

# MILESTONES 1981



GRAHAM PEARCE

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**A Review of  
World Events  
in the Light  
of Bible Prophecy**

**GRAHAM PEARCE**

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# INTRODUCTION

1981 has been crowded with events, bringing to mind the closing words of the end of Isaiah chapter 60: "*I the LORD will hasten it in his time*". These are some of the highlights of the year: the assassination of President Sadat and the attempted assassinations of President Reagan and the Pope; crisis conditions in Poland, with the people and the Catholic Church ranged against the Communist government; France and Greece turning to Socialist governments; President Reagan's 'confrontation' attitude to the Soviet; Western Europe's alarm at this and the vast anti-nuclear demonstrations in most countries; Begin surprisingly re-elected Prime Minister in Israel; world-wide condemnation of Israel following the smashing of the nuclear plant in Iraq, the 'indiscriminate' bombing of Beirut, and the annexation of the Golan Heights.

Events themselves are only of passing interest and excitement; it is the implications and the movements that are important. In all the past four "Milestones" reviews, there have been several constant themes:

1. Events leading to Western Europe being taken over by the Soviet; such as the growth of socialism and communism, the increasing antipathy to the U.S.A., the interlocking trade and economic developments between the East and West Europe, and the massive superiority of the Soviet military might.
2. The influence of a socialist orientated Vatican.
3. The emergence of a South Power grouping south of the land of Israel.
4. Israel as a key factor in world affairs.

1981 followed the pattern of other years, adding fresh evidence that world events are following prophetic indications, warning us, cheering us, that 'the great millennial day draws nigh'. There is another theme we ought to add to the four just given, that is, the growing challenge to the One Faith in our community and the degree of response to this. And outside our community religion shows increasingly less respect for God; while the world at large stumbles in a morass of its own making.

*"Come quickly, Lord Jesus,"* the faithful cry.

GRAHAM PEARCE  
Crick, England  
March, 1982.

# Chapter One

## WESTERN EUROPE TORN BETWEEN U.S. & U.S.S.R.

The progress of Western Europe away from collaboration with the U.S.A., to a state of neutrality and collaboration with the Soviet has been revealed in a variety of events. The following headings express what has been happening:

1. The rising tide of neutralism.
2. The progress of socialism in Western Europe.
3. Growing trade and economic links with the Soviet and Eastern Europe.
4. The continuing build-up of arms.

### THE RISING TIDE OF NEUTRALISM

Neutralism has become the key word for Western Europe this year. The various factors noted last year have become a lot more powerful this year. Largely this is the response to President Reagan's policy of confrontation with the Soviet. Western Europe liked President Carter's softer detente attitude towards the Soviet; though it should be noted that before Reagan came on the scene, Carter had become much tougher towards the Soviet after the Afghanistan invasion. Western Europe is in a hopelessly weak position militarily. Not only vastly outnumbered in conventional arms, it has no equivalent to the 600 or more SAM20 nuclear warheads facing West Germany. America presses Western Europe to strengthen its own military capacity, and accept balancing nuclear missiles to those deployed by Russia. This has brought a crisis in Western Europe. It presents the Germans in particular with a grim prospect. An astonishing number of articles have been written about the situation. Newspaper headlines of articles are set out below, and sketch the picture. Note that in the first 6 months there are ten articles; in the second 6 months there are 31 articles. Note also the stronger language in the last few headlines. This reveals growing concern.

- 14.1.81 Europe's Unilateral Disarmers (Socialist International) (*Daily Telegraph*)
- 2.81 Transatlantic Trepidation (*Guardian*)
- 16.3.81 The Challenge to 'Euromissiles' (*D.T.*)
- 5.4.81 W. Germany and the Myth of Neutralism (*G.*)
- 12.4.81 The Missile that Sparked a Blaze in Europe (*G.*)
- 26.4.81 Question for Europe (*Washington Post*)
- 3.5.81 Europe's Dying Role in the Nuclear Theatre (*G.*)
- 8.5.81 Protests Worry Pentagon (*D.T.*)
- 2.6.81 Neutralist 'Threat to Bonn' (*D.T.*)
- 26.6.81 The Will To Resist (*D.T.*)
- 5.7.81 Reagan—So Sure About Communism (*G.*)

- 10.7.81 Alarm At 'Pacifism' in Europe (D.T.)
- 14.7.81 Just a Disarming Smile (D.T.)
- 15.7.81 Enemies Within the Camp (D.T.)
- 19.7.81 Why Europeans Doubt the Wisdom of U.S. Policies (W.P.)
- 21.7.81 Defending Europe Against 'Peace in our Time' Members (D.T.)
- 22.7.81 Britain's Nuclear Phoenix (D.T.)
- 25.7.81 Atom-free Zone Opposed (D.T.)
- 26.7.81 The Great Atlantic Divide (G.)
- 18.8.81 The Nuclear Maze (D.T.)
- 19.8.81 Europe's Youth Growing Rich Under the Eagle's Wing (D.T.)
- 25.8.81 Bonn Split on Bomb Widens (D.T.)
- 28.8.81 Arming Is Not Enough (D.T.)
- 6.9.81 Neutralism: the Task of Re-making Europe (G.)
- 7.9.81 Neutralism in Germany: Pipe Dream or Gathering Force? (G.)
- 14.9.81 Blackmail From Crisis-Ridden Russia Must Not Scare Europe (D.T.)
  
- 4.10.81 Reagan Facing Rising Headwinds (G.)
- 12.10.81 250,000 in Bonn Anti-Nuclear Demo. (D.T.)
- 25.10.81 Atlantic Delusions and Differences (G.)
- 26.10.81 The Inside Threat (D.T.)
- 26.10.81 Anti-Bomb Protests Unnerve U.S.: Washington Dismayed (D.T.)
- 29.10.81 Russians Exploit Anti-Nuclear Demos in Europe (D.T.)
- 1.11.81 Europe's Peace Marchers (W.P.)
- 2.11.81 Long Arm of KGB on Disarmers (D.T.)
- 6.11.81 'German Heartland' Uneasy (G.)
- 8.11.81 The Pacifist Tide in Europe (G.)
- 11.11.81 Yes, Let Yanks Go Home (G.)
- 8.12.81 Anti-Americanism in Europe Fans U.S. Isolationism (D.T.)
- 28.12.81 Apathy in E.E.C. over the Poland Crisis (D.T.)
- 31.12.81 E.E.C. Split with U.S. on Sanctions (D.T.)

Some extracts from a few of the articles will fill in the scene:

A grim picture for Western Europe emerged at a gathering of specialists in Holland.

“ There is little doubt that the consensus view among the scientists, military and defence analysts gathered in conference in the quiet Dutch town of Groningen last week, was that any war arising from East-West confrontation would be fought in Europe. That fact, as one of the organisers of the meeting, Admiral Gene de La Rocque, US Navy (retired), put it, was nailed in place earlier this year by the US Secretary of Defence Harold Brown in his report to Congress. His statement contained no qualification. ‘The battleground for the next conventional war will be Europe’, says Brown.

“ That war, adds Admiral La Rocque, will inevitably be nuclear. The theatre nuclear stockpile is growing: it would certainly be used.

“ Indeed, the assumption of US policy, hanging over Europe like a knell of doom and rejected vigorously by many European participants at Groningen as mad, immoral and wholly unacceptable, is that not only will World War Three be fought in Europe in much the same way as World Wars One and Two, but that the US and even the geographical substance of the USSR will somehow avoid engulfment in the holocaust.

"...Between 8,000 and 10,000 nuclear weapons would be exploded by NATO forces alone" (G. 3.5.81).

It is not surprising that marches and demonstrations have spelled out popular alarm.

"West Germany's already considerable peace movement has received a shot in the arm with Saturday's massive anti-nuclear protest in Bonn — the biggest demonstration in Germany since the 1939-45 war.

"More than 250,000 mostly young people took over the small West German capital (population 287,000) in an exuberant and, despite expectations of trouble, peaceful show of pacifism" (D.T. 12.10.81).

"Something spectacular, and possibly irresistible, is happening to our continent. Something which will affect all our lives, and quite possibly our deaths. There is a growing popular movement opposed to all nuclear weapons, and specifically to the imminent prospect of American-controlled nuclear missiles in Western Europe. If this movement is successful, our continent may become neutral.

"Another characteristic aspect is a seeming lack of fear of the Russians. Like the young people whom I met on another peace march, en route for Paris, Ms. Kelly regards them as no more threatening than the Americans" (D.T. 14.7.81).

A letter on the demonstrations concluded:

"What we are witnessing is something you, Sir, do not seem to understand. It is a growing revolt unparalleled in human history and transcending frontiers and ideologies of a host of politically unsophisticated people outraged by the political and moral bankruptcy of their unrealistic rulers. Peace, as Eisenhower remarked, will come when the people impose it. How otherwise?" (D.T. 3.8.81).



A Disarming Threat to Stability.

These vast demonstrations against confrontation with the Soviet are largely supported by youth, who are unwilling to shoulder their responsibilities.

“ Young Europeans have become very proficient since the late 1960s at belittling the idea that anything is worth dying for (the fact that Mr. Haig, American Secretary of State, dared utter this sentiment — something no member of the Carter Administration would ever have thought, much less said — will do nothing to increase his popularity in their eyes.)

“ First they will tell you, in a nuclear age the very idea of war is so horrible that only irresponsible Americans would suggest it. Moreover, the Soviet Union has no designs on Western Europe, the prosperity of which is a help to Soviet development (of what — one asks in vain: certainly not a better society for Soviet citizens). The Europeans' only risk, they will tell you, comes from too close association with the United States. Left alone they can handle the Russians” (*D.T. 19.8.81*).

There is a growing reaction in America that if Europe is not willing to defend itself, why should America continue her protective role.

“ The writer, a senior fellow at the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, gives vent to a widely-held feeling of indignation in the U.S. at European attitudes to defense.

“ The time has come to consider cutting American losses in NATO. It is difficult enough to justify the continued deployment in Europe of some 200,000 U.S. ground troops — the cream of our Army — in the face of mounting pressures on the federal budget and expanding U.S. security requirements in the Persian Gulf. It is impossible to justify the deployment on behalf of rich, indolent allies that are palpably less willing to make the necessary sacrifices for their own defense than we are.

“ The plain fact is that our European allies are refusing to pull their military weight in the face of a comprehensive Soviet build-up that threatens NATO directly in Europe and indirectly in the Persian Gulf, a region on which our allies are far more dependent economically than is the United States. Indeed, NATO is on the verge of disintegrating as a politically cohesive instrument of collective security. Symptomatic of this disintegration are the yawning disparities in U.S. and European responses to the on-going expansion in the very threat that sparked the birth of NATO in 1949” (*G.-W.P. 11.10.81*).

We conclude this presentation with a Daily Telegraph assessment at the end of the year:

“ THE U.S. AND EUROPE: One of the more serious questions facing Europeans in 1982 will be that of how best to respond to the rise in Mr. Reagan's America of neo-Mansfieldism (which takes its name from former Senator Mike Mansfield, the tireless advocate of the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from European Nato). What is worrying about the present situation is that American dissatisfaction with Europe as an ally, the emergence of genuine differences of interest between the two sides of the Atlantic and the advent of an Administration which is dominated by Californians and mid-Westerners has given rise to a new and very much more threatening form of Mansfieldism.



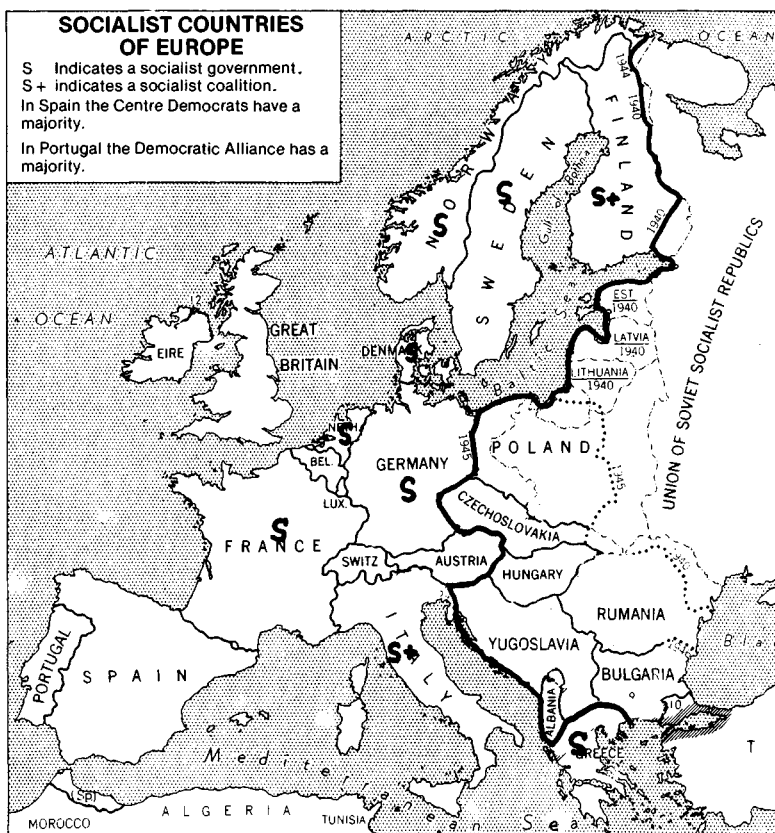
“ In the past few weeks, American newspapers and magazines have carried features, special reports and leaders, all articulating the new mood of isolationism or, more accurately, anti-Europeanism. The argument, as exemplified in that bible of Reaganism, the WALL STREET JOURNAL, goes something like this: the time has come to abandon Europe. European neutralism — shorthand for the anti-nuclear protest marches and the reluctance to sever the trading links with the Eastern block, which were forged with American encouragement during the era of detente — has reached such a pitch that it not only makes the European Continent indefensible against Soviet aggression, but that it positively undermines America's own military resolve. To this bleak view of Europe's strategic worth as an ally is added a highly critical appraisal of Europe's value to the United States as a trading and business partner. The European economy is perceived to have run out of steam, the boiler of dynamic growth punctured by the failure to adjust to higher oil prices and the uncontrollable rise in welfare spending. Unfavourable comparison is made with Japan and South-east Asia, who, it is suggested, are overwhelmingly more important than Europe as America's trading partners of the future” (*D.T. 28.12.81*).

## **THE MOVE TO THE LEFT & ITS SIGNIFICANCE**

The big political event in Western Europe has been the establishing of a full-blooded Socialist government in France under M. Mitterand, with four Communists ministers in the government. Earlier, in West Germany, Chancellor Schmidt and his Socialist coalition had been re-elected with an increased majority, and with the left wing of his party strengthened. Then near the end of the year Greece turned out its New Democracy government under George Rollis, and voted in the left-wing Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK, under Andreas Papandreu.

As the map shows, nearly all Western Europe is now Socialist or Socialist biased. The steady movement to the Left in Western Europe over the past 26 years is a move favourable to the Soviet. Nevertheless, most of the governments are nationalist and wary of Soviet domination. The real significance of the Socialist development lies in three directions.

First, the stage is being set for the pattern of events in Eastern Europe in 1945-6 to be repeated. It must not be forgotten that in all these countries — Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia, there were Socialist and Socialist-democratic parties similar to those now in France and Germany. The leaders in these various countries ‘disappeared’, and the despotic Soviet rule clamped down on the people. This ‘takeover’ was possible because the people were already used to Socialist rule — to the individual being directed by the State. The Soviet intervention changed the government, but this



at first meant little change for the people at large. So it will probably be in Western Europe. The Socialist regimes, though nationalist and patriotic, are well on the way to absorption by the Soviet when the time comes.

### THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALE

The second significance in this Socialist progress in Western Europe is the cry of neutralism already discussed. As we well know from the Socialist minority in Britain, Socialists show a friendly co-operative attitude to the Soviet and Soviet aggressive ambitions; they have little interest in foreign policy, and are not prepared to spend money on a vigorous military preparedness against Soviet attack. So these countries increasingly have neither the will nor the means to resist the Soviet.

The Socialiste Internationale is the co-ordinating organisation for this neutralist movement in the countries of Western Europe. The

following extracts are taken from an article by Robert Moss in the Daily Telegraph (19.1.81) headed "EUROPE'S UNILATERAL DISARMERS".

- " One of the early headaches for the Reagan Administration will be presented by the gathering strength of unilateral disarmament lobbies in the European member countries of Nato.
- " Socialist International (SI) is committed to the "mobilisation of public opinion" in favour of disarmament under an action programme prepared by a study group headed by Mr. Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, and endorsed in November during the SI's 15th postwar congress in Madrid. . . The net result is likely to be a determined show of opposition — including mass demonstrations and strikes — against new initiatives by the incoming Reagan Administration to strengthen Nato's military defences.
- " The disarmers on the SI will be able to count on powerful support from extra-parliamentary lobbies and pacifist-minded church groups, most notably in Holland, where church lobbies have mobilised public opposition to nuclear weapons.
- " The whole process will be watched with extreme satisfaction by Mr. Boris Ponomarev, head of the international department of the Soviet Communist Party, who has been pursuing a long-term strategy of striking up 'special relationships' with Western Socialist parties in order to drive a wedge between the United States and Europe and of fostering unilateral disarmament."

The Catholic Church is helping the Soviet and European disarmers. The American Catholic Hierarchy is attacking, and stirring up the people against, the Reagan government:

- " Through most of the nation's history, the Roman Catholic Church could be counted on to bless without reservation almost any military venture the country embarked on. But a movement developing in the highest levels of the church within the past years is changing that.
- " During the year more than 40 of the church's bishops, from New Ulm to Nashville, from Pretoria to Paterson, have on their own initiative publicly criticised this nation's nuclear-arms policy. Their actions have stirred controversy both in the church and outside it, but far from being discouraged by that, their numbers seem to be growing.
- " The previous president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop John Quinn proclaimed: 'The teaching of the church is clear— nuclear weapons and the arms race must be condemned as immoral' " (G. 3.1.82).

## **DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES IN U.S. & WESTERN EUROPE**

The third significant aspect of the Socialist progress in Western Europe is that it expresses a growing political gulf between Western Europe and America. This will increasingly affect co-operation and friendliness. At a time when Western Europe moves left to more

Socialist ideas, America is reverting to its Conservative Capitalist policies under President Reagan. The spirit of the French Revolution — liberty, equality, fraternity — originated in America, and then found violent expression in France and Europe in the 19th century. This spirit has been largely preserved in America (and Britain). The democratic spirit allows the freedom of the individual—in his life and actions and beliefs. But these qualities did not long continue in Europe. In both Western Europe and Russia there had been long centuries of the individual as the servant of the State. So today Western Europe, while boasting of its freedoms, nevertheless is allowing State control to eat into individual freedom. The pattern of Socialism is well known — we see it reflected in the British Labour Party's Left Wing. It establishes a bureaucracy — the government and its people take charge 'for the good of the people'. Banks and industry are nationalised, large government public spending, higher wages, wealth tax, etc. While there are humanitarian intentions, the system grows into a control of the individual, making him dependent on the State. So America and Western Europe are set on opposing courses, with Western Europe moving to the Soviet position and away from America. The Washington Post (in the Guardian Weekly) put the matter bluntly in an editorial headed "THE WAR OF IDEAS":

"That the United States is engaged in a war of ideas, with the Soviet Union as its chief adversary, seems to us beyond cavil. This is not an invention of the Reagan Administration. It is simply a recognition of a pervasive global reality. The American idea is individual liberty, the Soviet idea is State authority. These are the great choices that societies must make as they organise their national lives" (*G.-W.P.* 22.11.81).

It seems clear that these words were aimed at the Socialist change in France, as much as anything.

The Roman Catholic Church, always anxious to preserve its control over the individual, is ready to support the Socialist concept. And on the other hand it hates the American freedom concept: America has always been the most difficult region to control ecclesiastically. We can see therefore the ultimate picture of all Europe under the despotic grip of a 'Christian'-Socialist rule, a State/Religion opposition against Christ; while America and Britain are more responsive to the rule of equity and truth imposed by Christ.

A few further comments on Mitterand's Socialism and Reagan's Democracy will support what has just been said.

## **MITTERAND'S VICTORY**

Mitterand's first success was to defeat Giscard D'Estaing in May 1981 and become President of France. On three previous occasions — 1973, 1974, 1978 — he had tried, and just failed. Following this in

June the National Assembly elections took place, and as the results came in the newspaper blazoned in heavy black type, "SOCIALIST VICTORY IN FRANCE: MITTERAND GETS OVERALL MAJORITY WITH AT LEAST 40 SEATS TO SPARE".

With such a majority he had no need to bring Communists into his government; but he expressed his mind by having four Communists in his cabinet. The No. 2 of the Communist party, Charles Fiterman was made Minister of Trade and Minister of State. This produced an editorial in the Daily Telegraph:

"TROJAN HORSE IN PARIS: Communist entry into the French Government is a disaster for the West. No amount of the soothing rationalisation to which we have become so sadly addicted must be allowed to conceal this harsh fact. In striking contrast to what was being so widely said before the elections, M. Mitterand's action in bringing in the Communist, without as it turns out even remotely needing them, is now being described as perfectly natural. Exactly — and this should have been obvious all along.

"It would, again, be naive to assume that, if the Communists cause trouble they could summarily be kicked out. The very powerful Left-wing of M. Mitterand's party, which has always supported him against the moderates, would not stand for it. . . nor the trade union front. The Communists will bide their time while building up their ability to influence policy and exploit whatever opportunities offer" (*D.T. 25.6.81*).

Mitterand is recognised as a strong character, capable, politically experienced, determined and knowing where he wants to go. But so far he has not revealed much friendliness for the Soviet. As a French patriot he is concerned with the military defence of his country, and gives support to NATO. Nevertheless he is committed to Marxist theory, as the following newspaper cutting shows:

"MITTERAND LEANS TO MARXISTS: After watching President Mitterand on television on Wednesday night, French people did not seem enthusiastic yesterday at the prospect of seeing their country turned into a Gallic version of Yugoslavia.

"M. Mitterand seems to have come out definitely on the side of the Marxist theorists in his divided cabinet, seeing 'the people' united in a 'class front' which will build Western Europe's first 'free' and truly Socialist society" (*D.T. Nov. 1981*).

## **PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PHILOSOPHY**

Reagan moves in the opposite direction to Mitterand. His philosophy is to reduce the government's responsibility in many facets of human life; people must fend more for themselves. Local government must take greater responsibilities; subsidies to industry are to be reduced, market forces must be allowed to establish prices and wages. The philosophy is also critical of the permissive society that has flourished under the liberal Democrats. Reagan in his campaigning for

the presidency said he stood for restoring prayers in schools, the Biblical account of Creation, the prohibition of abortion.

The change from Carter's to Reagan's government was expressed in the *Jerusalem Post* as a revolution. The article was headed: "THE REAGAN REVOLUTION" and the first two paragraphs were as follows:

"Although Ronald Reagan has been president for only three months, it is already clear that he has proposed a course for America which would change its direction more fundamentally than any president has attempted since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who instituted the New Deal in 1932.

"President Reagan has moved swiftly since his inauguration to mobilize the American people behind a dramatically different concept of the role of government, which, if followed, would constitute a 'Reagan Revolution!' " (*J.P. 26.4.81*).

Another writer sees the Reagan "Revolution" as a long-term historic development.

"Very few people in Britain seem to understand that in the 1980 elections, the conservative sweep through the Senate even more clearly than Reagan's personal triumph, were not simply reaction from the silliness of Jimmy Carter and America's current trouble; they were the culmination of 25 years work; the Long March of American Conservatism" (*D.T. 7.1.81*).

American 'conservatism' (small 'c') is analysed into six points. The first describes the liberals as unstable — talking about 'democracy', 'progress', 'enlightened up-to-date experts'; whereas conservatives believed in immutable standards of conduct. The second point states:

"For conservatives everything centred on the individual person, his freedom, his rights, his duties, whereas the liberals were mainly interested in collectivities ('the people', 'the minorities', 'new nations')."

And the third point:

"Conservatives, unlike liberals, disapprove of using State power to impose ideological patterns. They believe that the role, and the power, of the State should be limited."

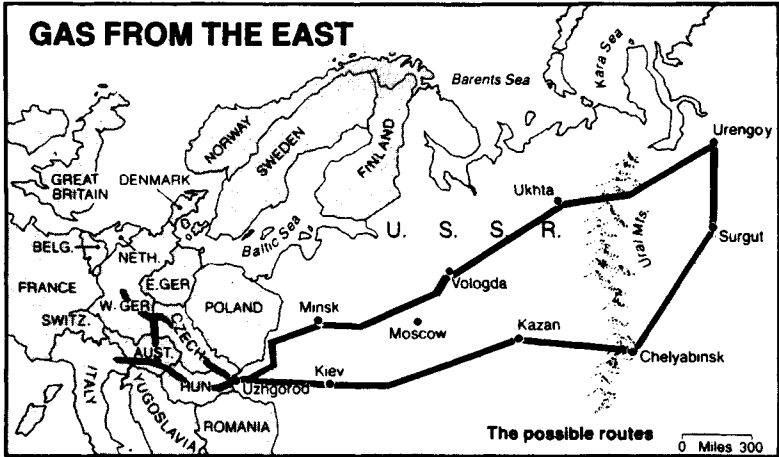
Such is an outline of the opposing philosophies in America and Socialist Europe. In practice, nothing clear cut is, of course, in practice achieved. But the opposing philosophies do express a basic difference of human outlook. Britain today substantially stands alongside the U.S. However evil is national and private life in both countries, there is a basis for response to the demands of Christ when he returns.

## **WESTERN EUROPE'S GROWING TRADE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH THE SOVIET**

In the 1980 Milestones Review it was pointed out that Western

Europe had ignored President Carter's appeal to ban exports to the Soviet after the Afghanistan invasion, and this was the first direct expression of Western Europe's independence and disagreement with America. In fact, in 1980 trade increased: "The Soviet Union has almost tripled its purchases of foodstuffs from the E.E.C. between 1979 and 1980. . . Soviet-E.E.C. trade in 1980 stood at 1,000 million dollars compared with 434 million in 1979." Such trade must create strong bonds between the two groups.

This year the scene was dominated by the vast pipeline project to bring natural gas some 3,000 miles from Siberia to Western Europe. The overall cost is estimated at over 20,000 million pounds. Germany and France will be the main recipients, with Italy, Austria, Holland and Belgium taking supplies and branch lines will connect Sweden, Finland, Greece, Rumania and Czechoslovakia (D.T. 21.11.81). What a vast network creating vital energy dependence on the Soviet! West Germany will become dependent on Russia for 30% of her total energy requirements.



The U.S. has strenuously opposed the scheme, seeing the obvious implication that Western Europe would be under great pressure to submit to the Soviet if it threatened to cut off the supply and stop the various industrial activities using this source of energy. A determined last minute attempt was made by America to stop the deal by sending a delegation including the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs on November 11th. But the deal was signed on November 21st when President Brezhnev visited Chancellor Schmidt in West Germany. The Daily Telegraph expressed the American-British concern in an Editorial:

“ THE SIBERIAN GAS TRAP: Western Europe, with West Germany in the

lead, is groping its way toward a gigantic deal with Russia which would make it deeply dependent on supplies of natural gas from Siberia. The deal is looked on with consternation by the United States, although American firms are involved as suppliers of equipment. President Carter's Administration had no objections in principle, apparently. President Reagan and his officials, however, are strongly opposed to the whole scheme. They are right to be so. . . the main objection is strategic. . ." (D.T. 8.7.81).

In addition to Western Europe's need for energy for its vast industries, the other driving force in this deal comes from the commercial interests. Such a vast scheme holds out big profits for the steel and heavy industries over many years. It is estimated to provide 10,000 jobs, and the unemployed in the E.E.C. is now estimated at just under 10 million people.

Another aspect of the tying together of Western Europe and the Soviet and Eastern bloc is the financial one. Western European financial institutions are supplying loans of 2,000 million pounds for this project alone. Overall the Eastern block owes 1,000,000,000,000 dollars; the interest alone for 1981 owed by Poland is 500,000,000 dollars. Western Europe is not likely to go to war with the Soviet when it has invested vast sums of money in Eastern Europe.

It is useful to remember that it is over ten years ago that Herr Brandt in his 'Eastpolitik' made treaties with the Soviet and East Germany. The growing economic co-operation is the natural development from this base. Co-operation is strongest between West Germany and the Soviet. They are the strong powers. One wonders just how Russia and Germany will be linked together: "*Gog of the land of Magog. . .?*"

## **RUSSIAN ARMS OUTNUMBER NATO'S**

In addition to the understandable fear of nuclear war creating the 'neutralist' attitude in Western Europe, there is also the knowledge of the hopelessness of the West's position if it did resist a Soviet advance. Armament figures get so vast that they almost cease to register with us. However, here are a few brief statements showing Russia's superiority:

"On the raw figures, the change has certainly been notable in the past decade. The number of active members of the Soviet forces has risen by 7% to 4.8 million, while America's has dropped 35% to just over 2 million. The Kremlin now has 4,306 nuclear warheads deployed compared with 2,154 American. It has nearly doubled its missile submarine fleet with 85 vessels to America's 41. Its tank force — much larger than America's at the outset — has increased by 20% and is now FIVE times the size of its rival's" (G. 11.1.81).

"After a recent naval exercise the Russian Commander-in-Chief announced 'triumphantly' according to the report, that he was in a position to cut links between the United States and Europe in five days in the event of hostilities, thereby preventing the movement of men and supplies" (D.T. 1.12.80).



“ According to senior defence experts in Washington, ‘an atmosphere of near-panic’ now prevails around the White House as a result of the discovery that the Soviet Union has achieved break-throughs in beam weapon technology that may put the Russians ‘five to seven years’ ahead of the Americans.”

The article began with the words:

“ If there is another world war, it could well be won or lost in space” (*D.T. 29.9.80*).

It is in the last year or two that nuclear weapons have become accepted as useable in time of war. “The world is edging closer to nuclear war because the enhanced accuracy of atomic weapons makes them likely to be ‘seen as suitable for fighting rather than deterring war’ ” (according to the 1981 Year-book of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). The Year-book reported an almost FOURFOLD increase in world military spending between 1949 and 1980, with arms expenditure of more than \$500,000,000,000 last year. The prophecy of Joel comes to mind: “*Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong*” (Joel 3:9, 10).

Even so, but there will come a time when they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: neither shall nation lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isa. 2:4)—the millennial righteousness and peace after 6,000 years of strife and evil.

## **WHEN THE CURTAIN RISES ON A NEW SCENE**

What is the significance of this detailed record of events in Europe in 1981? In the light of these events who can doubt that we are approaching the time when Western Europe will be absorbed into the larger unit of all Europe, under the dominant power of Russia. Starting nearly twenty years ago when De Gaulle expressed the intention of getting America out of Europe, and made several friendly visits to Russia, and spoke of a future Europe “from the Atlantic to the Urals,” we have watched many developments and slow changes. Recently these have gathered momentum. Whether by ‘absorption’ or dramatic take-over, when East and West Europe are bound together, the curtain will rise on a new scene. The building of the great Image of Nebuchadnezzar will be in progress; the Fourth Beast of Daniel will be re-created with its little horn of the Papacy speaking great things and preparing to challenge Christ and the saints; America will be separated; Britain will be isolated on the edge of a hostile continent. Events may move slowly or quickly, we do not know. But we shall have no excuse that the Master’s coming has caught us as a thief in the night.

## Chapter 2

# TRENDS IN BRITAIN

No significant changes have emerged since last year's "Whither Britain?". Like Israel, the country awaits a spiritual awakening. We can only highlight current influences.

### THE MONARCHY

Most people would vote the royal wedding as the greatest event of the year. There was involved more than popular excitement, pomp and ceremony. The monarchy, with its associations, is a vital element in the British nation, and apart from the Bible is the biggest factor saving Britain from disintegration and corruption.

Britain is unique in not being shackled by a written Constitution, and in sustaining an age-old monarchy; there lie the foundations of her stability. The monarchy, especially when represented by a wise Queen who serves her country, binds the nation together. It is a centre of national life — practically all parties, political, religious and social, have a sense of loyalty. Because it has stood through the centuries it preserves the ancient roots and customs of the nation, and this gives stability and prevents violent revolution and civil war. It favours a spirit of tolerance and adjustment to change. As head of both government and church it preserves a 'christian' outlook in a very bad period of British life. The Queen's Christmas speech reflected this. The Bible is still respected by the Queen and continues to be the strength of the monarchy. So the monarchy is a major pillar in British life despite the present rottenness; when the pendulum begins to swing back again, either before or after Christ's return, it will have an important part to play. *"And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift (tribute); the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour"* (Ps. 45:12). *"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts"* (Ps. 72:10).

Enoch Powell in an article "The Constant Crown" said: "In a world of elective rulers or figureheads, the monarchy is the English solution to the riddle of reconciling authority with consent, continuity with change, and the supremacy of the common interest with the existence of what our Parliamentary Prayer calls 'private interest, prejudices and partial affections' " (G. 2.8.81).

A commendable feature of the present monarchy is its preservation of sound family life as an example to the nation. And it is in this that Prince Charles has expressed a good judgment: he made a good choice for his bride. As the Guardian put it: "At last the guessing game has to stop. In Lady Diana Spencer, Prince Charles has chosen a quiet, unworldly woman with impeccable credentials for her future role as

queen". So through three generations the throne has maintained the sanctities of marriage, which are an essential for sound national life. In an article on Marriage and Monarchy some words of the Queen Mother were quoted: "the sanctities of married life are. . .the highest form of human fellowship, affording a rock-like foundation on which all that is best in the life of the nation is built". Beyond the glitter and ceremony at St. Paul's, the Bible approach to marriage was powerfully set forth; a rebuke to the attitude of many young people today towards marriage.

Linked with these reflections on monarchy are two kindred subjects, Britain's attitude to the Common Market, and the growing Roman Catholic influence in the land.

### **BRITAIN, THE COMMON MARKET AND THE U.S.**

National Republics and nominal Community Agreements between nations lead to bureaucracy: government by bureaucrats making regulations and creating the means of enforcing them. This is the character of Europe's Socialist governments and the European Economic Community (E.E.C.), and it is contrary to the spirit of the British monarchy. The latter allows individual freedom and calls for the individual's service and loyalty; the former imposes from above and demands subservience. Although the large industrial concerns support British membership of E.E.C. because of their profits, the British public are instinctively hostile. They do not readily submit to 'foreign domination' in the E.E.C. regulations that override the authority of the British Parliament. They do not see why sausages in Britain should have the same composition as sausages throughout Western Europe.

But more fundamental to such matters is the centuries-old different outlook between the continental countries and Britain. The European countries are inward-looking; they have long been a unit with strong self-interests. The British for centuries, as a sea-going, trading people, have wider interests. They have a world interest; they have faced the unknown, prepared to take risks and to adventure. This spirit has ebbed at present, but it is deeply built into the nation. So Britain readily finds more affinity with America than Europe. The American situation is different from that in Britain, but both nations possess roots of freedom, adventure and world interest across the seas. Britain and America are capitalist countries; Europe easily fits into the socialist mould.

So though we do not know how it will happen, Britain will separate from Europe. The time will come when the European system will be bound together as the Fourth Beast of Daniel, to be destroyed by the saints, and its body given to the burning flame (Daniel 7); or in terms

of the Revelation, the Beast and the False Prophet “were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Rev. 19:20). On the other hand Britain, and probably later America, will receive enlightenment, respond to it, and carry on their sea-going spirit, bringing Israel’s sons back to their land, “*Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring my sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of Yahweh thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee*” (Is. 60:9).

Disagreements continue between Britain and the E.E.C. — over fishing rights, agricultural surpluses, national contributions to the E.E.C. budget, regulations on lorries, etc.

The man who writes as Robert Conquest in the Daily Telegraph had two articles on the topic we have been considering. The one had the heading “Must Britannia Flirt with a Nine-Nation Weakling instead of Uncle Sam?” and his concluding words were:

“ But when it comes down to basic concepts of our foreign relations, we must surely begin to see that if Britain has a part to play in world affairs today it will not be through the rickety ramshackle arrangements of ‘Europe’, but in some closer combination with America” (*D.T. 7.3.81*).

The article later in the year was headed “Lack of Community Feeling: Robert Conquest believes the hearts of the British lie with the English-speaking world and not with Europe.” The article concludes that he is sure of an affirmative vote to the enquiry: “Given the choice, Britain’s future will be with the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand — or with Europe?” (*D.T. 17.10.81*).

In military and political matters Britain is close to the U.S.. Mrs. Thatcher on her visit to the U.S. in February had a great welcome from President Reagan.

“ In a formal speech welcoming Mrs. Thatcher to the White House Mr. Reagan described America and Britain as ‘kindred nations’ who would stand ‘side by side’ to protect world peace. . . ‘Our deep ties and the perceptions we share give us much to talk about,’ he said later. Mrs. Thatcher said ‘it was vital for Britain and America to co-ordinate their future efforts and said that the United States could count on Britain as ‘an ally, valiant, staunch and true’ ” (*D.T. 9.3.81*).

At a New York dinner before she left, Mrs. Thatcher said Britain would join America with naval support in the Gulf. She was given the tribute, “Not since Winston Churchill had a British Prime Minister so well epitomised the ‘common heritage and outlook we share’ ” (*D.T. 9.3.81*). One supposes that such expressions of friendship between the two countries only emphasises in the eyes of Western Europe that Britain is ‘not one of us’.

Despite cuts in defence spending and consequent curtailment in various fields, the government has firmly decided to upgrade Britain’s

independent nuclear deterrent. Her future nuclear submarines are to be fitted with the American Trident system.

“ The original British decision announced last year was based on a Trident C4 4,000-plus miles range missile, each fitted with eight multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle warheads (M.I.R.V.), probably fired out of 16 firing tubes from 3-4 submarines. The estimated cost was 5,000 million pounds spread over 15 years” (*D.T. 3.10.81*).

Britain is now considering the use of a more advanced Trident system. The significant feature in all this is that the British government has control of the use of the nuclear missile system; it is not dependent on America or NATO. Rather like Israel, it is giving notice that Britain will defend itself against all comers. Its potential threat may be the means of preserving Britain from nuclear devastation, as is probably God's purpose.

## ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND ITS EVIL INFLUENCE

The climate in Britain today encourages the progress of Roman Catholic influence. The national disinterest in God and the Bible; the ecumenical spirit that says don't bother about principles, let's all be friends; the factiousness of political parties that allows a small number of Catholics to sway decisions, are some of the factors. The evils of Roman Catholicism are ignored, probably not recognised, especially with the pleasant tolerant image that is maintained, and projected on television by the 'super-star' ability of the Pope.

Few appreciate, indeed few Christadelphians appreciate, the evil character of Roman Catholic doctrines, and the moral evils they generate. In the things of God there is a wide range in the degree of error and wickedness. The Protestant nation of the last century was astray in its belief in the Immortality of the Soul and Heaven-going, etc.; but it honoured Christ as the one saviour and mediator, the Bible was the sole source of authority, faith in that Word was the essential element for salvation, and its precepts were accepted as the guide. Rome's errors are of a worse kind. Among the prime ones are—

1. The infallibility of the Pope as Christ's representative on earth;
2. The authority of the priesthood to crucify afresh Jesus Christ at the Mass;
3. The elevation of Mary to a key position in the work of saving souls.

Bible religion is uplifting for the individual and for the nation, even where there is only a partial perception of Bible Truth. But the effect of the Roman Catholic system is morally degrading, as a brief consideration of the three items just listed will show. In place of Christ the Roman Catholic has a visible head and guide in the Pope. A wicked man is set on high for honour and worship; a power-seeking man and

deceiver. Biblically the line of Popes is described by Paul as the Lawless One, who exalts himself and as a god sits in the temple of God proclaiming himself that he is God. He is their ruler and spiritual guide; he claims to be like Aaron of old — mediator on earth towards God. Nothing but evil can flow from such blasphemy and human leadership.

The priesthood has a subordinate but similar position to the Pope. The people are in the grip of the priest. He must first offer Jesus in the transmuted bread on the altar as a sacrifice, and then place Jesus in their mouth. So there is no salvation outside the priest. And the next step is that they must come to him to receive forgiveness of sins. So he knows all their sins and follies and fears; he has a hold on their conscience and their lives, to turn it as he wills. Here is a wicked system, taking the cloak of the name of Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God, beautifully portrayed in the gospel. Thus a Catholic nation is in the hands of bad men. And this is compounded by the depraving element of bowing down to Images. And it is also carried along by the emotional aspect of a beautiful woman helper, Mary Queen of Heaven, who listens to their cry and appeals to Jesus on their behalf.

Britain is not a Catholic nation, nor does its people realise what they would be in for if they allowed themselves to come under this tyranny. But the progress in this direction is remarkable. The Pope's expected visit in 1982 is a distinct step in this planned progress. The progress is rapid because there is practically no Protestant protest. His visit will reveal whether the true witness, the Christadelphian witness, is also dead.

## **PLANNED PROGRESS TOWARDS REUNION**

The death of Protestant witness can be measured by the behaviour over the past 20 years of the recent heads of the Church of England — Archbishops Fisher, Ramsey, Coggan and Runcie. Archbishop Ramsey made the first official visit to the Pope in 1966 — the first visit since 1397—and they embraced and exchanged the kiss of peace, televised to the world. The present head of the English church is outspokenly a Catholic man. News Analysis in the Catholic Herald (14.9.79) reported Bishop Runcie as saying “When I'm in Italy I very much live as a Catholic worshipper and go to the local church rather than seeking out an English chaplaincy. It has always been familiar to me to pray and worship in a Catholic church”. The November 1981 Reformer quoted from the English Churchman of 2nd and 9th October, 1981 that Runcie has stated that he anticipates the Church of England losing its identity in a World Church. He favours such a Church being presided over by the Bishop of Rome. Recently when preaching in Durham cathedral, he advocated greater devotion to the

Virgin Mary. The conclusion is that the head of the English Church is no longer a Protestant.



**Roman Catholic Archbishop, Cardinal Basil Hume (right) joins Church of England and Church of Scotland prelates at the High Altar during the Royal Wedding.**

Another leading figure favourable to Rome is the Bishop of London. Dr. Graham Leonard “is one of the leaders of the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church” (*D. T. 31.3.81*). Sadly the Queen is partly intoxicated with Babylon’s wine. Royal visits to the Pope began in 1903 with King Edward VII visiting Leo XIII, followed by King George V and Queen Mary in 1923 visiting Pius XI. The present Queen has made three visits. When she visited the present Pope in 1979, in her address to “Your Holiness”, she said:

“ We in turn welcome the visit Your Holiness is planning to pay in 1982 to the Roman Catholic community in Great Britain, where some four million of my people are members of the Roman Catholic Church. We support the growing movement of unity between the Christian Churches throughout the world, and we pray that Your Holiness’ visit may enable us all to see more clearly those truths which both unite and divide us in a new and constructive light”.

The Queen concluded:

“ We wish Your Holiness strength and inspiration in the great task to which you are committed” (*D.T. 18.10.80*).

This seems to say the Queen views with favour the ‘christian’ Church of Rome. The Pope will also find good advocates when he comes, in the Catholic editors of the Daily Telegraph and the Times, together with the many radio and television Catholic officials.

Whether anything dramatic will emerge through the visit of the Pope we do not know, but it seems to be an important step in a planned progress. In the May 1981 Reformer there was printed “A Statement from the British Council of Protestant Churches” on the Pope’s visit. The opening paragraph reads:

“ Almost fourteen years ago at a meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Joint Preparatory Commission in Malta, in December 1967, Bishop Henry R. McAdoo, now the Church of Ireland (Protestant, GP) Archbishop of Dublin, presented a paper called ‘UNITY: AN APPROACH BY STAGES’. His proposals for stage by stage reunion with Rome were adopted. . .As a result the Roman Catholic and the Anglican Churches set up a new body called the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (A.R.I.C.) in order to prepare the way for reunion with Rome by stages.”

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREED STATEMENTS**

The obstacle to any form of reunion is, of course, the doctrinal differences. This joint Commission has produced three Agreed Statements covering the vital areas of difference. The Statements are:

The Agreed Statement on Eucharistic Doctrine—1971

The Statement on Ministry and Ordination—1973

The Statement on Authority—1977.

As one would expect, the pro-Rome Anglican representatives yielded much to Rome, sometimes avoided vital issues, or used ambiguous terms that each side could interpret in its own way. So they agreed to Tradition as well as the Bible for guidance, and more important, that the Pope should be supreme: “It seems appropriate that in any future union a universal primacy such as has been described should be held by that See”. The Catholic position regarding the priest was a problem. So they had to ignore the teaching of the New Testament. “Despite the fact that in the New Testament ministers are never called ‘priests’ (hierus), Christians came to see the priestly role of Christ reflected in these ministers and used priestly terms in describing them.”

As for ‘Communion’ versus Catholic ‘Mass’, they seem to have made the word ‘memorial’ (anamnesis) the bridge builder.

“ The notion of memorial as understood in the **passover celebration** at the time of Christ — i.e. the making effective in the present of an event



in the past — has opened the way to a clearer understanding of the relationship between Christ's sacrifice and the eucharist”.

The key phrase is ‘passover celebration’ (my emphasis). At the Passover each year a real animal sacrifice was offered, similar to the original one in Egypt. So, by analogy, they argue that when the ‘christian’ priest converts the bread into the body of Christ and offers him as a sacrifice on their altar, they too are repeating the original sacrifice. They regard it as a fresh sacrifice of Jesus Christ, but to satisfy the Anglicans they give the emphasis to the fact it is a memorial. The Agreed Statement says that through the consecratory prayer the “bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ — so that we eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood”. It also speaks of “the real presence of Christ” in the bread and the wine. (A booklet “Agreeing to Differ: a critique of the three Agreed Statements”, has been published by the Harrison Trust, East Ravendale Rectory, Grimsby, S. Humberside).

If the Anglican Church in general accepts the Agreed Statements, the obstacles to reunion will have largely disappeared. The Anglican Communion includes sister churches in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and churches throughout the English-speaking world.

Another development preparing the way for reunion is the introduction of the Revised Prayer Book and the Alternative Service. In the administration of the Eucharist it uses words identical with that in the new Roman Catholic Mass regarding the body and blood of Christ.

There seems to be an expectation that the Pope's visit will reveal some step forward in the planned steps to reunion.

“ In his Lenten address this year in Westminster Abbey he (Dr. Runcie) stated that the time had come to grasp the nettle of the remaining differences between the Church of Rome and the Church of England. These differences he considers to be relatively trivial, and more in the realm of discipline than in doctrine. . .When the Pope comes next year, he declared, he hoped that they would be able together to take some step towards unity” (*Booklet 'A Time To Choose', 1981, D. N. Samuel pg.16*).

In the Statement by the British Council of Protestant Churches, it is alleged that the Queen is involved:

“ The visit of her Majesty the Queen to the Pope was also part of the plot to bring union with Rome. Patrick O'Donovan writing in the Roman Catholic Commentary in Church Times (31.10.80) on the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the Pope, when these Agreed Statements were discussed, said that the ecumenical cause had been given ‘an immense and joyous heave onwards’. The Queen has been caught up in the malicious web of their conspiracy” (*Reformer, May, 1981*).

## BRITAIN RECOGNISES THE VATICAN STATE

It was announced at the end of 1979 that the Pope's official representative in London was being given diplomatic rights and diplomatic immunity. In January 1982 this was brought to fruition with Britain recognising the Vatican State and providing an ambassador, and the Vatican Pro-Nuncio in London will "have added political status like that of other Ambassadors".

The timing of this step is obviously linked with the Pope's visit.



Bishops Runcie, McAdoo and Clark during final negotiations.

### THE ROLE OF THE PAPACY

This picture from TIME Magazine, 22.3.82 carried the caption "Creating less of a Pope than the Pope may want". A commission meeting under the joint chairmanship of Anglican Archbishop of Dublin, H. R. McAdoo and Roman Catholic Bishop Alan Clark has proposed a solution to the greatest problem in the road to reunification of Anglicans and Roman Catholics. But even the TIME article throws doubt on the ultimate outcome:

"Of course, the world's 750 million Roman Catholics and 65 million Anglicans may never merge. Despite the commission's optimism and its best efforts to deal with the general nature of the papacy, there is the particular nature of John Paul to contend with. Whatever his own ecumenical design, he is centralizing and strengthening papal authority, rather than moving it in a direction that would attract Anglicans. One Roman Catholic commission participant says it will be difficult 'to win grass-roots approval of what has been done.'"

Now that Britain has recognised the Vatican State by sending an ambassador, it also recognises the Pope as a Head of State. Though he is planned to come on a pastoral visit to his Church in this country, it will be easy now for him to be given a more official reception as a Head of State. The Daily Telegraph comments suitably:

“ Coming before the Pope’s visit to Roman Catholics in Britain at the end of May, this change in the envoys’ diplomatic status will be seen by many as an attempt to give the visit the added dignity of a foreign head of State, so boosting the Papal image. The Vatican is not inexperienced in turning political events to religious advantage.

“ Cardinal Basil Hume, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, welcomed the news as a sign of ‘growing friendship and co-operation’. A Vatican spokesman said: ‘An important step has been made in repairing the damage of centuries’ ” (*D.T. 18.1.82*).

A further article was headed: “**HOLY SUMMIT: UNITY HOPES**”:

“ The Pope yesterday expressed the hope that his visit to Britain, ‘that noble land’, in May, will speed unity moves between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Speaking of plans to confer with the Archbishop of Canterbury, he said: ‘Let us hope that my voyage also serves to bring the Roman Catholic and Anglican communities closer together and speed up the already hoped-for union’ ”.

It is doubtful whether ultimately there will be re-union with Rome as far as Britain is concerned, but these important current activities have a bearing on our community.

## **WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST**

Our community is not concerned with the practical aspects of this planning and scheming, and possible ‘success’. Nor is it concerned with the political and constitutional problem expressed by Enoch Powell: “It is constitutionally and logically unthinkable for England to contain both the Queen and the Pope. Before that could happen the essential character of the one or the other would have to be surrendered” (*D.T. 6.12.81*). But surely at such a time as this when we are about to see great interest in the **first time ever visit of a Pope to Britain** projected vividly by television onto the attention of the British world, we ought to speak out against the dishonour to Christ and God expressed in the doctrines and practice of the Roman Catholic Church, and maintained by its head, the Pope. We are concerned with Truth, and its negative aspects are important — as our Statement of Faith recognises, and is also apparent in the Ten Commandments. It is fundamental to expose error if one wishes to establish God’s salvation and purpose.

There are four million Catholics in the country, and more people are being captivated by Rome’s ritual and ceremonies, by her physical piety, her stability as a refuge in a frightening world. When the Pope comes many more will be gripped, if only temporarily, by the pagean-

try and religious ritual. At the beginning of the century English Catholics were numbered in mere thousands, now they are 4 million. It is expected that one million Catholics will gather in Richmond Park, and a similar number in Manchester, to celebrate Mass with the Pope. Millions more will watch on the television. This great interest in things Catholic will be a great challenge. It will reveal whether we as a community are alive or dead.

Strange reasons are offered as to why we should keep silence. One proposition is that the 'powers that be' are ordained of God, and we should not resist them (Romans 13:1, 2). To equate resisting the powers that be with witnessing against error is surely a misapplication of Paul's words. It is Paul at the end of his letter to the Ephesian ecclesia that declares "*We wrestle not against flesh and blood [i.e., resisting the powers that be] but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world*". Here is our specific instruction to oppose the rulers of the darkness of this world with the sword of the Spirit; and surely the Catholic system is one of the rulers of the present darkness. In this matter we have the example of the apostles, recorded in Acts chapters 2 to 7. They did not resist the power of Rome or of Jewry, but they certainly witnessed against the wrong done to Jesus Christ in the name of God. Peter on the day of Pentecost, "*Ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain*". And in the temple. "*Ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life*". So, Stephen, "*Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted? and they have slain them which have shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye are the betrayers and murderers*". If the apostles exposed the wickedness of the leaders towards Christ, so should we. Another objection to witness is that to witness against Roman Catholicism is to give it more publicity. But what harm is there in this? We should be giving publicity, not to its teaching, but to the falseness of its teaching; and this is the starting point for any Roman Catholic, or Catholic supporter turning to the Truth. Again, others say, What is the point? No one will come to hear. The prophets might well have excused themselves in this way. Our duty is faithful witness, so that we shall be approved by the Master for our faithfulness, whether people hear or not. Others fear to be bold because of trouble and broken windows; and add that it is unwise and unnecessary. No doubt Peter could have avoided imprisonment and Stephen death along these lines.

Soon our brethren of past centuries who witnessed unto death against this same Roman Catholic system — they are described in symbol as "beheaded for the witness of Jesus" (Rev. 20:4) — will be alive again and will be approved by the Master: "*They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years*". Shall we be worthy of being in their company? The occasion of the Pope's visit is indeed a challenge.

## Chapter 3

# POLAND, THE VATICAN & THE SOVIET

### PROGRESS

In the 1980 "Milestones to the Kingdom" there were several pages on a degree of co-operation between the Vatican and the Soviet, starting as far back as the 1960's. The events in Poland in 1980 confirmed this relationship. The Soviet did not suppress the free trade union movement called Solidarity. By the middle of the year, supported by the Catholic Church and led by Walesa, a devout Catholic, it had grudgingly won the right to strike, some freedom of speech, and access to the media by the Church. There was an important meeting at the end of October:

"CHURCH AND STATE 'TO CO-OPERATE': Stanislaw Kania, the Communist Party Chief, has met Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, for the first time since assuming power, to discuss Poland's internal peace and development. . .The news agency did not elaborate on the meeting, except to say, 'A common view was expressed that a constructive co-operation between the Church and the State serves well the interests of the nation and that is why it will be continued in the name of good and the security of Poland'" (*D.T. 23.10.80*).

The Soviet's reluctant acceptance of the situation was reported at the end of the year:

"RUSSIANS 'DEAL WITH THE VATICAN IN POLAND'. . .Two members of the Communist party who visited Italy earlier this month told Vatican officials Russia would not invade Poland if the Roman Catholic Church tried to slow down development of the Polish strike movement 'within limits acceptable to Moscow', according to La Stampa of Turin, yesterday" (*D.T. 17.12.80*).

### A DEVELOPING CRISIS

1981 has seen a crisis gradually approaching with confrontation at the end of the year between the Polish government and Solidarity. The Western press generally, and the BBC, have chosen not to reveal all the facts. But these have been set out in several articles in the Guardian Weekly and the Washington Post. They are essential in assessing the Vatican-Soviet relationship. The crisis at the end of 1981 developed despite the restraining influence of Walesa and the Catholic Church. They were not able to control the Polish workers.

Solidarity made further progress during the first half of 1981. The Guardian Weekly in June had a wide-ranging article surveying the situation. The heading ran: "POLAND—THE SECOND WAVE: The hardliners have lost, and Solidarity has embarked on an uneasy

marriage of convenience with the Government. Who will be the dominant partner? Jonathan Steele reports from Warsaw". This heading, and the detail that followed, showed that Solidarity was now a political party, and not just a trade union; it was attempting to govern the government. Solidarity now had 9.5 million members. Strikes in various parts of the country multiplied; they were nationally irresponsible. The workers refused to be restrained by Walesa and the Church:

"For months, the tide inside Solidarity had been turning against Walesa's counsel for moderation. On Nov. 23 an Oslo newspaper quoted Jacek Kruon, the former leader of KOR (the Socialist Defense Committee) and a key advisor to Solidarity as saying that 'Solidarity's leaders have lost control of their members'".

The situation is illustrated by an article in November with the heading: "WALESA COAXES STRIKING POLES BACK TO WORK". 120,000 workers were involved. Reports said about 100,000 workers in other towns were still on strike. "Mr. Walesa threatened to resign if restrictions on strikes were not approved" (*D.T. 3.11.81*).

A fortnight earlier General Jaruzelski had taken over the government from Kania. He did his best to co-ordinate the Communist government, the Catholic Church, and the Solidarity Trade Union.

" "SUCCESS IN POLISH CRISIS TALKS: There was a major breakthrough in the Polish crisis last night when Solidarity, the Catholic Church, and the ruling Communist party moved towards co-operation. A Warsaw meeting between Mr. Lech Walesa, the Solidarity free trade union leader, Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Catholic Primate, and General Jaruzelski, the party leader, agreed on the urgent necessity of getting to grips with the 16 month crisis. An official communique said they 'exchanged views on the possibility of setting up a front of national agreement and reconciliation, a permanent platform for dialogue and mutual consultation of political and social forces on the grounds of the constitutional principles of People's Poland'" (*D.T. 5.11.81*).

At the end of November the government decided it must break the rising tide of strikes that was bringing the country to chaos. They chose to act when 300 cadets at a School of Firefighting staged an 8 day sit-in. Being under the control of Poland's internal security forces, this was regarded as illegal and amounting to mutiny. The occasion passed off quietly and the ejected cadets were sent home. But the incident inflamed the members of Solidarity. At a meeting at Radom shortly afterwards they voted for a 24-hour national strike, followed if necessary with a general strike. Walesa and a few others voted against the resolution. But strangely there came from the meeting a tape recording, Walesa speaking about "confrontation is unavoidable and will take place. . .let us realise we are bringing this system down". Walesa protested that he had been quoted completely out of context, but the government had no intention of giving up this extremely useful



piece of propaganda. Walesa did his best to avert the final blow. "Walesa met twice the next day and night, Dec. 5th with his major ally, Archbishop Glemp, for help in averting the collision. The government, however, was now secretly committed to just that, and Radom helped it set the stage." Solidarity leaders met at Gdansk on December 11th. "The Solidarity conference in Gdansk, however, produced exactly what the government needed to top off its own plans — a formal defiance of Communist rule". A referendum was proposed "to vote on the creation of a new provisional government to organise free parliamentary elections". The next day this was confirmed by the conference. With such a challenge, no government would remain inactive. "There was barely time for the decision to circulate. The curtain dropped on the Polish stage at about 11 p.m. Television went off the air. . . police seized Solidarity's Warsaw offices" (extracts from the Washington Post in the Guardian Weekly, 27.12.81, "HOW SOLIDARITY FELL INTO A TRAP").

### **THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE SUPPRESSED**

The Catholic Church has suffered with Solidarity. It may be some time before reasonable relations between Church and State are restored. But this will come. Already there are several pointers in that direction — "Jaruzelski sends secret letter to the Pope" was the headline, 14.1.82.

The government has to get a degree of co-operation with the people, and they are staunch to the Church. It will probably be through the unco-operativeness of the people towards the government that the Church will exert its power and push the government to restore the status the Church gained last year. It is usually out of a time of opposition and conflict that the bonds of mutually needed co-operation are forged. It was the persecution of the christians by the pagan government under Diocletian that soon moved into a reversal of this and co-operation between State and 'christians'. Though we look for co-operation between the Vatican and the Soviet, it must not be supposed that it is or will be a genuine friendly co-operation. We could well call to mind the rivalry of Pope and Emperor through many centuries from AD900 to 1400. In the earlier part the Emperor had the upper hand; but in the 14th century the Pope came out on top. Despite the rivalry and ambitions, they were dependent on each other for their successful existence in their respective spheres. This combination was symbolised by a beast with two horns. It will be a somewhat similar situation in the future, when the combined civil and religious powers of Europe provide effective rule over diverse peoples.

Although the West and the Pope cry out for freedom of conscience and human rights in Poland, the Catholic Church is not really interested in freedom of conscience, other than freedom of Catholic conscience. This is revealed by the way the Catholic Church deals with the Protestant Churches in Poland — "The seizure of Protestant churches by local Catholic groups had gone on for years, and was worsening, and was condoned by the Catholic hierarchy, Wojtowicz claimed". The Catholics had an answer — "The Catholic diocese felt it could no longer protect churches abandoned by their Protestant congregations from the surge of the Catholic faithful" (CWN Series March 20, 1981). Quite typical, as has happened in Eire — drive out the Protestants and then confiscate their property!

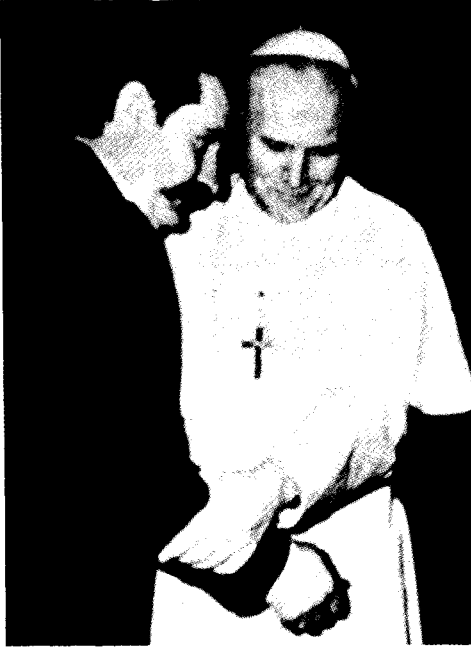
## **THE POPE'S AMBITIONS**

A remarkable article in Newsweek, 23rd November, 1981 shows the Pope's ambitions in harmony with Bible prophecy. Here are a few extracts from the article "THE POPE'S DIVISIONS", which was given a summary, "A sense of divine mission thrusts the Pontiff ever more deeply into the politics of Poland":

" Like a medieval theocrat, the Pope now holds a kind of Polish court-in-exile in the Vatican. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has knelt to kiss his hand and the communists have sent him frequent emissaries. As mediator, John Paul II has tried to calm Solidarity extremists — but also let the Kremlin know that his heart is with his countrymen. In recent weeks, the Pope approved a plan by Polish Primate Jozef Gliepm for an unprecedented summit that brought together the leaders of the union, the church and the government.



**The Pope with Waleśa—NEWSWEEK 23.11.81**



“The Pope is enthralled by a compelling mission — he believes he has a calling from God to unite Europe. During his first return to Poland — the first visit ever by a Roman Catholic Pontiff — he declared that the Holy Spirit intended that ‘this Polish Pope, this Slav Pope should at this precise moment manifest the spiritual unity of Eastern Europe.’ Beyond this, John Paul seems to believe that Poland’s salvation will also bring salvation to the West.

“Last December the Italian press was filled with reports that the Vatican and the Soviet Union had

closed a deal to prevent a Soviet invasion of Poland. The Vatican denied the stories, but Western diplomats privately believe that Soviet and Vatican officials do have regular contacts. ‘They want to make sure each side understands the other’s position’, said one Western diplomat. ‘It would be irresponsible if there weren’t such contacts.’

“The Kremlin seems willing to quietly accept some link between the church and the government — if such a change helps stabilize the nation. A recent Pravda editorial by Marxist philosopher Pyotr Fedoseyev blamed the Polish crisis on a failure of the authorities to stamp out “nationalism” — which he linked to “religious fanaticism” — but most Soviet leaders understand that in Poland, Catholicism and nationalism are inseparable. Stalin once dismissed the influence of the Vatican with a derisive question: “How many divisions has the Pope?” But as one U.S. official says: “There are 36 million Poles and 90 percent of them would join his [the Pope’s] division.” John Paul II, in political terms, is the most powerful Pope of modern times, and no one appreciates this more than the Russians.”

How apt will be the words of the mother of harlots, “*I sit a queen and am no widow*” (Rev. 18:7).

## **Chapter 4**

# **THE NORTH-SOUTH GROUPING IN THE M.E. CONTINUES TO GROW**

### **PROPHECY AND THE PRESENT SITUATION**

Several Bible references show that there will be two hostile groups of nations north and south of the land of Israel when Jesus Christ intervenes on behalf of his people. In Daniel chapter 11 at the 'Time of the End' there is a king of the north and a king of the south. In Zechariah chapter 6 the four chariots, after standing before the God of the whole earth, go forth from between two mountains of brass. This is a future event based on the historical event, that soon after Zechariah's time there were Grecian (brass) kingdoms north and south of the land, hostile to each other. And again, in Ezekiel chapter 38 there is a power challenging the invasion from the north. In the previous Milestone annual reviews, the development of these two groups north and south of Israel has been reported in detail; we rightly see this development as a great sign that preparations are going forward for the day of Armageddon.

It is the development in the south that continues to be of great interest. The plans created by President Carter, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, to protect the oil supply from the Gulf have been pursued vigorously by President Reagan. Co-operation with Saudi Arabia and Egypt have been the main features of the U.S. plans. Progress in various directions can be reported. Not that progress is smooth; there are strong counter forces. In particular there is the strong Islamic movement opposed to western civilisation, and the hostility of the Arab peoples to Israel. But in the light of prophecy we do not expect these forces to predominate. In the north, pressures from Syria and the PLO have markedly increased, but nothing dramatic has occurred. The Soviet is pre-occupied with Afghanistan and Poland. But it is now successfully preparing for the dissolution of the present order in Iran.

### **THE AMERICAN RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE**

The idea behind the Rapid Deployment Force, initiated by President Carter, is to have supplies and equipment in depots around the Gulf area, so that in an emergency troops can rapidly be flown in and start fighting. President Carter asked the countries nearby for 'facilities', rather than 'bases' that would give a present military foothold. In March 1981 President Reagan pressed for a more realistic situation, seeking bases where troops could be stationed at the present time. There was no ready response to this. Nevertheless progress has been made as the following quotations show.

“U.S. SEEKS BASES IN EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA: The United States is seeking permanent military bases in Saudi Arabia and Egypt to deter any Soviet attempt to seize the Middle East oil fields.” The American Defence Secretary “declared that it was the Reagan Administration’s intention to drastically upgrade the existing American ‘presence’ in the region” (D.T. 9.3.81).

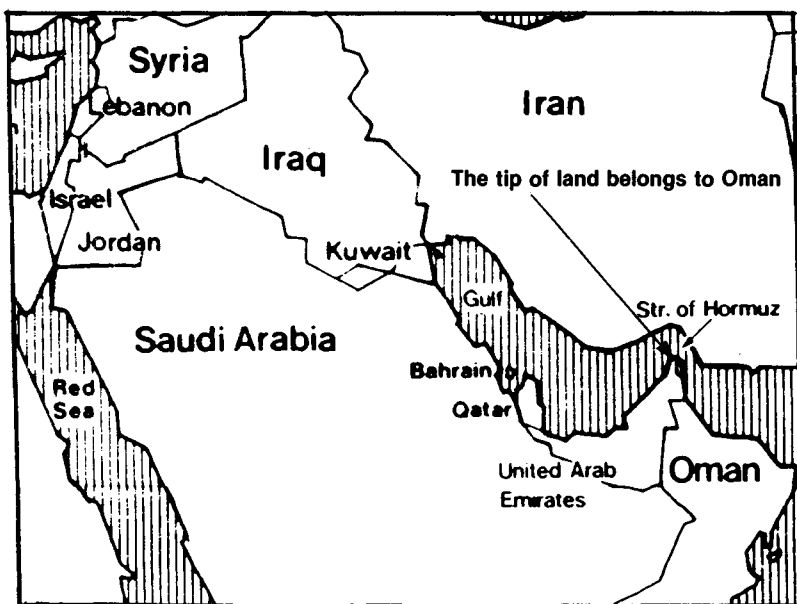
As an expression of this upgrading, a new military command for the Gulf has been appointed, similar to the existing commands for Europe, the Atlantic, and the Pacific. The difficulty was in finding a land base for the headquarters (G.W. 20.12.81).

Egypt continues to be co-operative, as expressed in a headline in May: “SADAT OFFERS U.S. RED SEA ‘FACILITIES’ ” (D.T. 26.5.81). In addition, joint military training was carried out by the Egyptian forces and the American, called Bright Star:

“Bright Star has been the biggest test yet of the Rapid Deployment Force designed to protect American interests in the Middle East, especially the oil-rich Gulf. It has by any standards been a remarkable show. . . To round off the joint training between 4,000 American and 4,000 Egyptian troops yesterday’s demonstration at Wadi Natrun, halfway between Cairo and Alexandria, began with a two-hour display by an extraordinary range of aircraft! . . . Bright Star will continue with a series of phased smaller scale manouvres in Sudan, Somalia, and Oman” (D.T. 25.11.81).

“America is negotiating for a military base in Somalia” (D.T. 2.1.81).

Oman, centred on the Gulf itself, has been the most co-operative.



“ A United States military unit arrived in the Gulf state of Oman to set up a communications centre. . . The United States expects to use Oman for its Rapid Deployment Force. . . At a recent meeting. . . Oman pleaded for the stationing of western forces to protect the Strait of Hormuz and maintain stability in the region” (G.W. 1.3.81).

British connections with Oman are referred to later.

Considering that America had little direct interest in the Gulf area a few years ago, apart from supplying arms to Iran and Saudi Arabia, these are big developments. It is highlighted by this new Persian Gulf Command, placing the region on a par with Europe, the Atlantic and the Pacific. Details of a Saudi Arabia-U.S. security plan with a control system and pre-positioned stores and arms for the whole of the Saudi Arabia and Gulf region are also given below.

## NAVAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sea power is of equal importance for America as land power, operating many thousands of miles from home. A considerable naval presence is now maintained by the U.S. in the Gulf region:

“ The naval force despatched by President Carter was one of the largest ever assembled. At its height, the fleet in the Indian Ocean comprised 38 warships, including four aircraft carriers and about 300 planes, among them advanced jet fighter-bombers. On an average the fleet is now made up of about 26 ships, including two aircraft carriers. President Reagan, according to his aides, is bent on maintaining the force as a so-called ‘trip-wire’ ”(D.T. 22.1.81).



The pivot of naval operations is the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean:

“ The 7,000 acre horseshoe-shaped Indian Ocean atoll, leased by Britain in 1967 to the Americans for 50 years, is being seen in Washington as a key to the military build-up in the region” (D.T. 27.3.81).

Reagan’s plans involve further development. His plans were turned down by Britain in March, but accepted in August.

“ Britain has effectively turned down a 1,000 million dollar American plan to go ahead with turning Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, into a major base from which B-52 bombers could operate”. “After considerable hesitation Britain has agreed to a Pentagon plan to make the runway on Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, strong enough to take fully-laden B-52 bombers” (D.T. 7.3.81; 14.8.81).

These military developments in the Middle East call for a lot of money. Reagan stirred up the Senate and Congress to pass his enlarg-

ed Defence expenditure, though cuts have subsequently had to be made!

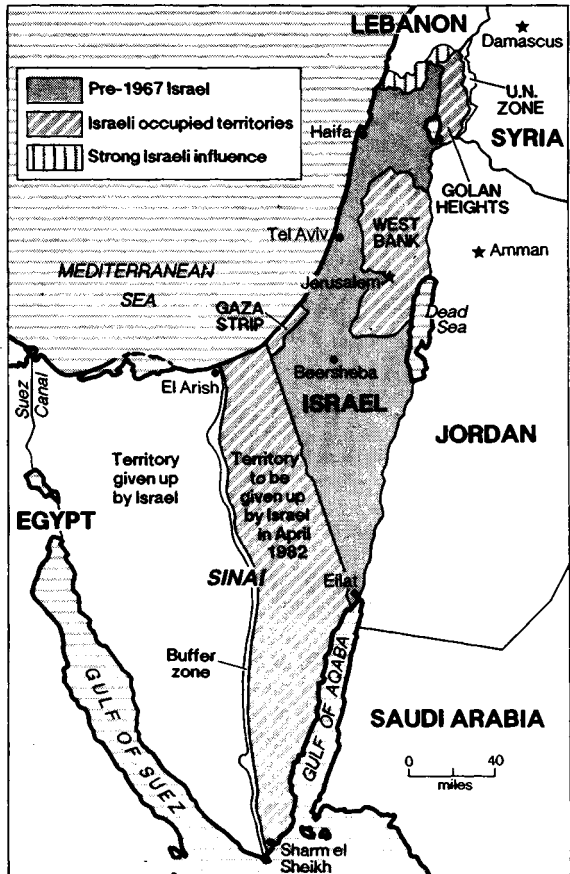
“ Much of America’s heightened defence effort is to be devoted to security in the Gulf, which accounts for at least a part of the ship-building programme to increase the fleet from 456 vessels to 600 at a cost of 3,700 million dollars, and the 15,700 million dollars for heavy equipment, as well as 2,500 million dollars specifically devoted to the rapid deployment force” (G.W. 14.6.81).

This article gave the total arms expenditure of the last decade as 4,000,000 million dollars; and adds, “It is doubtful whether the expenditure has led people on either side of the iron curtain. . .to feel more secure than they did ten years ago.”

Despite the undemocratic regime in Turkey at present, Reagan has been expressing accord with Turkey and is hoping to persuade her to provide bases and store facilities for the Rapid Deployment Force in the Middle East (D.T. 4.12.81).

### THE SINAI PEACE-KEEPING FORCE

The outstanding event of the year has been the preparation for a permanent U.S. military presence in Sinai, to fulfil the Camp David Agreement of 1978. For the U.S. this gets over the difficulty of the Arab nations’ objection to foreign bases on their territory. The Washington Post highlighted this at an early stage: “SMUGGLING U.S. FORCES INTO THE MIDDLE EAST: With a little quiet encouragement from the Israelites, officials in the Reagan administration are giving



serious thought to an ingenious solution for one of the biggest problems in their grand design for Middle East security. The problem is how to establish an American 'strategic presence' on the ground in a way that would deter — or conceivably defend against — Soviet penetrations without embarrassing the host nations and/or unnerving the neighbourhood. The solution: Smuggle it in, so to say, in a guise of a peace-keeping force to supervise compliance with the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty" (G.W. 29.3.81).

A little later the Washington Post reported on progress:

" TALKS OPEN ON U.S. TROOPS FOR MIDEAST: Military experts from the United States, Egypt and Israel began work here this week on operational details for a multinational peacekeeping force that would put U.S. troops permanently on guard in the Middle East for the first time. . . The State department announced that the military meeting followed a U.S. 'conclusion' that the United Nations will not sponsor a peacekeeping body for the Sinai as envisaged in the Egypt-Israeli peace treaty. In view of this determination, the State Department said, the United States will take the steps necessary to establish and maintain a multi-national force outside a U.N. framework" (G.W. 10.5.81).

A force of about 3,000 has been agreed, with the U.S. providing about 2,000. The Israeli Parliament approved the legal documents in August. When Israel evacuates the last strip of Sinai in April 1982, it will also hand over to the Egyptians two massive modern airbases and a naval base. The U.S. hopes that the Sinai force will be able to use these facilities. They are described thus:

" . . .two air bases, built by the Israelis with American help, and generally considered to be the most modern in the world outside the United States. Also included is an equally sophisticated naval base at a highly strategic location, Sharm Sheikh, on the Red Sea". "Although the multi-national force would hardly need the massive airbase at Ezion, for example, to fulfil its mission as a 'strong and effective' force, the warehousing possibilities are almost limitless" (J.P.W. 29.3.81).

Another significant development in the Egypt-Red Sea area (the centre of the King of the South power?) is the creation of a Red Sea port for Saudi Arabian oil.

" YANBU, SAUDI ARABIA—If all goes well, a supertanker will glide into this brand new deep-water port and industrial city on the Red Sea about July 10, 1981 and pick up the first load of 2.1 million barrels of oil pumped 750 miles across the Arabian Desert from the Saudi fields in the Persian Gulf" (G.W. 15.3.81).

Directly across the Red Sea, only about 100 miles, is the sea base of Ras Banas where Egypt has provided facilities for America. A large petrochemical plant is being built at Yanbu, so that petroleum for the war machine is on the spot. What astonishing developments are occurring in all this region, which in Bro. Thomas' day, and much later, was in the undisturbed sleep of centuries. How privileged we are to watch



\*Oil and Gas pipelines to the Red Sea still stalemated, with the Europeans taking 'a hard line on Sinai'.

not only Israel, but these south lands, come alive ready for the final prophecies to be fulfilled.

The U.S. has been seeking British and European token participation in the multinational peace force. Australia and New Zealand are expected to contribute. The European element has produced a hitch. The Israeli government refuses to approve the European participation, because the E.E.C. governments will not abide by the Camp David Agreement. At the end of the year there was

## PAKISTAN AND SOUTH AFRICA

These two countries are adjacent the Gulf-Indian Ocean area, and in a global view are important. President Reagan is not inhibited by President Carter's moral considerations, and has indicated his support for both countries. Pakistan is to receive extensive military and economic aid—3 billion dollars worth (*G. W.* 28.6.81).

## BRITAIN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Although the U.S. dominates in these developments in the southern region of the Middle East, the British influence is not inconsiderable. British diplomacy smooths the way for 'progress'. Mrs. Thatcher had a successful tour of the Arab states in April, following the Queen's visit in 1980. Britain is returning to the Middle East:

"GULF NEGLECT TO END, SAYS THATCHER: Mrs Thatcher is the first British Prime Minister to visit the Gulf while in office, and she hopes the visit will help to extend Britain's ties with one of the most important strategic regions and increase the British interests which have declined since the 1971 withdrawal. Her tour is being projected as the culmination of efforts begun by the Queen and carried on by ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Trade, Energy and Health, to improve links with Saudi Arabia" (*D. T.* 20.4.81).

So the links between the Old Lion, Sheba and Dedan are being renewed.

Although Saudi Arabia is the most powerful of the southern Arab states, Oman has a peculiar importance because it is right on the Gulf,

and is intensely loyal to Britain. Britain gives support both on land and sea.

“ Britain is planning to maintain a naval squadron in the Arabian Sea for as long as the Gulf crisis lasts, and has arranged to have shore facilities in Oman” (*D.T. 18.11.81*).

The sea lanes for the oil traffic run close to the coast of Oman, so that Britain is vitally interested in supporting this brave little country. With Britain behind her, she speaks out. A statement from the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, “The traffic lanes in the straits of Hormuz are within Oman’s territorial waters, and Oman has full authority and control over the sea passage” (*D.T. 20.9.81*).

Mr. Nott, the Defence Minister, visited Oman in March 1981, and agreed to increase the number of British serving officers in the Omani army. The army is commanded by a British General, and there are 32 other senior officers; altogether there are more British officers than Omani in the army. The picture is similar for the Air Force and the Navy (*D.T. 28.3.81*). The Head of State, Sultan Qaboos is a Sandhurst-trained Army officer. In the ten years he has ruled the country “Oman has moved into the 20th century”.

Mr. Nott also developed good relations with Egypt:

“ Mr. Nott, Defence Secretary, leaves Cairo with a successful, very warm and friendly visit behind him, and bright prospects for British arms sales across the board”. “A delegation of senior Egyptian Army officers will visit the British Army on the Rhine as part of developing defence co-operation between the two countries. ‘It could be the beginning of a new era in Anglo-Egyptian relations’, British and Egyptian sources said yesterday” (*D.T. 19.9.81, 28.9.81*).

In March, 1981 Prince Philip had a cordial four day visit to Egypt; and in July Prince Charles and his bride were welcomed.

A lengthy article in the Guardian Weekly on Australia emphasised its relations to Russia and America:

“ This obsessional fear of the Russians grew stronger after the Soviet rise to power, and it still remains a keystone of Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser’s diplomacy. . . The policy is complemented by a desire for close co-operation with the United States. Alliance with America is primordial, even for the Labour party, and the United States maintains bases on Australian soil. . . Conservatives stress the importance of the ‘special relationship’ between Australia, the Pentagon and the CIA” (*G.W. 3.5.81*).

All told, the Commonwealth bonds are strong, even if below the surface.

## **SOUTH ARABIAN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**

Early in the year Saudi Arabia hosted a summit of delegates from 38 ‘Arab’ countries. This was followed by a meeting of foreign ministers



of six southern Arab states to lay the foundation for a regional pact. A Gulf Co-operation Council was established in May.

“The Heads of State of the United Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain met round a huge black circular table last night and signed instruments establishing the new Gulf Co-operation Council. This is the most important venture since the formation of the Union of Arab Emirates in 1971.” “The proposed structure is of a supreme Council of Heads of State, meeting half-yearly; a council of Ministers meeting quarterly; and an arbitration body for resolving disputes”.

The report concludes:

“For the six States satisfactory resolution of the Palestinian issue is the most urgent imperative for regional stability and security. The Soviet threat is recognised but considered secondary” (*D.T. 26.5.81*).

Although Arab pacts usually prove unreliable, these six Gulf states have much in common, and this Co-operation Council may be a success. It may contribute to a regional ‘South Power’; but Israel will reckon it as up to no good.

## **THE NORTHERN GROUP: SYRIA, PLO AND LIBYA**

Increased Soviet involvement in the north complements what has been happening in the south with the U.S. and Britain. Israel’s alarm at this accounts for her several ‘aggressive’ acts during 1981 (see chapter five). Following the Soviet-Syria defence treaty last year, Russia has taken a tighter grip on Syria.

“According to American estimates there are currently some 4,000 Soviet ‘advisers’ and military personnel in Syria, which has allowed the Russians to establish forward arms depots that could be used to supply Soviet forces if Moscow decided to intervene directly in a future Middle East conflict” (*D.T. 26.2.81*).

Joint Soviet-Syrian naval exercises have been carried out in the eastern Mediterranean, with a 1,000 Russian naval infantry landed on the Syrian coast (*D.T. 7.7.81*).

After Israel had shot down two Syrian military helicopters at the end of April, Prime Minister Begin explained the circumstances. He said the Syrian advance into the Lebanon mountains would catch Israel in a pincer movement—from Lebanon on the north and the Golan Heights on the east.

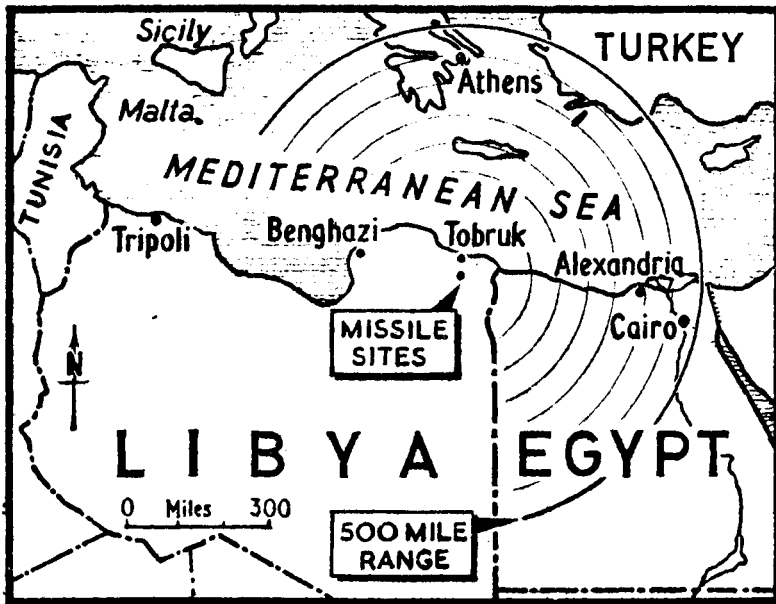
“Mr. Begin said that this pincer movement was supported not only by Syria’s 2,600 modern tanks and some 7,000 Soviet military experts, but a further 1,000 tanks stored in Syria and kept ready for Soviet troops which could be flown in in the event of a Soviet military intervention. The Prime Minister said that an additional 2,000 tanks were stored in Libya” (*D.T. 8.5.81*).

Of great concern to Israel is the changed character of the PLO fighting capacity. The Soviet, Syria and Libya “had launched a com-

bined operation to supply the PLO with massive quantities of up-to-date heavy arms. The purpose was, no less, to transform the terrorist organisation into a regular army. Its strength, it was estimated, would be 20,000 men" (*J.P.W. 2.8.81*). Israel struck against the PLO bases in July, in its so-called '12 day mini-war', but was forced by the U.S. to accept a cease-fire. It was at this time that the bombing of Beirut caused such an international outcry.

The increased grip of the Soviet on Libya has also been noteworthy. Only hours after two Libyan planes were downed by fighter planes from the U.S. Sixth Fleet, it is reported that Colonel Gaddafi decided to abandon his neutral stance (!) and seek a military alliance with the Soviet (*G.W. 20.9.81*). A short time later it was reported that the Soviets were using Libya as a base for missiles, to command the Mediterranean and the coasts on the south of Europe:

"Libya has a dozen Russian Scaleboard SS12 surface-to-surface missiles capable of reaching Athens, Cairo and targets in Southern Turkey." "Many other missile sites have been built on the Egyptian and Chad borders. Russians estimated to number at least 10,000 are said to be 'thick on the ground' in and around Tobruk and Benghazi" (*Review of "The Military Balance 1981-2" in D.T. 24.9.81*).



## THE SOVIET INVITED INTO IRAN

Ezekiel chapter 38 tells us Persia (Iran) will be part of the northern confederacy. For many years Christadelphians have been looking for

steps in this direction. The turning out of the U.S. in 1978 was the first major move. The invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was seen to place the Soviet in a strong position to invade or blackmail Iran. The last two years have seen an uncertain situation. But now the Soviet appear to have got their lead in. The following are extracts from an article in *TIME* 23.11.81, under the heading "BIG BROTHER MOVES IN: Soviets are influencing security, military and economic affairs":



**How *TIME* 23.11.81 saw the Soviet move into Khomeini's Iran.**

political explosion in the country, install a puppet regime.

"The decision to enlist the Soviets for help was a wrenching turn for the Islamic fundamentalists who run the ruling I.R.P. The party's strict religious orientation requires its leaders to denounce atheist Communism. But the I.R.P. felt forced to act when it was unable to organize an efficient intelligence and security organisation to cope with last summer's spectacular wave of assassinations of government leaders:

"Thus, for the first time, the Soviet Union has introduced its weapons into revolutionary Iran. Soviet advisers, forming the nucleus of a military mission, have begun teaching Islamic Guards and some strongly pro-Khomeini groups how to use heavy Soviet weaponry, including Katyusha rocket launchers.

"Still another team of Soviet advisers is trying to help the Khomeini regime escape economic disaster. Working with a group of East Germans, the Soviets are hoping to salvage hundreds of factories that are

"*TIME* has learned that it was a team of highly professional, meticulously schooled intelligence agents from the Soviet Union invited to Iran by the ruling Islamic Republic Party (I.R.P.). The agents were the first among several KGB and other Soviet advisory missions that have arrived in Iran since mid-October to help the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini create an efficient intelligence and security force and strengthen the Islamic Guards, the clergy's private army.

"After more than 2½ years of courting Khomeini, often at the cost of snubs and loss of face, the Soviets could be gaining the bridgehead in Iran that they have coveted for decades. The goal of the Soviets is to establish themselves so firmly that they can exercise a decisive influence on Iranian foreign policy or, in the case of a future

scarcely functioning because of poor maintenance, labor chaos and the flight of manpower abroad.”

## **THE VATICAN**

Which side the Vatican is on in the Middle East line-up is apparent from a report in the Toronto Globe and Mail. It reported a meeting between Cardinal Cassaroli, Secretary of State for the Vatican, with Farouk Kadumi, director of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Mr. Kadumi afterward announced: “There is no doubt that the Vatican’s position is that of solidarity with the Palestinian people in its liberation struggle” (3.4.81). The Vatican does not recognise the State of Israel. The conclusion of the article read: “. . .but for all of us who yearn for peace in the Middle East, the Vatican’s recent gesture may be a dangerous omen.”

## Chapter 5

# GROWING HOSTILITY TO ISRAEL

### AN ATMOSPHERE OF SIEGE

What a turmoil of events in the land of Israel through the year 1981! The people of the Bible have certainly maintained their place in world news. So many events have been coloured by the controlling hand of Prime Minister Begin. The world was taken by surprise when he was returned to power in the elections in June. Taken as a whole the events of 1981 reflect an increasing dislike of Israel by the world and by the Arabs, and a growing isolation of Israel.

“The election in Israel has been, to some extent, a battle of the hawks; and no one is in any doubt that the super hawk has won. Mr. Begin believes he has received a mandate for Eretz Israel—the land of Israel, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; and with the popular mood in Israel hovering between intransigence and outright belligerency, the prospects of a settlement in the Middle East seem depressingly remote”.

“There is in Israel today an unmistakable atmosphere of siege — of Israel against the world” (*D.T. 9.7.81*).

Begin’s new government issued a list of the main policy guidelines of the coalition. What the world calls ‘hawkishness’ is expressed in some of the statements. Some of the interesting ones are:

“At the end of the transition period, set down in the Camp David agreements, Israel will raise its claim, and act to realise its right of sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

“Israel will not descend from the Golan Heights, nor will it remove any settlement established there. It is the government that will decide on the appropriate timing for the imposition of Israeli Law, jurisdiction, and administration on the Golan Heights.

“Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, indivisible, entirely under Israeli sovereignty. Free access to their holy places has been and will be guaranteed to followers of all religions.

“Education will be based on the eternal values of Israel’s Tora (the Law, G.P.), on the values of Judaism and Zionism, love of the people Israel, and love of the homeland.”

Israel’s ‘unpeaceful’ behaviour is expressed in the various events that have stirred the world’s hostility:

**July 1980:** The Jerusalem Law proclaimed. After the UN Security Council’s resolution against Israel, and the U.S. censure, Begin said “The ancient people of Israel does not need the recognition of the Security Council, nor the agreement of its members for Jerusalem to be the capital of the Jewish State.”

**April 1981:** Shooting down of Syrian military helicopters; a warning to Syria against advance into Lebanon.

**June 1981:** Israel destroyed the nuclear reactor in Bagdad.

**July 1981:** '12 day mini-war' against the PLO in Lebanon, and the "indiscriminate bombing" of Beirut, the nerve centre of the PLO. American public opinion "outraged"; Mr. Begin "Madman for ally", "Begin the bully" and similar headlines in the press.

**August-September, 1981:** The new government's harder line on the West Bank. More land had been seized in March for more security settlements. Sharon outlines Israel's plan for minimal autonomy in August. No progress on autonomy in the Egyptian-Israeli talks.

**August-October 1981:** Sustained political fight by Israel to prevent the U.S. Senate agreeing to AWAC radar reconnaissance planes being sold to Saudi Arabia. With these Saudi Arabia would be able to survey all Israeli military activities.

**August-November 1981:** Bitter hostility to the PLO/Saudi Peace Plan and the degree of approval given to it by the U.S. and Europe. Saudi Arabia now regarded as a 'confrontation State'. Outcry against military bases being built by the U.S. in Saudi Arabia on the borders of Israel.

**December 1981:** Annexation of the Golan Heights. Reagan supports the UN motion of censure and suspends the Defence Pact signed with Israel. Begin's angry response; "Are we a vassal state of yours? Are we a banana republic? Are we a 14-year-old boy who gets his knuckles rapped for misbehaving? This government is made up of people who have been through resistance fighting and suffering. You can't frighten us with punishment."

It is not difficult to appreciate the opposing points of view: Israel on the one hand all the time pre-occupied with her security; and the U.S. and Europe on the other hand upset that Israel's actions stir up Arab hostility and make precious oil less secure.

## **ISRAEL FEARS SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. CO-OPERATION**

Israel has potential threats from all directions. In considering her south border she sets great store by the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty and is willing to give up the whole of the defence zone of Sinai provided it is patrolled by the U.S. peace-keeping force. Her long vulnerable sea coast is protected by the U.S. Sixth Fleet, shadowing the Soviet fleet as it patrols the eastern Mediterranean. On the north, south Lebanon has been a buffer zone, but the increased activity of Syria and the PLO under Soviet guidance has resulted in tension, and the annexation of the Golan Heights as a security measure. The real area of anxiety this year has been the changed situation regarding Saudi Arabia, and how this

reflects a changing policy and mood in America.

America aims to use all three countries, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, as bases in a time of crisis in the Gulf. Of the three Israel is the most valuable. Israel is well aware of this, and is disappointed that its status is not openly recognised by the U.S. The Defence correspondent in the *Jerusalem Post Weekly* set out Israel's superior military status:

“What Israel can give the U.S., and what the latter cannot expect from any of its developing alliances in the region is a highly trained, battle-proven, Western-oriented and extremely sophisticated military infrastructure to which the Americans can adapt in a moment of need with almost no preparation. Israel has the world's most modern air bases capable of arming, maintaining, and turning over aircraft which today form the backbone of the U.S. air force—notably Phantoms, F-15's and F-16's. Israel has the technological capability to provide credible real-time tactical and strategic intelligence on regional events, and has developed a communications network enabling battle co-ordination second to none in the Western world” (*J.P.W. 12.10.81*).

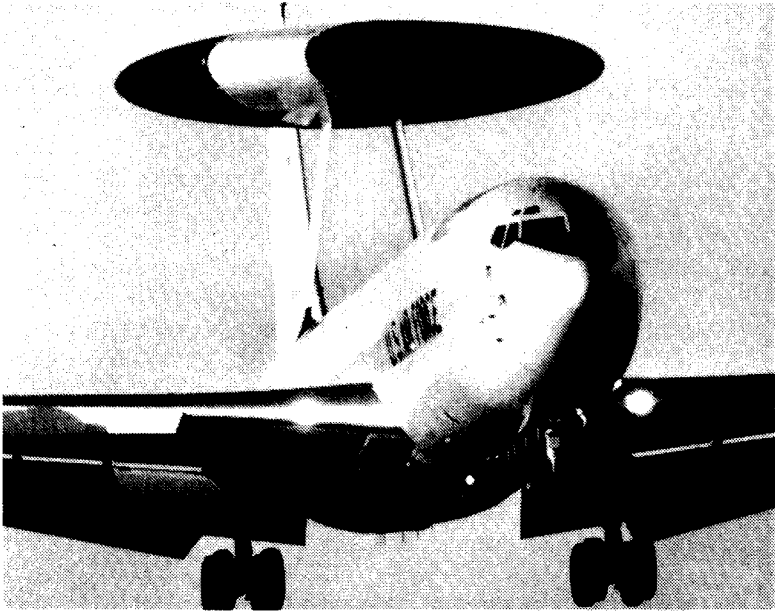
Reagan knows Israel will be loyal and will supply these facilities. So he can afford to be cool towards Israel in as far as that helps him to get support from the Arab countries. While Israel accepts that the U.S. will stand by Israel in a major crisis with the Soviet, yet these moves of the U.S. to give more arms and modern aircraft to Saudi Arabia, and the building of airbases on her soil obviously increase the ability of the Arabs to fight Israel. Hence the unease and protests of Israel to this changed policy, as they see it, of Reagan favouring Saudi Arabia at the expense of Israel.

The developing situation is described in an article in the *Guardian Weekly* in November:

“The fears in Israel are likely to be increased by a report that last week's approval of the sale of AWAC's is just one element of a US security plan for the Gulf region which will allow the Saudis to buy and build a network of command, naval and air defence facilities big enough to accommodate US forces in the event of a regional conflict with the Soviet Union.

“Under the plan according to un-named US and foreign officials, Saudi Arabia would allow the US to pre-position more than 90 day's supplies, including refined oil, in facilities built on Saudi soil by US engineers to US specifications. A pentagon issue paper acquired by the Post says that the AWAC's deal 'sets the stage for the development with US backing, of a regional system for the entire Gulf region'. To pay for the plans, which may include other Gulf states, including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, Saudi Arabia has set aside some 35 to 60 billion dollars” (*G.W. 8.11.81*).

Israel roused protests by overflying Saudi territory to photograph the new Tabuk airbase — “An enormous base is being built there in a corner of Saudi Arabia that faces no enemy except us” (*J.P.W. 29. 11.81*).



Awacs: A touch of Paranoia in Israel.

## SAUDI-PLO PEACE PLAN

A Middle East peace plan devised by the PLO and Saudi Arabia was announced in August, and caused great consternation in Israel when it was approved by the EEC, Arab States, the United Nations and was also said by the U.S. to have some good points. It called for the withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied in 1967, and the establishing of an independent Palestinian state with 'eastern' Jerusalem as its capital. This threat suddenly decreased at the end of November when the 12th Arab Summit in Fez, Morocco, failed to reach agreement on the Plan—the 'Rejectionist' states, Iraq, Syria and Libya, saying the plan inferred that the Arab countries could reach a state of peace with Israel. The Summit broke up in disarray. The West regarded the collapse as a disaster: "Ditching of Saudi plan a diplomatic disaster"; "After the Fez fiasco, who will tackle Syria and the PLO?"; "The damage done at Fez would be hard to overestimate". No doubt the angels were playing their part. (*"The heart of the king is in the hand of the LORD, as rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."* Proverbs 21:1). The general conclusion was that Israel's hand would be strengthened to maintain her hard position. However, a report at the end of the year indicated that the Fez Summit would be re-convened, and that Syria had been persuaded by Saudi Arabia to drop its opposition to the 'peace' plan. The means of persuasion was a new subsidy of 2,500 million dollars!



## U.S.-ISRAEL DEFENCE ACCORD

A balancing item to that just considered was the U.S.-Israel Defence Accord signed at the end of the year. From what has already been written, it can be appreciated that Israel has been pressing for the U.S. to establish military bases in Israel and incorporate Israel in the Rapid Deployment Plan. In earlier years Israel rejected the idea of a Defence Treaty with the U.S., but today Israel seeks every element of security in the face of the growing strength of her surrounding enemies. The U.S. has reluctantly agreed to a Defence Accord, reluctant because it hinders goodwill with the Arab nations.

“ A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel on Strategic Co-operation” was signed in Washington at the beginning of December. Article 1 states that the co-operation “is designed against the threat of peace and security caused by the Soviet Union on Soviet controlled forces from outside the region, introduced into the region. It has the following purposes—

A: To enable the parties to act co-operatively and in a timely manner to deal with the above-mentioned threat.

B: To provide each other with military assistance for operations of their forces in the area that may be required to cope with this threat.

C: The strategic co-operation between parties is not directed at any state or group of states within the region. It is intended solely for defensive purposes against the above-mentioned threat” (*J.P.W. 6.12.81*).

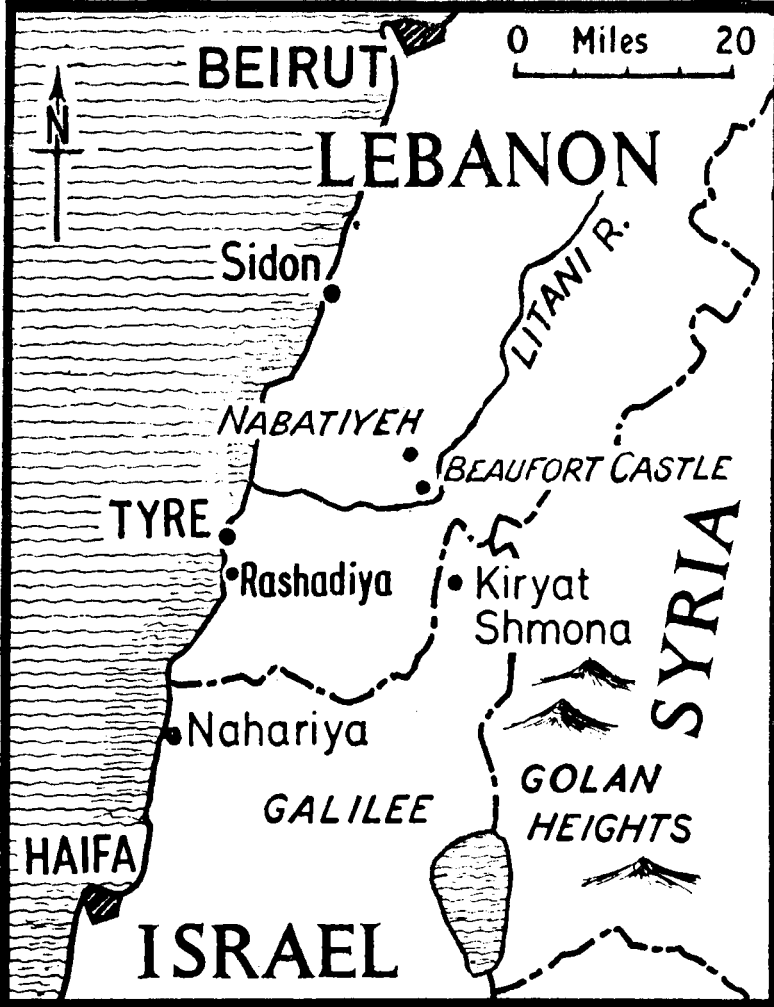
The Israeli Defence correspondent of the Jerusalem Post reported that “The Agreement Sharon came back with was received with reserve in all quarters”. “The entire political spectrum in Israel, from the extreme left to Tehiya on the extreme right, is opposed to it”. Israel has no pleasure in being publically named as a front-line confrontation state with the Soviet Union on the one hand; and on the other, having any attacks from the surrounding Arabs specifically excluded from the agreement. But obviously such an exclusion would be demanded by the U.S. in a public document. One supposes there were secret appendages.

“ Sharon (the Israeli Defence Minister, G.P.) said there was ‘understanding in principle’ with the U.S. that there would be strategic co-operation in the following fields: the air; at sea; the holding of joint exercises; the stockpiling of military stores in Israel; the pre-positioning of medical facilities in Israel; U.S. use of Israel for servicing and repairs of military equipment; and U.S. purchase of military equipment from Israel. There were ‘some other areas’ which the minister said were better left unpublished” (*J.P.W. 20.9.81*).

These comments in September are much grander than the actual Agreement in December.

## ANNEXATION OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

The increasing military threat from Syria and the PLO has been outlined in the previous chapter. The Soviet "has stored 2,000 tanks in that country, transforming Syria into an advanced Russian base" (*D.T. 13.12.81*). Altogether Syria can put into battle 3,200 tanks. As the map shows, the Golan Heights are in Syria. After a fierce struggle Israel conquered the Golan Heights in the 1967 war and has occupied them ever since. If Israel gave up the Heights to Syria it would be military suicide. Hence, as already mentioned the new Begin government made the annexation of the Heights one of its items of policy. In



the annexation debate in parliament Begin said that:

“ Syria dominating the heights before the 1967 war, terrorised northern Israel by continuous shelling. An entire generation in the Jordan valley was born in shelters and known as the ‘shelter children’ ” (*D.T. 15.12.81*).

Bringing the Heights under Israeli law does not make much practical difference, but it gives notice to the world that the Heights like Jerusalem, are not a negotiable item in any attempted peace moves with Syria. Begin made this clear:

“ For Israel the Golan Heights were a matter of life and death, he said. The Golan legislation was a reassurance to the Jewish settlers on the Heights that they would not be abandoned and that Israel would hold on to secure borders ” (*D.T. 16.12.81*).

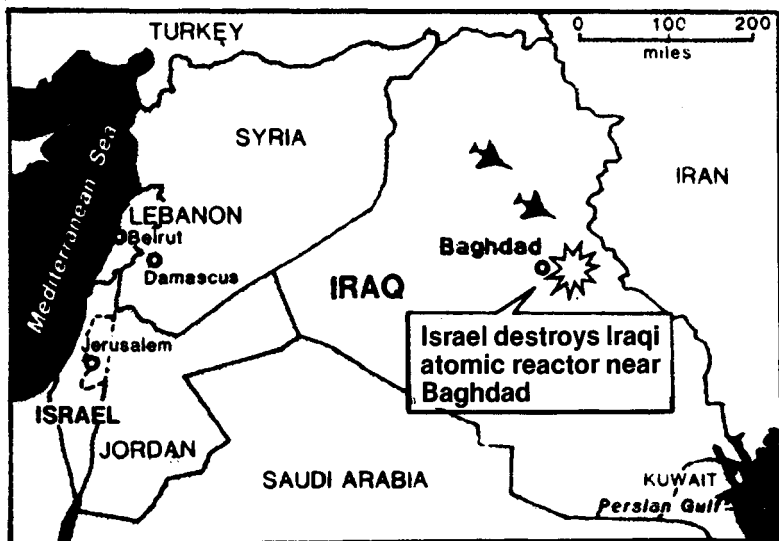
After the angry reactions between Begin and Reagan over the annexation, with Reagan suspending the Strategic Accord, and Begin saying he regarded it as cancelled, co-operation was soon restored:

“ ISRAEL AND U.S. REACH ACCORD: Israel promised the United States yesterday that it will not resort to surprise action such as the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear plant, and will not invade Lebanon unless attacked. The United States will not press Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders which Israel considers indefensible ” (*D.T. 31.12.81*).

The U.S. have agreed for their part that they will veto the move in the UN to impose sanctions on Israel for the annexation (*D. T. 5.1.82*).

## ISRAEL'S ULTIMATE SECURITY

Israel's security ought to lie in her trust in the God of Israel. But for



the present it rests in nuclear bombs. Reports in the London Economist magazine said that recent American intelligence accounts had made experts draw conclusions that Israel now was in possession of **200 nuclear warheads**. Also that she is developing her own cruise missile with a range of 2,000 miles which could put parts of the U.S.S.R. within range (*D.T. 12.2.81*). The Arab nations will be in no doubt that Israel would use such weapons rather than be annihilated. So Israel is in a strong position so long as the Arab nations have not got such weapons. It was for this reason that Israel struck at the Iraqi nuclear plant before it was operational.

The strike at the Iraqi nuclear plant was a daring action such as we have come to expect from Israel:

“ Fourteen American-supplied F-16s and F-15s took part in the attack, taking off from the Negev, flying south and then turning back and refuelling over Saudi Arabia; the commanding Israeli pilot speaking Arabic to confuse the defences. All the planes returned safely” (*G.W. 14.6.81*).

## **BIBLICAL EDUCATION IN ISRAEL**

In the 1977 Milestones to the Kingdom we referred to the possibility of a more religious outlook under the Begin government. Mr. Begin installed Zelvulun Hammer, leader of the ‘young guard’ in the National Religious Party (one of the government coalition parties), as minister of education and culture. Hammer expressed hopes of a spiritual regeneration in Eretz Israel. In the newly formed government he is supported by Miraym Glazer-Ta’asa as deputy minister of education. She has a Masters degree at the Jewish Theological Seminary, U.S., and she wants to increase the teaching of Zionism, and the historical and religious aspects of the annual feasts, etc.

The Bible has an important part in the Israeli curriculum. Item 27 in the government policy guidelines reads: “Education will be based on the eternal values of Israel’s Tora (the five books of Moses, G.P.), on the values of Judaism and Zionism and love of the homeland.”

There are in Israel religious schools and a religious university, but what is striking is the situation in ordinary secular schools. Helen Wolfers said in an interview:

“ But my daughter, aged 11, who has been attending an Israeli secular school for the last four years, already spends more than half her time studying Jewish festivals, Bible, Talmud and Israeli history, ancient and modern” (*J.P.W. 9.8.81*).

Although one receives a general impression of worldliness in the nation from reading the Jerusalem Post, an assessment by Terence Prittie, a non-Jew, is encouraging:

“ But inflation apart, Israel does better than most other countries; there

is less crime, less corruption, fewer drug-addicts and drop-outs. There is a livelier sense of patriotism, a greater sense of compassion and caring, and an altogether remarkable imagination and inventiveness. At the end of the day, there is more joy in the actual business of living than in those countries where living standards are higher; and really serious national problems do not exist at all" (*Jewish Observer*, April 1981).

## **A WAY TO PROSPERITY?**

From Ezekiel chapter 38 we know that Israel is to become prosperous to provide the 'great spoil'. That seems far away at the moment. For 1980 the total balance of payments deficit was an astounding 3,800 billion dollars (one wonders whether this was a misprint)! The U.S. financed over a third of this. In Israel's national income, about one third is spent on defence, one third on repaying interest on loans, and only one third is left for normal national use.

If oil could be found in Israel, this would soon transform the scene, and allow prosperity to develop. As one would expect Israel is very active in such a search. Two schemes are reported on in 1981:

"U.S. CAPITAL FOR DEAD SEA OIL DRILL: The costs of making the deepest and most complex oil drilling in the Middle East, through thousands of metres of salt on the southern shore of the Dead Sea, are to be borne by private overseas investors" (*J.P.W.* 2.8.81).

The estimate is that there is oil and gas that would supply all Israel's needs for one and a half years. It would, of course, be used more slowly.

A more exciting second scheme is related to the region occupied by Asher. "*And of Asher. . .let him dip his foot in oil*" (Moses' blessing, Deut. 33:24). A full page article described how this scheme matured. "A Texas oil man and former fighter pilot is drilling a well in Israel, based on readings in the Bible and backed up by technology and six million dollars". He feels God saved him in a fighter plane crash in World War II, and after a visit to Israel, he wanted to do something for the country. He had difficulty in getting the government to take him seriously. When he surveyed the region occupied by Asher with the most recent 'radio-metrics' equipment, he declared it to be "one of the most interesting geological prospects ever mapped in Israel". He is now preparing to drill near Megiddo. Andy Sorrelle is a believer in the Bible prophecy of Israel's return to the land, and the Gogian invasion, and hopes his oil will bring about Israel's prosperity. Israel's government is to get 12% royalty on any oil find (*J.P.W.* 11.10.81).

## **WHAT OF THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE FOR ISRAEL?**

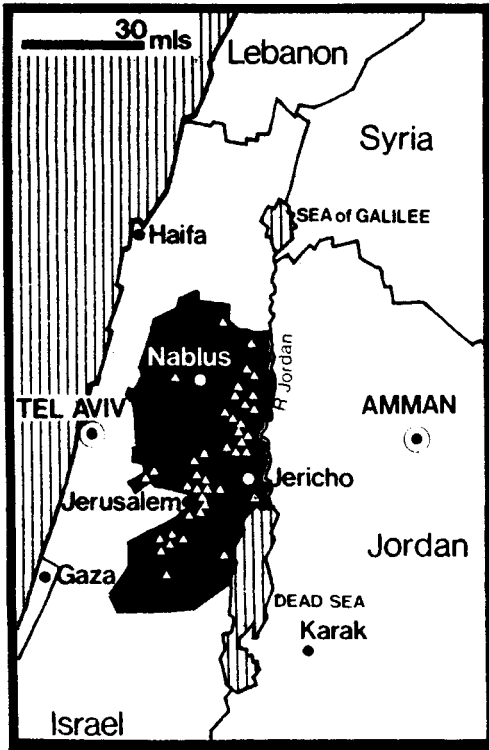
The various happenings reported concerning Israel this year may seem

exciting, or merely interesting, depending on one's viewpoint; but what is their importance? What is their significance? Broadly the year has seen heightened activity north and south of Israel. There has been greater involvement of U.S. and Britain in the south and the Soviet in the north; with Israel driven to acts of independence that have annoyed other nations. Will these tensions continue to mount? How does the land change from the present scene to that peace and quiet described in Ezekiel chapter 38? We do not know. This section offers a few comments on possible developments.

Aside from Israel, we can see that with regard to Europe it is certainly getting nearer to the take-over by the Soviet. This, one would think, cannot be many years away. Apart from Western Europe's 'resignation' to co-operation with the Soviet rather than face destruction, Soviet's internal difficulties, economic and political, make the taking of Western Europe an attractive proposition. The disastrously poor harvests may be providential to drive the Soviet westwards for a spoil, like the barbarian tribes of centuries ago. When this takes place the U.S. might 'demand' that Soviet penetration southward is prevented by declaring the Middle East a neutral zone, and the Soviet for the time being would agree. They agree until they "think an evil thought", or "devise an evil device" (R.V.), and break their agreement. In such an international settlement the nations around Israel would also be involved.

Can we see developing some degree of reconciliation of Israel with the true Arabs of the south, the people occupying the Arabian peninsula—Saudi Arabia, and the smaller states, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and also Jordan, such as has happened with Egypt? This certainly is not impossible, when one realises that Egypt was Israel's greatest and most powerful enemy in past years, declaring perpetual hostility to the Jews; yet they have established peace and economic co-operation.

Hostility centres on Israel's possession of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem, which includes the old city of Jerusalem. These were captured by Israel in the 1967 war, following Jordan's 'stabbing Israel in the back' by joining in the war when it looked as if Israel might be beaten. Israel claims the West Bank as its 'lawful' possession by military victory. The other side chooses to say Israel was the aggressor in 1967 because she started the war, and has no right to what she captured. It is likely that Israel did make a pre-emptive strike, knowing that her enemies were about to attack. Israel claims it is vital to hold the West Bank for her security.



**Settlements in the West Bank.**

Since 1967 Israel has built many settlements in the West Bank region, and is striving to increase the number of Jews in this predominantly Arab area. The settlements also have a strategic value. In the Camp David Agreement 1978, between Egypt, Israel and the U.S., Mr. Begin proposed a limited autonomy for the West Bank, but insisted Jerusalem was entirely outside any negotiations. "Autonomy" was not defined in any detail. From the various articles written in the Jerusalem Post over the years it would seem that the intent of the Camp David Agreement was that (1) Israel would have a military presence in certain areas to maintain her security; (2) the Arabs would be given real independence in civil functioning and laws, but defence and foreign policy would be under the control of Israel. This means there would be limited independence but there would not be a sovereign state. The opposition—the Labour party — in Israel would accept these terms, and so would probably the majority of the nation. The Opposition say Mr. Begin signed the Agreement, and he would honour his signature. We noted in the present government 'policy statement', that Israel would "act to realise its right of sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and the Gaza strip" — language that suggests annexation. In the discussions so far Mr. Begin has been willing to yield very little. What then may happen in the future?

The final piece of Sinai is due to be given up to the Egyptians in April 1982. The U.S. has started a drive to get some agreement in principle about the West Bank before this date. The reason for this is that Egypt's attitude will change after that date. At present, because she fears Israel might not give up this last strip of Sinai, she is anxious not

Since 1967 Israel has built many settlements in the West Bank region, and is striving to increase the number of Jews in this predominantly Arab area. The settlements also have a strategic value. In the Camp David Agreement 1978, between Egypt, Israel and the U.S., Mr. Begin proposed a limited autonomy for the West Bank, but insisted Jerusalem was entirely outside any negotiations.

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to upset Israel, and is likely to make some compromises about the West Bank. After April her attitude to Israel will harden and Egypt will be seeking to side with the Arabs. So Alexander Haig, the U.S. Secretary of State, has started a "shuttle service" like Kissinger used to carry out, and like President Carter carried out to get the Camp David Agreement, personally visiting Cairo and Jerusalem, insisting on some steps forward. As an aside it is interesting to read in the late Moshe Dayan's account of those negotiations the toughness that was needed to move the Israeli government. The reviewer of his book "Breakthrough" writes:

"Several themes emerge. Perhaps the most surprising is the toughness of Jimmy Carter. Somewhere Carter got the reputation as a wimp, unable to make hard choices and unable, therefore, to lead. But that is not the picture that comes through here. 'Though Carter spoke in dull monotone' Dayan writes at one difficult point in the talks, 'there was fury in his cold blue eyes and his glance was dagger sharp. His portrayal of our position was basically correct, but it could not have been expressed in a more hostile form'" (*G.W. 11.10.81*).

A similar toughness by President Reagan may be needed this time.

Israel is anxious to get some agreement before April 1982, realising that the situation will harden afterwards. President Reagan has recently promised he will not press Israel to accept insecure boundaries; he will not expect them to go back to pre-1967. In any agreement between Egypt, Israel and U.S., Israel will have to yield more independence to the West Bank, and Egypt will have to accept Israel's military supervision of the region, and Israel's hold on eastern Jerusalem, or at least the old city.

Various writer's have warned that Reagan is intent on getting his way in this matter, and that he will bring inescapable pressure on Israel. An article in the Jerusalem Post Weekly in the beginning of January 1982 had the heading "BEYOND THE SMILE", and as a sub-heading "Reagan came into the White House as a strong supporter of Israel. . .but during his first year in office he has had a change of heart and mind, writes Post Washington correspondent Wolf Blitzer." Two paragraphs in the article read:

"Assuming, however, that no real progress has been achieved by April in wrapping up the Palestinian autonomy negotiations, a greater willingness to get tough with Israel might develop. Reagan's charm and smiles will disappear. No more misleading signals. He may actually become mean.

"Long-time Reagan associates told me that this is a president who is not afraid to take decisive action when provoked. As an example, they pointed to his decision a few months ago to break the Air Controllers Association when it illegally went on strike. He used brutal force to get his way — in the end, he succeeded" (*J.P.W. 3.1.82*).

In such a situation, Israel, in the ultimate so dependent on the U.S.,



would have no option but to capitulate. A further compelling reason for Israel to reach some agreement is her near hopeless economic position. Inflation is still around 100%; the country cannot for ever go on spending a third of its GNP on defence.

When and if there is some agreement between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. over the West Bank, there would still be the obstacle of Saudi Arabia acquiescing. The U.S. would be able to bring pressure to bear on Saudi Arabia to agree, especially if some general agreement was being established in the whole region relative to the Soviet and the U.S. It might come about that something like the Sinai Peace-keeping Force was also installed in a West Bank zone, to provide security for Israel. This would give such a presence, that the words of the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions "*Art thou COME to take a spoil*", would be possible of fulfilment.

One could still pose the question, what about the more hostile nations to the north, Syria, Iraq and the PLO? Saudi Arabia has a considerable influence on these countries by supporting them with big subsidies and having the centre of Moslem religion at Mecca. Iraq particularly is dependent on the Southern Arab states having borrowed 16 to 20 billion dollars in her war with Iran (*G. W. 3.1.82*). Also if there were a general neutrality agreement in the region, accepted by the Soviet, the Soviet would restrain her clients, Syria, etc.

Such are some possibilities working from the trends apparent at present. Yet in the light of Ezekiel 38:12 that the people dwell in the **midst** (navel, margin) of the land, one hardly expects Israel to give up her settlements in the West Bank (see map). Some will point to Psalm 83 that indicates that Israel has yet to establish control by war over a larger area. Psalm 83 certainly reads as if it has a future application. But Israel at present has nowhere near enough faith to carry out a Gideon-like war, having such a trust in God that 300 can deal with 135,000 of the enemy. Also the result of this destruction is that "*men may know that thou, whose name alone is Yahweh, art the most high over all the earth*" (verse 18). This surely belongs to a time when Christ is being openly revealed to the world.

Some reconciliation between the true Arabs and Israel is not too difficult to imagine, despite the religious differences. In the next section the Biblical relations of the two are sketched, past and future.

A note of general interest is added here that the Septuagint emphasises the peaceful state of things when the Northerner thinks his evil thought.

*"I will come upon them that are at ease in tranquility, and dwelling in peace, all inhabiting a land in which there is no wall, nor bars, nor have they doors, to seize plunder, and to take their spoil"* (Bagsters edition).

## ISHMAEL, THE ARABS AND BIBLE PROPHECY

Today 'Arabs' is used loosely of nations that have adopted the Moslem religion. But it is the descendants from Abraham's two wives, Hagar and Keturah, those who inhabit Arab-ia, who are true Arabs. The twelve princes of Ishmael and the six sons of Abraham by Keturah are listed in Genesis chapter 25. They were sent away into "the east country" by Abraham before he died. Some of the better known names are: Midian, Sheba, Dedan, Kedar, Nabaoith, Duma, Tema. These people occupied Arabia and came under the influence of Mahomet in the 7th century A.D.

The 'Bible' for the Arabs is the Quoran which Mahomet produced. This is derived from the Bible, and both Jew and Arab look to Abraham as their father. They both accept the Old Testament and the promises in Genesis. There are two fundamental articles of faith in the Quoran. First, it holds the same position as the Jews that God is One and supreme; Arabs both hate and scorn the trinitarian God of Christendom. The second article of faith is best expressed by a quotation:

"The second article of this creed implies a doctrine of God's relation to His creation, according to which God, having first instructed Adam in divine truth and explained to him his duties, in succeeding ages, as the knowledge of this truth became obscured and men lapsed into unbelief, sent a succession of prophets—Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc. — to proclaim anew the primitive revelation. This series of prophets comprises many familiar names of the Old Testament, and leads through St. John the Baptist and Jesus to Muhammed, 'the seal of the prophets' after whom no further inspired teacher is held to be needed. According to this theory of God's revelation to men through prophets, Muhammad was not the founder of any new religion, and he constantly emphasised the fact that he was an apostle of no new doctrine, and described his own teaching as being the religion of Abraham" (*Modern Knowledge Library, vol. XVII "The Islamic Faith", Benn*).

One realises from this brief description of the original Muslim faith, that Moslems and Jews are closer together than Christians and Jews.

Ishmael, the prime progenitor of the Arab people was blessed by God because he was a son of Abraham: "*And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation*" (Gen. 17:20). In contrast with Ishmael, Esau (Edom) had no blessing of God, and has disappeared as a nation. The area occupied by Edom is now part of Jordan.

In the future we anticipate the descendants of Ishmael will be subject to Israel. If the boundaries of Israel then extend to the East Sea (the Persian Gulf), all these people of Arabia—Midian, Kedar, Duma, etc. — will be subject to Israel. They will fulfil the words concerning

Ishmael, *“He shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren”* (Gen. 16:12). A prophecy in Isaiah indicates that these people will be among the first to submit to Christ. In the first part of Isaiah chapter 42 the redemptive work of Christ in his first coming is clearly set out: *“I Yahweh have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light to the Gentiles”*. His work was to *“Open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”* The last phrase is expressive of resurrection — to bring out of the prison house of death. See also Zechariah 9:11. With Christ’s return and the resurrection, the time has come for the next verse: *“I am Yahweh: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images”*. This will be Christ’s challenge to the world. Now we come to the part that interests us at the moment. God declares he is speaking of new things before they come to pass. And the first items mentioned are verses 10 and 11:

*“Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.*

*“Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up the voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock (Arabia Petra) sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains”*.

The reference in verse 10 is probably to the conversion of Britain at an early stage; and next, verse 11, the inhabitants of Arabia are brought into subjection to Christ and sing his praises also at an early stage. Arabia Petra is the mountainous region of the Sinai peninsula, and the region lying between the Gulf of Elath and the Dead Sea. After this, verse 13:

*“The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war”*.

This will be Christ manifesting his power at Armageddon in the land of Israel.

Psalm 72 confirms what we read in Isaiah. Verse 8 reads:

*“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth”*.

Then notice the detailed progression verses 9 to 11:

*“They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him”*.

So the first mentioned are those that dwell in the wilderness. Jordan

today occupies the area of ancient Moab and the region of Arabia Petra. Isaiah chapter 16 refers to “the land from Sela (margin Petra) to the wilderness” and to Moab and calls on them to respond to the needs of Israel in their time of distress, just before the extortioner is at an end. So, from these scriptures it is fairly clear that those in the Arabian peninsula will accept Christ, even before those in Israel are delivered.

This sketch of matters relevant to the Arabs, past and future, may help us not to consider it too surprising if some truce is agreed between Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

May events in the world so move that soon all nations will be blessed in their new king.

*“Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: And let the whole earth be filled with His glory; Amen, and Amen” (Psa. 72:17-18).*

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