

# *Milestones*



1993

# **MILESTONES TO THE KINGDOM**

**A Review of the  
World Events of  
1993 in the light  
of Bible Prophecy**

**Graham & Donald Pearce**

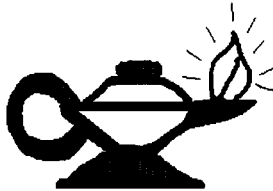
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*Typeset by*  
The **WORD**Typeset  
6 Ingomar Court  
Hallett Cove, South Australia 5158

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

*for*  
**CHRISTADELPHIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY SERVICE**



Printed January 1994

## PREFACE

1993 has seen the apparent solution to two intractable problems, namely the Israeli-Palestinian controversy and the black-white dispute in South Africa. On a sunny afternoon in September the world stood still and listened in silent amazement as first Mr Rabin of Israel and then Mr Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization extolled the virtues of peace and declared the intentions of both their peoples to live together in autonomy and peace. Citing Solomon in Ecclesiastes, the Prime Minister of Israel concluded with these words, “**To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven ... A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace**’. This, ladies and gentlemen is a time of peace”.

The two inveterate enemies then shook hands before the cameras of the world. It was strange, emotional and spell-binding—incredible!

An appropriate article appeared in the media about this event:

### “Leap of faith”

“The past few years have been years of miracles. Unimaginable events, consummations devoutly wished for but never really expected, have succeeded one another, as if the Creator had whistled up a new world. The Berlin Wall tumbles. The Soviet Empire melts away. Nelson Mandela, free at last, begins to bring democracy to South Africans. Now comes what must be considered one of the greatest miracles of all: the first acknowledgment by Israelis and Palestinians that they can share the land both call home” (Time 13/9/93).

The following month another handshake, this time of black with white, confirmed the mutual acceptance of a new constitution for South Africa and the abolishing of the apartheid policy which had sought for 30 years to separate the lives of white and black in that country. Again the world was fascinated to see yet another bitter controversy finding a path for peace. Not to miss out on the peace party, on December 15th the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Ireland announced a resolute policy for the whole of Ireland, seeking both warring factions to give assent to their statement of principles and intentions. So in just three months the world’s three most intractable and notable disputes took a turn for peace. If Jews and Arabs can work together and black and white can live together, then Protestant and Catholic may also settle for a peaceful coexistence!

The power of these things on us is surely not missed. More and more we have referred to Paul’s words to the Thessalonians “... **when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them**” (1 Thess. 5:3). We saw this incipiently when Russia and America began disarmament talks ten years ago. What truly remarkable developments have taken place in those 10 years! Many in our world say

that the whole world has changed irreversibly and for the better, that there is no major threat in the world today and nothing likely to be for years to come. Many countries have sharply reduced their numbers under arms and cut their military expenditures. We have felt the increased difficulty to present the Truth; when there is no ostensible threat and a year-round entertainment of sport and fun and materialism, who is going to be moved by a few odd cranks continuing their cry about Armageddon and the coming of Christ. “All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”!

### **A new political figure in Russia**

Yet in the closing weeks of 1993 an ominous event occurred in Russia that surely stirred the hearts of all Christadelphians. Democratic elections were held for a new Parliament in Russia. In the vacuum of leadership a radical outsider Vladimir Zhirinovskiy found the hearts of 23% of the voters. To a cold and hungry and humiliated populace this golden-tongued ultra-nationalist promised “cheap sausages and safe streets”, vodka, pineapples and Russian greatness!

This man is speaking and acting like Hitler in the early 1930's. He has only 23% of the vote: Hitler grasped power when he had only 33% of the seats and the people of Germany went with him because they too were hungry and humiliated. It is too soon to say what Mr Zhirinovskiy can do in the Russian parliament, but the election result tells as much of the mind of Russian people as it does of the man himself.

For several years we have been hearing rumblings of a need to revamp our understanding of prophecy and the Russian role. Suddenly there is a potential leader on the scene who has all the qualities we expect in Gog: he is arrogant, evil, bold, aggressive, expansionist, anti-Semitic, opportunistic and visionary. We shall watch this scene with great interest.

### **The Brotherhood fights on**

It is a wonderful experience in these evil days to share the companionship and encouragement of many sincere and fervent brethren and sisters. The days are so evil we are amazed that the heavens do not break under the weight of divine wrath. Nothing, absolutely nothing is beyond the front page of the principal papers of the land. Our Father and His Son are openly flouted. The Bible is despised, good is evil and evil is good. But the Brotherhood continues—bruised, battered by the age—but still a witness for the Truth.

How precious is our Brotherhood, the ecclesia of the living God. Where would we be without the Truth today? What would be the end of our families. It is the Truth that gives hope. It is the Truth of Christ that shields our continuing fellowship and love. It is the Truth that blesses our marriages and preserves our families in happiness, decency and unity. Without it we would soon be broken up like the rest of Society that we

see about us. The monster of the world threatens western society from every direction, whether it be in entertainment, fashion, materialism, or new philosophies. Too often we see these trends in ecclesial life. Let's keep them out.

Brethren and sisters we truly have not long to go! Let us hold out in our watching and preserve our godly way of life. Speak with your children and draw them to you and to your convictions. It is not a new world to be followed but a gravely new world to go into destruction and Divine wrath. Keep our children under our own roofs as much as possible for most of them will never be able to withstand the pressure of their peers whose minds know nothing but what they learn from the mass media. Those morning and evening meals are critical to their survival: they were always important but now their use is critical. The Bible working in our families is the staff of life. Every day we need to make that No. 1 in our family lives. Bringing Bibles to the table is an excellent rule. "Man doth not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live"! Cast out of our homes all that can detract from these wise and established practices which have been with us since the beginning.

Let our Bible Classes and lectures be interesting and relevant and our attendance consistent and reliable. Fit our work around our life in Christ and not the other way round. There are too many empty seats in Bible Classes and other meetings. Arranging brethren need to address this problem urgently and thoughtfully lest a general apathy condone absenteeism so that many lose the race.

This annual review of the world events in the light of Bible prophecy is now in its 16th year. It may be the last edition from the pen of our beloved brother Graham Pearce. Age and infirmity have made this edition a struggle but for which we are grateful. Brother Donald Pearce has been heavily involved, and will take up the reins for future editions. But the signs indicate this may be the last *Milestones* in any event.

May our Heavenly Father be with our Brotherhood in many places and throughout the days of the coming year.

"Let us arise and be going".

*B. N. Luke*

Secretary

January 1994

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## Abbreviations

Daily Telegraph—DT

Guardian Weekly—GW

Jerusalem Post—JP

The European—TE

Comments added by G. Pearce—GP

Comments added by D. Pearce—DFP

bn = billion=\$1,000,000,000

(US \$1 bn = £650,000,000)

# Chapter 1:

## THE ISRAELI-ARAB PEACE TALKS

### *Introduction*

*Our Lord Jesus instructed his disciples that the things contained in the book of Revelation would **shortly come to pass**. The Interlinear Bible gives a literal translation as **things which must occur with speed**.*

*The aspect of speed has been something we have all been conscious of in the past few years. The things we had been patiently waiting for to be fulfilled, **suddenly** became realities. Doubtless this was the experience of our brethren and sisters of former times, that the things which reached a fulfilment in their time also **occurred with speed**.*

*Our Lord Jesus has been busily directing the angels toward this period which the prophets have spoken of so extensively and which Jesus himself spoke of as **the gathering of the kings of the earth and of the whole world to the battle of that great day of God Almighty**.*

*How thrilled our brethren and sisters of earlier times would be to see what we have been privileged to see—the prospect of peace in the Middle East.*

*We know that it will end in desolation, but first must come about this situation of Israel **dwelling safely** and having such wealth that **a great spoil** can be taken.*

*Let's weave together the steps that brought together the two parties—the Israelis and the PLO.*

### THE PATHWAY TO PEACE

The peace talks began in November 1991 in Madrid. Since then, at irregular intervals, there have been **Bilateral** and **Multilateral** talks going on between Israel and her Arab neighbours. The **Bilateral** talks have been the main talks, where the Israeli delegation has met the delegation of one other Arab country at a time. Often there would be simultaneous meetings going on, but essentially they enabled Israel to deal with her neighbours as individuals. This year has seen rounds 9, 10, and 11 in the bilateral talks, all held in Washington.

In the **Multilateral** talks Israel has sat round the table with all the other parties to discuss the wider issues that affect the Middle East. There have been talks on **refugees, water resources, regional economic development, Middle East security and the environment**. These talks take place in many different countries.



## **January/February**

We recall that at the end of last year, Israel expelled into Lebanon many Hamas supporters. Their plight held the headlines for some time, wrecking any chances of the peace talks continuing. Although Bilateral talks had been scheduled for February these were not held. Neither were the many Multilateral talks scheduled for February.

It was a time, too, for the new Clinton administration to find its feet. Warren Christopher was appointed as US Secretary of State. In February he was sent on a Middle East tour to try to get the talks moving again.

He indicated that the US wanted to be more deeply involved in the peace talks—to become an active partner. On behalf of Russia and the US he issued invitations to all sides to Bilateral talks in Washington in April.

Israel responded by allowing 100 of the expelled detainees to return.

## **March**

President Rabin visited President Clinton, but his visit was cut short because of troubles at home between the Palestinians and the Israelis. He was optimistic that the peace talks would resume.

“This is the moment for peace—now is the moment” (JP 27/3/93).

The Palestinians however initially rejected the offer to resume talks in April. At the end of the month, President Mubarak of Egypt, acting as an unofficial go-between for Israel and the PLO, travelled to London and on to America in his efforts to get the talks moving.

## **April**

The EC sent a high level delegation on a Middle East tour to smooth things along. Shortly after President Mubarak’s return from the US Prime Minister Rabin travelled to Egypt for face to face talks with him. The pressure was on Israel to make sufficient concessions so that the Palestinians would return to the talks. He obtained the concessions being sought—that the Israelis were prepared to consider a ‘land for peace’ deal. Also Israel was prepared to allow Faisal Husseini to join the Palestinian negotiating team. He had been excluded because he was from what the Arabs term “East Jerusalem”, and therefore excluded under the terms of the Madrid agreement. Until now, Israel feared anything that might be seen as a weakening of their sovereignty of Jerusalem. They were now prepared to back down on this point.

The Palestinians still would not at first agree to the talks, but the 9th round of bilateral talks eventually started in Washington at the end of the month, a week later than planned.

This was largely due to the pressure Yasser Arafat put on the Arab negotiators. He himself had been pressurised by other Arab countries to get the talks going again. Saudi Arabia was reported as promising to

restore the flow of funds to the PLO, which had been suspended after Arafat's support of Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war.

## **May**

The bilateral talks lasted 3 weeks, making considerable progress on the steps to Palestinian self-rule. The US drafted a joint declaration of negotiating principles, but the Palestinian side could not agree with the wording. The Palestinians were looking for firmer details of what self rule would entail. They wanted a guarantee that they would eventually have their own state. These talks ended in deadlock.

Considerable progress was made in the talks between Israel and Jordan, with working groups discussing water, energy and the environment, security, borders, refugees, and tourism.

Multilateral talks on regional development were held at the same time in Rome. As well as discussing a Red Sea - Dead Sea canal, there was talk of a highway from Egypt to Turkey. The US and Europe pledged nearly \$20 million in emergency aid for the territories. The talks went well and an Arab country was reported as warmly supporting Israel's proposal for agricultural cooperation, particularly regarding irrigation techniques for desert areas.

Later in the month the multilateral talks on refugees took place in Oslo. Israel agreed to do more to allow reunification of families.

In Washington the third round of multilateral talks on Middle East security exceeded all expectations. They agreed to meet regularly between main sessions. They planned a visit to a British air base for June, an arms control meeting in Cairo for July, and to meet in September to observe NATO manoeuvres in Denmark!

The World Bank organised an environmental conference in Morocco at the end of the month. This was the first time an Israeli Minister had participated in an international conference in an Arab country.

## **June**

Arrangements were announced for multilateral talks in the Autumn—three of the five to be held in Arab countries! The peace talks to be held in Tunis, the environment talks in Cairo, and economic talks in Morocco. China to host the water talks and Russia the arms control talks.

Washington announced that round 10 of the Bilateral talks would start in mid-June. At these peace talks America demonstrated her increased involvement by the announcement that she was willing to provide security guarantees on the Golan, once Israel and Syria reached an accord. This was thought to involve US troops being stationed there. America also appointed a US peace talk coordinator.

The talks ended in deadlock again. The US had put forward a draft proposal in an effort to bridge the differences between the two sides. The stumbling block was the Palestinians' insistence that the future status of Jerusalem be discussed. America's proposal indicated that this was a matter for discussion only after further progress. They refused to sign and the talks broke up.

## July

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres went to Alexandria for talks with President Mubarak. When the President was asked what he would be saying to the PLO leader Yasser Arafat, he said,

"I'll persuade him to hurry up and continue the negotiations .. as well as we are asking the Israelis for flexibility, I'll tell the Palestinians the same."

During the month, further rumours of contacts between the Israeli government and the PLO surfaced—only to be denied.

At the end of the month, Israel launched its heaviest pounding of southern Lebanon since the 1982 invasion. 22,000 artillery shells were fired by Israel over 7 days. "Operation Accountability" was aimed at preventing Hizbollah rocket raids on Israel. 400,000 people were forced to abandon their homes in Lebanon. The American Secretary of State mediated a cease-fire after a week of fighting. The Lebanese agreed to deploy their army deeper into this area, to prevent further rocket attacks on Israel.

Interestingly, there was little reaction against Israel for these actions, even by the Syrians.

## August

Warren Christopher began a Middle East visit, starting in Egypt, then on to Israel, Syria and Jordan. He was able to convey to the Syrians that Israel was serious in her desire for peace. Central to his talks was the concept "Gaza-Jericho First"—leaving the more difficult problem of Syria until later.

The PLO, meanwhile, were having crisis meetings over divisions between the Palestinian negotiators and Arafat.

Then at the end of August the news broke:

**"Secret deal on Gaza could hold key to Middle East peace"** (DT 30/8/93)

It revealed that secret talks had been going on between the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres and a senior PLO official in Norway for well over a year. An outline agreement had been reached involving Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and the formal recognition of the PLO, in return for their cessation of acts of terror and recognition of

Israel. It revealed that Mr Peres had secretly flown to America to discuss these plans with the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher.

## September

The 11th round of Bilateral talks had been scheduled for September 1st. They opened with a new spirit of optimism, after almost 2 years of slow progress.

**“Drama of peace talks grips US”** (DT 1/9/93).

There was little the negotiators could do, because negotiations were proceeding over their heads, at the highest levels.

Meanwhile Yasser Arafat was making a Middle East tour to urge Arab support for these plans. He received the support he needed, after the initial shock had died down. Promises of financial help for the Palestinians began pouring in.

After much negotiation, the two sides exchanged letters of understanding, which led to the signing ceremony on the White House lawn on September 13th.

Under the glare of the world’s media, Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat put their signatures to a 22-page agreement. This was done on the table that had been used for the signing of the agreement between Israel and Egypt in 1979. After the speeches, the two leaders shook hands.

After months of proceeding at a slow pace, truly it came together **at speed.**

### EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECHES

#### Mr Rabin

“... Enough! We have no desire for revenge. We harbour no hatred towards you. We, like you, are a people who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, to live side by side with you in dignity, in affinity, as human beings, as free men ... We wish to open a new chapter... **‘To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven....a time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace...’**”

#### Mr Arafat

“..Our two peoples are awaiting today this historic hope, and they want to give peace a real chance... The battle for peace is the most difficult battle of our lives. It deserves our utmost efforts because the land of peace ... yearns for a just and comprehensive peace.”

**Mr Peres** (- led the Israeli side in the secret Oslo negotiations.)

“...Let us bid farewell to wars, to threats, to human misery.. to enmity ... **‘Peace, peace to him that is far off and to him that is near,’ says the Lord, ‘and I will hear’**”.

**President Clinton**

“... A peace of the brave is within our reach. Throughout the Middle East there is a yearning for the quiet miracle of a normal life....For them (the young) we must realise the prophecy of Isaiah, that **‘the cry of violence shall no more be heard in your land, nor rack nor ruin within your borders.’** The children of Abraham... have embarked together on a bold journey...”

Let us not lose sight of the words of Paul in 1 Thess. 5:2, 3.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say “peace and safety”—then sudden destruction cometh upon them .. and they shall not escape”.

**Summary of the TEXT of DECLARATION of PRINCIPLES**

**1) AIM**

To establish an Interim Self-Government for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This will lead to a permanent settlement after an interim transitional period not exceeding five years.

**2) MAIN POINTS**

Free elections to take place amongst the Palestinians to elect a Palestinian Council. This will take over the existing structure and be responsible for education, culture, health, direct taxation, exports, tourism. A series of Authorities to run these aspects to be set up.

Withdrawal of Israeli troops within 2 months. The 5 year transition then begins. Discussions on matters which take place at the end of the transition period to be discussed as soon as possible, and no later than by the 3rd. year of the transitional period. Such matters include Jerusalem, refugees, security arrangements, borders etc.

Establishment of a joint Economic Cooperation Committee to focus on water resources, power sharing, finance, transport and communication, trade, industry, labour, etc.

Both sides to cooperate in the multilateral peace talks. Both sides to invite Jordan and Egypt to promote cooperation between them.

Israel to be responsible for external security and internal security of any Jewish settlements within the areas. The Palestinians to police and be responsible for their areas. Israeli forces and civilians to be able to freely use the roads within the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

### 3) EXPLANATION

Gaza and Jericho Palestinians will have authority comparable to that of a state in the USA in contrast to the American federal government.

The talking and the negotiating has continued apace. On his return from the signing ceremony, Mr Rabin made a surprise visit to Morocco. He was given a full military welcome. This Arab country has enjoyed a “semi-cordial” relationship with Israel for a considerable time. This visit was to see if full democratic links could be made with this moderate Arab state.

On the Syrian front America indicated that they were prepared to allow US troops to police the Golan heights in the event of a “land for peace” deal.

Jordan’s King Hussein had initially been upset that he had been kept in the dark about the secret Israeli-PLO talks. He was pacified by the Israelis and at the end of the month, in Washington, Israel and Jordan signed a formal agenda for negotiations over security, territory, water rights, refugees and economic cooperation. This marked the next step following the declaration of principles agreed last November. (p. 29 *Milestones* 1992). The Jordanians had marked time awaiting the outcome of the larger peace talks.

## October

Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat held their first official talks in Cairo early in the month. They agreed to set up three panels to look at different aspects. One to meet in Cairo, one in Taba (one of the towns handed back to Egypt when they withdrew from Sinai) and the other in Washington and Paris.

Mr Peres addressed the UN General Assembly in New York, appealing to the Arab countries to “come into the open and negotiate peace”. Although the Iran and Iraqi delegates walked out, and the Libyans did not attend, the other Arab countries stayed to listen.

At an international donors conference in Washington, more than \$2 billion was committed as aid over the next five years to help develop the Palestinian infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza. Saudi Arabia pledged \$100 million for 1994 and the UAE \$25 million. The US will contribute \$500 million during the next two years, and Israel will give \$25 million over 5 years.

In mid October, the Israelis and the PLO got down to sorting the practical details of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, in a series of talks held in Taba.

Meanwhile the resumption of bilateral talks in Washington was postponed because of Syrian threats to boycott them.

## **November**

Early in the month there were reports of secret talks between the Syrians and the Jordanians, and the Israelis and the Jordanians, to find a means of moving forward the Syrian-Israeli talks. Syria indicated that she might be prepared to drop her demands that Israel agree to a withdrawal from the Golan as the price for talks to start again.

America announced that round 12 of the bilateral talks would be delayed until early December. The next round of the multilateral talks on water resources was fixed for April in Oman—again this would be the first time the Israelis had been officially invited to this Gulf State. They want to discuss the building of a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea! Several Arab countries were interested in cooperating with Israel on producing rain by “cloud seeding”, something Israel does extensively—to the delight of her neighbour—“Israelis seed the clouds over the sea, and we get the rain,” quipped the head of the Jordanian delegation!

