

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

We have nearly completed the 11th session of the third round of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It's hard to believe that this round is more than half completed, with only nine sessions remaining.

The men and their wives of this current session appreciated hearing from Mr. Armstrong on the opening day, Wednesday, December 5. In his message, Mr. Armstrong placed special emphasis on the topic of reliance on God vs. self-reliance. He discussed how Adam chose the Satan-inspired way of self-reliance, and rejected reliance on God for the knowledge of how to live, cooperate, have peace, solve problems, and relate to other beings. The message was very inspiring and set the tone for the remaining nine days of classes. Those attending this session were also able to hear Mr. Armstrong give the Friday night Bible study two days later.

I hope all of you have read carefully the account of the first half of Mr. Armstrong's latest trip in the November 26 WORLDWIDE NEWS. The December 10 issue contains the news of the last half of the trip. Many very important developments in the work of God's Church are outlined in these articles by Mr. Aaron Dean. Each of us needs to make sure we are keeping current with all the new doors God is opening, so that we can rejoice with all God's elect around the earth.

After attending my mother's funeral in Chicago last Friday, I had a very pleasant and profitable visit with the Chicago West (known as the Hinsdale) congregation on the Sabbath. I couldn't help but reflect on the tremendous growth God has given us in the Chicago area since I left in 1966. Now, the Hinsdale congregation alone is nearly the size the whole Chicago Church was at that time! Today, we have five congregations in the Chicago area, with three pastors, three associate pastors and over 1,600 brethren.

After the funeral, my son-in-law, Mr. Doug Horchak, pastor of the Glendora, California congregation, and I had the opportunity to spend some time with Mr. Al Barr, pastor of the Chicago Southside congregation, and Mr. Michael Swaggerty, pastor of the Chicago Northwest and North congregations, as well as Mr. Lowell Foster, associate pastor in the Northwest, and Messrs. Eugene Dumas and Dolpus Williamson, elders in the Southside.

After speaking to the Hinsdale brethren on the Sabbath, we enjoyed renewing many old acquaintances, and speaking to Mr. Ben Faulkner, associate pastor in Hammond, Indiana, Mr. Tim Snyder, associate pastor in the West Church and Messrs. Phil Fowler, Dillard Alexander, Dave Roenspies and Clarence Svehla, elders in these two congregations, which are pastored by Mr. John Ritenbaugh.

I greatly appreciated the fine job Mr. Ritenbaugh did in conducting my mother's funeral service. The Ritenbaughs were excellent hosts in every way.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

We have just returned from the third Refreshing Program. To us this Refreshing Program certainly highlighted the previous two programs.

Thank you Mr. Armstrong, very much, for allowing these programs. We feel that they are a tremendous instrument in pulling the ministry together so we are saying the same thing. It is so evident that the instructors, for all subjects, are thoroughly dedicated and committed to teaching their respective portions in an uplifting and positive manner. In reviewing our notes, we are learning more deeply the intents of the messages given.

We appreciate Mr. Tkach's example of zeal, dedication and loyalty, which is so obvious. It is encouraging and inspiring.

We thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your continued example set for all of us, with your love and your encouragement that we need. Please be encouraged through your daily stressful times and know that we are behind you, holding up your hands. We love you very much, for truly you are like a father to us. Our prayers are with you daily.

Frank Jr. and Charlene McCrady

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for another tremendously beneficial Ministerial Refreshing Program! Attending the September session was like a feast before the Feast.

This program, as usual, we especially enjoyed getting to know the international ministers. It is clear that God is using these programs to coordinate His ministry worldwide so that we are approaching our responsibilities with the same mind.

The program also helps us to appreciate that we are a part of a global Church with God and Christ in charge. We come to the campus as students rather than as ministers. Then we are privileged to go out to serve as ministers teaching what we've been taught. Perhaps programs like these will continue for millennia.

In addition to sending thanks to all the instructors, thanks to all in Ministerial Services and the various departments who put much time and care into special information packets, tours and gifts.

Gary and Marsali Pendergraft

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Having returned to the Netherlands from the Ministerial Refreshing Programme III, my wife and I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Tkach and the staff for

this fine programme. Thank you for the inspiring and powerful presentations and the greater depth of understanding of God's plan and the needs of the Church.

The programme has given us very effective material in helping us to carry out our responsibilities in this part of the world. The Dutch language brethren will be given an even greater opportunity to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ in the sermons that will follow.

Thank you for your continued dedicated personal example as you lead God's Church on. It is a great blessing to be in God's Church and to be permitted to serve in the ministry.

Bram and Judy de Bree

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Lynn and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, and through you Mr. Armstrong, for the privilege of attending another session of the Ministerial Refreshing Programme.

We continue to feel that this programme of periodic visits to headquarters is of immense and lasting value. To be inspired and updated on the latest news of the work of God's Church, to be reminded of the basics, to be instructed and corrected in areas of current problems or interest, to fellowship with fellow ministers and faculty--all contribute to a remarkable unifying effect and morale boost which is of immense value to our ability to effectively pastor our flock. May it long continue!

I won't pretend to deny that long hours of sitting and concentration don't take their toll physically. Mr. Carlton Green doesn't help either with his delicious and tempting fare. It is worth every second, drinking in the atmosphere and Spirit of God's Church and College for an all-too-short period of time.

Thank you again for all your efforts and those of the team there in Pasadena. We are busy trying to absorb all the material and faithfully apply it to enrich the lives of our congregations.

John and Lynn Meakin

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

We deeply appreciate all the effort, time and research that many of you have put into producing articles for The GOOD NEWS. Your writing has made it possible for us to publish an intelligent, high-quality, widely received magazine full of variety and punch each month. We couldn't do what we do without you!

We now have on hand an overabundance of excellent material on a wide variety of subjects--enough articles, in fact, to continue publishing for several years even if no one writes another article. To prevent writer frustration and articles becoming stale or outdated, we would like to work on publishing the articles we now have in our working file before more new material is

produced. Thus we would like to ask that no new articles or article ideas be submitted to The GOOD NEWS until further notice, unless they have been assigned.

Please note that this announcement does not apply to contributions to the YOUTH magazine. The PLAIN TRUTH, as you know, is written by the staff here.

We will make an announcement in the future when article submissions would again be useful in The GOOD NEWS. Until such time, however, we are not in a position to accept any new articles for The GOOD NEWS, nor can we evaluate articles or authors. We simply do not have the staff or time. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Semiannual Letter Off to Good Start

After 11 days, we have received nearly 150,000 responses to the semiannual letter, which is slightly above average. We are especially encouraged to find that new subscribers are expressing great interest in the literature offered--THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS. Most co-workers already have these booklets.

We're also receiving a relatively high number of donations from new subscribers and primes (those who have renewed The PLAIN TRUTH at least once). To date, almost 4,000 have sent in contributions.

Since the semiannual is an important vehicle God uses to provide more laborers, you may want to remind the brethren to continue praying for a strong response to this current letter.

Cable Stations Draw High Response

"The WORLD TOMORROW" program now airs on three major cable stations each weekend--WOR in New York, WGN in Chicago, and WTBS in Atlanta. These cable networks are available in most areas of the United States.

In 1984, the weekend response from WOR and WGN has averaged nearly 700 calls per station, with the total from each sometimes exceeding 1,000. WTBS averages about 400 calls per weekend and has gone as high as 625. These three stations account for approximately one-fifth of all weekend WATS calls.

Condolences for Dwight Armstrong's Family

Scores of members have sent cards of sympathy and encouragement to Mr. Herbert Armstrong after learning of his brother Dwight's death. They highly praised his inspiring music and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Church hymnal. A number added they were looking forward to meeting him in the resurrection. Following are some of their comments:

We were sorry to hear about the death of your dear brother. He was a man of great talent and ability and obviously used of God to the great inspiration of His people through song and music. The work that he has done will continue to honor him as God's people

sing his songs weekly in Sabbath services around the world. We will look forward to meeting him again in God's Kingdom.

May God comfort you in your loss and heal your eyes and ears that you may serve Him to the coming of His Son.

Mr. & Mrs. E.V. (Farmersville, CA)

Words could never fully express our sympathy on the news of your brother Dwight's death. We appreciate the talent and effort of his contribution in putting the Scriptures into music every time we sing the hymns he composed.

Mr. & Mrs. J.W. (McCool Junction, NE)

We were sorry to learn of Mr. Dwight Armstrong's death. We all realize though that he is at rest and peace and the suffering is over for him. God used him in a wonderful way to provide the psalms put to music for all of us to sing and praise God by each Sabbath.

Mrs. A.T. (Barnhart, TX)

We just wanted to let you know that our prayers are with you always, especially now at the time of the loss of your brother. His contribution to God's Church has helped us all to learn to praise God in song, a lesson we all need help with. My husband and I think of you and pray for you daily. We appreciate your personal sacrifices and are indebted to you.

Mr. & Mrs. B.L. (Indianapolis, IN)

I was sorry to hear of your brother's death, but so thankful we have the many hymns he wrote for us. He had a true gift from God.

C.T. (Elkhart, IN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE BHOPAL TRAGEDY; CHINA TAKES ANOTHER STEP;
SOUTHERN AFRICA (SPECIAL REPORT--PART I)

The scene, said one reporter, was as if the Indian city of Bhopal had been struck by a neutron bomb. Buildings were undamaged, but humans--2,500 at last estimate--and animals littered the ground. The accidental leak of deadly methyl isocyanate (MIC) from a Union Carbide chemical plant was the worst industrial accident in history. It followed shortly on the wake of another tragedy, the explosion of a series of gas tanks in a section of Mexico City, resulting in the deaths of 452 people.

In both cases, curiously enough, the urban "implosion" in the developing countries made the disasters worse. Both plants had originally been built on the outskirts of each affected city, but shanty-town slums quickly sprouted up around the plants. The roots of the Bhopal disaster are also traceable back to the 1960s, when Indian officials, faced with chronic food shortages, opted for the "Green Revolution" techniques of the West. The new high-yield grains, however, demanded increased use of pesticides and

fertilizers. The Union Carbide plant produces pesticides, a major component of which is the highly toxic MIC.

The Bhopal tragedy also shows the danger of transplanting highly sophisticated technology to Third World countries where, for the most part, there is insufficient appreciation of maintenance and safety procedures. At Bhopal, the plant was operating even though parts of the safety backup systems (such as the scrubber, which could have neutralized the escaping gas) were down for repair. Here are excerpts from an article published in the December 8 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Ellen K. Silbergeld, a nationally known expert on toxic industrial chemicals, said...Union Carbide and many other large U.S. chemical makers have a reputation among American environmentalists for responsible behavior. But she said it is "a matter of some concern when very hazardous technologies are exported" to developing nations.... "Even if a company such as Union Carbide, with the best good will in the world, establishes a plant with the most modern safety precautions, I think it's difficult to ensure that it can be run to the same standards as in the United States."

A number of experts...charge that multinationals use developing nations as "havens" for dirty or unsafe industrial processes that would be too costly to operate in countries with strict pollution or safety rules.... Most corporate leaders sharply disagree with the double-standard argument. Union Carbide, for example, has stated that its Bhopal plant was built and run according to U.S. safety standards.

A new study of eight multinationals by the Swiss-based International Labor Office concluded that "nearly all" of the firms' foreign plants follow higher safety standards than are required in their host nations.... But it also noted that safety rules set by companies' headquarters are not always enforced in distant plants.

In most of the Third World the concern for the public good is severely lacking. Reported the December 17 issue of NEWSWEEK:

An arguable litmus test of any society's concern with such matters is the attention paid to last week's disaster in Bhopal, and by that standard Mexico [scene of the recent gas tank explosions] ranks low. While front pages from Rome to Hong Kong featured the story prominently, Mexican newspapers of all ideological persuasions generally buried wire-service accounts of the incidents.... Some experts complain of poor safety standards at Mexico's petrochemical facilities--most of them government-owned since nationalization of the energy industry in 1938. Nine workers died in one of two major pipeline explosions this year.

Perhaps the most unconscionable outcome of the Bhopal case has been the rush of American lawyers to India, hoping to profit from the tragedy. The leading "international ambulance chaser" is San Francisco lawyer Melvin Belli. He's filed a 15 billion dollar negligence suit against Union Carbide, not in India's courts (noted for their integrity) but in the U.S.,

in West Virginia. He may not be successful (there are precedents against such actions) but it's obviously worth the gamble to Belli. (He would stand to gain 40% of any award.) Connecticut's attorney general Joseph Liberman was appalled at such opportunism, saying, "Disaster relief does not come in pin-striped suits." If, perchance, Belli were successful, the role of multinational corporations in the Third World could be seriously inhibited, sending these nations even further down the road of economic decline.

China's New Leap Forward

Last week a remarkable editorial appeared in the PEOPLE'S DAILY, the Chinese Communist Party newspaper. It all but said that the teachings of both Marx and Lenin had little validity in today's world. The "Marx is obsolete" dismissal follows by a couple of months China's plans to extend the principles of decentralized planning and the profit motive, so successful in agriculture, into the urban parts of the country, into the factory work place. Roger Fontaine, writing in the December 10 WASHINGTON TIMES, provides some details in the latest chapter of China's great change:

The startling editorial...appears to be a turning point in the history of the international communist movement.... The editorial does not reject the communist movement's patron saints--Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin (the "four beards," as the Chinese call them). But it does challenge for the first time that marxist theory can be counted upon to solve the problems of today. The People's Daily scored traditional Marxism-Leninism for being incomplete and out-of-date. To orthodox communists, Marx and Lenin propounded a scientific law of history and society, which could never be obsolete.

"There are many things that Marx, Engels and Lenin never experienced or had any contact with," the editorial charged. "We cannot depend on the works of Marx and Lenin to solve our modern-day questions."...

What is clear is that, under the leadership of pragmatic Deng Xiaoping, the People's Republic of China has taken one large step away from treating Marxism-Leninism as sacrosanct. This is even more startling since it was the Chinese two decades ago who scorned the mildest of reforms outlined by then-Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev as being "revisionist."...

The radical pronouncement from Peking followed a series of moves begun in December 1978, when Mr. Deng began to move the party away from the highly collectivized Mao-style communism with "practical" measures designed to reform the economy after a decade of destruction brought on by the Cultural Revolution. Under the theme of the "four modernizations," peasants were first given greater freedom to grow and sell their products at personal profit to themselves. Two months ago, under the relatively innocent-sounding title of "urban reforms," the regime announced a landmark economic plan to guide China's industrial sector, within certain limits, along free market principles....

Observers on the mainland and on the periphery are making cautious estimates regarding the future of communist China. One an-

alyst stated recently that, while the editorial is significant and the economic reforms real, the Peking regime maintains "tight political control."... He also warns that there is "very serious internal debate inside communist China. Within the existing system there are powerful people who question the new policies.... We don't know the real story yet," the analyst concedes.

NEW YORK TIMES columnist William Safire, in his December 12 column, also took note of the monumental changes in China--and the bitter infighting that must be underway in Chinese leadership. After all, many bureaucrats stand to lose their power. Henceforth individuals will be appointed to run factories who have the technical and organizational skills to do so, not just ideological purity and loyalty. Safire also notes the impact that China's reforms will be having on the Soviet Union:

Less than a decade ago, the extreme-left Maoists who became known as the "Gang of Four" accused Deng Xiaoping of plotting to take China down "the capitalist road." While denying it all the way, that's what he did. Now even the denials have stopped. Last week, Peking's People's Daily front-paged words that go beyond deviationism, beyond revisionism, into what Soviet Communist theoreticians can only call counterrevolution....

Although we are not permitted to see it, Deng is waging...ideological war inside his country. Of the 40 million Party members--the bureaucrats and soldiers who run the nation--nobody knows how many million are still Maoists, furious at the present turn of events....

By the year 2000, say Dengists, the absorption of Hong Kong and the anticipated voluntary merger with Taiwan will bring new know-how and impetus to China's no-longer-Communist economy. This will lead to an "industrious revolution" and the emergence of a third superpower.

Soviet leaders must be viewing this snowballing trend with horror. If China succeeds in just feeding itself with a market economy, the neighboring Soviet system will be shown to be a failure; the entire Russian leadership--millions of party members--will be threatened internally, by the same sort of counter-revolution that threw out the doctrinaire Marxists in China. If the Soviet Union cannot stop the Chinese turnaround politically, the threatened men of the Politburo may think they are forced to do it militarily. That way lies World War III.

One day earlier (December 11), NEW YORK TIMES political affairs analyst Flora Lewis speculated on the impact of China's decision on the Soviet Union:

China's official attack on Marxist orthodoxy as outdated and a hindrance to needed reform was such a surprise to the Soviet-bloc Communists that it left them speechless. It is a historic watershed that can have far-reaching, dramatic consequences.... It flies straight in the face of the assertion that Marxist precepts are proven knowledge, "scientific materialism," and that Marxist forecasts of universal triumph are as reliable as predicting an

eclipse--"historical inevitability." This myth is the only base for the claim of Communist hierarchies to legitimacy, to ideological superiority, to pie in the sky.

Certainly, the sanctity of the texts is a handicap when it comes to adjusting to a changing world. It is a major reason why the Russians find it so hard to reform. But they cling to their dogma because they need it to justify their power. They are frightened of losing control without the ideological security blanket that covers their brute security forces.

In the December 12 WASHINGTON TIMES, Hoover Institution scholar Arnold Beichman also pondered the Soviet response:

Deng Xiaoping's rediscovery of Adam Smith and the principles of the free market, however short-lived that exercise may be, is sure to hasten top-level changes in the present Soviet leadership, with Mikhail Gorbachev, youngest Politburo member, likely successor to the ailing Konstantin Chernenko....

Stalin dropped Marxism-Leninism like a flash during World War II, and instead raised high the banner of Rossiya Mat, Mother Russia. He knew that nobody would die for Marxism-Leninism but some would die for their country, and Stalin anticipated Mr. Deng by 43 years in repudiating Marxism-Leninism. [It would be better to say that Stalin temporarily deemphasized Marxism-Leninism.] So there is precedent in Soviet history for such action. It will not occur under Mr. Chernenko. It could, however, be introduced by Mr. Gorbachev as the first step away from continued economic disaster.

A December 13 WALL STREET JOURNAL editorial, entitled "Burying Marx" pointed out the questions surrounding Eastern Europe too:

China's critique of Marx should be especially troubling for the legitimacy of governments in Eastern Europe, where most citizens already take Marx about as seriously as the tooth fairy. The Soviets won't like it much, especially if China's open-market reforms lead to faster economic progress, again showing up the Soviet model as a failure.

South Africa--The Pressure Builds (Part I)

Virtually the entire continent of Africa is slipping into a post-colonial dark age. Famine--much of it politically induced--afflicts millions of suffering Africans. Political corruption is almost incomprehensible. Zaire's President Mobutu is widely reported to have lined his pockets with the equivalent of four billion dollars while in office. Much of the wealth is said to be squirrelled away in Switzerland and elsewhere. Throughout the continent government turmoil is endemic; the president of drought-ravaged Mauritania (which grows only five percent of its food requirements) is the latest to be overthrown, just this week.

Against this sordid background--no one seems to make the connection--the pressure is building, rapidly and strongly, for the final "liberation" on the continent, in South Africa. No country in the world, not even the much-

maligned state of Israel, has so many foes arrayed against it. At least five formidable opponents stand out: 1) Black power activists within South Africa itself who covet political power; 2) the civil rights community in the United States, staging demonstrations at South African government offices, anxious to revive their faltering movement with a new, unifying cause; 3) the white liberal establishments throughout the Western world; 4) the whole Communist bloc; and lastly 5) the entire United Nations system. Certainly, these people can't all be wrong, can they?

Given the scope and intensity of the opposition, responsible South Africans have next to no chance of successfully explaining their unique problems and proposed solutions to a hostile world. One has about as much chance of explaining the facts about the complexities of South Africa to an individual emotionally set against the country as trying to make a believer in the conspiracy theory of history see the light.

The recent furor over South Africa came in the aftermath of a governmental crack-down on black labor union leaders (a relatively new class) who had called for work stoppages in the major urban complexes. They admitted that their goal was to turn their newly won economic leverage to political advantage. For days, black workers were intimidated into staying off their jobs. At the same time, ever more radical activists have been committing political murders inside the urban black townships. Black mayors, councilmen, police officers, now even leading businessmen have been assassinated, all in the cause of the anticipated revolution. Naturally, with local authority breaking down, the government had no choice but to send in the army. This is exactly what the radicals wanted--TV pictures of South African soldiers "oppressing" the people.

At the same time, South Africa's Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu was granted the Nobel Peace Prize--in what the Nobel committee (composed largely of far-away Scandinavian liberals) openly admitted was a political statement intended to influence developments of a certain kind in South Africa. While Bishop Tutu portrays himself as a man of peace and a leader of moderation, his words and actions betray him. Not long ago Tutu warned South Africa's Indians and Colored people that if they supported the government's plan for the new parliaments for them, then the black majority would deal with them later. Eight months ago Tutu was castigated in Parliament for supporting the banned, Communist-backed African National Congress revolution movement which launches periodic terrorist attacks in the country. He is said to have commented that while he supports the aims of the ANC, he does not support their violent means. That is similar to saying one supports the PLO but not its violent techniques--a distinction difficult to make.

On one particular occasion the Anglican bishop told an interviewer: "I will never tell someone to pick up a gun. But I will pray for the man who picks up a gun, pray that he will be less cruel than he might otherwise have been." Perhaps Bishop Tutu should have been aboard the recently hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. He might have been able to convince the vicious hijackers to be "less cruel."

Tutu's main argument is riveted on the government's "separate development" policy of creating independent states for the various black tribal nations within South Africa. Four homelands have been elevated to independence--Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei. Africans in these areas become citizens of these new states. This--not minor irritations over discrimina-

tion, much of it in the past--is what separate development, or apartheid, is all about.

Black leaders with political ambitions, such as Tutu, are furious over this process. It decreases their future chances of using the black majority as a power base from which to elevate their own chances at political power. Thus Tutu continually denounces apartheid--which practically no one understands outside South Africa, and which is equated only with racial discrimination --in the most outlandish terms. In delivering his Nobel lecture, Tutu said that "blacks are systematically being stripped of their South African citizenship.... This is apartheid's final solution, just as Nazism had its final solution for the Jews in Hitler's Aryan madness." Tutu makes it sound as if hundreds of thousands of Zulus, Xhosas, Sothos and others are being shipped off to concentration camps.

"The bishop," as he is often called, wants power, and he sees his chances slipping away. Of course, no one in the news media would suggest that a "man of the cloth" harbors such ambitions. While in the United States recently, Tutu said that South African blacks who oppose communism would nonetheless welcome a Soviet takeover if it dismantled white rule. "Anything would be better than apartheid," he said. "It is such a vicious system.... It is totally evil, immoral and unChristian." He specifically denounced the Reagan administration's policy of quiet diplomacy with South Africa--called "constructive engagement"--as being "equally immoral, evil, and totally unChristian."

While in New York and in Washington (before the House Foreign Relations committee and in a visit to President Reagan) Tutu applauded the mounting pressure for "disinvestment." Under this process, activists have forced a growing number of state, municipal, and collegiate pension fund managers to sell off stocks of those U.S. companies that do business in South Africa. The ultimate goal is to force U.S. business entirely out of the country. Tutu said that "those who are involved in South Africa economically are buttressing one of the most evil systems."

Yet a recent, highly respected survey of black workers in South Africa revealed that fully 75% of them are against disinvestment. Their jobs--increasingly more lucrative--are at stake. Asked which foreign firms promoted their welfare best, the workers overwhelmingly selected American companies. Zulu Paramount Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, no ally of Prime Minister P.W. Botha by any means, has firmly denounced this disinvestment drive.

Tutu's "Christianity" was seriously questioned in South Africa by one of that country's leading white liberals, Alan Paton, author of CRY, THE BE-LOVED COUNTRY. "Bishop Tutu, I want to ask you a question," wrote Paton. "I do not understand how your Christian conscience allows you to advocate disinvestment. I do not understand how you can put a man out of work for a high moral principle...especially a black man...."

The "moral principle"--not very high indeed--of those advocating disinvestment and economic dislocation is basically this: "Trust us! You may have to lose your job for now, for the sake of your liberation. But after the revolution, all will be well. You'll have your jobs back--and political power too!" (Of course, as everywhere else in Africa, the people would not wield any power at all, only the leaders who covet it.) This extremely dangerous policy was recently denounced by Chief Buthelezi, whose words have gone

largely unheeded by the U.S. press. Nevertheless, the editors of the WASHINGTON POST did reprint his warning in their October 30 issue:

Outsiders need to be aware of the danger of supporting only protest politics, which arouse anger but do not direct it toward achievable goals.... If change is ever achieved in South Africa through violence, we will find that the foundations of the future will have been destroyed in the course of liberating the country. We have the choice whether or not to employ that degree of violence. There are, in fact, many who have made this choice and who believe that the country must be reduced to ashes so that a new start can one day be made. I understand the anger that leads to this kind of desperation, but I reject it, and the vast majority of South Africans reject it. I do not believe we have to destroy the foundations of the future to bring about radical change. I believe ways and means can be found to build up black bargaining power to force whites to negotiate.

There is something strange about the intensification of the pressure against South Africa. There are not a few who believe that the orchestration of the anti-apartheid drive is traceable to Moscow. And for good reason. The Kremlin has taken two severe prestige beatings in African affairs. Most recently, it was embarrassed about how little it could aid its own client state, Ethiopia, in its famine situation. The hated capitalist western world came to the rescue instead.

Even more than this, Moscow was red-faced when Marxist Mozambique, wracked by famine, civil war and a shattered economy, was forced by reality to make peace with South Africa last March 16. The two states signed the Nkomati accord. (Note too that South Africa's President P.W. Botha and Mozambique President Samora Machel did not receive the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts!) Other states in the region are also aligning themselves more with Pretoria, turning away from Moscow's siren calls. Marxist Angola just might send its 30,000 troops home in a three-way deal with South Africa and the United States to engineer independence with Southwest Africa or Namibia. Everywhere in the region Moscow is on the run. The U.S. policy of "constructive engagement," so villified by Bishop Tutu, has been working. But now, because of political heat inside the U.S., President Reagan has felt pressured to go public with strong criticisms of South Africa's policies.

In short, until very recently, Moscow has been losing and the West has been winning. This is how the May 17 issue of the British newsletter, SPECIAL OFFICE BRIEF, put it:

It should not be forgotten that the Soviet Union has never deviated from its stated objective of world domination. To achieve this it will have to gain control of mineral-rich Southern Africa, and its strategy in gaining this control is to aggravate tensions and hamper the search for peaceful solutions. This is underlined by the Kremlin's deafening silence on the current peace initiatives and rapprochement between governments in Southern Africa. It is the last thing Moscow wishes to see.

More on this rapidly building and incredibly misunderstood issue in the future.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau