

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The first quarter of 1984 has come and gone, so it is time for another financial review. Those of you in the United States have more than likely been reviewing your personal financial situation too, since the filing of annual income tax reports is due April 15.

Conditions improved in March with our cash-flow problem. A month ago it appeared that we would be considerably below safe operating levels for most of the month before the spring holy days. This was evident from careful daily projections of income, expense and bank balances.

As a result of certain financial restraints that were imposed on spending, in addition to a slightly higher than projected income, this condition improved by about \$1 million in operating reserves over what was expected.

Until mid-April, we will probably continue to have balances just above what is considered a minimum safe operating level. If these reserves go any lower, it will upset the normal and smooth day-to-day financial operations. At the two historically low times of the year (just before the spring and fall holy day seasons), we need to have more in reserves than we have now for efficient operation.

Even though we should get through the current cash-flow problem, the fall low point is still projected to be lower than a minimum safe operating level. In March, these projections have improved greatly, and I believe that God will provide this need if we all do our part.

Even though the present cash-flow problem has diminished, the income picture has darkened a little since my report a month ago. At that time, we had 15% more income for January and February than for the same period in 1983. During March, the month's income dropped to a 7.7% increase, which pulled the year-to-date, or first quarter income increase, down to 12.4%. This is about 1% over income budget projections.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has mentioned the need in recent letters to have good spring holy day offerings to offset our low balances. I also mentioned this a month ago. As a result of these comments, along with the fine attitude of God's people, I expect a better than average increase for these offerings. I hope each of you will do your part, as you are able, and as God has blessed you.

The Arthur Andersen & Co. auditing staff and our accounting staff have been working for months now on completing the 1983 audit for the Church, Ambassador College and Ambassador Foundation. The U.S. audit has been completed by the staff and is now being reviewed by the Arthur Andersen partners. This is the final major step before publishing the audit.

The international or worldwide audit is also now in progress, but is slightly behind the U.S. audit. It seems that each day recently, we have

been receiving completed certified audits from various of our regional offices around the world. So far, we have received most of the audits from our larger offices. The U.S. audits, as well as the combined audits, should be completed by the end of the month.

Since we are presently involved with the annual audit, I thought it might be of interest to you and the brethren to learn a little bit more about these audits. I received an interesting report from Mr. Fred Stevens, Accounting Department manager, about our relations with outside auditors here and abroad. It illustrates some of the means these auditors use to determine if our financial reports are accurate. Mr. Stevens' comments will appear in the April 9 WORLDWIDE NEWS as part of my article for that issue. Also included will be some interesting remarks from one of our Church accountants regarding his contact with one of our outside auditors. I hope these comments will be as encouraging to you as they were to me, as we enter the spring holy day season.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

1984 Spring Festival Church Visits--United States and Canada

Once again several ministers will be able to visit some of the field Churches as guest speakers during the spring festival season. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Sabbath (4/14)</u>	<u>Passover (4/16)*</u>	<u>First Holy Day (4/17)</u>
D. Albert	Flint & Lansing, MI	Coldwater & Kalamazoo, MI	Coldwater & Kalamazoo, MI
G. Albrecht	Columbus & Terre Haute, IN	Terre Haute, IN	Indianapolis, IN
G. Antion	Belle Vernon & Washington, PA	Beaver Valley, McKeesport & Pittsburgh, PA	Beaver Valley, McKeesport & Pittsburgh, PA
D. Blackwell	Jonesboro, AR & Poplar Bluff, MO	Harrison, AR	Harrison & Mountain View, AR
H. Hoeh	Cadillac & Midland, MI	Midland, MI	Grand Rapids, MI
H. Jackson	Rochester & Syracuse, NY	Rochester, NY	Toronto (East & West), Canada
R. Kelly	Binghamton & Corning, NY	Binghamton, NY	Montvale, NJ
L. McCullough	Lexington & Mt. Sterling, KY	Charleston, WV	Charleston, Huntington, Logan & Parkersburg, WV
R. McNair	Laurel & Wilmington, DE	Harrisburg, PA	Harrisburg, PA

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Sabbath (4/14)</u>	<u>Passover (4/16)*</u>	<u>First Holy Day (4/17)</u>
R. Meredith	Chillicothe & Portsmouth, OH	Chillicothe & Portsmouth, OH	Dayton (AM & PM), OH
L. Neff	Findlay & Mansfield, OH	Findlay, OH	Toledo, OH
R. Rice	Middletown & Union, NJ	Union, NJ	Meriden, CT
L. Salyer	Ann Arbor & Detroit (West), MI	Ann Arbor & Detroit (East & West), MI	Detroit (East), MI

For the second holy day (April 23), Mr. James Friddle will be the guest speaker at the Vancouver, Canada church.

* Service on the previous evening.

**** NOTICE TO ALL CHURCH PASTORS ****

Bibles Available at Substantial Discounts

Thomas Nelson Publishers has made available a Bible catalog, together with ordering information and special discounts of up to 45% off retail price. We recommend that pastors desiring to receive a copy of this information for dissemination to their congregations designate a deacon or other person to contact the publisher. There is no obligation. Write to Premium Marketing Division, Thomas Nelson Publishers, P.O. Box 141000, Nashville, TN 37214.

International News

From New Zealand February was another successful month for God's Church in New Zealand and the South Pacific. Income for the month was up 14.7% over last February, and the year-to-date increase is now 10.4%. Incoming mail was up 14.3% for the month and up 15.8% for the year to date, with outgoing mail up 131% for February and 115% for the year to date.

On the media front, a breakthrough was made this month into an area never used before. Contracts were arranged for the Church to begin using large illuminated displays advertising The PLAIN TRUTH in the Auckland International and Wellington Domestic Airports. We already have a successful newsstand operation in the Wellington airport, and hope that this new opening in the Auckland airport will eventually lead to our being permitted to set up a newsstand there too.

In a further effort to boost our PLAIN TRUTH list, several ads are being run in March. These include a double-page spread with an insert card in

READER'S DIGEST, a full-page ad in The NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, and the distribution of 130,000 newspaper inserts in the March 8th AUCKLAND STAR.

For two months now, experiments have been conducted with the use of the office phone number at the end of The "WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast on Auckland's Radio Pacific. Every week a few calls have been received following the program, and all the responses have been very positive. New Zealanders are not as telephone response oriented as are Americans, but this is certainly a service we can offer to our listeners.

A number of members have recently experienced God's blessing of miraculous healing. One man recovered from infectious hepatitis, and a young girl recovered from pneumonia soon after prayers were requested from the Church.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

On behalf of my wife and me, we thank all of you at Pasadena once again for your part in this third Ministerial Refreshing Program.

It was very obvious to us, now that God has gotten His Church "back on the track," the time has come for the train to start moving. Christ is now fine tuning His bride-to-be, making us ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb. The train is leaving the station, and we had better keep up with it or we will be left behind!

The work of Elijah and the turning of the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers was the underlying foundation of this session. I am sure that the other men and their wives went away feeling, as we did, the sense of urgency of how much closer the end is, and our need to be busier than ever in fulfilling God's will as outlined by His chosen apostle of the Philadelphia era.

More than ever before we all can see that from the top down, God's ministry is one team endeavoring to support His end-time apostle. Ephesians 4:13 is being fulfilled!

Once again, thanks for everything. It was also a tremendous inspiration for us to have been a part of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of this work and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine with Mr. Armstrong. We will cherish it always.

Joel and Pat Lillengreen

Greetings Mr. Tkach:

Jan and I would like to express our thanks to you and your staff for another profitable Refreshing Program. We learned a great deal and appreciated again the opportunity to be at Headquarters. We also appreciated the beautiful Ambassador campus to live on for two weeks. We especially enjoyed being around the students.

It seems that we are getting down to the fine tuning of the Church, getting us all ready for the last days of the work of

God's Church. We very much appreciated the depth of instruction. Thanks again and we look forward to the next one!

Dan and Janice Creed

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS--ARNOLD HAMPTON: I am amazed at the number of serious events occurring in the lives of our members here, two months before the Passover. It does have a positive result. Many are gaining a clearer perception of Satan and his devices, which is driving them closer to God.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA--CECIL PULLEY: There seems to be a tremendous increase in health problems among members so far this year. Mr. Armstrong's recent television programs have been very well received and we are beginning to see more interest in the Church by the local community.

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD--VICTOR SIMPSON: Quite a few brethren are afflicted with various illnesses. Some are obviously being tried in this way; also there is some neglect of the laws of health. Seventeen requests for visits have been received (unusually high). Four are the result of the TV program. We have had a comparatively good initial response to the TV program via telephone.

From the United States

CUMBERLAND, MD--WILLIAM PACK: A minister must never become so busy with "ministering" that he does not have the time to visit the brethren. That point has been driven home lately through visiting and encouraging those who need their faith strengthened. It's really amazing just how much difference a visit makes in the lives of God's people.

LONG BEACH (WEST), CA--LES McCOLM: Several former members who had dropped out and stopped attending years ago are now beginning to see where God really is working, and are requesting visits. Some have gotten so low spiritually that there is no place to go but up. Many have really messed up their lives, but thank God He is gracious and merciful and granting them repentance.

VISALIA, CA--GLEN WHITE: Members comment on the power and clarity of the TV programs, and on Mr. Armstrong's drive and vigor. They know it comes from God. He's a continual inspiration.

BRAINERD, MN--STAN McNIEL: More PM activity and interest is being shown, resulting primarily from the telecasts. Mr. Armstrong is powerful! It is obvious that God is inspiring the urgency shown.

WHEELING, WV--R. SHORTY FUESSEL: It seems that God is intensifying the pressure on families and causing deep-seated problems to now come to the surface so they can be dealt with. With the

heightened awareness and perception of flaws, God is also granting additional portions of His Spirit for the families to begin getting priorities and their lives straightened out. A constant flow of second generation young people are now requesting baptism and God is granting them a repentant spirit. Enthusiasm is high and all are excited with news of Mr. Armstrong's recent trips and new concept of the two trees in Genesis. Thanks for the sermon tapes! The people express that it is helping to expand their perception that this church is truly united as no other church and that we all speak the same thing.

CHARLOTTE, NC--GEORGE PINCKNEY: A most dramatic example of God's healing involved the husband of one of our members, who was told that he had an aneurism that would be fatal if he didn't have open heart surgery. He called to be anointed, and the next day another test was performed that didn't reveal any abnormality at all. The doctor even had one of his colleagues perform the tests again. They again found nothing wrong with him and released him from the hospital that same afternoon.

PORTLAND, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: We had two auto accidents which totaled the members' cars. In both cases the children were in the car with the parents. Of five kids none were hurt. The parents were bruised and one was cut in the face. One vehicle was hit by a snowplow. God protected both carloads mightily! The members are closer and far more concerned about one another now than ever before.

YANKTON, SD--GEORGE AFFELDT: A severe winter storm caught almost every one of our members in the three church areas on February 4th. Members two miles from home had to spend the night in motels, farm houses or rest areas. Stories of divine protection were common. The storm killed 31, but of the members here in South Dakota, everyone got home safely on Sunday.

