

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Wednesday last week Mr. Armstrong addressed two meetings in Pasadena. The morning meeting was for all department heads and other managers of the Work here. The Council of Elders was also present. I am told this was the first time Mr. Armstrong has spoken to such a group of leaders in Pasadena since 1976. The purpose of the meeting was to provide all the department heads and supervisors in all branches of the Work here with an overview of the direction Mr. Armstrong wants them to be working for the rest of the year. He also wanted to give overall principles and direction.

Mr. Armstrong opened the meeting by mentioning that for many years he had been away from Pasadena as Christ opened doors before him to meet world leaders all around the globe. During the last four years after his complete heart failure, he had been out of touch with the day-to-day operations of the Work. But since his return to Pasadena he has come to see that he needs to spend most of his time here and intends to do so. Mr. Armstrong then introduced me to give more specifics on the direction he wants the Work to take over the next several months.

I mentioned that we all hold positions of responsibility in God's government. Part of that responsibility is to be a wise steward and to make sure our financial commitments on behalf of God's Work are sound and based on real need. We should remember, too, the way Christ has led Mr. Armstrong these many years in doing things in the best possible way. And so when a department makes a request for additional monies, the request should be based both on genuine need and the desire to follow the Godly course of striving for the highest standards. The Great Commission is, of course, our primary job. And that is where we must expend more of the funds God has blessed us with.

I then introduced Mr. Leroy Neff, Church Treasurer, who gave a more detailed explanation of our current financial standing. With regard to planning departmental budgets, he stressed the need to hold the budgets at current levels or even decrease them with the intention of placing additional monies into the Great Commission. He continued by encouraging the department heads to examine their manpower levels and to be sure that we are all operating at maximum efficiency. In closing, he emphasized Mr. Armstrong's desire to push ahead once again with the Great Commission.

Mr. Armstrong then made some concluding remarks. The government of God, he said, is only found in one place on earth today--in God's own Church. There is government in the Church of God, and unless we are in harmony under that government we will not succeed. Mr. Armstrong explained that we all must walk together in agreement with Christ. He ended by asking everyone, "Are you with me?" The response was an immediate, loud "Yes!" It was truly pleasant to see the unity the meeting produced. The joy and appreciation for God's government, for Mr. Armstrong and for the opportunity and privilege of being called now with a part in that government, was expressed by many afterwards.

Later that afternoon Mr. Armstrong spoke to an audience of all church and college employees in the college gymnasium. The gym was packed! Remarking on how the Work had grown, he expressed in a very warm and fatherly way his gratitude for the employees and their sacrifices for the Work. He took the opportunity to announce a moderate pay increase for those present, saying that salaries had been below par for some time, but now God's blessing on the Work makes a raise possible. It will go some way to setting salaries at the right level.

He went on to discuss plans for the Work, the need for more radio and television time, and for a concentrated effort in reaching the world now that the Church is "pretty well back on the track." In that light, he announced that a new advertising agency, BBDO (Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn) will begin work on behalf of the Church immediately. They are one of the top four U.S. agencies, and their international operation makes them sixth largest in the world. They have been working on our account in Canada since 1978, and Australia and New Zealand since January 1981. They are now actively seeking new television and radio opportunities in the United States. We'll have more on that as plans develop.

David Hulme has been added to the staff of the Pastor General's Office to assist me, especially in media work. He will interface with the new agency and coordinate our advertising efforts in regular consultation with Mr. Armstrong. David has worked on the Church's media plans for the past ten years in Britain, Europe, South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It's great to be working with him again!

Worldwide Advertising, with whom we have contractual obligations until 1985, will continue to represent the Church on a minimum of existing radio and television contracts. All new buys will, however, be investigated and made by the new advertising agency.

On Friday, July 17, Mr. Armstrong and his party traveled to the Canadian office in Vancouver, British Columbia. On Friday afternoon he toured the Vancouver office and was given a detailed overview of God's Work in Canada. Mr. Colin Adair and his staff, in conjunction with our Canadian advertising agency, had put together a very graphic presentation of the growth and development of God's Work in Canada.

The office was first established in Vancouver in February 1961, and the Church was started in June of 1962, when Mr. Roderick Meredith conducted the first service. Today God's people meet on a regular basis in 75 churches throughout the nation, served by a total of 51 full-time ministers, six trainees (three just for the summer) and 22 local church elders. Attendance averages 9,570 each month and membership stands at 5,878. Attendance is up over 1980 by 5.7% as of May, and baptisms are up by 12%. The Vancouver office also services the state of Alaska where we have four churches and one Feast of Tabernacles site.

As Christ has moved to put the Church back on the track, the Work in Canada has been blessed. The income for the year to date is up over 1980 by 28.1% (as of June). The majority of that income, which is targeted at 11.1 million dollars for 1981, is earmarked for the Great Commission of preaching the Gospel. Fully 63% of all the Canadian income will be spent on Great Commission activities. The church in Canada has had some unique media opportunities which have played a large part in building the Work.

At the present time virtually the whole country is covered by radio and television broadcasting. The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list stands at almost 187,000 subscribers for the English edition, and an additional 46,374 subscribers take La PURE VERITE. The newsstand edition is currently running at 150,000 copies in English and 11,500 in French. Throughout Canada the monthly PLAIN TRUTH circulation is in excess of 394,000 copies. One in every sixty Canadians receives his own copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. That is the best ratio in the world at present.

One of the areas in which Canada serves is in helping other international offices to preach the Gospel. Canada was able to double the amount of money set aside for assisting overseas offices to one million Canadian dollars. This is used for the Philippine PLAIN TRUTH, underwriting the Work in Scandinavia and the South Pacific, financing five-days-a-week broadcasting on Radio Ceylon, and other projects yet to be announced.

Mr. Armstrong was well pleased with the good organization of the Vancouver office, the efficiency with which the Work has been and is being done, and the strong indicators for growth in that part of the world.

That evening Mr. Armstrong had a pleasant and relaxed dinner with the office management and the Vancouver church pastors and their wives.

On the Sabbath he spoke to a combined church attendance of 1,605, some members having traveled from other parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Washington state. In his sermon he explained the symbolism of the two trees in the Garden of Eden. Especially clear was the difference between humans and animals and how mankind needs three kinds of knowledge--how to deal with things, how to relate to other people and how to relate to God. Mankind has accomplished tremendous achievements with things--the material world. But without God's Spirit, he has no idea how to relate to other humans and the Great God! All our troubles on earth have come because Adam rejected spiritual knowledge that is necessary to have access to God's mind and which shows the way to peace and harmony between humans.

We flew back to Pasadena Saturday night and began preparing for the trip to Europe Tuesday.

--Robert E. Fahey

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### Death of Pastor's Son

Jim and Barbara Chapman want to express their heartfelt thanks for the concern and prayers of the entire Church on behalf of their son Wayne who had suffered a serious fall from a scaffold last year. Wayne died on July 21. Your continued prayers on behalf of the Chapman family would be greatly appreciated.

### International News

Progress in Southern Africa Regional Director Dr. Roy McCarthy has sent in the following exciting summary of activities in Southern Africa over the past months:

God's Work is doing very well in Southern Africa. Our PLAIN TRUTH mailing list goes up and up. We are now printing 119,000 copies in Cape Town,

R.S.A., and 18,300 in Salisbury, Zimbabwe. We place 40,000 on newsstands every month but will do 10,000 more this month because we have a combined issue. Our response is still a very fine 4.13% for our newsstand copies.

We reach a milestone this month as all our subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH in South Africa will receive a 48-page magazine. We shall continue to print a 32-page magazine in Zimbabwe and for our newsstands. The PLAIN TRUTH magazine remains our frontline vehicle to expose the people to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. The doors of television and radio are still tightly shut, except for a small radio station in Swaziland which broadcasts The WORLD TOMORROW program every Friday evening at 9 o'clock.

Since 1 April 1981 we administer the areas of Zambia and Mauritius from the Johannesburg Office. We have 1,026 PLAIN TRUTH subscribers in Zambia and 25 members. In Mauritius 1,360 receive The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and we have 27 members. I have now visited both regions--Mauritius 17-25 May and Zambia 1-8 June. I counselled members and prospectives in both countries, baptizing one in Mauritius. Mr. Andre van Belkum will follow up my visits with visits in Mauritius 4-8 August, Zambia 9-12 August.

We have decided to temporarily mail The PLAIN TRUTH from Cape Town to Zambia and Mauritius--it will get there a lot sooner. We found out from the postal authorities that a PLAIN TRUTH mailed in Salisbury, Zimbabwe to Lusaka, Zambia would go from Salisbury to Botswana to South Africa to Maputo to Malawi and finally to Zambia! The round trip would take about five weeks!!! A bush telegram by forked stick would be faster!

We have made arrangements for the Feast of Tabernacles in Mauritius. The brethren will all stay in one hotel--Hotel Club in the Blackwater region of Mauritius, a tiny island 40 miles long by 30 miles wide with a population of 945,000! Mr. Syd Hull and his wife will be visiting with the brethren for the eight-day period.

In Zimbabwe the Festival will be at Victoria Falls--a beautiful and spectacular sight. Here we shall have all the Zambian brethren meet with the Zimbabweans. We could have about 380 in attendance. The ministers present here will be Mr. Ron Stoddart and Mr. Adriaan Botha. Although accommodations are plentiful, we shall have to set up a large marquee tent in which to hold services. Anything can of course happen in these parts of the world. The other day a golfer on the fifth fairway hit his ball into the bush. He went after his ball and came face to face with a pride of five lions!

Preparations at the other sites in South Africa--Durban, Umbgababa, Sonesta and George--are going very well. Total attendance at all the sites could be 2,750--there were only 90 in 1963!

Our financial situation in South Africa gets better and better. God is pouring out a blessing. We thought we had a most excellent year in 1980. Our year-to-date figure shows an unbelievable 45.9% increase over January-June 1980 in our operating account. Our members still contribute 78% of the income and God has certainly blessed them abundantly. In Zimbabwe, too, we see the same trend--the year-to-date increase there is 39% at the end of June 1981.

Australia God continued to bless His Work in Australia this past month. Pentecost attendance was up 5.7% over last year, and members responded with

an excellent 46% increase in holy day offerings. At the end of June our year-to-date income stood at 28.5% increase over last year.

Mr. Armstrong's recent trip to Australia continues to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to the brethren. Many expressions of appreciation to Mr. Armstrong for his visit continue to come in.

Our newsstand program continues to be an effective tool in placing The PLAIN TRUTH in the hands of many tens of thousands of readers. One hundred thousand copies were distributed this month on newsstands throughout Australia, and 1,171 newsstand readers wrote in asking to be placed on The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list for the next twelve months.

Philippines The Philippine festival sites for this year have been finalized. Five sites will host a projected 3,000 brethren and their families. The main site is Baguio City, with an expected attendance of 1,300. The second largest site is Cebu City, with 700. Other sites are Naga City, Don Carlos in Bukidnon, and Davao City. Already some 20 overseas brethren have signified their interest to attend the feast in Baguio City. There is still plenty of room there for transfers.

Pentecost was observed by 2,576 brethren in the Philippines, representing a 21% increase over last year's attendance. Holy day offering was also up 23.7% on last year.

#### Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Session number twelve of the Ministerial Refresher Program was a delight and a blessing to my wife and me. It is difficult to elevate one blessing from God over another, but my feeling is that the past three weeks of training were truly something special compared to past programs.

In looking back over the years I have been privileged to be in the Church, I can only say that we have received far more than we have been able or willing to give. We have no complaints.

Please accept this brief statement of our most sincere and earnest expression of gratitude for what you have done for the Church, the ministry, and for us personally. We understand that all good things come ultimately from God. Nonetheless, these feelings are toward you as well. You have our support because we know you will not compromise God's purpose and plan.

Felix Heimberg

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the institution of the refresher program. The staff you have selected to instruct us has done an outstanding job of reflecting the doctrines Christ has put into His Church through you. As a result, Ann and I feel much closer to the staff, to you, and to God and Jesus Christ. So again, thank you for that truly was "a pause that refreshes."

Arnold and Ann Hampton

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Thanks for the opportunity to have had a part in the 12th session of the refresher program. It was truly very enjoyable and worthwhile. Certainly the program is properly named. It seems to be a modern-day fulfillment of Jude 3 and 4. Having been taught by Mr. Armstrong since 1946 made it seem so.

The words "Doctrinal Committee" were repulsive words in our ears as we saw the watering down and change taking place. "Putting back on the track" was made more meaningful by the course.

Thanks again for the opportunity to be back at headquarters and to enjoy fellowship with many old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Norvel V. Pyle

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I thank you for a profitable 12th session of the refresher program! We felt the subjects were presented in a balanced and well-thought-out way. The brethren will be benefiting from this program as a result of our being able to attend.

Please extend our appreciation to everyone who worked so hard to make the program effective (including those "live" and on "video tape"). We were glad the food was not "video taped," however! Again, thank you for a program well done!

Paul and Gloria Millich

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Jamaica! Both my wife and I want to thank you and your staff for all the instruction and encouragement we received while on the refresher. The guidance and direction we received have been a great benefit to us in our effort to serve the brethren here. We do feel better equipped to carry out the job with which we have been entrusted. Once again, thank you.

Charles and Carmen Fleming

Dear Mr. Tkach:

A hearty thanks to you and those working with you for making session 12 of the refresher program a big success. The warmth, congeniality and unity expressed by everyone was truly dynamite. But most importantly, the loyalty all of you have toward Mr. Armstrong is awe inspiring. It is great to see that his arms are being upheld by faithful men. And this gives us a greater sense of church stability. Keep the faith for we are continually praying for you.

Arnold and Ann Hampton

Mr. Joe Tkach:

My wife and I want to thank you and all the others who made the 12th session of the refresher program such a rewarding experience for us. We really appreciated Mr. Armstrong taking the time to talk to us. All the sessions were very profitable. The fellowship with the other

ministers and their wives was very enjoyable. The food was outstanding. And thanks to the P.E. Department for including us in the softball series. There is no place like Ambassador College that would provide such an atmosphere for this program. The campus and the auditorium were so beautiful!

Bruce and Phyllis Gore

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife June and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to you and all the members of the "refresher team" for the hospitality and the tremendous amount of information and knowledge that was provided for us at the 12th session of the refresher program. It was truly refreshing to have the privilege to spend almost three weeks at God's college, listening to men chosen by God to teach his ministers and their wives.

The highlight and certainly an unforgettable one, was when God's apostle, Mr. Armstrong, spoke to all of us for over two hours.

We both realize the tremendous amount of organization and effort that went into making everything so interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks again!

Lorne and June Davies

#### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

JACKSONVILLE, NC--JOHN MOSKEL: I made a new PM visit June 30th to a lady in Williamston. Upon entering her front door there were 18 people seated in the living room with Bibles in their laps! What a surprise! Spent three hours in a question-and-answer session. All but one already believed in the Sabbath and four were solidly convinced beforehand of God's Holy Days. An interesting evening. I suspect that four will attend Sabbath services before long in spite of the 100-mile distance from Jacksonville.

Our scheduled "fundraiser," the annual "Cucumber Pick" on June 28th, had to be cancelled due to DROUGHT --there was nothing to pick! Cucumbers have been "wiped out" this year here.

MONTGOMERY, AL--PAUL KURTS: We have been getting a really fine response by people staying after Sabbath services to hear Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes. We are running 85 to 90 percent attendance of those coming to services that Sabbath.

MURFREESBORO, TN--DARRIS McNEELY: Brethren are very excited over Mr. Armstrong's telecast which has just begun airing on WTBF Nashville.

TRENTON, NY--VINCE PANELLA: Members from both churches eagerly awaiting Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit. His "rave reviews" have us excited! We expect a full house in attendance.

KALAMAZOO, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: God is the giver of all good gifts. He has chosen to give His people some precious gifts through Mr. Armstrong. One of those gifts Mr. Armstrong has given the local congre-

gation is in sending Mr. Waterhouse to us. Mr. Waterhouse gave us some choice jewels from God: encouragement, correction, vision and inspiration to name a few. God certainly watered the portion of God's house that is here in Kalamazoo through Mr. Waterhouse.

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS PERKINS: The Sabbath of July 11, 1981 was a particularly meaningful one due to the presence of Mr. Waterhouse. His arrival was anticipated a long time, and his sermon very much appreciated by the members of the church. Mr. Waterhouse very graphically and powerfully demonstrated that God works through His chosen apostle. It is always a special treat to have him visit with us.

DETROIT EAST, MI--EARL H. WILLIAMS: PM activity is up this month and church attendance was the highest ever this month due to sermons on marriage and family. The brethren are really trying to make their families pleasing to God.

FAYETTEVILLE, NC--PAUL KIEFFER: Pentecost offering up 45% from last year, with the per-person average up 19%. People seem to be getting more interested in their families as I try to emphasize that.

BIRMINGHAM, AL--KENNETH M. MARTIN: The fruits of God's Work continue to encourage the brethren locally. Many comments are heard about the excellent articles appearing in The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR SERIOUSLY INJURED A.C. STUDENT

Mr. Greg Albrecht, the Dean of Students, has just informed me of a serious accident which happened to one of our students here on campus this afternoon (July 23).

Bart Boyer was mowing the grass between the sidewalk and the curb near the corner of Green Street and South Orange Grove Avenue when, somehow, a car went out of control, jumped the curb and hit him. Reportedly, Bart was thrown into the air, hit his head on the windshield, and his leg was broken. A minister is now with Bart (who is still unconscious) in the Huntington Memorial Hospital here in Pasadena. Apparently this is one of the best hospitals for such emergency care, and regularly receives all kinds of seriously injured people from auto and other types of accidents.

Mr. Albrecht and another minister just returned from the hospital and informed me that Bart is still breathing, but did receive very serious head injuries. We have already asked various ministers to remember Bart in their prayers. Mr. Albrecht, Mr. Ben Faulkner and I knelt down here in my office a few minutes ago to take this matter directly to "the Throne of Grace" to ask for God's divine intervention.

I might add that a year or two ago a woman member of one of the Pasadena churches was knocked off her motorbike, was seriously injured and was taken to the Huntington Memorial Hospital where she remained unconscious for about six weeks. Many of us kept praying and God raised her up so that today she is both physically and mentally restored back to health. I know God can also intervene in Bart's case.



Also, I might add that Mr. Albrecht spoke to Bart shortly before the accident to encourage him and offer him a job promotion--because of his diligence, dependability, etc. I had spoken to several within the past few weeks about this very matter, hoping we could reward Bart.

Please ask the people in God's Church in your areas to remember Bart Boyer in their prayers. His mother, whom we just talked to on the phone, said she would appreciate our putting this announcement in the Pastor General's Report.

Mr. Albrecht and Mr. Faulkner are immediately leaving again for the hospital to see how Bart is doing. The other minister is still there with him. We will give you a report on Bart's progress in the near future.

On a brighter note, the Japanese students arrived this week. They are excited about being here on this, the world's most beautiful campus. One of their chaperons told me just yesterday that a number of the Japanese students have said they wanted to stay here and not return to Japan! Can you imagine why?

All is coming along very well with the College during the present summer session of classes. Also, we are offering a number of Continuing Education Classes (I am teaching one on Marriage and the Family) during the summer break.

We again thank all of you ministers for your steadfast support of Ambassador and ask your continued prayers that the College will be run the way God wants it run--as communicated through the instructions which God's Apostle gives to those of us in College Administration.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM THE MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

From January through June of this year, we added 462,000 new people to our computer files. This is a new all-time record for the first six months in any year since we've been keeping records! Also, it is a 100% increase over the same period last year.

Of all the identifiable media sources used by the Work, PLAIN TRUTH programs produced 78% of the new additions. PLAIN TRUTH subscription issues, which are mailed to people's homes, brought in 113,000 new subscriptions. The main reason for this exceptional response was due to a new response card that is inserted in PLAIN TRUTH copies. The card seems to pull well because it is easy to remove from the magazine, is simple to fill out and postage is prepaid.

The following five media sources were mostly responsible for the new additions.

| <u>Media Source</u>                 | <u>New People Added</u> | <u>%Total</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| PT Subscriptions. . . . .           | 113,400                 | 24.5          |
| PT Newsstands . . . . .             | 104,700                 | 22.7          |
| Television. . . . .                 | 44,400                  | 9.6           |
| PT Expire Mailings (Renewals) . . . | 43,950                  | 9.5           |
| PT Waiting Room Program . . . . .   | 39,300                  | 8.5           |

Weekly Letter Comments

Following is a selection of letter comments recently received in the Mail Processing Center.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

The United States and Britain in Prophecy

I have just finished, or nearly finished, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and I must say that I have never in my entire life read such material. It perhaps surpasses all other religious material that I have read. I found the book completely truthful and extremely honest with all of its information about the biblical prophecies.

How you ever managed to take it step by step through history, from people to people down through the ages, and find the lost ten tribes is mind boggling. I have read it and completely understand it. Now I think I am somewhat more prepared for future events yet to come. I just pray to the most High God that the United States and Britain will wake up before it is really too late. This book is one of the most fascinating books of biblical history that I have ever read!

I.W. (Waterloo, NY)

Healing

Early this year my husband became very ill with acute and severe abdominal pain. He was anointed and we prayed about it, but he became worse. After two weeks in bed at home and in continual pain he was admitted to the hospital. I rang our minister and he asked God's people in Wellington to pray. Other ministers in New Zealand also asked the brethren in their areas to pray for him.

Surely they must have, for the next morning the obstruction cleared, his pain left him and he started to rest at last. What a miracle! How thankful we were.

M.J. (Invercargill, New Zealand)

The PLAIN TRUTH (Comments From Europe)

Would you know what joy you've given us by sending your publications? No, you can't really know....You just point us toward God's Word--so often opening understanding to the valuable Word...that gives us great pleasure. For there are enough "expounders" (of the Bible) around who explain their own version (of what the Bible means). Many, many thanks for the magazine! If we could only "pay it back" somehow.

W.C. (Pruchna, Poland)

To my knowledge, KLAR & WAHR (German edition of The PLAIN TRUTH) is the only publication which not only shows the most important problems of mankind and the threats to his existence, but also points out the only way that saves us from the threatening abyss, which we'll otherwise fall into.

E.D. (Bern, Switzerland)

Your magazine is "first-class" and clear in every respect--and I'm convinced also true. There is no alternative for your message!

S.M. (Hamburg, W. Germany)

I find your magazine very interesting. Current world events, the true purpose of life, those who feel lonely in the confusion of today's highly-developed society, etc., are all very important topics and problems of our century, which is near its end. KLAR & WAHR is a gate through which one can see the future with hope.

O.T. (Ankara, Turkey)

Your clear statements concerning our day and age are unbeatable. I missed your valuable magazine KLAR & WAHR very much when I wasn't receiving it anymore. Through a Bible-believing woman I received your address again.

M.M. (Vienna, Austria)

Thanks wholeheartedly for the KLAR & WAHR. It is a pleasure and a comfort to me in this brutal world.

U.P. (Piazzo della Bollenta, Italy)

Your magazine is really unique and brings very current topics on world events in our day. Your monthly articles and reports are very educational for the present age.

L.H. (Celje, Yugoslavia)

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

WEST GERMANY: NEUTRALISM COMBINES WITH ANTI-AMERICANISM TO PRODUCE HEAD-ACHE FOR WASHINGTON Events of the past few weeks show how the dangerous threads of pacifism, neutralism and anti-Americanism are being woven together to form a rather ugly garment in West Germany. The conception that America is the greatest threat to Germany's future--far beyond that of the Soviet Union--continues to grow in the Federal Republic. This is especially true among young adults who remember neither the Second World War nor the Cold War of the late 40's and 1950's, having no personal recollections of, say, the Berlin blockade.

During the recent Protestant conference in Hamburg (reported in this column in a recent Pastor General's Report), students conducting a "peace march" and carrying such signs as "Rockets Out" and "Peace Without Weapons," portrayed Washington as the force behind world tensions and a new arms race. The cover of Stern, West Germany's largest general interest magazine, showed an American nuclear missile piercing the heart of a dove of peace.

The general view of Germany's powerful and growing left is that the United States, by pressing for new nuclear weapons for NATO, would only provoke an otherwise peaceful Soviet Union into a bellicose posture. Former West German chancellor Willy Brandt typifies this distrust-the-Americans believe-the-Russians approach. In early July, Brandt went to Moscow where he received a warm reception (naturally) from Mr. Brezhnev. He heard the Soviet president reissue, with a slight modification, the Russian position on new nuclear weapons for Western Europe: The Soviets would stop adding to (not pull back on) the array of 160-odd triple-warheaded, city-flattening

SS-20 missiles targeted on Western Europe, providing that the West does not deploy (but it can develop, Moscow now permits) its new weapons.

Upon his return, Mr. Brandt transmitted Mr. Brezhnev's proposals uncritically. He portrayed the Soviet leader as a man who "trembled where world peace is concerned." Even some of the left-of-center politicians in the ruling SPD party were dismayed at Brandt's performance. They believe that, should Chancellor Schmidt be forced out of office, Brandt might once again offer his services as a "peace chancellor."

Because of Brandt and others like him, only far more radical--as well as tremendous amounts of Communist propaganda--the picture is emerging in Germany of the United States as a warlike nation, without integrity, having an unjust society, corrupted by Vietnam and Watergate. On the other hand, the Russians are pictured as difficult, but basically reasonable chaps.

Some leftist intellectuals, such as Peter Bender, go so far as to say that Europe and Germany must not only protect itself culturally against American civilization, but must "Europeanize" the Soviet Union so that it can be spared "Americanization." In Bender's view (as reported by John Vinocur of the New York Times), the Soviet population is still pure, uncorrupted by consumerism.

A prime example of this creeping anti-Americanism is the recent full-page ad in a West German national magazine which said, in the very first paragraph, that "almost nothing that is sold or used in our restaurants comes from America." Their enterprise, the ad said, was German with German management, German workers and German suppliers. The restaurant chain? McDonald's!

Noted the Times' Vinocur: "Apparently catching the scent of something rising fast over the golden arches, the West German franchise holders seemed to feel it was a good time to look a little less American. Hadn't Vorwärts, the official newspaper of the Social Democratic Party, run an article associating McDonald's with 'primitive American nourishment,' 'recreating U.S.A. hegemony' and 'gastronomic conservatism'? In a country of sometimes grinding earnestness, this would be just funny...If it didn't come at a time of considerable questioning of the attitudes of West Germans and, to a lesser extent, other northern Europeans, toward the United States. The tag-words run together and blur--pacifism, neutralism, anti-Americanism; the definitions and explanations often collide. But even so, something seems to be there."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau