

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 6, 1983

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

May 5, 1983

We now have the income and expense figures through April. This, surprisingly, is already one-third of the year. It doesn't seem possible that time has passed so quickly. We still have not seen an upturn in income, though considering the past and current economic conditions, we have done well. Income for the month of April was 13.9 percent more than last April, which brought the year-to-date through April to a plus 11.1 percent over the same period a year ago.

Bank balances are approximately the same as they were a year ago. It seems that one week we will be above last year, and the next week we will be below last year. Expenses are still high, and current projections show a deficit of about \$125,000 by the end of the year. I expect that figure to improve soon and that we will have some increase to reserves before the year is out.

A number of you have expressed your interest and appreciation for these reports. I hope they are helpful and informative for all of you.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

New U.S. Mailing Address

All members should have already received a new supply of envelopes from Pasadena with the new mailing address. Please discard all envelopes you have on hand with the Tucson mailing address.

If you should find it necessary to use your own personal envelopes, be sure to include your PLAIN TRUTH index number for efficient and accurate processing.

The Tucson address is no longer to be used for sending in tithes and offerings or other correspondence with the Work. The address to be used in the United States is:

Herbert W. Armstrong
Pasadena, CA 91123

U.S./Canadian Feast Sites Still Open (Clarification of Recent Memo)

Apparently some have misunderstood a statement contained in a memo included with the Festival Attendance List that was sent on April 25. The memo stated "...transfers will probably be limited in: Biloxi, Hawaii, Jekyll Island, St. Petersburg; and in Canada, Penticton and Victoria...."

As a result of this misunderstanding, some pastors or feast advisors have told their congregations that these sites have been filled and therefore they should not apply for transfers to these areas. This information is not accurate. We were simply warning the pastors that historically, we have often had to turn down some requests for these sites because we receive more requests than we can approve.

The only sites which have been filled were announced in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT of April 29, page 2. Please refer to that announcement for more information.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

David Bettis is disfellowshipped. If he appears in your area, please contact Mr. Jim Reyer at (303) 431-0676. (This notice is not intended to be announced to your congregations.)

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It's hard to believe that we returned from Pasadena one month ago yesterday! Our stay there is still vivid in our memories, kept fresh by frequent reference to the abundant class notes.

It goes without saying that the classes were uniformly excellent and gave us much to think about. I was also encouraged and inspired to see the campus so beautifully maintained. The buildings seem not to have aged in the ten years since my graduation--evidence of dedication and Godly character on the part of those who care for them. Edel and I take this as a spur to better reflect that Ambassador quality as we care for what we've been given.

Throughout the whole Refreshing Program, we felt that the Headquarters team, with all their responsibilities, truly care about those of us who have the priceless opportunity to serve God's people in the field. It's truly an added prod and encouragement to "make full proof" of our ministry. Grateful thanks to all, especially to our heavenly Father, and to Jesus Christ the living, active Head of the Church.

Henry and Edel Sturcke

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to thank you and all the rest of the leading ministers in Pasadena for your efforts in putting together Ministerial Refreshing Program II. It is truly refreshing and invigorating to review basic doctrines and methods and to be given new insights into our job of helping to shepherd the flock of God.

We thank Mr. Armstrong, you and the rest of the crew for a very inspiring and refreshing Refreshing Program. We also thank God for inspiring and providing it. We anxiously await MRP III.

Kim and Kathy Wenzel

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Virginia and I wish to express our deepest thanks to both Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and you for the opportunity of attending the fifteenth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It is refreshing to visit the very Headquarters of God's Work on earth today, and to see the unity that is so obvious among all those at Headquarters.

We were especially thrilled to meet and get acquainted with so many ministers and their wives from the international areas of God's Work. My wife and I met and got acquainted with ministers and their wives from ten different countries or provinces. This experience surely helped us to realize more than ever that this is a worldwide Work.

Mr. Tkach, we deeply appreciate all the hard work that goes into preparation for the Refreshing Program, and the deeper knowledge we have because of it. Thanks again to you and all the staff for the hard work and hospitality shown us while there.

Guy and Virginia Sams

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

DES MOINES, IA--ROBERT CLONINGER: Brethren are following Mr. Armstrong's travels closely. They are excited about the doors opening for the PT supermarket distribution and their opportunity to help the Work in the newsstand, cardholder, and waiting room programs.

HUNTSVILLE, AL--LAWSON J. TUCK: The brethren are more committed than ever to God's Work. I have particularly noticed, during this Passover season, that they are making more of a determined effort in their lives. Holy Day offerings were significantly higher than last year! God's people are sacrificing more because they want to see the Work go forward with more and more power. It is certainly good to see God's Spirit evidenced in their lives.

LONG BEACH, CA--LES McCOLM: The all-time attendance record for this Church area was broken on the first day of Unleavened Bread. We also have a very impressive list of teachable PMs. Some of them are attending services already and several are ready for

baptism. Mr. Armstrong's telecast on the subject of Easter has really stirred the brethren to feel a sense of loyalty to God's Work.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: The general mood of the Church is one of maturity and recognition of responsibility. This Passover seemed to cause many to reflect upon their personal involvement in the Church, and to desire to make whatever changes are necessary to make their calling sure.

FT. MYERS, FL--DANIEL J. BEIRER: God has certainly provided the Ft. Myers area with some fine people during this past year. Seventeen more took the Passover over the number last year.

SAN DIEGO, CA--NORMAN SMITH: A 10% increase over last year in the number taking the Passover. Some have moved into the area. There are still a lot of PMS who are interested in attending church but who are not ready to give themselves to God and submit to the authority of the Church.

BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: I have visited three different families that have started attending this past month--they are all excited and eager to learn. God is blessing this area continually with good growth. The local PT distribution has almost caught up with Portland's, which has a greater population density. Now the total number of subscribers added since the first of the year is even--whereas Portland used to be way ahead. I firmly believe that the telecast being on at 10:30 a.m. has had the biggest difference in bringing Bangor's numbers up.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Update on Elson's and "Good Neighbor" Supermarket PT Distribution

Distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH in Elson's gift stores, which began in over 100 shops April 1, 1983, has been extremely successful, apart from a few minor misunderstandings and problems in one or two locations.

We have had very enthusiastic reports from New York and Atlanta, which are the two areas that have the largest concentrations of Elson's stores. New York is going through 1,800 magazines a day, and Atlanta approximately 600 magazines a day. All other hotel locations are reporting that they use 200 magazines per week.

There have been several instances where the hotel or airport management has demanded the removal of The PLAIN TRUTH from Elson's newsstand racks. Elson's has informed us that they view this as a possible precedent. They are very concerned, and are taking the position that the hotel or airport management has no jurisdiction over what they may or may not carry in their stores.

In many cases, great favor has been shown the publication by the Elson's management. As the relationship develops, we are confident that the program will continue to be a great success.

During the first week of May, the New York warehouses of Supermarket Communication Systems, Inc. will receive 25,000 PLAIN TRUTHs, which they will distribute in 563 supermarkets in the New York area.

The magazines will be placed in a three-inch basket with two facings side by side held upright by a wire retaining clip. The space on each rack will be marked by a piece of tape with the words PLAIN TRUTH written on it.

Subsequent stockings of the racks will be performed by the brethren of the New York area Churches who have been organized to handle supermarkets in the areas where they live or work. At the same time SCS receives its shipment, our own depots will receive 79,000 magazines with which to do the subsequent stockings of the racks.

The New York City brethren are highly enthusiastic about this open door and are determined to make the program a success.

Once again, as Mr. Armstrong requested, please continue to encourage your congregations to fervently pray that the finances required for this program will come in so it can be expanded into hundreds of additional stores in the near future.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Far-reaching Impact of The PLAIN TRUTH

Nearly 100,000 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers were added to the U.S. subscription list this past month. With the magazine now reaching millions of readers, we in Mail Processing see literally hundreds and hundreds of comments about The PLAIN TRUTH each month.

Readers of the magazine range in age from preteens to the very elderly. They often state how The PLAIN TRUTH has revolutionized their thinking and has become a source of tremendous help and encouragement. In many cases, whole families have benefitted from the articles. Many mention passing their copies along to friends and associates.

More and more responses contain donations, as our subscribers, moved by the "give" philosophy and recognizing the value of our publications, wish to see that others have an opportunity to receive the truth as they are.

It is obvious from the following comments that The PLAIN TRUTH has a spiritual impact on its readership as no other magazine:

Thank you for blessing my life these years that I have subscribed to The PLAIN TRUTH and your other publications. They have opened my eyes to the truth of God's Word.

Some years ago I requested to have The PLAIN TRUTH delivered to my brother, who is now taking the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE, and my sister. The magazine has brought us all together spiritually.

Mrs. A.G. (South Bend, IN)

I have found your magazine enjoyable. I can't put it down. I left all my bad habits behind. I don't even watch soap operas any more! It seems that the more I read, the more I learn about life.

E.L. (Brooklyn, NY)

Thank you so much for The PLAIN TRUTH. You can't know how much it means and helps in our darkest hours. I wish we had all your booklets as well.

E.C. (Oak Park, IL)

Thank you for regularly sending The PLAIN TRUTH. We have become totally different people. We are more relaxed, happy and have different goals now. A completely new way of thinking has established itself through a better understanding of the Bible. We constantly draw in new knowledge and understanding of the truth. It is really overwhelming to read what is written in the Bible, and each time we find something new.

A.W. (B.C., Canada)

Your magazine does the rounds in our house. First I read it from cover to cover, then my daughter uses your articles for her work in high school and my seven-year-old son loves looking at the pictures. I also thank you for not being like other religious groups, where a simple request ends up with a mob on your doorstep. Nothing is more of a turn-off than this. In our house God is someone we believe in and about whom we want more information, not press-gang tactics.

S.D. (Hamilton Hill, Australia)

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for sending me The PLAIN TRUTH and the books I've requested by phone. I thought I knew everything there was to know about the Bible and world affairs. But after receiving and reading your magazine I know better. It has enriched my life as well. A lot of my friends come into my home and pick it up. When they read it, they start asking how they can receive your magazine.

M.M. (Pacolet Mills, SC)

Thank you--thank you! Receiving The PLAIN TRUTH has really helped our marriage! God bless you! We love you!

Mrs. R.V. (Liverpool, NY)

I want to thank you for the spiritual guidance I have received since I first started reading The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and all the wonderful and enlightening pamphlets. I have always considered myself a knowledgeable Christian and have spent many hours reading my Bible. But I never had as good an understanding as I have now. Your thorough explanations have given me answers to questions I thought I had already known.

Thank you again and thank God for your expertise in helping people like myself understand the teachings of our wonderful Creator.

R.C. (St. Petersburg, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

CLIPPING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS BUREAU

Once again the News Bureau wants to thank all of you who have mailed in articles from your local newspapers which deal with the Worldwide Church of God, its ministers or members and also the affiliated organizations of the Church. We would like to encourage you to please continue sending us all such articles in the future. The exact address to mail the articles to is:

Ambassador College News Bureau
300 W. Green St.
Pasadena, CA 91129
Attn: W.O.J.

The News Bureau will make certain that all who need to be advised of information contained in specific articles will be supplied with copies.

Please do not forget to include the name of the publication and the date when it was published. That is very important if we should ever need to quote from the article or use it in any other way.

Note: The above does not apply to the individuals who are already clipping various news articles for the Legal Office.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

ON THE WORLD SCENETHE BISHOPS AND THE BOMB; "GREEN LIGHT" FOR MOSCOW IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

One gets the distinct impression that the United States is being "set up" for the time when "they have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, but no one goes to battle" (Ezek. 7:14). By a nearly unanimous vote on May 3, America's Roman Catholic bishops adopted a precedent-setting 155-page letter on war and peace that puts them squarely in the forefront of the peace movement and in opposition to several key parts of U.S. defense policy. The letter was approved at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Chicago by a vote of 238 to 9. The final version calls for a halt to the nuclear arms race. It accepts deterrence, or the possession of a nuclear arsenal, as a "strictly conditional" defense strategy valid only temporarily while steps towards disarmament are pursued. Reported the May 4 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The letter now becomes "teaching doctrine" for the nation's 50 million Catholics. It is a sweeping departure from views of the previous generation of U.S. Catholic leaders, who generally voiced uncritical acceptance of the morality of American military action. At a press conference Tuesday, Archbishop Thomas Kelly of Louisville, a former general secretary of the U.S. bishops, was asked if the document could allow for any use of nuclear weapons, even in a retaliatory strike against nuclear attack. "We do not know of any case in which nuclear weapons can be used," Kelly replied.

The document, titled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," calls for a "no first strike" policy, counter to the U.S.-Atlantic Alliance options for such strikes to defend Western Europe....

The letter is careful to point out the difference between "general moral principles," which are binding on Catholics, and "specific applications of those principles," which are not binding.

UPI, in a May 5 dispatch added:

The nation's Roman Catholic bishops...supported what one bishop called the "concept" of a nuclear freeze and used language that is almost exactly that of the freeze movement in urging a "halt" in the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons systems. But they carefully dissociated themselves from any specific political proposals for a freeze....

"The whole world must summon the moral courage and technical means to say 'No' to nuclear conflict; 'No' to weapons of mass destruction; 'No' to an arms race which robs the poor and the vulnerable; and 'No' to the moral danger of a nuclear age which places before humankind indefensible choices of constant terror or surrender," the bishops said....

The vote, although never in doubt, was a victory for the doves and a defeat for the Reagan Administration, which had lobbied the bishops heavily in an effort to soften their anti-nuclear position and endorse Administration strategies for arms control. "We shouldn't be surprised at the direction things are going," Bishop Pierre Dumaine of San Jose, Calif., told reporters at one point. "After all, the Holy Spirit was a dove."

"It's a very, very strong position on peace...said Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, President of the Bishops' Conference. "It will have a strong impact on the public policy debate in our country."

One such impact will certainly be felt by Roman Catholics serving in the U.S. military. They are now thrown into a period of moral confusion. Reports another UPI dispatch of May 4:

Roman Catholics serving in the armed forces should refuse any order to detonate a nuclear weapon, Archbishop John R. Quinn said Wednesday. He compared the position of an American soldier ordered to detonate nuclear arms to soldiers in Nazi Germany ordered to participate in war crimes--saying soldiers are simply obligated to refuse to obey immoral orders. "Nuremburg already established that," he said, referring to the war crimes trials of former Nazis.

He said not even the President of the United States could "justifiably force someone to do something that is morally wrong." The President would "exceed his authority" in ordering someone who had moral objections to the use of nuclear weapons to detonate such armaments.

Quinn...said some sections of the letter would become the official moral position of the church in the United States. U.S. priests, in instructing or counseling Catholics about issues of

nuclear warfare and weaponry, would be required to make those official teachings known.... He said the letter was designed to bring the world closer to a "real peace"....

Quinn said he expected the Roman Catholic community throughout the world to eventually take a similar position and that the letter could be the first step toward destroying the "nuclear spectre that so enshrouds our world today."

Meanwhile...in Western Europe

It is believed that the "nuclear freeze" mentality has been pushed on the U.S. bishops by influential liberal lay members. But, interestingly enough, bishops in Europe, especially in West Germany and France have resisted the "peace, peace" approach of the U.S. bishops. Here is an article, datelined Bonn, that appeared in the April 28 NEW YORK TIMES:

The Conference of Catholic Bishops in West Germany made public a pastoral letter on war and peace today that asserts "nuclear deterrence is not a reliable instrument for preventing war in the long run." But the letter, approved by the country's 68 bishops earlier this month, departs significantly from a proposed pastoral letter by American bishops in supporting the allied policy of "flexible response," which holds that nuclear weapons might be needed to halt an overwhelming conventional attack by the Soviet Union.

"The intention of preventing war with all one's strength must become credible by virtue of the choice of the whole range of arms," the bishops say. The methods chosen to pursue one's security policy should be measured in terms of the goal of preventing war."

The document has added significance since the West German Government is led by the Christian Democratic Party, which traditionally enjoys the church's support. Many of the party's leaders are active Catholics. The Government, which was advised beforehand of the letter, applauded its appearance today in a detailed statement that espoused many of its basic principles. Senior Government officials were deeply displeased by the American bishops' draft document. They said its opposition to the first use of nuclear weapons weakened the credibility of the United States nuclear deterrent in Europe.

The German bishops' letter is the latest contribution to a growing church debate in Europe, spurred in part by the American bishops' action.... The Dutch bishops, traditionally known for their liberal stance, are preparing a pastoral document that is also expected to condemn increases in arms. The French bishops have supported their West German counterparts. Joseph Cardinal Hoffner, leader of the German bishops, said at a news conference that the French bishops had thanked them in a letter for their "collegial stand"....

Cardinal Hoffner said..."We do not touch on the use of nuclear weapons. We deal with the promotion of peace, the reduction of

force and the avoidance of war.... Tracing the notion of the "just war" from the church fathers to present papal teaching, the bishops reject the idea of absolute pacifism for the state, whose function, they say, is to limit individual and social injustice. But they assert that "in view of the incredible destructive power of modern arms, the call for peace has assumed a special degree of urgency."

In sum, the opposing positions of the Roman Catholic leadership in the U.S. and Western Europe only fuels the imperative for political leaders in Europe to create a dependable and independent European nuclear force.

"Green Light" for Hemispheric Insurgents Given

Following up our Special Report of last week, mark down May 2, 1983 on your calendars. It chronicled another milestone in the step-by-step march to victory for hostile anti-U.S. forces in Central America. On that date majority Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee pushed through a measure that would cut off covert (secret) funds for U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua. The Reagan Administration has been supporting such groups inside Nicaragua itself for two reasons: First, to interdict arms moving out of Nicaragua into El Salvador, and second, to help pro-Western elements kicked out of Nicaragua after the 1979 revolution to hopefully have a role in moderating the Marxist government in Nicaragua.

Even though the legislation faces an uphill battle in the Senate, and possible presidential veto, it flashes an initial green light to Moscow, Havana and Managua that "all systems are go" for the military overthrow of the entire isthmus! It says, in effect, that Marxist Nicaragua (not pro-Western El Salvador) is now--incredibly--a protected sanctuary of the U.S. Congress.

At the same time, the measure approved by the committee authorized \$80 million for overt funding to threatened Central American nations to assist them in capturing arms shipments flowing into their countries from Nicaragua, Cuba or other nations. What this means is that the United States is indeed committing itself to fighting a war, Vietnam-style. During that conflict, the U.S. placed the main aggressor, North Vietnam, "off limits" for the most part. It permitted weapons to flow from the Soviet Union into the north, virtually unimpeded, then tried to bomb them to smithereens from the air as they moved down the jungle-shrouded capillaries of the Ho Chi Minh Trail network.

In this war, the main weapon forwarders, Cuba and Nicaragua, are placed "off limits." (Cuba has been so since an "understanding" with Moscow ending the 1962 missile crisis.) Weapons will thus flow in even greater quantities into Nicaragua by sea and by air. From there the route to El Salvador is by sea (at night) and overland through Honduras.

The concept of letting the arms in and then trying to hunt them down along the way is absurd--much like trying to snatch bullets in the air after they're fired from a machine gun. The May 9, 1983 issue of TIME noted the Ho Chi Minh Trail-type of network which funnels arms into El Salvador:

Once in El Salvador, the pipeline becomes even more labyrinthine. Materiel from the Jiquilisco [coastal] area is moved by boat,

oxcart or mule train toward guerrilla camps in the center and northwest of the country. Supplies [also] come overland across Honduras.... Every guerrilla route has at least one alternative path. In areas where the rebels are strong, the alternative routes often interconnect; at night, smugglers can slip right under the noses of Salvadoran soldiers.

The White House immediately charged that the House Intelligence Committee, by its action, appears to condone Nicaragua's use as a base for Central American insurgency. President Reagan charged that the measure "was literally taking away the ability of the executive branch to carry out its constitutional responsibilities." The President also said for the first time why he feels covert aid is sometimes necessary. The Administration needs the authority to channel covert aid to U.S.-backed groups in Central America, he said, because some nations in the region might not be willing to accept overt assistance offered for the same objective.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's Analysis

Last night in Los Angeles I had the opportunity to hear Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, address a World Affairs Council dinner. Mrs. Kirkpatrick discussed her multi-nation trip to the embattled region this past February, in which she had intimate conversations with political, business and labor union leaders. The first question nearly always asked her, she said, was "What are you Americans going to do about it?"--the "it" referring to the Communist insurrections threatening the isthmus. Others would ask: "Don't you Americans understand what's going on here?"

If Americans don't know--or are not being told by the standard news media--the Soviets certainly know what they're doing, Mrs. Kirkpatrick explained. In Panama and Costa Rica, the softening up prior to insurrection is well underway, said the Ambassador. In these two countries, the airwaves are saturated with propoganda from Radio Venceremos, the Salvadoran guerrilla station. In the past few years, 700 young Costa Ricans have gone to Cuba and the Soviet bloc on fully-paid education scholarships. During the same period of time none went to the U.S. From Panama, 1,100 young people have received such education; three went to the U.S. on similar no-expense terms. (It reminds me of the time when I arrived at the airport outside Panama City in 1968 on a flight from Los Angeles. Ahead of me, at the customs inspection, were several Panamanian high school students returning from a conference in Bulgaria. They had connected the flight in Guatamala City. I was amazed to see their suitcases stuffed with scores of Communist books, pamphlets and phonograph records.)

Mr. Nixon's Somber Warning

In an article specially written for the May 2, 1983 WALL STREET JOURNAL, former President Richard M. Nixon warned, under the title "Don't Let Salvador Become Another Vietnam":

There are chilling parallels between what is happening in El Salvador and what happened in Vietnam.... Today, there is strong support in Congress for massive cutbacks in President Reagan's arms request for El Salvador. Major arguments...are that the government is corrupt, repressive and inefficient and that by

aligning ourselves with a losing cause we may become mired in another Vietnam. Before making that decision, Congress should remind itself of what happened in Vietnam.

The last American combat forces left Vietnam 10 years ago after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement on Jan. 27, 1973.... Between 1973 and 1975, Congress cut the arms budget for South Vietnam by 76%. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, doubled its shipments of arms to North Vietnam. It is not surprising that in 1975 the North Vietnamese...rolled into Saigon.

What followed was one of the great tragedies of history. The "liberators" brought ruthless tyranny. Under the Thieu government there were some elections, some opposition, some freedom. Now there is none.... There were no boat people before the communists took over. Now 110,000 fleeing their liberators have drowned in the China Sea. Hundreds of thousands have been tortured and killed in "re-education" camps. In Cambodia alone over three million have been murdered and starved to death....

The choice now is clear. The Congress can approve President Reagan's request or reduce it below the level needed by the Salvadoran government to defeat the guerrillas. If they oppose the president's request they can justify their action by proclaiming that they are preventing the United States from getting bogged down in another Vietnam. But they cannot escape the responsibility for what happens thereafter. When we get out, the communists will move in....

As U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick points out, the most generous excuse for those who cut aid to South Vietnam at a time when the Soviet Union was increasing its aid to North Vietnam was that they didn't know what would happen. But now there can be no excuses. When the red tide of blood and steel rolls over the 4.5 million people of El Salvador and hundreds of thousands of refugees clamor to come to the U.S., those who opposed adequate aid to the anti-communist government of El Salvador will frantically thrash around looking for someone else to blame. But they will search elsewhere in vain. All they will have to do to see who is at fault is to look in the mirror.

What an indictment of U.S. policy! Millions of hapless Central Americans face the prospect of being trapped inside a totalitarian tyranny because the U.S. is fearful to act. Additional hundreds of thousands--many millions if Mexico is overrun--will head north, some as new "boat people," into the U.S. if possible. (How could the U.S. prevent it, really?) As Louis Gann of the Hoover Institute in Stanford told me recently, insurrections in Central America present an attractive "side benefit" for the Soviet Union--the chance to disrupt American society with the sudden inrush of millions of foreigners.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau