

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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MR. ARMSTRONG'S COMMENTS IN CHINA TO BE HEARD IN CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday evening, December 2, Mr. Armstrong addressed a group of top educators, university presidents and the Ministry of Education in China. The talk was recorded and cassette tapes are already being prepared for distribution to all churches. The Tape is to be played this Sabbath, December 8, or at the next Bible Study or Sabbath Service if the tape arrives late.

It is intended that the brethren have this opportunity to personally hear, as if they were present, what was actually said on one occasion of a very eventful schedule in China. More details of the trip and of Mr. Armstrong's other talks will be forthcoming.

MR. RADER ADDRESSES PEKING UNIVERSITY LAW DEPARTMENT

Mr. Stanley Rader, while accompanying Mr. Armstrong on an official state visit to the Chinese mainland, was invited to address the Peking (Beijing) University Law Department. The opportunity to speak came by invitation of the People's Republic of China.

Respected not only for his current responsibilities as General Counsel and Treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God, but also for having been a law professor, Mr. Rader was asked to speak on the topic of "Constitutional Law in the United States of America."

At the end of his talk which included a discussion of the political and religious freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, Mr. Rader observed that "we seem to be entering a period in our history where, whether through a fear of the world's instability, or a mistrust of our own heritage, Americans are questioning the breadth of this guarantee of political freedom. The pluralism of our society cannot survive without it, yet, without a constant struggle to keep government in check, Americans are in danger of allowing this liberty to be eroded by default."

FEDERAL COURT HEARING POSTPONED ONCE AGAIN

The federal court hearing which was originally scheduled for November 19th (then November 26 and later December 3rd) has once again been re-scheduled, this time on Friday the 7th of December at 1:30 p.m. As scheduled, the hearing will be before Judge Laughlin Waters at the federal court house in Los Angeles.

This is a very important hearing where the Church is going to ask the federal court (which has authority over the state courts) to ban any further pretrial discovery proceedings pending an appeal of an earlier federal court ruling. This appeal concerns the Church's countersuit against the state for its unconstitutional attack on God's Church.

PASTOR GENERAL'S HOT LINE TAPES

Because of the desire to get "up-to-the-last-minute" information from Pasadena, an increasing number of ministers are calling to listen to the Pastor General's Hot Line tapes late Friday afternoon--many after 4:00 PM.

We are very happy to see the enthusiastic response to this service. However, employees must leave the WATS lines about 4:00 PM on Fridays since sunset in Pasadena is now about 4:30 PM.

May we please ask that you avoid calling late Friday unless absolutely necessary. We will be able to play tapes until 4:00 PM, but we are just trying to reduce the growing number of calls coming in Friday afternoon. Thanks for your understanding.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

TV TAPES & AUDIOVISUAL AIDS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE

All of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's television programs are presently being transferred to 3/4", Betamax, and VHS copies for distribution to church areas where the television program cannot be seen by the local membership. We are also transferring a number of slide presentations and other audio-visual presentations that would be useful for Bible studies. A complete list of all programs and other tapes that are available will be sent to you in a separate letter from Media Services, with instructions on how to request your copies.

Please do not assume that we are endorsing any particular format as a permanent means of distribution to the ministers and membership. The TV Studio is not equipped to duplicate helical scan (Betamax, VHS or 3/4" cassette) tapes in the quantity needed for church distribution, nor would it be wise to invest in the equipment needed to do so at this time. The industry is changing so fast we should wait on the development of a format that will answer the greatest need of the church--that of low-cost duplication and distribution.

Some of you may be aware that next year a new standard of recorder, the LVR, will be introduced. This new standard is projected to be sold at 30% less than the popular Betamax and VHS format. However, even more importantly, the distribution will be faster and far less costly, due to the unique recording method. It is my judgment at this time that we will use this newer format for our future distribution needs.

--John Lundberg

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

We have some preliminary results from The PLAIN TRUTH readers survey. We mentioned before that this simple questionnaire was sent to 19,000 brand new subscribers. The results are still being tabulated, but one interesting fact that has come out is that the average age of our new readers has dropped. We feel this is because of the impact of our newsstand program which is attracting a much younger readership than we've had in the past from other sources. The new subscriber readership age is spread across the population in a good, balanced way.

--Roger Lippross

EXCITEMENT--THE KEYNOTE OF THE FEAST

Based on the mail response of the past weeks, the 1979 Feast of Tabernacles has proven to be one of the most inspiring and exciting Festival seasons ever observed by the Church of God!

There was an overall contagious spirit of excitement leading up to and continuing through to the end of the Feast. Prior to the Feast, Mr. Armstrong set a tone of anticipation with the series of "Back on Track" articles. For the youth, the advent of the YOU/YES program encouraged them and gave them additional opportunities to participate in Feast activities.

By general consensus, the high points of the Feast were the messages by Mr. Armstrong. The first day Mr. Armstrong's filmed sermon set a sobering but expectant tone for the entire Feast. On the Last Great Day the live microwave broadcast capped off the Feast by reassuring God's people of Mr. Armstrong's vitality and by reinforcing the theme of the importance and purpose of God's Work. Many letters mentioned how the miracle of the microwave hookups was very exciting--as 65,000 members were able to join one another in seeing and/or hearing Mr. Armstrong, as well as in prayer and the singing of hymns.

Mr. Rader's filmed comments were also much appreciated. Many members expressed their gratitude to him for his role of service and support to Mr. Armstrong.

The ministers' sermons at each site also had a profound impact. Strong meaty messages drew many positive comments. In fact, the general tone was one of gratitude to the ministry for following through with the direction set by Mr. Armstrong in his efforts to clean up the Church.

In conclusion, the letter response received from the Feast supports the belief that the 1979 Feast of Tabernacles was one of the most exciting ever held. Out of the hundreds of letters received, not one was critical of overall Festival events!

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

INTERNATIONAL NEWSGerman Work

"For me personally, the 1979 'Laubhüttenfest' was the best Feast of Tabernacles ever!" This comment was typical of the brethren's attitude at both German-language Feast sites this year. Another reflection of uplifted spirits was the increase of 14.7% over last year's offerings on the two Holy Days.

At the main Feast site in Bonndorf, in West Germany's "Black Forest," 550 attended.

At Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia, 165 attended the Feast. Many North American visitors commented enthusiastically on the luxurious living quarters and majestic meeting hall at Karlsbad. However, most unforgettable were the intense sermons inspired, according to one visitor's opinion, at least partially by the unique situation of keeping the Feast in a Warsaw-Pact nation.

God is apparently making the Karlsbad Feast site also available in 1980! In November Frau Medkova and Dr. Macourek, two top officials in the Czech Government tourist bureau "CEDOK," visited the Pasadena campus on invitation of Mr. Frank Schnee, Regional Director for the German-language Work. Following a campus tour and a lunch with the Pasadena faculty, the two Czech officials flew to Tucson for a visit with Mr. Armstrong. At the close of their stay (the pair returned to Europe Saturday, November 17th), Dr. Macourek made the following remarkable statement: "Now I know God MUST exist, because otherwise many things could never have worked out for Ambassador College as they have!"

October was a good month for incoming mail. In fact, one of the best months this year. We attribute it to the increased booklet advertising we've had in the KLAR & WAHR magazine lately. Another reason for comments were the articles on Franz Josef Strauss and Otto von Habsburg in this issue.

The biggest encouragement is our year-to-date total income with Holy Day Offerings included. It is a solid 28.7% increase over 1978.

United Kingdom

Feast attendance at the four sites in the U.K. and Ireland topped 4,000 for the first time this year. This represents a rise of 5% over 1978 and produced an offering up 22%!

October's mail income was 30% above the figure for October 1978, bringing the year-to-date increase to 24%.

However, with Bank Rate at an all-time high of 17% and the mortgage interest rate hitting 15% for the first time this week, there is the growing feeling in this country that the economy is in for a very rough ride in 1980, with inflation forecast at 20%. This is bound to have an impact on the Work as a whole.

Mr. Frank Brown, Regional Director, has returned from a two-week visiting tour to Nairobi (Kenya), Rome, Catania (Sicily), Jerusalem and Greece. In Nairobi he spoke to Mr. Owen Willis and Mr. Harold Jackson on the future of the Work in that part of the world.

In Rome Mr. Brown visited the three members we have there and increased the size of the Church in Sicily by 100% when he baptized three more! Finally, after visiting the site of the excavations being carried out jointly by the Hebrew University and A.I.C.F. in Jerusalem, he spent a few days with the brethren in Greece, where one man was baptized, before returning to London on the 18th. Incidentally, this baptism was probably the first in Greece since the Apostle Paul's day!

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

MAIL COMMENTS

For this week's comments we have included letters concerning Mr. Armstrong's trip to China, Halloween and the State versus Church issue.

The comments about the China Trip are from Church members expressing enthusiasm for Mr. Armstrong's trip to the People's Republic of China.

The general tone reflects a feeling that the Work is moving into a new dimension of spreading the Gospel.

Then there is a letter from a member who offers a solution to handling "trick or treaters."

As a final note of interest, we have included a letter from a member that gives a unique and interesting view of the State versus Church issue.

--Mail Processing Center

Interest in China Trip

I'm determined to remain in constant prayer for you on the coming trip and in all the activities of God's Work that go on day by day. With the Holy Spirit binding us all together in strength and unity, I know we can soon get the job done!

--James Davenport (Gumberry, NC)

Best wishes on your upcoming China trip. I understand that you have been invited to view a section of the Great Wall. I have heard that when our astronauts orbit the earth that this is the one man-made feature that is distinguishable on the earth's surface. Having been constructed without the aid of modern equipment, it is truly a great work. Yet God has called you for an even greater Work to proclaim the message of the time when He will tear down that even greater wall that separates man from God.

--Mr. David Schroeder (Athens, WI)

We know Mr. Rader is overseas again preparing the way for your upcoming trip to China and meetings with leaders of that enormously populous nation. Everyone here in Pasadena we have talked to is praying for him and the success of his contacts in China. We pray it is God's will for you to be able to endure not only the cold of that nation at this time of the year, but to be shielded from upsets some suffer from their customs of eating and drinking. We know God will protect His servants wherever He finds it necessary to send them. This trip is most necessary if we are to reach into the last two great nations in the grip of atheistic communism who have not yet been warned.

--Selmer L. Hegvold (Pasadena, CA)

It was unbelievable to read in the recent GOOD NEWS that China has embarked on a Bible promotional program just prior to your meeting with the heads of state in that officially "atheistic" land. This surely is some kind of miracle and undoubtedly our God inspired it to carry out His plans for enlightening at least a few people there.

--Mr. & Mrs. William Witte (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Hearing you from Tucson, live, on the Last Great Day was very uplifting and rewarding. Anyone who calls you senile is a fool and an idiot! We pray for your upcoming trip to China to facilitate world events and Christ's return to set up His glorious Kingdom.

--Alan K. Swikle (Kalamazoo, MN)

We will all be with you in spirit when you go to China, and pray that God will put the right words in your mind to say to them so they can hear the true message that Jesus came to give us.

--Marie Medina (St. Petersburg, FL)

Was Ready for Halloween!

This Halloween I had loads of children at my door and most of the little kids had their parents with them. But I was ready for them this year. I had made up a reprint of G. O. Marx's article he wrote for The PLAIN TRUTH, October 1976. In fact, I had a hundred or so printed. I tried to explain to each little kid that this was for his parents to read to them. I thought they ought to understand just what they were doing. I wonder if any seeds were planted?

No damage was done to my place. Nothing disturbed, many houses were.

-- C. B. Henderson (Hillsdale, MI)

Reevaluation of Church's Legal Battle

Thank you for your very inspiring message on the Last Great Day of the Feast! My hair stood on end at the thought of the entire U.S. brethren sitting united listening to your voice proclaiming the meaning behind the last Holy Day--the Great White Throne Judgment when all mankind will have a chance for salvation. I hope we can have other services like that one in the future.

In Mr. Rader's preceding message, I was also inspired by the thought that we carry the burden of all churches in the United States in keeping the state out of religion as guaranteed in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. I believe there is a biblical injunction to do whatever we as the Church of the Living God can do to combat a state takeover.

In Deuteronomy 22:23-27 is found a statute concerning a virgin betrothed to a husband who, if forced to have intercourse with a man (in the city, where there is someone to help her) carries the same guilt as the man if she fails to cry out to bring to light this crime. It is clear that it is her duty to try to prevent being raped and I feel that there is a strong spiritual analogy where the Worldwide Church of God, as a virgin church betrothed to the soon-returning groom Jesus Christ, has a duty to proclaim to the United States (and the world) this assault by the State of California (attempted spiritual fornication). Attention must be brought to the fact that there is a wrong being perpetrated on the Church by the government. It is not just a matter of protecting our religious freedoms, but it goes far deeper in that we have a duty to protect the Church's spiritual virginity in awaiting the return of Jesus Christ, and of course we have His help to count on.

I just thought that in hearing Mr. Rader's talk we all have had strong but sometimes mixed feelings about what has happened over the past year, but that the Bible shows without a doubt we have a duty to protect the Church, and we can in clear conscience do whatever in our power to perform that duty!

May God continue to bless you and give you the guidance to do whatever must be done, and also to continue to deliver the good news of the Kingdom Jesus Christ will soon establish over the nations of the world. Our prayers are with you and the Work!

--Mr. & Mrs. David A. Byers (Liberty, MO)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

RUSSIA PLANS ADEN "CUBA": While American eyes are riveted on the hostage standoff in Iran, the Soviet Union is moving steadily to secure a solid foothold in the Middle East.

Thwarted before in the region, the relentless Soviets feel they've got the right partner this time: South Yemen, the former British seagate protectorate of Aden, located at the southwestern tip of the Arabian peninsula, commanding the narrow Bab el Mandeb entrance into the Red Sea.



South Yemen has been a Russian client state for the past few years, and is the locale where worldwide terrorists of all stripes are trained, thanks to on-site Cuban and East German commanders. Now the Soviets aim to use South Yemen, whose northern borders merge across the sand into Saudi Arabia, for more sinister purposes.

Soviet aims in this still backward corner of Arabia have been revealed by secret clauses in the 20-year treaty of friendship just concluded with South Yemen, and by Soviet actions in this former British colony.

Unpublished sections of the friendship treaty provide for up to 18,000 Russian troops to be stationed in South Yemen, and also provide for closer Soviet control of Yemen ministries and institutions.

Russian weapons including Mig-23 fighters, have recently been shipped to South Yemen. Russia is also expected to increase its naval presence there. Submarine pens are being built for between eight and 12 boats.

Opponents of the marxist government in South Yemen warn that the treaty of friendship and cooperation between it and Moscow could threaten Middle East oil routes.

The warning is sounded by Abdel Qawi Mackawee, a former prime minister who now heads a group of dissidents calling itself the United National Front of South Yemen. Mackawee and his associates warn that a Soviet presence in Aden could threaten international maritime routes, including oil shipped to Europe from the Gulf region.

Mackawee says Moscow is determined to strengthen its foothold in the region. Proof, he says, is that Moscow earlier concluded a similar friendship and cooperation treaty with Ethiopia, which faces South Yemen across the sea.

Early this year, South Yemen (population 1.5 million) attacked neighboring North Yemen. The latter is important mainly for the fact that it supplies vital "guest workers" to manpower-short Saudi Arabia. A Communist take-

over of the North could thus turn these workers into a potential Communist fifth-column inside Saudi Arabia.

The red attack was stymied however, whereupon the U.S. even sent some military supplies to fortify "our" Yemen's defenses. But now there are disturbing reports that the supposedly pro-West regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh is also on the take from Moscow. Mig-21s were recently spotted being unloaded in North Yemen.

Perhaps the most critical factor of all in the Yemeni equation is the danger posed to Oman, the Arab state located to the immediate east of South Yemen, which guards the entrance to the vital Strait of Hormuz. The Hormuz "chokepoint" is the narrow 24-mile-wide waterway through which most of the Free World's oil passes. Every seven minutes a tanker sails through this vital gateway where 90 percent of Japan's requirements and 56 percent of Europe's needs pass.

Iran formerly was the "policeman" of the Persian Gulf-Strait of Hormuz region, a role the Shah inherited from the British. Iran has since dropped out of the picture. The Sultan of Oman is having to pick up the slack, requesting military and financial aid from other Arab states. So far, little has been forthcoming, though American warships have moved closer in the Arabian sea area.

The Soviets realize how unprotected the Strait is, and also how vulnerable Oman is. Iran's Shah had earlier helped the Sultan beat back a guerrilla movement launched from South Yemen. Now, with the Shah gone and the Soviets involved in South Yemen to an even greater degree, look for another red-led attempt to "liberate" Oman--and strangle the West's oil lifeline.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau