

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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Dear Ministers,

I have now completed the taping of the sermon for the Last Great Day on the new set of the "World Tomorrow" television program. Rather than being seated at the desk like our broadcasters, I felt more comfortable delivering the sermon in a standing position behind a lectern. With both of the taped messages now completed, I will be able to concentrate on preparing the message for the live transmission on the first day of the Feast.

As the new telecast season is now underway we have been looking closely at the impact of the new programs and making slight adjustments here and there to fine-tune them. Response to the messages and to the new set has been very positive and our weekly telephone response has been right in line with what we expected.

Of course, the high response to the telecast, as well as the additional growth God has granted this year, does create additional expense. More telephone expense, more booklet expense and more direct ministerial expense to handle the additional visit load are all a part of it. I do need your prayers for God's guidance to regulate our expenses and areas of growth in the most productive and efficient manner possible.

This is the Work of God, not of Joseph W. Tkach or any man. God will lead us in the direction He wants us to go. It is our job to follow His lead. But we must realize that God does not make our decisions for us. He expects us to prayerfully strive to base our decisions on the principles He teaches us in His Word. We must ask God for wisdom, as we are told in James 1:5, and we must realize that we gain wisdom from obeying God and heeding His counsel, as He makes clear in the entire first chapter of the book of Proverbs. God does allow humans to make mistakes. But we should learn from mistakes so we can avoid repeating them. As we've said so many times, God will bless us when our ways please Him! We must be striving for perfection--fighting the good fight, as the apostle Paul put it.

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God has encouraged us since the death of Mr. Armstrong with outstanding growth in the Work. But we need to realize that the world's economic picture is one of extreme uncertainty. You are all aware of the vast indebtedness of Third World countries, even more massive indebtedness of the United States and an ever widening deficit in international trade. And no economist knows for sure what the impact of the United States tax reform measure will be.

God's Work is a work of faith. But faith does not imply irresponsibility. We must be responsible managers of the resources God gives us. There is a time to step out on faith. There is also a time to avoid unnecessarily overextending ourselves. How do we know the difference? By God's inspiration as we remain close to Him, walking and talking with Him and obediently looking to Him to lead us.

How effective and blessed God's Work can be when all His people are unitedly, as one body, truly close to Him, applying the teaching and instruction He gives through His Church! What good is knowledge, even the precious knowledge of God's truth, if it is not applied?

That is where you ministers come in.

Your job is to teach God's people in your local congregations the principles of His law and way of life in a manner that will inspire and motivate them to change! If the student doesn't learn, let it not be because the teacher didn't teach. As the apostle James said, "We shall receive the greater condemnation." How many in your congregation have become dull of hearing? With all the wealth of literature God's Church produces--magazines, booklets, reprints, the correspondence course, a newspaper--all filled to the brim with God's precious truth (not to mention the availability of the Bible itself, the weekly sermons, the Holy Days and opportunity for personal counsel with God's ministry), how many simply do not "study to show [themselves] approved" and simply do not make any significant effort to apply the knowledge God has given them and simply are not overcoming? Encourage the brethren in word and example to take action! Their salvation is at stake! God has called His elect to be overcomers, not just hangers-on!

Pray for one another. Remember those who need healing. Thank you again for your prayers and encouragement for me personally.

With love, in Jesus' name,

*Joseph W. Teach*

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

NEW FEATURE; NOTICE; Q & A; ANNOUNCEMENTS; RECENT ORDINATIONS;  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Canada, Netherlands, French-speaking

**New Feature** You will notice a new feature in this issue of the "Pastor General's Report." Actually, it is a resumption of our previous practice of answering questions of general interest so that we might promote unity and speaking the same thing.

It is important that we all know how to use these answers. Therefore, I would like to mention some concerns.

Firstly, remember that each of these questions represents a succinct example of a question about some doctrinal or procedural question. The answer given is a typical response. The question cannot consider all possible factors and the answer must not either.

There may be many extenuating circumstances which would modify an answer. We in the ministry must learn how to analyze and evaluate a situation and apply God's principles and the spirit of the law in making judgments and giving counsel. This is why we must pray for wisdom and discernment as we strive to be good shepherds. So please use these question-and-answer items as examples to help you grasp and apply the principles they contain. We do not intend to create a Talmud that attempts to deal with every possible aspect of a subject. Rather, we want to give some standard answers to common questions that have been asked over the years. Occasionally, we will include questions on which recent understanding and growth make modifications necessary. This way we can all keep up with developments and stand squarely behind Headquarters.

I want to thank Mr. Rice, Mr. Carrol Miller and the Personal Correspondence Department staff for their support in researching many of these questions. Their many years of experience are invaluable in this project.

Secondly, I would like to ask that you not share this written material with the members as a means of answering their personal questions. It will be better if you just use these answers for your own education and edification. Then you may have more confidence in giving counsel along similar lines. This puts the burden of judgment and discernment on you rather than causing the member to believe that this written answer is the last word in all cases. It would not be good to accidentally encourage the members to compare their own circumstance with someone else's which might appear similar but involve subtle differences. By the way, this same instruction applies to letters you receive directly from Personal Correspondence. They are for your private information. You may feel free to refer to answers from Headquarters when necessary in counseling, but do not give out copies of the letters.

Mr. Tkach has been very enthusiastic in his desire to resume the question-and-answer section. We will try to make it a regular feature of the "Pastor General's Report" as long as there is a need, because he knows that it can be very helpful to you. As always, any suggestions or comments are welcome.

#### **Accounting Department to Close for Feast Break**

The Accounting Department will be closed October 13-27. Please prepare now any hall rental vouchers, etc. that need to be paid before the Feast, as Accounting must have your vouchers by Monday, October 6. This means that these requests must be received by Church Administration no later than Friday, October 3, the day before the Feast of Trumpets. Following the Feast break, Accounting will need about a week to return to its normal schedule, so please take this into consideration as well. The first check run after the Feast will be Friday, October 31.

**Q: What is the proper dress for Bible studies?**

A: Dress for Bible studies has traditionally been somewhat less formal than for Sabbath services. However, since Bible study is held at the beginning of the Sabbath here at headquarters, men are expected to wear a coat and tie. At other times, when Bible studies are held during the week, a coat and tie are not required since some may come to the study directly from work. Even so, the clothing should be neat and clean; never should dirty or shabby apparel be tolerated.

Women should wear dresses since this is the customary apparel. However, allowances may need to be made even here--especially if the weather is extremely cold.

The best way to improve the dress of the congregation is through the example of the ministry and other leading families in the Church. It is also proper to say something either publicly or privately if standards seem to be slipping and some are beginning to wear clothing which is totally inappropriate for the occasion.

#### TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES

Although the Feast of Tabernacles is still weeks away, much planning for next year's Festival has already taken place. One critical factor is housing. Because of the following reasons, we are requesting that all members wait until next spring when the Festival Planner is distributed to make housing reservations for 1987:

1. The sites are not yet firm. Almost any site could be changed.
2. We have no way to guarantee that all transfers will be approved.
3. All housing at each site must be negotiated by the Festival Coordinator between now and next year. Negotiating for better prices is impossible if available housing is already partially filled by members.
4. Those who book their housing early, especially if they are transferring to a very popular site, make it much more difficult for those assigned to that site to find housing.

So please wait until the Festival Planner is distributed in the spring to make your 1987 Festival housing arrangements. Your cooperation will help make a better Feast for everyone!

## TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES

Taping of Services at the Feast

Sermons or other parts of services should not be taped by anyone except those appointed by the Church to do so. The same policy applies at the Feast of Tabernacles. Please do not take your tape recorder to the Feast to tape the services, as taping will not be permitted. Those who are unable to attend may request to borrow sermon tapes from their pastors after the Feast.

Taking Pets to the Feast

The Church discourages members taking pets to the Feast. (The obvious exception would be seeing-eye dogs or those animals trained to aid the deaf.) If you cannot make arrangements to leave pets with a friend, in a kennel or at home, then you must arrange in advance with your hotel or motel to have pets in your room. However, any damage or other problems caused by the pets are your responsibility. In no way can the Church be involved or held responsible.

Recent Ordinations

**Recent Ordinations** The following individuals were ordained as local church elders: Ralph Dowd of the Cincinnati, Ohio, congregation on August 30 and Gregory Fuller of the Lexington, Kentucky, congregation on August 16.

International News

**From Canada** The normal summer lull wasn't apparent in the responses to the telecast. Despite the fact that the programs are reruns of ones shown earlier this year, they have attracted more responses on the second showing than on the first. We received 5,361 WATS calls this month, only one call short of the previous record month of February 1986 (which included Mr. Armstrong's tribute telecast). The result was a very encouraging 285 percent increase in calls over August 1985 and a 203 percent year-to-date increase over 1985.

Mr. Richard Ames' program on "Mystery of the Ages" drew 1,242 calls, second only to the 1,650 calls received from the tribute broadcast. The same program by Mr. Ames had brought in 1,139 calls from its first airing on May 11, a record that stood until August 31 as the second-highest number of responses ever.

To date the Canadian office has processed 448,423 calls and pieces of mail in 1986, a 7.2 percent increase over 1985. Total outgoing mail was down by 1.4 percent on August 1985 but the year-to-date increase is still a positive 23.9 percent.

Mail income for August was up against high figures for last year. As a result we didn't do too well, registering an 8.2 percent decrease. This brought our year-to-date figure to +6.9 percent.

On August 15 we welcomed Marguerite Dubois to the office staff. Marguerite worked in the French Department in Pasadena until graduating this year. She will be used in reading the French mail and entering it on the terminals, as well as doing other work. We hope to give much quicker service to the French Canadians than we have been able to provide in the past.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

**From the Netherlands** In addition to a record attendance of 393 at the Pentecost Holy Day with a fine 23 percent offering increase, the months of June and July have been filled with a larger than normal amount of requests for visits in the Netherlands and Belgium. Compared to the same period for 1985, a 308 percent increase.

Most of these visits are the result of reading the International "Good News" and studying the Bible Correspondence Course. 70 percent of the visited people have started to attend services in the Zwolle, De Bilt and Antwerp areas.

During this same period the annual summer picnics were held in the Zwolle and Tilburg area.

For the first time this year a Y.E.S. summer camp was organized, held in the beautiful setting of the Belgian Ardennes, for a period of eight days. 75 parents and their children attended the campout. Both parents and children were inspired by the family atmosphere at this camp. The owner of the property was so impressed with the behavior and attitude of our people that he reduced the normal camping fare and invited the group to come back next year.

Final arrangements were also made for the Feast of Tabernacles in Hoogeveen. The Dutch language site is filled to its capacity; 400 local brethren from the Netherlands and Belgium have applied and 125 brethren from abroad.

On the weekend of August 1st Mr. and Mrs. Bram de Bree travelled to London, England, to be able to hear the Pastor General of God's Church, Mr. Joseph W. Tkach. They were greatly inspired by the encouraging message and the warm personal contact.

Incoming mail for July is up 12.4 percent and outgoing mail is up 32.64 percent.

At the end of July we had a year-to-date increase of 9.87 percent. Baptisms increased 6 percent in July and Church attendance 11 percent.

(Submitted by Bram de Bree, Regional Director)

From the French Office Port-au-Prince, Haiti--Thanks to God and with the help of Mr. Tkach, we now have a residing minister in Haiti. Mr. and Mrs. Cyrille Richard arrived at Port-au-Prince during the latter part of July, and are now conducting regular Bible studies as well as Sabbath services in Haiti. The couple has been able to find a comfortable little house located about six miles from Port-au-Prince. Our Haitian brethren are delighted--and so are we!

New Brunswick, Canada--The French-speaking members in New Brunswick, Canada, also have a new full time minister. Mr. Daniel Samson and his family moved to Campbellton, N.B., to serve the French-speaking brethren in northern New Brunswick and the southern shore of the Gaspé region of Quebec. Sabbath services are now held on the first and third Sabbaths of each month in Bathurst, and on the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month in Campbellton.

In the latter part of July, Mr. Samson conducted a public Bible lecture at Edmunston, N.B., with 23 new people attending. During the first month that the Campbellton-Bathurst churches have been in full swing, seven new people have been baptized!

TV Programs in Quebec--The brethren in Quebec are very excited about the new TV broadcasts that will be aired starting September 14, on Sunday morning, both at 11:30. The station in Montreal is CFJP and the one in Quebec City CFAP (Cable TV).

Mr. Andrist's African Tour--Mr. Bernard Andrist just completed a visit to Rwanda, Zaire and Cameroon. We now have 114 baptized members in eight French-speaking countries in Africa, but no minister as yet to serve them on a full-time basis. Efforts are continuously made to break the deadlock and gain official recognition for us to legally function in Cameroon and Zaire.

French-speaking sites for the Feast of Tabernacles--As it currently looks, we will have approximately 1,200 people attending the Feast of Tabernacles at La Malbaie (Quebec), 1,000 at Henglehoef (Belguim), 300 at St-Francois (Guadeloupe), 330 at Tartane (Martinique) and 70 in Jacmel (Haiti).

(Dibar Apartian, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

#### FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The income figures for August were lower this year than expected. We had a good increase of 14.1 percent in July, but in August there was 0.3 percent less than August of 1985. Thankfully, this very slight decrease still provided a year-to-date increase of 7 percent, which is right on budget.

The expense side of the ledger is 1.9 percent above budget. This is slightly higher than July 31. About half of the departments are still below the budget. We will work on bringing the others below budget in the coming months.

The Feast of Tabernacles is fast approaching, and most of you are now thinking and planning for it. In your plans please be sure to include proper preparation for the Holy Day offerings. They have an essential part in the financial needs of God's Work.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

#### MEDIA PURCHASING

This month "The World Tomorrow" program will move to new time slots on two of our biggest response stations, WOR out of New York and WGN out of Chicago.

On September 14, the program will move to 9:30 a.m. (EST) from the old time of 11:30 a.m. In the New York area, this is an upgrade, as more people there are watching television at 9:30 a.m. than at 11:30 a.m. Because WOR is cabled to approximately 19 million homes around the United States, it is difficult to predict what effect the time change will have on response to the program, but we expect it to be positive since the majority of subscribers to WOR are in the Central and Eastern time zones. The program will continue to air at its usual Sunday evening time of 11:00 p.m. (EST) on WOR.

On September 27, WGN will once again air the program beginning at 7:30 a.m. (CST). The program had been temporarily moved to 10:00 a.m. since last October. WGN is cabled into approximately 21 million homes across the United States.

--David Hulme, Media Purchasing

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

POST-FEAST "WORLDWIDE NEWS"; NEW INTRODUCTORY "PLAIN TRUTH";  
"YOUTH 86" UPDATE; "GOOD NEWS" CIRCULATION UP; NEW REPRINTS;  
EDITORS' LUNCHEON

**Post-Feast "Worldwide News"** Coverage of the 1986 Feast of Tabernacles in "The Worldwide News" is now in the planning stages. The post-Feast issue is the biggest organizational project of the year for the WN staff. It's no easy task to process reports and photographs from 92 Feast sites in 50 countries. That's why we need your help. All Feast coordinators should receive soon your WN Feast report forms from Mr. Salyer in Church Administration. Please postmark these reports to the WN Office in Pasadena by the Oct. 28 deadline to be sure your Feast sites are represented in this Festival issue. We would appreciate it if you would put completing and sending in this report near the top of your list of Festival priorities. Only with your help can the Feast in your area be shared with brethren worldwide.

**New Introductory "Plain Truth"** A new introductory "Plain Truth" has just been printed. For those of you not familiar with this publication, the introductory "Plain Truth" is the first magazine sent to new subscribers. The introductory issue allows us to give a new subscriber a magazine immediately. It is made up of a balance of articles from past issues that show new readers what to expect from the magazine throughout the year--orientating them to the magazine and God's Work. You should be getting your copy of this magazine in a few weeks. We felt you should be aware of the articles and basic literature offered to those receiving the magazine for the first time.

**"Youth 86" Update** As you no doubt know, young people are facing some extremely difficult problems in today's world. Some of the letters we get from readers of "Youth 86" are depressing. Many times they ask us to write about some heavy subjects. The problem of sexual abuse is an example. These young people's tragic letters show how devastating sexual abuse can be to its victims. We plan to run an article in the December issue of "Youth 86" showing teens what to do if they or their friends are being abused sexually.

Another tragic, and increasingly common, problem is teenage suicide. We plan to run in the January "Youth 87" the article, "Suicide--It's Not the Solution!" Our goal for the magazine in 1987 is to continue to present a balance of articles, some more thought-provoking, along with entertaining and fun features, always emphasizing the positive to our young readers.

As many of you may have heard, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach has approved expanding the Waiting Room Program to include "Youth 87." Shortly after the Feast, the magazine will be offered, along with "The Plain Truth," to professional offices and business waiting areas around the country.

X **"Good News" Circulation Up** August international and U.S. file statistics show "Good News" circulation figures have passed one million total. Some 957,281 subscribers receive the English version of "The Good News," while another 94,351 receive the magazine in French, Spanish, German or Dutch.

In the December "Good News," Philip Stevens' lead article, "No Room at the Inn? No Way!" is a study of the traditional Christmas scene showing tradition is in error. Mr. Stevens' commonsense approach presents the argument in a unique way.

# **New Reprints** Two new reprints are in production. The first titled "The Most Asked Question: 'What Is a Real Christian?'" is made up of the article of that title from the January, 1983, "Plain Truth"; "Jesus Magnified the Law" from reprint No. 741; "What Is Worldliness?" from reprint No. 340; and "Should You Try to Convert Others?" from reprint No. 330. The second is called "7 Keys to Understanding the Bible." It includes the article by that title from the January, 1980, "Good News"; "Which Bible Translations Are Best?" from reprint No. 165; "Do We Have the Complete Bible?" from reprint No. 590; and "How to Solve Bible Difficulties" from the January, 1980, "Good News."

**Editors' Luncheon** "Plain Truth" editor Herman L. Hoeh and myself and Norman Shoaf, managing editor of "The Good News," Micheal Bennett, managing editor of "Youth 86," Tom Hanson, managing editor of "The Worldwide News" and Monte Wolverton, art director of "The Plain Truth," met with Mr. Tkach, Michael Fezell and Joseph Locke, assistants to Mr. Tkach, and Larry Salyer, director under Mr. Tkach of Church Administration, September 9. At the luncheon meeting in the Hall of Administration, various aspects of the publications were discussed. Mr. Tkach also gave us some inspiring ideas for future issues in 1987.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

FIRST CONTACT WITH TELECAST; NEW WATS RECORD;  
 PUBLICATIONS REQUESTED IN BULK; WATS GRAVEYARD SHIFT;  
 HELPING THE ELDERLY; NEW SET ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED

**First Contact With Telecast** Messrs. Hulme and Omasta recently asked our WATS operations to conduct a survey to determine how our viewers first came in contact with the telecast. A survey of 6,721 people was taken on the weekends of July 27 through August 17. The results are listed below:

<u>Manner of First Contact</u>	<u>Number of Callers</u>	<u>Percent</u>
By chance or while flipping through channels	4,985	79%
Referral from another person	441	7%
Saw it advertised in The PLAIN TRUTH	412	7%
Were watching another religious program which The WORLD TOMORROW followed	316	5%
Saw it advertised in the <u>TV Guide</u> or elsewhere	<u>117</u>	<u>2%</u>
TOTAL	6,271	100%

A more in-depth study is being conducted to verify and explain these results.

**New WATS Record** Exceptionally high telecast response over the five weekends in August produced a record 186,000 TV calls--the most ever received for one month! This is the third time the monthly TV response record has been broken in 1986. A listing of the three records are as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>TV Response</u>
January*	155,000
May	164,142
August	186,600

\*NOTE: January's total includes response to the special tribute telecast about Mr. Armstrong.

**Publications Requested in Bulk** A wide variety of organizations continue to request bulk quantities of our literature to distribute for educational purposes. Hospitals, police departments, schools, churches and career counseling agencies find some of our publications to be very useful. They say our literature is unique in content, offers practical advice, answers vital questions and never preaches or proselytizes.

From the beginning of the year until now, we have received 120 requests for bulk literature. To date, we have sent out 7,795 copies of the literature requested. The five most sought-after publications are: 1) "Sexually Transmissible Diseases," 2) "The Seven Laws of Success," 3) "Youth 86," 4) "Mystery of the Ages" and 5) "The Plain Truth About Christmas."

**WATS Graveyard Shift** In addition to the hundreds of regular WATS employees and thousands of volunteers, there is a special group of people who are the unsung heroes of our WATS operation. These are our 391 on-call operators who are available for duty to take late night and early morning calls while most of us are asleep. Because of the time-zone differential, on-call employees in Pasadena work as late as 10:30 p.m. Saturday evening, and as early as 3:15 Sunday morning. At Big Sandy, operators take calls as late as 12:45 a.m. (Central Time) Monday morning.

Many of these faithful laborers have worked such grueling hours for years. Without their sacrifice and dedication many calls would go unanswered.

**Helping the Elderly** Although society has all but forgotten the elderly, God certainly hasn't. He has brought many senior citizens into contact with our publications. In fact, a large percentage of the comments we receive each week come from older people who want us to know how much the truth has meant to them. As one lady said, "You give us the incentive to hope and the ability to deal with life's pressures."

One woman wrote us saying, "Your written material and literature has kept me alive spiritually." She echoed the feelings of many elderly people who have become shut-ins because of their infirmities. Others say our literature helps combat the loneliness which so often plagues senior citizens. "I am a poor, lonely widow, but your magazines make me feel like I'm not alone anymore."

Many people in retirement homes say our publications keep them mentally sharp and alert. A World War II veteran commented, "The 'Plain Truth' magazine not only tells it like it is, but it tells it in a manner you don't need four years of college to understand."

More often than not, the elderly must survive on a very limited income. Our literature is even more appreciated because it gives them something of true, lasting value, at no cost. One lady described it as "truly the gift of God."

**New Set Enthusiastically Received** As you have probably already heard, the premiere telecast for the fall season featuring the new studio set for "The World Tomorrow" drew many positive comments from our viewers. They expressed wholehearted approval for the new set and said it gives the program a more professional look and adds credibility to the message. Following are a few of their comments:

I love this program, it is part of me. I read the books over and over. The new set is beautiful. I think it is the best. You have such a unique way of putting everything. This program has saved my life. It has opened my eyes wide. I live to see it--it's great. People who don't understand or don't listen

are crazy. I feel sorry for them. I need this program and I'm glad, so very glad, it's on.

Missouri

It is a more appropriate set for the information you are giving. I approve and acknowledge the improvement. It is a classy set--not gaudy like the "hallelujah half-wits." I'm a field general. Somebody has done a very good job designing the set. It has quality of intellect. Very much quality.

New Mexico

Wonderful new set. You are always outstanding. The set lends more credibility to the program.

New York

I enjoyed the new format, the stage was so different. The program is very informative--right from the Bible. I will be talking to one of your ministers soon. I have several questions and my life has been turned around.

Massachusetts

I thought it was terrific! The new set is great!! If someone was to turn on the telecast not knowing what they were tuning in to, they would think it was the news. I think the set is keeping up with the times.

Florida

This is the first time the program actually caught my attention. I've picked up "The Plain Truth" before and it mentioned the program, but this is the first time I've ever sat down and watched it.

Indiana

I didn't think the program would survive after Mr. Armstrong died, but it is great. I belong to the Catholic faith, but I have learned a great deal more while I'm now in my 50s from reading the booklets and watching the best religious program on TV. That's what I think.

Ohio

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### WORLD FOOD OUTLOOK--FAMINE IN AFRICA, GLUT ELSEWHERE

**Africa: Locusts Set to March** By all accounts the 1984-85 famine in Africa was the worst in the continent's history. According to reliable reports two million people died, half of them in Ethiopia. In comparison, a million Ibos perished from famine in Nigeria in the late 1960s, a complication of that country's bloody civil war. Between 100,000 and 300,000 Africans starved to death during the famine in the Sahel over a decade ago.

While long-awaited rains coupled with an unprecedented international relief effort have ameliorated conditions in Ethiopia, the southern part of neighboring Sudan, wracked by an incipient civil uprising, is reporting the onset of extreme food shortages.

But there is a sign of far worse things to come. For the first time in 50 years, all the continent's main populations of locusts are gathering to swarm, according to reports in several British newspapers in late August. Armies of Senegal locusts in West Africa, the Desert variety along the shores of the Red Sea, Migratory and Red locusts in East Africa and the Brown locust in southern Africa are all poised to march.

These expected outbreaks could have been contained, at least in part. But Africa's civil wars and overall economic deterioration have led to a severe cutback in national and regional pest control agencies. In addition, the rains which broke droughts in parts of Africa also provided the necessary damp conditions the locust eggs need to hatch. "When the rains fail, the crops do not grow and there is famine," reported THE OBSERVER of Britain, ruefully. "When the rains come, the crops grow, but so do the locusts--and there is still famine."

Some experts fear that 1986 may see the beginning of several consecutive years of locust infestation. In late August the Food and Agricultural Organization announced an emergency action plan to try to prevent, said THE OBSERVER, "a calamity of Biblical proportions." It may not be able to. The 24th chapter of Matthew predicts that famines and pestilences (verse 7) would be a hallmark of the end-time age. And the book of Joel speaks of locust plagues when "the day of the Lord is at hand" (Joel 1:4, 15).

**Elsewhere--Food Glut, Threats of Food Wars** Africa, from all indications, is going to be a burden on the rest of the world from now to the end of this age. This despite the fact that Africa is better endowed with agricultural potential than the other continents. Africa's agricultural area totals nearly 400 million acres, second only to Asia's 403 million acres (and far more people).

Africa's agricultural crisis is mostly attributed to governmental policies which hamper food production. (When droughts come, African countries have no reserves to fall back on.) In nation after nation, farmers have little incentive to grow food other than for themselves. They are forced to sell to government marketing boards which pay prices barely covering costs of production. Some African nations have implemented disastrous agricultural programs emphasizing state farms and collectives.

There are very few bright spots in Africa, most notably the Ivory Coast and Malawi, which have increased food production to become net exporters. Nearly everywhere else, the picture is grim. The Fall 1985 JOURNAL OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES reports:

What is so striking is that the collapse of African agriculture parallels equally dramatic increases in food production in every other region of the world. During the 1970s per capita food production increased by nine percent in both North and South America, six percent in Asia and Oceania and 17 percent in

Europe. In fact, even with the decline in African agriculture, world per capita food output still increased by five percent during the 1970s....

Worldwide production of wheat and food grains, for example, increased by 100 percent during the past two decades.... The world grain surplus currently stands at a record high of over 190 million tons, or about 50 times the amount required to cover the entire Sahelian grain shortfall for all of 1985.... The prospect of famine has been all but eliminated throughout the world--except for Africa.

In fact, the world has moved into a time--at least for now--of overproduction. But instead of this being good news, one hears of looming trade conflicts as nations struggle with each other in increasingly stiff competitive battles to unload unwanted food surpluses--usually produced as a result of government subsidies to farmers. In the Spring 1985 issue of FOREIGN AFFAIRS, author Barbara Insel wrote, in an article entitled "A World Awash in Grain":

What happened is that American agriculture--and that of many of our friends and neighbors--has succeeded all too well.... And, like the United States, the world has also learned how to protect its farmers by supporting grain prices artificially, stimulating still higher levels of production. As a consequence, we have entered an era of permanent grain surpluses, of a buyer's market for grain exports, where the United States can no longer set the rules. We now find ourselves in a world awash in grain, with ever-increasing bills for producing, maintaining and storing the unwanted product of our labors.

How did we get here? Why is the world's new ability to feed itself not an opportunity but a crisis? What does this mean for the United States and its allies? One thing is certain: agricultural policy will never again be only a domestic issue--or only an agricultural issue.

To begin to understand the problem, let us see what has happened to world agriculture over the last decade.... [We see] a picture of a growing number of exporters, a shrinking set of food-importing nations and, despite repeated efforts to reduce them, a growth of surplus stocks to nearly insupportable levels....

Some examples are striking. In China, the introduction of market incentives has produced a 15-percent expansion in corn production, a 20-percent expansion in rice production and a 40-percent expansion in wheat production just since 1982. Chinese wheat production grew from 41 million metric tons in 1977 to 85 mmt in 1984--and yields doubled from 1.46 metric tons per hectare to 2.90 tons....

The situation in Western Europe is equally instructive. If there were ever any doubt that agricultural production responds

to price increases, the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Economic Community should forever banish those doubts. The CAP has dramatically increased farm incomes; in Great Britain, for example, participation in the CAP has brought about an estimated 40-percent increase in prices received by British farmers.... The United Kingdom has gone from being a net importer of wheat and barley to a major net exporter in little more than four years....

There are many comparable if less dramatic cases. India is now effectively self-sufficient, thanks to the technological advances of the so-called Green Revolution, and Pakistan is almost so. Argentine wheat production has nearly doubled, Thailand's feed grain output nearly tripled, and both Canada and Australia have had major output increases....

The importance of agricultural trade for the United States is obvious. Agricultural exports make up one-fifth of overall U.S. foreign exchange earnings, and produce one-fifth of total U.S. farm income. At least one-third of U.S. farmland is harvested to provide grain for exports. Figures for other producing countries are equally striking. Thirty-five percent of EEC wheat is exported.... Canada and Australia continue to export the great bulk of their grain, and neither Argentina, which exports two-thirds of its grain, nor Brazil, for whom soybean exports alone constitute almost 12 percent of its foreign exchange earnings, could meet their foreign exchange obligations without the "green account"... Western Europe, which for years was the American farmer's best overseas customer, has become nearly self-sufficient, and the traditional South Asian markets are no longer growing....

Not surprisingly, competition in the grain export market has become increasingly aggressive. Weapons in the competition include a variety of export incentives and subsidies, such as differential export taxes, tax rebates, direct support payments to allow lower export prices, subsidized domestic credits, subsidized export credits and "food aid." Agricultural subsidies and other aggressive trade practices have become a regular feature of international trade.... The United States, long a minor player in the great export subsidy war, has now become the principle source of subsidized agricultural export credits....

There are almost no policy scenarios--for any of the major exporters--that allow one to escape certain inevitable conclusions. World grain production will continue to grow, export competition will increase, price levels will continue to fall.

The most poignant example of the anger produced in the developing global "food war" was the sharp reaction of Australia when the Reagan Administration recently announced it was going to offer further sales of subsidized stocks of U.S. wheat to the Soviets. Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden warned that subsidized American sales of wheat to the

Soviet Union and sugar to China, traditional Australian markets, could undermine the defense ties between the two nations, finishing off what's left of the ANZUS alliance.

Beginning September 15, the 92 members of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) begin major deliberations in Punta del Este, Uruguay. GATT rules have heretofore dealt only with global trade in manufactured goods, but the Reagan Administration, it is said, is going to push for the elimination of governmental subsidies of farm products. Just how the U.S. will be able to enthusiastically push this proposal when price and income supports to its own farmers will total \$26 billion for fiscal 1986 is a big question mark.

The European Community can hardly endorse the idea either. About 70 percent of the total EC budget is allocated to agricultural supports to keep farmers in the 12 countries from being thrown out of work and into the cities, producing dangerous political and social side-effects. The EC's "butter mountains" and "wine lakes" continue to surge upward. The EC spends \$63,000 every hour just to store its 1.4 million tons of surplus butter in refrigerated warehouses. The Community produces so much more wine than it consumes that the annual wine surplus would fill 1,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools. (California wine producers, themselves struggling with mounting overproduction, are trying to limit low-cost European wine sales in the U.S.)

Still, some experts are a bit edgy of claiming that the worldwide surplus is "permanent." Too many potentially negative factors--such as dependence upon today's "miracle grains"--could quickly move the situation in the opposite direction. Here is a report from the Sept. 9 NEW YORK TIMES:

Food production in developing countries has been increasing by 4.4 percent annually...faster than in the developed world and more than twice the rate of population growth. Dozens of countries that were once on the verge of famine are now self-sufficient in grain production. Even Bangladesh, which once seemed doomed to perennial malnutrition, has become self-sufficient in food. India, which suffered a famine in 1965-67, is exporting food.

Experts say agriculture worldwide is in the midst of a third production revolution. The first was the change from animal to mechanical power that occurred in the first four decades of the century in the developed countries and that is still going on in underdeveloped lands. The second was the creation and widespread use of pesticides, fertilizers and other farm chemicals after World War II.

The third revolution, these experts say, is in improved plant genetics. Breeders have used a variety of techniques--and are now beginning to use genetic engineering--to produce crops that grow faster, are less expensive to plant and have better defenses against insects, diseases and harsh weather.... "This revolution could be considerably more powerful than the two that preceded it," says Dennis T. Avery, an agriculture analyst at the State Department. "The first two farming revolutions

affected mainly the more developed countries, perhaps 40 percent of the world's arable land and one fourth of its population. The plant genetics revolution is affecting 90 percent of the land, and 4.5 billion people. Seeds are better. They are easier to develop. And farmers have little trouble using them. In fact, the developing countries are getting more effect from the new revolution than the affluent ones." As use of these and other new techniques of biotechnology increases, production capacity is expected to expand even faster. For example corn breeders are using recently developed tissue culture techniques in which they subject cells from immature corn kernels to toxic agents such as herbicides. If a cell mutates to become resistant to the herbicide it will keep reproducing, and can ultimately be grown into plants that will produce more kernels, or seeds, with that resistance....

Dr. Nicholas M. Frey, director of biotechnical research at Pioneer Hi-bred International, the world's largest developer of seed corn...said researchers have also introduced into tomato and other plants bacterial genes that produce a protein toxic to insects. The technique involves inserting the desired gene into the plant cells. Now the plant's leaves produce the protein; insects that feed on them die. ["Killer tomatoes"?)

Scientists also are gaining greater understanding of the biology of soils, particularly in tropical and semitropical regions. They are working with breeders to design crops for specific areas.... Varieties of corn developed to resist cool weather and mature three weeks earlier than conventional hybrids have allowed Argentina's farmers to begin planting large corn fields closer to the South Pole. These varieties have pushed the North American corn belt 250 miles north in the last decade....

Roughly 55 percent of the world's rice lands are now planted with high-yielding varieties developed by the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and first introduced in Asia in the mid-1960s. The new varieties helped China's agricultural production to soar 50 percent since 1978.... Nearly half the planet's wheat acreage is planted in high-yielding varieties....

The abundance comes only seven years after population experts and crop specialists, at a United Nations conference in Rome, speculated about which continent would starve first.... Still...authorities on international agriculture worry that the planet's food surpluses could vanish within months if persistent bad weather or crop failures occurred in one of the world's important farming regions. "Food abundance is a slippery concept," said G. Edward Schuh, director of Agriculture and Rural Development for the World Bank. "It's going to be hard to convince me this is a permanent condition. My main concern is that we don't all of a sudden get the idea that we have the problem solved."

Ecologists and other scientists point to additional risks from the explosion in grain production. The acceptance of the modern seed varieties is leading to a potentially disastrous neglect of thousands of primitive and native grain varieties that have valuable genetic traits, such as drought resistance or tolerance to toxic soil salts, that are becoming lost forever to breeders.

Moreover, the modern varieties grow best with pesticides and fertilizers. Increasing use of chemicals around the world is polluting water and causing sicknesses and injuries throughout the developing world, environmental experts say. Farming on land ill-suited to agriculture is resulting in widespread erosion.

Finally, the trend toward food self-sufficiency is one of the principal causes of the depression in the farming regions of the world's developed nations, according to experts. In the biggest decline of the century, the international trade in grain fell 38.5 million metric tons or nearly 18 percent since last year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Governments around the world are searching desperately for empty railroad hopper cars, barges, silos, warehouses, even military airplane hangars, to store 320 million metric tons of surplus grain, the most in history... Surpluses are depressing grain prices, causing farmers to go out of business, and bankrupting businesses dependent on the purchasing power of growers.

Governments are seeking to prevent a total collapse by pouring billions of dollars into their farmers' pockets with subsidies, income supports and other payments. In the United States, such spending this fiscal year could reach \$30 billion or more, seven times what the Government spent in 1981, when export farm sales totaled a record \$44 billion and American farmers sold more than 160 million metric tons of grain overseas [down to about \$26 billion this year].

Man's technology applied to agriculture is destined to fail, one way or another. One rarely discussed drawback to technology dependence is the fact that peace is a necessary prerequisite, so that the flow of pesticides, herbicides, the latest miracle seeds and genetically altered plants continues uninterrupted from the developed to developing countries. Interestingly enough, famines and pestilences follow wars and rumors of wars and nation rising against nation in time sequence in Matthew 24.

Today's burgeoning surpluses, the butter mountains and oil and wine lakes can vanish rapidly, given tumultuous political conditions. The same first chapter of Joel that foretells ravenous locust plagues also warns (v. 10): "The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth."

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

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