United States diminishes its commitment to Europe, the significance of an independent French nuclear force and a French global political role would come close to disappearing.

Thus the French have two fears, a short-term one and one of a longer range. 1) A Europe at the mercy of Soviet might, decoupled from America, and 2) a reunified Germany also under Soviet influence. The key to German reunification lies in Moscow's hands. What if the Soviets should ever offer reunification in exchange for German neutrality? Fear number one is a grave one to Paris, fear number two is a nightmarish prospect. In the February 2, 1983 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, European analyst Mario Rossi wrote more about France's concern.

France, a neutral country in all but name, has discovered a monster that must be destroyed by all means if Europe is to be saved --neutralism....Mr. Mitterrand could speak with authority because between France's implicit neutralism, based on the threat of nuclear retaliation should French territory be attacked, and the neutralism threatening West Germany, there is a substantial difference. The French brand is based on a will to fight in its defense; the German variety is a renunciation of the use of force under all circumstances.

Were European neutralism to assume such proportions that the U.S. considered the continent no longer worth defending, France would feel directly threatened because its nuclear capability would cease to be credible. The present deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles, if left unchallenged, gives the Soviets an offensive capacity that France's defensive capacity cannot match....

When asked why, if the Soviets are capable of disarming Europe with one blow, they don't go ahead and do it, French strategists say the basic reason is fear of the American reaction. The Soviets cannot be sure that the U.S. would not go to war and start a nuclear exchange. "Even if the chances were only five percent," one French strategist said, "that would be five points too many considering the awesome risks."

Because Moscow has reasons to fear the U.S. and the U.S. only, France would consider the lack of an American commitment to the defense of Europe an incalculable and irreparable disaster. Mr. Mitterrand has warned the Germans that neutralism risks the decoupling of Europe and the U.S. without war. The Soviets hope to scare the Europeans into submission and are therefore determined to preserve the wherewithal to scare them. That is why they will accept a reduction of armaments so long as the balance remains in their favor.

When the Germans were the West's bastion in Europe, the French amused themselves with pricking Uncle Sam and missed no occasion to proclaim their much-vaunted independence. Now that that bastion shows cracks, the French have become the champions of the American presence in Europe and of preserving the nuclear balance in order to keep the peace.

If 1983 is starting out at such a hectic pace, what kind of fireworks can we expect toward the end of the year, as the day approaches for momentous decisions to be reached regarding those troublesome weapons, both the Pershings and the mobile SS-20s?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau