

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

IRS Tax Benefit for Home-owning Ministers to Continue

Good news from the IRS! We recently notified you that the IRS was eliminating the tax benefit that allowed ministers to take a double deduction for home property tax and loan interest which the parsonage allowance exemption already covers. Just recently the IRS has postponed the effective date of this change for some ministers. The effective date has been changed from June 30, 1983 to January 1, 1985 for those ministers who owned and occupied, or had a contract to purchase a home before January 3, 1983.

If you cease to occupy your current home prior to January 1, 1985, the benefit will be terminated at the time you cease occupation.

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

A Reminder Concerning the Feast of Tabernacles

Preparations for the 1983 Feast of Tabernacles continue at a hectic pace. Everyone at Headquarters is anticipating a tremendous Feast again this year! All of your plans should be made and your housing arrangements completed very soon.

We would like to remind those of you who have not sent in your tithe of the second tithe for the Feast to do so as soon as possible. If anyone anticipates having an excess of second tithe, this may also be submitted now. Be sure to indicate what portion is tithe of the second tithe or excess second tithe if you mail it in with your regular tithes and offerings.

Your assistance in sharing your second tithe makes it possible for members in need to attend the Feast, as well as pay for auditorium rentals, operational expenses and member activities.

We appreciate your assistance in making this another successful Feast!

International News

Asian Report (From Australian Office) During the first week of May, Mr. Colin Kelly traveled to Rangoon, Burma, for five days of meetings with Mr. Saw Lay Beh, our Burmese minister. Over the past twelve months, God has greatly blessed His Church in Burma which now numbers 60 baptized members.

The government recently introduced the five-day work week which has made it much easier for members to obtain jobs without Saturday work requirements. This has also helped some members out of a poverty situation and, with the exception of one or two who receive assistance from the Church, all the Burmese brethren are able to provide for their own daily needs.

Burma is a land almost totally lacking in modern facilities and conveniences. And yet, in spite of the consequent hardships, the brethren in Burma continue to give their enthusiastic and wholehearted support to God's Work and Mr. Armstrong.

Also during May, Mr. Mohan Jayasekera, our minister stationed in Sri Lanka, visited 20 new people in Southern India and conducted Bible studies in several towns and cities there. This visit followed a trip only two months earlier during which Mr. Jayasekera also visited 20 people for the first time. These visits are rapidly adding to the numbers of prospective members who have begun to attend services in recent months.

In Sri Lanka, approval has been given for The PLAIN TRUTH to be distributed from supermarkets in Colombo and Kandy.

Mr. Yong Chin Gee and his family are returning next month to Malaysia following twelve months of classes in Pasadena. He will help look after the Malaysian churches in Kuala Lumpur and Johore Bahru. All the Malaysian brethren are very excited about the prospect of more regular Sabbath services and fellowship once Mr. Yong is back home.

Also this month, Jesus Christ opened the door for broadcasting "The World Tomorrow" over a radio station in the central Pacific region. Radio NAURU has accepted Mr. Armstrong's radio program for 10:00 a.m. Sundays--free of charge.

Nauru is a small island in the central Pacific covering no more than about eight square miles. The islanders speak English and are mainly Protestant by religion. Since the island is the world's major source of natural phosphate, Nauru enjoys the highest per capita income of any nation on earth. As a result, its quality of life and spiritual fiber is disintegrating rapidly. Even though the population is small--7,000--we should get a good response.

News From Australia We received a total of 16,075 letters this month--not as much as our May, 1982 count, but a good average month for mail. The higher mail count in May, 1982 was due mainly to the number of responses being received at that time from our advertisement in TV WEEK magazine.

Our Postal Department continued to be very busy this month, mailing out over 27,000 envelopes containing literature. This represents a 28.3% increase over the same month last year.

We continue to be grateful for the finances Jesus Christ provides to do His Work. Income for the same month was up 12% over May last year, bringing our year-to-date increase to 11.3%.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Bill Bradford and his family to Australia this month. Mr. Bradford is a pastor rank minister, and since grad-

uating from the Bricket Wood campus in 1965 has served for eighteen years in the ministry. Five of those years were spent pastoring God's Church in the Brisbane area. Mr. Bradford is now serving the brethren in the Melbourne area. His long experience as a field minister will add greatly to the ministry in this country.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I want to thank Mr. Herbert Armstrong, yourself and all the other men who taught us during the Refreshing Program of the first part of May. We found it very inspiring and very helpful. It was an atmosphere similar to the Feast of Tabernacles. We felt cut off from this evil world and we enjoyed the peace, the loving and caring atmosphere which exists at Ambassador College.

For both my wife and me, it was our first time ever to visit God's College. It was a great education in itself just to be on campus with all those friendly students and staff. We were very impressed with the orderliness of everything, truly reflecting God's character. We were also very much awed by the magnitude of God's Work and by the way God is using all of you men to accomplish it. We had not really grasped the magnitude of this great Work! Being at the Refreshing Program certainly helped us to understand it better.

We were very appreciative and very inspired by the manner in which people at Headquarters support Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the office of God's apostle. This program gave us much that we can share with the brethren. We are thankful to our Great God who has made all of this possible because our being there was made possible by miraculous events where we could very definitely see God's hand. Everything just fell into place!

Again thank you very much! We pray daily for Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the Work as we know that this is the most important activity going on on earth at this time.

Eric and Edna Vautour

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We would like to let you know how valuable we found the seventeenth session of the Refreshing Program. It is hard to describe how exciting it is for those of us from faraway places to come into Pasadena and "experience" Headquarters. Being at Ambassador College during graduation week was a special privilege this time which we thoroughly enjoyed.

The classes were absorbing with a wealth of material to be used personally and to be passed on to the brethren. We appreciated the opportunity of hearing from Mr. Armstrong and we would like to convey our thanks to the many people involved in making the program so worthwhile. It is clear to see the immense value of the Refreshing Program to God's Work at this end time.

Owen and Tina Willis

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a note to thank Mr. Armstrong, you and the rest of the team for the recent Refreshing Program which my wife and I attended. It was most uplifting, instructive and enjoyable. The domestic arrangements were most appreciated as was all the hospitality shown to us.

These two weeks at Headquarters are invaluable; not just for the content of the classes, but also to be able to imbibe of the atmosphere and to fellowship with fellow ministers from around the world, with all that it does to cement the bonds between us.

David and Valerie House

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I want to thank you and Mr. Armstrong for including local church elders in the Ministerial Refreshing Program. I'm sure most of us could not afford such a trip if we had to pay the total cost.

I've been a member of God's Church since 1964, but this was my first opportunity to visit Headquarters. It was a treat to see the campus, but it was like icing on a cake to listen to the lectures, see the smiling faces everywhere, tour the various facilities and see the total cooperation. I hope I can share the zeal, enthusiasm and cooperative attitude I experienced at Headquarters with God's people here in this area.

Davis R. Grove

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena campus)

On Tuesday, June 14th, I gave a report on the College to the Chancellor of Ambassador College at a meeting of the Council of Elders. (All members of the Council were present except Dr. Hoeh, who was on a trip to Britain and the Mideast.)

In my report to Mr. Armstrong and the members of the Council, I mentioned what the College is doing this summer, and gave various facts and figures pertaining to the College which may be of interest to the ministry.

The following will bring you up-to-date regarding the various activities of Ambassador College at Pasadena. (Both Pasadena and Big Sandy students are included in the figures of the various activities in which AC students are participating this summer.)

Graduates

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 1983	67	51	118
August 1983	2	3	5
May 1984 (est.)	104	107	211

Of this May's graduates, about 50 have already been hired directly into the Work and we anticipate at least 10 more will be by the end of the summer.

Summer Session

Regular academic classes offered 12
 Continuing Education classes offered 10

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
Students living on campus	120	115	235

We expect to have all on-campus students employed this summer.

Summer Programs

Ambassador College students are also involved in the following programs:

SEP Orr	51	
SEP Big Sandy	8	
SEP Scotland	34	
Jerusalem Dig	21	
China	10	(plus Mr. Levy and Mr. and Mrs. Pelfrey)
Germany	11	
France	10	
Mexico	4	

We also will host 90 Japanese students from Bunkyo College who will be studying English this summer.

Admissions

We have accepted 130 new students (72 men, 58 women) for the fall semester. We have also accepted 17 Big Sandy students (9 men, 8 women) for admission to the BA program in Pasadena.

Projected Fall Enrollment

The following is the estimated enrollment of regular students for the fall semester:

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
Single	268	256	524
Married	<u>42</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>57</u>
Totals	310	271	581

Financial

The college budget for 1983 is just under \$1.3 million (net subsidy). The projected expenditures are about \$2.3 million and the projected revenue is about \$1 million. As of June 1 we were running about \$36,000 under budget for the year-to-date.

The cost for each student is now about \$4,000 for the academic year, according to the following breakdown for a typical full-time student:

Tuition.	\$1,500
Housing.	500
Meals.	1,600
Insurance & fees . . .	75
Books/Supplies/Misc. .	<u>325</u>
Total.	\$4,000

Faculty

We have 32 full-time and 23 part-time faculty members, for a total of 55.

Academic Quality

The overall (median) grade point average for all students enrolled in Pasadena for the spring semester was 3.13. We had 200 students on the Chancellor's List and 262 students on the Dean's List. The Chancellor's List recognizes students with a 3.2 or better cumulative grade point average for at least two consecutive semesters. The Dean's List recognizes those who have achieved a 3.2 average for one semester.

In addition to the students mentioned in this report, a number of graduating seniors have been hired as ministerial trainees in the international area. However, budgetary constraints did not permit the hiring of any of the graduating seniors into the U.S. ministry this past May. Instead, Ministerial Services had asked us to provide a list of seniors who could be used as ministerial trainees. God willing, some of these fine, dedicated young men will be picked up and used later in helping to reap the ripe harvest fields of those whom God is now calling into His Church.

We hope all of you ministers and your families are having a good, productive and enjoyable summer.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Plain Truth Subscription Growth in Metropolitan Areas

After many years of little or no growth in most of the major metropolitan areas of the United States, we are witnessing for the first time rather remarkable increases in PLAIN TRUTH subscription growth.

At this time last year, subscription penetration in the United States stood at 1.93%; it now stands at 2.4%, which is a tremendous 24.4% increase! The PLAIN TRUTH is now reaching one in every twenty-five households in the United States.

The biggest gains have taken place in some of the larger metropolitan areas where subscription penetration has, in the past, been quite low. The Boston area has increased by 57.9% and New York by 51.8% over the early part of 1982. Both of these increases show the impact of the newspaper inserts placed late last year in the BOSTON GLOBE and the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

During the same period, we have seen subscription penetration increases of 50% in Atlanta, Georgia and 46.9% in Miami, Florida. The largest gain during the year was in Memphis, Tennessee with an incredible increase of 160.7%!

We look forward to continued growth as God blesses His Work and we expand and go through several new open doors, such as the supermarket program and the Elsons Gift Shops.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

U.S. Book Passes Three Million Mark!

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY recently reached a new milestone. In May, the three millionth copy was distributed in the United States. No other Church publication, except for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, has reached so many people.

The U.S. book also heads the list of literature sent out so far this year. From January through May, 167,014 copies were requested. Other than The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, this book is the Work's most advertised piece of literature. Just in 1983, it has been offered in seven booklets, six reprints, Lessons 1-18 in the Bible Correspondence Course, 35 Public Bible Lecture letters, four PLAIN TRUTH issues, 50 radio programs and six telecasts.

We have received thousands of comments about the book over the years. People are fascinated and astounded at its revelations, as the following excerpts from letters show:

I can't begin to tell you how fantastic and eye-opening the information you sent me is. In particular, the book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY is unparalleled! When I saw the photo of the old coronation chair on page 101, I was so surprised and amazed. Through this book, I began to see that Mr. Armstrong really is a messenger of God--no one could find these things out and fit them together so smoothly with the Bible unless God showed them!

M.T. (Onalaska, TX)

Thank you very much for the literature you sent, and for The PLAIN TRUTH. What attracted me most about you was the excellent quality of your printing. Then, I started reading the content of your publications with increasing interest. The ultimate shocker was THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. It answered so many questions I have had through my 47 years that I cannot begin to tell you. No other work I have read has even come close to helping me understand prophecy and the Old and New Testaments in relation to us today.

J.R. (Randallstown, MD)

Your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY was great. It read like a good mystery novel and I couldn't put it down.

G.G. (Ludlow, MA)

I have received so much knowledge since I started reading The PLAIN TRUTH and some of your pamphlets. THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY really was the clincher. It made me aware of so many things that have been on my mind through the years. Even though some of the material I read is frightening, in the same

instance it is very inspiring because God is going to do something to help us all. Therefore I do not fear what is coming so much as I want to be ready in the way God wants me to be.

E.T. (Orange, NJ)

It is a pity that all preachers have not read your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I have just finished reading it and I believe there would not be so many asleep in church on Sunday mornings if more sermons were preached on this subject.

A.S. (Florence, SC)

I have read your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY and it has caused me to do an awful lot of thinking. You said at the conclusion that many will take your warning lightly, then put it out of mind. I don't want to do this but I don't know where to start to turn my life around. I have sent for more literature on Bible subjects and I am studying The PLAIN TRUTH from cover to cover. I also want to know where to find fellowship with people who want to really know the truth.

Mrs. A.C. (Foley, MN)

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY makes the Bible come alive. It tells the story as it is. It has made me see and understand many scriptures that I completely missed before.

G.P. (Rio Rancho, NM)

I have just finished reading your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I hardly know where to begin to describe all the emotions I experienced while reading it. I think the work "astonishing" would be pretty accurate though, and also "frightening."

Everything you reveal seems to be the truth and makes sense; however, now I have two problems. First, I feel like a lost sheep! I'm Catholic but now I don't feel the same when I go to church. Something seems to be missing. Second, if what you say about the importance of the Sabbath as a sign is true (I am inclined to believe it) where can I find a church or religion in my area that holds services on the Sabbath?

G.N. (Melrose, MA)

I am on my second reading of THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. The information in this book regarding the separation of the house of Judah and the house of Israel, the migration history of the Israelites and where they are today--all backed up by the Bible--is astounding.

J.M. (Kansas City, MO)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FAMOUS AUTHOR ANALYZES "THE EUROPEANS" The column this week is in the form of a book review. Luigi Barzini, ten years ago the author of the best-seller, THE ITALIANS, has a new book out entitled THE EUROPEANS. In this

newest work (published by Simon and Schuster at \$14.95) Mr. Barzini, an Italian who lives in Rome, makes a thorough and totally captivating examination of the national character of Europe's principal nations. His book includes chapters on "The Imperturbable British," "The Mutable Germans," "The Quarrelsome French," "The Flexible Italians," "The Careful Dutch" and lastly, because of America's impact on Europe, "The Baffling Americans."

A recent book review in a Dallas newspaper said that if you buy only one book this year this is definitely the one. I heartily concur. No one alive today has so closely observed and analyzed modern European nations over as long a span of time as the 74-year-old Mr. Barzini.

Interestingly, the main thrust of his book is to show that the competing national characteristics are the main impediment to European unity--or as he calls it, "The European Dream." He says, in his first chapter on "The Elusive Europeans":

If a united Europe were authoritative and strong enough it would no longer be taken for granted as a docile, occasionally recalcitrant vassal by the friendly superpower, nor could it, one day, be intimidated by the other's guns and missiles pointed against it into the craven acquiescence of a resigned surly serf. A unified Europe could also prepare itself in time for the dangerous, turbulent, and violent decades ahead, possibly the most treacherous times since the fall of the Roman Empire....

To do all this, Europe should clearly evolve one common will, speak with one calm majestic voice, have a clear idea of its identity and goals, cultivate and defend its economic prosperity, and pursue a single foreign policy in its own interest (and the world's). It should therefore forget its trivial disputes and rivalries, put its own house in order, set up authoritative common democratic institutions, arrange its financial affairs according to more or less uniform criteria, adopt one common currency, and set up one redoubtable defense establishment.

All this is almost too easy on paper.... Treaties have been drafted, signed, and ratified, some institutions have been established, bureaus organized and manned. A European parliament has been elected. In reality nothing much has happened.... In spite of the verbiage, the rhetoric, and the elegant euphemisms, Europe is no nearer integration today than it was, say, after 1815, when it was somehow held together first by the Holy Alliance; later by the blood ties among sovereigns, most of whom were cousins; and by what was then known as the "European concert."

Mr. Barzini then explains that, despite a growth in "Europeanness," the development of the Common Market, even a European parliament, Europeans are still divided by distinctly disparate cultures and histories, which impede the integration process.

Shortly after his book was published Mr. Barzini was interviewed on William F. Buckley's "Firing Line" program. In response to a question about what could be the match to finally ignite European unity, he replied that perhaps it could only come about through a "great crisis, such as a world depression." But it would still require, Barzini said, "a person of great

charisma, a John Paul II in civilian clothes--an unintentional, on his part, reference to two personalities who will yet emerge on the European scene, the beast and the false prophet.

France's "Excellency"

Every single chapter of his book is fascinating. After one reads the chapter on "The Quarrelsome French," for example, there should remain no doubt in anyone's mind about which people today comprise Reuben--"the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power [but] unstable as water, you shall not excel..." (Gen. 49:3-4). The whole chapter confirms the French passion for their nation to be recognized as a great power, whether entirely deserved in the present scheme of things or not.

...Above all, they do not allow anybody to forget the memory of their past grandeur. To be sure, they have many valid grounds for their pride. France is still one of the greatest countries in the world, one of the four predominant nations of Europe, indisputably the preeminent one in many fields. Its culture is still regarded as the polestar by many intellectuals everywhere; its language is a prodigious vestment to clothe precise thoughts, nebulous concepts, or subtle sentiments with clarity and elegance; its public administration and the schools training its civil servants and officials are the envy of the world;... But why the irritating emphasis? Why the shrill persistent crowing? Why (as Horace Walpole wrote to Hannah More in 1787) "their insistent...airs of superiority"?

General Charles de Gaulle loved to repeat "la France est la lumiere du monde" (France is the light of the world), thus extending to the whole country an attribute that had usually belonged to Paris alone [The City of Lights]. "Son genie est d'illuminer l'Univers" (its destiny is to illuminate the Universe), he also said, widening the scope of the French rayonnement [radiance] to infinity....

Surely this urge to set themselves up as the universal paragon, to consider all foreign things and people good or bad according to their resemblance to and admiration for French models,...its effort to force the world to acknowledge its supreme excellence [Gen. 49:3 again] in all things at all times, and to adopt its ways, ideas, styles, language, and tastes, its determination to ignore or fend off all foreign influences have often made its relations with foreigners sticky.

Along with their excellency (and professed excellency), the French, explains Barzini, are riven with regional, social and political divisions which have made governing the country, at the national level, an arduous task. This is the unstable factor which inhibited the attainment of true national greatness reached by the British (who as Ephraim inherited part of the birthright originally intended for Reuben--I Chron. 5:1).

Charles de Gaulle tried to overcome this congenital weakness, manifested by the revolving door governments in France after the war, by strengthening the role of the Presidency. The constitution of the Fifth Republic worked well--with him at the helm. (De Gaulle, notes Barzini, privately referred

to his countrymen as veaux--a word meaning calves, but, metaphorically, blunderers or fools, much in the same way sheep, or "dumb sheep" is given a human dimension in English.) What will contemporary France--beset with anti-government demonstrations--do during the next five years of President Mitterrand's seven-year term of office? Barzini continues, concerning what he calls the "Gallic love for disputes and controversies":

Tacitus [the Roman historian] wrote, "Galli si non dissenserint, vix vinci possint" (if they did not quarrel, Gauls could scarcely be defeated). The French still find it extremely difficult, when not facing an imminent catastrophe, and sometimes even then, to form a solid coalition, and act in unison.... These groups in perpetual conflict may be as numerous as the many varieties of cheeses de Gaulle loved to quote as a symbol of the impossibility of making his people act as one. He used to say:... My dear friend, how can you make a country that has 265 varieties of cheeses behave, in normal times, as one?

...Perhaps it is their very innate restlessness, love of strife, and some disorder that made it necessary from the beginning to try to weave around them one of the most intricate webs of codes, laws, regulations, and norms in the world, in an effort to foresee and control every possible circumstance and contingency of life.

Nevertheless, when life becomes difficult,...they long to be unified and pacified, by force if necessary, led to harmony, saved from ruin, and made prosperous by one man,... When the danger vanishes, law and order are reasonably reestablished, public finances restored, anarchy is tamed, and the machinery of government functioning once more, the French are again devoured by ennui, restlessness, and the irresistible desire to free themselves from rigorous discipline and get comfortably back to their impotent governments and to their accustomed life of divisions and strife....

The British and the Dutch

Of the British, author Barzini is extremely complementary of their traditional values and virtues. He takes note of their tremendous cultural and technological impact upon continental Europe beginning in the early nineteenth century (a time of Ephraim's flourishing) when other nations tried in so many ways to adopt or mimic British customs and mannerisms. Yet, Barzini explains, the British themselves, then as now, have never really considered themselves "European."

In a way, Britain still sees itself as the sceptered isle, cut from the Continent by divine will. If God had wanted to tie it to the rest of Europe, He would evidently not have dug the Channel. Wasn't it therefore sinful and somewhat sacrilegious to attach Britain to the terra firma by treaties, tunnels, or bridges?... Still today, when one asks a Briton, any Briton, pointblank, "Are you European?" the answer is always, "European? Did you say European? Er, er"--a long thoughtful pause in which all other continents are mentally evoked and regretfully discarded--"Yes, of course, I'm European." This admission is pronounced without pride and with resignation.

Regarding the Dutch, it is very obvious, in reading Barzini's account, that they are peace-loving Israelites, typified by the beautiful and tranquil seventeenth-century landscape and still life paintings of their great artists.

As soon...as they had consolidated the complex structure of their economic prosperity in the seventeenth century, they avoided military adventures, which they disliked, and concentrated on preserving the peace of Europe. They became universal peace-makers.... All initiatives encouraging perpetual peace...and to make wars more humane, [moves toward] disarmament, or arbitration--found at all times enthusiastic champions among the Dutch.... [A major European peace conference] was convened in The Hague in 1899 and reconvened in 1907. It generated the Permanent Court of Arbitration with its seat in The Hague which still dozes undisturbed in the same place today.

Zebulun--modern day Netherlands--we were told long ago (Gen. 49:13) would "dwell by the haven of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships...." Confirms Barzini:

This passion for the sea drove them [the Dutch] to conquer not neighboring provinces, in order to become one of Europe's great nations, as Prussia and France had done, but to set up distant trading points all over the world.... They settled in New Amsterdam [which became New York City], a vast natural port, cluttered with flat sandy islands large and small, at the mouth of a big river, which evidently reminded them of home; in South Africa, Japan, Formosa, Brazil, Ceylon, Indonesia, the West Indies, and many other profitable places.

It is furthermore interesting to note where the modern day Israelites settled in Europe--along the seacoasts, which helped foster a sense of freedom, liberty and tolerance not subscribed to by gentile powers locked deeper into the continent. Dominance of seaborne commerce--hence the need to control seagates--has been a vital key to the modern day power of Israelite nations. Continues Barzini about Holland:

It is Germanic by race and language, but it is not really a thoroughly Germanic country. The sea brought it closer to the British (and to the Hanseatic people and the Scandinavians, who were also influenced by the sea and the British). English is the second language of the country.... Furthermore, they, like the... British, for analogous moral but also mercantile and sea-going reasons, cultivated the cult of liberty and toleration, dear to the heart of Christians and progressive liberal thinkers, but also essential for the free flow of commerce. This opened the country at all times to refugees from everywhere.

Oh, but now we've left out the Italians and another vital European country, the one occupying "le coeur de l'Europe"--the heart of Europe. What Mr. Barzini says of "The Flexible Italians" and "The Mutable Germans" will have to wait for another "On the World Scene."

Meanwhile, it should be more obvious than ever that in today's Europe, "partly of iron and partly of clay" (Dan. 2:33), it will take more than a

customs union ("inadequate" and "a dead-end street" says Barzini) to accomplish the unification of Europe that so many claim they seek. It will take a world crisis and the emergence of great leaders in both the secular and religious arenas.

The fact is, Europeans are still haunted by their distinctive national past histories. They all, to one degree or another, especially France, hold to their own egoisme sacre--sacred selfishness. These proud memories of past empires of relatively recent history (generally from the 1500s onward) prevent them from recalling another memory which could serve, notes Barzini, as a rallying point.

Curiously enough, other memories that could inspire the same ministers and the European Parliament, fan the flame of European patriotism, and miraculously facilitate all agreements, are seldom evoked. One is the memory of Christendom, at one time another name for Europe, when all sovereigns, great and small, were theoretically united and under the earthly tutelage of the Holy Roman Empire and the spiritual tutelage of the pope. Not even the Vatican likes to be reminded of Christendom. Only on rare ceremonial occasions is the name of Charlemagne, the founder of the Holy Roman Empire, mentioned.

Mr. Barzini is not quite correct about the Vatican's role. On occasion, the current pope has tried to revivify Europe's common Christian (Catholic) roots, although he has been very cautious so far about the extent of the church's direct role in any new scheme of things. The secular leaders of Europe have not paid much attention--yet--to such clarion calls for the spiritual unity of Europe as issued in Poland in 1979 and in Spain last year. All the more reason to pay close attention to the words of John Paul II on his current trip to his Polish homeland.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau