

# PASTOR'S REPORT



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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## STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1978-79 FISCAL YEAR

GTA has been spreading false reports of decline in the income since his disfellowshipment. We are providing these figures as submitted to our bankers for the first quarter 1978-79 -- during which quarter GTA had been officially marked and disfellowshipped. The figures speak for themselves and should be shared with your congregations at the earliest opportunity to do so.

--Stanley R. Rader, Treasurer

F I S C A L  
Y E A R - T O - D A T E  
July 1 Through September 30

	<u>1 9 7 7</u>	<u>1 9 7 8</u>
General Contributions, Holy Day Offerings, Festival Fund	9,203,574.55	9,463,805.04
Church Assistance Fund	735,107.84	726,652.28
Building Fund	186,910.23	257,086.45
Plain Truth Income	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	10,125,592.52	10,447,543.77
Estate & Property	18,964.34	87,220.09
Other Income	95,869.70	438,311.40
Special Offerings	850.00	0.00
Total Income	10,241,276.56	10,973,075.26 =

An Increase of 7.1% for First Quarter

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE, BRICKET WOOD, HAS BEEN SOLD Messrs. Herbert Armstrong and Stanley Rader announced in Tucson this past Sabbath that the Bricket Wood campus has, in fact, been sold for two million British pounds. This amount is somewhat more than the property is carried for on the books.

A.I.C.F. FESTIVAL PRESENTATION One of the highlights of this year's festival will be a special audio-visual presentation titled "Ambassador Foundation...Magnifying the Church." Color slides, music and commentary by Art Gilmore are being combined on film for this 30-minute program specially prepared for showing at each U.S. festival site and introduced by Messrs. C. Wayne Cole, Sherwin McMichael and Robert Fahey, who will each be attending several areas.

Much time and effort has gone into the planning, production and editing of this project resulting in a captivating, in-depth analysis of how the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation originated, the whys and wherefores of its operation and its goals for the future. It clearly explains the role of the Foundation and its activities in assisting the Church in its great, worldwide Commission. Not only does this special program answer many questions, it also promises to grab the interest of everyone! Please be sure to tell the brethren about this presentation so they will not miss it.

#### FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

While writing this PASTOR'S REPORT copy, we are returning to Pasadena from Cincinnati. Yesterday, on the Feast of Trumpets, 3400 were congregated in the beautiful Cincinnati Music Hall for the observance of this annual Sabbath. This excellent attendance represented the combined total of 14 churches in a three-state area. Present were the church congregations from Cincinnati (4), Columbus, Ohio (2), Dayton, Ohio (2), Indianapolis, Columbus, Anderson and Richmond, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky and Portsmouth, Ohio.

The entire service was very uplifting and inspiring -- truly reflecting the festive spirit for this season of the year. To add to the day, we laid hands on and asked God to set apart five men as Local Church Elders and raised one man to the position of Pastor. Our sincere congratulations to Bob Dick who was surprised to be called forward for the "setting apart" as a "Pastor." Also we congratulate and welcome to the ministry Gordon Braucala (Anderson, Indiana church), Fred DeMent (Richmond, Indiana church), Larry Freeze (Cincinnati West church), John Gibbs (Indianapolis church) and Dave Molnar (Columbus church). There were quite a few additional ordinations elsewhere on this High Sabbath. Since all the names are not in yet they will be given later.

Since I am on the subject of ordinations I want to explain a few things here.

Last week I was able to counsel with Mr. Herbert Armstrong about a couple of aspects of this subject in addition to receiving his approval for the ordination requests.

As most of you know, for the past few years there has been some question concerning the practice of laying hands on a man more than one time as he moves from one designation to another within the ministry. This administrative practice was started in the very earliest years of this era of the Church by Mr. Armstrong. In our discussions a few days ago, Mr. Armstrong stated that from a scriptural basis it may not be

necessary to follow this practice. The Bible is not specific on this point. Many things we do today, such as our form of service -- our custom of preaching as we do including average length, sermonettes, hymns, prayers, etc. -- are traditions established by judgmental decisions. God does not give rigid instructions as He did to the priests and Levites of old.

Mr. Armstrong nevertheless felt that it is encouraging to a minister (as well as to the congregation) to lay hands on him at the time he is advanced to another designation in the ministry. It is not unscriptural; it has simply become a modern tradition and at least for now there is no good reason to change it.

Along this same line, in counsel with Mr. Armstrong, we decided (Mr. Armstrong making the final judgment) that we would at least for now continue with the two separate designations of Preaching Elder and Pastor. Again, this is a matter of administration and judgment. It is not contrary to the few guidelines God gives us, (especially I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4). We have followed this custom since the mid 1950s, at the time the number of ministers of this era of the Church began to grow at a rapid pace.

Today in actual practice we have some men designated as Local Elders who are actually Church Pastors. Generally this should be very limited as one ought to move to the position of Preaching Elder if he is adequately trained and experienced to become a full Pastor.

Mr. Armstrong has taught -- and still believes -- that when one is ordained as a Local Church Elder he is not set apart with the full credentials of the ministry. For example he is not necessarily required to preach. He does not generally have the duty to perform the functions of conducting wedding ceremonies and funerals. He may not wish to teach publicly in such services as Bible Studies. He must, however, be a man of God, dedicated to the Church as Christ's Body and to the service of his brethren. He is to be a man of faith, able to pray over and anoint the sick in believing faith.

As we know, in actual practice, many of our Local Elders are excellent speakers in both sermonettes and sermons. Many are very good leaders and motivators with very good stage presence. We have seen many men ordained from among the local membership as elders, then grow and develop in such a way that it is obvious God is setting them apart to the full-time ministry. At this time, unless there are unusual circumstances, such a man should be ordained as a Preaching Elder.

Since our custom -- now a modern tradition in the Church -- is in no way unscriptural, we will continue as I said earlier, to use the designations of Preaching Elder and Pastor. The general guidelines will be that one is ordained as a Pastor after long years of service, perhaps is more effective as a public speaker, and one who exhibits leadership and service orientation beyond the normal requirement.

In no way is it to be a greater "badge" of authority, but rather a meritorious consideration and recognition of development and service. From a pyramidal structure point of view, being set apart as a Pastor may not in fact mean more administrative responsibility. We may actually have Evangelists working under the supervision of a Pastor

or a Pastor supervised by a Preaching Elder. This will probably be the exception rather than the rule, but it has occurred and will still occur occasionally.

Designations within the ministry are not worn as "badges" of self-importance or power. Rather the titles and positions are for the purpose of service to God's people and the accomplishment of His Work. A Preaching Elder or a Local Elder is no less a minister of Jesus Christ and no less important than anyone else in the ministry. His responsibilities may vary, what he is assigned to perform may be different, less time consuming and demanding, but he is still Christ's servant nonetheless.

I hope we can all understand this. We should not have "rank conscious" self-importance. Let us be grateful for our privileges to serve in Christ's Work in any capacity. Envy and jealousy are attitudes of the flesh. We do not want to do away with structure. Certainly structure is Biblical. It gives certain incentive as well as designating administrative functions resulting in order and system.

We are presently reviewing those who should be raised to Pastor, and more ordinations will be forthcoming. It should not be misunderstood that the few men who are ordained as Pastors this Festival season are the only ones who are qualified. As time progresses further ordinations will occur.

One final point on this. Our salary structure is not essentially based on the designation of ministerial title. A Local Elder who happens to be pastoring a church full time is paid as a Pastor. There are, of course, different statures as a Pastor so as to allow for seniority and merit considerations. Pay scales are on the basis of function, though all things being equal a man ordained as a Pastor should normally receive moderately more according to the criteria that qualified him for the designation or title.

I hope all of you have a very uplifting, encouraging and meaningful Feast of Tabernacles. This Festival observance is very rich in tradition and significance to the Worldwide Church of God. It has great meaning in what it relates to us in the great purpose and plan God is working out here on earth.

So long as we prepare for this coming Feast, get "up" for it in our emotional, mental and spiritual outlook we can't help but have a very fine Feast. And, I believe, many others affected by your example will go home from the Festival just a little more rewarded as a result of your presence and attitude.

We may have our troubles. There will perhaps always be "reasons" to be discouraged. Ever since man was first put on the earth he has tended to look across the fence and see something else he thought he wanted more than what he had. But, alas, when he gets it, like Solomon said, that also is vanity -- a puff of wind.

Fellow ministers, we have the pearl of great price (Matt. 13:46). And, we "found" it here in this Church. I don't care who the name of the person was who may have been your teacher. It doesn't matter how you were initially attracted to the Church; God is the One who really opened your eyes -- blessed your eyes and ears to see and to hear



(Matt. 13:16). God is the One who brought you to Christ (John 6:44, 65). The servant was a spokesman for the Body. Naturally, we love those who helped us along the way -- those who fed and nurtured us. Naturally, we tend to feel especially close to and perhaps even have somewhat deeper love for those servants through whom God called us. But, when it comes to "following after men," that's something else. Where might that road end?

I have been thinking about my own tendency toward negative thought recently. Let me share just a few of these thoughts with you.

Negative attitudes are often the result of subjective thought. It is easy to talk oneself into futility, hopelessness and despair. Recently, especially I have noticed that I can be "up," feeling good, encouraged and positive one moment and suddenly just one word, one cord or nerve struck just the right (or perhaps the wrong) way sends me plummeting into a "valley." Maybe this is just me, but somehow I feel it's a rather common phenomenon.

Perhaps I've said some of this before, but I want to repeat it. In reading many of the Psalms I have been impressed with numerous references indicating that King David (a man after God's own heart and attitude) was a sensitive personality -- a person who experienced a wide spectrum of very high "HIGHS" and very low "LOWS."

David knew what it was like to ride the crests, soar across the peaks and feel like nothing -- absolutely nothing -- could slow him down, get him down, or defeat him. Then there are also indications that he plunged to the depths of despair, and literally, as the 23rd Psalm says, walked in the valley of the shadow of death.

David experienced human emotions perhaps to extremes. He knew hate -- the kind of deep hatred and utter contempt that he felt toward the Philistine army with its giant Goliath mocking his nation Israel and wagging the finger of defiance toward his God -- the One and Only Great Creator God. In his controlled rage and bitter hate for the shame being perpetrated against God and His nation Israel, he did not shrink back in fear or consider the "impossible odds" against self-preservation. But rather, he went after and destroyed the giant.

The example of David fighting a lion in protection of his charge, to me is outstanding in its meaning of "love" and commitment. His duty was to protect his flock and that's exactly what he did.

The relationship of David to Jonathan (the son of an avowed enemy), stronger in the bond of friendship than that of blood brothers, is indicative of his capacity for deep love.

The example of his love and compassion toward Absalom even during the peak of the "coup" Absalom was leading against him is outstanding in revealing his emotion.

Fellow ministers, the reason I'm saying these things is because I know that many of you have gone through a wide array of human emotions and reactions over the events that have transpired since March-April of this year.

But, perhaps some are confusing these deep feelings and emotional reactions with their responsibilities as a minister of God's Church.

A man is an elder because he is spiritually to be just that. His spiritual maturity -- his stability in not being easily tossed to and fro, his capacity to keep his own troubles, ups and downs, and needs for personal ventilation of frustrations from getting mixed up with his service to those in his care -- should always be present to govern his conduct.

When this governor is no longer there or is not exercised, then a man has lost those qualities that set him apart as an elder and he is fast disqualifying himself to serve as a minister. In principle, this would be true in any church and, for that matter in many secular pursuits, and it certainly is true in the Church of God.

We have noticed that as a general rule a church congregation is as stable as its leader. Where we have a relatively large number of problems, people ready to walk out, etc., we often have leaders who are uncertain, frustrated, doubtful and tending to ventilate themselves before the people.

Fellows, this just can't be! Before we allow ourselves to get into a frame of mind whereby tens, perhaps scores or even hundreds of God's people are hurt by our conduct or by our words, we should take definite steps to remove ourselves either temporarily or permanently from the arena of leadership.

Please let us all examine ourselves and use this time during the Feast of Tabernacles to sort out our own attitudes and frustrations if they are getting to us, and affecting our ministry.

I'm your friend, fellows. At all times I want to help. I believe my record of giving time, being long-suffering, not accepting every rumor and accusation is apparent and stands on its own. I've heard that some have said, "It's time to clean house." I may agree with that, but I may also disagree strongly concerning the method by which it might be done.

But I also want you to know that I will not defend deliberate or uncontrolled actions to upset and disorient God's people. Neither will I protect and defend a minister who openly expresses to the people doctrines, speculations, and personal notions that are contrary to the teaching and doctrines of God's Church. There is a forum for inputting personal thought. We have made positive changes as a result of such input. None has just cause to believe that any true and proper reform is hopeless. We have done it. Mr. Armstrong is ready and willing to listen -- though slow to change, as indeed he should be.

I was very impressed with a statement apparently made by the late Pope John Paul I. He said in effect that he was lenient on moral sins but tough on sins of the spirit and sins of doctrine. In other words, he understood the weaknesses of human flesh but wasn't quite as tolerant towards fruits of wrong attitudes and was quite intolerant of members and clergy who defied and/or ignored official doctrine.

Again, I exhort you to look on the beautiful and inspiring things we do have -- not on the problems or those things you feel we don't have.

Have a great Feast!

Your Servant in Christ,



C. Wayne Cole

MR. HERBERT ARMSTRONG APPROVES Y.O.U. PROGRAMS After an analysis of the underlying principles and the present direction of Youth Opportunities United, Mr. Herbert Armstrong has approved the operation of the Church's youth program, including all of the program's social and educational activities.

According to Mr. C. Wayne Cole, the director of Pastoral Administration for the Church and the Division head over YOU, Mr. Armstrong feels that the YOU program is a viable part of the Church and would like to see it continued.

Mr. Cole met with Mr. Armstrong, Wednesday, September 27, at Mr. Armstrong's home in Tucson to discuss, among other subjects, the Youth Educational Service (YES) which is now administered by YOU. Before Wednesday's meeting, Mr. Wayne Cole and Mr. Jim Thornhill, director of YOU, had been involved in meetings concerning various YOU activities. Prior to these meetings a special report covering the full scope of YOU activities and projects, including complete budgetary information, had been submitted to Mr. Armstrong at his request.

The YES program aims to provide children (ages 3 to 12) with a basic foundation in Christian development. Mr. Armstrong said that he was concerned about the type of information that is readily available to children today and, in that light, he felt the educational program was important to the Church youth and that it should continue and grow.

The concept for the YES program originated about three years ago. The program was begun exclusive of YOU and was administered on a local, non-regular basis for about two years. YES came under the direction of YOU in the early part of 1978. The service is designed especially for children and covers a wide variety of Biblical subjects such as creation, the Ten Commandments, how youth fit into God's plan, the existence and the nature of God, and many others.

--Ron Dick, Y.O.U.

NOTE ABOUT Y.E.S.

Sample subject matter and lesson material will be presented to Mr. Armstrong for his approval. After such approval we will be sending further instructions concerning implementation of the YES program.

--C. Wayne Cole

FESTIVAL OFFICE ENCOURAGES INPUT FROM MINISTRY Greetings from Big Sandy! The Festival has almost arrived for another year -- 1978! Where the past twelve months have gone, I simply don't know. In the Festival Office, we live from the end of one Feast in preparation for the next. HOPEFULLY, we have done our job well this year and the ministry will be able to say "Another best feast ever!"

As you all know, there are five new sites for 1978: SEATTLE, Washington; FRESNO, California; SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York; NORFOLK, Virginia and SAVANNAH, Georgia. Each new site is unique and should add to the members' Festival week with much better facilities, more interesting and fun attractions, historic side trips or natural beauty not available in the previously used sites.

These areas will undoubtedly make an impression on the ministry too. Following the Feast, we would very much appreciate hearing from any of you with definite opinions about the new sites (and the old ones too!) concerning their viability for future years. It is important that these recommendations be sent in immediately as we will begin to sign contracts for 1979 yet this autumn!

Seriously, we would really appreciate any advice or criticism which will improve the Festival for the brethren in the future. In our eyes, the Festival is in pretty good shape at the present time. Therefore, any impetus for dramatic changes will no doubt have to come from outside the department. Your viewpoint, as a minister, is essential for such further development and growth.

By the time you receive this PASTOR'S REPORT, you may or may not have received your Festival allotment check. All Preaching Elders and Local Elders please note that you have received an increase! When we noticed that the Festival Tithes from the brethren was coming in at a little better rate this year, we were able to plan for a modest increase for those two ministerial offices. Enjoy it!

So, from all of us in Big Sandy to all of you -- have a wonderful Feast! As everyone in the Festival Office travels to a site to serve during the Festival, together as a body we will be seeing all of you. Again, until then, have a good Feast and we'll look forward to hearing from you afterward!

--Sherwin McMichael, Festival Office

NEWS FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES The October-November issue of the U.S. Plain Truth is now off the press. In it we have begun to run the newly titled United States and Britain in Prophecy. We will continue to run this series until it is completed -- then a new full-sized book on the subject will replace the present booklet. At this point I'm not sure whether Mr. Armstrong wishes to publish this commercially or in the usual way. As soon as we have more information on that we'll let you know.

In addition we are also making the healing series from the Good News into a booklet. It will take 4 to 6 weeks to get that printed if everything goes according to the usual schedule on such things.

Roger Lippross informs me that the much-maligned "sex cover" PT (April issue) did extremely well on the newsstands -- in fact, the best of any cover so far.

I've just gotten permission to implement a couple of administrative changes: Some time ago the Worldwide News (now the Good News) was placed under my administration along with the Correspondence Course and the PASTOR'S REPORT. These were all lumped under "Editorial Services." Since I have had little functional involvement in either of these areas, I have requested that the principle men involved, Dexter Faulkner and Richard Sedliacik, report directly to Mr. Armstrong and/or Mr. Rader. From now on if you have any input for any of the above mentioned publications, please feel free to write or call those two men directly.

We're trying to get everything done before the Feast. Present plans call for my family and I to keep the Festival in England at the invitation of Mr. Brown.

That's it for now -- have a great feast!

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

PUBLISHING UPDATE International areas will be contacted after the Feast of Tabernacles regarding the proposed translation and production of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's book, The Incredible Human Potential, into their respective languages. We are considering the possibility of printing these translations in one central location and bulk-shipping them to each area.

We have approval to hold a meeting at each U.S. feast site this year for all Plain Truth newsstand coordinators. We welcome all coordinators, or those delegated, to attend these relatively informal, open forums where ideas can be exchanged, plans discussed and any comments made. This will undoubtedly be helpful to all attending as well as provide us with excellent feedback. An announcement will be made on the first Holy Day at every feast site as to where and when the meeting will be held. Please pass along the news of our plans to all concerned during this Sabbath or on the day of Atonement.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services

"REPRINT SERIES" BEARS FRUIT In May of 1977 Subscriber Development began a new service to donors and co-workers which we call the "Reprint Series." This is a brief eight-part article series on the subject of conversion -- and is intended to be an inspirational help to those who are being called by God to have an active part in His Work.

The whole purpose of the Reprint Series program has been simply to encourage, motivate, and perhaps stimulate spiritual growth in its readers. Its purpose is not to convert -- but we do use some of the best spiritual articles written by leaders in God's Work to help our donors and co-workers understand God's purpose in their lives.

The fruit thus far produced by the Reprint Series shows its effect on co-workers who later become members has been especially beneficial. Here is what the records show: during the past year approximately 20% of all new members have taken the Reprint Series. We realize, of course, that this article series did not convert these people -- God was already working with them through the entire gamut of the Work's programs -- but we are encouraged by the fact that the Series has seemed to help many of the co-workers who later became members.



The original offer of the Reprint Series, which was made last year, brought an exceptional 29.8% response from donors and co-workers! People are hungering for the truth of God. We feel this small program is helping to satisfy their spiritual appetite.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

AN INTERESTING BAPTISM (Editor's Note: Mr. Cole asked that we include the following experience of Dave Treybig for the interest of our readers.)

Not too long ago, I experienced an interesting and humorous situation in performing a baptism ceremony. I mentioned the story to Mr. Ed Smith who suggested that I write it up and send it in for possible use in the PASTOR'S REPORT. I hope my fellow ministers will find it interesting.

I began visiting an inmate in one of the three prisons located in my visiting territory and had no difficulty in counseling with him as he progressed toward baptism. When the time came for him to be baptized, I called the Protestant chaplain to ask permission to come into the prison chapel and perform the baptism by immersion. In talking with him, I was told that there were no facilities for baptism by immersion. He suggested that perhaps I would want to change my theology.

Exploring another line of reasoning, I asked about the possibility of bringing in a portable baptism tank. The chaplain was unsure of this, but agreed to ask the warden if it could be done. The warden agreed and I took the tank into the prison with all the accompanying jokes, questions, etc. asked by officers and inmates alike about what was going on.

After getting the tank to the chapel and the process of filling the tank with water had begun, the chaplain explained to me that two other inmates had been "saved" over the weekend and would like to be baptized by immersion also. He asked if I would mind performing the ceremony for them too. I declined suggesting that it would be better for him to perform the ceremony since he had worked with them.

Upon coming to this agreement, he asked if I had my ritual book with me because he had forgotten to bring his with him that morning. I told him that I had the ceremony we used memorized, but would be happy to briefly outline it for him if he would like. He said he would appreciate it, so I went over the ceremony in a minute or so explaining just very briefly how and why we performed the ceremony as we do. Upon concluding, his reply was, "That sounds good to me!" So after I baptized the inmate I had counseled, the chaplain baptized the other two inmates in the same fashion as I had, even including the laying on of hands after immersion.

As I thought about it later, that chaplain was on the spot in front of the other inmates. With the entire group present, I had explained in an opening prayer and during the prayer with the laying on of hands the scriptural texts for what I was doing and had the chaplain omitted part of the ceremony, the other two would have felt like they had been cheated and only gotten a second-rate baptism! By the way, after all was said and done, the chaplain asked where we had gotten the portable tank as he intended to purchase one for use at the prison.

--Dave Treybig, Portsmouth, Ohio

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THAW IN MIDEAST; VOLCANO SMOLDERING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA For the moment, the news headlines continue to be dominated by events in the Middle East. With the rejection of the Camp David accords by the other Arab states to one degree or another, it looks more and more now that Egypt will proceed to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel. President Sadat is more or less committed to this course of action; he is an Egyptian nationalist first, a pan-Arabist second. Sadat has an "out" to the myth of Arab solidarity; he has told the other Arabs that they can join the peace process on their own timetable, according to the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East" he worked out with Israeli Prime Minister Begin.

Sadat's next move toward normalizing relations with Israel, of course, has been expedited by the approval granted by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, to the painful provision in Camp David accords calling for the removal of Israeli settlers from the Sinai. Thus, Sadat will have what he wants most of all, the eventual full restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai.

While events appear to be moving toward some sort of a partial settlement in the Middle East, a catastrophe is brewing in southern Africa. So far it has received but scant attention in the world press, but you'll hear more about it as the issue moves through the United Nations.

On September 21, South Africa announced it was forced to reject the U.N. formula for independence for South West Africa (Namibia), a territory Pretoria has ruled since 1920. It instead announced that it was proceeding with its own independence formula, including preparations for free elections.

Earlier this year South Africa agreed to a U.N. plan put forward by five Western nations acting on the U.N.'s behalf -- the U.S., Canada, France, Britain, and West Germany. On April 25, Pretoria, despite reservations, accepted the U.N. formula on good faith. In turn, the "Big Five" assured South Africa they would see to it that no changes were made in the plan.

Subsequent events reveal how weak the Western "powers" are in holding to a steady course in the wake of determined opposition. First of all, the Marxist-supported SWAPO group, which is determined to lord it over all of South West Africa's racially divergent peoples, demanded changes in the formula. SWAPO's leaders stalled for time, then announced they basically accepted the plan.

SWAPO also stepped up its acts of terror and violence, striking out from bases in Angola and Zambia. The U.N. said nothing regarding SWAPO's activities, but professed shock and dismay when South African forces launched a heavy attack against SWAPO camps in Zambia. The South African countermeasure served SWAPO's cause well, earning it sympathy from the Third World dominated U.N.

Then finally, last week, a vastly revised U.N. proposal was put forward calling for 7,500 U.N. soldiers plus another 1,200 "observers" to

"supervise" elections (as opposed to no more than 3,000 in the original plan). Another new innovation was the introduction of a U.N. "police force" to more or less shadow the South African police.

Elections were also to be put back some time into next year, since SWAPO wasn't ready to fight the battle of the ballot. (Two years ago South Africa was condemned for waiting "so long" -- until December 31, 1978 -- to hold elections).

Such a heavy U.N. troop commitment would, in Pretoria's eyes, not be an election-monitoring force but would amount to military presence obviously tilted toward SWAPO's side. (This massive commitment would also soak up half of the annual U.N. budget!) Since the U.N. is already on record as saying that SWAPO represents the sole and authoritative representative of the Namibian people -- a gross exaggeration -- the U.N. troops would hardly be an impartial body.

SWAPO knows it can't win a free election. Over 85% of Namibia's population (only 900,000 in the whole territory) have already been registered for a vote to elect a constitutional drafting body -- despite the fact that SWAPO told its followers to boycott the registration.

However, true to form, South Africa has been cast in the role of the villain for not meekly turning Namibia over to SWAPO on a silver platter.

The upshot of it all is that the U.N. will not recognize any "internal settlement" in Namibia brought about by South Africa's own efforts; SWAPO will turn even more to violence (it has already called for Soviet and Cuban help); and there will be calls in the U.N. to punish South Africa with trade sanctions.

Pretoria has made its decision to draw the line at this point, even with the realization that there may be sanctions levied against it. But the South Africans feel they simply can't back away and subject 900,000 people to an uncertain fate at the hands of a gang of thugs. As the Cape Town newspaper, die Burger, noted: "SWAPO obviously does not want peace in South West Africa and is doing everything in its power to make a peaceful settlement impossible. Its leaders want violence and bloodshed. In this horrible way they want to subject the people of South West Africa to their tyranny."

The news magazine To The Point, in its September 15 issue editorialized: "While in Western capitals some men are charmed by the idea of liberation and talk continually of including savage "liberators" in civilised negotiation, in the rugged terrain near the Zambezi the liberators blast civilian aircraft with missiles and butcher the helpless survivors -- all in the name of freedom. /Referring to the Air Rhodesia plane downed by the Patriotic Front./"

"Yet, if we are to believe some commentators, these same men, purveyors of wholesale murder, must be included in the conclaves of civilised men. Not only must their counsel be weighed, but they must be among the guardians of law...Tomorrow, we are to believe, these men will happily put away their guns and bombs and become humane administrators and model politicians."

The actions of the "liberation" forces remind one of a passage in Psalm 64, verses 3-6, speaking of wicked men "who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear. They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, 'Who can see us?'"

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

Postscript: Since the above column was written, the world has been stunned by news of the sudden death in Rome of Pope John Paul I after a scant 34 days' reign as Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. Once again cardinals from around the world are converging on the Vatican to enter into conclave to choose another papal successor. Observers are suggesting that many of the names of possible papal candidates which featured so prominently in speculation before the last conclave may finally come to the fore in this conclave. Among those now being most frequently cited as a good bet is Giovanni Cardinal Benelli, mentioned in an earlier column in the PASTOR'S REPORT as having been the prime promoter of the candidacy of Albino Cardinal Luciani (Pope John Paul I). Benelli -- a strong advocate of a united Christian Europe -- is widely respected by his fellow cardinals. His relative youth (he is 57) is also a factor in his favor, as cardinals may want to opt this time for a "younger" man who in all probability would enjoy a lengthier reign than his predecessor. In any case, developments in Rome bear closer scrutiny. Further developments will be reported in this column as they occur.

--G.H.H.