CONCORD, NH--KEN WILLIAMS: One family was nearly asphyxiated in our area. The member and her husband had gone to bed with the TV turned on. The volume was barely audible. At 11:00 p.m. the news came on and the sound suddenly was increased enough to wake her up. She felt as if she had a weight on her chest--she couldn't breathe. As she struggled to her feet the thought came to mind that she should go to the kitchen and check the range. She found that one of the burners had been bumped on and the pilot had gone out. The house was full of gas. Her husband and children were in heavy sleep. Only after opening windows and a door was she able to revive them. They were all sick the next day but alive. She feels God caused the TV to increase in volume and that He inspired her to check the range.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

We have only one more week of classes before the Passover-Days of Unleavened Bread break. Then only a week of classes, a week for tests, and a

final week of college activities--including Field Day, the Graduation Ball, and graduation exercises. So it will not be long until the 1983-84 college year is over.

Thus far God has abundantly blessed His college this year. As usual we have a few trials or problems along the way, but nothing of any real magnitude. We who serve on the A.C. faculty are very blessed to be able to serve the young people of God's Church by teaching them many priceless principles and lessons--information which will be of lasting value to the students.

Recently, my wife and I returned from our visit to the Big Sandy campus. While there I had a number of meetings, discussions, etc., with all of the men serving in the administration of the College, and also got to visit with a number of other members of the faculty and staff.

Eve and I enjoyed this visit to the Big Sandy campus even more than our visit last year. This was partly due to the fact that we were at Big Sandy about six weeks later this year. Early April is a perfect time to visit the Big Sandy campus, for it is when the beautiful white-blossom dogwood trees, the red-blossom red bud trees, and other trees and flowers are in full bloom. Also, the tender, green spring foliage was bursting out all over the campus. Last Sabbath I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the late afternoon sun set over Lake Loma, as the ducks paddled serenely on the placid lake.

In addition to the spring splendor of the Big Sandy campus, it was more attractive than a year ago from another point of view. The College has installed a completely new wood fence along Highway 80. Also, some of the buildings have been refurbished, with fairly fresh new paint on the Library Building and other structures on campus.

But most attractive was the warmth and friendliness of the people at the College--the faculty, students, and staff. Everyone was very helpful, and we had a most enjoyable and profitable stay.

During my nine-day stay at Big Sandy, I was able to teach a number of classes (Life and Teachings of Jesus, Marriage and the Family, Survey of the Old Testament), and spoke at a forum. In addition I was able to give the Bible study at Big Sandy last Sabbath evening, then spoke to the Tyler Church the following Sabbath morning. The first Sabbath I was at Big Sandy, I gave the sermon to the Big Sandy Church in the afternoon.

While at Big Sandy, I was also able to speak to a number of students who hope to be able to enter the B.A. program at Pasadena when they graduate from Big Sandy. Again this year, I felt my visit was very profitable in every way. These faculty exchanges permit various ones of us serving in College Administration on the two campuses to discuss various matters (student applications, various problems, student transfers, etc.) which relate to both campuses.

Such faculty exchanges enable all of us to keep in touch, bringing the two campuses closer together. This helps all of us to keep Ambassador College truly one college. If Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong approves (which I am sure that he will), we hope to have similar faculty exchanges during successive years of the College.

It was again quite refreshing to all of us here in Pasadena to have another group of ministers and their wives back on campus to attend the third

session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Regrettably, my wife and I were not able to invite any of this group to our home because we were in Big Sandy during most of the two weeks of that session, but I am sure they will all understand.

My wife and I plan to be back in the eastern part of the U.S. for the Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread. We look forward to meeting with the ministers and brethren in Wilmington and Laurel, Delaware for the Sabbath, then plan to be in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the first part of the Feast. May God inspire all of us ministers and our wives to serve His people during the coming festival season with love and zeal.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

More New Subscriptions in Three Months Than First 27 Years

As the Gospel goes forth in greater power than ever, the number of new people responding is breaking all records. To demonstrate how dynamically the work of the Church is growing, more people were added to the subscription list in the first three months of this year than in its first 27 years!

From early 1934 to August of 1960, 431,346 people were put on our files. From January through March of this year, 433,564 were added. God's Church has never experienced such exposure and phenomenal growth as it has today. As Jesus Christ said, "The harvest truly is plenteous."

Literature Requests as a Result of Your Recommendations

As you may remember, when a person contacts us and specifically mentions that he is requesting literature recommended by one of our ministers, we automatically send it by first class mail. Therefore, to ensure that he quickly receives the material you have suggested, please ask him to state that it is by your request. We can then separate these priority requests from the thousands of others that are sent by more economical, slower third class mail. We would appreciate it if you could help us keep down postage costs by having only PMs who are growing toward baptism use this faster service.

Occasionally members and prospective members ask for literature that has been recommended by a minister, but which is out of print and no longer available. In order to help eliminate this situation, new updated literature indexes (by subject and lit code) are enclosed for your personal benefit and use. (Please do not duplicate, post or distribute for member use.)

Also, we would like to once again restate Mr. Armstrong's policy regarding The WORLDWIDE NEWS: The WORLDWIDE NEWS is sent to baptized members only. Members are automatically placed on the subscription list. Therefore, we are unable to send the WN to new people who are not yet members.

It is our pleasure to assist you in serving people who are showing a strong interest in the Church and whom God may be calling. We felt that reviewing these matters would help us to serve you better.

Colorful Quotes

A number of people who write in express themselves in vivid and interesting ways. This week we are featuring some brief, colorful comments about The "WORLD TOMORROW" program, our literature and Christian living.

I saw your broadcast today for the first time. I was so impressed, it was like a beautiful melody--it lingered all day in my mind.

N.C. (Columbus, OH)

Sunday morning radio in Washington, D.C. is a lot more interesting since I found The "WORLD TOMORROW" on WRC radio.

J.G. (Beltsville, MD)

Your voice comes during the night via the radio like a ray of light in a very dark, carnal, materialistic world. Please keep that light coming because God and His Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, are truly all we have.

E.C. (Raleigh, NC)

I have often listened to your program on the air. You have lit the candle of hope in my life. For this, I am most grateful.

L.S. (Ossining, NY)

I would rather listen to you than eat when I am hungry.

E.H. (Lumberton, NC)

After 70 years of going along with the tide, I have been turned around by your program.

H.F. (San Diego, CA)

In these troubled times the Sunday evening telecast offers hope and is a pleasant change from violence, immorality, slanted propaganda and politics.

M.D. (Bayside, NY)

You still have the No. 1, terrific, scriptural, true program in all the world.

B.P. (Guthrie Center, IN)

I don't think I'll ever miss another program; I feel I've found a gold mine.

H.C. (Buena Park, CA)

Thank you for offering free materials to a struggling family man. I have to admit it, in an age where nothing surprises me any more, you did!

F.P. (Holbrook, MA)

Thank you for your soul-feeding material and enlightening news each month. The messages you bring add new meaning to our lives and give us a firm base to stand on in these uncertain times.

K.W. (Belfast, ME)

The GOOD NEWS magazine is the best I've seen and it's my spiritual meat. Most religious magazines are so low on food a person would starve to death.

Mrs. R.M. (Hillsdale, WI)

I so enjoy your writings--each is a new adventure which is read and reread.

M.B. (Clinton, IN)

Your magazine and booklets really help put the pieces of life's puzzle into place.

J.A. (Shreveport, LA)

I swallow your Bible lessons at a gulp and make a meal of your booklets and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I just can't get enough of them.

V.H. (Coleman, OK)

I'm ready to start on my fourth lesson of Bible understanding. I must tell you, it is the most enlightening journey through the Bible I have ever taken.

B.N. (Friona, TX)

I have blown the dust off my Bible and my life has changed drastically for the better.

D.O. (Yonkers, NY)

Christian living boils down to this: even with steadfast obedience and devotion, God won't smooth out the road, but He will put springs on the wagon.

(Name not available)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ENCOURAGING A DANGEROUS TREND Quite often lately we have presented opinions of leading policy-framers who are encouraging the nations of Western Europe to unite militarily as an alternative to maintaining the NATO alliance with the United States. Officially, of course, and backed up by firm pronouncements by President Reagan, transatlantic ties remain firm. But underneath, especially in influential academic and media circles, the timbers of support for NATO are burning, almost undetected, much as in a concealed coal-mine fire. One of the major critics of NATO-as-is is William Safire of the NEW YORK TIMES. In his column in the April 2 edition of the TIMES, Mr. Safire openly calls for the French and the West Germans to form "a new axis of power":

The old strategic thinking, to which most Europeans still cling, is this: If the Russians invade Western Europe with conventional arms, NATO plus France will at first resist conventionally; when this fails, the defenders will use nuclear artillery. Then the Russians would use their nuclear artillery, killing many American forces there, which--and here's the big assumption--would cause the U.S. to launch a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union.

This scenario is not hooked up to reality. If Soviet tanks roll, and conventional defenses quickly crumble, NATO would go to its

nuclear artillery; when the Russians did the same, they would then conquer Europe, and we would pull the biggest Dunkirk history ever saw. Maybe some American President would launch an all-out nuclear war to punish the Russians for taking Europe (and it is useful for the Russians to consider that as a possibility) but maybe he would not.

One way to avoid blowing up the world is for the Europeans to have the tanks, planes and troops needed to stop the Russians without resorting to nuclear artillery and the ensuing escalation. But such conventional self-reliance costs money. "Would the shift towards more conventional defense," asked British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe last week, speaking in the hand-wringing interrogative, "demand increased resources and an increase in the number of men? If so, where are they going to come from...?"

Not from Uncle Sam, that's for sure. The winds of change are blowing, in Harold Macmillan's phrase, and will blow our forces homeward. The Europeans will have to choose: to come up with their own conventional defense, or to risk their birthright.

Here's what is coming through on the screen of my stereo-VCR crystal ball: In the coming decade, West Germany (politically weak, economically strong, with a pool of military manpower) and France (politically strong, economically debilitated, with its force de frappe) will form a new axis of power.

The postwar notion of a United States of Europe, prospering under a cost-free American nuclear umbrella, will give way to this alliance between historic enemies. In the past, leaders of France and West Germany have quietly explored close cooperation. As I see it, Paris-Bonn--the Central European power--with loose ties to London and Rome, will join with the U.S. when its strategic interests are parallel, and will play economic footsie with the Soviet bloc when that suits Paris-Bonn.

Our policy should be to treat Central European independence as a development of multipolar strength and not as a "breakup of the alliance." We should not bring our troops back in a huff, cold turkey, but in a phased, consultative way that will encourage self-reliance in our allies. Needed now are some Frenchmen and Germans who can assert their new Gaullism without a tinge of anti-Americanism.

That last sentence contains the biggest "if" of all: that a new nationalism--or supranationalism--in Western Europe would not become anti-American in tone. In the Spring 1984 edition of FOREIGN POLICY, there appears an article entitled "Europe's American Pacifier." It is written by Josef Joffe, a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, publishers of FOREIGN POLICY. Mr. Joffe, who formerly was an editor with DIE ZEIT of Hamburg, has consistently argued against the breakup of the security bonds tying both sides of the Atlantic. In this article he poignantly shows how important America's post-war presence in Europe has been to the continent's peace and prosperity--and what the likely outcome of a European-only defense system would be.

In their penchant for leaving, or loosening, this most entangling of America's alliances, conservative and liberal critics [in the U.S.] of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) part ways mainly over defining the country's proper role minus Europe....

Attention inevitably focuses on the international order that the United States has built in Western Europe. That system may not be entirely just. It certainly is not cost-free. Nevertheless, by enduring so long it has impressively discharged the three key tasks of an international order: It has preserved the security and independence of its members; it has been stable; and it has muted, if not inhibited, the use of force.

In the first half of the 20th century, the West European state system failed miserably on all three counts.... In stark contrast, the postwar West European system has not only been stable, but ultrastable. While some hundred wars and civil wars have battered the rest of the world, Western Europe has remained a solitary island of peace.... Most important, the nascent West European order endured beyond expectations because it succeeded in solving two existential problems at once. It managed to envelop the potential of Germany, Europe's past claimant to hegemony; and it managed to contain the might of the new contender, the Soviet Union. Both achievements were made possible by the permanent entanglement of the United States. America's role in the containment of the Soviet Union is familiar enough. What is widely neglected, however, is the protector's role as pacifier-- as the key agent in the construction of an interstate order in Western Europe that muted, if not removed, ancient conflicts and shaped the conditions for cooperation.... By protecting Western Europe against others, the United States also protected the half-continent against itself...[and] also built the indispensable foundation for future cooperation.

France accepted community with its ancient rival and nemesis precisely because the United States and Great Britain at last extended tangible assurances against the dread consequences of West Germany's resurgence.... For its part, the Federal Republic accepted a host of unprecedented constraints, notably the forswearing of nuclear weapons and the complete integration of its armed forces into NATO....

In contrast to the interwar period, when the fears of the victors and the resentment of the vanquished created a vicious cycle of repression and revanchism, France and West Germany could join hands in the alliance and in the European Community because a greater power could insure both countries against the potentially perilous consequences of their new posture. Thus, instead of occupying the Rhineland as in 1923, France relinquished the Saarland. The smaller states of Western Europe could swallow integration with the powerful because they did not need to fear their domination....

It is only tempting to conclude that so stable an order might now dispense with the foundation laid by the United States in the

early 1950s and stand on its own. Could not Western Europe--pacified, prosperous, and with a resource base more impressive than that of the Soviet Union--do without its patron power across the sea?... Western Europe could only dispense with the United States if it fielded a deterrent capability commensurate with the Soviet force reserved for Western Europe. Yet how could Western Europe achieve this goal without true supranational integration?... No country, if given a choice, will entrust its physical survival to another, let alone to a European Community-type bureaucracy. Nuclear weapons [such as the national forces possessed by the French and the British] are thus intrinsically divisive rather than integrationist in their implications....

If nuclear weapons cannot be shared--as the debacle of the Multilateral Force in the early 1960s demonstrated--why would a country like West Germany place greater faith in the puny nuclear forces of its middle-power allies across the Rhine River and the English Channel than in the massive arsenal of its superpower ally? The ultimate implication of a Western Europe minus the United States, therefore, is a nuclear-armed Federal Republic with other West European countries to follow....

In conclusion, a Western Europe left to its own devices is not likely to achieve what alliance critics expect it to.... NATO's detractors ignore the central role America has played in pacifying a state system that almost consumed itself in two world wars....

Although expensive, deterring war is cheaper than having to fight one, especially in the shadow of nuclear weapons that make it unlikely that the United States could still come to the rescue of Europe as it did twice, in 1917 and 1941. "Which is better for the country," asked Truman more than a generation ago, "to spend twenty or thirty billion dollars [over the next four years] to keep the peace or to do as we did in 1920 and then have to spend 100 billion dollars for four years to fight a war?"...

Costly as it is, America's European investment has yielded enormous profits--notably decades of tranquility on a Continent whose strategic importance in this century has been dwarfed only by its inability to manage its own security affairs when left alone.

After World War II, America put out the raging fire of European nationalism, in much the same manner that Red Adair caps fires in oil fields. Ignorant of history, some want to remove the lid. Of course, things may not be as chaotic in the future as Mr. Joffe indicates. The nuclear age should impose certain restraints, even on the old trans-Rhine rivalry. This time, the French and the West Germans may be able to cooperate even in nuclear strategy. The two countries are beginning to show a rather remarkable degree of cooperation in conventional weapons development.

Indications are that Mr. Safire's "new axis of power" is slowly beginning to take shape, ready to emerge more fully whenever the "wind" blows American troops homeward. Learning to cooperate for 35 years while the U.S. acted as "pacifier" will have been the key.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau