

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

Construction of the new set for the "World Tomorrow" telecast, which I mentioned in my last personal letter in "The Worldwide News," is now well under way. Although I'll save details about it for a few weeks, I will say now that I'm sure you'll be as excited and pleased with its dignity and state-of-the-art versatility as we are. You'll see what can be done with it on the first program of the new fall season.

The "1986 Envoy" will be going to press in a few days. Along with the pictorial of the college year, this year's Ambassador yearbook will contain a special tribute to Mr. Herbert Armstrong. We have chosen the same deep blue color used for the dust jacket of "Mystery of the Ages" for the cover of this year's "Envoy." And on the front cover there will be a full-color photograph of Mr. Armstrong. We plan to make this year's "Envoy" available for the brethren to purchase at the Feast of Tabernacles.

I'm also pleased to announce that we are going to begin using uniforms (see description, next paragraph) this fall at Imperial School. I discussed the idea at length with Messrs. Larry Salyer and Joseph Locke and others. I then announced the decision in a letter to parents of children in Imperial. Already, dozens of extremely positive responses have come back from parents--especially those of high-school-age children. Besides saving money on clothing in the long run, uniforms will virtually eliminate the traumatic "class distinction" based on clothing that seems to be a part of high-school life in America. Also, it will improve dress standards so that the students will arrive at school ready to learn. The old saying "the clothes make the man" has a degree of truth in it. Frankly, standards of dress, particularly in California schools, have deteriorated to the point that our parents need education in order to make the right kind of selections for their children, and in training their children about choosing clothing wisely.

I feel strongly that our own Imperial School should and must set a right example! We have chosen fine quality, sharp-looking uniforms, that

are practical and dignified. They also allow for plenty of variety, combinations and choices. Though they are technically uniforms, our students will be able to wear them downtown and look simply like smartly dressed youngsters.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor General	1
From Church Administration.	2
From Editorial Services	5
From Fleet Administration	6
Mail Processing Update.	6
On the World Scene.	10

The old Gillette razor-blade ad advised, "Look sharp, feel sharp, be sharp." And that is precisely what we want our Imperial students to do. These uniforms won't solve all the students' problems, of

course. But we do expect that they will help instill in them a stronger sense of having a proper appearance, and promote a school environment more conducive to learning.

I have appointed Joseph Locke, who is also serving as a personal assistant to me overseeing our foreign projects, as superintendent and principal of Imperial. And I have asked Larry Salyer to work directly with Mr. Locke on all matters of policy and procedures related to Imperial. In this way, we will promote unity, and we'll all be speaking the same thing.

I am personally very excited about the future of Imperial School. I believe it should grow to become a model school that in every way reflects the standards God intends that His people uphold.

Finally, I may not have mentioned last time that we are experiencing a 16 percent increase in baptisms this year. We can truly thank our merciful God for continuing to send more laborers into the harvest. But let's continue to pray earnestly for God's direction in doing the Work, and for the income to match the growth. Remember also our brethren in South Africa.

With love, in Christ's service,

Joseph W. Teach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE CASES; PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS;
BOOKING FESTIVAL HOUSING; RECENT ORDINATIONS;
INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Netherlands, South Africa

Divorce and Remarriage Cases Apparently some have misunderstood a statement made in the "Pastor General's Report" of March 16, 1984 which said, "We would like to again remind all church pastors that all divorce and remarriage cases must be written up and sent to Pasadena for decision no matter how 'simple' or 'clear cut' a case may seem." This instruction was not referring to situations that occurred prior to conversion. Men or women coming into the Church who have dissolved a marriage should be considered free to remarry within the Church once they are legally free to do so. It is not necessary for such histories to be recorded. Obviously, however, it is important that prior to remarriage these people receive the same depth and quality of counseling you would give to anyone who had experienced a marriage breakup.

As society grows more lascivious and divorce escalates, we must be preaching strong meat on the sanctity of marriage and the value of stable family relationships. Satan's relentless attack on marriage and family life must be met with stiff resistance by those who are committed to

fulfilling God's great purpose. Don't fail to regularly remind the brethren of the blessings of knowing the true meaning of marriage and the spiritual laws that produce happiness and peace in the home.

Physical Examinations In the last "Pastor General's Report," Mr. Tkach stressed the responsibility to take care of our health and suggested the need for the ministry to get complete physicals so that we can be more fully aware of our present state of health. Of course, this will aid in both providing the motivation and proper planning for a balanced diet and exercise program. After further discussion with Mr. Tkach, we are planning to provide for these physicals at the time of your attendance to the Refresher Program rather than in your own local area as originally suggested.

Although it may take a year or more to get everyone through the medical physical, the standards maintained and costs involved will be more controllable and consistent.

If you feel your present condition, age, weight, etc. warrant a physical before your scheduled Refresher, you may contact Andre Zick in Church Administration. Those full-time ministers who have already been through the Refreshing Program and have not had a recent examination may also contact Andre. All international men should contact their Regional Director.

Booking Festival Housing The second Festival listing is coming out in the next week. Since the process of searching for appropriate housing to fill families' needs for the Feast can become quite involved, you should remind the members in your congregation that the booking of their housing (motels/hotels, etc.) is not appropriate for the Sabbath. It has become obvious that many in the Church have done this. Although this subject will be addressed next year prior to the Festival Planners being sent, you should remind the membership that it is improper to get involved in this type of business on God's Sabbath.

Recent Ordinations Recently ordained as local church elders on April 24 were Duncan Murphy of the Kelowna, Canada, congregation and Charles Speck of the Abbotsford, Canada, congregation.

International News

From the Netherlands The month of May started off with the final results coming in from our spring advertising campaign. A full-page four-color ad was placed on the back cover of the DUTCH AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION magazine and a direct mail trial run was done in Belgium. As a result of this the "Echte Waarheid" (Plain Truth) subscription list stands at 64,916.

Also this spring, first-time renewals for the "Good News" magazine in the Dutch language were sent out. This has resulted in a positive 71 percent response.

The Dutch language "Plain Truth" and "Good News" are printed in England at Ambassador Press, shipped by truck to Ostende, Belgium, and then mailed to subscribers via the Belgian postal authorities. The reason we didn't mail from England or the Netherlands is that their postal rates were much higher than the Belgian rates. This has been a most efficient and effective way since 1972. In April of this year the Belgian postal authorities advised us that their postal rates would go up 250 percent. This would have severely hampered our budget now and in the future, but God does provide. Through negotiations with the Dutch postal authorities, and having received a special periodical status, it is now possible to mail directly from the Netherlands at about the same postal rate or even better than what we used to pay in Belgium, for which we are very thankful.

Through the month of May we have realized a year-to-date increase in income of 4.5 percent; Church attendance is up by 5 percent and membership by 6 percent.

(Submitted by Bram de Bree, Regional Director)

From South Africa Since midnight, Tuesday, June 10, South Africa has been in a general state of emergency. This action was taken a few days prior to the 10th anniversary of the Soweto riots, which took place on June 16, 1976.

Along with several hundred arrests in the first few hours of the state of emergency, the action of putting additional powers in the hands of police and armed forces has brought an uneasy calm to the country. There is still tension in certain areas, but even the traditional trouble spots seem to be feeling somewhat more relaxed after several days of relative quiet.

Regular news on the violence is being released by the Department of Information. There have been sporadic "necklace" murders of suspected "sympathizers" in the black communities. This form of execution is usually carried out after "kangaroo" courts have decided, without any legal jurisdiction, that the person being tried has promoted or in some way supported the existing system of government within South Africa. One black member, an ambulance driver in Kangwane, was stopped and ordered out of his ambulance. The burning of the vehicle and a "necklace" death were to follow. Thankfully God intervened and worked out circumstances so he was able to drive on safely.

Pentecost services, which were held the day before the memorial of the Soweto riots, were not hampered in any way by the state of emergency. The brethren from all communities are able to travel relatively safely. There are pressures by a vocal minority to prevent blacks and other races from shopping at white-owned businesses in some areas. Intimidation is the name of the game.

Members of God's Church appreciate the prayers of brethren around the world, though we understand that similar conditions exist in other parts of the globe. Events in South Africa are, however, more in the eye of the media.

(Submitted by Roy McCarthy, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

EDITORIAL SERVICES

A "WN" THANK-YOU; TV BROCHURES; "YOUTH 86" LETTERS;
"GOOD NEWS" UPDATE; TAMIL "PLAIN TRUTH"

A "WN" Thank-you We are wrapping up work on the June 30 issue of "The Worldwide News," featuring Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's trips to Oklahoma City, Okla., for Sabbath services and to Stockton, Calif., for Pentecost. A big thank-you to all you pastors who have coordinated Mr. Tkach's visits to your areas. We appreciate the information you have forwarded to us for coverage in the Church's newspaper. Also please pass along our thanks to the photographers who gave of their time to shoot photos of the visits for us. Only by your service can Mr. Tkach's trips be shared with the rest of the brethren through "The Worldwide News."

TV Brochures By now you've probably seen several of the new TV brochures that we're providing for the telecast. We're finding the brochure format an excellent way to provide material to the television audience. In the brochure we can use material that we have already printed with a cover designed especially for television.

And speaking of those brochures, please remind the brethren in your area that these brochures are not new material, but new reports of articles already published in our magazines. If significant changes are made in booklets or brochures, members will receive copies automatically.

"Youth 86" Letters Following are some interesting letters from "Youth 86" readers not associated with the Church.

X A girl in Connecticut writes: "I first saw your magnificent magazine in a girlfriend's house. It was the most inspiring magazine I have ever read. Would it be possible for me to receive a subscription to 'Youth 86?' I am 14 years old and just made my communion. Thank you very, very much in advance. Hope this little amount of money will be of some help--from my communion gifts to you."

X A 16-year-old boy asked us to put some articles in the magazine about becoming a missionary in Japan.

X A 17-year-old subscriber who's "really into what I like to call 'heaven metal' and gospel rock music" told us "the Worldwide Church of God is definitely helping me to make it, giving me the spiritual food I need and making me a stronger Christian. And all this has come from me picking up a copy of 'The Plain Truth' in a grocery store one day."

"Good News" Update We are continuing to receive hundreds of positive responses to the May issue, "A Tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong." Members and nonmembers alike appreciated that special edition that honored Mr. Armstrong and the work God has done through him and also introduced Mr. Tkach to them as pastor general.

We are changing the "Sharing" column to "Family Sharing." "Good News" contributor Ronald Kelly's article "How Important Is Marriage?" will begin the new series in the August "Good News."

In August and September we are running a two-part series on "Just What Is the Holy Spirit?" confronting the trinity doctrine head on and explaining what the Holy Spirit really is and does.

Tamil "Plain Truth"? Bob Morton, director of our Australian Office, informed us that a Tamil-language magazine published in Madras offered "The Plain Truth" free of charge to all its Tamil readers. Our office down under received more than 1,000 responses to the ad--nearly all of them in the Tamil language. Mr. Morton assured us that if we ever decide to publish a Tamil-language magazine that he can guarantee us a fairly large readership.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

FROM FLEET ADMINISTRATION

Safety Tip Count to 10! Not because you are angry--as is recommended--but because the traffic control signal has just changed from red to green and you are the first car about to enter the intersection. The few seconds delay allows you to look both ways and see anyone "running" the red light in the opposite direction. Many intersection accidents are fatal, so be sure to heed this advice. You could be "dead" right if you don't.

--Dean May, Fleet Administration

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

INDEX OF CHURCH LITERATURE; VIEWERS WHO MISS TELECAST;
LITERATURE GENERATES CALLS; TRENDS IN THE MAIL;
RESPONSES TO TELECAST ON HELL; FIRST-TIME VISITS;
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH; PHONE LISTINGS PROGRAM; U.S POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Index of Church Literature The latest Literature Index, in two parts, is included with this "Pastor General's Report." It lists all currently available books, booklets and reprint articles by literature code and subject. Please take the time to become familiar with this index and discard any previous ones you have in your possession. Some publications on older lists are now out of print.

This index is for your personal use. Please do not post, duplicate or lend it to others, lest they deluge us with a long list of literature requests. We always try to fill any reasonable requests for our publications, but when long lists of literature are requested, postage and processing costs increase considerably. Moreover, Mr. Armstrong years ago directed us to send only a limited number of publications per request so people can properly study and absorb the information given.

We would also like you to note that a new section has been created entitled "TV Brochures."

The booklet "What Do You Mean--Kingdom of God?" no longer appears on the index. It has been given a new title: "World Peace--How It Will Come" (PE).

Changes in this list will be regularly announced in the PGR. We will continue to send a revised Literature Index to all ministers once a year. Thanks for your help.

Viewers Who Miss Telecast It is not uncommon for our WATS area to receive many residual calls from people who miss the telecast. For example, we received nearly 100 calls from regular viewers during the week who were unable to watch the program on Memorial Day weekend. These individuals want to be sure they did not miss the literature offered. Some also want assurance that "The World Tomorrow" would continue on their local stations.

Clearly, many viewers look forward to "The World Tomorrow" and are disappointed if they miss a single program.

It is also interesting to note these residual callers either remember the toll-free number or have it written down.

Literature Generates Calls From January through May, we received 67,703 WATS requests for literature from sources other than the telecast. This includes calls from subscribers to "The Plain Truth," "Good News," "Youth 86," "Correspondence Course," etc., and represents a growth of 55 percent in such requests. It is evident that we are receiving a greater number of calls because the toll-free number is placed in much of our literature.

Trends in the Mail With the large amount of incoming mail, we are seeing an increasing diversity of trends and comments. Here are a few of the major trends that have been developing recently:

- The largest single category of comments have been from those who mention how much they miss Mr. Armstrong and how his example helped them.
- Along with these comments about Mr. Armstrong are letters of encouragement and support for Mr. Tkach as the new pastor general.
- Members, co-workers and subscribers are still saying how impressed and thankful they are for the smooth transition in the leadership of the Church.
- The fact that our literature is free and there is no request for money on the telecast continues to impress many.
- Several newly baptized members have written to say they were thrilled to receive the "new member package."
- Co-workers and others are expressing their recognition that this is indeed a unique and fruitful Work.

Responses to Telecast on Hell We have received an unusually large response from viewers commenting on Mr. Ames' telecast, "Is There a Real Hell Fire?" Most of the comments were positive because many people were greatly relieved to learn that their loved ones are not suffering in eternal torment. Others said they were glad to discover that God is not so harsh and unfeeling as the traditional teaching about hell had led them to believe.

X As was to be expected, we also received a number of negative comments dealing with this issue. A few viewers sent in tracts or various

scripture references about Lazarus and the rich man or the thief on the cross. The arguments they raised are usually answered in our literature, which we send them upon request.

First-Time Visits Many people have written in expressing their joy and gratitude in meeting a true minister of God for the first time. They were very impressed with the helpfulness, politeness and consideration shown to them. Here are some of their letters:

At this time, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for putting your minister in touch with me. My life has taken on new meaning, and I know now that I have a future to which I can look forward with joy and great anticipation and longing.

(North Carolina)

The minister for my area was here this morning and answered many of the questions I had. I can't begin to tell you how I've waited with great anticipation for that meeting. I've prayed to God and asked for wisdom and guidance. I would like to thank the ministers and all the people who are continuing God's Work, for all that you have done for me.

(Wisconsin)

Thank you so much for your helping me to understand God's holy ways. I finally got in contact with the minister. We had a wonderful visit for several hours. It was most enlightening to speak with him and his wife.

We were invited to church. God opened the doors. Thankfully, we were allowed to go to church as a family. Isn't that one of the greatest things! I'm ecstatic!

(Texas)

I have enclosed my first tithe. I'm in prison and the only means I have of obtaining money is through my family; but they are not in the best position to provide money for me.

I just want you to know that I seriously see that I must obey God, and this first tithe is the beginning of a new and better life. I am now striving to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, by obeying God.

The minister has been up here to see me twice, and I'm grateful for that, and waiting to be baptized.... I want to start the Christian "race" that Paul spoke of, and, as you said in one of your radio programs, hear the words, "Well done, my faithful servant."

(Texas)

Questions About the Church Because of the hard-hitting spiritual content of the programs, more people are beginning to inquire about who we are and what we believe as a Church. Here are some typical examples:

Please list the doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God.

Is there a congregation or minister of your Church in my area?

How do I join the Worldwide Church of God?

What denomination are you?

What is the origin of the Worldwide Church of God?

Are you Catholic or Protestant?

Phone Listings Program Mail Processing has been able to assist in the Plain Truth Waiting Room Program by providing local congregations with phone listings of businesses in their area.

These lists are provided upon request of the local minister, who would send us the telephone directories for his area. From these directories, we can compile the names, addresses and phone numbers of local businesses and place them in the Work's computer. This compilation creates a computerized list of businesses in address order, which can be printed and sent to the minister.

Computerized phone listings provide several advantages for volunteer workers on the Waiting Room Program. The listings are printed, which is easier to read than handwritten lists. Also, volunteers can see all the offices located at one address, which saves them from making extra calls. The listings reduce a certain amount of duplications as well. For instance, groups of dentists or doctors often use one office number, but list it in the directories under all of their names. Our computer lists would eliminate any duplicate numbers, saving the volunteers more calls.

Any minister wishing to obtain such a list for his area should feel free to contact us. We will do our best to expedite all requests as quickly as possible.

U.S. Postal Employees One unique source of new subscribers is from people who handle and deliver the mail. Our literature often catches the attention of mail carriers who wish to become regular readers. Following are some comments from postal workers who have found the Work's publications to be interesting and helpful:

X I work in the post office and have seen "The Plain Truth" and other literature coming through the mail. I am very interested, and I hope you don't think I'm too greedy in asking for all these booklets.

(Marysville, CA)

It is apparent that there is not much time left to get the gospel of the kingdom of God to the confused people in the world. I am a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and on my route I have noticed the increase of people receiving "The Plain Truth." It is good to know that many new subscriptions for "The Plain Truth" are coming in.

(Belleville, NJ)

I'm a mailman and I see your literature coming through. I read it but I'd like to receive my own.

(Memphis, TN)

I need to reorder some back issues of your magazines because the mailman was so interested and asked so many questions, I gave him mine!

(Harrisburg, PA)

I work in the post office and as I was sorting the mail an ad for the booklet "Does God Exist?" caught my eye. It had a phone number on it, so I thought, Why not call?"

(Chicopee, MA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S.-CANADA "TIFF"--OR RIFT?; SOUTHERN AFRICA'S EMERGENCY;
PASSING OF AN ERA

U.S.-Canada "Tiff"--Or Rift? Ominous trends usually start small, the "mustard seed" principle holding true. With this in mind, we may someday look back to a day in May, 1986 when the United States suddenly imposed a 35 per cent tariff on the importation of Canadian cedar roofing materials as the start of something big. Canada's stunned Prime Minister Brian Mulroney called the action "bizarre" and instructed his government to respond with hiked tariffs on sales of American books, magazines and some computer components.

Mr. Mulroney was well aware of the politics behind the American action. He knew the U.S. move was taken because of charges in the U.S. Congress that the Reagan administration was not doing enough to protect U.S. industries affected by imports. But Washington's action played into the hands of Mulroney's critics who have charged that he has been too pro-American in his policies. Indeed he and Mr. Reagan had enjoyed a warm relationship, seeing eye-to-eye on a number of issues from economic policy to North American defense matters.

Vice President George Bush was dispatched to Ottawa to try to heal the rift. But he only made things worse when he not only said the Reagan administration would not back down on the roofing materials case, but he referred to the entire matter as only a "tiff."

The eruption of the mini-trade war comes at an awkward time. Both nations had been discussing implementation of a free trade agreement, now very much clouded. In fact, the free trade proposal, which would amount to a virtually open-border economy, is viewed by Mr. Mulroney's political opposition, and many Canadians in general, as a serious threat to Canadian sovereignty and uniqueness. "Are we to become nothing other than America's 51st state?" is a common question.

What is clearly at stake is the closest economic relationship enjoyed by any two countries in the world. Canada and the U.S. have developed the world's most successful common market, exchanging an incredible \$116

billion in goods, services and resources last year. Andrew Malcolm, author of the book, THE CANADIANS, states that trade between the two North American powers represents an "economic relationship so massive that neither government can even monitor it fully, let alone control it." As one observer put it, Canada and the U.S. are like "Siamese twins who cannot separate and live."

The bilateral exchanges are so large that the amount traded between the U.S. and just one Canadian province, Ontario, is larger than all the trade between the U.S. and Japan, America's second largest trading partner. Significantly, the U.S. trade deficit with Canada is second only to the export-import gap with Japan, adding fuel to protectionist fervor in Washington.

The row along the 49th parallel is symptomatic of the larger deteriorating world trade picture involving the U.S., the Common Market and the economies of the Pacific Basin. But it has one significant and very ominous, long-range regional implication. Canada and the U.S. are not only each other's major trade partner, but they exist in a symbiotic defense arrangement as well. Canada's depth of territory stretching into the Arctic is essential to the entirety of North American defense. In it is positioned much of the continent's jointly managed air and missile-defense network. In effect, Canada is America's northern buffer zone, its first line of continental defense. In turn, Canada, with only a tenth of the population of the USA, depends upon American military power to defend its territory. Should a trade "tiff" ever escalate to a rupture of this interrelated defense network...well, I think we can all see the implications of that.

Special Report: South Africa's Emergency The South African government's implementation of an emergency decree has so far worked--internally. The various black township areas, which would certainly have witnessed large-scale political demonstrations on June 16 (10th anniversary of 1976 Soweto riots), have been largely becalmed. But the emergency action has further infuriated political opponents at home and around the world.

The government, all sides admit, has used but a fraction of the power at its command to control unrest. But President Pieter Botha has been boxed into a corner. The government has all but lost political control of the townships. Local black politicians and law-enforcement personnel have been silenced, either killed or driven from office. In area after area, control is exercised by radicalized youths of the United Democratic Front (UDF), which increasingly acts as the agent of the outlawed, Communist-backed African National Congress (ANC). These youngsters rule by means of their own revolutionary committees and "people's courts." Those who oppose their instant justice are burned alive via the "necklace" procedure--gasoline-soaked tires placed around the "informant's" head and set ablaze. This bestial process has led to some gallows humor--that UDF really stands for "Uniroyal, Dunlop and Firestone." Still, Winnie Mandela, wife of the imprisoned ANC figurehead leader Nelson Mandela, claims that blacks will achieve liberation "through our boxes of matches, with our necklaces."

It was precisely because the radical youths were intimidating the sprawling "Crossroads" squatter camps near Cape Town that older residents,

calling themselves "vigilantes," recently decided to fight back. Because of this intercommunal warfare, much of Crossroads was set ablaze, with tens of thousands made homeless.

Mr. Botha's dilemma is this: Should he try to reimpose authority in these areas, now impossible unless the army is sent in, he will be accused of further "oppression." No one--certainly not in the sympathetic news media--condemns the ANC/UDF leaders for intimidating and oppressing their own people. In fact the ANC openly declared over a year ago that its policy was to make the townships "ungovernable." It has largely succeeded.

Still, the ANC and its supporters know that they cannot succeed in their drive for power without support from the world community. And make no mistake, the issue is power, not apartheid. If the latter were the case, the Botha government would be given credit for the many changes it has instituted since 1978 to remove areas of discrimination. The government has even announced a plan to institute a National Council, to include black leaders to work toward a new constitutional structure. The ANC is not interested in any form of power sharing (whether such an idea would work is another matter). The ANC, largely based among the Xhosa people, but enjoying intimidated support in the townships regardless of tribal affiliation, is determined not to share power with, say, the Zulus, headed by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi. As Peter Bibby wrote in the December 6 DAILY TELEGRAPH of London: "If Nelson Mandela was released and Oliver Tambo were favoured, both of whom are Xhosas, the wrath of the Zulu nation would be incurred. The liberal U.S. magazine THE NEW REPUBLIC even suggested (Sept. 9, 1985): "In some ways, in fact, apartheid has restrained that intra-black tribal warfare."

The ANC, as stated earlier, is still weak. To be ushered into office it is relying on the world community to clamp down hard on its enemy, the South African government. Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu, arch-bishop-elect of Cape Town (and a Xhosa) has called on the West to slap sanctions on his country as the last chance for peaceful change. "If sanctions are not applied," he said recently in the U.S., "if the international community does not intervene decisively in South Africa immediately, then we have had it. Armageddon would be upon us." To espouse sanctions in South Africa is a punishable crime. Tutu had been edging closer to doing so openly--and now does so brazenly. But his religious stature, and support in the eyes of the world, shields him.

On May 29, Bishop Tutu went so far as to say: "I have come to the conclusion that if the international community refuses to apply sanctions, then our people will have tried everything, and following the principles of the traditional doctrine of 'just war,' I would say it is justifiable to overthrow the system by violence." And recently, Tutu met with sympathetic white liberals in South Africa. "What should the white business community be doing to help you in your struggle?" asked a banker. "Stop paying taxes," Tutu replied. "Stop supporting this immoral and detestible regime. Put your money where your mouths are." (Note Romans 13:1, 5-7.)

In Paris this week, a U.N.-sponsored conference on sanctions against South Africa was convened. Leaders of the ANC appealed for world action. Its

exiled leader, Oliver Tambo, denounced Pretoria for its "criminal murderous character of genocide," especially for its recent punitive raids on ANC compounds in three neighboring countries. "Unless the world takes decisive action in South Africa [meaning total sanctions], a bloodbath is inevitable," said Tambo. He went on to issue a not-too-veiled threat of sabotage against U.S. and other Western-owned industries in South Africa. "Perhaps the companies are waiting to be forced to withdraw," he said angrily.

South Africa's three largest trading partners and investors--Great Britain, the United States and West Germany--were not present officially in Paris. But the U.S. had some unofficial observers. Jesse Jackson was present. Before he left for Paris, he denounced at a rally in New York his own nation's "sleazy partnership with despotism and state terrorism." And in typical Jacksonian hyperbole, he labeled President Botha the "spiritual successor to Hitler." The news media, of course, relays such exaggerations without comment.

The ANC's pressure for sanctions, though still resisted by those countries that really matter, is nevertheless beginning to wear them down. In the United States, pressure has been building in the Congress for much tougher measures than the President finally imposed last year. Among other things, proposed legislation would ban new American investments and loans in South Africa, bar the importation of South African steel, coal and uranium and withdraw landing rights for South African Airways in the United States. Cynically, it would not prevent the import of such critical metals as chromium, manganese and vanadium.

The country facing the heaviest pressure at the moment is Britain. Recently a team calling itself the "Eminent Persons Group" (EPG), composed of seven leading Commonwealth personalities, visited South Africa to assess the possibility of a negotiated settlement between Pretoria and "recognized black leaders"--code phrase for the ANC. The EPG was an outgrowth of last year's Commonwealth conference, which was dominated by the South African issue. The Botha government claims the EPG was biased in its assessment of South Africa's troubles. The visit led nowhere, whereupon the EPG filed a report that stops just short of calling specifically for international sanctions.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke warned that by holding out against sanctions British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was "risking a breakup of the Commonwealth," of which South Africa was once a member. Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda has, in fact, threatened to pull his country out of the Commonwealth if sanctions are not applied. Queen Elizabeth, who is a good friend of Mr. Kaunda, is known to have expressed to Prime Minister Thatcher her deep concern for the future of the Commonwealth over this fractious issue. Nevertheless, Mrs. Thatcher still maintains that "sanctions don't work." Also at stake are tens of thousands of British jobs connected to trade with South Africa (Britain has 40 percent of all direct foreign investment in the RSA). Moreover some 800,000 people in South Africa hold British passports and, if the economic situation there deteriorated badly, presumably many would flee to Britain.

The Canadian government, too, is on the hot seat. Ottawa recently tightened the trade screws but may feel obliged to do more. This is

because Prime Minister Mulroney pledged to the United Nations last year that Canada would break all diplomatic ties with Pretoria and impose comprehensive economic sanctions if a diplomatic solution on South Africa could not be found. Non-Commonwealth members Denmark and Norway are moving closer to cutting virtually all trade ties with Pretoria.

To all of this pressure, President P.W. Botha said grimly the other evening: "We do not desire it and we do not seek it, but if we are forced to go it alone, then so be it." In resigning South Africa to international sanctions, Mr. Botha said he did not underestimate the sacrifices and problems that sanctions would bring. "But South Africa will not crawl before anyone to prevent it.... Committed as we are to peace and normal international relations, the world must take note and never forget that we are not a nation of weaklings."

Earlier, in another televised speech, Mr. Botha denounced outsiders for meddling in his nation's affairs. The swirling South African controversy reminds one of the passage in Zechariah 12 concerning Jerusalem--that it would be "a very heavy stone for all peoples: all who would heave it away would surely be cut in pieces, though all nations are gathered against it."

Mr. Botha, too, bears his own heavy burden. His National Party, though it has gained support from many moderate-to-liberal English-speaking whites since reforms began in 1978, is losing equal numbers of Afrikaner voters to the right. The strength of the two NP breakaway parties, the HNP (Reformed National Party) and the CP (Conservative Party), is growing. So is the unofficial opposition represented by the AWB--the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, or Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Followers of the AWB, led by the charismatic Eugene Terre Blanche, recently disrupted a National Party meeting in the Transvaal, preventing Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha from speaking. The incident, which involved fighting and some bloodshed, marked "a sea change in South Africa's political history," said the SUNDAY TIMES of Johannesburg.

The belief among many Afrikaners--1 in 4, a recent poll estimated--is that the National Party is losing its grips on power. It has already lost Northern Transvaal to the forces of the right. Afrikanerdom seems split for good. The HNP, CP and AWB all charge, to one degree or another, that Mr. Botha's policies are leading the country to doom, that no matter what reforms are implemented, the outside world will not accept them anyway.

The AWB's Mr. Terre Blanche is certainly one to watch. He is labeled "neo-fascist" by his critics. His movement's swastika-like banner--three connected black "sevens" inside a white circle on a red flag--doesn't help his image. But he insists the symbolism is from the Bible--777 as opposed to the beast's 666. "It is the only flag or political emblem which exists anywhere today that is based anywhere on the Bible," he says.

Terre Blanche and his followers hearken back to the spirit of the Great Trek of the 1830s. They don't want rule over all of South Africa, they claim. In fact they don't want to rule anyone but themselves, in a pocket of northern South Africa recreating the original Boer republics of Transvaal, the Orange Free State plus northern Natal--areas their forefathers trekked into. "I will get my land back and I will restore the

Boer republics," he said in an interview with the May 17 ARGUS of Cape Town. "I am prepared to live at peace with my neighbors," he added, "Power cannot be shared, but land can. That is why we want our Boer republics back."

Terre Blanche's critics claim his program is simplistic and impossible, given South Africa's highly integrated, modern industrialized economy with its influx of blacks into the Transvaal. Thus, South Africa is splitting apart--white against black, black against black and now once again even white against white. No one has the answer. And meanwhile, the world turns the screws even tighter.

One very likely consequence is that the growing political forces on the right, in league with like minds in the military, might some day stage a coup to prevent the country from descending into total anarchy. As Connor Cruise O'Brien wrote in the March 1986 issue of THE ATLANTIC:

Afrikaners are neither the uniquely virtuous volk of their own rhetoric...nor yet the moral monsters depicted by outside rhetoric. They are ordinary human beings, with the normal human quotas of greed, arrogance, and so forth, operating within a unique predicament, which they have inherited and are now thrashing around in. I suspect that some of the righteous who denounce them from afar might behave quite like them if they were caught in a similar predicament--if, for example, there had been a black majority in America in the 1950s.... So it seems that even if a majority of the white electorate were prepared to throw in the sponge, the struggle to maintain white, and Afrikaner, supremacy would be carried on by the armed forces, presumably under martial law...(which is, in any case, not a document that inspires any great veneration, even among white South Africans).

Then the world really would go crazy!

Passing of an Era Mention should be made in closing concerning an individual who inspired the American people at a time of great national stress. June 17, Kate Smith, who made the song "God Bless America" so famous it became an unofficial national anthem, died at her home in Raleigh, N.C., at the age of 79.

Miss Smith was indeed unique. She recorded almost 3,000 songs (700 made the hit parade), made more than 15,000 radio and television programs and received more than 25 million fan letters. Yet she failed to talk until she was 4 years old, began singing at age 5--and never took a formal music lesson in her life. She once said: "The voice is a God-given gift. I don't question it and I don't train it, I just use it as I think the Lord intended."

Kate Smith's rich contralto voice coupled with her inspirational personality blossomed just when the nation needed it the most, in the dark days of the Depression and World War II. During the war she travelled 520,000 miles to entertain troops and sold a record \$600 million in war bonds in round-the-clock radio appeals. She was called "Radio's own Statue of Liberty." President Franklin Roosevelt once introduced her to

King George VI of England, saying: "This is Kate Smith. Miss Smith is America."

Kate Smith was most famous for her singing of the Irving Berlin song "God Bless America," which she introduced on radio in 1938. It was so popular, there were at times movements, all unsuccessful, to have it adopted as the national anthem. During the dark days of the '30s and '40s God did indeed uphold and ultimately bless America with victory ("stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above") ushering in a time of unprecedented postwar success. The death of this entertainer with her God-given talent is another indication that this era of national blessings is behind us.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau