

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 6, NO. 23

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 8, 1984

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The month of May was the best so far this year, with a 24.7% increase in income over the same month last year! This brought the year-to-date income up two full percentage points, from 13.5% at the end of April to 15.5% at the end of May. We are very grateful for this upturn and hope that we will have even greater increases during the remainder of the year. I am sure that the concern, support and prayers of all of God's people have been the major factors in bringing about this very good increase.

My wife and I returned from Europe June 4 after visiting the five European offices of the Church. We had previously visited the Canadian office on several occasions and had visited the Asian offices last fall in connection with a Feast visit to Australia.

Such visits prove helpful in promoting team spirit and cooperation between the Headquarters Financial Services area and the international offices. In each place we saw the office facilities, met the office staff, some of whom we had never met before, and then got better acquainted with those that we already knew. We also had opportunities for some social activities which were enjoyable and profitable. As a result of our discussions, I now have a better understanding of business-related problems in each area. We also have a better idea of how the Headquarters Financial Services area and the international offices can better help each other.

In addition, we had the opportunity to attend special services in Bonn, West Germany on May 26 and in London on June 2, where ten churches met together. It was a pleasure and honor to be able to bring the brethren up to date concerning Church news and to exhort them about the need to have faith to believe God in this end time.

We arrived back in Los Angeles very tired after a 10½-hour nonstop flight from London. This made me wonder how Mr. Armstrong can travel so extensively and cope with the travel and jet lag so well. Those who have not traveled can probably not appreciate this point, but those who do travel surely come to realize that Mr. Armstrong does receive a great deal of help from God in this and his other endeavors.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Local Members Play Important Role in Attracting PMs

Prospective members form the reservoir from which most baptisms result. They are our best indicator of future Church growth. Periodically we evaluate the source of PMs as indicated on the PM Addition forms. This gives us a better understanding of how new members are brought into contact with God's Church.

Recently we analyzed the new PMS added to our files in the U.S. between February and May of this year. As was anticipated, contact through ministerial visit requests sent to Headquarters accounted for the largest percentage (43%) of this group. Public Bible lectures prompted six percent to make personal contact with the ministry. Three percent made contact through a variety of miscellaneous means. The impetus for contact for another nine percent was either not known or was left unstated on the form.

But it was the second largest category, not mentioned above, which proved surprising. Of the new PMS, 39% were brought into contact with God's Church through friends and relatives. This was much higher than anticipated. It is, in fact, one of the chief avenues God is using to call members into His Church! Obviously, "The WORLD TOMORROW" program on radio and TV as well as Church literature have had a powerful effect on these individuals. However, the personal contact and living example of this "way of life in action" has doubtless made the difference with many of these individuals between responding or not responding. Perhaps the members would be encouraged to realize how much they are being used in this aspect of the work of God's Church.

Saratoga Springs Replaces Cape Cod Feast Site

We are happy to announce a new festival site as a replacement for Cape Cod. Saratoga Springs, New York will be the host city for the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles in the northeastern states. Its new convention center seats 2,600 people. Saratoga Springs was used as a festival site in 1978 and 1979 (meeting in a different building) and is noted for its great beauty and historical landmarks. We will release further information as soon as it becomes available. Members scheduled to attend the site will receive housing details in about two weeks, and should not make reservations until they receive this information.

Recent Ordinations

On June 5, the final banquet of the fifth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program ended joyfully with three ordinations. With the faculties of Ambassador College from Big Sandy and Pasadena as well as Imperial Schools present, Messrs. Joe Tkach, Raymond McNair, Roderick Meredith, Dibar Apartian, Dean Blackwell, and Herman Hoeh ordained as preaching elders Mr. Mark Kaplan and Mr. Richard Paige, both longtime, faithful faculty members on the Pasadena campus. Mr. Tkach then asked Mr. David Hulme and Mr. Larry Salyer to join the evangelists in raising Mr. Mike Feazell, assistant to Mr. Tkach in Ministerial Services, to the rank of preaching elder.

Also recently ordained are two local church elders. During his recent trip to South America, Spanish Regional Director Leon Walker ordained Mr. Carlos Espinosa at Sabbath services May 5. Mr. Espinosa serves the Ezeiza, Argentina congregation. On May 26, Mr. Ants Nomm was ordained during services in Buffalo, New York. Hands were laid on Mr. Nomm by Church pastor David Pack and Mr. Chris Beam on Mr. Beam's last Sabbath in the area before moving to his new assignment.

1984 Pentecost Church Visits--United States

Following is a list of men from Pasadena and Big Sandy who are scheduled to visit and speak in various churches throughout the U.S. on Pentecost weekend.

<u>Guest Speaker</u>	<u>Sabbath, June 9</u>	<u>Pentecost, June 10</u>
Greg Albrecht	Gadsden, AL	Anniston, AL & Rome, GA
Gary Antion	Albany & Salem, OR	Bend, Coos Bay, Eugene & Roseburg, OR
Dean Blackwell	Roanoke, VA	Bluefield, Beckley, Summersville & Lewisburg, WV
John Halford	Cincinnati (North & South), OH	Cincinnati (East), OH
Herman Hoeh	Canton, OH	Cambridge, OH & Wheeling, WV
Harold Jackson	Coeur D'Alene, ID & Spokane, WA	Pasco, Quincy, Tonasket & Yakima, WA
Les McCullough	Greensboro, NC	Boone, Lenoir & Marion, NC
Raymond McNair	Athens & Gainesville, GA	Atlanta (East & West), GA
Rod Meredith	Grand Island & North Platte, NE	Lincoln & Omaha, NE
Leroy Neff	Chattanooga, TN & Murphy, NC	Asheville, NC & Greenville, SC
Richard Rice	Casper & Sheridan, WY	Casper & Sheridan, WY & Billings, MT
Larry Salyer	Augusta, GA & Columbia, SC	Charlotte, NC

International News

Update From Black Africa April has been the best month for a very long time for growth in the Church in Kenya with six baptisms taking place. This is the result of a PLAIN TRUTH lecture held at the end of 1982 by Mr. Armstrong in Nairobi, which at the time doubled Church attendance. Many of these people are now requesting to be, and indeed are being, baptized.

We are now in the final stages of negotiating the lease on some office space in the center of Nairobi. There we will set up our local mail processing

center for East Africa. The facility is in a prime site in a very modern building and is already partitioned, carpeted and fitted with office furniture, and at a rent well within our budget.

Unfortunately, Kenya is presently suffering a very serious drought since there has been no significant rainfall at all this season and, unless it does rain heavily soon, the northern reaches of Kenya will undergo very severe drought conditions leading to the onslaught of starvation. Our congregation at Kibirichia will be sorely affected by these conditions, and some degree of food aid will be essential if we are to avert the stark reality of starvation striking at our own membership.

Nigeria: In the face of acute economic problems, food shortages and joblessness, members are becoming more purposeful and cohesive. This phenomenon has been noted in all areas of Africa administered by the U.K., as deteriorating social conditions have brought about heightened interest in spiritual matters.

The PLAIN TRUTH magazine is being extremely well received in Nigeria. March showed an increase in subscription requests of over 300% over an average month. A recent tour into Cross River State aroused many positive comments from our readers who explained the beneficial effect that The PLAIN TRUTH is having on their lives. During this tour, a Bible lecture was presented to subscribers and 635 attended.

There has been an explosion of PM activity, partly because of small groups who study and worship together using our publications to assist in their meetings.

Ghana: We have been experiencing some difficulties concerning our farm at Kutunsi, near Accra. The head of the family, who negotiated the lease with us, died recently leaving his estate to his family. There was some doubt amongst the beneficiaries as to whether we had a right to farm the land at Kutunsi. Our members are praying fervently that this land may continue to be available for farming purposes.

In spite of the very serious financial problems that are extant in Ghana, our members continue to show that their hearts are very much behind God's Church, reminiscent of the attitude expressed in Philippians 4:15-18 where the members did not cease to respond to the financial needs of the Church.

Over the Easter season, the Ghanaian TIMES almost completely devoted its center pages to Dr. Hoeh's article entitled "The Crucifixion Was Not on Friday," which appeared in the February and March 1984 GOOD NEWS. The author must also have studied our booklets on the subject because he not only quoted Dr. Hoeh extensively, but used other material from related booklets. The article ended with the note "culled from The PLAIN TRUTH." However, in spite of their publishing the fact that Easter is pagan, the paper went ahead and stayed closed from Good Friday to Easter Monday!

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From Australia

BUNDABERG, QLD--MARK GULLY: I have received a warm reception from the brethren since my arrival. It seems the members have a

good realisation that they are a part of a worldwide church even though they are a small group in Queensland. Everyone was responsive to Mr. Armstrong's recent co-worker letter concerning the court case. Also, the brethren were very encouraged about the results of the holy day offerings and the Days of Unleavened Bread in general.

MORWELL, VIC--PETER WHITTING: The Church had a very fine feast of Unleavened Bread--the attitude in the congregation is good. We have spent a great deal of time directing people to their personal responsibility to God and conversion. The deliverance of Mr. Armstrong and the Church in this recent court case decision has been awe inspiring to all. Also, the growth in the Church encourages us all to try harder.

PERTH, WA--BOB REGAZZOLI: This has been the most edifying Unleavened Bread season the members here can recall, and they appreciated having Messrs. Morton and Winner here for the season. Offerings were up 30% and 43% for the holy days. Bible study attendance reached 84%. PT newsstand circulation has risen by 40% so far this year. Over 300 magazines were taken from one newsstand in the first three days of operation. The waiting room programme is off to a great start--240 addresses already. PM activity is showing a gradual increase. A schoolteacher has mentioned that a number of students in his class read and use the PT for class projects.

DARWIN, NT--KERRY GUBB: This was the first time the Darwin Church has had a minister with them for the entire week of Unleavened Bread. Members are encouraged from the Passover season and the growth of the newsstand programme in Darwin. We are hoping now for a campaign later in the year.

MOUNT GAMBIER, SA--KARL KARLOV: The Mt. Gambier congregation, as others in the region, have become very wholeheartedly involved in the newsstand and waiting room programmes, and the benefits are very evident in a renewed enthusiasm amongst the congregation as a whole. Even the PMs in all three of the region's congregations are asking to be involved and are making helpful contributions.

NEWCASTLE, NSW--GARY HARVEY: We have installed two new PT newsstands in the Newcastle railway station and big shopping mall, so now we have a total of 30 in the whole church area. We will continue to expand. We experienced a record turnover of 4,000 plus this month! I've calculated we have 55% of our families involved in PT newsstands or the waiting room programme here. As a result over 250 waiting rooms in the Newcastle Church area have been enrolled for PT subscriptions.

BALLARAT, VIC--KARL KARLOV: An additional new family of eight people, including two keen teen-agers, has begun attending. This means that in two months, sixteen new people have started attending the Ballarat Church. Needless to say we are all very encouraged by the growth God is adding. If this keeps up we'll have to start looking for a larger hall, as the present one is approaching capacity!

From Asia

BOMBAY, INDIA--SPAULDING KULASINGAM: Almost all the members said that the spring festival was very much like the Feast of Tabernacles because of the number of services and activities. All are thankful to God for the blessings and opportunities. They all noticed how we are becoming a visible church for people to take note of. We are praying that God will enable us to continue to have the freedom to worship Him, and obey all His laws.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA--YONG CHIN GEE: The holy day offerings doubled in amount over last year. The Church is more cohesive than ever before. A few brethren are experiencing trials in their jobs but they are facing them bravely.

JOHORE BAHRU, MALAYSIA--YONG CHIN GEE: A few PMs are being counseled for baptism. Through the potluck luncheon and dinner held quite regularly in a member's home in Johore Bahru, Singapore brethren are getting to know the Malaysian brethren in Johore Bahru better. And the fortnightly Sabbath services held in Johore Bahru are helping the brethren to realise the spiritual value of fellowshiping with God and one another.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATEU.S. PLAIN TRUTH Circulation Sets Records

United States PLAIN TRUTH circulation continues to climb and set all-time records. The member participation programs in the local church areas under the direction of the pastors have never been more successful. Results from all categories--supermarkets, display islands, gift shops, and regular newsstand distribution--have taken a remarkable jump. All areas are reporting high newsstand activity.

As you will note below, PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the United States has now topped the 4.7 million mark. It is exciting to see U.S. circulation so close to five million--a level which was only recently attained worldwide! We have also exceeded the seven million mark worldwide for the first time. This makes us one of the largest mass circulation magazines in the world.

	<u>Circulation</u>	<u>% Increase Over July/August 1983 Issue</u>
Subscription PLAIN TRUTH	2,737,700	38.2%
Total U.S. circulation	4,712,700	29.4%
New subscribers	1,105,729	70.9%
Businesses and libraries	197,858	17.5%

Each month, we are setting new records for new subscribers being added to The PLAIN TRUTH list. Our statistics indicate that 137,802 new people will receive the July/August issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. The June issue set an all-time record of 212,234 new people. The member participation programs guided and directed by you pastors in the field are still the leading source

of new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH. The newsstand areas especially are showing very strong signs of growth with responses to newsstands up 120% over last year!

God is blessing the work of His Church as never before. We in Publishing Services want to extend our sincere appreciation for the tremendous job done in the field by the pastors, local coordinators, representatives and members, and for all of your sacrifice and service in getting the Gospel message out.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Another All-time Record for New Names in One Month!

Please be patient with us if we seem redundant, but we want to keep you informed of the marvelous continuing growth in the work of God's Church. During May, 225,306 new names were added to our U.S. address files, which is the highest number ever for one month. In only five months, the number of new people asking for our booklets and publications (U.S. only) amounted to 833,586. At this rate, the one million mark should be reached by the end of June or by early July.

2.5 Million Semiannual Letters Being Mailed to U.S. Subscribers

Our Postal Center is buried in the throes of mailing out the semiannual letter to more than 2.5 million U.S. subscribers. (Worldwide, over four million will receive it.) With our four modern letter-inserting machines, about 200,000 letters are sent out each day. Because of the gigantic size of this mailing, it will take approximately 14 employees working 12 hours a day, six days a week for two weeks to complete it.

As always, the prayers of God's people are needed to help bring about a very good response to this letter. The semiannual letter is an important vehicle for encouraging interested subscribers to show more involvement in the work of God's Church.

Letters From People Requesting Local Church Information

The letters we receive often reflect the void, uncertainty and nagging doubts about spiritual matters that many people face. Through our literature and media programs, their questions begin to be answered. As a result they often wish to associate themselves with true Christians. A number ask if there is a local church where they can fellowship and worship according to Bible instructions. This week we are featuring comments from a few of those individuals who have expressed strong interest in God's Church and requested ministerial visits.

I would like to take a moment to thank you for the literature you have sent to me in the past. I have never had anyone explain some of the deep, dark questions which always come up in Sunday school class and other discussions. For the first time the Old Testament seems to have some meaning to me.

I do have one question yet. The Bible says we should assemble ourselves together with other people of like beliefs, yet I do

not see any such assemblies of the Worldwide Church of God. Do you have such groups and if so, where do they meet to worship? I also presume from much of your printed material that if there are such groups they would meet on the Sabbath.

I guess I'm slow or something--I have been reading your literature and listening to your broadcasts for nearly 20 years now and I finally feel that your interpretation of God's Word is pretty accurate.

L.M. (Boelus, NE)

I'm a young man with a family who is looking for guidance toward the true teaching of God's law. I'm also a soldier (in the army) working with high tech equipment dealing with nuclear warfare. I love my family and human life very much, but I feel very insecure about my job.

Please help me. I'm reaching out and want to accept Christ. I really need Christ in my life and also the life of my family. I would love to be a part of your church and walk a straight life to righteousness. Tell me how I can find your church and seek membership, but most of all counseling.

N.G. (Compton, CA)

Thanks for considering us co-workers with Christ. Your April letter is very interesting. It is unbelievable the way Satan is trying to destroy your work and divide your strength between legal battles and the real battle of Christ and the devil. I am so glad at the end you say WE WIN.

Enclosed please find my small help, it is part of my tithe. I belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and when my son requested your magazines, etc. I did not mind because you also keep the Lord's Sabbath. Now it is I who am interested in knowing more and more.

I tried to keep Passover as you said in your magazine The GOOD NEWS. I did not feel good at church when they had a Christmas tree by the altar during Christmas and this Easter I felt funny going to brunch with the family....

Could one of your ministers visit us some time? I am glad you say they do not care so much how rich you are and how the house looks, and that they will accept coffee or tea--that sounds very friendly and gives me confidence. God bless you all for the magnificent way you carry out his work. Thanks in advance for your attention to this letter.

M.M. (Los Angeles, CA)

I have become a regular reader of The PLAIN TRUTH. The more I read the more I realize how little I know about the Bible. I don't know what I would have done without your magazines. They have explained a lot that I just couldn't seem to understand.

When I was "saved" and baptized in church a few years ago, I was so happy and at peace, but it was short-lived. I met a bad person

in church who almost destroyed me. I had to leave the church and go to another. The minister at the other church made me feel welcome but the people made me feel unwelcome. I left and went to another and the minister made me feel unwelcome and the people made me feel welcome.

I don't know where I belong. I know that I believe in God and that I want to be with people who are Christians. Could you help me? I am so confused about church. You are closer to God than I am. You know so much more. What would your advice be to me?

D.O. (Garland, TX)

I have been a subscriber to your PLAIN TRUTH magazine and have read a great number of your booklets for the last three years. I just completed twelve lessons of your Bible correspondence course and am presently working on number thirteen.

I live in a very small community with no church to attend. I grew up in the local church and they do not teach the Bible. I made a comment once about them being incorrect and showed them the scripture and I was told to be quiet. Very nicely, of course. I will not let my children attend the church because of their teaching.

My problem is, I would like to attend a church and fellowship with Christians. Is there one in this area that I could attend? If not every Sabbath, then at least occasionally? I have so many questions, plus I would like my children to meet other children being taught as they are. Any information you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

L.K. (Fola, WV)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

HOLLAND'S FAR-REACHING DECISION; FRUSTRATED EUROPEANS WORRY ABOUT THEIR DEFENSE; MITTERRAND'S APPEAL FOR UNITY

In a half-expected outcome, the Netherlands government on June 1 announced it would accept the positioning of cruise missiles on Dutch soil--but not until 1988, the very last year the new weapons may be deployed. Holland had been scheduled, pending a majority approval in the Dutch Parliament, to begin deploying its share--48 missiles--of the new weapon two years earlier. And the actual number deployed, the government said, would depend on the success of U.S.-Soviet missile talks.

The Parliament has yet to give its approval to even this time-expanded schedule. There is strong anti-missile opposition to the decision in the Parliament. Deployment has already started in Britain, West Germany and Italy, while another 48 cruise missiles are still to be based in Belgium--which country also will now be under heavy pressure to postpone its deployment share as well.

The biggest concern in top NATO circles is that anti-missile pressure will spread beyond Belgium and into the key European country of the Alliance,

West Germany. Of all the scheduled NATO host countries--Holland, Belgium, Britain and Italy--only Italy has moved forward with the plan without significant hitches. For some time now Italy has been the most reliable NATO partner as well as the most pro-Common Market member of the EC. Its support of the eventual goal of political union is stronger than that of any other EC member.

Back to NATO, the biggest fear is that NATO itself--whose foreign ministers have just concluded an otherwise successful 35th anniversary meeting in Washington--may slowly begin to unravel due to the anti-missile issue. The Dutch decision plays directly into the hands of NATO reformists in the U.S. who increasingly call for a sharp scaleback of American commitment to NATO. Some want NATO scrapped altogether, saying it's time the Europeans stood on their own two feet, with little or no U.S. help. These anti-NATO Americans will now claim that the Dutch decision is further proof that the Europeans simply are not willing to hold up their end of the Alliance, so why should the U.S. be a part of the Alliance any longer?

How to adequately defend Europe's vital interests around the world is subject to a great deal of deliberation on the Continent, now that the solidarity of NATO is crumbling. The latest crisis in the Persian Gulf underlines the need for Europe to be able to send multinational forces around the world to defend European interests. But need and willingness are two different things. Here is a report by Stephen Milligan in the May 25 SUNDAY TIMES of Britain entitled "Europe Needs an Army":

The sudden escalation of the Gulf war last week sent shock signals around the world. As usual, all eyes turned to Washington. Would the Americans intervene? The United States imports little oil from the Gulf. It relies far more on oil that passes through the Gulf of Mexico, and President Reagan is already uncomfortably embroiled in the fire of Central America. Besides, after the humiliation in Lebanon, few American politicians in an election year want to see more marines dying in far-off places like the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the countries that are really at risk if the Gulf were closed--in Western Europe, and Japan--do little but watch as the danger grows greater. If anybody has an interest in keeping the flow of oil going, it is they. More than a quarter of Western Europe's oil comes from the Gulf against only 4% of America's. Yet Europeans seem powerless to act. The prospect of Japanese or German soldiers going to war for the first time since 1945 is not an appetising one. But Western Europe needs to be able to dispatch troops when necessary, even if they include no Germans.

The United States is not capable of or willing to defend western interests everywhere around the world. As the tale of the two Gulfs show, American and European economic interests often differ. Worse still, the degree of the American commitment to defend Europe is increasingly in doubt. Why, ask many Americans, should we keep 300,000 troops to defend Europe when the Europeans are almost as rich as us and yet unwilling to defend their own interests? NATO has been unable to rationalise arms production. Not only do one country's bullets not fit another's rifles, but the alliance has failed to reap economies of scale by obliging

individual countries. The American domination of NATO has fueled the rise of the anti-nuclear movement in Europe. The Danish parliament has just cut off all funds for the new American missiles in Europe.

The man who is most aware of these arguments is France's President Mitterrand. He has proposed that an old institution should be revived as the vehicle for the new European defence community: the Western European Union. The WEU...membership--Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Luxembourg--is better geared to defence than the European community.

Next month, a ministerial WEU meeting is to be convened in Paris to discuss how it might be developed further. As a first step, the WEU could serve...to rationalise the duplicating European arms industry. Further ahead, it could actually develop into a military command.

If it is to succeed, it is vital that it should be seen as a complement, not as a rival, to NATO. If the WEU looks to Washington like an anti-American alliance of grumbling Europeans, it will only encourage congressional pressure to pull American troops out of Europe. Equally, however, it will need to be politically independent of NATO if it is to appeal to those who lean towards neutralism in northern Europe as well as to nationalistic Frenchmen.

The British news magazine THE ECONOMIST picked up on the same theme in its May 19 issue. It further stresses that the 10-nation European Community cannot be the vehicle to encourage greater military cooperation, such as joint weapons development and production.

It humiliates Europeans, and irritates Americans, that Europe needs so much American help to defend itself, while America's defence gets no similar help from Europe....

This American presidential year has shown that Americans are growing impatient with the anomaly. They will grow more impatient, as economic opportunities in the Pacific and political alarms in Central America turn their eyes westward and southward away from Europe. If the trouble in Central America spreads to Mexico, American impatience could snap. Self-interest--not to mention self-respect--requires Europe to do more for itself.

Putting more effort into defence cannot be done simply by putting more young men into uniform. The parents of the 1960s did not produce enough baby boys to make enough 18-year-olds for the 1980s;...the only solution is to get more defence out of roughly the existing amount of defence money. That means rationalising Europe's arms industries: in other words, making more and better weapons in fewer factories employing fewer people. This sort of rationalisation is something Europe is very bad at.

The best way of tackling it is pretty certainly not through the machinery of the European community. In the EEC, each member government tries to protect its own country's interests. That is

not what the EEC's founders meant it to be, but that is how it has turned out. The common agricultural policy is a high-cost system of getting rid of marginal producers to the taxpayer's benefit.

The prime mover for greater cooperation in Europe at the present time is President Mitterrand of France. At the final session of the European Parliament (before its June 17 continentwide elections) M. Mitterrand took the legislators by surprise with a stirring appeal for a treaty on European political unity. Implicit in his remarks too, was a warning to Britain that Europe was ready to move forward without her. Here is how Don Cook of the LOS ANGELES TIMES (May 25) analyzed the Mitterrand appeal:

President Francois Mitterrand, in a vigorous statement of confidence in Europe's future, declared Thursday that France is ready for formal discussions of a new treaty of European political unity. Addressing the...European parliament..., Mitterrand said: "We are again in a phase when destiny is in the balance. For too long we have been held back by absurd quarrels. Europe can only become more than a dream if it gets beyond petty squabbling...." He proposed to take this process a step further through "preparatory conversations leading to a conference of interested countries" on a new political treaty.

In a broad hint that some of the Common Market countries could be left out of such a treaty of political unity if they did not wish to join--Britain, for example--the French president said: "One hears talk of a two-speed Europe or a Europe of variable geometry. If need be, we will have to adapt, but not by undermining the central structure on which the community rests."

The thrust of Mitterrand's speech was that Europe is moving toward unity despite the British problem. "I am too confident of our history to allow that we could decline. But we must not act too late," he said.

Writing in the May 30 issue of WASHINGTON TIMES, staff writer Peter Almond probed behind the rather urgent nature of Mr. Mitterrand's policies:

In a key debate over Europe's political future, French President Francois Mitterrand is pushing urgent and specific proposals for greater continental cooperation in military and economic fields....

France already has pushed for a new European defense community through the Western European Union. Last week, Mr. Mitterrand issued a call for renewed European political integration based on the draft Treaty of European Union, whose proposed Council of Union would decide matters by a simple majority, instead of the required unanimity which now is paralyzing the community....

Observers say that behind the French effort lies a sense of alarm felt by Mr. Mitterrand over U.S. exasperation with European defense effort, the continuing woes of the French economy and an increasing French sense of declining European impact in world affairs. Some observers also say that France is increasingly concerned with the rising tide of European neutralism--particularly in Germany and the Netherlands.

The foreign ministers of the WEU are next scheduled to meet in Paris June 12, and Mr. Mitterrand's ideas are expected to be discussed at that time. But French officials caution that it will be a low-key affair and that France intends to tread very carefully because of West German fears the WEU might weaken NATO and encourage at least a partial U.S. troop withdrawal from Europe. Britain is relatively cool to the idea for the same reason....

A new opinion poll conducted for the European Parliament showed that 41 percent of the French would like Britain to leave the EEC, while 26 percent of Britons want France out.

In a practical demonstration of French-German cooperation, both governments, according to the May 28 AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, are expected to sign a joint memorandum of understanding for the development of a new antitank helicopter by early July. The first flight of a prototype could be in 1987, and the first delivery--to the French military--could be as early as 1991.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau