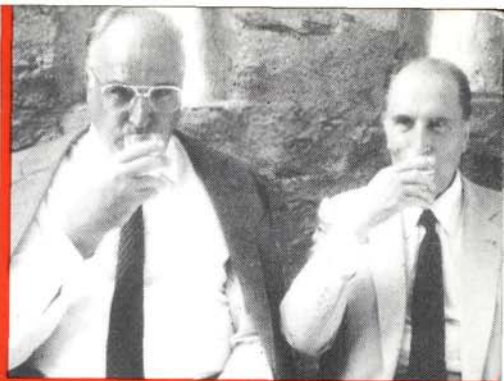
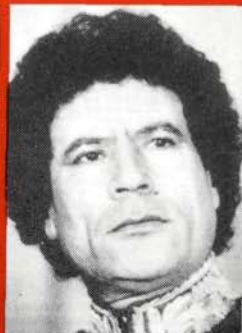


MILLESTONES



1985

G. PEARCE



MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM 1985

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

GRAHAM PEARCE

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PREFACE

Most watchers of prophecy fulfilling would regard the emergence of Mr. Gorbachev as the leader of the Soviet to be the foremost 'sign of the times' for 1985. Not that the Bible has any direct mention of such a person by name (as with Cyrus); but he has already shown himself such an outstanding leader that one would expect him to develop Russia's power in the world. We do not know whether he will be the actual leader described in Ezekiel 38, and the builder of the great Image confederacy; for the immediate future he may well develop a state of 'detente' and relaxation of world tension.

Next in importance as a news item for 1985 has been the changing attitude of several nations with regard to Israel and the disputed territory of the West Bank and the claims of the Palestinians. Russia has indicated a degree of cooperation with Israel; Israel and the U.S. have reluctantly accepted the idea of an international conference which includes Russia; Jordan and Israel are both eager to negotiate a settlement; and the PLO has lost a lot of influence. Events may be moving toward some sort of 'peace' that could allow the development of the security expressed in Ezekiel 38. Shimon Peres, the present Prime Minister of Israel, has shown himself as a Man of the Year, though in a less grand style than Gorbachev.

The other figure, already established on the world scene, Pope John Paul II, has carried his guiding policy a stage further. He called a special synod of the bishops from all over the world and they passed their judgment on the 'liberty, equality, fraternity' spirit of Vatican II. Under the teaching of this General Council, the Catholic Church has developed a modern, caring, tolerant image over the past 20 years. Now John Paul hastens to damp down the fires of liberalism and bring things back on to the old foundations. While encouraging an outward show of fraternity, a conservative attitude is now being enforced. Rome's authority, dogmas and control are unchanged. In contrast to this firm attitude to the christian world, in Africa the Pope is ready to blend pagan attitudes and rites with Catholic teaching in order to promote the conversion of Africa — a figure of 2 million converts a year is claimed. Yes, she sits upon many waters.

Western Europe has retreated from European Union. This perhaps took us by surprise, but it is not out of harmony with the Word of God: everything in its appointed time.

One other significant 'sign of the times' is the intensifying of violence in 1985. And it points to worse to come in the immediate future. We are very privileged to be under divine care — if we trust and obey God. The words of the Master are appropriate:

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

GRAHAM PEARCE
Crick, England
December, 1985.

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Chapter 1: THE PROPHETIC PICTURE OF THE FUTURE

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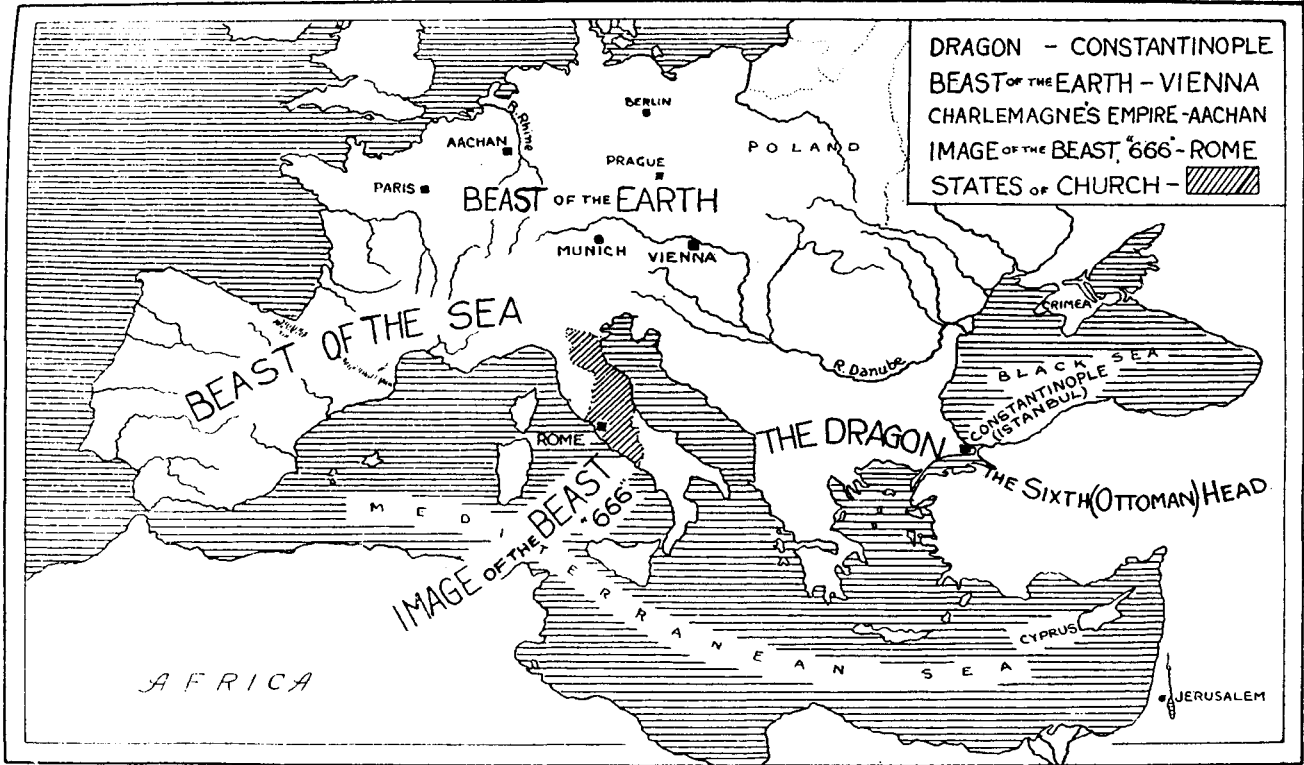
CENTRES OF INTEREST

In addition to the Middle East, our interest year by year has two other centres. There is Soviet progress, our interest this year heightened by Mr Gorbachev coming on the scene; and there is the development of union in western Europe, involving France and Germany. In relation to both these interests, Milestones continues to keep to the fore the importance of the Vatican-Roman Catholic system. This is justified by Daniel's prophecy where the little horn with eyes and mouth of a man prevails against the saints for long centuries and at the last is found speaking 'great words' when Christ as the Ancient of Days sits in judgment on the nations (Dan. 7:11). It is also justified by Revelation 17, where at the time of judgment we see a harlot sitting on a very similar beast to that in Daniel 7 and she has made all nations drunk with the wine of her fornication (Rev. 17:3; 18:3).

What we aim to do in this chapter is to get into as clear a focus as possible the Papacy's relations with both the Soviet and with western Europe at the time Christ is establishing his kingdom. This will help us to follow present day events that are leading to these future events. What we shall see is that there is to be a first phase of a vast confederacy expressed by Nebuchadnezzar's Image, in which the Papacy is the main part of its Babylonish head. This confederacy is broken at Armageddon; after which there is a long period, of the order of 30 years, in which there is a final grouping of the western European powers in support of the Papacy. This final opposition to Christ is overcome when, in terms of scripture symbol, the beast and the false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone — Europe receiving fiery judgments (Rev. 20:10).

THE PAPACY AND WESTERN EUROPE

Historically the Papacy dominated western Europe — Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Austria — for some 1,000 years, supported by the civil and military powers of France and Germany. There were many political changes in this long period, but the main political power from around 800 AD was the Holy Roman Empire, with its Germanic emperors and the Pope as spiritual head. Prophetically this long period is covered by the beast of the sea, the beast of the



earth, and the image of the beast in chapter 13 of the Revelation. In this chapter we have the sixth head of the beast of the sea “wounded to death” (v.3), when a Goth is king in Rome. As we read on, the wounded head is healed and it is given a lion mouth — the Papacy — that blasphemed God and made war on the saints for 1,260 years (vv.5, 6). To this picture of the beast of the sea is added, in verse 11, the beast of the earth, representing the development of the Holy Roman Empire. The beast of the sea (representing the middle Europe power) existed side by side, and the beast of the earth supported the beast of the sea, and ‘causeth all to worship it’ (v.12).

Such is the papal domination in Europe for many centuries. But there was a time limit set: it was to continue for forty two months or 1,260 days, representing 1,260 years. And so, with the terrific upheaval of the French Revolution, and the military prowess of Napoleon, the break-up of this feudal system took place. The Church lost its lands; various countries (France, Spain, Germany, Austria), found a new independence; and the Pope regarded himself as a prisoner. This takes us to the middle of the last century.

What was now to happen? Although the history of the last century shows the beast system had disintegrated, Revelation chapter 17 makes it clear that there is a final beast on which the harlot rides at the time of judgment. It is basically the same as the beasts in chapter 13. Revelation 17:11 says it is the beast with an eighth head, and ‘is of the seven’. The sixth wounded head was healed after the seventh Gothic head had ruled in Rome and this healed head can therefore be called the eighth. So the beast on which the harlot is to ride is a continuation, a resuscitation, of the beast of the sea with its ten horns and its mouth speaking against God.

The emphasis in chapter 17 is on the ten horns of this final beast. They make war with the Lamb and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings (v.14). So the countries of western Europe, the latter-day representatives of the original ten horns, are to be the horns — the military power — of the final Roman beast; and the beast has the harlot, the Papacy, riding on it. This picture from the Revelation is not too difficult to follow; and it explains our great interest in the growing cooperation of the countries of western Europe to re-form the beast on which the harlot rides.

THE PAPACY AND THE SOVIET

The puzzle to many is, where do we fit in the cooperation of the Papacy with the Soviet? This is an earlier phase of events; it is not detailed in the Revelation, but is found in Daniel’s prophecies.

Daniel's prophecies are primary, and must always provide our guidelines, with the Revelation filling out detail. We must always interpret the Revelation in harmony with Daniel.

In the second chapter of Daniel we have the great Image that is to stand "in the latter days"; and in the seventh chapter we have the dreadful and terrible fourth beast that is slain when Christ comes as the Ancient of Days and sits in judgment. In these prophecies, Daniel was given various details that belonged to the future and could not be discerned at that time. In his day the Roman power was unknown. But by the time of John, Rome was already supreme and revealed as the enemy of Israel and God's truth. So the Revelation to John could make clearer those matters regarding the future of the Roman power. We who live near the end of prophetic times are privileged to be able to discern the hidden things of Daniel.

What then does Daniel chapters 2 and 7 tell us about our time? Daniel 2 with Nebuchadnezzar's great Image is well-known to us. We often use this chapter to demonstrate how God's foreknowledge put on record world history in the succession of empires — Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman. Valuable as this is in talking to our friends, this aspect is not the primary object of the vision. The Image vision, we are told, was to inform Nebuchadnezzar — and us — about the "latter days".

"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days" (v.28).

We know from other references to the latter days that this is the time of the setting up of the kingdom — see Numbers 24:14; Isaiah 2:2; Jeremiah 30:24; Micah 4:1. So the vision is telling us that at this time there is to develop a vast confederacy of peoples, a summation of human power, expressed by the image of a man. It is an image "whose brightness was excellent . . . and the form terrible" (v.31). How impressive was this image is apparent when Nebuchadnezzar expressed his human pride in making an image some 30 metres tall (3:1).

There is no doubt that this image stands complete in the latter days, because Daniel is told that when the Stone smote the Image "then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver and the gold broken to pieces **together**". Obviously it must be a complete image for it to stand on its feet and be smitten and broken. So a vast and mighty organisation of human power has yet to come into existence. This is the first thing we learn from the Image prophecy.

The second thing to note is that the Image is erected on iron-clay feet. The feet are the continuation of the two legs, which represent the divided Roman empire. In the light of recent history, miry clay is a suitable symbol for the power of the people, the socialism and communism that developed first in the French Revolution and later in the Russian Revolution. As we look at the world scene we may say the feet are in the about-to-be state. We can see the mixing of the iron and clay — the authoritarian iron of Roman rule now blended with the forces of socialism.

As the record says, it is a mixture that lacks cohesion and strength, “Partly strong and partly brittle” (RSV). Much political unrest and change is manifest today. The iron aspect is different from earlier times. Socialism gives the appearance of freedom for the people, but it is controlled by the grip of bureaucracy as firmly as that of the emperors of the past. Socialism soon finds itself in the grip of dictatorship. The feet, then, represent a modified form of the ‘iron’ Roman world, and so we may deduce that this great Image confederacy is to be erected with Europe as its standing ground.

Next, the iron-clay is not limited to the feet: it is also the quality of the ten toes. The feet and toes probably exist together. The stone strikes the Image on the feet, not the toes; yet the toes are referred to as the last phase of the kingdoms of men. We read that it is in the days of these kings — the ten toes — that the God of heaven sets up the kingdom that shall never be destroyed (v.44). The characteristic expressed by the toes is that the iron-clay phase has many kingdoms, yet they are all part of a whole. This is what we see in east Europe today: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, etc. are separate nations yet all confederated together under Russian control. So for western Europe, we expect the nations — France, Italy, Germany, Spain, etc. — will keep their identity and join together as a **confederation**; they will not form a **federal** unit of ‘The United States of Europe?’ (See further comments in chapter three.)

It is doubtful whether the ten toes of the Image should be directly equated with the ten horns of Daniel and John’s beasts. The toes belong to both the east and the west legs, and develop **after** the iron-leg stage; whereas the ten horns belong to the western leg of the Roman empire and came into being in the middle of the iron-leg stage (about AD 500). The ten toes, of necessity, had to conform to the pattern of human anatomy, five toes on each foot, and is probably no more precise in intention than to indicate that the final state of Europe is an assembly of a number of separate nations.

THE BABYLONISH HEAD OF THE IMAGE

Our next point is important. Looking at the Image as a whole, it has a Babylonish head. The head is the most important part of a person; it is the directing power for all the parts of the body. So for this great Image, this great confederacy that is to stand in the latter days; the headship, the control, is Babylonish. This is where the Papacy comes in. We know from the prophecies of Jeremiah and Isaiah, and from the book of Revelation, that there is to be a 'Babylon' in these days. The harlot of Revelation 17 has on her head "Mystery, Babylon the Great"; and in chapter 18 the harlot is presented to us as a great city called Babylon. So we conclude that in the great Image of the latter days, the original Babylon head finds its counterpart in the Papacy.

The Catholic church absorbed the religious 'mysteries' and the powerful priesthood concept of ancient Babylon in the fourth and fifth centuries when christianity took over from paganism in the Roman empire. Also the Babylonish concept of the absolute power of the ruler over his people entered the State at this time, and the Church somewhat later. We can say that the 'lion mouth' of the Pope was Babylonish. And so it will be when the mouth speaks 'great words' in the future.

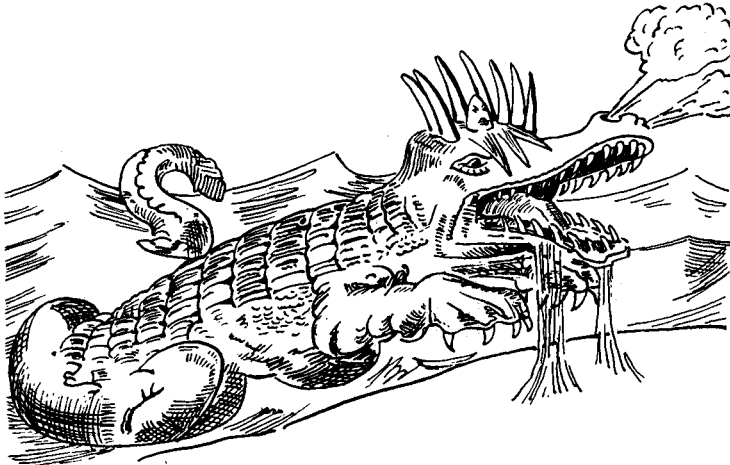
As a final point, we note that the destruction of the Image has two stages. There is a mighty blow that disintegrates the Image; and then there is a process of grinding it to powder when it is blown away like chaff; while the little stone enlarges to fill the earth as a mountain — the one ruling power. So we can divide the future into the Image period and the post-Image period. As we shall see from Daniel 7, the time when the Papacy is associated with the Soviet is during the time of the Image standing erect and directed by the Babylon head. The military and civil direction of the Image will be from a despotic Russian ruler, an absolute ruler like Nebuchadnezzar of old, while the religious direction will be with the Papacy.

The Image is shattered at Armageddon — the first blow of the Stone power. It is in the second stage, the grinding to powder, that the Papacy is supported by the ten horns of western Europe. This is the time when, in the language of the Revelation, the Babylon city is burned with fire and Europe is a lake of fire and brimstone; or in the language of Daniel, the body of the fourth beast is destroyed and given to the burning flame.

THE ARROGANT HORN AND THE BRAZEN CLAWS OF THE FOURTH BEAST

Turning to Daniel 7, we can glean quite a lot more about the future. In place of the Image of various metals, we have the four wild beasts, with most of the chapter dealing with the fourth beast. The iron legs of the Image gave no clue as to how long the Roman empire would continue; Daniel 7 gives us details of its long life and various phases. It is from this fourth beast that the saints take the kingdom (vv.18, 22). So the first conclusion we may make is that the fourth beast, the Roman beast, continues until Christ returns. This is more plainly stated in verses 9 to 11, where the Ancient of Days, in the person of Christ, sits in judgment on the nations, and the fourth beast is slain, its body given to the burning flame. So we can be sure that East and West Europe are to be joined together under one constitution to re-form the Roman beast.

Finally, there is the Russian element in the latter day Roman power. This is hidden in the words that the beast not only had great iron teeth to destroy, but also it had brazen claws to stamp the residue with its feet (vv.7, 19). Brass we associate with the Grecian empire. When Constantine moved his throne in the fourth century to Constantinople, there slowly developed the division of the empire into two parts: the Latin West centred on Rome, and the Greco-



THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Roman empire in the East, later known as the Byzantine empire. Eventually Russia became the successor to this Greco-Roman empire after the Turks took Constantinople in the 15th century. So we conclude that when the Roman empire is reconstructed with its east and west wings, its military power will belong to the eastern part of the empire, the brazen part, Russia. And as we have already noted, along with the brazen claws there will be the little horn with eyes and mouth speaking great things as the religious element of the rulership. The Pope will become spiritual head of the whole empire, the Babylonish head of the Image.

So in the first phase of conflict with Christ, the Papacy has the civil and military support of the Soviet power; and in the last stage the western beast is fully formed and the Papacy has the support of the ten horns, Germany and the rest of the aocalyptic 'kings of the earth'. By this time the Babylon the Great system is at its end, and the warfare of the ten horns with the Lamb is the final resistance to Christ's rule.

Daniel 8 through to 11 deals with the Roman power in its hostility with Israel until Michael stands up to deliver his nation. This was considered in Milestones 1983.

Chapter 2: WELDING TOGETHER EAST AND WEST EUROPE

THE SLOWLY DEVELOPING SITUATION

The Soviet objective of taking over western Europe has been a main theme of Milestones over the years, because this is the start of building the great Image confederacy that belongs to the latter days. As we have followed unfolding events over some thirty years, it has been a slow development. The driving forces to bring it about are complex, but three elements can be picked out:

1. The effectiveness of trade cooperation to draw together western Europe and the Soviet countries;
2. The changing attitude in the West, from original glad acceptance of U.S. military protection to that of the rising generation which prefers cooperating with the Soviet rather than the prospect of destruction by the might of the Soviet poised on their eastern borders;
3. The development of west German self-esteem, western Europe's growing sense of independence, and a strong dislike of U.S. high-handedness and treatment of western European countries as subordinates.

Trade agreements and a variety of commercial and industrial joint activities have been the chief factor in the growing cooperation. During the 1970's in the period of 'detente' between the Soviet and the U.S., this cooperation developed apace. In 1979 the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan created new tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet, both under President Carter and then President Reagan. In 1981 Reagan put great pressure on western Europe to cease trade cooperation with the Soviet. At this point the rift between western Europe and the U.S. became apparent, with France and Germany defiantly continuing to increase trade ties — particularly in the matter of the gas pipeline from Siberia.

MR GORBACHEV'S GENERAL POLICIES

Gorbachev coming on the scene this year has given a new impetus to detente between east and west Europe. His present foreign policy is friendship towards western Europe, endeavouring to deal directly with it and taking less account of the U.S. This aspect of his foreign policy is linked with his domestic policy which aims to transform the economy into a modern and efficient system that can match the U.S. He is anxious for technical help from west Europe to attain this goal. For the present he does not seem to have aggressive and expansive military aims; that no doubt can emerge in the future. For the

present he aims to make Europe as a whole, east plus west, the equal of the U.S. in prosperity, high-tech performance and military strength.

For several decades the Russian economy had practically stagnated under the leadership of its old men. A capable powerful young leader was needed to bring about a change of outlook. This is happening under Gorbachev. Time is needed for this economic development in the Soviet. There is not likely to be challenges to the world in the near future, but more likely to be persistent offers of peace and stability. God works slowly and surely and no doubt this is a necessary step in preparing for the great events that lie ahead. We must be patient while this phase matures, unless we are called away meanwhile to meet the Master.

MR GORBACHEV'S PERSONALITY

The following extracts give us a picture of this remarkable man. They will remind us of similar expressions when another remarkable man was thrust on the world scene in 1979, Pope John II (see Milestones 1979 pp.25-27). God prepares men of destiny to be on the scene at the right time to carry his purpose.

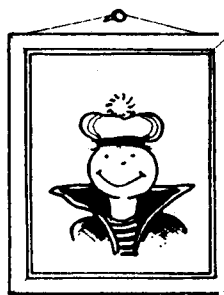
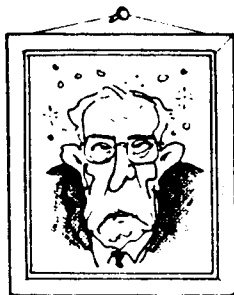
As soon as Gorbachev's election was announced, the Guardian Weekly gave a first assessment under the heading, "YOUTH AT THE HELM", and the article concluded:

"Gorbachev, according to all accounts of those who have met him, is quick-witted, intelligent, and well-mannered. His sophistication and knowledge of foreign affairs, as well as spontaneity and sense of humour have impressed people. He also seems to lack arrogance and sense of superiority" (G.W. 17-3-85).

This early assessment has proved correct.

Gromyko nominated Gorbachev as party leader after Chernenko's death.

"The foreign minister hailed Mr Gorbachev's intelligence, education, and decision-making. He confirmed that Mr Gorbachev chaired the Politburo when Mr Chernenko was ill, and said 'Without any exaggeration he showed himself brilliant'" (Daily Telegraph 19-3-85).



West German chancellor Kohl met Gorbachev at Chernenko's funeral and was impressed:

"West German chancellor Kohl said yesterday he was greatly impressed in his meeting with Mr Gorbachev. He could speak on complex issues with assurance and without notes . . . in a word there is a man . . . who expressed his opinion with sovereignty and a notable mastery of material in the most differing areas . . . He is a man who can argue and can listen and has a keen historical awareness" (D.T. 15-3-85).

Mr Gorbachev revealed the tough side of his character when Mrs Thatcher expelled 25 KGB spies and Mr Gorbachev replied in kind. The Daily Telegraph commented:

"It is widely believed in Moscow that the 'smile on the face of the tiger' as one observer described Mr Gorbachev's manner, belies determination of almost Stalinist proportions, to make no exceptions and brook no compromises in domestic or foreign policy" (D.T. 16-9-85).

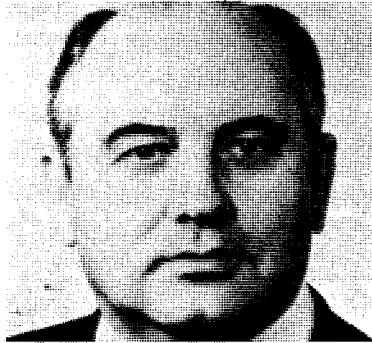


PHOTO — Mr. Gorbachev

When Mr. Gorbachev visited Mr Mitterand of France in October, he held a joint news conference and revealed his skill, charm, and ease at handling the Press for over an hour; so different from his predecessors. His performance after the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit was even more impressive.

"Mr Gorbachev last week deployed one of the most formidable of new Soviet weapons, his own telegenic presence and plain sincerity, to impose not just his own perspective on the Geneva Summit, but to involve the rest of the world in the main themes that the two leaders discussed.

"The political impact of the meeting was enormous, it mobilised the attention of the whole world', he said in the course of his hour-long address. 'And we two leaders are responsible for the future of the world, for the continued existence of life on our planet. At such a watershed, you need truth, like you need air to breathe', he said simply, 'and there is no hiding from the truth when you are meeting face to face'.

"The impact of his performance, which was screened in full across Europe, in Asia and on the American networks, may well have greater importance than the hesitant agreement to go on discussing their differences . . . It was a powerful and persuasive debut. It more than confirmed the earlier promise of a newly articulate and plainspeaking Soviet leader that had first been seen in Paris last month. He is a man at home in the media age and one who is prepared to use television to

speak to the world over the heads of government, just as he has used Soviet television to address his own people over the heads of the stolid ranks of the party cadres . . .

"The candour of his report on the talks would have been unusual for a Western politician, but it is unprecedented for a Soviet one . . . It was at times an emotional and moving experience . . . He said it, knowing that when the mists cleared he had emerged as a statesman with a convincing presence and a new authority from his very mastery of the media" (*G.W.* 1-12-85).

MR GORBACHEV'S FIRST PRIORITY

We have already indicated that Mr Gorbachev's first priority is to transform the domestic climate in the Soviet, to modernise industry, making it efficient and comparable with the U.S. When the November Summit was first announced in July, it was commented that there might well be some relaxation of the world-wide confrontation, as it was plainly emerging that Mr Gorbachev's first priority was the Soviet economy (*G.W.* 14-7-85). This makes it likely that there will be no major military events in the next few years (except God has appointed otherwise). This is an important point to us as watchers of the prophetic scene. We will take some space in reporting what Mr. Gorbachev has said and done already. His overall intention was summarised in a Daily Telegraph editorial at the end of October:

"Mr Gorbachev has decided to go for the high growth rate target of 4 percent which he says must be achieved to meet the needs of investment, consumption and, of course, defence. Given the severe limitations in capital, labour, and natural resources, it will be hard going. The party programme, the blueprint of the future, calls for doubling the national income and industrial output by the end of the century and a 150 percent increase in labour productivity" (*D.T.* 21-10-85).



Right at the start in March, Mr Gorbachev displayed a driving powerful spirit.

“Mr Gorbachev, at 54 and with possibly 20 years of Kremlin power before him, nevertheless acts like a man in a hurry. He sets a fast pace in getting on with his promised shake-out of Soviet society . . . In his acceptance speech, he told regional leaders to return home ‘and get down to work with fresh vigour. A good deal is to be done’ ” (*D.T.30-3-85*).

Here are a few phrases from a speech to workers in Leningrad in June:

“exercising new technology throughout the economy”

“a great restructuring of minds of business managers”

“tighten up the whole country” and “lend dynamism to our society”

“banking on a quiet life will now be impossible”

“those who do not intend to adjust or who are an obstacle simply must get out of the way”

Such language spoken face to face to the workers astonished them:

“A week later Russians were still marvelling aloud at the new leader’s ability to speak directly to ordinary people eloquently, with just a few notes in his hand. Russians welcome Mr Gorbachev for his youth and respect him for his intellect” (*D.T. 11-6-85*).

To accomplish his objective Mr Gorbachev is doing two things. First he is rebuilding his cabinet of ministers with younger men of his own outlook to supervise the running of the economy; and secondly, something quite new, presenting himself as a man of the people — a national leader whom the masses can admire, respect, and respond to his exhortations for effort and action.

Mr Gorbachev has already assembled a new and powerful team to carry out his reforms. Most of the holders of the important offices in the politburo (the equivalent of the British cabinet) have been ‘retired’ and replaced by younger Gorbachev men. From this base he aims to work out to the many regional heads of the vast Soviet system. The following cabinet ministers have been replaced: Industry; Agriculture; Economic Planning; Defence; Foreign Affairs; Armed Forces political control; KGB; and supervisor of Party activities and Staff. Gorbachev seems to carry authority and have command of the situation.

The impact of Mr Gorbachev’s drive is already being felt at the lower levels:

“The bosses of Russia’s towns and provinces are being made to sweat under Mr Gorbachev’s demands that they haul themselves from the doldrums of the Brezhnev era. Communist party secretaries in charge of regions, state farms, factories and other local organisations are finding they can no longer run things as they please.

"The new man in the Kremlin is forcing them to account for themselves at 'report and election' meetings being held across the Soviet Union before the party congress in February . . . Rank-and-file party members are being urged by the new Kremlin leaders to be merciless in exposing local chieftains they know to be corrupt or incompetent" (*D.T. 4-11-85*).

It would appear Gorbachev has the managers in industry and business behind him:

"Gorbachev has already won the support of the large and long-frustrated managerial and technocratic class with his reputation as a reformer and his almost Thatcher-like speeches on giving management the right to manage. As a young and charismatic figure, and a Moscow university graduate with a huge and well-placed network of old college chums, he is known among the intellectuals as one of them.

"That leaves the masses — the workers and people of Russia who have so long suffered and have rarely ever been heard. Some of them have been hankering after a new strong man for years . . . Many doubtless, will have pricked up their ears when Gorbachev spoke of incentives in their pay packets" (*D.T. 4-11-85*).

The people of Russia are finding a genuine pride in their new leader.

"Extracts from the first Press conference (at Paris) a Kremlin leader has given for 20 years were televised to an enraptured Soviet audience last night.

"Viewers are seeing their leader as never before, dealing with Western officials as an equal instead of as a stodgy figurehead capable only of reading from set scripts and reacting with wooden gestures. The 'human face' of a Kremlin leader has never before been seen by so many Soviet citizens portrayed in such open manner. Usually closeted behind Kremlin walls, their leaders have been seen only in front of cameras in carefully stage-managed appearances. Even Muscovites have hitherto only caught glimpses of their leaders through chinks of curtaining at the back of speeding limousines" (*D.T. 5-10-85*).

MR GORBACHEV'S FOREIGN POLICY

It is too early to know the full breadth of Mr Gorbachev's intentions in foreign affairs, though this may have been made apparent to Mr Reagan in their private Summit talks. But the main thrust of his immediate foreign policy was made clear within months of his taking over leadership. As already stated, his first efforts are to woo western Europe as a complement to his domestic policy.

In April Gorbachev announced a Soviet freeze for six months in the deployment of nuclear missiles as an act of good-will to give the Geneva arms talks new momentum. The Washington Post reported this with the heading: "SOVIET MOVE TAILORED TO APPEAL TO WESTERN EUROPE".



In July when it was announced that Mr Gromyko had relinquished the office of foreign minister to become Head of State and a Mr Shevardnadze would be foreign minister, it was said this involved a shift of emphasis from concentrating on the U.S. to taking "much more interest in relations with China and Japan on the one flank, and western Europe on the other" (*G.W. 14-7-85*).

At the same time it was announced that Mr Gorbachev's first foreign visit would be to France, six weeks before the proposed Summit of the Soviet and the U.S. at Geneva. This was seen as a signal that relations with west Europe had their own priority and were to be pursued independently of America. This became very clear when the meeting took place in Paris in October. The following is from the Daily Telegraph report:

"Mr Gorbachev tried to woo Western Europe with an offer to begin nuclear disarmament talks with Britain and France independently of the Geneva arms reduction discussions . . .

"Russia was ready . . . to create a 'chemical warfare free zone' in the centre of Europe".

"He tied the evolution of a better political climate in Europe to the growth of economic links between east and west, but said an innovating approach was indispensable. 'We in the Soviet Union are ready for this, and to seek new forms of cooperation and joint effort', he said.

"It would be useful to have more constructive ties between Comecon (Soviet satellite countries, G.P.) and the European Economic Community. When the E.E.C. countries acted together as a political entity, the Comecon countries were ready to seek with them a common language on specific international problems. 'This could be done in various forms, including parliamentary ties, among them with those who represent the European parliament', Mr Gorbachev said" (*D.T. 4-10-85*).

To this may be added the further words from the Guardian Weekly report:

“Mr Gorbachev went so far as to say that he did not consider it taboo to speak ‘of overcoming the division of Europe in a more or less foreseeable future’. He confirmed that in the meantime the Soviet Union was willing to recognise the E.E.C. as a political entity, capable of conducting a dialogue with the Soviet Union. He also suggested that contact should also be made between the Warsaw Pact and NATO” (*G.W. 13-10-85*).

So the Gorbachev initiative for friendship with western Europe is very clear, carrying far-reaching proposals for close ties. The encouragement for the E.E.C. to become a political entity is intriguing.

In the same issue of the Guardian Weekly there was “Moscow Commentary” by Martin Walker which quoted from an editorial in Moscow foreign affairs newspaper *Novoye Vremya*, reflecting Gorbachev’s historical sense of the unity of all Europe:

“Every European country, be it big or small, capitalist or socialist, has a stake in the preservation of its history and culture, its all-European heritage. More, the 1970’s confirmed that this heritage is not only a hidden potential, but the practical foundation of politics of our time”.

This is an argument for an all-Europe association.

The same article gave figures showing the substantial development of mutual trade. In 1970 the total Soviet trade with developed capitalist countries was 5 billion roubles. In 1984 it was 41 billion; and two-thirds of that trade was with western European countries, and little with America. Financing is carried out in the E.E.C.’s own monetary unit, not dollars, making arrangements simple and cheaper.

FRANCE AND GERMANY’S ATTITUDE TO THE SOVIET

It was not surprising that Gorbachev should first approach France rather than Germany regarding closer relations. Although Mitterand, president of France, has not been warm towards the Soviet, his dislike of the United States is much stronger and he has been the leader of west Europe’s independence from the U.S.. France keeps outside of NATO and has no U.S. missiles on her soil. Germany on the other hand has maintained a loyal relation with the U.S. and NATO under Herr Kohl. Again, France has a tradition going back over 20 years of closer relations with the Soviet, from the days of De Gaulle who forecast a Europe from the Atlantic to the

Urals. France has refused to have anything to do with President Reagan's Star Wars Research programme and even refused to accept the invitation to attend the pre-Geneva summit meeting in New York.

Germany also has an earlier record of cooperation with the Soviet, which may well be revived at the next general election early in 1987. It may be remembered that a socialist government under Herr Brandt and later Herr Schmidt, in the 1970's, made various treaties and trade agreements with the Soviet and the satellite countries, even producing some unease in the West by the degree of cooperation that was involved. (See *Milestones* 1977 p.27, 1978 p.27, 1980 pp. 36, 37.) In 1982 the socialist government was replaced by a coalition government in which the Christian Democrats were the main party led by Herr Kohl. The Christian Democrat party is Roman Catholic and Herr Kohl showed himself less warm to the Soviet and loyal to the U.S. He supported the installing of the missiles on German territory and wanted to join in the Star Wars project, though held back by France. It is becoming apparent that popular feeling in West Germany is swinging to the left and in the last year Herr Kohl has been facing various political challenges. There are pro-Soviet elements in his coalition government. His foreign secretary, Herr Genscher, belongs to the Social Democrat party and seeks cooperation with the Soviet:

"GENSCHER SEEKS CLOSER MOSCOW TIES. The West German Foreign minister, Herr Genscher, yesterday sent a message to his Soviet counterpart, Mr Shevardnadze, calling for closer ties between the two countries. The message, marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bonn and Moscow, said that West Germany sought a 'comprehensive and consistent building up of relations based on mutual respect of each State's legitimate interests'" (*D.T.* 14-9-85).

Earlier in the year Herr Genscher spent three hours in Moscow talking to Mr Gromyko, but refused to disclose the substance of the discussions (*D.T.* 5-3-85).

The veteran pro-Soviet Willy Brandt also keeps close relations with the Soviet:

"Back in the summer, . . . Willy Brandt came to Moscow and spent several hours closeted with Mr Gorbachev. At his subsequent press conference and at the receptions and cocktail parties, Mr Brandt and his staff were unusually discreet about the substance of the talks . . ." (*G.W.* 22-9-85).

There is another young Socialist leader who is ready to lead Germany towards the Soviet. He is the same mould as Herr Brandt. The French *Le Monde* gave a full page on his activities and objectives:

“At 42 Lafontaine is the leader of the young generation of Socialist Democrat leaders waiting to take up the running.” He supports the pacifist environmental outlook that is growing in popularity in West Germany. He does not believe there will be a Soviet attack. He is lukewarm to NATO. He is the successful major of Saarbrücken, the youngest major of a big German city. He has great oratorical gifts, and a driving hunger for power (*G.W. 7-4-85*).

We can conclude that if a socialist government again comes to power in West Germany, there will be closer ties with the Soviet.

Another factor to keep in mind with regard to Germany is the close ties between East and West Germany. Though they officially belong to the opposing sides, they are creating a bridge between the two.

“Moreover the lasting result of the detente process of the 1970’s has been to intensify and legitimise the special relationship between the two Germanys. The economic links between the Democratic and the Federal Republics of Germany are now as profound and tangled as the family ties. The privileged trade agreements between them make East Germany a country member of the E.E.C., and West Germany into a sleeping partner of Comecon” (*G.W. 22-9-85*).

Still on the theme of East and West Europe joining together, there was an intriguing article in the Guardian Weekly in February, setting out how Zbigniew Brezinski looked at the breaking down of the two opposing blocks in Europe. Brezinski was the confidant of President Carter on foreign affairs and is still a man of influence. He is a Polish American, an ardent Catholic, and one can almost hear the voice of his master (the Pope) in what he is saying:

“No longer dominated by war guilt, less mesmerised by the American ideal, and distressed by Western Europe’s failure to overcome nationalism, the Germans are becoming increasingly interested in re-unification’, he writes.

“Meanwhile, other western Europeans are taking new interest in the East as a traditional market for their industrial goods. ‘As western Europe discovers that in its fragmented condition it is becoming less competitive with the high-tech economies of America and Japan, the notion of a special economic relationship with the East becomes particularly appealing’, he says. Fuelled by growing uncertainty over America’s defence commitment, western Europe may gradually drift into political accommodation with the Soviet Union.”

And now the Pope’s point of view. Western Europe must develop a dynamic strategy for reversing Soviet control over eastern Europe, he says. He continues:

“The historic balance in Europe will be changed gradually in the West’s favour only if Russia comes to be faced west of the Elbe rather less by America and rather more by Europe’ he goes on” (*17-2-85*).

Summarising the pattern of European affairs for 1985, the appearance is of a non-violent unifying of East and West Europe. But we must not be deceived. Prophecy shows that eventually it will be a despotic grip on all Europe. Habakkuk describes the latter-day ruler of Babylon:

“He is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people . . . Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! How long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay” (2:5, 6). Similarly in Isaiah 14:6 “he who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger . . .”

HOW RUSSIAN HISTORY AND RECENT EXPERIENCE EXPLAINS ITS PRESENT CHARACTER

Enlightened by the scriptures, we know the future aggressive behaviour of Russia and thus are inclined to see at every turn that her intention is such aggression. But this is far from being the whole picture; and our understanding of the Russian viewpoint correctly may help us to interpret events more accurately. Russia has suffered from hostile invasions over the centuries and now has an in-built sense of national protection in her military and political moves. Here are a few extracts culled from several articles describing the Soviet commemoration of the end of World War II forty years ago; and an article on Gorbachev's Tsarist heritage.

“Mikhail Gorbachev knows, as every Russian knows in the bones, that the only governments which have made this country function have been ruthless, driving and suspicious.

“In the days of Ivan the Terrible, there was a secret police force called Oprichnina . . . Their purge of the Russian nobility and gentry to assure Ivan's grip on power cost thousands of lives . . . The Tsars that followed Ivan built upon the model he had bequeathed to them.

“Absolutism is a constant factor in Russian history. But the absolutism is not necessarily aggressive. It began, and continues, as a prerequisite of national defence.

“The Tsars most revered in the Soviet canon are those who fought off the invaders. Ivan the Terrible finally broke the Mongol yoke; Peter the Great fought off the Swedes; and Alexander withstood Napoleon's attack on Moscow. Perhaps because of these regular invasions and occupations — memories are still fresh about Hitler's war which killed 20 million Russians — Russians know war as something that happens on their soil. The British and the Americans tend to think of wars as things which happen overseas. The Russians also know that the only way they have ever stopped invasions is under the ruthless leadership of a single, centralised authority” (G.W. 24-3-85).

"The Allies contribution and the help of the Americans have been saluted with more than usual warmth" in this year's anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. "Nevertheless, the Russians regard 1945 as first and foremost 'their' victory. This is partly because for a long time they fought on their own (while waiting for a second front to be opened), defeated the greatest proportion of the Wehrmacht's troops, and paid the highest price in men and equipment" (*G.W. 15-9-85*).

The appalling casualties suffered by the Soviet Union are as follows:

"20 million dead — more according to some estimates — including 13 million Red Army soldiers. In other words at least 40 percent of all the victims of the last war. Also (again according to Soviet sources) 1,710 towns and 70,000 villages wiped out, 25 million people made homeless, tens of thousands of factories destroyed or dismantled by the Nazis, and 71 million head of livestock killed or confiscated, . . . 10 million people maimed or disabled, and an equal number orphaned."

Such a picture will explain why they took over the countries on their western border (now known as the satellite countries), to protect themselves from another invasion from the West. It also explains what has been called their 'Bunker mentality', and their suspicions that the other super-power has aggressive intentions against them. It accounts for their colossal build-up of arms. So God uses the fear and feelings of a nation to prepare them for the work He intends.

GREECE AND THE SOVIET

The mountainous character of Asia Minor makes Turkey something of a geographical barrier to the Soviet confederacy when in the future it 'overflows' southward. The importance of Greece at such a time is apparent from a glance at the map. Greece is a peninsula providing complete access to the eastern Mediterranean sea. Greece is still part of NATO and also a troublesome member of the E.E.C. But its socialist government under Andreas Papandreou has steadily turned towards the Soviet in the past three years. A former Professor of Political Economy at the University of Athens described the situation thus:

"Ranging from brotherly embraces with the world's most notorious dictators, Jaruzelski and Gaddafi, to several other ill-conceived ventures promoting 'peace', the controversial exploits of Mr Papandreou include the steady dissociation of Greece from criticism of the Soviet Union on such central issues as human rights, the military build-up, development of medium-range missiles, Poland, Afghanistan. The sorry tale continues with the Greek Government's opposition to deployment of new medium-range missiles in western Europe coupled with a constant pressure in favour of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans — thus creating a serious security problem for other members of the (NATO) alliance.

“It is no less disturbing that the Greek Government decided unilaterally to cancel, from last year, the traditional Greek-American manouvres in northern Greece at the very time that Mr Papandreou's party made its protocol agreement of 'cooperation for peace' with Czechoslovakia's Soviet-run Communist party. Hence, too, Mr Papandreou's warm reception during his official visit to the Soviet Union earlier this year, followed by the systematic upgrading of Greece's relations with Bulgaria and Albania” (*D.T. 17-5-85*).

Not surprisingly the article was headed “**HOW THE GREEK ELECTIONS HAVE OPENED UP A GATE TO A TROJAN HORSE**”.

In June this year in the general election, Mr Papandreou was returned for another four years. He had put on record that he would close down the U.S. military bases when the Agreement expires in 1988. The U.S. is already making contingency plans for this happening.

Chapter 3: WESTERN EUROPE: THE CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONALISM AND UNION

28

THE 1984 INITIATIVE

Milestones 1984 opened with a chapter on renewed activity in 1984 to create some sort of a United States of Europe. This was very interesting, because we know the nations of western Europe are at the last to band themselves together to re-form the beast and its ten horns. Before the beast "goeth into perdition", the ten horns receive power one hour with the beast; and they make war with the Lamb (Rev. 17:11-14). This 1984 initiative was taken by President Mitterand of France, in a speech to the European Parliament in May 1984.

"MITTERAND FEDERAL STATE PLAN FOR E.E.C.

"In a remarkable speech to the European Parliament yesterday, M. Mitterand called for a new European Union that would effectively turn the Common Market into a federal state" (*D.T. 25-5-84*).

The essence of the plan was that member nations should give up their right of veto on legislation they considered affected their national interest; and that the European Parliament should be given more power, and should have joint authority with the ministers from the member governments in approving legislation. This is known as the Dooge Report, drawn up by a committee headed by the Irish Catholic Senator James Dooge (so we can see it is a Catholic plan!).

The French initiative was supported by West Germany, but objected to by Britain.

1985 — THE YEAR OF DECISION?

Passing over the rest of 1984, 1985 arrives as "the year of decision". The regular Summit meeting held at the end of March was reasonably successful in agreeing to the accession of Spain and Portugal, and in agreeing upon budget matters. It was said to have cleared the way for the fundamental topic of E.E.C. reform at the next Summit to be held at the end of June at Milan.

France and Germany had brought up European Union at the March Summit. "FRANCO-GERMAN IDEA TO 'RE-LAUNCH' THE E.E.C.", had been the heading of an article discussing the forthcoming summit (*D.T. 4-3-85*). As June drew near France again took the initiative:

"FRANCE UNVEILS PLAN FOR SUMMIT 'SHOT IN THE ARM'

“France and Germany have proposed a new ‘treaty of European Union’ to their Common Market partners for consideration at the E.E.C. summit opening in Milan today” (*D.T. 28-6-85*).

But Mrs Thatcher had been gathering support for her alternative plan, a simple plan to improve the E.E.C. as a genuine ‘common market’ within the scope of the original Treaty of Rome. Instead of grand ideas about reviving the glories of a past Europe, she wanted bold, down-to-earth reforms that made the existing cooperation in trade and business an efficient system. This she contended could all be tied up and finished by the end of the year. She would agree to more extensive majority voting, but reserved veto right for important national matters. The British ideas were to speed up decision-making; get better financial control and stop building butter, wine and wheat ‘mountains’; remove tariffs, border controls and customs formalities that hinder trade.

Mrs Thatcher went to Milan, confident she would carry the day. But to her chagrin, she was defeated:

“Indeed, the refurbishing of Britain’s image in Europe was at the heart of the Prime Minister’s strategic approach to Milan. She was determined to hustle into the main stream if not the driving seat of European affairs, and to her infinite indignation was manoeuvred into a minority... Defeat came as a galling surprise” (*G.W. 7-7-85*).

The balance of voting was swung by Craxi of Italy, chairman of the Summit, changing his mind at the last minute. He is a socialist, but is in charge of a coalition government in which the Christian Democrats (Catholic) are predominant. One suspects it was Catholic pressure through the Christian Democrats that made him change. The outcome of the Summit was not a direct support for the European Plan of France and Germany, but a decision to set up an Inter-Governmental Conference of foreign ministers to make definite recommendations to the next summit at Luxemburg in December on what reforms were needed to the original Treaty of Rome.

This Conference committee, that started work in October, was announced as follows:

“The meeting will launch six to seven weeks of hectic diplomatic activity designed to agree a package of reforms in decision-taking and in the powers of the E.E.C. institutions (Parliament, etc, GP) at the December meeting in Luxemburg” (*D.T. 21-10-85*).

It looked as if the day of decision had arrived. What was the outcome?

NO EUROPEAN UNION

The very first decision shattered the idea of a European Union. It was agreed that the European Parliament should not be granted any decision-making powers, and all legislation should continue to require the approval of national parliaments (though majority decisions would apply in some situations). ("The Parliament of 434 Euro-M.P.s representing virtually all leading European political parties, is consulted on all policies but has no real authority to change them outside the budget area".)

The only improvement granted to the Parliament was that they could have "a second hearing"; that is, they could make their final representations just before the national governments make their decision.

From this point onwards through the negotiations during November, all countries except Italy swung away from European Union, including France and Germany. Two headlines ran:

"E.E.C. REFORM HOPES BEGIN TO FADE" (*D.T. 18-11-85*).

"OPPOSITION GROWS TO MAJOR CHANGES IN E.E.C. STRUCTURES" (*D.T. 25-11-85*).

Britain's point of view gradually prevailed:

At Milan in June, "Britain, Denmark and Greece strongly opposed the negotiations officially known as the Inter-Governmental Conference, but were out-voted. It is not unrealistic, however, to claim that Britain's 'pragmatic' approach now generally commands the support of most other States" (*D.T. 25-11-85*).

The Luxemburg Summit duly took place early in December, and the Heads of Government accepted the "modest E.E.C. reform package". This has still to be ratified by all national parliaments.

The Guardian Weekly, giving a list of the changes, headed the column: "THATCHER SEEN AS VICTOR". The main aim in the proposed treaty is practically what Mrs Thatcher has been asking for; that by 1992 all barriers to trade, travel and communication should be dismantled to allow a genuine common market for goods and for scientific, industrial and professional cooperation. This is to be brought about by majority voting. But Mrs Thatcher has insisted on vital national controls:

"But unanimity will continue to apply in important areas of E.E.C. legislation. They include harmonisation of indirect taxes, and legislation affecting health, safety, and environmental protection. . . . There is also . . . a declaration that member states should retain the right to national controls on immigration, drug trafficking and terrorism" (*G.W. 15-12-85*).

Another section is a draft for aligning member state policies in the field of foreign affairs.

The European Parliament is bitterly disappointed and angry that it has not significantly increased its authority. A further review after the Summit by the foreign ministers flatly rejected any changes in favour of the European Parliament. Italy, the only pro-federal Europe advocate, had voted before the Milan Summit to give the Parliament and Commission an equal say in E.E.C. decision-taking with member governments. If Italy wished, she could wreck the “modest E.E.C. reform package” by using her veto, saying the package is quite inadequate.

Mrs Thatcher’s free trade by 1992 is regarded as a thorny path:

“The principle of the internal market by 1992 is welcomed, but nearly all members want specific exemptions to suit their national interests. ‘The international market proposal has more ornaments on it than a Christmas tree’, said one E.E.C. official” (*D.W. 15-12-85*).

WHAT DOES THIS EUROPEAN UNION FAILURE MEAN?

This ending of the initiative for European Union need not surprise us, if we take note of scripture prophecy. It is God who sets the timetable, not the Pope. He must wait God’s pleasure. The record set out long ago in the foreknowledge of God, that the ten horns give their power to the beast for one hour — a final 30 years still in the future. There is not yet any compelling force so that “these have one mind and shall give their power and their strength to the beast” (Rev. 17:13). This will happen when their survival in the face of Christ’s challenge will make “national interests” of no consequence; and they will band together with one mind.

But the scripture gives us further guidance. As we have pointed out on previous occasions, the power of the beast system lies in its horns. For there to be ten distinct horns means that there will continue ‘ten’ separate nations in West Europe. Hence we do not look, even in the final development still in the future, for a **federal** Europe, but a **confederate** Europe. The various countries will preserve their separate nationality.

A final reflection: why have France and Germany turned away from championing European Union? The two countries have different, almost opposite, reasons for doing so. France is afraid of Germany, after suffering from German invasions in 1914-18 and

1939-45. The various steps she takes with Germany are not genuine friendship, but are efforts to keep Germany in check. This was her idea in the original E.E.C. treaties, to bring coal and steel, the basic industries, under the control of a supra-national authority. It is her reason for developing European military cooperation in W.E.U. It is behind her 'Eureka' plan to integrate all west European countries in High-Tec research. One may speculate that from recent close association with Germany, she has come to the conclusion that European Union might well hand over to Germany a dominant position, the very thing she wishes to avoid. It must be remembered too, that France has always been very nationalistic; she keeps out of NATO, she has her own nuclear deterrent, she has separate colonial interest. These points, together with the strong pressures from her agricultural lobby to maintain France's national freedom, probably explain her changed attitude after time for reflection.

In various ways Germany is innately superior to France; in industrial skills, in general business efficiency, and hard work. She has already emerged from her humiliating defeat in 1945 to be the major power of west Europe. The rising generation are no longer held in check by guilt from the past. So, as France perceives, she no doubt aims to dominate Europe again. Probably Germany did not want to be a partner in a European Union led by France. So she prefers to bide her time until the right occasion to take the lead. We expect that Germany will be the main part of the final phase of the beast of Revelation 17. A further possible reason for West Germany holding back from integration in west Europe is that she is still intent on being united with her kith and kin in East Germany; and to get tied to west Europe makes independent moves in this direction more difficult.

Chapter 4:

ISRAEL: IS 'PEACE' POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

VARIOUS CHANGED ATTITUDES IN 1985

The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of 1979 was an outstanding event. The intention at that time was to follow on with the settlement of the West-Bank issue, providing a wider base for stability; and after that, hopefully, to have some arrangement with Syria over the Golan Heights taken by Israel in the 1967 war. Over the years since 1979 there has been little or no progress, because of Israel's unwillingness to yield territory that was seen as essential for her security; also because of the intense hostility of the PLO and Arafat's denial of Israel's right to exist; and because of the Soviet and Syria's antagonism to a U.S.-sponsored 'peace'.

This year has seen significant changes of attitude in a number of directions resulting in a widespread feeling that a peace arrangement might be possible. We are very interested in this, because we know from Ezekiel 38 that those in the land are in a state of peace when the Northern host comes down. How this could come about has seemed very baffling in the prevailing circumstances. What lies in the future we do not know, but the developments of this year are worthy of putting on record. Seven favourable changes can be listed.

1. A change of attitude by the Soviet toward Israel, and an interest in a Middle East settlement.
2. The discussions of Gorbachev and Reagan at the Summit in November that are reported to have arrived at some degree of cooperation.
3. The blunders of the PLO in recent months that have greatly reduced its status; leading to Hussein of Jordan feeling less shackled.
4. Syria's reduced hostility to meaningful negotiations, following Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the downgrading of Arafat and the PLO, and the Syria-Jordan Accord.
5. Hussein's greater boldness to reach compromise with Israel.
6. Israel's growing awareness for the need to negotiate a peace-settlement —recognising that negotiation requires compromise — compared with previous intransigence;

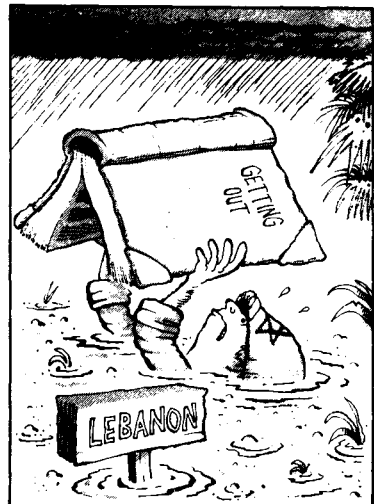
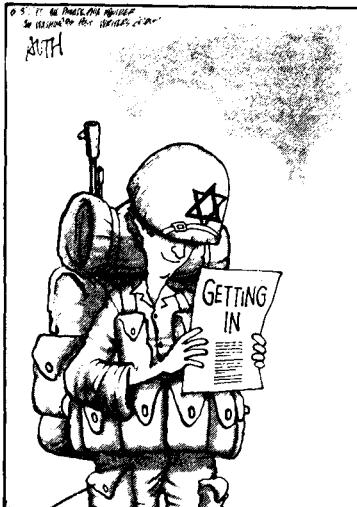
7. The statesman-like leadership of Shimon Peres the Israeli Prime Minister.

Both Israel and Jordan have come to realise that they need international backing to support any agreement between them. If both the Soviet and the U.S. agreed to restrain their respective 'client' states, there might be some stability for a while. We know that ultimately against a background of 'peace', Russia will think an "evil thought" and say, "I will go up to the land of unwalled villages". Such language suggests the breaking of an agreement. For us, an international agreement in support of Israel-Arab non-confrontation would be a great sign of the times.

The many events during the year is a complex skein which, taken as a whole, may point in the direction we have indicated. To give the reader a background against which to judge the future events, the attitude of the various parties to 'peace' will be set out, roughly in the order of developing events.

FACTORS AFFECTING ISRAEL

Having built up an efficient military force, Israel launched its war to the north in 1982 to establish peace in Galilee and Lebanon. This year Israel has managed to withdraw from Lebanon and Syrian territory, disillusioned, and in effect defeated. Bitterly they have learnt that military might alone is no way to peace in this region. Their bitterness was increased by the economic crisis of 1984 arising from the very high military expenditure over the years, resulting this



year in a very substantial belt-tightening — a 20-30 percent cut in the standard of living. Further, there is a growing realisation that with the vast amount of arms now possessed by Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, their survival by their military strength in any future confrontation looks bleak. The Arab nations around them can mobilise 3.5 million men compared with Israel's 500,000 including reserves (Jerusalem Post 2-11-85). Some of the Arab armies and airforces now have equipment as modern as Israel's and the soldiers and airmen are far better trained than in previous wars with Israel. Since 1971 Israel has increased its defence expenditure three-fold, but the Arabs seven-fold! (Israel Scene Dec. 1985). Understandably therefore there is widespread mood to seek peace, even with a degree of compromise.

PRIME MINISTER PERES' LEADERSHIP OF ISRAEL

The coalition government formed in October 1984 is led by the Labour leader Shimon Peres. The Labour party has always been willing to negotiate with Jordan over the West Bank and the rights of the Palestinians, but for the previous six years they had been in Opposition in Parliament. Over a very difficult year Mr Peres has shown himself as a man of statesman-like quality, both at home and abroad. He can list a number of achievements: withdrawal of the army from Lebanon; the curbing of the 1,000 percent inflation in the face of hostility from each section of the community against unfair burden; managing to move circumstances toward direct negotiation with Jordan, despite the opposition of other political parties; and gaining considerable respect for Israel with the U.S. and the rest of the world. His period of office runs out in October 1986, when the Likud party leader takes over. This is the Begin party that has been so unyielding. Because Peres has less than a year left, this is a driving force to negotiate with Jordan. However, most people expect Peres will call for elections early in 1986.

THE UNITED STATES: FIRST RELUCTANT THEN KEEN

After the humiliation last year in the Middle East, when Syria made the U.S. marines get out of Lebanon, President Reagan was initially reluctant to be involved in further peace initiatives. But as the situation began to look more attractive in 1985, the U.S. got into action again:



"U.S. GEARS UP FOR MID EAST TALKS AFTER ARAB MOVE" and "GETTING SERIOUS IN THE MID EAST" were headlines (*D.T.* 22-3-85, *G.W.* 15-9-85).

After the failure in Lebanon and loss of face generally in the Middle East, the U.S. had proposed talks with Moscow in 1984, reluctantly accepting the fact that any meaningful peace negotiations in the Middle East would have to allow the Soviet to play a part. The first official meeting between the two took place in February (just before Gorbachev came to power). Details of the discussion were not revealed, but a report on the meeting said:

"The talks come at a time of growing diplomatic activity aimed at getting direct negotiations started between Israel and the Arab countries on the Palestinian issue" (*D.T.* 14-2-85).

RUSSIA AND ISRAEL

An exciting item of news came in the middle of the year when it became public that secret meetings had taken place between Israel and the Soviet, at the Soviet initiative, aimed at improving relations with Israel. In the *Daily Telegraph* for July 20th there were two headlines:

"RUSSIA KEEN FOR A ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST"; and
"PARIS TALKS ON MOSCOW LINKS WITH ISRAEL."

The second article concluded:

"Israel observers view the election of the new Russian leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the replacement of Mr Gromyko by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze as Foreign Minister as a positive sign for improvement of relations."

'Improved relations' would mean restoring diplomatic relations, as far as Israel is concerned. Israel has always said she would not attend any conference where Russia was present, until Russia restored the diplomatic relations broken off after the 1967 war.

Relative to the secret meeting in Paris, it became known that Shimon Peres had sent a message to Mr Gorbachev in which he indicated Israel would wish to enlist the support of all five permanent members of the Security Council (*J.P. 22-7-85*).

This was an indirect invitation to Russia to join in the Middle East peace process.

A week later Soviet 'friendliness' was expressed over the radio. A radio Moscow broadcast said that the Soviet Union is "not Israel's enemy"; and that:

"the Soviet Union recognised Israel's right to exist in security and peace, and is opposed 'to extremist elements' in the Arab world that seek to destroy Israel" (*J.P. 3-8-85*).

This was certainly a new attitude; nothing like it had been heard before. It seemed to be calling for moderation from Libya and Syria.

At the end of October Mr Shevardnadze, the Russian Foreign Minister, had a long talk with Mr Peres in New York. The substance of the talks was not released. A report said:

"According to diplomats, the Soviet Union has decided to make advances to Israel because Moscow believes the current drive towards peace in the Middle East might produce results. The Soviets also believe they would be better placed to counter American influence if they had a presence in Israel" (*D.T. 1-11-85*).

Proposals are thought to involve Russia releasing Jews who want to go to Israel, in exchange for Israel agreeing that the Soviet has an equal status with the U.S. in any international meeting on peace negotiations. It is also reported that Mr Peres secretly offered partially giving up the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for a peace treaty with Syria (*D.T. 1-11-85, 2-11-85, 11-10-85*).

HUSSEIN OF JORDAN AND HIS PEACE INITIATIVE

King Hussein of Jordan is anxious for a settlement with Israel and, if there were no other constraints, he would probably agree to negotiate directly, but the Arab National Council a year ago tied his hands by making Arafat and the PLO the negotiators for the Palestinians. Further, he is faced on the north and east with powerful and hostile countries, Syria and Iraq; and he fears they might attack

if he acted alone. Nevertheless, it is Hussein who has produced the peace initiative, starting at the end of 1984.

The Palestine National Council, with hard-line Syria and Libya absent, met in Amman, Jordan, at the end of November 1984 and supported Hussein's proposals for a U.N. peace conference with a joint Jordan-Palestinian delegation lead by Arafat and Hussein (*D.T. 28-11-84, 4-12-84*). A week later "King Hussein of Jordan formally launched in London yesterday what he called a 'determined drive' to break the Middle East stalemate" (*D.T. 7-12-84*). But neither Israel nor the U.S. were interested in Hussein's proposals. At this time both were opposed to any international conference where the Soviet had a place; and additionally they both rejected the idea of PLO delegates.

Hussein persisted, and by June he offered that talks could be based on the famous Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which referred to Israel's right to secure borders. By this time some Israel-Soviet and U.S.-Soviet links were developing and the U.S. was expressing keenness for progress (*D.T. 5-6-85*).

During this period Israel continued to press for direct negotiations with Jordan, with Egypt as an intermediary. Then Israel's Prime Minister, Mr Peres, announced a five-point plan of his own, in which he moved a step nearer to Hussein's position. The third step in his peace plan reads:

"Recruiting the support of the permanent members of the United Nation's Security Council, including the Soviet Union, for direct negotiations between Israel, Jordan and a delegation of the Palestinians, without the Security Council powers undertaking to back any of the negotiating sides" (*D.T. 17-6-85*).

Stage five called for a peace conference within three months!

It is apparent that Israel had come to see the value of international support in providing validity for any peace agreement.

In August Peres offered self government to the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, as a first step in peace talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

THE PLO DISCREDITED

A series of catastrophies for the political standing of Arafat and the PLO occured in September and early October; and this gave Hussein a lead to downgrade the part played by them in any negotiations. It emerged that in all four happenings the PLO was involved. First there was the cold-blooded murder of three Israelies

in Cyprus, followed by typical Israeli revenge in a distant airstrike against the PLO Headquarters situated in Tunis, completely destroying the building. Then there was the Achille Lauro hijack in which a four-man suicide unit boarded the liner intending to disembark at Ashdod in Israel and carry out their suicide mission. Their scheme went wrong and, after hijacking the liner, they murdered an invalid American Jew, and in later incidents brought the U.S., Egypt, and Italy into conflict with each other. And finally there was Mrs Thatcher's intervention in the Palestinian issue, inviting a moderate PLO delegation to London to talk with the Foreign Secretary. At the last minute they refused to confirm their commitment to non-violence and the meeting was called off. All these happenings were world news and showed Arafat as lacking in political sense and reason at a time when there was genuine interest in peace negotiations.

HUSSEIN AND PERES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Events now moved on to the international scene at a quickening pace. First, King Hussein took the initiative in a United Nations General Assembly address at the end of September. Although the address was complex and in parts ambiguous, he recognised Israel's right to exist; and later at a White House meeting he was ready to forego violence.

"We are prepared to join all parties in pursuing a negotiated settlement, in an environment free of belligerent and hostile acts".

This was a break from the PLO position. The Jerusalem Post reported all this with big headlines:

"HUSSEIN SETS THE BALL ROLLING"; and

"KING HUSSEIN TAKES THE PLUNGE" (*J.P.* 12-10-85).

Prime Minister Peres followed Hussein on to the international forum with an address to the UN General Assembly and afterwards to the United States Senate. This was after the discrediting of the PLO already referred to, and Peres could hope for a negotiation with Hussein and Palestinian representatives without the PLO. Peres' address was conciliatory and ready for flexibility — different from earlier Israel attitudes. He was ready to go to Jordan and end the state of war.

Hussein approved in measure his speech. The U.S. government and American Jewry were pleased with it. The State Department even went so far as to describe his speech as "A statesman-like,

thoughtful, forward-looking exposition, which underlined Prime Minister Peres' commitment to the peace process" (*J.P.* 26-10-85). On his return to Israel Peres told the Cabinet:

"There has been a dramatic change in Israel's situation in the international arena, and that there is now a prospect for talks with a Jordan-Palestinian delegation without the PLO" (*J.P.* 2-11-85).

It is believed that before his U.N. speech, secret negotiations had brought about some accord with Hussein on the West Bank.



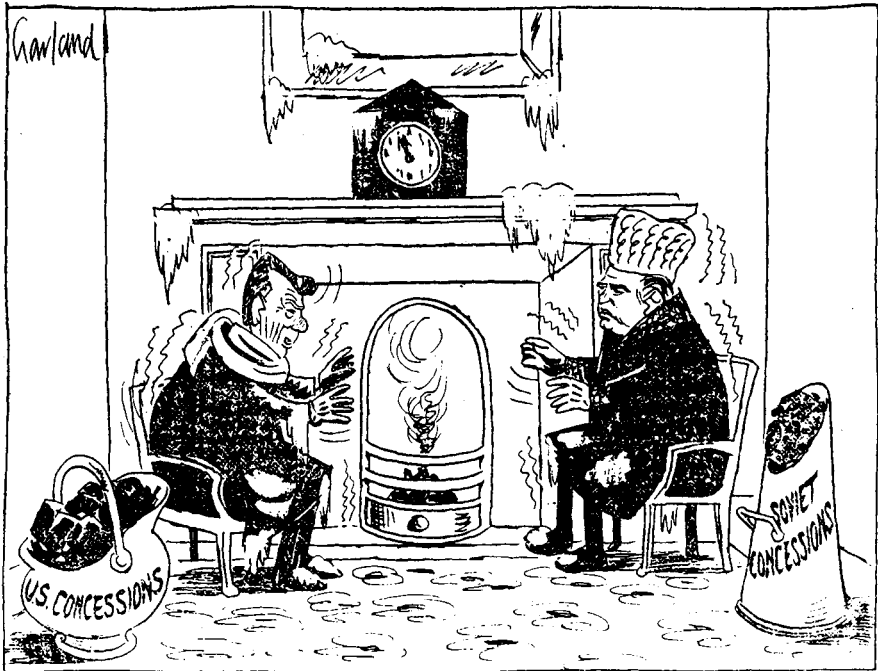
"The scheme reportedly calls for an interim arrangement — along the lines of the five-year Camp David autonomy scheme ... It would give over most domestic affairs to an elected Palestinian leadership, security would be administered jointly by Israel and Jordan, and Jordan would have a much higher profile than that envisaged under the original autonomy proposal of Menachem Begin" (*J.P.* 9-11-85).

"According to this agreement King Hussein will supply a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, whose Palestinian delegation would not include PLO functionaries" (*D.T.* 11-11-85).

THE REAGAN-GORBACHEV SUMMIT

The go-ahead preparing for actual negotiations now waited upon the Geneva Summit and some favourable attitude by the Soviet. In the formal statement after the Summit, there was no direct mention of the Middle East; but in the following week or so it began to emerge that there had been long and serious discussion which was sufficiently favourable for the U.S. to speed up high-level contacts with various Arab States and Israel. The report from Washington in the Jerusalem Post at the end of November began:

"U.S. officials expect the Soviet Union to adopt a more constructive role in the Middle East, and to ease the plight of Soviet Jewry in the coming weeks or months" (*J.P.* 30-11-85).



No doubt Gorbachev's favourable response required some recompense — possibly an equal voice with the U.S., and an agreement to pursue parallel policies in the Middle East, avoiding intentional confrontation.

In the article just referred to it was reported that it was expected that Arafat would reluctantly toe the line:

"As the parties move toward an opening international gathering, the Americans are expecting Arafat to release some new statements demonstrating a real change of policy".

IMPORTANT SYRIAN CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Syria, the most military powerful Arab nation (apart from Iraq, at present tied up with war with Iran) has consistently opposed Hussein-PLO plans for peace negotiations. This has been the main reason for Hussein's past hesitations and caution. But with the PLO receiving such a series of setbacks in September-October, it appears Hussein was encouraged to free himself from PLO domination and thus be able to turn to Syria. The new situation was briefly reported:

"It was announced that Jordan and Syria had signed an agreement to establish closer relations under which both sides agreed not to enter into unilateral peace Talks with Israel" (*D.T. 23-10-85*).

Israel did not object to this step according to the headline "SYRIA-JORDAN TIES ARE 'NOT A THREAT NOW' " (*J.P. 20-11-85*). Israel regards the involvement of Syria in the peace negotiations as a help to future stability. It is possible the Soviet has given 'guidance' to Syria to be more favourable to peace negotiations. It may not be coincidence that "Mr Karim, a leading Politburo member, has just ended a lengthy visit to Syria, when he met President Assad".



Then there are Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Despite their official support for the PLO intransigence in the past, both these countries have made known their anxiety for a peace settlement, so as to provide greater stability in the region. Their rulers belong to minority religions in their respective countries and live in fear of assassination. A greater degree of peace in the region as a whole, makes it easier for them to keep peace in their own country. Jordan renewed diplomatic ties with Egypt early in the year, and Mubarak has supported Hussein in his efforts. Fhad also gave his support:

"King Fhad of Saudi Arabia held talks at the White House with President Reagan yesterday during which it was believed that he pressed for new American moves to help bring peace to the Middle East" (*D.T. 12-2-85*).

THE FUTURE?

We do not know what God's plans are in any detail. But there has been such a remarkable development of favourable circumstances this year, that it is not unreasonable in thinking this is the work of the angels in forwarding the appointed plan. We must expect

progress to continue to be slow; and perhaps in a year's time there may be a more clear picture.

IS A PROSPEROUS ISRAEL DEVELOPING?

After months of wrangling between different sections of the community, a price freeze and public expenditure restraint brought inflation under control at the end of the year. Despite the economic crisis, exports for the year October to October were up by some 32 percent — something Britain would like to achieve!

Israel seems set to continue a rapid growth through increasing exports, following the opening up of the American market:

"Israel exports to the American market could increase by 25 percent a year as a result of the Free Trade Area export-import pact due to go into effect on September 1" (*J.P. 4-7-85*).

"Under the agreement, Israel exporters will have almost unrestricted access to the American market and will receive preference over other countries' salesmen" (*J.P. 4-5-85*).

Prime Minister Peres said in an interview:

"... they propose to do for Israeli exports to the U.S. what Marcus Sieff did for Israeli exports to Britain — on a larger scale. They have approached several giant retail chains in the U.S. with a view to marketing Israeli products. If we win a two or three billion slice of the market each year, that would be a fantastic thing" (*J.P. 4-5-85*).

There is another aspect to the Free-Trade pact:

"The Free Trade Area pact is more than an opportunity for Israel to benefit from a tiny slice of the American market. It could also mean the establishment of many new industries here by astute foreign investors who realize that Israel can serve as a bridge between the U.S. market and the European Economic Community, by virtue of our no-tariff arrangements with both" (*J.P. 4-7-85*).

This collaboration of American firms with Israeli firms actually began some years ago. Big U.S. industrial companies, appreciating the available brain power and research facilities in Israel, have made agreements with Israeli establishments and the fruits are now appearing. Here is an illustration.

"IN THE TOP LEAGUE IN MICROCHIP WORLD.

"A new generation of 32-bit microprocessors designed and developed entirely in Israel was unveiled last week at the National Semiconductor plant here (Herzliya) . . . National Semiconductor, an American company that controls over 80 percent of the world-wide 32-bit microprocessor market . . .

"The national microprocessor, not larger than a postage stamp, has about 90,000 transistors and is capable of three million functions a second". Another American company Intel, introduced its new 32-bit

microprocessor 80386, two weeks before. "Like National Semiconductor, Intel has a research centre in Israel and, like 32332, the 80386 was designed and developed in Israel" (J.P. 23-11-85).

Another Israeli venture has started directed to the Far East.

"FORGING R&D LINK WITH AUSTRALIA AND THE FAR EAST

"A connection between Israel, Australia, and the Far East is now being forged between Project International and Fortune (Australia). The head of Project International, Eli Klein, notes that the scheme is based on tapping Israel's considerable research and development (R&D) experience and its industrial abilities, which will be joined with Australian abilities. Added to this will be Australian financing and that country's much easier access to the Far East markets, including, hopefully, China, at a later date" (J.P. 25-5-85).

Yet another approach to Israel's future prosperity is covered by the name OPERATION INDEPENDENCE:

"The first plenary-meeting of 'Operation Independence', a task force of foreign and Israeli businessmen, opened last week with a dinner at the King David Hotel, attended by Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"Gathered in Jerusalem are 125 businessmen, including 55 top-level company executives from abroad. Their aim: to help bridge Israel's foreign payment gap, so that — to quote Fisher — 'in five or ten years' time, or whenever, Israel becomes financially self-sufficient'.

"The method is cooperation on a strictly business basis between Israeli firms on the one hand, and foreign undertakings, both Jewish and non-Jewish, on the other. . . . A permanent organisation has been set up, and the task force will operate through eight working committees. Four of them deal with international trade, one committee deals with capital investment, one with tourism, and one with legislation, including the elimination of bureaucracy" (J.P. 21-9-85).

Israel has moved a long distance away from its early plough and spade pioneering settlements. No doubt they find the use of their brain power much more profitable than their muscle power. Everywhere the emphasis is on High Technology, especially research. Thus the Prime Minister in an interview said:

"What we have to understand is that the entire economy must be science-based. Science and technology are not merely one aspect of economic life: rather, the whole country must be based on them" (J.P. 4-5-85).

It may come about that Israel becomes so highly developed in modern industrial skills, that this becomes a main element in the Northern host coming to take a spoil (Ezekiel 38). But it's all man's wisdom, glory, and wealth-seeking. It will be all swept away, because in scriptural language Israel is planting 'strange slips':

"Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and has not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou



BAR-LLAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

plant pleasant plants, and shall set it with strange slips: in the day thou shalt make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow” (Isa. 17:10, 11).

After this they will return to the Creator's wise way of living — every man dwelling under his vine and his fig tree.

THE VITAL ROLE OF THE ISRAELI NAVY

Israel is very vulnerable along her extensive Mediterranean seaboard:

“Land borders can be sealed reasonably effectively with electronic fences and other devices. Not so approaches from the sea. And the last few weeks have witnessed a concerted attempt by seaborne PLO squads to penetrate Israel's coastal defences”.

“A complex array of overlapping systems protect the Mediterranean coast, along which more than 80 percent of the country's population lives. Apart from the towns and populations, there are also power stations, refineries, and other high-profile strategic installations which are rich pickings for sea-borne terrorists” (*J.P. 8-9-85*).

There is air surveillance, using specially adapted long-range Seascan aircraft; and for close at shore, remote-controlled helicopter patrols.

The navy uses Saar and Rashef missile boats patrolling outside territorial waters. For short and medium range patrols they use small, fast, Dakur (hornet) boats and a new hydrofoil boat, Snapirit, with the remarkable speed of over 100 kilometres an hour. Then there is an inner line of defence, spotters on the beach with 'good old-fashioned binoculars'. All sections are on 24 hour patrol. So far this year the Navy has thwarted four attempts by terrorists to carry out major attacks after infiltrating from the sea.

Joint naval exercises have taken place with the U.S. Navy.

WHAT ISRAEL OFFERS AMERICA

“Israel costs the American tax-payer 3 billion dollars per year. That is a sizeable sum, but it takes on a different aspect placed against the 120 billion dollars NATO costs the U.S. each year; the cost to the U.S. of Japan's defence; and the cost of maintaining 30,000 troops in Korea.

“What Israel offers America strategically includes enhanced intelligence gathering capacity, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean; a high-technological military infrastructure capable of maintaining, overhauling, and repairing almost every high-grade weapon system in U.S. arsenals; an efficient and highly-sophisticated weapons production close to the potential area airfields; supply depots and fuel storage facilities; air cover for American convoys; 17,000 hospital beds; a well-trained army and navy with mobility; an airforce that theoretically, could

sink the entire Soviet naval presence in the Eastern Mediterranean in four days, using 20 percent of its order of battle" (J.P. 2-11-85).

"We give 129 billion dollars to NATO compared with 3 billion to Israel. What do we get from NATO and what do we get from Israel? When Israel gave us the secret on how to knock out the Russian SAM missile sites, that made up for more than 4 billion dollars. When the Israelis captured armaments enough to supply five Palestine Liberation Organisation armies, that set back the Soviets for many years. We get our money's worth of intelligence information from the Mossad, versus intelligence information from NATO. There is no comparison."

This was taken from a plea by Senator Daniel Inouye that the U.S. should reduce the 10-12 percent interest rate that Israel has to pay the U.S. for its loans (Israel Scene Dec. 1985).

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

Mr George Shultz, American Secretary of State, attended a 40th anniversary of the Allied victory at a new Holocaust memorial (Yad Vashem) in Israel. It was reported under the heading: "NEVER AGAIN WILL WE LET THE JEWISH PEOPLE STAND ALONE". He gave a moving address. Here are two extracts:

"Forty years or 400 years, are but an instant in this place. For here, as nowhere else, the evil in man has been recorded in excruciating fullness. Here, time has no meaning, because time cannot wash away that evil. Men and women may lead their lives elsewhere and avert their eyes from this cold awful reality, but no one can walk through the memorial and harbour the slightest doubt that mankind's capacity for evil is unbounded. Here we must look evil in the face. How then do we go on?"

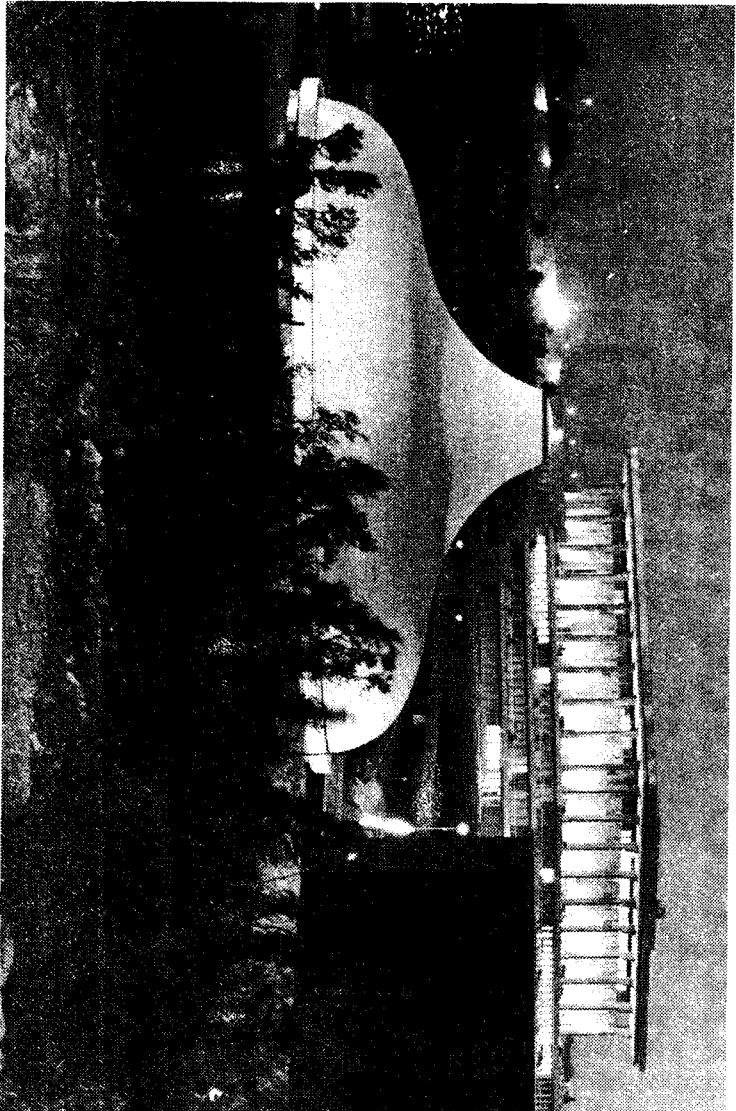
"The rebirth of Israel was a rebirth of hope. . . . It shows that right will prevail, even against the greatest odds. . . . After the Holocaust the American people and decent people around the world made a solemn pledge: Never again. Never again would we fail to confront evil. Never again would we let the Jewish people stand alone against persecution and oppression. Today we honour that pledge by standing beside the State of Israel. We honour that pledge when we, with the people of Israel, reach out to help save Ethiopian Jewry. We honour that pledge when we work tirelessly to help Soviet Jewry and other minorities against the Soviet regime's systematic persecution. But above all, we honour our pledge by remembering, by teaching our children the story of the six million Jews, by establishing the Holocaust Memorial Commission of the United States, and by coming here to Yad Vashem" (J.P. 1-6-85).

"Yad Vashem has amassed the world's largest and most comprehensive archives on the subject of the Holocaust. Within its compactus can be found over 50 million original documents, microfilms, photographs, films, posters, personal diaries, eye-witness testimonies and memorabilia, all bearing witness to the history of the Jewish people during World War II".

THE SHRINE OF THE BOOK

The Shrine of the Book is the permanent home for the Dead Sea scrolls. It was ceremonially opened in April. The building, costing nearly one million dollars, was the gift of the Gottesman Foundation New York. The centre piece is a practically complete manuscript of Isaiah.

SHRINE OF THE BOOK AND THE KNESSET BUILDING



Chapter 5: THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS AND ITS FUTURE

THE NEW COMMONWEALTH

Many brethren probably think of the Commonwealth today as the last phase of a dying British Empire. This is quite a wrong conception. The policy of the British government of granting independence to the many parts of the old empire has allowed the development of a new society of nations; an association of completely independent nations whose very sense of independence allows them to show respect to others and to cooperate for the common good: "a brotherhood of free nations", as King George VI called it. The title 'British Commonwealth' was discarded in 1951.

It has been a slow evolution. The foundation was the Statute of Westminster, 1929, by which—

"member nations would be autonomous communities, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs."

The old Dominions, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand received independence between the wars; and India immediately after World War II. Then at a quickening pace, a further 44 countries have become independent and joined the Commonwealth. On becoming independent a nation chooses whether it joins the Commonwealth, and joining requires the agreement of all member nations.

The Commonwealth is indeed a remarkable collection of nations, not merely because it is a free association of independent peoples, but that in its cooperation it has made an interwoven fabric out of various elements of differing race, history, culture and material status. It has no written constitution. Its deliberations are guided by discussion and consensus — there is no formal voting. One reason for the success is that all the member nations have for generations been under the influence of British traditions, its parliamentary system, and way of life, that is, democracy in its proper sense, involving discussion, debate, tolerance, and majority rule.

Mr Nehru, Prime Minister of India attempted a description of the working of the Commonwealth:

"We are members of the Commonwealth — that rather odd and strange collection of nations, which seems to prosper best in adversity. . . . Somehow it has found some kind of invisible link by seeing that practically there is no link by giving complete independence and freedom to every part of it.

"This Commonwealth has grown and repeatedly changed, and while Member nations of the Commonwealth sometimes disagree, sometimes have interests that conflict with each other, sometimes pull in different directions, nevertheless, the basic fact remains that they meet as friends and try to understand each other, and try, as far as possible, to find a common way of working

" that friendly approach, that sympathetic approach, that attempt to understand, in so far as one can, to go step in step, and at the same time enjoy the complete knowledge that one can step aside — a combination of these two factors has led, I suppose, to the success of this remarkable experiment"

(Commonwealth Partnership, 1960, p.7).

Although there is no formal constitution, all members subscribe to the Singapore 'Declaration of Commonwealth Principles' (1971), which sets out in somewhat idealistic terms the whole spirit of tolerance and cooperation; of goodwill from the better-off nations to the less fortunate. Here are the opening phrases of some of the paragraphs:

"We believe that international peace and order are essential to security and prosperity of mankind"

"We believe in the liberty of the individual"

"We recognise racial prejudice as a dangerous sickness"

"We oppose all forms of colonial domination and racial oppression"

"We believe that the wide disparities of wealth now existing between sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated"

There will be no lasting peace until they add the most important element, "Glory to God in the highest".

The South African government will not support some of the above principles.

At the top level of Commonwealth activity, Heads of Government meet approximately every two years to "discuss world problems, and the work of the Commonwealth". The meetings are held at a different place each time, hosted by the small nations as well as the large. These have been the meeting places: Singapore 1970; Canada 1973; Jamaica 1975; London 1977; Zambia 1979; Australia 1981; India 1983; The Bahamas 1985.

Frankness and informality are the keynote of the meetings. Lengthy set speeches are avoided, there is much informal discussion, particularly during the weekend retreat.

Finance ministers of the various countries meet annually; Law, Health, and Education ministers meet about every three years. There are now a large number of working organisations (about 300) covering education, science, medicine, art, law, trade, third world

economics, defence, etc. Much activity is directed towards aiding third world development. As an indication of the diversity of activity, in 1984 there were approximately 80 meetings, seminars, workshops, etc, on the widest range of subjects. They were held at different places throughout the Commonwealth.

The coordinating centre for all Commonwealth activities is at Marlborough House, where the Commonwealth Secretariat was set up in 1965. The initial band of 20 staff has grown to 400, representing 30 nationalities. The palace of Marlborough House was given to the Commonwealth by the Queen when the coordinating Secretariat was set up.

This brief sketch shows the present Commonwealth is a new growth, that has steadily enlarged to approximately 50 nations with a multitude of ties that belong to present-day needs and problems.

THE QUEEN

The Queen is the star of this remarkable association of peoples. She is the Head of the Commonwealth and all member nations freely recognise the Queen's personal role as the symbol of Commonwealth unity. She attends the Heads of Government meetings and she entertains them on the royal yacht *Britannia*. There are still 18 monarchies in the Commonwealth and, as well as Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth is queen to each of these. She is as much the Queen of Canada or Australia as she is Queen of Great Britain; and when in these countries she gives the speech from the throne. When visiting any of these countries, they take complete charge of her, and the British government has no voice in what she says or does. Mrs Thatcher has twice been rebuked for 'interfering'.

The Queen's independent role when acting as Head of Commonwealth was highlighted in December 1983 when her Christmas speech to the Commonwealth was criticised for its emphasis on the needs of the Third World members. Enoch Powell, the *Daily Telegraph* editor, and other writers inferred she had been given bad advice by the British government. But a lengthy article in the *Guardian Weekly*, "THE PALACE AND THE THIRD WORLD", made it clear that her speech, in its topic and in its content was her personal responsibility when she spoke as Head of the Commonwealth.

The Queen is intensely devoted to her unique role of uniting together the Commonwealth and seeking the good of all its members, especially the poorer ones. She was trained to this in her

youth by her father George VI. She expressed her mind just after her father's death, in her Christmas speech from New Zealand in 1953, when only 23 years old:

"The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new concept built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man, friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace."

Again in her 1957 Christmas broadcast:

"It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and cherish is much more difficult. That is why we can take a pride in the new Commonwealth we are building. This year Ghana and Malaya joined our brotherhood. Both these countries are entirely self-governing. Both achieved their new status amicably and peacefully.

"Last October I opened the new Canadian Parliament, as you know, this was the first time that any sovereign has done so in Ottawa. Once again I was overwhelmed by the loyalty and enthusiasm of the Canadian people.

"In the old days the monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal. Today things are different. I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws and administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.

"I believe in our qualities and our strength. I believe that together we can set an example to the world which will encourage upright people everywhere".

Twenty-five years on, the Queen is unchanged in her devotion and concern for the well-being of the Commonwealth. The December 1983 Commonwealth speech that was criticised shows how she looks below the surface to things that really matter. The following quotations indicate her theme:

"Astonishing developments in communications and technology were changing the lives of practically everyone, the Queen said in her Christmas speech."

"... Perhaps even more serious is the risk that this mastery of technology may blind us to the more fundamental needs of people. Electronics cannot create comradeship; computers cannot generate compassion; satellites cannot transmit tolerance. And no amount of technology could have engineered the spirit of the Commonwealth that was so evident in Delhi; or the frank, friendly and understanding communication that such a spirit makes possible. . . .

"I hope that Christmas will remind us all that it is not how we communicate but what we communicate with each other that really matters. We in the Commonwealth belong to a worldwide comradeship. Let us resolve to communicate as friends in tolerance and understanding. Only then can we make the message of the angels come true: Peace on earth, good will towards men."

Her concern for the poorer Commonwealth countries is genuine;

she has seen them at close hand. Doubtless she meant what she said in her speech that:

“The greatest problem in the world today remains the gap between rich and poor countries, and we shall not begin to close the gap until we hear less about nationalism and more about interdependence”.

Because she is seen to be genuine, and travels round the world seeing for herself the condition of her Commonwealth, she has built up a tremendous fund of loyalty and affection. The Queen is a very strong force holding the Commonwealth together.

THE QUEEN AND THE POPE

What has the Pope to do with our present topic, the reader may well ask? Let us see. Our chapter heading is: The Future of the Commonwealth. Since the war we see developing two very different world systems. One totalitarian in intention, oppressive, evil, hypocritical, hating truth and freedom; the other based on tolerance, mutual concern and friendship, though in practice far from ‘perfect’. Their reactions when the power of Christ is revealed in the earth will be different. The one will be defiant to the last. The other, we may deduce from scripture, will yield to his power and authority, and may become a vehicle for the development of the universal rule of Christ; a channel for enlightenment not only regarding the good neighbourliness with which the Queen is concerned, but on that essential higher level of the recognition of the God of the Bible and obedience to His laws. This will not occur, we know, without severe judgments. But the suggestion is that what we see happening now in the new Commonwealth may be a preparatory work for this future when the Commonwealth comes at an early stage to accept Christ’s rule.

Does scripture refer to such a situation in the Commonwealth? First let us take note of the number of references in the prophets to the ‘isles’ when the day of Christ comes. In fact, properly the theme goes right back to Genesis:

“And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations” (Gen. 10:4, 5).

So there was a sea-faring, adventurous spirit in the blood of this particular family; and probably this freedom-loving spirit has continued down the ages. Turning to the prophets, Ezekiel tells us that immediately after the invasion of the land and the deliverance of Israel:

"I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles, and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezek. 39:6).

The Psalmist speaks of the early submission of the isles:

"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: . . . Yea, all kings shall fall down before him" (Psa. 72:9-11).

Isaiah says of Messiah:

"He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law" (Isa. 42:4).

The sequence is, after the resurrection in verse 7:

"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 their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock (Petra) sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands" (vv. 10-12). Then verse 13: *"The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man. . . I will make waste mountains, and hills, and dry up all their herbs"* (v.15).

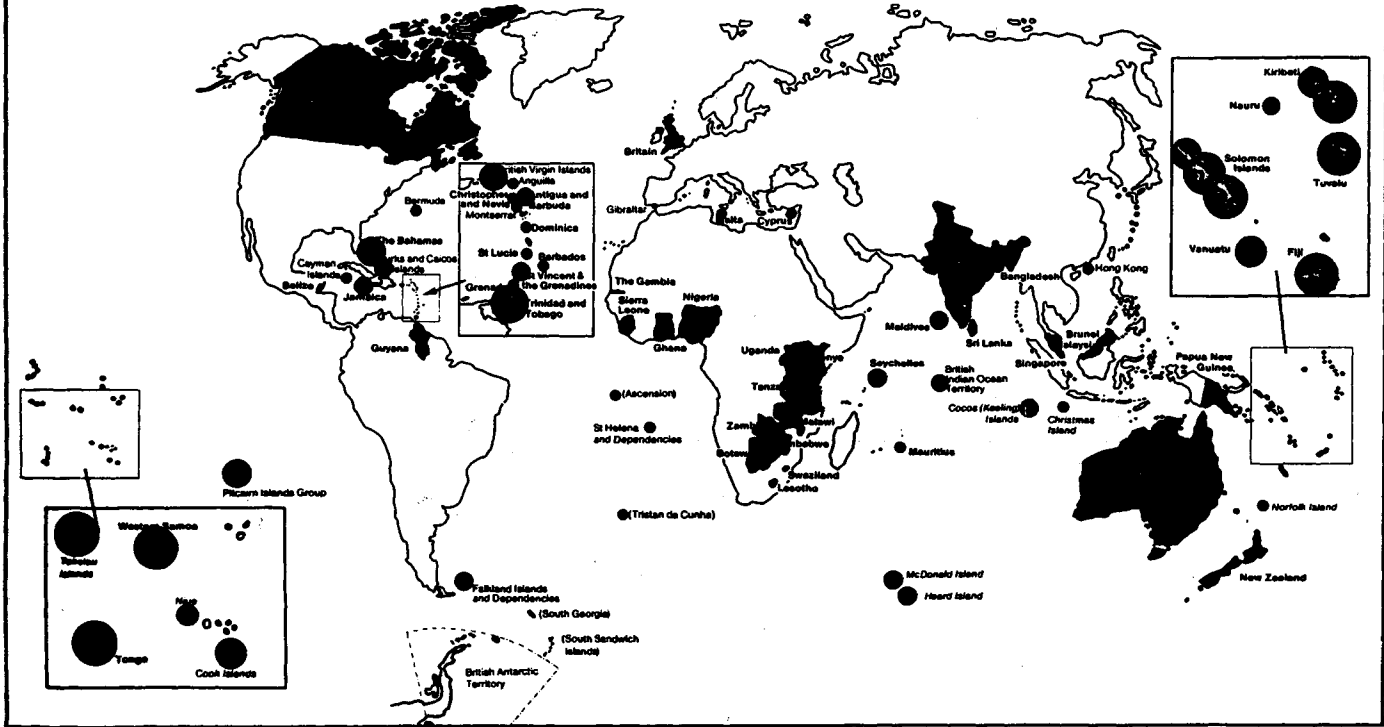
So this tells us that before Christ goes forth against the great nations — the 'mountains' — those that dwell in the adjacent countries to Israel and those who dwell in the isles afar off are in subjection and sing his praises. Again, Isaiah 51:4, 5 and 60:9:

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust."

"Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God."

In these references, and there are others, notice that the phrase is always plural — 'isles'. With our knowledge of the Commonwealth, may we not conclude that the present-day representatives of 'the isles' are the member nations of the Commonwealth? The word 'isles' must carry the idea of sea-going. This is how the empire, from which the Commonwealth has sprung, came into being. From Britain ships went out to the isles and coastlands seeking trade and

THE COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY



bringing about colonisation. Despite present day air travel, it is usual for the Queen when attending the Heads of Government Commonwealth meetings in various parts of the world to carry out her business from her yacht *Britannia*. Here she entertains the Heads of Government, here also she confers with each Head of Government separately. The map on page 55 brings out the island nature of the Commonwealth.

We may also notice the plural form, 'kings' of Tarshish and of the isles, in Psalm 72. Not Britain alone, but her associate 'kings' will be there.

So much for scripture. Referring back to our subheading, 'The Queen and the Pope', it is an intriguing picture to see on the one hand the Pope moving round the world beguiling nations to support his religious power system, with an outward show of morality and good will; and on the other, the Queen also moving round the world year by year with a sincerity of purpose and devotion to duty that draws affection from her peoples and binds them together. We could wish she was more outspoken with regard to the Bible, as her father was. We continue to wonder if she will live to lead the Commonwealth, as its Head, to acknowledge Christ.

The extent of the Queen's visits to the Commonwealth may not be appreciated. Her visit last year to Canada was the 22nd she has made there during her reign. In 1983 she visited Jamaica, Canada, Kenya, Bangladesh, and India, New Delhi, for the Heads of Government meeting. (And in addition she visited Mexico, the United States, and Sweden!) Usually when she is attending the Heads of Government meeting, she visits various neighbouring countries. Thus in 1979 she visited four African member countries, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, and Zambia. Already listed for 1986 are further visits to Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

A last point: the Commonwealth may seem to be far removed from accepting the righteousness Christ will require. Society generally is in an evil state, and indifferent to or unacquainted with God's law. This is a state that occurred in Israel of old more than once. Israel had a foundation on which God built to revive the nation. Britain and other Commonwealth countries are in rather a similar position. Revival and reformation has occurred in Britain in the past and can happen again when God arranges it.

TARSHISH AND ALL THE YOUNG LIONS

The conclusion from what we have put forward is that the Commonwealth is not disintegrating; but rather the cooperation in



A WAR-TIME POSTER



A WAR-TIME POSTCARD

the vital elements of life — education, medicine, health, finance, trade, etc., is developing a substantial bond between the countries. In the invasion from the north, described in Ezekiel 38, there will be an opposing group of nations challenging the attack, as expressed in the phrase, “Art thou come to take a spoil?”. These are described as “The merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof”. It has been our traditional view that ‘all the young lions’ refers to what was the empire, and now the Commonwealth. Developments over the past fifty years have not altered this assessment. The following points are relevant:

1. Tarshish points to Britain, as we shall see in a moment. She is the founder of the group, the ‘old’ lion, whose national emblem is the lion.
2. The young lions are ‘OF’ the merchants of Tarshish: they came into being by the seagoing, the ‘merchanting’, of Tarshish, her trading ships going far afield to distant coasts and islands.
3. These countries are now ‘young lions’, not whelps. As part of the empire they were whelps, but when they became independent they became ‘young lions’. For this distinction, see Ezekiel 19.
4. ALL the young lions will be there. And the present development of the Commonwealth is in harmony with this. (South Africa is at present outside).
5. As to the United States of America, she is not part of the Commonwealth, but cooperates, and undoubtedly, being a ‘young lion’ who gained independence a century earlier, she will be there; for scripture says ALL the young lions.

Some will think it unnecessary to demonstrate that Tarshish refers to Britain. But of recent times, articles and discussion has expressed scepticism and put forward a disconcerting number of alternatives.

The first point to make is that Tarshish is a place. Talk of ‘ships of Tarshish’ meaning ocean-going vessels is all right, but it does not change the sense that Tarshish is a place. Scripturally we know that there was an eastern and a western Tarshish (2 Chron. 9:21; Jonah 1:3). Describing the Tyrian trade, Ezekiel says:

“Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kinds of riches; with silver, iron, tin and lead, they traded in thy fairs”
(Ezek. 27:12).

Of these metals tin was of special interest because it was scarce, and was essential for alloying with copper to make bronze, widely used by the Greeks. It is in the matter of tin that Britain is linked with Tarshish. That tin was fetched from Cornwall by the Phoenicians has overwhelming evidence in historical writings. Tartessus in Spain can also be associated with the word Tarshish (this could be the Tarshish Jonah was going to); but the mining in Spain was noted for silver not tin according to these records. No doubt the Phoenicians proceeded beyond the Spanish Tarshish in their 'ships of Tarshish' braving the Atlantic storms to reach the tin islands.

If any reader would like the historical evidence, he will find it detailed in four pages of 'The Christadelphian', December 1952, by brother John Carter. He gives quotations from a variety of books which draw on the writings from times before Christ — Herodotus, Strabo, Polybius, Diodorus, Siculus, Aristotle, and Hamilco of Carthage. His quotations are taken from the following books: Moore, History of Ireland; Klaproth, Magasin Encyclopedique; Lyson, Account of Cornwall; Rees, Cyclopaedia; W. Chamberlain, Restoration of the Jews; Rawlinson on Herodotus; also Rawlinson's Story of the Nations, Phoenicia and Assyria; International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (1937); and Westminster Bible Dictionary (1944).

When investigating the subject in Cornwall years ago, the present writer found several books and papers that maintain the historicity of the Phoenician tin trade, giving links with local places. H.O. Neill Hencken's book 'Archaeology of Cornwall and the Sicilly Isles' (1932) has a whole chapter headed 'The Prehistoric Tin Trade'. The book 'The Cassiterides' (TIN Islands) by Geo. Smith of Camborne, Cornwall (1863) is entirely on this topic. It was a report of his second careful examination of the subject, because of several sceptical writings that had appeared.

An interesting and different kind of evidence for this tin trade in the time of the Phoenicians is in the articles found in the tombs that have been found, belonging to the late bronze age — around BC 1,000 and later. In Hencken's book, chapter three, entitled 'The Bronze Age', he describes the beads, ivory and items that had come from the eastern Mediterranean civilisation, found in the tombs; showing without doubt that there was at this early time trading between Cornwall and the East. There was similar evidence in papers to the Association of Antiquaries given by B.H. St J. O'Neil in 1949 and 1951 regarding relics from excavations in the Sicilly Isles. The author was Chief Inspector of Monuments.

The Phoenicians also travelled to the eastern Tarshish, which is generally taken as India. Crossing the Indian Ocean was equally as hazardous as entering the Atlantic to get to the western Tarshish. Interestingly, Gesenius, in his notes on Tarshish, says the Phoenicians colonised the islands of the Persian Gulf. So one can see the same pattern as in the Mediterranean, extending their adventures further afield as they worked forward from their colonies.

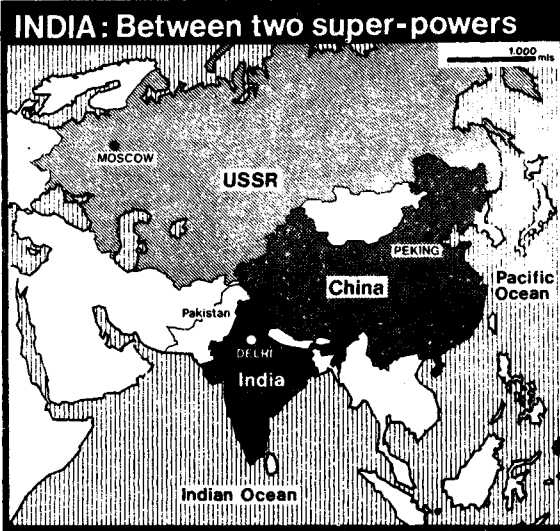
Trade in the ships of Tarshish had Tyre as its centre where wealth from all the land routes also converged (Ezekiel 27). The Scripture tells us there is to be a latter-day Tyre. When the King and his bride rejoice together, "The daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift (the word means tribute); even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour" (Psa. 45). So the question must be answered, Who is the 'daughter of Tyre' today? Who is in a comparable position so as to be described as a daughter, a descendant of Tyre?

The answer must be Britain. Britain still maintains her position as the centre of international trade. Here are the Exchanges for the forward buying and selling of every kind of commodity — metals, tea, wool, cotton, rubber, wheat, oil, etc. — from every part of the world. Here is Lloyd's insurance for sea, air and all forms of commercial transport. Here is the Baltic and Merchantile Shipping Exchange for arranging ship or plane capacity for moving goods anywhere round the world. It is true that there is some decline in London's position today. She does not prosper because of her moral decline, but this does not alter her position as the daughter of Tyre at the coming of Christ. She would only lose this title if overthrown by some calamity, as happened to Tyre and she was replaced by a new centre. There is nothing to point to this happening. Britain is the Tarshish of the latter days and the daughter of Tyre. Britain and the Commonwealth will fulfil their part:

"Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring my sons from far".

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF INDIA — THE EASTERN TARSHISH

We may think Britain of small consequence, in a military sense, these days. But if we add together all the Commonwealth it is a different picture, especially when we take note of the growing strength and status of the Eastern Tarshish. India has a population of over 700 million, over three times that of the U.S.A. Its volunteer armed forces are over a million men, again greater than the U.S.A. Its fighting men have been renowned over the centuries for their



courage and loyalty to Britain. In the second world war there were over two million Indians on active service. Of particular interest, its navy is currently undergoing development to become a significant factor in naval

matters. India is not a backward country any more. Its educational output is remarkable: it has 105 universities (1978), and it has the third largest number of scientists in the world.

"The civil service is still first class at the higher levels. But now, in addition, India has an enormous pool of technocrats, engineers, accountants, bankers, computer programmers, economists, business school graduates. . . . India has been able to export thousands of University teachers to the West" (*As India Grows Up*, D.T. 27-3-78).

India is now ending its sixth five-year plan for the economy and the annual growth has been 5 percent per annum. During the 1970s its exports increased at an average 20-25 percent per annum, which is a good guide to its progress.

Strategically India is a country of the greatest importance for the future. Western Tarshish is far away from the centre of coming conflict, whereas eastern Tarshish, as the map shows, is a land mass adjacent to this region.

INDIA'S FLIRTATION WITH THE SOVIET

Let us look at India's recent history and present outlook. The main feature regarding India during the 1970s was her flirtation with the Soviet. The two countries made a 20-year Defence Pact in 1971. Mrs Gandhi was pro-Soviet, though not hostile to the West. During that decade India purchased a vast amount of arms, chiefly tanks and fighter planes, from the Soviet at a subsidised interest rate of 2

to 2½ percent over 10 years. The reason for this cooperation was their mutual fear of China — probably something difficult for us to appreciate in our far-off western world. China invaded India from the north in 1962; the Soviet has to defend a 5,000 kilometre border with China, and looked to India as a friendly outpost in the south. It is said that the Soviet made little impact with her revolutionary Communism on the Indians.

In 1978 Mrs Gandhi's political party was defeated in the elections, and Mr Desai, the next Prime Minister, made it clear he wished to revert to India's proper non-alignment policy. At this time there was a new American policy of greater attention to Asia. President Carter's visit to India was reported under the heading: "NEW CARTER POLICY WOOS INDIA AS THE 3RD WORLD LEADER" (*D.T.* 3-1-78). Arms deals with the West were discussed.

Then in 1979 the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan took place, and the threat this made for India and S.E. Asia became increasingly a matter of concern as the occupation became permanent. Mrs Gandhi came back into power in 1980, and relations with the Soviet again became cordial. Mrs Gandhi was slow or unwilling to recognise the Afghan threat. She made two more large arms deals with the Soviet, one in 1980 and the other in January 1984. The 1980 deal, again at 2½% interest, was for 1.6 billion dollars, supplying MIG jets and 100 T72 tanks, to be followed by 600 more manufactured in India. The 1984 deal was for 21 ships, tanks, more up-to-date fighter aircraft, and surface-to-air missiles. (The earlier purchases in the 1970s are put at 1.1 billion dollars.)

In October 1984 Mrs Gandhi was dramatically taken off the scene: she was assassinated. One can but speculate that the angels found it necessary to allow this to swing India away from the Soviet. Her eldest son Rajiv Gandhi took over and was overwhelmingly confirmed as Prime Minister in the elections held in December 1984. Commenting on his first year in office, the *Daily Telegraph* editor spoke highly of him:

"Young and initially reluctant, he has since proved himself to be a strong, clear-sighted, decent leader, even a statesman, who has impressed the world as well as his own people. From the beginning Mr Gandhi resolved to make the hallmark of his leadership conciliation and cooperation, and not confrontation and cynicism (of Mrs Gandhi)" (*D.T.* 14-10-85).

Mr Gandhi has picked up the threads of what was started by Mr Desai in 1978-80. He still aims at non-alignment, but has good relations with Britain. Mrs Thatcher carried out a successful Asian tour in April 1985 and spent time in India.

"Mrs Thatcher flew out of New Delhi yesterday virtually bouncing with happiness at her talks with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister" (D.T. 15-4-85).

Later in the year, at a two-day meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee (IBEC) in London, an agreement was reached for "closer economic and industrial links between Britain and India" (D.T. 16-9-85).

"The two governments agreed to fund plans for trade promotion programmes and a business centre" (*Export Times* Oct. 1985).

In October Mr Gandhi called at London to conclude an order for Westland helicopters.

As we have already indicated, India's economic and military growth over the last decade has been outstanding. Prosperity is dated from the mid-seventies. With good monsoons and modern agricultural techniques, food production soared; foreign exchange earnings increased markedly, and in this confidence large industrial development projects were initiated (*Export Times* April 1980). This progress has continued into the 1980s, as the following shows:

"INDIA GETS ITSELF INTO THE BIG THREE SPENDING LEAGUE"

"The magnitude of India's overseas spending spree is possibly the most significant after the Shah of Iran's buying spree in the mid-seventies, and China's in the late seventies.

"India's overseas expenditure is expected to amount to \$4 billion this year (1982), with the figure estimated at \$4.5 billion for 1983" (*Export Times* Jan. 1983).

Another index of her industrial sophistication is the statement in 1980 that India planned to treble her atomic power:

"The report said India was gradually achieving self-reliance in all spheres of nuclear science and technology. The country's third and fourth nuclear power stations, at Madras and Narora, were being set up by Indian engineers without foreign help" (D.T. July 1980).

INDIA'S NAVY

We have briefly noted India's huge purchases of military equipment for the army and airforce, but what is more interesting is that in 1982 the decision was taken to modernise the navy, or as we might put it, to develop her Tarshish aspect.

"Admiral Oscar Dawson, Chief of Staff of the Indian Navy, has indicated that the Indian Navy is to be more than doubled over the next five years."

"The Indian Navy has won recognition for its demands for an ambitious modernisation, expansion and re-equipment programme.

"This included fighter-bombers for its aircraft carrier Vikrant, 16,000 tons,

helicopters for its Leander-class frigates, and boats armed with surface-to-surface missiles.

"The Indian Navy's expansion programme offers a tempting field for weapon systems manufacturers and will be worth billions of pounds over the next five years.

"India's naval expansion plans between now and 1989 have not been fully disclosed, but they could include one or more aircraft carriers, anti-submarine missile frigates, long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, and fast torpedo and missile boats" (D.T. 26-10-82, 5-3-84).

Britain has been the major supplier for the Indian navy and present requirements are under discussion with the Defence Secretary. Various orders have been placed or are in the pipeline (D.T. 9-10-85, 26-11-85).

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

When the U.S. withdrew from Vietnam it abandoned the highly developed Cam Ranh Bay naval and air base, "one of the world's best natural harbours". The Soviet took it over, along with other bases developed by the U.S., and this has radically altered the balance of power in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans. From this base she is able to patrol the Indian Ocean. The U.S. now relies on two bases in the Philippines. The U.S. is associated with the ANZUS alliance — Britain, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand — in the defence of the region. The defence situation has been weakened this year by New Zealand refusing to allow warships in its harbours unless they declare they are not carrying nuclear missiles. India up to the present has remained outside the alliance, in keeping with her non-alignment policy. Whether the increasing naval and land threat from the Soviet will change this, we shall have to wait and see.



Cam Ranh Bay allows Russian warships to spend 75 per cent more time usefully at sea than when they were based at Vladivostok.

It is interesting to have the viewpoint regarding future conflict as seen from this S.E. Asia position. At a conference in Honolulu there was a paper by Prof. Hua Di of the Institute of American Studies in Peking.

"No less significantly, Prof. Hua Di . . . gave a chilling presentation of how the Soviet may achieve its global plans.

"For the Soviet to fight through all the European NATO Defences, reinforced by the United States, could not be cost-effectively justified, while the war would be too close to the Soviet economic-political heartland.

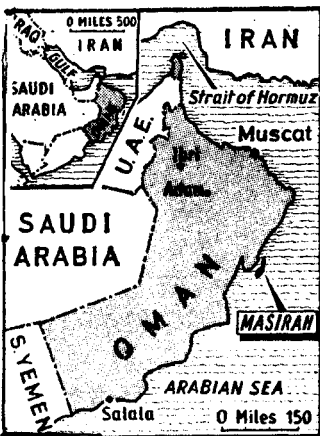
"Instead, if a military showdown between the Soviet and the United States occurred, it would be fought as a conventional land war in Baluchistan (south of Afghanistan, G.P.), accompanied by a Soviet naval-air assault on the American reinforcements and the logistic supply lines in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans, and the Mediterranean" (*D.T. 1-3-85*).

The naval aspect of future warfare will be important. The 'ships of Tarshish' will be involved; and God has put on record what will happen:

"The day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty . . . And upon the ships of Tarshish" (Isa. 2:12, 16).

Afghanistan is a land mass belonging to this region. It is increasingly becoming a place of conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet. The U.S. through the C.I.A. is now giving extensive support to the Afghans:

"By year's end, the U.S. program, which supplies weapons, ammunition, clothing, medical supplies and money for food, is expected to support an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 full or part-time insurgents who are battling with a Soviet army of 110,000 troops, in what intelligence reports and various eye-witness accounts describe as one of the most brutal, savage conflicts of modern times . . . The annual aid package to the insurgents is approaching 500 million dollars" (*G.W. 20-1-85*).



Oman is in the same general area, and its position on the Persian Gulf makes it a country of increasing strategic importance. It has close military and economic ties with Britain. Its senior officers are British. This little country mustered 10,000 men this year for an ambitious military exercise (*D.T. 3-4-85*). (Did not Joel say, "Let the weak say, I am strong").

The Gulf States — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Emirates — now hold joint exercises and are standardising their equipment (*D.T. 15-3-85*).

A few years ago the U.S. turned its attention to this strategic spot. It has spent about 100 million pounds on building a modern air base on Masirah Island just off the coast of Oman. It is fully equipped for handling all types of military aircraft, with re-fueling facilities (*D. T. 8-4-85*).

There is also an Oman-American joint commission for economic and technical cooperation. Schools, roads, water supply, and fishing development are some of the projects (*Export Times June 1985*). A university campus costing 360 million pounds will be completed by next year (*D. T. 3-10-85*).

Chapter 6: THE POPE AND HIS TROUBLES

POLAND

Nothing dramatic has happened in Poland this year. The uneasy cooperation continues; the reaction to the murder of a popular pro-Solidarity priest, Father Popieluszko by an undercover policeman reflects this. On the one hand the Pope played down the matter, with little criticism, indicating his wish not to embarrass the Polish authorities. On the other hand the authorities arranged a proper public trial and sentenced the man for murder, an attitude quite unique in Soviet bloc countries if their henchmen are involved in trouble. In this way they sought to placate the wrath of the Catholic Poles.

Cardinal Glemp and President Jaruzelski met in June 1985 — the first meeting since early 1984. The news conference afterward was told “Today’s talks are a step in the direction of mutual understanding” (*D.T. 19-6-85*).

Shortly after this meeting, the foreign minister of Poland visited the Pope seeking closer formal ties with the Vatican. The Pope expressed his displeasure with the Polish authorities’ tardy recognition of the Catholic Church! “The time was not ripe for establishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican”: surely a typical ploy of the Vatican for getting more when this seems possible . . . The foreign minister pleaded his case, saying that in the past six years 600 churches, chapels and places of worship had been built; to which the Pope replied, this was not enough! (*D.T. 24-6-85*).

Walesa, the founder of the Solidarity trade union and the Churches’ earlier champion, continues to make his voice heard, but he is officially cold-shouldered by the Church authorities.

VISIT TO MOSCOW?

In February of this year — just before Gorbachev came to power — a noteworthy happening was the visit of the Soviet foreign minister Gromyko to the Pope. They had an “exceptionally long secret meeting” lasting two hours. Gromyko is no stranger at the Vatican. This was his sixth visit, his previous visits being in 1966, ’70, ’74, ’75 and ’79. The relationship is such that the meeting was described as a ‘working session’. At the end they parted with an exchange of gifts and smiles, and final ‘best wishes’ on both sides.

“. . . after a ceremonial exchange of gifts the Pope was beaming in what one onlooker called a ‘satisfied manner’. Even the normal taciturn Mr

Gromyko declared, 'it went well', but hastened to add he had not given the Pope a formal invitation to visit Moscow" (D.T. 28-2-85).

In the context one thinks the key word was "formal". His remark seems to indicate that moves toward a visit are in hand. Progress for such an event is probably delayed for some time while Mr Gorbachev gets into the saddle. Mr Gromyko is now President of the Soviet and would be the one to receive the Pope.

Another 'cordial' meeting took place in April:

"Herr Honecker, the East German Leader, had a 32 minute secret audience with the Pope yesterday. They faced each other across a desk for 'an extremely cordial talk'" (D.T. 25-4-85).

The talks were about "difficult Church-State relations in that Communist country" and more generally about "East-West dialogue". Perhaps Honecker also carried a message from the Soviet.

COOPERATION WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Communist-Catholic friendliness was strikingly manifest when A. Natta, the new secretary general of the Italian Communist party, was interviewed by Vatican Radio and his views beamed out to all the Catholic faithful worldwide without any hostile comment. An anti-communist Catholic group gave the information.

"In a worldwide report by the Ansa News agency, also published by several Roman dailies, 'Comrade' Atexsandro Natta, the new Secretary General of the Italian Communist party, affirmed, in an interview requested by Vatican Radio, that he did not see the Catholic Faith as an 'obstacle', but on the contrary, a possible point of support for the 'perspectives' that, in his judgment, the Italian Communist party (PCI) and the Catholic Church had in common. These perspectives are: 'the liberation of man and peoples, the affirmation of the values of peace and morality in their highest sense'.

"The Avenire, the semi-official publication of the Italian episcopate, published a concise report of it, unaccompanied by commentaries. The *Observatore Romano*, the semi-official organ of the Holy See, has kept complete silence" (*Bulletin of the 15 T.F.Ps. Dec. 1984*).

De Oliveira, a conservative Latin-American Catholic, reporting this, groans at such a blasphemous victory and cries to Our Lady for help! It is not difficult to see why the interview was acceptable. If the Catholic Faith is no obstacle, this is giving the Pope his rule in the spiritual realm.

'RESTORATION': THE POPE'S BACKWARD STEPS

In January the Pope summoned bishops worldwide to attend an extraordinary Synod at Rome at the end of 1985. Its official declared purpose "is to celebrate the conclusion of the second Vatican Council 20 years ago, and to deepen the understanding of its teaching in the light of new needs". The article reporting this (*Guardian Weekly* 3-2-85) commented that it was quite unlikely to be a genuine review of the Council, but rather a listening to the views of the Pope who is critical of the freedom permitted by the Council.

The key word from the Vatican is RESTORATION, which means restoring the state of things before the Council. (Is it not said Rome never changes?). The Pope's recent 'retrograde' steps were summarised as follows:

"The progressive Dutch Church has been brought to heel, the socially-committed Jesuits have been intimidated, legitimate resignation from the priesthood has been made practically impossible, women and married men have been bluntly told to forget about ordination, the Tridentine Mass has been ordered back into their habits, liberation theologians have been first caricatured and then denounced".

To strengthen his hand the Pope appointed 28 more cardinals in May.

"The majority of the new cardinals are conservative-minded, mirroring the Pope's own fundamentalist approach to the Roman Catholic Faith" (*D. T.* 25-5-85).

Also of interest, 19 of the 28 are non-Italians, "injecting a stronger international flavour into the Roman Catholic hierarchy". As scripture says, "She sits upon many waters".

The two-week Synod took place starting at the end of November. The Daily Telegraph report was headed "POPE OPENS 'SYNOD TO CORRECT ERRORS'" (25-11-85). It refers to the powerful influence of Cardinal Ratzinger:

"The powerful and controversial West German Cardinal Ratzinger is egging the Pope on in his drive to ensure that the Church should return to its traditional course. He has publicly warned that the changes could lead to 'self-destruction'."

At the end of the synod the headline of the report was:

"CATHOLIC BISHOPS TOE THE LINE BUT SHOW FEARS

"The 13-page document, 'relatio finalis', was issued as the Church leaders, mostly from the Third World, were returning home, after agreeing to toe the Pope's conservative line.

"The report was a success for the hard-line Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a confidant of the Pope and the influential head of the 'Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith'. He had urged John Paul II to call this synod at such short notice in a move aimed at preventing the reforms from getting out of hand.

"The report approved by the Pope and issued with great speed urges the framing of a new 'universal catechism' aimed at avoiding deviations from orthodoxy" (*D.T. 10-12-85*).

The Toronto Star, November 17th, had a critical article about the coming synod. A few extracts are of interest.

"The truth is that powerful forces within the curia have for a long time made it plain they regard Vatican II as having been an unmitigated disaster".

"Ratzinger, who is responsible for current doctrine, has just published his 'Report On The Faith' — a book in which he says Vatican II introduced 'disastrous' and 'misleading' elements into the church and these in turn have led to 'a progressive decay' . . .

"John Paul has said Ratzinger's opinion about the Council is 'his own' . . .

"John Paul says all the correct things about the spirit of Pope John XXIII and the Council, as well as about church unity and other faiths. But his actions speak otherwise."

Despite the picture just sketched, listen to Cardinal Hume saying soothing words to his English audience and those who are seeking reunion:

"CATHOLIC CHANGES BACKED

"The extraordinary synod of the Roman Catholic bishops in Rome has responded favourably to the changes which had taken place in the Church as the result of the Second Vatican Council 20 years ago, Cardinal Basil Hume said yesterday" (*D.T. 11-12-85*).

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

A major effort of the Pope continues to be the eradicating of 'liberation theology' from the priesthood. This was the purpose of his second visit to Central America early in the year. The Marxist-oriented priests are not preaching liberation from personal sins by reconciliation through Jesus Christ, but liberation politically and economically, if necessary by violence to remove the 'oppressors'. This is, of course, Marxism. These priests in the shanty towns of Latin America maintain contact with the Marxist guerillas. The priests get their Bible support by referring to Moses 'liberating' his people from Egypt and similar Old Testament happenings.

The Pope's task is not easy; while he wishes to raise his priests to a higher level of authority, to the authority that spiritual matters have over material matters, he must not appear to be indifferent to the

poor of this world. So his speeches must have a socialist flavour about them, supporting the worker against oppressive capitalism, etc. He has to walk a tight-rope, especially as a large proportion of Catholics in Central and South America, and indeed world wide, are conservative and regard the Pope as too soft towards the 'left'.

OTHER PROBLEMS FOR THE POPE

The Pope has difficulties in other directions. He has to face the educated class of Catholics in Europe, America, and Canada who ignore his moral rulings on abortion, divorce, ordaining women in the Church, etc. On his visit to Holland in May, he had a very rough time. After the first day with its violent protests, he gave up his applause-receiving open Popemobile, and retired into a closed Mercedes with tinted windows.

In his 12-day visit to Canada at the end of 1984, he chose to avoid antagonising his faithful by keeping quiet on the controversial subjects, and instead hammered away at his theme of social justice, rich nations caring for the poor, a new economic order to put people back to work. "His tough economical talk angered the business community" — he was accused of leaning towards Marxism!

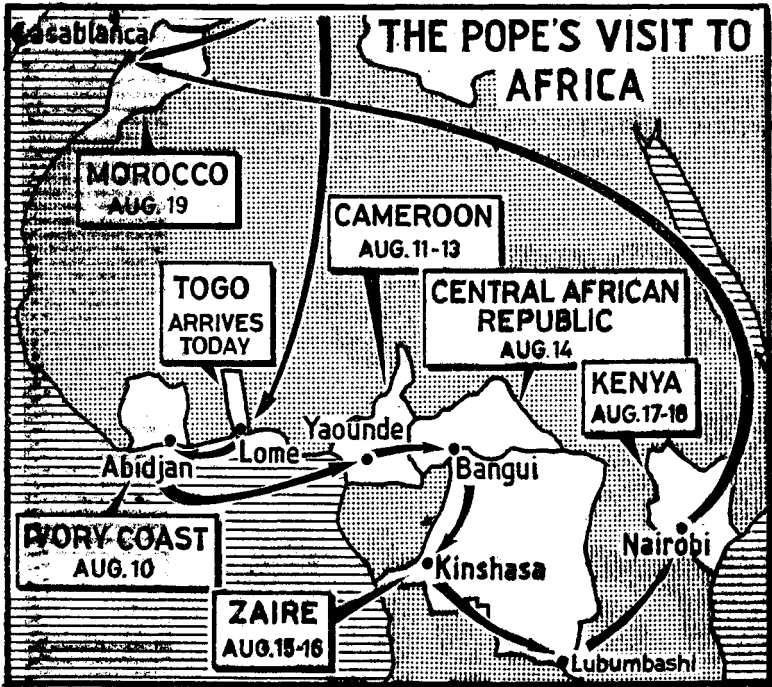
CATHOLICISM AND PAGAN AFRICA

Another totally different problem faced the Pope on his wide-ranging visit to Africa, where he attempts to adapt Catholicism to the primitive pagan religions. The following newspaper extracts highlight his problems:

"For the Catholic Church it is a matter of getting in touch with native cultures and trying to adapt its message to primitive spiritual and religious perceptions. The subject, which the Pope dwelt on at length when he addressed largely animistic gatherings in Togo, the Cameroons, Central Africa and Zaire, is at the heart of the problem of Africanising the Christian message. It is an initiative aimed at two things — bringing the gospel into cultures different from the one in which Christianity developed, and simultaneously introducing native cultures into the life of the Catholic Church by trying to retain those elements not incompatible with its dogma" (*D.T. 1-9-85*).

(One hears in this echoes of the 4th and 5th century when the Church came to terms with Paganism).

"Hence many rural communities look to themselves, and their religion is being adapted to meet their own particular considerations and backgrounds. Christ himself is being turned into an African."



"Alongside Christianity, traditional cults thrive, and ancestor-worship is general, even among Roman Catholic Converts. The dead, they believe, inherit the depth of the earth, and ritualistic ceremonies are held in the sacred forests to conjure them up."

(No wonder they can claim 2 million converts a year).

"In a continent where animism (belief in spirits) is rife, the Church has yet to find a place for such basic African ingredients as witchcraft, healing ceremonies, exorcism, polygamy, and the belief in spirits both evil and ancestral" (D.T. 8-8-85, 10-8-85).

It is fascinating to see all the diverse pressures on the Pope, and the need to present contradictory stories in different places in order to rule the world. Catholic priests in Poland are to keep up political pressure; priests in Central America are to keep out of politics. Restoration of authoritarian dogma on the one hand, yet socialist rhetoric on the other to keep the people happy; or, as in Africa, unashamedly paganising their Catholicism to suit the pervading animism. Western permissiveness is rebuked, but accepted in the Confessional.

THE CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT VOICE IN U.S. POLITICS

The revival of religion in the U.S. continues. It is a 'religion' that is largely concerned with social problems: the banner is pro-life, pro-morals, pro-family; based on a recognition of God and the authority of the Bible. It brings Catholics and the Protestant fundamentalists together in the political scene. It was a determining factor in President Reagan's re-election, as he championed their cause. This invasion into politics by Catholic Bishops and Protestant fundamentalist leaders is quite a phenomenon in the U.S., with widespread television coverage. Reagan openly harnessed this movement in his election campaign, speaking out for the teaching of Creation in schools, school prayers, and improved family life. At the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Reagan addressed 17,000 religious leaders and convention delegates at a prayer breakfast, in which he asserted politics, morality, and religion, are inseparable. Again, Reagan's campaign chairman, Senator Paul Laxalt, sent out a letter to 45,000 ministers in 16 States urging the clergy to "organise a voter registration drive . . . (to) help secure the re-election of President Reagan and Vice-President Bush" (*St Petersburg Times* 8-9-85). The White House has installed four liaison officers to maintain proper contact with the diverse faiths and sects.

According to a Gallup poll:

"44 percent of all the people in this country (U.S.) believe in creationism — that God created during the last 10,000 years. About one third of the population can be called literalists, who believe the Bible is literally true, word for word', he said. 'It seems amazing, but its true' " (*G.W.* 27-1-85).

According to the same article,

"'Born-again' Christians who take the Bible as God's literal truth account for at least one fifth of the U.S. population, or about 35 million adults".

Whether this will progress any further, one may wonder. Is it a reaction from the gross immorality and permissiveness of America? Will a similar movement develop in Britain? Politician leaders are becoming more outspoken on the need for some moral basis to stem the tide of evil.

PROTESTANT NORTHERN IRELAND

Protestant Ulster is fighting a losing battle as the years and decades go by. The Protestants there, as a community, are the last remaining witnesses against Catholicism. They still stand broadly where England stood 200 years ago. They still know their Bibles well

enough to be conscious of the blasphemies of the worship of Mary Queen of Heaven, of eating Christ's body in the Mass, of Penance, etc, and of the evils of the Confessional and celibacy. Moreover, because they live alongside Catholics, they experience the character that the Catholic system moulds from childhood — generally untrustworthy, disloyal, speaking with two voices, ready to support violence in gaining their ends. While such a description does not apply to all Catholics, it is probably not unfair for Irish Catholics who are devoted to their idols and their superstitions.

The latest step against the distinctive Protestant province is the Anglo-Irish Agreement (November 1985), signed by Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald. This gives the Irish politicians a voice in the running of Northern Ireland; or as the Ulster people say, allowing a foreign power into their administration. Two previous setbacks have been the disbanding by Harold Wilson of the 'B' Specials, who were their best defence against IRA attacks; and the indefinite suspension of Stormont parliament by Mr Heath, so that they had less power to care for themselves. And now the present Agreement increases their fears of murder, as the Daily Telegraph editorial outlined:

"... but as Mr Paisley emphasised yesterday, they are immediately more concerned with their own physical futures and those of their families.

"A striking illustration of the weakness of the Agreement in this respect has already appeared. Fresh from what he is bound to represent, if only by implication, as his triumph at Hillsborough, Dr Fitzgerald publicly boasted that the Ulster Defence Regiment would never be the same again and would no longer be able to stop and search citizenry without the presence of the police who would be responsible for all direct contact with the public. Since there are not enough police to go round this policy could only be carried out by a massive suspension of patrols and searches for which the price would be paid in innocent blood" (*D.T. 19-11-85*).

It may seem an exaggeration to speak of Ireland as a foreign power. That is because the Irish Republic's constitution is not known. It gives no loyalty to the British Sovereign or Parliament — made plain in Ireland's neutrality in the last war and in its hostility in the recent Falklands war. Their Constitution declares that **all** Ireland is its possession and under its laws, even though 're-integration' of the North has not yet taken place:

"... articles 2 and 3 of the constitution of the Irish Republic:

"The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas'. 'Prebending the reintegration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of Parliament and Government established by this Constitution to exercise jurisdiction over all the territory, the laws enacted by that Parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstate Eireann and the like extra-territorial effect' " (*D.T. 7-12-85. letter from B.R. Cosin*).

One can say that the IRA are only pursuing a 'constitutional' path in fighting for 'their' territory. Perhaps it would give a better perspective if they were always referred to as the Irish Republican Army, instead of by the initials IRA.

In line with the Constitution just given, one can see the deception used when the Agreement was signed. Mrs Thatcher's copy said the Agreement accepted "the status of Northern Ireland **within the United Kingdom**". But 'within the United Kingdom' was deleted from the copy signed by Dr Fitzgerald'. His position is that Northern Ireland is already part of an all-Irish Republic, constitutionally.

"In no way does the Anglo-Irish agreement safeguard Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom — it does not even mention it" (*John D. Taylor, House of Commons, D.T. 7-12-85*).

How affairs will turn out, we shall have to wait and see. There is a possibility that the Ulster people will resist, even to war, as did the Witnesses of Revelation 11.

At the end of the Parliamentary debate on the Agreement, Mr Enoch Powell, a respected politician who has espoused Northern Ireland's position from a religious and political point of view, declared:

"The real reason why 'the lady has been turned' was because the United States insisted that it should be done. The United States had wanted to extend and continue its NATO facilities in the Republic, and the price that the Republic has always held out for collaboration with NATO was something they could interpret as progress towards an all-Ireland state . . . Mr Powell prophesied that in the coming months Mrs Thatcher would watch with 'uncomprehending compassion' the consequences of terrorism and murder that the agreement would ferment" (*D.T. 28-11-85*).

This is quite an understandable attitude of NATO and the U.S. in the light of the Irish Constitution claiming control of the territorial seas of all Ireland. The harbours of Northern Ireland and the Republic are of vital concern in getting convoys across the Atlantic in time of war. We must also remember NATO countries are predominantly Catholic and their sympathies are with the Irish, as is the case also in the U.S. One can see the pressures on the British Government. It may be mentioned that it was a situation not very dissimilar from the present during the First World War, when Britain was fighting for her life, that the Irish Nationals took to violence, during and after the war, to force the British government to concede independence to Catholic Ireland.

Chapter 7: MEN'S HEARTS FAILING FOR FEAR

FOREWARNED BY THE MASTER

The Master outlined in Luke 21 the distress and turmoil in the world that we are beginning to witness. He outlined the disastrous state of the world just prior to, and during, the setting up by the God of heaven of a kingdom that shall not be destroyed.

The world's distress and fears are set out thus:

1. *"Signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars"*

These are political events affecting the ruling 'heavens', the governments of the world in Church and State. The language expresses the alarming instability of governments, leaders swept from power, coups, assassinations, new leaders and new regimes established.

2. *"Upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity"*

The 'earth' — the people, hoping for the peace and prosperity their leaders talk about, instead suffer from the general instability, oppression, and corruption of governments, together with 'natural' calamities of their own making or as part of God's judgments.

3. *"The sea and the waves roaring"*

This is a scriptural figure (see Psa. 65:7). It is an apt description of power in the hands of the people, power used irresponsibly; it is particularly appropriate to our time where education has put power into the hands of the masses, bringing mass protest and violence.

4. *"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"*

There is to be a growing unease, tenseness, apprehension, developing into panic, as normal life degenerates.

5. *"The powers of heaven shall be shaken"*

This is the great Day of the LORD, spoken about by the prophets and in the Revelation. Christ having gathered together his saints, and glorified them with divine nature, they are ready to "Follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth". Then follows the shaking of the powers of heaven; they are shaken so as to be totally removed (see Haggai 2:6, 7; Heb. 12:27). This is the collapse of all human government, so that on the ruins thereof the kingdom of God can be established. In the apocalyptic sequence, this shaking is the great earthquake of the 7th vial, the last vial of God's wrath. It is poured

on the 'air' (on the ruling constitutions of men) and the great earthquake occurs that shakes all rulers and human systems into ruin:

“And there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great” (Rev. 16:18).

6. *“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory”*

“They shall see”, that is the world, and not the saints. The saints are already with Christ as the accompanying cloud. The symbol is taken from Daniel 7:13, 14 (see also Rev. 10:1 “clothed with a cloud” and also Rev. 1 for the Son of man similitude). The “coming in great power and glory” does not mean just a physical appearance, but the establishing of the Christ community as the New Jerusalem rulership over all the world. In his first coming he was seen as the Saviour, the Lamb of God; in his second coming he will be seen enthroned as the Lamb on Mount Zion with his 144,000 (Rev. 14:1).

Then the Master gives words of encouragement:

“When ye see these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”.

For the world, the immediate future is all calamity; to the watchers for the kingdom of righteousness, the gathering storm is paradoxically the dawning of the day of Zion, as the sun just before day-break illuminates the eastern sky. Let us each ask ourselves where we stand. Are we really standing with the world full of fear and foreboding; or are we truly in the ark of safety, confident of the Master's care? Are we in the world but not of it; being sanctified by the word of God in preparation for the task of cleansing the earth from its evil, that God's glory may be established? The Master gives us his advice:

“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man”.

His words raise the questions, How are we acting now, how are we watching, how are we praying? Our response will determine whether we are “accounted worthy to escape” all these things, and to stand accepted by the judge. If we are not accounted worthy, we shall be sent back into the world to share its misery:

“Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 25:30).

VIOLENCE

In the world-stress around us, so accurately foretold in Luke 21, the one element that increasingly dominates the scene is violence. Will this be the main element in "Men's hearts failing them for fear"? It could well be. Violence is a present reality, something met face to face, far more fearful than the distant undefined horror of nuclear war. The escalation of violence is certainly a sign of the times, especially in its world-wide grip. Even over one year from 1984 to 1985 one must be conscious of the increase of violence. Just to list its diversity is truly alarming:

Picket violence: Remember Orgreave coking plant, South Yorkshire — "running battles with police yesterday as the worst violence since the 15-week miner's strike began". 6,000 rioters confronted 3,000 police; 80 people injured.

Football match violence: It happened at many matches, with the great tragedy at Brussels with fire, panic and many dead.

Inner city riots: Toxted and Tottenham have become words that encapsulate racial violence, looting, hatred and damage worth millions of pounds.

I.R.A. bomb destruction: Events that stand out are Harrod's Oxford Street bombs, Brighton Conservative Conference Hotel destruction; as well as the appalling record in the city of Belfast.

School rioting and wanton destruction: The plague of vandalism, theft, and arson now afflicts many of our schools, which some educators reckon costs 500 million pounds a year.

Child abuse and deaths: This particularly horrible aspect of human badness came to the fore in 1985.

And so the list goes on: Murder — every day; rape — every hour; mugging of the elderly; armed robbery; kidnapping; assassination; hi-jacking of ships and planes.

This is what we see in Britain; and it is worse in the USA and Italy. The researchers and analysts give their bleak forecast of the future:

"WORLD FACES DECADES OF TERROR, SAYS EXPERT

"Taking the killings of the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972 as a starting point, then with the rate of increase per annum that has occurred, the terrorist happenings will be around 800/900 per annum by the 1990s.

"If terrorism persists, and we expect it will, a new generation of terrorists will have taken the field . . . the new recruits would be more callous to the effects of their actions. Killings of hostages, once relatively rare, might increase as governments stiffen resistance" (*D.T. 13-12-85*).

LAWLESSNESS

Looking deeper, whence comes the violence? No doubt television and videos promote violence, especially in their impact on the young mind; but the cause lies deeper. Man was made by God with remarkable abilities for planning and action, and was given emotions that motivate action, whether they be love and caring, or hatred, envy and jealousy. Such a being must be put under the restraint of LAW. This was God's plan; His law being suited to develop godly, noble characters. But take away law, and what evil follows. A religious writer reflects on this:

"At the present time, the existence of law is being denied. Men no longer believe that there is such a thing as a law of God; and naturally they do not believe that there is such a thing as sin. Thoughtful men, who are not Christians, are aware of the problem that this stupendous change in human thinking presents to the modern world. Now that men no longer believe that there is a law of God, now that men no longer believe in obligatory morality, now that the moral law has been abandoned, what is to be put in its place, in order that ordinarily decent human life may be preserved upon earth? . . . It is impossible to keep back the raging seas of human passion with the flimsy mud embankments of an appeal either to self-interest, or to what Walter Lippman calls 'disinterestedness'".

Those raging seas can only be checked by the solid masonry of the law of God.

"Men are wondering today what is wrong with the world. They are conscious of the fact that they are standing over some terrible abyss. Awful ebullitions rise from that abyss. We have lost altogether the sense of security of our Western civilisation. Men are wondering what is wrong. It is perfectly clear what is wrong. The law of God has been torn up as though it were a scrap of paper, and the inevitable result is appearing with ever greater clearness. When will the law be re-discovered? When it is rediscovered it will be a day of terror for mankind: but it will also be a day of joy; for the law will be a schoolmaster unto Christ" (*Bible League Quarterly, July-Oct. 1984*).

JUDGMENT

Let us look at the growing world distress from another angle. Paul in Romans 1 reasons that all people have a responsibility to recognise the Creator:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

But beyond this, the Word of God is now known in many countries and brings more definite responsibility. 'Christian' countries, Catholic and Protestant, nominally acknowledge the

Bible, though they misuse it and generally ignore its teaching. The prime area of responsibility is Europe, viewed from the Apocalypse; but Christianity has spread much farther afield, encompassing the Americas, and the English-speaking peoples. Where responsibility exists, there the governments and people are subject to divine judgment.

The Old Testament record gives us an extensive account of God's judgments arising from man's waywardness, chiefly in relation to the children of Israel, who had a high degree of responsibility because of their covenant relationship. The record shows God operated His judgments largely through natural events and calamities. Ezekiel speaks of this in his 14th chapter — God sends famine, evil beasts, the sword and the pestilence to destroy the land. These are called His four sore judgments:

"How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?" (Ezek. 14:21).

We must not read this just as some distant record, gone long ago. God does not change; He still acts in the same way.

War — 'the sword' — often generates all the other 'sore judgments' — famine, pestilence, and the devastation of the land. War is generally God's hand of judgment:

"O thou sword of the LORD, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest and be still. How can it be quiet, seeing the LORD hath given it a charge against Ashkelon, and against the sea shore? there hath he appointed it".

"Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood" (Jer. 47:6; 48:10).

Often calamities are of man's own making; as the greed that eventually brings famine, or the ambition and lust that brings war, or the dishonouring of the body that brings national depravity and sickness. Even so, they are God's judgments, subject to His control and direction. At other times these calamities are specifically the hand of God; as the plagues on Egypt, the three years famine in David's time, the three and a half years famine in the time of Elijah, and the seven years famine in the time of Joseph. This field of divine judgment is a complex one, and beyond our ability to assess in many cases. But let us take the general point that national and world events are not haphazard, and much of what happens is, in one of its aspects, a matter of judgment of God; and this applies to the world crises of today.

If we come near to our own time and note the Biblical comment on events as being God's judgments, it may help us to develop the attitude of looking at events from God's point of view. The first five vials were fulfilled in the work of Napoleon in the wars that devastated Europe over a period of some 20 years. Note the calamitous language of the Revelation, as the five vials are poured out:

"A grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image."

The sea "became as the blood of a dead man, and every living soul died in the sea."

". . . upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood."

"Men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues."

"His kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores" (Rev. 16:1-11).

Surely this describes a calamitous and bitter time. Compare it with the historical records of the time. The following is an illustration. It is taken from official records regarding Napoleon's campaign in 1813:

"We have before our eyes many thousands of the adjacent villages and hamlets — landed proprietors, farmers, ecclesiastics, schoolmasters, and artizans of every description — who were some weeks since in circumstances more or less easy, but now without a home, stripped of their all, and with their families perishing with hunger. All around is one wide waste. The numerous villages and hamlets are almost all entirely or partially reduced to ashes'."

"The destruction and distress which marked the countries through which the French army fled from the bloody fields of Leipsic were altogether indescribable. Dead bodies covered the roads. Half consumed French soldiers were found in the ruins of the villages destroyed by the flames. Whole districts were depopulated by disease" (Eureka vol. 3, 5th Vial.)

The description is typical of the horrors of war. Men ask, Why does God allow such things? This is the important question, and the reason for directing the readers attention to the situation of the vials of Revelation 16. God gives His answer to Why; under the third vial:

"I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou has

given them blood to drink, for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments” (Rev. 16:5-7).

These who suffered were not the ones who had actually shed the blood of the saints, but they approved those deeds, they were of the same mind. Notice how these judgments failed to change the minds of the people: they blasphemed God, and repented not of their deeds. And so the vials initiated by Napoleon, continued their work through the 19th and 20th centuries, with Europe wracked with wars and consequent distress.

We may well ponder the events in Central America this year, where two great devastations have occurred. There was Mexico City, September 19, when an earthquake of great intensity devastated the centre of the city with a possible 10,000 dead. Then in Colombia, November 16, a volcano erupts and the city of Armero is engulfed, with 21,000 people buried under the mud. These are areas of gross Catholic superstition and blasphemy against heaven, men of unchanged spirit from the days of the five vials. Is it not likely that this was a judgment of God on particularly evil cities and people? There may be some similarity with the days of Abraham. Palestine was mostly wicked (not all — see Genesis 20:4) and the cup of their iniquity was not yet full (Genesis 15:16); but Sodom was outstandingly evil, and God saw fit to sweep the evil away.

As these calamities increase while we wait the Master's return, let us wisely ponder that God is a God of judgment as well as a God of mercy; His perfect character involves both. And we too have a day of judgment. Ours is to higher standards than the world:



“For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13 R.S.V.).

God’s children have been in similar situations to ours at the ending of previous ages. At the calamitous ending of Judah’s monarchy, Zephaniah admonished the faithful (and us):

“Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’S anger” (Zeph. 2:3).

Peter, at the end of Judah’s Commonwealth, another time of great calamity and divine judgment, exhorts the believers (and us):

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved (the ‘elements’ of the Mosaic order of things), what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. . . . Wherefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness” (2 Peter 3:11, 17).

“Peace”-time disasters are becoming so large-scale and destructive that in many countries the war-time rescue services are being made operative for peace-time use. In Britain a Bill is to be introduced in Parliament allowing Civil Defence units to be used for peace-time emergencies; and appropriate training will take place. The humanitarian aspect may appeal to us, but joining the world’s rescue organisations is not part of our calling in Christ. We have a limited, important task toward the world (see Ephesians 6:12-17). Let us take care, as Peter says, not to be led away towards the world, to be joined to it in its troubles. As individuals we give help to our neighbour as need arises.

Epilogue*: 1986 "HASTING UNTO THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD"

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"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."

"Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (2 Peter 3:11-12).

In the foregoing pages we have an interesting coverage of many of the greater events of 1985. What a year of tumult. In almost every aspect of society and in almost every area of the world there are great changes afoot. Truly, "distress of nations with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring"!

A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

What a valuable companion is the Word of God in times like this, not only for the instruction of our daily living but for the comfort it provides in being able to anticipate world events before they occur and to find their significance in the overall purpose of the Father. Whatever is the position of those concerned men and women who do not have the understanding of the Word of prophecy? Trouble mounts upon trouble and the outlook becomes more and more bleak. Concern develops into frustration and frustration into despair and despair into cynicism, hopelessness and mental depression.

Christadelphians are very blessed people to have a sure knowledge of where the world is going and the basic steps that have and are leading to it. Over one hundred years ago Bro. Robert Roberts instigated a new section in The Christadelphian magazine entitled, "The Signs of the Times", being a development of an earlier section, "The Jews and Their Land". So we have been noting this precious information from our very early days and it is gratifying to see that the mainstream of our original understanding of prophecy has been consistently maintained in The Christadelphian magazine and in the other principal magazines in the Brotherhood. Why has this been so? Certainly not because of a slavish servitude to everything our pioneers wrote but to an increasing realisation and appreciation that what they wrote was essentially correct and has been largely confirmed in the turn of events through this last century of time. No other community of people has such an heritage. "He sheweth His

*This Epilogue to Graham Pearce's work was added by the publishers.

Word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgments unto Israel”, has an awesome applicability to Christadelphia today (Psa. 147:19). It has been a fascinating experience in the last 20 years to find more of the local Churches here in Adelaide using subjects in their Sunday advertisements that were never seen in their columns before, yet have been standard Christadelphian teaching for many years. Clearly our consistent witness to prophetic matters has been noted on a wider basis than we may at first appreciate.

PREACH THE WORD

Now these matters lead to two main responsibilities. Firstly we must do our utmost to spread this information to all with whom we come in contact. Prophecy is intended to provide a powerful force for conversion. In Isaiah God challenges the peoples of the world on the basis of His bringing to pass those things that had been the subject of earlier prophetic comment. “I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isa. 46:9-10). Even the Kingdom of God is a subject of prophecy; we can help people to believe that it is surely on the way if we make plain to them the modern-day fulfilments of many prophetic anticipations.

HERE IS WISDOM

The other responsibility is to “guard the deposit”! There are theories about, even in Christadelphia and now published in large books, that seek to overturn our heritage in Bible prophecy. These new ideas re-appraise almost every aspect of our traditional understanding, but it is the futuristic interpretation of the Revelation that is the greatest danger. The Lord Jesus gave this last message that his Servants might understand it and that through their acting on that understanding they may receive the special blessing promised in Rev. 1:3. The futurist view of Revelation takes almost all the symbols of the Book to a still yet future 3½ years when the hundreds of symbols will find their fulfilment in a rapid succession of events. Seals (chap. 6), trumpets (8-9), rainbowed angel (10), witnesses (11), beasts of sea and earth (13), vials (16), beast and harlot (17 and 18) are all supposed to be compressed into this kaleidoscope of events. We believe this to make folly of the Book. Has there been no voice from the Lord, in this last message to the Saints, concerning the great events of these last 1900 years? Then a welter of fulfilment vastly more quickly than it could ever be comprehended! Is this to ‘make

known to his servants things to come to pass’? Or is Christadelphia now going to entertain the thought that the hundreds of years of wicked persecutions perpetrated by the Roman Catholic Church upon Bible-minded people like ourselves have just gone unmentioned by the Lord, who, whilst he made no comment upon these — nor even spared a statement of encouragement to saints in the midst of those darkest years of all history, yet kept all his words for that small remnant that should be in the earth just before he came and whose suffering, if it be so, would be for so brief a time! There is something greatly wrong with such ill-balanced views as this.

Yet there are worse things! In one of the publications modern Israel is suggested as the Beast of Rev. 13 and 17! Are we to witness brethren sowing anti-semitism into our ranks and not protest, we who are of the Hope of Israel? And because Daniel is so intimately bound up with Revelation, then some try to overturn our proven understanding of that Book too. The 4th Beast of Daniel 7 is not Roman, the 10 horns are some imagined 10 kings of the Hasmonean dynasty (Macabees) and even the little stone smiting the image is completely different, relating now to the crucifixion of Christ!—which must mean that the great mountain that fills the whole earth becomes “the Church”, which is thus the Kingdom which the God of heaven sets up (verse 44)!

Readers will appreciate that these matters are revolutionary. Our Body was nursed from infancy upon a simple and proven understanding of Daniel 2 — the first subject, in fact, upon which the Doctor ever spoke. Much of our historic position has been based upon our perception of Christ’s attitude to the **Roman** “Babylon, Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth”. To hesitate in this well-founded position is to prepare the ground for a re-assessment of Catholicism, a re-appraisal of her history, an uncertainty about the importance of her heresies or of the value of the Truth, and thus be only a step away from an ecumenical attitude to the Churches of Christendom. Sadly this is not just theory for the evidence is in every continent that this end product is already appearing. Let us beware! It is time to bring Eureka down from the shelf and teach our rising generation the marvellous fulfilment of the Apocalyptic symbols in the events of many generations. In this edition of “Milestones”, as in previous issues, copious detail is provided in order that we can correlate world events with what the Bible has said concerning Rome, Russia, etc. in the latter days. This information abounds and is a comfort to the Saints.

HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS

The present world is mounting in fleshly arrogance. In a recent edition of a prominent Australian weekly magazine, several cartoons blasphemous of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ were presented — a new low in immorality, a new high in human arrogance and profanity. We are rapidly moving into an heathen society. In a December edition of *Time Magazine*, in an article on “Children Having Children”, the following comments were found:

In a Chicago High School “each year about one-third of its 1,000 female students are pregnant.”

“In 1950 fewer than 15% of teen births were illegitimate. By 1983 more than half were, and in some parts of the country, the figure exceeds 75%.”

“Unwed motherhood has become so pervasive that we don’t use the term illegitimate anymore”, says the director of Holy Family Services!

“... the incidence of sexual intercourse among unmarried teenage women increased by two-thirds during the 1970’s.”

“No one wants to be a virgin.”

These horrific statements are all from official research people. They are a rude demonstration of the wave of immorality sweeping upon the world. Our children are in the same schools where these powerful influences are at work. There is hardly a voice left to decry the immorality of all this filth. Their solution is greater education on how to avoid the consequences of their evil ways! Not one sentence in this 10-page article dared to speak up for the chastity of Bible principles. Surely the leaders can see that the end of this raging promiscuity is the end of their society! Yet not a word for God’s way.

Beloved parents in the Lord, let us take due cognisance of these evil things. We are truly in the last days. What shall we do to save the purity of our children that they may preserve their innocence and grow up with open heart and face to love the Truth of God? This same article points us powerfully to several matters in which we must take stock.

“Social workers are almost unanimous in citing the influence of the popular media — television, rock music, videos, movies — in propelling the trend towards precocious sexuality. One survey has shown that in the course of a year the average viewer sees more than 9,000 scenes of suggested sexual intercourse or innuendo on prime-time TV.”

If in the schools our beloved children are exposed to ungodly philosophy and practice, please let us make our homes an oasis of wholesome pursuits. If that’s what dominates the principal media, then who in Christ is going to speak up for these noisy and powerful distractions in our lounge rooms. If these facts above mean anything to saints they mean that we should positively discourage TV, rock music, videos and movies in our homes. We have so little of

children’s lives with us in our homes (school, homework, etc.) that we don’t need any competition for their attention. Our parents and grandparents in the Truth refused to attend the movies in the theatres; whatever would they say about bringing the theatre into our homes.

No, we need to faithfully take stock. Mother in the home as a true mother in Israel, caring for her children and the ecclesia, father providing leadership in a positive, happy but firm manner and together bringing the children about them in daily recourse to the Living Word — these are the essential ingredients for ecclesial survival.

Remember that even Noah’s children were not all unaffected by the prevailing ungodliness. We need to use every opportunity to build faith into our children through teaching them the Word (Deut. 6:6-9).

“Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.” 2 Peter 3:17-18.

The Apostle Paul promised perilous times for the last days.

Surely they have come!

But together with the evil there comes an increasing tide of fulfilment of prophecy. From every corner of the globe evidence arrives to spur our faith and hasten us on to the Day of God.

May these interesting pages be an encouragement to the Brotherhood in many lands.

“From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs even glory to the Righteous One”.



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