

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Improving Response Time

It seems to be customary that when something is sent to the pastors to which a response is required, about 80% comes back within the set deadline. Then, it takes a lot of waiting and reminding before the final 20% is returned. We notice that the same names seem to show up as delinquent time after time.

For example, as of 9:00 a.m. (12:00 noon on the East Coast) Tuesday morning after Pentecost, the holy day offering report still had not been completed because the figures for only 280 of the 379 churches in the United States had been called in, even though the deadline was Monday. In discussing this problem with those who compile this information, we learned that after each holy day 25 or more pastors have to be called before the final report can be put together. That simply should not be necessary. They should not have to make a single phone call! Also, a month ago we had to send memos to nearly one-third of the pastors regarding a lack of response to requests for updates and surveys that had previously been sent out. We waited three months in one case, realizing several do get behind because of the many pressing duties locally.

When Mr. Armstrong asks for information we try to respond immediately. But it's frustrating for us when we can't provide it because we are still waiting for some to respond. In a time when growth is being experienced throughout the Work as never before, we need information to be able to anticipate trends and make changes that will need to occur.

We are trying to keep these surveys and updates to a minimum and only ask for information which is really necessary. But there is information important to the Work which can only come from you. In the case of holy day offerings, all of you should understand the importance of this information to Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Neff in making financial reports and plans for the Work.

We realize there are more important things to do than paperwork, but none of us can function without it. As the saying goes, "The job isn't finished until the paperwork is done." We all must put paperwork in its place, not totally disregard it as some have done.

If you have been lax in getting information back to us on time, please resolve to pay more attention to these "lesser" duties and improve your responsiveness to our requests. Your input is important and we need to be able to count on each member of the team!

Supervision of Teens at the Feast of Tabernacles

It seems that one of the biggest problems at the Feast of Tabernacles each year is the number of unsupervised teens. In some cases, the parents attend

one site and leave their teen-agers to stay with their friends at another site. This should never happen!

The Feast is a family occasion--something we should all strive to emphasize in every possible way. Therefore, teen-agers should not be attending the Feast alone. If there is a case where the parents must attend a different site than their children, they should see to it that they are under the supervision of qualified adults. This provides not only for the proper supervision of the youngsters, but also for their safety and well-being!

In the case of teen-agers no longer living at home, it should be up to the pastor to determine whether they should attend the Feast away from their parents. If the young person is genuinely interested, he or she should be treated as a PM.

Even for those teen-agers who are attending with their parents, there should be some instruction in services prior to the festival regarding parental responsibility and the proper supervision of children of all ages at the Feast.

NOTICE TO ALL U.S. AND CANADIAN
CHURCH PASTORS AND FESTIVAL ADVISORS

The computer listing of festival assignments received in your area recently only gives approval for transfers to another site in the U.S. or Canada. Any international site shown only represents what the individual originally signed up for. Approval to attend an overseas site MUST COME directly from the coordinator for that specific site, and is NOT granted by the Festival Office in Pasadena or conveyed to the individual by the computer listing.

Questions and Answers

Question: Is it permissible for members to tape-record sermons in the local congregation or at the Feast of Tabernacles? I thought there was a policy against it, but I notice some still do it.

Answer: Mr. Armstrong directed years ago that taping of sermons by the membership be discontinued.

Although most of the membership have been fully cooperative with that policy, a few, perhaps simply due to ignorance of the ruling, have persisted in recording anyway.

Mr. Armstrong has permitted official tapes to be made for the shut-ins or the sick so they may be able to hear a sermon they could not be present for. But private, personal recording is not permitted.

Although brethren do feel that having tapes of local sermons and Feast sermons will help them review and learn even more about God's truth, years of experience has shown the opposite to be true. Members who are relying on tape recordings for further review tend to be less attentive than they otherwise would be during the sermon.

God's ministers are commanded to give meat in due season. Too often, those who need to hear the instruction, correction, admonition, doctrine or reproof at the time it is given are only partially attentive because they know they can hear it later on tape. Many do not even place the real value on attendance that they should because they intend to listen to the tape later, at a time they choose, instead of at the time God chooses--on the Sabbath with the brethren, paying full attention and taking notes.

We should also understand human nature well enough to realize how easy it is to convince yourself that you're going to faithfully study the tape later--and then keep putting it off until it is forgotten. Meanwhile, the actual inspired delivery of the message was missed.

Some brethren use tapes as a substitute for ministerial counseling. Instead of going to the ministry to seek needed personal counsel, they simply find a tape on the subject they feel they have a problem with, avoiding perhaps the embarrassment, but true value of, face-to-face ministerial counsel.

Heads of households who rely on tapes to bring messages home to family members who were unable to attend miss out on the opportunity to grow in their responsibility to teach their families God's truth from their own notes.

There is also the obvious distraction to both the speaker and the brethren of recorders shutting off, tapes being turned over and machines being handled. Besides the distraction to others, the people operating recorders tend to become more concerned with getting a good quality recording than with concentrating intently on the sermon God is inspiring as it is given.

God intends that we follow His instruction to meet together on His Sabbaths and hear His inspired words. In cases of emergency or illness, members may request of their local pastor a loaner tape of the sermon they had to miss. But even these should not be circulated or distributed to others before being returned.

For these and other reasons, personal tape recording of services and distributing tapes among brethren is contrary to Church policy as established by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Further Instructions Regarding Sermon Tapes

As you are aware, in the last few years the distribution and circulation of taped local sermons and Bible studies have become rampant. Several tapes have circulated all over the United States, which were sermons given by local pastors who intended the message only for their local congregations.

Often such a sermon can cause quite a stir in other areas, with questions from brethren like, "Why doesn't our minister preach on that subject?" or "What's our minister trying to hide from us?" In some cases, the minister may have been planning sermons on that very subject, only to be preempted by a tape from another congregation.

Normally, local sermons and Bible studies are geared to the local congregation where they are given. The minister has been preparing that congregation for the message, and may say things that would be perfectly understandable to that congregation, but that may be misconstrued or misinterpreted by another one which does not have the same background.

Pastors should see to it that tapes of sermons in their local congregations are not indiscriminately circulated to other churches or individuals, but remain only in the local church library.

If you find that brethren in your congregation are from time to time listening to tapes of messages from other local areas that they have received from friends or relatives and no real problem or question comes of it, don't worry about it. However, if a problem does arise, try to handle it by explaining the principles written above and helping them to see why some statements can be misinterpreted. Also, explain to them that's the reason why it is not good to be circulating the tape to others. But don't make an issue out of it. Treat it tactfully and in a low-keyed manner. After all, the tapes are sermons from God's ministers, not contraband.

If a minister desires to listen to a tape of another minister's sermon for his own edification and enrichment, that is fine. But he should not play that tape for his congregation. If he feels the message would be an important one for his congregation, he should give it himself, designing the message for the needs of his own congregation, but using the tape only as a resource.

The only tapes that should be played for Sabbath services or Bible studies are those sent from Headquarters marked, "to be played in all churches." If any question arises about whether or not a tape should be played, or if you feel you need to play another minister's tape for your congregation for some special reason, please call in.

For those ministers who are receiving tapes from Pasadena on a regular or irregular basis, these tapes should be used for your personal edification or instruction, not to replace your messages to your congregation. These tapes should not be placed in your church library. If your church library contains tapes of Bible studies or sermons, they should only be those which have been given in your congregation.

Your cooperation will help to keep the confusion and questions regarding tapes to a minimum.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for the second refreshing program. Like the first it gave us time to drink in and digest the spiritual feast and recharge our batteries.

Once again the unity of the Headquarters team under your direction shows what can be accomplished when things are done God's way. The entire program from the lectures to the special music presented by Imperial School and the Spanish-speaking Church (including all who served behind the scenes) was fitly framed together like a philharmonic orchestra. Each part added to fill to the full (Matt. 5:17; John 10:10).

God's Law is being magnified. What a blessing to have been called to be a part in bringing this "refresher" to the world.

John and Pat Borax

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Many have already praised the second refresher programme and I suppose one more voice of praise among many can often become "old hat" and just another one of those pleasant letters on page three or four of the PGR. But I want you to know I personally enjoy reading the comments made by my fellow ministers.

To be able to spend two weeks at Ambassador College, to partake of the harmony and unity, to enjoy and be enlightened by the classes, to meet and fellowship with the leading ministers, to enjoy the fellowship of mature loyal classmates on the programme, to eat with AC students who are really turned on to God's way of life, and to be able to be taught by God's apostle in person--to do all these things and more in the two-week period was truly REFRESHING! One might say a breath of FRESH "LIFE." My wife and I didn't want to leave, but we knew we have a Work to do out here.

My wife and I truly wish to add our voices of praise for the programme. We praise not men; we praise God for giving us His apostle and men to loyally follow His apostle in instituting and implementing the programme. Please extend our thanks to Mr. Armstrong and all involved in the MRP.

John and Fiona Larkin

Greetings Joe:

We thank you and all those who made our MRP 2 a most enjoyable and learning experience. Truly we were treated like "royalty." We had the unique privilege of not only being refreshed spiritually, but also attended graduation, graduation ball, the filming of the A.C. Feast program and many other beautiful activities.

The enthusiasm of everyone at Headquarters is as refreshing as the program. It's like a good habit that rubs off on us. Mr. Armstrong certainly is setting the example of love, "give" and courage. Please thank him for everything. It couldn't have been a more profitable experience. Now for the doing of it.

Les and Penny McColm

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Jane and I would like to thank all of the staff there for the inspiring and uplifting content of all the presentations given,

not forgetting the catering and custodial staffs without whose help of course it would have been a lot harder on our wives. We definitely feel the second refresher is an improvement over the first and naturally we are looking forward to number three.

Paul and Jane Suckling

Mr. Joseph Tkach:

Thank you for another fine and very helpful Ministerial Refreshing Program! It was a special privilege to be on campus for the College's year-end activities and to be present for the Young Ambassadors Feast show taping. The brethren here were eager to hear about the program and to be updated on the latest news of the Work, which I gave in an overview sermon last Sabbath. They were also deeply moved by the powerful witness Mr. Armstrong gave to the Manila Rotary Club. We showed the video tape after the sermon.

Larry and Karen Walker

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I wanted to write and thank you for a couple of things.

First of all, my wife and I want to express our appreciation for the refreshing program. We thoroughly enjoyed being on God's campus again and fellowshiping with the other ministers and their wives. It was inspiring that the unity, harmony and serving attitude still prevailed--even more so than a year and a half ago when we were on the first program.

The classes were encouraging, uplifting and will help tremendously in fulfilling the responsibilities we have been given. Thanks again.

Also, I wanted to thank you on behalf of the Casper, Sheridan and Billings Churches for sending Mr. and Mrs. Rod Matthews out over the Pentecost weekend. The brethren were very inspired by the slide presentation, "A Worldwide Work." Their understanding of the worldwide scope of God's Church was greatly enhanced. I'm sure their prayers for God's Work will be much more specific and fervent as a result of Rod's visit. After his presentation on the Sabbath, and then combining the three churches on Pentecost, I had several people comment that this was the most inspiring and profitable Pentecost they had ever enjoyed.

Dennis and Sidni Wheatcroft

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

MIAMI, FL--AL KERSHA: One of the most noticeable trends in our area is the increase in PM activity. During the last couple of months the number of visit request slips has picked up considerably. I believe this is in part due to our improved media coverage in the area and certainly because of the inspired, timely and dynamic messages of God's apostle.

MIDLAND, MI--GERALD WESTON: The telecasts, as you know, have been especially powerful lately. This is exciting the membership--has them talking about the programs--and is having an impact on PM's. We are also seeing PM's coming into contact with us as a result of the newsstand program. Until this year, all the PM's were from other sources. Now, about a quarter were introduced by the newsstands.

MONTPELIER, VT--DAN ROGERS: The Church here totally supports Mr. Armstrong and the people really have their hearts in the Work. Fine holy day offerings in spite of high unemployment. All are thankful and excited about first-ever radio and TV coverage beginning here.

HAZARD/PIKEVILLE, KY--WARREN J. HEATON III: God has been working in powerful ways to bring people back to a firm foundation with Him. They realize that their commitment is to God and are content with their felicitous role in supporting His apostle.

GREENVILLE, S.C.--RON JAMESON: We had 40 new people come to the Bible lectures held in four cities in the area. Five of these have already started attending Sabbath services. I expect more to come to the monthly Bible studies.

PORTLAND/BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: We have eight new PM's who are attending regularly (and have been since January). The congregation is excited about it and the PT newsstand program since it is continually expanding. We now distribute 4,000 plus 750 overprints and should receive an increase to 4,500 per month soon! In Portland, the PT newsstand program is generating a great deal of excitement in the local area as more and more people become involved. Currently, we are putting out 6,000 PT's, 1,000 French PV's and 750 overprints. We have asked for an increase to 7,000 PT's.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

Comments About God's Healing Power

In this degenerate age when sickness and suffering afflict so many, it is extremely comforting and encouraging to know God is miraculously healing people in response to believing prayer. The letter comments for this week are about some of these healings.

At the beginning of the year, I was scheduled for surgery. I had called you on a Monday night requesting prayers and an anointed cloth. I was told that the cloth would take several days to arrive. Since my surgery was planned for that Friday, I was going to use the cloth for a fast recovery after the operation. To my surprise, the prayer cloth came early Thursday morning (in just a few days). I followed the instructions that came with it. After doing this, to my doctor's surprise, I had a great turn-around in my condition. I was healing! So the operation was canceled and I went home in a few days in good health.

P.W. (Leslie, AR)

I just had to write to tell you how God recently healed me. While lifting a PLAIN TRUTH box at a brother's home, my back was put out of place. Hardly able to walk to my car and drive home, I immediately began to pray. At home, I applied heat all day and night, but with no result.

On Sabbath morning I hobbled into services to be anointed by our minister. As he prayed, I felt heat all over my spine that the heating pad could not produce. I then stood up and walked. I've been rejoicing and thanking God for His loving kindness and mercy, as I do not deserve His blessing. How much love our God has!

W.C. (Willow Grove, PA)

I have a six-year-old son. One day he started complaining about pain in his upper legs. He would also pass blood when he urinated.

I took him to our doctor and he wanted to have him x-rayed. I waited until the Sabbath and had my son anointed, since the doctor thought he had a tumor in his kidneys. I left the situation in God's hands. My son never lost his faith. He knew God would heal him.

On Tuesday, the swelling was gone and the bleeding stopped. I truly know that God healed my son and am very grateful to Him for sparing my son's life.

K.K. (Roanoke, AL)

I have been greatly blessed by our Heavenly Father all my life and especially in the past three years. I had lost the use of my legs and after a month's stay in the hospital, I was sent home with the disheartening words, "You will never walk again, and if you do it will be a miracle."

Well, after three months and many prayers and blessings, I did again walk. Let no man say he can prescribe someone's future--only God is our Master and each of us can have the faith to walk with Him. So the miracle did occur. Two doctors have said that I just should not be walking. They said that I've made a miraculous recovery, mainly through my own fortitude and determination. To that I will add--through God's help mainly.

T.R. (Auburn, CA)

I recently wrote to you about a health problem. I had a case of sciatica for almost two months. At times I was bedridden, due to the extreme pain in my left leg and thigh.

I asked you to send a prayer cloth and received it in just a few days. I followed the directions and prayed. Within 24 hours, there was an astounding improvement. Now, four days later, the problem is almost gone....I humbly thank God for the healing.

G.S. (Vero Beach, FL)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE"WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS" DISRUPT POLITICAL GAMEPLANS

DATELINE BONN (June 10, 1982): Looking out the window of our office in Bonn as I write, today is a deceptively quiet day here in the small but bustling capital of West Germany. It is one of several religious-based holidays (Corpus Christi Day) in this essentially Catholic part of the country. Shops are closed; normal traffic in town is light.

Appearances are deceiving, however, for Bonn is playing host today to two related events. First, at the nearby Bundestag (Federal Parliament), the heads of government or state of the 16 member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have gathered for a top-level summit conference. (Sixteenth member Spain is to be formally inducted on Saturday.) Security precautions are incredibly heavy for this event, which was preceded yesterday by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's visit and address to assembled Bundestag members. West German police have mounted their biggest-ever security operation in the capital region, drafting in 17,000 additional officers from all over the country. At key intersections one sees police vehicles representing cities and "Lander" (states) from far and wide. The regular police are supplemented by elements of the "Bundesgrenzschutz" (Federal Border Police). Air space over the city has been closed to all traffic.

Part of the unprecedented security is needed to control the second big event, a massive "peace" demonstration. This essentially anti-NATO/anti-Reagan counter-summit is being confined by authorities to a part of the city located across the Rhine river from the federal quarter. The demonstrators have arrived in 2,400 buses and 22 special trains, mainly from elsewhere in West Germany, but also from other parts of Europe where the so-called peace movement is strong. Driving into Bonn this morning from a suburb where I have been staying, I saw an incredible number of buses moving at a snail's pace along one of the autobahns near the demonstration site. Police estimate that traffic on the autobahn toward Cologne was stacked up for seven miles.

In the city itself, Bonn University dismissed classes for the day. Endless numbers of students strolled past our office, heading for the U-Bahn (subway or metro) entrance to get to the demonstration site. One thing is very obvious about this demonstration, and undoubtedly others like it. It is overwhelmingly dominated by young people who, equally overwhelmingly, wear a readily identifiable "uniform"--what the Germans call a "Schlabber-look" or sloppy appearance: jeans, T-shirts, loose granny-style dresses, either long or unkempt hair, beards, etc. (Police estimates the next day placed the crowd at about 300,000. Most were just having fun on the holiday; a smaller but more vocal crowd is expected today for the President's appearance in West Berlin. An incredible amount of trash was left piled up along the demonstration access roads this morning--a testimony to the true ideals of the demonstrators, many of whom claim to be conservationists or naturalists, the so-called "greens." The natural headquarters of "die Grunen" in Bonn is overgrown with unmown grass. Must be natural, you know.)

In his speech yesterday to the Bundestag, President Reagan nevertheless attempted to show that he understood the peace demonstrators' concern about the threat of nuclear annihilation. "To those who march for peace," he

said, "my heart is with you. I would be at the head of your parade, if I believed marching alone would bring about a more secure world."

(Significantly, a pro-American rally was held in two West German cities last Sunday: Bonn and Munich. Police estimated that about 50,000 mostly middle-aged Germans showed up in Bonn. Some held banners proclaiming "Say Something Good About America" and "We Believe the West." In Munich, Franz Josef Strauss addressed a rally of about 30,000.)

The general feeling this morning is that President Reagan's obviously sincere and quite stirring address yesterday ("We are with you, Germany. You are not alone.") was well-received by all levels of West German society, except for the amorphous peace movement which, incidentally, is so divided that it contains no fewer than 1,830 groups. Nevertheless, to be pro-American doesn't necessarily mean being pro-Reagan. The President is widely perceived as being a bit too "hawkish." A full-page ad appearing in 37 newspapers this week entitled "Friendship With the American People" made no reference to Mr. Reagan personally.

Even in the Bundestag, the President did not receive 100% polite and undivided attention. He was interrupted twice by two extreme leftist independent politicians (so radical they couldn't abide even the left wing of the Social Democratic Party). One shouted "El Salvador" after Mr. Reagan referred to Soviet military activities in Afghanistan. (The President's response: "Did I hear an echo in here?") The Social Democratic delegates were seated right below me as I peered down from my perch in the Bundestag press gallery. Most of these representatives applauded faintly (the speech was otherwise interrupted 21 times); although a handful of them never did. The most radical delegates weren't even wearing ties, showing no respect for their honored guest whatsoever.

With regard to Chancellor Schmidt's badly-divided Social Democratic Party (SPD), it is in its most vulnerable state since the last federal elections in October, 1980. Last Sunday the SPD was shocked by being defeated in the Hamburg state elections. (Hamburg and Bremen are both city-states.) Hamburg is Mr. Schmidt's home town and for his party to be outpolled by the conservative CDU there for the first time since World War II was a crushing personal blow to him. In addition, the free Democrats (FDP), a small party which is the SPD coalition partner in Bonn, failed to clear the five percent mark for representation in the Hamburg legislature.

Authorities of the FDP believe that lack of public support for the SPD is hurting them--in fact, threatening their party with extinction. Executives of the FDP in Hesse, where the lone surviving state-level SPD/FDP coalition exists, have already recommended a switch to partnership with the CDU for their upcoming election. This is a decision, said one source, which "will inevitably be seen as an admission that their 13-year-old partnership with the SPD (in Bonn) is doomed."

The political arm of the "greens" pulled 7.7% of the vote in Hamburg. Thus this broadly based conservationist, anti-nuclear power, pacifist coalition is threatening to displace the FDP nationwide as the third party. This makes governing in Germany difficult since the "greens" are not really interested in exercising political office as a conventional party. They profess to be only a negative protest "alternative" voting bloc. A perfect example of creeping political paralysis is Hamburg. The CDU narrowly

defeated the SPD with about 43% of the vote, but neither can govern now because the "greens" will not enter into coalition with them. The result is temporary confusion and a call for new elections. Perhaps since the CDU is on the upswing it will win outright next time.

Wars Upstage Summits

The NATO summit here, and particularly the preceding free world economic summit in Versailles, France, have been pretty well upstaged by two headline-grabbing wars, one in the Falklands and the other now in Lebanon.

The Versailles summit, which this reporter also attended, could best be described as a very expensive non-entity, simply because the attention of both the delegates and the news media were focused on these other two more urgent issues. This fact struck me especially during U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's first news conference in Versailles. After his opening remarks, the first question from a reporter dealt with deteriorating conditions in the Falklands. I don't recall another subject, certainly not world economics, that was subsequently discussed.

Then came knowledge of America's embarrassing vote-switch at the United Nations, in which it requested to change its vote from "veto" (supporting the British in the Falklands) to "abstention." This snafu dominated the attention of those gathered at Versailles the next day, both on the part of the press and the official delegations (especially the Americans and the angry British).

Finally, on the last day, the Israelis, after waiting for months, militarily moved into Lebanon on a massive scale in an all-out PLO headhunt. World economics??--Forget it. (Those who were interested in neither the wars nor economics elected to watch instead the final match of the French Open tennis tournament on the press center TV monitors.)

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, by moving into Lebanon while the leaders of the most powerful countries in the West were assembled, showed his unconcern for world opinion. Begin knew they would condemn Israel's actions (which they did) but not call for U.N. sanctions, sure to be vetoed by the U.S. The justification for the Israelis' action was initially the attempted murder of the Israeli ambassador to Britain in London. (This act brought a chilling response to me as it occurred just outside the door of the Dorchester Hotel, where Mr. Armstrong and those of us in his party had stayed only a couple of weeks before.)

The size and scope of the long-rumored Israeli attack came as a surprise to most observers. It far exceeds the last major raid into Lebanon in 1978. This time it is clearly aimed at destroying once and for all, if that is possible, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as an effective fighting force. This of necessity has brought Israeli forces into conflict with Syrian forces which protect the PLO in Lebanon. Israel claims to have wiped out all 19 batteries of Syrian Sam-6 missiles as well as 59 Syrian MiG warplanes. Wednesday's battle, in which Syria lost 23 planes and Israel none, was called by some observers the largest aerial battle since World War II.

Some experts in the West fear that the Soviets, with whom the Syrians are linked in a peace and friendship treaty, will come in on Syria's side

(though the treaty exempts Syrian troops in Lebanon). Mr. Begin discounted these fears and at the same time added up all the expected advantages. Reports the FINANCIAL TIMES of London in its June 7, 1982 edition:

The incentives for Israel's action have included the knowledge that the West is to some extent preoccupied with the Falklands crisis, the Arab world is in considerable disarray following recent Iranian successes in the Gulf War, and the fact that Syria is isolated from its neighbours, Jordan and Iraq, which are unlikely to render any assistance in the event of a war with Israel.

Jerusalem is also aware that the time is approaching when Washington may begin to take a serious interest in trying to resolve the Palestinian issue, now that the peace treaty with Egypt has been consummated by the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. If Israel can destroy the PLO now, the pressure on the U.S. to speak to the PLO must be considerably reduced, according to Israeli government thinking.

One leader in particular in the Middle East is especially concerned over the fate of the PLO in Lebanon: King Hussein of Jordan. In September 1970 the King was forced to move against the PLO leadership in his own country, which was attempting to undermine his authority. (About half of Jordan's population is Palestinian.) Hussein's army drove these radicals out with many of them fleeing to Lebanon. Hussein certainly doesn't want them around causing trouble again.

The crown of Hussein certainly lies uneasily on his head. The warfare in Lebanon came right on the heels of a series of stinging battle defeats for President Saddam Hussein (no relation) in Iraq, in that country's war with Iran. Jordan has backed Iraq even though Iraq started the war. Now Jordan's Hussein and all other leaders of the more moderate states in the Middle East are greatly troubled by what they see. Iran has recovered its military prowess. Worse still, its conventional army is backed by militant Islamic revolutionary guards, who have shown extreme bravery (others say hell-bent foolhardiness) in battle. Revolutionary guard leaders are urging the regular army not to stop at the Iran-Iraq border, but to thrust deep into Iraq itself in order to "liberate" venerated Shiite Moslem holy places near Baghdad in predominantly Sunni Moslem Iraq. Such religious fanaticism strikes fear in the hearts of the leaders of other Middle Eastern countries with Shiite minorities.

Britain Gets Mired in the Falklands

Finally, it now appears that Britain is not only going to have a difficult and costly time of extracting the remaining Argentine troops from the Falklands, but is going to become bogged down to a significant degree in those desolate islands for some time to come.

Argentina's military government has repeatedly said that should its remaining forces be removed, that would not end the war; that Argentina would continually press against the Falklands until they are finally "recovered." Prime Minister Thatcher apparently recognizes this unpleasant fact and has indicated that the islands will be transformed into a "fortress" against further Argentine attack. Preparations have already been made for station

ing a large garrison force of all three military services, a force which would certainly be larger than the number of people (1,800) who lived peacefully on the islands before hostilities broke out.

If "Fortress Falklands" does materialize, this could lead to a definite drain in the morale of the proud members of the British military. Who will want to spend a tour of duty in the windswept, drenching, boggy Falklands 8,000 miles from Britain (with certainly no shore-leave in Argentina), subject to unexpected but continual attacks from Argentine planes and ships? This Vietnam-style, no-win situation (with Britain not attacking Argentine installations on the mainland) could very well break Ephraim's stubborn pride.

Curiously, the state of Israel (Judah) has been of little help in brother Ephraim's dilemma. In fact, rumors persist that Israel is indirectly helping the other side. British experts are deeply dismayed over a number of rumored Argentine acquisitions of Israeli arms, through complex third party arrangements, including "drop tanks" (disposable fuel tanks extending a plane's range) and Gabriel air-to-surface missiles. Israeli denials have not been satisfactory. Relations between London and Jerusalem have never been too rosy with unpleasant memories going back before Israel's independence. So Judah continues to "vex Ephraim" (Isaiah 11:13). Britain, in turn, has denounced the Israeli raid into Lebanon stronger than any other Western power.

What will happen in the months ahead? Will stubborn Britain get bogged down in a hopeless situation? Has Israel (Judah) over-extended herself this time? At some time in the future Ephraim will see "his sickness" and Judah "his wound" (Hosea 5:13). But instead of turning to God, Ephraim will vainly turn to "the Assyrian"--and that certainly won't be Helmut Schmidt, who can't hang in much longer--"yet could he not heal you."

By that time, too, Pope John Paul II (who returns to Poland in August) may have advanced further along the road as a globally-respected peacemaker. (Mr. Reagan, while in Rome, glowingly and with a tear in his eye referred to him as "this holy man.")

That's all for now, in this the last of my on-the-spot reports.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau