

MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

**a review
of world events
in 1977
based on bible prophecy**

G. Pearce

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foreword

This book is designed to give an outline of world trends for 1977 as considered on the background of Bible Prophecy.

Four things clearly emerge therefrom:

1. The nations are assuming the positions relative to the time of the end as indicated in Bible prophecy.

2. The interpretations and prognostications of Brother Thomas as based on Bible prophecy are demonstrated to be basically correct in view of recent developments.

3. We are living in the shadow of Christ's second coming.

4. His coming is before the descent of Gog into the Middle East and the international crisis that will lead to Armageddon.

In view of this, the exhortation of the Lord is particularly appropriate to the times: "Behold I come as a thief; blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 16:15).

The word "watch" signifies to be awake, to be alert. The purpose in publishing this book is to alert the reader to the significance of the times, that he may attain unto the blessed state indicated by the Lord in his statement.

— H. P. Mansfield
Logos Publications
(December, 1977).

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CHAPTER ONE

THE ENDING OF AN AGE

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ENDING OF AN AGE

The world's history can be divided into a number of epochs, each one under the controlling hand of God — the One Whom Paul declared was not only the Creator of all things, but Who had “determined before the times appointed, and the bounds of the nations' habitation” (Acts 17:24,26). Men only see the outward expression of this control in the rise and fall of nations and empires. The ending of an epoch is marked Biblically as a *day of the Lord*. There was a “day of the Lord” for Egypt (Jer. 46:10); for Babylon (Isa. 13:7); for Judah (Zeph. 1:14). There is a future “day of the Lord” for Judah, (Zech. 14:1), and for those who come against her (Joel 3:14). This coming “day of the Lord” will be terrible to all the proud and lofty nations (Isa. 2:12,19): “For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.....And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty, when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth.”

The ending of an age comes because of extreme wickedness. Thus it was in the days of Noah: “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that the imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” What a terrible state — “only evil continually.” In the days of Abraham, “the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full” (Gen. 15:6), and God was to wait a further four generations. So for Israel in the days of Jesus, there was a little time left, and Jesus charged the blind hypocritical Pharisees, “Fill ye up the measure of your fathers.” Yahweh is a God of judgment and He changes not. The ending of the present world order draws near because of wickedness. We live in days like those of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah. It is not necessary to illustrate this. Surely every one of us is like Lot: “For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unrighteous deeds” (2 Pet. 2:8). And we pray daily for our deliverance.

The wise man noted the character of the last generation of each Age: “There is a generation, that curseth their father, and

doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men” (Prov. 30:11-14).

Paul said to Timothy that the last generation of Judah’s commonwealth would be like this: “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, etc.” (2 Tim. 3:1-4). And how true the words are of the last days of the Gentile Age.

Another characteristic of the ending of an Age, is the abnormality in nature: people are beset with crises arising from drought, disease, earthquake, and natural disaster. All these things are under the control of the angels, and express God’s displeasure. It is a matter particularly expressed with regard to Israel, but has wider application. God through Ezekiel speaks of His hand against Jerusalem: “How much more when I send My four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beasts, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?” (Ez. 14:21). Many times the prophets speak of God bringing drought and famine on a land. Amos declares that the control of the rain was so precise that it rained on one city and not on another city. In the same chapter he speaks of God destroying with blasting, mildew, and the palmerworm (Amos 4:9), Jesus recognised this control by God and told his disciples to expect these things as the Mosaic Age approached its end: “Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilence; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven” (Luke 21:11). If it has been like this in the past, we must expect it today.

These are some of the means by which God brings about “the distress of nations with perplexity” (Luke 21:25). Newspaper reports make us aware particularly of the increasing natural disturbance of Nature, in earthquakes and the like, with their toll of life and property. A report in *Civil Defence* for March, 1977 gave details of particularly destructive earthquakes during 1976 in Guatemala, Italy, the Philippines, Indonesia, Turkey and China.

Many of these troubles do not require any “miracle” from God: they work themselves out inevitably because of the fixed laws of God in Nature. Man’s greed, his mismanagement of the good

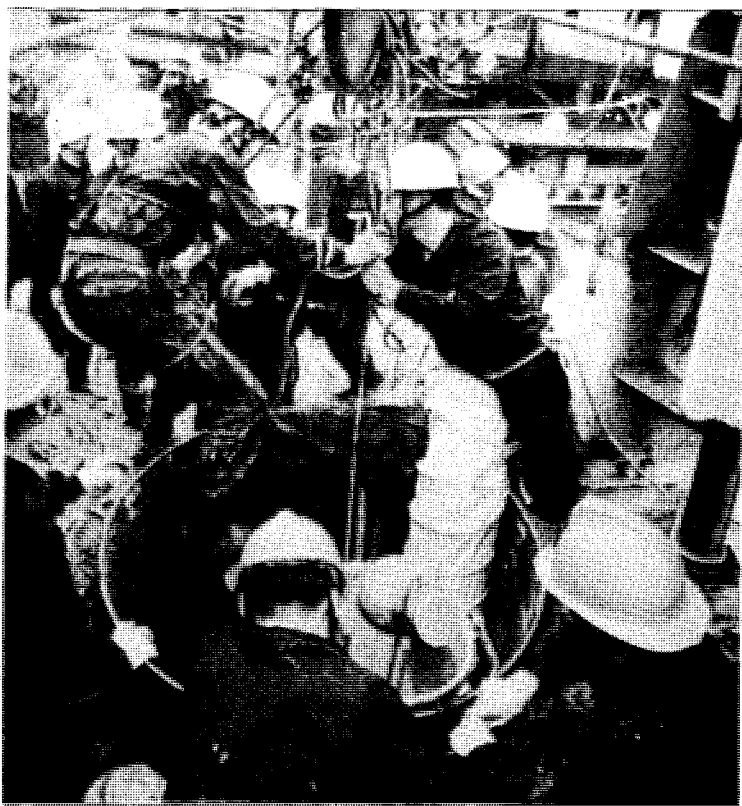


Extreme varieties of weather constitute a "time of the end" phenomena. Severe drought in Florida left some areas a checker-board of cracked, parched earth.

earth, the pollution caused by his "many inventions" bring inevitable consequences. The present moral degradation, characteristically outlined at the end of Romans, inevitably brings much suffering, cruelty, and unhappiness. But all things are under God's control, and these events denote the ending of the Age; it is part of the general signs of the times.

In addition to features that are general to the ending of every Age, prophecy has told us of some features that are more specific to the ending of our Gentile Age. There are the words used by Jesus in Luke ch. 21: "The sea and the waves roaring." How expressive this is of socialism — the power of the masses. Starting with the French Revolution the cry of *liberty, equality, fraternity* has aroused the masses in every country of the world; and aided by education, industrial invention, and politics, the power exerted by the masses is a frightful force, and adds to the increasing

ungovernability of the world. There is another phrase of a similar kind that certainly characterises our time; it is the phrase given to Daniel regarding the time of the End: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). The explosion in knowledge, and the speed of travel encompassing the globe, are quite dramatic. The hand of God is behind it all. He is controlling, making preparation for the Age to come when there shall be one



Workmen in Tokyo recovering the body of a fellow-workman killed by pollution: caught in a pocket of oxygen-deficient air.

King, one Religion, one Empire. By the forces liberated at the French Revolution, described as “the spirit of life from God” (Rev. 11:11), there has been a quickening of human activity that is bringing all peoples and lands into contact and lifting the primitive peoples of the earth on to the level of the “civilised” European peoples. It is all preparatory to the establishing of the universal rule of Christ.

The growing interdependence of the peoples of the world, combined with man’s unco-operative, selfish behaviour, is resulting in world economic instability. This is illustrated by the handling of the price of oil by the Arab countries: it results in the poor countries becoming poorer, and the rich countries who can cope with the problems becoming richer; while the Arab countries do not know how to use their money. Economically world affairs may soon be beyond human control.

All these signs of the ending of an Age, are not matters specific to any one year, but as year follows year, they are matters that become increasingly noticeable, warning us that the End is approaching.

SIGNS IN THE POLITICAL HEAVENS

Leaving these general signs that become increasingly relevant as the years go by, we look at more specific happenings that belong to the past few years. There are an almost bewildering number of significant events to be pieced together, but they can be classified under the following headings:

1. Events that centre round Russia — her newly developed sea-power; her global and imperial progress; and her threat to western Europe.
2. Events that have a “King of the North — King of the South” aspect (Dan. ch. 11).
3. Significant changes in Israel’s outlook.
4. The development of “the Names of Blasphemy” (Rev. ch. 17), and the influence of the Vatican.
5. Britain and her future.

CHAPTER TWO

EVENTS THAT CENTRE AROUND RUSSIA

RUSSIA'S GLOBAL STRATEGY

The world scene in a military and political sense is dominated by the progress of Russia as a world imperial power. From the days of Bro. Thomas it has been Christadelphian understanding of prophecy that a northern confederacy is to come down on Palestine, and that Russia will be the head of that confederacy. Russia has been expanding for centuries as sketch map no. 1 page 12 shows. Her expansion was first eastward into Siberia, but over the last century she has been pushing south and west, and has already exerted her control over most of the countries of eastern Europe.

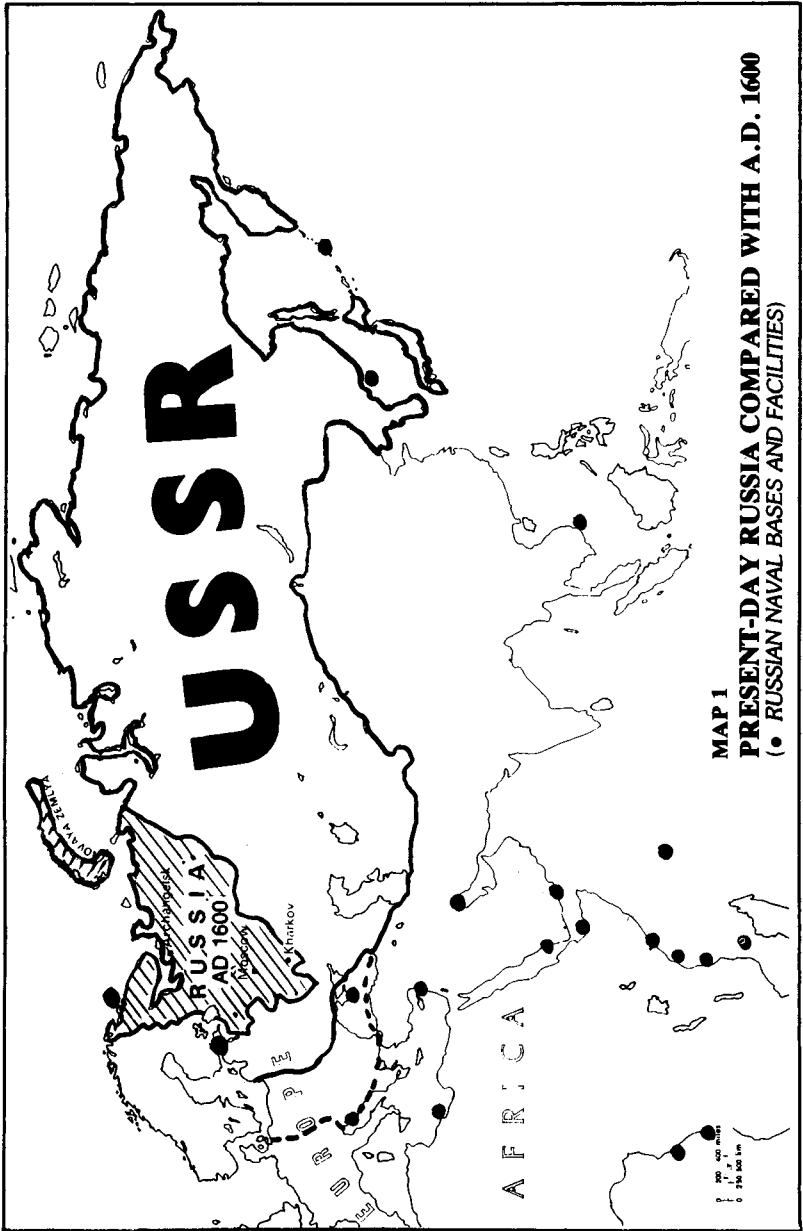
At the end of World War 11, Smuts, the S.African statesman, rightly assessed the growing power of Russia: "Russia is the new colossus in Europe — the new colossus bestrides this continent. When we consider all that has happened to Russia within the last twenty-five years, and we see Russia's inexplicable and phenomenal rise, we can only call it one of the great phenomena in history. It is the sort of thing to which there is no parallel in history you will have Russia in a position which no country has ever occupied in the history of Europe" (3.12.1943). What a striking assessment!

Since these words were uttered some thirty years ago, the phenomenal development of Russia's power and influence has been remarkable. The latest phase has been her emergence as a world imperial power. This may be described as a new phase, because previously her expansion has been the extension of her own borders. She has been a land-locked country pushing out her boundaries in all directions. Now, due to her remarkable development of sea power she is emerging as a world power. Her sea power gives her ability to operate for her own ends anywhere in the world. The effect of this is quite profound: she is moving into a position where she can exert many indirect pressures to attain some particular goal. She is building up stranglehold grips that could be decisive in any occasion of aggression that she may choose to make.

This complexity of Russia's operations is very much the measure of her menace to the West. She is, as it were, playing a game of chess. The pieces on a chessboard have different

permitted moves and degrees of importance. The skill is in combining the action of all the pieces in a worked-out plan to reach the point of checkmate. Russians are good at chess; and this is so on the world political and military chessboard. The intentions of a move may not be obvious on the surface. For instance we know of Russian activity in Angola and Mozambique. This we may discern is aimed at neutralising South Africa and its control of the sea route round the Cape. This sea route is of tremendous importance to Western Europe and Britain with regard to oil, food and many commodities. 25,000 ships go around the Cape of Good Hope each year, an average of 66 a day — with over fifty percent belonging to NATO countries. In addition, South Africa is a major source of beryllium, chromium, copper, asbestos, lead, nickel and uranium — all so essential to modern industry. One could examine a score of similar situations where Russia is acting indirectly for some strategic control. It is the sum of these that counts. By having a grip in many places, it means that when a crisis is engineered, say, a move into Yugoslavia and Turkey, the opposition is sufficiently paralysed to be ineffective or to acquiesce. This is the style of Russia's world strategy. This development of a world-wide ability to interfere, is the latest sign of Russia moving to her appointed destiny. This varied, forceful, world-wide activity of the Soviet has become more apparent in the past year or so.

This significant development in Russia's progress has been commented on by various observers of world affairs. Early in 1976 the *Daily Telegraph* Military correspondent, Brig. W. F. K. Thompson, wrote an article on *Why we are losing World War 111*. He claimed that World War 111 is in full spate and the western democracies are being gradually backed into a corner "The initiative has, so far, been left entirely to the Marxists. Russia's Empire is the powerhouse of this aggression, its driving force a mixture of Imperial ambitions and Marxist ideology. Her leaders think like Marxists but act as Russians. Russia aims to establish her hegemony over Eurasia, requiring the disengagement of the United States from Europe. The ability of Russia to harness Western Europe industry to her own ends would make her more powerful than the United States." "Russia's objective in World War 111 is to establish paramount political influence in areas of strategic importance so as to have the use of ports and airfields in times of crisis, enabling her to exploit local conflicts and increase the strength of her position to blackmail the West." "The astonishing development of Russia, over this past decade, into the world's second most powerful



The amazing growth of Russia in the light of Ezekiel 38 constitutes an undoubted sign of the times. Note how appropriate is the statement: "from the uttermost parts of the north" (Ezek. 38:15 R.V. — Dan. 11:40).

maritime power has greatly increased her political influence and her power to blackmail the West in time of crisis." (13.1.76). At the end of 1976 there was an editorial in the same vein: "World War 111, waged by Russia against the West, has been going on for 31 years. Not only is it going badly for the West, it is in fact being lost; The Russian campaign is being waged by a highly organised combination of conventional and unconventional means — the background threat from huge armed forces, military opportunism with limited risks, bogus *detente* diplomacy, subversion, industrial agitation, propaganda, and so on. The aim is to strengthen and consolidate the Soviet empire, demoralise the West, to establish a chain of vassal Marxist States round the world, to deprive the West of essential raw materials, (notably Central African minerals) and to threaten its ocean lifelines." (8.11.76).

It is sometimes pointed out that the Soviet is not equal, technologically, either with the U.S.A. or with western Europe. But this may well be a stimulus to aggression, rather than a deterrent. To gain the industrial potential of Western Europe for her own use would be a great prize. In any case, her lack of industrial skills is more than made up for by her aggressive spirit, when it comes to a time of conflict. The U.S.A. and Western Europe are comparatively morally decadent; they are much addicted to pleasure, vice, and indolence, and show little moral fibre in maintaining their freedom. The Russians live in the cold, inhospitable North, disciplined by the rigours of their climate, envious of the spoils of civilised Europe. The situation is a repetition of the barbaric invasions of the Roman Empire in the 5th and 6th centuries. The barbarians were not technically equal to the Romans; but they conquered. Habakkuk has long ago put on record the spirit of the latter-day Assyrian: "Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth to himself all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:.....Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! How long? and to him that ladeth himself with clay" (Hab. 2:5-6).

We can better appreciate the developing power of Russia by listing her varied lines of action.

1. There is the astonishingly rapid development of her sea power.
2. There is the outstanding military efficiency of the vast forces of Eastern Europe facing the lowlands of France and Germany.
3. The growth of Communism in all the countries of Western

Europe is of great significance.

4. She is using to her advantage the topical matter of *detente*, which means deceptive friendship — the hug of the bear.

5. There is widespread action in minor countries, such as Cuba, Angola, Iraq, Syria, Ethiopia, etc.

6. And there is the unseen hand of “intelligence” and subversion in all countries.

RUSSIAN SEA POWER

The new phase of Russia's world chessboard strategy has only become possible by the phenomenal development of her sea power. In a brief twenty-five years it has spread its threat to all the oceans. First the Mediterranean; then the North Atlantic; then the South Atlantic and African coast; then the cape of Southern Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf; and most recently the waters around South East Asia. All this in addition to her traditional areas of the Northern Pacific and the Baltic Sea. She has, as it were, made a ring of steel round the whole of the European-Asian land mass. And this naval activity, is of course, supported by necessary naval facilities “acquired” in each of these oceans.

Sketch map no. 1 (p. 12) shows the various ports she can use; almost all of them of recent development. Complementarily with this naval presence around the world, she has also acquired vital over-flying rights for her planes from various countries, so that she can move directly to any key position. She can fly directly over Egypt and Libya to Angola and other countries in Africa; or over Afghanistan to India.

Russia's naval threat to other nations in her imperial progress is not limited to combat ability in these various oceans. Her nuclear submarines are capable of launching underwater missiles accurately against any city of the U.S.A. (*Daily Telegraph* 27.8.76). The powers of aggression are marching ahead of those of defence.

In the *Conflict Studies* No. 84, June 1977, entitled *Soviet Sea Power: The Covert Support Fleet*, there is described how 1,600 merchant navy ships and 4,000 fishing vessels deployed all round the world are under the control of the Soviet Navy Command, and are integrated with the Navy. The Study uses the phrases, “this meteoric growth of Soviet sea power;” “the dramatic rise of Soviet naval and maritime forces in the past decade is a unique and unprecedented development in the whole history of sea power.”

It may help us to appreciate this ‘miraculous’ development of

Russia's sea-power merely by cataloguing some of the newspaper headlines over the past 20 years.

Some Newspaper Headlines

1954 —

GROWING POWER OF SOVIET NAVY.

£12,000 millions spent on it in nine years.

500 submarines by 1957.

1953 —

RUSSIAN NAVY NOW SECOND LARGEST IN WORLD

More Soviet cruisers being built annually than by all the

N.A.T.O. forces combined.

1959 —

SOVIET WARSHIPS IN MEDITERRANEAN

Two more pass through the Dardenelles.

1963 —

SOVIET NUCLEAR SUBMARINES DOUBLES

One added monthly

1969 —

SOVIET SUBMARINES AS THREAT TO CAPE ROUTE

Soviet submarines swarm in the S. Atlantic and the

Indian Ocean

1970 —

**70 PER CENT RISE IN NUMBER
OF SOVIET WARSHIPS**

The expansion of Soviet maritime power looks like rising
to a flood-tide in the 1970's.

1970 —

FOUR RUSSIAN FLEETS IN EXERCISE

In the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as well as the

Mediterranean, Black and Baltic Seas.

1971

**RUSSIA STEPS UP NAVAL WATCH
OFF SCOTLAND**

1974

**RUSSIAN NAVY SPREADS WORLD WIDE
IN TEN YEARS**

1974

AFRICA BASE FOR RUSSIA

1974

RUSSIA BUILDS A CHAIN OF INDIAN OCEAN BASES

1975 —

SINGAPORE BASE FOR RED FLEET

1975 —

BALTIC THREAT: BIG RUSSIAN BUILD-UP

462 Soviet and Warsaw Pact warships in the Baltic

1976 —

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS OFF AFRICA

1976 —

**750 RUSSIAN SHIPS IN FAR EAST,
SAYS JAPANESE**

Sea of Japan becomes "a Russian Lake" as a result of the gigantic build-up of the Soviet Navy based on Vladivostok

1976 —

INVULNERABLE SOVIET SUBMARINES

New Soviet SSN-8 missile which can be launched from unassailable submarines in the Barents Sea against New York.

1977 —

SOVIET SEA DOMINANCE WORRIES S. E. ASIA

1977 —

SOVIET MISSILE RANGE TWICE THAT OF U.S.

Russian submarine-launched missiles covered 5,700 miles, more than ever before, in tests last weekend.

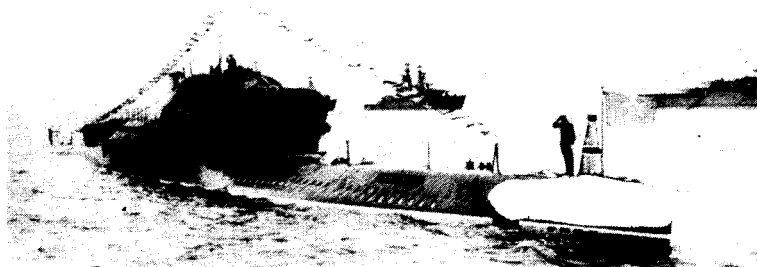
Such is a selection of Newspaper headings showing the global development of the Russian Navy in some twenty or more years. Eldon Griffiths M.P. summarised the Russian Sea threat in these words: "The Soviet fleet is powerfully established in every ocean. It bestrides our trade routes in the Indian Ocean; in the Far East, Soviet squadrons based on Vladivostok now outnumber the United States fleet; in the Atlantic there are more Soviet submarines than Western surface warships." (*Daily Telegraph* 27.1.76).

The significance of this is not in the ability of the Soviet to win a naval battle. It is the tremendous pressure that can be exerted on civilian life, particularly in Britain. As a letter by the Editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships* explained: "On any day in the year, 2,800 merchant ships are alongside in the ports of Nato Europe while 800 are loading or discharging on the East Coast of North America. Moving to and from these ports are some 3,350 merchant ships, while a further 750 are under way in the Mediterranean. Nearly 60% of the huge volume of shipping rounding the Cape of Good Hope belongs to Nato and, on the same day, 200 Western tankers are at sea in the Indian Ocean. These are the ships, unseen and unknown to the vast majority of our citizens, upon whom every one of us depends for his or her life and livelihood. It is the thought of how vulnerable these trade routes are

to any nation opposed to us which should shock the reader. No shots need be fired....” (*Daily Telegraph* 22.10.75).

“WITH MANY SHIPS:” DANIEL CH. 11:40

Observers continue to marvel at the sudden emergence of Soviet naval power: “Probably the most staggering change in military balance between East and West is found in sea power. Until ten years after the Second World War the Soviet Navy was almost discounted by the West: it had indifferent ships which lurked in ports, ruining the morale of their crews. Today, after twenty years of spirited direction by Admiral Sergei Gorshkov, it is one of the greatest strategic powers on earth.” (*Daily Telegraph Magazine* 27.8.76). So men see the situation. But for the Bible student, this development of Russian seapower has another thrilling side. It is a fulfilment of prophecy. As thoughtful brethren watched the progress of Russia in the last century, and more particularly after the 1917 Revolution, they were somewhat puzzled by the emphasis in Daniel ch. 11:40 that the King of the North, coming like a whirlwind with chariots and horsemen (land forces), should also come “with many ships.” Even in the last war, Russia’s naval power was of no great significance. And now, thirty years later, this prophecy is ready to be fulfilled. Truly every word of God is true and certain. Nothing must be ignored. Just three words: *with many ships*. We must wait for God to fulfil His prophecy in His own good time. We shall find the same to be true regarding Ezekiel 38. When the Northern power invades the land of Palestine the people will be ‘at rest,’ ‘dwelling safely,’ ‘all of them dwelling without walls and having neither bars nor gates.’ It is the very opposite to this at present. Great changes have to take place in this area*



Soviet Submarines entering port. They were put into volume production on a scale never previously known in peacetime, and seldom equalled in war.

* The visit of Sadat to Israel, and the mutual declarations concerning peace are of greatest significance, and could contribute to a closer alignment between the two countries. Obviously it stems from Egypt’s “base” status within the Arab

EUROPE: THE FIRST OBJECTIVE

We have looked at Soviet progress in its recent world-wide activities: its moving of pieces on the world chessboard. What are the objectives in these varied and sometimes conflicting world activities? What is the "checkmate" that she is aiming at? It is important to discern these longer term, specific intentions that are hidden behind a wealth of day to day news of activity. If we can discern this, then we can view events from this narrower angle, and see if the progress towards the long-term objective fits in with Bible prophecy; and the question for us is: Are we, in fact, seeing "prophecy fulfilling?" This is our interest: to see events as they bear on the coming of our Master, that we may be ready for his appearing, and take courage from the assurance that God's hand is at work among the nations.

How then do political observers see the main intention of Russia, behind the varied world-wide activities? Although it is seen that there is an ambition to dominate the world (thus a *Times* article 6.7.60 with the heading: *Mr. Khrushchev confesses his ambition — 'Red Flag over the whole planet in my life-time'*) the first specific objective appears to be the taking of western Europe. This is contrary to many Christadelphian lectures heard over the past 40 years, saying that Russia may at any time sweep into the land of Palestine. No, it has been stated many times that her strategy is first to secure Europe. Abba Eban, when foreign secretary of Israel in 1970 in an interview said that: "The basic Soviet aim is to ensure its own predominance in the Mediterranean in order to outflank the European defence system ... the real question between the two Great Powers remains the future of Europe." (*Jewish Observer* 23.1.70). The *Daily Telegraph* editorial, 29.1.76, commenting on the American Defence Secretary's statement to Congress, reported him as saying that despite the Russian challenge in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and Africa, "the most likely field of armed conflict remained the Central European plain." And a

world, and its failure to "exalt itself any more above the nations" (Ezek. 29:14-15). Such a situation would have been impossible under Nassar, hence his removal by death from the position of control. By this act, Sadat has committed Egypt to a complete turn around from the pro-Russian policy of his predecessor. Such a change of face was necessary to fulfil the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45 which predicts a Russian attack upon the Middle East, with a lightning drive down to Egypt "which will not escape" (v.42). Meanwhile, Israel needs to take care today as in the days of Isaiah, for the prophet pronounced "Woe" against her for trusting in "the shadow of Egypt." Isaiah declares: "They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help or profit, but a shame, and also a reproach" (Isa. 30:5). As in the days of Sennacherib (a type of Gog) so today: Israel must learn that Yahweh alone will constitute any real hope.....Editor (H.P.M).

year later (17.1.77) the editorial under the heading *Red Army Intentions* said: "There is no uncertainty about Russia's general intentions, either now or in the future. By all the criteria of present common sense or historical precedent — her aim is to get control of Western Europe by whatever means — based on the threat or use of vastly superior military force — are most expedient."

So we expect that when the preparatory work — already spread over many years — is completed, a pretext will be found and a move made; possibly first into Yugoslavia and S. E. Europe, and then swinging westward into western Europe. With her military superiority in the centre, the flanks neutralised by her sea power, aided by local Communism in all the western countries, and the undermining by her Intelligence Agents, it could all be over in a few weeks. There may be secret agreement beforehand by West Germany and the Papacy for such a "take-over." Certainly, Russia has no wish to destroy Western Europe. She will hope it will be a more or less peaceful takeover, resulting from her overwhelming threat of power. The industrial potential of Western Europe is vital to her further progress. She is already trading know-how for minerals and raw materials, in agreements with West Germany.

Now the expectation of political observers regarding Russia's intention to take Western Europe first is in harmony with prophetic outline. A scriptural case for W. Europe first was given in the booklet *Russia, the Vatican and the Invasion of Europe* (1969). This has been added to in the additional booklet *Babylon and Jerusalem: the fall of Babylon the Great and the rise of the Holy City*. It is vital for us to watch the signs of the times with a correct idea of the sequence of events in mind. Those who suppose Russia will first invade Palestine and that before Christ comes — are obviously looking for different "signs." What exactly will be the timing of Russia's military movement to south and west Europe, when precisely we shall be called to Judgment, we do not know. There are various pointers to the early gathering of the saints in the divine programme. At the time when Revelation 16:16 is being fulfilled ("He gathered them into a place called Armageddon"), the saints are with Christ. They have taken over from the angels and will be controlling the policies of the nations so that the northern confederacy comes into the land. But we must not see "prophecy fulfilling" as telling us "the day or the hour;" rather, we are grateful that in such a wide field of activities we can see expected happenings moving towards fruition.

Let us look in greater detail at the elements of Russia's progress relative to the taking of Western Europe.

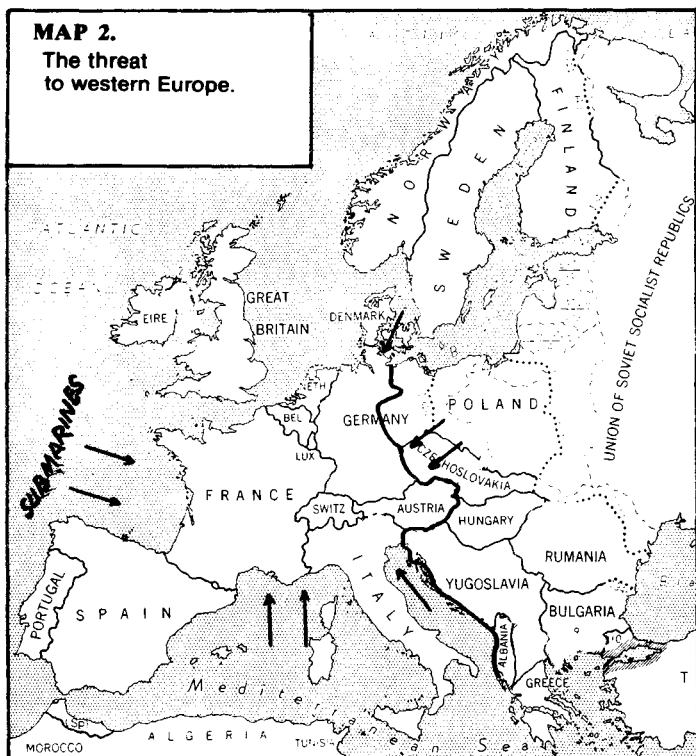
MILITARY PREPONDERANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE

The Russians were held in check for 20 years by the U.S.A. superiority in nuclear weapons. The two superpowers are now about equal and nuclear attack or defence is less likely. So Russia is in a position to exploit her tremendous superiority in conventional weapons. A frightening picture of this was given in the *Daily Telegraph Magazine* (27.8.76).

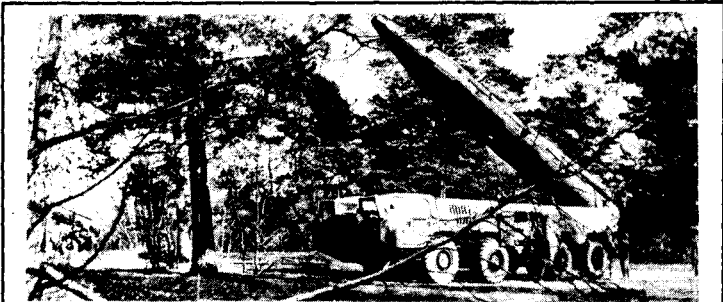
Western Europe Warsaw Pact

Fighter aircraft	520	3,900
Attack aircraft	1,040	6,950
Armoured vehicles	9,800	49,000
Heavy artillery rockets	1,150	32,000
Missile-armed surface ships	12	215
Missile-armed submarines	9	114

A recent report says that the Soviet is now deploying ballistic missiles, SS-20, all along their eastern front from the Baltic to the



Carpathian Mountains. "This will give them an overwhelming battle field nuclear superiority in Western Europe" (*Daily Telegraph* 14.2.77). In the early part of 1977 a number of reports reflected the growing alarm that the Soviet was now poised for a rapid break-through, in which Nato would have only a few days warning. "Indeed, intelligence sources now believe the Russians are concentrating their force in the 'cockpit' of Central Europe with the ultimate objective of taking over the industrial plants of Western Germany, France, Belgium and Holland, speedily, and practically unharmed." (*Daily Telegram* March 1977).



The SS-12 — Soviet Surface to Surface missile. It has sufficient range to bring south-eastern England within range of forward areas of East Germany. The SS-20, mentioned above, is a more sophisticated weapon with a range of 5,700 to 7,400 km (3,540 to 4,600 miles). Comment upon this weapon states: "It represents a serious new threat to the entire area of NATO responsibility covering the whole of Europe and the Middle East from sites inside the USSR."

But it is not merely the preponderance in numbers of men and equipment. Russian design is so often said to be superior, whether it be rifles, combat planes, amphibious tanks, armoured carriers transported by plane, etc. Moreover, the degree of training and military exercise far exceeds that undertaken by the West. "Since Khrushchev, Russian strategy, and the means to conduct it, have switched from deterrence to the offensive. Manoeuvres on an enormous scale rehearse the simultaneous use of conventional, chemical, and nuclear weapons in an all-out attack against Western Europe calculated to reach the Rhine, if necessary in a very few days. Equipment in all elements is modern and of high quality." (*Editorial Daily Telegraph* 3.8.71) And again, whereas the NATO allies are almost hamstrung by their lack of standardisation of weapons and communications between nations, the Warsaw Pact has complete standardisation of weapons, railway gauges, network or roads, etc. A recent report to the American Senate Armed Services Committee presented the

picture: "Russia and its Warsaw Pact partners are now so much stronger militarily than the NATO forces deployed to defend Western Europe that they could overrun Germany in a blitzkrieg and confront the allies with the choice of surrender or nuclear war." (*Daily Telegraph* 25.1.77) Lord Paget said in a letter: "As matters stand today the Nato forces could not survive for three days, and it is against this background of overwhelming power that the Western European governments must, when it suits the Russians, consider the "offers that cannot be refused" (*Daily Telegraph* 28.5.75). The European governments have, of course, known the situation for years, but have shown little political or moral will to face up to the situation. As the *Daily Telegraph* editor wrote in 1970: "For the moment, in the face of Russia's merciless expansion of military strength, the West is weakest where it should be strongest. This is in the defence of densely-populated industrial Europe, where grossly inadequate forces have no room or indeed capability to manoeuvre. In this situation Mr. Rippon's proposals for improving the situation looks like discussing modifications to a house in the path of an avalanche" (19.11.70).

In general the western governments and people have shut their eyes to the truth, because they do not want to know. They want to go on enjoying their life and possessions, and do not want to make sacrifices. This is particularly so for the socialists like Mulley in Britain or Schmidt in Germany. "Herr Schmidt, West German Chancellor, insisted yesterday in London that 'there is no reason for worry and for putting up great dramas about Soviet superiority in Europe' " (*Daily Telegraph* 25.1.77).

The so-called 'detente' between East and West in Europe over the past four years has greatly helped Russia in lulling the West to sleep. The many Socialists in all countries make themselves believe that there is now nothing to fear, and reduction in Defence will provide more money for the people's leisure and luxuries. Meanwhile Russia continues her course unchanged: "Trust us comrades," Mr. Brezhnev was quoted as saying (in 1973). "For by 1985, as a consequence of what we are now achieving with *detente*, we will have achieved most of our objectives in Western Europe.

"We will have consolidated our position. We will have improved our economy. And a decisive shift in the correlation of forces will be such that, come 1985, we will be able to exert our will whenever we need to."

"We are achieving with *detente* what our predecessors have been unable to achieve using the mailed fist..... We have been able to accomplish more in a short time with *detente* than

was done for years pursuing a confrontation policy with Nato," Mr. Brezhnev reportedly said.

The willingness to ignore the threat of Russia to western Europe is extensively cultivated by Russian agents in every country. In the report *The Peacetime Strategy of the Soviet Union* (1973) by the Institute for the study of Conflict: there is a map of Europe showing for each country the total number of Soviet officials (Ambassadors, Counsellors, Secretaries, Attaches, trade officials, press, etc.) and the number of these who are "spies" belonging to the Intelligence service of the U.S.S.R. Here are a few figures, (the second figure is the number of intelligence agents) — W. Germany 177, 82; France 348, 118; Greece 79, 41; Turkey 100, 53; Norway 95, 61; Denmark 91, 48. To this may be added the many citizens of each country who have Communist sympathies, or are Communists. So the *Daily Telegraph* reported under the heading *Snap Attack Warning by Nato Officer*: "An appreciation by the officer says that such an attack would be supported by commando and airborne forces, and by a fifth column of some 16,000 Russian agents in West Germany, with the result that within 48 hours Warsaw Pact forces would have crossed the Rhine," (16.3.76).

NORTH AND SOUTH FLANKS OF EUROPE

In military strategy it is usual to secure the flanks before the decisive drive in the centre. Russia is applying this in her threat to western Europe. Along with the build-up in the centre, the Soviet has at the same time given attention to the south flank — the Mediterranean; and the north flank — the Baltic. Russian penetration into the Mediterranean over the past 10 years is now well known. She had been held back from entering the Mediterranean by the 'Allies' for over a century, from the time of the Crimean war. Now she has as many ships in the Mediterranean as the American 6th Fleet; and when she sends war ships through the Dardanelles, no one dare raise a finger in protest. Her sea power in the Mediterranean is supported by naval and air bases along the North African coast. It was as far back as 1969 that a Nato general said, "Russia has turned our flank south of Europe."

The situation is similar north of Europe. During and after World War II Russia laid her hands on almost all of the southern shore of the Baltic: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, E. Germany, Iceland is Communist. And Finland is so much under her thumb that we talk about the progress of "Finlandisation" Sweden has to be subservient. Only Norway remains

independent; and this one remaining Nato position now has little strength. *North flank of Nato the weak link*, says a headline (*Daily Telegraph* 26.2.76). "He (admiral Edward Wegener of Germany) claims that the highly-dangerous situation that now exists on Nato's northern flank is not just due to the increasing strength of Russia's Northern Fleet, but to the weakness of the West and particularly 'the decline of the British sea-power'."

The fourth 'front' that completes the circle round Europe is the Atlantic. Here too Russian naval power in the form of her submarines is becoming dominant. Under the heading *The Atlantic Crisis*, the *Daily Telegraph* editorial for 9.7.75 opens with the words: "Today's naval debate imposes a clear duty on Parliament to face the now acute potential danger at sea, especially the Atlantic, from Russia's enormous, fast-growing and super-modern navy." It continues, "There is now no longer reasonable certainty that NATO could keep the sea-lanes, and especially the crucial Atlantic life-line open against Russia's nuclear killer-submarines and advanced missile cruisers without intolerable losses."

Adding all these things together, what a stranglehold Russia is creating round western Europe. It brings to mind Bro. Thomas' prophetic words: "Russia triumphant, Europe in chains." Russian power is massive, co-ordinated, constantly exercised; Western Europe is politically divided, militarily weak, and unwilling to face reality. Even the might of America would be unlikely to save her; and various factors now make such intervention far from certain.

COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

It was in 1974 that writers began to comment on the increasing likelihood of Communists having a share in the government of various western European countries, and the effect of such participation on Nato security. *Newsweek*, Oct. 24, 1974, had an article entitled *Western Europe's New Landscape*, and a map of Western Europe captioned *The Communist Surge, Communist strength in southern Europe: a breath-taking turn around.* Victor Zorza in the *Weekly Guardian*, 28.9.74 summarised the development in the following three paragraphs: "The Communists are on the march across Southern Europe, not to the revolutionary barricades but into government coalitions that could give them a share of power in a wide Mediterranean belt stretching from Greece through Italy, France and Spain into Portugal. (The position of these countries is shown on sketch

map no. 2 pg. 20).

“The overthrow of the dictatorships has already given the Communists an important role in the Portuguese coalition and a potential rule in Greece, where the party is emerging from the underground. In Spain the impending demise of the Franco Regime has made the Communists open their arms wide for a coalition embrace.

“In France the Communists will hold next month an ‘extraordinary’ congress to give them an image that would convert the 49 per cent of the vote which the Socialist-Communist alliance won in the last election into a majority of votes in the next. In Italy, the Communists are beginning to talk as if they were willing to make a deal with Washington, to assure it that they would do not harm in the cohesion of NATO, in exchange for US acquiescence in the Communist Party’s participation in a coalition.”

In addition to the countries mentioned, in the north, West Germany has been under a Socialist government from 1969, (the Socialist party was in fact a Marxist party until 1959): Finland already has a government with Communist participation, and Iceland is governed by a Communist government.

Since 1974 Communism and left-Socialism has continued to develop in these countries of South Europe to a point where dramatic happenings are possible in the near future.

In *Portugal* the Communist-controlled Armed Forces Movement that brought about the revolution in 1974 has handed over to civilian government, and in elections at the end of 1976 there was a socialist majority of about 33% of the voters, with the Communists at 19%. The pattern of things is now similar to that in France and Italy with the Communist party declaring they will co-operate in government, though they still aim to dismantle Nato.

In *Spain* there have been dramatic changes since the death of Franco. The Communists have come into the open, and astonishingly a Communist party has been legalised and will take part in the elections this year. Also Spain is negotiating treaties with eastern European countries: “Commercial agreements are coming thick and fast with the Soviet Union, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. And it is confidently expected that they will be followed up by the establishment of full diplomatic relations” (*Daily Telegraph* 22.5.76). A development expected to take 10 years has taken place in less than two.

In *Greece* the Communist party was legalised in 1974 after

being outlawed for 25 years. A letter in the *Daily Telegraph* of 18.3.76 from Professor Devletoglou listed ten recent happenings that showed the rapid "leftist advance in Greece." Here are some of the points. In February 1976 officers of the Greek army were observers during military manoeuvres in the Soviet. Cultural and commercial agreements have been concluded with Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania. It alleges the Communists have an 80% control of schools, 80% control of labour syndicates, and 75% control of regional government. The 10th item is the "unprecedented installation a few months ago of two anchorages by the Soviet Navy east and west of the island of Crete."

France has elections this year, and it will not be surprising if a Socialist-Communist government comes to power.*

Italy may well be the key to Russia's entering the western European house. In the elections in June 1975 the Communists increased their vote at the expense of the Christian Democrats (Catholics) and the two parties are about equal. At present the Communists choose to keep out of government, but in effect control what is done, because it has to have their agreement. Headlines in newspapers have been: *Marx marches on Rome* (28.6.76), *Communists descend on Italy* (26.6.75), *Red wolves in Democratic clothes* (10.5.76); *The Barbarians at the gates of Rome*," (November, 1976). The Communist party is well organised and disciplined, and will continue to advance. They control the powerful trade unions and city governments. "Rome is to have a Communist Mayor. This will complete the Communist take-over of every major city hall in Italy" (*Daily Telegram* 9.8.76).

When the Communists enter into a coalition government, it will begin a fundamental change. The following is from the article by R. H. Stead, *The Barbarians At the Gates of Rome*:

"Once in the Government, supported as it is by enormous trade union power, it could hardly be dislodged. Nor, despite its glib prevarications during the election campaign on the subjects of Nato and Russia, is there any room for doubt about its real

* At the time of writing the Soviet has discouraged the French Communist party from co-operating with the Socialists in seeking to win the forthcoming elections. The 'detente' situation with western Europe is too successful for Russia to allow it to be upset by a Communist victory in France. The present French government is co-operating so well with the Soviet that any change would be disadvantageous. This illustrates how discerning we have to be in assessing events, especially with the devious ways of Russia.

allegiance.

“Apart from fringe criticisms for public relations purposes, it unquestioningly accepts Russia as the great pioneer, ally and protector. It demands that both Nato and the Warsaw Pact must be ‘phased out,’ which would mean the departure of America and the end of Nato, while leaving Russia’s military power and domination of Eastern Europe intact.

“The Italian Communist leaders now frankly admit that, in the event of war, their policy for Italy would be *neutrality*.”

Such a situation would react on the Vatican, especially if it coincides with an ‘invitation’ to the Soviet into Yugoslavia, and then Albania, at the death of Tito. With the Soviet on the shores of the Adriatic, Italy neutral, and little Allied support — this would put fear in the heart of the Pope, and speed up his decision to go with the dominant power; to begin secret negotiations and bargaining with the Soviet over western Europe.

GERMANY AND THE SOVIET

Germany, defeated a second time in 1945, has again risen to be the dominant power in Western Europe. This is certainly so in the economic and commercial spheres, and it is also true militarily. “Though most Americans do not realise it, the West Germans provide 50% of the ground forces and 40% of the air forces initially available to meet a Warsaw Pact attack.” “These two modern weapons (Leopard tanks and Marder armoured combat vehicles) are probably the best of their kind in any arsenal in the world. The West Germans have thousands of both in an army that, in the last decade, has grown to become what many Allied leaders think is the best, most disciplined, and well equipped fighting force in Western Europe.” (*The Washington Post*, March 1977).

The relationship between Germany and the Soviet is a vital factor in the coming ‘unification’ of Europe. The degree of co-operation that has developed in the last seven years suggests the pattern for the future. Germany is not likely to go to war with the Soviet. In the book, “*Russia, the Vatican and the Invasion of Europe*,” written in 1969, reference was made to the slow but increasing pace of negotiations between West Germany and the Soviet. For years Russia had been quietly wooing West Germany. Ardenour, the veteran Catholic chancellor had cautiously opened diplomatic relations with the Soviet, and there had thereafter been a little progress in the two countries coming together. Herr Brandt, the Socialist, on coming to power in 1969 lost no time in making bold steps. A treaty between the two countries was signed in

Moscow in August 1970. It committed the two nations 'to peaceful means only in the settlement of their disputes' to the acceptance of the existing frontiers in east and west Europe as inviolable; and to the development of trade and economic interdependence. It is remarkable that Germany was able to act independently of the Common Market and negotiate this treaty directly with the Soviet. It was a return to the traditional bilateral agreements that the Soviet and Germany favour.

In May 1972 there was a treaty between East and West Germany on transport between the two countries; and in June 1973 there was a general treaty between these two countries, and both West Germany and East Germany became members of the United Nations. By the end of 1973 West Germany had concluded treaties with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria.

A few words from *Daily Telegraph* editorials will comment on these fundamental European changes: (May 18th 1972) *Germany and the Bridge*: The treaties are the most momentous event in the relations between the West and Russia since the Berlin blockade of 1947-49. They make Germany the bridge between the Communist and the democratic worlds. Unfortunately it is a bridge that is wide-open one end, while the other end is still guarded by a *dark ages* portcullis, from which Communist power and influence pour outwards." (May 19th 1973) *Ascendant Russia*: Mr. Brezhnev's visit to Bonn is of momentous importance. It celebrates three hectic years of Russo-German diplomacy, initiated by Herr Brandt, which have ratified, and contributed to the alarming change in the European balance of power during the past decade."

Apart from the political significance of these treaties, two other matters of importance should be noted. The first is the strong tide of left socialism in West Germany. The German Social Democratic party has been governing West Germany since 1969. In 1973 it is reported that this party was moving back into its original Marxist character. "The new Left, not only neutralist and anti-Nato, but pro-Communist in some form or other in its basic attitudes, won a third of the seats on the party executive of 36, on which it previously had only one supporter." (*Daily Telegraph* 16.4.73). A recent book by Herr Hans Erler, charges Brandt with aiming at union with Communists. "Herr Brandt believes that traditional Communists can be converted to democratic Communists, or even democratic Socialists — and that it is his mission to achieve this. Herr Brandt's ultimate aim, Herr Erler maintains, is some kind of comprehensive international alliance of the left" (*Daily Telegraph* 16.8.76). Clearly the whole of West

Germany is by means loyal to Nato. In 1971 an opinion poll found 50% in favour of neutrality, and only 39% for Nato (*Daily Telegraph* 25.10.71). Neutrality for Germany is one of Russia's immediate aims.

The second equally far-reaching element of the treaties between West Germany and the Soviet concerns the upper strata of Germany, the industrialists. The active part of the treaties was the developing of economic interdependence between West Germany and the Soviet countries. This has a tremendous appeal to Germany's powerful industrialists. The Soviet has an almost unlimited amount of natural resources, or raw materials, as they are called. West Germany has very little of natural resources, and has to import a great deal. But she can offer great industrial skill, capital and machinery. So the stage was set for a mutually satisfactory relationship between the two countries.

Thus a report 7.2.70: "Another move towards an East-West thaw came with the signing by West Germany and Russia of their biggest business deal since the war. It provides for the supply of Soviet natural gas to Germany over a period of 20 years, and for the delivery to the Soviet Union of over a million tons of steel pipes. Under the agreement, a German bank consortium will lend Russia about £170 millions." August 27th 1970 had the editorial heading: *Bonn's New Supermarket*: The intention is for West Germany to supply technical and financial assistance on a vast scale for the erection of modern industries and the opening up of Siberian mineral resources. Next month Herr Schiller will discuss in Moscow a project for the establishment by Daimler-Benz of a heavy-lorry plant, costing £450 million and with an annual capacity of 160,000 vehicles....The Russians are offering the Germans the bait of a privileged position in an area whose vast possibilities have always fascinated and attracted them."

West Germany's industrial and economic strength has become increasingly clear in the past few years. She acts from a position of strength and follows the path of national self-interest rather than the good of the Common Market. Her links with France are weakening; France has had to opt out of the currency 'snake' and 'float' the franc, like the pound. Then Germany has formed a northern Deutschmark zone with the five most prosperous members of E.E.C., all of them grouped together in N.W.Europe: Germany, Denmark, and the Benelux countries. Germany chose to give credits to E. European countries rather than to the Common Market; she act with national self interest. As one heading declared: *Bonn To Aid Russia Before E.E.C.*

Germany's 'Ostpolitik' as it is called, is no new phenomenon. M. Philips Price, M.P. in an article twenty-five years ago in 1952, sketched the earlier relations between German and Russia. It was headed *The Struggle For Germany: Russia And The West*. "This is nothing new. There have always been two schools of thought in Germany, one looking more to the East and the other to the West." He lists the following treaties. Bismark, in addition to his alliance with Austria, had a "re-insurance" treaty with Russia in the 1870's. There was the Potsdam Agreement in 1911 between the Tzar and the Kaiser over spheres of influence in the Middle East. After the 1914-18 war there was the Treaty of Rapello, 1922, "and the agreement whereby the Reichswehr could defy the Treaty of Versailles by training their cadres with the Red Army in Russia." To the older generation the dramatic announcement of the Russian-German Treaty on September 29th 1939 will be remembered. The *Evening News* carries 1 inch black headlines. The Treaty was not only concerned with dividing up Europe, but also envisaged "a Russo-German economic bloc stretching from the French border to the Pacific, and from the Baltic to the Bosphorus."

There is, therefore nothing strange about the 1970-73 treaties between Germany and the Soviet. Considering this historical background, considering the degree of Marxism in the younger generation in West Germany, considering the enticement to the industrialists of economic co-operation, and lastly the powerful emotional bait that Russia holds of allowing re-union between East and West Germany, it will certainly not be surprising if Germany is enticed by Russia 'in the interests of peace' to officially accept 'neutrality' in exchange for the re-union of east and west Germany. This would lead to the dissolution of Nato, and the U.S.A. could decide to leave Western Europe to the fate she appeared to be choosing, of union with Eastern Europe. In such a situation, it would be Russia that would be in the dominant position, with Germany and France perforce accepting. There is little doubt that if at this future time 'neutrality' has been forced on Italy, the Pope would have concluded that the time had come to throw in his lot with the dominant power of Europe and a word via the priests in West Germany to the Catholics would secure the agreement of the majority of the Germans to 'neutrality' Thus with the U.S.A. levered out of Europe, the U.S.A. would concentrate on a more southerly position. In the book *The Indian Ocean And The Threat To The West: Four Studies In Global Strategy*, 1975, on p. 22, it is reported that the Military Editor of the *New York Times* said "Military planners expect that the

strategic interests of the United States and global strategy in general will pivot on the Persian Gulf late in this decade as a result of competition for the area's oil." And this leads us to the next main topic for consideration: the development of the "King of the North" — "King of the South" situation.

The Arms Race

US-USSR MILITARY PRODUCTION 1970-75

Approximate yearly average:

	USA	USSR
Tanks	450	2500
APC	1450	3800
Artillery	160	1400
Helicopters	600	1000
Tactical Aircraft	600	1000
Surface Ships	7-8	40
Missile Subs	less than 1	7

TOTAL HOLDINGS OF GROUND FORCE EQUIPMENT (excluding obsolete reserves)

Tanks	9000	42000
APCs	23000	41000
Artillery (including mortars and multiple rocket launchers)	9000	27000
Helicopters	9000	2300

PERSONNEL

Active	2.1 million	4.8 million
Reserve	1.9 million	7.2 million

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (estimated) 1975

Percent of GNP	6%	15% (estimated)
Comparative figures of actual expenditure	100%	168% (estimated)

STRATEGIC FORCES 1975

ICBM	1054	1618
SLBM	656	784
Strategic Bombers	375	185
Intermediate Bombers	645	66

FIGHTER AND ATTACK AIRCRAFT

Fighter Interceptor Aircraft	374	2550
ABM Launchers	0	64
Strategic SAM Launchers	0	12000
Tactical Attack (incl Naval)	2300	5000

In general Soviet totals include more obsolescent hardware

CHAPTER THREE

THE LATTER DAY DEVELOPMENT OF THE “KING OF THE SOUTH”

TWO MOUNTAINS OF BRASS

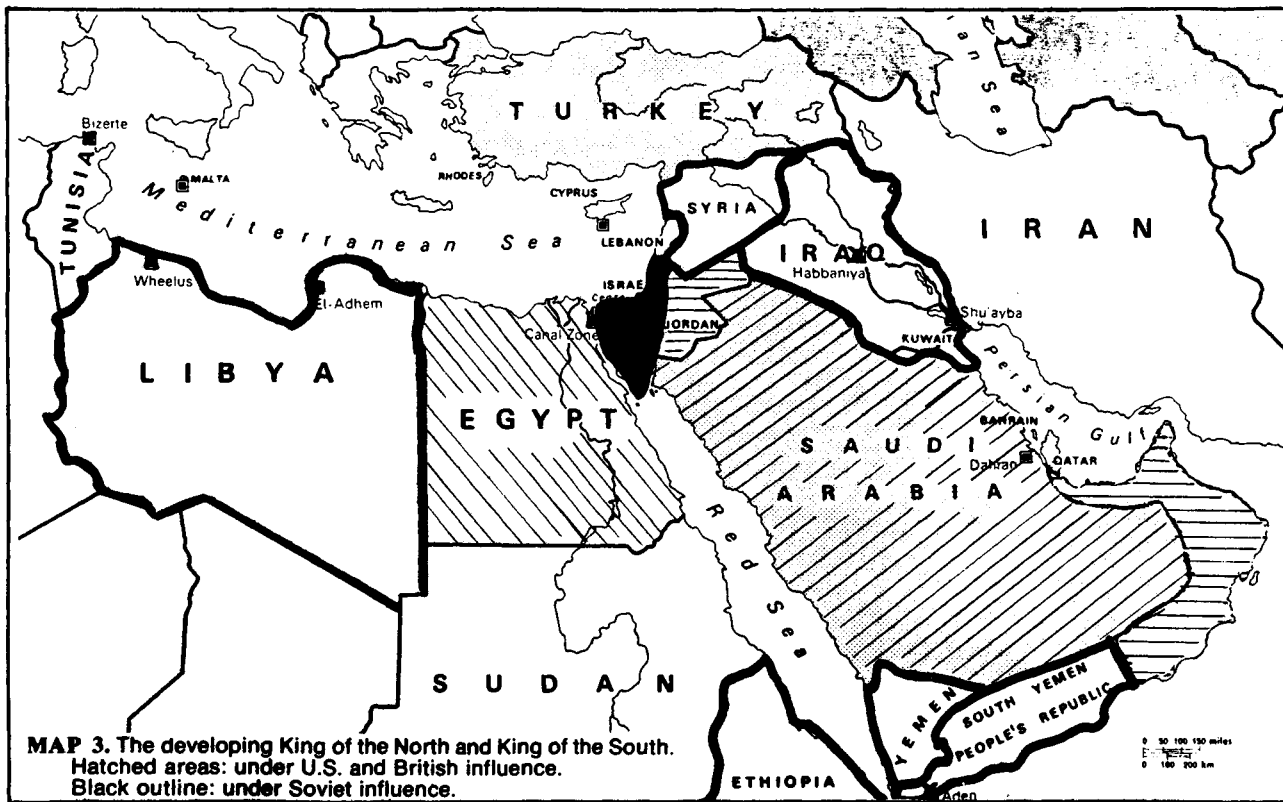
According to the last part of Daniel, chapter 11, there will exist when Christ's returns two hostile powers north and south of the land, repeating the kind of situation outlined in such detail in the early part of the chapter. The idea of a north and a south power is not limited to Daniel, ch. 11; it is even more clearly expressed in Zechariah, ch. 6. In this chapter the four chariots go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth to walk to and fro through the earth; the man whose name is the BRANCH becomes king and priest; the temple is built. Clearly it is the time of setting up the kingdom. And the phrase of importance is that the four chariots go forth from between two mountains of brass. This conveys the idea of two 'mountain' powers north and south of Jerusalem. In Ezekiel, chapter 38, too, there is a power that challenges the northern invader: "Art thou come to take a spoil?" So we should be looking today for those movements that will provide "two mountain" powers antagonistic to each other established north and south of the Land.

KING OF THE NORTH

Russia moved into the Middle East in the 1950's concentrating her efforts on Egypt, with a treaty of friendship in 1971. Sadat changed his course in 1972, and to a considerable degree turned the Russians out of Egypt. Russia immediately turned her attention to Iraq and Syria, establishing treaties in April and September 1972 respectively and transferring her military equipment from Egypt to Syria. Since that time she has taken a strong grip on these two countries. Thus we may see the elements of a latter-day King of the North — a super power giving aid and direction to the peoples situated north of Israel.

KING OF THE SOUTH

What of the King of the South? In the period between the two world wars, Christadelphians looked with satisfaction on the fulfilling of prophecy, in that Britain was given a Mandate over not only Palestine, but also Jordan and Saudi Arabia. In addition she held Aden as a Crown colony, together with control over the



several coastal States, stretching round to Oman and the Persian Gulf. India was still part of the British Empire. It could hardly be questioned that Britain fitted the requirements of King of the South, and the phrases in Ezekiel, ch. 38: "Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" were appropriate.

Soon after the Second World War, India, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan became independent; followed by Aden and the Gulf States in the second half of the 1960's. It appeared to many that the traditional interpretation was a failure. But is this really so? The answer is a definite No. Despite the political changes, close relationships continued, and especially in the 1970's, after facing the problems of independence, a totally new complexion is emerging in this area south of Israel. The situation of the 1950's and 1960's is now seen as only a pause in the development of a South Power hostile to the 'King of the North.'

It is only in the last two or three years that it has been possible to assess the great changes taking place, and their significance. It is a new situation that largely centres on Saudi Arabia. Three features are involved:

1. The intensely anti-Russian attitude of Saudi Arabia. "Saudi Arabia links its own security with that of the West; it is ferociously anti-communist; it has what it calls a 'very special relationship' with America" (*Guardian* 3.7.77). "Saudi Arabia is one of the rare nations in today's world which fails to maintain relations with a single nation in the Communist block" (*Guardian* 14.9.74).

2. The remarkable economic and military support Saudi Arabia receives from the U.S.A., and also from Britain. "But from 1973 on, America ties with the Saudis have strengthened to an amazing extent, so much so that the Saudis refer to a 'special relationship' and 'a remarkable working partnership between the two countries' " (*Jewish Observer* 11.8.77).

3. The emergence of Saudi Arabia as the leader of the 'Arab' nations. Her tremendous wealth arising from her oil, combined with the political skill of her Princes has made Saudi Arabia a power to be respected, both by Europe and America, and particularly by the neighbouring Arab States. So leadership has passed from Egypt to Saudi Arabia. "Saudi Arabia has replaced Egypt as the great power of the Arab world, and nothing could be less dignified, either, than Sadat's efforts to win favour in Riyadh" (*Guardian* 31.7.77). "Saudi Arabia's readiness to foot Egypt's arm's bill over the next five years is yet another aspect of Saudi's increasing predominance in the Arab world. The

agreement has propelled Saudi Arabia from behind the scenes financier to an active policy maker. In this context, the extraordinary relationship between it and the U.S. should be examined" (*Jewish Observer* 11.8.77). A most interesting background comment in the *Guardian* on all this indicated Saudi Arabia favoured a settlement with Israel. "What it (Saudi Arabia) is doing is more subtle. It is simply pushing the Arab world in directions its regimes are already taking; away from the Soviet Union, socialism, and radical enthusiasms in general, towards a settlement with Israel" (*Guardian* 3.7.77).

The changes in this area south of Israel are not limited to Saudi Arabia. Four other items should be noted. First, the rapid change in Egypt in the past three years by which she has come under the hegemony of the U.S.A. *The Guardian* of 3.7.77 quotes the *Washington Post* as follows; "From a standing start in 1974, U.S. economic assistance for Egypt has grown to the biggest aid program in the world. More U.S. economic assistance is being channelled to Egypt than to the rest of Africa and Latin America combined." "Goods purchased with U.S. funds (buses and electrical machinery, margarine and bulldozers, tractors and herbicides) are flowing into the country. Contracts are being signed for major industrial facilities such as an electrical power station for the city of Ismailia". So we see Egypt moving into the "King of the South" orbit. Secondly there are the changes in India following the elections early in 1977. In general she is swinging away from her friendship and dependence on Russia. Also India is emerging as a considerable naval and military Power in her own right — becoming part of the latter-day Tarshish. For details, see later. Thirdly, there is the establishing of an American fleet in the Indian ocean and the Persian Gulf, "driven" there by the challenge of Russia in that ocean. With this is combined the change in outlook of the Australian government following the turning out of the Socialists from office. The present government favours greater defence expenditure and co-operation with the U.S. in the security of the South. And finally there is the continuing British influence with the Gulf States around the Persian Gulf, even though these States are now independent.

The total of all these factors is the quite dramatic emergence of an overall *South Power*, hostile to the *North Power*. And the pivot of this is Saudi Arabia supported by the U.S.A. and Britain. So under angelic control, preparations continue in harmony with the prophetic record set out so long ago.

This aspect of prophecy fulfilling is so striking, so exciting, that some further details will help to establish the matter.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia is being brought into the 20th century at a great pace. "The head reels with the billion and multi-billion pound projects which, when you look at the books, the present building frenzy represents. Army barracks and ministeries, hospitals and universities, stadiums and supermarkets, factories and warehouses, luxury villas and popular housing estates, airports, highways and hotels, the Saudis are doing the lot" (*Guardian* 7.7.77). In 1953 only 39,000 attended primary schools, in 1974 the number was 700,000. Now there are six universities and several technical colleges, for a population of only some six million people. All education is free; social benefits for the needy, old age pensions, free hospital treatment are provided. What is of great significance to us is that the developments are chiefly under the guidance of the Americans. The following is a paragraph from a recent article in the *Daily Telegraph*, 11.2.77, by Michael Field: "American experts from Standford University drew up the Saudi-development plan. Most of the roads, power-stations, industries and so on, have been built with American technology and equipment. Saudi, the national airline, is run by TWA; the Bendix Corporation runs the quartermaster's department; the National Guard, equipped exclusively with American weapons, is trained by the Vinnel Corporation, and the coastguards by Avco Corporation. Raytheon has supplied rocket installations, and Lockheed service the air defence system. About 30,000 Americans now live in the country, and the number is expected to double within a year or two. Today's Saudi elite are themselves largely American-trained." A vast amount of military equipment is also being supplied. Early in 1977 President Carter approved a further £1,600 million for armaments to Persia and Saudi Arabia. "When the powerful American F-15 fighter planes are finally supplied to Saudi Arabia, most of both the air and ground crews will be American" (*Jewish Observer* 1.9.77).

President Carter in his proposed twelve day foreign tour in November, 1977, aims to stop at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, for refuelling and talks, and not in Israel! (*Daily Telegraph* 18.10.77).

Britain to a lesser degree is also involved. Britain is responsible for the maintenance of the Saudi Air Force. (*Daily Telegraph* 11.5.73). A new four year agreement to train the armed forces has been signed (*Daily Telegraph* 26.9.77). Callaghan visited the country in November 1975 when foreign

minister, resulting in Britain having an increasing share in the building of new towns, roads and factories, and particularly in selling *know-how* in education, commerce and finance. "Saudi Arabia is Britain's best Middle East market. Exports in the first eight months of this year (1975) amounted to £128,000,000" (*Daily Telegraph* 23.10.75). British aid goes back more than a decade. A front page headline in *The Times* in 1965 read: *Britain Wins £107 Million Arms Contracts. Fighters Communications, Radar To Be Provided.* (14.2.65).

Saudi's ambitions extend to having a navy: "Saudi Arabia has ordered a number of missile-carrying patrol boats from America in a move to gain 'relative naval supremacy' of the Red Sea" (*Daily Telegraph* 9.9.77).

Saudi Arabia still has a dynastic rulership, which helps to keep this restless excited country stable. The government is in the hands of the 500 members of the royal family, with an inner cabinet of seven senior princes.

JORDAN

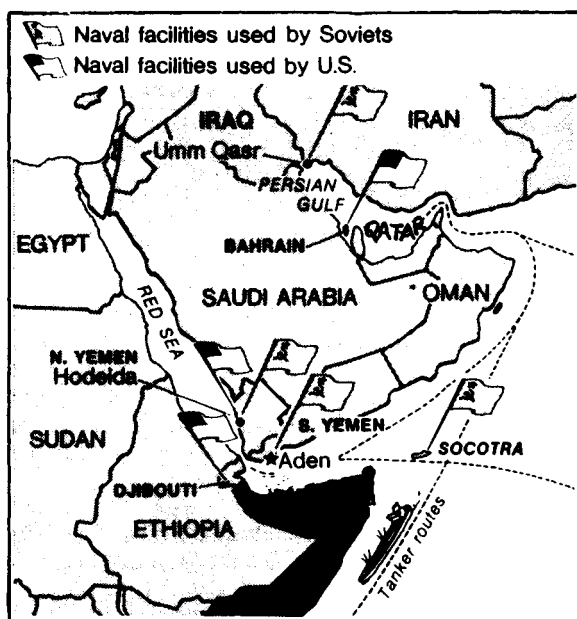
As is well-known Hussein was educated in Britain; also Jordan's army is British-trained, and British officers and technical advisors are general in Jordan. Britain has granted annual aid of several million pounds sterling for many years. So for 1977 "Britain is to lend Jordan £9 million to help rural development and improve water supplies for Aqaba" (*Daily Telegraph* 22.3.77). A *Jewish Observer* heading (29.7.66) — *Substantial British Aid For King Hussein: Arms, Radar, And Money For Jordan's New Defence System* — expresses the relationships that continue between the two countries.

After Jordan's heavy losses in the Six-day war, the USA made good her losses, and this support has continued ever since. Thus: *US Builds Up Jordan Air Force* (*Jewish Observer* 7.5.72); *US Plans to Modernise Jordan Army* (*Daily Telegraph* 15.3.74); *US Missile Deal Likely for Jordan* (*Daily Telegraph* 16.7.76). In 1973 economic aid for the year was 50 million dollars, and the military grant for the year was 40 million dollars, from the U.S.

YEMEN, ADEN, OMAN AND QATOR

These four countries make up the coastland lying between the Red Sea and the Persian gulf, facing into the Indian Ocean; an area of great strategic importance. For nearly a century it was largely under British control, with a crown colony around the port of Aden. Aden became independent in 1968 and the Gulf States independent in 1971. The territories called Aden became the

South Yemen People's Republic and Russia moved into both North and South Yemen, with arms, economic aid, and control of the port of Aden. But now a swing back similar to that in Egypt is observable. Thus the *Daily Telegraph* 16.8.75 **Yemenis Sack Russians** is the headline. The reasons for this are given as first, increasing co-operation with anti-Russian, Saudi Arabia, and secondly, "North Yemen and America have been closely involved in negotiation leading to American aid and advice, including equipping North Yemen 25,000 strong army."



Oman and the Gulf States, retained friendly ties with Britain when they became independent, and their armies are officered with British men. Oman was in conflict with the communist forces from South Yemen for years, but has emerged as the victor. "Now the Oman forces, led by seconded and contract British officers and supported by an air force piloted entirely by Britons, are in control of the whole country." (*Daily Telegraph* 31.12.74). Following this success in Oman, Britain and Saudi Arabia are attempting to lessen the Russian influence in South Yemen: (*Daily Telegraph* 1.12.75). A report (*Daily Telegraph* 4.8.77), says that Oman is acquiring Western missile-armed ships. Situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the objective is "to seal the Persian Gulf" if necessary.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

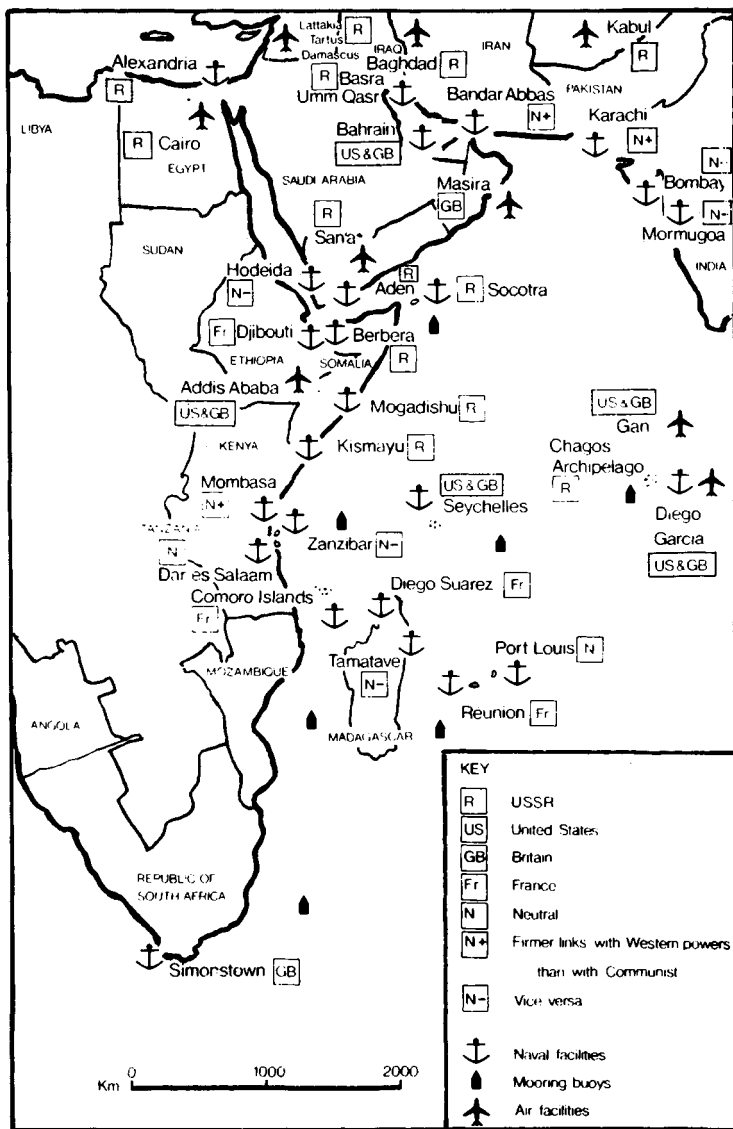
"Once in three years came the navy of Tarshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks" (1 Kings 10:21-22). From this scripture, Bro. Thomas identifies an eastern as well as a western Tarshish in the days of Solomon; and he points to India as an associate with the "merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof" of the latter-day. In the picture we have presented of the grouping of nations in the south of Israel, who will challenge the northern invader, modern India will play her part. In 1971 India established a Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet; but this orientation is now disappearing, following a radical change in the political scene in the recent elections. Thus the *Daily Telegraph* editorial, 28.7.77: "India's change of Government seems likely to raise a massive obstacle to the extension of Russian power through Asia and the Indian Ocean. Mr. Desai, the new Prime Minister, lost no time after his victory in announcing that India's foreign policy would revert to 'proper' non-alignment. Without mincing words he spoke of Mrs. Ghandi's notorious treaty with Russia of 1971 as if it had overnight become practically a dead letter."

India's progress as an independent and increasingly powerful nation is extremely significant. On a world-wide basis India has the 3rd largest army, the 6th largest airforce, and the 9th largest navy. The navy has increased three-fold over the past decade. She has 7 naval bases round her coast, and is in process of building a vast base in the islands in the Bay of Bengal. Indian shipyards are building warships. The nation already produces her own tanks, jet fighters and helicopters; and makes engines in collaboration with Rolls-Royce. Heavy electrical equipment, railway stock and similar capital goods are being manufactured and exported. India has the 3rd largest number of scientists in the world.

AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Russia moved into the Indian Ocean in the late 1960's and gained naval rights in several ports around the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. America was alarmed and viewed the matter seriously, as the following series of newspaper headings — all within two months show: "U.S. ALARM GROWS LOUDER ON INDIAN OCEAN THREAT" (*Daily Telegraph* 3.3.71); "U.S. REINFORCEMENTS TO COUNTER SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE" (23.4.71). "U.S. CONCERN GROWS AT RUSSIA'S SEA CHALLENGE" (3.5.71). So the U.S. was rapidly propelled into this South region. Early in 1972 she reached a new

Rival Naval and Air Facilities



Amazing growth of Soviet naval power — “with many ships” (Dan. 11:40). All mooring buoys have been placed and are used by Soviet vessels only.

agreement for naval facilities at Bahrein right in the Persian Gulf (*Daily Telegraph* 2.2.72). In the oil crisis the U.S. asserted her presence in the area: "U.S. CARRIER TASK FORCE MOVES IN" — "America has sent a powerful Seventh Fleet carrier force into the Indian Ocean in a surprise move which the Pentagon revealed for the first time yesterday." (*Daily Telegraph* 30.10.73). In 1974 she started building an £11½ million naval base at the strategically placed island of Diego Garcia, owned by the British (*Daily Telegraph* 5.3.74). In 1973 Australia and New Zealand were brought into the picture, strengthening the concept of a King of the South power. Thus "U.S. DETERMINE TO COUNTER RUSSIAN NAVY IN PACIFIC: The United States yesterday assured Australian and New Zealand Defence Ministers, and senior officials meeting at Canberra that she has both the capacity and determination to match and counter Soviet attempts to dominate the Indian and Pacific Oceans" (*Daily Telegraph* 4.8.76). At around the same time Australia and New Zealand turned out their Labour Governments and declared their readiness to join in the defence of the region. The big new base at Cockburn South was made available to Australia's allies, and support was given for the Diego Garcia base (*Daily Telegraph* 15.1.76).

The British have another vital base at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, the island of Masira leased from Oman. The Sultan of Oman has granted the U.S. the right to use this R.A.F. base for her large aircraft. (*Daily Telegraph* 27.1.75).

SUMMARY

When we survey what is happening in this vast South region — Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Persia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya, — we see countries brought to life again after long centuries of silence, now activated into modern style States and moving into their right positions for the great day of Christ's return. How thrilling is 'prophecy fulfilling.' What would our brethren of a century ago think if they could see the things we see!

Taking a world view, it is apparent that the focal point of world affairs is moving from Europe back to the Middle East. As we see America and Britain coming into close co-operation with the countries south of Israel, we are reminded of the quotation given earlier, from the book *The Indian Ocean And The Threat To The West*: 'Military planners expect that the strategic interests of the United States and *global strategy in general will pivot on the Persian Gulf* late in this decade as a result of competition for the area's oil' pg. 22. This statement made in 1974 has just been

reinforced by a directive of President Carter. Nicholas Comfort reports from Washington: "President Carter has ordered that American Forces be prepared to defend oil supplies in the Middle East, and especially the Persian Gulf, from a possible 'grab' by Russia as its own supplies run low." (*Daily Telegraph* 12.9.77).

If, as we have proposed earlier, the Mediterranean will be largely in the hands of Russia when she expands into western Europe, then it is easy to see taking our viewpoint from the U.S.A., that as the Soviet prepares to thrust south from Europe, America and her allies will operate from the Indian Ocean and Saudi Arabia. One is amazed to see how far events have already developed along these lines, with the British and the U.S. so closely co-operating with Saudi Arabia, the major influence in the region; and that the U.S. is so rapidly establishing herself in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. In the future conflict Russia may not be able to hold on to her outpost position in the Indian Ocean.

PERSIA, ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA

"Persia, Ethiopia and Libya with them....all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard to them," Ezek. 38:5,7.

We have so far made no comment on Persia, although she has become a considerable influence in the Middle East. Persia has received vast military and economic aid from the U.S. in the past ten years; she has a finely equipped army of 300,000 men, an airforce with the latest U.S. planes, and the largest navy in the Persian Gulf. How Persia will come into the Russian orbit we do not know. Persia's relations with the Soviet are correct but not friendly. Persia has some Soviet planes, and several industrial undertakings associated with the Soviet, notably the 700 mile long gas line that carries natural gas from the Persian oilfield into southern Russia. France made a £2,300 million economic agreement with Persia in 1974 (*Daily Telegraph* 24.12.74).

Ethiopia and Libya are currently in the news in their relations with the Soviet. After the Soviet had developed her military treaties with Syria and Iraq from 1972 onwards, she turned her attention to Libya as her next protege. So headlines read: "NATO ALARMED BY LIBYA'S ARSENAL" (*Daily Times* 1.9.77); "RUSSIA GIVING LIBYA MASSIVE ARSENAL: The Soviet Union has supplied Libya with an arsenal of weapons unequalled in any of the developing states in the world, according to President Sadat of Egypt." The N. African naval and air bases now made available to Russia greatly increase her threat to the south of Western Europe.

As to Ethiopia, there is active warfare at the moment between Somalia and Ethiopia. The Soviet has had a grip on Somalia and access to the naval ports controlling the Red Sea for several years. Now the Soviet has seen the advantage of giving her support to the rebel Marxist Ethiopian government, and probably hopes to get control of both countries. Recent headlines read: "ETHIOPIA TO GET RUSSIAN ARMS WORTH £200 MILLION:" (3.9.77) "RUSSIANS AIRLIFT JETS AND HEAVY GUNS TO ETHIOPIA (22.9.77); "ETHIOPIANS RUSH UP SOVIET ROCKETS" (30.9.77).

So again, day by day, we see events moving to fulfil God's word announced long centuries ago regarding the Time of the End.

It is surely significant that although Ethiopia and Libya are included in the great Gogian confederacy, Egypt that lies between them is not. This confirms the present day appearance of things, that Egypt will associate herself with the South power. But as Daniel, ch. 11, tells us, "The land of Egypt shall not escape" the Northerner at the critical hour of the invasion of the land. The current situation north and south of the land is set out in the sketch map no. 3 pg. 33 *

* Since the above was written, President Siad Barre of Somalia has ordered out the last of the Russians, and renounced the treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union. In consequence, Russia has stepped up its support of Ethiopia, ten times more populous than Somalia, whilst Somalia has sought assistance from others. She is finding it hard to obtain. Not one black African country has given support to her in her military offensive, the USA and Britain are reluctant to be drawn into the area, some Arab countries have offered money and sympathy, but real help has been hard to obtain. It is of the height of significance that of the northern African countries, Libya and Ethiopia are being drawn into the Russian influence, whilst Egypt has turned to the West: exactly the situation anticipated by the prophets of Israel 2500 years ago. (HPM — Publisher)

CHAPTER FOUR

ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S OUTLOOK IS CHANGING

The excitement of seeing many forward moves relative to the 'King of the South' is somewhat dampened when we turn to Israel. There is little in sight that points to that strange peace in the land before the great confederacy comes from the north to take a spoil. Israel is to "dwell safely all of them;" they are described as "them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates;" "in that day when My people dwell safely, shalt thou not know it?" As proposed in the booklet *Russia, The Vatican And The Invasion Of Israel* this remarkable state of things probably follows on after the resurrection, and the hidden unrecognised power of Christ as a major influence in this region. Nevertheless we do well to look for signs that point in the direction of peace in this area; and they are not altogether absent. What follows is a noting of various factors apparent today.

The 1973 war was a turning point, or at least the end of an era, for Israel. From 1948-1973, a period of 25 years, or half a Jubilee, Israel had defied the surrounding hostile nations, supposing that eventually her military and economic advantages would bring peace. The Yom Kippur war brought a deep-seated change. The Israelis became unsure of themselves and seriously began wondering what the ultimate future would be. Their more sober uneasy mood derives from several factors. Thus:

1. The Arab skill, strategy and weight of arms in the war shewed that Israel was not invincible.

2. Continuing to live with 40% of G.N.P. devoted to defence, and with the siege economy, is wearing down their morale.

3. A rising generation who did not experience the holocaust of Europe, and did not participate in the heroic days of the founding of the State is less willing to accept the continuing hardships.

4. Economically the State is in a chronically bad shape.

5. There is a continuing sense of isolation as world pressure demands compromise on the part of Israel. And with President Carter's detailed plan for Israel to yield most of the territory won in 1967, there is a worried mood among them.

WILL THERE BE PEACE?

Because of this changed mood there was apparent toward the end of 1976 a significant change of attitude in the government, aided by a more tolerant attitude in the surrounding Arab States. It was made known that Israel was willing to give up most of her 1967 gains for a definitive peace. The present writer commented at the time that we might see Israel reduced in size to fulfil the phrase in Ezekiel 38:12, "dwelling in the midst (margin 'navel') of the land;" that there might be a kind of agreed neutrality for the whole area that would greatly reduce armaments, leading to dwelling safely and becoming prosperous. Then in May 1977 there was an unexpected upheaval with Mr. Begin winning the General Election. Like the rest, Mr. Begin wants peace with security, but he takes a generally harder line over giving up territories. His philosophy is that goodwill should be cultivated with the Arabs, and that throughout the land of Israel there should be one law for Arabs and Jews alike. "Arabs who chose to become Israeli citizens will be able to vote for the Knesset (parliament). Those who prefer to remain non-citizen residents will have all rights except that of voting for the Knesset The Arab minority will be given cultural autonomy." (*Jewish Observer* 6.1.77). President Begin's insistence on holding on to the West Bank ("West Bank" is a misnomer — the area covers Samaria and Judea) is in line with prophecy; this region is part of the 'naval' of the land.

At the time of writing President Carter is trying hard to bring about the Geneva Conference between Jews and Arabs. His attitude is unpredictable. He has a knowledge of Biblical prophecies about the restoration of the Jews, and in his election campaign pledged himself to fully support the Israeli position. But unhappily President Carter's religion is very ecumenical, and he is friendly with the Roman Catholics. More than that, his chief Security advisor, Prof. Brzezinski, who is so close to him that he sees Mr. Carter several times a day, is an ardent Catholic and lay Jesuit! Brzezinski is one of the authors of the Carter plan to give back the 1967 conquered land to the Arabs. He has also brought about the "Russian-American Agreement" regarding the Geneva Conference. It may be that the U.S.A. is getting a Soviet agreement to a Middle East 'peace' in return for granting some other Soviet ambition. Saudi Arabia and Egypt are desirous of a peace settlement with Israel, Syria, Iraq and Libya are not. Possibly the Arab world will become divided and lose their bargaining power. We do not know what the immediate course of

events will be — whether some degree of peace, or further war.

A POSSIBLE RELIGIOUS REVIVAL

One effect of Begin's premiership may be the turning of the nation from its socialist-atheistic attitude back to a greater interest in the Jewish religion and the reading of the scriptures. Not only is this an objective of Begin himself, but he has installed as Minister of Education and Culture, Zevulun Hammer who is the leader of the "young guard" in the National Religious Party. In an interview he said: "There are three main areas in education in which I expect to contribute. One is the lack of connection between Israelis and their Jewishness. There must be an identification with the nation's past that will influence actions and motivations in the present. We are not a nation that was born 30 years ago, or even 100 years ago. We have roots and sources. This is what shapes our identity and destiny. Jewish teaching is very significant: how a son behaves towards his father, a citizen towards his country, the dictum that each of us must feel as if he himself took part in the Exodus from Egypt."....."The government that has now been formed can give spiritual regeneration in Eretz Israel. The strengthening of ties between the nation and its country, the nation and its roots, is a golden opportunity. There is an opportunity for a kind of spiritual flowering that can lead both Jews here and Jews throughout the world again to look to Israel and its redemption" (*Jewish Observer* 8.9.77). Here perhaps is one of those moves by which the nation starts on the long road back to faith in the Promises and the God of Israel. Preliminary developments of this sort may be expected prior to the positive work of Elijah.

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN THE REGION

In the Kingdom Age the land of Israel is to become the focal point of world trade, as well as the centre of Law and worship. "The abundance of the sea shall be turned unto thee, the wealth of the nations shall come unto thee Thy gates also shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the wealth of the nations," Isa. 60:5,11 (R.V.). This was the situation in the past, in the time of Solomon and the Tyrian trade. With an industrious people, and the peculiar geographical advantages of the area, there is a degree of inevitability about this. And so it is today. There are forces operative tending to trade and mutual advantage to the nations concerned; forces promoting peace and co-operation rather than war. Three articles have appeared in the *Jewish Observer* and

Middle East Review in 1977 proposing such development. An article entitled *Urgent Need For Israel And Jordan To Co-operate* (7.4.77) outlines a “daring plan” to build a 38 mile open canal to divert sea water from Haifa to the Jordan, providing a vast amount of electrical energy where the water dropped into the Jordan valley; and also providing a sea-way for trade to Syria and Jordan. Another article 28.4.77 has the title: *Haifa To Amman By Train?* “He (Israel’s Minister of Transport) would like to see Israel’s communications put at the disposal of neighbouring Arab States, and in particular, Jordan. Since that country has no outlet to the Mediterranean, the ports of Haifa and Ashdod could service its cargoes, which could be given a straight run to the sea across the Jordan bridges which have been kept open since 1967 — thanks to the imagination and commonsense of both the Israelis and King Hussein.” The third article (17.2.77) describes the “Kedem Land Bridge” which has been operating for the past two years. It is a container service that transports good from Eilat to Ashdod overland, and so to Europe and Britain. They call it “a new world trade artery.” Such are some of the pointers to growing trade co-operation in this region. And add to this the expressed interest of Saudi Arabia and Egypt for a Settlement with Israel, and one can see that the climate in this region is slowly changing.*

* As we go to press, the dramatic visit of Sadat to Israel has startled the world, though the full significance of the move has yet to be seen. It is hardly likely that the Egyptian President would have made such a move in opposition to Saudi Arabia whose economical assistance has been so valuable to his country. It indicates a general “softening” of attitude on behalf of some Arab states. The opposition of Saudi Arabia towards Israel has not been so obvious as that of other countries such as Iraq or Syria. Jordan has praised the action of Sadat, and, for some time, has drawn closer to agreement with Israel. These can be indications of a more settled condition in the Middle East such as is indicated in Ezekiel 38:11. The chronological setting of the invasion of Gog, however, is some time after the return of the Lord, when the full measure of “peace and safety” will be revealed prior to the “sudden destruction” that shall follow it. Ezekiel implies (see Ch. 39:26) that Israel will remain blind to the identity of its Messiah, and to its responsibilities towards God at this time of peace. The present moves in the Middle East can assist to bring about the condition required as indicated by Ezekiel’s prophecy. Israel must yet learn that true peace is only possible through “the Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6-7), and that modern Egypt has no more ability to save than did ancient Egypt in the days of Sennacherib — a type of Gog (Isa. 30:1-2). (HPM — Publisher)

CHAPTER FIVE

I SIT A QUEEN AND AM NO WIDOW

THE VATICAN, SPIRITUAL PARTNER OF THE SOVIET

In this chapter we review the operation of those moral and religious forces that centre round the Vatican and the Catholic Church. They will prove of equal importance with the military power of the Soviet in confederating Europe and in gathering all nations against Israel at Armageddon.

In the centuries of papal greatness the Pope was able to command the temporal powers of Europe to carry out her decrees against heretics — saints and Jews — and to wage war from the enlargement of his power and wealth. With the coming of the French Revolution the papal system was “burned with fire” and made “desolate and naked,” culminating in the loss of its Temporal Power in 1870. This was restored in small measure by the Lateran Treaty of 1929, creating the tiny Vatican State, and providing important diplomatic privileges with other nations. But in the Harlot woman’s brief final glory, the situation is so favourably changed that she can say, “I sit a queen and am no widow.” In the last final battles in Europe in her hour of dire necessity, she is supported by the Ten Horns (Rev. 17:14; 19:19). Prior to this she will have submitted to Russian military supremacy and become the spiritual partner in the great Image confederacy that is to be broken in the land of Israel. As Bro. Thomas expressed it in the language of his time over a century ago: speaking of Russia as the “Constantinopolitan Imperial Autocracy” and the “Latino-Greek king” he writes, “But the time is not far off, when the Latin Bishop may have to seek again to the Constantinopolitan Imperial Autocracy for protection. Daniel’s prophecy of the “king” (Dan. ch. 8) requires this; for he is to ‘cause to prosper till the indignation be accomplished.’ The pope and one of the emperors sustained by the power of the ‘king’ will place the Latino-Greek king ‘above all’ the mighty who shall be his contemporaries in ‘the time of the end.’ But for this manifestation to appear, the Ottoman dynasty must of course be driven out of Europe. The occupation of the Dragon’s throne (Constantinople G.P.) by a non-catholic royalty is clearly exceptional. The Ottoman has never, as a matter of fact, ‘magnified himself above all;’ nor has he honoured the Latin Bishop as a god in his dominion, or shown himself at all as a gracious patron of his saints and their temples. The power causing falsehood, or False-Prophetism, to prosper, must hold Jerusalem

at the crisis of the accomplishment of the indignation. By False-Prophetism, I mean, papalism. Hence the Sultan must be ejected, that a dynasty patronising a High Priest who forbids to marry, may come in. When, therefore, the Czar gets possession of Constantinople he will not be hostile to the Pope. On the contrary, he will honour and acknowledge him, and be the enemy of the Holy Land" (*Exposition of Daniel*, section 18).

As we have seen in an earlier section, events are moving in the direction indicated in the previous paragraph. No doubt the Vatican sees this coming, and she is exerting all her skill and deception — her intoxication — in Europe and the world to be in the best bargaining position when the moment arrives for her to come to terms with Russian military power and success. These efforts are not limited to Europe but cover the whole world. She is working in three directions:

1. Strengthening her spiritual power in Europe by
 - a. friendship with the eastern Catholic churches
 - b. Reuniting with the Protestant churches of western Europe,
 - c. Seeking to infuse her 'christianity' and moral leadership into the Common Market.
2. Adapting her philosophy of 'christianity' to accomodate Communism.
3. Drawing the religions of the world into association through
 - a. the World Council of Churches,
 - b. finding common ground with Moslems, Hinduism, Confucianism etc.

THE VATICAN WOOS THE EASTERN CHURCH

First a brief background to the Eastern Church. There are twelve major Orthodox Churches in Eastern Europe. They are autonomous. Each has a Patriarch, and they recognise the primacy of the Patriarch of Constantinople. There are also in the East the Oriental Christian Churches, the major ones being Armenian, Coptic, and Ethiopian. These are not at present in communion with the Orthodox Churches.

An important conference of the Orthodox Churches was held at Rhodes in 1961, in which they started breathing the ecumenical spirit. *The Times* correspondent reported: "The pan-Orthodox conference in Rhodes, the first union of all the Patriarchates and leading national Churches, was formally ended today when the 12 prelates who headed the delegates celebrated jointly the Liturgy, with Byzantine pomp and colour, in the Church of the

Annunciation." The conference "also made a major step towards closer co-operation with the Anglican Church, and, exceeding its own mandate, set in motion the process for a reunion with the Oriental Churches which seceded after the Council of Chalcedon, 1500 years ago." (*Times* 1.10.61 and 11.10.61).

At about the time of this conference the Vatican started moves to bring about reunion with the Orthodox Church. The series of events, no doubt carefully regulated by the Vatican, make interesting reading. "On the initiative of the Holy Father two special emissaries left Rome on June 17 to make a formal visit to His All Holiness Athenagoras the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople." The *Catholic Times* declared, "It is certain that this is the most significant event in relation with the Orthodox Church since the abortive attempt to heal the Great Schism at the Council of Florence in 1439" (July 14 1961). The next happening is Oct. 1962: "A 10-man mission from the Vatican arrived last night in Ankara — the first of its kind to visit Turkey" (*Times* 5.10.62). They bore a message of greeting to the Turkish President from the Pope. Then came the dramatic meeting of Pope Paul and the Patriarch Athenagoras at Jerusalem, in January 1964, with its "kiss of peace." The Pope followed this quickly with a letter to Athenagoras couched in the best diplomatic style of the Vatican. "Most beloved brother in Christ, this letter will be delivered by our beloved brother Mgr. Joseph Marie Martin By this visit we wish to renew the kiss of peace exchanged on the Mount of Olives and to tell you anew how often your person, and that of your clergy and faithful, is present in our prayer, etc." Some 18 months later came the great announcement: *Orthodox Patriarch Solemnly Ends Excommunication*. "The Oecumenical Patriarch, Athengoras, leader of the Orthodox Church, the great eastern branch of Christendom, formally annulled at noon today the excommunication pronounced by the Orthodox Church on the Church of Rome in 1054. This act, taken in conjunction with a similar one by the Pope in Rome, is clearly a milestone on the road to Christian reunion" (*Times* 8.12.65). In May 1967 the Pope took a further step to bind the two Churches together. He personally visited Athenagoras at Constantinople. St. John-Stevas wrote: "Today's journey of Pope Paul VI to visit the Patriarch Athenagoras is a major ecumenical event." He reported Athenagoras as saying: "When the moment came for all the bishops of the Church to meet together, both East and West, then the Pope would preside" (*Times* 25.7.67). When Patriarch Dimitrios was installed in place of Athenagoras in 1972, he sent his blessings to the Pope, to

whom he referred as 'our eldest brother and first among equals' (*Daily Telegraph* 19.7.72).

Reconciliation with the other Orthodox Churches proceeds at a slower pace. The Pope is trying hard, as the following item shows: "After praying forgiveness of past divisions among Christians the Pope knelt down before the Greek Orthodox prelate yesterday and kissed his foot in a gesture of humility, which Vatican sources said, took people by surprise." (*Daily Telegraph* 15.12.75). When all the Orthodox Churches have accepted Rome the Pope will feel he has gained another 100 million or more adherents.

PROTESTANT CHURCHES READY TO RETURN TO MOTHER CHURCH

The Church of England has been for centuries a 'Protestant' church, — protesting against the dogma and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Although itself in darkness regarding saving Truth, it has been many degrees better than Rome in teaching and practice. It has respected the moral teaching of the Word of God and its sufficiency for salvation. A process of undermining this opposition to the Catholic Church has been under way for a century and a half, and the appearance now is that the Church of England's leaders and clergy in general are ready for fellowship with Rome.

On the Continent there are the Lutheran and the Calvinist Churches, in West Germany, Holland, Switzerland and to some extent France. English newspapers only rarely report on the position of these churches, but there is little doubt that the same transformation has taken place there as in England. In confirmation of this, a report of the *Daily Telegraph* (10.3.77) said the joint Commission between the Lutheran German Church and Rome were progressing so well that the R. C. Church was moving towards accepting the Lutheran Confession of 1530. Luther was excommunicated for this.

A sketch of recent changes in England will show how rapidly the Church of England is moving back to Rome. Statues of the Virgin Mary were reported in two English churches in 1952 and 1954. In 1964 Parliament legalised the wearing of various ceremonial vestments by the minister when officiating in the church; these have symbolic meaning, chiefly associated with the Romish ritual of the Mass. In 1966 the House of Laity approved Burial Service containing prayers for the dead, — a Romish concept based on their doctrine of Purgatory. The Apocrypha, which provides the only support for Purgatory, was allowed to be

printed with the Authorised Version Bible in 1968. In 1974 Roman Catholic Mass was held in the Protestant Cathedral at Chichester. In the same year the law was changed so that a Roman Catholic could be the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor presides over the Court of Appeal, appoints judges and justices of the peace, acts as Speaker in the House of Lords, and in order of precedence comes next to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Control of the judiciary in this country is one of the goals of the Catholics in this country. (Education and Mass media are the other two vital areas). In 1975 there was a major victory in the passing of the Doctrine and Worship Measure through Parliament. This has taken away the control of Parliament over worship and doctrine, and leaves the way open for the revision of the Prayer Book and the introduction of Romish rituals in worship.

The development of friendly personal relations has become very apparent in the past ten years or so. In 1966 Archbishop Ramsey made the first official visit to the Pope since 1397, and their embracing and 'kiss of peace' was televised to millions of Europeans. In 1968 Dr. Ramsey preached in 'the foremost Roman Catholic pulpit in Britain.' Some of the Romish sentiments of his sermon were: "Think how he (Christ) welcomes you in the blessed sacrament with the scarcely believable intimacy of his real presence. Think how he welcomes you in absolution.... And for all our sins and failings he welcomes us already into the fellowship with Blessed Mary and all the saints in heaven" (*Protestant Reformer* 1969).

The steering of the English Church towards Reunion, begun by Archbishop Fisher, continued by Archbishop Ramsey, is now openly championed by the present Archbishop Coggan. His ecumenical spirit was expressed at his Enthronement in 1975. "Practically every denomination shared in the hallowing of the occasion. The great crowd of ecumenical witnesses included the Pope's personal representative, present at such an enthronement for the first time since the Reformation." "Dr. Coggan, the new titular head of the world's 64 million Anglicans, told the primates and prelates seated before him 'Our divisions will have to go'." (*Guardian* 1.2.75). This situation is paralleled on the R.C.Church side by the recent appointment of Cardinal Hume as head of the Catholic Church in England. After his enthronement he immediately walked from Westminster Cathedral to Westminster Abbey to address the Protestants: "The sister churches (Catholic and Protestant — G.P.) can now look back on a past that is dead and buried. We can look forward to new life, to new hope, and in

God's time to the goal of christian unity" (*Reformer* May, 1976). The *Daily Telegraph* Church Correspondent wrote (25.4.77): "In England, inter-church relations have also been transformed by the appointment of Cardinal Hume as Archbishop of Westminster" Dr. Coggan visited the Pope in April 1977: "As a result, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches are clearer and more cordial in their doctrinal relations than at any time this century."

While the personal relationships have been growing, doctrinal differences are being bridged, largely by the use of ambiguous formulas, the yielding of the Anglicans to Rome's dogmas, and by Rome re-interpreting her dogmas in language more attractive to the Anglicans — where there is a will there is a way! A commission was set up in 1970 by the Pope and Dr. Ramsey of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. "The final aim of our work is the attainment of full organic union between our two communions. It means that two bodies become one body." The Commission has made three reports. Commenting on these, the *Daily Telegraph* Church Correspondent wrote: "Its first Statement, in 1971, showed deep agreement on the practice and meaning of the Eucharist. Its second, on the ministry, in 1973, also disclosed that the two churches were practically of one mind on the character and function." (*Daily Telegraph* 10.1.77). The third report on Authority in the Church was released in January 1977. The newspaper report began: "A proposed partnership of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, with the Pontiff as the Patriarch, has been approved in principle by the Pope, Vatican officials said in Rome yesterday." The Commission's statement included: "in any future union the universal Primacy of the Church would be held by the See of Rome, the city where Peter and Paul died." The *Daily Telegraph* Church correspondent comments: "In a united church, the Pope would be regarded as Patriarch of the whole Church, with the Archbishop of Canterbury Patriarch of the English Church. The two churches would be in full communion, with the Church of England maintaining its own style of worship and traditions." (*Daily Telegraph* 10.1.77). It certainly looks as if some degree of Reunion is not far off. Whether this will happen we cannot tell. It depends on how soon the separation of Britain from Europe comes. When that separation happens there will be a change of attitude to God and the Bible. Britain without doubt will submit to Christ at an early stage of events after Christ has come. For the present we can regard the Rome-ward moves of the Church of England as a guide to what is happening to Protestants on the Continent.

A SCARLET COLOURED BEAST FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY

When the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Protestant Churches of Western Europe are all confederate with the Papacy, the prophecy will be fulfilled of a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy, ridden by the harlot woman. We are witnessing the preparations for this. The beast is the last phase of Daniel's 4th beast, and the full development of the Beast of the Sea with its leopard body and bear feet. Those interested in Bro. Thomas' interpretation of the beast should read *Eureka* vol. 3, pp. 190-194, (Old Edition). The beast is scarlet, and not the 'fiery-red' of the pagan beast of Revelation ch. 12. It is full of sin and wickedness. Scarlet is appropriate to peoples who have known the word of God, and are apostate — it applies to Christendom. It is 'full of names of blasphemy.' 'Blasphemy' is an action against God — speaking in such a way to hurt His good name. This is what the churches of Christendom do. They pose in the name of Christ, but in God's eyes their way is blasphemy. The plural 'names' of blasphemy indicate there are a variety of elements falsely posing as in the name of Christ. When all the churches of Europe are associated with the Roman Catholic Church, Europe will truly be 'full of names of blasphemy,' and will be ridden by the harlot woman.

THE VATICAN'S INFLUENCE ON THE COMMON MARKET

The intention to create a Common Market was declared in 1951 when the foreign ministers of the six (five of whom are Catholics) signed the 'Schuman Plan,' and declared: "Resolve to substitute for the rivalries of centuries a fusion of their essential interests to found by the creation of an economic community the first bases of a larger and deeper community between peoples long opposed by divisions costly in blood, and to found institutions capable of directing of a destiny which henceforth will be shared." Six years later enough progress had been made for the signing of the treaties establishing the European Economic Community (E.E.C.) On the occasion of the signing of the Treaty of Rome the Pope played a prominent part, as the *Catholic Times* reported: "The Pope on Monday urged the nations of Europe to create a real federation.....The 78 members of the Assembly drove from Rome to Castelgandolfo to be received in audience by the Holy Father before beginning their session." "He said the six nations of 'little Europe' were embarking on a salutary road 'from which can emerge for themselves and for Europe a new road in all domains, an enrichment not only economic and

cultural but also spiritual and religious’.” (*Catholic Times* 8.11.57). So began the welding together of W. Europe in which 134 million out of a total population of 175 million in the 6 countries were Catholics.

Throughout the succeeding years the Vatican has maintained its close interest, — and no doubt has done far more behind the scenes than has been reported. In an article in the news Magazine *Torch* in 1962, the Rome correspondent wrote: “The Vatican council, usually cautious over political changes, not of its own inspiration, now considers the Common Market the work of Divine Providence.” He continues, “Not since the end of the Roman Empire has the Holy See been offered a rallying point like the Common Market. Small wonder that the Roman Church is smiling benignly over what one Vatican official called ‘the greatest Catholic Super State the world has ever known.’ The Holy See has set aside one day in the year in honour of the Madonna of the Common Market, when prayers are said and candles lit in all Churches for the intervention and protection of the Virgin Mary, in what is after all the greatest Catholic Business deal in history” (Copied from the *Protestant Reformer* Jan. 1971). Mary is having a busy time these days!

In 1965 there was set up a “European Roman Catholic Bishop’s conference.” Cardinal Heenan said it would be in the nature of “a spiritual Common Market,” but without political boundaries. It would meet once or twice a year. Catholic Bishops from all European countries would be represented (*Times* 29.11.65).

The *Protestant Reformer* has several times referred to the Vatican State as the 10th member of the Common Market, but whether it is formally so is doubtful. But the Pope has appointed an Apostolic Nuncio to represent him at the various organisations of the E.E.C., and to be a permanent observer in the Council of Europe.

In the January 1976 *Protestant Reformer*, the main article is entitled *The Pope Explains European Unity*, and gives extracts from ‘a little-known address to 80 Bishops from Europe’ revealing the aims of the Church of Rome in their European context. This is one of the extracts from the Pope’s address. “We think that only the Christian civilisation, from which Europe was born, can save this continent from the void it is experiencing, permitting it to humanly master the technical ‘progress’ for which it has been given a taste to the world, to find again its spiritual identity and to assume its moral responsibilities towards other partners of the globe. There is the vocation of Europe, by

means of the Faith. And it is there that our mission as bishops in Europe takes on a gripping perspective. No other human force in Europe can render the service confided to us, promoters of the Faith, to awaken the Christian soul of Europe where its unity is rooted." In the same article there was a report of what Mrs. Shirley Williams, Minister of Education, said at a Roman Catholic Socialist Guild meeting, "We will be joined to a Europe in which the Catholic religion will be the dominant faith, and in which the application of Catholic social doctrine will be the major factor in every day political and economic life."

It is clear that the Papal hierarchy expects to provide the unifying power to bind Europe together, and is working vigorously to that end.

Much has been written on the 400 pages of the Treaty of Rome and its totalitarian qualities. These are the kind of rules and laws the Vatican likes — no freedom for the individual or his conscience, but rigid laws and conformity by all. There is an almost identical pattern in the Soviet and the Cominform countries.

ADAPTING CATHOLIC 'CHRISTIANITY' TO MODERN EUROPE

The spirit of the French Revolution — *liberty, equality, and fraternity*, — has no reference to God. It is wholly concerned with man's wellbeing. This has been the operative idea in Europe for nearly two centuries, sometimes as a genuine ideal, usually as a device for controlling the masses and maintaining power. It produced the Russian Revolution, and now under Communism it is used as a cloak for extending world power. Socialism grafted on to traditional Russian totalitarianism grips the Satellite countries and pushes out into the underdeveloped countries of Africa and the Far East. It provides economic progress and promises material wellbeing, but in fact gives political shackles and not freedom.

The Vatican is in process of bringing its christianity into the same pattern. The dominant idea about christianity today is that it preaches the good of man. There is emerging a brand of 'christianity' of an essentially materialistic character — for the welfare of the underprivileged and the underdeveloped nations. This is a philosophy that the Roman Catholic Church has been unfolding for the past 50 years. It is high-lighted in Pope John's encyclical *New Light On Social Problems* 1961. It is expressed in the slogan "Justice and Peace," and in every country (Rhodesia for instance), the Catholic Hierarchy is setting up national commissions for Justice and Peace, as a means of influencing the politics of that country. In a close parallel way to Communism

they are making their 'christianity' a device for maintaining their grip on modern man, and extending their influence into the newly developing countries. New Testament teaching is easily adapted to this end. There is also emerging the idea that christianity is a revolutionary force; that the better world can only come by using force to displace the Old Order.

So it is becoming apparent that Communism/Socialism and R.C. christianity are on parallel, or rather converging, courses, both using the same kind of outward dress to cloak their selfish ends. There can be nothing surprising in the idea that they will find it mutually advantageous to co-operate in the future. The two are complementary, the Soviet on the material and military plane, the Vatican on the moral and religious plane, both ostensibly proclaiming peace and justice to all mankind, yet both really only concerned with power and aggrandisement.

THE BOOK "MARXISM AND THE CHURCH OF ROME"

How the Vatican has been developing her new philosophy to fit the modern age of Socialism, and to be ready to co-operate with the rising world power, the Soviet, is fascinatingly described in a study of the *Institute For The Study Of Conflict*, entitled *Marxism And The Church of Rome* (1974). This confirms and consolidates the various pointers seen in newspaper cuttings over the years. The writer has the pen name Herve Leclerc, and is a journalist who has been accredited to the Vatican for 12 years. There follows some extracts from this Study.

Passing over writers of the last century, in the 20th century reference is made to Mounier, writing in the 1930-50 period. "The priest's duty is to contribute to the construction of the socialist world.;" "Communism contains a part of the Kingdom of God." Jacques Maritain, a personal friend of Mounier, elaborated "a whole theology whereby Christianity was closely identified with democratic and revolutionary formulas." Teilhard de Chardin, the Jesuit, was famous in the post-war years. He wrote "I think that the world will turn to the Christian faith only if, first, Christianity turns to the faith of the world to make it divine;" "The Christian God on High, and the Marxist God of progress are reconciled in Christ. The Dominican Society 'has also played its part in the avante-garde of Christian socialism.... Father Chenu has trained since 1930 generations of politically committed monks for whom the good news announced in the New Testament were above all Marxist'." The election of Pope John in 1958 is described thus: "It was a turning point since until that date attempts to materialise Christianity or conversely baptise socialism

were held to be error and condemned as such, whereas after it they were gradually recognised as legitimate and even identified with the pastoral spirit." "His dream was to melt the Russian ice, to reconcile the two world systems by extending a fraternal hand from the Atlantic to the Urals." The present Pope, Paul, is said to have Jacques Maritain (see above) as his mentor and guide. Under his hand the liberalising forces of the second Vatican Council were moulded. Then in the late 1960's a new note is heard, the justification of force and revolution to attain the good of the people. Mgr. Joseph Comblin, with the imprimatur of the Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, issued a pamphlet with the title *Theology of Revolution*. The Study gives extracts and precis from the pamphlet: "True Christianity is secularised, it is now called Revolution....One can perfectly well be a Marxist and a Christian....To condemn revolution for its violence is to enshrine the Established OrderThe principles of Christian faith are the motors of modern revolution." At the end of the Study reference is made to a practical demonstration of the willingness of the Roman Catholic Church to join in the Communist revolutionary activity. The Study closes with a report of an international congress of terrorists held in France, Italy — and the meeting place was the Stenson Institute, a Jesuit College run for university students! It reads:

HOSTS TO TERRORISTS. On 18th April 1972 the Daily Express reported in great detail that an international congress of terrorists had taken place in Florence from 1st to 3rd October the previous year. Among those attending were delegates from the Black Panthers, the Irish Republican Army, the Revolutionärer Kampf from Berlin, the Argentine Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo (ERP) responsible for the murder of the Fiat executive Dr. Sallustro, the Angolan MPLA and the Frelimo terrorists from Mozambique. It was significant that Italy was chosen in the first place, but more characteristic still that the locale in which the meeting took place, the Stenson Institute, a Jesuit College run for university students."

In illustration of Roman Catholics taking a hand in revolutionary movements, a newspaper report (*Daily Telegraph* 14.9.77) of a trial in Rhodesia shows how a Roman Catholic nun supported the black terrorists in their attacks on Rhodesia. She was described as "a research worker with the Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia." The incriminating evidence was found in her diary.

It is abundantly clear from this Study that there is a strong

voice in the Catholic hierarchy now favouring the adoption of a socialist 'christianity,' and preparing for a working arrangement with the Soviet. The fact that the Study has been written by a journalist accredited to the Vatican indicates that they wish this situation to be 'leaked' to the public. Time will show that Socialism plus the intoxicating ritual of Catholicism, Latin and Greek, is more powerful than the crude atheistic socialism of Communism.

In the speculation as to who will be the next Pope, the name of Cardinal Franz Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, and head of the Secretariat for non-believers (viz, Communists) is put near the top of the list.

SHAPING A KIND OF WORLD RELIGION The World Council of Churches

The Vatican has a department exclusively concerned with the work of her missionaries. Catholic missionaries have been extending the influence of the Catholic Church into the less civilised regions of the world for centuries. A Catholic population has been built up in the various States of South America, Africa, India and South-East Asia.

Of recent years the Catholic authorities have been putting the Ecumenial movement to good use in the wider field of world action. This is shown in her purposeful co-operation with the World Council of Churches. This movement for "christian unity" was started in the 1940's, and now numbers nearly 300 member churches from 90 countries representing 400 million people, the majority being in the newer lands of the southern hemisphere. It has held five World Assemblies. Amsterdam (1948), Evanston in U.S.A. (1954), New Dehli in India (1961), Uppsala in Sweden (1968), and Nairobi in Kenya (1975). Interestingly the Orthodox Russian Church, controlled by the Soviet, joined as early as 1961, and has played an important part in its activities. "A Russian Church leader who is the youngest Archbishop in the world is playing a central role at the assembly of the World Council of Churches at Delhi. Archbishop Nikodim is only 32 years old." Nikodim's replacement of Nikolai, who for 17 years carried on the foreign policy tasks of the church, coincided with a drive by the Soviet authorities to make use of the Russian Orthodox Church for the advancement of Soviet foreign policy." (*Times* 21.11.61). The article describes his brilliant career and leadership. In 1964 the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches had a four day meeting at Odessa in the U.S.S.R.

The Roman Catholic Church has adopted its usual stance to

the World Council of Churches, by co-operating sufficiently to influence activities without being an actual member. Cecil Northcott of the *Daily Telegraph* wrote in 1975: "Cold-shouldered by the Vatican in 1948, the World Council of Churches is now basking in the warmth of Papal approval for its programmes of relief, justice, and peace, and to emphasise this the Pope is sending a strong team of observers to Nairobi, led by Fr. Pierre Duprey, under-secretary of the Christian Unity Secretariat." (29.9.75).

In gathering together the great variety of Churches, the W.C.C. is the avant-garde of modern 'christianity,' operating on a largely non-doctrinal foundation and emphasising human well-being. An article by the General Secretary in 1974 "reflects the current pre-occupation of the World Council with social, political and humanitarian issues to the almost total exclusion of personal salvation" (*Protestant Reformer*, July 1975). Its latest slogan "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites" is presented in terms of social and political liberation in this life, rather than religion. Cecil Northcott concludes his article (see above): " 'Jesus Christ frees and unites' — a topic that has something for everyone. The younger prophets of the southern hemisphere are said to be eager to acclaim the Church as a leader in their revolutionary campaigns for social justice and political freedom. Is it to be Karl Marx or Jesus Christ?" Relative to this last comment there have been several protest about the W.C.C. granting money to the black "terrorists" in Africa. "In 1973 the Anglican bishop of Mashonaland and Matabeleland in Rhodesia wrote to the W.C.C. protesting that it was financing groups that "employ methods of naked terrorism." They said terrorists "come out of the bush, surrounded farmhouses by night, sprayed them with bullets and heavier armaments, wounding occupants, chiefly children, and burning down houses of local Africans" ' (*Protestant Telegraph* 30.10.76). So the name of Christ and religion is only a tool in the hands of those seeking power.

CO-OPERATION WITH NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

In seeking world power Rome today is pursuing co-operation with non-christian religions — Moslems, Hindus, Bhuddists, followers of Confucian, etc. How different from her arrogance and universal hostility of earlier times. She has found there is a more successful way of progress in the present climate of world opinion.

The Moslems are of particular concern to the Vatican because they are the dominant religion in the Middle East and historically the bitter enemies of the Catholics. The Pope now

shows his sweet reasonableness to them. When he visited Turkey in 1967, in a speech he said: "We want to tell you of our esteem for the Moslems, who adore one God, living and existing, merciful and all-powerful, creator of the sky and the earth, who spoke to men. As it was so well expressed in the recent (Ecumenial) Council, which urges us to promote together, on that basis, social justice, moral values, peace and freedom; all those who adore the one unique God are called to establish an order of justice and peace on the earth. It is from the heart that we invoke upon you and your community the abundance of His blessings" (*Reformer*, Jan. 1968). Notice the continual cry throughout the world, — join with us in establishing justice and peace, echoed also by the Soviet authorities. Probably this will be the banner under which the nations will march when they assemble to suppress the aggression of the Jews and their King. In the booklet *Rome And Reunion*, published by The British Evangelical Council, the writer says, on page 13, "Kevin Mc Namara expounds the Vatican 11 Decree on the Church as follows: 'Islam is not only an instrument in God's hands for salvation of those who sincerely adhere to it, but has a close spiritual and moral affinity with the Church'." For the purpose of winning the co-operation of the Moslem people, Rome is willing to say that either road leads to heaven.

In pursuit of this aim to have a working arrangement with the Moslems, the Vatican set up in 1974 still another Commission, this one to cater for the 'significant development of relations' between the Church and Moslems (*Catholic Herald* 25.11.74). A few days after this announcement the Pope received a group of Islamic high court judges and religious leaders from Saudi Arabia, with the same grand theme of co-operating in the furtherance of the rights of man. In July 1977 it was announced that the Pope had agreed to the building of 7 million sterling mosque in the city of Rome itself! The article says: "The conciliary attitude by the Vatican reflects the growing rapprochement between Roman Catholicism and Islam, whose warriors once slaughtered each other as acts of faith. The Vatican now entertains cordial relations with Moslem lands — many have ambassadors accredited to the Holy See."

There are approximately 400 million Moslems, and obviously any form of agreement or co-operation with the Vatican extends Rome's influence into vast areas of the world.

The attempted co-operation with the Mohammedan religion has some substantial religious foundation, for both parties accept the Old Testament. But Rome is not inhibited by having a Bible basis, and she is reaching out to the Eastern religions. Here are a

few extracts. "The Pope told a Buddhist delegation of his 'profound regard' for the 'spiritual values' of Buddhism and its 'precious traditions.' The Vatican called this one of the warmest approaches that the Pope has made to any other religion since the establishment of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians in 1964" (*Reformer*, Jan. 1973). The *Reformer* of November 1974 quotes the *Tablet*, a Roman Catholic Monthly in which an Indian Cardinal of the R. C. Church proposed that christianity should be presented to Hindu believers in terms of 'those messianic expectations to be found in their sacred literature.' A Buddhist has been the executive secretary for Asia in the World Council of Churches since 1971. A Dr. D. T. Niles, one of the presidents of the W. C. C. gave an address in which he said: "Don't call anybody a non-christian. A Hindu has a saving encounter with Christ. He is either a possessor of Christ, or is possessed by Christ." (*After Uppsala — Whither Bound?* pg. 9). The Catholic Fr. Ivan McGrath of Taiwan has a book "*Between Heaven And Man*" in which he is said to show Asian culture and Catholic theology as compatible (*Catholic Herald* 1.1.74). These few quotations are given only to show the lengths that Rome goes in seeking to extend her influence.

CHAPTER SIX

BRITAIN

A NATION WITHOUT FAITH

“Her glory is departed” could be said of Britain at the present time. For the past 20-30 years hardly anything has prospered; after a few hopeful signs she stumbles into another crisis. Those basic moral qualities that make a nation prosper — honour, honesty, tolerance — are rarely seen. The permissive society has brought strife, greed, divorce, unhappiness, nervous breakdowns. Her troubles are largely of her own making. Take Ezekiel, ch. 28, verses 14-19, as having an application to the latter-day Tyre, the present spirit of irresponsibility and self-destruction is well described in the words: “therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee.” And it is all due to her attitude to God and his Word. The Bible that was respected is now scorned, and its precepts and wisdom ignored. The churches exert no moral power for good; they are drunk with the Harlot’s wine. Internationally Britain has chosen to join ‘the Beast,’ and to seek strength and fellowship with a system God hates.

What a sad picture. What lies ahead? Whatever the present appearances, God’s Word will be fulfilled. When Christ and his Bride rejoice together, “the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat Thy favour,” Psa. 45:12. And again, “Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He hath glorified thee,” Isa. 60:9. There is ample evidence that Britain and her merchantile activity represent the latter-day Tyre and Tarshish. (See chapter seven in *Russia The Vatican And The Invasion Of Europe*).

It is clear therefore that there must be a change of course for Britain. There must be a spiritual revival and a separation from Europe. When and how is not clear. We must expect a downward path until her pride is humbled, and the need for deliverance is very great. She is particularly mentioned in Isaiah, ch. 2, as one of the Powers to be humbled: “For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: ...and upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, and upon all the ships of Tarshish and upon all pleasant pictures” (vv. 12,15,16). Having joined Catholic Europe, she must eat the fruit of her faithlessness. Many are already disillusioned with the attraction of

a European system, with its economic and political bondage. There will be no easy release. The situation may continue until western Europe is taken over by the Soviet; and then Britain will be isolated. If then she loses control of the North Sea and the Atlantic, she will lose her oil, and be faced with starvation because the convoys of food cannot get through. Then indeed she will cry to God.

THE "SHIPS OF TARSHISH" DESTROYED

Twice the scriptures speak of the destruction on the 'ships of Tarshish' in a latter-day context. There is the reference just given; also Ps. 48:7 — "Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind." The historical counterpart to this is given in Ezekiel, ch. 27:25-26. "The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market; Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the sea." This figurative language had its fulfilment in the fall of Tyre by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. A destroying invader is several times described as an 'east wind.'

The prophecy of the destruction of the ships of Tarshish hardly refers to defeat in a naval battle. It has a wider implication. "Ships of Tarshish" defines trade, not naval strength. The figure of breaking of the ships of Tarshish probably refers to the decline in Britain's trading power, and control of the seas to that end. The uprise of the "many ships" of the Soviet may well bring this about.

Despite the difficulties and crises that will beset Britain in the time of her humbling, she does not have an irretrievable disaster. For we have already quoted that the rich amongst the people will bring a gift of tribute. And the chapter on Tyre in Isaiah, chapter 23, concludes that: "And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the Lord: it shall not be treasured or laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing." It looks as if, after her humbling she co-operates with the people of Israel in developing the prosperity of Israel, like the Tyrians in the time of Solomon.

A TIME OF TESTING?

Britain's "Time of trouble," that is probably yet to come, contains an element of trial for brethren and sisters. In a national crisis of the kind we may envisage when Russia moves into western Europe; or prior to this a state of fear has been aroused at the probability, the demand for national service for all will be without any toleration, or regard for conscience. The demand will

be for all to help. It will need great faith and conviction to stand aside. It may be that at such a critical point, when for those who will not conform there appears no way out, the saints will be taken away to judgment.

THE BANEFUL INFLUENCE OF TELEVISION

Television, more than any other single factor, has sapped our spiritual vitality, slowly as the years go by, making us a people still believing a set of correct doctrines, but more and more belonging to the world instead of being pilgrims and sojourners, waiting for the city whose builder and maker is God. With the refined techniques, psychology, and professional presentation used, it is inevitable that our minds will be moulded by it, even if we are regular viewers merely of so-called documentaries, news reports, and other sensible topics.

Its effect is apparent when turning from television to the Bible. After the mind has been excited by the flashing screen, the word of God seems very drab and uninteresting, and may be left on one side. In any case, the contrast between the two, emphasises how foolish we are to make the study of the Word more difficult by first filling the mind with the wisdom and emotions of this world. We could not put over the box the words of Paul to the Philippians: "...whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8). Yet again, because of its power and attraction, it becomes a great time waster. So much precious time is spent pleasing ourselves, rather than pleasing Christ.

Such is television as seen by the child of God. It is salutary to consider a more gross, but parallel assessment, as seen by the discerning of this world. With the heading: *T.V.'s Child Is Full Of Woe*, there was a review in the *Guardian* 23.7.77, of a book by Marine Winn in America with the title *The Plug-in Drug*.

"What she does argue, with devastating persuasiveness, is that whatever monumental harm may be caused by television's content, it is as nothing compared with the much more serious consequence of watching *anything* on television. Winn is concerned with the development of the child and the preservation of the family. TV threatens both.

"Television watching is a 'plug-in drug.' It alters consciousness. It blots out the real world. It is addictive. Users have difficulty controlling levels of usage.

"As with any drug, television exacts a devastating personal and social price in return.

“Heavy viewers — even heavy viewers of *Sesame Street* — show slower gains in cognitive abilities than light viewers. Since the first TV generation began taking college boards in 1964, the decline in young people’s verbal facility has continued. E. B. White once lamented, ‘Short of throwing away all the TV sets, I really don’t know what we can do about writing.’

“A child’s self-understanding requires his or her development of family relationships. Liberation from dependency requires a capacity of self-direction. The best intellectual stimulation comes from manipulating and doing-not watching.

“In these and dozens of other ways, Winn says, television watching stunts a child’s development — physically, neurologically, socially, aesthetically, psychologically, and intellectually....

“Television dulls sensitivity and creates a tendency to detachment from the consequence of one’s acts. It produces an erroneous set of factual assumptions about the real world in heavy viewers regardless of their educational level (such as the likelihood of encountering violence, or the proportion of professionals in the population).

“Finally, television watching has contributed to the disintegration of the family — husband and wives as well as parents and children. It leaves less time for talking over everyday experiences and family problems; less time for family rituals, or reading aloud. Meals and bedtimes are re-scheduled, a television show’s plots become a subject for conversation.....”

EXHORTATION

Jacob declared in his last words: "I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord." (Gen. 49:18). David said of the covenant promises concerning the reign of Messiah: "This is all my salvation and all my desire." (2 Sam. 23:5). Isaiah cried, after seeing Messiah's glory in vision: "Lord how long?" (Isaiah 6:11). Daniel waiting for the restoration of Judah to their land, set his face unto the Lord God — "to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes." (Daniel 9:3). Habakkuk opened his prophecy with the words: "O Lord, how long shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear! even cry unto Thee of violence, and Thou wilt not save!" and he concludes his prophecy with the words of faith, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation." John in exile in Patmos for the testimony of Jesus Christ, after seeing the visions of what must take place before the day of the Kingdom, responds to the Master's "Surely I come quickly" with the cry, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." In these phrases from the great men of God, we have the spirit of all Zion's watchmen who figuratively stand on the walls of Jerusalem. "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day or night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (Isa. 62:6,7).

INDIFFERENT?

Are we so engrossed in the business of this life — the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches — that we have become indifferent to the many signs the Master has given us of the nearness of his return? Not for us the "seeing afar off" and embracing by faith. We are privileged to live on the threshold of the mighty events by which "the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ." The Master's exhortation to his disciples may be applied to us: "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping," Mark 13:35,36.

— G. Pearce (Rugby, England).

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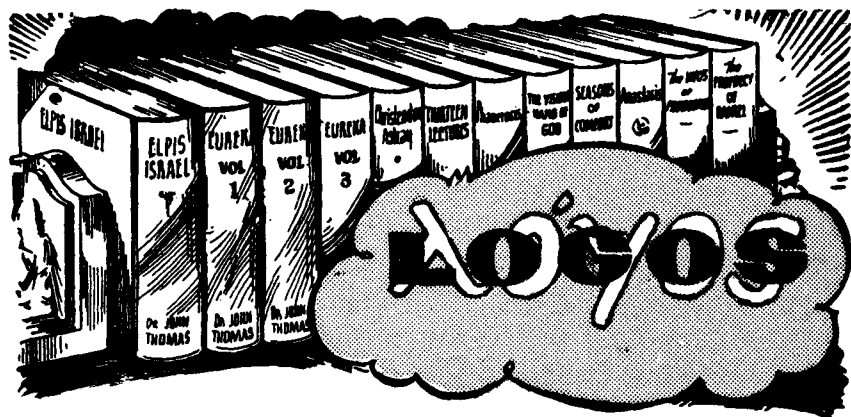
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