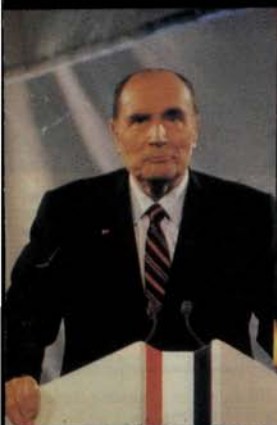




MILESTONES



MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM

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

GRAHAM PEARCE

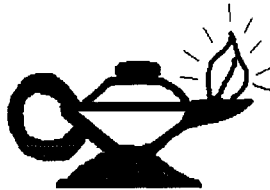
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- **GRAHAM PEARCE (Publishing)**
Yelvertoft Road,
Crick,
Northampton, NN6 7XS
England.
- **CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE
STUDY SERVICE**
17 Braemar Road,
Torrens Park,
South Australia, 5062
Australia.

Typeset by:
The **WORD** Typeset
6 Ingomar Court
Hallett Cove, South Australia 5158

Printed by:
Stallard & Potter
2 Jervois Street, Torrensville
South Australia, 5031

for
CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE



Printed January 1989

PREFACE

As *Milestones 1988* is going to print we are impressed with its significance to the brethren and sisters of these latter days. The latest edition of *Time* magazine has its front cover dominated by the heading: **“TARGET 1992-WILL EUROPE UNITE?”**

This issue gained surprising momentum in 1988, as all the principal actors on the European scene played their important roles in moulding European history to the pattern of the prophets. For many years there have been developing factors, but 1988 has seen a remarkable convergence of events, policies and people so that ‘Europhobia’ is the latest word to be coined! 1988 may well be seen in retrospect as ‘the year of Europe’. Even Israel and the middle East were overshadowed—except in the final days—by the continually unfolding drama of European unity.

Christadelphian excitement in this matter is based upon three passages in the prophets. In Daniel 2 the little Stone power attacks the image upon the feet with their 10 toes when they are in an unexpected unity. The strength is in the iron, but the mixture of the Roman iron with a very base Christian power, so clearly portrayed by the prophecy, is the very essence of the world’s fascination with Europe in recent months. The angels are working hard—Gorbachev for Russia, Kohl for Germany, Mitterand for France and Pope John Paul II for the Vatican are rapidly pursuing the Divine intention. The celebration of 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia provided another opportunity for rapprochement and this fell so wondrously into this ‘year of Europe’! Two years ago to even think of Christianity as being openly celebrated in Moscow would have seemed absurd. Now it is an accomplished fact and there is talk of a new Moscow Cathedral and possibly the appointment of a Catholic cardinal to Moscow!

These developments are thrilling for they are in exact accord with the writing of our earlier brethren and show yet again the wisdom of reading their writings with care and respect.

In Daniel 7 the awesome fourth beast is finally “slain and his body destroyed and given to the burning flame.” In the context of this judgement mention is again made of the “great words which the little horn spoke” (v. 11). This little horn was among the 10 horns and the general picture of the prophecy implies that the powers of the old Roman dominion will be together again and confidently striding forward under the

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‘holy’ patronage of the Papacy. Twenty years ago that was a dream, but today it is all but a reality. When the Pope addressed the European Parliament in Brussels in September 1988, his theme was a ‘united Christian Europe’. Although interrupted by one solitary Protestant delegate (from Northern Ireland), the vast majority responded to his theme and exhortations with rousing applause! This is a new role for the Papacy in a Europe that is obviously persuaded to the benefits of unity from Turkey to Belgium, Spain to West Germany.

Our third passage describes these same ten kingdoms just prior to their making war with the Lamb (Rev. 17:14) “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the Beast” (V. 13). Here is the significance of the Pope in Brussels. This strange and growing response to unity fanned and sanctified by the ‘Holy See’ is the phenomenon of 1988 and a brilliant pointer to the lateness of the hour for those who watch for the coming of Christ!

We have but little time to prepare for the coming of our King. They who are then found with him are “called and chosen and faithful”. Let us arise in the unity of the Truth, strengthening our understanding, excited by the confirming of prophecy seen on every side. There are a thousand vineyards for industry and service, and in these there is security, satisfaction and a tremendous hope of things to come.

A sense of urgency is upon us. All else is perishing away...

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (Rev. 19:7).

B. N. Luke,
Secretary,
Christadelphian Scripture Study Service

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Abbreviations:

Daily Telegraph — D. T.

Guardian Weekly — G. W.

Jerusalem Post — J. P.

Comments added by the author — G.P.

Chapter 1: THE GREAT JUBILEE RETURN TO THE LAND

CHRIST'S COMING MUST BE NEAR

Recent jubilee periods are fairly clear, being related to important events regarding Jewish matters: **1948**, the proclamation of the State of Israel; **1897-99**, the first Zionist Congresses that started the political return to the land; **1848**, the preaching of the true gospel, the Hope of Israel; **1790-1800**, the social and political emancipation of the Jews of Europe following the French Revolution, when all latter day events began under the power of the Spirit of God (Rev. 11:11).

Biblical jubilees belong to Israel's land and people. The emergence of Israel in their land in 1945-8 points to the final jubilee starting around 1997, when the worldwide Great Jubilee proclamation calls the Jews worldwide to return to their national inheritance under Messiah.

Before this jubilee call the enemy has to be cleared from the land by Christ and his immortal helpers. And before this, the resurrection and judgement must have taken place. All this points to the imminent return of Christ to gather his saints.

THE NUMBER SEVEN

The basis for time in God's nation is the number seven. This derives from the seven days of the creation week, and the 7,000 years for the completion of God's creative work in the earth. As there is ahead of us the 1,000 years of the 'Age to Come', we are now approaching 6,000 years from creation—the end of man's rule of sin (the number 6).

The Jewish calendar has seven as its basis. In Israel's national life seven occurs in the Sabbaths; in the Sabbatical year every seventh year, when debts were cancelled; and in the jubilee year after seven sabbatical years. This was the year of great rejoicing, when every man was free to return to his inheritance and family.

Seven is also prominent in prophecy. There are seven times of Gentile dominion (Daniel 4), and in the Apocalypse there are several

half seven periods of 3 1/2 times or 1260 years. Then there is the proposal of 70 jubilees for the full period of the preparation of God's nation for the Kingdom under the new covenant. It is possible that there is a distinct period of a jubilee of jubilees, (49 X 49 = 2401) for the downtreading of the nation for its discipline and punishment.

THE DETAIL OF THE BIBLICAL JUBILEE

The detail of the jubilee is important in helping us to assess the nature of the future antitypical Great Jubilee. Details are given in Leviticus 23 and 25.

23:24— "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month there shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, and holy convocation." Verse 27— "also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement; ... and ye shall afflict your souls."

25:8-10— "And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years, ... Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all the land.

"And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all your land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man to his family. A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you ... In the year of this jubile ye shall return every man unto his possession."

Our word jubilee comes from the Latin, meaning 'a joyous outcry' as reflected in the word 'jubilant'. In the Hebrew the word is *yobel* and means a blowing of trumpets. The trumpet sound on the day of atonement proclaimed indeed a joyous time with every man returning to his family and his possession.

THE ANTITYPICAL GREAT JUBILEE

There is to be a great antitypical jubilee for the return of the Jews worldwide to possess the land of their fathers, based on the Biblical jubilee. It will be a jubilee return on a far vaster scale, of course, than the jubilees in Biblical times. Isaiah refers to the Great Jubilee proclamation in 27:13—

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of

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Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

Let us look at what will be involved in this Great Jubilee return. Several features need to be considered: the land has to be cleared of the enemy before the jubilee proclamation can be made; it will be an antitypical day of atonement and afflicting of souls; the Return will probably occupy most of the jubilee period.

FIRST CHRIST MUST TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND

For Christ to make proclamation for his people to return to the promised land, he must be in possession of the land. So the enemy has to be driven out. This means that the resurrection and judgement have taken place and Christ and the saints have carried out the great overthrow of Armageddon.

Isaiah 27 sets out this sequence of events, with the Proclamation coming as the last item of the chapter. The chapter begins, verses 1-6, with the overthrow of the enemy, and subsequent blessing to Israel:

“In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent...”

“He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.”

The middle of the chapter, verses 7-11, revert to their previous time of desolation, concluding:

“He that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no mercy.”

Then follows their restoration, starting in verse 12:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off (the invader) from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.”

Finally in verse 13 there is the Great Trumpet call for Israel’s return, and their worshipping Yahweh in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

SOME ALREADY IN THE LAND; MOST STILL SCATTERED ABROAD

Zechariah 12 and 13 give us a graphic account of the distress of those already in the land when the Northern invader comes down on the land, and their terrible fiery judgement with two parts cut off and the third part refined with fire, some of them becoming those ‘outcasts in the land of Egypt’. For this third part it is their ‘day of atonement and affliction of their souls’; it is the moment of truth when they recognize their Messiah who has delivered them from the enemy. But the vast proportion of Jews are still scattered abroad, themselves at this time suffering persecution in the many lands of the enemy. This is especially so for those in the north countries, those probably described in Isaiah 27:13 as “ready to perish in the land of Assyria”—Assyria representing the northern power. It is to these particularly that “the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come... and shall worship the LORD.”

THE JUBILEE RETURN WILL OCCUPY MANY YEARS

With Christ and the saints in possession of the land, a jubilee proclamation to those in exile can now be made. How? The proclamation is probably involved in the gospel preaching in mid-heaven of Revelation 14:7, prior to the announcing of the fall of Babylon the Great. The gospel preaching is addressed to all people, particularly the Gentile nations. It calls upon them to fear God, “for the hour of his judgement is come”. To the Jews it will be a call of mercy and hope of deliverance from the oppressor, as in Zechariah 2:7:

“Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwelleth with the daughter of Babylon”.

Much is involved in this Jubilee Return, and the whole jubilee period will probably be occupied with the Proclamation, the Return, and the setting up of the Kingdom.

The original Biblical Jubilee return occupied a year (Leviticus 25: 10-13) and so on for the far vaster scale of its antitype we should expect there to be many years required.

The northern nations, the countries of the Babylon, the Great system, will defy the warning of the gospel proclamation. Israel, in their escape from bondage and their return to the land, are used by God as His battle

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axe in destroying the enemy. This is described in Jeremiah 51:19-25, concerning the latter-day Babylon. Verse 20 reads:

“Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms.”

Zechariah 10 and Revelation 19 also describe this time. Under the hand of Christ and the saints judgment is brought upon Europe. In symbol, Revelation 19 described Israel as the horses ridden by the saints, making war with the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, and Europe becomes a lake of fire and brimstone.

In their journey to the land the Jews are under instruction, judgement and discipline, to fit them for entering the Promised Land and standing before the King. Ezekiel 20:33 gives some detail of this ‘day of atonement’ before the inheritance can be received:

“As I live, saith the LORD God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

“And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

“And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people and there will I plead with you face to face, like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the LORD God.

“And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

“And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter the land of Israel and ye shall know that I am the LORD.”

Verse 40.

“For in my holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the LORD God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.”

So the future return will be after the manner of the original coming out of Egypt—a covenant-making, a wilderness journey, and many

judgements. A similar work is being performed, and it may occupy a similar 40 years. Micah infers this. When the nations see and are confounded at all God's might, the previous verse has said: "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvellous things" (Micah 7:15, 16).

JEWES RETURNING FROM OTHER LANDS

The Jews that live in those lands and nations which respond and obey the gospel proclamation of Revelation 14, will be brought back during the jubilee period. This is referred to several times by Isaiah—in chapters 18, 60 and 66. Isaiah has the well-known verse:

"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."

During this Jubilee period there is also much work to be done in the land. By the time the Jubilee Return is completed, the temple and city have been built, the land beautified, the tribes settled in their cantons, the New Covenant inaugurated with all the tribes assembled in the land (Jer. 31:31-34), the law goes forth from Jerusalem for the guidance and obedience of the nations, and the first dominion belongs to the nation of Israel. There are the great events of the final Jubilee that establishes Israel, people and princes, in the land promised to their father Abraham, every man dwelling under his own vine and fig tree, with no more war, and all nations blessed in Abraham and his seed. So will end the Great Jubilee.

When we realize what has to be done in this unparalleled epoch, it will not surprise us if a whole jubilee period of some 50 years is required.

No doubt the detail of the Jubilee Return is interesting and instructive, but more important, it has a bearing on ourselves. Where do we stand relative to recent jubilee periods, and particularly to the Great Jubilee proclamation?

RECENT JUBILEE PERIODS IN THE TIME OF THE END

We will start with the French Revolution. Historians recognize the French Revolution as a great event in history. All modern history flows

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out from it. Biblically it marks the ending of the three and a half times of the persecution of the saints (and the Jews) at the hands of the Papacy. Biblically too, it marks the resurrection of God's witnesses through the operation of "the spirit of life from God" (Rev. 11:11-13). The decrees that laid the foundation for liberty and equality were passed by the French National Assembly in 1794, but this would have little immediate practical effect on the emancipation of the Jews, because the Revolution was fully occupied with the overthrow of the king, the aristocracy, and the power of the Church.

Approximately a jubilee period on, we come to the important event for Bible lovers, of the Hope of Israel, revived and preached by Brother Thomas, 1847-8. Then through the second half of the 19th century, we have the political stirrings of the Jews, giving a notable few years 1897-1900, when the first Zionist Congresses formulated a nationalist policy for the Jews, based on a return to the land of their fathers. In the space of a few years there was established the Jewish Colonial Trust, the Zionist bank, and the Jewish National Fund for the purchase of land in Palestine.

A further jubilee period on, and we come to the establishment of the Jews in Palestine with the backing of the Great Powers, a thrilling time when the word Israel began to appear in the newspapers. The UN resolution was in 1947, followed by the Declaration of the State of Israel in May 1948.

The next jubilee, 49 years on, brings us to 1997. Does this bring in the final jubilee, proclaiming the Great Return to the land under Messiah? Or is there to be still another jubilee period and we have to wait another 50 years and more for this event? perhaps another 40 years before the resurrection? With the turmoil of the world in the political, moral and natural upheavals gathering momentum before our eyes; with prophecy fulfilling so rapidly now, this seems very unlikely. But on the other hand, if 1997 is the time for the Great Jubilee Proclamation for Israel's return, much has to happen in the next ten years.

There has to be a period of peace in the land (Ezek. 38:8-14); the Elijah mission calls those in the land to repentance (Mal. 4:4-6), perhaps occupying 3 1/2 years as with John Baptist; there is the gathering of the nations into the great Image of Nebuchadnezzar, or the Gogian confederacy; there is the invasion of the land, and the destruction of the vast hosts by Christ and the saints. At an early stage there will

have been the resurrection and judgement. For all this to be fitted into some ten years, surely means that the resurrection is indeed very near. This is an exhortation for us to prepare ourselves and to be watchful.

THE PRINCES OF ISRAEL GATHERED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH

The resurrection will be the start of the probation for the jubilee events. The Biblical jubilee proclamation was made on the 10th day of the 7th month. Before this there was a trumpet call on the first day of the month, in preparation for the jubilee. Brother Thomas associates this first trumpet sounding with the trumpet call to gather the Princes of Israel together, as described in Numbers 10:4. So in the antitypical jubilee time, the first event is the calling together of the princes of Israel, calling them from the dead. Paul certainly puts the resurrection in the context of the jubilee:

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thess. 4:16).

So the first trumpet call, to gather together the Princes of Israel, should be expected at any time.

THE 70 JUBILEE PERIOD AND 1997

Brother W. H. Carter in his book *Times and Seasons*, proposed that the seventy ‘weeks’ in Daniel chapter 9 for the atoning work of Messiah, has a wider significance than the 490 year period to Christ’s first coming and his sacrificial cutting off! He proposed that there was hidden within it a much larger time period of 70 jubilees spanning the existence of the holy nation from their beginning at the initiation of the first covenant to their final acceptance through Messiah’s atoning work in their initiation into the new covenant. This 70 jubilee period is the time God has taken to prepare His nation for the Kingdom Age. According to Brother Carter’s calculations we are now in the 69th jubilee, and the 70th jubilee begins in 1997. This 70 jubilee idea sounds reasonable, though the writer has not examined in detail the extensive calculations put forward.

Brother Carter expected the Millennial Age to begin with the arrival of the 70th jubilee in 1997. He expected all the many events we have

been discussing would be fulfilled during the 69th Jubilee. With the passing of time we now know this cannot be. As set out in this article most of the future events belong to the 70th jubilee period, with the millennium beginning at the end of the 70th jubilee. The resurrection belongs to the 69th jubilee, and the Jubilee Return to the 70th final jubilee with its opening Jubilee Return proclamation.

We might note that this preparatory work for the jubilee return under the 69th and the jubilee return itself under the 70th, has a correspondence in the Apocalypse. The resurrection and the saints with Christ is under the sixth vial, Revelation 16:16; and the destruction of Babylon and its complement the elevation of Israel, belongs to the seventh vial. The seventh vial belongs to the future when the vial wrath is poured out on the ruling powers—poured out **into** the air, not **from** the air, as in aerial warfare.

DANIEL'S 1290 AND 1335: "THE WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND"

Daniel had been much distressed in learning that the vision of the evening-morning of his people's downtreading was "for many days" (Dan. 8:26). Again in chapter 10 he is told "Now am I (Gabriel) come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days". He is then given in chapter 11 an outline of history down to the Time of the End, and he would be cheered by the standing up of Michael, the great Prince, and the reference to the resurrection. Chapter 12 completes his prophecy by telling Daniel that further details are shut up until the Time of the End. He is allowed to record some of the detail for those who should live in the Time of the End, with the admonition that "the wise shall understand". This should encourage us to look for the fulfillment of what he was told.

The time periods given in Daniel chapter 12 are still part of the main vision, and are concerned with the ending of the evening-morning downtreading. He is told that there would be 3 1/2 times (1260 years) "and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished", v.7. Daniel says he heard but understood not, and puts the question "O my lord, what shall be the end of these things?" This is the Authorised version. But the correct sense is given in the Revised version: "What shall be the issue of these things?"

That is, what will follow when Israel has sunk to its lowest point? How will it start to rise? And the answer is given:

“And from the time the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, shall be 1290 days.”

Pagan Rome took away the daily sacrifice and ended the Mosaic commonwealth; subsequently apostate christian Rome set up the desolation abomination of the papal system that was to oppress the saints and the Jews.

The implication of the 1290 day-years is that after the 1260 years, the oppressive papal power would be lifted and in 30 years ($1260 + 30 = 1290$) there would be a manifest reviving of Israel relative to their land and national existence. We must keep in mind that the vision from chapter 8 to the end of the book is to do with Israel's national life and land. Reference to the daily sacrifice when the 1290 is given shows that the theme is concerned with their national restoration. And so it was, in the remaining 30 years of the 19th century after the fall of the temporal power of the papacy, political Zionism emerged, with a strong movement for the return to their own land, where national life and the daily sacrifice could be revived. As mentioned earlier, the first Zionist Congresses under Theodor Hertzl were held in 1897 and onwards.

THE 1335

“Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the 1335 days” (v.12).

There was to be something good after another 45 years. This would seem to be given as an encouragement to the saints in the long Time of the End, eagerly expecting the return of Christ and disappointed at the apparent delay. The 1335 brings us to 1945-47 and the start of the 69th jubilee, the jubilee in which Israel have been established in the land preparatory to the return of Messiah, the jubilee in which the resurrection should take place preparatory to the work of the Jubilee Return of the 70th jubilee. Yes, for the saints we hope the 69th jubilee period will see blessing to the saints, even life everlasting.

The application of this verse specifically to ourselves, in our waiting, is given some support by Brother Thomas' translation of 'cometh' by 'labour for'. The Hebrew word is primarily to touch or strike, and gets the idea of reaching forward to touch. Many of the last century and this, have laboured for, and waited for the blessing.

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As for Daniel, he has the final words of the book: he would stand in his lot at the end of the days—after the Jubilee Return when the land has been divided into its cantons and Holy Oblation, and the saints have been given their inheritance.

The theme of the Great Jubilee Return is continued in chapter 11.

Chapter 2: GORBACHEV'S PROGRESS ON THE HOME FRONT

"A calm and confident Mr. Gorbachev has emerged strong in the Kremlin saddle from four remarkable days of frank debate that shook the Soviet Union.

"The vast country itself, brought close to ruin by six decades of rule from the top, seems set on the road to realize his vision of the new-style Communist democracy".

A REMARKABLE VICTORY

Despite opposition, Mr. Gorbachev has this year established a legal basis for his reforms and has drawn the Russian people generally into his plans. He has weakened the grip of the Communist party and its leaders. He expects 1989 will see his reforms in operation.

For Mr. Gorbachev to carry through his reforms in the face of gigantic difficulties it was essential for him to win legal authority for doing this. This was his first task, and the one most doubtful of success. He has in the year changed the basis of government in the Soviet. He has received approval for a new type of government for the country, in which elected delegates to the Supreme Soviet from all the Republics—equivalent to U.K. M.P.'s in parliament—with himself as head are responsible for running the affairs of the country. The scope of the Communist party is to be limited to giving political advice and guidance. This is an amazing development in which, as it were, the present leaders have agreed in considerable measure to have themselves replaced.

This establishing of his power base is so fundamental that in this chapter we follow in some detail his successful step by step moves to establish his own authority and the new concept of government. Before doing so a few words to indicate what a gigantic task he has before him.

THE MEASURE OF HIS TASK

It is indeed a gigantic task to change the present Soviet system, with the control of all aspects of the economy so long in the grip of the

corrupt and lazy Communist leaders in Moscow; combined with the apathy of the workers who see no reason for taking any initiative.

The Russians, of course, are not innately inferior to other Europeans. This is obvious from the impressive accomplishments of the Soviet military. Those in the military field are a privileged class. They receive a far superior education, good pay, and a good supply of this world's goods.

As the year started, the opposition to Gorbachev's reform process became clear. The 'New Law' passed in July 1987 came into force in January, requiring factory managers to take responsibility and make decisions. Reports said they were helpless and frightened, having had no experience or training for this, because all decisions in the past were taken at Moscow. It was therefore inevitable that the introduction of the New Law would initially bring a worsening of the situation. And with no progress in better pay, more food, etc., the people would become restless and sceptical of the values of the reforms. Gorbachev over the year in several speeches admitted that there had been no improvement for the masses.

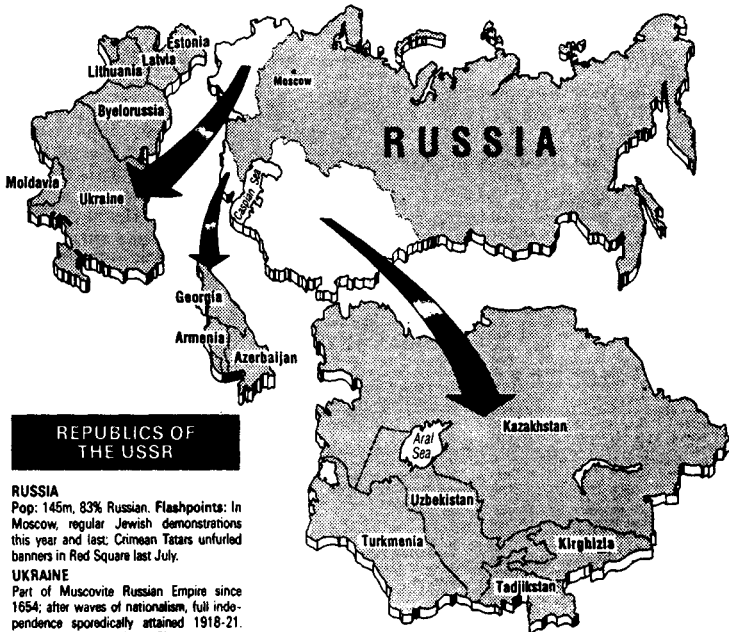
Likewise many leaders, as they saw their power being taken away, and the process of decentralization getting under way, were filled with alarm at the loss of their status and privileges. The military and the KGB also had strong elements of opposition as the plans of Gorbachev took shape during the year.

The backward state of the country emphasizes the scale of the task facing Mr. Gorbachev. It is not easy for us to appreciate the present low quality of life in the Soviet, and its tremendous gap compared with other European countries. The following brief extract may help us. They are the words of their Health Minister to a congress of Soviet doctors in October:

"He repeated the shocking statistic that only 35 percent of district hospitals had running hot water, 27 percent had no drains; 17 percent had no running water at all" (D.T. 17-10-88).

Mr. Gorbachev's several successes through the first half of the year were stepping stones towards the all-important All-Union Communist Party Conference scheduled for the end of June. If Gorbachev's reforms were to be carried out, he knew that there had to be agreement for a drastic reform of the 19 million strong Communist party.

GORBACHEV'S PROGRESS ON THE HOME FRONT—21



REPUBLICS OF THE USSR

RUSSIA

Pop: 145m, 83% Russian. Flashpoints: In Moscow, regular Jewish demonstrations this year and last. Crimean Tatars unfurled banners in Red Square last July.

UKRAINE

Part of Muscovite Russian Empire since 1654; after waves of nationalism, full independence sporadically attained 1918-21. Pop: 52m, 70% Ukrainian. Flashpoints: In west, thousands of Greek-Catholic Church adherents demanding reopening of churches and clergy coming into open; in southern tip last October, authorities broke up Tatars' march.

UZBEKISTAN

Conquered by Russian Tsars by 1868. Pop: 20m, 60% Uzbek. Flashpoints: Growth of underground "parallel" mosques outside authorities' control; party bosses castigated for secretly practicing Islam. Tatars demonstrated last year, then last month in six towns, for right to return to Crimea.

KAZAKHSTAN

Conquered by Tsars by 1850s. Pop: 17m, 40% Kazakh. Flashpoints: Riots in 1986 after Russian replaced Kazakh party leader.

BYELORUSSIA

Most of Byelorussia in Poland before three-way partitions at end 18th century. Russians annexed large part in 1945. Pop: 10m, 80% Byelorussian.

AZERBAIJAN

Conquered by Russians in early 19th century. Pop: 7m, 70% Azerbaijani. Flashpoints: Communal clashes began last month in Sumgait and Stepanakert, capital of Mountain-Karabakh region disputed by

GEORGIA

Ceded to Tsars by Georgian kings between 1800-1804, though some resistance until 1858. Brief independence 1918-21. Pop: 5.5m, 65% Georgian. Flashpoints: Students demonstrated last month over military presence at Tbilisi religious site.

TADJIKISTAN

Conquered by Tsars in late 1860s, though rebel resistance continued into 1930s. Pop: 5m, 55% Tadjik. Flashpoints: As in Uzbekistan.

MOLDAVIA

Russians annexed most of area from Romania in 1945. Pop: 4.5m, 65% Moldavian.

KIRGHIZIA

Finally annexed by Tsars 1876. Pop: 4.3m, 45% Kirghiz. Flashpoints: As in Uzbekistan.

LITHUANIA

Independent 1919-1940, when annexed by Russians. Pop: 3.7m, 75% Lithuanian (as staunchly Roman Catholic as Poland). Flashpoints: Independence commemoration in Kaunas (former capital) last month.

ARMENIA

North-eastern (now Soviet) part ceded

Pop: 3.5m, 85% Armenian. Flashpoints: Last month 500,000-1m in nationalist demonstration in Yerevan.

TURKMENIA

Conquered by Russians by 1885. Pop: 3.4m, 65% Turkmen.

LATVIA

Independent 1918-40, then annexed by Soviet Union. Pop: 2.7m, 55% Latvian. Flashpoints: Sporadic nationalist demonstrations last year; in separate development, nearly a quarter of Lutheran priests demanding greater freedom.

ESTONIA

Independent 1919-1940, then annexed by Russians. Pop: 1.6m, 60% Estonian. Flashpoints: Demonstration on February 24, anniversary of non-Communist independence.

His first success was to win the approval of a plenary meeting of the Communist party's ruling central committee which met at the end of May to prepare for the Conference. The report of the meeting had the headline: "KREMLIN CHIEF WINS ACCEPTANCE FOR REFORM PLANS". His leading conservative critic admitted:

"The plenum today adopted a very important document—the theses for the party conference... These theses are expected to provide the guidelines for the next two and a half years of reform and may propose structural changes in the shape and working of the Communist party" (D.T. 24-5-88).

These 'theses' were Mr. Gorbachev's plans for reform.

A few days after the plenum committee meeting, the Supreme Soviet met and gave their support to the Gorbachev reforms. The headline ran:

"KREMLIN LEADER DIEHARDS IN RETREAT BEFORE GORBACHEV"

"Mr. Gorbachev won a famous victory yesterday in his fight to open up the Soviet Union and break the grip of Communist diehards. In the spirit of reforms he is orchestrating, the Supreme Soviet threw off its rubber-stamp image, defeated a controversial tax measure and gave a crucial boost to the infant business cooperative movement.

"Part of the debate was televised, an innovation under the ever-widening glasnost policy. 'What's been happening here over the past few days is incredible' one Western observer remarked" (D.T. 27-5-88).

Early in June, a key item in Mr. Gorbachev's plans—to give himself power such as an American President has—was made known before the Conference met. An article in the Moscow News had the heading: "SOVIET CALL FOR U.S.-STYLE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS" (D.T. 10-6-88). The proposal has the idea that Mr. Gorbachev would be given his power by the vote of all Soviet citizens, rather than by the Communist party's 300-strong Central Committee; thus freeing him from the grip of the present party leaders.

Then came the All-Union Conference, with the delegates from all the 15 republics as well as the ruling Russian party. The Daily Telegraph gave a whole page report of Mr. Gorbachev's 3 1/2 hour opening speech. In the speech and throughout the four-day conference, Gorbachev's drive was to lessen the power of the Communist party and in-

crease the power of the Soviet people, as represented by the Supreme Soviet (parliament, G.P.); and ultimately with himself as having authority as the President of the Soviet people as a whole. In his opening speech to the Conference he described the new Government as the Soviet people's deputies to the Supreme Soviet. (i.e. Members of Parliament, G.P.), elected for five years and they would comprise a new representative government body. In his view the Communist party influence should be confined to political leadership and should not encroach on the day to day running of the country (D.T. 29-6-88). On the last day of the Conference Gorbachev's reforms were given approval.

One report of the Conference had the headline:

"FOUR DAYS THAT SHOOK RUSSIA AND BOOSTED GORBACHEV"

"A calm and confident Mr. Gorbachev has emerged strong in the Kremlin saddle from four remarkable days of frank debate that shook the Soviet Union.

"The vast country itself, brought close to ruin by six decades of rule from the top, seems set on the road to realize his vision of a new-style of Communist democracy... 'He has certainly caught the popular mind' said a senior foreign analyst of the Soviet scene with years of residence in Moscow" (D.T. 5-7-88).

"A notably short, but all-embracing package of six resolutions billed as 'the foundation of a radical reform of Soviet society's political system' was passed unanimously by the 5,000 delegates.

"The Conference also approved Mr. Gorbachev's proposal to create a new post of President, apparently clearing the way for him to assume that role" (D.T. 2-7-88).

The next step was to get the Conference decision passed into law. At the end of July, Gorbachev addressed the Party Central Committee urging it to press on with enacting the Conference resolutions:

"Mr. Gorbachev said there was need to restructure without delay the Soviet system of political power... The Committee accepted the Politburo proposal that a committee commission should be set up to bring the Gorbachev plans into effect". Mr. Gorbachev will head the commission. (D.T. 30-7-88).

According to Mr. Gorbachev's timetable, the new Congress of People's Deputies will be elected in April 1989, and will form a government that

will run the country in place of the present Communist party system. It will also elect the President—Mr. Gorbachev!

The article added that behind the scenes the reformers were running into “stubborn conservative forces who had deep misgivings about the whole new vision”

In September Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the re-instated dissident, warned that the conservative camp in the Soviet were gaining the upper hand. (D.T. 10-9-88)

Then came the exciting news heralded with banner headlines spread across the whole page.

SHOWDOWN IN THE KREMLIN

The article began as follows:

“Mikhail Gorbachev bared tooth and claw yesterday in the toughest battle of his career.

“Angered by mutinous rumbles in high places he acted swiftly to smash the trouble-makers who stand in the way of his reforms: The genial leader who showed the West the smile on the face of the bear demonstrated that in the shadowy world of the Kremlin power-play he is an utterly ruthless Mik the Knife.

“There was, of course, nothing else for it. The forces of conservatism, caution and inertia were an affront to his leadership.

“Gorbachev has admitted that his plans to rebuild the ramshackle structure of the Soviet Union are in trouble and he made his frustration public last week. He is a shrewd operator but he had plainly reached the limit of political compromise with his opponents. Heads must roll.”

No one can be surprised that Yegor Ligachev, the meddling Kremlin No. 2 and ideology boss, and Victor Chebrikov the KGB chief who has expressed alarm at Gorbachev's policies, have been shouldered aside. Their opposition was breathtakingly open.

“By Gorbachev's own lights, what he did was tough, timely and right. At the most critical time in his three-year leadership—and certainly on the most momentous day of his career—he struck hard and broadened his authority and tightened his grip on power. With two exceptions the ruling politburo now consists of men of his own choosing.

"We do not know exactly what precipitated yesterday's crisis. Instead of the usual measured steps towards a Central Committee meeting there was a hurriedly-called Plenum. There was an urgent, slightly desperate, edge to the whole affair.

"Perhaps Gorbachev had word of a serious rebellion and acted to crush it before it grew. Certainly he is well aware that his plans to reform and streamline the administration, and to energize the sagging economy, have caused dismay in the party and in the top-heavy and well-padded apparatus. For thousands of people Perestroika threatens jobs and the upsetting of a comfortable, if inefficient, way of life" (D.T. 1-10-88).

In the D.T. Editorial comment on these dramatic happenings the expression was used:

"It is little exaggeration to say that Mr. Gorbachev has been imbued with the authority of a Peter the Great or a Stalin" (D.T. 3-10-88).

Further comment was made in the Editorial column the next day:

"Should he (Gorbachev) secure a majority in the new assembly, he will be virtually unchallenged. This will allow him to accelerate his even more striking economic changes. The Soviet leader has proposed the introduction of 'leases' for up to 50 years for peasants to farm their own land, as well as for worker cooperatives, which could then run factories on their own behalf. The Agricultural leasing experiment appears to herald the dismantling of the enforced collectivization of the land; leased factories, for their part, look like embryo private companies. Of the Soviet systems intent to turn the system upside down there can be increasingly little doubt" (D.T. 4-10-88).

OTHER FACTORS AIDING THE REFORMS

Two other factors were operating during 1988 that are helping to unite the people and the new leaders into an effective nation. One is making known the truth about the falsified history of the 70 years since the Communist Revolution—Russian history that glorifies the acts of Stalin particularly, and also Brezhnev. The willingness of Gorbachev and the new leaders to expose the terrible purges of Stalin in which it is estimated some 30 million died or were starved to death, gives the masses some confidence in the sincerity of the reforms and a degree of liberation. Such truth has yet to be written into their history books but Gorbachev has already been replacing the old education leaders. By

condemning the recent Brezhnev period as corrupt and the cause of the present bad state of the economy, the workers may see in this a willingness to act differently.

The second factor is the new toleration towards religion (see chapter three). Although all communist members are officially atheists, the vast majority of the Soviet masses yearn for their old religion, with its rites and ceremonies and its links with the past. This move back toward their old religion is beginning to restore the old national spirit of the Russian and Slav people and rebuilding nationalism and patriotic pride.

GORBACHEV WINNING CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY

As one would expect, sections of the Military Establishment have objected to Mr. Gorbachev's intentions to make tank and troop reductions in Europe. Just before he announced these unilateral reductions, in his UN address, Marshal Akhromeyev expressed his opposition by retiring from the position of Soviet Chief of General Staff. A week later his replacement was announced:

"GORBACHEV'S CHOICE OF ARMY CHIEF PAVES THE WAY FOR YOUNGER TOP BRASS"

"Gen. Moiseyev, aged only 49, has leapfrogged many full-fledged generals, some 20 years older, and is the first armed forces chief not to have fought in a major war".

"Gen. Moiseyev's appointment, certain to have had been closely vetted by President Gorbachev, underlines the Kremlin leader's determination to create a sleeker, younger military leadership—with substantially less political power".

"It seems Mr. Gorbachev is gradually trimming the political power of the two great pillars of the Soviet state—the army and the KGB" (D.T. 16-12-88).

CHAPTER 3: RELIGION: MORE FREEDOM FOR THE 'BELIEVER'

GORBACHEV SEEKING HELP FROM THE CHRISTIANS

There has been notable activity in religious matters in the Soviet in 1988. In June there were the millennial celebrations of the founding of 'christianity' in Russia: but this was mostly a show piece for improving the image of the Soviet in the eyes of the world. More fundamental moves have been taking place.

It is now clear that what we forecast a year or so ago, Mr. Gorbachev is now doing. He is taking definite steps to enlist the support of 'believers' in the Soviet. The Soviet Head of Religious Affairs has put their number at 70 million, a much larger number than the total Communist party of 19 million.

At the beginning of May Mr. Gorbachev had an 'historic' meeting with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Daily Telegraph reported:

"The last formal meeting between the head of the Orthodox Church and a Soviet leader was in 1943, when Stalin allowed thousands of churches to re-open in return for gaining the full moral weight of the Soviet christians in the fight against Hitler!"

"He (Gorbachev) told Patriarch Pimen: 'A new law on the freedom of conscience is being drafted'. There would, he said, be new approaches to State-Church relations in the conditions of Perestroika (reconstruction) and democratization of Soviet society."

"There is no doubt that Mr. Gorbachev, having successfully wooed the bulk of the intelligentsia with his glasnost slogans, would now like to enlist the support of the Christians".

(D.T. 2-5-88)

A few weeks later an article by Konstantin Kharchev, head of the Department of Religious Affairs in the Council of Ministers indicated that he is "clearly embarking on a major campaign to persuade believers

to support Mr. Gorbachev's overall religious reform campaign". The Telegraph report had the headline:

"SOVIET MOVE TO WIN OVER BELIEVERS"

"The fact that someone is a believer should no longer be mentioned on personal documents, he said."

"He said the law should be changed to allow churches and Christians to dispense charity... Believers should be allowed to form cooperatives to publish their own newspaper."

"Mr. Kharchev revealed that Western organizations had been allowed to send more than a million Bibles to the Soviet Union" (D.T. 24-5-88).

An earlier statement by Mr. Kharchev on the new thinking was published in the Sydney Morning Herald, Australia (29-2-88). It quoted him as saying:

"Under conditions of democratization, we are looking more clearly at the role of the Church in a socialist state, and we are liquidating the whole range of blockages that hamper true freedom of conscience to all citizens".

The article said that religious groups would be given legal rights to open churches, and to recover items of traditional church property, including monasteries and nunneries. The State's militant assertion of atheism is also to be toned down.

MORE FREEDOM ALREADY

The Easter-week services were reported under the heading:

"MUSCOVITES FLOCK TO CHURCHES IN RELIGIOUS REVIVAL"

"Thousands of Muscovites flocked to Russian Orthodox Easter services yesterday in the latest sign of a revival of religious interest made possible by Mr. Gorbachev's glasnost policy".

"I have never seen so many people in church on Easter' a middle-aged woman remarked. 'This is really something new'.

"Breaking with decades of silence about religion, Soviet state television broadcast part of the Easter service from the Epiphany Cathedral during the night. The programme was believed to be the first time a religious service had been shown on television in the Soviet Union" (D.T. 11-4-88).

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Runcie, attended the millennial celebrations, and later in the year declared that President Gorbachev's policies may herald "a new beginning" for Christians in the Soviet Union. He also said "Churches have been restored to congregations, clergy are beginning to be allowed access to believers in hospitals and prisons, laws repealing the 1929 legislations are being drafted and consultation with believers is promised" (D.T. 22-11-88).

WHEN STALIN FAVOURED THE BELIEVER

It is of interest to take note of Stalin's varying attitude to religion in the official 'atheist' state. In the 1939-45 war he 're-instated' religion in order to obtain the moral support of the 'believers' in the desperate fight against Hitler's vast army invading Russia. It is also said this was part of his vision of creating the Third Rome.

The following extracts are from an article in the Times (1-4-88) entitled:

"THE KREMLIN'S CHRISTIAN PAWNS"

"In 1943, Stalin summoned the head of the Orthodox Church, which had been consistently persecuted and all but exterminated during the previous decades, to the Kremlin. Stalin was a master of **Perestroika** a term which he, long before Gorbachev, had introduced into the vocabulary of Soviet propaganda."

"What Stalin envisaged was a new union of church and state suited to his strategic goal of a nationalist totalitarian empire."

"In 1943-1953, the number of functioning churches in Russia rose from a high estimate of 1,000 to some 25,000, nearly half of the pre-1917 total. On the occasion of Stalin's 70th birthday, on December 21st 1949, they resounded with a Te Deum, as the 'paternal solicitous guardian' was showered with homiletic praise for his **deyania**—apostolic deeds. (GP. echoes of the blasphemous words of Pope Gregory about Phocas!). With the map of Europe recently redrafted to his satisfaction, the imperial dream was at last a totalitarian reality, complete with an ancient church celebrating 500 years of its ecclesiastical independence."

"Apart from this domestic policy role as a spokesman for Soviet 'Great Russian' nationalism, by the late 1940's the church was presentable enough to function as a propaganda mouthpiece abroad: in April 1949, for instance, it was instrumental in organizing the first

congress of the World Peace Council in Paris, followed by the first international conference of the Friends of Peace in Moscow later that year”.

This propaganda work by the Russian hierarchy continued through the post-war years with various international ‘peace’ and ‘human rights’ conferences, occasionally referred to in earlier Milestones. This function of the suppliant leaders of the church, did not mean any freedom in religion for the Soviet people generally. For instance, the 25,000 churches opened by Stalin in 1943-53 had again been reduced to a mere 8,000 by 1965. By doing the will of the Communist leaders the Church leaders had an easy time and were a privileged class. The lot of the ordinary ‘believer’ was very different. They were harassed, second-rate citizens.

GORBACHEV REPEATS STALIN PATTERN

Now once again the believer is being wooed by the State. The fifth Reith lecture on Glasnost in the Soviet dealt with Religion and the Atheist State, and shows the relevance of this changed attitude:

“It’s not just the happy chance of the calendar which has brought Church and State together. Many of the social problems Gorbachev is tackling today—corruption, alcoholism, slovenly work, discipline, unstable family life—are moral rather than political in character. They have not responded to repeated campaigns of ideological exhortation mounted by the Party’s zealots. On the other hand, many of the country’s best writers have been saying for years, even in the teeth of the censorship, that religious faith was a potential antidote to demoralization. The Party seems to have decided in the end, doubtless reluctantly, that it might as well enlist the help of the established Churches. In any case, why alienate millions of believers—perhaps a third of the population who would mostly be loyal and patriotic citizens were it not for the Party’s customary disdain for them? The Party, in short, is looking to the Churches as a source of social solidarity which by itself, it is poorly equipped to inspire” (The Listener 8-12-88).

The writer, Geoffrey Hosking, a professor of Russian History in London University, said the Baptists are the most powerful moral force in the Soviet.

So the nation is being prepared for its role as the latter-day Assyrian—a virile and aggressive nation—and for its onward rush to overthrow

many countries and invade the land (Micah 5:5; Isaiah 10; Isaiah 17:12-14; Daniel 11:40-45). While attending to this, Mr. Gorbachev works vigorously on the international scene to bring about the “Peace and Safety” cry that comes before the destruction that follows. And his weapon for this is ‘detente’.

Chapter 4:

WORLD DETENTE: MR. GORBACHEV'S OBJECTIVES

Last year was dominated by Mr. Gorbachev's detente efforts in Europe, with his success in the signing of the INF treaty in Washington in December. But his detente moves are wider than Europe and cover the whole world with some definite purpose behind them. We need briefly to identify the objects in his detente policy.

THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective is the creating of a new image for the Soviet Union, reflecting their reasonableness, reliability and acceptable behaviour. This is seen as essential in creating confidence in the international financial world—the I.M.F., World Bank, etc—to permit the vast loans and technical cooperation needed to bring the Soviet into line with the modern technically-oriented world.

A second objective, is of course, to win the confidence of Western Europe preparatory to a gradual peaceful, 'blackmailing' take-over, if possible.

A third reason for the detente drive, which explains the support Gorbachev receives from the hierarchy, is the strong desire for Russia to cease being an outcast, and to be accepted into the highest diplomatic regions as an equal partner; to have a full part in influencing world events. The Russians claim an ancient and rich civilization, equal to any in Europe, and superior to modern western countries.

Three quotations will illustrate this analysis.

The first extract is from an article by the military historian John Keegan in an article headed: "Dealing with the dangers of an outbreak of peace". Referring to the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which at the time was just beginning, he said that most observers saw this as a calculated and genuine move. The article continued:

"That is the view of strategic analysts in Washington and London. It is naturally to be welcomed. But it raises the critical question; what is the Soviet calculation that underlies it? A sudden love affair with peace is the soft answer. Recognition that it has burnt its fingers on

chestnuts the West had already learned were too hot to hold is a more realistic one. But the real reason is probably that Russia cannot afford a 'forward' foreign policy in the Perestroika era.

"Perestroika needs funding—and with enormous sums of money. These cannot be found from the domestic economy. They will have to be borrowed. And only Western banks—state and private—can lend the money. The debt to be incurred will make, in the words of an American Treasury official, 'the Latin American debt look like a tea party'. And Russia cannot ask the banks to tea while waging war in Afghanistan or elsewhere". (D.T. 26-7-88).

The second quotation is from 'Occasional Paper No. 33' from the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, entitled: "Gorbachev: Can the Revolution be remade? (1988). Section III has the title:

A SYSTEM IN SEARCH OF ADMIRATION

"During the Washington INF celebrations of December 1987, Mikhail Gorbachev let it be known that he and his party were no longer content to be accorded mere military parity with the Western Alliance—it was their right, Gorbachev felt, to be offered moral recognition too, and the respect that went with it."

"Having attained parity in its military power, the Soviet system, under the affable Gorbachev, now wants to prove to itself and to the world that it has attained parity in its moral acceptability too—that there is, in fact, nothing to choose between dictatorship and democracy.

"Gorbachev sees himself as the leader of a powerful world empire. This requires world standing and world respect. The General Secretary is anxious to be acceptable in the salons of polite international society—not only because he carries a knout (Russian whip, G.P.) but also because the system which created him is worthy of the world's admiration."

"Respect, moral equality and 'admission to the club' are what Soviet leadership is now seeking through its international propaganda and diplomacy: and the West would do well to make it a firm resolution that it shall not have them. No matter how cordially Gorbachev may have to be received in the corridors of Western power, he must remain for us a symbol of the modern world's first thoroughly totalitarian power in which cynicism and amorality are fully institutionalized."

34—WORLD DETENTE: MR. GORBACHEV'S OBJECTIVES

The third quotation is from an article in the French *Le Monde* section of the *Guardian Weekly* (17-4-88).

"The invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 finished detente. Today, the withdrawal from Afghanistan not only symbolizes the USSR's new diplomatic posture but also opens up new perspectives for it, for this agreement is the beginning of a settlement of one of the world's big regional conflicts.

"The USSR's one great ambition is to become—or again become on specific issues—an authentic and indispensable partner in defending stability the world over. It is making strong diplomatic overtures to Latin America and Asia. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization leader, has been in Moscow for talks on the Middle East peace process (he has been urged by Gorbachev to recognize Israel's existence).

"In short, Moscow wants to convert the try scored by spectacularly reactivating the disarmament process within the space of two years and get back into the international play as a superpower. A logical enough ambition and there is nothing unrealistic about it. In addition, it is vital for this country, whose leaders have ended up realizing that they no longer have the economic resources for either maintaining the status quo at home or an aggressive posture abroad; and that Eduard Shevardnadze's smile pays off infinitely higher dividends than Andre Gromyko's impenetrable face."

In terms of world detente and upgrading of the Soviet's world status, Mr. Gorbachev's speech at the United Nations in December 1988 is probably his greatest triumph so far.



Chapter 5:

WORLD-WIDE DETENTE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Mr. Gorbachev's world detente activity will take us round the world—Afghanistan, India, Vietnam, China, America, Western Europe, the Arab States, and Israel. First we will look at U.S.—Soviet relations, as this is the area of his greatest success to fulfil the objectives set out in the previous chapter.

(1) U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

In December 1988 Mr. Gorbachev visited America for a mini-summit and to meet the President elect, Mr. Bush. His trip included his speech to the United Nations. This was a climax to his efforts to create a favourable relationship with America in particular, and world leaders in general. His steady working to reach this position is worth following. The two Summits, December 1987 in Washington, and June 1988 in Moscow are the highlights.

Mr. Gorbachev's visit to Washington in December 1987 to sign the INF Treaty was widely acknowledged as "a P.R. triumph". His impact on the American people through television was tremendous. In Mr. Gorbachev's eyes winning the confidence of the American people would greatly aid his plan to obtain technical cooperation and financial funding so essential to his country's revival.

A newspaper report describing an unexpected walk-about was headed:

"GORBACHEV WOES AMERICANS WITH P.R. TRIUMPH"

"Jumping from his limousine and laughing, the Soviet leader grabbed as many hands as possible, as Mr. Bush, the Vice-President, his companion in the car, stood alone in the street, initially looking bemused by the startling display of evident affection. Onlookers cheered. Many clapped. Raising his clenched fist in salute, the Russian walked back to Mr. Bush, possibly the next American president, and embraced him".

"Mr. Robert Strauss, a former Democratic party leader chief, said: 'He's taken over this town. He's working this country like it never has been worked before. Its a hell of a P.R. show'" (D.T. 11-12-87).

It was at this summit that Mr. Reagan, either genuinely or for political reasons changed his view of the Soviet system:

"Mr. Reagan said he had altered his evaluation of the Soviet Union and no longer believed it was bent on spreading Marxism-Leninism across the globe".

One observer at the Summit pointed out that the changed climate between the two countries was already visible in the 'high-level' meetings on regional problems that were now a regular happening.

The new spirit apparent at the December Summit was carried forward to the next Summit in May when Mr. Reagan visited Moscow. In his welcoming speech, Mr. Gorbachev enlarged on the equal status and joint responsibilities of the two nations. He was making sure that the Soviet had equal standing with the U.S.A. Here are some extracts from his speech:

Gorbachev's equality theme

"The world is also looking to us, Mr. President, for responsible judgments on other complex issues of today, such as the settlement of regional conflicts, improving international economic relations, promoting development, overcoming backwardness, poverty and mass diseases, and humanitarian problems.

"Of course, we shall discuss bilateral relations. Our previous meetings have shown that constructive Soviet-United States relations are possible. The treaty on intermediate and shorter range missiles is the most impressive symbol of that. But more complex and important tasks lie ahead."

The Soviet people, he said were ardent patriots, full of plans for the future, "open to friendship and cooperation with all nations. They harbour sincere respect for the American people and want good relations with your country.

"Here, within the walls of ancient Kremlin, where one feels the touch of history, people are moved to reflect over the diversity and greatness of human civilization.

“So may this give greater historical depth to the Soviet-American talks to be held here, infusing them with a sense of mankind’s shared destiny. Once again, I bid you welcome”.

Earlier in the address he had said:

“As we see it, long-held dislikes have been weakened and habitual stereotypes have been shaken loose.

“The human image of the other nation is now more clearly visible. This in itself is important, for at the turn of the second millennium, history has objectively bound our two countries by a common responsibility for the destinies of mankind. You and I are conscious of our two people’s longing for mutual understanding, cooperation and a safe and stable world” (D.T. 31-5-88).

Mr. Gorbachev took care to carry on his friendliness with America by sending warm greetings to Mr. George Bush when he was elected as the next American President.

Shortly after this Mrs. Thatcher went to America to have a final meeting with Mr. Reagan, and also talk with Mr. Bush. As she was leaving America she enthused on the altered perceptions of herself and the American leaders.

“COLD WAR OVER, SAYS THATCHER”

In an interview published in yesterday’s Washington Post, Mrs. Thatcher said that Mr. Gorbachev’s policies had transformed relations between the superpowers. ‘We are not in a Cold War now’ she said. ‘East and West now have a new relation’.

“She believes that Mr. Gorbachev and President Reagan have brought about the most fundamental reassessment of East-West relations since Churchill announced in a speech in Fulton, Missouri, in 1946, that an ‘Iron Curtain’ had descended across Europe.”

What an astonishing change of view Mrs. Thatcher!

Mr. Gorbachev at the United Nations

The year has ended with Mr. Gorbachev’s address at the United Nations, offering troop and tank withdrawals unilaterally, and world-wide peace and security. All this has been widely welcomed, especially by Germany and France who are in the front line. Those who have followed the year’s events will realize that Mr. Gorbachev was not offering much

that was new, but rather bringing into focus the various offers made during the year.

PRESENT FORCES				
	Tanks	Artillery	Personnel	Aircraft
NATO	16,424	14,458	2,213,599	3,977
Warsaw Pact	51,500	43,400	3,090,000	8,250
<i>(figures according to latest NATO assessment)</i>				
GORBACHEV'S CUTS IN SOVIET FORCES BY 1991				
Tanks 10,000	Artillery 8,500	Personnel 500,000	Aircraft 800	
<i>(above figures include 50,000 men and 5,000 tanks from East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia)</i>				

The great success of the event was the world publicity the UN platform provided. It allowed him to display all his charm, reasonableness and quality of world leadership.

This address, followed immediately by the Armenian earthquake calamity, had gained tremendous sympathy for Gorbachev and the Soviet world-wide. He can feel he has fulfilled those three objectives set out in chapter four.

Peace and safety

Although most of the newspaper reporting was concerned with the armament and troop reductions, the major part of this speech was a wide-sweeping concept of world peace, with diversity of national interests, but with cooperation. The liberal newspapers were carried away with this 'dream'. The Guardian Weekly editorial opened as follows:

"It was truly a remarkable speech, one headed straight for the history books. And the central point about it was that the unilateral cut of half a million Soviet troops was set in a compelling context. It wasn't merely a gambit tossed in at the close. Through pages of closely

argued text, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev told the United Nations that the Russian revolution was history, that world war was unthinkable and regional conflicts a scar on mankind, that a period of peace was now obligatory, that no country could remove itself from the ever-closer world economic order, and that the UN itself was at the heart of Soviet thinking”.

The article in the *Weekly Guardian* analyzing the speech had the heading!

“GORBACHEV BLUEPRINT FOR PEACE”

“President Gorbachev last week issued a blueprint for world peace and an end to the ‘missionary’ rivalry between the two superpowers, matching his words with a dramatic unilateral cutback in the Soviet Union’s conventional forces.

“Addressing the United Nations, he laid out a new philosophy of international relations, based on interdependence, cooperation, and listening rather than preaching to other nations, and covered the entire range of global problems” (W.G. 18-12-88).

The *Washington Post* editorial was enthusiastic, but included some insight into Mr. Gorbachev’s words:

“It seems evident, however, that the force behind his ‘new thinking’ is a conviction that the Soviet domestic crisis is so deep and threatening it can no longer be evaded. President Reagan suggested as much when he said that the Soviet leader is ‘sincerely dealing with the problems he has in his own country’. Plainly Mr. Gorbachev wishes to trim the pace and cost of international confrontation in order to advance his internal Perestroika, or restructuring, which entails reversing 70 years of stultification, self-deceit, and drift, and daring to explore ways that promise the Soviet people a decent life.” (W.P. 18-12-88).

The *Sunday Telegraph* had an article by Peregrine Worsthome carrying the analysis in another direction:

“All around the world Russia is settling disputes and dropping local commitments, to the point where it really does begin to make sense to talk about Russia’s global ambitions having come to an end, at least temporarily. But this does not at all mean that her European ambitions have come to an end. Far from it. By concentrating less on spreading Communism throughout the world., Russia may prove to be more, rather than less, skillful in getting her way in Europe. Not by military means. Almost certainly the cuts announced by Mr. Gorbachev on

the central front do signify a genuine change from an offensive to a defensive military strategy. But military aggression is only one way of advancing a country's interest. Diplomacy can also have a crucial part to play, and one would need to be an awful idiot not to recognize in Mr. Gorbachev's speech to the United Nations the first rumblings of a major diplomatic offensive.

"It has been clear for some time that Europe plays a special role in Mr. Gorbachev's view of the world. This for three reasons: (1) traditionally, Russia has had a special relationship with Western Europe; (2) Western Europe is an area which could provide the technology and financial investment which Russia needs to modernize itself; (3) at present, the existence of two opposing military alliances in Central Europe has a destabilizing effect on Russia's East European client states, and a settlement in Central Europe would enable the Soviet Union to control them, while diminishing the cost of the operation by allowing them close economic relations with the West. In other words, the ideal relationship with Western Europe for the Soviet Union would be an economic symbiosis which would permit Russia's recovery and relieve her of the burden of the satellites' economies, while not raising questions of security at all.

"How would Mr. Gorbachev hope to achieve this objective (which could also be called 'neutralization')? There are two probable scenarios which might be pursued together or separately..." (Sunday Telegraph 11-12-88).

The one line suggested would be utilizing West Germany as the bridge, with enticing offers. The other "more ambitious scenario would be for the Soviet to embrace the EEC... The Soviet Union might encourage suitable East European countries to ask for EEC membership.... In effect, this would create an economic spring-board for a neutral Europe. In the event of such a strategy being successful, the United Nations would probably lose interest in the defence of Europe".

How thrilling, to see the stage reached where an eminent writer can forecast the unifying of Europe by Russian stealth. We know that this will be followed later by thorough subjection to the might of the King of the North when he overflows; when he assumes the role of the Babylonian Lucifer—"He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that fled the nations in anger.." (Isaiah 14). Before this the saints will be called to meet their Lord. Surely the day is at hand. Are we ready?

(2) WESTERN EUROPE AND THE E.E.C.

The most significant development of detente in western Europe this year has been the progress towards official diplomatic and technical cooperation between the E.E.C. and its counterpart in the East known as Comecon, the economic grouping of the Soviet and the satellite countries. The drive towards such a linking has come from both sides. When a treaty is signed it will move business cooperation from the status of individual firms negotiating trade agreements, to a formal basis for enlargement of trade and economic cooperation between West Europe and East Europe, and more precisely between the West and the Soviet. There is to be an immediate setting up of embassies between Brussels (EEC) and Moscow.

The first announcement was in May:

“EEC PREPARES FOR DIPLOMATIC LINKS WITH MOSCOW”

“EEC Foreign Ministers are today expected to agree on an historic declaration that could lead to the opening of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Common Market for the first time.

“The move follows agreement in Brussels last week by officials from both sides on a statement committing Moscow to formal recognition of the Community following a compromise over the status of West Berlin.” (D.T. 24-5-88).

A further announcement was made a few days later:

“EEC ACCORD WITH COMECON ‘HISTORIC’

“Lord Plumb, President of the European Parliament, has hailed as historic the tentative agreement between the EEC and Comecon, its counterpart in the Soviet bloc, providing for diplomatic relations between the two groups. ‘This is an historic moment that has been long awaited and which will change the map of Europe.’” (D.T. 26-5-88).

Further progress was reported in June:

“EEC TO SEEK BETTER LINKS WITH EAST BLOC”

Common Market Foreign Ministers said yesterday they were ready to act ‘constructively’ to improve political and economic relations between the EEC and the Soviet Union, along with Eastern European countries.

"The ministers backed the signing of a joint declaration with the Comecon countries on June 25." (D.T. 14-6-88).

In November there was a two-day meeting:

"SATISFACTION AT EEC-SOVIET TRADE TALKS"

"A two-day meeting of senior Soviet Union and Common Market trade and economic officials ended yesterday, with satisfaction on both sides.

"The Soviet hope is that the meeting will begin a process which could lead to the signing of a broad trade economic and technological agreement between Moscow and the EEC." (D.T. 4-11-88).

The slow pace shows the usual Russian caution and squeezing to get what it wants!

During the year the governments of Britain, France, Germany and Italy have been approving large sums, measured in billions of dollars, as credit coverage for firms in their trade negotiations.

(3) DETENTE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Detente in Russia's satellite countries has a worrying aspect for Gorbachev. Glasnost-openness has stirred the peoples of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Estonia, Latvia, as well as in the republics on the southeast border of the Soviet. They are seeking some freedom from the totalitarian grip of the 12 communist governments. There have been many dissident voices raised. Mr. Gorbachev wants the spirit of initiative, and efficiency channelled in support of the economy and the administration, but all held within the grip of the Socialist State.

It may be necessary for him to show the mailed fist within the velvet glove, to curb the excess agitation. Of much more interest to us, he will probably have to seek help from the Vatican to control the people in the several Roman Catholic countries, as indeed, has been the case in Poland over the past ten years. This will help the Pope in establishing his authority with the Kremlin, and gain more freedom and influence for his adherents in these countries.

From a different point of view Mr. Gorbachev's reinstating of religion will also aid the cooperation between the Vatican and Moscow, and will gain the support of the people in these countries for his economic drive.

(4) DETENTE IN AFGHANISTAN

The withdrawal from Afghanistan now half-fulfilled, has been the real test of the genuineness of Mr. Gorbachev's detente policy. It has been welcomed not only by the western world, but equally by the Islamic countries and the Third World.

"The withdrawal from Afghanistan also has considerable implications for Russia's relations with the outside world. Not only does it remove one of the greatest obstacles to better East-West relations; at a stroke it sharply improves Russia's faltering image in the eyes of the developing world, in particular the Islamic countries.

"The most far-reaching effect, however, is likely to be the removal of one of the three obstacles to the normalization of relations with China, the other two being the more intractable problems of Cambodia and the virtually resolved dispute over the Sino-Soviet border."

(5) RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The 30 years' hostility between China and the Soviet has softened during 1988. If cooperation is eventually reached, it would release hundreds of thousands of troops from their vast eastern border, for them to be available elsewhere, possibly changing the balance of military power in western Europe.

In January, Mr. Gorbachev made a gesture in proposing a summit between China and the Soviet, referred to in the Daily Telegraph's editorial as "Mending Fences".

In April there was a meeting of Soviet and Chinese Generals:

"Chinese and Soviet Generals have met to discuss border issues in what is believed to be their first formal contact since their forces clashed on the frontier in 1969, Soviet bloc officials said yesterday." (D.T. 19-5-88).

Then in September a headline ran: "Sino-Soviet summit possible as China plans visit to Moscow" (D.T. 10-9-88). Progress was confirmed in October: "Sino-Soviet summit 'next year'" (D.T. 14-10-88).

(6) DETENTE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Through the year Mr. Gorbachev has been making quiet but steady progress in the Middle East. An article in the Jerusalem Post Daily in July summarized this as follows:

“Russia has waited patiently while recent acts of the Israeli-Arab drama have been played out, watching American Secretary of State George Schultz exhaust himself by going it alone. The Reagan-Gorbachev agreement at the summit meeting (June '88 GP) on joint American-Soviet initiatives in the Middle East crowned the victory of Soviet diplomacy. Elsewhere in the region, Gorbachev is doing just fine. The Egyptian foreign minister has visited Moscow and signed a treaty that practically cancels old debts to the Soviet Union, and Saudi Arabia is establishing relations with the Kremlin.”

The friendly relationship that the Soviet is developing with the Arab countries was high-lighted at the Arab summit in Algiers in November. It was this meeting that set out the Arab Peace Plan and declared the Independent Palestinian State on the West Bank. It emerged that a Soviet delegation was present at the summit and had considerable influence.

“A four-man delegation, headed by a senior Foreign Ministry official, has been present throughout the meeting and is believed to have persuaded Dr. George Habash and Mr. Nawef Hawatmeh to soften the resistance to the moderate line.” (D.T. 15-11-88).

Clearly the Soviet is building for itself an equal status with the U.S. in the Middle East, and is now able to influence international pressures and decisions to its own advantage.

Note the phrase in the penultimate quote: “The Reagan-Gorbachev agreement... on joint American-Soviet initiatives in the Middle East crowned the victory of the Soviet diplomacy”. This is the key to the present developments. It is covered in full in the chapter 12: THE SOVIET-ARAB PEACE PLAN. The American-Schultz Peace Plan failed, and Gorbachev has stolen the initiative in the Middle East, and the ‘agreement’ is making America follow the Soviet lead.

When we glance through this chapter, what a remarkable year of progress towards ‘peace and safety’—developed by one man in his detente activities. Surely the hand of God is in this.

Chapter 6: SOVIET MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE AN ILLUSION

Mr. Gorbachev's offers during the year to reduce Soviet military strength in Europe were given an appearance of reality at the United Nations when he declared the intention of various unilateral withdrawals. When carried out this will not substantially alter the massive Soviet preponderance in conventional weapons over NATO. One rather cynical comment was as follows:

"The unilateral arms cut announced by the Soviet leader at the UN in reality amounts to little more than a publicized retirement of old equipment. The 5,000 tanks to be removed from East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are expected to be obsolete T-55a, and the 900 aircraft may all be either ageing MiG-21's or SU-22's.

"NATO intelligence sources say that as tank production is running at such a high rate, the Russians will still have more tanks after Mr. Gorbachev's cuts are implemented than they had when he came to power." (D.T. 11-12-88).

"The Soviet are turning out 240 tanks a month!" (D.T. 7-12-88).

"The main factor in the picture is that the Soviet is actively modernizing equipment, whereas NATO cannot get the money to do so. A recent British White Paper went into detail about 'the Warsaw Pact's continuing military build-up' and the technical improvements that are overtaking NATO weaponry. Mr. Young, British Defence Minister in a speech in October said 'There is no sign since Mr. Gorbachev came to power that the pace of modernizing of the Soviet military is slowing.'" (D.T. 6-10-88).

One example of their advance is the 'Slim-line Tank':

"A sleek new Soviet tank is causing consternation among Pentagon experts who warn that it is virtually invulnerable to NATO's anti-tank weapons and likely to be in service five years ahead of schedule"... "has a high-velocity 135mm gun mounted externally and capable of penetrating most resilient armour on NATO tanks." (D.T. 11-4-88).

NATO has two problems. First, now NATO's nuclear deterrent is largely removed by the INF treaty, the preponderance of the Soviet

conventional arms is the more frightening. NATO needs both to increase its quantity of equipment and to modernize. And conventional equipment is far more expensive than the previous nuclear deterrent... Yet no extra money is available. West European governments, apart from Britain are unwilling to provide the money because public opinion is satisfied the Soviet is no longer a threat, and NATO should be reducing, not increasing armaments.

The problem is compounded by the situation in the U.S. This is the second problem for NATO. Under the new president Mr. Bush, the U.S. will spend less on defence in Europe. The Conservative election platform "made clear that the days of cost-free deployment of 500,000 US troops in Europe will come to an end with a Bush administration." (G.W. 21-8-88).

The U.S. Defence Secretary, after Mr. Bush's election as President expressed the situation as follows:

"If, as is likely, Congress insisted on zero-growth Pentagon budgets over the next five years to help tackle the US budget deficit, which stands at \$140 billion (£76 billion), cuts would have to be made in 'deployable battle groups and some force structure overseas.'" (D.T. 30-11-88).

So the picture is that NATO will become weaker and the Soviet stronger, despite Mr. Gorbachev's reductions. The most serious step would be the withdrawal of some US soldiers from Europe to save money. We may expect that when Mr. Gorbachev gets his diplomatic drive going next year, the US will oblige by matching the Soviet troop withdrawal with an American withdrawal. This would have a serious effect on the confidence of Western Europe in depending on America; and would turn them further towards the Soviet. Whereas Soviet troops withdrawn can be rapidly brought to the front line again; American troops taken far away over the Atlantic will seem gone for ever.

So in several ways Gorbachev's offer is an illusion, as the NATO Supreme Allied Commander in Europe expressed it "The Soviet Army hasn't changed, only some Western perceptions of it have changed." (D.T. 30-11-88).

Chapter 7: THE EUROPEAN HOME

Last year, and more so this year, Mr. Gorbachev has pursued his detente in Europe by frequent reference to his theme of a 'European Home'. By this he hopes to draw East and West into one Europe. This theme that East and West are one family and have a common home is set out fully in his book "PERESTROIKA—New Thinking for our Country and the World" (Collins, London, 1987) Section 6 of the book is entitled "Europe in Soviet Foreign Policy."

The extracts that follow are rather lengthy, but are important in throwing light on his thinking and plans.

UNDER THE HEADING 'THE HERITAGE OF HISTORY'

Some in the West are trying to "exclude" the Soviet Union from Europe. Now and then, as if inadvertently, they equate "Europe" with "Western Europe". Such ploys, however, cannot change the geographic and historical realities. Russia's trade, cultural and political links with other European nations and states have deep roots in history. We are Europeans. Old Russia was united with Europe by Christianity and the millennium of its arrival in the land of our ancestors will be marked next year. The history of Russia is an organic part of the great European history. The Russians, Ukrainians, Byelo-Russians, Moldavians, Lithuanians, Letts, Estonians, Larels and other peoples of our country have all made a sizeable contribution to the development of European civilization. So they rightly regard themselves as its lawful inheritors.

"Our common European history is involved and instructive, great and tragic. It deserves to be studied and learned from."

"It is high time everyone realized the simple truth that the existing barriers cannot be overcome by the West imposing its ways upon the East or vice versa. We must turn by joint efforts from confrontations and military rivalry towards peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation. It is only via this understanding that our continent can be united."

EUROPE IS OUR COMMON HOME

“Europe is indeed a common home where geography and history have closely interwoven the destinies of dozens of countries and nations. Of course, each of them has its own problems, and each wants to live its own life, to follow its own traditions. Therefore, developing the metaphor, one may say: the home is common, that is true, but each family has its own apartment, and there are different entrances, too. But it is only together, collectively, and by following the sensible norms of coexistence that the Europeans can save their home, protect it against a conflagration and other calamities, make it better and safer, and maintain it in proper order.”

“The concept of a ‘common European home’ suggests above all a degree of integrity, even if its states belong to different social systems and opposing military-political alliances. It combines **necessity with opportunity.**”

UNDER THE HEADING ‘NECESSITY: IMPERATIVES FOR PAN-EUROPEAN POLICY’

“Integrative processes are developing intensively in both parts of Europe. It is time to think what will come next. Will the split in Europe be further aggravated or can a blend be found to the benefit of both the Eastern and Western parts in the interests of Europe and indeed the rest of the world? The requirements of economic development in both parts of Europe, as well as scientific and technological progress, prompt the need for a search for some form of mutually advantageous cooperation. What I mean is not some kind of ‘European Autarchy’, but better use of the aggregate potential of Europe for the benefit of its peoples, and in relations with the rest of the world.”

EUROPE OPPORTUNITIES

“Europe ‘from the Atlantic to the Urals’ is a cultural-historical entity united by the common heritage of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, of the great philosophical and social teachings of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These are powerful magnets which help policy-makers in their search for ways to mutual understanding and cooperation at the level of interstate relations. A tremendous potential for a policy of peace and neighbourliness is inherent in the European cultural heritage. Generally, in Europe the new, salutary out-

look knows much more fertile soil than in any other region where two social systems come in to contact.”

This grand concept of reviving Old Europe with its rich cultures, ancient towns, superb architecture, centuries of history, and the common bond of Christianity, has an appeal to the Italians, the French, the Germans, and the Austrians. Only a man like Gorbachev, with his grasp of history and perceptive mind could put together and use such a theme to his own advantage.

We must also bear in mind that practically all the countries of western Europe are Marxist-Socialist; not such a totalitarian brand as in the Soviet, but with Gorbachev's 'restructuring' he can well say these diverse forms of socialism can surely cooperate together.

We note too, that his theme emphasizes the equality and importance of the East—Russia and her allies, with the West—the EEC countries.

Of particular interest to us is that his theme of a common home for all Europe is one which the Pope will support, especially when they eventually agree to each have their appropriate rule over all Europe, the one spiritual and the other temporal.

Chapter 8: IMPORTANCE OF WEST GERMANY IN THE 'EUROPEAN HOME'

In Milestones last year there was a short essay on Scripture and Germany in the Time of the End. Germany is the 'land of Magog' and so there seems to be a close relationship between Russia and Germany.

Gorbachev began to 'woo' West Germany last year, with, of course, his own objectives in mind. The President of West Germany, Richard Von Weizaeker, was given a cordial reception on his six-day visit to Moscow in July 1987, and it was one of the occasions when Mr. Gorbachev used his figure of a 'Common European House'. He urged the West German President to help build a 'Common European House'.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR'S RED CARPET VISIT TO MOSCOW

The largely ceremonial visit of the President last year was followed in October 1988 by a visit of the federal Chancellor, Dr. Kohl, the chief representative and negotiator for the government. The importance attached to the visit by Mr. Gorbachev was apparent when he delayed his holidays to confer with Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, on arrangements for the visit.

The German Chancellor, for his part, had two objectives in the meeting. He wished to explore further trade development, and he took with him "a retinue of 500" including "five cabinet ministers and a powerful team of bankers and industrialists". This was the main business side of the visit.

His second object was to explore the hope of re-unification of the two Germans, a topic near to the heart of the German people. At this stage he received a point blank, "No", from Gorbachev. But he gave encouragement in another direction.

"President Mikhail Gorbachev made it clear on Monday that his concept of a 'common European home' does not, and cannot, mean the re-unification of Germany"

"But differences over German border issues apart, the Soviet leadership has gone out of its way to signal West Germany's primary importance, and its wish for better relations" (G.W. 30-10-88).

MORE ON THE 'COMMON EUROPEAN HOME'

Mr. Gorbachev sees West Germany as the bridge joining East and West Europe; the bridge in constructing this European Home. And he perceives the Germans are ready for this.

"The extraordinary warmth of the Kohl-Gorbachev talks in Moscow is doubtless not the most surprising aspect of this Soviet-West German summit and the reactivation of Bonn's Ostpolitik that it fore-shadows... While in Moscow the Soviet leader used the time to spell out at length his reform programme and his 'new thinking' on foreign policy issues. He has found in the federal Republic of Germany a terrain which has long been favourable" (G.W. 6-11-88).

Relative to this, here are some poll figures: 70 % of West Germans judged Soviet policies favourably, while 52 % had a negative attitude to American ones. (D.T. 24-10-88).

In an article in the Guardian Weekly, Jonathan Steele put Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow into a wider context. The article had the title:

THE CHARMS OF BRIDGE-BUILDER GORBACHEV

"President Gorbachev is using the doldrums on US-Soviet relations caused by the election campaign to indulge in some hyper-active Western European diplomacy. Last week it was Chancellor Kohl's turn to see a super-confident Gorbachev in action. Earlier, the charm was directed at the Italian Prime Minister and shortly before him the Austrian Chancellor had his chance to pay his respects at the Kremlin. These visits will be rounded off next month when President Mitterand comes here, the first Western European leader to have a second Moscow summit with Gorbachev.

"It has been a whirlwind set of exchanges, from which a number of major and minor conclusions readily emerge.

"The Federal Republic, as Chancellor Kohl has been hearing, is still considered the linchpin between East and West which Gorbachev wants to build. It is also the Soviet's natural economic partner, already enjoying a strapping lead over other western traders..." (G.W. 6-11-88).

FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN HOME

President Mitterand of France, a thorough socialist, wants to play his part in building the European Home. At the end of November, he paid another visit to Moscow and also toured the Eastern European countries "to clarify and restate French foreign policy towards the Eastern bloc". A report of his thinking read as follows:

MITTERAND SETS HIS SIGHTS ON A GRANDER EUROPE

"But Mitterand is using the occasion to affirm his support for Mr. Gorbachev's reform programme and to conjure up his own vision of an even grander Europe than that comprised by the present EEC.

"It would re-embrace the 'other Europe' cut off in the east by the Yalta agreement at the end of the 1939-45 war.

"I dream of a Europe reconciled and independent' the President told a Left-wing daily, *Liberation*, in an exclusive interview. 'I dream of it and I am working for it'.

"He will go to Moscow offering a very warm handshake to Mr. Gorbachev, in the spirit of frank admiration and willingness to help."

"Political observers note that Mitterand's position is in the long tradition of French policy towards Russia. It is not far removed from de Gaulle's dream of a Europe that stretched from the Atlantic to the Urals" (D.T. 25-11-88).

When we quoted that phrase of de Gaulle's with some excitement in 1963, we had no idea how it would come about. Now after 25 years we see how it may come about.

In the French newspaper *Le Monde* a few weeks later there was a further report on his travels, this time to Prague, where he was uncertain how he would be received. The report was headed:

"MITTERAND'S COMMON HOME"

"The enterprise promised to be a tricky one. The French President had a lofty project in mind—to make France also, and especially France, the architect of the future great European home..." (G.W. 18-12-88).

THE POPE'S SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN HOME

The Pope gave a long and important address to the European Parliament on October 11th. The text occupies over four pages of type.

Many paragraphs assumed the integration of the countries of the Common Market into an economic and political unit. In his opening paragraph he said:

"I am very conscious of the importance of my present meeting with the representatives of the twelve countries which make up the European Community, that is to say, the representatives of some three hundred and thirty million citizens who have entrusted to you the mandate of directing their common destinies".

"Our encounter takes place at a special moment in the history of this continent when after a long journey, not without difficulties, we stand at the beginning of new and decisive stages which, with the coming into force of the Single European Act will hasten the process of integration which has been patiently conducted during recent decades."

But his view encompassed the whole of Europe:

"Other nations may certainly join those which are represented here today. My wish as the supreme Pastor of the universal Church, who comes from Eastern Europe and who knows the aspirations of the Slavic peoples, that other 'lung' of our same European homeland, my wish is that Europe, giving herself with sovereign power free institutions, may one day enlarge the dimensions given her by geography and even more by history. How should I not wish this, since the culture inspired by Christian faith has deeply marked the history of all the peoples of our unique Europe, Greek and Latin, Germanic and Slavonic, in spite of all the vicissitudes and beyond the social systems and the ideologies?"

A large part of his address was taken up with the evils of atheism on the individual and the behaviour of the state. He focused his remarks on the "principle... proclaimed for the first time by Christ, of the distinction between 'what is Caesar's' and 'what is God's'. This led to the clear inference of his vital part in the affairs of Europe.

"To say that the management of 'what is God's' belongs to the religious community and not the State, means setting a salutary limit on the power of men..."

He was putting in his claim to have his proper place as spiritual leader of Europe.

At the end of his address he included the following:

"In conclusion, I would like to mention three domains in which I think the integrated Europe of tomorrow, opened towards the East of the continent... generous towards the other hemisphere, should resume her role as a beacon in the civilization of the world:

- First of all, to reconcile man with creation...
- then to reconcile man with his fellowman, by accepting one another as Europeans of various cultural traditions or families of thought, by being welcoming to the foreigner and to the refugee, by opening up the spiritual riches of the peoples of other continents.
- Finally, to reconcile man with himself... call for faith in God"

Wherever we look, the angels are guiding affairs to their appointed end as revealed in the word of prophecy. It is now not difficult for us to envisage a future united Europe:- the Fourth beast of Daniel 7 reconstructed, with brazen claws and the papal horn speaking great things.

Also, as we look at how Europe is shaping, we see that though there will be one Europe, it will still exist as two distinguishable entities: the two legs and feet on which the great Image is erected.

Chapter 9: THE POPE AND GORBACHEV IN THE DETENTE THEME

SLOW PROGRESS

The Pope continues to make progress in his efforts to establish relations with the Soviet, and to have his spiritual authority recognized in the East as well as in the West. It is only slow progress. Mr. Gorbachev is in no hurry to promote this while he is busy with so many other activities. Amongst other things he will want the Pope's agreement for the support of the Roman Catholics in Eastern Europe in his economic reforms, before agreeing to a visit.

Nevertheless, progress continues:

"Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev opened a tentative dialogue with the Vatican yesterday by meeting a senior papal representative. Before receiving Cardinal Agostino Casaroli in the Kremlin, Gorbachev, asked by journalists when he intended to invite the Pope to Moscow, said: 'Many things have yet to happen'."

"Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze added: 'We have big plans. The time will come. Now we will talk about this with Casaroli'" (J.P. Daily July, 1988).

In an article before the visit it was indicated that it had been Mr. Gorbachev who invited the Cardinal to Moscow:

"The Soviet Union has been visited by several high ranking Roman Catholic churchmen, but this is the first time the Pope has been asked to send prelates to represent him at solemn Soviet ceremonies" (D. T. 23-3-88).

The deliberate, slow, pace at which the Kremlin works is reflected in the announcement that "The Pope has accepted a formal invitation to Hungary, his first visit to an East European country other than his native Poland". He will probably go in 1990. So events are stretched out. But the degree of progress is not the main point. It is the assertion by the Kremlin that they will meet eventually.

THE POPE MODIFIES HIS POLICY

Perhaps the most significant happening this year is a change in the Pope's policy—a less demanding and more flexible approach to eastern Europe and Communism generally. For the past ten years he has turned his back on the socialist orientation of previous Popes, and vigorously asserted the authority of the Catholic Church and its various doctrines that must be believed. We may suppose that, finding this was a limitation to progress, the time had come to adopt more cooperative ways in his relation to Eastern Europe and the Soviet. His modified policy is also his adapting to the 'detente' era, and a response to Gorbachev easing the religious situation in the Soviet and its satellite countries.

This change in policy was reported in the *Jerusalem Post Daily*, July 1988 in an article entitled:

"POPE ALSO WARMS TO THE NEW CLIMATE IN THE EAST"

Here are two extracts:

"A member of the Vatican delegation explained why the initiatives are taking place now, as rigid Marxist ideologies are being rejected for more pragmatic policies in Communist capitals from Berlin to Beijing. 'Above all' he said, 'this Pope is a realist when it comes to dealing with Communism. When he sees opportunities, he tries to exploit them, even if there is no guarantee of success.'"

"The Pope's statements in recent months mark a clear departure from earlier pronouncements that rejected the notion that religious and other freedoms could flower in Marxist societies. In recent months he has repeatedly stated that believers can be good citizens in Communist societies and has asserted that many political systems and cultures, even those of the left, can contribute to solving the world's problems".

THE POPE'S CHANGED ATTITUDE TO THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

This year the Russian Orthodox Church has become an important element in the Pope's moves to cooperate with the article just referred to:

“The Vatican has increased its contacts with the Russian Orthodox Church, proposing more cooperation while demanding that legal status be given to the estimated four or five million Ukrainian Catholics who follow the Eastern rites but offer allegiance to Rome. Since Stalin decreed that they were part of the Russian Orthodox Church, they have had to practise their faith secretly.”

“Another breakthrough came yesterday when leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church announced that they will hold the first formal talks with the Vatican next month on the long-suppressed Ukrainian Catholic Church.”

In the past the Vatican has frowned on the Russian Church for its submission to the atheistic State, and its espousing of Communist causes. The proposed reconciliation was set out by the Pope in a 38 page letter in March. The letter called for the re-unification of the two churches, and an easing of tension in the political sphere. It concluded with the Pope sending the ‘kiss of peace’ to her “sister church” (D. T. 23-3-88).

Reconciliation has already taken place between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern or Greek Orthodox Church centred on Constantinople.

Another event with relation to the Russian Orthodox Church was Cardinal Glemp of Poland visiting Soviet Byelorussia (The republic next to Latvia, GP).

On his return he was enthusiastic:

“I think a new chapter has opened. It is the beginning of a long road of reconciliation between the two churches and nations” (D. T. 9-9-88)

Cardinal Glemp earlier in the year became the first Polish Roman Catholic primate to visit the Soviet Union.

POLAND

Poland continues to play an important part in the Pope’s plans. When he visited Poland last year he announced that he had agreed in principle to establish full diplomatic relations, the Polish government for its part granting the Church clear legal status. So far this has not materialized. Poland has been in turmoil this year. Various industrial strikes have taken place with the trade union Solidarity in the forefront, claiming the workers must have a part in the government. The Church has renewed

its support for Solidarity and its leader Lec Walesa and has forced some concession from the government.

“The country’s economy, crippled by shortages and austerity, was further hit by renewed strikes in April and August. These seem to have convinced the authorities that they cannot bludgeon the Polish working class into submission. Last week General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the party chief, made the government’s most important concession since the introduction of martial law in 1981: he invited Solidarity and the Catholic Church to take part in a conference next month to work out a platform of political and economic reform” (D.T. 21-9-88).

The conference has not yet taken place, because Walesa is resisting government pressure to dictate who should represent the workers.

Chapter 10: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INCREASES ITS INFLUENCE

As the years go by the legal directives of the European Parliament and Commission increasingly over-ride national legislation. This has been more apparent in 1988 as the 1992 deadline draws nearer. Most European countries have shown themselves in favour of economic and political integration. British feelings and interests do not run that way and Britain's isolation is becoming more apparent.

This is in harmony with prophecy. Britain is not part of the European fourth Beast. On the other hand the integration of Western European countries to form the final beast phase of Revelation chapter 16 and 17 is also according to prophecy.

THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT 1985-6

The developments during 1988 should be viewed with the Single European Act in mind. Details of this Act will be found in Milestones 1985 chapter 3 and 1986 chapter 3. The Act was an important addition to the original Treaty of Rome (1959), and it provided a basis for a European society administered by the European Parliament. The original draft was successfully toned down so that the most important legislation has to be agreed upon by the national governments. The Act increased the authority of the EEC Commission and the European Parliament. Britain ratified the Act at the end of 1986.

There are three elements to the European government. There is a Council of Ministers, representing the governments of the member states; there is the European Commission, described as the governing body of the Community's civil service; and thirdly the European Parliament, a body of MP's elected by the people in the various EEC countries. The relation between these three parts is that "when the European Parliament and the Commission are agreed on the need for some new law it will be extremely hard for the Council to reject the proposal." (D.T. 1-7-86), the Council being the voice of the national governments.

LAST YEAR'S TROUBLES OVERCOME

In Milestones 1987, the chapter reporting on EEC matters had the heading "An Unhappy Year". The year had been spent with disagreements and stalemate at the various summits over how the agricultural inefficiency in most countries, and the vast surpluses, should be rectified; and how many extra millions of money the EEC Commission should be granted per annum.

At the EEC summits in February these matters were settled by compromise between member states, Mrs. Thatcher also giving way to allow overall agreement.

A step was taken towards European integration at the summit. There was agreement on promoting monetary union between all countries:

"Moreover, despite Britain's deep misgivings, the Hanover summit launched the Community on an historic drive to establish monetary and economic union between the member states." (D.T. 8-7-88).

ON WITH EUROPEANISM

With hard, practical topics out of the way, Mr. Jacques Delors, president of the EEC Commission, did not waste time in calling for progress towards European union and the enhancing of the status of the European Parliament and its Commission:

"Mr. Jacques Delors, President of the Common Market Commission, said on Wednesday that, within ten years, 80 per cent of all legislation affecting community citizens would originate in Brussels."

"By 1995, there should be 'the embryo of a European Government in one form or another', he told the parliament." (D.T. 8-7-88)

A little earlier West Germany launched a campaign for a Central Bank and a single currency as an essential for the operation of the Single European Market.

Mrs. Thatcher responded to these challenges a few weeks later. There were bold headlines:

"THATCHER READY TO BLOCK MOVES TO UNITE EUROPE"

"Westminster will not yield power."

"The Prime Minister applied the brakes yesterday to Common Market moves to create a United States of Europe, delivering a forthright dressing down of the EEC's senior bureaucrat, M. Jacques Delors, for pressing for greater political and economic union."

"Mrs. Thatcher has made no secret of her opposition to closer political and monetary union, saying she did not expect to see a United States of Europe within her lifetime. ... She revealed her deep and passionate hostility to the idea of submerging Britain's national identity in a wider European federation." (D.T. 28-7-88)

MRS. THATCHER'S ANTI-EUROPEAN FEDERATION TOUR AND CAMPAIGN

After the quiet of the Summer holidays Mrs. Thatcher followed her July attack with a four-day tour of Europe. Her first call was Bruges to give a speech to the College of Europe. The newspaper report was headed:

"THATCHER SIGNALS FIGHT TO STOP EEC SUPERSTATE"

"The Prime Minister last night issued her most uncompromising declaration yet of her intention to defend British parliamentary sovereignty against EEC bureaucracy. In doing so she further inflamed the dispute between her and other leaders over the nature of British participation in the EEC." (D.T. 22-9-88).

Her second day was at Luxemburg. "In Luxemburg on the second day of her four-day European tour, she remained in uncompromising mood in spite of the furore she had caused in European capitals, saying in a speech which was an abridged version of the one she delivered in Bruges on Tuesday that centralized European Government would be a nightmare." (D.T. 22-9-88).

On Thursday she arrived in Madrid for talks with Senor Filipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister; and on the last day she was in Italy to talk with Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita. She gained no support from either Prime Minister.

"For the third successive day of her European tour, Mrs. Thatcher's outspoken opposition to EEC bureaucracy interfering with British sovereignty dominated matters as she arrived in Madrid for talks with Spain's Prime Minister..." (D.T. 23-9-88).



Above: British Sovereignty will not yield
Opposite: Thatcher's Boadacia against Europe!



EUROPEAN REACTIONS

Mrs. Thatcher's outspoken challenge of European integration had the effect of stirring up support for the European idea from most member countries. A *Washington Post* article in November, looking at Europe from across the Atlantic, gave some responses:

"The ultimate EEC goal, Belgian Prime Minister Wilfred Martens said in a news conference called to rebut a Thatcher broadside, is 'common sovereignty over foreign policy, defense and security, monetary, economic, environmental and social policy'".

"West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl...said that the building of a single European market was but an evolutionary step toward a supranational Europe that would include 'an economic and monetary union', with an added 'social dimension'. The Netherlands and Luxemburg said they agreed".

"Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita told reporters that 'in my opinion, and I believe in the opinion of most European governments, full economic and political union is the direction to move in'".

"French Prime Minister, Michel Rocard told interviewers last week, 'I am clearly a European federalist'. A European central bank, he said, is an 'absolute necessity'" (G.W. 6-11-88).

Some governments may have their misgivings about losing national sovereignty, but public opinion is generally in favour. A 'Eurobarometer survey' in early September, just before Mrs. Thatcher's four-day campaigning tour, reported:

"A two to one popular majority in favour of European Union across the Community as a whole" (D.T. 23-9-88).

GROWING BRITISH ISOLATION

Whereas the peoples of Europe support their governments in European integration, the people of Britain in general stand by their government's opposition. The newspaper report continued on the Eurobarometer survey:

"Whereas a majority of Europeans think their country benefits from belonging to the Community, only 39 per cent of British people think membership is to the country's benefit. ...The European Commission in Brussels, the home of bureaucracy of the Community, is particularly disliked."

The TUC (U.K. union) leaders seem to be ready to support European control, thinking it will benefit the workers and give them a bigger say in government.

The extent to which Britain stands apart from the European countries was revealed when the Euro-parliament debated the topic of European progress. The European Parliament is made up of over 200 MP's elected by popular vote in their various countries, and therefore is a good index of what each country is thinking. The Conservative British Euro-MP's dutifully voted for Mrs. Thatcher's view (though some reluctantly so). But the result was overwhelmingly in favour of more Europeanism:

"By 176 votes to 53 the Euro-MP's backed a report calling for increased EEC powers in foreign affairs, defence, and monetary policy."

"This included a call for a single European currency and central bank" (D.T. 28-10-88).

45 of the 53 in opposition were the group of Conservative Euro-MP's.

THE GATHERING MOMENTUM TOWARDS INTEGRATION

The Single European Act calls for a single European market by the end of 1992 and envisages abolition of frontiers, free movement of workers to all countries, a common fiscal control with a common currency, a central bank, everything controlled from Brussels. Though it sounds unlikely of attainment, yet the preparations in each country, and the continuing outflow of directives from the Commission inevitably create a momentum in the direction the Europeans want. 90 per cent of the directives needed for the creation of the single market have already been tabled.

W. F. Deedes in his Commentary Column wrote:

"I am not sure how many Conservative MP's preoccupied with other things, are fully conscious of the pace at which our new masters are travelling in Brussels. There does not seem to be sufficient realization of what a single market must swiftly lead on to, legally, politically, and culturally; nor of the determination among dedicated Europeans to ensure that it does so." (D.T. 11-7-88).

There are already many directives from the Commission over-riding British standards and procedures in various fields, in the electrical and

engineering industries, the building trade, atmosphere and water pollution, agricultural production, worker's rights, etc., etc. These may cause irritation, but have a small effect on national sovereignty. There are more vital matters. Three current matters illustrate this—the loss of control on immigration, EEC control of civil national air flights, and the question of a unified monetary system. A book published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs points out that the logical outcome of the single European economy is that Britain must eventually surrender its control on immigration. This will impinge on daily life.

"The process of European integration will also reduce the distinction between British and other European citizens, as they come to share rights to study, to work and practise their professions, to carry common passport documents and to share many welfare entitlements." (D.T. 20-10-88).

The abolition of national air lines is in process of being drafted:

"Proposals are in hand to replace national airlines by Community airlines:

"Commission officials are considering proposals which would greatly increase EEC powers in civil aviation, including the right to negotiate agreements with third party countries on behalf of Community airlines. In autumn the Commission will also propose setting up a single authority to handle air traffic control throughout the EEC countries." (D.T. 13-7-88).

MONETARY UNION

The most controversial and immediate topic is monetary control. Should Britain's monetary policy be controlled by the EEC or by Britain? This is a real and immediate challenge to Britain's relation to the EEC. A single European market (which in a limited sense Britain is keen to have) logically demands close financial cooperation between member countries. Most European countries accept this.

"Most European governments want to see two early developments. They want Britain and other countries whose currencies are outside the EMS fixed-rate-exchange rate regime to join; and secondly they want moves to set up the embryo of a genuine EEC central bank. By implication this bank—rather than national governments—would

decide on appropriate monetary policy, interest rates and other key financial objectives." (G.W. 29-5-88).

The case for cooperation is simple: for a single market to operate, all members must be within the 'fixed-exchange rate regime', since if one country stays out it can undercut its other European competitors by allowing its currency to depreciate.

Mrs. Thatcher has given a consistent "No" to joining the EMS regime. But Mr. Lawson the Chancellor and Sir Geoffrey Howe the Foreign Secretary, see such a step as inescapable if Britain is to get the benefits of the single market.

"Both Sir Geoffrey and Mr. Lawson have become convinced that the move to the EEC internal market by the end of 1992 is going to have a revolutionary significance for national and economic policy" (G.W. 29-5-88).

The big industrialists are anxious for monetary union to take place.

BRITAIN'S DILEMMA

The dilemma for Britain is that Europe is only part of her trade interests. She is unwilling to give up her freedom to adjust her overseas financial policy as circumstances require. Almost certainly she will maintain her free-trade world outlook, trading with the Commonwealth, the U.S. as well as Europe. It seems likely that, taking together the two items Mrs. Thatcher is firm on, and has widespread support—maintaining Britain's sovereignty and freedom to control financial policy—the result will be Britain becoming a fringe member of the European market. Gradually she may be separated from Europe by these 'peaceful' forces; and she returns to her traditional independent position, fulfilling the latter-day application of Tyre in Isaiah 23:

"The LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth" (Isa. 23:17).

A SOCIALIST EEC

There is another reason why Britain will become increasingly out of tune with EEC policy. The European countries are mostly Socialist. And the EEC officials are keen socialists, because socialism rests on bureaucracy—everything controlled from the centre, in this case

Brussels. One could express the future of the EEC as becoming what Britain has experienced in Labour party government, with its nationalization of industries and planning at the centre to control the economy and society.

This country under Mrs. Thatcher has reacted away from this experience, back to decentralization and individual initiative. It is not likely to go back to that way of life. Mrs. Thatcher said in her famous Bruges speech:

“Indeed it is ironic that just when those countries such as the Soviet Union, which have tried to run everything from the centre, are learning that success depends on dispersing power and decisions away from the centre, some in the Community seem to want to move in the opposite direction.

“We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the State in Britain, only to see them reimposed at a European level, with a European superstate exercising dominance from Brussels” (D.T. 22-9-88)

The new outlook Mrs. Thatcher has generated, is traditionally and historically British. A sea-faring and adventurous people, she has always had a different outlook from Europe, where the individual has been subservient to the State, or higher authority. History moulds nations and their character, and this does not readily change. It becomes deep-seated in British blood.

Britain has for centuries been insular and does not partake of the culture and Roman Catholic religion that has dominated Europe.

The independent attitude that characterizes Britain is also seen in her insistence on maintaining an independent nuclear deterrent, in case she has to stand alone. Western Europe countries, on the other hand, are moving towards a nuclear-free status.

FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION

Germany and France together are the principal parties shaping the future European entity, Biblically referred to in Revelation 17 as the final phase of “the Beast”. Germany is the leading power both in its economic strength and its relationship with the Soviet. It is France that pursues cooperation with Germany, having deep-seated fears of a recurrence of previous German invasions. So from the start of the Common Market idea she aimed to bind Germany economically into a

confederation of countries to prevent this happening. So we have witnessed over some forty years this strange cooperation of the two powers that have been in many ways hostile. For years there have been regular joint meetings (over 50) of the Heads of State. In January 1988, they set up “an economic and financial council” to allow more frequent consultation.

In the last three years there has been growing military cooperation:

“Over the past three years they have in any case been working closely together, stepping up the scale of French units manoeuvring with the German army from battalion to brigade, and finally last year to divisional level. Now the staffs on both sides seem genuinely excited by the challenge of creating for the first time an integrated formation, with French and German soldiers sharing accommodation and working in each other’s languages.” (G.W. 17-4-88).

This German-French integration is the core of the development of a “European defence identity independent of the American presence that dominates NATO”. It has been described as “the European pillar” of NATO.

In all the several aspects of German-French cooperation, we see the forces that are shaping a distinct West European entity—that beast that will have a Germanic head and associated ten horns, urged on by the Papal power to wage war with Christ and the saints (Rev. 17:14; 19:19-21).

Chapter 11: ISRAEL'S NATIONAL RESURRECTION: EZEKIEL CHAPTER 37

THE PRESENT STATE OF ISRAEL WILL BE DESTROYED

The details of this chapter should be seen as a description of Israel's Jubilee Return, the theme of chapter 1. Speakers often give the impression that the prophecy is already largely fulfilled. But this is not so. The present partial return is no more than the stirring and movement of the dry bones. The substance of the prophecy that brings bone to bone, flesh on the bones to make a body, and the Spirit that makes it a living body, is all in the future. The present 'body' of Israel under its present constitution, is part of the Gentile world, a member of the United Nations community. This 'body' will be destroyed by the Gogian invasion. The present situation of Israel and its future calamity is described by Isaiah 17:10, 11. They are planting 'strange slips' which God allows to prosper:

"In that day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to prosper: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow."

Then follows a description of the nations rushing like the rushing of many waters in their invasion of the land.

It is a day of calamity, not only for those in the land, but world wide, especially for those persecuted in the countries where the Image power rules—Europe, the Middle East, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia. They will echo the words of Ezekiel 37:11,

"Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off from our parts".

EZEKIEL CALLED TO PROPHECY

Let us follow carefully Ezekiel 37. God says in verses 5 and 6 that He will bring into being the body of Israel. Then follows the significant verse 7:

“So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.”

So the building of the future body of Israel, depends on Ezekiel ‘prophesying’. Ezekiel here is a man of sign, as in so many parts of his book. He represents the saints and their Lord. They are the ‘strengthening ones’, his name meaning ‘God will strengthen’. Ezekiel as a man of sign for the future is like John in Patmos, who was told, “Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and peoples” (Rev. 10, 11). So it will be for Ezekiel and his companions. They must be resurrected to do this. Their first task then is to ‘prophesy’ to their nation, and later to other nations, teaching them what the Lord requires, preparing them to afflict their souls, and so respond to the Great Trumpet sound calling them back to their inheritance.

THE NOISE AND THE SHAKING

As Ezekiel and his companions prophesy, we have read that there is ‘a noise’, followed by ‘a shaking’. The Hebrew word *quol* means to call aloud and is sometimes translated ‘proclamation’, ‘thunder’. The sense is something greater than just a noise. I think we can equate it with Revelation 14, and the Proclamation by the saints in mid-heaven declaring judgement on the nations and mercy to Israel.

Then there is the ‘shaking’. Again, this translation is inadequate, and rather misleading. This word is used consistently throughout the O.T. for earthquake (1 Kings 19:11, Isaiah 29:6; Amos 1:1; Zech. 14:5) and earthquake is the proper translation here. In Biblical visions and symbology earthquakes signify mighty political upheavals. Again, the Revelation scene should be applied. The 7th vial produces a “great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great” (Rev. 16:18). Following this shaking of the Gentile heavens and their removal, the new Israelitish heavens are to be established in their place. It is during this great earthquake that the body of Israel comes into being, bone coming to bone, sinews and flesh

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coming on them. Now they wait for the breath that will make it a living body, “an exceeding great army”. Verse 14 declares that God will put His spirit in them, and the body shall live, and God will place them in their own land.

Putting God’s spirit in them is the work of the saints, as verse 10 indicates:

“I (Ezekiel and those with him) prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”

This putting the spirit into the ‘body’ of Israel is the instruction they receive which gives them a new heart, as Ezekiel has already declared in chapter 36:

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you...I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes...and ye shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezek. 36:26-28).

With God’s spirit in their hearts, they are ready to receive the adoption into the New Covenant, as set out in Jeremiah chapter 31, and also at the end of this chapter 37 of Ezekiel:

“My servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.” (v.26)

The new covenant will be finally ratified when all Israel are back in the land, the two sticks of Judah and Ephraim joined together and the sanctuary in the midst of the nation (verses 22, 27). So will end the Great Jubilee Return, and the Millennial Age begins.

How beautifully does scripture add to scripture to give us a picture of what lies ahead! This I believe is the nature of Ezekiel 37. It belongs to the Jubilee Return. Ezekiel 38 & 39 are an addendum giving detail of that great introductory event; the Armageddon overthrow in the land preparatory to the events of the final Jubilee. The remaining chapters describe the sanctuary in their midst and the return of the glory of God to Israel.

Chapter 12: THE SOVIET—ARAB PEACE PLAN

As the events of 1988 unfolded in the Middle East, with much diplomatic activity, one sensed there was something important developing. At the end of the year it appeared, humanly speaking, that peace for Israel was at last a more realistic concept.

Three factors were working to this end:

1. An agreement between America and the Soviet to cooperate for a peace settlement in the Middle East.
2. The strength and effectiveness of the Arab refugee Uprising, shattering Israel's complacency and giving a new spirit to the Palestinian Arabs.
3. The general easing of tension in the Middle East, starting with the initial withdrawal of the Soviet from Afghanistan, followed by the ending of the Gulf war and the 7-year old Iraq-Iran war.

At the end of the year the Arab-Soviet Peace Plan emerged, accepted by most Arab nations and the Soviet, and given a cautious welcome by America, Britain and Europe, but very disturbing to Israel.

In this chapter and the next we report on these important developments in 1988. Peace for Israel!—looked for over many years yet a seemingly impractical development. And now something more than a possible happening (if it is God's will) through changed attitudes of America, of the Soviet, of the Arab nations, and also of Israel.

Our review is rather detailed but this seems worthwhile to convey to the reader the changing attitudes, and to provide a framework through which to watch future events.

THE INTENSIFYING OF THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING

The Uprising got under way in November 1987, mainly by the actions of the youth in the refugee camps. The vigorous Israeli military reaction failed to quench the sudden outburst of bitterness and anger, and rather strengthened the defiance. The Palestinian weapons were stones, rocks,

clubs and primitive bombs. They brought casualties and excesses from the young Israeli soldiers. This was flashed around the world by the host of media men on the scene, often with exaggerated reports, and vivid pictures.

The Uprising became more effective as it became better organized, and money flowed in from Arab states. Also the Arabs living in the scores of villages in the West Bank gave their support to the refugee camps, with industrial strikes, breaking curfews, and non-cooperation. They became more bitter with increasing Israeli suppression, with week-long curfews, schools closed, and houses demolished. In addition, the Arabs living in Israel proper joined in 'peaceful' resistance, with closed shops and refusing to work. This situation was maintained through the year, with Israel struggling to cope with the defiance of a million or so Arabs in the refugee camps. As the Israeli army continued to suppress the Uprising with harsh measures and deportations, there developed a world-wide sympathy for the Palestinians and their rebellion against the Israeli occupation.

THE AMERICAN SHULTZ PEACE PLAN

The strength of the Palestinian Uprising caused concern in all the major countries—America, Britain, the EEC and the Soviet, in their fear that it might lead to another conflict between Israel and the Arab States. A new peace initiative was launched by Mr. Shultz in February. His plan was based on carrying out the terms of the Camp David Agreement of 1979, which called for limited self-rule for the Palestinians of the Gaza strip and the West Bank. In view of the Uprising, the Plan called for immediate action in arranging elections in the West Bank, followed by an autonomy in which the Arabs chose their own leaders to take charge of the administration in the occupied territories. At the end of the year further steps should be taken to get a permanent settlement covering Israel's security needs, and the rights of the Palestinians.

The Plan was emphatically rejected by the Israeli Conservative party, the Likud, under Mr. Shamir. It was also rejected by the Arab countries as not giving enough status for the Palestinians.

Mr. Shultz persisted with his Plan for several months, with four tours of the Arab countries and Israel, together with a visit to Moscow. But at the end Mr. Shamir would not be intimidated by the great pressure

brought to bear, and Mr. Shamir's final "No" meant matters must wait until the Israeli elections in November.

The failure of the Shultz Plan had two effects: it increased the status of the Soviet, who were also working actively in the Middle East, because it was apparent that America had little influence on Israel or the Arab nations. Secondly, it probably precipitated the unexpected 'withdrawal' action of Jordan from West Bank responsibility.

JORDAN LEAVES THE WEST BANK TO THE PLO

Early in August, King Hussein of Jordan announced that he was retiring from the West Bank and leaving its political future in the hands of the PLO.

"In the space of four days he axed a \$1.3 billion development programme for the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and announced that Jordan was cutting its administrative and legal links with the place. He also dissolved Jordan's lower house of Parliament in which West Bankers had 30 seats" (D.T. 2-8-88).

This produced shock waves both for Israel and the West Bank people. It shattered Mr. Peres (Israeli Labour) Israel-Jordan cooperation and hope of developing peace¹.

The official explanation for this dramatic move was that Hussein was submitting to "the wish of the Arab world and the Palestine Liberation Organization that the PLO alone should be responsible for the business of bringing about an independent Palestine".

It is clear that Hussein was under pressure at the June Arab Summit to make this move. Putting the West Bank into the sole hands of the PLO was intended as a means of maintaining the force of the Uprising, so as to reach a rapid freeing of the Palestinian Arabs from the Israeli occupation. With Jordan removed the Arabs had only the PLO to turn to for winning their cause. The Jordan withdrawal prepared the way for the Arab Peace Plan, led by Yasser Arafat.

Some observers comment that trying to make the West Bank an independent unit, a Palestinian State, is impractical from an economic and financial point of view, and perhaps King Hussein believes that in

¹ See *Milestones* 1987, pages 65-67.

due course he will be begged to return and will be in a stronger position than he was before.

Soviet representatives were present at the Arab Summit and were influential in creating the Arab Peace plan and the Hussein withdrawal move.

THE ARAB-SOVIET PEACE PLAN

For several years the Arab states have realized that Israel cannot be destroyed, and that their extremism was producing no gains. It became clear this year that a more moderate approach was to be adopted; on the one hand reluctantly acknowledging the existence of the State of Israel, but counterbalancing this by seeking world support for the similar acknowledgment of a Palestinian State, or self-determination, for the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians. This concept has been hammered into shape this year at several Arab Summits.

A proper Arab Summit is when the 21 Arab countries who make up the Arab League meet together. This is only occasionally, when special circumstances call for it. There is also the Palestine National Council (PNC). This National Council is now described as “the Palestine government in exile” of the PLO, with some 400 representatives. It meets fairly regularly at its headquarters in Tunis. Arafat controls several of the more moderate sections of the PNC; there are other more hard-line organizations.

As early as **January 1988**, Mr. Arafat began consultations with Arab countries on the idea of moving away from the unrealistic idea of destroying Israel, and towards the idea of a political settlement with Israel, with an independent state for Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank.

In **June** an Arab Summit was held in Algiers to discuss the Uprising, and it gave unanimous support to the PLO and its plans. They also gave their support for Arafat as the sole representative of the West Bank Arabs, and in effect demoted Hussein. The Arab nation’s delegates had been provided with a ‘Palestine dossier’ by the PNC. This included an article by Bassam Abu Sharif, a close famous advisor of Arafat, in which the UN resolutions 242 and 238, which acknowledged Israel’s right to exist within secure boundaries were accepted by the PLO, along with a similar right for the Palestinians.

At the end of **July**, King Hussein ‘withdrew’ from the West Bank, as requested by the Arab summit.

By **September** Arafat was mobilizing Arab support for a public Declaration of Independence for the West Bank Arabs:

“Leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization began talks in Libya yesterday aimed at quelling internal political feuding which threatens PLO plans to set up an internationally-recognized government.”

“Moscow has also been sounded out. Senior PLO sources said yesterday that the initial response had been favourable, but the Russians wanted a full Palestinian consensus behind the plan to emerge before they gave it their backing” (D.T. 2-9-88).

In **November** a three-day summit of the PNC was held, with over 300 of the total 400 membership present. The vote in favour of the PLO Peace Plan was supported by 253 of the 309 present. In reporting the meeting the *Daily Telegraph* said:

“The political programme spells out a formula for entering peace talks with Israel. After much wrangling, the PNC has arrived at a form of words which, for the first time, mentions positively the all-important United Nations resolution which calls for the ‘acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area’.

“By accepting this, albeit with numerous other UN resolutions favourable to the Palestinian cause, and coupled with the recognition of the Palestinian’s right to self-determination, the PLO has de facto accepted the existence of Israel”.

“The political programme is intended as a clear signal to the outside world and particularly the United States that the PLO is genuinely interested in a settlement with Israel” (D.T. 6-11-88).

REACTIONS

The new state ‘created’ by the Declaration of Independence was recognized by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, North and South Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, India, Italy, Greece, and the Soviet—altogether more than 20 countries. Other European countries, and the EEC approved the new attitude of seeking peace with Israel while not accepting the new Palestinian state. Both the Labour and the Likud parties in Israel rejected the Peace Plan, as one would expect. The US said that Arafat had not gone far enough in rejecting violence and accepting Israel.

ARAFAT'S NEXT TASK: THE UNITED STATES

Arafat now had an equally difficult task with the US as he had had with the hard-line Arab states. But no further progress could be made until the US showed sympathy with the Peace Plan; and more important, agreed to talk with Arafat who had been deputed to carry the Plan forward.

The behind-the-scenes activity that led to Arafat's acceptance by the United States, were revealed in a fascinating article in the French *Le Monde*, December 25th., shortly after Arafat's success at the UN meeting.

Arafat in the previous two or three years had contacts with Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor of Austria until 1983, and a central European Jew, and also with the Swedish government's Foreign ministry. They had persuaded Arafat that he must take the initiative if there was to be a peace settlement.

In February 1988 Swedish Foreign Minister, Sten Andersson, visited Israel, Syria and Jordan, and had a 'decisive breakfast meeting' with Arafat. Sweden agreed to help "throw a bridge" between Washington and the PLO. The Swedish Foreign Ministry set up a working group in the charge of two full-time diplomats to this end. There were many comings and goings.

"The first US-Palestinian meeting took place in Stockholm on November 21 amid the tightest secrecy between five prominent American Jews...and three Palestinians (including PLO executive committee member Khaled Al Hassan). They drafted a statement suited to Washington's requirements, which Arafat was to make at the United Nations in Geneva. But Arafat's speech, in Arabic, long-winded (95 minutes), in his flowery rhetoric, was not precise enough for Mr. Reagan and Mr. Schultz. There was much hasty activity behind the scenes, 'phone calls from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, etc.; and next day at a press conference Mr. Arafat said, in English, all that was required, without any caveats.

Reagan accepted, and in the next few days there was a meeting between a Washington diplomat and a PLO representative.

In the Guardian's assessment it was said:

"By strict, arithmetical calculation of diplomatic profit and loss, the PLO may have lost by the immense concessions which it made to

secure US recognition, it is, for the foreseeable future at least, outweighed by the much greater gains of which it holds promise.

“For an entirely new process, a new dynamic, has now been set in motion, and though, of course, the Americans are far from saying it, for the Palestinians the end of the process must, and can only be, the creation of an independent state in a portion of their original homeland”.

The PLO-Washington meeting was described as “Arafat’s entry to Washington on a potentially equal footing with Shamir or Peres” (G.W. 25-12-88).

“Britain’s reaction to the new situation was to upgrade contacts with the PLO, and a meeting was held between a foreign Office representative and Abu Sharif, Mr. Arafat’s chief spokesman” (G.W. 18-12-88).

The United Nation’s General Assembly passed a resolution unanimously, apart from the United States and Israel, for the calling of an international conference on the Middle East. “The resolution said the conference should bring together on an equal footing all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the five permanent members of the Security Council” (D.T. 16-12-88).

THE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAB PEACE PLAN

It may be a surprise to many, but it is Russia that has been the main driving force in Arab and Middle East developments. One can cite three reasons for this.

1. Gorbachev’s desire to get on better terms with the US, especially by a greater friendliness towards Israel;
2. the aim to establish Soviet status and influence in the Middle East;
3. a genuine wish to arrive at a peace settlement, so as to lessen the risk of war, which would affect its vast southern border, especially as nuclear abilities are growing rapidly in the Middle East. Peace would release some military capacity which could be directed to civilian needs.

Newspaper cuttings through the year several times have commented on the growing Soviet diplomatic drive and success in the Middle East. The key to this was the announcement at the June Reagan-Gorbachev

Summit in which Russia and America had agreed to cooperate for peace in the Middle East, each side seeking to influence its 'client' states to this end. As we have seen in the failure of the Shultz Peace Plan, the US has not been very successful, whereas the Soviet has guided the Arab Peace Plan to its present status. When Mr. Bush has been installed as America's new President,

"Mr. Gorbachev is expected to argue that the Soviet Union has played an important, though discreet, role in persuading its friends in the Palestinian movement to recognize Israel, and that the U.S. should urge Israel to come to terms with the Palestinian's right to their own state" (G.W. 27-9-88).

SOVIET DIRECT INTERVENTION WITH ARAFAT AND OTHERS

At the final Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, November 25, it was reported that:

"A four-man Soviet delegation, headed by a senior Foreign Ministry official, has been present throughout the meeting and is believed to have persuaded the radical factions, led by Dr. George Habash and Mr. Nawef Hawatmeh, to soften their resistance to the moderate line." (D.T. 15-11-88).

But Gorbachev's actions regarding the PLO leaders, and particularly Arafat himself go back some time. In 1986, when Hussein and Arafat, meeting in Amman, were about to agree on full cooperation, the Soviet ambassador in Amman spoke to Arafat:

"The Soviet ambassador told Arafat in no uncertain terms that if he accepted Hussein's terms, and joined what appeared to the Soviet to be an emerging Middle East 'Pax America', he would be cut off from Soviet support." (G.W. 7-5-88).

Later, when Arafat visited Moscow to meet Gorbachev he was told that "Ultimately he would have to come to terms with Israel's existence, and with its legitimate security concerns."

"Arafat, informed sources say, came away with a clear and, to him, unfavourable impression: times have changed in Moscow, both in the direct context of the Middle East and in the subservience of the Soviet Middle East policy to their wider interest of promoting good relations with the U.S." (J.P. 7-5-88).

The Washington Post in the Guardian April 17, 1988 had a despatch from Moscow with the heading:

“GORBACHEV CALLS ON PLO TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL”

“Diplomats here said Gorbachev’s remarks represent a further evolution in the Soviet Union’s position on the Middle East, showing greater flexibility toward Israel and a desire to steer the Palestinian leadership away from armed struggle and towards a negotiated settlement” (G.W. 17-4-99).

Again, a headline at the end of October before the important November PNC meeting in Algiers:

“SOVIET PRESSURE ON PLO SEEN AS STEP TO PEACE”

There had been another PLO visit to Moscow, and there followed a meeting between Arafat and Hussein of Jordan together with Mubarak of Egypt. This resulted in a rapprochement between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat:

“The Soviet intervention is a further indication of Moscow’s increased interest in mounting another international effort to solve the Palestinian problem” (D.T. 25-10-88).

Mubarak is reported to have said both sides had agreed on a confederation arrangement between Jordan and the future Palestinian state. This is interesting in two ways; it indicates Mr. Gorbachev has a clear chess-board picture of his moves. Earlier in the year, King Hussein had been persuaded to hand over to Arafat, to get the peace process moving—Hussein is cautious and hesitant, having survived several attempted assassinations from fellow Arabs. But now the Soviet recognizing that a future Palestinian state could not economically exist on its own, and that Israel would not accept a separate independent state on its border, Gorbachev brings Hussein and Arafat together again.

SOVIET FRIENDLINESS TO ISRAEL

Briefly, these are the various expressions of the Soviet’s changed attitude to Israel:

* We have already extensively quoted Mr. Gorbachev’s statements on Israel’s right to existence in secure boundaries.

* An article just to hand from a political research department of the Hebrew University gives a more fundamental reason for the Soviet's interest in Israel, and also in the PLO—in its present moderated attitude.

“Without the PLO, Islamic radicalization of the Arab-Israel conflict is to be expected, drastically changing the fragile domestic balance of moderate Arab countries such as Jordan and Egypt, and even militant Syria. This could serve as a catalyst for Moslem extremism throughout the Middle East, a direct threat to the USSR with its escalating Moslem critics, which, lacking any basic solution, can only be temporarily averted.

“But the USSR is even more interested in the stability of Israel, since we constitute a most important strategic counterforce to the Islamic threat. The collapse of Israel would greatly endanger the USSR.” (J.P. 7-1-89).

* In Jewish eyes the increased release of Jews wishing to leave Russia is important.

* Moscow has said that as soon as peace negotiations begin, they will establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

* When diplomatic relations are established, there will be direct Russian flights to Tel Aviv, and all emigrants will have to travel to Israel, whereas now many choose to go to America.

* Israel's renewed ties with East European countries has had the blessing of Moscow.

* Israel has been allowed to send a consular delegation to Moscow.

* Israel's foreign minister, Mr. Peres, met two senior Soviet officials in Madrid in May, “who stated the Soviet Union's willingness to consider Israel's views on the Middle East”.

* There was the goodwill generated by Israel's quick return of the Soviet hijackers and their plane at the beginning of December. The Soviet authorities went out of their way to express their appreciation. When Mr. Gorbachev went to Washington for the Summit in the middle of December, he added his thanks:

“Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has thanked Israel for its help in the recent hijacking of a Soviet aircraft, and told Israel's envoy that there was a lot of goodwill in the USSR for Israel.



"Israeli Ambassador Yochanan Bein said he believes Gorbachev was 'very sincere' in the sentiments he expressed toward Israel, during an encounter between the two men at a UN reception in Gorbachev's honour.

"Gorbachev warmly greeted Bein and engaged him in a brief but animated conversation, when the two shook hands on a receiving line during the reception.

Observers noted that Gorbachev appeared to respond much more warmly to Bein than he did to the PLO representative, Zehdi Terzi." (J.P. 17-12-88).

Our picture is incomplete without looking at the U.S. attitude to Israel in this new situation; and looking at Israel and their leaders in this unexpected turn of events, which leaves their past assessment of things badly upset, and themselves in a state of isolation. This we will do in the next chapter.

Chapter 13: ISRAEL'S TROUBLED YEAR

For Israel 1988 has been a troubled year, with unexpected happenings and with deeply divided opinions. The nation has been like a ship that has lost its bearings at sea.

A DIVIDED NATION

The divided state of the nation has existed for some years. There is, of course, the normal division on politics, the Labour party on the one hand and the Conservative and Religious parties on the other, with more or less opposite views on social and economic life. This is not different from other countries, with the minority submitting to the majority. But in Israel the two sides are more fundamentally divided.

The nation has maintained its existence for 40 years by its military superiority; and for the last 20 years ruling over conquered territories, the West Bank and by a military presence and control over 1.5 million Arabs. The searching question is, can this go on for ever?

Half of the nation seeks peace by some kind of compromise— 'land for peace' is the phrase used. For many their conscience troubles them. Is it justice to another what they have suffered for centuries? Is it not an injustice to the Palestinians who also belong to the land? Is this the moral standard that the Torah allows? Again, from another angle, quite a number of influential men, including generals, perceive that military occupation of the West Bank no longer provides the security they want in modern warfare, and a new outlook is needed.

The other half of the nation supports the Likud and Religious parties who have quite a different state of mind. They choose to believe that Israel has a divine right to the land, and their object is to annex more land as opportunity allows, keeping the Arabs as a subject people, or preferably driving them out. It is this attitude that in world opinion is now preventing a peace settlement, and bringing strong criticism on Israel.

Israel at present has no right to the land of the fathers. They are still under a dispensation of scattering among the Gentiles; the old covenant for land possession ended shortly after their rejection and murder of Messiah. In carrying out his own purpose, God has indeed brought

some of them back to the land, but their 'divine right' will not operate until they enter the new covenant under their Redeemer.

THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

It might be appropriate here to draw attention to the plight of the refugees, and the sympathy their situation calls for. We must not allow our pro-Israel bias ('beloved for the Father's sake'), and our feelings about the irrational hostility and violence of hard-line Arab states, to blind us to the reasonableness, humanly speaking, that the refugees should have a better life.

The refugee camps go right back to 1948 following the Israeli success in establishing their independent state. Dr. Benny Morris, the diplomatic correspondent of the *Jerusalem Post* had access to recently released archives in Jerusalem, and gave a full page review in the *Jerusalem Post*, March 20th, 1988.

Briefly, during the 1948 establishment of Israel, firstly the Arab well-to-do fled to safety in other countries, leaving the Palestinian administration more or less in chaos—schools, businesses, medical clinics, municipal and civil service posts, all abandoned. Then, the mass of Palestinians panicked and left their homes and land, with Israeli authorities bringing pressure to promote this exodus. In places considered of vital strategic value, the military destroyed villages.

The refugee camps were set up by the UN authority, providing basic shelter and supplies to keep the refugees alive. This has remained the same for 40 years.

The stone throwing defiant youths of today are mostly the second generation in these camps, living in deplorable conditions, with no prospect of a normal life. It is not surprising that a spirit of rebellion stirred them to create the Intifadeh, the Uprising. Then the PLO and radical Islamic terrorists took charge, stirred up the spirit of martyrdom, and the ugly scenes of violence multiplied.

The Gaza strip refugee camps are where Egypt put their Arab refugees in 1948. The West bank refugee camps were under Jordanian control. Altogether they held half a million refugees. Both areas were taken over by Israel in their 1967 conquests. Israel cannot be blamed for the camps continuing to the present. The Arab nations found it to their advantage not to cooperate.

ISRAEL'S UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS IN 1988

There have been three events that stand out in 1988; first, the strength and persistence of the Refugee Uprising. Secondly, the failure of the political parties to face up to the West Bank problem, with the November elections resulting in another 'stale-mate' government, a coalition of the two opposing groups. It had been hoped that a pro-Labour party would emerge and would renew their interest in an international conference, and dialogue with Jordan. Thirdly, there was the diplomatic success of the PLO and the Arab Peace Plan. Israel was unprepared for these powerful new factors, and unable to respond adequately.

We have already commented on the government's perplexity in coping with the stone-throwing, booby-trap character of the Uprising and its persistence. The government supposed it was just another trouble, soon to be suppressed, as in the past.

The on-going military harshness of the attempted suppression added to the troubled conscience of many Israelis, and particularly the young soldiers forced to use strong tactics against women and children in the camps.

But the word 'unexpected' belongs chiefly to the end of the year emergence of the PLO with Arafat as an acceptable diplomat on the world scene.

ISRAEL'S REACTION TO THE PLO SUCCESS

In the Bible 'blindness' and 'stubbornness' seem to have been two of Israel's characteristics. It has certainly been so recently.

When the U.S. agreed to talk with the PLO, the dismay of the Israeli government was extreme. One could fill a page with their outcries—their criticism of America, its folly, its failure to consult Israel beforehand, its breaking faith, etc.; their certainty that it was all a deception by the PLO; that terrorists would always be terrorists. We wonder whether it occurred to them to remember that their chief men were terrorists against the British occupation of Palestine in 1945-8 (Shamir was directly involved in the murder of a prominent British official).

As to the PLO success being unexpected, Israel had plenty of warning from the U.S., but they had shut their eyes. Here are some of the warnings:

May, 1988: Mr. Schultz, after his tour through the Middle East and visit to Moscow, said:

“Political and economic authority will pass from Israel to Palestinians, and Palestinians will, for the first time in their history, be able to exercise real authority over political and economic decisions that affect their lives”. He added, ‘Palestinians will receive their legitimate rights through negotiations in which they will participate actively. In this way, they will be able to enjoy lives of security, dignity and freedom.’” (J.P.28-5-55).

June, 1988: The Gorbachev-Reagan agreement already referred to, which foreshadowed freedom for the Palestinian Arabs in Israel.

August, 1988: Richard Murphy, US Assistant, Secretary of State, when meeting Mr. Shamir: the report had the heading “US ‘land for peace’ warning to Israel”. (D.T. 8-8-88).

December, 1988: Just before the U.S. accepted the PLO—Arafat assurances, and Israel was profusely thanking the U.S. for standing firm:

“America’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Vernon Walters, yesterday told Israel to face up to the need for withdrawal from the Occupied Territories and to accommodate legitimate Palestinian rights.”

“Voicing impatience with the Middle East conflict, Mr. Walters said the parties to it must be told that their dispute was resolvable. ‘We must tell them that we are tired of this conflict and tired of their unwillingness to make fair compromises.’” (D.T. 15-12-88).

These last quotations make very clear the new line America intends to take with Israel.

‘DEFIANT ISRAEL’

This was the headline to an article a week later in the Guardian Weekly. In the article it said:

“As the full implications of the American decision to talk to the PLO were dawning on Israel, a government official announced that seven new settlements would be built in the occupied West Bank.”

"This would show to the world that Palestinian independence was nothing but a figment of misguided imagination."

"Despite U.S. insistence on its enduring commitment to Israel's security, Washington's decision comes as a body-blow, not only to the outgoing government in Jerusalem, but to Israel's 40-year policy of trying to solve the conflict with the Arabs with everyone except the Palestinians themselves."

"It is that dimension, more than anything else, that puts Israel into such a tight corner now that American and Palestinian diplomats are about to opt for jaw-jaw. Viewing the PLO solely through a gunsight is simply no longer enough. And judging by the first responses in Jerusalem, Israel is in for a very rough time." (G.W. 25-12-88).

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

What can we expect when Israel has got over its panicky mood? Assessing the future in the light of available information, there are forces within Israel, as well as the tremendous outside pressures, that will bring a moderating of the defiant mood, and allow a start to negotiations, to which forecast we must add, God willing. One of the uncertainties is whether Arafat and the PLO will lose face through terrorist acts by the hard-liners.

Initially before negotiations begin, Israel will in fact, be talking to the PLO via Washington as an intermediary. At the beginning of negotiations the two sides will be far apart, on Israel's side probably, no yielding of territory; and on the other side, an independent Palestinian State. This would be the opening gambit, from which they would slowly move by compromise.

NON-JEWISH PRESSURES FOR NEGOTIATION

With America and the Soviet intent on a Middle East agreement, and world opinion also powerful, Israel will find this an irresistible pressure. They are so dependent on the US for financial aid and security. The new President, Mr. Bush, though a staunch friend of Israel, will be more tough than Reagan has been. Relative to the Soviet, Israel is so anxious to improve the lot of the Jews in Russia, and more generally, to have the support of the Soviet and diplomatic relations, that they will be driven to balance these points by concessions.

* Britain is a trusted friend of Israel, and is as keen as America on a settlement. Her persuasion will be considerable. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is already in action in the Middle East.

* The EEC have put Middle East peace at the top of their agenda for 1989.

"Spain will head the initiative for an international peace conference on Middle East during its six-month presidency of the European Community which began yesterday.

"Senior Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist Prime Minister, has put the initiative at the top of the agenda.

"He has for years been eager for high government to play a larger role in trying to bring about an end to the bitter Middle East conflict, and to bring the parties involved to the negotiating table. By tradition, Spain has friendly links with the Middle East countries." (D.T. 2-1-89).

INTERNAL PRESSURES

* It is reported that public opinion in Israel supports the defiant stance of Mr. Shamir, but only as an opening position for negotiations.

"Opinion polls suggest that most Israelis acknowledge the need for some kind of settlement with the Palestinians, but respect Mr. Shamir's toughness as a better opening bargaining stance than the more flexible approach of Labour's Mr. Peres." (D.T. 17-12-88).

* "The rightness of doing something for the refugees will develop. The much-respected Abba Eban is a strong advocate of this, and has the support of many intellectuals. He has written several articles on the topic this year. In one report it reads:

"Inevitably he links Israel's malaise to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the failure to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.' 'I don't think we can go on for another 20 years occupying, ruling, imprisoning, beating', he says.

"The belief that Israel can continue to hang on to the Occupied Territories, Eban believes, betrays the original nature of the state. 'The Jewish people fail to understand that there was something contractual in our entry into the world (in 1948). We promised to share the territory. (The Jews agreed to the partition of the land between Jew and Arab in 1947. G.P.)

If we had said we wanted 100 % of the land and 100 % of the sovereignty, how many votes would we have got at the UN? Zero.

"The present position is a deviation from our birth. I never knew of a country that could successfully throw its birth certificate away.' " (D.T. 27-6-88).

* The attitude of American Jewry is favourable to negotiations. Contrary to expectations, American Jewry did not raise their voice, as they usually do on Israel's behalf, when Washington announced its dialogue with the PLO.

"Knowing this man, George Schultz, and knowing his obduracy and care, I accept what he has done.' " said the chairman of the Conference of Presidents, Mr. Morris Abram, the nearest to a leader of the Jewish community." (J.P. 25-12-88).

Israel dare not fall out with American Jewry; their influence on the American government; their provision of funds to Israel, is too valuable.

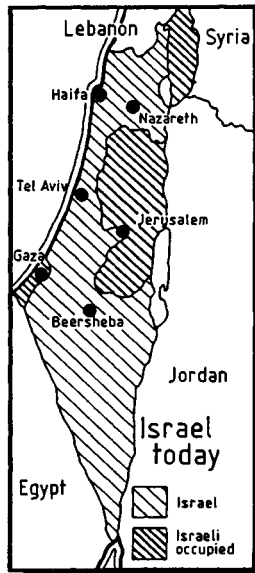
* There is the growing consciousness that Israel can no longer feel secure by trusting in its own military power. Apart from the changed style of warfare that makes a buffer territory of less value, there will be the realization of a vast potential danger in their midst. The Arabs in their midst, now sharply conscious of their strength, would make defence in time of war almost impossible.

"...but it cannot defend itself if half its population is loyal to the enemy. With all its nuclear arsenal, the US would not be able to defend itself if it had 120 million Russians within its borders. The inability to understand this problem is evidence of skewed national thinking that is a cause for concern." (J.P. 13-2-88).

Probably, when it begins to appear that there can be security in the emerging compromises, Israel will look more favourably on the broad situation.

* Lastly we mention that if Shamir deadlocks the situation, there would probably be a new government brought into being ready to negotiate. On the negative side there is the unyielding group of religious zealots, who will create much trouble if compromises are made.

ISRAEL'S TROUBLED YEAR—91



The Palestinian State in the Soviet-Arab Peace Plan would be the area marked "Israeli occupied", except the Golan Heights.

WHAT MAY EMERGE

Taking the present as the starting point, there is the Arab Peace Plan, based on the 1947 UN resolution 181 with the land partitioned between Arab and Jew. The PLO have a strong point here, that the major powers in 1947, America, Russia, Britain and France, together with the nations that then made up the United Nations, recognized the Arabs had equal rights in the land; and this is all they are now asking for. Moreover the Jews then accepted such a situation.

We have noted already that for the present, the Soviet supports the Arab Plan for an independent Palestinian state. But they know this is utterly unacceptable to Israel, because of the security risk it involves, and it has been made apparent recently that the Soviet envisages a confederation of the West Bank with the kingdom of Jordan. This is more acceptable to Israel. Also it may not be unacceptable to Hussein of Jordan. Above all else Jordan fears the present Israel annexing the West Bank and driving out the 800,000 Arabs dwelling there into the kingdom of Jordan to increase its present population of 1.4 million.

"These expellees would flood Jordan and radicalize the Middle East thereby threatening perpetuation of the Hashemite regime of Jordan."

"The establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank holds risks for a Hashemite Jordan, yet they are small compared to the dangers of annexation" (G.W. 14-8-88).

Arafat and the PLO have already acknowledged that agreement at best will be by steps. They have shelved the idea of Jerusalem being the capital of the Palestinian state, recognizing this is an impossibility with the Jews. They also recognize Israel will not give up the West Bank entirely. The first aim appears to be, to give an independent status to the West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs and freedom to run their economic and political affairs. The whole of the West Bank might be given political independence, but without any military facility, Israel having a defensive line along the west bank of the River Jordan.

There has been a proposal for the United Nations to provide a buffer force for Israel's security; but this is a non-starter, as far as Israel is concerned. Much more likely, the Soviet agreeing reluctantly, the U.S. would be given the task of peace-keeper. It may be recalled that such a situation has existed since 1979 when a peace treaty was signed between Egypt and Israel. A U.S. peace-keeping force of some 5,000 troops,

with naval and air bases for quick reinforcements, was set up. This is presumably still in operation. With this precedent, the same could be arranged on Israel's east border. Such a step, linked with the existing U.S. military alliance to defend Israel against attack, would probably satisfy Israel.

Israel now has very close military ties with America:

"That is why it is so important to realize how the Reagan-Bush administration fundamentally altered the basis of our relationship with Israel. ... Yes, it is built on the common moral bond between the two countries, but the Reagan-Bush team has also understood the intrinsic value of Israel to the U.S. Because of that, it is viewed today by most observers, including Congress, as a strategic asset, a country that provides regional stability and globally benefits the national security interests of the U.S."

"We have created a strategic alliance with Israel, most recently formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement, signed on Israel's 40th anniversary and almost totally ignored in the press. Such an alliance provides an unprecedented stability and permanence to our relationship that is vital to Israel's security and survival" (J.P. 12-8-88).

Since that date George Bush has become President-elect of the U.S. He is a firm friend of Israel, and they should trust him.

It might be mentioned that Israel already has had an occasion when it had to rely on the U.S. for its survival. If the U.S. had not acted quickly in the Yom Kippur war of 1973, Israel would have been over-run:

The enemy struck on October 6th. Soviet arms supplies began to arrive on Oct. 8th and continued until October 24, in all totalling 3.5 billion dollars. U.S. arms supplies began arriving October 12th and continued until October 24th, totalling 2.2 billion dollars." (The Arab-Israel Conflict, Martin Gilbert, map pg. 92).

Such was the scale of the conflict.

The idea of America having a peace-keeping force in the West Bank region has a scriptural flavour about it. It would bring about "the young lions" being placed in Moab and Edom!

Many uncertainties lie in the immediate future. It will be a slow and delicate process to slow down violence and terrorism in order that negotiations can take place, if God wills this.

One does not have to assume that the Arab states have abandoned their desire to drive Israel into the sea, any more than we see Gorbachev's detente as something permanent. The Arab nations have not a genuine desire for peace, as Israel has, but a price has to be paid for obtaining some vital interests—regained land, release from Israel's overlordship, and in very practical terms, economic improvement.

Despite present hostility, cooperation of Jew and Arab is not an impossibility. In Israel they have cooperated for 40 years. In the last few years Israel and Jordan have worked together in the West Bank. Likewise, Egypt and Israel have been at peace for ten years.

So we conclude our assessment of Israel's prospects.

To see the Ezekiel chapter 38 peace on the horizon is a thrilling 'Milestone' event. To faithful watchers on the walls of Jerusalem (Isaiah 62:6) it is just one of many 'prophecies fulfilling' that make the coming Kingdom loom out of the shadows as the great day begins to dawn.

Chapter 14: 'MILESTONE' TOPICS IN BRIEF

A. BRITAIN'S PROSPERITY FULFILLING ISAIAH 23:17-18

In *Milestones 1987*, chapter 10 looked at Britain's growing prosperity with reference to Isaiah 23. The chapter is concerned with Tyre as a great trading centre, particularly in sea transit, and similar trading centres in latter times (v. 7). Britain is the chief latter-day representative of Tyre. Just before the Kingdom is established, 'Tyre' is presented as a harlot committing fornication with all nations, by which she becomes prosperous. In the last few verses this wealth is handed over to the King in Jerusalem.

A rapidly increasing rate of prosperity

Britain's prosperity as reported in 1988 has been phenomenal. Here are some extracts from articles:

"The British economy is doing incredibly well at the basic level of productivity and profitability.

"Manufacturing productivity, after growing about 4 % a year from 1979 to 1986, went into hyper-drive in 1987 and has been growing at 7 % for the last 18 months."

"According to the Bank of England's August Quarterly Bulletin, the rate of return on capital in Britain has roughly doubled between 1980 and 1987, whereas in other countries on average it has shown little change" (D.T. 27-8-88).

"Total exports are estimated to have reached £80,000 million during 1987 and this represented a gain of 9.5 per cent compared with the previous year" (Export Times Oct. 1988).

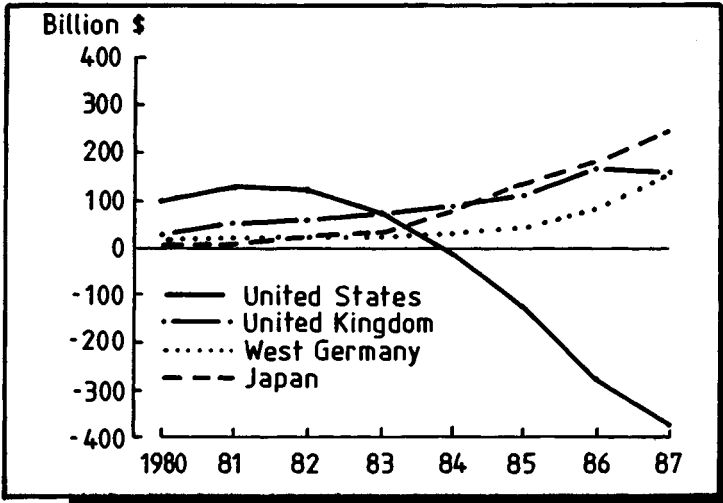
"British industry's share of world trade, falling steadily for more than a century, has begun to creep up after stabilizing in the early Eighties."

"Britain remains a magnet for foreign direct investment, up more than 100 per cent since 1979" (D.T. 22-4-88, taken from *Fortune*).

"At the end of last year, Britain's net overseas assets were worth \$160 billion, putting it on a par with Germany and second only to Japan, with \$240 billion worth of international investments to its name.

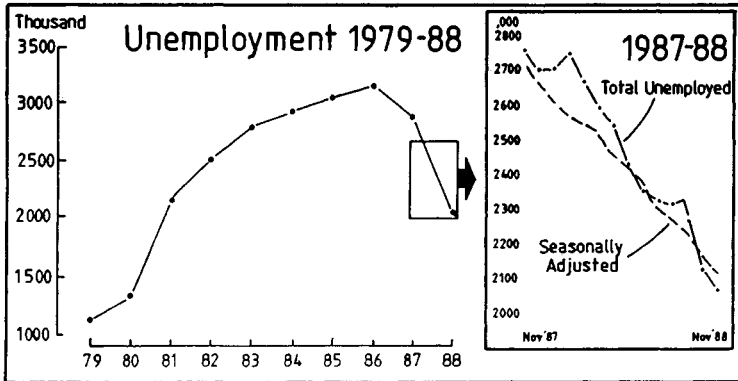
"In relation to the size of its economy, Britain has the strongest net asset position in the world at 20 % of gross national product, against 12 % for Germany and 8 % for Japan." (D.T. 10-11-88).

Comparisons of external net asset positions



"Last year Britain spent \$31.7 billion buying American companies, \$8 billion more than the proceeds of Mrs. Thatcher's entire 8-year privatisation programme (even when translated at today's high rate of sterling). This compares with only \$13.6 billion of British acquisitions in the U.S. in 1986, and a mere trickle, \$3.6 billion, in 1984" (G.W. 8-5-88).

"British ships are earning £3,300 billion a year and the outlook for the Merchant Navy is brightening. A vast amount of income is from ships which never call at British ports, being in foreign trade in other parts of the world" (D.T. 24-11-88).



RISE AND RAPID FALL IN UNEMPLOYMENT (D.T. 16-12-88)

This rapidly growing prosperity of Britain indicates we are in that era when Britain will have to submit to the King, and do his will. Let us also remember some other words of Isaiah:

“For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:....And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

“And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day” (Isa. 2:12-17).

B. FAMINE, PESTILENCE, AND EARTHQUAKE

Jesus warned the disciples that the approaching end of the Mosaic Age would be marked by “famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:7, 8).

Similar happenings marking the end of the Gentile Age should be expected. Under the hand of God, the angels express God’s displeasure at man’s wickedness and disregard of His existence.

1988 has been marked by many calamities, some 'natural', some by man's failure and lack of care. A few items will keep this sign of the times before our minds.

The Daily Telegraph Saturday magazine (5-11-88) listed 23 flood/drought disasters world-wide in 1988. Here are seven of them:

Brazil: February, Rio de Janeiro. Torrential rain led to floods and landslides. 290 deaths.

China: May. Heavy rains, floods and 94 deaths.

Bangladesh: September. Floods after cyclonic storm and tidal surge, over 1,000 reported dead.

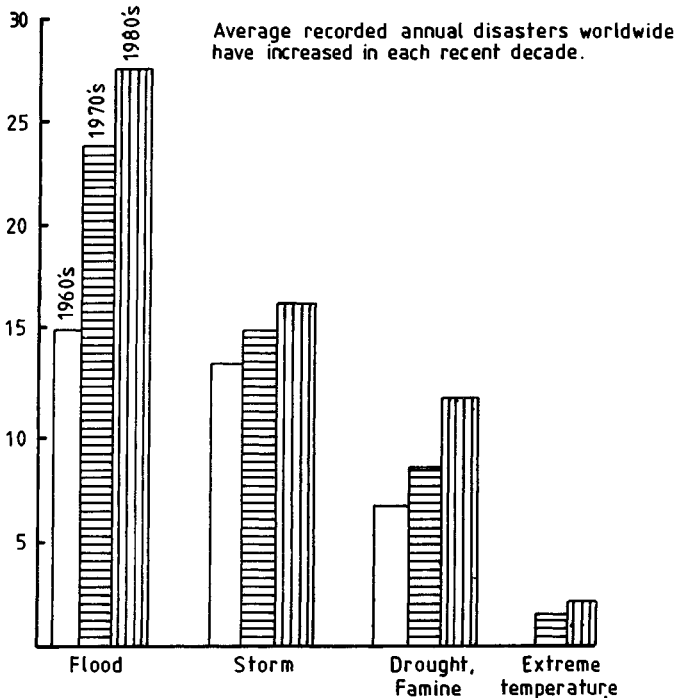
Africa: Sudan. Long drought period followed in August by 11 inches of rain in 10 days.

Jamaica: September. Hurricane Gilbert, 200 m.p.h. winds. Including Mexico, 500,000 left homeless.

Philippines: October. Typhoon Ruby, 500 killed.

Britain: October. Worst gale since 1703, winds up to 108 m.p.h.

This magazine also had a longer range indication of increasing calamity. It was shown graphically.



The U.S. is suffering more than usual distress, quite possibly directly controlled by the angels.

"More than 40 % of the United States had last night been declared a disaster area because of drought. The devastation stretched from New Mexico to New Hampshire, with record temperatures of more than 100° F. in many parts of the country" (D.T. 24-6-88).

Some 2 months later: "Americans are given 'a foretaste of hell': For 43 days and 43 nights, more than half the population of the United States has sweltered and fumed through America's most punishing heat-wave since official records began a century ago" (D.T. 15-8-88).

Earthquake frequency and severity appears to be increasing:

"From March 1st, 1987 to March 2nd, 1988 no fewer than 49 earthquakes have been reported in all parts of the world, 90 per cent of which have been 6 or over on the Richter scale." (B.B.C. World Service).

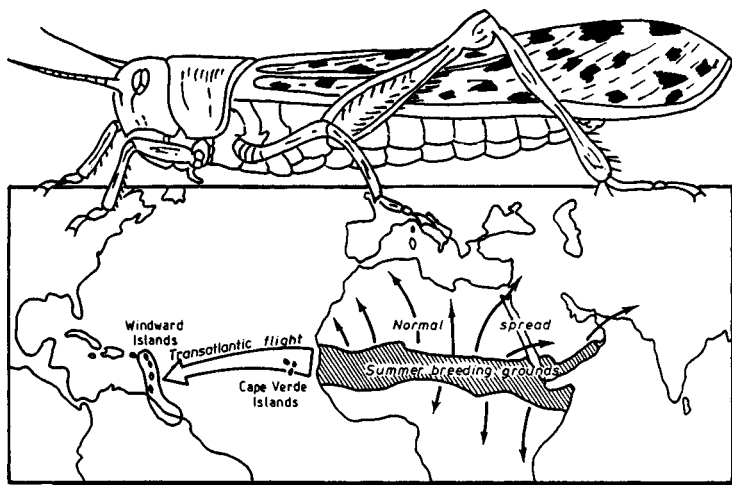
The Armenian earthquake was later in the year, and has been impressed on people's minds by the massive destruction of property and 25,000 people dead, and vast numbers homeless or evacuated. In Leninakan, a city of 300,000 two thirds of the buildings collapsed; Spitak, with a population of 16,000, was described as 'flattened'; "While villages at the heart of the quake were said to have 'disappeared from the face of the earth'" (D.T. 9-12-88).



To propose that this destructive happening was 'an act of God' would shock and anger most people—and some Christadelphians. But when one looks at a map of the area it strongly suggests more than 'chance' was involved. The epicentre of the earthquake was precisely over a group of five towns, in an otherwise sparsely populated region.

In this happening there may be more than just another bad earthquake, when one considers all the circumstances. It occurred while Mr. Gorbachev was addressing his world peace concept to the United Nations and the world. His address won him wide appreciation and new status in world opinion. At precisely this moment the earthquake occurred while he was in the limelight. The devastation seen by hundreds of million people on television generated a vast amount of sympathy throughout the world for the Soviet and Mr. Gorbachev. This will greatly enhance his efforts to obtain Western technical cooperation and finance (See chapter 4). The goodwill generated will affect Western Europe's public opinion and increase their trust in the Soviet, and promote detente in Europe and the Middle East.

Is this the way angels move events forward to fulfil the Divine programme?



Locust destruction in North Africa and the Near East is frequent, and a cause of famine in these countries. This year the locust plague has moved across the Atlantic, to the amazement of scientists. They have reached Central America. Will it be another scourge God brings upon these Catholic people?

It was said the insects must have flown for five days, twice the time of the existing record.

Hurricane Gilbert: Even men stand in awe at the power of 'nature', while refusing to recognize it as the power of the great Creator:

"Their power is awesome: a 300,000-cubic-mile hurricane releases the same energy as a megaton hydrogen bomb exploding every minute; a large hurricane releases more energy each day than the United States consumes in a year" (D.T. 15-9-88).

C. THE GROSS APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

From a report of Dr. Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury's address to the 50th anniversary of the World Congress of Faiths:

"In referring to other world religions Dr. Runcie said that we need 'to recognize that faiths other than our own are genuine mansions of the Spirit, with many rooms to be discovered.' Quoting Sir. Francis Younghusband, Dr. Runcie said, 'All the centuries that the Spirit has been working in Christians, he must also have been working in Christians, he must also have been working in Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and others.'" (The Reformer March 1988).

D. SOVIET NAVAL POWER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

While Mr. Gorbachev speaks peace, the Soviet are building a new naval base at Tartus on the Syrian coast.

Since the INF treaty, banning medium range nuclear weapons on land in Europe, the Mediterranean has increased in importance. The treaty does not include nuclear weapons at sea. the US and NATO regard the Mediterranean 6th fleet of aircraft carriers and submarines carrying nuclear weapons as an important check on any Russian move into Europe or Turkey. Correspondingly, the Soviet regard their nuclear-armed submarines in the Mediterranean as of great importance in covering the 6th fleet.

"The Soviet Union is expanding naval operations out of the Syrian port of Tartus, into a fully-fledged Soviet base, capable of saving Russia's Mediterranean fleet long and potentially hazardous journeys to home ports on the Black Sea." (D.T. 4-9-88).

"Given this background, it becomes possible to understand the strategic significance of the Soviet facility at Tartus. This past May, Jane's Defence Weekly described Tartus as 'the primary maintenance facility for Soviet submarines operating in the Mediterranean.'" (J.P. 10-9-88).

Is not this a preparing for the day when the King of the North shall come forth with 'many ships'?

E. SHEBA AND THE MERCHANTS OF TARSHISH

The Sheba of Bible times was in the region we now call North Yemen. Britain under a Labour government vacated the deep sea harbour and naval base of Aden in the 1960's; and the hinterland of North and South Yemen were unfriendly territory. At the end of this year Britain's Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe has been welcomed in North Yemen, and Britain has agreed to grant a loan of several million pounds sterling for industrial development and trade facilities.

So the pendulum swings, preparatory to the situation when "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" (Ezekiel 38:13) will challenge the Northern invader.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Publishers thank Brother and Sister Jeff Catchlove for their work in proofing the manuscript.

They also thank Brother Rob Flint for his work in the maps and graphs.

ADDITIONAL READING ON PROPHECY

MINISTRY OF THE PROPHETS: ISAIAH: Roberts & Walker

MINISTRY OF THE PROPHETS: JEREMIAH: C. C. Walker

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL: W. H. Boulton

EXPOSITION OF DANIEL: J. Thomas

THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL: E. Green

THE PROPHECY OF HOSEA: C. Tennant

FROM HOSEA TO ZEPHANIAH: F. T. Pearce

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EUREKA: J. Thomas

THIRTEEN LECTURES ON THE APOCALYPSE: R. Roberts

THE APOCALYPSE AND HISTORY: W. Barker & W. Boulton

NOTES ON THE APOCALYPSE: C. C. Walker

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INTERPRETING THE BOOK OF REVELATION: A. H. Nicholls

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA: W. Bedwell

*THE WICKED ONE REVEALED: F. Walker

*HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH TO THE ECCLESIAS:
J. Knowles

*STORMY WIND FULFILLING HIS WORD: A. Benson

*THE MAN OF SIN: R. W. Abel

*EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST:
J. Cowie

* available from CSSS



MILESTONES

The purpose of *Milestones* is not merely to make us informed spectators of events occurring on the world stage. Its purpose is to explain fulfilling prophecy that we might be moved thereby to appropriate action, thus preparing a people for the coming of Christ the King who will shortly reign from Zion.

We may assume that we still have plenty of time to get ready and therefore, like the five foolish virgins, do not have enough oil for our lamps. That parable indicated that the Bridegroom eventually did come. Have we really come to grips with the fact that the Judge will soon be here and that our lives will be open before him? That we will be placed on his right or rejected?

This booklet is intended to strengthen our hope in that event and to build a resolve to serve our Master now, so that when he does come—which could be at **any** moment—that we will, in the mercy of The Creator of the Universe, find a place in that glorious age soon to dawn!

Therefore, let us lift up our heads for our redemption draws nigh.

“The Saviour comes, His advent's nigh,
He soon will leave the throne on high;
And coming back to earth again,
Will reign for God, and dwell with men!
O happy day...”