During early November, Foreign Minister Peres and King Hussein of Jordan signed undertakings in Amman during 9 hours of talks on economic cooperation. They also discussed an outline of a peace treaty.

### **Summary of ISRAEL-JORDAN “COMMON AGENDA”**

#### **1) AIM**

To achieve “a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel..”

#### **2) MAIN POINTS**

##### **Israel and Jordan:**

- Seek peace and refrain from actions which might hurt the security of either side.
- Work together to free Middle East of conventional and non conventional weapons of mass destruction.
- Seek to share water and alleviate water shortages.
- Seek to solve the refugee problem.
- Settle border disputes.
- Explore cooperation on land use, natural resources, human resources, transportation and tourism.

“It is anticipated that the above endeavour will ultimately...culminate in a peace treaty”.

### **3) EXPLANATION**

Jordan is expected to play quite an important role in the development of the Palestinian areas. They will use Jordanian money. The joint Jordanian-Israeli-American commission set up by President Clinton, met in Jordan in November to plan economic links. At these talks, Israel agreed to allow Jordan to open unlimited banks in the territories. Under a 1986 agreement they had been limited to eight. “This gives ‘meat’ to Jordanian economic activity in the territories and more accessibility to the market,” an Israeli Embassy official reported.

In Copenhagen, the multilateral talks on economic development accepted EC money to finance the feasibility study of a new road from Amman in Jordan to Jerusalem, via Jericho. Practical ways of reducing tensions by building sewers, power lines and opening air traffic corridors were discussed.

In Cairo, the meeting of the regional working group on the environment agreed that Israel, Jordan and Egypt should each set up equipment to deal with oil spills in the Gulf of Eilat, but would cooperate together to handle any spillages.

## **December**

Warren Christopher embarked on an 8 day Middle East tour. Based in Israel, he visited Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Tunisia. Following his visit, Syria took steps to ease tensions by agreeing to cooperate with Israel in her search for missing servicemen, and by agreeing to grant exit visas to any Jews wishing to leave Syria. Later in the month a meeting between President Clinton and President Assad was arranged for mid-January in Geneva to “re-invigorate” the Middle East peace process.

The deadline for Israel’s withdrawal of troops passed without this happening. There were many aspects still to be sorted, and Mr Rabin was insistent that these should not be rushed, but sorted out for the longer-term good. Secret talks took place in Oslo to break the impasse. These involved senior government officials including Mr Peres. The main problem is the ultimate responsibility of security. Israel insists this lies with her.

Meanwhile at the joint Israeli-Palestinian economic talks in Paris, the two sides reached agreement about the supply of agricultural produce from the territories into Israel. At the moment it is severely restricted to protect the jobs of the higher-paid Israelis. They will be allowed to export into Israel freely. Mr Peres discussed this with the EC hoping that the EC will allow an increase in the Israeli export quota to the EC to offset the economic effect of this change.



The last of the 400 deportees were allowed to return from Lebanon. All were taken to Israeli jails, some to be released, others to finish sentences.

The UN passed a resolution (155 to 3) offering broad support for the peace process. It called for the existing peace accords to be fully implemented and stressed the need for rapid progress in all the other talks. It called upon the international community to offer economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinians and all states in the region. This is “the first instance in over two decades in which the UN expressed unequivocal support for the Middle East peace process”, said an Israeli official. (In 1978 the UN condemned the Camp David Accords). Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and the PLO were among early representatives of the Arab world to support the resolution. Only Iran, Lebanon and Syria voted against, Libya abstained.

## **THE PROBLEMS AHEAD**

Many bitter years of hatred will not easily disappear. Israel hopes that with increasing prosperity, the Palestinians will integrate more and more. Both Israel and the US see that the alternative is increasing fundamentalism. The violent actions of Hamas in the Middle East provide a powerful motive for moderate countries like Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to achieve a measure of peace. The futility of war has become clear. Difficult though the problems are, they will surely make every effort to succeed.

One of the uncertainties is what control Mr Arafat has over the Palestinians. He is not a very popular figure. At the moment there appears to be no alternative leader, and so the Israelis are willing to take risks, because they fear the frightening outcome of failure. In mid-December a long article appeared in the *Jerusalem Post*, the result of many months' investigation. It revealed that the government seemed to be prepared to pull back all the way to the pre-1967 borders if that was the necessary price for peace. The exception being Jerusalem—the Israelis are not willing to relinquish their control of this their capital.

## **CONCLUSION**

Truly it has been an exciting year. However we must always bear in mind that these are man-made steps taken within the framework of God's purpose. God has revealed that it will all end in calamity. The times of the Gentiles are not yet fulfilled. Jerusalem is to be trodden down just once more, before the Jews see the power of their Messiah and the overthrow of their enemies.

Isaiah's burden against Damascus seems relevant to the situation today.

“Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange (foreign) slips:

In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow” (17:10, 11).

How thankful we are that we know that peace will at last come but it will not be by the might of man. As Zechariah foretold in that wonderful 4th chapter, the mountain of man’s might will be demolished by the one prefigured by Zerubbabel

“.. Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it” (Zechariah 4:6, 7).

### JERUSALEM

Discussion on the future of Jerusalem forms part of the peace agreement. At the moment it is scheduled to be a matter to be discussed no later than the 3rd year after the hand over of Jericho and Gaza. From the words of Zechariah in ch 12:2, 3 it is clear that Jerusalem is the reason why the nations come against Israel. It will be to free the city from the control of the Jewish people that the Gogian forces come. With the Elijah work of reformation having taken place before the invasion, it is not difficult to see that a religious revival under Elijah could lead to churches and mosques being shut, and thus precipitating the invasion. Even now it would appear that Jerusalem is a contentious issue.

A letter in the Jerusalem Post (11/12/93) and articles on 29/5/93 and 27/11/93 set the record straight as far as Moslem interests in the city are concerned. Jerusalem is mentioned almost 700 times in the Hebrew Bible. It is not mentioned **once** in the Koran. There is a reference in the Koran to *al Aksa*—“the furthest mosque”, but in spite of Moslem claims, this does not refer to what is now the Aksa Mosque—the Dome of the Rock. In Mohammed’s day Jerusalem was a Christian, Byzantine city including what subsequently became the Aksa Mosque. There is no mention in the Koran of Mohammed ascending to heaven from here. Far from being a holy city, when Jerusalem was captured in 638 (after the death of Mohammed), it was given its old pagan Roman name, Aelia. Jerusalem never has been an Arab capital, the Arab conquerors built a new city, Ramle, to serve as their capital. Much later the term *Al Quds*—“the Holy” was used, but this was in reference to the fact that the site had been the site of Solomon’s Temple, not to anything Moslem. The Moslems claim that it is the “third most important site to Islam” after Mecca and Medina. It shares this “third” position with many other sites!

Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria also claim to have the third holiest shrine on their soil. It is only in recent years that the Moslems have shown any concern for the city.

When the Temple Mount was under Jordanian control, only the Jordanian royal family visited it. No other Arab ruler ever bothered. It suits their cause to now make out that it is a special site to their religion in order to press their claim to Jerusalem.

### **Dwelling in the *Midst* of the Land**

This is the phrase in **Ezekiel 38:12** to describe the position in Israel in relation to the land at the time of the Gogian invasion.

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.***

There is obvious significance in this phrase. At the time of the invasion this will be an appropriate description. The Hebrew word for *midst* only occurs here and in Judges 9:37.

And Gaal spake again and said, See there come people down by the ***middle*** of the land, and another company come along by the plain of Meonenim.

According to my lexicon it means ***highest part, centre***, some translate it as ***navel***, but elsewhere in Scripture a different Hebrew word is used to describe the navel.

It seems to indicate that the Jews are not in possession of the full area of the land, but are confined to the centre, or perhaps to the higher mountainous area. With there being talk of giving up land for peace, there may yet be found a greater significance in Ezekiel's description.

## Chapter 2:

# ISRAEL—FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS PROSPERITY

### Introduction

*Last year we examined the great strides that Israel was making in the economic field. With the changed situation of the ending of the Gulf war and the fall of the Soviet, there was a new mood of optimism in the Middle East. The economic boycott by the Arabs of firms dealing with Israel was rapidly being forgotten. No longer were other countries afraid to deal with Israel for fear of economic reprisals. What began to be quite a flow last year has become a flood this year. Country after country is now looking to Israel as a base for Middle East operations, cooperation in agriculture and industry is now widespread. The progress in the Peace Talks is having a marked benefit on Israel's prosperity. She now has the fastest growing economy in the Western world!*

*We can only repeat, that exciting as it is to see this growing fulfilment of the peace, safety and prosperity foretold by Ezekiel 38, it is destined to be swept away before the Gogian forces. We repeat below the summary of our beliefs included in chapter 2 in last year's Milestones.*

Ezekiel is very specific that Israel is to be prosperous at the time of the Gogian invasion:

"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.

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions... shall say ...Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezek. 38:11-13).

Israel also is to dwell at peace.

"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... Therefore, ... say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?" (Ezek. 38:11, 14).

The prospects for this state of peace and prosperity are surely enhanced by the events of the past two years. There is a huge potential market for Israeli goods amongst the Arab nations. If peace is guaranteed by the United States or the UN, then Israel will be able to prosper without the heavy burden of defence costs.

It will be a short-lived prosperity. It disappears into the hands of the Gogian confederacy. With the eventual saving of the remnant of Israel from her captivity by the hands of their Messiah and the saints, the spoil that is recovered will be used to build the Temple. The present-day achievements of the Israelis will have no place in the Kingdom. The towns and cities that escape destruction at Gog's hands will find their end at God's hands when He arises to shake terribly the earth.

*We shall look at the progress in 3 areas:*

*\*Economic progress in Israel*

*\*Links with other countries*

*\*Immigration.*

## **ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN ISRAEL**

### **The economy**

Israel's 1992 growth was reported as being higher than that of all the 24 industrialized countries making up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for the second year running. Israel achieved 6.6% growth compared to the average of 1.6%! Taken over 3 years her economy has expanded by 20%. These trends have continued strongly this year—exports are up by 14%. Some export sectors are up by 32%. The Israeli stock market reported 1992 as a record year. After a depressed 1st six months, it has been booming in the 2nd half of this year. Israel's export index per capita (value of annual exports divided by population) is one of the highest in the world—higher even than Japan.

### **Israel's trade advantages**

Israel's good links with the US and the EC, have made her attractive to many nations seeking to trade with Europe and the US. Many of her business people originally came from Europe or the States and have valuable contacts there. The extensive and generous government grants make it an attractive country to invest in. Others are seeing the potentially vast market on Israel's doorstep. Peace in the region would open up a market of 50 million people.

“There is already a clear trend by United States and European companies to transfer plant and production line to Israel in the race to cash in on the peace dividend and produce goods for the Middle East, as well as for the European market.” BIPAC

Israel has the sophisticated infrastructure needed for modern businesses—modern communications systems, finance, computer technology. She also has a skilled labour force. The steady stream of immigrants bring with them a broad range of skills. They are also keen to retrain where necessary.

### **“Israel can become like Switzerland”**

“Israel can play the role of Switzerland—serving as a base for companies and being a catalyst for economic growth. The US and other countries will look to Israel as an entry point into the Middle East.... The Japanese are moving in, and where they go, everybody else goes too”  
(D. Quirici JP 25/11/93).

In November, Israel’s international credit rating was upgraded by Standard & Poors, reflecting her sound position.

### **The Arab boycott**

A report by the Israeli Manufactures Association, issued in November, estimated that the Arab Boycott was still losing Israel \$200-300m. every year. They estimated that without it, exports to the Arab world could reach \$570m per year within a few years. Another report indicated that even now about \$500m is reaching these countries by indirect routes.

Both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have dropped secondary boycotting of Israel—they no longer refuse to deal with any firm that trades with Israel. They have indicated the boycott will be dropped as soon as a peace deal with Syria is concluded. The US congress is proposing to deny future defence aid to any country that complies with the boycott. Most countries are getting on with trading with Israel, without there being any problems.

### **Canals**

There have been several references in the section on the peace talks to a proposed Red Sea - Dead Sea canal, and also of a Mediterranean - Dead Sea canal. These plans have been brought up many times in the past. There was a company set up to handle the schemes, but it was shelved in 1986 because low oil prices didn’t make it viable.

The idea of the canals is to bring water to the Dead Sea which is shrinking because of the high level of water extraction from the Jordan River. With the Dead Sea being about 1,300 feet, (400m) below sea level, there is a great potential for hydro-electric power generation. Israel has to import all her fuel needs. Water and power will be necessary for economic expansion. The government has decided to revive the canal company. Three canals are involved. The first is a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead sea in the southern half of the country, the second a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, and finally a canal in the north, from the Mediterranean through Beit She’an to the Dead Sea. Each canal would be capable of producing about 800 megawatts of electricity. The price tag—\$750m - \$1.5 billion! Many countries have declared their interest in investing in these schemes.

### **Roads and pipe lines**

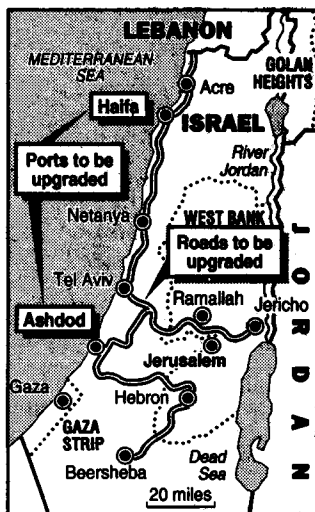
After years of neglect, the Israeli government saw the need to invest heavily in the infrastructure of the territories to improve the living

standards and so reduce the influence of the Hamas movement. Since the peace agreement with the PLO this process is poised to increase dramatically with overseas aid.

In June it was reported that Israel was investing about £1 billion over the next two years in a vast road network linking north and south; and east and west. Existing roads are to be widened, and new sections built. It will enable trade to flow in from Lebanon and Jordan, and link the territories to the ports of Haifa and Ashdod—both of which are to be upgraded.

In September, plans were announced for the possible road linkage of Damascus (Syria), Amman (Jordan) and Beirut (Lebanon) to Israel's ports of Haifa and Ashdod.

In November, Israel announced that an agreement had been reached with Egypt to link the power grids of the two countries: also to pipe natural gas from the Nile Delta to Israeli power plants. These schemes would cost \$1 billion. EC aid is expected. Egypt later denied it had agreed to the gas deal. In December there were further talks on the technical and economic issues surrounding the power grid link-up. Egypt is also planning a link-up with Jordan across part of Israel. An underwater cable is to be laid from Egypt to Akaba, then up the Jordan Valley and across to Jordan. Links to Syria and eventually Turkey are planned.



There were also reports of a deal being close on the construction of a pipeline from a Persian Gulf state—reportedly Qatar. This would run right across to an Israeli port on the Mediterranean at a cost of around \$1.8 billion. It would transport natural gas for export to Europe. Alongside the pipe line is planned a highway.

Italy is interested in building a gas pipeline from the Sinai oilfield (now in Egyptian hands), to Tel Aviv, as part of Italy's new \$2.5 billion investment in Egypt.

There were also reports that Iranian oil was being shipped to Eilat and then pumped through the oil pipeline from Eilat to Askelon. Handled by international brokers, the oil's ultimate destination was Rumania. It avoided shipping all round the coast of Africa, making considerable savings.

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## **Free Trade Zone—“FTZ”**

The proposed FTZ outlined in last year's *Milestones* has become closer to a reality. It is now being labelled a FEPZ—Free Export Processing Zone. The purpose of these Zones is to enable firms to export without paying taxes or duties or having any foreign currency restrictions. Its backers say it could create 20,000 jobs. The Cabinet has given its approval for a Zone to be established either in the Negev or in Galilee. It remains to be cleared by the Knesset. In December the Finance Minister was looking at the addition of offshore financial services, which would considerably enlarge its scope.

## **Water, wind and gas**

Drilling near the Dead Sea uncovered a large water source only 30 feet, (10m) down. It is estimated to provide each year 60-80 million cubic metres—13-17 billion gallons. The well, about 15 miles (24 km) from Jericho, is being eyed with interest by the Palestinians.

A \$7 million wind turbine farm, consisting of 10 turbines opened on the Golan in December.

Further supplies of gas have been found near Kibbutz Naot Mordechai close to the town Kiryat Shemona. A nearby well is already producing a billion cubic feet a day worth \$3 million.

## **Agriculture**

This year Israel held her big agricultural and horticultural show in Tel Aviv. It is held every three years. Buyers come from all over the world to see what Israel has to offer. What was striking this year was the number of Indian and Chinese visitors. About 800 Indian growers and advisors attended. There must have been a similar number of Chinese. It just came at the right time for Israel. A year earlier and such people would not have come. The Peace Talks had sufficiently progressed for them not to be worried about the Arab boycott. Israel leads the field in many areas such as irrigation, plant and animal breeding. What is so attractive about the Israeli products is that they have proved themselves in climatic conditions which are paralleled in many parts of the world. She has learnt how to grow much in a little space with the minimum of water—problems many other countries face.

## **LINKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES**

### **• POLITICAL LINKS**

Suddenly everyone seems to want to deal with Israel. Economic trade follows diplomatic breakthroughs. These are some of the countries visited or visiting Israel during the year.



In March the Israeli President, Chaim Herzog became the first Israeli head of state to visit Britain. He lunched with the Queen and held talks with John Major.

In May, Prime Minister Rabin became the first Israeli premier to be invited to Moscow. The Russians are keen to use Israel's skills to help improve their economy. They see that Jews hold key positions in many fields. There are Jews amongst President Clinton's economic advisors; the head of the European Bank for Economic Development is a Jew.

"Our trading people tell us that wherever they turn in the world they encounter Jews, and even holders of Israeli passports, in key positions,"

admitted a Russian general, one of the heads of military intelligence.

In May, Mr Rabin paid an official visit to Poland and Mr Peres visited Thailand, India and China. The German Defence Minister came to Israel, as did the Ethiopian Prime Minister.

In June, the Turkish Foreign Minister arrived—the highest level official to visit Israel.

Diplomatic ties with Mozambique were announced in August—the 125th country to do so.

Following Mr Rabin's 5 day visit to China in October, consular links were agreed. On his way back he visited Indonesia—the world's largest Moslem country, Malaysia another Moslem country, and Kenya.

During the same month an Israeli Foreign Ministry official visited the Persian Gulf states of Qatar and Oman—the first known diplomatic contact with these two countries. They discussed economic cooperation between the Gulf States and Israel.

In December Mr Rabin undertook a 2 day visit to Albania—the first visit by an Israeli minister to a Balkan state. Shortly afterwards he was off on a 3 day visit to Europe.

The Bulgarian president visited Israel, culminating in several economic agreements being signed. The Czech Foreign Minister visited, signing a treaty to avoid double taxation. Officials are working on an agreement to cooperate in defence, agriculture and health. Trade is expected to reach \$30m a year. He also assured the Israelis that they would no longer supply military equipment to Syria—they sold them 30 tanks last year.

South Korea plans to open an embassy at the end of December, and Zimbabwe is establishing diplomatic ties. Israel is to be allowed to open an embassy in Ireland—one of the last European countries to do so. An agreement opening the way for full diplomatic relations with the Vatican next year was signed at the end of December! There is talk of a papal visit in March!

The Saudi embassy in the US paid \$10,000 to the American Jewish Congress for ten seats at the annual Stephen Wise Awards dinner—the first known case of an Arab embassy participating in this way at a Jewish function.

## • **ECONOMIC LINKS**

A brief monthly summary will indicate the worldwide acceptance of Israel as a trading partner.

### **January**

All customs duties and quotas on imports disappeared when the free trade agreement with Efta came into effect....1st round of negotiations with the EC on a new agreement described as very positive...

### **February, March**

China and Israel sign scientific cooperation pact...Israeli Manufacturers Association visits India to discuss joint ventures...Russia-Israel science pact signed...tax pact signed with Japan...NCR considering Israel as a candidate for investment...direct air link agreed with India...

### **May**

Israel discusses with Egypt opening an Egyptian bank in the territories...Indian agricultural firm to sign agreements worth \$10m....deal signed with India—economic cooperation will lead to \$1 billion trade within 3 years..

### **June, July**

Japan to promote Israeli goods...Greece and Israel strengthen ties—will hold regular contacts—"close friends"...16 scientific cooperation pacts have been signed covering the majority of eastern European countries...

### **August**

Import duties to be cut by 14%...China and Israel Aircraft Industries discuss joint venture...26 Shanghai-based firms at Israeli exhibition...trade between Israel and China could reach \$500 million within 5 years ...

### **September**

Israeli-Egypt tourism pact signed...aviation pact signed with China... industrial research and development pact signed with Netherlands... British Airways planning to double seats on flights to Israel in anticipation of increased tourism...pact signed with Russia allowing air flights...

### **October**

Hungary, Israel sign telecommunications pact....China allows Israeli participation in international tenders...Hebrew University helping China grow trees... Intel plans \$1 billion plant...Israel and Turkey sign

memorandum covering cooperation on several matters... discussed a free trade pact... Israel could help Turkey with irrigation equipment in the \$21 billion regional development project in Southeast Turkey...

## **November**

Israeli-Moroccan banking agreement signed...Cyprus signs transplant accord...1st scientific cooperation agreement signed between academics of India and Israel..

## **December**

Deal worth \$250m for toll road in China expected to be signed... also possible deal on \$200m ethylene plant... agreements signed with Bulgaria on investments and cooperation in shipping, tourism, etc...EC promises better trade deal...Israeli-Portuguese banks sign agreement...US computer firm opens 1st research centre outside US... investment \$2m in first year, \$5-6m in second...Morocco seeks air links... also now allowed to trade freely with Israel ...Rover, the UK's largest car manufacturer, opened Tel Aviv showroom...GATT agreement will allow Israel to compete for government contracts abroad (virtually excluded until now)... in partnership with Italians and Chinese, an Israeli firm has entered project to sell hi-tech machines to China... expected sales in first 4 years \$50m... President of big South Korean firm on 3 day visit.

## **IMMIGRATION**

Israel's population at the end of their year stood at 5,280,000, a growth of 2.4%. Jews make up 81.5% of the population, Moslems 14.1%, Christians 2.7% and Druse 1.7%.

Immigration has slowed down, but averages about 6,000 a month, mainly from the CIS—the former Soviet Union. For every 100 Jews who leave the CIS, only 55 come to Israel, the rest go to New York, London, Berlin, Toronto, Melbourne or Johannesburg. The estimate of the number of Jews in the CIS is usually put at 5 million. However Jewish Agency surveys indicate a much lower figure—1.5 million. About a million have received exit visas, but many have been waiting for the economic situation at home to improve before emigrating. The troubles in Russia in October, and now the emergence of the anti-semitic Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his Liberal Democratic party, may precipitate a greater move back. We know that many will leave it too late, and still be there at the time of the Gogian invasion. They will be called upon to return by the Lord Jesus.

Jews continue to be rescued from Ethiopia. In November, Israel's secret service—Mossad—masterminded the spiriting of 1,784 mainly Jewish refugees out of Serbia.

## **Chapter 3:**

# **TARSHISH AND THE YOUNG LIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Under angelic control, America has been working hard to bring about the considerable progress in the peace talks which was made clear in chapter 1. In this chapter we consider the special relationship between America and Israel. We then turn to other areas of the Middle East where America and Britain are steadily establishing their influence. Although there has not been so much tangible material to consider this year, nevertheless our confidence in our prophetic understanding continues to stand firm—America as the foremost of the **young lions**, long independent from the mother, but retaining those special family ties with Britain as part of the **Tarshish** power.*

## **AMERICA:—ISRAEL'S FRIEND**

President Clinton feels close to Israel. With his Baptist background he perhaps sees things from a Bible point of view. He has several Jews as his advisors, and many others are pro-Israeli. The head of the State Department's policy planning unit, Samuel Lewis, was at one time the US ambassador to Israel and has kept up-to-date with Israeli matters. The US National Security Council director of Middle East affairs, Martin Indyk, was once on the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee and so too has a great knowledge of Israel. These two men are part of the peace talks team. Three other members are mentioned as sharing the same viewpoint, that Israel can only make concessions if it is assured of a rock-solid US-Israel relationship. Mr Clinton and Mr Rabin get on very well—Mr Rabin was Israel's American ambassador from 1968 to 1973. This is in great contrast to President Bush and Mr Shamir. In March, when President Clinton promised to be an "active partner" he said,

"I would be prepared to commit the resources, the effort, and the attention of this administration, my secretary of state, and my personal efforts to achieve lasting agreements.

This year will be a year of enhanced relations between our countries. It should also be a year of peace in the Middle East" (GW 21/3/93).

They also announced

"the creation of a joint US-Israel science and technology commission to sponsor high-technology cooperation between the two countries, arrange exchanges between US and Israeli universities, develop agricultural and environmental programmes, and devise ways of converting defence plants to civilian products" (GW 21/3/93).

In the middle of the year, when the talks were stalemated, Mr Clinton appointed a Middle East Peace talk coordinator, Dennis Ross, and a new US consul-general in Jerusalem, Daniel Kurtzer. Both men are Jews.

We can see that God rules in the Kingdom of men, using men to further His purpose, that the stage might be set for the return of Messiah to deliver His people.

## **STRATEGIC LINKS WITH ISRAEL**

In January, the US paid for a 10-day working visit to the US by the Israeli Chief of General Staff. The aim was to strengthen military and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Following a visit to Washington by Mr Rabin in March, President Clinton announced that he intends to strengthen the strategic cooperation between the two countries, in return for Israel's willingness to make concessions in the peace talks. He pledged to "minimize" Israel's risks in pursuing peace. This is seen as leading to a greater dependence upon America for defence. With a shrinking defence budget, America may well see it better to employ her own troops in Israel, rather than giving financial aid to Israel to purchase weapons. It would keep US troops strategically placed for action in the Middle East.

Later in the year he indicated that he was willing to put US troops into the Golan if Israel had to make concessions with Syria over this strategic mountain range. In October the US Senate approved a bill to maintain the \$3 billion aid given each year to both Israel and Egypt.

## **AMERICA'S DEFENCE PLANS**

In the last *Milestones* we looked at America's plans for "pre-positioning" defence equipment in friendly countries near the world's trouble spots. Under the Clinton administration this idea has been toned down somewhat. The problem is that this year's friends can be next year's enemies. Although the US makes use of the Israeli facilities, stock piling arms there has not been seen to be appropriate while the peace talks are continuing. Equipment for one brigade has been pulled out of Germany and pre-positioned in Italy, ready for troops flying from America in any Mediterranean emergency.

The US plans to restructure her military with a heavy emphasis on expeditionary forces which can rapidly be deployed without reliance on other nations. The deep cuts planned in carriers and naval manpower have been modified to attain this capability. This year, thousands of tanks, guns and lorries were pulled out of Germany onto 7 roll-on roll-off ships to form a heavy armoured "fire brigade." They are to be permanently deployed at sea, ready to be moved to any trouble spot. They

may either be based at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean or in the Mediterranean.

## **THE US AND OTHER M. E. COUNTRIES**

### **Iraq**

In January the allies launched several missile attacks against Iraq, because of her intransigence over missile inspections.

In June, President Clinton launched a missile attack on the intelligence headquarters in Baghdad, as punishment for a plot by Saddam Hussein to assassinate ex-president Bush while on a recent visit to Kuwait. The uncovering of the plot came at a time of increasing irritation at Iraq's refusal to allow the UN weapons inspectors access to monitor weapons manufacture. Iraqi troops too had been massing in the south.

The 23 Tomahawk missiles were launched from a US destroyer in the Red Sea and a cruiser in the Gulf. The headquarters were destroyed. It was another awesome display of long-range power.

### **Iran**

The US and Israel are concerned that Iran has embarked "on the world's most extensive arms-purchasing spree." The long conflict with Iraq had depleted her arsenals. She has purchased hundreds of tanks, combat aircraft, and naval craft. Russia has supplied two submarines. North Korea has supplied a number of shipments of long-range Scud missiles, capable of carrying an 800 kg chemical or nuclear warhead. With a range of 1,300 km, (800 miles), the whole of the Middle East is within range.

Germany is accused of helping Iran to build her weapons arsenal, selling high-tech equipment and training Iranian intelligence agents. German exports to Iran amounted to \$5 billion last year.

Iran is said to give £100 million a year to Hizbollah in Lebanon and £34 million to Hamas fundamentalist Palestinians. They recently increased to £2 million the bounty on Salman Rushdie.

Iran and Iraq who fought each other for 8 years with hundreds of thousands killed, are renewing diplomatic links. They are united in their fears of what an Israeli-led peace would do to the Middle East and also fears of growing US influence in the Middle East. Saddam Hussein has closed all PLO offices and expelled 5,000 Palestinian soldiers in Iraq.

Israel has been putting the US under pressure to halt this immense flow of weapons which could be used against her. The Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister described Iran as

"a state that sees terror as a legitimate tool, a state that is not rational and is extreme..." (JP 5/5/93).

Their fear is well placed as Ezekiel showed 2,500 years ago. One of Gog's companions is to be Persia, modern day Iran (Ezek. 38:5).

## **Kuwait**

Early in the year, when the allies attacked Iraq, the US shipped in Patriot missiles to strengthen Kuwait's defences. These were under American control. Kuwait has ordered for her own use five Patriot fire units with a total of 210 missiles—a deal worth about £200 million.

Britain was asked to send her troops to reinforce the Kuwaiti defences. In the event this was not necessary. America had moved in an extra 1,100 troops.

Kuwait is facing difficult financial times. This one time super-rich country is in trouble. It had built up a \$65 billion fund—the Fund for Future Generations, set up for when the oil ran out. With poor investments, and the high cost of the Gulf war, it is estimated that this has shrunk to \$15 billion. Still a large sum, but many Kuwaitis would like to know where it has all disappeared!

## **Saudi Arabia**

She likewise has money troubles! Ten years ago her nest egg was estimated to be around \$100 billion. Their reserves have now shrunk to \$12 - \$15 billion. \$23 billion had been spent propping up Iraq against Iran. Then a further \$52 billion went on Desert Storm. She has some \$25 billions' worth of military hardware just delivered or on order from America. She is spending large sums with Britain on Tornado aircraft. The slump in oil prices has considerably affected the revenue of these Middle East countries. They are all reasons why the prospect of peace is so attractive. How wonderfully the angels pull together so many strands to achieve God's purpose.

## **BRITAIN'S ROLE**

### **Israel**

Just as America has been involved in the peace talks on Israel's side, it has now emerged that Britain has been working on the Palestinian side. In September, Mr Hurd, the Foreign Secretary revealed in a BBC radio interview that he had been in contact with Yasser Arafat "all the time" through the British ambassador in Tunis and had "specifically and seriously" encouraged the PLO to adopt "the ideas which were coming from the Americans and Israelis. They had difficulty doing this, but we went out of our way to encourage them to do so. I believe that did play quite a part in bringing them eventually to the kind of agreement which we have."

In October, Mr Hurd visited Syria in an endeavour to move things along.

“Britain sees the Israeli-PLO accord as an opportunity to re-enter Middle East diplomacy after accepting the US lead in mediation efforts for more than two years.

Britain believes its long experience in the Middle East can make an important contribution. Yesterday Mr Hurd left Damascus in upbeat mood, apparently obtaining warm endorsement for his diplomatic efforts from President Assad” (DT 25/10/93).

Britain is helping the Palestinians in practical ways. It was revealed in September that she was helping them to set up an intelligence service and an anti-terrorist force to deal with any violent opposition to the peace agreement. This followed secret talks between Mr Hogg the British Foreign Minister, the Deputy Israeli Foreign Minister and two PLO representatives. In November it was announced that the BBC will train Palestinian broadcasters and provide material for a Palestinian radio station which the British government will help to establish in Judea and Samaria. The station will be funded by Britain with additional funds from the EC.

Yasser Arafat visited Britain in December, seeking financial help from Britain. Mr Hurd indicated that this should come from the oil-rich Arab states. However British officials insisted that they would offer aid “at the right time”. This is thought to be when Mr Hurd visits the region in January.

## **Kuwait**

In August, Britain received a £500 million order for 200 Warrior armoured vehicles, and has hopes of supplying further armoured vehicles, but the volume of arms sales has been smaller than anticipated.

## **Saudi Arabia**

In November, the Prince of Wales visited the Gulf, going to five countries in a week. He was warmly received by King Fahd. It is anticipated further trade deals will follow the visit.

“At the heart of Anglo-Saudi trade is the Al Yamamah project whereby Saudi Arabia is supposed to pay oil and billions of pounds for British military hardware while British industry then invests £1 billion in Saudi joint ventures. It has proved a gradual process but both sides hope the Prince’s visit will speed things up” (DT 8/11/93).

In December it was reported that Westland was involved in talks on a helicopter deal worth “hundreds of millions of pounds”.

We see that America, who has been an independent “lion” for over two hundred years, is active and vigorous. Britain as the “mother” has a lower profile. She has experience on her side and works less visibly.



## Chapter: 4

### BIRTH-PAINS OF EUROPEAN FEDERALISM

#### Introduction

*Jacques Delors, the President of the EC Commission and the Chairman of the Euro-parliament, has been the moving spirit each year for establishing European political Union, bound together by a Single Currency functioning throughout the whole Community.*

*In December 1990 Mr Major, as Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, was successful in obtaining widespread approval throughout the Community for the Maastricht Treaty. It was seen as laying the foundation for the United States of Europe.*

*After the initialling of the treaty by all the Heads of States, the Treaty had to be ratified by each national government. Now at the end of 1993, after three years of conflicting, diverse national interests, it has been ratified by all countries. Surprisingly, it will seem, the question now to the fore is :*

*Is the Maastricht Treaty still important?*

*The attempt to answer this will best be faced after we have followed the ups and downs and disagreements in the Community during 1993 set out in the monthly record.*

*Certainly progress towards a federal Europe has occurred. However we expect that Europe will be a confederation of States, not a single federal State. In the picture painted in Revelation 17, the power of the beast is in its 10 horns. The 10 horns represent 10 kings which do not then become one power, but rather as individual powers in a group they give power to the beast:*

*"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (Rev. 17:12, 13).*

*Hence it is not surprising that the move towards a federal Europe is punctuated by reverses and opposition. And the other factor of course is the misfit of Britain in the European group of (largely) Roman Catholic nations and the tensions which this brings.*

The main issues during 1993 were:

- The gathering momentum towards European Monetary Union EMU and a single currency.

A single currency is essential for the growth of trade between the various countries of the Community. This will greatly simplify transactions by avoiding varying exchange rates, paper work and

bureaucracy. In America the various states are largely independent in the matter of trade, but the dollar is universal.

For Europe a single currency would bind together countries in diverse historical and geographical backgrounds. This creates in the Community a feeling of strength and solidarity in dealing with rival blocks of nations—Asia, India, Africa and the Middle East.

Clearly Brussels is the driving force for all this. The Commissioners and the Euro parliament are steadily gaining power and authority as they continue to issue their directives and judgements.

- The economic power of the United Germanies will dominate the scene. As West Germany overcomes the very high costs of uniting of East and West Germany, and settles down to hard work, German skills and disciplines will prevail. But for the present the country is hard hit by recession.
- A new spirit is emerging in Europe, described as ‘popular nationalism’. The countries of the Community are more concerned with attending to their own national interests than promoting a harmonious United States of Europe.

West Germany is to the fore in this, and the dominating spirit of the Germanic people is showing itself. This is especially so in the rising generation, some of whom feel no shame for the atrocities of their country under Hitler.

- If we ask what of the Papacy and the Catholic Church, the answer is they have no need to get into the news. Their super-efficient priestcraft controls, guides and instructs the top European leaders (most are Catholics); and it works right down to the lay people in the village.
- The country holding the 6 month Presidency of the Community is in a very powerful position to influence events. In 1993, July to December was in the hands of Belgium. Its Prime Minister is a devout Catholic and is described as “a most fervent federalist”, putting new life into the European Community.

Greece follows on for the first 6 months of 1994, and Greece has already expressed its whole-hearted backing for Delors and his plans.

- The importance of the new European Monetary Institute. The location of the Institute (EMI) has been granted to Germany. In due course it will become the European Central Bank. Financial controllers always have great power and influence. This will be Germany’s position.
- The Maastricht Treaty has an inbuilt “self-protection” and this may prove of prime importance. Within the text of the Treaty it is declared that any laws created by a national judiciary—as in

Britain—are always subordinate to the ruling of the Luxembourg Court of Justice. This was accepted by Britain's Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, in 1976.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 1993

### January - March

“Jacques Delors promises he will bring Europe back in a dynamic circle in autumn”.

In a foretaste of what is to come if and when the treaty is ratified, M Delors said he had been deliberately lying low during the tension surrounding Maastricht in Britain and Denmark.

“But we will have to come back in the Autumn to bring Europe back on track in a dynamic, virtuous circle,’ he proclaimed. His words were seen last night as likely to alarm Euro-sceptics”.

An article in March spoke of “the legal unification of Europe” through the European Court of Justice in Luxemburg.

“It has (another Dickensian touch) 13 members: one judge from each of the 12 member states, plus another to create an odd number, thus ensuring majority decisions. Although appointed by the governments of the member states, the judges are, notionally independent. Their deliberations are secret; their judgements, as published, unanimous; and there is no possibility of appeal.

But there are three things about the European Court which undoubtedly are sinister. The first is that its jurisdiction has expanded inexorably, as new European treaties have supplemented the original Treaty of Rome. The second is that it is formally committed to increasing the scope and effectiveness of Community law and enlarging the powers of Community institutions. The third is that its interpretations of European law take precedence over the national laws of the EC's member states”.

Parliament cannot pass a Bill which differs in substance from the Maastricht Treaty; for once the Treaty is ratified. the European Court would simply overrule the British Act as incompatible with EC law.

(DT 01/03/93)

### APRIL

**“Court of Auditors’ new president has federalist views that would make most Britons shudder”**

The heading is the outlook of the new President of the Court of Auditors in Brussels, Andre Middelboek. The EC has 200 auditors to monitor the spending budget of £57 billion a year. Auditors whose job is to watch how money is spent, are usually powerful men; and the new President intends it shall be so.

Tighter control from the centre is essential, he says, to combat an estimated £6 billion a year in agriculture fraud alone. If Maastricht is

ratified the court will gain additional powers including the right to take a government to court for failure to supply information. Sir John Cope, Paymaster-General, is said to have left a meeting of finance ministers in Brussels two weeks ago thoroughly impressed by a man whose federalist views would make most Britons shudder.

Brussels has appointed an enthusiastic federalist to have charge of bringing about the "Single Market" for Europe. The headline ran:

**"MAASTRICHT CHAMPION SEES 'SPRINGTIME FOR EUROPE'"**

"Once Maastricht is ratified, the life of the European Community will come back into full essence. It will be a new springtime,' says Raniero Vanni d'Archirasi, former Italian negotiator for the treaty and now European Commissioner in charge of the single market" (DT 26/04/93).

## **MAY**

A letter to the Daily Telegraph expressed British concerns on Maastricht:

**"TIGHT KNOT TIED BY MAASTRICHT**

Sir - In seeking to untangle the Maastricht web, your expert contributor (May 6) made the general point that "treaties are signed under the authority of the Crown and (are) beyond the courts". Not so, however, with Maastricht. The European Assembly Election Act, 1978, provides that:

'No Treaty which provides for any increase in the powers of the Assembly (now the Euro-parliament) shall be ratified by the United Kingdom unless it has been approved by an Act of Parliament'.

If one believes that civil peace depends upon government by consent, the keenness of many MPs to subject our sackable Westminster Parliament to an unsackable Euro-parliament requires explanation" Norris McWhirter (DT 07/05/93).

**"DENMARK ALARMED OVER EC UNION PLAN**

"Reports that Belgium, which takes over the EC presidency on July 1, plans to extend European political union beyond the scope of the Maastricht Treaty have caused consternation in Denmark, which holds its second referendum on the treaty a week tomorrow.

The institutional reform envisaged by Belgium, with the backing of Holland, Luxembourg, Germany and France, will give more power to central EC authorities in Brussels at the expense of national parliaments" (DT 10/05/93).

**"BRITAIN'S REFUSAL TO JOIN IN PLANS FOR EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION**

The Chancellor, Norman Lamont, has ruled out any move by Britain to rejoin the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) before 1995 at the earliest. 'It might be two years. It might be three years. It is not on the agenda just now', he said at the weekend.

Britain's refusal to take part in any revival of plans for monetary union will underline the divide in the Community over the timetable for European Monetary Union. Mr Lamont said Britain was not alone in being concerned at the present exchange rate policy in Europe and the way the ERM was working. Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain all had 'grave reservations', he added.

Several other finance ministers appeared to quash the possibility of monetary union and a single currency by the end of the decade" (DT).

Later Mr Major said some 20 elements of the Maastricht Treaty needed amending.

## JUNE

### **Major in conflict with Delors over £33 bn revival plan**

"An ambitious £33 billion plan by M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, aimed at reviving Europe's ailing economies was rejected by Mr Major yesterday amid general disarray at the EC's Copenhagen summit over how best to deal with the Community's growing unemployment crisis.

With the number out of work in the 12 EC countries expected to reach 20 millions by the middle of next year, a new growth initiative was at the top of the agenda on the opening day of the summit.

Mr Major found little overt support for his call for Europe to become more competitive by rolling back the Social Charter on working conditions. But for the first time some other EC leaders, notably Chancellor Kohl of Germany, acknowledged that European workers could be pricing themselves out of jobs.

They were in no mood to tear up the Social Charter and they remained deeply suspicious of Britain's attempts to attract new investment by refusing to adopt EC-wide provisions on working practices".

## JULY

### **Belgium takes over the EC Presidency**

Within a day or so of having received the Community Presidency, Belgium declared its intention of transforming the EC Community—in cooperation with Delors and his Brussels Commissioners. This was reported in an arresting Daily Telegraph article July 2nd.

#### **"Belgians put Delors back in the driving seat**

"Europe's most zealous federalists take over the Community

Belgium and M. Jacques Delors issued a joint challenge to Britain last night to accept new moves to a federal Europe—with the EC Commission as the 'driving force'—after the Belgians took over the EC presidency.

With the Community once again in the hands of Europe's most fervent federalists, M Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgian Prime Minister, said he was determined to put the EC 'back on track with a new dynamism'.

'As far as I am concerned, the driving force of Europe is the Commission', he said, in words that will strike dread in Westminster.

After 12 frustrating months under the steward-ship of the two countries with the most sceptical approach to Brussels—Britain and Denmark—pent-up federalist vigour is now bursting out in Belgium".

## **Devaluation Crises in France and other EC Countries**

The month opened with a gloomy picture headed:

### **"End of the European Dream: ERM talks collapse**

#### **Germany and France to go it alone**

European integration lay in tatters last night after EC finance ministers failed to agree a lifeline for the Exchange Rate Mechanism leaving France and Germany arguing over a go-it-alone plan to keep the aim of monetary and political union alive.

At the end of a day of drama centred on the meeting of the finance ministers in Brussels, agreement to rescue the ERM and monetary union, appeared impossible" (DT 2-7-93).

## **AUGUST**

August is the great holiday month on the continent and nothing of importance is expected to happen. But it was not so in August, 1993. There were two notable happenings:

- (1) The functioning of the Exchange Rate Mechanism fell to pieces because the permissible limits of operation were widened to +15% - 15%; which in practical terms are so wide as to be meaningless.
- (2) Dr. Kohl of Bonn followed a path of self-interest and broke the close links that had existed between France and Germany for many years.

The Exchange Rate Mechanism was actually suspended on July 30th. The meeting in Brussels was forced by the trading situation to allow the wide 15% limits. This stunning news sank in over the weekend and filled newspaper reports on the following Monday.

- The Daily Telegraph took a long-range view:  
**"ERM collapse shatters vision of Economic Union"** (DT 3/8/93).
- On another page of the same issue:  
**"Not Only the Franc has Fallen—so has the Grand Design"**  
**"The ERM rift with Germany has killed the Spirit of Maastricht"**.

- This 'rift' with Germany was still there at the end of the month:

**"Self-Interest forces Bonn to end Marriage of Convenience**

It is divorce. As the 12 European Community finance ministers met in Brussels yesterday, they saw the end of the community's most durable marriage.

For 36 years, France and Germany have jointly driven EC integration and for the past 14 years that relationship has been incarnated in the franc-mark parity.

German eyes began to wander when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Infidelity followed unification. Since then, Europe has watched France ignore the obvious.

Germany has sworn loyalty, signed Maastricht, promised to give up the mark. Countless reassurances to President Mitterand have issued from the office of Chancellor Kohl. The reassurances were worthless. Germany could have saved the system... When the franc fell through its floor of 3-4305 DM on Friday, betrayal stared her in the face.

As the French know in their hearts, the culprit is the German government. At the very moment he was signing Maastricht, Herr Kohl was taking policy decisions which would rip the heart out of the treaty" (DT 2/8/93).

This extensive quotation has been given because it highlights possibly the most significant happening of 1993 in Europe. It poses the question: 'Whither Germany in Europe'?

We have written in earlier *Milestones* about the new independent spirit Germany has been showing; and the economic power of the united East-West Germanies. The question is, not only for France, but for the whole of the EC: 'How—as these countries view the matter—can Germany be tamed and harnessed for Europe's benefit'? This is discussed further in chapter 13 on "The Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet".

In the review of the remaining months of 1993 this German-Europe situation was apparent in:

- the skill and authority of the new German Bundesbank President.
- the supremacy of the Deutschemark
- the decision to locate Eurobank in Frankfurt, Germany

## SEPTEMBER

### New President for the German Bundesbank

**"A man who has long been at the centre of world economies**

Herr Hans Tietmeyer is indeed an interesting man, described as one of the central architects of German economic policy over the past decade! Celebrated and feared as a negotiator, Herr Tietmeyer, one of 11 children born into a Prussian-Catholic family, studied theology and economics before entering the economic ministry in 1962" (DT 1/10/93).



Cartoon above illustrates Germany and France kicking each other under the table!

## The Supremacy of the German Deutschemark

### “East dances to the tune of the D-mark

Karl Otto Pohl said it would happen. Hilmar Kopper said it would happen. But the former Bundesbank and current Deutsche Bank chairmen perhaps didn't realise the European monetary system (EMS) would, with the help of currency speculators, give way to the emerging deutschemark bloc quite so fast.

The refusal [of French request for the D-mark to keep out of ERM, GP] showed that Germany's neighbours value the deutschemark link—with its importance for trading—above a wider link encompassing the Mediterranean countries and Britain” (European 22/9).

### “The location of EC the Central Bank

Germany is now certain to be the site of Europe's fledgling central bank, authoritative Community sources disclosed yesterday.

The choice of Germany, to be confirmed on October 29 at a special EC summit in Brussels, will unsettle Tory MPs. The location is being seen as an uncomfortable symbol of German monetary dominance in Europe.



Bonn will house the European Monetary Institute, which is to be created by January 1 next year—despite objections from Britain” (DT 14/9/93).

Britain objected because the choice of Bonn would unfairly boost Germany as a financial centre in competition with London.

### **“IMF gives support to European Monetary Union**

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund has backed the goal of monetary union in Europe, arguing it would contribute to “a stronger world monetary order” (DT 29/9/93).

## **OCTOBER**

### **Creeping European Federation**

#### **“Out with the EC; in with the EU (European Union)**

Britain stood alone last night in the final battle over Maastricht as almost all other countries signalled their intention to change the name of the European Community.

With only weeks until the Maastricht Treaty is expected to come into force, a majority of other countries said they were ready to drop EC for EU —the European Union—changing letterheads, personnel titles and office plaques across Brussels.

Senior officials confirmed that Maastricht would come into effect across Europe on Nov. 1, assuming the German Constitutional Court approves the treaty on Oct. 12.

From that day forward, other EC diplomats said they would speak only of decisions and meetings of the European Union.

They said that under the treaty’s first sentence, agreed by Mr Major at Maastricht in December 1991, a new and grander body is called into being to supersede the 36-year-old EC.

Title 1. Article A reads; ‘By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called the Union’.

‘The change is inevitable,’ said a senior Spanish source yesterday, adding that stamps, notepaper and forms of address would all have to conform: EU and not EC.

Most foreign diplomatic sources were agreed that there could be no question of Britain standing out against the tide.

They said a meeting would be called as soon as the Germans have finally ratified the treaty, to ensure that no one was out of line.

They said that though the EC will remain one of the three ‘pillars’ of the Union, with police co-operation and joint foreign policy, Sir John would represent Britain in all three parts; so he would be ambassador to the Union” (DT 1/10/93).

### **“German Judges Lift Last Barrier for Maastricht**

The Maastricht Treaty will come into force on Nov. 1 after it was approved yesterday by Germany's constitutional court, enabling Bonn to be the last government to ratify it” (DT 13/10/93).

### **“Delors looks to the future**

With a new spring in his step, M Jacques Delors declared last night that the final ratification of the Maastricht Treaty meant a 'new era' and 'shifting up a gear in the building of Europe'.

Though short on specifics, his speech was broad on vision. The emphasis was all on further economic integration.

M. Delors avoided making any provocative references to political union or the word federalism. Noting that Jan 1 now sees the beginning of the next stage in the drive to a single currency, he called for economic policies to be set with the interests of the EC, not only national governments, in mind” (DT 14/10/93).

### **“Germany and France call on Major to speed Union**

Chancellor Kohl of Germany and President Mitterand of France challenged Mr Major last night to speed moves to European union on the eve of the Brussels summit to celebrate Maastricht.

Herr Kohl and M Mitterand revived fears of a Franco-German axis driving EC integration as the treaty comes in to effect on Nov. 1.

In a latter, Herr Kohl and M Mitterand said: 'We are now forging a common destiny' and signalled their intention to exploit the treaty to create a joint EC policy on immigration and build 'Europol', the prototype EC police force. They called for the number of foreign ministers' meetings in Brussels to be doubled to twice a month to bring about early implementation of the new common foreign policy...

With Nato being reformed, France and Germany also made clear their determination to build a European defence pact, of a kind Britain fears could supplant the US-led alliance” (DT 28/10/93).

There is more in this quotation than just the usual Europe versus Britain. Chancellor Kohl and Pres. Mitterand call for:

- (1) A prototype EC Police Force.
- (2) Twice a month meetings of foreign ministers to create a European foreign policy.
- (3) To build a European Defence Pact.

With these aims accomplished, we would have the main elements that give reality to a United States of Europe.

Britain, while attempting to be loyal to Europe, will certainly not support the full implications of these three steps to the United States of Europe.

## **Germany as Europe's leading power—the uprise of “popular nationalism”**

We close the October record with an article on Germany's growing power.

“The Hitlerian experience has insulated most Germans over the age of 50 against nationalism. Nevertheless, Germany can hardly remain immune to the re-emergence in Central and Eastern Europe of popular nationalism. It is this popular nationalism which has broken up not only the Europe of Yalta, but also the Europe of Versailles, Woodrow Wilson's Europe, the Europe which created the federal states of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia in the hope that different nationalities could live peaceably together.

The rise of popular nationalism has been accompanied by nostalgia for the fascists of 50 years ago. Hungary's Admiral Horthy has just been reburied in Budapest, Croats and Slovaks express admiration for the Nazi collaborators Tiso and Pavelic, while in Romania boulevards are being named after Marshal Antonescu, the country's wartime *Conducator* or *Fuhrer*.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, has often spoken of his generation—he was born in 1933, the year of Hitler's assumption of power—as the last which can fulfil Konrad Adenauer's program of integrating Germany into Western Europe. Already there are signs of a new nationalism in Germany, and, if survey evidence is to be believed, a weakening of commitment to Europe. Among Germany's leaders, allegiance to the Community is coming to take second place to national interests”.

The rising generation especially in West Germany, feel no shame for the Hitler atrocities their country committed. The dominating spirit of the German race is emerging again. And this writer is warning that a harmonious United States of Europe is a false dream.

His warning is correct. We know that in the final events, Germany will be the beast of Revelation 17 carrying the scarlet woman which “goeth into perdition”.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **The New Germany**

#### **“Kohl allies reject his vision of European Union**

Chancellor Kohl's support of rapid European unification was mocked by his party's closest political allies yesterday as being outdated and unpopular.

Herr Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's Christian Social Union, (CSU) Premier, said ‘Herr Kohl was out of touch with popular opinion and was living in a time when it was still considered a stigma to be German. With German unification we achieved a complete change—and we must be aware what the new German identity really is.’

Herr Stoiber said he was 'pro-Europe but anti-federal'. He was convinced that a federal Europe would ultimately swallow the association of 16 states that make up Germany by forcing them to abandon their separate identities in a grey mass ruled by Brussels" (DT 3/11/93).

So here we are again hearing the words of Scripture concerning the ten horns (Rev. 17). In the final stage the power of the beast lies in its ten horns: Europe will not be a federal State, but a confederation.

## **DECEMBER**

### **“The Euro-Troops are Born**

With a brisk little ceremony, a European army was born yesterday under a leaden Strasbourg sky, the first step towards what federalists hope will grow into the common defence for Europe envisaged by the Maastricht Treaty.

Eurocorps, a Franco-German Belgian venture which should have 50,000 troops when it reaches full strength in 1995, was inaugurated by three defence ministers in three different languages to the sound of three national anthems.

....Lt Gen Willmann was not encouraging: 'It would not be possible to add another working language,' he said. 'We can manage all right with French and German, but with another language, it would be the Tower of Babel. A rapid response force like the Eurocorps depends on good communications'."

With no enemies to fight, perhaps the European Union can be satisfied with this medley for its European Defence Force.

### **“Federalists Hail Birth of EU (European Union)**

In a convincing victory for those of the federalist persuasion, the term European Union will be enshrined today by Europe's foreign ministers as they meet in Brussels to name the limbs and organs of the new Behemoth they have created.

This means that whenever a minister travels to Brussels, he will do so no longer as an EC minister but as an EU minister, ratcheting the federalisation of Europe up another notch" (European Union 8/11/93).

### **“Germany's just reward**

Germany has finally obtained a European institution befitting its economic muscle. The decision to locate the European Monetary Institute in Bonn is a victory for Chancellor Helmut Kohl and an encouragement to Germany's European commitment. The central bank which will succeed the monetary institute for managing the single currency by the end of the century will be one of the most important institutions in Europe.

As for German influence in moulding the future monetary union, there is already plenty of it. The Eurobank's charter has been modelled on those of the Bundesbank. This is a Maastricht Treaty priority for combating inflation, hence defending a strong currency" (Le Monde Editorial 7/11/93).

So ended a year of stumbling 'progress' with Britain trailing behind the European field—as we would expect to be the case.

### **Is the Maastricht Treaty still important?**

There appears to be a good case for the Maastricht Treaty establishing what is now called European Union (EU), with a supporting Single Currency for the practical trading operation of the Community.

- The treaty has been ratified by all twelve countries (Germany in December); and it is now part of the Treaty of Rome.
- The wording of the Treaty requires all countries to promote the harmonious development of the United States of Europe.
- The decisions of the Luxembourg European Court of Justice have legal priority over any nationally made laws. This makes Britain generally subservient to Europe and lessens the power of her viewpoint.
- The Treaty requires all members to aid the process of 'Convergence' in the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) aspect of the Treaty.
- Most countries other than Britain are anxious to adopt the change from EC to EU; from European Community to European Union.
- It must be kept in mind that there is a section of the British Conservative government that is opposed to Maastricht, and seek to avoid Britain's involvement in its commitments. Mrs Thatcher and her world-wide anti-Maastricht speeches continue unabated. This situation has a bearing on Europe's view of Britain and her intentions. Is Britain genuine? Does she want European Union?
- The Brussel's 'Social Chapter' is still strongly supported on the Continent—most countries have Socialist governments. By contrast the Conservative government of Britain is opposed to socialist principles in trade and commerce, because they increase inefficiency, bureaucracy and costs. This is a further reason for Europe's doubts about Britain.

So Britain is viewed as somewhat 'anti-European', and half-hearted in promoting the important European plans. In December this brought strong criticism from Germany and France, challenging Britain to join in 'speeding up' the federal Europe.

## Chapter 5:

### RUSSIA—SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

As in 1991 and 1992, many things seem to happen in Russia towards the end of the year! We will break down the complex Russian picture into the following headings.

- 1) Yeltsin's struggle to reform the Constitution
- 2) The economy
- 3) Russia's grip on the C.I.S. states
- 4) Financial support by the West
- 5) Widespread corruption
- 6) Nuclear fears

Under separate chapters, we will look at her **Foreign Policy** (chapter 6) and the **Orthodox Church** in chapter 7.

#### 1) YELTSIN'S STRUGGLE TO REFORM THE CONSTITUTION

Yeltsin has dominated the scene since being elected president in June 1991. He has struggled to retain his position and 1993 has been a difficult year for him. When in September, he dissolved parliament the headline ran:

##### **"Climax of a long power struggle"**

President Yeltsin's dramatic television address last night is the dénouement of a two-year power struggle that began almost the moment the coup attempt against ex-president Gorbachev was defeated in August 1991.

The focus on the battle has been the course of political and economic reform, with the Yeltsin camp advocating a rush to the market, and opponents calling for a gradual loosening of state control" (DT 22/9/93).

Fundamental to Mr Yeltsin's position has been the need to push through reforms of the Constitution to give himself the position of ultimate power, rather than parliament—the details of which have been summarised in the following box. A referendum was arranged for April.

#### **THE RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION**

Until the end of 1993, Russia adhered to the Constitution adopted in 1977 under Leonid Brezhnev. It bound together the many diverse elements of the countries which made up the former Soviet Union.

With the break up of the Union, many changes were necessary in an attempt to hold things together. In recent years it has been amended several hundred times!

Yeltsin has pushed through many reforms on his own authority. There was need for clarification as to whether the Constitution gave ultimate power to the president or parliament. Yeltsin needed to get confirmation from the Russian people through a referendum that it lay with the president. He used his powers to call this for April.

Following his success in the Referendum, he outlined his radical plans.

- President to be elected for a maximum of two 5 year terms.
- Two chambers—the lower State Duma, responsible for day to day legislation, the upper Council of the Federation, overseeing appointments, the Constitution and other state affairs.
- No Congress or Vice-President.
- Russia to remain a secular state, while human rights will be enshrined.

By November it was ready to be put forward for voting on December 12th..

“Modelled largely on the basic law of France’s Fifth Republic (ie the present. DFP), and taking elements from the German and American variants, the Constitution dwells at length on human rights and multi-party democracy. It marks a clear break with the communist past ... enshrining private property as an inalienable right and offering freedom of worship, speech and travel and free press.

It is within the president’s domain, inter alia, to appoint judges, dissolve parliament, issue decrees, guide foreign and domestic policy and nominate a Prime Minister and his cabinet” (DT 10/11/93).

Although overshadowed by the results of the elections held at the same time, Yeltsin obtained the necessary mandate for the new Constitution.

## January - March

A few headlines sum up his problems.

“**Time running out for a lonely president**” (DT 12/2/93).

“**Emergency Congress may impeach Yeltsin**” (DT 6/3/93).

“**Yeltsin’s future hangs in the balance**” (DT 11/3/93).

“**Battle over who rules Russia rages on**” (DT 15/3/93).

The Old Guard waged a strong and skilful battle to unseat Yeltsin and his reforms. Even the army, loyal to Mr Yeltsin, warned him that he had to be decisive in his power struggle.

At the March Congress of People’s Deputies, they voted to restrict Yeltsin’s powers. He angrily reacted by announcing “special powers”

which reduced Parliament's authority. An emergency Congress was called which narrowly failed to impeach him.

## April

The Referendum was held on April 25th. It asked whether Russia should be a presidential-style republic, whether there should be private ownership of land, whether the policy of economic reform should go ahead, and whether there should be new parliamentary elections.

In spite of the gloom beforehand, he did well in the results. There was support for the presidential powers he was seeking and for the land reforms and economic policies. There was not sufficient support for new parliamentary elections.

## August

After several months of little progress on constitutional reform, Mr Yeltsin threw down the challenge to parliament, which was proposing to demote his powers to that of a virtual figure-head, giving power instead to the Prime Minister.

He said he would call for elections in the autumn to let the people decide.

## September

A dramatic month! Yeltsin re-instated into the Cabinet Mr Yegor Gaidar, a leading reformer who had been acting Prime Minister, until, under pressure from the hard-liners, Yeltsin removed him the previous autumn.

Later in the month the bold headline ran:

**“Yeltsin bids for all-out power”**

**“Civil war fear in Russia as hardline parliament is dissolved”** (DT 22/9/93).

This was a desperate bid to get popular support for his position by dissolving parliament and calling for fresh elections in December. Parliament responded swiftly by stripping Yeltsin of power and appointing Mr Alexander Rutskoy as his replacement. The two sides were locked in conflict. Yeltsin ordered troops to surround the White House—the Russian parliament building.

A few days later Yeltsin announced that Rutskoy was suspended on corruption charges.

## October

The crisis reached its head when Yeltsin ordered the White House to be stormed by paratroopers. Parts of the building were destroyed by fire, the hard-line leaders were arrested. Yeltsin had shown his muscle, and emerged victorious.



December 12th was set for the parliamentary elections as well as the referendum on adopting the new Constitution.

## **November**

The army had backed Yeltsin's power struggle, and now they demanded concessions as the price for their help. He signed into the law a document which gave the armed forces much greater powers, and also brought military principles into line with NATO ones. It omitted the previous pledge never to be the first side to use nuclear weapons, and also the pledge not to go beyond Russia's borders in repelling attacks. It omitted previous details of troop reductions, and allowed troops to assist the police and be used to protect strategic buildings.

## **December**

The elections were duly held and he received his mandate for the new Constitution, but the election results sent shock waves throughout the world! The reform party which backed Yeltsin's changes—Russia's Choice, received only 16% of the votes, the Communist's nearly 12%. What sent a chilling shiver was the performance of the neo-fascist Liberal Democratic Party, led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky which took over 23% of the votes. Worse still for Yeltsin was the low support the army gave to Russia's Choice—they gave a vote of no confidence in Yeltsin by strongly backing the Liberal Democratic Party.

Although leading in the votes, because of a complex "first past the post" system for half of the 450 seats, the Liberal Democratic Party only won a sixth of the seats in the lower house—the Russia's Choice Party having a comfortable majority. Nevertheless, Yeltsin was forced to make changes to his plans, tailoring them more to the immediate needs of the people. Although retaining Mr Yegor Gaidar, leader of the Russia's Choice, he dropped his chief political advisor, the head of his legal department and others, to make the party more appealing.

At the end of the month there was held a full-scale summit meeting of the leaders of the twelve CIS states, two years after they came into being. Here Mr Yeltsin sought to reassure them that all was well. Mr Zhirinovsky, the leader of the Liberal Democratic party, had said he would force the former republics back "to the Russian fold with tears on their cheeks".

## **Conclusion**

Yeltsin has a difficult task ahead of him. Strident opposition to Zhirinovsky could have the effect of driving the people to support him—as happened when Gorbachev overplayed his opposition to Yeltsin. We need to keep a close eye on the situation, but must avoid being swayed by instant reactions to a situation. Time will tell whether this is the Gogian head, or whether it is a passing phase!



### THE RUSSIAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

This mis-named party is led by Mr Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, described as a neo-fascist. Interestingly his father was a Jew, and in 1983, through another Russian who had managed to leave the country, he had asked Israel's help to get out of the country. Although Israel responded, sending fake documents to help him obtain an exit visa, no more was heard.

In 1988 he was elected to the ruling committee of an officially-sponsored Jewish cultural group, called *Shalom*.

He is the master of the outrageous remark—it is difficult to know when he is stating policy or seeking publicity. Here are some of his prime statements.

"We will write the word 'Russia' in gold across the globe".

"Apparently we must deal with (minorities) as America did with Indians and Germany did with the Jews".

"I will immediately declare a dictatorship".

"We will create new Hiroshimas and Nagasakis. I will not hesitate to deploy atomic weapons".

His party is openly racist, it seeks to reverse the break-up of the old Soviet Union, it wants to revive nuclear arms production and arms sales. It seeks to expand Russia's borders to that of the Tsars, including Alaska and Finland.

He has called for "non Russians" (Jews) to be removed from power, for the empire to be restored, and foreign aid to be banned. In his book *The Last Leap South* published this year, he wrote:

"The leap south is not only a solution to Russia's internal problems and the pacification of peoples in regions from Kabul to Istanbul [Constantinople! DFP]; it is also the solution of a world task. How I dream of our Russian soldiers washing their boots in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. The pealing bells from a Russian Orthodox Church on the shores of the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean would proclaim to the peoples of this region peace, prosperity and calm."

There are striking parallels between Hitler in the 30's and Zhirinovskiy in the 90's. They both have the same rhetorical gift, they both say what the down trodden and disaffected want to hear. Both point the finger at the Jews. Hitler, an Austrian, was a strident German nationalist. Zhirinovskiy, a Jew, champions Russian nationalism. Both popular amongst the military, security and police. Both treated as clowns when they began their political careers. Both financed by industry. Many fear the parallels will continue to grow...

Opposite:

The Emblem of the Liberal Democratic Party: 'Freedom and law RUSSIA'

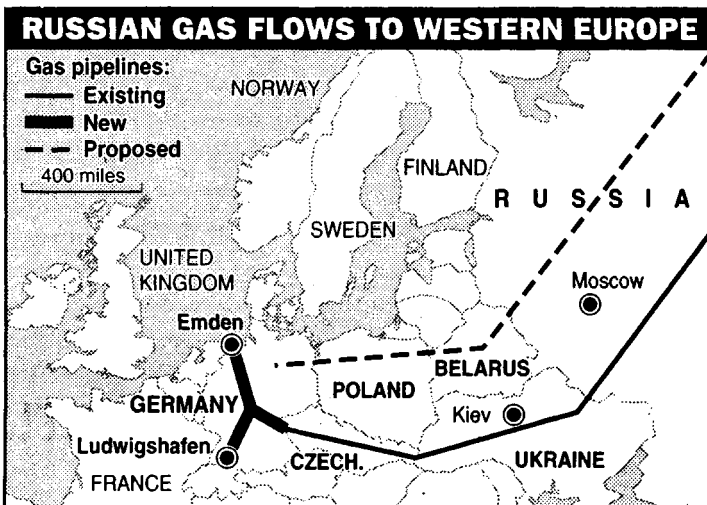


## 2) THE ECONOMY

There have been various interesting happenings on the economic front this year, which we will deal with on an item by item basis.

### Gas deals

Russia is a large exporter of natural gas. Europe takes 100 billion cubic metres a year valued at £4.5 billion. The main consumers are Italy, France and Germany—a third of whose gas supplies come from Russia.



In September was reported the near completion of a £2 billion gas pipeline which linked north and south Germany to an existing pipeline running from Russia, via the Ukraine, Slovakia and Czech. It is a joint venture of BASF of Germany and Gazprom, the Russian state gas company, and it marks the first major overseas investment by Russia.

“We foresee a rising demand for Russian gas in western Europe’ said their adviser.

Gazprom ... controls more than half of the world’s known gas reserves. ... there are plans to build a second pipeline” (DT 13/9/93).

It will give Russia a firm grip on German industry.

### **Russia’s debt**

To ease Russia’s debt problems, the international bankers, collectively known as the “London Club” met to reschedule her \$24 billion debt. She is behind with payments and owes some \$1.5 billion on interest arrears! They are expected to offer a 5 year moratorium on interest and principal repayments (DT 7/10/93).

### **Progress on economic reforms**

In spite of all his country’s economic problems, Yeltsin has made considerable progress in reforming the economy. 12% of industrial workers are now employed by privatised firms. Shortages and queues have largely been eliminated. Foreign trade and the domestic market have been freed of many cumbersome regulations. Inflation, though still very high, is down to 18% per month. He has achieved these reforms with only a 20% reduction in living standards, and very limited unemployment.

### **The Siberian Agreement**

The inhospitable wastes of Siberia are Russia’s powerhouse. An area larger than America, it is the source of over half the country’s reserves of coal, oil, timber, diamonds and gold. The inhabitants of this area have woken up to the value of their country. No longer are they meekly prepared to hand their wealth over to others, they are seeking to break away from Russia and set up as an independent state. Siberia is looking to the East—to China, her near neighbour, for a market for her wealth, rather than Moscow 3,000 miles, (4,800 km.) to the west. Yeltsin has had to agree to their terms and signed a decree that in future 10% of all revenue gained from the export of her natural resources, will be re-invested in Siberia (DT 26/5/93).

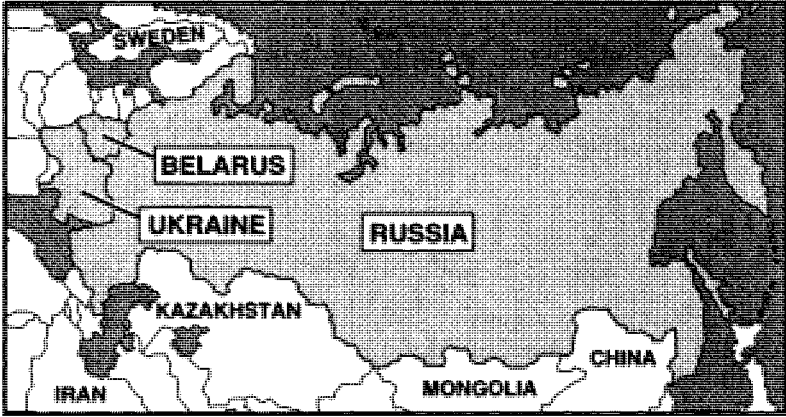
### **Slav “Common Market”**

So much of the old Soviet trade was dependant on raw materials and supplies moving across the vast country to where they were needed. When this was broken up into independent states, many of these traditional supply routes halted. Some of the states threw out the rouble as their currency, and set up strict customs regulations and trade barriers.

This was hurting the economy so much that economic cooperation became vital.

In January seven of the ten Independent States signed a charter of integration. All ten members signed an accord reaffirming the need for economic cooperation.

In July it was announced that Russia, Ukraine and Belarus had agreed to form a Slav common market, and other states were invited to join.



## Her navy

A dramatic picture in the Daily Telegraph showed the rusting hulks of part of the old Soviet fleet at their base off Russky Island in the Japanese Sea. No longer able to afford their upkeep, what could not be sold for scrap is left to rot. Only two of her five aircraft carriers are sea-worthy. Russia had to abandon taking part in Nato exercises in June for lack of hard currency. Morale is at rock-bottom amongst the sailors. Cases of malnutrition, so severe that fingers have had to be amputated were reported, as well as many suicides (DT 29/7/93).

## 3) RUSSIA'S GRIP ON THE OTHER C.I.S. STATES

The phrase "near abroad" is used by Russia, to distinguish the former members of the USSR, as opposed to the "far abroad", used to describe both the countries of eastern Europe which were not part of the USSR, as well as the rest of the world.

Russia has always asserted her right to "police" the near abroad, with her own Russian troops. She has used them to exert pressure on the Independent States to toe the Moscow line. Initially there was much resentment to these troops being on their territory, but they are coming to terms with the need to have a security force to guard them. Russia has retained military links with seven of the States, including a special deal

with Turkmenistan, allowing Russian troops to protect its borders with Iran and Afghanistan. Russian troops have been busy in the state of Tajikistan which borders Afghanistan, fighting against Tajik rebels. They have also been active in many of the Moslem-dominated states.

The growing links back to Russia seems to agree with the picture painted by Ezekiel in chapter 38, that after the **turning back** of Gog, she emerges in the role of a **guard unto** the many nations that are confederate with her. This phrase seems to indicate a willing cooperation with Gog's position of superiority, rather than being subject to a military domination. We expect this role to increasingly take in other countries as discussed in chapter 13. We are seeing this phase beginning at "home". In the final picture, however, as the **brazen claws** of Daniel's fourth beast, she will exert her military might and **stamp the residue with his feet**.

#### 4) FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY THE WEST

At a time when Mr Yeltsin was struggling to impose his reforms at home, Mr Clinton expressed his support for what he was doing:

"Russia is and must remain a democracy. The United States supports the historic movement towards democratic political reform in Russia—we are not by-standers" (DT 24/3/93).

The G7 countries—the seven richest countries—also made it clear that their financial support of Russia depended on Mr Yeltsin being allowed to pursue his path of economic reform (DT 15/3/93).

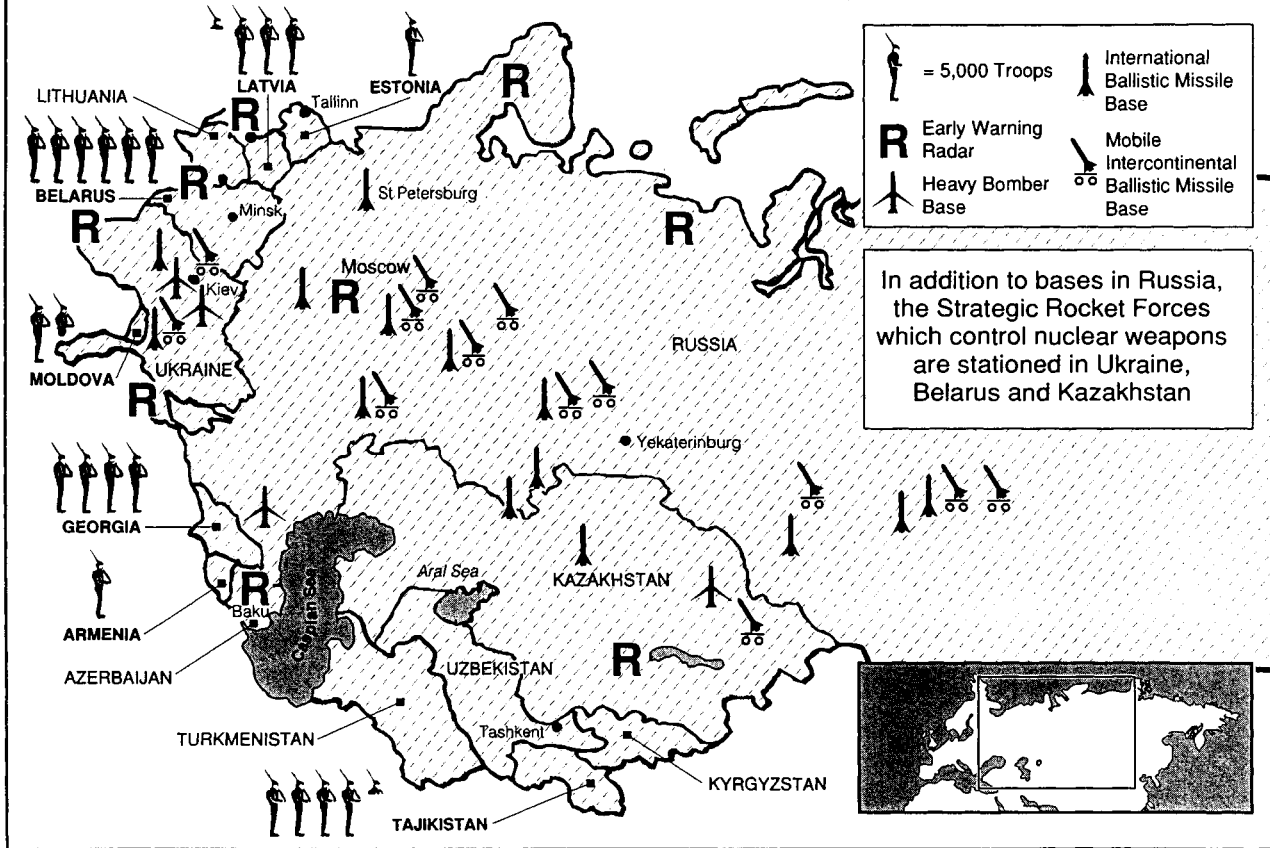
At a two day summit in Vancouver in April the foundation was laid for a new, democratic partnership between the US and Russia. President Clinton pledged a £1 billion aid package. This covers farm credits to enable grain to be purchased, direct grants and other aid including help to dismantle Russia's nuclear arsenal, oil line repairs and housing for returning troops. Help will be given to train Russian bank executives in modern banking practices, and help given to convert government-owned industries to private industries (DT 5/4/93).

In December Mr Yeltsin, M Delors—the president of the European Commission—and the Belgium Prime Minister in the office of chairman for the EC, signed a declaration in which the EC pledged to grant Russia "Most Favoured Nation" trading status. This minimises tariffs on goods coming into the EC and is a ringing endorsement of Mr Yeltsin's reforms. Russia was also invited to enter a "partnership for peace" with Nato (DT 10/12/93).

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Next page: Military Deployment in the 'near abroad'

# MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN RUSSIA AND 'THE NEAR ABROAD'





## 5) WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION

With a poor economic and business framework, corruption is easily hidden. An item which made the headlines this year:

**“Corruption and violence are killing Russia’, warns Yeltsin”** (DT 13/2/93).

He painted a stark picture of corruption and organised crime that is eating away at the core of Russian life. People are scared to go out at night because of violent crime. Murder rates up 40%, robbery by 60%. White-collar fraud had run rampant.

**“Russian neo-Nazis feed on the state’s political vacuum”**  
(DT 23/6/93).

This dealt with a dozen or so gangs of neo-Nazi thugs in Russia’s main industrial areas.

**“Rouble fiasco highlights leaders’ deceit”** (DT 27/7/93).

**“Corruption claims over rouble fiasco”** (DT 29/7/93).

The fiasco of the sudden withdrawal of old rouble notes to be exchanged for new ones, rocked Russia in July. It was suggested that corruption and money laundering may have been the main motive for the withdrawal of old banknotes. The way it was done brought panic to millions of ordinary Russians. Yeltsin was on holiday, and the leaders did nothing to calm the panic.

**“The affair has perfectly illustrated the incompetence, some would say the deliberate deceit, of some of the countries leading figures”** (DT 29/7/93).

**“Rutskoy accused of embezzlement”** (DT 19/8/93).

The vice-president was accused of stashing away millions of pounds of state funds in a Swiss bank account. Mr Yeltsin claimed corruption had reached middle and senior ministerial level, including the laundering of millions of pounds of Communist Party money.

## 6) NUCLEAR FEARS

One of the last acts by Mr Bush before handing over office, was to sign with Mr Yeltsin, the most far-reaching nuclear treaty ever drawn up. The Start 2 treaty is a 10 year program to cut their nuclear arsenals by two-thirds. One of the great concerns has been that many of the old Soviet’s weapons were based in the Ukraine, which is now an independent country, not even belonging to the C.I.S. She has 176 ICBM’s with 1,240 nuclear warheads and 41 bombers with 328 warheads. The cost of dismantling the weapons is enormous—some £1.2 billion. Her economy is in a poor way and she can not afford such sums. To help finance her huge debts, she has reluctantly been forced to agree to sell back the old Soviet Black Sea fleet, which also had ended up in Ukraine’s hands. She

refuses to hand these weapons back, seeing them as a bargaining point. They reinforced their claims on them by adopting a resolution in July that “she owns the nuclear weapons on her territory”.

There is little the West and Russia can do, except offer greater financial incentives (£120 million has been offered so far), for their destruction.

In December it was announced that 17 of the 46 SS-24 nuclear missiles had been taken off alert as a gesture, following a preliminary agreement with Russia and the US on compensation for giving up her arsenal.

There are problems elsewhere of cash-strapped armies selling their weapons to the highest bidder. Under the headline “**Dark manoeuvres of dollar—driven armies**” The European carried an article explaining the many strategies to raise cash that former Warsaw pact countries were driven to. From offering air enthusiasts the opportunity to pilot Mig-29 jet fighters for \$18,000, to the more sinister sale of nuclear material. The West fears that some of the plutonium and uranium from dismantled weapons will fall into the wrong hands. With desperately low wages being paid to the soldiers guarding the material, the temptation to sell will be great. The article told of the ability of two reporters to enter Russia’s most important nuclear submarine base with a bribe of two cigarettes! (TE 19-22/8/92)

### **Russia and the C.I.S.—an explanation**

When the Soviet broke up, some states became completely independent, but 10 of them formed themselves into the C.I.S.—the Commonwealth of Independent States. One of these states is what we refer to as Russia. The full title of Russia is The Russian Federation. It consists of many areas, federated together. Some of them have broken away and become independent themselves, others would like to! Russia is by far the biggest state, covering much of eastern and north-eastern Europe and all of northern Asia. It covers 6,592,110 sq. miles, (17,078,005 sq. km)! (6 times bigger than Australia and 70 times the UK!). It has a population of some 148 million.

During this year Azerbaijan and Georgia, finding the independent path they had chosen was too difficult, joined the C.I.S. boosting its membership to 12.

## **Chapter 6:**

# **POST-SOVIET RUSSIA AND HER FOREIGN POLICY**

Despite Russia's appearance as a country that has lost its way and is crying out for aid and help, it is still pursuing its ambitions and active foreign policy.

Under this heading brief notes will be given on:

1. Afghanistan
2. China
3. India
4. Japan
5. USA
6. Germany

## **1. AFGHANISTAN**

### **Moscow looks east again**

Russia is reasserting itself in Central Asia and Afghanistan after two years avoiding involvement in the region.

Moscow's new "forward policy" includes a Central Asian rouble zone, a greater troop presence in Tajikistan and the reopening of its Kabul embassy.



Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan have criticised statements from Moscow that Russian territory extends beyond the Urals to the Afghan border. This implies the five republics are not independent and that Russia is responsible for Central Asian security.

Some 12,000 Russian troops are propping up the neo-Communist government in Tajikistan, which relies on Moscow for a defence against Tajik Islamic fundamentalists based in Afghanistan (DT).

## **2. CHINA**

China became Communist in 1949; Chinese-Russian relations soured in 1960; Gorbachev when President of the Soviet Republic restored friendly relations. Yeltsin in December 1992 took the matter further.

His two-day visit produced an imposing list of trade agreements signed by the two countries. In the agreements, China provided Russia with an \$800 million loan, and established a training centre for Soviet and Eastern European business managers.

Trade between China and Russia is growing rapidly :

“Last year it reached \$4 billion, up from \$220 million in Sino-Soviet commerce in 1981; by the end of this year, Yeltsin has predicted, trade will total \$5 billion. Food and textiles are moving from China into Russia, which ships back industrial goods like steel, agricultural equipment and fertiliser. Russian merchants are also flocking across the border to do flourishing business. Last June, Harbin opened the Chinese and Overseas People’s Trade Market, which has special counters where Russians sell such items as cameras, fur hats, war medals, Lenin pins and coins” (Time 04/01/93).

## **3. INDIA**

India is owing the former Soviet Union some £10 billion. Yeltsin visited New Delhi early in the year in pursuit of the debt, and anxious to persuade India to purchase Russian arms.

“Political ties were particularly strong between the Soviet Union and India which considered them a ‘fraternal’ state. But in the upheavals of recent years, trade has collapsed, a problem Mr Yeltsin has pledged to put right during his talks with the Indian Prime Minister.

Russia is pushing to sell India 88 military training jets that could be converted to combat aircraft, a deal worth £300 million. It is in direct competition with British Aerospace and Dassault of France” (DT).

## **4. JAPAN**

### **Tokyo and Moscow turn a new page**

“President Yeltsin left Tokyo yesterday having fired his hosts with the hope that a new era of friendship has dawned in Russo-Japanese affairs, writes *Hugo Gurdon in Tokyo*.

'This visit', said Mr Morihiro Hosokawa, Japan's Prime Minister, 'has opened a new page'.

Japan made no immediate promise of new money but it undertook to accelerate £3 billion already pledged.

In return, Mr Yeltsin said Mr Hosokawa's three month old government was more realistic than the Liberal Democratic Party in power for 38 years.

.... Mr Yeltsin agreed, saying their negotiations had been 'extremely successful', and Cold War-dominated enmities could end "because Japan has started to think about political and economic problems separately'.

The Russian leader promised to fulfill the former Soviet Union's 'responsibilities and obligations' and abide by previous treaties. Japan takes this as an oblique endorsement of a 1956 treaty, which Moscow abrogated, in which it was agreed that the Soviet Union would hand back two of the four Kuriles" (DT 13/10/93, 14/10/93).

## 5. U.S.A.

### **"Russia seeks anti-US alliance with Bonn"**

This headline in the Daily Telegraph may be a little surprising. The article explains the situation:

"Russia has appealed to Germany to form a common political front against American dominance, a senior advisor to Chancellor Kohl said yesterday.

Herr Karl-Heinz Hornhues, deputy leader of the Christian Democratic Union's parliamentary faction, said Russian anger at being sidelined in international affairs had reached a point of desperation where Moscow saw an alliance with Bonn as its last chance to stand up to America.

He spoke of deep anxiety in Russia that it had been ignored by the West 'and especially America. Only Germany still had Russia's confidence'" (DT 3/2/93).

Russian-American relations are very complex and the following factors should be borne in mind.

- Each side maintains its 'spy-control' of the other despite good words and fair speeches—as when Yeltsin and Clinton recently signed the START II Nuclear Non-proliferation Pact.
- The Russia-Germany links frighten the USA from a trade war point-of-view, taking into account the expected economic grip of Germany on all Europe.
- The US regards Russia as its only potential enemy and makes military plans accordingly.

- America's home problems—inflation, vast national debt, the projected large cut back in foreign aid—these all weaken the world leadership power it claims.
- Lastly there is the Russian anti-West outlook. The people of the Soviet suffered so much from the cruel Hitler invasion followed by American and Allied war missions later that there is a deep resentment of the West and Europe. President Clinton faces the dilemma of this antipathy and the need to give support to the reforming 'democratic' sections for fear that they may collapse.

## 6. GERMANY

We have seen the complexity of American-Soviet relations; it is even more difficult to decipher present Russia-German relations.

The following extracts are from a letter of a Prof. D Cameron-Watt with the heading:

### **"Russians still fear Germans"**

SIR - It must be admitted that Russian statements about the era of Russo-German enmity being over (report, Feb. 3) may cause a certain alarm in historically minded circles in Britain, but we should not confuse desperate Russian rhetoric with reality, or ignore the hatred of Germany created in Russia by the searing experience of the German invasion of 1941 and the battles that raged until 1944.

The latest historical work on post-1945 Russia underlines more and more strongly the psychological effects on two generations of Russian citizens of their experience of the Russo-German war.

Those who survived lived on hatred and for revenge; they had little else.

The tragedy is that European neglect of Russia will reinforce the isolationism and the Europhobia that lies so deep in Russia's history" (DT).

## CONCLUSION

While Russia is not—for the moment—presenting to the world the hard-faced bear pose of the Brezhnev days and the days of his old cronies like Andropov, there is still the under-lying desire for world influence and expanded borders. Russia is still a country with mighty arms which can stretch out over many nations and "be a guard unto them" (Ezek. 38:7). The words of Habakkuk are still applicable—"neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people" (Hab. 2:5).

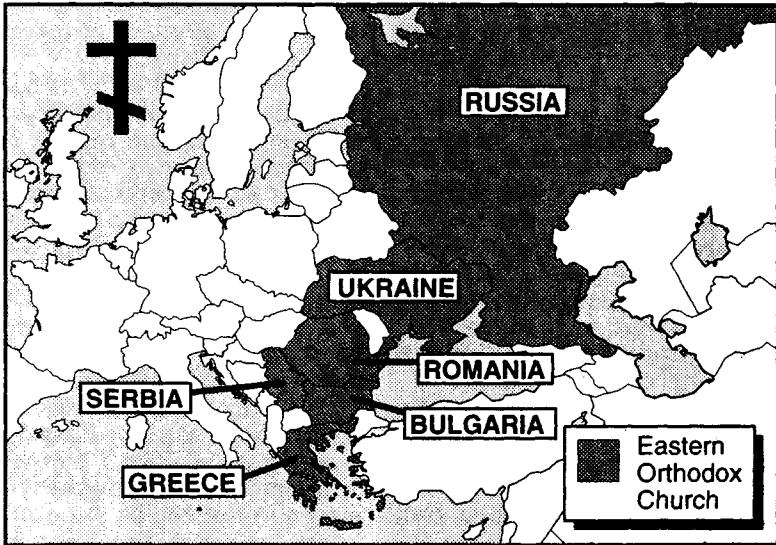
## Chapter 7:

### THE REVIVING POWER OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND ITS PATRIARCH

When Yeltsin was sworn in as President in 1991 he received the blessing of the Orthodox Church Patriarch Alexiy II (*Milestones* 1991 page 26).

Orthodox 'Christians' had long suffered persecution by the Communist Government. During the many years of Communist domination, the Orthodox Church had no option but to take its orders from the Government.

With its change of fortunes the Patriarch and his Church are reasserting their influence and long-standing seniority among the leaders of the Orthodox Slav nations.



The map shows the extent of the Eastern Orthodox Church, with its estimated 50 million active church-goers, stretching through Russia down to Greece and the Mediterranean.

A Daily Telegraph article early 1993 (6/1/93) had the heading:

**“West fears Orthodox Bloc lead by Russia could divide Europe”.**

The article was chiefly concerned with Russia using its veto in the Security Council to support Serbian aggression.

Last year Moscow’s Patriarch Alexiy co-operated with the Patriarch Bartholomew II of Istanbul in calling “the first face to face deliberation in a millennium” of the world’s Orthodox primates who lead fourteen

autonomous branches in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. This imposing gathering expressed criticism of the behaviour of the Pope and also Protestants and called for the Orthodox Church to assert its authority.

The authority the Orthodox Patriarch carries inside Russia was stressed in a Daily Telegraph article, indicating he is the only person able to force politicians to stop their endless quarrelling.

“This is not so much a tribute to the personal qualities of the Patriarch of Moscow and All-Russia as a reflection of the Church’s extraordinary status in a Country recovering from seven decades of Communism.

Apart from the army it is probably the only institution in Russia no politician can afford to offend. Even Stalin at his darkest hour when Hitler’s armies were advancing on Moscow, appealed to the Orthodox Church for support” (DT 1/10/93).

Before the March vote in the emergency session of Congress to impeach Mr Yeltsin, the head of the Russian Orthodox church, Patriarch Alexiy II appealed for reconciliation.

Commenting on the Referendum campaign and contrasting it with campaigns of earlier years,

“.. The banners do not say “Long live the Communist Party”. Instead they proclaim “Christ is Risen”, the joyous affirmation of the Orthodox Church’s Easter service last Sunday.

For Mr Yeltsin, the proximity of Easter to the vote seems to be the guiding thread in a campaign which otherwise lacks shape or vigour.

On Sunday, Mr Yeltsin paraded through the gold-domed churches of the medieval town of Vladimir, looking like the leader of a pre-revolutionary religious procession.

Yesterday the Church was on hand.. when he switched on a breakfast cereal production line. .. Two Orthodox priests set up an altar to bless the occasion...” (DT 21/4/93).

An article dealing with the reopening of the Russian Orthodox cathedral in the Red Square in Moscow stated that the state had paid for most of the restoration work.

“As monks rang out the bells, President Yeltsin joined Patriarch Alexiy II and a few hundred invited worshippers at the consecration ceremony that symbolised how determined the leadership is to reach out to Russia’s pre-revolutionary Christian roots.

Mr Yeltsin announced that two of the most sacred icons seized by the Communists would be returned to the church” (DT 5/11/93).

So priest-craft continues “to prosper” (Dan. 8:25) and could well help to cement the Russian-European axis in the time of the end.



## **Chapter 8:**

# **THE ANGLICAN MOVEMENT AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

## **The Church of England in disarray**

In the matter of religion, 1993 was dominated by the issue of the ordination of women priests. The British public and parliament in general are favourable to the idea. On the other hand the Roman Catholic authorities are opposed, using the Bible to give clear support to their stand.

Those claiming attachment to the Church of England express a variety of views, more particularly among those who hold office as bishops, canons, deacons, etc. For the Church of England the scene was set in February when about 100 members of the General Synod assembly walked out as a protest against the ordination of women priests.

Early in April Cardinal Hume, representing the thirty-nine Roman Catholic bishops in England, announced the terms for Anglicans to join the Roman Catholic Church. The Daily Telegraph had a heading:

**“Vatican eases the path to Rome for Anglicans”.**

One paragraph reads:

“The Rev. John Broadhurst, the London Vicar who chairs the traditionalist umbrella group, Forward in Faith, said yesterday: “the signals from Rome are very strong. Unless the Church of England’s House of Bishops comes up with something very imaginative, there will be a major move to Rome over the next few years.”

An article about a week later with the heading **“Pilgrims on the road to Rome”** describes a Parish in Bethnal Green on the road to Rome.

“Before long, they are likely to be replaced by the words ‘Roman Catholic’. St. Matthew’s is believed to be the first Parish in England to vote to remove itself from the Anglican Church following November’s Synod decision; in the words of its Parish Priest, FR Christopher Bedford, it hopes to become Roman Catholic ‘lock, stock and barrel’.” (DT 19/4/93).

Another Anglican Church with about forty parishioners is reported as intending to become Roman Catholic at Easter 1994 (DT 13/09/93).

## **Social Security Minister becomes an RC**

Ann Widdecombe, Social Security Minister in the Cabinet, was received into the Catholic Church (April 24 1993) with much publicity, supported by Mr Patten Education Secretary, and Mr Gummer Agriculture Minister. Two paragraphs describing the occasion read as follows:

“She said the Mass was taking place with the full co-operation of the Anglican authorities. One of the lessons was read by Mr Gummer, Agriculture Minister, who is expected to follow her example before long.

Later, Miss Widdecombe received Communion at the first sung Mass with incense to be held in the Crypt Chapel of the House of Commons since the Reformation” (DT 22/4/93).

On the same page was an article with the heading:

**“English Christianity faces historic realignment”.**

This was reporting some ‘unwise’ words used by Cardinal Hume, head of the English Catholic Church, that this “historic moment could lead to an important realignment in English Christianity”. His words well express the present boldness of Catholics in this country. They are now very influential and powerful in TV, radio and press, in the judiciary and education. However, we do not expect Rome to “convert” England back to pre-Reformation times.

Later in the year the Daily Telegraph gave further information:

**“HUME SMOOTHS WAY FOR MASS ANGLICAN SWITCH TO ROME”**

The key word in this heading is “mass” as the following extracts show:

“The prospect of large-scale Anglican defections to Rome was revived yesterday when Cardinal Hume announced “pastoral arrangements” designed to smooth the path of traditionalist clergy and parishioners wishing to become Catholics together.

New arrangements, agreed unanimously by the Catholic bishops of England and Wales this week, go substantially further than cautious guidelines earlier this year.

They extend a ‘warm welcome’ to groups of former Anglicans, assuring them they will be allowed to stay together after they become Roman Catholics.

Cardinal Hume also hinted that more elaborate arrangements might be necessary if one of the large traditionalist groups such as Forward in Faith representing thousands of Anglicans, produces firm proposals for a move” (DT 20/11/93).

A variety of matters still need to be settled—the re-ordination of Anglican clergy; married Anglican clergy, their wives and children, etc.—and Cardinal Hume is expected to see the Pope in December.

**The Pope’s Encyclical “Veritates Splendor”—the Splendour of Truth**

During the year, the Pope issued an encyclical that ran for 138 pages. In Britain it was introduced by a commentary written by Cardinal Hume, to “explain” what lies behind the Pope’s message.

As one would expect the Commentary has various doubtful arguments, but it does support the Ten Commandments and quotes Jesus telling the young man to “keep the Commandments”. It rightly attacks the widespread present “freedom” that most think permits them to choose to do as they like. Beyond this it has a variety of unacceptable phrases; such as “the search for the good is nothing other than the pursuit of the truly human”; and “there is perpetual process of discovery of the ways of living which best suit that [human] nature”. Humanistic thinking permeates the Church which claims to speak as God!

## **Improving relations between the Pope and the Russian Orthodox Church**

The Time magazine for September 1993 had an interesting article on the Pope’s recent visit to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia—the Baltic States—which until two years ago were Russian territory.

“First came the unexpected arrival of an emissary from the Russian Orthodox Church. Giorgi Zyablitsev, a priest in his church’s foreign relations department, brought greetings from Patriarch Alexiy II, then tagged along with the Pope for the rest of the Baltic itinerary.

Puzzled but pleased, the papal party chose to interpret the Russian’s presence as a signal that, with the Pope venturing closer and closer to Moscow, the Patriarch desired warmer relations. Two years ago, Alexiy had coldly rebuffed John Paul’s invitation to attend a synod of Roman Catholic bishops convened to determine the church’s goals in the post-communist era”.

The article also referred to improving relations between China and the Vatican. Diplomatic relations were broken off in 1957.

The concluding paragraph of the article speaks of the ambitions for the next century:

“John Paul is increasingly preoccupied with the developing world. As he sees it, the Catholic Church in the next century must reach out to Africa and Asia whilst also making inroads in the ruins of the Soviet empire. By laying out a vision based on justice for all, John Paul hopes to transcend national and religious boundaries” (Time 20/9/93).

It will need the presence and power of Christ<sup>1</sup> in the earth to stop the endless ambitions of Rome.

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<sup>1</sup> e.g. Psalm 2.

## **Chapter 9:**

### **BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

From early in the year there were encouraging signs that economic growth was getting under way again, more especially on the industrial and commercial side. Near the end of the year the recovery was substantial. This could allow Britain to become more independent of the European ties she now has. This is what we expect prophetically since Britain is not part of the Roman Catholic harlot system of Revelation 17.

On the Continent most countries were at the stage of going into recession rather than moving out. This means that Britain, eager to sell, was finding it hard to locate buyers, so slowing down her recovery.

A selection of newspaper reports follows:

#### **"Britain on way out of slump**

Britain will pull out of recession this year as the devaluation of sterling and lower interest rates take effect, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Despite the depressing influence of unemployment on the consumer, the economy should grow by 1.3 % this year and 2.4 % in 1994.

The OECD warns that Britain will only be able to reap the benefits of devaluation if the Government continues to attach a high priority to controlling inflation and carries conviction in financial markets" (DT 2/2/93).

#### **"Economic activity picks up**

The British economy pulled clear of recession in the first quarter of the year as 'onshore' activity, which includes the volatile activity in the North Sea, jumped by .8% according to preliminary figures from the Central Statistical Office yesterday...

The pound put on another spurt yesterday as investors hailed the official end of recession..." (DT Business News 22/4/93).

#### **"Clarke cheered by EC forecast**

Kenneth Clarke, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, started his first meeting with his European counterparts in an enviable position when they were told by senior EC Commissioners that Britain's economy will soar ahead of its European competitors this year.

Henning Christophersen, EC Economics Commissioner, told European Finance Ministers meeting in Luxembourg he had upgraded his growth forecasts for Britain in 1993 from 1.3% to 1.7%.

This compared with the bleak picture he painted for the Community as a whole whose economy, he predicted, would shrink by 0.3%.

From June to November 1993 signs of improved growth were minimal because continental recession made selling difficult. Even so, the rate of

inflation regarded as priority number one was steadily being reduced: starting at around 15% when the Conservative government came into office, it is now at 1.5%.

Comparative inflation figures for EC countries are at present:

France 2%; Germany 4.3%; Italy 6.9%; Spain 5.4%; U.K. 1.4%.

It was in late November and December (1993) that solid evidence of growth was reported.

**“Booming Britain forecast by OECD**

Britain's economy will be one of the fastest growing in the industrialized world next year say the latest forecasts from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The OECD believes that Britain is set for a period of sustained growth with inflation remaining low. It predicts a rise of 2.9% in output next year after this year's two per cent rise, putting Britain behind Canada and America in the growth league” (DT Business News 21/12/93).

**“British recovery likely to gather pace**

The British recovery is well established and likely to gather pace next year, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development claims in its half-yearly assessment of the major economies. In an otherwise gloomy report, Britain stands out with America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand as one of the few countries in the industrialized world where “an increasingly solid expansion is under way”.

OECD FORECASTS FOR GROWTH		
	1993(%)	1994 (%)
US	2.8	3.1
Japan	-0.5	0.5
Germany	-1.5	0.8
France	-0.9	1.1
Britain	2.0	2.9
Total OECD	1.1	2.1

**Vast Oil/Gas reserves in the seas round Britain. Will this be the basis of her Prosperity?**

For a number of years Britain has been self-sufficient in oil/gas energy requirements. By contrast her trade competitors on the Continent have to purchase their oil/gas from the several international supply companies.

New finds of gas/oil are almost regularly being reported and are under evaluation—usually found to be of good quality.

Production from one large field was reported starting up in December:

**“Giant East Brae Site starts production**

Production started on Christmas Eve at the biggest of four fields in the prolific North Sea Brae oil and gas complex.

Other fields, North, South and Central Brae, are already producing oil and the addition means the complex now has three production platforms. East Brae alone has cost almost £870m to develop but cost-cutting and innovative production systems have kept development costs down to about \$3 a barrel” (DT 27/12/93).

A much smaller gas/oil field came on stream during 1993 in the Irish Sea, in the bay off Liverpool. It is a comparatively low-cost, easily operated unit. The oil/gas is pumped directly ashore.

In time the riches of Britain and the Western trading nations will flow to the new King in Jerusalem—

“Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee” (Isa. 60:9).

## Chapter 10:

### THE QUEEN AND THE BRITISH MONARCHY

Little has been written on the topic of our heading since the articles in *Milestones* 1990 (ch 5) and 1985 (ch 5). In these rapidly changing and turbulent times it is time to make an up-to-date report.

#### The Queen and the British people

The Queen has faced various unhappy situations in the past two years or so. In her Guild Hall speech at the installing of the new Lord Mayor in December 1992, she chose to make apparent her inner feelings concerning the “annus horribelis” that was ending.

In acknowledging that in public life criticism is to be expected, she nevertheless pleaded “But we are all part of the same fabric of our national society that scrutiny by one part of another can be just as effective if it is made with a touch of gentleness, good humour and understanding”.

Probably her greatest disappointment has been the separation of Prince Charles, heir to the throne, and Princess Diana. There was also the divorce and remarriage of the Duchess of Kent; the criticism that the monarchy was “too expensive” for the part it played; there was the intention of the Labour Party to dismantle the House of Lords if and when it wins the Election; and not least was the destructive fire at the Palace of Windsor.

Despite all this, an extensive DT Gallup poll in February expressed strong support for the Queen:

- should continue but more democratic and accountable 65%
- should stay pretty much as they are now 24%
- should be abolished and have a president 9%

Almost 90% support must have been comforting and heartening. Where lies this enduring power and quality of British monarchy?

#### What is significant and effective in monarchy, especially in Britain?

An article by W. F. Deedes, an accepted historian, examined “the deeper meaning of our monarchy” (DT 15-3-93) At the end of the article, he quotes from a book “To be a King”:

“I pulled off my shelves a book published in 1968, *To be a King*, by Dermot Morrah Arundel Herald Extraordinary. It was written with the full consent of the Queen about the early life and education of the Prince of Wales. I reflected on this passage in its introduction. ‘Looking to the Royal Family, not as discrete public figures like prime ministers

succeeding according to the ebb and flow of politics, but as a single line of human beings of one blood extending through history, to whom their ancestors known and unknown have given their allegiance, the people are helped to feel their own identity with the whole national tradition of the past, and indeed with the nation as it will become when they themselves are ancestors’.

The Gallup poll already referred to makes it plain that most people enjoy and want to continue, the glitter, pageantry, ceremony and splendour of the various public functions involving royalty. The Queen is regarded as a symbol of the nation and they like to be British.

## **The Protestant Oath at the Coronation**

The Protestant oath is still valid, writes a correspondent in a letter giving the heading:

### **“Protestant values still valid**

The first item in the Queen’s solemn oath is to ‘maintain to the utmost of her power the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel’.

Mr Longley is correct in saying that many aspects of the legal establishment of the Church of England exist ‘as a barrier against the return of papal political power’ but he is again in error in saying ‘today nobody gives that threat a serious thought’.

...Anyone who is aware of European history and has seen the way so many Roman Catholic thrones have fallen can have no doubt of the wisdom of our laws ensuring the Protestant succession” (DT 11/2/93).

There have been “persistent rumours and palace denials” (DT 6-6-93) that the Princess of Wales is “contemplating defection to Rome”. If it did happen it would be a victory for Rome and an uneasy problem for Parliament and Church.

## **The Queen at the return of Christ**

There are pointers in Scripture that Britain will be in such circumstances that it will give submission to Christ at an early stage when he returns. The Queen is more suitable to offer this submission than the rising generation of royalty, who have less interest in the Word of God.

Psalms 45 and Psalm 72 are pointers.

“And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift (*of tribute - GP*); even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favour” (Psa. 45:12).

“The kings of Tarshish shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts” (Psa. 72:10).

The prophet Isaiah indicates Britain will be humbled at the hand of Christ:

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.



For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty... upon all the ships of Tarshish..." (Isa. 2:11-17).

As a girl, before her coronation, the Queen had been trained by her father King George VI for work in the Commonwealth. He had coined the phrase "A brotherhood of free nations" to describe the Commonwealth.

### **A few more notes on the Royal Family**

The Prince of Wales has set out on a new path of duty for royalty. Mr Major and parliament have given their support for Prince Charles to be a roving ambassador for Britain. He will be free to put to full use his style of quiet, serious, pleasant approach, combining his interest in cultural and communal matters. His first assignment is a visit to Russia.

The Royal troubles make it very unlikely that the Queen would wish to retire because she sees her task as a job for life.

## **Chapter 11:**

### **THE QUEEN & THE COMMONWEALTH**

It is seven years since *Milestones* gave a report on the Queen and the Commonwealth (1985). There has been much development and it is time for a further consideration.

As our introduction we reprint part of the first page of the 1985 article;

#### **“THE NEW COMMONWEALTH**

Many brethren probably think of the Commonwealth today as the last phase of a dying British Empire. This is quite a wrong conception. The policy of the British government of granting independence to the many parts of the old empire has allowed the development of a new society of nations; an association of completely independent nations whose very sense of independence allows them to show respect to others and to cooperate for the common good: ‘a brotherhood of free nations’, as King George VI called it. The title ‘British Commonwealth’ was discarded in 1951. It has been a slow evolution. The foundation was the Statute of Westminster, 1929, by which—

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

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

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

#### **Present day operations of the Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth Heads of State (for Britain the Prime Minister) meet once in two years for a busy five days. There are no set speeches; informality is the characteristic, with personal talks as between old friends. The Queen has a personal talk with each member on her Yacht Britannia.

“Finance ministers of the various countries meet annually; Law, Health, and Education ministers meet about every three years. There are now a large number of working organisations (about 300) covering education, science, medicine, art, law, trade, third world economics, defence, etc. Much activity is directed towards aiding Third World development.

The coordinating centre for all Commonwealth activities is at Marlborough House, where the Commonwealth secretariat was set up in 1965. The initial band of 20 staff has grown to 400, representing 30 nationalities. The palace of Marlborough House was given to the Commonwealth by the Queen when the coordinating Secretariat was set up” (*Milestones* 85).

The Commonwealth continues to expand. A further group of nations in Africa are the latest applicants for membership.

### **The disciplines of the Commonwealth**

Though the Commonwealth is a loose association of independent nations, such a remarkable world-wide group must have its disciplines.

The “rules” of association were laid down in 1971 in a “Declaration of Commonwealth Principles”—setting out a code of ethics committing its members to human rights, social and economic justice, acceptance of majority government, and peaceful settlement of disputes. These principles are quite detailed and authoritative, in order to maintain the unity of such a diverse, world-wide group of nations. Serious failure to uphold the principles can bring withdrawal of membership, as was the case for S. Africa in 1977 because of its apartheid policies (now about to be revoked). As of interest, 26 of the present membership are Republics, giving allegiance to the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth.

So the Commonwealth is a world-wide Association upholding a code of good neighbourliness, fair dealing and mutual aid in a world of violence, aggression and selfish ambition.

### **The position of the Commonwealth when Christ returns; are “the isles” a reference to the Commonwealth?**

It would not be surprising that such a world-wide Community of nations with the Queen of England as its Head has some part to play after it has submitted to the authority of the all-powerful King. Has the Scripture anything to say on this? Consider the strange and frequently used phrase “the Isles”:

1. The psalmist in Psalm 72:10 declares:  
“The Kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall bring presents”.
2. And again in Psalm 97:1:  
“The LORD reigneth....let the multitude of isles be glad thereof”.

It is in Isaiah that the word occurs so frequently:

3. Ch 24:15: "Wherefore glorify ye the LORD ..... even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea."
4. Ch 41:5: "The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid".
5. Ch 42:4: "The isles shall wait for his law".
6. Ch 49:1: "Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far".
7. Ch 51:5: "the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust".
8. Ch 60:9: "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far".

Britain, the 'island' home of the Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth has always been associated with seagoing, world-wide communications and trade. So a world-wide network of 'island' nations has grown up. Today's high-speed trains and Hurricane fighters have little significance by comparison with the vast daily movement of goods round the world by sea and the associated functions of insurance, shipping control, pilotage etc. for which London is still famous.

The 'isles' character of the Commonwealth is well illustrated when one looks at a world map of its member nations.

It is a reasonable proposition that the 'isles' so frequently mentioned in Scripture at the time when Christ is establishing his power and world authority is intended to refer to the Commonwealth nations. If this is so, it suggests Christ has a work for them to do, after being humbled and having given allegiance to the Lord and King over all the earth.

God works in stages, at an early stage using preliminary non-miraculous steps to start His plans. So we could perhaps picture the world-wide distribution of Commonwealth nations being used to assist in enlightening Third world countries now still enveloped in total darkness concerning the divine principles which the Commonwealth had to learn from the saints and Israel, as that nation arrives at its time of blessing.

The October 1993 *Time Magazine* with the heading "**SEEKING A COMMON THREAD**" for the Commonwealth has this interesting closing paragraph.

"Commonwealth membership is spread right round the globe, on every continent and in every ocean. Standards of living and development vary enormously. But despite its heterogeneity, the Commonwealth looks to have found a role for itself in the wake of the Cold War. Unified by a common language, it can serve as a forum to examine the critical issues of our time—human rights, race relations, democratisation, debt and economic development—matters which affect us all, in the developed and the developing world".

## **Chapter 12:**

# **RECENT TRADE DEALS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Introduction***

*In last year's Milestones mention was made of the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks and the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association) talks. Both these proposed trade agreements became realities at the end of the year. The GATT talks were particularly cliff-hanging, agreement was only reached at the very last moment by means of some skilful compromises. There are some interesting implications.*

### **The GATT talks**

Although these talks were successfully concluded in the middle of December, they now have to be approved by the American Congress next April. It is not thought there will be problems. The new common tariffs between countries are not due to take effect before 1995. It is estimated that world trade will be boosted by \$212 - \$270 billion a year after the first few years.

Our interest is from the aspect of Britain and Israel. As Tarshish, Britain is a great trading nation, dealing with the goods of other countries and trading them in many markets. Britain's prosperity could be set to grow rapidly with the lower trade barriers under GATT.

#### **“When everyone wins—especially Britain**

Britain lives by trade and has more to gain from the GATT deal than almost any other major industrialized country. Roughly a third of national output is exported, about the same as Germany... America and Japan export a surprisingly low 10% of national output.

GATT is aimed at removing the harmful effects of protectionism. ..everyone benefits from free trade..

Britain will benefit more than most because of its powerful position as a supplier of international financial services such as banking, insurance, securities trading and fund management... trade in 'invisibles' accounts for a third of all trade and is its fastest growing component. There is money to be made in dealing with money ...

Britain currently attracts a third of all foreign investments coming into Europe” (DT 15/12/93).

Meanwhile though, Britain is being affected by the recession in Europe because the markets for her goods in Europe are shrinking.

### **“UK urged to reduce emphasis on Europe**

Britain’s ability to achieve an export-led recovery is being hampered by its heavy dependence on trade with Europe, one of the slowest growing regions of the world, claims the chief economist at the National Westminster Bank.

David Kern is calling on British companies to redirect efforts towards the dynamic markets of Asia, Latin America and the United States” (DT 20/12/93).

This is a step that we have been looking for, ever since Britain joined the Common Market—a move away from Europe. As a trading power, she will be drawn to where the trade is. We see her links with America and the Commonwealth are still strong. Maybe we shall see her trade links with Israel growing. Without a GATT agreement Britain would have been locked into Europe, as the EC would have put up trade barriers against other markets. This agreement should have the effect of making it easier for Britain to turn her focus elsewhere.

Israel too benefits from these talks. Under existing regulations she is virtually excluded from competing for lucrative overseas government contracts. Israel will now be able to compete for this business.

### **NAFTA**

The expanding market opened up here, with the whole of North America—Canada, the US and Mexico—entering a “Common Market”, may also benefit both Britain and Israel, who both have large American markets, and will now have an expanded market in which to sell.

## Chapter 13:

# THE DRAGON, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET

### *Introduction*

*Events in Europe have progressed so much in the past few years that it is profitable to re-examine this aspect of the 6th vial. The 6th vial is detailed in Revelation 16:12-16. It is of vital importance to us because we live in the 6th vial era, and it is this vial that brings us to the return of the Master. Implicit in the understanding of this period is the warning that the return of the Lord will be as a thief. It was Jesus' warning to his brethren and sisters living at the end of the 20th century, that they must remain awake and watchful.*

*This brings up-to-date the greater detail in **Babylon and Jerusalem**,<sup>1</sup> published in 1977, and **Milestones 1985**, chapters 1-3.*

### THE 6TH VIAL

Revelation 16:12-16

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon".

### The drying up of the River Euphrates

A river takes its power from its source. When it begins to dry, it normally does so because there is a slowing down in the supply of water at the source. As the River Euphrates rises in Turkey, we see it as representing the power of the Turkish empire. From being a vast empire stretching round the Mediterranean, Turkey has been reduced back to her source—the country of modern-day Turkey. The reason for the drying up is clearly stated.

"That the way of the kings of the east might be prepared" (v. 12).

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<sup>1</sup> The publishers of this book hope to republish *Babylon and Jerusalem* this year, DV, as *Rome and Jerusalem*.

The **kings of the east** are Christ and the saints. It was necessary that the Middle East scene should be set before the Master's return. Israel had to be back in their land. The final stages of the pushing back of the Turk in the First World War enabled the Middle East countries that we know today to emerge upon the world scene. Many were wandering tribesmen. They are now nations. The Middle East stage is well nigh **prepared** for the **kings** to proceed upon their pre-ordained **way** which leads to the destruction of Babylon and the elevation of Zion. The type was set by Cyrus of old, who literally dried up the River Euphrates by diverting it that he might take Babylon, to whom God said:

"I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts" (Isa. 45:13).

### Three unclean spirits like frogs

The spirits are thus described in number, type and nature. What does **spirit** represent? The Greek word is *pneuma*, the normal word for breath, and also reasoning. We understand the meaning of the phrase, "**the spirit of Christ**" as a Christ-like spirit. In the phrase here, these have a frog-like spirit. They are also described as **the spirits of devils**. The devils or *daemons* were the Greek gods who acted as the intermediaries between the great gods and the mortals. They put into effect what the chief gods wanted. And so the *daemons* are a symbol of political and religious leaders. These spirits come out of the mouth, and so signify the policies of these leaders—the mouth speaks for the whole body.

The frog-like spirit is described as **unclean**. It represents policies that are contrary to the way of truth and express the thinking of the flesh.

The spirit that goes forth from these three centres is **frog-like**. Three frogs was the heraldic symbol of France, early in its history when it was a democracy, and its leaders were chosen by the people. The more familiar *fleur-de-lis* was adopted when France was under a monarchy. As the vials have to do with the time of the French Revolution onwards, this reference to frog-like spirits fits the picture of the spirit of the French Revolution, which changed the face of Europe and of the whole world. The spirit of the Revolution is summed up in the cry "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality".

The uprise of a democratic spirit, power to the people, is something which we see very much at this period of history. The monarchies were overthrown, and people seized control of their own destinies. It led to the explosion in knowledge and science. It led also to the godless theory of evolution.

So we look for this democratic spirit to be issuing forth as the official policy of the **dragon**, the **beast** and the **false prophet**. Before considering these three symbols in relation to the frog-like spirits, let us consider the aspect of **working miracles**.



## Miracles

The daemons work miracles in order to bring the kings of the earth to Armageddon. Miracles is the word used elsewhere to denote **signs**, as in the miracle at Cana, or when they came to Jesus seeking a sign. They wanted an **indication** that he was whom he claimed to be. Jesus' miracles were a sign that he was from God because they showed the genuineness of his claim. The frog-like spirits going forth appear to the nations as respectable and right. Their policies are to be obeyed.

## The kings

The effect is to convince the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather together to come to this great battle—the battle of Armageddon. Who are these kings? It is not easy to make a differentiation between the two Greek words for **earth** and **whole world**. The word for **earth** is widely used in the NT. However, in the earlier picture of the beasts there was a beast of the earth as opposed to the beast of the sea. The **earth** beast is linked with the Germanic Holy Roman Empire. According to Strong's concordance the **whole world** usually refers to the Roman empire. This would then agree with the picture of Ezekiel 38, and Daniel 2—the gathering of the nations against Jerusalem, primarily concerns the nations on the territory of the old Roman Empire and the 'earth' lands to the north of the old Roman empire, Germany on the west and Russia on the east.

## Where do they gather for battle?

Revelation tells us in explaining that the battle ground is **known in the Hebrew tongue**. In other words where Hebrew is spoken—Israel. Incidentally it is only in our century that the Hebrew tongue was revived as the language for Israel.

## Why do they gather?

Understanding that this is the same invasion of Israel as described in Zechariah 12, Ezekiel 38, Joel 3, etc, we know that it is the work of God.

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zech. 12:2, 3).

“And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords” (Ezek. 38:4).

The nations will not realise it. They will be led on by the frog-like spirits. But it is God's day of judgement.

“For it is the day of the LORD’S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion” (Isa. 34:8).

Doubtless the effect of the Elijah work of reformation as Malachi outlines in chapter 4, will arouse the wrath of the nations. The preceding verse at first sight seems incongruous:

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgements” (Mal. 4:4).

Yet this probably will be the work of Elijah—bringing **Israel** back to an understanding of the Law. Then the faithful remnant which has been prepared, i.e. those Jews who remain from the terrible judgements, will be brought to an understanding of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, by the appearance of the risen Lord in their midst.

“... and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zech. 12:10).

## **IDENTIFYING THE DRAGON, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET**

Who then is represented by these symbols? Out of whose mouths go the unclean, frog-like spirits? We will first identify them and then see how the frog-like spirit can be found in them all.

### **The Dragon**

The dragon appears in several places in the book of Revelation. It is described in chapter 20:12 as

... the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan...

We can trace the dragon/serpent power from its origins in Eden, through Nimrod, to Babel and Babylon, Greece and, as Daniel’s 4th beast, on to Rome. It finally stands against Christ as represented by Daniel’s image, when the final manifestation of the Kingdom of men is found in the working together of the kings of the earth and the whole habitable under the direction of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. So the dragon is found in different forms at different times.

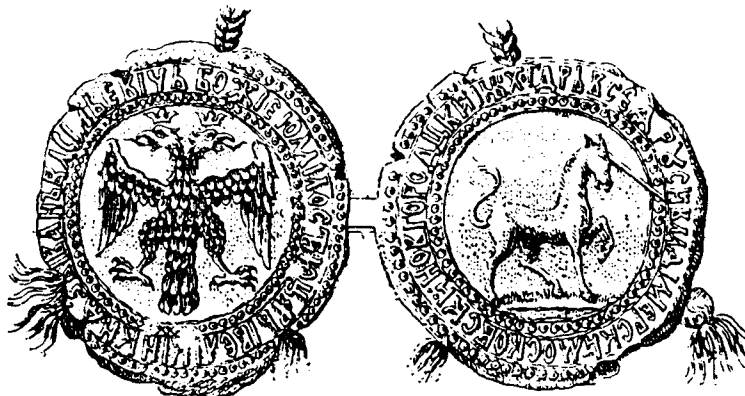
In Revelation chapter 12 the dragon originally represented the Roman Empire under pagan control. It is described as being **red**. Chapter 12 also describes its overthrow by Constantine AD 312-324. The dragon symbol doesn’t then disappear but is still there at the end of chapter 12, where it is no longer **red**. It still represents the Roman Empire, now Christian and controlled by the emperor from Constantinople. Constantine, wanting a more central, safer and civilised place, moved his throne from Rome, rebuilding the ancient city of Byzantium as his capital, “the second Rome”. Although renamed, the old name also continued in use. From here the Byzantium empire flourished for 11 centuries.

The emperors allowed another form of the dragon to arise in the West—the beast of the sea and the beast of the earth and the image of the beast. Like the Byzantine dragon, these were based upon the Babylonish pattern—a leader who was both a military head and a spiritual head. [We shall look at the western development when we look at the beast]. As the dragon, the emperor in Constantinople was ruler of the Roman empire, as well as head of the church. As in Babylon, the network of priests gave the church control over the people. Church and state worked together.

Subsequent to the split with the church in Rome, the eastern church became the Greek Orthodox church. Christianity spread northwards, via the Balkans into Russia. When Constantinople fell in AD 1453, the dragon power centre was moved to Moscow. This city was known as “the third Rome” and the eastern churches were directed from here. A subsequent rift caused the forming of the Russian Orthodox church. The Russian civilisation is rooted in the Byzantium heritage:

“Byzantium brought to Russia five gifts: her religion, her law, her view of the world, her art and writing”.

#### THE DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE



In December, *Time Magazine* (13/12/93) carried a paragraph that Yeltsin had reintroduced the double-headed eagle on the Russian seal, in place of the communist hammer and Sickle. The double-headed eagle was the imperial, Byzantine emblem that was adopted by the Russian monarchy, after the fall of Constantinople, to show Moscow’s position as “the third Rome.” It continued in use until the fall of the Russian monarchy in 1918. How significant that this has now been revived.

The *Time-Life* book, “Byzantium”, by P. Sherrard, has this to say about the emblem, first of all as used in the Byzantium empire:

“The imperial eagle... the two headed bird was adopted as an emblem by the Palaeologus family, the last Byzantine dynasty, to symbolize an empire that looked both West and East.”

Then looking at the ending of the Byzantine empire with the fall of Constantinople, the writer says Russia inherited the mission of the Byzantine empire:

“With the fall of the Byzantine capital, Byzantium had ceased to exist as a political entity... One Orthodox Christian State [Russia, DFP], however still kept its independence... It was to Byzantium that Russia owed her conversion to Christianity. This faith Russia preserved. Though the sacred Orthodox empire and its Emperor had fallen, the mission of both went to Russia by inheritance.

Dynastically the claim could be supported by the fact that Ivan III of Moscow had married Princess Sophia of the Palaeologus house. But, as with Byzantium itself, what was more important that the dynastic link was the force of the idea, of the mystical vision of the sacred Christian society under the rule of a single semi-divine emperor. This led to the assumption by the Russian ruler of the imperial Byzantine title of “Autocrat”; to the modeling of the Russian coronation ceremony on the Byzantine example; and to the adoption by the Russians of the double-headed eagle of the house of Palaeologus.

The historical implementation of the idea of the theocratic State— inherited from Rome and given a Christian form by Byzantium— lasted until the 16th July 1918” (death of the last Tzar, DFP).

We know that it has not ended permanently as we are seeing its revival!

In our day we have seen the re-emergence of the dragon power. Church and state are working together. The leaders realise that the power of religion can not be suppressed for ever, religion binds a nation together. We have seen the rapid expansion of the power of the church in the East. (See chapter 7). There has been reconciliation between the Greek and Russian churches.

So the Dragon today lies in Russia. At some future time she will move down into Greece and Turkey, in preparation for coming down into the land, but these moves will probably take place after the call to the judgement seat.

## **The Beast**

As we have seen, the beast is the western aspect of the dragon power. Revelation 13 brings before us 3 phases of the beast. The linkage with the dragon is seen in the descriptions used. Of the **beast of the sea** it says:

v. 2 “the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority”.

v. 4 “..they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast..”

Of the beast of the earth it says:

v. 11 “.. he spake as a dragon”.

Of the **image** (“likeness”, Strong’s) **of the beast** it says that it received its life and speech from the Beast of the Earth, and so it spake like the Beast of the Earth—as a dragon.

These phases of the beast describe the development of Rome and the papacy leading to the establishment of the “Holy Roman Empire”—the “beast of the earth”, and the parallel development of the papal states, giving the papacy their own territories—the image of the beast. Under the Holy Roman Empire the emperors who arose in the West, worked together with the papacy. The emperor was the military head, the Pope the spiritual head. The Popes always claimed the higher authority. As the “image of the beast” the papacy controlled both functions.

The events of the French Revolution brought an end to the Holy Roman Empire and the papal states. What has emerged in recent years is the EC. Based upon the Treaty of Rome, it brings the beast to life again. The majority of the countries are nominally Roman catholic. The Pope has played a large role in bringing the nations together. He considers himself as the spiritual head of this community. Britain and Denmark, being Protestant countries are trouble makers! In the final development of the beast, Britain will be found on the outside of this community, and at its heart will be found Germany and France.

Moves to bring Austria into the EC in 1995 are under way. Austria was very much at the heart of the Holy Roman Empire.

### **The false prophet**

This comes in chapter 16 of Revelation as a new symbol in the book. Wonderfully, we see its aptness in describing the papacy in the latter-days. A prophet is a teacher, whose responsibility is to teach God’s Truth. A false prophet teaches error. The Popes have always persuaded their followers that they speak for God. This was heightened by the papal claim to infallibility, only promulgated in 1870, the year he lost his papal states. This loss neatly indicates the change from the “image of the beast” phase to the “false prophet” phase. The progress of the church in the past 50 years has been staggering. The pope is accepted as a world statesman. The church has become respectable. Even our own community largely **fails** to witness against the falseness and the evils of this system! Such is their powerful influence.

## **FROG-LIKE SPIRITS FROM THESE MOUTHS**

How then, as this century draws to a close, do we see a picture of the policies of East and West Europe and the Papacy reflecting the spirit of the French Revolution?

### **From the dragon**

The removal of the communist power by the reforms of Gorbachev has made a great change in Russia. The former USSR broke up in a way reminiscent of the overthrow of France. People-power broke the grip of the old leaders. The re-establishment of the Orthodox church has opened a new era in Russia. The rift in the former Yugoslavia is basically a division of religions. It was through this territory that the division between East and West ran. Today the contest has the added ingredient of the Moslems. The Croats to the west are Catholic, the Serbs to the east are Orthodox. The Orthodox church, Greek and Russian, is putting its weight behind the claims of the Serbs. The Catholic EC more readily supports the Croats. The struggle for liberty, equality, fraternity is being waged with state and church backing. Liberty—that is where their side is oppressed, equality—where their side is disadvantaged, fraternity as long as they are superior—but then, has it not ever been so!

President Yeltsin has continued with reforms. This year he introduced land reform. For the first time since the 1917 revolution, people can own land. They can buy and sell land and property. This is a mark of democracy—a movement away from state control. At the end of the year Russia had a new constitution, based largely on French Law.

#### **“Russia’s constitution promises freedom and democracy”**

The details are outlined in Chapter 5.

The movement to a free-market economy has progressed rapidly in many of the satellite countries. Things that we take for granted, running one’s own business, owning property, having choice in the shops, press freedom, is something new for eastern Europe. A report in the Daily Telegraph (28/12/93) looks at life in the Czech Republic—the one half of the former Czechoslovakia.

#### **“New pride pumps fresh life into the grand old heart of Europe**

In just four years since the revolution, Prague has become a bustling metropolis where the economy is booming and jobs outnumber people.

..the Czechs have embraced the free market... The government is privatising on a mass scale... ‘No-one believed that changing from communism to capitalism would be easy. However hard, it is 100 times better than the life we had before’.”

### **The beast**

The frog-like spirit has been evident for a long time in the West. Indeed it was their original home. The reforms that flowed from the French

Revolution, have taken deep root in western Europe. The countries of Europe cooperate together for their greater benefit. East and West Germany have united.

The chapter on Europe gives details of how the frog-like spirits are forging a closer union of the West, steps towards the final shaping of the beast.

### **The false prophet**

This is the most fascinating aspect of this sign—the frog-like spirit out of the mouth of the false prophet. The French Revolution arose because of the oppression of the people by the clergy. And yet here is indicated the false prophet would turn full circle and adopt this “power with the people” attitude. This is what we have seen especially in the later part of the century. The papacy has moved with the times. In solidly catholic countries, the priests still have a firm control over family, local government and state matters. Where they are not in such a position, then working through lay members she achieves her ends. Catholics are encouraged to play active roles within their particular employment, ensuring that the catholic position is advanced. Their influence in the fields of education, newspapers, radio and television has steadily grown, and achieves its purpose—from their point of view—very effectively. It obviously takes time to establish this network of people in key positions, but the catholic church works on a long time scale to achieve results. The church now espouses the cause of the oppressed, is active in social reform in under-developed countries—it has its own organisation CAFOD, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development. It has its own trade unions and political parties—The Christian Democrats. The pope and the priests play an active role in politics, details of which were outlined in last year’s *Milestones* in Ch. 3. Occasionally in the reports of IRA actions in N. Ireland, it is revealed that priests are involved in helping terrorists.

The European carried an article on “**How the Christian faith is fighting to win back a following in western Europe**”. The first part looked at Catholicism. A few extracts illustrate the frog-like spirit.

“..the Pope appears keen to make the Church more attractive to the young. His stage-managed Masses and sermons around the world appear to be aimed at the youth market, often conducted in pop concert or football match atmosphere with chanting crowds in attendance and papal gimmicks for sale.

The Church has latched on to the social problems besetting western Europe as a means of taking attention away from the catholic stance on sexual matters... much higher profile of late on issues such as unemployment ...

German Catholic bishops have hired an advertising agency to run a \$1.7m campaign over the next four years to prove religion is still relevant to social problems. Slogans such as ‘The Catholic Church fights against violence in the school-yard’.

In Italy, the Rome diocese has launched a project to build 50 new churches by the year 2000" (The European 17-23/12/93).

## **COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DRAGON, THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET**

The influence of the papacy on the workings of the EC has been well documented in *Milestones*. The Pope regards himself as the spiritual head of Western Europe. Catholic doctrine lies at the heart of much of the EC legislation, reflecting the Encyclicals of the Popes and the teachings of the Vatican Council. Beast and false prophet are well integrated.

A letter from a Miss Taverne in the Protestant Reformer, January 1993, makes interesting reading.

"..nobody seems aware of the meaning of the 'European Flag' with its twelve stars. Why did nobody inform us that these stars are meant to symbolise the new 'Holy Roman Empire'? The Roman Catholic designer of this flag actually symbolised MARY as the 'Queen of Europe'. This information was to be read in a Roman Catholic periodical but should have been explained by the politicians of 'Europe'! With the 'founding-fathers' of the EEC all being staunch Roman Catholics, several of them even belonging to or sympathising with the secular institute of Opus Dei, the Roman Catholic influence in United Europe is overwhelming. With the European Commission going on a pilgrimage to Rome, and other Brussels delegates travelling to Santiago de Compostela just to mark a jubilee of 'Europe', actually is telling enough".

What is coming to the fore are the ambitions of both the Beast and the False Prophet in regards to the Dragon. The Pope seeks to be spiritual head of Eastern Europe. In his speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 1988, he spoke of the hope of uniting the two lungs of Europe and his role as spiritual head to all Europe. The process of reconciliation between the Russian Orthodox and Catholic churches is proceeding slowly. The Catholics are very active seeking to convert the masses of the former USSR, now that there is freedom to preach.

The EC has been very cautious in its approach to the East. Many of the satellite countries are seeking to become members of the EC and NATO. Russia has voiced her fears over such moves to enlarge the community, taking her former member states into the other camp. Germany is keen to see this integration and at the same time a trade linkage with Russia. In an exclusive interview Chancellor Kohl stated that:

"Europe should not disappoint the hopes of what he called the 'reforming states' of eastern Europe which, he said, had identified their path as a 'return to Europe' ... Kohl meant the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, which made progress with the construction of democracy and a market economy, and which have association agreements with the EC.



'Germany should push forward with building a united Europe. He said he hoped a partnership agreement between the EC and Russia would be concluded soon'" (European 12-18/11/93).

NATO defence ministers have agreed to an enlargement of that organisation.

"It will offer 25 neutral and east European countries, including Russia, varying levels of association with NATO, but will fall well short of membership and security guarantees" (DT 22/10/93).

## CONCLUSION

We see the rapid development of the final phase of the 6th vial. The nations are cooperating together, and will increasingly do so. Europe, East and West will be united as Daniel's image stands up upon its iron-clay feet for that brief spell, when the Kingdom of Men unite together against God's nation.

A phrase in Ezekiel 38 will surely be seen to have a relevance in this final picture. Speaking of Gog, the prophet says:

"Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a **guard unto them**".

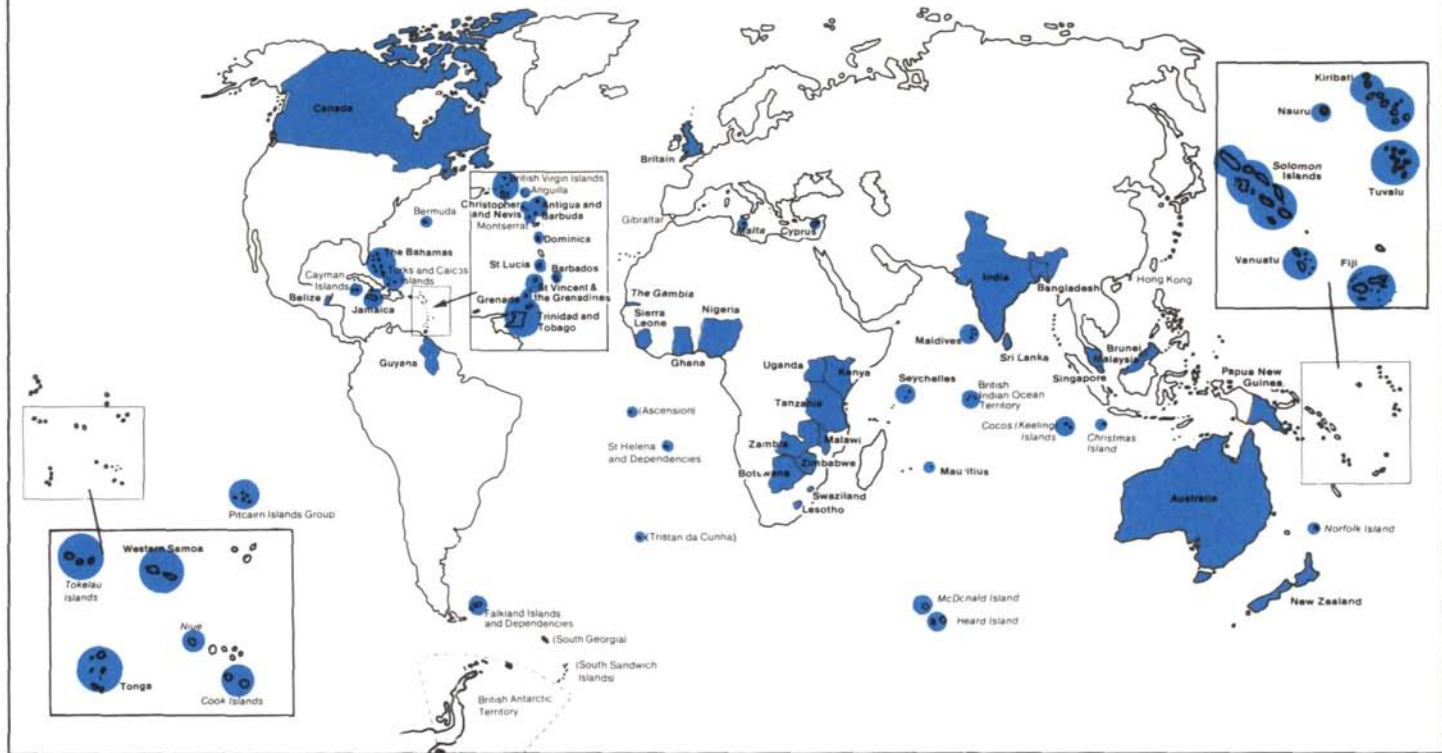
Not a guard **over** this host of nations united in their aim, but **unto** them. This seems to indicate that the military might of Gog is the foremost power, but it is in the role of being their champion, rather than their conqueror.

Who is the "Gog" who unites them? We will have to wait to see! It seems reasonable to say that the saints will have been called to judgement before the personage of Gog is revealed. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

## Acknowledgements

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# THE COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY



## Milestones 1993

- 'Peace' agreement between Israelis and Palestinians
- The clouds of war to the north of Israel—small but growing
- Our need for continuance in well doing

Who would ever have thought that we would see two of the world's chief enemies, Rabin and Arafat, not only talking of peace under the glare of the world's media, but also signing a peace agreement and then shaking hands? This dramatic *milestone* surely cannot be missed by those who know the prophecy about Israel being a "**peaceful** nation" (Ezek. 38:11, Jerusalem Bible) when "the prince of Rosh"—and his hosts—"attack" her.

Another major *milestone* is the significance of the war clouds forming in Russia. Even the media recognized part of its significance:

"The last three years have marked a period of extraordinary calm... This interlude, which many mistook and still mistake for the norm, began on February 28, 1991 with the end of the Gulf war... and ended on December 12, 1993 with the thunderclap of the Russian election. The Russian election reminds us of the fragility of the current peace. It points to the threat of a return, not just to cold war days, but to worse days. Stalin and his successors were evil, but they were not reckless. They never attacked Western Europe...they never used the bomb. They demonstrated caution... The prospect of the neo-nazi Zhirinovskiy or some other reckless and embittered imperialist at the helm in Moscow should concentrate ... minds on the centrality of Russia" (Australian Financial Review 6/1/94).

May the thunderclap have awakened all the brotherhood from their slumber (Matt. 25:5), that we may work in the vineyard until the Prince of Peace comes.

This copy of *Milestones* is published with the **urgent** prayer that it might help us all to see that our Saviour is almost at the door, so that **we** will be ready to meet him whenever he comes. It may well be the last year that *Milestones* is published...