

# MILESTONES

1991



# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

**A Review of the  
World Events of  
1991 in the light  
of Bible Prophecy**

**Graham Pearce**

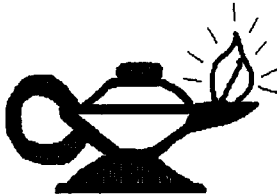
**Further copies of this book are available from:—**

- **GRAHAM PEARCE (Publishing)**  
15 Yelvertoft Road  
Crick  
Northampton, NN6 7XS  
England
- **CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE**  
17 Braemar Road  
Torrens Park  
South Australia, 5062  
Australia  
Phone (08) 272-2124

*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 February 1992

# PREFACE

It seems incredible that 1991 has been and gone. Where has it gone! This preface is being written on New Year's eve, and in just a few minutes the world will celebrate the opening of a new year. The usual songs and fireworks will accompany this turning of the year. Very little serious consideration will be publicly heard, drawing lessons from the year's events, assessing the current situation, or prognosticating the road ahead. In the midst of increasing despair and deeper and larger problems on every hand, the solution for the great majority is: 'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow... who knows'.

The value of this little publication grows with the years. For the last three years, in particular, we have been amazed at the largeness of the events compounding into twelve months and the rapidity of their happening. Appropriately in this edition, bro. Graham Pearce has made a summary of the Gorbachev era. This will be most helpful to readers in assessing the importance of these seven years and the order and sense of the major events they contained. So rapidly has one great event followed upon another, that it is quite difficult to comprehend their significance. Many have experienced in this past year a feeling of bewilderment. Most of us have spent all of our days in a world wracked with the tensions of International Communism. From China to Nicaragua, from North Korea to Mozambique, the belligerent spirit of Marx's Communism stirred rebellion and strife throughout the world. All that we have known about international happenings has been dominated by this central theme, instigated by the Kremlin and marketed with subterfuge by the devotees of Communism.

Now most of it has gone.

In January 1991, the Communist party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was still the only political power machine in the 15 republics. Now it ceases to be of any active significance at all! Voted out by the people, disfavoured by parliament and soundly defeated in its attempted August coup—all this occurred in just over twelve months! What a year, what a time to work out our salvation.

Many ask, what has been the significance of those 74 years of Communism? The answers to this will be more clearly seen as the future unfolds, but several things are already clear. The Communist Party with its 19 million party members has so dominated the Russian

peoples that it has, until recently, harnessed and directed the full potential of those hordes of northern people. Whereas the Czars may have led to battle an army of an hundred thousand or so, the Communist leaders have been able to call upon five million men trained for modern warfare. Before the Russian capitulation in 1917, young boys were sent to the front with farm implements to fight the German soldiers. Russia's army today is provided with the best equipment and sophisticated weapons of war. It has been the fear of the world for over 40 years. The doctrine of Marx has allowed the pooling of the vast human resources of the Soviet peoples which no Czar was ever able to do. Except for the last few years, the peoples of the Soviet Union have been very patriotic, united in their desire to make the Socialist dream come true for their country, proud of many remarkable achievements obtained and quite despising of the evil system of capitalism. To have harnessed the vast hordes from Vladivostok in the East to Leningrad (now St. Petersburg again) in the West—or further still to the Iron Curtain that closed the border to Western Europe, has been a monumental and unprecedented achievement of history.

Yet if that Communist Monolith has now been democratized, what does that mean to our expectations prophetically?

Our understanding of the Great Gogian confederacy requires that the **Russian** peoples will be in the vanguard of a vast and militant coalition, sufficiently confident to invade the recently-resurrected nation of Israel. Other European powers will be in this Confederacy. Please note the simple fact that Gomer, Magog, Tubal, Meshech, and Togarmah are all the sons of Japheth (Gen. 10:1-3). They represent European peoples, north and west of the Semitic nations that have arisen from Shem. This general picture is in keeping with Daniel's image where the two legs and their ten toes represent eastern and western divisions of the Roman Empire. We expect, therefore, to see greater unity among the nations of Europe. Communism prevented that. When it failed, the Iron Curtain came down and trade and other relations began to flourish between eastern and western nations of Europe. They now all want to be members of the European Community and are hastening their applications for membership.

There is talk of unity in many aspects of government, even in foreign policy and defence! Nations that have armed against each other for 70 years now are working together and speaking of a common alliance. It

is a strange and remarkable development, only to be explained by the prophecy of Christ:—

“These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Rev. 17:13).

These words are starting to be fulfilled. The angels are working with bewildering power and speed to bring about the commands of the Most High God. How else could we explain the promptness in responding to events in Europe these past two years? This strange and unexpected unity is set in the 17th chapter of Revelation in a context of Roman Catholic ascendancy, so much so that this Harlot woman is abreast the European beast, and proudly boasts, despite the reverses of the 19th century,

“I sit a queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow”.

How could this new phase of Papal confidence and advancement ever be realized while soulless and atheistic Communism held sway over eastern Europe? Indeed these were years of dialogue and the Church did all she could to compromise with the socialist cause. Yet in the end it was an impossible dream. Communism had to go, so Papal influence might be more freely exercised throughout the nations of Europe. Russian power is another matter, however, and we must remember that on the European continent there is no power even comparable to the vast military resources of the Russian republic.

We may have confused the situation by speaking in earlier years of Russia and Communism as though they were the same thing. That’s certainly how it was in practical terms, but with the passage of time, we have seen more clearly that Communism could vanish and Russian power remain.

The **Middle-East** also has gone through some important phases of development. The year began with the dramatic assault upon Iraq, where more than twenty nations co-ordinated their efforts to bring President Hussein, seen as an international despot, to his knees. There were some dubious statements suggesting he was the new ‘king of the north’, a modern-day Nebuchadnezzar, the Gog to lead the Arab peoples against Israel and be wondrously victorious over her. Some have ventured to say that the Arab peoples must conquer the land of Israel before the coming of Christ, and Hussein was seen as a likely leader with his vast army and brutal policies. None of those thoughts bore any resemblance to

what in fact occurred. Israel emerged from the war in a stronger position than ever and with the added joy of a continued flow of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants, mostly highly skilled professionals, arriving on their shores and settling not infrequently upon the “occupied” territory of Judea and Samaria. The last two months have witnessed what we all thought was too hard to imagine. There have been peace talks from Geneva to Madrid, Washington to Moscow with Israel, the Arab nations and the Palestinians all participating. For differing reasons they see advantage in overcoming their hostility. It is in this kind of situation, with multiple important factors leading to the conference table, that major break-throughs occur.

We ought not to imagine, by the way, that the United States is in a position to put great pressure upon Israel, just because Israel wants the US to guarantee the vast loans she has sought to accommodate the Russian immigrants. The other side of the coin is that President Bush is in an election year and it is most unlikely that he will risk upsetting the powerful and influential Jewish lobby in the United States, especially with its very considerable control of the mass media. The pragmatic President will not wish to grovel to Israel, indeed, but it is hard to imagine that he would push Israel beyond the limits of her national safety. To jeopardize an ally like Israel, in such a key situation, would hardly be good politics in any context. For all these reasons, it would seem extremely unlikely that Israel will yield the lands of “Judea” and “Samaria”, the Biblical titles of that portion of land that the world calls “the West Bank”. They are the central part of the land promised to Abraham. They are also “the mountains of Israel” upon which Gog will fall when Yahweh calls for a sword against him throughout all “my mountains” (Ezek. 38:21). If Gog descends to destroy Israel and is found by God upon these mountains, then this must mean that Israel was inhabiting those mountains at the time of the invasion.

So there is no cause for disillusion or diffidence. In fact a number of extra factors have budded forth exactly as we have anticipated, and pervading through the political earthquakes comes the increasingly clear note of ‘peace and safety’!

How greatly we must be on our toes as we watch the scene with Bible in hand. The moral decline of the western democracies has reached enormous proportions. Sodom would probably blush in the presence of the brash wickedness of our societies. What happened by night in the

streets of Sodom of old is now debated in our Parliaments, passed, condoned and protected. Fornication is endemic; surely the Roman world was never so blatant. Sin reigns and marches on with the blessing of public opinion. The Churches, the moral policemen of former times, make no concerted attempt to stem the tide. The ecclesia is left very exposed in such conditions. The winds of immorality and ungodliness whip around us and we are left in small isolation, desperately clutching unto our children and to our families and to all our members, that God may spare them from the effects of this whirlwind of evil.

The readings, the daily readings from the Scriptures, sanctified with family prayer is the greatest weapon in our defence. Let heads of families soberly assess their domestic programme to see how we measure up in these things. What a blessing is a reading in the morning to place some strength in the minds of our children before they go out into a hostile world. Good organization, driven by faith, can see that these things are done.

The times are alarming.

The battle is truly on.

And Christ is so near.

May 1991 in review be such an impetus to put our lives in good paths for 1992.

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).

B. N. Luke,

31/12/91

NOTE: Like some modern-day Methuselah, our dear Brother Graham Pearce has prepared most of the manuscript, despite failing health and dwindling strength. This makes this issue all the more valuable. May God grant him strength to continue this work until the end is come.

His son Donald has supplied the last two chapters, on the Middle East. We are all thankful for their labours in God's vineyard. May we take heed to these dramatic *milestones*.



# CONTENTS

Preface .....	3
1 Introduction.....	9
<b>THE SOVIET</b>	
2 A Survey of Gorbachev's reforms 1985-90.....	12
3 Phase 1: January-April 1991. Kremlin leaders dominate.....	21
4 Phase 2: May-June 1991. Gorbachev swings back to reform....	23
5 Phase 3: May-June 1991. Yeltsin the rising star.....	25
6 Phase 4: July-August: 1991. The factors that precipitated the coup .....	28
7 Phase 5: August 1991. The coup and its failure— Yeltsin the hero .....	30
8 The second Soviet revolution.....	33
9 Phase 6: September-October 1991. Yeltsin—Gorbachev reforms unfold .....	39
10 Phase 7: November: aid. December: USSR dissolved! .....	44
<b>THE PAPACY</b>	
11 The growing strength of the Papacy.....	47
<b>THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC)</b>	
12 Introduction & summary of the year.....	58
13 The EC's long conflict with the British.....	61
14 A sketch of how the conflict between the EC and Britain intensified.....	63
15 Issues of conflict as they crystallized just before Maastricht.....	70
16 Treaty on monetary and political union agreed at Maastricht and Britain's gains and losses there .....	79
<b>THE MIDDLE EAST</b>	
17 The Gulf war—America leads the way.....	86
18 Israel & the Middle East. War and peace.....	90
Abbreviations.....	104

# Chapter 1:

## INTRODUCTION

Our five main centres of interest continue to be Soviet-Germany; Britain and the EC; peace in Israel; the British Commonwealth and the activities of the Pope. As usual we begin with the Soviet, where momentous events have occurred this year. The August Army-Kremlin coup and its failure is its highlight. When it comes to be assessed historically, it may be regarded as comparable to the Communist Revolution in 1917.

### THE SOVIET

We have been watching the Soviet for many years, pondering the fulfilment of prophecy. Gorbachev's glasnost (openness) made us aware of the poverty and lifelessness of the vast millions of people. Prior to glasnost we only had a view of the well-to-do life of the privileged Communist members and their leaders. Glasnost's revelations had left us wondering how the whole nation and economy could be rebuilt. Gorbachev coming on the scene had seemed the answer. His perestroika reforms made headway over several years. But inevitably glasnost plus perestroika resulted in an awakening for freedom and independence in a people held for 70 years under tyranny. The mood of the people in 1990 was becoming restless and rebellious. The failing economy was getting worse, not better. Gorbachev demanded and got dictatorial powers to cope with the situation, but to no avail. At the end of 1990 he had to yield to the demands of the army and KGB and give up his 'disturbing' reforms.

1991, which we are now reviewing, brings Yeltsin of Russia on the scene. His defiant courageous stand against the coup leaders in August has set the country on a new course in which the essential market economy he has started may eventually bring national revitalization.

Gorbachev's efforts from 1985-90 were an essential part of God's work. Before we consider in detail the events of 1991, we thought this would be a good time to summarize Gorbachev's 6 years as a lead-in to the dramatic events that fill the months of 1991. So our next chapter does just that—a year by year sketch of his achievements.

The events of 1991 are very difficult to present, because changes were so rapid and complex. Reflecting on this, it seemed a good approach to make a number of chapters, rather than one long one, each chapter covering one phase of an unfolding development. The titles of these 7 phases or steps are the headings of chapters 3-10.

The chapter headed "The Second Soviet Revolution" has been placed in between phases 5 and 6, and shows how Yeltsin largely took power out of Gorbachev's and the Kremlin's hands; how he made his Russian Federation the key to the future by imposing a real market economy on these republics.

This will bring great hardship, but it appears he has, for the present, the support of the people to face this. They accept that things will get worse before they can improve.

## **BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC)**

Mr Major and his chancellor Mr Lamont battle against the drive of France, Germany and Brussels to weld western Europe into a political unit with power resting mainly in the Euro parliament and its supporting Commission under Delors. This has held our attention with the same interest as events in the Soviet. Just how Britain is eventually separated from the European system is still not clear.

## **ISRAEL**

We have stronger emotions over Israel. 'In Christ' it is our adopted nation even though it is still in its cast-off state. Our continuing interest, of course is how the peace and security required by Ezekiel chapter 38 will be brought about. After many years of waiting, 1991 has seen hopeful steps starting with the Madrid Peace Conference in November and its continuation in Washington in December.

President Bush aims to make his mark in history by being the President who brought peace to the Middle East. After the interruption of the Gulf War there was no delay in renewing his drive. He is determined to support the "human rights" of the Palestinians, giving them some autonomy. He demands from Israel some yielding of land in exchange for security. Israel is vulnerable to this 'unfriendly' pressure, because of the need for aid in absorbing the influx of Soviet Jews.

## THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The work of the Commonwealth Conference this year is worthy of mention in our summary. The Heads of State of the Commonwealth members get together for a week of informal consultation every second year. The Queen is the head of the Commonwealth and is recognized as such by all members. The Queen is passionately devoted to the Commonwealth and works incessantly for its development.

The conference 'retreat' was held this year at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and under the guiding hand of the Queen, Mr Major the chairman, and Mr Mulroney, P.M. of Canada, issued a statement to be known as the Victoria Falls Declaration. It covers 'just and honest government', rights of the individual, an emphasis on education and the alleviation of poverty, etc. We may see it as preparing the undeveloped countries for the work the Commonwealth has to carry out when Christ returns.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE POPE

The influence of the Papacy in the last year since the demise of Communism has been devastatingly effective in both Eastern Europe and parts of the old Soviet Empire. At the present there is a rush by old churches to get a slice of the pie and the Orthodox church has openly criticized the Catholic church for its aggressive inroads into Eastern Europe.

Besides this, the increasing superstition in the worship of Mary has been highlighted to demonstrate the pervasive influence of Catholic superstition in the minds of 'enlightened' people. Surely in these developments we have a system which will increase in blasphemy and evil until it is destroyed by Christ and his saints as they reward it double because of its iniquity.

## **Chapter 2**

# **A SURVEY OF GORBACHEV'S REFORMS 1985-90**

Gorbachev has untiringly promoted his perestroika for some six years. What impact has he had on the Soviet; on Europe; on the world? Now is an appropriate time to survey this period of amazing change—to assess his successes and failures. We shall briefly sketch his progress on a year-to-year basis, each year taking first affairs within the Soviet, and then his impact on Europe, America and the world generally.

Before we do so, there is a preliminary question to consider: what does Gorbachev mean by “perestroika”? The word is widely misunderstood.

### **GORBACHEV'S BOOK ENTITLED *PERESTROIKA***

His book was published in 1987 in America. An American publisher requested the book to inform the American public (and others) about his aims and plans. Russian thinking and history are more or less a closed book to ordinary Americans and Europeans.

The word perestroika has become part of our everyday language. Most take the word to mean reform and liberation. But Gorbachev's own definition is ‘restructuring’—‘reconstructing’. While in some circumstances this can involve freedom and independence, this may not be the case. Gorbachev's aim was to preserve the Communist party, not to destroy it.

### **GORBACHEV—A MAN DEVOTED TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY**

Gorbachev's whole life has been bound up with the Soviet Communist party. University trained, intelligent, capable, possessing charm and extremely skilful, he rose rapidly in the party ranks. In 1985 as a ‘young’ man of 54 he was the obvious man for the highest party position in place of ineffective Chernenko. On the one hand he became President and chairman of the Supreme Soviet with responsibility for its many ministries and committees; and on the other hand he was

installed as chairman of the Soviet Communist party—with responsibility for the Central Committee and the Politburo (this is Gorbachev's 'cabinet'). In the Soviet system of government the Central Committee and Politburo are all powerful. They make the decisions and have charge of the day to day running of the whole of Soviet life.

Gorbachev had no intention of destroying this system of government. He certainly intended to pressure the Communist Party by pruning it where he saw faults and excesses. He is proud of the overall progress of communism in the 70 years from the 1917 Revolution. He deplors the excesses of Stalin; and in the early 1980's became greatly concerned at the behaviour of party leaders—their increasing greed, corrupt practices, laziness, unnecessary bureaucracy, all of which were worsening the economy. His aim was to eradicate these 'faults' and develop efficiency; also to give some power to the people, so that they might develop initiative and take responsibility.

Gorbachev had the satisfaction of being the most powerful man in the Soviet, and he had no intention of destroying the Communist Party that gave him that power.

The table on page 20 of *Milestones* 1990 shows the power wielded by Gorbachev.

## **GORBACHEV'S ACHIEVEMENTS: A YEAR BY YEAR OUTLINE. 1983**

We must start as early as 1983 because this is the year the Soviet announced its new "Defence Only" military policy. Gorbachev would be the main architect in this.

The new policy became inevitable, as the confrontation policy of the 1970 era had brought the country close to economic collapse. Withdrawal from Afghanistan, South Africa, and the Middle East were already in progress. A new era of Detente was planned—friendship and cooperation with all countries. The Soviet Military reluctantly agreed, for there was no alternative. All countries were invited to follow the Soviet lead, limiting their military preparedness to what was needed for self-defence. Detente was announced in glowing terms of peace in Europe and the world at large.

## **1985 (A) DOMESTIC**

Mr. Gorbachev as a 'young' man of 54 burst on the scene as "a man in a hurry".

"Mr. Gorbachev.... acts like a man in a hurry. He sets a fast pace in getting on with his promised shake-out of Soviet society... In his acceptance speech, he told regional leaders to return home, and 'get down to work with renewed vigour'" (DT 30-3-85).

He immediately showed a totally new attitude to Soviet workers, mixing with them in their factories. Following a visit to a Leningrad factory, there was a comment as follows:

"A week later Russians were still marvelling aloud at the new leader's ability to speak directly to ordinary people eloquently, with just a few notes in his hand. Russians welcome Mr. Gorbachev for his youth and respect him for his intellect" (DT 11-6-85).

## **(B) FOREIGN POLICY**

Dull sour-faced Gromyko was replaced by the genuine liberal, Shevardnadze, as foreign minister. He was a capable and charming ambassador for the Soviet, creating goodwill in his meetings with world leaders.

Gorbachev visited Paris in October and opened up the theme of disarmament and the vision of a nuclear-free Europe.

## **1986 (A) DOMESTIC**

There was the Chernobyl disaster, considerably limiting the energy available in the Soviet. Also the rapid fall in oil prices after the Iran/Iraq War meant a loss of some 8 billion dollars hard cash from Soviet export of oil.

Gorbachev continued his pressure at all levels of management, requiring party bosses to account for their actions and failures.

## **(B) FOREIGN POLICY**

This was the year of the disarmament drive. Gorbachev and others travelled European countries, making various offers to relax tension, and to arrive at an Arms Agreement.

In September he proposed to Reagan that they should immediately meet in a mini-Summit and get everything settled with regard to nuclear weapons. At the Reykjavik Summit, Gorbachev set out specific items for “immediate” agreement. They were greatly to the disadvantage of Nato, and Reagan refused to sign. The Americans distrusted Gorbachev and felt they had been caught in a trap.

People living in the Nato countries, East Europe and the Soviet all had a genuine fear of a nuclear war and the devastation of their homes and country. They were keenly disappointed at Reagan’s failure to sign.

Gorbachev took the opportunity of a visit to Poland to make an important speech, aimed at gradually squeezing the US out of Europe. He gave a vision of all Europe united together and at peace. This became the theme of his “European Home”—all Europe bound together by history, religion and culture.

## **1987 (A) DOMESTIC**

Early in January Gorbachev faced a plenary meeting of the Kremlin Central Committee with strong words, reported in a Daily Telegraph Editorial as follows:

### **“THE GREATEST GAMBLE”**

“...Mikhail Gorbachev last week laid before his Central Committee a further indictment of the Brezhnev era, its stagnation and corruption. He accompanied his charge with the most radical proposals he has made so far to ensure that stagnation and corruption do not again come to symbolize the Soviet system” (DT 2-2-87).

His proposals were accepted by the Supreme Soviet in July and were described as “A new law on State Enterprises”.

“The law which trims the power of Central bureaucrats and gives independence to factories and their managers, comes into force next January. The Supreme Soviet also passed laws to improve the rights of the individual; and another to widen the ‘ democratization process” (DT 1-7-87).

This was Gorbachev’s first great reform victory.



## **(B) FOREIGN POLICY**

Gorbachev relentlessly pursued his disarmament drive, resulting in the signing of the I.N.F. Treaty (Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty) in Washington in early December. He was well satisfied with the result, leaving America and Nato out-manoeuvred. The treaty considerably lessened the effectiveness of the Nato policy of "Flexible Response"—its ability to bring any nuclear attack to a rapid standstill.

Despite military apprehension, the people of Europe rejoiced at the greater safety they now felt.

## **1988 (A) DOMESTIC**

An All-Union Communist Party Conference was called for the end of July. This was a vital occasion for Gorbachev in his aim to revitalize the 19 million-strong Communist party.

The Conference was opened by a 3 1/2 hour speech by Gorbachev outlining in detail his plans to reduce the power of the party and increase the power of the Soviet people. He described a new governing body, with himself as President in charge of the day to day running of all government affairs, and the Communist party's influence reduced to political advice—something like the British House of Lords.

On the last day of the four-day conference (Gorbachev chairman all the time), and using his usual chairmanship skills, Gorbachev was successful.

"A notably short but all-embracing package of resolutions, billed as 'the foundation of a radical reform of the Soviet society political system was passed unanimously by the 5000 delegates" (DT 2-7-88).

Not surprisingly there was growing opposition to his reforms. Gorbachev decided to challenge them head-on:

**"SHOW DOWN IN THE KREMLIN"**

"Angered by mutinous members in high places, he acted swiftly to smash the trouble-makers who stand in the way of his reforms" (DT 1-7-88).

"A calm and confident Gorbachev emerged strong and secure in the Kremlin saddle (DT 5-7-88).

## **(B) FOREIGN POLICY**

Gorbachev delivered a very effective address to the United Nations Assembly at the end of 1987. He won the hearts of Washington and the American people, especially by a friendly and enthusiastic walk-about. Everything was televised and reached all the American people. It altered Reagan's previous view of the Soviet, as an evil system. Mrs. Thatcher was impressed and said "The cold war is over".

Gorbachev's prime objective in this great success was to mobilize support for aid to the Soviet economy; to generate the impression that the Soviet was a reliable and stable Super power only temporarily needing help to overcome the neglect of many decades.

Gorbachev's long speech offered the world disarmament and peace.

"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" (GW 18-12-88)

## **1989 (A) DOMESTIC**

In 1989 Gorbachev turned to a new phase in his revitalization of the Soviet Union. He set about replacing the existing Kremlin system of government with a new democratic parliamentary system, based on nation-wide elections. This had been agreed in principle at the 1988 All-Union Conference.

In **March** the elections were held. In the results the item that caused surprise and shock was that, where there were two rival candidates in a constituency, one a Kremlin official and the other a 'reformer', the Kremlin man was soundly defeated. The headline ran: "Kremlin Stunned by Old Guard Election Defeat".

It meant the Soviet people, given the opportunity, had boldly declared they regarded the Communist party a failure.

In **May** a "Congress of Peoples' Deputies" was convened following the elections. The assembled 2250 deputies elected a parliament of 500 MP's, and a cabinet of some 40 with Gorbachev as president.

This parliament boldly claimed to be the legal government of the Soviet, being based on nation-wide voting. We must bear in mind most of those delegates were Communists.

In September just before the parliament re-assembled, Gorbachev carried out a further purge of Communist party leaders.

### **"GORBACHEV AXES HARDLINERS"**

It was the most sweeping Kremlin change in 30 years, a stunning consolidation of Mr. Gorbachev's power" (DT 21-9-89).

In an emergency session of parliament at the end of the year, Gorbachev gave a very gloomy report on the economy. No worthwhile reforms had got going, and the people were dissatisfied and critical.

## **(B) FOREIGN POLICY**

This was the year in which the Satellite countries (as they were then called) obtained their freedom from the Soviet grip of decades. What a list of countries it became! Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, and finally East Germany with the breaching of the Berlin wall in December, 1990. It was an unstoppable avalanche of human energy and emotion released by Gorbachev's perestroika.

Gorbachev quietly supported this great change. By doing so he showed America that "human rights" was a genuine part of his programme. This was essential to get the urgently needed US aid for the Soviet reconstruction.

## **1990 (A) DOMESTIC**

A Communist Party Congress was arranged for June-July 1990. Such Congresses had been held at four to five year intervals since the 1917 Revolution. This 18th was a special one, called to deal with the rapidly failing economy. In a sense it was putting Gorbachev on trial. Communism had operated for 70 years with no permanent success. Gorbachev had been in charge of the Communist party for 6 years with his perestroika reforms, and far from improving the economy, his reforms had brought a desperate situation. Also perestroika was now causing serious unrest in the Republics.

We should expect Gorbachev to be using all his energy and skill to justify his position before the Congress—to get final authority to pursue his reforms.

In **February** Gorbachev attacked the Central Committee of the Communist party, demanding they give up their old ways and move

towards a market economy. His drastic plans became known as “The February Revolution”. After three days of fierce argument “the Soviet Communist party voted overwhelmingly to surrender its monopoly of power (voting 306-5)” (DT 8-2-90).

In **March** Gorbachev was given dictatorial powers to handle the crisis.

“Gorbachev steam-rolled his plans to create a new executive Head of State through the Soviet parliament.

“In just three days he persuaded the Congress of Peoples’ Deputies to give him powers greater even than those of the US or French President, and to take them away from the Communist Party” (GW 25-3-90).

So to **July** and the 18th Communist party Congress. This is the highest authority in the land. Gorbachev had the advantage that he was chairman of the Congress! At the end of the four day debate Gorbachev had won.

“President Gorbachev was re-elected to the leadership of the Soviet Communist party with an overwhelming majority last night, after telling hard-liner opponents to face reality that the Communist monopoly of power is finished” (DT 11-7-90).

A little later he obtained ample support from parliament, and in September it increased his dictatorial powers.

### **Military intervention—November**

The storm of opposition to Gorbachev’s reforms and dictatorship had been gathering for months and it broke in November with a prominent article by Colonel Alksnis. The military was alarmed at the failure of Gorbachev to get a grip on the perilous state of the economy. The article was summarized in a newspaper heading:

“RESTORE ORDER OR RESIGN, COLONEL TELLS GORBACHEV”

### **December: Gorbachev cooperates with the Army and KGB**

So pressure from the hard-liners forced Gorbachev to abandon his reforms, for the time being. He had realized he could make no headway with the economic crisis without the authority of the army. He had to bring hardliners into his cabinet.

"With these new appointments, Gorbachev has acted to meet the demands and anxieties of hardliners in the party and the army" (DT 3-12-91).

As the year ended, Gorbachev faced 1991 depressed and subdued.

### **(A) Foreign policy**

The chief event of 1990 was the meeting of Gorbachev with the Pope in November. Gorbachev was on a visit to Italy seeking support and aid from industrialists and mayors of the larger towns. His meeting with the Pope was also part of his aid-seeking. Indeed, it was an important part. The Pope's influence with the political and industrial leaders of Western Europe is unrivalled.

The feature of the meeting was the warmth with which the Pope received Gorbachev. Clearly they each felt the need of the other. The Pope for his part wanted better conditions for Poland and the other Catholic countries which had been 'persecuted' by Communists.

The setting up of Soviet diplomatic relations with these countries was agreed. Also the Pope agreed he **would in due course visit Moscow.**

The Pope made it clear that as spiritual head of all Christianity, Gorbachev was dependent on him!

## Chapter 3

# PHASE 1: JANUARY—APRIL 1991. THE KREMLIN LEADERS DOMINATE

The Kremlin leaders were in control in the final part of 1990. The end of 1990 had seen Gorbachev driven to instal leaders favouring the military and the KGB. Eduard Shevardnadze had resigned in the last week of 1990. As a passionate reformer he deplored Gorbachev giving up the perestroika drive.

Gorbachev a few days later dismayed all reformers by insisting on installing Yanayev, a Communist Politburo leader, as his vice-president. (It was this Yanayev who led the hardline coup in August).

### **KREMLIN HARDLINERS AND LITHUANIA**

The brutal spirit of the hardliners and Gorbachev was shown in the way they dealt with Lithuania. In January they showed their power and ruthlessness by attacking Lithuanian State buildings and killing Lithuanians.

“The Soviet invasion of Lithuania has already been more bloody than that of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The Soviet army roared into action yesterday to bring Lithuania to its knees and crush the spirit of independence. Troops opened fire...in a brutal display of military might...fired on unarmed people who showed amazing courage” (DT 12-1-91).

Various forms of repression followed this incident, with troops patrolling Moscow and other cities, and the KGB given “almost unlimited power”

At the end of January Gorbachev dropped seven of his liberal policy advisors (JP 26-1-91).

### **THE SOVIET CHALLENGE THE U. S. OVER THE GULF WAR**

The change in Soviet behaviour under the hardline government was manifest in the Gulf War. As the massive US aerial attack on Iraq was

making rapid headway, Gorbachev pressed for a cease fire with the intention of saving Saddam and Iraq. It produced a few bold newspaper headlines:

**"A CHANGE FOR GORBACHEV TO SHOW MOSCOW'S POWER"**

**"GORBACHEV PLAYS THE GREAT GAME" (DT 22-2-91)**

This was a different Soviet to that which had cooperated with America in the previous 3 or 4 years. President Bush snubbed Gorbachev by ignoring the Soviet peace plan, and continued his military advance into Iraq.

During the next two or three months the Soviet aggressiveness was toned down. It had shocked the world and destroyed the hope of renewing the vital aid the Soviet needed to re-build the economy.

## Chapter 4:

# PHASE 2: MAY-JUNE 1991. GORBACHEV SWINGS BACK TO REFORM

During the months of May and June Gorbachev was subjected to increasing criticism for his failure to improve the economy, despite the emergency powers and “absolute authority” he had been granted. At a meeting of the Communist party Central Committee he received “a torrent of criticism”; and there were various calls for him to resign.

Gorbachev offered to resign as party leader.

“But the delegates, realizing they had no one else to prevent the party sliding into oblivion, overwhelmingly rejected the offer” (DT 24-4-91).

This clear dependence on Gorbachev restored his confidence. This, coupled with support from Yeltsin “to work together to carry out reforms”, indicated Gorbachev was now fighting back. An editorial in the Washington Post had the phrase:

“With this political key he intends to restart the stalled engine of Soviet reform” (GW 5-5-91).

This intention was manifest in June as Gorbachev prepared for the important meeting in July with the G7 financial controllers in London, to get aid for the Soviet economy.

### “GORBACHEV SET FOR U-TURN ON THE ECONOMY”

“In a significant move back into the radical camp, Gorbachev held a secret meeting over the weekend with the Soviet Union’s leading free-market economist and asked him to help prepare a program of sweeping reforms to present to Western leaders next month” (DT 25-6-91).

A programme was prepared, but not used. Gorbachev used a much watered-down version. He has always been fearful of pressing reform too fast and provoking rebellion from the long-suffering Soviet people. (It was this kind of hesitancy that produced the hard-line coup in August.)

In July Gorbachev continued his fight for reform, and it was apparent that a crisis was near with the restless hard-liners. A new factor made



this almost certain, when E. Shevardnadze, Yeltsin and various intellectuals from the big cities set up an all-Union “Democratic Reform Movement”, and this was supported by Gorbachev. The newspaper report was headed;

**“LIBERAL GROUP GETS BLESSING OF GORBACHEV”**  
(DT 3-7-91).

At the end of July Gorbachev put down a challenge to the Communist party:

**“GORBACHEV FACES NEW BATTLE OVER REFORMS”**

“The battle between Soviet hardliners and reformers is heading for a new peak tomorrow when President Gorbachev tells Communist stalwarts either to accept revolutionary changes to their party’s ideology and practices or resign themselves to the sidelines of political life” (DT 24-7-91).

The tension created was conveyed in the Daily Telegraph Editorial a few days later with the heading **“Unfolding Drama”**.

Three weeks later the hardline coup took place.

## **Chapter 5:**

# **PHASE 3: MAY-JUNE 1991. YELTSIN THE RISING STAR**

Yeltsin has been the popular leader of the Russian Federation republics from the time he resigned from the Communist party in July 1990 and became the champion of freedom and workers' rights. He has been the target of the hardliners, and of Gorbachev on various occasions. As the Reformist movement has gathered momentum, Yeltsin has been the chief activist; he has also developed a more responsible and respected status.

The Russian Federation declared its independence at the end of July 1991, and insisted its laws took precedence over those of the Kremlin. It also claimed that mineral wealth, territory, and taxes were under the control of the Federation.

A trial of strength developed in the strike of the Siberian miners early in 1991. Coal is a most precious mineral asset, needed throughout the Soviet Union in their bitterly cold winter.

### **"YELTSIN AND THE MINERS WON THE BATTLE".**

"Miners in Siberia's Kuzbass pits are expected to return to work today after suspending a nine-week old strike which has wrung far-reaching concessions out of President Gorbachev.

Both the miners and Mr. Boris Yeltsin, Russian Federation leader, can claim last weekend's agreement transferring control of the pits to the republic as a victory" (DT 10-5-91).

Yeltsin really came to the fore in June. In the middle of the month first-time elections took place to provide a President for the independent Russian Federation. The voting gave a clear victory for Yeltsin.

### **"PRESSURE ON KREMLIN AS YELTSIN WINS"**

"Yeltsin, the people's champion, swept to victory yesterday in Russia's first direct presidential election, heralding the start of a new era. Mr Yeltsin was said to have gained about 60% of the vote, dealing a crushing blow to his main rival... the communist establishment".

## **SHEVARDNADZE AND YELTSIN JOIN FORCES**

A new element was introduced into the battle in July when the former Foreign minister in Gorbachev's government made himself the centre of a "Democratic Reform Movement", and resigned from the Communist party. The headline declared:—

### **"SHEVARDNADZE IS READY FOR BATTLE"**

He said he would ignore the smear campaign being prepared, and he was ready to do battle on all fronts.

The accession of Shevardnadze to the reformist cause added to Yeltsin's status, especially as it occurred just at the time he was being sworn in as President of the Russian Federation.

"Mr. Boris Yeltsin was sworn in yesterday as the first popularly elected president in Russian history, crowning his triumph over the Communist elite to which he once belonged" (DT 11-7-91).

It was an impressive ceremony, with the head of the Orthodox Church Patriarch Alexiy II present, and a military choir and orchestra singing the new Russian anthem.

Mr. Gorbachev was an onlooker of the ceremony.

"Mr. Gorbachev, who could not disguise his discomfort and embarrassment at having to play second fiddle to a man he once tried to destroy, wished Mr. Yeltsin well in his brief speech, and promised his support in reviving the Russian state" (DT 11-7-91).

Yeltsin, like Shevardnadze, declared he was ready for battle.

"Mr. Boris Yeltsin has made clear his intention to destroy the Communist party and put his truce with President Gorbachev under severe strain by prohibiting political activity in all state institutions and workplaces in the Russian federation" (DT 22-7-91).

As President, Yeltsin was given emergency powers to issue decrees. The most significant was this prohibition on political activity in all workplaces. The decree came into force early in August, significantly only a fortnight before the coup.

The importance of all these workplace 'cells' in maintaining the Kremlin and Communist party officials' grip on the people is explained in the following quotations:—

“Russians going to work today will be able to do what many have yearned to achieve for years: close down the Communist cells which have ruled their working lives.

It is a major blow to Communist influence at grass-roots level, where the party exerted its most powerful grip on daily life.

Party cells were one of the major elements in Communist control of Soviet life. Anyone wanting to travel abroad or obtain any other privilege needed the cell's approval, making the party secretary's job one of enormous influence and patronage” (DT 6-8-91).

It was this prohibition that alarmed the Communists; and stirred them to action:—

“One of Mr. Yeltsin's first presidential decrees was a republic-wide ban on political activity...The Communists were up in arms. The hardliners decided it was time to act” (DT 22-8-91).

## Chapter 6:

# PHASE 4: JULY-AUGUST 1991. FACTORS THAT PRECIPITATED THE COUP

At least six factors that decided the start of the coup can be identified.

1. With Gorbachev's six years of Perestroika as a background, Yeltsin's activity, oratory and popularity had brought about independence in most of the Soviet republics in 1990 and early 1991. The vision of freedom created in the workers quickly expressed itself in challenging authority, disobeying established laws, strikes and go-slow actions, and greater slackness in factories. The effect of all this was to increase the chaos in the economy. The Siberian miners' long strike was perhaps the most outstanding event, jeopardizing the crucial supply of winter food in the whole of the Soviet.

Some statistics released at the end of the year show how decline in production must have been going on throughout the year. Exports fallen 31%; imports cut by 42%; industrial production down 7%; agriculture output down 9%. Oil output decreased so alarmingly that in the Autumn exports had to stop. Earnings from exported oil is the basic source of Soviet for purchasing foreign goods.

As a result the Kremlin leaders had justification for saying Yeltsin was bringing catastrophe. It was Gorbachev's hesitancy to curb the remaining parties that exasperated the Kremlin leaders, and was one of the factors determining when the coup started. Planning for a coup had been in hand for some time.

2. The actual launching of the coup, August 20th, became urgent because a draft New Constitution in the Soviet Union had been agreed between Gorbachev and the republics; and was soon to become law. This Union Treaty would have transferred considerable powers to the Republics. "Gorbachev was prepared to hand over much of the day-to day decision-making to the likes of Yeltsin" (DT 22-8-91). For the hardliners this was the last straw. The Coup started only hours before Gorbachev was expected back to sign the pact with Yeltsin.

3. Another factor was the challenge from Shevardnadze in July when he established his "Movement for Democratic Reform".

#### **"SOVIET CHALLENGE LOOMS"**

Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the former foreign minister joined ranks with leading radicals last night and committed himself to form a mass democratic movement that seems certain to pose a fatal challenge to Soviet Communism.

In an emotional appeal to the citizens of the USSR, Mr. Shevardnadze said immediate action was needed to prevent a hardline Communist coup or any other curtailment of freedom.

The statement is a detailed manifesto for change, which shows that the democrats are prepared to take on the ailing Communist party in every area of Soviet life" (DT 2-7-91).

Shevardnadze and his party joining up with Yeltsin certainly brought the crisis nearer.

4. In early August Gorbachev—exhausted from a Summit with President Bush; a tour of Europe including Germany; and a trip to China seeking aid—was unwell and went on holiday to his Black Sea resort. This gave Yeltsin and the Shevardnadze Reformist groups freedom to press on with stirring up the people to assert their freedom. It also left the Kremlin leaders opportunity to complete their preparations for the Coup. It was launched just before Gorbachev was due to return.
5. Yeltsin's Presidential decree banning political activity in the workplace (see page 27) was another reason why "it was time to act".
6. Lastly, in a different field, the military were alarmed at the extent of disarmament that was planned or already carried out This was interfering with their task, their right, to guard the frontiers of the U.S.S.R. and station troops throughout the national territory. Already their Western Group of Forces (350,000) stationed in East Germany was to be demobilized, because of the uniting of East and West Germany. Already Soviet troops had left the Soviet buffer zones of Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The Baltic States, another key security position, was expected to be allowed to secede and join the West. Clearly, because Military leaders are so powerful in the Soviet, they would be pressing for Gorbachev to be deposed.

## **CHAPTER 7: PHASE 5: AUGUST 1991. THE COUP AND ITS FAILURE**

### **YELTSIN ‘THE HERO’**

The leader of the Coup was Yanayev, a Kremlin Chief Gorbachev had appointed in December 1990 as his deputy— a ‘man he could trust’, he said!

As the Coup was set in motion, Monday August 20th, a group of four hardliners formed an executive committee and began issuing decrees. The announcement of the Coup was made on Moscow radio. It attacked the Reformists and their disastrous activities over the last few years - as seen from the hardliners’ view. A key phrase was “A mortal danger hangs over our homeland. It is sinking into the abyss of violence and lawlessness”.

Troops were despatched to Moscow, Leningrad and other large cities, and to the Baltic states. As troop carriers moved in to surround and protect the Kremlin, Yeltsin found himself trapped in his Kremlin office. Yeltsin supporters gathered. Yeltsin, defiant, stood on one of the encircling troop carriers, appealing to supporters to stand firm. They soon filled Red Square with hastily made banners. In a few hours defectors from the army arrived with their tanks to defend Yeltsin.

The Coup leaders were taken aback at Yeltsin’s defiant stand, and surprised by the popular support he received. They were disheartened by the army defections. At this point, news came of their failure to intimidate Gorbachev to resign and hand over power. (He had been held a prisoner for 3 days in his holiday home on the shores of the Black Sea in the Crimea.) The Coup leaders became frightened; and the Coup was over before it had hardly begun.

Two days later, amidst the great rejoicing and praise for Yeltsin, Gorbachev returned to Moscow. He was given a welcome, with people generally glad to have an experienced and skilful man to take charge of the crisis and uncertainties that lay ahead. But it was Yeltsin rather than Gorbachev who was the man of importance.

The Daily Telegraph's bold headline across the page was:—

**"GORBACHEV IS BACK"**

but the opening paragraph made clear Yeltsin's new status.

"Mikhail Gorbachev was restored as Soviet President... Mr. Gorbachev was formally reinstated to an office that now leaves him in Mr. Yeltsin's shadow" (DT 22-8-91).

The second article on the front page made this clear.

**"YELTSIN THE NEW POWERBROKER"**

President Gorbachev may have been restored formally to office last night, but the real power broker from now on will be Mr. Boris Yeltsin.

In one of the great ironies of history, the man who told Mr. Gorbachev to resign a month ago has saved his foe and put the country on a new path" (DT 22-8-91).

Yeltsin quickly asserted the authority he now claimed.

"With Soviet structures in disarray, Yeltsin moved quickly at the weekend to take the organs of power out of Gorbachev's hands" (DT 26-8-91).

**GORBACHEV HUMILIATED: BUT HE MAINTAINS HIS GRIP**

Within 7 to 10 days Gorbachev made his comeback. He accepted the new power of the Republics to run their own affairs, with Yeltsin as their representative and leader. He recognized that the Kremlin Communist government had been shattered beyond restoration; and that the Communist party was finished. But he was still the legal head of the State, holding his emergency powers. He used this authority to set up an interim emergency government. Four capable reformist leaders were chosen to operate under his chairmanship. They rapidly agreed on a programme that was put before the Congress of Peoples' Deputies on September 2nd. Mr. Gorbachev exerted all his old manipulative skills and arbitrary behaviour to get the plan agreed and made legal.

"During a meeting on Sunday, the republican leaders settled on a hastily-drafted eight-point plan setting out interim structures of government, parliament and the relationship between the centre and the republics before a final constitution is drawn up.



Their plan, which Mr. Nazarbayev read out to a stunned chamber yesterday, effectively abolishes the Congress, as well as the sitting federal parliament, the Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers” (DT 3-9-91).

One of the ‘gang of four’ chosen by Gorbachev for running the country is the young (39) economist Gregory Yavlinsky. He is highly respected by the World financial chiefs who are so anxious to get the Soviet started on a market economy basis before they are willing to provide further aid for reconstruction.

“The inclusion of Yavlinsky is a clear signal by Gorbachev that he is finally giving the green light to far-reaching economic reform” (DT 26-8-91).

# CHAPTER 8: THE SECOND SOVIET REVOLUTION

## AFTER THE COUP YELTSIN IMPOSES A REAL MARKET ECONOMY POLICY

After the implications of the failed Coup sank in, it was realized that the event was as momentous as the original 1917 Revolution. Then, Lenin led the Soviet people into a cruel bondage under Communism and State control. The “second Revolution” under Yeltsin aimed at freedom for the individual, casting off the shackles of the State. It was in line with the French Revolution—Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.

First reactions at the end of the week were expressed as follows:

### **“A NEW EPOCH BEGINS IN THE SOVIET UNION”**

was the Guardian Weekly heading.

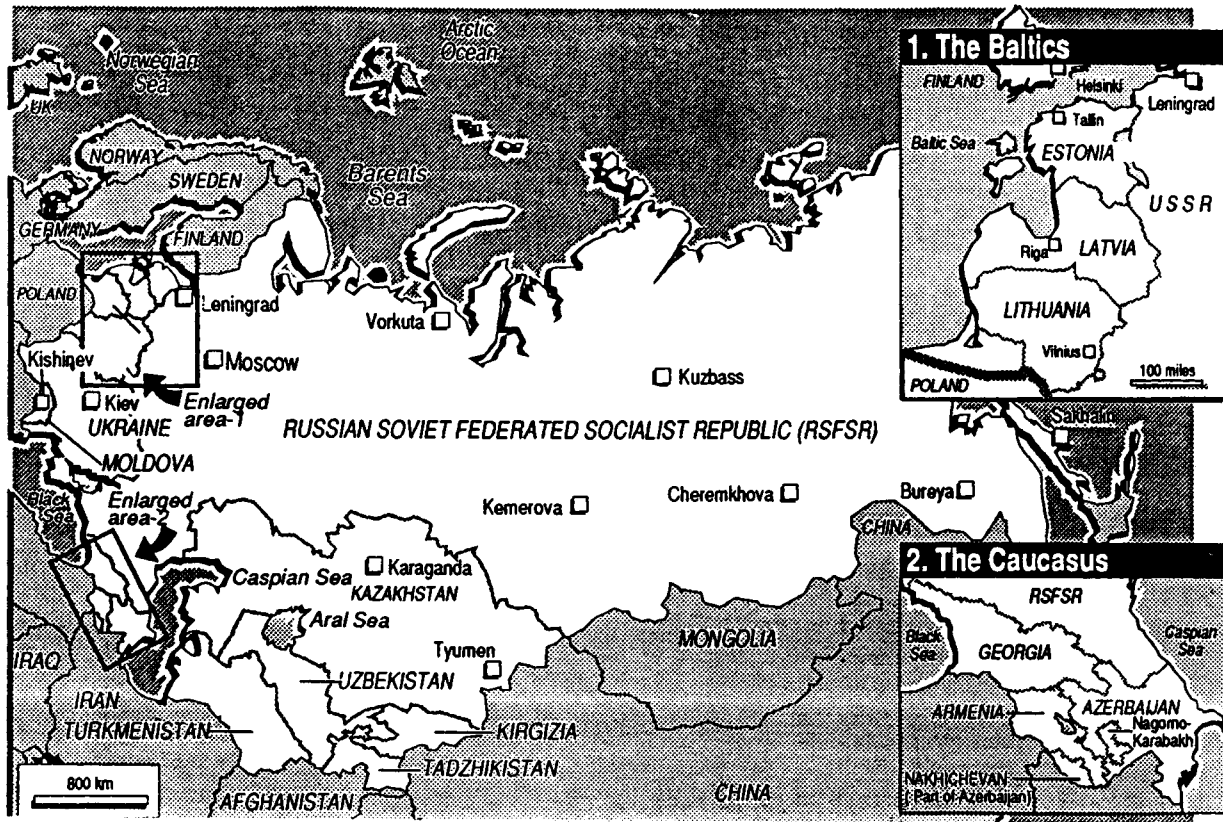
### **“IT CAN NEVER BE BUSINESS AS USUAL AGAIN”**

was the Washington Post’s Editorial.

“Nothing so important has happened in Russian politics since 1917, when the Bolsheviks seized power. On Wednesday last week in Moscow the system the Bolsheviks and Lenin created finally collapsed. A new historical epoch began... For the first time in their thousand year history, Russians asserted their independence from autocracy, and the autocrats fell.

Less than two days after he had insisted that the Communist Party was still a fit vehicle for reform, Mikhail Gorbachev quit as general secretary and in his role as Soviet president moved to dissolve the body that had monopolized power, murdered millions, and otherwise abused and retarded a great country for more than 70 years. His belated recognition of the party’s total bankruptcy came after the failure of the Moscow coup had prepared the way for the most dramatic shift of the Soviet power equation since 1917” (GW 1-9-91).

English papers did not rise to such an historical perspective.



## POWER PASSES TO THE REPUBLICS

Before the Coup, Gorbachev and Yeltsin had discussed the framework of a new Soviet Constitution in which the Kremlin and the Communist Party would lose some of their controlling power, and the now independent republics would have a fair degree of autonomy. The Kremlin would still be in charge of security, foreign policy and taxation.

After the Coup these plans were in the melting pot. Yeltsin rapidly asserted his new authority and pressed forward with decrees for the republics of the Russian Federation and others to become more or less independent of the Kremlin. The intention was to set up a true market economy as the only path to prosperity and world status.

But such a path was to be a very rough one. It would be beset with clashing interests of neighbouring republics; claims of each republic for its right to its indigenous wealth; problems between Russian republics and other republics on their borders having large Russian nationality groups; power-seeking by leaders; and a general lack of responsible behaviour.

A picture of the turmoil as the republics asserted their independence was given in the Washington Post in October, just after the Middle East Peace Conference. It was entitled:

### **“RUSSIA GOES ITS OWN WAY”**

(Russia means the republics of the Russian Federation GP). We quote extensively from the article:

**“Moscow—**While Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his foreign minister, Boris Pankin, were basking in the international limelight at the Middle East peace conference last week, much of their domestic political power base was being systematically stripped away from them.

The latest bureaucratic shakedown in Moscow provides dramatic evidence of a seemingly inexorable shift in power from the old all-union center, as personified by Gorbachev, to the newly sovereign republics. The centrifugal forces released by the abortive coup gathered strength last week after Russia, the largest and wealthiest republic, decided to push ahead with its own program of radical economic reforms and possibly create its own currency.

The result, in many cases, has been political paralysis. The impotence of the center has forced the republics to devise their own policies for dealing with a steadily deepening economic crisis... The harsh reality is that we are now crossing the Rubicon. We are becoming 12 states with 12 foreign policies, lamented a Soviet Foreign Ministry press spokesman.

Yeltsin's advisers seem confident that Western governments will soon be obliged to adjust to the new political reality in the Soviet Union, whether they like it or not. They point out that Russia, with its vast reserves of oil, gold and other oil materials, has effectively become the guarantor of the Soviet Union's \$68 billion foreign debt.

Of course, it would be easier for everyone if you could still deal with the center and the union, but policy has to be realistic. And the reality is that Russia is running a trade surplus with foreign countries of around \$10 billion, while all other Soviet republics are running a trade deficit" said the director of the Institute for National economy" (GW 10-10-91).

The last quotation that the Russia Federation has a \$10 billion trade surplus, while all the other republics are in deficit, highlights the power that Yeltsin wields.

## **YELTSIN ACTS**

After hesitating for some two months Yeltsin 'crossed his Rubicon', and at the end of October declared he would use his emergency powers to issue a decree for establishing a real market economy for the Russian Federation.

### **"YELTSIN STAKES FUTURE ON FULL-BLOODED CAPITALISM**

President Yeltsin staked his future yesterday on the introduction of full-blooded capitalism into Russia.

In one of his most impressive parliamentary performances, the Russian leader said he would take on day-to-day responsibility for running the economy and would remove all price controls before the end of the year.

Reform would be painful, further eroding living standards at a time of rising social tension and disillusionment, Mr. Yeltsin admitted" (DT 29-10-91).

The Daily Telegraph the next day headed its editorial:—

## **“YELTSIN’S GREATEST GAMBLE**

The freeing of prices is the Rubicon which those seeking to liberalize command economies fear to cross...”

A large part of the former Soviet Union has now taken this fateful step with the decision by Mr. Yeltsin, the Russian President, to free state prices within his republic at a stroke, undertake large-scale privatisation and create a strong currency. Despite his popularity, confirmed in elections and greatly strengthened by his admirable opposition to the putschists in August, Mr. Yeltsin has hesitated for more than two months before launching his economic reform programme” (DT 30-10-91).

Two days later the newspaper report was headed:—

### **“RUSSIA AGREES FREE PRICES AND PRIVATISATION**

President Yeltsin has been granted some of the emergency powers he has sought to introduce radical economic reforms in Russia.

The Congress of People’s Deputies, the Russian Federation’s highest legislature yesterday approved his programme to free prices and privatise much of industry” (DT 2-11-91).

Moscow lies in the Russian Federation, and so comes under Yeltsin’s Control. His drive to establish a working market economy resulted in just that:

### **“ALL MOSCOW’S SHOPS TO BE PRIVATISED**

Every shop in Moscow will be privatised by January 1, the city council announced last night.

Foreigners will be allowed to take over any shop, as long as they conduct business only in roubles.

Details had yet to be finalized, but the aim was to sell off shops either to the work force or by auction, said Mr. Boris Nikolsky, acting head of the city government.

The largest department stores would be turned into joint stock companies, he said.

The agreements will take the form of leaseholds, with the land remaining the property of the state.

The announcement signalled the most ambitious, and seemingly unrealistic, stage of the city council’s radical plans to abolish the communist command economy.

Just how it will be implemented so quickly, and how people with no experience of financial risk and of management will run their new enterprises, is open to question.

The plans are a laudable attempt to find a new means of stimulating the desperate consumer sector" ( DT 14-11-91).

We will have to wait and see how these bold market economy plans of Yeltsin work out. But surveying the three months or so from the failed Coup in August, it can be said he has set in motion what may be called a "Second Soviet Revolution".

If we take our minds back to the beginning of 1991, we had little idea how the grip of the hardline KGB, Military and Kremlin leaders would be broken; or how the people would rise up to assert their freedom and throw out Communism. Gorbachev was making little headway. But another leader with sufficient conviction and courage had been prepared for the occasion. In the rather unwilling cooperation of Gorbachev and Yeltsin this revitalizing of the Soviet economy and the energizing of its millions of workers required by prophecy has been set in motion.

Gorbachev's hope that he could gradually reform the Communist party and take away power from the KGB, the Military and the Kremlin leaders never seemed realistic, and it proved a vain hope. But without doubt, Gorbachev's and Yeltsin's work, will help accomplish God's programme. The Most High still rules "in the kingdom of men" (Daniel 4:17).

# **Chapter 9:**

## **PHASE 6: SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER 1991. YELTSIN— GORBACHEV REFORMS**

### **DISMANTLING THE OLD SOVIET GOVERNMENT; UNCERTAIN BUILDING OF THE NEW**

Within 10 days of the failure of hardliners' Coup, the Soviet parliament voted to dismantle what remained of the old government!

#### **“SOVIET PARLIAMENT VOTES TO BURY THE UNION**

The USSR's supreme legislative body voted overwhelmingly on Monday to bury the existing union of 15 Soviet republics, allow the Baltic republics and any others that wish it to go free, and prepare for an economic confederation in its place.

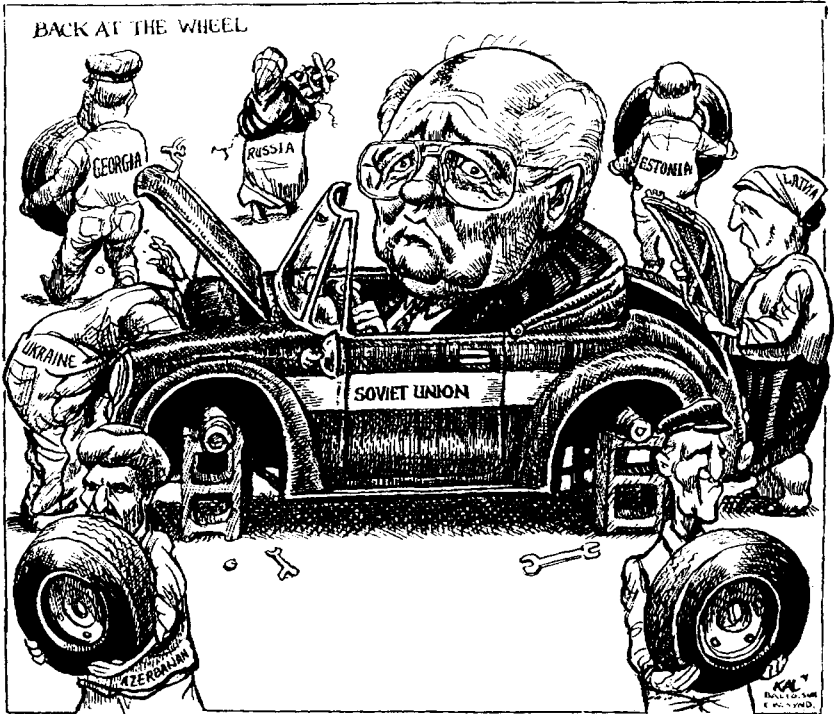
In a move which is no less dramatic than last week's suspension of the Soviet Communist Party, the Congress of People's Deputies adopted a new structure of power which gives radically new rights to the republics.

They acted after hearing a report on the crisis meeting held in the Kremlin between President Gorbachev and the representatives of 11 republics. The Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, read the report, which stunned deputies.

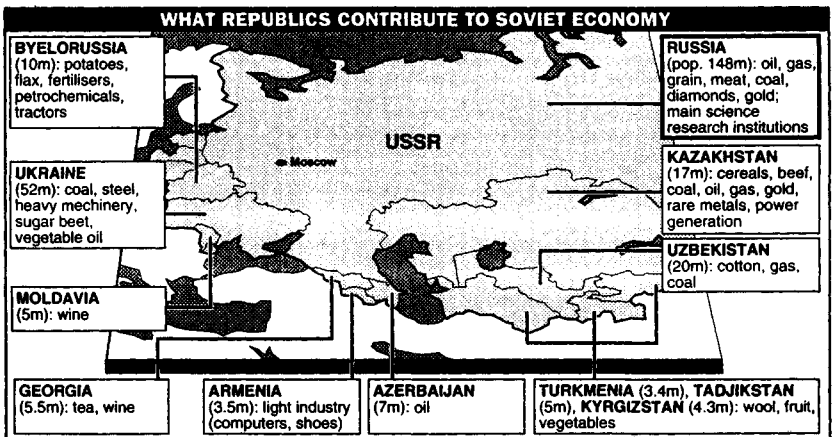
It turned the present system of Soviet power upside down by proposing three new bodies in place of the present parliament and union government.

There would be a state council, consisting of President Gorbachev and the leaders of the other republics which sign the union treaty, to handle foreign and domestic policy. An inter-republican economic council would manage the economy and bring in reforms. In place of the parliament would be a kind of senate consisting of 20 representatives from each republic" (GW 8-9-91).





C6 What republics contribute to soviet



Power passing from the Kremlin government to the Republics is graphically presented in the cartoon opposite. It also highlights the independent republics each wanting to go their separate ways. But this was economically unrealistic. The republics are very much inter-dependent for their needs. This is set out in the table (opposite) of what each republic normally supplies to the others. They all agreed in principle that they must cooperate as an economic commonwealth, but in practice there was much dissension and selfishness.

Never-the-less, progress was made under Gorbachev's skilful hand. As an illustration, on October 2 there was "approval in principle".

"Leaders of the 12 remaining Soviet republics approved in principle yesterday plans to build new economic links to compensate in part for the collapse of the old union" (DT 2-10-91).

On October 19 eight republics agreed to cooperate:

"Leaders of eight Soviet republics took a major step yesterday towards building a new union out of the crumbling Communist state when they signed an agreement on economic cooperation.

The agreement is seen as a last-ditch attempt to restore some order to the plummeting economy in the period between the dismantling of the old centralized system and the establishment of market forces.

The three-year agreement sets up a free trade zone and establishes inter-republican organizations to control, finance and coordinate food, industrial and energy supplies. The banking system will remain largely in central hands" (DT 19-10-91).

Then in November Moldavia and the Ukraine joined—the Baltic States now being outside the Soviet.

### **"GORBACHEV CLINCHES ECONOMIC BLOC DEAL**

Moldavia and the Ukraine joined eight other republics yesterday in agreeing to form an economic community out of the old Soviet Union, boosting President Gorbachev's hopes of preserving some kind of confederate state.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Mr. Pavel Voshchanov said the Russian leader would sign decrees in the next few days liberalizing foreign trade and currency transactions and providing help for the most needy through the transition to a market economy" (DT 7-11-91).

Gorbachev's 'clinching the deal' involved a variety of reservations still to be settled!

## APPROACHING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

When Yeltsin issued his decree in November to proceed with establishing a real market economy, whatever hardship for the people this involved, he had the approval of all the leaders of the republics. But as far as the economy was concerned this was of no help, but rather the reverse. Reports of impending catastrophe were increasing in the papers.

### “SOVIETS ON THE BRINK OF SOARING INFLATION

**Moscow**—The Soviet Union has been brought to the brink of a dangerous hyperinflation by rivalry among its republics and Moscow's own desperate policies, according to economists and government officials.

The country's central bank is printing money as fast as possible. The only limit for the explosion of money in circulation is the speed of the government's printing presses, which are running around the clock.

'The situation is very close to anarchy,' said Grigory Yavlinsky, a key member of the four-man team trying to forge a new economic union of Soviet republics. Yavlinsky said inflation already is running at a rate of between 2 percent and 5 percent a week" (GW 6-10-91).

### “SOVIET UNION - 'NO ONE IS IN CHARGE'

**Moscow**—Nearly seven weeks after a right-wing coup in the Soviet Union collapsed in a burst of optimism for democracy and free markets, government remains in disarray and economic reform has stalled, according to interviews with many leaders here.

Asked who is in charge amid the confusion, Alexander Yakovlev, a senior adviser to President Gorbachev, said, 'I am tempted to tell you the truth: No one is in charge'" (GW 13-10-91).

In the Daily Telegraph Business News section, Grigory Yavlinsky, the Soviet chief economist, is quoted as follows:

"The Government (says Grigory Yavlinsky, its envoy to the IMF) is spending twice its income and bridging the gap by printing roubles. Inflation is running away, exports, investment and employment are collapsing, and the Soviet Union's total output of goods and services will fall this year by 13 %. The West has seen nothing like this in peace time since the Great Depression" (DT 17-10-91).

Gorbachev was alarmed at the way the situation was developing.

## **“SOVIET UNION ON BRINK OF ABYSS, SAYS GORBACHEV**

Republican leaders gathered in the Kremlin yesterday, acutely aware that they have made minimal progress in improving their people's dire economic plight since the failed August coup and that the day of reckoning is near.

At that time hope arose that we would be able to master the situation, take the road of reforms and prevent a break-up of the union. This did not happen and we have approached an abyss.”

Mr. Grigory Yavlinsky, a leading light in the moves to negotiate a new coordinating center, said barter deals struck between the republics could never provide the basis for a common economy.

Differences over the payment of foreign debt, taxation, the budget deficit and the rouble have paralyzed the country's finances”

(DT 5-11-91).

G. Yavlinsky also said the harvest is down by nearly a quarter on last year.

## **“‘RIOTS ON WAY’ AS RUSSIA FACES STARVATION AND BANKRUPTCY**

The Soviet economic crisis took an ominous turn yesterday with warnings from senior officials of riots next month and that the country could soon run out of hard currency to meet its foreign debt repayments.

The forecasts were made amid growing despair among shoppers.

People are hoarding whatever they can find for fear of higher prices, after Mr. Boris Yeltsin, Russian President, last week promised the lifting of price controls.

Mr. Viktor Ivanenko, chairman of the Russia KGB, said that while he discounted a repeat of August's coup, he expected 'a series of coordinated social explosions'.

'We have data that shows strike committees and workers' committees are being formed in major factories,' he said" (DT 6-11-91).

A front page headline on November 29 was:—

## **“SOVIET UNION ‘BROKE IN DAYS”**

Payment of salaries of teachers etc. was in doubt.

Reports of this kind continued into December.

# **Chapter 10: PHASE 7. NOVEMBER: AID. DECEMBER: USSR DISSOLVED!**

## **PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME**

We have looked at the state of things inside the Soviet Union—how the republics rejoice in their independence but are unwilling to act responsibly for the necessary cooperation; how the ever worsening economy is described by Gorbachev as nearing an abyss. But what of the situation on the outside of the Soviet?

Soviet economy cannot improve without vast injection of financial aid to permit industrial and commercial rebuilding. And until the republics act responsibly, there is no confidence in the aid-providers to hand over the aid.

The essential link in the providing of aid is the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. They are advised by the Group of Seven (G7). The Group of Seven are the finance ministers of the seven leading industrial countries of the world. John Major is the chairman of G7. The aid comes, of course, from the various countries who offer aid - America, Britain, Canada, Europe, Saudi Arabia, and Japan.

The crisis inside the Soviet was coming to a head at the time the G7 finance ministers were to hold their annual meeting, this year at Bangkok in South East Asia. All the G7 finance leaders fear the profound consequences of the collapse of the Soviet economy and are anxious to find ways of establishing confidence for providing aid. An investigating team went to Moscow before the Bangkok meeting, led by the IMF President, and laid down the terms the Soviet must comply with, if and when aid is provided.

### **"IMF TOUGH ON SOVIET UNION**

The IMF said yesterday it had acquired the right to prepare analytical reports on the Soviet economy, to advise on appropriate reform

policies and to demand full disclosure of sensitive information, for example the level of Soviet gold reserves" (DT 9-10-91).

This agreement was signed in Moscow. After the Bangkok meeting the IMF despatched a group of deputies to Moscow to supervise the agreement and give advice on settling the many problems between the republics and the Central government. The chief difficulty is in pinning down who carries the responsibility for any aid given—Yeltsin, Gorbachev, or any one of the republics receiving aid.

## **JAPAN: SAVIOUR OF THE SOVIET?**

The weekend edition of the European newspaper for September 18, 1991 carried an illuminating article on Japan's relations with the Soviet. The article was entitled:

### **"JAPAN STEPS UP ITS DRIVE INTO SOVIET UNION"**

By far the greatest investment in the Soviet to date is by the Japanese. Their potential investment dwarfs that of any other country. The explanation for this is quite simple. They have vast sums looking for investment, and the Soviet has materials Japan is hungry to get.

This new development indicates that Russia, though going through serious upheavals, is far from being a dead power.

## **DECEMBER: USSR DISSOLVED!**

Before the end of the year, Gorbachev had resigned and one newspaper reported another equally dramatic event in the following way:—

### **"SOVIET UNION'S QUIET DEATH**

**MOSCOW:** The Soviet Union, the world's first communist State, born in bloody revolution in St Petersburg 74 years ago, died quietly in the city of Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, at the weekend.

It was put to death by 11 of its former 15 republics which signed a document creating a Commonwealth of Independent States...

The 11 leaders, unofficially headed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said they were giving Mr Gorbachev formal notice that the Soviet Union—and its presidency—had ceased to exist" (The Advertiser, Adelaide, 23-12-91)!

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

We must wait and see how the future unfolds. The uncertainties are too great to attempt any forecast for the immediate future.

The transformation in one year has been tremendous, and we can in the long term see the possibility of the revitalization of the Russian economy. But with so many problems, so much hardship ahead, we cannot attempt to forecast how long this will take.

We must be content to have confidence in the hand of God moving affairs according to His prophetic plan; being chiefly concerned with our own position. Are we ready for Christ's return and our call to the judgement seat?

# Chapter 11: THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE PAPACY

## WHAT WE ARE EXPECTING TO SEE

The latter day prophecies concerning the Papacy reveal the influence of a dominant power similar to that which haunted Europe in previous centuries.

In Daniel 2:40-43 Western Europe in the latter days is described as a ten-toed dominion, fractured and bound together by two characteristic influences. The iron, with its remnants of the ancient Roman empire, was to mingle with the seed of men and was to become the dominant influence. This iron characteristic is none other than Catholicism which was the only real strength that has passed from the ancient to the modern world in the Western European theatre. The clay symbolizes government by the common man; the seed of men as distinct from “the seed of the king” in Daniel 1:3.

It is this continuation of democratic or socialistic governments and Catholic iron that form the final picture of Western Europe. We expect to see, therefore, the continuing growth of Catholicism in this area until it becomes the stronger of the two forces.

Furthermore we note from Daniel 7:8, 21-26 that the constitution of the Holy Roman Empire, symbolized by a little horn with eyes and mouth, must be present when the Ancient of Days returns. The clear implication of this is that we expect a dominant European leader rise, one who will again ally himself with the Pope to form the same type of alliance which Charlemagne inaugurated in AD 800. The bond between Pope and Emperor was first French, then Germanic and later Austrian. It will be interesting to note where the next European leader emerges from.

The final descriptions of the Papacy prior to its dissolution are given in Revelation 16 to 18. Here the Papacy is likened to a false prophet, spreading its frog-like doctrine of liberty, equality and fraternity throughout the world (Rev. 16:13-14). It is also likened to a dissolute woman astride a European beast preparing its allies for the final conflict



with the Lamb (Rev. 17). In Revelation 18 the same power is likened to a city full of every evil doctrine and practice, drunk with its international affiliations and successes, filled with delicacies and wealth, and trading in the bodies and souls of men (Rev. 18:2-7, 11-13).

It is significant that the events of 1991 in relation to the Papacy have continued to fulfil these expectations and have allowed us to perceive the great wickedness of a system which God in the end will destroy with violence.

## **POPE JOHN PAUL II CHANGES VATICAN POLICY**

As early as the end of the nineteenth century the Vatican started moving towards a form of 'christian-socialism', which in reality was socialism supervised by the Church.

Pope John 23rd in the 1960's began a pragmatic cooperation with the Communists because the assumption was that Communism would become the all powerful political doctrine of Europe and perhaps the world. This rapport was given a legal recognition in the Second Vatican Council in 1965. At the time it was remarked that the Council's attitude was a reflection of that liberty, equality and fraternity which pervaded the French Revolution. The succeeding Pope, Paul VI continued this swing to the left in all parts of the world.

The present Pope, however, has shown no real affinity with this spirit. Coming, providentially, from a background where he attempted to preserve the Polish Church's vitality in the face of Communism, he has always sought to triumph over communism. When he became Pope in 1979 he commenced a very marked change in policy. He sought the re-establishment of the Church's spiritual authority over the secular, the return to its old dogma and ritual, and a resumption of its international standing in the community. To achieve this, he reined in the power of the Jesuits and appointed his own men over them. He has also appointed bishops and cardinals who hold his views and demoted leaders who dared to challenge his position.

Furthermore, his dealings with Gorbachev and the European Parliament have served to project an image to the world that Pope John Paul II and no other patriarch is the spiritual guide and ruler of Europe, both East and West.

All this has served to position Pope John Paul in such a commanding role that he has taken the offensive in Western and Eastern Europe.

## **NOW, A HOLY EUROPEAN EMPIRE?**

This was the title given to a profile on John Paul II in the Sunday Telegraph of August 25, 1991.

When the coup attempt took place in Moscow, the Pope was on one of his numerous trips abroad. He was in Hungary, inspiring the Hungarian Catholic Church, notably feeble under Communism, to regain its old confidence and power.

In contrasting the decline of Russian communism with the ascendancy of Catholic strength, the writer says:—

“In Rome, on the other hand, faith and confidence are stronger than they have been for nearly 30 years. This was not so when the present Pope was elected. After the Second Vatican Council there was a crisis of confidence in the Roman Church. The liberals had the upper hand. They changed the liturgy, removing most of what was beautiful. They evolved curious versions of Catholic teachings—especially on sexual ethics—that seemed to bear little relation to the traditional doctrine of the Church.

The papacy seemed demoralized. It was alleged in traditionalist circles that many of the most intimate advisers of Paul VI (1963-78) were secretly members of an Italian Masonic lodge. Liberals hoped the Pope would transform himself into a mere figurehead, giving up most of the power that Roman pontiffs had concentrated into their hands.

Above all, Pope Paul VI and his advisors believed the Church had come to terms with Marxism. It was assumed that the division of Europe was permanent. Anyone who remained vociferously anti-communist was an embarrassment.

The advent of the Polish Pope changed all that. The Pope brought with him from Poland a robustness of faith that scandalized many Catholic intellectuals in the West. He set about restoring Catholic orthodoxy. He appointed rigorously orthodox bishops in sees throughout the world...Rome aimed to become once again a rock of certainty in a turbulent sea.

He also changed the Churches' *Ostpolitik*. From the beginning of his reign, Karol Wojtyla spoke out against the division of Europe imposed by the Yalta agreement.”

With this kind of strength of purpose he went on the offensive. The writer continues:—

“On his third visit to Poland, in Warsaw, John Paul II said that he had come ‘to cry out before Europe and the world for the forgotten people of Eastern Europe’. This was a bold and dramatic gesture. The Pope was insisting not only on the scandal, but also in a sense on the **absurdity** of the division of Europe. His untiring insistence that Yalta was a historical and cultural absurdity had an enormous impact on the Poles in particular, but also on the Hungarians and Czechs.

Wojtyla also believed—contrary to the orthodoxy accepted by all Western politicians—that the whole Soviet empire, including the Soviet Union itself, was a whole house of cards, and that once the subject populations could be inspired to call the communists’ bluff, the whole thing would collapse.

With the demise of Marxism, and the Christian revival in eastern Europe and Russia, the Polish Pope is in a uniquely influential position. The ‘Common European Home’ is essentially another phrase for Christendom—to which the eastern Europeans long to return.

A few years ago, when the Pope addressed a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the Rev. Ian Paisley unfurled a banner denouncing His holiness as Antichrist. Dr. Paisley’s banner was immediately wrenched from his grasp by Dr Otto von Habsburg, a member of the Parliament.

It was a symbolic scene, because Dr. von Habsburg also goes by the title of Archduke Otto of Austria. In palmier days Otto von Habsburg would have gone by grander titles still: for he would have been Emperor of Austria, Apostolic King of Hungary and Holy Roman Emperor. One of his responsibilities as Holy Roman Emperor would have been to uphold the dignity of the Roman Catholic Church—which might well have meant that, at the request of the Pope, he would have incarcerated Dr. Paisley in one of his remoter fortresses.

Dr. Paisley escaped this fate because the old European order, in which the Pope ruled the spiritual realm and the emperor the secular, has long since passed away. As Mrs. Thatcher said in her speech in Chicago earlier this year: ‘It is time to recognize, even in Brussels, that the age of empire has passed’.

But has it? Or did the farcical scene in Strasbourg have a more serious symbolism that we recognized at the time? For there is reason to think not only that the papacy is gaining increasing political influence in the world, but that the EC may indeed bear a more than

shadowy resemblance to a European imperial ideal that has never been entirely forgotten.”

After describing the history of the formation of the Holy Roman Empire, the article continues:—

“We may think that all this is the sound of ‘old, unhappy, far-off things, and battles long ago’. But the Vatican notoriously thinks in centuries. And in John Paul II we have the most political Pope of modern times. It is in the movement towards federalism of the Common Market, with the coming membership of eastern European countries, as well as in the turmoil in the Soviet Union, that the Pope may see the greatest possibility for an increase in Catholic political power since the fall of Napoleon, or since the Counter-Reformation.

The Common Market itself started under the inspiration of Catholic politicians such as Adenaur of Germany, Paul Henri Spaak, Jean Monnet and Robert Schumann. They were all Christian Democrats. They were all deeply influenced by Catholic social teaching... European countries are penetrated by the corporatist ideas of the Church, and the social teaching of the popes from Leo XIII onwards.”

We can see therefore, the way in which John Paul is beginning to project himself and the Church as a necessary partner in the movement towards the confederated European states.

## A CHANGE IN ECUMENISM

Ever since the Second Vatican Council, Catholicism has been striving with other churches to reunite believers under one roof with 1 billion members. It has co-sponsored negotiations with Anglicans, Lutherans and Greek orthodox followers. In December 1991 the Vatican brought progress to an abrupt halt with a hard-line policy direction that makes the task of re-unification more arduous than ever, if not impossible.

*Time* magazine reported it in these terms:—

“The statement was the Holy See’s official 12-page response to an accord reached in negotiations with the Anglicans. The agreement covered such matters as Communion and the priesthood, but the overarching problem was how the unified churches would treat the papacy. Rather than endorse the crafted agreement, the Vatican issued a statement insisting that a reunited church must be built upon a papacy that is a God-given, ‘permanent’ institution with ‘universal’ jurisdiction, ‘directly founded’ by Jesus Christ. The text also re-

asserts the Pope's personal power to teach infallibly on faith and morals.

The response in effect rejected the approach taken by the Anglican negotiators, who had expressed surprising openness to accepting the 'Bishop of Rome' as the central authority leading a reunited church. But the leader's role was envisioned in terms of the circumscribed authority of the Popes of early Christianity not the powers of modern Pontiffs."

During December, 137 Catholic bishops gathered in Rome to discuss the future of Christianity in Europe. It was interesting to note that the Greek Orthodox leader spurned papal invitations to send observers to the meeting due to the fact that they are angry over the zeal and extent of Roman Catholic missionary effects in Eastern Europe in the wake of communism's collapse.

The implications behind this change in negotiations with Anglicans have far reaching effects. Instead of drawing the Church of England into the embrace of a Papal influenced Europe, the abrupt response will serve to confine Anglican religious overtures to its own people.

This would serve to ensure that England remains aloof from Europe.

## **RELIGIOUS REVIVAL IN EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA**

The dramatic collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe has led to a race between Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches as to which organization can claim the most converts. A region of 432 million people has become the world's most enticing mission field.

This rush to evangelize the East is creating serious 'turf battles' that are seen as threats to John Paul's long standing dream of a reunited Christianity at the centre of a renewed European culture. In the Ukraine there is a battle between the Catholics and the Orthodox over property. In 1946 Stalin abolished Catholicism and handed its former parishes to the Orthodox, who now claim that Catholics have used violence and bribery to retrieve 2,000 of them.

*Time* magazine reports:—

"Yet all the squabbling has not impeded Rome's vigorous expansion. Only two years ago, Ukrainian Catholicism had no legal seminaries;

now there are nearly 1,000 and there would be more but for a lack of staff and facilities. In Russia virtually all branches of Christianity are setting down new roots. This month Federation President Boris Yeltsin memorialized the 1931 destruction of the Savior's Cathedral in Moscow by declaring, 'We are beginning to climb out of the chasm into which we were falling for the past several decades, in order to revive memories and return to our faith.' Says Orthodox Archbishop Serge Solnechnogorski: 'The church is playing an enormous role in society.'

In Romania, Eastern Rite Catholicism has been reborn after decades of being outlawed. Two new seminaries are operating, and revived congregations are asking for the return of 2,600 former churches: 25 have been handed back so far. Five bishops, as well as six bishops for Western Rite Catholics, have been installed. Orthodox leaders are furious over not only the Catholic inroads, but increasing activity by Protestant evangelists.

In Czechoslovakia it is standing room only on Sundays in Prague's St. Nicholas Church. At other Czech parishes, young families predominate, and religious-instruction classes for youths are swelling. In rural towns without churches, services are held from a roving 'chapel truck'. Says Father Vaclav Frantisek Lobkowicz, a Prague priest: 'Young people are looking for truth.'

As a sign of the change in Hungary, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches get weekly airtime on state TV, while the government funds everything from the rebuilding of schools to the training of catechism teachers. The Academy of Theology in Debrecen, which calls itself the world's oldest Protestant seminary, is training 200 students in facilities designed for 75.

Hungary's Father Laszlo Lukacs sketches the situation in these terms: 'The majority are without any belief. They are not Christians, not communists, but just nihilists and sheer materialists.' People often turn to the church, he asserts, 'not because they want to be Christian but because they want order in society.'

Many observers agree that East Europeans, having shed any lingering faith in communism and atheism, are ill prepared to adopt a Christianity that they barely understand after decades of enforced ignorance. But across the devastated post-communist landscape, there is a palpable need for spiritual moorings and for hope—and Christianity is moving to meet that need."

By appointing Monsignor Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, a Byelorussian, as bishop of Moscow in mid 1991, the Pope was signalling his intention

to continue to exert his influence in Russia. This move has also fulfilled one of the most important pre-conditions for a papal visit. Such a visit is being planned for 1992 or 1993.

All of events serve to illustrate the enormous headway religion, and particularly Catholicism, is making in these regions. It will serve as the bond which will reunite these disparate nations into a mighty image.

## INCREASE IN THE WORSHIP OF MARY

Side by side with the growing political and religious influence of the Papacy is the accompanying increase in Catholic superstition. *Time* magazine reported a growing phenomenon in the worship of Mary:—

"In an era when scientists debate the causes of the birth of the universe, both the adoration and the conflict attending Mary have risen to extraordinary levels. A grass-roots revival of faith in the Virgin is taking place worldwide. Millions of worshippers are flocking to her shrines many of them young people. Even more remarkable are the number of claimed sightings of the Virgin, from Yugoslavia to Colorado, in the past few years.

Papal pronouncements concerning the status of Mary have continued to drive a wedge between the Vatican and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Yet despite this, people the world over are travelling enormous distances to demonstrate their personal veneration of Mary. The late 20th century has become the age of the Marian pilgrimage. In the words of 2 Thess. 2:9-10 they are manifestations of the working of the adversary, "... with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish ..."

Examples of this phenomena are quoted in *Time*:—

"At Lourdes, the biggest of France's 937 pilgrimage shrines, annual attendance in the past two years has jumped 10% to 5.5 million. Many new visitors are East Europeans, now free to express their beliefs and to travel. Despite the inevitable attraction of Lourdes for the ill and aged, one-tenth of the faithful these days are 25 or younger. "We also have new kinds of pilgrimages," reports Loic Bondu, a spokesman at the site. "They dance, they sing, they praise out loud. They're more exuberant."

In Knock, Ireland, where 15 people saw the Virgin a century ago, the lines of the faithful lengthened dramatically after John Paul II paid a visit to the shrine in 1979. Since then, attendance had doubled to

1.5 million each year. To handle the influx, a new international airport was opened...

**At Fatima, Portugal**, the shrine marking the appearance of Mary before three children in 1917 draws a steady 4.5 million pilgrims a year from an ever widening array of countries. One million devotees turned out last May when the Pope made his second visit.

**In Czestochowa, Poland**, attendance at the shrine of the Black Madonna has increased to 5 million a year, rivaling Fatima and Lourdes, since Pope John Paul's visit in 1979.

**In Emmitsburg, Maryland**, attendance has doubled in the past year, to 500,000 at one of the oldest of 43 major Marian sites in the US., the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The boom at such long-established sites is almost overshadowed by the cult of the Virgin that has developed through new reports of her personal appearances, most spectacularly at Medjugorje, Yugoslavia... More than 10 million pilgrims had flocked to the mountain village since the apparitions began in 1981. Six young peasants there claim that the Virgin has been imparting messages each evening for 10 years. Hundreds of ailments have been reported cured during visits to the region where the visitations take place."

Devotion to Mary was ingrained in the Pope in his Polish homeland, where over the centuries the Madonna has been hailed for turning back enemy forces. The precious Black Madonna icon was a mobilizing symbol for the country's efforts to throw off communism and is still a unifying image for the entire nation. The Pope firmly believes that Mary's personal intercession spared his life when he was shot in an assassination attempt. He also believes in visions of Mary, one of which directed him and his bishops to 'consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart in order to bring communism to an end'.

With such patronage, the status of Mary has been elevated dramatically in the consciousness of the Catholic people. We await the day when this gross superstition will be removed for ever and the true status of God and His Son is understood by all nations.

## VATICAN INTRIGUES IN YUGOSLAVIA

The current troubles in Yugoslavia need to be understood in the light of both medieval and recent history. The republic of Yugoslavia was not always a confederation of minor states. In the times of the Roman



dominance, the empire was split between east and west, and the territorial division assigned Croatia to the Latin Church and Serbia to the Greek Orthodox Church.

The region was reunited under the Ottoman Empire until that power was 'dried up' in the 1800's. The release of the frog spirits into the peninsula resulted in the creation of numerous Balkan States which retained their independence until World Wars 1 and 2.

In World War 2 the Nazi's invaded Yugoslavia and, although its government declared its allegiance to the allies, a small corner of Yugoslavia (in which there were 5 million Catholics and 3 million Eastern Orthodox Serbs) declared itself an independent state of Croatia. The leader of the State, Ante Pavelic, then raised an army called the Ustashi which was composed of Roman Catholic actionists. One of its main objectives was to 'convert a third, expel a third, and kill a third' of the Serbs!

Government offices were taken over and a notice issued that only Roman Catholics could remain in government service. All arms were confiscated, on the pleas of safeguarding against a communist uprising. In villages people were called to assemble for instructions and, knowing nothing of what awaited them, were either shot or taken to concentration camps to be tortured or starved. It has now been computed that approximately 1.5 million Serbs were slaughtered by Roman Catholic Actionists between 1941-1943.

Further evidence reveals that the Catholic archbishop of Croatia, Archbishop Stepinac, and his Catholic clergymen were actively involved in the slaughter, believing that Hitler's 1,000 year Reich was imminent. The Archbishop was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment after the War for his crimes.

Much of the intrigue and conspiracy by the Papacy has been documented in two publications: *The Vatican's Holocaust*, by Avro Manhattan, and *Convert or Die!* by Edmond Paris<sup>1</sup>.

With the death of Yugoslavia's President Tito and the demise of communism, the old religious wounds between east and west have been re-opened and the hostility of WW2's conflicts has re-emerged.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available from The Bible Magazine, Box 2004, Prince George, B.C. V2N 2J6 Canada, or Mrs. A Barnes, 3 Junction Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs., B61 8PG England.

The Vatican has been peculiarly silent about the conflict. It could step in and do much more to resolve the situation, but instead is seeking to promote the antagonism by sanctioning the priests in Croatia to bless the Croatian troops in their armed struggle. Such obvious silence is similar to the Papal stand on the extermination of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis.

The following quotes indicate the barbarity of the Papacy and its collaborators, and what faces those who think that Catholic reign of terror can be limited to past ages.

"The well-known industrialist and philanthropist Serb Milos Teslic, 26 years old, from Sisak, was cruelly tortured and murdered by the Ustashi. His legs were broken, ears and lips cut off, eyes gouged, chest stabbed and finally the heart was extracted through a big hole on his chest. As witnesses testified later, the heart of the tortured Milos was still beating on the palm of an Ustashi."

"The world must never forget that if Catholicism is again permitted to gain full control, people in other nations may face the same terrible choice..." (***Convert or Die!*** by Edmond Paris)

# CHAPTER 12: THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) DURING 1991

## INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

The year 1991 may be called the year of Maastricht. From the start it was recognized that by the Maastricht Summit in December plans had to be drawn up for the revision of the Treaty of Rome. The whole year had this focus. There was a steady driving force for France and Germany in cooperation with J. Delors of Brussels to prepare for a federal Europe—a Europe governed by the European parliament and its Brussels Commission.

Development was envisaged in three stages. **First**, the European Common Market to operate from January 1993. All members including Britain accepted step one, though Britain was fearful of the hundreds of 'directives' that were being prepared.

**Step two** was the establishing of the European Monetary Union by 1994-6. This would bring a single currency (the ECU) mandatory in all member countries, and under the direction of a Central European Bank, directing the financial policy of the Community. National banks, like the Bank of England, would be subject to the European Central Bank.

After the Monetary Union was attained, the **final** goal by the end of the decade was to be Political Union—a fully developed federal Europe.

The objectives in steps two and three were firmly opposed by Mr Major, Chancellor Lamont and foreign secretary Hurd. They fought a steady, patient, and persistent battle, which was not without its successes. The broad result was that they slowed down the unreasonable haste to get everything 'settles' by Maastricht.

Further, Britain obtained an option (or 'opt-in') clause as to the time and conditions when a British parliament decided to join the European Monetary Union.

Three other major items were under debate through the year. One was the creation of an EC United Defence Force, to give more power and authority to the Community in world affairs, especially in United

Nations discussions and decisions. Britain was generally in favour of this, provided it preserved the existing Nato structure.

The second topic was the European Parliament having control of the defence force and of the Community's foreign policy. This was resisted firmly by Mr Major.

The third topic, the removal of the power of veto, Britain strongly opposed. From 1957, the start of the 'Common Market', any member could exert a veto if it considered the decision was harmful to its national interests. Britain had been very troublesome in the eyes of the rest during the 1980's in using the veto to get concessions. The call now was to replace the power of veto by a majority vote. (It was to be a 'weighted' majority vote in which more important member's vote counted for more than that of the less developed countries).

It must be apparent from this sketch what a continuing battle was being fought by Britain's representatives.

Still another field of battle was the Social Charter for Workers' rights, promoted by France and most of the other members because of their Socialist leanings.

At Maastricht Mr Major stubbornly refused Britain's acceptance of the Social Charter, and if the whole concept had not been removed from the Treaty of Rome revision, the Summit would have ended in failure.

It is a sensitive task for the government to balance the conflicting interests of industry, the banks and finance, public opinion, and foreign investment of capital, and to know when to compromise and when to stand firm.

## **THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S AMBITIONS**

As reported in 1990 Milestones, the EC and its European Parliament and Commission have great ambitions. They aim to have economic and political control of all Europe—not limited to Western Europe but extending into eastern European countries, and the group of EFTA countries to the north, and the Commonwealth of Independent (Soviet) States.

In all this, Germany, with its vast economic power and disciplines, aims to make Germany the centre, the pivot, of the EC. Dr Kohl, the German Chancellor, insisted on this at the Maastricht Summit, and also

demanded the European Parliament and Commission should have much greater powers and controls.

### **Britain and Europe**

Why do we traditionally see separate roles for Europe and the English-speaking peoples? There are several passages that indicate a separate power from those nations brought together in the final European confederacy. Ezekiel 38:13 is one of these where we have "the merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof", in league with Arabian powers and questioning the Northern Invader, Gog. Clearly this is a power of the latter days but outside of the Northern Confederacy. It is a power famous for worldwide maritime trade and in a supporting role with the southern Arabian peoples. It is a power that has developed many other nations, here styled "the young lions". All these details are clearly relevant to Britain and it is her family of nations that have retained an identity separate from Europe. Centuries of history have brought that distinction. Though Britain once occupied half of France, no European power has put a foot on England since William the Conqueror in 1066. England's attitude to the Jews has not been good but a great improvement on that of Europe! England and the English-speaking peoples have been essentially Protestant and that fact has led to the availability of God's Word and a general freedom of conscience in religious matters. At the time when the Americas and Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa and many other parts were being colonized by Britain there were also Catholic Spanish, French and Portuguese vessels plying the "new" oceans of the world. On an early French map of Australia, circa 1800, the new land was named "Terra Napoleone"! So much could have gone the other way but under the Hand of God many of these nations retained the allegiance to the throne of England and despite the anachronism in this age, still present as a Commonwealth of Nations, a truly remarkable fact in this world.

# Chapter 13: THE EC'S LONG CONFLICT WITH THE BRITISH

## A DEVELOPING DRIVE OVER FIVE YEARS

The Single European Act (1986) was ratified by all the twelve governments of the Community. Mrs Thatcher supported the Act and signed on behalf of the British Government!

It was in this Single European Act that one can see the seeds of what was to grow into the Maastricht 'treaty' of 1991. J. Delors, the President of the Euro-parliament and its supporting Commission was the main architect of the Act, and it embodied his hopes and intentions. He was supported in his plan by President Mitterand of France and Chancellor Kohl of Germany. It was Mitterand who revealed the plan in a speech to the European Parliament in May 1984. Here are some extracts from the newspaper report of his speech.

### **"MITTERAND FEDERAL STATE PLAN FOR EEC**

In a remarkable speech to the European Parliament yesterday, M. Mitterand called for a new European Union that would effectively turn the Common Market into a federal state. The French President said there should be an end to the practice of majority voting under which individual members could veto EEC policies.

He dismissed the British budget problem as 'petty squabbling' and implied that if Britain did not feel ready to join the march toward European union, then it should be left behind.

'Any country could opt not to join the new union if it did not want to be involved in this further vision of Europe' he declared" (DT 25-5-84).

As the years went by Germany, France and J. Delors maintained an unceasing drive to establish a federal Europe. Progress is usually marked up in the decisions taken at the twice yearly Summit meetings of the Heads of State of the 12 member countries. It is particularly at the Summits that there is strong pressure to keep up the momentum for a federal Europe. This was apparent in 1989 and 1990.

At the Madrid Summit President Mitterand of France obtained agreement in principle from eleven of the twelve members to put in hand three steps which would result in a revised Treaty of Rome by the second half of the 1990's, and this would legalize a federal Europe. Mrs Thatcher agreed only to the first step—to establish a Common Market by 1992-3.

Six months later, at the Strasburg Summit in December 1989 it was apparent that—

“The Treaty of Rome should be modified to give the Commissioners and the European Parliament powers to establish monetary union with a Central European Bank, fixed exchange rate mechanism between countries, and financial direction from Brussels.” (copied from *Milestones* 1989, page 45).

A year on to the December 1990 Summit, France and Germany insisted two Inter-governmental conferences (I.G.C.) should be established to speed up preparations for the important Summit in December 1991 (Maastricht). They were to spend the whole year ironing out difficulties so that a revised Treaty of Rome could be agreed in December. The one I.G.C. was to concentrate on monetary union and the single currency; and the other on Political Union. This indicates how determined they were for success at Maastricht.

(These I.G.C. conferences are working parties of appropriate officials from the 12 countries, meeting frequently).

Mr Major reluctantly agreed, stating he would continue to defend Britain's position.

## **CHAPTER 14: A SKETCH OF HOW THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE EC AND BRITAIN INTENSIFIED**

As a lead-in to 1991 the reader is invited to read again chapter 8 of Milestones 1990, particularly pages 72-75. The principles apply equally to 1991.

The British people and the Tory government are firmly against losing their sovereignty to a European parliament. Although Mr Major seems at times to be yielding too much, he is firmly against European federation and the sovereignty of a European Super State. His comment to Dr. Kohl "Britain at the heart of Europe" (DT 12-8-91) does not mean at the heart of a federal Europe. We may remember Mrs Thatcher when making her second attempt to get into the EEC (her first attempt was blocked by France) was anxious to be "at the heart of Europe"—the Europe envisaged in the original Treaty-of-Rome (1958) establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) with free trade, no tariff barriers, no unfair subsidies, an expanding open market.

The leaders defending Britain's interests in 1991 have been P.M. Major, Chancellor Lamont, foreign secretary Hurd and Howard in charge of Health and Safety. They make a good team. Mr. Major's style is opposite to Mrs. Thatcher's confrontational approach, and over the year he has made headway by his patient, quiet and sincere style.

### **JUNE**

There was little of note in the early part of 1991. It was in June that the on-going conflict between the EC and Britain sprang into life, and continued unabated to the end of the year.

A revised draft EC Treaty was launched without warning in the middle of June. The first impact of this was set out in the Daily Telegraph 18-6-91.

**"COMMON POLICIES AND CITIZENSHIP IN BLUEPRINT  
FOR FEDERAL EUROPE**

**"HURD CLASHES WITH DELORS ON EC UNITY**



Government difficulties over EC integration deepened dramatically yesterday when other countries asked Britain for the first time to make a legal commitment to a 'united states of Europe'. A large majority, including France and Germany, supported new core articles of the revised EC treaty which use the word 'federal' to define the community for the first time since it was founded in 1957.

As the 'preamble' to the new treaty, the articles would have considerable legal importance in setting the pace and structure of European union, since they could be used in support of Federal proposals. They contain commitments to:

- European economic union, including a single currency;
- A common foreign and security policy, including a common defence policy;
- A fresh inter-governmental conference in the next five years to create a defence policy and achieve any remaining federalist goals;
- European 'citizenship' for all EC nationals.

Mr Hurd indicated particular Government anxiety at the reference to the community's 'federal character' and 'federal destiny', with its overtones of a central Brussels authority responsible for what were once such supreme national issues as defence and security.

The EC's proposals on monetary and political union would bring a vast range of new issues under the jurisdiction of Brussels, and so create a tight-knit federal system.

Mr Hurd resisted further attempts to give the EC institutions the right to propose laws on industrial policy, transport, and energy. He particularly objected to a proposal for EC 'trans European networks' which implied that railways, motorways and other networks should come under state control".

## **Mr Major's counter attack**

The response to this challenge came a few days later. Mr Major planned a diplomatic counter offensive in which he and other ministers would personally tour the main European cities.

### **"BRITAIN STEPS UP FIGHT AGAINST EURO SUPERSTATE**

Mr Major's aim is to construct an alliance of the smaller powers in the Community who share Britain's antagonism to the first formal acknowledgment of the Community's 'federal goal' in an EC document" (DT 22-6-91).

The six-monthly Summit of the twelve community members was held at Strasbourg, and no startling decisions were made.

## **JULY-AUGUST**

A meeting of the G7 financial leaders of the world took place in July. Mr Major was chairman and his handling of the meeting was regarded as a great success. It raised his status considerably. His grip of financial intricacies, his up-to-date knowledge, his courteous patient style and clear lead as chairman made a big impression. The DT summarized this with a heading:

### **"G7 PERFORMANCE BRINGS MAJOR OUT OF THATCHER SHADOW"**

July and August are holiday months, but not for Messrs Major, Lamont and Hurd. They spent the time visiting Heads of States and aiming to slow down the Kohl-Mitterand-Delors drive to establish monetary and practical European Union.

## **SEPTEMBER**

Their efforts bore fruit in September with a number of British 'successes'. Four *Daily Telegraph* headlines convey this:

1-9-91 **"Slower Route to Monetary Union Unveiled"**

10-9-91 **"EC Split takes Heat off Britain"**

18-9-91 **"Major finds allies in Effort to Slow EC"**

19-9-91 **"Major wins Concessions on EC Union"**

This success brought a counter blast from the federalists led by the Dutch government, currently holding the presidency.

### **"MAJOR'S MAASTRITCH PLANS SCUPPERED BY THE DUTCH**

Mr Major's chances of striking deal with his EC colleagues over European "political union" have been badly damaged after the Dutch EC presidency yesterday unveiled a blueprint for the community that goes further towards federalism than anything before...

The Dutch have also rescinded what Britain believed to be a good principle, that all extension of EC operations into sensitive areas—such as the police, immigration, foreign policy and defence—should be left strictly to cooperation between national governments. The new draft treaty brings all these matters into the remit of the Brussels

commission, the EC's bureaucracy led by J. Delors, and the Euro-parliament.

That, in British eyes, paves the way for the EC institutions to evolve eventually into a genuine European government, and that it is not prepared to accept..." (DT 25-9-91)

## OCTOBER

The efforts of the British team—Major, Lamont, and Hurd—to slow down the unreasonable haste to establish Monetary Union, and a Single Currency, followed by Political Union, brought more success in October, as the following articles demonstrate:—

### **"DUTCH BACK DOWN ON EC PLANS**

A Dutch blueprint for a truly federal Europe was overwhelmingly voted down last night as Britain and nine of its EC partners roundly attacked its plans.

The opposition forced the Dutch presidency to climb down on talks in Brussels—but Mr Major still faces an uphill struggle to defeat moves to establish European Parliament supremacy over Westminster..." (DT 2-10-91).

### **"BOYCOTT THROWS EC SUPER-FEDERALIST MEETING INTO DOUBT**

French and German plans to meet to establish a faction of EC "super-federalists" this Friday in Paris were thrown into doubt yesterday after a majority of Community countries indicated they would not attend.

Meanwhile, plans were unveiled yesterday to make the Germans the largest single national group in the increasingly powerful Strasbourg Euro-parliament, outnumbering delegations from Britain and France by 18 MEPs" (DT 9-10-91).

[This last paragraph shows already the escalating political power of the new united Germany, which should give little comfort to anyone.]

### **"BRITAIN IS OFFERED COMPROMISE OVER MONETARY UNION**

A new formula allowing Britain to sign up this year for European Monetary Union without committing a future parliament to a single Euro-currency was unveiled yesterday by the Dutch EC president..." (DT 17-10-91).

### **“SWIFT MOVE TO EC CURRENCY RULED OUT**

Britain intensified the diplomatic brinkmanship in the run-up to the EC Maastricht summit with a warning yesterday that Mr Major would not sign in its present form a declaration calling for a 'swift transition' to a single European currency" (DT 20-10-91).

### **“MAJOR WILL VETO EC PLANS TO CONTROL IMMIGRATION POLICY**

The dispute over immigration 'had massive implications' for British politics, a Government source said. 'Any suggestion that Europe has got power over immigration will be very difficult to explain'.

Mr Major would have little choice but to use his veto if the plan was put in the revised EC treaty" (DT 26-10-91).

## **NOVEMBER**

November saw the emergence of a dominant Germany carrying with it the bulk of the EC membership. Germany is determined to increase the power of the Euro-parliament and its Commission.

To understand this it is important to realize united Germany is in a moral turmoil. It is little more than two years since two vastly different nations were thrown together. East Germany had been freed from the shackles of 70 years of Soviet neglect—worn out industrial equipment, roads and a lower standard of living than Western Europe. After the Hitler era of aggression the Germans are anxious to forget her past military ambitions and progress by diplomacy and peaceful cooperation. They are in a crisis of self examination. The question is: how does united Germany become integrated into Europe so that its dominating qualities are absorbed into a peaceful and better Europe(! GP)? Dr Kohl is determined to build a strong Europe by giving to the Euro-parliament and its Commission monetary and political control of a United States of Europe.

### **1-11-91**

Prime Minister Major and Chancellor Kohl met to see what compromises could be agreed. Major and Kohl have a good personal relationship, and Dr Kohl is anxious not to make difficulties for Mr Major in an election year. The offer to Britain that its government should have an exemption clause, allowing a future government to

decide when and how it joined the new Treaty of Rome, (see Oct. 17, 1991) was first suggested by Dr Kohl.

At the November 1st meeting Dr Kohl made it clear that this concession called for a corresponding commitment from Britain—that it would not interfere with the granting of increased powers to the Euro-parliament, and the extension of Community authority over foreign and security policy (DT 31-10-91).

Mr Major gave an emphatic **No!** to these proposals and spelled out the “bottom line” stand of the British Government:—

“Mr Major told Chancellor Kohl last night that the latest draft treaty on European political union which still proposes a ‘federal goal’ for the EC and a further transfer of sovereignty on immigration and social policy, remained unacceptable to Britain.

At talks in Bonn Mr Major spelled out his ‘bottom line’ in an attempt to secure German backing for important concessions needed to prevent Britain being isolated at next month’s Maastricht summit on the future shape of Europe.

He made clear Britain was ready to veto the political union treaty, unless it was amended in four key areas: immigration and justice; powers for the European Parliament to veto decisions by the EC Council of Ministers; social policy...; and the federal goal for the Community....”

As a consequence of this failure between Major and Kohl a further meeting was arranged for the end of the month to find common ground.

## **15-11-91**

President Mitterand of France makes a frequent ‘pilgrimage’ to meet Chancellor Kohl of Germany, anxious to control and limit German ambition. On this occasion he arrived with a powerful team of advisers, to arrange a common front between France and Germany at the Maastricht Summit.

### **“BONN AND PARIS IN EC TALKS**

President Mitterand arrived in Bonn yesterday at the head of a powerful team of negotiators, including 13 ministers, with the intention of forging a common front with Germany in the run-up to the Maastricht summit.

The two sides met as Chancellor Kohl repeated his call for a common European defence system and 'political union as an indispensable counterweight to economic and monetary union.'"

## **27-11-91**

The night before the second meeting of Mr Major and Dr Kohl, Kohl held a conclave of the six Christian Democrat leaders of the EC, and unveiled his new plan, more demanding than his previous one, and requiring a binding timetable on all twelve members for bringing a new Treaty of Rome into operation.

### **"KOHL'S NEW DEMANDS HIT HOPES OF EC DEAL**

Mr Major's chances of securing an acceptable deal on European Union at the Maastricht summit were again plunged into doubt last night as Chancellor Kohl of Germany made unexpected new demands for a binding timetable for further integration.

He told five other European leaders in Brussels that the summit would have to agree a detailed stage-by-stage plan for political union—with all 12 countries signing up now for further sweeping and automatic changes, possibly as soon as 1994.

Dr Kohl's idea is unacceptable to Britain. It is bound to top the agenda and add unforeseen tension when Mr Major meets the Chancellor in Bonn today.

In return for elimination of the word 'federal' from the treaty, Mr Major will be asked to accept that, possibly as early as 1994, there will automatically be

- ° more powers for the European Parliament.
- ° EC control of European immigration policy, particularly on visas and asylum and the beginnings of a European police force.
- ° A full-fledged EC foreign and security policy, involving the Brussels Commission and other EC institutions."

Although the Kohl plan had the backing of the six Christian Democrat leaders and their governments, the plan was not well received and there was wide sympathy for Britain that it could not agree to these demands.

## **28-11-91**

### **"BRITAIN WINS ALLIES AGAINST KOHL'S PLAN"**

The general view was that the matter had to be left until the Maastricht Summit, which was now only 10 days ahead.

## Chapter 15: ISSUES OF CONFLICT AS THEY CRYSTALLIZED JUST BEFORE MAASTRITCH

During the months of September to December there was a variety of draft treaties and prospects, many of which received more than one revision. The story is a complex one, with many additions and alterations that were to affect the final Maastricht Treaty. But in the week before Maastricht, items of disagreement that had to be settled at Maastricht crystallized into the following:—

1. The 1992-3 Single Market
2. Monetary Union and a single European Currency
3. Political Union—a United Europe under a European Parliament
4. A binding Social Charter on all twelve members
5. Power to veto to be replaced by majority vote
6. Establishing a European foreign policy
7. A Unified Defence force for the EC
8. Immigration to be controlled by Brussels.

### 1. THE 1992-3 SINGLE MARKET

'Single Market' means that all member countries allow free movement of goods, people, services and capital. All tariffs and government subsidies to be removed to allow fair competition.

The 'Single Market' was agreed in principle by all member countries in 1986 when the Single European Act was ratified.

Those who possess *Milestones 1984* and *1986* will find it useful to reread 1984, page 11 and 1986 chapter 3.

The wording 'Single European Act' is very suggestive. The closely placed words 'Single' and 'European' conveyed at that early date (1985-6) the drive for a united W. Europe controlled by the European parliament and Commission... But countries like Britain were only thinking of creating a trading unit—a market.

There was little discussion on the Single Market before Maastricht, as the item was regarded as settled.

## **2. MONETARY UNION AND A SINGLE EUROPEAN CURRENCY**

Although the European Monetary Union Treaty was said at the beginning of December to be almost complete, it was not intended to operate until 1996-7, depending on when sufficient countries were found to have met the rigorous standards laid down. The intended path is as follows:

"The EMU treaty begins to drive towards one money for Europe. 'Stage One' is already underway. It means all currencies must first submit to the rigours of the Exchange rate Mechanism and begin a process of economic 'convergence'. Next, in 1994, there will be a prototype European central bank of 'European Monetary Institute'. Finally, by the end of 1996, the EC must decide whether it has a quorum of seven countries economically fit to embark on 'Stage Three', the merging of national currencies into a single currency controlled by a single bank."

Until 1996-7 Britain will not be penalized, and joins in all discussions on European Monetary Union.

Nevertheless Germany and France are insisting that the time table for progress shall be laid down precisely so that there can be no 'getting out'.

## **3. POLITICAL UNION—A UNITED EUROPE UNDER A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Germany, France and President J. Delors see the European Monetary Union as a stepping stone to the greater prize of Political Union. With Political Union achieved they picture Europe tied together and governed by the European parliament. A variety of functions previously in the hands of national parliaments being handed over to a central authority. Chancellor Kohl is insistent on this.

### **"KOHLE INSISTS ON ONE-WAY TICKET"**

Chancellor Kohl of Germany said yesterday that he was willing to compromise on almost any issue to reach a successful conclusion at the Maastricht summit, 'as long as the road to European union is shown to be irreversible'.



During a joint press conference with Signor Andreotti, Italian Prime Minister, Herr Kohl said both sides were determined to ensure a successful summit conclusion.

The only issue on which he would not offer any compromise was in 'making certain the paths in political and economic union are irreversible—this is very important.'

'It's essential that everyone recognizes the direction we are aiming for after Maastritch'."

#### **4. A BINDING SOCIAL CHARTER ON ALL EC COUNTRIES**

A 'Social Charter' to defend and define the rights of the working class was set out as draft proposals in May 1989. It was first referred to by J. Delors in an address to the European Parliament in June 1988. He spoke of leading the Common Market onwards into a United Europe under the control of the Euro-parliament and the EC commission.

"Within ten years 80% of all legislation affecting Community citizens would originate in Brussels".

Mrs. Thatcher bluntly responded: "Westminster will not yield power".

Mrs. Thatcher's passionate anti-socialist views stirred her to action. For ten years the Conservative Government had battled to destroy the grip of the Labour parties' Socialist dogma with its resulting inefficiency, bureaucracy, and trade Union power. Britain was now more efficient and competitive in trade and industry. The British government would never throw away these gains.

#### **Europe Socialist-oriented**

But as she toured the various EC countries with these views, she did not create a sympathetic reaction. Rather, her efforts made plain that all the countries of the EC except Britain are socialist-oriented, and are in favour of a Social Charter for the workers, protecting and defending their rights and privileges—like free health care.

The first draft 'Workers Charter' appeared in May 1989. It was summarized in *Milestones* under 'Major events in the ECC', page 48.

In July of that year France set up a senior committee to ensure that EC policies were in line with Socialist objectives (DT 1-7-89).

It was in Oct. 1990, just before the Rome summit (Dec. 1990) that further details were introduced, in particular, maximum hours of work and minimum wage, and these became the centre of British objection in the days running up to Maastricht.

### **Mr Major's firm stand**

At Maastricht, Mr Major refused to accept the Social Charter right to the end, apart from items compatible with British law and practice. The impasse was only resolved by removing the whole 'Social Chapter' from the Treaty being formulated. This left the eleven free to work out their social plans and directives as rapidly and extensively as they wished, without being hampered by British time-consuming protests.

## **5. POWER TO VETO TO BE REPLACED BY MAJORITY VOTE**

The original Treaty of Rome (1957) had a clause that any member could stop any enactment which it considered seriously endangered its country's interest. In her early days Mrs. Thatcher used it to good effect in winning concessions for Britain.

This clause was not altered when the Single European Act was adopted in 1986; and so at the Maastricht Summit it was still operative. This meant that Mr Major could still veto decisions, and he brought the Summit meeting to an impasse. The summit was saved by proposing Britain be given an opt-out clause—or as Britain would say, an 'opt-in' clause—when she is ready.

### **No veto in the future**

A new era will begin after Maastricht in which frequent hold-ups dealing with Britain's objections will not be allowed. Decisions will be taken on a weighted majority basis. Votes of more important nations will count far more than that of less developed countries. The Maastricht Treaty now being finalized will incorporate this majority voting.

## **6. ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY**

Maastricht has made it abundantly clear that the eleven led by France and Germany are aiming at a federated Europe. It would be a logical adjunct of an integrated community to maintain a common foreign

policy. This would give the Community greater influence in the world's diplomacy and at the United Nations.

But a common foreign policy has to be based on common interests. In large measure the European countries do have common interests, with France and Germany creating and guiding such interests.

### **Britain has different interests**

As we have discussed before (*Milestones 1990*, 'The important theme of sovereignty'), Britain has other interests not shared by the Continent—responsibilities to the Commonwealth, and a 'free trade' outlook for her diverse maritime activities. So Mr Major rather reluctantly accepted a limited area of working in shaping European foreign policy.

France and especially Germany, regard a common foreign policy as important, or rather, essential. Germany sees it as one of the many strands that will bind Europe together, placing Germany with her great economic powers and disciplines at the centre of Europe. France, for her part, is most anxious to see Germany 'chained' to the European system, and so not likely to start aggressive adventures again.

## **7. A UNIFIED DEFENCE FORCE FOR THE EC**

The creation of a European army is as complex a topic as any in the developing affairs of the EC. In the last few years this has become an active matter.

Three prime reasons for the growing interest are these:

- 1) Before the Gulf War America maintained an army of 350,000 men and vast equipment in Europe. This equipment and some manpower was rushed into the Middle East to counter Iraq's growing threat to Kuwait. After the Gulf War the scene has greatly changed. With America's economic difficulties at home, Congress is debating reducing the number of men in Europe to 100,000 or less. Clearly the EC must become much more self-dependent.
- 2) The EC countries were bitterly criticized by America for their poor showing in the Gulf War. This has been a stimulus for them to do better in the future—to spend more money in defence and make constitutional changes (chief for Germany) where necessary.

- 3) The present US/Soviet desire for disarmament with a high proportion of nuclear land-based weapons to be destroyed is worrying Nato military leaders about their ability to defend W. Europe in the present uncertainties; and instability. They want better rather than less defence capacity.

There are varying motives for setting up an EC army. We will illustrate the two situations that particularly interest us—The European Parliament and its Commission; and Britain.

### **A) The European Parliament and its Brussels Commission**

The European Parliament and Commission understandingly have a great interest in possessing an army. It will increase its status in world diplomacy and decisions, such as taken by the UN Security Council. This has now assumed first task importance. As the EC has 'successfully' progressed to a unified group of eleven countries (Britain a protester), having its own army is an obvious objective. Possession of an army (100,000 is envisaged) infers power to enforce intentions and wishes. Additionally France and Germany see the EC having its own army as one of many strands which will gradually strengthen the unity of the Community, and help to bind the countries together under the leadership of the European parliament.

#### **The Shaping of a European Defence Force**

France supported by Germany, set out a plan for a European Defence Force at the time the Single European Act was under discussion in 1984-6. After W. Germany had its remaining WWII military restrictions removed, Germany said it was willing to go along with France in a stronger development of a Western European Defence Force, less dependent on the US (GW 4-3-84).

France and Germany envisage the European army will be in their hands. There is already a joint French-German brigade of 4,000. This is expected to be increased to 50,000-100,000. So France and Germany see their Defence Plan as a useful leverage to carry forward their objective of a federal Europe.

### **B) Britain**

Britain has several reasons for supporting the European Army concept.

- (1) There is a continuing distrust of the Soviet and in a long term view sees Europe as a buffer against aggression. She fears still more Soviet and Europe joined together and insists on maintaining her nuclear Trident defence!)
- (2) She joins the rest in realizing US troop withdrawals mean Europe must actively prepare for its own defence.
- (3) With the nuclear disarmament drive of the US-Russia, Britain is under criticism for insisting on keeping her Trident nuclear deterrent. It behoves her therefore, to be as cooperative as possible in any plans for a European army.
- (4) From the days of the Gulf War, Britain has been keen for a 'Rapid Reaction Force' to be set up, free to operate outside the boundaries of Europe. She has important trade and financial interests in the Middle East, particularly with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf States. The existence of such a force that Britain could use in an emergency is very welcome to those countries, and provides some stability for them.
- (5) But Britain's interest for such a force goes beyond the Middle East. There is the far flung Commonwealth, where a rapid Reaction Force could damp down any 'fire' before getting out of control.

### **What are the EC ambitions?**

The aims and intentions of those who control the EC—Germany, France and the European Parliament, has become quite clear over the past two years. Reference to *Milestones* 1989 and 1990 will make this clear.

In 1989 *Milestones*, chapter 6 has the title "EEC set to guide East-European economies", and the last section pages 51 and 52 has the heading:—

#### **"AFTER THE STRASBURG SUMMIT (DEC 1989): EEC AMBITIONS"**

Writing just after the Strasburg Summit the editor of the French *Le Monde* said:—

"When the European Community decided to work out before the end of 1990 the instruments of an economic and monetary policy, it confirmed that it wanted to change its character and intended to

**provide for itself the means of realizing its ambitions by becoming the nucleus of a future greater Europe” (GP emphasis).**

“This was the message for which Washington, Moscow and of course the Central European countries had been waiting. First because for a new order to become organized out of today’s chaotic mutations, it needs a fulcrum. A strong (EEC) Community provides such a fulcrum”.

In *Milestones 1990* chapter 7, there is a description of progress, quoting from the Australian Financial Review, setting out the grand plans for the expansion of the EC authority—a powerful army, decisions by majority voting and no veto, greatly increased powers of the European parliament, with control over the army and foreign policy. A European Central bank would make decisions previously made by national governments on financial policy.

These intentions took clearer shape in 1991.

1. A federal Europe is now agreed and planned
2. Much greater powers to be conferred on the European parliament
3. Defence and foreign policy to be in the hands of the European parliament.

The driving force that has reached these decisions lies chiefly with Chancellor Kohl of Germany and his single-minded determination to put Germany’s vast economic power at the centre of Europe. This, of course, is welcomed by the European parliament.

### **The Pope’s controlling hand**

There is a group of six Christian Democrats who are master-minding this progress. They are all devout Catholics, and must therefore, be under the control of the Pope in the unique confessional system that Rome has successfully operated for centuries. The power of Rome over Europe, East and West, advances steadily.

## **8. IMMIGRATION TO BE CONTROLLED BY BRUSSELS**

Here again there is a substantial conflict ahead between Britain and the European countries. These countries’ industries depend a great deal on cheap foreign labour. They are used to the movement of these

‘economic migrants’ in and out of their countries—going back to their families for a period.

The European Commission is “devising a comprehensive system whereby all controls would be imposed at the Community’s perimeter and immigration and customs checks would be eliminated at national frontiers” (DT 31-1-92).

Britain objects strongly to this because it means any person having a Worker’s Permit will be free to move into any country of the EC—including Britain.

Britain is a small area and densely populated compared with European countries and could not face such a potential invasion. When in due course Britain under her immigration laws turns back or arrests such a permit holder, she will be breaking EC law and eventually be heavily fined by the European Court.

### **Britain’s refugee policy**

Britain has a unique view point on refugees. Genuine refugees, those who can prove they are being persecuted and seek refuge—from any part of the world—will be given asylum in Britain. This is a world-wide concern, not limited to Europe or the EC.

Britain’s present concern regarding immigration is to more speedily sort out genuine refugees from those motivated largely by having a better life by coming to Britain.

## **Chapter 16:**

# **THE TREATY ON MONETARY & POLITICAL UNION AGREED AT MAASTRITCH**

[In this chapter we set out the content of the European Treaty agreed at Maastricht, and British gains and losses there, as reported in the Daily Telegraph].

## **INTRODUCTION**

The preamble is the so-called capeau, or hat. It establishes a new European Union, a structure embracing the EC and its 12 members.

It no longer contains the reference to a “federal goal”, instead speaking of “an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe”, language drawn from the 1957 Treaty of Rome.

Three other sections follow what the negotiators have labelled “the pillars”.

## **THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

The first “pillar” is the existing EC treaty, expanded and amended. It gives the EC a new or greater role in areas such as the environment, education, consumer protection and public health.

It also contains space for 90 pages of provisions on economic and monetary union, which will be slipped in once officials and lawyers have polished the texts. This is also where the European Parliament is given a greater say in EC law-making by allowing it to veto certain legislation.

## **FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE**

The second “pillar” is devoted to a common foreign and security policy. The treaty sets out rules for joint action by EC countries. Most decisions in this area will be taken by unanimity, but governments can decide unanimously to take some detailed decisions on implementing policy by a majority vote.



This section also creates the embryo of a future common European defence policy, but makes it clear this must be compatible with Nato.

## **POLICY AND JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION**

This section covers co-operation among the 12 EC governments on matters ranging from immigration and asylum policy to the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. It includes Europol, the embryonic EC-wide police intelligence corps.

Two dozen protocols and declarations are annexed to the treaty. They include:

- \* A protocol allowing all EC countries but Britain to establish common social legislation through normal Community mechanisms.
- \* A protocol allowing Denmark to hold a referendum before joining a single currency.
- \* A protocol declaring the irreversible character of the EC's move to the final stage on monetary union.
- \* A protocol on economic and social cohesion ensuring that Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Greece get more EC money.
- \* A permanent authorization for Denmark to continue barring Germans and other foreigners from buying holiday homes.
- \* A text to save EC companies billions of dollars in back claims on equal pensions treatment for men and women are enforceable from May 1991.
- \* A statement safeguarding Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion.
- \* A declaration on the role of national parliaments, aimed at involving them more in EC business.
- \* A call for more thorough enforcement of Community legislation.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BRITISH GAINS & LOSSES AT MAASTRICHT

### “MONETARY UNION

**Gain:** Britain secured its legally binding right to take a wholly separate decision about the single currency, if and when the final decision comes to go ahead in 1997.

**Loss:** Mr Major has agreed to a set of dates for achieving the single currency, including what is intended to be a final deadline of 1999... The common presumption is that if there is a monetary union, Britain will be on board.

### FEDERALISM

**Gain:** The word ‘federal’ decisively struck from the treaty, replaced by the preferred British formula: ‘an ever closer union of peoples’

**Loss:** The EC is already a basically federal structure and will become more so, with decisions on a wider range of subjects taken in Brussels. Crucially, all 12 have agreed to have a further treaty-changing conference by 1996 at the latest. Most countries believe this will be the occasion for dismantling the ‘pillar’ structure of the new treaty, bringing subjects such as common foreign policy and immigration wholly under the influence of the Brussels institutions.

### THE SOCIAL CHAPTER

**Gain:** For a government already infuriated by Brussels’s manipulation of the current treaty to promote workers’ rights, any expansion was out of the question. Through keeping his nerve, Mr Major succeeded in the feat of simply knocking out the social chapter from the new treaty.

**Loss:** This will lead to accusations that Britain has been plunged into a slow lane, out of step with mainstream EC attitudes on labour. It could also pose severe judicial problems for Britain, because the 11 others will use the new articles to make Community law. Lawyers are examining whether Britain can escape the effect of these laws.

### FOREIGN POLICY

**Gain:** Britain has long wanted this kind of robust EC foreign policy — but run on strictly inter-government lines, with no voting or Brussels Commission involvement. Mr Major also preserved a crucial ‘escape hatch’ clause, which allows a government to opt out of the EC’s joint actions if it deems its national interests are imperilled.

**Loss:** The precedent has been set for majority voting, if only on ‘detailed implementation’, making it almost inevitable that other

countries will push for wider majority voting at the next revision of the treaty. Sceptics will say that Mr Major is paving the way for the erosion of British sovereignty in foreign affairs.

## **DEFENCE**

**Gain:** Mr Major can argue that he has more or less preserved the independence from the EC of the Western European Union, the nine-strong EC defence body, which will retain its links with the US through Nato. The new treaty guarantees that any future EC defence pact must be 'compatible' with the Nato framework. The Americans are unlikely to feel they will soon be supplanted in the defence of Europe by a 'Euro-army' run from Brussels.

**Loss:** The French say that the treaty makes the WEU effectively subordinate to the EC. Mr Major has agreed that it is 'an integral part of the development of the European Union' and can take orders from the 12 members...

The treaty also hints that the EC could finally take over the WEU altogether in 1996—cutting out all American involvement in the command structure.

## **COMMISSION POWERS**

**Gain:** ...Britain has succeeded in inserting some minor clauses calling for scrutiny of the commission by the Euro-parliament

**Loss:** The commission and other EC institutions ... have acquired new powers over almost every aspect of public policy, ranging from economic and monetary policy to health; consumer protection, culture, the environment and others. On some subjects, such as the environment, the Commission has a greater right to propose legislation for decision by majority vote of national government ministers. The term of the 17 commissioners has been extended to five years, and the Commission president will acquire a vaneer of democratic respectability through "approval" by the Euro-parliament. Maastricht has not tamed Brussels: quite the reverse.

## **IMMIGRATION**

**Gain:** Like every other EC country, Britain recognized the need for a unified EC response to the challenge of immigration from North Africa and Eastern Europe, which threatens to dominate the coming decade. But it wanted it done on an inter-government basis, mainly to prevent difficult asylum cases being judged by the European Court. Mr Major succeeded in keeping asylum and police co-operation out of the Court's jurisdiction.

**Loss:** The Government appears to have been forced to make what appears to be an important concession to Chancellor Kohl on...short term entrants. This means that the Council of Ministers could take a majority vote about which nationals should be admitted to the EC as a whole, overruling British qualms. Will be seen, again, as the thin end of the wedge.

### **INDUSTRY**

**Gain:** Mr Major succeeded in slightly toning down a text which appears to give the EC Commission and other institutions power to foster industrial Euro-champions.

**Loss:** This cuts across Britain's perception of Europe as a free trade zone, with no pump-priming from Brussels.

### **CASH FOR THE SOUTH**

**Gain:** Britain prevented Senior Gonzalaz of Spain from securing a treaty commitment to change the system of raising EC funds to favour the poorer southern countries.

**Loss:** The Government was forced to accept a new EC 'cohesion fund' to distribute unspecified grants for infrastructure projects in the south. It now looks inevitable that Britain's own budget rebate will come under pressure when the EC's finances are revised next year.

### **EURO-PARLIAMENT**

**Gain:** No new right to initiate legislation has been granted to the Strasbourg Euro-MPs. Under British proposals, they will exercise more financial scrutiny of the Commission.

**Loss:** The Maastricht Treaty gives the 518 MEPs the right to veto draft Euro laws on all single market policies, health, transport and communications, environmental programmes and culture."



Cartoon opposite:

**British Sovereignty in the eyes of the EC**

The two standing at the edge of the precipice are Prime Minister Major and Foreign Secretary Hurd; Britain's chief negotiators.

The British government under Mrs Thatcher and now under Mr Major have steadfastly maintained they will not hand over to the European Parliament the control of the British Parliament. She will not give up her Sovereignty. This Sovereignty is Britain's centuries—old freedom of a seafaring people to control its own affairs.

The cartoon is the EC view of this British freedom. If Britain does not join the rest of the EC and give up this Sovereignty and belong to Europe she will become a second-rate nation. Her island Sovereignty will have no power, falling over the precipice into the sea and disappearing.

## Chapter 17: THE GULF WAR—AMERICA LEADS THE WAY

Early 1991 was dominated by the Gulf War. It was a dramatic battle. As the fly leaf to the book *Triumph in the Desert* put it:

“Never before has a war been fought using the full range of the latest high-technology weapons. Never before has the world seen such a swift and effective level of international cooperation”.

The book brings together the many strands of this war. Preparations for it began immediately after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990. *Milestones 1990* covered the detailed build-up of forces. It now seems clear that the Gulf war has changed the Middle East situation and made possible the peace talks which are now in progress between Israel and her Arab neighbours. The steps to these talks are detailed in the next chapter. We are not concerned with the events of the actual battle. Our interest is in American and British involvement, and the changes that have come since.

### EVENTS LEADING TO THE AUGUST 1990 INVASION OF KUWAIT

During the 80's Iraq and Iran were locked in battle. Although Iraq's stand had been against the West, when it looked as if Iran might emerge victorious under the Ayatollah Khomeini, President Reagan tilted American policy Iraq's way. With American help that war ended in 1988 with Iraq as the victor.

Saddam Hussein continued to build up Iraq to be a vast war machine, capable of fielding an army of 1,000,000 men and 5,000 battle tanks. This is twice as many tanks as Britain and France combined. He had the latest aircraft, scores of ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, and was working hard on nuclear weapons.

His wealth was based on oil, possessing more than any country apart from Saudi Arabia. His invasion of Kuwait almost doubled his reserves so that 1/5th of the world's oil was under his control. His troops massed on Kuwait's southern border, ready to take Saudi Arabia, when he would then have controlled 40% of the world's oil supplies!

In spite of America's help to end the long Iran-Iraq war, Saddam disliked the West and hated Israel. Having invaded Kuwait, he promised to liberate Palestine and annihilate the "Zionist entity".

In February 1990 he had upset fellow Arabs who had met in Jordan to celebrate the first birthday of the Arab Cooperation Council, by launching a vitriolic speech against America. He warned that with the decline in the power of the Soviet, America would emerge over the coming years as the dominant power in the region. He claimed that America was using its power to help Israel, and against the Arabs.

In July he denounced Kuwait for forcing oil prices down by over-producing. Saddam desperately needed higher oil revenues to finance his purchases of many billions of dollars worth of armaments. He presented a list of grievances against Kuwait to the Arab league who were meeting at the time.

Late in July he moved 30,000 troops close to the Kuwaiti border. In spite of assurances at the end of July to President Mubarak of Egypt, and the American Ambassador, April Glaspie, that all was well, he invaded Kuwait in the early hours of August 2nd.

Such was the hand of God we believe, that on the day Kuwait was invaded, Mrs Thatcher was visiting President Bush on a ranch. Mrs Thatcher had years earlier reacted to Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands by sending troops half way round the world to retake the islands.

She and the President quickly agreed that this called for firm action. UN sanctions were called for, and approval of all members sought.

Within a few days an oil embargo was in place. By Aug. 7th the Americans had secured Saudi Arabia's agreement to position troops there—the satellite pictures of the massing tanks demonstrated that they were next in line to be attacked. American and British troops and aircraft were soon establishing bases in Saudi Arabia. Contingency plans for such an event as this had been made years earlier by America. It all swung into place. The remarkable thing was the support which the UN gave, both to sanctions and force. During the following six months an awesome array of equipment and troops took up positions. Nearly forty different countries were involved.

The US supplied 540,000 troops, Saudi Arabia 118,000, Britain 43,000, United Arab Emirates and Egypt 40,000 each, Oman 25,500,



France 18,000, down to far-flung countries supplying a ship or a few medical personnel.

A remarkable assemblage!

Iraq was given until January 15th to withdraw.

## THE GULF WAR AND ISRAEL

The Jerusalem Post 18-1-92 carried extracts from a new book *Triumph Without Victory: the Unreported History of the Persian Gulf War*. It outlines the great efforts that America made to keep Israel out of the conflict. The deputy US secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger was sent to Israel on the 12th of January, 1991. He was liked by the Israelis. His mission was to ensure that Israel did not launch a pre-emptive strike. Iraq had made it clear that Israel would be a prime target if a war was started by those gathered in Saudi Arabia.

The Israelis were keen to launch their own attacks, but needed American agreement to prevent them shooting down friendly planes or being shot at themselves. The Americans refused.

Eagleburger gave Israel the assurance that if Israel was attacked before the Jan. 15th deadline expired, America would immediately launch the counter-attack. In addition they promised two Patriot missile batteries would be shipped out, together with a sophisticated secret communications system to link Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister with his American counterpart Dick Cheney. They also made it clear that elimination of the Scud missile launchers were a priority target.

The allies launched their attack late on the 16th. In the early hours of the 18th Iraq launched 8 Scud missiles into Israel, injuring 47 in Tel Aviv and Haifa and damaging 1,587 apartments. Within minutes of the first missiles landing Arens, using the newly installed communications link, was in touch with the Pentagon—the first of 26 occasions. The promised delivery of the Patriot missiles was brought forward, and they arrived the following day.

Bush spoke to Shamir, stressing that if Israel retaliated it would be playing straight into Saddam's hands. He phoned again as further missiles landed that night.

The next morning, the 19th, the Israeli Inner Cabinet met. It was an almost unheard-of occurrence to meet on the Sabbath. Shamir listened to all the different plans, and then, at the end of a long meeting, he gave

his point of view, that they should not give Saddam the opportunity to transform the war into one between Arabs and Jews.

His council won the day.

The next day Eagleburger was back in Israel. Israel asked for more Patriot missile launchers. Two more were immediately despatched. Later another two were sent.

In spite of a total of 39 Scuds being fired at Israel, and America's inability to track down all of the Scud launchers, Israel remained out of the war.

The war ended 28th February.

By avoiding Israel's involvement, the Peace talks were able to take place. Israel's world standing was greatly increased by her restraint. Her talk of the need for defence against Arab aggression was now appreciated.

## **Chapter 18:**

# **ISRAEL & THE MIDDLE EAST. WAR AND PEACE**

### **MR BUSH—CHAMPION OF M.E. PEACE**

1991 was a remarkable year for Israel. It opened with Scud missiles falling on Tel Aviv, and closed with the peace talks under way. The American drive to bring a solution to the invasion of Kuwait, was equally followed by a drive to get the Middle East countries to sit down together and talk peace.

### **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY**

*Milestones 1990* outlined the remarkable assemblage of many nations against Saddam Hussein. Led by America, and with the full help and support of Britain, the allies were in position and set a deadline of Jan. 15th, 1991 for him to withdraw from Kuwait.

Saddam had threatened to bring Israel into the conflict, to turn it into an Arab-Israeli war. President Bush exerted considerable pressure on Israel to remain out of the war. Late on the 16th Jan. the allies launched their attack. Just over 24 hours later, Scud missiles landed in Israel. President Bush immediately had flown in Patriot missile launchers to defend Israel. Much of the allied war effort was taken up in trying to wipe out the Scud missile launchers used against Israel. Bush's pressure and his practical help to Israel, kept them out of the war.

The war ended on 28th February.

### **The pressure for peace during the war**

During the Gulf conflict many voices were raised concerning the situation of the Palestinians. The might of the world was being assembled to counter the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Why wasn't the world doing something about the Israeli invasion of the West bank and Golan heights?

It was a completely false analogy. Israel had gone into these territories because she had been attacked by her Arab neighbours. She had retained the territory which she had won in battle to ensure a more defensible

border. Jordan herself had obtained control over this area through conquest in 1948. The invasion of Kuwait, on the other hand, had been a calculated act of aggression in order to seize her wealth. But it was an issue that caught the popular attention.

“The world will turn its attention to Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land and its defence of United Nations resolutions when the Gulf crisis is over. Israel would be well advised to start talking now’. Mr Kaufman, Labour foreign affairs spokesman” (DT 17-1-91).

## **MARCH**

President Bush having successfully liberated Kuwait, declared “The time has come to put an end to Arab-Israeli conflict”.

President Bush’s policy was twofold:

- He wanted state-to-state talks between Arab nations and Israel and Israeli-Palestinian talks.
- He wanted to enforce the UN resolutions calling on Israel to give up territory in exchange for peace.

The Gulf war had brought about many changes which now favoured these talks.

### **Gulf war changes**

The whole world was brought to realize the enormous cost of a sophisticated warfare. Effective defences against missiles are beyond the pockets of Israel and her neighbours. Only super-powers can afford them. With the gradual demise of the Soviet Union over the year, it was clear to countries such as Syria, that large backings from the north were no longer available.

Israel’s backer—the USA—was also in recession; there was no bottomless purse available there.

Jordan had sided with Saddam Hussein, which had caused western displeasure and a cutting off of trade and financial support by other Arab countries.

The Palestinians and the PLO had been the biggest losers. Yasser Arafat had backed Iraq, and the Palestinians had helped to take over Kuwait businesses, while it was occupied. They lost favour with the West, with other Arab countries, and Israel could justifiably say that she

wasn't willing to have dealings with them. Any benefits the PLO had gained from renouncing terrorism in 1989 had now been lost.

Israel also faced great problems from the high cost of absorbing the Russian Jews emigrating to Israel.

Peace was a prize that would bring benefits to the whole region.

### **Bush puts on the pressure**

President Bush sent James Baker, his Secretary of State, on a total of eight Middle East trips in the months following the ending of the war to persuade Arab and Jew to attend peace talks. Those efforts were rewarded with the Peace Talks which began in Madrid in November.

In early March, Israel's Prime Minister, Mr Shamir indicated Israel's desire to meet with Saudi Arabia and Syria for peace talks. He also included the prospect of talking with King Hussein of Jordan.

The first of Mr Baker's post-war peace trips was in mid March. His task was to persuade Israel to consider giving up territory in return for peace. This was strongly opposed by Israel. They wanted talks, but with no pre-conditions. They envisaged self rule for the occupied territories, but with Israel retaining ultimate control. Swapping land for peace was not on the agenda as far as Israel was concerned.

After meeting Palestinian leaders in Israel, Baker flew to Syria and the talks went better than expected. Syria had backed America in the Gulf war, sending 17,000 troops and 300 tanks.

President Assad of Syria had been strongly anti-Israel in the past, but now saw the opportunity to become the champion of the Palestinian cause. He also promised to use his influence to help in the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon. Baker then flew on to Moscow. It was important to have Gorbachev's involvement in these talks.

## **APRIL**

A month later Mr Baker was back in Jerusalem. Israel agreed in principle to attend a regional conference sponsored by the US and the Soviet Union. Their condition was that talks should immediately break up into bilateral talks with individual Arab states. Mr Shamir offered that the West Bank Palestinians could run their own affairs and have a government structure similar to Israel's. Israel would, however, retain control of defence and foreign affairs.

Baker then saw the Palestinians, who agreed to discuss the talks in Tunis with the PLO leaders. He then flew on to Egypt to meet President Mubarak and the Saudi Foreign Minister. President Mubarak had just returned from a secret trip to Libya to keep Col. Gaddafi abreast of developments.

Israel in the mean time was pressing ahead with building homes on the West Bank to house the Soviet Jews. Ariel Sharon, Israel's housing minister, is a hardliner, adamant that Israel should not be made to give up territory. He spoke of 14,000 new housing units being placed on the West Bank during the next two years to increase the Jewish population there by 50%, from the present 90,000. West Bank housing is a very contentious issue with the Palestinians and the Americans.

James Baker had his 3rd meeting the same month. He first went to the EC leaders to brief them and to head off any attempts by the EC to try their hand at peace talks. The EC leaders made it clear that they wanted a say in any peace talks that America might manage to arrange.

Some progress was made in Baker's talks.

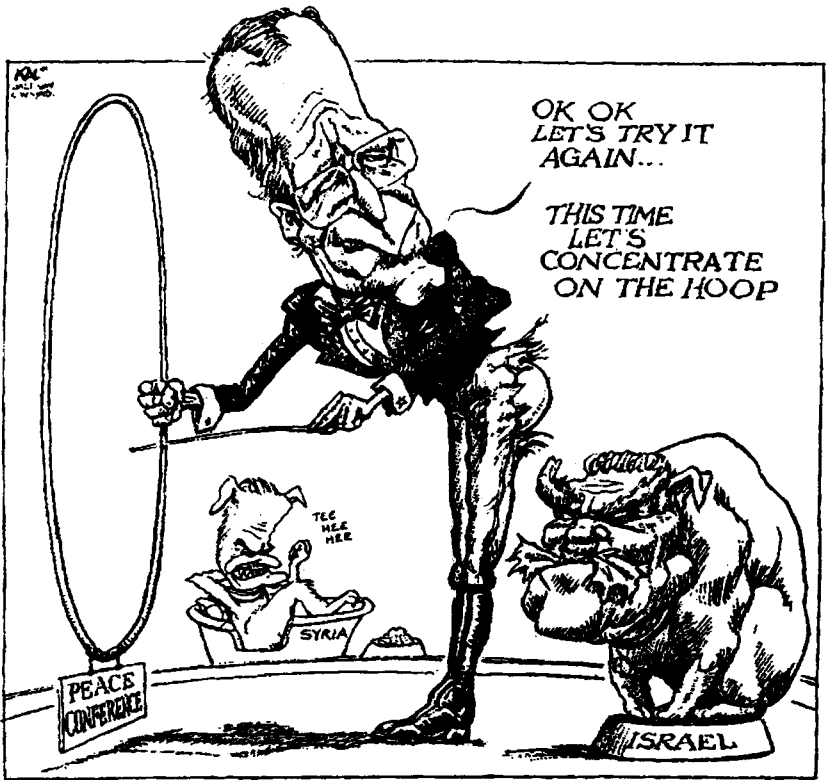
## MAY

Towards the end of May he was back on tour—round 4. The talks in Israel were described as intensive and many points of agreement made, although details were not revealed. The possibility of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to any peace talks was proposed.

## JULY

Time for round five. Syria had in the mean time agreed that she would attend talks. She had, however, taken delivery of a massive supply of arms from the Soviet and Korea. President Assad had been spending the money he received for his help in the Gulf war to strengthen his defences.

America, meanwhile, was putting pressure on Israel, threatening to withhold American guarantees which would enable Israel to borrow on favourable terms more than \$10 billion to finance Soviet Jewish immigration. Mr Baker's task looked very difficult. However, it proved to be the turning point.



GW 28-7-91

### “SHAMIR SETS STAGE FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS

Mr Shamir Israel's Prime Minister, last night gave the strongest indication yet that the Jewish state will take part in a Middle East peace conference.

'We are making preparations towards talks, and hope that in a month or two we will sit down together with representatives of our neighbours and talk' said Mr Shamir in a statement issued by this office.

His hopeful tone seems to set the stage for Israel's formal acceptance of the American plan for regional talks, possibly by the weekend.

America which has set no deadline for an Israeli response, has made clear that it would like a reply in time for invitations for the conference

to be issued at next week's US-Soviet summit. The talks could then open in October.

He was surprisingly upbeat about President Assad of Syria, until recently depicted by Israeli ministers as an unreformed and brutal dictator determined to destroy the Jewish state.

Mr Shamir said the Syrian leader was undergoing a 'conceptual evolution' similar to that experienced by Egypt's President Sadat, who signed a peace-treaty with Israel in 1979 but was later assassinated.

'President Assad', said Mr Shamir, 'has realized that the decline of the Soviet Union has left the US as the only superpower, and that anybody who was to work with the United States, which seeks peace and stability in the Middle East, has to recognize the existence of the state of Israel'" (DT 24-7-91).

The other Arab countries were prepared to join talks now Syria had agreed. The situation was now as set out by the Jerusalem Post 3-8-91:

#### **DIPLOMATIC GUIDE TO THE M. E. PEACE CONFERENCE**

##### **Points already agreed:**

° **Format:** The convening of a Middle East peace conference, with the opening of this conference followed by parallel talks between Israel and Arab states, and Israel and the Palestinians. The conference opening will be attended by Israel, Syria, Egypt, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and an observer representing the Gulf cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and United Arab Emirates).

There will be a third set of negotiations which will revolve around regional issues such as water and the environment. The Gulf states will participate in these talks, as will perhaps Japan. The conference itself will not be able to vote on, or dictate a solution to the negotiating teams.

° **Conference sponsors:** The talks will be cosponsored by the US and the Soviet Union, and a delegate from the European Community will be invited as a participant. The US supports Israel's position that Moscow must fully renew diplomatic ties with Israel before assuming its place at the table.

° **Basis for talks:** The basis for the talks are UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, with each side bringing its interpretation of these measures to the negotiating table. The US and Arab countries say the resolutions demand Israel's territorial withdrawal on all fronts



in return for peace, while Israel says its peace accord with Egypt fulfills its requirement for territorial concession. The Arab countries are no longer demanding that Israel announce acceptance of the 'territories for peace' formula before the talks begin.

° **Palestinians:** The Palestinians are no longer insisting upon Israel's commitment to Palestinian self-determination before the talks begin, and are ready to negotiate an interim solution on self-government before discussing final status issues.

The problems of who would make up a Palestinian delegation which was acceptable to Israel remained unsolved.

## AUGUST

Round 6 followed hard on. Early August saw Baker back in the Middle East. Mr Shamir agreed to attend, provided the matter of the composition of the Palestinian delegation could be sorted out.

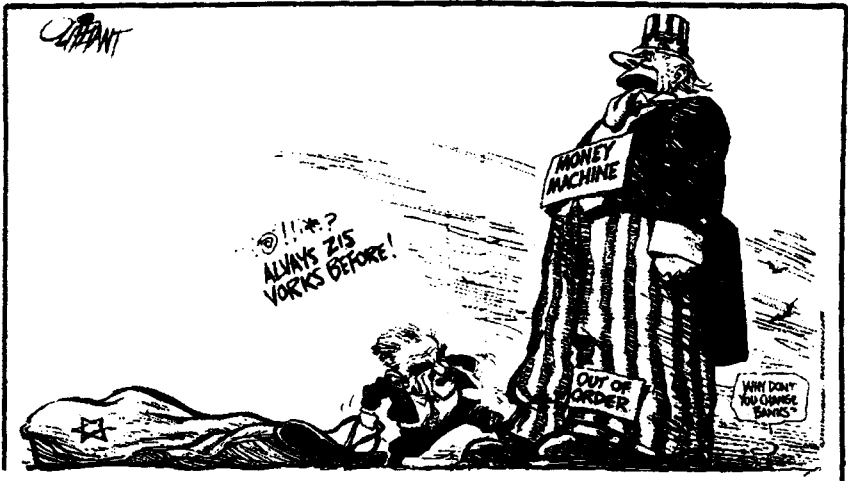
"In a statement described by Israel radio as history in the making, the 75 year-old Prime Minister, a former-leader of the Jewish underground, said:

'Since its establishment, Israel has sought peace with its neighbours. We have, therefore, expressed our readiness to enter into **peace negotiations** in accordance with the US proposal subject to a satisfactory solution of the issue of Palestinian representation'.

A delighted Mr. Baker said: 'This is the "yes" we were hoping for from the Israelis"' ( DT 2-8-91).

## SEPTEMBER

The Israelis were deeply hurt by President Bush vowing to veto any Congressional endorsement of Israel's attempt to obtain the \$10 billion loan guarantees, because of Israel's continuance to build on the West bank. The President called for a 4 month delay and added that even after that he might still veto it. It of course, impressed the Arab countries.



DT 22-9-91

Against this background the seventh visit took place. It involved Israel, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan. The Israelis restated their point of view that they were free to populate the West Bank, and the threats of President Bush would not deflect them. It emerged, to Israel's dismay, that Mr Bush had discussed with Syria, America's support for Arab demands that Israel gives up the Golan Heights in return for peace.

## OCTOBER

Mr Baker makes his final trip. Israel and the Arabs bowed to the intense pressure put on them, and the economic realities of what a failure to seize this opportunity would lead to. This visit cleared the remaining major points, and established Madrid as the site for talks. This enabled Mr Bush to issue formal invitations to all parties to meet in Madrid in early November.

## NOVEMBER

### Madrid Peace Conference

Finally the opposing parties sat down together!

“Is this a peace conference?”

Absolutely, and already one for the history books. No amount of confrontational rhetoric could obscure the simple fact that Israelis, Palestinians and other Arabs, sworn blood enemies for more than four decades, were sitting around a table, talking. Come what may, the Mideast crisis, perhaps the longest running and most envenomed in the world, had passed the point where the antagonists would not even talk” (Time 11-11-91).

Mr Shamir’s speech was strong, reinforcing Israel’s historic right to live in the land including Samaria—the West Bank, and Jerusalem. In a later speech he outlined Syria’s brutality and tyranny.

The Syrian Foreign Minister in his speech emphasized that Israel must give up every inch of land conquered in 1967.

The Palestinian spokesman conceded that they were now willing to accept the offer of limited self-rule.

Israel had subsequent face-to-face talks with the Palestinian delegation. Although not much progress was made, the ice had been broken.

At the end of the month, after the Israelis and Arabs could not agree on the next meeting place, President Bush stepped in and issued further invitations for peace talks to be held in Washington in December. Israel was upset because the invitations went out the day before Mr Shamir was due in Washington to discuss the peace talks. Israel wanted to arrange talks alternating between Israel and each Arab state.

Israel called for the talks to be postponed for 5 days, saying they wanted more time to work out their proposals. Bush refused.

## **DECEMBER**

### **Washington peace talks**

The Israeli delegation delayed their arrival by 5 days. Eventually there were face to face talks between Israel and Lebanon, and talks between Israel and Syria. The talks between Israel and the Palestinians failed to take place.

(A third round of talks were held in Washington, early January 1992 and the 4th round in Moscow late January 1992.)

## The prospects for peace

Progress has been slow, but that was expected. A time scale of several years has been mentioned to reach agreement. However we have seen just how rapidly things can be moved along when we consider the reunification of the two Germanies. All is in the hands of the angelic workers, under our Lord's control. For 2,500 years Ezekiel's words in chapter 38 have been awaiting the appointed time. How thrilling that we have been able to see the beginnings of the process which surely will lead to the fulfilment of his words:—

"... and they shall dwell safely all of them.

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.

In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?" (Ezek. 38:8,11,14).

## Why Israel needs peace

### Immigration

Chapter 9 of *Milestones 1990* dealt with the vast influx of Soviet Jews who were now allowed to leave Russia under Gorbachev's liberal policies. The Gulf War slowed down the numbers in 1991. Instead of the expected 400,000, only 175,000 came, and it is expected to drop to 100,000 in 1992. However, many Russian Jews have gone to America (110,000 since 1988). They have been allowed in because they were political refugees. With the ending of the Soviet Union, there are warnings that Washington may decide that they no longer qualify for refugee status forcing them to go elsewhere. Europe is already protesting strongly at the numbers of refugees they are having to absorb. It may well be that Israel is the only place of return for them.

Last year, at the end of May, Israel also airlifted, in with great secrecy, 15,000 Ethiopian Jews. "Operation Solomon" was completed in a breathtaking 24 hours.

The cost of supporting these immigrants is staggering, especially for a small country like Israel. A year ago the estimate was £1,000,000 a day.

## **Population growth**

Israel's present population (Nov 91 figures), is slightly over 5 million. 4.1 million (82%) are Jews, 700,000 (13.9%) Moslems, 120,000 (2.4%) Christians and 85,000 (1.7%) Druse. The Jewish birth rate averages 2.7, the Moslem 4.7. In 1948 the population was only 657,000. This represents almost an 8-fold increase in population, a doubling every 6 years. The strains on the economy are great. Israel is dependent upon aid, from fellow Jews, and from America. American aid runs at about \$1,000 per person in Israel, per year.

The peace dividend would bring welcome relief to Israel's financial problems.

## **The horrors of the Gulf war**

Israel experienced the trauma of being attacked by Scud missiles. A total of 39 were fired at her. Sealed rooms had to be prepared in case of gas attack; gas masks were issued to all. No chemical attacks were made, but the threat was there to the end. It vividly brought home the horrors of war and what might have happened.

"They may not talk about it much, but anyone who spent those six weeks from January 16 to February 28 in Israel will never forget the experience. The terror of sirens in the night, the sprint to the sealed rooms, the gas masks and the falling missiles are permanently etched on the memories of millions of Israelis.

Children went to the park carrying their masks, as did couples on dates and women in labour on their way to hospital" (JP 25-1-92).

## **The prosperity of Ezekiel 38**

Gog comes down in order:—

"To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land" (Ezek. 38:12).

We look therefore for a change in Israel's economic fortunes, to make her a desirable prey.

## **Israel's economy at the moment**

Israel is faced with painful reforms to deal with the looming financial and economic problems (GW 13-12-91).

Inflation which Israel had managed to pull down to reasonable figures—16-18% a year during the past 5 years, is now poised to rise to about 30% a year (JP 28-9-91). Imports are rising much faster than exports. An interesting article in the Jerusalem Post shows the potential she has to dramatically improve her performance:—

“The only way to compare the economic achievement of countries is by comparing the gross national product per capita.

The Israel Discount Bank recently published the relevant figure for Israel: \$7,300. This is almost equal to Spain at \$7,636, and Ireland at \$7,238. Of course, we are not expected to equal Switzerland, which tops at \$26,773, or Japan, at \$20,000. Neither are we expected to reach the US level of \$17,729... But there is no reason in the world why Israel shouldn't be able to reach the level of per capita output of Italy, Great Britain and Belgium whose GNP per capita is \$14,000.

Simply put, any individual in Great Britain, Italy or Belgium is producing on average twice as much as an individual in Israel. There is no justification for such a degree of inefficiency and low productivity. The per capita output level in Great Britain, Italy and Belgium is one Israel can attain.

Israel is not a backward country. We do not lack resources. Our infrastructure is quite advanced. We have some excellent entrepreneurs and businessmen; our universities turn out first-class professionals and our research institutions are good. It is within our capability to reach the level of productivity per capita which prevails in the medium range of European countries.

None of this is new, but it bears repeating. If we could increase our per-capita product by only 50%, we would not be dependent on the US for help and could be far stronger and independent in the way we conduct our foreign policy” (JP 5-10-91).

## **The prospects for prosperity**

The peace dividends would make a great difference to Israel's economy. At the moment the Arab boycott prevents her goods—openly at least—from being sold to the Arab countries. So Israel has to ship her goods thousands of miles to the EC or America.

It is a vast potential market right on her doorstep. As Shamir said in his opening speech at Madrid:—

“We are a nation of four million. The Arab nations from the Atlantic to the Gulf number 170 million. We control only 28,000 square kilo-

metres. The Arabs possess a land mass of 14 million square kilometres" (GW 10-11-91).

These countries would benefit tremendously from Israeli know-how in the fields of agriculture, horticulture and technology. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Leader of the Opposition, outlines his thoughts on a new Middle East market.

"A real great prospect before us is to decide on a bold, far-reaching experiment: to build a new Middle East market. This is a logical course, because the existence of a regional common market will ensure peace more than reducing the number of missiles. It's logical because we could enjoy interior, inexpensive transport routes, as the Europeans enjoy them. It is more logical than all other prospects, not just other dangers, those prospects being contingent more on regional realities than world situations.

For example, the issues of water and tourism can be developed from the regional viewpoint, not a national one: the common market in the Middle East must begin to deal with these two subjects, as Europe began with coal and steel. At the same time, the constellation of benefits—such as Saudi oil, Turkish water, the Egyptian market and Israeli knowhow—are regional more than national" (JP 14-9-91).

We shall have to wait and see!

The EC is now keen to help Israel's trade with the Community:—

"The European Community, in a major turnabout, has decided to negotiate an enhanced role for Israel in the economically integrated Europe of 1992. The Brussels-based EC has informally jettisoned its policy of linking ties with Israel to a Palestinian settlement, European Officials said.

One European diplomat said: 'we now want to talk with Israel and see how Israeli companies can get a foothold in the new Europe. We now want to discuss things as friends, and we want normalization.'" (JP 2-2-92).

Israel has diplomatic links with a growing number of countries.

"China is inching towards establishing formal relations with Israel in the latest of a series of diplomatic achievements for the Jewish state. (Finally signed 24-1-92 GP).

Israel re-established full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union last month, before the opening of the Madrid peace conference. In recent months, several eastern European leaders have visited Israel, and

African nations which severed relations in 1973, have been re-establishing ties with the Jewish state" (DT 30-11-91).

One of the great Israeli skills is in training. She helped train many African countries to use their resources profitably, adapting modern techniques to suit local needs:—

"Many people would consider themselves relatively free if they could feed their children and sleep soundly at night.

Israel has been helping people from developing nations seek and achieve a modicum of freedom through training courses in a wide range of topics that may be classified as 'nation-building know-how'.

Israel also sends experts abroad on short and long-term consultancies in medicine, agriculture, afforestation, transport cooperatives, water development and airport management and other areas in which it can offer expertise.

Every year up to 2,000 students from 100 nations, including many with no formal diplomatic ties with Israel, participate in courses on food inventory problems - production stabilization and storage; irrigation and soil management; agrometeorology; woman as entrepreneurs; early childhood education; cooperative development; public health; and hospital administration.

The approximately 40,000 trainees who over the years have completed courses go home feeling this small and still-developing country has given them tools with which to free their people" (JP 4-5-91).

Her technological skills are outstanding. She has agreements with many countries to share her know-how. If the Arab boycott were to be lifted, Israel could reap a rich harvest.

She could then put to good use the great skills of the Russian immigrants. Some 65% of them are graduates, 2% of them top scientists. Potentially these high-calibre immigrants could transform the economy, given the benefits of peace.

### **A warning for us!**

We must not think that our Lord can not come yet, because Israel has not yet attained to this peace and prosperity. It is a situation that can well develop while the Judgement is taking place.

"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the



morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**" (Mark 13:35-37).

### **Growing anti-semitism**

In spite of moves to peace, 1991 was a year when anti-semitism became more open, especially in Germany and the Soviet. It is part of a general tide of racialism that is sweeping Europe. Political refugees from Africa, the Middle East, Asia and eastern Europe, flood into Europe seeking asylum, looking for a better life in the richer countries. In the racial backlash, the Jews become a target once again.

The Daily Telegraph ran a half page article headed:—

#### **"SHADOW OF THE RIGHT OVER EUROPE**

All over Europe, from Moscow to Madrid, racial tensions are rising. The continent, so recently declared "whole and free" by President Bush, is being tarnished by swastikas and straight-arm salutes, symbols of the era of tyranny and division in the 1930's. As governments wrestle with problems of race, immigration and asylum, Telegraph correspondents assess the situation..." (DT 25-11-91).

It dealt country by country with the problems. In Russia, the Jews expect to become the scapegoat for the shortages as the country's economic problems worsen.

#### **Abbreviations**

Daily Telegraph—DT

Guardian Weekly—GW

Jerusalem Post—JP

Comments added by the author—GP

The earthquakes in the political heavens during 1991 were enough to awaken all but the most tenacious slumberers. It was another year that vindicated the student of the continuous historical interpretation of prophecy.

The year opened with "The merchants of Tarshish"—removed suddenly from the European theatre where they did not belong prophetically—to the territory of "Sheba and Dedan" as their guardian, and as a guardian to Israel. Russia had sent their powerful General A. Makashov, to Iraq to plan the invasion of Kuwait. But God's plan was not the same as the evil thoughts of Saddam, who dreamed of himself as a modern Nebuchadnezzar at the head of a powerful resurrected Babylonian empire that was to destroy the apple of His eye. His dream turned into a nightmare, since in God's plan it is Gog's Confederacy—not the Arabs<sup>1</sup>—that will humble Israel.

The next shock was the coup in the Soviet Union. What appeared on the surface as a strange turn of events, was in fact what was necessary prophetically. We actually saw with our own eyes Yeltsin, the leader of **Russia**, standing on a tank defying the leaders of a defunct system which was a means to an end, as is explained in the Preface. Communism can now be seen as the *preparation* phase of Ezekiel 38:7. That event was the beginning of the end, and the reason why Yeltsin—the symbol of the emergence of **Rosh**—was chosen as the cover illustration.

Gorbachev was soon out of a job along with most of his cronies, but the Pope was fully employed. After all, the **strength** of Nebuchadnezzar's image is to be in "the iron" of Rome—the last vestige of which is the mighty Roman Catholic influence over the minds of the people from the Atlantic to the Urals.

As soon as the Gulf war was over, America stepped up the pressure to persuade Arab and Jew to attend peace talks. The Gulf war taught Israel that they could no longer rely on the strength of their arm, and as early as March, Israel indicated they were prepared to talk peace. For some time we have seen from Ezekiel 38:11 the need for Israel to achieve a short period of peace and more prosperity as a result of that peace. Before the year ended, those two peoples who bitterly hated each other for decades, were actually sitting at a table looking for 'peace' since it was now clearly in their best interests.

What a year! But the question we must ask ourselves as we see these shattering events is: 'Are **we** ready to meet the Prince of Peace?'

---

<sup>1</sup>See the forthcoming pamphlet *Israel's Last Defeat by Gog or Arabs?* by Don Styles, available from CSSS.