

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Guidelines for the Night to Be Much Observed

The Night to Be Much Observed should again follow the same format as in the past several years. Groups of two or three families should eat and fellowship together in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin which we as New Testament Christians experience. The host or leading man should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion, but no further "sermonizing" should be done.

The meaning of the Night to Be Much Observed should be carefully explained on the preceding Sabbath, and the brethren should be encouraged to bear that meaning in mind as the background and focus of the spiritual fellowship through the course of this special evening. Also point out how enjoyable it is to open our homes to one another--to plan and serve together, helping and fellowshiping with one another even in cleanup. And make sure that no widows or other single people are left out on this very important occasion.

Some have asked about the use of restaurants on this night. Although eating in a restaurant is not prohibited, experience has shown that it is much more preferable to have the meal for the Night to Be Much Observed in homes rather than in restaurants. The opportunity for quality fellowship is far greater in a home than in a restaurant. And since the Night to Be Much Observed does celebrate coming out of the sin of this world, observing it with brethren in an intimate, home atmosphere is much more meaningful.

A restaurant, even in a private room, provides too many possibilities for things to go wrong which might spoil or put a damper on the evening. Plans or reservations can be fouled up in many ways. There could be too few seats, wrong food served, improperly prepared food, poor service, unexpected noise ("music") or other distractions, last-minute cancellations due to sick children or auto problems, difficulties or sensitivities in computing each family's share of the bill, etc. These things have actually happened to various brethren at one time or another when they ate in restaurants on the Night to Be Much Observed. Many who have observed this very special evening in restaurants felt they missed the spirit of the occasion. On the other hand, we realize that there may be the rare situation where some may find a restaurant setting appropriate.

Be sure to also remind the brethren to plan and prepare well in advance for this spring festival period so they won't come up short at the last minute because of meal needs on the first holy day. There should be two services on that day as on all holy days except Atonement.

Seeking Approval for Activities Involving Several Church Areas

There seems to be a trend toward holding activities which involve several church areas. These are usually invitational where a hosting church invites members from surrounding areas. One example would be a singles weekend to which the hosting church invites people from churches within three or four hundred miles.

When an activity is being planned which involves more than just a neighboring church area, Ministerial Services should be informed. There are two reasons for this. First of all, Mr. Armstrong holds Ministerial Services responsible to be aware of the type and scope of any such church activity to be conducted. And secondly, if there should be a need for address labels in order to mail invitations to a number of pastors to be read in their areas, the release of these labels must be approved by Ministerial Services, as well as any other labels or listings needed by the field ministry.

In addition, we need to be careful when planning a combined church activity that we don't require the invited members to travel excessive distances on the Sabbath. It's easily possible, depending on the areas invited, that some members could end up driving longer distances than they should. Such excessive travel should be avoided on God's holy Sabbath.

Also, members should not be made to feel that they are somehow disloyal or second class members if they choose not to attend an activity at a distant church for financial or other reasons. We do not want to put a financial hardship or any other undue burden on someone because of social activities sponsored by the Church.

So please remember to contact Ministerial Services and consider the travel involved whenever you are planning a major activity which involves more than just a neighboring church area.

Marriage and Divorce Case Write-ups

We would like to again remind all church pastors that all divorce and re-marriage cases must be written up and sent to Pasadena for decision no matter how "simple" or "clear-cut" a case may seem. This also gives us the necessary background in a particular case for later reference should another divorce occur or should the case be reopened.

Take the time to do a thorough job on these write-ups. Often they can be brief, but be sure all pertinent information is included. Below are some key points to remember in preparing these write-ups:

1. Be sure to pray about the write-up before preparing it, realizing the importance of Christ's wisdom and mind in putting it together.
2. Put the date on the write-up.
3. Sign your name to the write-up.
4. Type it, or write or print clearly and legibly.
5. Give the full names of the individuals involved in each marriage at the beginning of the write-up. Make sure you clearly identify each individual throughout the write-up.

6. State the city or location of each party involved.
7. State the present age of each individual involved as well as the age at the time of any marriage under consideration.
8. Use full names in specifying who married whom each time you mention them.
9. Be specific about key dates involved in the courtship, marriage ceremony, divorce, separations, fornication, etc.
10. Include the length of each marriage.
11. Be very careful not to slant the write-up in any way. Keep it totally objective and factual.
12. Ask the members involved to also prepare a complete write-up, including all information that is pertinent. Be sure to have them sign and date their write-ups. Include their write-ups with yours when you mail it to Pasadena.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Mr. Antonie Ianosel and Mr. Daniel Conner are disfellowshipped. They are both from the Portland, Oregon area. In the event that they should appear in your area, it is imperative that you immediately contact Mr. Bryan Hoyt for more information. Church rules regarding disfellowshipped members should be stringently enforced in both cases. (This notice is not to be read to your congregations.)

International News

Update on Members in Thai/Burma Border Region You may have read in recent news reports of fierce fighting in northeastern Burma near the Thai border between Burmese military forces and forces belonging to the Karens, an ethnic group seeking autonomy from Burma. The fighting has, at times, crossed the border into Thailand, although Thai forces are not directly involved.

God has called several members in this region who must both live and work in this dangerous and uncertain situation. All those living in this area of heavy jungle and ill-defined borders are endangered by the fighting, and we know that one prospective member--a widow of a deceased member--is already living with her children in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Since contact with these members is difficult, and material help cannot be easily given right now, please remember to pray for their safety and well-being, especially during the current hostilities.

News From Ghana A letter received by our British office from the pastor of our churches in Ghana, Mr. Joseph Forson, shows how God intervened to avoid a potentially difficult situation in the delivery of a shipment of needed booklets to the small mailing office there.

1984 opened with frightening predictions by everyone, including the Chairman of the government, about hard times ahead. Pledges of aid have been received from some countries, including the world's number one giver, the U.S.A....

We have to stay close to the radio to keep track of the changes in policies and procedures. For example, the booklets sent to our office got caught in the government attempt to clean up the Customs Department at the airport. All goods were seized and carted off to the government warehouses. A new law was then passed requiring all persons to obtain licences to import or export anything--even personal belongings. Hence Mr. Steve LeBlanc's goods [in transit to his new assignment in Kenya] are still here till it comes our turn in a long queue for export licences.

We had been told that we would need to get approval from the Council of Churches in Ghana to bring in the booklets. Then [our] deacon ran into an old schoolmate who worked with the Secretary (Minister) for Trade. He took him to the Secretary who said, "Oh, PLAIN TRUTH. I saw your booklets at the warehouse. Are they free like your magazine?" "Yes, sir," said [the deacon]. We got the import licence the same day without standing in line and without seeing the Council of Churches. So God is taking care of His people and His Church here.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Big Sandy Campus)

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was here on February 24 and 25 to take the Bible study and Sabbath service. As usual, the students and members very much appreciated seeing and hearing from him. Mr. Armstrong's visit also gave Mr. Larry Salyer (Dean of Students) and me an opportunity to cover some college matters with him. Then Sunday, February 26, he continued on to Washington, D.C.

Last week, Mr. Paul Suckling was here to interview students who will help out with the S.E.P. in Scotland. It is a great opportunity for them in several different ways. The camp is a great experience and many will also be able to do some touring in Europe, providing they have the finances.

The biggest news on campus at the moment is the new WATS operation. We received our very first WATS call Tuesday afternoon, March 6. It came in from Columbus, Ohio from a lady asking for 100 copies of one of our booklets. There are still a few details to be worked out, but things are coming along very well. Having a part of the front line work located here on campus is most exciting for all of us and certainly keeps us in close contact with Pasadena. Everyone here appreciates Mr. Richard Rice's sharing some of the telephone response operation.

The students are especially excited to be involved in the front line of the work of God's Church. Here is a typical student reaction to working on the

WATS line: "It was so exciting to get my first, real calls as a WATS operator.... The very first literature request call I received was from my own hometown. This was her first contact with the Church. How exciting to know I helped someone from my hometown on her first call!"

Mr. Bill Butler, Telephone Response Supervisor for Pasadena and Big Sandy, is here to oversee the initial start up and help iron out any "bugs." We have 114 students who will be working part-time as WATS operators and have interviewed 115 church members to help out as well. There are 16 WATS lines in operation now and another four to be added in a few days. These will be followed later by an additional eight. Mr. Butler tells me he is anticipating somewhere around 1,000 calls a week coming into the lines here. That represents about ten percent of Pasadena's telephone response workload. Currently our calls are coming from 12 states scattered across the United States. Later the calls should come in from mostly the eastern and mid-western areas.

There is one other piece of news with which we are well pleased. During our talks with Mr. Armstrong, he approved Mr. Russell Duke's transfer to the Big Sandy campus to become a faculty member. All of Mr. Duke's duties have not been fully decided as yet, but I can assure you his schedule is already full. In addition, his wife Phyllis will provide valuable assistance in the music department. Mr. Joe Tkach's consideration and help in making this move is much appreciated.

In closing, let me remind you of the need to be encouraging your high school juniors who may be interested in applying to Ambassador College for the 1985 incoming class, to begin planning to take the SAT. The sooner they take the test the sooner their applications can be completed and ready for consideration for the 1985-86 school year.

--Leslie L. McCullough, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Importance of Prompt Notification of Address Changes

With over 2.5 million U.S. PLAIN TRUTH subscribers, keeping up with address changes has become a sizeable job. Last year, for example, our terminal section processed half a million changes of address.

When we are not promptly notified of an address change, literature and other mail we send out may not reach the person who requested it. The post office does return the names and addresses from PLAIN TRUTH magazines which cannot be delivered. However, this service costs 25 cents per copy, which adds up to a substantial sum, considering that we receive an average of 46,000 postal returns per issue.

While we cannot expect every subscriber to notify us when he moves, we do request that members assist us in this regard. Please mention to your congregations these points to consider when changing an address:

- Whenever possible, please give us two to three weeks advance notice if you anticipate a change of address. This is helpful since labels for The PLAIN TRUTH are printed several weeks before the magazine is actually mailed.

- You may notify us in writing or by calling our WATS number (800-423-4444) anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. Calling has several advantages. It is quicker and more convenient. Also, any questions or unusual circumstances are easier to resolve.
- Since we may have many different items being mailed at the same time, it is possible that on rare occasions you may miss a particular magazine, letter or other publication. If this happens, please call or write. Our Quality Control area will be happy to replace whatever items you did not receive.

Thanks for your cooperation.

"WORLD TOMORROW" Telecast Reaching Prisoners

Thousands of prisoners are being reached with the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. While The PLAIN TRUTH is the major means by which prisoners come in contact with God's Church, a number specifically mention the radio and TV broadcasts.

With much time on their hands, prisoners often read a great deal and reflect on their experiences. Many say our programs and literature have been of great comfort and inspiration to them. A number express their determination to learn God's ways and overcome the problems that led to their confinement. Here are a few sample comments:

I cannot begin to tell you how much we enjoy your services on radio and TV. Enclosed is a check for \$25, a gift towards continuing the gospel services to all the world. We here in the women's prison appreciate you so very much. Please continue the good work of God for all mankind.

E.D. (Florida)

I watched your TV program this morning and really enjoyed it. I am writing you so that I may receive the booklet on Revelation and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I am presently in prison.

My sentence would have been over with a few years ago, but I escaped from a work center. I was gone for two years. I spent that time straightening out my life. I moved to Texas, got a job and married a most beautiful and understanding wife. I gave myself to God while on escape, but realized I could not have a "life" without Jesus and without putting my past behind me. So I turned myself in on January 6.

I don't have much time left here. I am 22 years old. I took drugs and drank, and also ran around with a tough street gang. Now that I look back, it sort of makes me sick to see how I used to live. And when it's God's will, I will be released.

A.P. (Tennessee)

I watch your program from within my cell. I want to thank you for making it possible for me and others to hear the Word of God taught and explained in terms that are easily understood. You

have done a lot for me in helping me understand and strengthen my Christian faith.

L.C. (California)

I was given special permission to call on behalf of 1100 prisoners who are watching the telecast. We are asking, if at all possible, if you can send us a Bible. We only have the New Testament.

W.W. (Georgia)

What impressed me about your literature was the way you presented your information. In the past whenever I would read religious articles, the authors wanted the reader to accept whatever was written on face value. Your article on the origin of Christmas was not like that--you backed up what you wrote with sound references from reputable sources, and that was what influenced me greatly in wanting to read more of your material.

J.S. (New York)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

HOW AMERICA IS CREATING ITS OWN "FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER"; THE FALKLANDS WAR--NEW FACTS COME OUT

In last week's column we explored the growing estrangement between Europe and America. A corollary to this accelerating trend is the growing recognition--reluctantly reached--that the European NATO partners need to do more in the way of their own defense--something leading figures in the U.S. have also been pressing the Europeans to do. France is taking the lead in this process. John Vinocur writes in the February 26, 1984 NEW YORK TIMES:

The United States' allies in Europe have begun to try to bring a greater measure of European identity and decision-making to their military policies. Seven of the countries, led by France, West Germany and Britain, are...meeting in the fall [under the aegis of the Western European Union] to discuss what some of the group refer to as Europeanization--an idea roughly defined as Western Europe taking greater control of its own defense while maintaining its military links to the United States.

The meeting, according to French Government sources, will be the first wide-ranging discussion by West European defense ministers, including France's, to take place outside of the Atlantic alliance and without Americans. In describing the initiative, European officials stress their need for continued military cooperation with the United States. But they acknowledge that the experience of starting to deploy new American medium-range missiles last year and differences between American and European policy assessments had accelerated thinking about Europeanization. The major short-term goal appears to be cooperation in building new weapons in the face of what West European governments acknowledge is a widening technological gap--to their disadvantage--between Europe and the United States....

Parallel to the government efforts have been an increasing number of statements by European politicians of all parties on the issue.... Simone Veil, former President of the European Parliament and consistently the most highly rated politician in French public-opinion polls, said last month: "European defense cooperation running parallel to NATO must be created. Our arms industries must be saved from the American and Japanese challenge in the area of technology."

But the Europeans are [also] cautious and skeptical.... In a speech in the Netherlands this month that was directed at both Dutch concerns and France's own, President Francois Mitterrand said there would be no replacement of the Atlantic alliance by what he called "a European alliance," that there was no substitute for the American nuclear force and that France's atomic arsenal "cannot take charge of Europe's security."

While rejecting the idea of "a European alliance," Mr. Mitterrand also said a European space program would be the best "response to the military realities of tomorrow"--apparently a suggestion that Western Europe ought to have its own antiballistic missile system in space in the event American guarantees to defend Europe do not hold.

In last week's report we quoted from the March 12 BUSINESS WEEK in which it was noted, near the end of the article, that the French are proposing that restrictions be lifted which have not permitted West Germany to produce certain types of long-range offensive weapons. This is a development of extreme importance. Here is how the FINANCIAL TIMES of London reported on this in its February 28 issue:

France has proposed the scrapping of the restrictions barring West Germany from making conventional weapons. Their removal would allow West Germany to produce types of long-range guided missiles and fighter bombers from which it is currently excluded.... Dropping the ban on conventional weapons would not alter restraints which prevent Germany from making nuclear, chemical or biological weapons....

The restrictions on West Germany, which have been gradually relaxed over the years, were incorporated in the 1954 treaty admitting West Germany to the union. Apart from West Germany, the signatories were France, Italy, Britain and the Benelux countries. All member-states of the WEU are believed to favour lifting the restrictions which have increasingly been seen as anomalies dating from the postwar period. West Germany has objected to them as discriminatory.

The Kissinger proposal for greater "Europeanization" of Europe's defense has not been officially well received in Europe. Yet, writes Ian Davidson in the March 5 FINANCIAL TIMES, maybe this was because Kissinger is an American. The French are already thinking far beyond the Kissinger plan, even to mulling about a previous taboo--West German access to nuclear weapons:

The Kissinger essay raised a mini-storm of disapproval from Brussels to Bonn and back again.... Dismissal has been instant and sweeping, from the German foreign ministry, and from the civilian and military leadership of NATO.

Admittedly, many of the specifics of the Kissinger plan are debatable.... But...I suspect that the immediacy of the dismissal of the Kissinger ideas has something to do with the fact that he is an American.... When American spokesmen urge the European allies to step up their spending on conventional defense, [or] to reexamine the entrenched strategy of forward defense, the Europeans complain that they are being got at. Yet among the French, of all people, it is now becoming acceptable to raise the long-taboo notion that there needs to be a change in the relationship between West Germany and nuclear weapons.

It is Jacques Chirac, no less, the leader of the Gaullist party, who has said that this problem needs to be addressed; how he does not claim to know, but somehow or other, he believes, it must be addressed. And quite recently a French socialist depute, writing in LE MONDE, argued that, as part of a move towards a more united European defense posture, the Germans should have dual-key control of some of the French nuclear weapons.

The lead editorial in the LOS ANGELES TIMES of March 12, 1984 calls for the "prudent encouragement" of Europeanization, but it also warns that such a process could get out of hand:

The fact went almost unnoticed, but former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany threw his considerable prestige last week behind the idea the Europeans should assume more power and responsibility within the Atlantic alliance. Schmidt's statement is ample evidence that proposals for reform of the alliance are no longer limited to European leftists and American isolationists.... Schmidt, a leader of the moderate element of the opposition Social Democratic Party in West Germany, says that he agrees with Kissinger that America's role in NATO is too strong for the good of either side. He says, too, that a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe "would not necessarily be a misfortune" if other NATO nations filled the gap with expanded conventional forces.

There is a danger that the movement for "Europeanization" of European defense could become a vehicle for anti-Americanism in Europe and isolationism in America.... The U.S. national interest lies in prudent encouragement of the reluctantly growing interest of Europeans in taking more political and military responsibility for the decisions that affect their survival.

Building Our Own Frankenstein Monster

Now, just as we go to press, comes the most impassioned plea yet from an American for a nuclear-armed united Europe. It was delivered in the March 15, 1984 WALL STREET JOURNAL by Melvyn Krauss, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank located on the grounds of Stanford University in California. His editorial-page opinion piece is entitled "Prompting Europe to Better Defend Itself." If Krauss' line of reasoning

is followed the United States, as God's Church has long predicted, will indeed be responsible for creating its own Frankenstein Monster:

Mr. Reagan's attempt to bolster Atlantic unity by catering to European desires to continue detente is not likely to work, because...[the Europeans are] giving strength to isolationist sentiment in this country. Highly respected thinkers such as Irving Kristol advocate a complete and abrupt withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe.... The Europeans are aware of these changes in the American mood and have responded with a flurry of activity aimed at increasing European defense coordination and self-reliance....

The U.S. should applaud European efforts toward greater defense cooperation and self-reliance. For the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to escape its current dilemma of disintegration or defeat by detente, Europe must have its own independent military force, including state-of-the-art nuclear weapons....

The course for U.S. policy is clear: We must reduce Europe's defense dependence on this country. Recent efforts by the Europeans themselves to promote defense cooperation are important first steps in the right direction. But it would be a mistake to confuse these initiatives with the type of fundamental reform NATO requires. The Europeans must be made to realize that, given unilateralist and anti-European sentiment in this country, U.S. troops will leave Western Europe one way or another. The real question is whether there will be an abrupt pullout that will weaken Europe or, preferably, a phased one over a period of years that will strengthen it.

Moreover, the Europeans must have their nuclear umbrella to replace the American one. One way to accomplish this would be for the U.S. to sell (or lease) to the Europeans the Pershing II and cruise missiles now being deployed in Western Europe. These missiles are important for Europe's defense. But there is no good reason why the U.S. should own and control them....

A European defense force, or EDF--including West Germany--would not only circumvent the currently intractable problem of a nuclear Germany, but would provide a much more credible deterrent to the Soviets than the current American nuclear umbrella. Indeed, a key reason the Soviets insist that British and French nuclear warheads be counted in any agreement that results from East-West disarmament negotiations is their desire to keep European nuclear forces in check. "The Soviet nightmare," writes Harvard's Adam Ulam, "is that Western Europe will unite politically and rearm itself vigorously, thereby leaving the Soviet Union facing two superpowers instead of one." The U.S. should help make the nightmare a reality...

It is argued that the Europeans are too quarrelsome among themselves to have an effective integrated European defense force. True, the European Economic Community is in disarray. But if Europe ever is to come together, it must be because of common interests. And the most essential of Europe's common

interests--security--currently is relegated to an outside power. An EDF would help create the unity that today is lacking in Europe. Recent Franco-German cooperation is an encouraging sign....

It is [also] argued that the European armed forces are not up to the task of standing up to the Russians.... But is not the American security guarantee largely responsible? When that guarantee is removed and Europe's military again becomes important, people of daring, spirit and imagination will be attracted to serve....

The ideal arrangement from the Soviet point of view is the current one, with the U.S. and Western Europe bound together in a less than happy marriage in which the partners continuously squabble. A friendly separation resulting in a reinvigorated, partially united, more powerful Western Europe is better for the West.

Another very likely point of friction brewing between America and Europe is overprotection of the Persian Gulf sea-lanes. Except for a number of British warships in the area, it is the U.S. which has pledged to keep the Mideast oil lifeline open. Yet, the U.S. now only gets three percent of its total oil supply from the Gulf states. Europe, on the other hand, depends on the region for 28% of its petroleum needs (and Japan for over half of its requirements). Certainly the mood must grow in America: "Why are we guaranteeing Europe's (and Japan's) oil supplies? Let the Europeans develop their own 'quick reaction' strike force."

In fact, Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, a frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for President told American viewers in a televised debate, regarding a possible Gulf intervention: "I don't think the American people are going to support a massive loss of American lives fighting for someone else's oil, which we do not need." Thus, America will likely force Europe to take a direct military interest in the Middle East, too. Backing this up is an article in the NEW YORK TIMES of March 11, 1984:

A nine-member British panel has suggested that Britain and other NATO nations should do more to share United States military burdens outside northwest Europe. The panel, in a recent report issued here, said an unfortunate situation had arisen in which alliance nations were "more or less convinced that somebody, somehow, should be doing more to protect their interests in the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and Africa."

At the same time, the British are beginning to get a bit edgy about all this talk of America packing up and departing Europe--and leaving a united European defense force behind. Where would this leave Britain, whose ties to the continent are loose at best, severely strained now in conflict with the continentals over the Common Market budget?

The British didn't like the Kissinger proposals for "Europeanization." They also have been quite cool to the French-proposed convening of the Western European Union meeting in the fall to discuss European joint defense. The rub is that the U.S. will not take part.

Well might Britain be concerned about being left out in the cold--not a full member in Europe, yet seeing its real protector, its American cousin, depart the scene. British reliance on U.S. protection was graphically revealed in an exclusive March 3 report in THE ECONOMIST. Now we know that, had it not been for under-the-cover U.S. aid, Britain could have easily lost the 1982 Falklands War. Here are key excerpts:

The British operation to recapture the Falklands in 1982 could not have been mounted, let alone won, without American help.... Since the war's ending, both America and Britain have had an interest in concealing the scale of this help. The American state department fears for its bruised relations with Latin America....

American navy assessments seriously doubted whether Britain could win a conclusive victory.... In extremes, the United States might be called on for overt help which would be bad for America's regional position and a godsend to the Russians. America by now could not afford to see Britain lose. But it was critically important that it win soon and without American help being too conspicuous....

Britain was ill-equipped to fight a sea war in the South Atlantic.... Above all, it had no bases in the vicinity and would need huge quantities of aviation fuel to be able to fight 8,000 miles from home and 4,000 miles from its midway staging post on Ascension Island. The active collaboration of America was essential. Mr. Caspar Weinberger, America's secretary of defense, is an ardent Anglophile, admirer of both Pitts and of Churchill. From the start, he realized Britain's logistics problems....

From day one of the task force, pleas for everything from missiles to aviation fuel flooded the Pentagon from the British military mission on Massachusetts Avenue.... To those intimately involved, it seemed at times as if the two navies were working as one.... Aid fell into three categories. First was for Ascension itself.... Roads were repaired and fuel-pipelines built [at Wideawake airbase]. An astonishing 12.5m gallons of aviation fuel were diverted from American defense supplies for British use.... Next were weapons, with pride of place going to the new Sidewinder AIM-9L missile, the single most decisive weapon of the campaign. It claimed as many Argentine "kills" as all other weapon systems together.... The supersensitive AIM-9Ls, which could be fired sideways on, or even from ahead, were vital. These were made available from American front-line stocks immediately, as were the adaptor plates to fit them to the GR3 RAF Harriers....

This and other American equipment poured into Ascension throughout the war. One observer estimated that, at one stage, Wideawake was the world's busiest airport--busier than Chicago's O'Hare....

Third, and to many British sources most important of all, was intelligence aid.... High-definition military satellites were not in an appropriate orbit.... However, it is now known that,

in the later stages of the war, Britain persuaded the Americans to move a military satellite from its Soviet-watching orbit over the northern hemisphere to cover the Falklands area. This move, using the satellite's scarce fuel and thus shortening its life, did not please those in the Pentagon who already felt the Falklands was a dangerous distraction.... The Americans claim "98%" of British intelligence of Argentine movements came from them. The British prefer not to comment.... The [British] cabinet decision to sink the Argentine cruiser, Belgrano, was probably communicated to the British nuclear submarine, HMS Conqueror, over an American military satellite link.

This American assistance was partly the result of long-standing, close liaison between British and American military missions, but it depended heavily on the direct personal commitment of Mr. Weinberger himself.... Hence perhaps Mr. Weinberger's most remarkable offer of the war: to fill the most glaring gap which would open up in Admiral Woodward's armoury should anything happen to either of his carriers, Hermes and Invincible. It was proposed that an amphibious assault ship of about the same size, USS Guam, with capacity to handle helicopters and Harriers, would simply be turned over to the Royal Navy. Given the political explosion this would have caused both in Latin America and from the war's opponents in Washington, the ship would have had to be staffed entirely by British sailors, only a handful of whom would have seen such a ship, a risky and bizarre idea. The Pentagon dared not commit a single engineer to the war--though it might have done so in the last resort. Fortunately, Britain did not have to take up the offer.

In the light of the Falklands rescue operation, one can easily comprehend American anger when Britain, a year-and-a-half later, refused to support the American intervention in Grenada. In fact, London joined in the world-wide chorus of condemnation. Analyzed THE ECONOMIST in its following issue (March 10):

America's bitterness over Britain's opposition was and remains deep. Subsequent revelations of Cuban and Russian involvement seemed to make no difference to Britain's stance. To the White House this was precisely the sort of confrontation with communism on which it expected Mrs. Thatcher's support. As in the Falklands, democracy was intervening to counter lawlessness.... President Reagan had supported Britain, unconsulted, in the South Atlantic. Why could Mrs. Thatcher not give him the benefit of the doubt in Grenada?

The Falklands-Grenada episodes add more fuel to the transatlantic feud, now even threatening to divide the two Anglo-Saxon powers.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau