

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 28, 1979

## MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

It has now been decided that the 1980 Ministers' Conference will be held either in the latter part of May or early June.

As announced last month, we will bring in the same rank of ministers as last January, and it is expected that wives will come also.

We hope the meeting this next year can be held in Pasadena. If held again in Tucson it would cost the Church a few hundred thousand dollars more than to hold it in Pasadena. It appears now that if set for January it would again have to be held in Tucson.

## SHIFT IN PLAIN TRUTH STAFF

Herman L. Hoeh has been appointed Senior Editor of The PLAIN TRUTH in charge of article production. Dexter Faulkner will add at least one additional assistant to his present staff and, with their support, assume the office of Managing Editor of The PLAIN TRUTH, as well as continuing in that capacity on the GOOD NEWS and the WORLDWIDE NEWS.

I first envisioned The PLAIN TRUTH in 1927, seven years before God opened the way for it to emerge in actual publication. Even then God caused it to start, February, 1934, in the smallest possible manner, as He often starts projects through human instruments. It started as a mimeographed "magazine" printed on a borrowed mimeograph, with stencils cut on a borrowed typewriter.

Soon after that first issue, I was provided with a secondhand typewriter at a cost of \$10, and an old secondhand neostyle, ancestor of the mimeograph--wholly manually operated.

There is every reason why The PLAIN TRUTH now should become the finest, most important mass-circulation magazine in the world. Under our dedicated staff, and competent contributors of article content, we shall press on to that goal.

The News Bureau under Gene Hogberg, occupying adjoining offices, will work in close cooperation with The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS, and WORLDWIDE NEWS staffs.

One by one, every facet of God's Work is being set back on the track!

## HOW THE CONSPIRACY WORKED

Going over papers in preparing for the trip to China, I came across a letter that had become sidetracked. It was dated August 19, 1979. On reading it again, I decided to print it in the WORLDWIDE NEWS, and I am including it also in this Pastor General's Report.

It describes, from the member point of view, how the conspiracy to eliminate both God and Jesus Christ from this Church and Work actually operated. Of course Satan was the real author of the whole conspiracy--now continuing in the California Attorney General's attempt to take over the Church and its properties and assets--or, in other words, to DESTROY the Church of the living GOD!

My son, still held in the bond and grip of Satan, has NOT started another Church of God. God has only ONE Church.

God calls His Church the "Body of Christ." In this case the word "body" is used in the sense of a cohesive single GROUP--a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM. We are "...the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Eph. 2:19-21).

So we are a "body" of Spirit-begotten people--we are a "building" and we are a "holy temple." And all that one body is "...fitly joined together and compacted (welded) by that which every joint supplieth..." (Eph. 4:16).

But that Church body is NOT TWO churches but only ONE! "For as the body is ONE, and hath many members...But now are they many members, yet but ONE body" (I Cor. 12:12,20).

What has been started in OPPOSITION TO the ONE Church of God is merely a group, mostly of embittered dissenters, following a MAN!

It was started in anger, and resentment and hostility, under threat to DESTROY the ONE Church of the living GOD. That conspiracy continued into the plot that influenced a California lawyer, for his personal profit, to induce a deputy Attorney General of California to attempt to DESTROY the Church of the living GOD!

The REAL conspirator is Satan the Devil. He has DECEIVED a handful of resentful, embittered, hostile former members into trying to DESTROY that which formerly FED them and supplied all their physical need.

Let us PRAY, earnestly and continuously, that Jesus Christ will LOOSE him that is in the clutch of Satan from the power of Satan, that he may yet find his way back to that to which he was originally called.

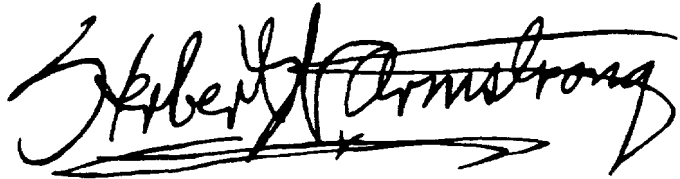
The other morning I awoke from a most startling and vivid dream. I was walking past a counter in a building, and standing there at the counter was this one held captive by Satan. He turned and saw me. Looking beaten and frustrated, he said, "Dad, is there any possible way that I can come back?"

I awoke at that instant, shaken, but with a new ray of hope. Of himself it is IMPOSSIBLE for as Paul wrote in Hebrews, when one has tasted of God's Holy Spirit and the holy Word of God, if he shall fall away, it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew him to repentance. Impossible for him--yes. BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

In the 3rd chapter of Zechariah is the forerunner--the antetype or the prototype of this late 20th century--the High Priest Joshua, clothed

with filthy garments--covered with sin. Beside him stands Satan, holding him BOUND (but not possessed)--unable to shake himself loose--unable to REPENT! Then comes Jesus Christ and REBUKES Satan, frees Joshua, orders his filthy garments to be taken off, and clean garments of white (righteousness) put on, and then a fair mitre put on his head.

PRAY WITH ME, earnestly and diligently that the END-TIME EVENT which that foreshadowed may yet come to pass. I pray for this fervently DAILY, as I pray also for all of YOU.



August 19, 1979

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This afternoon while my wife and I were going through some files and boxes in my study, I came across the letter you wrote to the brethren dated, June 28, 1978 in which you told us that you had been forced to dis-fellowship your son, Garner Ted. I do not wish to reopen the wounds and deep sorrows of the past, but I wish only to tell you my feelings and thoughts after having read that letter after over a year had past since you wrote it. Some of the things I thought of were significant and I feel like you may wish to hear about them.

I can recall in the early 70s some of the changes in the sermons we began to receive from those who came from Headquarters on the Holy Days (actually, High Days!) were nearly undetectable except for the "appeal" to our human desire for "relief" from the ministerial "oppression" so many of us were told we had experienced over the years! Maybe there were some extenuating circumstances in which this may have been true. But yet, the kind of sermons we received during those years of "oppression" were the kind which made us go home and dig into our Bibles and search diligently for greater understanding of the Way of the Living God! The language Satan inspired to be used during those later years was so slick and subtle that we virtually saw this "new" way of thinking as being a process of maturation in the Church, and most of us fell for it. But then again, we didn't. The answer to that statement lies in the fact that the preaching that the Living Christ inspired through you and those Christ taught through YOU was the very preaching that sustained most of us through the years of trial and confusion.

Referring to your letter, I realize more than ever now how important the lesson is that God brought to us, especially to you, in the episode of Moses and Aaron and how Aaron led the people into gross idolatry in Moses' absence. Now, with the work being changed once again in structure with you eliminating any man or office between you and the ministry, I know more than ever that Jesus Christ is truly more determined to place His Church in the most powerful shape it has EVER been throughout its history of over 1900 years! The Living God IS getting His Church back on God's Track! Times are exciting! Christ truly is SOON to come! There IS much

work to be done yet and we pray fervently for you and God's guidance for you to lead us and continue to show us the Way into His Kingdom through doing HIS WORK!

I KNOW that as long as we continue to pour our hearts into this Work, Christ will never fail us nor leave us! We will succeed! The Church of the Living God will prepare the WAY for the Return of the King of Kings in POWER and in ABSOLUTE AND TOTAL VICTORY! And His Bride WILL have made herself ready!

We love you and are behind you in all things as Christ leads and directs!

Yours in Christian Love and Fellowship,  
Mr. and Mrs. James L. King

#### POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM INSEPARABLE

The Worldwide Church of God, its leaders and its brethren, are being defamed, belittled, harassed and persecuted because of its unpopular and nonestablishment beliefs. Beliefs which, under the inspired leadership of Herbert W. Armstrong--Christ's Apostle and personal representative at this time--have been promulgated with power and impact and impressed upon the minds of people throughout the United States and around the world by radio, by television, by the printed word and by personal evangelism.

The Constitution of the United States and the first Ten Amendments thereof (known as the Bill of Rights), should have been a guarantee that the Great Commission set forth in Matthew 24:14--"And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations"--would continue to be fulfilled at least in America, and yes, even in California. The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution makes the Bill of Rights applicable to the State as well as the Federal Government.

But, government is composed of men and government has been designed by men. Unfortunately, there are evil men. The Attorney General and those in his camp are men who will lie and invent where necessary, and will malign even where not necessary.

Unfortunately the American people do not traditionally like to keep much of the past in their heads because America is a place where it is considered unhealthy to remember past mistakes--neurotic to think about them and psychotic to dwell upon them. Yet only a few years ago there was a Presidential scandal uncovered in a corrupt White House--the Watergate Scandal--a scandal whose true proportions will never be completely discovered or known because of President Ford's pardon of his predecessor. A scandal wherein the President and his men were willing to use all their considerable power to subvert the nation and destroy its two-hundred-year heritage for their own corrupt and selfish purposes.

Today it seems to be safe for politicians to attack "cults" or other organizations that appear to be on the "fringe" of what society deems to be the established norms. Even liberals who have defended others under the same and similar circumstances in the past are now slow to realize what lurks behind the attack on "religious cults" and minority religious organizations.

Of course, it is always necessary for a politician on "the make" to have a theme and the Attorney General is strictly a sloganeer. "Use a gun, go to jail," brought him to the Office of Attorney General from the bowels of the State Assembly. Now an attack on "cults" appears to him to be a plain, simple, unadorned theme--perfect to confuse the ignorant, sufficient to even confuse the courts and the usually well-informed.

It would not be the first time in our history, lest we forget, that the confusions of honest people are picked up by a few bad and dishonest people and orchestrated into an opera of public disorder, staged and sung as though by inmates in an insane asylum.

We are in the vanguard of all those who are fighting for political and religious freedom because they are one and the same thing. The First Amendment to the Constitution is also a guarantee of political freedom--not simply the guarantee to exercise one's religious beliefs in a church, or a temple, or in the privacy of one's home or mind.

To have religious freedom means to have the right to act upon one's religious beliefs or to refrain from acting in accordance with one's religious beliefs. To have religious freedom means to be able to act or refrain from acting, not just as an individual, but as part of a group, or part of an association, or a spiritual body, or a body politic.

We are in essence a body politic. Our members are part of this body politic, but not in opposition to the State or to the Federal Government. Nonetheless, we are not in consonance with it on matters of fundamental importance because we believe that we are not "of this world," for we are told not to be by the Bible. We are told to obey God's laws and for that obedience we are promised His blessing.

We do not believe that the President, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Governor, or even the Attorney General of the State of California can cure this world's ills, nor do we believe this world's ills will be cured by man, or any combination of men, now living or yet to be born. Rather, we know that this government will surely fail as have all governments which have been designed by men, and which the Living God has permitted man to design for six thousand years--the six thousand years during which man has been cut off from God (except for those few who have been drawn to Him because the Father has called them).

We know that the only salvation for all mankind is Christ's intervention. He will come again during this end time to rule in the Kingdom of God under the government of God--under the laws of God.

We know that when Christ comes and ushers in the World Tomorrow, we who have been called will rule under Him. And those who have not heeded the announcement as promulgated by Herbert W. Armstrong will not.

Hence we are being persecuted and maligned, and our leader's will more than likely be prosecuted and condemned. As they killed Christ, as they killed the Apostles, as they killed all those who had believed in what He said, so they will seek to kill our leaders!

This is what we must now convey to the world--boldly, openly, dramatically.

This is what we must stress in and out of court for we must not let the Attorney General fool, confuse and deceive the ignorant, the unwary, the trusting, the lazy.

We must use this vehicle--this lawsuit--as another way to fulfill the Great Commission to convey His announcement with even greater impact to even more people!

--Stanley R. Rader

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA VS. WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

As you may have already heard, the California Supreme Court has reviewed our request to grant an expedited hearing on certain legal issues that have arisen in our case. Justices Bird, Mosk and Newman were in favor of granting the hearing, but the four other justices voted against it. The legal procedure does not require the judge to give a reason for his actions. We only receive a postcard saying "hearing denied."

The court's denial at this time was in spite of 16 church or related organizations that had requested the court to grant a hearing because of the importance of the religious issues involved. Therefore, when the Supreme Court refused to grant a hearing they not only refused us, but they refused the other churches or religious organizations as well--so the refusal was an affront to all religion.

In my mind, the court's refusal is indicative of the general growing attitude of the courts and legislature to view religion as a commercial venture. They view the Church members and the public as any other consumer of a commercial product. Then certain men in government adopt the role, through political ambition, paranoia or whatever, as the protector of this "religious consuming" public. These men would then take upon themselves to determine what they subjectively in their mind consider to be "religious wrong." This "religious wrong" they label or translate into the legal word "fraud."

What is this "fraud"? It has no set meaning. What it encompasses is only limited by the ingenuity and prejudice of the particular oppressive-bent government official that might be wielding the power of the state at that time.

This attitude of government, if it continues so as to indicate a definitive trend, could have major significant implications of prophetic significance, especially in light of current world events.

--Ralph K. Helge

FEDERAL COURT HEARING STILL PENDING

The next round of our legal battle with the State of California is coming up next week in the Federal District Court in Los Angeles. Originally scheduled for November 26th, the court moved it to a later date yet to be set--tentatively either December 3 or 4. It involves a hearing concerning whether all pretrial discovery proceedings (including Mr. Rader's deposition) should be ordered stopped until our appeal in the federal appellate court is heard.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESHall Rental Payments

Occasionally we have received requests to arrange for hall rental payments to automatically be mailed without a hall rental voucher being sent each month. We wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how this can be done since many of you may be considering your hall rental needs for the coming year.

The Accounting Department can mail the rental payments automatically each month as long as the amount is the same each month. If your church meets in a hall that has a monthly fee instead of a weekly one and you can send us a copy of the contract, the monthly payment can be arranged. It will be your responsibility to make sure the Accounting Department receives a new contract if the old one is about to expire. You will also need to remember to notify us if something should happen midway through the contract and payments should be stopped.

Please, whatever you do, don't arrange a contract with equal monthly payments at the expense of the budget just to keep from having to send in hall rental vouchers. Our hall rental budget has severely suffered the ravages of inflation during the last couple of years and we don't want to make the situation any worse.

Ambassador College Calendars

We will be sending all the U.S. Church Pastors a supply of the 1980 Ambassador College Calendars. Since the Bookstore was unable to sell all the calendars that had been ordered, it was decided to send the unsold inventory to you in hopes they could be used for local fund-raising and/or given to members who might want them.

This will be a one-time opportunity. Next year the plan is to prepare the calendars specifically to be sent as a gift to everyone who contributes to the Building Fund.

--Joe Tkach

FLEET NEWS

We are happy to announce the resumption of our fleet vehicle replacement program after an eleven-month moratorium. Obviously, the rapidity of replacement will depend upon our cash flow circumstances. Since current vehicle bank loans are prohibitive, running at 18 to 20% interest, we will be making cash purchases.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has authorized vehicles to comply with the necessity for increased fuel economy and combatting spiraling inflation. All of us are only too aware of the sharply escalating cost of doing business. Our rebate schedule for personal usage of the automobiles remains fairly constant but is graduated based upon fuel mileage and depreciation.

In addition to altering the vehicle list, we are seeking to reduce some of our administrative costs by absorbing the operation of the fleet program here in Pasadena. As you know Alex Kroska has administered the fleet program for a number of years in conjunction with his own business. Now, we will be working directly with other dealers as well as Alex to conduct our fleet business.

As a part of absorbing the overall administrative costs we will be soliciting your assistance in disposing of your used vehicle in the local area. This will help greatly in reducing the costs in operating a fleet program. The success of this method of disposal, however, depends largely on maintaining the fleet automobiles in good mechanical condition and preserving the outward appearance.

Currently, we are still utilizing the services of Gelco for the maintenance aspects of the fleet program as in the past. For all other fleet requirements please contact Mark Mickelson in Pasadena on the inbound WATS lines.

We recently submitted a postcard self-mailer to you. Please return the postcard to Pasadena as soon as possible with your current mileage. Also indicate the vehicle condition in a brief statement.

We will be contacting some of you in the near future to make your replacement vehicle selection. Please bear with us during this interim period.

We desperately need the assistance of all of you to continue a successful fleet program for the conduct of this great Work! Let us know of any suggestions or recommendations you may have.

--Ellis LaRavia

#### MEDIA UPDATE

We have received budget approval to transfer Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's October 13 (Last Great Day) Tucson address to film. We will be distributing film copies as specified in the November 7 Pastor General's Report. In addition, we will be sending 3/4-inch cassette copies to those areas which indicated that proper equipment would be available.

We are presently making preparations to send a four-man crew to accompany Mr. Armstrong on his trip to China. They will leave November 27 and will be covering, on film, Mr. Armstrong's activities in Peking during his stay. This will be the second film trip in which we will complete a total documentation of Mr. Armstrong's activities and the impact the Work is having in China to this present time. The previous trip netted approximately 30,000 feet of very high quality film, which included coverage of Mr. Rader's meetings and discussions with top officials, as well as a general pictorial representation of the City of Peking, and China in general. The basic substance of the film to be obtained on Mr. Armstrong's trip will give us material for a well-rounded production on the China trip.

--John Lundberg

#### PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's new semiannual letter has now been printed and mailed to our total list here in the United States, some of whom have already replied. The letter is also being mailed separately from our overseas offices.

Traditionally we have always offered some special piece of literature as part of the semiannual letter. This year Mr. Armstrong is offering his new book TOMORROW...What It Will Be Like. This is the first time



for many years that such a fine hard-bound book has been made available. Quotations for this massive print run of the book have already been received from the printers here in the United States. We may possibly print and mail here in the U.S. for other parts of the world--these production options are still being considered. Whatever we decide production wise, the cost of printing and shipping will be carried by the United States for most overseas areas.

Mr. Richard Rice says we should plan for an approximate 20% response, which would mean a print order of around 200,000 for worldwide distribution. Our hope is that we will do even better than the 20% because we know that there will be many positive results from the letter and the book.

--Roger G. Lippross

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### The French Work--A Summary of Activities

Mr. Apartian's Trip: Mr. Dibar Apartian will be visiting Martinique, Guadeloupe and Haiti from November 29 to December 9, 1979. During this trip he will hold a few Bible Studies. For some time, because of a postal strike in the Caribbean, communications with our ministers were cut off. Communications were only possible by telephone.

News from France: Mr. Sam Kneller, pastor of the Paris Church, reports that at the Sabbath services following the Feast, there were fifteen new persons attending. In all there were 271 persons who attended services. This is the highest Sabbath attendance in over a year. Income from tithes and offering, in France, remains good.

News from Switzerland: The Swiss Radio has a talk show called "L'antenne est a vous" (The antenna is yours). We will be able to go on the program to tell the Swiss just what God's Work is. The only restriction we have is that we have to talk about Swiss problems--or of things pertaining directly to Switzerland. Mr. Andrist, our pastor in Geneva, is busily making the necessary arrangements.

Membership Growth: At the end of September, 1979, the French Work world-wide had 60 new members, 86 new co-workers and 269 new donors. We have experienced good growth during this year.

"La Pure Verite" subscription: The French Work not only exists in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and the West Indies, but also goes in many other countries around the world. As of November 1979, the total number of subscriptions to "La Pure Verite" was 29,588 in 134 countries--excluding Canada. The three areas which receive the largest number of copies are: Europe, 20,027 copies; Black Africa, 4,306 copies and the West Indies, 3,141 copies. The country that receives the largest number of "La Pure Verite" is, of course, France--13,511 copies. Surprisingly enough, we have 32 subscribers behind the Iron Curtain, and 908 in the United States. God is making sure that French people around the world are made aware of His truth!

Newsstand Program: "La Pure Verite" is now being distributed via the newsstand program in the following areas: Canada, 50,000 copies; Alaska, 250 copies; New Hampshire, 800 copies. The newsstand program in New Hampshire

has just recently begun. It originated under the U.S. newsstand program. Our Plain Truth distributor in the area, as he made his deliveries, was constantly being questioned by people why we did not offer the French edition. He brought this to the attention of management. We now have "La Pure Verite" available to this new audience.

--Submitted by Rod Matthews, International Office

#### MAIL COMMENTS

This week's mail contained an interesting variety of comments, with most centering on the recent Feast of Tabernacles. Most members agreed that it was possibly the greatest Feast God's Church has held in modern times.

--Mail Processing Center

#### Response to the Feast

This last Feast of Tabernacles was my fifth one, and it was vastly superior to any Feast I have kept up to this time. You warned us to pray that Christ keep Satan away from the Feast. Well, I can tell you that up at Saratoga Springs Satan seemed to be utterly banished! God's Spirit was clearly in control of the Feast at Saratoga. The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day left me with a spiritual strength which I will desperately try to hold on to and increase throughout this year until the Feast of Tabernacles 1980.

--Gary E. Kreger (Kunkletown, PA)

We have just returned from the Feast in St. Petersburg. We wanted you to know that this was our best Feast ever. It seems like God gives us the spiritual food at the Feast that the Church needs to do God's Work for the coming year. For instance, the sermons we heard at the Feast last year were just the sort of messages that proved helpful through the trials the Church has faced in the last year. God is blessing His Church.

--Mr. & Mrs. Randy Gregory (Austin, TX)

Our family attended the Feast in Biloxi, Mississippi this year and what a tremendously inspiring Feast it was. The spiritual meat we received was so much needed and greatly appreciated. We came home renewed and refreshed and have set goals for our individual spiritual growth as well as goals for our family's spiritual growth during this year. It was so good to see and hear you on film and also by video machines. The messages were inspiring and full of the spiritual meat we need for correction and instruction.

--Mr. & Mrs. Scott Miller (Silsbee, TX)

Just want you to know that I, along with everyone I met, had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles. We had around 4300 in Savannah, and all I saw were smiles on happy faces. I'm looking forward to the time when the whole world will have a smile on its face, a smile of true happiness and enjoyment as our people worldwide have today. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the many, many hours you have spent studying and praying to bring us God's truth.

--Mrs. Gudger Wilson (Alexander, NC)

The Feast may be over--numerically speaking--but in our hearts and minds we are now savoring all those precious moments and all those sights our eyes witnessed in person as we now review our notes, and as we think upon those things we saw in touring Jerusalem and the land of Israel--the land where Jesus had ministered for three and a half years. The days of the calendar may be over, but not the Feast --for those days will be cherished and enjoyed over and over again each time we open the Bible to read it, to study God's Word.

--Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Domagala (Depew, NY)

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE SIEGE CONTINUES: While the United States government looks on with virtual helplessness, 49 American citizens remain captive hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Thirteen hostages--three women and ten black males--have been selectively released. The Ayatollah Khomaini is spuing forth more anti-American venom than ever, his inflamed rhetoric inspiring acts of anti-U.S. violence in other parts of the aroused Islamic "arc of crisis." Threats of U.S. retaliation seem not to phase him at all, his mind apparently shut off to outside reason, whether from Washington, the U.N. or other representatives of Islam.

Perhaps the best analyses of Washington's predicament to date has come (again) from the fertile mind of syndicated columnist George F. Will. In his November 22 column in the Los Angeles Times, Will wrote:

"File the following under 'Notes for Next Time,' for this is not the last time America will be held hostage. Next time, the U.S. government should refrain from issuing statements of relief that Americans being held hostage are not being 'harmed.' Americans deprived of freedom, strapped to chairs and spoon-fed are being aggressively harmed. U.S. government assertions that such hostages are not being 'harmed' are symptomatic of the confusion of a nation that is not half irritable enough about various forms of harm.

"Next time let it be drummed into embassy personnel that an occupation of an embassy is an act of war, and as in all war, nothing should be done that furthers the enemy's aims. In such situations, standards of behavior for embassy personnel should be as strict as for an infantry corporal. As part of this policy, there must be no cooperation with a captor's tactic of selective releases.

"Next time, the U.S. government should tell blacks and women to refuse to allow themselves to be used cynically by an enemy of their nation, to refuse to be used by being singled out for special treatment. Such treatment has the aim of embarrassing the United States, and works against the remaining hostages.

"But, of course, women and blacks are two of the government-approved groups now accorded special rights back home because of their sex and race, in the name of 'affirmative action.' Such a nation cannot expect embassy personnel to show instinctive unity in the face of affirmative action, Khomaini-style.

"The first three hostages released included two of the many hostages who signed the petition asking the President to surrender to their captors'

demands for the return of the shah. The third said he agreed with the petition. Washington's response to the petition was: "Such is to be expected from people under pressure. But that is an affront to those who refused to sign...."

"One of the three, a marine, said: 'I think the revolution is good.' A second, another marine, said that his captors gave him new understanding of 'American imperialism.' Such Vichyite behavior by embassy personnel is not the result of two weeks of captivity in Iran rather of years of absorbing the spirit of a liberal culture. There is too much of the France of 1940 in the United States of 1979.

"Next time, the United States should not rule out military measures, including measures of eventual punishment when immediate rescue of hostages is not militarily feasible. Perhaps the U.S. government's first response to the seizure of the Tehran Embassy should have been to send to Iran's Washington Embassy a map of Iran with 100 military targets--dams, power stations, etc.--circled in red, and with plans for sealing off all Iranian oil exports.

"Next time, the United States must not assert, with the matter-of-factness of a self-evident truth, that the safety of the hostages is its overriding imperative. Such an assertion should not be made because it should not be true. Vital national interests sometimes require lives to be risked, in battle and elsewhere. This nation has a vital interest in being respected, and in its self-respect. In some cases, these interests may be incompatible with the behavior necessary for guaranteeing the safety of hostages.

"With that in mind, and with next time in mind, this question must be faced: What could ever be worse than putting scores of hostages at risk? One answer is: the loss of millions of Americans in a war made more likely by the world's slide into anarchy, a slide accelerated by demonstrations of American impotence."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau